

St. Ann's Cadets On the Stage.

A dramatic critic of acknowledged rank once remarked: "There are plays which matter and plays which don't."

"The Gondolier of Death," a three act drama translated from the French by a Christian Brother, and put on the boards by the former pupils of St. Ann's School, Ottawa street, in St. Ann's Young Men's Society hall, on Monday and Tuesday evenings of this week, it may be safely said belongs to the plays that matter. Some idea may be formed of the plot from the following summary:—

"Two noble families of Venice quarrel—Morgese, the more powerful of the two, succeeded in having Don Alzedo, his rival sent into exile—Alzedo, to revenge himself on his adversary, planned to have the only son of Morgese stolen and familiarized with all kinds of crime, hoping, one day to be able to show to Morgese, his son a miserable outcast—Only at the last moment did Alzedo discover that his own son was the victim, and had become the notorious 'Gondolier of Death.'"

From the opening scene in Cocaroni's at the Camp San Mose in the first act, until the curtain fell upon the tragic end of the hero in the third act, there was not a moment during the progress of the play in which the large audience was not deeply, and it may be said without exaggeration, intensely interested. The demand upon the leading members of the cast in sustaining their important roles was responded to in a manner which was a revelation to the average attendant at the performances of our most capable amateur organizations.

The scenes in first and second acts in which Flanetto and Captain Speranza took part were interpreted by voice and action in a manner which was worthy of the professional stage. The declamatory powers of Mr. Fred. J. Hogan, who played the part of the first mentioned character, in his recital of the thrilling story of his life and in his affectionate appeals to Speranza to fly from the danger menacing him, won, and deservedly so, the most enthusiastic applause of the audience. Mr. J. P. Kennedy, who assumed the character of Speranza, the unpetuous and intrepid soldier, looked and spoke his part, which was also most difficult, to perfection. Mr. A. D. O'Leary, in Zaccaria, gave an excellent interpretation to his lines. As Andrew Morgese, Mr. R. J. Hart earned new laurels for himself by the true to life manner in which he played the role. Mr. Hart gave to the part a touch of that delicacy and gentleness which are so characteristic of his every-day actions. As Don Alzedo, the enemy of the Morgese, Mr. William Liston made his bow to the audience early in the play, and demonstrated in a marked manner that he is entitled to a foremost rank in the circles of our amateurs. Messrs. Gummarsell, J. D'Arcy Kelly, M. Fennell, E. O'Brien, J. P. Meehan, J. D. Kelly, M. J. O'Donnell, W. O'Brien, ably performed their respective parts.

The cast was as follows:—
Carlotta, Baptista, Reginello, Gondoliers, J. D'Arcy Kelly, M. Fennell and E. O'Brien.

Cocaroni, Tavern Keeper, Geo. Gummarsell.
Capt. Speranza, Secret Envoy from Padua, J. P. Kennedy.
Bombino, Cocaroni's Servant, J. P. Meehan.

Zaccaria, alias Michael the Brave, A. D. O'Leary.
Andrea Morgese, Don Alzedo, Patriarchs, R. J. Hart and W. P. Liston.

Fiametto, The Gondolier of Death, Fred. J. Hogan.
Del Brico, Del Croce, Dor Permezza, Lords, J. D. Kelly, M. J. O'Donnell and W. O'Brien.

Spies, Merchants, Gondoliers, etc., Time, 15th century; place, Venice.
To Mr. E. Varney, the well known theatrical manager, capable dramatic instructor and stage director, much credit is due for the high standard of the performance.

The musical portion of the programme was under the direction of Prof. P. J. Shea, and needless to say it was of a high standard of merit.

Previous to the first act the Cadets

to the number of fourteen, with Sergeant-Major Hillier in the lead, marched upon the stage, and gave an exhibition of fancy drill, which cannot be characterized by any other term than artistic. Round after round of applause greeted the boys as they performed movement after movement.

St. Ann's Hall has been the scene of many notable entertainments—national and social—during past decades which have reflected credit upon our creed and race; we have no hesitation in saying that none of them have surpassed that furnished by the patriotic and talented Cadets of old St. Ann's, who are an honor to their parish, to Rev. Father Fortier, C.S.S.R., their spiritual director, and the Christian Brothers, under whose direction they have been trained.

