

the institution was our *alma mater*; inside its walls ten happy years of our life went past; we entered the college when it was almost at its commencement; we left it when it had become a recognized university; the last link that bound us to it was the granting us of a special degree; and the whole chain that unites us to the past has been formed of memories that must last as long as life endures, and that grow brighter, lovelier and fonder as the distance that separates us from their source extends."

Another note of sympathy that we value highly is the following from *'Varsity*, the journal of the students of the University of Toronto:—"The recent calamity that has befallen our sister university at Ottawa recalls very vividly our own great fire of eight years ago. Though that happened before the present body of undergraduates arrived, the life-long scar remains to remind us only too painfully of our loss. We are able therefore in the truest sense of the word to extend our sympathy to our fellow collegians in the East."

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### OBITUARY.

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VERY REV. JAMES MCGRATH, O.M.I.

To convey to the former students of Ottawa University the sad news of the sudden death of an old student and afterward a professor is to-day our sad duty.

In the Union Station at Albany, on the night of Monday, January the eighteenth, the Very Rev. James McGrath, O.M.I., suddenly died. He was traveling to Lowell to participate in a conference of the Oblates when his Master called him to his reward. He died with the rosary

entwined around his hands, and the crucifix pressed to his lips.

Father McGrath was a native of Tipperary, Ireland. He studied for some time at Dublin and then came to the University of Ottawa, where he remained till his graduation. Shortly afterwards he was ordained and then began the arduous duties of his missionary life. In Lowell he built the church from which his funeral took place, and then from Albany to Buffalo he continued his work as a minister of the Gospel.

His ability was so marked that he was appointed to the very honorable position of Provincial of the Oblates in the United States. He held the post for twelve years and his health failing he was assigned to the post of pastor of the Holy Angels Church, and President of the College in Buffalo.

As has already been said he was on his way to Lowell when his death occurred. Father McGrath was sixty-three years of age, forty of which have been spent in America. Wherever he was known, there he counted his friends by legions; wherever he was known, he was loved, not only by the rich, but more particularly by the poor who were his especial charge.

The present students of Ottawa knew him but by reputation, but still we love him with a deep and tender love, and our unceasing prayer shall be that his pure soul may find in the Lord the reward his saintly life deserves.

*Requiescat in pace.*

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### OF LOCAL INTEREST.

In accordance with a time-honored custom, the students grasped the earliest opportunity after Christmas holidays for reorganizing their De-