

because here many of Ireland's sons had found that freedom which had been denied them at home. Canada has possessed Irish sons whose names are the brightest on her honor rolls—McGee and O'Halloran of older days, with Dr. Burns, Blake and Thompson of a later time. The distinguished Irishmen of the Canadian hierarchy were also referred to. Discussing the future of Canada the speaker advocated either independence or a closer union with the mother country. He held that annexation was entirely out of the question. After referring to our natural resources and commercial facilities, the speaker concluded by saying that there was to be found in our country those who, though loyal to the British crown, were first, last and always Canadians.

One of the speeches which reflected most honor on the occasion was that delivered by J. P. Fallon in reply to "Literary Ireland." The preeminent characteristics of the Irish people, he said, is their love for learning, and though ages of oppression and persecution have robbed her of the proud title of "Isle of Saints and Scholars," her zeal in the cause of learning never ceased to exist. Though early renowned for the learning of her sons, it was not until after the light of Christianity had visited her shores that the period of her greatest literary glory began. She became the university of Europe, to which she brought the two-fold blessing of Christianity and education. Her "golden age," however, did not long remain unenvied. Intestine quarrels and foreign misrule destroyed her independence, and with it the learning of her sons began to wane. It was a mere declination, however, for all attempts to exterminate it from the Irish breast have proved futile, and again, as a greater day for Ireland is dawning, she is regaining her literary fame. The names of Burke, O'Connell, Moore, Ryan, McGee, O'Rielly, Hughes and Dougherty shall endure. Great hopes might be drawn from the love of Irishmen for learning; and if intellectual triumphs be taken as a standard by which we are to judge nations' greatness, Ireland stands eminent amongst them.

An unexpected treat was here introduced by the chairman, in the person

of Mr. Maurice Casey, a well known exponent of Irish literature, and a contributor to the OWL. Owing to Ireland's condition Irish talent had been directed from letters in politics, but now there was evidence of an awakening of energy in that direction in Ireland. Irish-Americans, he thought, had as yet done comparatively little, making exception for John Boyle O'Rielly, Maurice Francis Egan and a few others. He referred to the outburst of Irish literary talent in 1848 in a group of young men no older than the average student before him, and this he made the occasion for urging the students to greater efforts in this direction by constant practice. Practice, he maintained, is the secret, for literature is an art.

The chairman then proposed the toast "Columbia," which elicited from Mr. T. Clancey one of the ablest speeches of the day. It was highly proper, he thought, when celebrating the feast of the glorious Apostle of Ireland, to mention the relations which have always existed between the United States and that country. The sympathy of the United States for Ireland has always been the deepest. Benjamin Franklin sanctioned this intimacy in 1771. The speaker referred to the benefits Irishmen had conferred upon the United States as soldiers, statesmen and churchmen. He reminded his American fellow students, that though their country had made great material progress, all had not been attained. There were yet some evils to be removed. It should be the settled conviction of every American present that the continuance of the United States as a great country depended upon its adherence to true principles. This would be brought about by the spread and influence of Catholicity.

Next came the toast "The Thistle," which called forth a neat, vigorous little speech from Mr. R. McDonald. He said a strong bond of friendship should always exist between Irishmen and Scotchmen. They were both descended from the Gaelic branch of the Celtic race. Both enjoyed glory and fame in former days. When Ireland's fight for freedom would be won it would be a matter of pride for Scotchmen to know that they had played no unimportant part in attaining the victory.