LOCAL NOTES.

MR. BROWNE HONORED.—A deserved tribute was offered to an esteemed and talented Catholic who had been prominent in the commercial life of Montreal for many years, when a large number of leading citizens in all walks of life of this city tendered Mr. William H. Browne, a banquet in the Windsor Hall on Saturday evening last, under the chairmanship of His Lordship, Mr. Justice C. J. Doherty.

Mr. Browne who left this city some months ago to assume the administration of another large commercial enterprise had been for a long period general manager of the Royal Electric Company. How well he discharged the onerous and important duties of his office may be realized from the following extract taken from the speech delivered by Hon. L. Beique, K.C., who proposed the toast of the evening—"Our Guest."

Hon. Mr. Beique said:—
Mr. Browne had found the Royal with a capital of one million and had left it with a capital of three millions. None more than he could appreciate Mr. Browne's energy, zeal and talent—qualities which had earned for him the esteem of both the boards under which he had worked.

CHURCH PARADE.—The interesting feature of the parade of last Sunday by our local militia and Cadet corps, was the splendid muster of the Catholic boys of Mount St. Louis and St. Ann's. The boys were frequently cheered along the route of march. Both corps with the sturdy lads of the 65th in the lead, attended St. James Cathedral, where the service consisted of a short sermon by Rev. Father Gauthier, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

A word of praise is due to that veteran amongst veterans, Captain Bolster, who commanded the little contingent of men who have seen service in the ranks of the regulars. The veterans marched with a regularity and ease which won much praise from the spectators.

OUR NEW COMMISSIONER.

Mr. J. H. Semple, one of our well known business men of Montreal, has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the Board of Catholic School Commissioners created by the death of the late Frank J. Hart. Mr. Semple is not a novice in matters connected with the Commission. During the period of the late Hon. Mr. Mercier's administration of the affairs of this province Mr. Semple was appointed a member of the Board, and for six years performed the duties devolving upon him in a most satisfactory manner. Since his retirement Mr. Semple has always manifested a practical interest in educational matters. The appointment has been well received in all circles.

OUR SOCIETIES.

LADIES' AUXILIARY.—On Thursday evening of last week the Ladies' Auxiliary, Division No. 5, A.O.H., held one of its entertainments in St. Patrick's Hall. This organization enjoys a high reputation in connection with its undertakings, and it is not too much to say that the event of last week was one of the most successful, from every standpoint, which the Auxiliary has held since its organization. A striking feature of the programme was a practical address delivered by the Rev. J. P. McGrath, of St. Patrick's Church, on the aims and objects of the Order.

Among those present were noticed: Rev. Father Fortier, C.S.S.R., St.

Ann's Church; Rev. Father Ouellette, St. Patrick's; Captain Kane, of the Hibernian Knights; J. Coffey, one of the Provincial officers A.O.H.; Miss A. Colfer, Provincial President Ladies' Auxiliary; Miss K. Callahan, County President.

Professor P. J. Shea presided at the piano. The programme was a long and varied one, including vocal and instrumental music and recitations.

Among the ladies who contributed were: Miss L. McKeown, Miss E. St. Denis, Miss E. Kenahan, Miss Rose Loneragan, Miss Foley, and Miss A. McKeown.

Among the gentlemen were:—A. Jones, C. E. Killoran, Jas. McCarrey, R. Hillier, A. O'Leary, Fred. Hogan and Mr. Jackson, also Messrs. Latimer, McCrory, McGuire and Norris, members of St. Ann's Junior Quartette.

Each performer was warmly applauded, and obliged to respond to an encore. The Hibernian Knights assisted, in no small degree, in making the event such a great success.

A recent meeting of this Branch a resolution of condolence was passed with Rev. E. Strubbe, C.S.S.R., on the death of his aged mother.

