

THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY BANQUET.

The seventeenth of March is always looked forward to by the Irish students of the University of Ottawa with perhaps more joyful expectations than any other feast throughout the year. And why should they not? For to the heart of every true Irishman nothing is dearer than to celebrate the feast of the Great Saint and Apostle who brought the light of truth into his beloved Erin, and rescued that land of destiny from the bonds of paganism and idolatry. The twenty-fifth annual St. Patrick's Day Banquet, given by the classes of '08 and '09, was, in point of excellence, equal, if not superior, to any of its predecessors. The memorable function materialized in the students' refectory, which was gaily decorated; streamers of red, white and green hung in graceful abundance, numerous portraits appeared on every side bedecked with appropriate flags, and in the centre of the hall stood the University's several coveted trophies, surrounded with artistic folds of garnet and grey. As the many students and guests seated themselves to the sumptuous repast they could not but feel that those who had managed the affair were to be heartily congratulated. Valentine's orchestra furnished dulcet Irish airs throughout the feast. The students who spoke ably upheld the excellent reputation which Ottawa University possesses in oratorical proficiency, while the rank and reputation of those guests who addressed the assemblage enhanced the interest, which their remarks deserved.

The material portion of the banquet having received due consideration, the toastmaster, Mr. F. J. McDonald, '08, in fitting words, proposed the different toasts.

Mr. J. R. Corkey replied as follows to "The Day We Celebrate":

Your Excellency, Your Grace, Rev. Fathers, and Gentlemen,—

The celebration we Irishmen make here to-day is one of love and of sorrow. For is not Ireland a most singular nation: singular in her glories, and singular in her misfortunes? And among the glories the one which stands out most prominently is her religious fidelity. She points to the man, who, nearly fifteen centuries ago, quenched the lurid fire of the Druid, and shed over her virginal bosom the rays of divine faith; to him, who transported her from out the vale of pagan obscurity into the marvelous light of Christianity. And thus