

## LORETTO ABBEY.

Reception and Presentation of  
Seventeen Young Ladies.

## EXPLANATION OF VOWS.

"And everyone that hath left house or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall possess life everlasting"—Matt. xix. 29.

The aim of all religious is spiritual improvement—the life of perfection, the manifestation of this desire is in loving for God's sake all His creatures, in devoting oneself unflinchingly to the particular service that has been specially chosen. At Loretto this special vocation is the teaching and training of young girls—their preparation for a virtuous and useful life in a society that expects, in the present day, not only a cultured mind, but accomplishments which follow fashion and which demand a keeping up with the times. The success of the Loretto Nuns in this respect is rewarded by the gratitude of numbers of their graduates.

It is a benefit to the faithful at large when the number of these devoted, single-minded teachers is increased, and in these precious days of dollars and cents, it is with pride that we chronicle the reception of seven young ladies, and the profession of nine novices at Loretto Abbey on the morning of the 22nd of February.

The chapel was all too small for the occasion. The friends of the newly-received and professed filled the seats of one half of the chapel—the students were crowded into the other half—while interested guests overflowed into the aisles, the nuns' stalls, and out into the passages.

The ceremony was presided over by his Grace the Archbishop of Toronto, assisted by Mgr. Heenan of Hamilton and Dr. Flannery of St. Thomas. In the sanctuary also were Father Dunne of Chicago, brother of one of the professed, Dr. Breen of Rochester, Dean Harris of St. Catharines, Very Rev. J. J. McCann, Fathers Murray, McBrady, Cruise, Carberry, Coyle, McEntee, Walsh, Fleming and Hinchey.

Among the laity were Mr. Finn of Montreal, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll of Guelph, Mr. and the Misses Kavanagh of Hamilton, Miss Hoskin, Miss Foy, Mrs. P. Burns, Mrs. Dwyer, Mrs. Foy, Mrs. G. G. McPherson, Mrs. Madden, Mrs. McKenna, Mrs. Kavanagh, Mrs. McLaughlin, Mrs. Roesler, Miss Lee, Mrs. McTavish, Mr. W. T. Lee, Mrs. May, Miss May, Miss Michie, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Thurston, Miss Cousineau, Mrs. L. Cosgrave.

There is but one ceremony that is to the female mind as interesting as a marriage ceremony and that is a Religious Reception which is indeed a marriage ceremony too, and so can scarce be said to divide interest. A perceptible tremor of excitement ran through the assembled congregation when a hundred fresh young voices filled the chapel with the familiar Litany of the Blessed Virgin; such earnest singing stimulated the visitors to join in the petitions, while the beautiful English hymns from the Roman Hymnal testified that the students of Loretto Abbey enjoyed in its fullness congregational singing.

The young ladies, who for the last six months have been serving the probation required before reception, entered the chapel elegantly attired, as befitted their station in the world, in bridal costume. The long court trains were carried by the dainty little angels—maids of honor—of whom there were eighteen.

Miss Carroll of Guelph, in religion Sister Mary Victor, was attended by Misses McElderry, Devaney and Mc-

Kenna; Miss Mahon, in religion Sister Philippa, Misses Meek, Flossie McKay and Adele Dwyer; Miss Garland, in religion Sister Mary Louis, Misses Louise McPherson, Simpson and Watson; Miss Cogan, Sister Mary Jerome, T. Roesler and Mona McLaughlin; Miss O'Brien, Sister Mary Alexis, Misses Clancy and Foy, Miss O'Connor, Sister Mary Elizabeth, Misses Bertie Genereux, Allie Rooney, Miss Mathews, Sister Linda.

Following these came the novices, desirous to make their vows, lighted candles in their hands reminding one of the seven wise virgins, and immediately after these Rev. Mother Mary Ignatia Lynn, Superior, Assistant Mother Aloysius Gonaga and Mother Dorthea, Mistress of Novices. Slowly the procession moved to the steps of the sanctuary where those who were to be received knelt while the youthful congregation sang the hymn, "Mother of God." The "Veni Creator" was then sung and at its conclusion the Very Rev. J. J. McCann preached an eloquent sermon appropriate to the occasion, congratulating the Sisters on having chosen the better part, and contrasting the life of the religious who drank from the fountain of grace with that of the worldly who has built for himself "broken cisterns."

