

THE FEAST OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS.

AS the 7th of March fell this year on the first Sunday of Lent, the celebration of the Feast of St Thomas Aquinas, the Angelic Doctor and patron of Catholic Colleges and Universities, was deferred until Thursday, the 11th instant. The prince of scholastic philosophers and theologians has always held a high place in the affections of both students and professors in Ottawa University and his principles have ever been enthusiastically accepted and enforced by them. Hence each recurring St. Thomas' day is fittingly marked by appropriate ceremonies in honor of the great Dominican Teacher. The year 1897 formed no exception to the established rule.

On Thursday morning His Grace Archbishop Duhamel, chancellor of the University, sang pontifical high mass in the College Chapel. He was assisted by the Very Revd. Rector as High Priest and by Revds. Fathers Fallon and Boisramé as Deacons of Honor. The members of the Faculty attended in their academic robes and the students filled the chapel. There was congregational singing such as is not often heard; the noble Gregorian chant being powerfully and beautifully rendered by the whole student-body.

THE EVENING EXERCISES.

At 8 o'clock on Thursday evening the University Hall was filled with the students of the various departments, the members of the faculty and the clergy of the city and its vicinity. The exercises took the form of a congratulatory and complimentary entertainment in honor of Rev. Dr. Lacoste, O.M.I., who has recently been named to a high dignity in being chosen one of the ten foreign members of the illustrious Roman Academy of St. Thomas, and the first member that body has had in America.

As the Most Reverend Chancellor and the Faculty filed into the hall they were greeted by a well executed piano duet by Messrs. G. Fitzgerald and J. Gookin. A discourse by Archbishop Duhamel opened the evening's programme. His Grace spoke eloquently and logically. Beginning with the divine mission of Christ's Church to preserve and defend truth and guide men through the mazes of error, he pointed out how in every age she had been faithful to her sublime trust. Despite all opposition and in the face of every obstacle she had ever struggled and striven and triumphed, as she must ever struggle and strive and triumph. Hence the unceasing vigilance of her many defenders. The present illustrious Pontiff, Leo XIII, continued His Grace, understanding thoroughly the needs of the world, had named the great Doctor, St. Thomas of Aquin, to be the patron of Catholic scholars and the chief source of their doctrine. And in order that the principles of the saint should be propagated, the same Pontiff had founded the Roman Academy of St. Thomas, composed of the most noted exponents of Thomistic philosophy and theology in the world. Of its members, only ten are chosen outside of the city of Rome itself. Hence the honor conferred on Rev. Father Lacoste was a distinguished one, both for himself and for the institution with which he is connected. His Grace concluded by congratulating Rev. Father Lacoste and the University on this latest and high mark of Papal favor and interest.

The Rev. E. Groulx, '89, then read the Diploma which made Rev. Father Lacoste a member of the Roman Academy of St. Thomas. Rev. Father Groulx begged permission, before reading the document, to express, on behalf of the former students of Father Lacoste, the great pleasure they felt in seeing their old professor so signally