

NEW SOUTH WALES.

We have just seen a letter to a Catholic clergyman in Dublin from Port Essington, North Australia, giving a most melancholy account of the state of the Rev. A. Confalonieri who, on the 24th of April last, was shipwrecked between Sydney and that port. The letter states that at one o'clock at night there being then a frightful storm, the vessel was totally wrecked—that he remained about an hour in the water, when, by chance he met with a log of wood to which he clung with a death grasp. “But oh (said he) when I looked around I found my two pious companions (catechists from Dublin,) had sunk to rise no more. All, all lost—our provisions and stock for our new mission—value about £300. Here I am in the bush among the aborigines, destitute in the extreme, no breviary, no books, no chalice to offer the holy sacrifice, no clothes to change, totally bereft of everything even a companion to consult. My dear friend I hope for your prompt and kind assistance.

THE HOLY SEE.

We translate the following from the private correspondence of the Ami de la Religion of Tuesday last:—

“Rome, Oct. 31.—Thursday last, the 29th October, during a heavy fall of rain, and without any one being aware of it, the Pope, accompanied solely by some officials and prelates of his establishment, proceeded in the morning from the Palace of the Quirinal to the Basilica of St Peter.—Private devotion was the object of this pious pilgrimage. Pius IX. desired, without any show of state, to celebrate the holy mass in the subterranean chapel of the ‘Confession,’ on the tomb of the glorious Apostles. It is in prayer and in the retirement of the most venerated sanctuaries that the august Pontiff loves to meditate before God on the great things to which he is manifestly called: it is thither he habitually proceeds to derive his inspirations, and the strength necessary to accomplish them.

“At the moment his Holiness ascended the altar, Doctor Newman, who had arrived the previous evening at Rome, entered St. Peter’s likewise for the first time. What a remarkable meeting! The celebrated neophyte, fulfilling a pious promise made to God, prostrated himself before the altar of the Holy Apostles, to hear there his first mass; and his eyes encountered upon the tomb of St. Peter, his august successor; and, by a coincidence, all providential, the Pontiff, who offered the Divine Sacrifice, was the vicar, even of Jesus Christ. What holy emotions—what sweet

hopes—what consoling reflections in the sublime silence of these sacred mysteries, celebrated by the head of the Church in the obscurity of the Catacombs, with a new convert for a witness.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

A correspondant, on the part of “a very numerous class of professing Catholics,” inquires “whether anything has transpired since the election of the present Pope to warrant them in expecting a revision of the mandate of exclusion which is in existence against them.” Nothing can be more admirable than the modesty with which the writer, while avowing his knowledge of the “mandate” and his own rebellion against it, as well as that of his fellows, styles himself and them only “professing Catholics.” The distinction between profession and practice was never more truly and fitly taken. If the writer will be content with our opinion on such a matter, we will give it him most unequivocally, that there is as much chance of the sun being turned from its course as of the revision about which he makes inquiry. However, we recommend him to apply to the Bishop of the district if he really wishes for the best information that can be had.—*Tablet.*

BIRTHS RECORDED.

AT ST. MARY'S.

DECEMBER 28, Mrs. Phelan of a Daughter.
 28, Mrs. Power of a Daughter.
 28, Mrs. Kline of a Daughter.
 28, Mrs. Allison of a Daughter.
 28, Mrs. Ryan of a Son.
 29, Mrs. Thompson of a Son.
 29, Mrs. Walsh of a Daughter.
 31, Mrs. Quinn of a Son.
 31, Mrs. O'Dwyer of a Daughter.
 31, Mrs. Shea of a Daughter.

Published by RITCHIE & NUGENT, No. 2, Upper Water Street, Halifax.—Terms—FIVE SHILLINGS IN ADVANCE, exclusive of postage.

All communications for the Editors of the Cross are to be addressed (if by letter post paid,) to No. 2, Upper Water street Halifax.