

COMMENCEMENTS.

Splendid Exhibition by the Boys of St. Mary's Parochial School—An Interesting Programme.

The closing exercises of the boys' department of St. Mary's parochial school, held last week (on Wednesday) in the convocation hall, provided an evening of exceptional interest and entertainment. The programme was an ambitious one, but the boys, under the thorough training of their teachers the Rev. Brothers of Mary Immaculate, gave a really faultless programme. Miss Elizabeth Coyle was an effective accompanist at the piano and the St. Mary's Lyceum orchestra also assisted.

After a lively opening number by the orchestra, Paul's "The Storm King," a song of greeting (Lincoln) was sung by the school choir, assisted by the orchestra. The singing throughout the evening was a feature and was in keeping with the fine results Rev. Brother Edward, principal, has accomplished with the boys' choir for church services. J. O'Donohoe addressed the salutatory to the audience with graceful diction and then came a very amusing action song, "The Little Workers," by Grades III. and IV. The little lads went into their pantomime with great zest and the audience was kept in hearty laughter throughout. The orchestra played a set of tuneful waltzes, "The Witches' Whirl," and Grades I. and II. gave another action song, "Topsy Turvy." This illusion whereby the little tots were seen to be standing on their heads behind a green blind drawn across the stage, completely mystified the audience, till just at the last measure of the song one little fellow was attacked by a mosquito and raised his stockinged arm to scratch the bite on his ear.

"The Hardicap" jockey drill was thrilling. The boys of Grades V. and VI., attired in pretty jockey caps and blouses, circled about the stage and whirled their whips till the audience was worked up to a high pitch. The applause called for an encore but the jockeys had put so much speed into their first race that they were too fatigued for another heat just then.

Part II was opened with another song by the school choir, "Gently Fall the Dew of Eve," Verdi. The dumb-bell drill by Grades VII. and VIII. was an exhibition without a flaw, and the difficult formations were executed without a tremor in alignment. The orchestra's best number followed, being the overture "Nabucodonosor," Verdi.

The remainder of the programme was occupied with a short drama, "Roland's Horn." The boys scored a hit. The cast was happily chosen and the parts were well filled. Leo Troy as the court jester, and George Barry, the Prince, were especially good.

The cast was as follows:—
Prince Arthur.....G. Barry
Lord Rutledge.....J. O'Donohoe
Lord Montague.....W. O'Connor
Friar Stephen.....G. Meagher
Sparks, Court Jester.....L. Troy
Joram, a Jew.....J. McIlroy
Pages to Prince Arthur—Baldwinet,
P. Shea; Astolpho, G. Diseroll; Inigo,
C. Jobin.

School Boys—Hilary, I. O'Neill; Harold, B. McManus; Chester, L. McCormack; Clarence, E. Cass; Ralph, H. Dutton; Carl, E. McCaffrey.

The evening was closed with a vacation song, heartily sung by the school choir, and a rousing march, "The Call of the Wild," by the orchestra.

Rev. Father Cahill, O.M.I., the pastor, voiced the sentiments of the audience when he said he was astonished with the particular excellence of the numbers. Such exhibitions as these filled Catholics with a renewed faith in their schools, and increased their just pride in their Catholic teachers. He hoped the parish would go on evincing a greater interest in these entertainments by attendance at them.

The list of prize-winners and the promotions, which were read, are not given here, as they were published in full in the daily papers.

The Lord Chief Justice of England, can do most things well, says a recent writer, whether in the field or in the House, but he has one weak point, and that is his handwriting. In a case which occurred two or three years ago he began to read aloud in court one of his manuscript notes, but after several gallant attempts he broke down and explained apologetically that his handwriting was very bad. But even Lord Alverstone is beaten by the great lawyer of a former generation—Lord Bell—who wrote three hands; one of them no one but himself could read, another his clerk could read and he could not, and a third no one living was able to decipher.—Exchange.

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Brandon Notes.

On Friday afternoon, June 29th, the closing exercises of St. Michael's convent were held in the new Catholic Hall. To the good Sisters who have worked so faithfully and zealously during the past year, the interest shown by Brandon citizens, must indeed have been most gratifying. The seating capacity of the large hall was taxed, and a most attentive and appreciative audience listened to the following program, followed by distribution of prizes:

Overture—Gloria in Excelsis—The Misses Burton and Speed.
Address—Read by Master J. Cloutier.

Song—The Music of the Birds—Boys.

Piano Solo—Silvery Waves—Miss F. Toner.

Song—The Gypsies—Junior Pupils.

Duet—The Birds of Paradise—The Misses Wright and Rowan.

Drama in Two Acts—"Bianca; or, the Robber's Revenge."—Act I.

Recitation—The Conceited Chicken—Master W. Peltier.

