

but associated with the wreath worn for Ireland, a sprig from Canada—the immortal Tom Moore—and added to his poems some of the most beautiful written in Canada.

"I could go on, gentlemen, as you know, and enumerate persons belonging to our race, who occupied positions of high distinction in the country between that and the formation of the union of the upper and lower provinces. During the struggle of 1837-8, the Irishmen of this country sought to maintain the rights and privileges of the people and were foremost in the ranks of those who fought on that occasion. In 1841, when we first enjoyed constitutional government, the first Prime Minister of Canada was Robert Baldwin, and the first president of the council was Robert Baldwin Sullivan, his nephew. In 1820, before Catholic emancipation was granted, we find Irish Catholic members elected in the different provinces which now form the great confederation of Canada, and see them taking their places in the Legislative halls of the country. So that if there is any country Irishmen have a right to call their own, it is Canada. Coming to the confederation of the provinces, we have on the roll of honor the names of such men as McGee, Bishop Connolly, Edward Whelan, of Prince Edward Island, and other men who sacrificed their lives and fortunes; for it is quite true that Whelan did sacrifice his life in battling for the cause of confederation against terrible odds, he had to meet in his island province. Since that time we have had in the Legislative Halls of Canada, from the Province of New Brunswick, which was populated to the extent of one-half by a large exodus from Ireland, beginning in 1749, such men as Hon. John Costigan and Hon. T. W. Anglin; from Prince Edward Island, Hon. Edward Whelan, and Hon. Mr. Howland, Hon. Mr. Sullivan, now Chief Justice of that province. We have from the Province of Quebec, the names of McGee, of our Curran, of our Sir William Hingston, Mr. McShane—and many others, who, by their industry by their intelligence and by that indomitable perseverance which is characteristic of our race, have attained high positions in the councils of the country generally. We have in our local Legislature the Hon. E. J. Flynn, Hon. M. P. Hackett, Hon. Dr. Guerin. And this is speaking of the men of to-day. In the Province of Ontario we have had such men as Archbishop Lynch, Archbishop Walsh, Bishop Horan, of Kingston, the late Archbishop Cleary, and innumerable statesmen, as James O'Reilly, of Kingston; Hon. Anthony Monaghan, the first representative of Kingston under the Constitutional Government, an Irishman and a Catholic, and a host of others.

"But why is it necessary to mention them all? I have here through the kindness of Mr. Morgan, editor of 'Canadian Men and Women of our Time,' a list of eminent Irishmen, who have occupied positions in the councils of our country, in commerce, in the arts, in the sciences, in medicine, in law, and in all the walks of life, and they exceed those of any other nationality. If such be the case, there must be some reason for it. We must take to ourselves or attribute to the inherent characteristics of the people all credit for having done this; it is because our fathers have cast their lots where every man, Irish, English or Scotch, no matter what his nationality, may be recognized and may achieve the highest honors under our system of government. We have done much to advance the system, and have done a great deal to bring our constitution up to its present state of perfection. If the young men of to-day and those around this board this evening are only true to the principles of Irishmen and true to the dictates of their own conscience, following the examples of such men as Baldwin and others who have taken a leading part in the councils of the country, they will take an interest in public affairs, will recognize truth and justice, and trifle with nothing dishonest or dishonorable, and the Irish name will go down to posterity as not alone occupying high positions, but as the one nationality ruling the Canadian Government. I see some of my friends smiling at this; it is because possibly during the last twenty or thirty years Irishmen have not occupied the positions they did before. This is, perhaps, not so much due to their own fault as to a combination of circumstances that have sent such men as my friend of St. Andrew's Society and my friend Col. Stevenson to the front. I think we might take a leaf out of the books of these gentlemen and look into the histories of the great Scotchmen who have ruled this country during the last thirty or thirty-five years, and we shall see that their first cardinal principle of success has been that it was never a question of Catholic or Protestant—they hung together as Scotchmen, Scotchmen first, last and always. I ask all the Irishmen here present to keep that example before them, and if they do, the time will

come when, if we don't altogether rule the country, we will be a very close second to the Scotchmen.

