

THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS.

"WHAT KIND OF MEN ARE THESE?"

Continued from our last.

They swung into line and marched to the front like "jolly sailors," and at a signal from no-one-knows-whom, or where, they divided in pairs, and each took hold of the others ring. The band played and the boys kept time in calisthenic rhyme until the plan of operation called for more complicated twists and turns, when it became quite evident that one of each of the pairs was, or thought he was superior to his partner, and the subdued mutterings of the little fellows, as each tried to control the others movements, created the greatest merriment. One little "ring leader," in the front rank, made Spartan-like efforts in the wrong direction and received hearty applause - invincible Fleming, while his better-half, Master Donahue, glared at him in a why-don't-you-do-what-I-tell-you kind of a way. They finished the concert movements, stampeded, and clustered in three groups, forming a tableau that was really grand, and the audience threw around them a halo in the form of applause as the curtain lowered. In answer to a storm of applause the curtain was rung up to reveal the youngsters in their favorite position.

There was another call for them, but the time had come for the final contest between Masters William B. McGibbon and Thomas W. Murphy for the oratorical gold medal presented by his Grace Archbishop O'Brien. Twelve students had striven for the prize three weeks ago, when these young gentlemen had been declared superior in ability to their companions and equal in merit to each other. The judges on that occasion requested them to contest again, each delivering the others selection as well as his own. The judges retired to the parquette circle that they might impartially consider the merits of the youthful orators, and a sea of faces bent eagerly forward as Thomas W. Murphy stepped forward and made his bow. With a well modulated voice he delivered "The Emblem of Emblems," an extract from an oration by Joseph Keenan of Manhattan College, N. Y. City. He deserved the recall he received. Master McGibbon's appearance was hailed with enthusiastic applause, which he gracefully acknowledged. He looked like one who felt that he had a rather difficult task to perform. His attitude was full of determination, his gestures were very graceful and his movements were manly and dignified. He was superior to Murphy in pose and action but inferior to him in articulation though not in emphasis. The applause that followed his effort brought him before the foot-lights again and again. When Murphy appeared to deliver Shiel's famous speech of invective against Lord Synthurst, he betrayed just a trace of emotion. It gave way however as he warmed up to his work and when he said "Great God! was Arthur Duke of Wellington in the House of Lords, and did he not start up and exclaim, Hold! I have seen the *Aliens* do their duty!" the audience showed its appreciation by applause. He summed up the achievements of the Irish soldier on English battlefields so eloquently that McGibbon's friends must have felt great fears for the success of their favorite. Murphy's pronunciation was excellent; his every word was heard from the orchestra to the topmost tier of the gallery, and he must have felt every word he uttered, for his cheek burned, his eyes flashed, and when he described the charge at Waterloo, he appealed to the house like a natural born orator.

If he was not recalled, it was probably due to the fact, that the audience was anxious to hear Mr. McGibbon, who stepped forward, his rather pale face wreathed in a smile. His voice was husky from his former effort, but it cleared somewhat as he proceeded; and art and nature were so nicely combined in attitude and gesture, that his hoarseness was lost sight of, or procured him sympathy. Every climax was reached grandly, and, the emphatic shake of his little head, and expressiveness of his bright eyes won for him admiration and frequent applause, which he took with a composure that fairly electrified the house. As he neared the end he reserved his strength for the final climax, by which Murphy made such a good impression,

"suiting the action to the word, and the word to the action," and how eloquently he described the "charge" let the words themselves recall:—"And, when at length the time for the last and decisive movement had arrived, and the valor which had so long been wisely checked was at length let loose; when with words familiar but immortal, the great captain exclaimed, 'Up lads and at them!' tell me if Catholic Ireland with less heroic valor than the natives of your own glorious Isle precipitated herself upon the foe!" the applause that followed culminated in an ovation. He received two recalls, the second time bringing Master Murphy with him: thus ended so far as their efforts were concerned, the final contest for the O'Brien Gold Medal.

The next number of the programme was the Haligonian Guards captained by little Archie McDougal, who put them through the manual-of-arms, and formed them in figures to the delight and admiration of everybody. As they wheeled off the stage the Governor, Archbishop and Judges of the contest were escorted to their places by Rev. Brother Joseph, to do the "honors" of the occasion.

A Diploma was awarded to Thomas W. Murphy. This young gentleman received this evidence of his application to study from Governor Daly, who congratulated him. Master Murphy also received the Governor's Gold Medal for Excellence. The Academy Gold Medal for Christian Doctrine was awarded to John M. Murphy; Terence Ternan was next in merit. Attorney General Longley was then introduced as the chairman of the judges of the oratorical contest and he reported their decision substantially as follows:—"Honored Governor, Your Grace, ladies and gentlemen; Some three weeks ago we found it difficult to decide which of the two speakers who contested this evening was the better, and we decided to ask them to contest again. We are obliged to acknowledge that we have found it quite difficult to decide this evening, who is the better speaker.

However knowing that we had to decide, we took a ballot, and the judgment of a majority of our number is, that William B. McGibbon has won the Archbishop's Oratorical Gold Medal."

Master McGibbon received an ovation as the governor handed him the precious trophy.

The Gold Medal for Chemistry donated by A. F. Buckley Esq., was awarded to Edward T. Powers. Thomas W. Murphy was next in merit.

The governor expressed himself highly pleased with the exercises, congratulated the students on their display of talent, complimented the Brothers who so ably instructed those under their charge, and paid a special tribute of praise to the Haligonian guards, who showed marvellous skill in military tactics. The Archbishop also praised the students, and expressed the hope that La Salle Academy would continue the noble work, of teaching youth to aspire to lives of honor and usefulness.

As the band and choir joined in the National Anthem the large audience departed well pleased with the evening's exercises.

ARGUS.

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