At the conclusion of the sermon the postulants kneeling publicly expressed to the inquiring Archbishop their desire to be received. He questioned them as to their knowledge of the life they wish to embrace and told them to change their worldly garments for those of a religious. All retired to return divested of all the superfluities of the world—an object lesson in the renouncement the religious life demands. The Archbishop handed to each her veil, symbol of modesty, which was pinned in place by the Rev. Mother; the girdle, the symbol of chastity, was then given to each and borne by her to the Rev. Mother, who fastened it in place; the Rosary, the pledge of devotion to the Blessed Mother of God, was given in like manner. All prostrated themselves while the Archbishop invoked the Holy Spirit to descend to give the grace of perseverance in their vocation. Such is the reception into the novitiate where the novice must remain at least two years, during which time she becomes thoroughly conversant with the constitution of the institute, being at the same time at perfect liberty to depart should she feel that her happiness does not lie in that particular state of life.

Those who were to make their vows now approached the sanctuary steps, were questioned by the Archbishop as to their desires and received from him the veil of profession in which they were invested by the Rev. Mother. The crucifix and silver ring were similarly given, the Rev. Mother placing the ring on the third finger of the left hand, signifying the recipients had become spouses of the Christ whose image they would always carry with them in the crucifix.

Mass was now celebrated by the Rev. Father Coyle of Dixie. At the Offertory "Ave Trinitatis Sacramentum" by De Witt was magnificently sung. The English hymn "O Lord I am not worthy" was rendered most devotionally by the congregation after the Consecration. Just before the Communion each nun read aloud in turn her vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and subscribed to them in the presence of the Archbishop the clergy, and the assembled people. The Archbishop received the vows promising eternal happiness for their faithful fulfillment. Holy Communion was received by the nuns who had thus made their solemn profession. At the conclusion of Mass the congregation joined with the clergy in singing the Thanksgiving hymn in English "Holy God we Praise Thy Name."

A word as to the vows of a religious.

By the vow of poverty everything is given up to a common fund from which all are served alike according to their necessities. This ensures equality and teaches humility. By chastity, the heart and its affections are given unconditionally and wholly to Our Lord Jesus Christ. By obedience, cheerful and prompt submission is promised to an authority that cannot be despotic, but that is obedient itself to the rules of the Constitution.

The Abbey is to be congratulated on the excellence of the music rendered, the most pleasing feature of which was the perfect singing of the boards as a congregation. If Loretto continues to thus train her young ladies the difficulties of congregational singing in this country will soon disappear.

The ceremony was concluded at noon, when a sumptuous repast was served the Archbishop and clergy, and also the many friends of the community. E. O'S.

## C. Y. L. A.

The Catholic Young Ladies' Literary Association entertained their numerous friends to a Literary and Musical feast on Wednesday evening last. The principal feature of the evening was a lecture by Mr. J. C. Walsh which was much appreciated by the audience. His subject was "D'Arcy McGee." Rev. Father Hayden filled the position of Chairman in an admirable manner and his witty remarks occasioned many a hearty laugh.

Among those who took part in the programme were the Misses Moylan, Lawlor, Dunn, Mintz, O'Donahoe, Mottram and Kelly, Prof. Bohner and Messrs. Costello, Gillogly and Mottram. The selections were all well rendered and a very pleasant evening was spent.

## C. M. B. A.

Branch 49 presented an address to Vicar General McCann, their new spiritual adviser, at their last meeting. Among those present were P. J. Rooney and Jas. O'Hearn who delivered addresses. The presentation was made by J. J. Landy. In his reply Father McCann spoke in terms of high appreciation of the work of the C. M. B. A.

A branch was organized in the City of Fredericton N. B. last week, when the following Officers were elected.

