

ALFRED THE GREAT.



RARELY has a dramatic entertainment brought to the Academic Hall as large an audience as that with which it was thronged on the evening of the 20th inst., the occasion of the patronal feast of the Rev. Rector. Long before the curtain rose every available seat was taken, and the very aisles had to be filled with chairs for those who arrived only at the appointed hour. At 8 p. m. His Grace, Archbishop Duhamel, Chancellor of the University, entered the hall with the Rev. Rector, the Faculty and a large number of Rev. Fathers from different parts of the diocese, the College Band meanwhile playing for the overture Chagnieux's "La Croix de Fer." The tastily finished programmes distributed showed the performance of the evening to be Sheridan Knowles' "Alfred the Great," a drama in five acts.

The following students appeared on the *dramatis personæ*:

SAXONS.

Alfred, King of England,	W. S. Woods.
Oddune,	F. L. French.
Oswith,	J. P. Smith.
Edric,	S. C. Hallissey.
Egbert,	R. A. Paradis.
Kenrick,	T. M. Donovan.
Edwy,	F. X. Brunette.
Oswald,	J. H. Brehehey.
Arthur,	L. J. Kehoe.
Edgar,	C. J. Gaudet.
Ailred,	R. W. Ivers.
Edwin,	W. S. Prodrick.
Conrad,	J. R. O'Connor.

DANES.

Guthrum, King of the Danes,	C. C. Delany.
Gurmund, his son,	F. A. Lamoureux.
Amund,	E. J. Perusse.
Oscar,	F. M. Doyle.
Haldane,	W. T. McCauley.
Otho,	I. A. French.
Inguar,	A. M. Plunkett.
High Priest,	T. J. Tetreau.
Boy,	H. A. Glasmacher.
Soldier,	W. J. Leonard.

Soldiers, Attendants, etc.

Of the play itself, and its distinguished author, the favorable comments of the critics are widely known. The events represented are the struggles, at first almost hopeless, but ultimately crowned by the most brilliant success, of the great King Alfred against the Danish invaders. The costumes and scenery showed that much time and taste must have been devoted to their preparation and selection; in fact the scenic effects, from start to finish, could scarcely have been more in harmony with the nature of the play, and would do credit to the professional stage. As the curtain was rung up and the Saxons and Danes came in turn upon the stage, spectators could easily imagine themselves witnessing events really occurring in Great Britain one thousand years ago. The arms and mode of warfare, the altars and sacrifices, the peasants' homes and royal palace of that period were represented faithfully and strikingly. Before the performance began Mr. D. A. Campbell came forward and declaimed with ease and grace an appropriate prologue to "Alfred the Great" from the gifted pen of Rev. Æneas Dawson, LL. D., who, we are gratified to say, was present at the entertainment.

Easy stage appearance, and perfect self-possession, so difficult of attainment by amateurs, were justly admired in almost every part; evidence of the commendable endeavors of each individual to thoroughly master his rôle, and the numerous ably conducted rehearsals of the past few weeks. The really fine acting of several of the performers merits special notice. Mr. W. S. Woods as Alfred undertook a more than ordinarily difficult part. That Alfred was able to adapt himself to so many situations in life; a model monarch, a contemned dependant in the peasant's hut, a shrewd observer under the guise of a harper in the enemy's camp, a hero on the field and a consummate legislator proves him indeed entitled to the surname he bears. These various situations are admirably brought out in the play, and Mr. Woods was natural in each, and passed from one to another with an ease, to say the least, highly creditable to any amateur. Mr. C. C. Delaney's personation of Guthrum, king of the Danes