

ST. THOMAS' ACADEMY.

In keeping with the custom of former years, the members of the Academy celebrated the 7th of March, the feast of St. Thomas, by holding their regular meeting in the Academic Hall, in the presence of the faculty and students. The evening's programme opened with a short introduction from the President, explanatory of the object of the society and the work performed by its members. Mr. John P. Donovan followed with an essay on "The bearing of Ontology upon Literature," in which he showed the dependence upon Ontology not only of literature but of all the arts and sciences. Mr. D. R. McDonald, in a few words, enlarged upon the principles advanced by the essayist. Mr. Eugene Groulx, in a most interesting paper, then showed the close relation which exists between Psychology and the natural sciences, which was followed by an essay by Mr. W. F. Kehoe on "The human passions." Mr. M. F. Fallon followed with a few references to the theories of the two previous speakers. At the conclusion of the programme Prof. Glasmacher addressed the assembly in a few congratulatory and encouraging words.

JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

On the evening of the 12th, ult. Mr. L. J. Kehoe, assisted by Mr. R. Dufresne upheld the action of our Federal Government with respect to the Canadian Pacific Railroad. Mr. Dennis Murphy and Mr. A. White contended that the action of the government was detrimental to the country's interests. The debate was decided in favor of the negative.

On the 3rd inst., the question for discussion was "Resolved that a Republican Government is preferable to a Monarchical one," Mr. A. C. Reddy and Mr. George Murphy spoke on behalf of the affirmative, and Mr. Frank McDougal and Mr. C. Higgins, advocated the cause of the Monarchical Government. The debate was interesting and animated throughout, the vote resulting in favor of the negative.

FRENCH DEBATING SOCIETY.

On the 28th, ult. the Society departed from the usual custom and instead of a debate a somewhat lengthy programme, consisting of readings, declamations and recitations was rendered. On Thursday the 14th inst. a debate took place on the

question "Resolved that the Rebellion of 1837 was justifiable," Mr. Damien Masson and Mr. A. Archambault supported the affirmative, and Mr. C. Charlebois and Mr. A. Chabot conducted the negative side of the question. The vote resulted in favor of the latter.

EXCHANGES.

Several pages of a recent number of *'Varsity* are taken up with notices of the life, death and work of Dr. Young, a scholar of varied and profound attainments in many departments of knowledge. He was at once a metaphysician, mathematician, scientist and litterateur. It was characteristic of him, says our contemporary, that it was in his later years he turned to the study of German, as he thought the obscurities of the German metaphysicians could be mastered in their native utterances only. There is also a thoughtful article on the study of modern languages: to avoid the superficial habits of mind which may result from such studies, serious labor should be combined with the practice of speaking a language. We fear that some of the debating societies in the University give good ground for the objection made against such clubs years ago by Dr. Whateley; a thorough knowledge of the subjects of discussion should not be sacrificed to glibness of tongue.

We have received the first number of the *Tablet*, an eclectic journal of Catholic literature, published quarterly by John Murphy & Co., Baltimore. An article on "Why busy men write the best books" gives the solution of a problem in the truth of which we are firm believers. The pressure of various occupations is a spur to intellectual activity; while freedom from the turmoil of life narrows our vision and distorts our judgment. The experience of ages teaches that the busiest men have produced the best books: Aristotle, Plato, Cicero, St. Augustine, St. Thomas, and in our own days, Goethe, Lamb, Newman, Manning, Mill, Matthew Arnold, all have found that other work has a bracing and broadening effect on mental labor.

We agree with *Queen's College Journal* that pulpit power is of as vast importance now as it was in any century. The influence wielded by Father Burke, during a short visit to America, is felt even after a