

THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS.

"WHAT KIND OF MEN ARE THESE?"

Two centuries ago the French Abbe, De La Salle, founded the Society of The Brothers of the Christian Schools. He worked more for our day than his own. This is proved by the fact, that from some two hundred members, this society has grown in numbers to fifteen thousand, and has taken root in every part of the world. The Brothers are a teaching body, laboring especially for the poor. They do not confine their labours however to any particular class of society, but conform themselves to the age in which they live, being "all things to all men, in order to win all to Christ." Their costume is the simplest that can be conceived. A plain black robe reaching to the heels, a white flowing collar that denotes their teaching profession, and a mantle in cold weather forms their complete outfit. Fashion is a fickle dame, but it brings no change to the Brothers.

As they usually work in the class-room, and seldom go abroad, it is quite possible that they may labor for some time in a city, comparatively unknown by a great number of the inhabitants. But opportunities occasionally arise which cause their work to be made known, and on such occasions an answer is given to the very pertinent question,—"What kind of men are these?"

The Oratorical Contest which took place in the Academy of Music May 28th, under the auspices of his Grace Archbishop O'Brien was just such an occasion, when hundreds of our best citizens assembled to witness some of the fruits of the Brothers' work. The "contest" received the stamp of public approval, there was but one opinion expressed concerning the Christian Brothers as educators: it was, that they were acquainted with the secret of success. Rev. Brother Joseph, the Director of La Salle, when questioned as to "How he obtained such magnificent results?" modestly replied, "Because we give all our time to the work of teaching. To attain success in it is our sole object—our only ambition. We study the character of the child, and endeavor by every means to develop the "man" according to the measure of the age and the fulness of Christ." We leave nothing undone to prepare our students for a life of usefulness. But we permeate all that we do with Christian instruction, for knowledge without morality is vain."

In view of the fact that the "contest" had created a live'y interest in the public mind, it was not astonishing that the "Academy" should be filled last Wednesday week, with the best people of this city, to witness the Closing Exercises of LaSalle. His Honor, Gov. Melachi B. Daly presided. The Archbishop was present. U.S. Consul Frye and Spanish Consul Lluich, were there. Also Attorney General Longley, Superintendent of Education Allison, Stipendiary Magistrate Motton, Speaker Power, and Journalist Cahan, who constituted the jury of judges for the final oratorical contest; and many other prominent gentlemen representing pulpit, bench and bar.

Mr. Harry Hanson waved his baton on time, and the 63rd, Regt. Band played E. Lipse which ushered in the evenings exercises. The lingering echoes of this selection frolicked with the June breezes, that stole through the half-opened windows of the gallery, as the curtain rose; and the rustle of programmes was lost in the steady tread of a hundred marching feet that responded to little Archie McDougal's command. They sang a welcome song, and immediately after the applause that followed, "ten little tots" came forth and recited "When We Are Men." They retired amid applause to give way to the junior Calisthenic class who gave an exhibition with dumb-bells. The audience was impressed with the harmony of the movements; twenty boys were a unit in the performance of every action, and every action was calculated to develop the physical man. They finished by forming a

tableau which was applauded. Next came the dialogue "Whose Turn" by which Archie McDougal gained more laurels, and Arthur Salterio and Joseph Murphy gained favor with the audience. The French dialogue "Une Bonne Lecon" was very interesting to those who understood the language, and the acting was relished by those who did not. Edward Powers and John Murphy were the central figures, while the bright eyes, and pure articulation of Master Ternan were noticeable features. Harney Schulze recited "Two Little Kittens with nice emphasis and discretion." He was encored. As he retired the Senior Calisthenic class marched on, twenty strong, armed with Indian clubs. Before they commenced their movements they did some very good marching. Their swaying was very graceful, forming one of the best features of the programme. As they filed off, the orchestra played a selection in which mournful notes prevailed. It was a fitting prelude to an oration to Sir John A. McDonald, by Robert Emmet Finn. The audience listened to it with profound attention. Master Finn showed great self-possession and spoke of the late Premier's qualities as a scholar, a statesman and a patriot, with pathetic eloquence. As he finished the introduction he was encouraged to proceed by—"Here! here! and applause. In a few brief, but well-rounded sentences, he gave good reasons why all true Canadians—irrespective of party—should cherish the memory of Sir John A. McDonald. He said:—His memory will be recalled by the hum of increased industry, and the "din of traffic" that will result from the various enterprises of great "pith and moment" whose existence are due to the genius of his practical intellect." His closing words in which he referred to Lady McDonald were very touching. We give a short quotation: "Messages of condolence have flashed to her from near and far, for he whom she loved with the deepest affection was known to all, both gentle and simple, as one whose life had been identified with the dearest interests of humanity—the building up of a nation that God has blessed." The orator was twice recalled, and received a beautiful floral offering. He won his laurels grandly. After an overture by the orchestra, the quarrel scene from "Julius Caesar" was enacted by Master James D. Lanigan and R. E. Finn. Lanigan made an excellent Brutus, fiery but not furious; and Finn gave an evidence of his versatility by vividly portraying the choleric Cassius.

The solo and chorus "Mottos" sung by Master Markley and choir, with orchestral accompaniment, was charmingly rendered. "The Charge of the Irish Brigade," a concert recitation by the junior oratory section was well received. The stage was then given up to the "Infant Athletes," little tots of some half-a-dozen summers, who were togged out in sailor suits, and armed with rings that were gaily decorated with colored ribbons. Their appearance was hailed by rounds of applause.

Continued in our next.

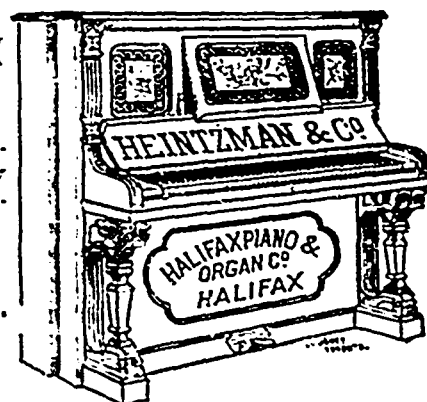
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