

joy that was felt by the fortunate recipients was visible in their countenances. The valedictories were read by Mr. C. C. Delany, B.A., of Burlington, Vt., and Mr. E. J. Landry, B.A., of Quebec, P.Q. Mr. Delany's was written in verse, and was indeed a splendid effort. To all the students we waft, through THE OWL, our cordial wishes for a happy vacation; and to the graduates we would express the hope that success may attend their efforts in whatever sphere they may in the future find themselves.

### ITEMS OF INTEREST.

In the monastery of St. Antoine du Mont, near Rieti, in Italy, an important discovery has lately been made. In the interior of a pillar 500 printed volumes and 69 manuscripts have been found, 55 of which are very precious. The greater number of these manuscripts belong to the tenth century; they treat of theological literature, of civil and canon law, and some few of philosophy. Most of the manuscripts are above all remarkable for their calligraphical execution and their admirable miniatures.

The London *Universe* says: "Father Pendosey, O.M.I., who has died at Okanagan, an Indian mission in British Columbia, not far from Victoria, was a hero. He was a son to Gen. Pendosey and heir to a fortune of 2,500,000 francs, but preferred to resign an existence of affluent pleasure to become a French Oblate and devote himself to the evangelization of savages. In the disputes of the Western tribes with the United States from 1860 to 1890 he has acted as arbitrator. He possessed such an intimate knowledge of medicine and effected such extraordinary cures, that the red skins looked upon him as almost a supernatural being."

The New York *Times* says: "Reading, writing, arithmetic and geography are not taught differently by a Methodist and by a Jesuit, but in precisely the same fashion, if they are taught properly. To say that a 'godless' instruction in these branches of knowledge, or any others that are properly within the province of the public schools, is 'necessarily immoral,' is to make a perfectly meaningless assertion." If they are taught properly! but if the reading book has lessons in which the

Catholic Church is portrayed as a mass of corruption from which jolly beer-swilling Luther was raised up by God to deliver the world, is reading taught properly to Catholic children? If a teacher sets as a copy in the copy book of a Catholic child "Catholics worship idols," is writing taught properly? If, as Pike's Arithmetic, a question is given in this style to a Catholic pupil, "If the Pope can deliver a soul from purgatory in one hour, a Cardinal in two, a Bishop in eight and a priest in twenty-four, how long will it take a Pope, a Cardinal, a Bishop and a priest together to deliver one," is this teaching arithmetic properly? If a geography, like Huntington's, has a picture of a Catholic Church interior at the account of Italy with the caption "Roman Catholic Idolatry," and one at Asia showing the interior of a heathen temple, and the caption "Pagan Idolatry," is this teaching geography properly? Yet all these things have been done in schools in this country. A follower of Ingersoll can in the same way use any of these branches to ridicule Christianity; and it is a meaningless assertion that reading, writing, arithmetic and geography cannot be used to weaken the Christian or Catholic faith of pupils.—*Catholic News*.

Rev. Brother Patrick, assistant superior-general of the Christian Brothers, just died at Paris. Brother Patrick was widely known in Europe as an enlightened and energetic educator, but it was chiefly in the United States and Canada that the value of his service in the cause of education was recognized. He was born in Ireland in 1822 and went to Montreal 20 years thereafter. On his arrival in Canada he joined the Order of the Christian Brothers. He founded numerous schools in Montreal and its environments, and made his influence felt far beyond the limits of his actual work.

The largest individual gift thus far made to the Catholic University at Washington, D.C., is property in New York and Long Branch I. valued at \$408,000 over all encumbrances, from the Rev. James McMahon, rector of St. Andrew's Church, New York City. Father McMahon had some money bequeathed to him by relatives all of which he invested in real estate. The investments proved profitable and enabled him to benefit thus munificently