

A Retrospect

"Fond Memory lured in Fancy's train
Lives o'er in thought the Past again."

TWENTY-FIVE years of noble work in a noble institution is indeed something worthy of a Jubilee! And as we stand to-day at this first mile-stone on the pathway of Life, we involuntarily turn and look back afar down the long vista of years, redolent with the heart's most sacred memories. Nor are we left to the mercy of varying fancy in our survey of the past. The thoughtful hands of those who stood at the cradle of our institution and watched over its tender years, have written for us the record of the growth and development of St. Michael's Hospital—a simple story of a small beginning made great by charity, labour and prayer. It is our pleasure, then, to-day, as the silvery bells are pealing out in exultant jubilee, to blend with their sweet music the soft, harmonious notes that speak of the gradual growth of this charitable institution during the past twenty-five years.

The magnificent structure on Bond street, To-

ronto, known to-day as St. Michael's Hospital, presented a very different appearance to the passer-by a quarter of a century ago. In 1876 the central portion of the present building was a Baptist Church. It was bought by Archbishop Lynch for Catholic Sunday School purposes. Here the Catholic children of the city met on Sunday for instruction in Christian Doctrine; but with the growth of individual parishes, this scheme of common instruction was deemed no longer advisable, so the building was utilized as a reading room by the members of the Young Men's Catholic Literary Society, which flourished for some years under the direction of the Very Rev. Dean Harris, at that time Rector of St. Michael's Cathedral. Meanwhile the Sisters of St. Joseph, who were conducting a Boarding House in the vicinity of the market, for the accommodation of young women, finding their quarters unsuitable, purchased the above-mentioned building on Bond street and here