Song—Why do Summer Roses Fade—Miss M. Gravelines.

Recitation—The Son of a King for Me—Miss K. O'Reilly.

Duet—The Gypsy Maiden—The Misses Girdlestone and Froment.

Drama—Act 2.

Recitation—Paradise and the Peri—Miss G. Shea.

Song—Tommy—Master W. Peltier.

Piano Solo—Irish Diamonds—Miss M. Gravelines.

Final—The Fairy Queen—Chorus by the Pupils.

Successful Pupils

Following is the list of the pupils who were successful in their studies during the term just closed:—

Boarding School

Prize for Christian Doctrine—Senior pupils, Florence Toner; Junior pupils, Minnie Landry.

Prize for good conduct—Senior pupils, Gertrude Shea; Junior pupils, Kathleen Murphy.

Prize for Politeness—Oris Girdlestone.

Prize for Drawing—Nora Burton; 2nd, Flossie Murphy.

Prize for Needlework—Hazel Davidson; 2nd, Anna Rowan.

Prize for Music—Adolphine Larriane; 2nd, Amy Swan.

Prize for Good Attendance—Gertie Shea; 2nd, Hazel Atson.

Prize for Application—Gertie Shea and Dorothy Richardson, equal; Violet McFarlane.

First Prize in Class—Gertie Shea; 2nd, Florence Toner.

First Place in Class, Grade 6—Florence Burton.

First Place in Class, Grade 3—Florence McNeill.

First Place in Class, Grade 2—Eva Landry.

First Place in Class, Grade 1—Mary Purcell.

Mathematics—Helen Plott, Florence Burton, Minnie Landry, Marie Wright.

Day School

Senior Class—Catechism, Mary McConville; 2nd, Clara Gallant.

Good Conduct—Beatrice Gallant. Politeness—Ella Wright. Regular Attendance—John Cloutier.

Places in Class

Grade VII.—Mary McConville; 2nd, Beatrice Gallant. Application—Sandy McNeill.

Grade VI.—Thomas Shea; 2nd, Leo Lobsinger. Application—Leo Lobsinger.

Grade V.—Claude Sills; 2nd, Florence Hudd. Application—Ella Wright.

Grade III.—Kathleen Wright; 2nd, Clifford Shea. Application—Adam Kazier.

Class Subjects

English and Composition—Sandy McNeill.

History and Geography—Arthur Metson.

Writing and Drawing—Clarence Bertrand.

Reading and Spelling—Willie Shea.

Arithmetic—Mike Wazare.

Junior Class

Catechism—Marie Wright.

Good Conduct—Elizabeth McConville.

Regular Attendance—Oliver Cloutier.

Places in Class

First Division—First in Class—Lena Bolan; 2nd, Willie Crawford. Application—Marie Wright.

Second Division—First in Class—Good Conduct—Eugene Neumeyer.

Elizabeth McConville; 2nd, Wilfred Peltier. Application—Louis Jaronski.

The Baby Class

Catechism—Frankie Gallant.

Application—Hine Cloutier.

Regular Attendance—Allan Lobsinger.

Sunday School

The pupils who have not been absent from Sunday School during the year are as follows:—

Class of St. Gerard—Sandy McNeill, Tommy Shea, Leo Lobsinger.

Class of St. Agnes—Mary McConville, Lizzie Calladon, Ella Wright.

Class of Our Lady of Perpetual Help—Florence McNeill, Kathleen Wright, Clara Gallant, Hazel Metson, Flossie Murphy, Beulah Johnson.

Class of St. Aloysius—Claud Sills, John Cloutier, Roy Sills.

Class of the Infant Jesus—Maria Wright, Norah Wright, Harry Metson.

The program was well rendered. One selection particularly impressed your correspondent—it was "The Son of a King for Me," by Miss K. O'Reilly.

This young lady possesses a very good stage appearance, and her pronunciation was perfect, she being distinctly heard at the farther end of the hall. Each pupil showed clearly that he or she had been carefully trained, and the well-deserved applause given them will, no doubt, prove an incentive to renewed efforts on their part as well as a source of gratification to the devoted Sisters.

Rev. Father Rietvelt, C.S.S.R., addressed those present and in a clear and concise manner, showed the necessity of education with instruction. He spoke of the excellent training received by the Brandon Catholic children in comparison with the Public Schools.

The Rev. Father's arguments are convincing and thought provoking, and while he commended the parents for the loyal support accorded by them towards the Catholic Schools in the past, he urged them to renewed efforts in behalf of their creditable schools in the future. The Rev. Father closed his address by thanking the attentive audience, and wishing the devoted Sisters and their pupils a most pleasant holiday. The concert being closed, quite a number of the visitors inspected the very nice display of needlework and art, taking occasion to express their appreciation of the work done by the painstaking and saintly Sisters who have devoted their life to the preparation of children for future worthy citizenship.