I don't intend to weary you with a long speech, but we all know what the beauties of Canada are; the healthy faces I see around me are the strongest proofs in the world of the benefits to be derived from the climate and from the healthy association of Canadian sports. We have a climate suited to all conditions of men. We have the richest mineral fields, untold wealth in our province and in the Yukon, which is sufficient to enrich every citizen in Canada. We want to take advantage of this, and to do so, let us be united, let us see every year gathering round this board, as we see to-night, Irishmen of both creeds, Protestant and Catholic. When I came into this hall this evening it carried me back to a time when, in the old Ottawa Hotel, the Irish Canadian Association, of which my friend Hon. Judge Curran, was chairman, and Mr. Coyle, a prominent officer, held its last dinner on March 17th, 1870. Some of the faces have grown a little older, but there is a remarkable thing about them: wherever there is anything Irish to be done or said, you will see the same Irish faces that you do here to-night. On that occasion we had the benefit of having associated with us, not only the then president of the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society and the other national societies of the city, but we also had the Mayor of Montreal, as we have to-night. And I am sure if we don't have these gentlemen on every occasion we give a benefit or other entertainment in the name of the Irish people of Montreal, it will not be through any fault of ours.

"Gentlemen, I thank you for having listened to me with such patience, and I thank you Mr. Chairman and the officers of the Society, for having selected me to honor this toast with a response."

Dr. W. H. Drummond was then called upon by the chairman to recite one of his poems. He gave with much feeling "De little Cure of Calumet," for which he was enthusiastically applauded. In response to repeated requests he gave Kelly and Burke and Shea in capital style.

The president submitted the toasts of "Our Guests," and in doing so paid a few words of neat compliment to each—His Worship the Mayor, the President of St. Jean Baptiste Society, the President of the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society, the President of the Caledonian Society, the second Vice-President of St. Andrew's Society, the President of St. George's Society, the Consul-General of the United States and Sir William Hingston.

"For they are Jolly Good Fellows" was sung with much vim, and then the Mayor rose to reply. He spoke of the kindly manner in which he was received by all nationalities when he first came to Montreal, some thirty years ago, and said that the position he now occupied he owed not to himself, and not to his own nationality in particular, but to the goodwill, union and harmony that existed in this city among the different nationalities. He had always admired this, and his efforts had been directed towards harmonizing, as much as possible, the different elements that went to make up this city, for it was only by working in harmony that we could make it what it should be. The future of this city was immense, and if we would only look round and think seriously of its future, and believe in it, the strides that Montreal would make in the next ten years would be such that its population would be nearer 1,000,000 than 500,000. The good will and union that prevailed among our people would help that to be attained. Whatever the municipality of Montreal might have done that was wrong or that was good, lay aside the wrong and think only of the good. He often told the newspaper reporters that they were wrong in writing against Montreal, against its institutions and against its city Council. He told them not to deal with matters personally, but to say that on a certain question the course taken was not in the best interests of the city. Let them not run down Montreal as a city, but be in favor of everything that would make it greater Montreal. Much, he remarked, had been said about home rule that night. The city's representatives had tried to get home rule for Montreal, and they had been granted by the Legislature, a charter that would make Montreal, free to govern itself, if only the people would think about it and do what was right towards governing themselves as free and independent people. The Legislature was generous, and granted, not all that was asked, but a good share, and if we would only govern ourselves by the constitution now given us, everybody would be happy, or at least we should have a greater degree of happiness than in the past. In conclusion he congratulated the Society upon

the success of its first annual dinner.

