

Mr. J. E. Barss, in the course of his remarks, said that the French in Canada were greatly in need of education to dispel the ignorance that now holds them subject to the will of the clergy; and, if necessary, let it be made compulsory. It is desirable for the Union of Canada that the English language should predominate, since keeping up the French language has a tendency to cultivate race feelings. He believes in making the Union of Canada as firm as possible, to avoid any chance of ever being absorbed by our most friendly enemies, the United States.

The programme was here changed by a piano solo, very finely rendered by Miss Reeves of the Seminary.

We next pass on through our long list of names and come to that of Mr. Z. L. Fash. He showed that the Monastery as a Civilizing Force was quite important. The monks were the "authors of Gothic architecture; they advanced learning most zealously,—Monasteries being the sole receptacles of learning. The monks copied the scriptures, founded universities, and promoted learning generally. "The monastery of to-day is but the shadow of its former self."

Mr. J. W. Litch gave a careful review of "Joseph Howe as Author and Orator." His poetical works were clearly shown forth, and numerous quotations given in proof of his worth as a poet. His abilities as editor, politician, and orator were plainly set forth. On one occasion being asked the secret of his success he said it was due to following strictly the motto, "Speak the truth and feel it."

The last speaker was Mr. H. N. Shaw, subject: "Elizabeth Barrett Browning." He followed the life and labors of that lady from her earliest appearance as an author till her death, and also gave a short account of her early history. "She read all books good and bad, and each time reached nearer the truth." This was due, no doubt, to the fact that she always selected the *wheat* and allowed the *chaff* to go with the wind. She was a good classical scholar, a firm Christian, "The Shakespeare of Women."

A male chorus, trained by Mr. H. N. Shaw, gave a song, which was well received by the audience. The music, with the exception of the piano solo by Miss Reeves, was entirely managed by Mr. Shaw. This in itself is sufficient guarantee to say that it was a success.

The President thanked the audience for their attentive hearing, and the performers for the efficient manner in which they carried out their several parts. It is impossible to make a detailed criticism of the papers of each, as our space will not permit, nor could we do them justice if we had space, as the productions to be appreciated must be heard. All the papers showed careful preparation and much thought. The speakers spoke plainly and distinctly so as to be heard and understood in any part of the hall. After singing the National Anthem a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close, and all dispersed, feeling highly satisfied with the exercises of the evening.

ELAINE.

"Elaine the fair Elaine the lovable,
Elaine, the lily maid of Astolat,"

is the subject and heroine of one of the tenderest of those grand, tender poems, Tennyson's "Idylls of the King." The fanciful legends of Arthur's court, in the days when the blameless king contended with the barbaric heathen and the Round Table was graced with the flower of Knighthood, have a fascination as rendered by the hand of Tennyson; and the romance of "Elaine," sweet with sadness, glows with the soft light of a dream.

Although Elaine is the principal object, her place in the poem is most appropriate to her character,—the simple maiden is not given undue prominence, but is an ever-present incident, about whom stronger natures cluster, and she is noticeable from force of contrast rather than from being thrust into the foreground. Her home in distant Astolat, high-towered among the trees, her brothers, almost as naive as herself, and the grave father, all of them awed by mighty Lancelot give an idea of remoteness and retirement which is a fitting environment for such a nature as hers. She worships Lancelot, as more god than man; her love is half adoration; she is not wise, and knows not to be shrewd, yet no breath of contempt or sense of her inferiority ever comes to the mind. She is, verily, the "Lily Maid," to whom ingenuousness is as essential as purity. Although the deepest notes of sadness sound for her, despair is ever silent: mournful but not grim is her "Song of Love and Death." And when she dies, her death is not tragic; the unutterable sadness which consumed her life was fully and willingly accepted.