

ST. URSULA'S ACADEMY AND OTHER MEANS OF EMULATION.

A Literary Society, established in 1854, has proved a powerful means of exciting a laudable emulation among the pupils. This Society, bearing at present the title of ST. URSULA'S ACADEMY, is under the direction of the General Mistress of the Boarders, seconded by her counsellors, the Directress of the Half-boarders and the Teachers of French and English Literature. The young lady chosen by the Society as President, has also her aid-officers, a Vice President, two Secretaries and four Counsellors,—*Academicians*, chosen among the pupils of the Literature Class.

Pupils in the Grammar Course are also admitted as members of the Academy, whose number must not exceed twenty; that of the *affiliated* and the *aspirants* is not limited.

At the close of each scholastic term, an *Academie Session* is announced; the whole school, Boarders and Half-boarders, assemble in the Reception Hall. There, in presence of the Chaplain, the Mother Superior, and the Community, the labors of the Literary Society during the preceding months, are rehearsed; a special mention is made of the classes whose efforts have been crowned with success, and some of the best compositions are read. Pupils who have merited the reward, are admitted to the grades of aspirant, or affiliated. The Cross of honor, and other badges, are distributed to the most worthy among the *Academicians*. This Session is, of course, enlivened by vocal and instrumental music.

In the intervals between these semi-public Academic Sessions, the pupils of the Literary Society give an occasional Soiree or Matinee less formal, for which they prepare with equal zest.