

to you in the same language. In the first place, I must express my regret that the Countess of Dufferin has not been able to accompany me, and I can assure you that she will regard it as a real misfortune that she has been unable to pay a visit to a school which has been so nicely prepared for her reception, and where so many young and smiling faces have been gathered together to give her a welcome. Long before coming to this country I was aware of the noble work in which the Christian Brothers are engaged. In almost every part of the world establishments connected with their Institution, each in its separate sphere, promote the laborious and often self-sacrificing task of educating the poor; but in this country especially, where of all countries education is of primary necessity, it has been a great pleasure to me to find in every chief city of the Dominion which I have visited, schools under the superintendence of the Christian Brothers in full operation. Depend upon it those boys who, during the years of their childhood, embrace the opportunities for self-instruction still within their reach, conscientiously endeavor to take advantage of them, and of preparing themselves for those struggles, responsibilities, and trials which await them in the world beyond, will never regret the days they have passed within the walls of establishments like these. Upon your attention to your studies, upon those habits of industry which you here acquire, will in a great measure depend, not only your success in after life—for after all mere success is not everything—but your self-respect, your happiness, and your more distant future. I, therefore, entreat of you never to allow any temptation to interfere with those duties which are immediately before you, and to endeavor by doing your best to profit by their kindness, to testify to those good and devoted men who superintend your education, the gratitude which you entertain for the benefits they confer upon you. (Applause.)

His Excellency asked for the pupils of all the Christian Brothers' schools in the city a whole holiday. No need to say that the announcement was received with salvos of enthusiastic cheering. A young lad in uniform then handed His Lordship a beautiful bouquet, to be presented to Lady Dufferin. After inspecting some of the drawings of the pupils, the party took their departure to the stirring notes of the Sabre-Song from *La Grande Duchesse*, executed by the band. The visit to this splendid school seemed to impress every one, and His Lordship may rest assured that it has not its superior, in its special departments, in the Dominion.—(*Gazette*.)

Villa-Maria (Monklands) Convent.

The young ladies of Villa-Maria have special thanks to tender Lord and Lady Dufferin for visiting them in such weather as that which raged yesterday (January 24). A snow-storm swept down the slopes of the mountain; and across the level reaches, the keen north-west blew with the roar of a hurricane. The roads were very heavy, and in some parts almost impassable. Almost within sight of the convent gates, one of the horsés of His Excellency's sleigh floundered badly in a snow-drift. When the party reached the academy, they were nearly frozen. After visiting the building, class-rooms, chapel and dormitories, all of which are most tastefully fitted up, their Excellencies were conducted to the great hall, where a dazzling scene burst upon the view. On a high platform, formed as an amphitheatre, the young ladies of the institution were assembled, all dressed in white, and grouped according to size. Harp, guitar and piano were sounding a triumphant march, as their Excellencies ascended to the lofty *sauteuils* prepared for them. The hall was most tastefully decorated. The

stage was a bower of flowers and greenery, which made a beautiful setting to the fair faces of the girls. All around the walls ran festoons of drapery and nosegays, and from the centre of the ceiling streamers of puffed pink and green waved towards the four corners of the wall. After the music had ceased, Mlle. A. Pinsoneault stepped forward and read the following address in French:

To His Excellency the Right Hon. The Earl of Dufferin,
K. P., K. C. B., Governor-General of Canada, &c., :—

May it Please Your Excellency :

On your arrival in this country, your Excellency hastened to manifest an interest in the education of youth, by visiting the different religious establishments and giving to all a proof of the generous and impartial sentiments which you entertain towards them. The capital of the Province was the first to enjoy the favour of your Excellency, and the echo of the joyous festivals given in your presence and in that of Lady Dufferin, has penetrated even into the retreat of Villa-Maria. It is, therefore, with great happiness that we receive, in this former vice-regal residence, one of the successors of Lord Elgin, who recalls the gracious dispositions of that Governor towards the people of this Province, and who, like him, speaks with facility and elegance the language of the foundress of this establishment, the immortal Marguerite Bourgeoys, one of the personages of that epoch which Lord Elgin styled "the heroic age of this continent." Things have changed since those still recent days, when that Governor occupied the residence now known as Villa-Maria; commerce and industry have doubled the extent, the wealth and the population of the city, which is rapidly climbing the mountain and threatening to surround us and break, by its thousand noises, the silence of our solitude. In the relations of our country with other nations, in its constitution, in education itself, many changes have taken place, many fashions have been invented by man, in literature and other things; but one thing remains the same—the attachment of our people to the Government of our gracious Sovereign and their respect for her worthy representatives. We are happy, my lord, to be the interpreters of this Institution and of this whole audience, to express to you these sentiments, to greet in you the fit representative of that Queen who gives her subjects the example of every virtue, and to welcome to this house of education the zealous friend of the sciences and the arts, the distinguished patron of letters, the nobleman whose literary renown, whose courage and whose spirit of scientific research has made his name known here and in even higher latitudes.

Then Miss Scott the read the following beautiful

VERSES.

To-day smiles bright and gladsome light up our convent halls,
And gladly do we welcome within its quiet walls,
Illustrious guests, already to honor known and fame,
Who come to our young country in a well-loved Sovereign's name.

Little have we to offer—a snatch of joyous song,
A strain of festive music from a happy, girlish throng,
A wreath of mountain blossoms of varied form and hue,
But given with warm wishes—heart-homage deep and true.

Half hid mid brilliant flowers, behold a tiny leaf,
That e'er has kept its freshness thro' sunshine and thro' grief,
And taken root as firmly upon our mountain side,
As in green Erin's valleys beyond the ocean wide.

'Tis fitting we should offer this shamrock, emblem fair,
Of a brave and generous people, a land of beauty rare,
To two of Erin's children, whose genius and whose worth,
Reflect such peerless lustre on the land that gave them birth.