

absolute free education, and no nation has ever yet surpassed her in her love for learning.

It is, consequently, to us, the sons of a race famed for its love of science, a great pleasure to show our devotion to our Alma Mater on such a day, and to give expression to a hearty wish that the future has in store for her a development vaster even than even her most earnest friends could desire, and that she will render great services to this Dominion and the neighboring republic by laboring earnestly and faithfully in that noble work of education.

It is even a more delightful pleasure for a son of St. Patrick, a descendant of a people whose country bore the title, not only of Isle of Scholars, but also Isle of Saints, to toast an institution imparting an education which is at once secular and religious.

No question at the present day is more agitated than that of religious teaching in the schools. It is a burning topic in English political life, and it is much discussed in America. On that question Irishmen are one with the great National Party in demanding that education be religious.

Only recently that noble leader of the Irish party, Jno. E. Redmond, in delivering an address to the students of a Catholic college in England, said: "We believe that religion is a most necessary part of education. We believe it is not possible to bring out good men and efficient citizens by the banishment of religion from the education of our children."

We glory in the firm stand that that noble party recently took in the fight for religious education in England, and the sentiments of the leader, Redmond, are exactly those of all the members of his race scattered throughout the world.

And therefore we, being strongly attached to religious education, bear intense affection for this institution, our Alma Mater, consecrated, as she is, to the sacred cause of a learning which proclaims that the education of the heart must be carried on simultaneously with that of the mind.

Nor should we fail on such an occasion as this to proclaim our athletic victories, for the Irish people have ever been firm believers in the old adage, "Mens sana in corpore sano." And Ireland is at the present day the home of some of the world's greatest athletes, and the most famous athletic organization of the day is the Greater New York Irish American Club, which is the proud possessor or probably half the championships of the world.