Rev. Fr. E. Savage, Spiritual Adviser; Professor Bellevue, President; Professor Stockley, first Vice President; Dr. Serrey, second Vice President; H. G. Nealis, Rec. Sec'y.; Peter Farrell, Ass. Sec'y.; J. Frank Owens, Fin. Sec'y.; Wm. H. Carten, Treasurer; W. J. Duncan, Marshal, James E. Carten, Guard; Board of trustees, Rev. J. P. Hirmann, John Donohue, J. F. McGinnis, John O'Neil and John McCloskey.

It was instituted by P. J. O'Keefe, Esq., Grand Deputy for the Maritime Provinces, assisted by M. McDade of St. John: it was a most enthusiastic meeting and has started with a large membership, making the fortieth Branch in these Provinces: excellent speeches were made by the Grand Deputy, Father Savage, J. P. Venoit, M.P.P., Professors Stockley and Bellevue, and others. The meeting broke up after having formed and firmly established this flourishing branch of the Order where it has been badly needed. The keenest interest is taken by all concerned, and there is every prospect of its growing rapidly under such officers as are on the list; Catholics have long felt the want of this Order here and coming as it has, it has come to remain and to be appreciated. It is called "St. Dunstons" and has the No. 243.

## E. R. A.

ST. HELEN'S CIRCLE, No. 2, TORONTO.

At their last meeting initiated three members and received the application for membership from three candidates. They had a very successful meeting and are taking great interest in the concert on St. Patrick's Day for St. Helen's Church Fund. Miss Graham, one of their number, will take charge of the programme. She is one of the best pianists of the city.

DAVITT BRANCH, No. 11.

Initiated one member and received one application. They elected a very efficient committee to carry out the arrangements for the concert to be held in the Y. M. C. A. Hall, Queen St. West, on March 15th, for the benefit of St. Helen's Church Fund.

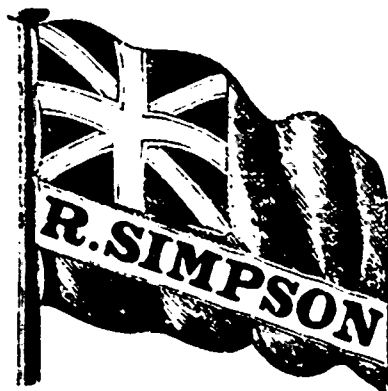
A large attendance, and lots of enthusiasm were features of the regular meeting of Sarahfield Branch. Bro. Neville of Branch 12, who was present, made the acquaintance of over fifty members who were in attendance; nine applications for membership were received and handed to the Executive Committee for their consideration. The

Chaplain, Rev. Canon McCarthy, delivered a lengthy address, in the course of which, he congratulated the Brothers on the rapid progress they were making, and the business like way in which the affairs of the Branch were carried on; from his own personal experience as Pastor of St. Bridget's Parish, he could vouch for the splendid work being done by the members socially and fraternally. The Emerald Beneficial Association commended itself to him in an especial manner, from the fact, that the scale of payments were so arranged that it suited everyone's means; the working man could here have sick and funeral benefit at small cost, even if he could not afford insurance, but if he desired insurance he could have it in a small or large sum for a small monthly payment. He concluded by urging all present to make every effort to carry on the grand work of the Society. You have, said he, the authority and advice of our Holy Father the Pope, and what more encouragement to Catholics is needed. A hearty vote of thanks, was tendered the Rev. Father, on motion of Bro. Bennett, seconded by Bro. Deitz, for the kindly interest he had always evinced in the workings of the Branch and for the sound practical advice he had given. Then followed an interesting programme, Bro. John J. O'Connor's contribution, in excellent voice, of a "Baritone Solo" is deserving of the greatest praise, and Bro. Clarke's splendidly given "Reading," also establishes his reputation as a frequent contributor to the Branch programme. It may be here mentioned that the feature Recreation is becoming more interesting at each succeeding meeting, and that Sarahfield No. 25, bids fair to become the banner Branch, of the deservedly popular and now fast growing, Emerald Beneficial Association.

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