Mr. D. Parizeau made a neat speech in French, and Mr. J. Hamilton Ferns, having alluded to the chain of brotherly love that should bind Irishmen closely together, and touched on the desirableness of our increased membership in national societies. The young men, however, did not seem to realize the importance of belonging to a national society, and thus filling up the gaps that occurred in the ranks each year. Indeed, he remarked, he had sometimes, when speaking to young Irishmen on the matter, been met with the reply:—"I'm not Irish; I'm a Canadian." The man who could claim to be a Canadian had just reason to be proud, but while he (Mr. Ferns), would bow the knee to none in his loyalty to, and love for, Canada, the land of his birth, he considered that the man who repudiated his nationality was not worthy the name. As Canadians, we had a heritage, and let us not forget that Canada was not always what she is today—"a land flowing with milk and honey"—but was a gift to us from our ancestors, who left their homes in the old lands of England, Scotland, Ireland and France, labored early and late to make a home and a living for themselves and families, and laid broad and deep the foundations upon which we had the honor to build the superstructure. We would be unworthy of such ancestors if we failed to love the land which gave them birth."

Hon. John L. Bittinger, also responded to the toast, and said in part:—"At the last dinner I ate before I left my country to come to Canada, I had as a companion an old Christian Brother, who had no time to write letters of introduction as I was leaving, but he scratched off a list of men whom he said I ought to get acquainted with in Montreal. I see some of them present to-night. Among them were Sir William Hingston, Hon. Judge Curran, Mr. M. J. F. Quinn, Ex-Mayor McShane, whom he called the 'People's Jimmy,' and P. B. McNamee. I have had the pleasure of making their acquaintance, and I am glad I have met them."

"In my country where the main stock is British, there is a mixture of many nations, and we feel under obligations to them all, for the reason they have all made good citizens and been loyal to our country. If you recall history, the first man who commanded an American warship, that flew the American flag was a Scotchman, and he raised the very devil as soon as he was on the sea. The first nation to salute that flag was France. Irishmen we have in our country everywhere; they are as evident in that nation as they are all over the world. The fact is, in some municipalities they dominate us—they are the rulers. Another fact is, that the President of the United States—a statesman good and great—is of Irish descent. The prominent trait of our race is organization and government. We govern so well that we govern ourselves. We organize by instinct, and sometimes we have our men carry civilization to heathen lands. We are nation builders; we teach the ignorant savage how to till the land and find a home. The British Empire has awakened India from the sleep of ages, and she is calling back to Egypt a civilization long vanished. She is also carrying light into darkest Africa. Wherever her flag is planted development and enlightenment follow. Following as she has taught, the people of the United States will sweep from the sun-kissed isles of the seas ignorance, debasement and corruption; and before long, we hope the banner of freedom will float over a people contented, prosperous, happy, and God-fearing."

"But, Mr. Chairman, let me turn for a moment to the day we are observing. It is but little I know of the peerless saint whose memory is honored at annual meetings by the sons of St. Patrick. History tells but little of him, and it is almost entangled in the debris of legend and tradition; but we know that he lifted Ireland out of Paganism; he gave her enlightenment by establishing schools, and the rich fruit of his labor was the establishment of a Church which, under the men who followed after him, became the most zealous and active in all Christendom. He was, in fact, the redeemer of Ireland. Stop and think what wonderful men that land has produced. It has given to the world some of the greatest historians, some of the most gifted statesmen, many of the most brilliant orators, some of the most devout priests, some of the sweetest poets that ever sang on earth, and many of the bravest and most renowned warriors that ever tented on battle's red field. But if the old saint taught his people their religion, which through all the ages has confronted the hearts and brought, as I believe, salvation to the souls of millions of the human race, I trust that his memory may be cherished

and revered through all coming time."

Sir William Hingston was next called upon to respond, but as he was suffering from a cold which had affected his voice, he was unable to do so, and merely stood up whilst Hon. Dr. Guerin, who was next to him, expressed on his behalf, the kindly sentiments he felt towards St. Patrick's Society.

This brought forth the chorus, "For he's a jolly good fellow," after which Mr. E. Goff Penny acknowledged the toast, speaking of the harmony that prevails among the different nationalities residing in Canada. He referred in the most sympathetic manner to the grand demonstration which he had witnessed during the day, which he said was a credit to Irish Canadians.

