

PRESENTATION

To Father Strubbe.

When, on Monday night, at the Monument National, Mr. M. J. F. Quinn, K.C., as an honorary member of St. Ann's Young Men's Society, read a warm and elegant address to the Rev. Father Strubbe, C.S.S.R., the tribute of Thomas Francis Meagher to the chivalry of the Belgian priesthood, and his eloquent declaration of love, respect, and veneration for Belgium and its people; came back most forcibly upon us. The address was on behalf of the parishioners of St. Ann's, and was accompanied by a purse containing nearly two thousand dollars. This most pleasant incident took place between the second and third acts of the drama, and was one of the happiest inter-acts that could possibly be imagined.

Long before the Redemptorist Father took charge of St. Ann's parish, the parishioners were familiar with the grand work, as missionaries, that they constantly carry on. But since their advent as pastors and spiritual directors of the parish, it may be said, as of the Geraldines, that "they have become more Irish than the Irish themselves." The monuments which they have either built, completed, or developed in the district of St. Ann's, are there forever, to tell of all the sacrifices made, privations endured, and labors undergone for the sake of the people they have been directed to guide and whose temporal as well as spiritual welfare they have especially at heart. By the wording of the address it will be seen that the progress made in the parish has been phenomenal, and that a greater share of all these prosperous undertakings must be given to Father Strubbe. The following is the text of the address—which was signed by over three thousand parishioners:—

Rev. E. Strubbe, C.S.S.R.,
Parish Priest,
St. Ann's, Montreal.

Rev. and Dear Father,—

Love for our pastor is the strongest sentiment in our hearts on this, the feast of our Patron Saint. Gratitude for the many blessings which through Divine Providence you and your co-workers have obtained for our parish during the sixteen years of ministry prompts us to facilitate you on this one great national festival.

We do not forget that coming to us over sixteen years ago, foreigners, you quickly won your way to our hearts and became as strongly Irish in your sentiments as we are.

During the comparatively short time that you have been with us, our church has been enlarged and embellished by an expenditure of fifty thousand dollars, our St. Ann's School has been improved to the extent of thirty thousand dollars, St. Ann's Academy has been re-built and enlarged, our St. Ann's Young Men's Society, springing into existence under your fostering care, has become a numerous and powerful body, many of its members occupying positions of trust, confidence and emolument in the commercial institutions of our city, and the society is established in a flourishing condition in a home valued at thirty thousand dollars; our school of the Holy Angels has been considerably enlarged, and our St. Alphonsus School has been constructed. Added to those, our church still possesses, through your labor, vestments and altar plate unequalled for rare beauty, richness and value by parishes having much greater pretensions to wealth and importance. And yet, we are proud to say that you have accomplished all these good works without levying any special tax on us, and almost without our feeling that we have contributed.

Not only has our parish benefited by your industry, the aged and infirm of the city bless you for the share you had in establishing the Little Sisters of the Poor in Montreal.

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society has become an active and energetic organization distributing regularly amongst the poor of our parish the money supplied through your exertions by our people.

Our religious societies, the St. Ann's Ladies' Society, the Children of Mary, the Men's Sodality and the League of the Sacred Heart, having membership numbering three thousand persons, all owe their present prosperous condition to your efforts. By your unremitting zeal, the cause of temperance has so advanced, that we hope soon the name of St. Ann's parish will be synonymous throughout the city with sobriety and temperance.

We boast that there is no room for immorality or debauchery in our

parish. We bless you for the religious instruction afforded us by the regular course of sermons provided for us by your wisdom and forethought, and we feel that we testify by the enormous increase in the number of our communicants our appreciation of your own and your rev. colleagues' labors.

We, the poor, pray for you for the tender solicitude that you have always shown us, and we ask Almighty God the grace that you will be long spared to us as our pastor, and when, in his Divine Will, you are called to Him, we hope that your body will find its last resting place under the altar of St. Ann's, where we may offer up our prayers for your eternal welfare.

Montreal, 17th March, 1901.

FATHER STRUBBE'S REPLY.

While there is no more eloquent and effective speaker in Montreal, still, on this occasion the Rev. Father was so deeply moved that the most eloquent part of his reply was what he left to the imaginations of his auditors.

