

speaker, by justly praising the beauties of his native tongue, the love every French-Canadian should possess for it, and the zeal and ardour that should be displayed in its acquirement, made clear to his auditors how thoroughly he himself had practiced the advice he gave to others. Mr. Léon Garneau next recited a very humorous piece, "La Vie," by Grenet-Darcourt, and for an encore, "Songe d'Athalie," as related by an Englishman. The chorus then rendered Faure's "La Charité," with Mr. Mackie as soloist. Mr. Arthur Barrette had the third speech to deliver, the subject being "French-Canadian Literature." It was an excellent effort. A dialogue, taken from Molière's "l'Avaré," was next given by Messrs. H. Bisailon and L. Garneau. The concert was brought to a close with another selection by the chorus, Bernot's "Les Vandengeurs Napolitains." Mr. Payment then moved a vote of thanks to Rev. Father Duhaut for his valuable services during the year. The reverend director rose to reply briefly. He was happy to see the devotedness and the gratitude of those whom he had tried to guide in their first steps in public speaking. To conduct the society had not been a painful task, but a real source of pleasure. The purpose all had at heart was to speak French correctly and elegantly. Referring to the evening's programme, he was proud of the talent displayed by the members in speaking, singing and reciting. He complimented in a very special manner and very deservedly Rev. Fathers Lambert and Lajeunesse for the success they had achieved in the preparation of the beautiful choruses that had been rendered. The director then called upon the reverend professors present to address the audience. Fathers Nilles, Fallon, the latter also speaking in French, and Hénault thanked the members for the rare treat they had been given. They were pleased to find with what zeal the French-Canadians studied their language. In Ottawa University, where the two great languages are always in evidence, where students from different nationalities associate, a spirit of union is soon established which will continue in public life, and for which this institution will receive its just praise. Let the members of the Debating Society

persevere in this noble task, and the future will but emphasize the success of their early efforts. The proceedings then came to a close, and all retired with a pleasant remembrance of the closing exercises of the French Debating Society.

THE IRON MASK.

Sweet music, appropriate scenery, excellent acting, a thrilling play and an appreciative audience fittingly closed the dramatic season at Ottawa University for the year 1895-96 on the evening of April 15th. "The Iron Mask" found itself in difficult position. It had been preceded by two presentations of the strong and popular tragedy, "William Tell" in which the student-actors scored a success not often granted to amateurs and not always even to professionals. The classic style of the language, the patriotic sentiments, the grandeur of the main plot, the many trials and ultimate triumph of the Swiss champion, made of "William Tell" a drama difficult to equal and almost impossible to surpass. Next came the charming and ingenious light French comedy "Tête-Folle," which had proved its merit by satisfying even to enthusiasm a Parisian audience, the most critical, perhaps, in the world. "Tête-Folle" appealed to that faculty in man which delights in sharp and witty sallies, in laughter-provoking situations, in rapid and interesting action. No plays could be more dissimilar in spirit than "William Tell" and "Tête-Folle." And yet they fitted into one another; taken together they appeared to complete the dramatic cycle.

This was the state of affairs when "The Iron Mask" made its first bow before an Ottawa audience. To make a more favorable impression than the preceding dramas seemed a forlorn hope; to fall below them would have been worse than failure. The moment was critical, and it is but the due of the Dramatic Association and of its capable director, Rev. H. Gervais, O. M. I., to say that the success of "The Iron Mask" was complete and highly creditable. Perhaps no audience ever left the Academic Hall better satisfied with the uniform excellence of the entertainment provided. The following was