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Commencements

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

Graduation Exercises at Crescentwood Home of Culture—A Delightful Function

The graduation exercises of St. Mary's Academy held on Friday evening, June 22, were surrounded with characteristic charm, flowing from the rare taste and Christian culture that pervade the functions of this classic school. The graduates, Miss Stella Eleanor Burns and Aileen Laura McCusker, adorned happily the delightful affair. In the presence of His Grace Archbishop Langevin and representative clergy of the city, in the large audience, the favoring weather and the high excellence of the programme, nothing was lacking to make the thirty-second commencement worthy of the best traditions of the Academy.

The junior pupils were presented with their awards in the morning and the evening was reserved for the intermediate and senior students. The programme presented one or two very acceptable novelties, the first being the initial number, "Aveu Discret," (Weber, arranged for six violins. The players—Misses R. Simpson, E. Champion, A. Bernhardt, F. Prud'homme, J. McArthur—rendered the number with fine effect. Miss R. Graham was accompanist. The well trained Academy chorus sang very pleasingly, "Flow Gently, Deva."

Miss Stella Burns read her graduation essay with restful composure. Her voice was clear and articulation delightful and in the loftier passages of the development of the theme, "Art, the Handmaid of Religion," her unctious of speech revealed the deep interior culture. The essay recounted what the world owes to Christianity in the broad realm of art, in music, in painting, in sculpture, in architecture.

The mandolin duet, an arrangement of the tuneful "Janice Meredith" waltzes, was another novelty to Academy patrons. The participants were Misses J. McArthur, M. Conway, S. Bernhardt, E. Morkill, and R. Graham, the latter at the piano. Miss Graham was also heard in a vocal solo, "Sweet Thoughts of Home," which in her expressive rendering was almost as appealing as dear "Home, Sweet Home."

The graduating honors were then conferred by the Archbishop, who performed the simple and effective ceremony of crowning the happy graduates

with floral wreaths. The ceremony was closed with a recitation, "Gather up the Fragments," by Miss Violet Julian, which made apt allusion to the graduates and their future. The percentages obtained in the final examinations, as found by the examiner, Rev. Lewis Drummond, S.J., were read by the latter as follows:

Miss Burns—Painting, 96; logic, 70; General literature, 82; astronomy, 85 history, 70; architecture, 97; sculpture, 92; Total, 592 out of a maximum of 700 points. Average 84 4-7.

Miss McCusker—Painting, 86; logic, 90; general literature, 70; astronomy, 82; history, 79; architecture, 86; sculpture, 88; Total, 581 out of a maximum of 700 points. Average, 83.

A minuet for sixteen hands was well played by the following: Misses S. Burns, G. Lindback, K. McCusker, R. Graham, C. Prince, F. Barreau, V. Prince, M. Conway. The distribution of ribbons of honor, medals and special premiums was then made. Preceding the distribution of class premiums, Miss R. Simpson gave a splendid rendering of the difficult Mendelssohn concerto in E minor, for violin. The fine effort brought such a demand for an encore that it was finally necessary for Miss Simpson to return, who then played a soulful andante with rare expression.

Miss McCusker delivered the valedictory with accomplished grace. In pleasing phrases she bade farewell to the several cherished associations that find root in the heart of St. Mary's girls, and contemplated the future with admirable conceptions of the duties of the Christian girl in to-day's society.

His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface in his address began by asking why it is that convent training is so highly appreciated. He replied that it was because of the lofty ideals which the religious women who conduct these institutions set before themselves and their pupils. This enabled them to develop the intellect and the will with a perfection which religion alone can give. The lives of the teachers being a continual example of what they taught, it was no wonder that the young ladies could express such sublime sentiments. He conceived that the superiority of convent education consisted especially in two things: (1) the right intention of those who directed these institutions, and (2) the admirable discipline by which mind and heart are prepared for the troubles of life. Young ladies who have had convent training show it in

the distinction, simplicity and modesty of their behavior, and when such a one has been crowned with success, she is the pride of her social circle and of the Church. The teachers should be gratified with our high appreciation of their noble work. The joys and success of the students are the joys and success of the teachers, who derive therefrom encouragement for renewed efforts. Alluding to the convent reminiscences so feelingly touched upon by the valedictorian, Miss A. McCusker, His Grace said that they should remember how Antaeus always found new strength whenever he touched his mother Earth. So long as Hercules could keep him in the air, Antaeus was a plaything in the hero's hands; but when once he could get back to the solid ground, even Hercules became powerless. When you, young graduates, feel yourselves lifted up into the empty air by the Herculean forces of the world, come back to the solid ground of your convent life. Think of the sacraments you have received, think of that source of life, the Blessed Eucharist; there you will find strength to vanquish the mighty forces of error and passion. Remember that what was true in your convent days will remain true all days. Be faithful to these holy lessons and practices of your convent life and one day you will receive the everlasting crown.

On the close of the exercises the audience inspected the exhibit of work accomplished in the painting, fancy work and sewing classes during the past year. To attempt a description of the display is beyond the limits of this issue; it must suffice to remark, without particular references, that the quality of the work, as well as the quantity, is simply astonishing. The essays of many of the students bear few traces of amateur handiwork.

(The list of awards, medals, ribbons, etc., are not published, the daily papers having already generously printed them in full.)

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ST. BONIFACE COLLEGE

Oratorical Contest and Awards For Year's Work—The Programme of Musical and Literary Numbers

The closing exercises of St. Boniface College in the new hall on Thursday evening, June 21, afforded a programme of much variety. In addition to the presentation of the medals and diplomas an elocution contest was held, while the musical branches occupied another portion of the evening. A distinguished audience attended, including His Grace (Continued on page 3)

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