C.M.B.A., BRANCH NO. 41.—At KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.—The debating club of Dominion Council, No. 465, gave a most enjoyable entertainment in Stanley Hall on Tuesday evening last. Rev. M. L. Shea, St. Anthony's, delivered an address, during which he spoke most enthusiastically of the Knights of Columbus.

THE GRAND EUCHRE party to be held in Victoria Skating Rink Thursday, 12th June, in aid of the building fund of St. Mary's Church, and which is under the auspices of the Montreal branches of the C.M.B.A. of Canada, promises to be one of the successes of the season. The coming event has been taken up with great enthusiasm, the various branches are all working with a will towards making it a great success.

The lady friends of the Association are also taking a deep interest in the affair. A meeting of the Ladies' Committee was held on Tuesday evening last, which was presided over by Mrs. Patrick Reynolds with Miss S. Sutherland, Secretary. Amongst the ladies present were:—

Mrs. Patrick Reynolds, Mrs. C. O'Brien, Miss A. O'Brien, Mrs. Geo. A. Carpenter, Mrs. James McDonagh, Miss McDonagh, Mrs. Thos. A. Lynch, Mrs. M. J. Polan, Miss Polan, Mrs. T. M. Ireland, Mrs. J. H. Kelly, Mrs. M. Casey, Mrs. Jas. McDonald, Mrs. John Fallon, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. F. J. Sears, Miss Sears, Mrs. P. J. Carroll, Mrs. T. P. Tansey, Mrs. R. Cherry, Miss Cherry, Miss Sutherland, Miss McCrory, Mrs. A. C. Coleman, Miss Doyle and many others.

The meeting decided to furnish prizes to the number of one hundred for the event. Sub-committees were appointed, and considerable other business transacted, and the meeting adjourned to next Tuesday evening.

A meeting of the general committee was also held Tuesday evening. Chancellor C. O'Brien presided, and among those present were Grand Deputies Lamothe, Carpenter and Costigan, Brothers F. J. Sears, J. Fallon, M. Sharkey, Thos. D. Tansey, J. Sheeley, Wm. P. Doyle, J. P. Gunning, Thos. McDonald, P. Reynolds, P. J. Darcey, M. Casey, P. J. McDonagh, John Walsh, A. C. Coleman, Thos. A. Lynch, T. M. Ireland, J. Callahan, and others. Reports were received from the hall and printing committees, as also the music committee. The report on the advance sale of tickets was most satisfactory.

Grand Deputy Carpenter, who will have entire charge on the evening of the 12th, reported on the number and personal of his assistants for the occasion, all reports showed that the arrangements were nearly all perfected. Considerable routine was transacted, the meeting adjourned to the 28th inst.

BRANCH NO. 10, C.M.B.A.—At a regular meeting of Branch No. 10, C.M.B.A. in their hall, 329 St. Antoine street, on Wednesday, 21st, resolutions of condolence were passed to Vice-President Bro. J. McCabe on the death of his beloved wife.

RECENT DEATHS.

MRS. M. DONAVAN.—This week Mrs. Michael Donovan, widow of the late Mr. Michael Donovan, at one time a leading manufacturer of Montreal, and mother of Rev. Father Donovan, S.J., passed to her reward. The deceased lady had been an invalid for a long period of time and bore her sufferings with that spirit of Christian resignation so charac-

teristic of the generation of Irish Catholics who came to Montreal a half a century ago.—R.I.P.

MR. JAMES COONEY.—A few days ago the death of this well known and estimable citizen occurred at his residence 91 Workman street, at the early age of 45 years. Mr. Cooney was a native of Dublin, Ireland, and had resided in Montreal for the past twenty years.—R.I.P.

MRS. McELROY.—Another staunch and earnest parishioner of St. Patrick's Church has been called away from this earthly sphere in the person of Mrs. M. J. McElroy, widow of the late James McElroy. During two generations deceased had worshipped at St. Patrick's. She was a sister of our esteemed fellow-countryman, Mr. James Scullion, of Anderson street.—R.I.P.

MISS McARAN.—Mr. James Mc Aran will have the sincere sympathy of a large circle of friends in the sad loss he has sustained by the death of his daughter, Catherine Monica.

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