In opening the Rev. Father said that his kind friends should be aware that there is a secret about the workings of religious orders. No matter how much an individual member may be esteemed by the public—and he is esteemed in proportion to the influence of his good works—still the real dynamo of action, the mainspring of everything, may not be recognized at all. It is frequently a fact that the one who is most seen by the people is only an instrument of his superiors in carrying out that which they desire to have effected. We see the wheels of a clock, but were it not for the invisible spring behind, these wheels would remain stationary. So it is that in a religious order there is no individualizing, but all the good done belongs to the community. In regard to St. Ann's parish, for years that power-generating spring was the late Father Catulle, and of recent years, the active and zealous Vice-Provincial, Father Lemieux.

The address, he said, refers to love and gratitude, the two grand characteristics of the Irish people, especially in regard to their clergy. He dwelt at considerable length upon these delightful national qualities, instancing the loving memory with which, even to this day, the name of Father Hogan is kept as a household word in the homes of the people. Proud of their priests, the sentiment is reciprocated, and the priests are proud of their flock, and with admiration have the Fathers ever noted the spirit of devotion that marks even the humblest member of the congregation. Much of the good work done amongst them may be traced to many priests now gone from their midst, such as Fathers Caron, Capel and Savard; much of to-day's success is to be traced to the zeal and labors of such priests as Fathers Flynn, Fortier and Saucier and others, whose names are familiar in the parish.

Referring to the portion of the address that speaks of his love for the Irish people, he could assure them that if by the accident of birth he was not Irish, at least in heart he was a son of St. Patrick and a child of Erin. Illustrating this sentiment he recalled an incident of the morning, when the pupils of the Academy—the young girls, under the care of the good Sisters of the Congregation de Notre Dame—sent him a bunch of shamrocks with the words:—"Father, wear this over your heart, you have the right to it by conquest." Then, turning to a more practical question, the Rev. Father dwelt upon the material, as well as the moral progress made in the parish, and he said that the future was secure since the younger generation was being trained in such schools as those over which preside the talented and worthy Mother Alphonsus and the indefatigable Brother Prudent. They had expressed the hope that he might end his last sleep 'neath the altar of their Church. "God grant it!" was his prayer; but, in this as in every other case, all depended upon his superiors to whom, as a religious, he owed obedience, and at whose command he was prepared to go or stay just as they thought well and just as God willed it.

Vouchsafe, O Jesus, during the whole course of my life, and especially at the awful moment of my death, to open for me a secure asylum in the wound of Thy Sacred Heart.

The amiable Heart of Jesus has an infinite desire to be known and loved by His creatures, in which it wishes to establish its reign as the source of every good, in order to provide for all our wants.

We must strive in all earnestness to fix the abode of our hearts in the Heart of the Immortal King of Ages and live only for Him. O my God, how great a consolation do I find in the assurance that my heart shall be eternally absorbed in loving the Heart of Jesus!

AN HOUR
With Irish Authors.

During the course of last week a most delightful entertainment, in honor of Ireland's Patron Feast, was given by the Reading Circle, and pupils generally of St. Patrick's Academy, under the direction of the good Sisters of the Congregation de Notre Dame. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Father McGrath, and amongst the guests of the occasion were His Honor, Mr. Justice Curran, Mr. M. Eagan, Mr. C. A. McDonnell, and Mr. A. J. Hales-Saunders, Principal of the Catholic High School. The programme, which we give, is in itself an eloquent tribute to the care with which the pupils of that time-honored institution are trained for the world's battle. Truly, there is patriotism of the practical and the effective kind.

Take alone the title of the programme: "An Hour with Favorite Irish Authors." We have read of "Half-hours with the Poets," and such like entertainments that prevail in Protestant circles. But this is the first time that we find an institution in our city inviting the public to spend an hour with Irish authors. We know of no more effective means of instilling into young minds a knowledge of and an admiration for all that is best, grandest, and most to be cherished in the story of the Irish race. We have here the younger generation setting an example to the older ones. And we do not believe that any more lasting or more glorious monument could be erected to the honor and memory of the great poets of Ireland, than to have their names, their lives and their works stamped upon the hearts of the young.

