

tained in the celebrated Montreal Centre case. In the first trial, which lasted thirteen days, he was selected to address the Court on behalf of the petitioners, and occupied the whole day with his speech. And so clearly and forcibly did he sum up the evidence, that at the conclusion of his speech Hon. Mr. (now Sir John) Abbott, counsel in the case, publicly said that "it was the ablest review of evidence that he had ever listened to in a Court of Justice."

In 1874 Mr. Curran commenced his active political career by standing for Conservative M.P. in the County of Shefford, but was defeated by the late Hon. L. S. Huntington, then Postmaster General. However, an unsuccessful beginning is sometimes the forerunner of a successful after career, as, indeed, it appears to have been in this case. At the general election in 1882 he again sought election, this time in the constituency of Montreal Centre, and his friends had the satisfaction of seeing him returned by the overwhelming majority of 1,200. Since that time he has thrice been returned for the same seat, rolling up such majorities as to cause his opponents to forsake the field in disgust, and thus allow him to be returned by acclamation on the occasion of his taking office as Solicitor-General. From this it will be seen that it would be a difficult task to supplant Mr. Curran in the hearts of the Irish people of Montreal. Nor does he enjoy merely a local fame. Those of us who have attended public meetings in different parts of Ontario, even as far west as Toronto and London could not have failed to see the popularity with which his name is always received among his countrymen. In fact, long before Mr. Curran took his present position he was looked upon by Irish Canadians as one from whom much might be expected in the future. Nor has he disappointed his friends. Time and again from his seat in the House, he, in company with that veteran statesman, John Costigan, has stood forth in defence of Irish and Catholic rights. Both these gentlemen enjoy the confidence of Irish Catholics, and what is more, the confidence of non-Catholics. Perhaps Mr. Curran's best oratorical effort in the House was that made on the occasion of the introduction of the Orange Bill,

when at the end of two hours he concluded a speech which for close reasoning and well balanced periods was admitted by all to be only equalled by that of Mr. Blake made on the same subject.

Notwithstanding the amount of attention which Mr. Curran has given to law and politics, he yet finds time to do much in the way of literature and public speaking outside of these. As a polished linguist he wields a forcible and facile pen in the French as well as in the English language, and has been a frequent contributor to a number of magazines and periodicals. Besides, he has ever been an active worker in the cause of Catholic education, and especially in the cause of higher Catholic education. Recognizing his services in this direction, Cardinal McCloskey in 1881 conferred on him the degree of L.L.D. at Manhattan College, New York. At a later date his Alma Mater conferred similar honors upon him, and when the new Law School was organized a year ago he was immediately appointed a member of the faculty. His friendship for Ottawa University has always been of the staunchest kind. He believes that it has a brilliant future and has more than once shown himself willing to aid it by deed as well as by word. At the unveiling of the Tabaret Statue, in the autumn of '89, speaking of the University, he said, "The work has been blessed by the Father of the faithful, and consecrated to Catholic Education in this part of the Dominion. Testimony has been borne to its efficiency not only by the representative of her Majesty, but just as efficaciously by the throng of students who flock to its courses, not merely from all parts of Canada, but from many States in the neighboring union. The future of this seat of learning is henceforth assured." Such is Mr. Curran's appreciation of the University after thirty years experience in the world, during which time he must certainly have seen and heard much of other institutions of learning. May he long live to shed lustre on his Alma Mater, and to fill his present office with credit to himself, to the Conservative Government, and to the Church of which he is a worthy member.

H. J. C. '93.