Mr. A. F. Riddell, regretted the absence of Mr. Paton, president of St. Andrew's Society, whose place he had been called upon to fill, and in the course of what was a nice little after dinner speech, he paid a well-timed compliment to the Shamrock Hockey team, whose play, he said, he had witnessed with a great deal of pleasure. He could not say too much in praise of them. They deserved all their victories, and he was satisfied that they would go on to more and more. They had retained the championship each year, and as long as they played together as they were doing this winter, it would be hard work for any one to wrest it from them.

Mr. William Seath, likewise acknowledged the toast, and then Mr. F. Green contributed "The Minstrel Boy," very acceptably, after which came the last toast, "The Ladies," felicitously proposed by Mr. M. J. Morrison, and as felicitously replied to by Mr. Frank J. Curran, advocate. Mr. J. Hamilton Ferns followed with a recitation, "The Green Grass of Old Ireland," and the annual banquet of St. Patrick's Society was then brought to a close.

YOUNG IRISHMEN'S L. & B. ASSOCIATION.

The audience which crowded Her Majesty's Theatre in the evening—even the six boxes being occupied—were afforded a rare dramatic and vocal treat, their hearty enjoyment of which they frequently expressed by their unstinted applause. The historical Irish drama "Robert Emmet," the Martyr of Irish Liberty, was presented by the Dramatic Club of the Young Irishmen's Literary and Benefit Association, the cast of characters being as follows:—

Robert Emmet Mr. J. J. Power
Mr. J. J. Power A Sprig of the Emerald Isle
Mr. J. J. McLean An Old Soldier
Mr. C. P. Hamelin Friend to Emmet
Mr. J. P. O'Connor A Traitor
Mr. Frank J. Curran Sergeant Topfall
Mr. J. P. Smythe Corporal Thomas
Mr. J. P. Connolly Lord Norbury
Mr. R. J. Love Baron Duke
Mr. M. Carragher Foreman of Jury
Mr. R. Baird Commiserator
Mr. Fred Ward Mr. Emmet's Jailor
Kathleen Little Gerrie O'Brien
Judy O'Dougherty Mr. H. Codd
Maria Emmet's Wife
Miss Julia Lynch

Peasants, Soldiers, Colleagues of Emmet, Constables, Jury, Etc., Etc.

Before the curtain rose Mr. Richard Burke, president of the Association, delivered a short, well-worded address, in which he explained the objects of the Association and the advantages obtained by membership of it. It was founded, he said to secure the mutual benefit of its members, to promote their moral and intellectual advancement, and to celebrate fitly St. Patrick's Day—a day sacred to God and Ireland. The premises of the Association were equipped with a library and reading room, where not only the leading Irish nationalist newspapers but the leading magazines of the day, were always on hand. There was also a gymnasium; and last, but not least, there was a Dramatic Club, of whose ability they were about to be afforded an opportunity of judging.

This year the association would celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of its organization. Its record during that period was well known. It was one of which its members had reason to be proud. The membership fee was trivial; and he urged all young Irishmen of Montreal, to become members, either of that or of some to further the cause of Irish nationality.

So admirably were the players suited to the parts allotted to them, and so excellently did they portray the characters which they assumed, that no one would have suspected for a moment that the "company" was composed of amateurs. Mr. M. J. Power, as Robert Emmet, proved that he had thoroughly imbibed the spirit of the heroic young patriot of 1803, who loved his oppressed country with a passionate enthusiasm, which inspired the hearts and minds of millions of Irishmen, and will ever continue to inspire the hearts and minds of millions of Irishmen, all

over the globe, with a fervent devotion to Ireland's cause; which has cheered the Irish political prisoner in his dark and solitary British cell, and given hope and courage to the lonely Irish exile, wherever his lot may be cast. The famous speech from the dock, the delivery of which is the most exacting demand upon the dramatic ability of the player filling the title role, was faultlessly declaimed by Mr. Power, who was deservedly remembered by repeated plaudits. As "Maria," wife of Emmet, Miss Julia Lynch, was all that could be desired. Mr. J. J. McLean was, as usual, a genuine "Sprig of the Emerald Isle"; his acting as "Darby O'Gaft," could not be improved upon, any more than could Mr. Slattery's impersonation of the hapless and bibulous red-coat, "Sergeant Topfall." Mr. Hamelin, Mr. J. P. O'Connor, and Mr. Gallagher acted their parts with great credit, as did the remainder of the cast; while Mrs. H. E. Codd, as "Judy O'Dougherty," Darby's sweetheart, merited high praise for her very able presentation of the part of a sweet and mirthful colleen.

