

recall whose memory is bliss without alloy. The first thing that I am thankful for is the privilege of paying this tribute to the glorious and blessed Founder of the Christian Schools. The second thing for which I am thankful is the privilege which I enjoy as Rector of the Catholic University of America, of coupling that memory and its living fruits with the great work of higher Catholic education which now specially engages me. The Christian Brothers are working at the foundation and the walls of the educational structure; the University aims at putting on its roof. Let no man start the foolish inquiry which is the more important labor. As the roof however graceful, however pleasing to the eye, would speedily fall to the ground, unless it rested on walls that are solid and ample, and unless all reposed on foundations that were laid deep and broad, so, also, would the walls and foundations gradually crumble unless protected by a solid and well-knit roof." These are significant words indeed, coming as they do from the head of the leading Catholic institution of learning in the United States. Would Bishop Keane, think you, be thankful to the Christian Brothers had they neglected to develop his intelligence in the precious years of his youth? Would it be a bliss without alloy for him to recall the memory of teachers that had failed to equip him for an independent career? Could the Christian Brothers lay "foundations deep and broad, walls solid and ample," for the educational edifice, if they failed to cultivate the mental faculties of the youth entrusted to their care?

But let us turn from this aspect of the question to study the system of La Salle from another point of view. Mr. Scott says that the Christian Brothers belong to a past age. So, likewise, say his fellow-commissioners. If the Brothers be really behind the age, it were, indeed, a grievous fault. But let us accord them a little British fair play. Let us not condemn them unheard. Let us examine their side of the question and listen to the witnesses in their behalf; for perhaps, after all, they may be able to say something in their own defence. And, indeed, the evidence in their favor is so voluminous, the witnesses so numerous that I know not where to begin nor where to end, having once

begun to quote the testimonies on behalf of the followers of La Salle and their methods. It would require volumes to collate all these authorities, and there are placed at my disposal but a few short columns of a monthly magazine. The following sketch, therefore, of the triumphs of the Christian Brothers in the arena of education must necessarily be brief and incomplete.

In France, the land of *Savants*, where there exists a system of education so perfect as to call forth the admiration of the world, the superiority of the Brothers' method has been time and again attested by competent and disinterested judges. From 1848 to 1878, in the public competitions for scholarships, established by the French Government, the pupils of the Brothers carried off over thirteen hundred of the seventeen hundred and forty granted. In Ireland up to the year 1893, they received no State aid, "yet they entered the lists with the most pampered and opulent academies in the Kingdom, and carried off the lion's share of the spoils at the Intermediate and Royal University examinations." The same success attends their efforts still. It is, likewise, a matter of history, that the methods of the Brothers, their educational appliances, and the class-work of their pupils have been awarded the highest honors at nearly all the World's Fairs and International Expositions: at Paris, 1867; Amsterdam, 1869; Geographical Congress, Belgium, 1871; Paris, 1872; Paris, 1875 and 1879; Lyons, 1880; Brussels, Belgium, 1882; Brazil, South America, 1883. The Prince of Wales, hearing of this remarkable success invited the Brothers to take part in the International Health Exposition held at London in 1884. The Brothers acceded to the wishes of His Royal Highness, and prepared an exhibit representing the schools of Europe, Africa, India, Canada, the United States and South America. The Brothers display attracted so much attention, that the Chief of the London School Inspectors wrote an open letter to the teachers of England, advising them to visit this wonderful exhibit, and a leading journal of education declared that no school-master who had his heart in his profession, should let such an opportunity slip. Here, too, the