During my stay in Brandon it has been my pleasure to attend one of the monthly socials given by ladies of St. Augustine Church in their commodious new hall. The hall is nicely finished, being provided with chairs and tables, while a very fine piano is the property of the young people. The hall is certainly a credit to the Catholics of the city. Progressive pedro was played generally, but provisions were made for other games. An excellent program was rendered—ice cream and cake were served by the ladies who take turns to give the social, Mrs. McNeill and Mrs. Neumeyer being the ladies in charge on this particular evening. One thing struck me particularly; it was how much at home the young folk all felt with the Rev. Superior and other Rev. Fathers of the parish who were all in attendance, and who seemed to add so much to the pleasure of all present. The future of any parish is well assured where the young people feel that as well as wise counsellors and prudent spiritual advisors they have in their pastors sharers in their pleasures and amusements. Such struck me as being the condition in Brandon. A very nice sum was netted by the ladies, which I understand is handed to the Sisters to aid them in their good work. May success attend all their undertakings.

GENA MACFARLANE.

Be active in many ways, be a sower of good seed, a distributor of good things, but look within thine own spirit for refreshment and joy. Unless all is well there, an applauding universe would be of no help to thee.

SECRETS IN HANDWRITING

Curious Puzzles, Experts are Expected to Solve

(London Tit-Bits)

Yes, said an expert in handwriting, it is no easy matter to tell which is a forged name and which is a bona-fide one, for the professional forger of to-day is an artist in his lawless work. Fifty or sixty years ago handwriting experts were conspicuous by their absence; now there are scores of them in London alone, and the leading ones are constantly brought before the public in connection with law cases—big, sensational and curious.

Professional handwriting experts have much curious work to do. I am called upon almost daily to banish or confirm suspicions in matrimonial squabbles. Some weeks ago a young lady brought to me a birthday card she had received bearing a few words, but no name, written with a pen. She was anxious to know whether the sender was a certain young man with whom she had quarrelled three months before and not afterwards seen. She showed me a letter she had received from him in days of yore, and though the handwriting of the birthday card was disguised, I proved beyond a shadow of doubt, on comparing it with the letter, that it was from the young fellow in question. The lady was very pleased when I pointed this out to her, and I have since heard that the quarrel has been patched up and that the parties are to be married a few weeks hence.

Last February a well known city merchant received a gaudily colored valentine. He brought it to me, stating that he thought the sender was a clerk in his employ to whom he had refused an advance in salary. He wanted to know whether he had surmised correctly. The word "miser" was written on the valentine in ink, and on comparing this with the usual writing of the clerk in question, I discovered similar peculiarities in both, proving that the clerk was the guilty party. However, for the foolish young fellow's sake, I kept my knowledge to myself, pointing out to the merchant that in suspecting his clerk he probably was making a mistake.

The difficulty a forger has to contend against when imitating some one's handwriting, is in disguising his own. Experts are always on the look out for foreign characteristics, for they very often lead to the identity of the forger.

Moreland, the Oxford tutor, one of the most successful and capable forgers who ever lived, could not only reproduce the handwriting of other people, but could write no fewer than seven distinctly different hands. He had one failing, however. In writing in a different hand some of the characteristics of his own unfortunately crept in. He wrote a number of blackmailing letters in a very fine, delicate, womanly hand. One of these letters was placed in the hands of the officials at the Home Office and a handwriting expert who examined it discovered some of the characteristics of Moreland's natural writing in the calligraphy of the "lady".

We're it not for the camera the detection of forgeries would be almost impossible. Quite recently a cheque for the sum of \$200 was honored at a London bank. It proved to have been forged. An eminent expert who was called in examined with a powerful hand lense the signature on the cheque without finding suggestion of forgery. He then put the check to the photographic test, and found upon the resultant negative, unmistakable signs of erasure and shading. The forger, whoever he was, had first sketched the name in pencil and then filled it in with ink, shading the down strokes afterward with a fine pen.

Autograph collectors should be careful when purchasing letters, etc., that are supposed to be in the handwriting of eminent people that they obtain the real things. There are men in London who make a good living by forging signatures and selling them at auction rooms and bazaars. One man known to me, has made as much as £60 in a month in this way.

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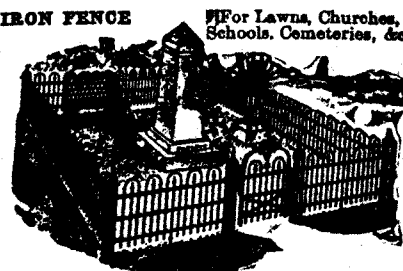
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Dated this 16th day of May, A.D. 1906

MAURICE and O'CONNOR

Solicitors for

"The Knights of Columbus"

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