

The Alumni of St. Jerome's College met at Berlin, Ont., on the 1st of July in large numbers, celebrating their third anniversary. The old officers were re-elected, including Mr. P. D. Gibbs, of New York, as president for the third time after he had declined to accept. The President's annual address at the banquet was quite humorous, and closed with an appeal for the erection of a memorial building. In responding to the toasts, speeches were made by the Archbishop of Toronto, the Bishop of Hamilton and Ontario, Mayor Motz, H. Kranz, Dr. Kaiser, of Detroit, and many others. A subscription was opened for a memorial tower, headed by Mr. Gibbs with \$500. The Gibb medal was awarded to Mr. John Fitzgerald, of Brooklyn, New York. The above, with the customary proceedings of the alumni, closed the day.

In its report of the Commencement Exercises at De La Salle College, Toronto, the *Irish Canadian* says: We are much gratified in being enabled to state that the classical course, founded in 1878, has given great satisfaction to the students and friends of the College, which is now on a firm basis. The Director, Rev. Bro Tobias, on entering on the duties of his office at De La Salle, felt convinced that the College could not be a success unless he could announce that students could be therein trained in the learned languages, and in all the branches of a Collegiate course, so as to fit them for the study of theology and matriculation at the University. He has now every reason to congratulate himself on the remarkable success that has hitherto attended the classical course at De La Salle College.

Assumption Collg., Sandwich, Ont, is in a every prosperous condition. It enjoys the unlimited confidence of His Lordship the Bishop of London and the clergy of Western Canada.

A correspondent in the *Irish Canadian* makes a vigorous and able defence of the Separate School principle in reply to Goldwin Smith. We extract the following passages:—

The Editor of the *Hystander* could not conclude his article on the Separate Schools without dealing out the time-honored blow at the Priesthood. In pursuance of such immemorial custom he makes a frantic strike when he says that Separate Schools are retained only for the purpose of keeping alive priestly influence. He wishes us to come to the fatal conclusion that the existence of Separate Schools should be terminated, because, he says, "it is neither the duty nor the interest of the State to support the influence of the Priest over the People." But let us see, from his own admission, how pernicious this priestly influence is. In the opening of his editorial he remarks that, before Separate Schools were granted, the religious dissensions of opposing sects were such that it was a measure of safety to afford to Catholics their own schools. We have enjoyed Separate Schools during the past twenty-eight years. During all that time the Priest had uncontrolled sway. Mark the happy change. At the end of that time the sects, instead of panting for each other's blood, instead of being divided by an irreconcilable feud, are able so far to harmonize with each other that the cynical Editor of the *Hystander* would be pleased to see them united by a common education in the same Schools. If this is priestly influence, let us not impede its progress, but wish it God-speed.

It is true, there are defects in our Separate School management; but as it is human, this is natural. At present they attempt to do too much; they exhaust their time and energies in trying to compete with the High Schools and Collegiate Institutes. Such a course was not intended by those who promoted the Separate School Bill. If they keep pace with the Public Schools, they will fill the sphere of their duty. We hope, however, in the course of time to see all defects removed.

Father McGrath, O. M. I. formerly of Ottawa, where he is held in loving remembrance, may well feel proud of the magnificent parochial school he has erected, at a cost of \$10,000, in connection with the church of the Immaculate Conception, Lowell, Mass. The classes, eight in number, are equipped with the most improved furniture and apparatus. Eight Grey Nuns from Ottawa, directed by Sister Stanley, are in charge, and are recognized by the school authorities as Al teachers. Father McGrath's venerable associate, Father Garin, who attends to the spiritual wants of the French Canadian population, proposes to build a school-house for his parishioners on the same grand scale.

The Rev. O. Boucher, P. P., Lawrence, Mass., for many years Prefect of Discipline in the College of Ottawa ("pretty tough" the boys used to call him) has a flourishing school which he personally superintends. Its success is purchased with many sacrifices, but Pastor and people cheerfully do their duty.

The semi-annual examination of the Separate School of Almonte took place on Friday, July 8. The local inspector, Rev. Father Coffey; Trustees Dowdall, O'Reilly, McDermott, Reilly and Seymour, together with quite a number of parents and others, were present during the day. The various classes of the Senior Department—under Mr. R. J. Dougherty—were examined by the Rev. inspector. The prize presented by Mrs. M. Galvin for first standing in arithmetic was won by Francis Trainor, while Theresa Stafford carried off the premium in British history awarded by Mr. McGovern. The afternoon was devoted by Father Coffey to Miss Halligh's Department, where the school was all that could be expected. Altogether, the Separate School stands higher than ever, and parents have reason to feel that under the present officials their children are safe.

The annual examination of the pupils of Mr. Fletcher's school at Caughnawaga was carried out in a most satisfactory manner on July 7th. This institution is exclusively for aborigines, being under the able direction of the well-known and accomplished Indian schoolmaster, Revd N. V. Burtin, O. M. I., Missionary of the place, occupied the chair. Through request of Mr. Fletcher, Mrs. Hingston, of Montreal, honored the school with her presence. She was highly delighted with the Young Iroquois, and was heard to express great satisfaction at the progress they had made. The schoolmaster says that this lady rendered him a vast amount of service in procuring prizes for his pupils, and hopes that the time is not far off when other good Samaritans will follow her example and do likewise.

The Christian Brothers deservedly have the reputation of being excellent teachers. A parochial school taught by Christian Brothers is sure to attract pupils. They do not always stay, it is true, because the Brothers, being unable to fill all the demands upon them, too often set inexperienced young men, scarcely novices, to teach classes in which much tact and skill is necessary. A man may be careless and incompetent and yet wear a black robe, and the experience of pupils of the Christian Brothers in this country proves that some of the young persons thrown into schools because the demand for Christian Brothers is greater than the supply, are unworthy of the responsibility put upon them. The least efficient Catholic School, wherein God and His Blessed Mother are not ignored, is better than the most "improved" public school; but there is no reason why Catholics should put up with bad teaching. In Ireland the Brothers' schools are unsurpassed. Here, in the colleges managed by the Brothers good teaching, particularly of mathematics and the English branches, is the rule, but in the lower classes of some of the parochial schools a black robe often covers the rawest material. It is time that the Christian Brothers and all the teaching orders remembered that it will not do to rest on a reputation. Catholics have reason to hold them in reverence and gratitude. It does not take long to find out that there are Brothers and Brothers, and the iron system of the Venerable de la Salle, which tended to make the whole phalanx efficient, from him who taught A. B. C. to him who taught religion, seems to have fallen into abeyance. The colleges have no right to the picked men; the parochial schools are suffering from the effects of a policy which gives raw and undisciplined teachers to them. The reputation of the Christian Brothers is suffering; and it is better that this truth should come to them from our own ranks in time to induce them to keep back some of their novices until they are fit to undertake that most important and delicate of all charges—the education of Catholic youth.—*Freeman's Journal*.

In this city the Christian Brothers have no college or select school. They are entirely devoted to the *free* Separate Schools. Their work has been highly recommended by the Public School Inspectors who have visited their classes. The Separate Schools of Ottawa taught by the Christian Brothers and the Grey Nuns were the only schools in the city publicly examined by outside parties.—*En*.