

THE ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY BANQUET.

"For every land their life
Has flowed profuse, their piercing genius planned
And swelled the pomp of peace their faithful toil.
As from their own clear-north, in radiant streams,
Bright over Europe bursts the Boreal morn."

UST sixteen years have elapsed since the Irish students of Ottawa University introduced the custom of celebrating their national holiday with a grand banquet. We may well surmise that that patriotic entertainment did not attract much attention: however it was a step in the right direction and was destined to be far-reaching in its effects. If its promoters were actuated by the belief that from "low beginnings rise oftenest the works of greatness," as we have no doubt they were, their most sanguine hopes have, long since, been realized; for their example has been emulated ever since, and each succeeding year, with increased facilities and greater experience, some new feature has been added, until the St. Patrick's Day banquet has come to be recognized as an event of annual occurrence, and St. Patrick's Day the most important fixture in the College calendar.

This year, owing to unfortunate circumstances over which the students could have no control, it was feared that the time-honored practise would have to be abandoned. Up to Thursday, the 14th instant, it was generally thought that there would be no banquet, but on that day came the glad announcement that all difficulties had been smoothed over and that no departure from the usual manner of keeping the anniversary of Erin's patron saint would be necessary. With only three days left to prepare, the energetic committee set about their difficult task; but it was a labor of love, and the gratifying results show that the obstacles to be surmounted only served to ensure the achievement of a more splendid success; for so well were their efforts rewarded that the banquet of 1901 is unanimously pronounced to be in every way equal, and in many respects superior, to any similar festivity in the history of the institution.