It will be seen by the programme that Moore, Griffin, McGee and Boyle O'Reilly are the four Irish authors selected for the occasion. A better and more appropriate choice could never have been made. Griffin belongs to a school peculiarly his own. Moore holds a most unique position in the annals of Irish literature. He sang his way into the hearts of Erin's enemies, he penetrated with his music into circles where anything Irish could find no place before his time, and he made known the wrongs of the land. And, for Irish Canadians, the poems of McGee have a special interest. While the greater part of his wonderful work was done in the cause of the Old Land, still the closing years of his life were specially dedicated to Canada, and his muse sang most lovingly of this new land. The revival of his noble poems is a tribute to his memory that he would have most prized were he able to give expression to any wish on the subject.

What applies to McGee, in Canada, has also its application to Boyle O'Reilly in the United States. He, too, was a many-sided genius, a wonderfully patriotic worker, and one whose renown shall last as long as his poems are read and appreciated by the Irish race.

Thus it is that Irish poets, and Irish-Canadian, and Irish-American bards are honored to-day. And this is the effective means taken by the good Sisters of St. Patrick's Academy to awaken sentiments of national pride and religious fervor in the breasts of the young children placed under their care. The programme now speaks for itself.

PROGRAMME.

Music—St. Patrick's Day, welcome chorus.
Prologue—From "Boyle O'Reilly." Minutes—The Secretary.

ROLL CALL.

Quotations from Irish authors.
Paper—Biographical sketch of Boyle O'Reilly interspersed with songs and recitations, the literature class.

Songs and Chorus—"There's Where My Thoughts Are," music, Irish airs.
Paper—"McGee," a member.
Lullaby—The choir.
Paper—"Moore," a member.
Finale—Double chorus.

Rev. Father McGrath, in bringing the proceedings to a close, said he was delighted with the manner in which the programme had been carried out, and that it was a source of very much pleasure, for him, to assist at the splendid entertainment and witness the excellent efforts of the pupils of the Academy. He then called upon Hon. Mr. Justice Curran.

Hon. Mr. Justice Curran delivered an earnest address to the young ladies. He said he wished to compliment, not to flatter them. Compliment had been defined a pleasant truth, flattery, a pleasant untruth. He spoke nothing but the truth.

when he stated that this was the most interesting entertainment he had ever had the pleasure of being present at, in a convent school. No dramatic performance could be compared with it, and the usual exercises, for such occasions, could not produce such results, as must flow from so ennobling, so inspiring, so instructive an exhibition, as they had just given. The plan adopted by this reading circle was admirable.

The selections they had made from Griffin, Moore, McGee and Boyle O'Reilly, evinced taste and culture; and the practice of committing those gems to memory, would enable them to carry through life, precious thoughts felicitously expressed, sentiments that would raise both mind and heart, and make them appreciate how sweet it is to do one's whole duty to God, to country and to home. They had done well; their success was due to earnest toil. Nothing worth realizing, could be achieved without hard study. So far, they had peeped into the works of a few great sons of the old race, from which they had the honor to be descended. They must push forward, and in a few years, they would know what an inexhaustible mine, of all that is pure and true and elevating, lies in the poems and prose writings of the sons and daughters of Ireland. Their circle would fill a long felt want. They could supply that want by adhering to the circle after the close of their school days. By keeping up those studies and criticisms they would not only improve their minds by forming them on excellent models, but they would do an act of justice to, at least, one who was, not only a poet, but an orator and historian as well. McGee had no monument to his memory either in the land of his birth, or in that of his adoption. By a study of his works as they were doing, they were erecting in their affections, a monument far more enduring than one of metal or of stone. They would perpetuate his fame, and the name he was so anxious to have "remembered in Ireland" would thus live in Irish hearts, not only there, but in the greater Ireland beyond the seas. Speaking of the difficulties, under which the children of Irish parents had labored, until very recently, in our schools and colleges, the learned judge stated, that the obstacles to the appreciation of the beauties and excellencies of Irish authors who had embellished the English language were being removed. Irish history was now being taught, after having been a closed book for years and years. One feature of the entertainment he wished to refer to. The selections of Irish music had been rendered, not merely with fine and precise execution, but with that sympathy that gives it life and arouses in those who enjoy it, sentiments too strong for tolerance. He would not speak to them of the superiority of its strains over the ephemeral productions of the day. They must cultivate beyond doubt the highest grades of music, the works of the great composers of every land, to become thoroughly proficient, but there was at least one irresistible reason why they should cherish and practise the immortal airs of fatherland. They all, or nearly all realized, that it was by dint of great sacrifices that their parents were procuring for them the benefits of a sound and higher education. When they returned to their homes at the end of the scholastic year, could they but look into the hearts of their devoted and self-sacrificing fathers and mothers, and see there the pleasure it gave them to find their daughters able to render effectively the soul stirring melodies of the old land, they would

