

Why not retrace our steps and linger amongst past memories? Gaze at that little school house struggling into existence and compare it with this structure of architectural grandeur which replaces it at the present day.

In the founding of such a school, in an unsettled country, who would fail to see that obstacles almost insurmountable in their ponderous strength and complicated variety had to be overcome. Yet in spite of all opposition perseverance raised our convent school to its present position and thanks to the untiring zeal and indomitable efforts of our Reverend Pastor and Reverend Teachers, whose names shall be coupled with it in gratitude, since fifty years, here go, hand in hand, the development of the mind and what is still more necessary the cultivation of the heart.

Yes, fifty years have rolled by since these walls first resounded to the noise and clamor of joyful children. Fifty years since youthful minds first took the step to toil and struggle up the hill of knowledge. Then, few were the furrowed cheeks or thoughtful brows, but to-day how many even among the number here present are proud to claim our Beloved Convent as their *Alma Mater* wherein the day of life looked bright and unobscured by threatening clouds; through this beautiful delusion has long since dispelled have you forgotten those happy days? Have they vanished from your mind leaving not one thought? Oh! no it cannot be!

Memory loves to linger around the old familiar spot and to recall the pains and pleasures of the past, every dear and fond remembrance, every thought of joy or sorrow, comes slowly stealing back, imparting to the soul a feeling of inexpressible delight.

Yes, joy and happiness fill all hearts, on this, the happy and auspicious anniversary of the golden jubilee of our school. And we the present pupils of this convent, could we remain insensible to the dignity of this occasion? could we look on, unmoved and refuse to join in the common happiness? Surely not; it would be an act of ingratitude towards all who have so kindly deigned to honour us, this evening, by their presence.

Believe therefore, kind visitors that the present occasion will ever stand foremost among the many happy festivals of this Convent and when in after years our thoughts revert to the days we spent within these walls, they will fondly cling and entwine themselves around the remembrance of this happy day.

Permit us to add that your presence at our celebration is the crowning glory of this day, since it gives us the golden opportunity of publicly proclaiming how sincerely we appreciate the encouragement you have hereby given.