

Mr. W. Sullivan enlivened the proceedings by a violin solo with piano accompaniment. Then the evening's programme was brought to a close by the address of the Very Rev. Rector. Owing to illness he was obliged to read his remarks, which were as follows :

Your Grace,

Reverend Fathers

and Gentlemen :—

It affords me much pleasure to address you briefly on the present occasion—the feast of St. Thomas, the glorious patron of institutions of learning; and it is especially gratifying to me to do so this evening when the distinguished honor of membership in the Roman Academy is being conferred on an Oblate Father, one of the Professors of this University. Most of you are already aware that the Roman Academy of St. Thomas was founded by Our Holy Father, Leo XIII, for the express purpose of promoting the sound principles of Christian Philosophy as taught by the Angelic Doctor. These are the principles, I am happy to state, which have been upheld and propagated in this University from its very commencement.

The Catholic Church has received from her Divine Founder the sacred mission to teach all nations, "*Euntes, docete omnes gentes.*" Christ's words have a creative power, and that God-given mandate has made the Church the greatest educational institution the world has ever seen. From the day of Pentecost till the present time, she has ever been faithful to her mission. In every succeeding generation she has devoted all her energies to teaching youth the sound principles of christian faith and morality, and to training them in the safe path of science and virtue. To realize this lofty ideal, she opened in the earliest times schools to which the children of both sexes flocked, that they might receive the bread of the Word—a christian education. But not satisfied with providing elementary instruction for the "little ones" of Christ's flock, she established schools for the higher classes of society, where they could have an opportunity of acquiring that higher knowledge which their position in the world demanded of them, aiming always, however, at that

grand ideal laid down by the founders of the first Catholic University, the Alexandrine Fathers: "Christian belief must be scientific, and science must be christian." To accomplish this noble purpose, the Catholic church with untiring activity multiplied everywhere those schools and colleges, which afterwards, at the very dawn of the middle ages, became in such large numbers illustrious Universities. In these Universities the Church grouped all the learning left by the ancients and preserved by the monks, and having purified it from those stains which it had contracted from its contact with the sensuality of paganism, she superadded to it all those natural truths which Revelation supposes or implies. Taking this body of scientific knowledge which she called forth from chaos, as the Eternal Wisdom did the visible world, and having dedicated it to God the Redeemer, she applied it to human society, and made it the strength and light of Christian peoples. Yes, it was christianity, and it only, that built those wonders which we call Gothic Cathedrals and Catholic Universities. The very mention of Paris, Pavia, Bologna, Oxford and Salamanca are alone sufficient to recall the glorious conquests that Catholic Science made in the world many hundred years ago.

One of the undisputed glories of the Catholic Church is that she successfully instructed the Christian world, in elementary, commercial, classical and university knowledge and science, many centuries before either the civil power or statesmen ever thought of establishing schools. She accomplished this grand and noble work, too, under very many and great difficulties. Just imagine for a moment a school, a college, a university without a printed book! What an immense labor does not this suppose for both professors and students. Nevertheless, go into any well furnished library and behold to-day those large folio volumes of the most profound and sublime learning on all subjects, sacred and profane, and which were written by the men of those by-gone days, long before printing was invented. You will seek in vain to find anything to compare with them in the writers of this enlightened 19th century.

It is true, that at present, the State has entered the field of education. We find