

THE 60th public meeting of the Literary Society, the last for this session, was held on Friday evening, February 4th. The evening was favorable, the programme was good, and Convocation Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity. The oldest inhabitant never before saw such a crowd in the hall. A number were unable to get beyond the door. The programme was as follows:—Musical selection, "Ye Shepherds Tell Me," by the Glee Club; Essay, "William Pitt," M. C. Rumball; Duet, "O wert thou in the cauld blast," C. W. Gordon and — Conning; Reading, "The Life Boat," J. Argo; Musical selection, "Come where the Lilies bloom," Glee Club; Debate, "Resolved that Art has had a beneficial effect on moral and religious life," Affirmative, W. P. McKenzie and J. J. Elliott; Negative, A. Manson and J. McD. Duncan. The singing was certainly the best effort the club has made this session, and was duly appreciated. The essay and the reading were good. The debate was one of the best; the chairman, Rev. Dr. McCurdy, gave the decision in favor of the affirmative. The Society may justly be congratulated upon the success of its public meetings as evidenced by their growing popularity. A larger hall will soon be required.

WE frequently read of the exclusion, by order of the trustees, of the book of Scripture Selections from use in the public schools. Occasionally we hear of the book being "kicked out," and burned on a bonfire. Of the value of this book of Selections, and of the propriety of using it in our schools, we say nothing. The question that it was prepared to suit the Romish hierarchy we do not here discuss. What we protest against and condemn is the treatment it has received at the hands of some school boards. To say that Rome is the sleepless enemy of liberty, and that she never changes, is to affirm what no intelligent Protestant will deny. But to say that a batch of mole-eyed school trustees are justified in burning a book made up wholly of selections from the Bible, and approved by eminent Protestant Divines, because said trustees imagine they have discovered the serpent's trail, is to utter a sentiment little short of blasphemy. And that these bonfires were kindled, and this book burned, not for religious, but for political reasons, makes such action simply impious. Men talk about Protestantism and the martyrs. We love Protestantism and revere the memory of the martyrs; and because we do, we hate conduct that is a disgrace in a Protestant country, and treason to the truth for which the martyrs died. It will be a sorry day for Canada when Popery becomes dominant. It will be a sorer day when the educational affairs of the country are placed in the hands of blinded Protestant bigots who would burn a book of Bible Selections.