

The Rector's Address

Your Excellency, Rev. Fathers, Your Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen :

The kind Providence that guides the trend of human affairs, sweetly but surely, in the order predestined from all time, has been bountiful, indeed, during the past year. Prosperity has beamed on the face of a progressive world, and the twentieth century has entered on its course under the aegis of good fortune.

In a special way, has the University of Ottawa been favored. To-day she is particularly grateful, for she too, has felt the fostering care of kind Providence and God has deigned, in a singular manner, to consider the humility of His handmaid. Hence, on this solemn occasion, in the presence of so distinguished an audience, she magnifies the Lord even as the Virgin Mother in the Canticle "for the great things He hath done in her."

There is, indeed, much to be thankful for. Looking back, we find with gratification, that in the scholastic year, just closing, the attendance in the halls of Ottawa University has sensibly increased. The quality of our student-body, it would seem, has gone on refining, and if we are to judge from the fact that this year no dismissal has found place on our records, notwithstanding a strict though paternal discipline, the conclusion is, that the boys of 1903 are among the worthiest sons of this Institution. Add to this the ever-evident cheerfulness of the professorial staff, their sympathy with their students, together with the excellent relations existing with the parents, and we feel that to-day we should express our grateful recognition of it all.

Gratitude, then, is due, not only to these our friends, more closely related, but also to our well-wishers. And from this category of well-wishers, I believe none are excluded.

As a powerful incentive to our earnest desire to fulfil an arduous task, both the General and the Provincial Administration of the Oblate Order have vied with each other in encouraging substantially the noble work.

With them the civil power has co-operated in a striking