Song and dance were introduced at an appropriate interval, this portion of the programme being efficiently carried out by the following:—

"Kathleen Mavourneen" Miss Bessie Kelly
"The Emmet Guards" Y.L.L. & B.A. Quartette
"Come Back to Erin" Mr. J. P. Smythe
"Toll Them That You're Irish" Little Gerrie O'Brien
"The Boys of Wexford" Mr. C. P. Hamelin
"The Girl so Dear to My Heart" Mr. J. J. McLean
"Sweet Innisness" Mr. J. P. O'Connor
"Doubtless Irish Jig" Messrs. J. J. and J. L. McLean

Our notice of this performance would be incomplete if it did not mention the following, who acquitted themselves of their respective tasks in a very capable manner:—

Stage Director, Mr. H. E. Codd; Master of Properties, Mr. E. L. Tobin; Leader of Orchestra, Prof. O. Zimmerman; Musical Director, Mr. T. J. Grant; Costumer, Mr. Jos. Ponton.

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS.

The A. O. H. were organized a few years ago in this city by a number of Irishmen. The charter membership was not large, but since that time the roll has increased to such an extent as to make the A. O. H., the strongest Irish Catholic organization on the Island of Montreal. At present there are seven different divisions throughout the city, including a well-armed company of uniformed knights and numbering in all over 1500 members. The whole is under the control of the Hochelaga County Board. The principal object of the organization, is to be of benefit to its members when in distress, to care for their dead, and to foster a love for faith and country. These noble aims which cannot but appeal to the hearts of the Catholics of Canada, readily account for the rapid increase in membership, and are the causes why so many well-known names in all walks of life are enrolled under its banner.

The annual entertainment which it is customary to hold on St. Patrick's night, under the auspices of the County Board, was held this year in the Windsor Hall; and the principal feature of the evening was the performance of Brannigan's Celtic Concert and Comedy Company, which was brought on from New York specially for the occasion. The entertainment as a whole was in the opinion of many, the best attraction of the evening. At any rate the immense audience that filled the large hall to overflowing, had no reason to regret their attendance; for they received a real treat that surpassed anything of the kind ever seen upon a similar occasion in Montreal. That all present thoroughly enjoyed the performance was amply evidenced by the many recalls to which the various performers so generously responded and by the loud and prolonged applause that greeted their response.

Above the centre of the platform hung the green banner of the organization, with their motto, "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity," embossed in gold upon it. Among those present were noticed the following:—

Rev. Fathers Fallon, McCallan, and Driscoll of St. Patrick's Church; Messrs. Wm. Rawley, M. J. Heelan, A. Dunn, Thos. Smith, M. Lynch, ex-Adm. B. Connaughton, B. Wall, P. Carroll, J. Hughes, W. P. Stanton, J. Kennedy, T. Erwin, H. T. Kearns, J. P. O'Hara, P. J. Finn, P. J. Tomlity, J. Traynor, T. J. Donovan, J. C. McEaney, J. Lavelle, P. Logue, B. Feeney, J. O'Neill and J. Dundon.

Prof. Wallace opened the programme with selections of Irish airs on the piano; and was succeeded by the charming vocalist Miss Nellie Wallace whose excellent rendering of "Wearing of the Green," greatly pleased the audience. A grand military fancy drill was executed by the Hibernia Knights under the command of Capt. P. Kane. They looked well with waving green and white plumes in their costumes of green and gold, and were decidedly favorites. The various intricate movements of the drill were