pride themselves upon having preserved as far as within their power those links with a past, oftentimes sorrowful but never inglorious, those airs that echoed the trials and triumphs of a nation. The speaker concluded by thanking Rev. Mother Aloysius and her devoted Sisters of the Congregation de Notre Dame, for the good work they were doing, and more especially for keeping St. Patrick's School in the first place, for the education of our Irish Canadian girls.

Mr. C. A. McDonnell was next called upon to address a few words to the members of the Reading Circle. After having feelingly referred to the tender associations, the grand old educational establishment in which they were assembled, recalled to his mind, he paid a tribute to teachers and pupils for the high standard of

patriotism and culture they had displayed in selecting the works of such noble Irish authors as Moore, Griffin, McGee and Boyle O'Reilly, as subjects of their study.

He complimented the members of the circle upon the talented manner in which they had performed their allotted parts, and closed by expressing his admiration of the artistic and skillful way in which they had interpreted the sweet music of Gid Erin.

Mr. Martin Eagan, in an enthusiastic speech, eulogized the literary work of the pupils, and spoke in high terms of praise of the musical features of the programme.

The sweet and tuneful voices of Messrs. P. F. McCaffrey, F. E. Donovan and W. J. Crowe were heard to good advantage at St. Patrick's Society banquet.

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SOLE AGENTS FOR THE WORLD-FAMOUS CHICKERING PIANO.

Having before sketches of the Irish Catholic knowing that the carefully prepared all possibility of giving more than thought I would some of the most graphs in each, one treatise. As St. Patrick's Day know of no subject for the present. In the following tend to any other I deem it necessary upon the extracts any remarks would serve to rather than to emb a word, here and necessary in order gaps formed by be omitted.

I will venture scarcely any episode world that count men than does Ireland to-day. The ing a bishop is p man must be poss ordinary talents for more than or this sense every is an eminent pe have more occasi display the gifts has favored them cially the case in r bishops and most of a number I have selected for purpose; they are Walsh, Archbishop Primate of Ireland MacEvilly, Archb MacEvilly, Archb MacEvilly, and most Rev. Dr. Cr Gashel; and most Bishop of Limeric From Tuam's a North, to Cashel in the South, from Shannon—Dublin Limerick in the W Ireland is repre members of the land. I would, that the portions which I am fo much more num as important, as tain. We will g great Archbishop also Primate of I

The Most Re

If the greatness on the arduo and he devotes himself and the unhesitant great talent to th life. Then, indeed, of Dublin entitled amongst the great The steadfast de which he has str spiritual condition to elevate the int of his country, an has brought to be ment of these on the wonder and who have watche

Dr. Walsh was b 1841, and receive tion at the Semin rence O'Toole in this school he par ole University where recently inaugurat man, where he soo high talent and ability. He had maintaining the was already his w later he entered I in order to prosec the sacred priesth tic career could s more brilliant, fo excel in every br which he applied Theology, Physica era Languages. Ev the Irish tongue mastered his subj hesitated to compe from the Western p known and spokn uage from their c carried off the first In 1878 Dr. Wal vice-president of M Soon after he set task of soliciting the principals of th in Ireland for the ins the best means fullest possible ber purpose he Educati the bishops of Ire ference in Maynoo was warmly appro gested conference which Dr. Drake, Cashel and Emly p In this first publ ture Archbishop o olic education in said to have struc note of that migh vibrated througho The questi one with which the Walsh will be inse as long as the str people for the ric cation continues to Catholics and Prot equal advantages