performed with wonderful precision, and called forth repeated applause. The Brannigan Celtic Concert and Comedy Company, which did much to enhance the attractiveness of Lady Aberdeen's Irish Village, at the Chicago World's Fair, were then introduced, and they contributed the rest of the programme. The Coughlan sisters, juveniles attired in Highland costume, delighted everybody with their selections on the banjo, mandolin and guitar, as well as by their clever dancing. They were followed by the two elder Brannigans in Irish jigs, reels and hornpipe dancing which were greatly appreciated. Mr. James W. Reagan, whose sweet tenor voice delighted Montreal audiences on the occasion of his visit to this city with the "Bells of Shandon" company, sang some of his original Irish songs and had to respond to repeated encores. Some clever tambourine juggling by Mr. T. McCarthy was a feature of the entertainment. The performance of Mr. James T. Touhey the champion Irish piper of the World, and Master James the juvenile dancing wonder received loud and prolonged applause. The Maeks in their Irish and American vocal selections were also very good. Mr. Brannigan's great Celtic troupe, four in number executed some clever Irish character dancing to the music of the Irish bag pipes and literally brought down the house. After the rendition of some Irish descriptive ballads, by Mr. Jas. W. Reagan, the entertainment was brought to a close by the singing of "God Save Ireland," by all present.

The A. O. H. are to be congratulated upon their successful concert and we think that a repetition of a similar entertainment upon another occasion would be very popular.

ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN.

The spacious hall of the Monument National was crowded to its utmost capacity, both in the afternoon and evening, with the friends and admirers of St. Ann's Young Men's Society who had come to witness the production of "O'Rourke's Triumph," by the dramatic section of the Association.

The St. Ann's Young Men have a historic reputation second to none of any other society in or out of the city. Under the clever tuition of Mr. Edward Varney, they have attained such a high degree of excellence in dramatic art, that at present and for the past few years their performances have rivaled and have even surpassed the productions of many professional companies who visit our city. It is not strange then, that such a large audience should be present at this year's entertainment knowing as they did the great ability of the players. That they were not disappointed is evident by the many who have since expressed the wish that "O'Rourke's Triumph" be repeated on Easter Monday. As our readers are already aware, the drama "O'Rourke's Triumph," or Irish Honor Vindicated" was written for the St. Ann's Young Men's Society, by Mr. J. Martin, one of its members and is one of his best compositions. It is cleverly written, and the plot is interesting from the very beginning. There are four acts which abound in stirring incidents and striking climaxes. The costumes, stage settings and scenic effects were most complete. New music especially arranged by the popular and talented organist of St. Ann's Church, Prof. P. J. Shea, was artistically rendered throughout the evening, by a select orchestra composed of well-known local musicians, with Prof. Sullivan as leading violinist. Several orchestral pieces especially written in connection with the popular Irish play and American success, "The Romance of Athlone," were also rendered for the first time in Montreal.

Incidental to the play several specialties were introduced and most cleverly executed by Mr. J. Pierson, Montreal's favorite soft shoe dancer; Mr. T. C. Emblem, the well known vocalist in Irish songs; and the Orpheus Vocal Quartette of St. Ann's, which is composed of Messrs. W. Mullarkey, J. Penfold, J. Murphy, and E. Quinn. In the selection of the cast of characters, great taste was exhibited, as everybody seemed to be suited to his role. Mr. W. E. Finn was undoubtedly the greatest success as the scheming villain, Ralph Belgrave. The scene where he robs the key of the iron chest was especially a fine piece of acting. Mr. T. M. Jones, as Dan Snyder, Belgrave's accomplice, was up to his usual form. Mr. P. McKeown as Gerald O'Rourke, a young Irish gentleman and the falsely accused hero, was a great success. Mr. (Frank Drew) J. Penfold as Terry McCann, a true Irish boy, kept the audience in laughter, and he was ably seconded by Messrs. J. Shanahan as Barney O'Callaghan; Mr. Ed. Quinn in the dual role of Regan the blacksmith and M. Lebeau a son of "la belle France"; and Mr. P. O'Rourke as Tom Clifford, a jolly sailor. Mr. J. J. Gethings as Philip O'Rourke, the hero's brother, displayed much dramatic talent, as did also Mr. W. J. Co. (continued on Page Twelve.)