

direction of Rev. J. B. Balland, O. M. I., were all selected from Rossini's famous opera, "William Tell." These and the delightful overtures of Rossini and Beethoven that bedecked the performance received great and well deserved applause from the select audience that filled the spacious Hall.

The study and suitable rendering of such a drama must have had a highly beneficial effect on the juvenile amateurs, whose easy and graceful bearing and gesture and spirited delivery bespoke careful training and won repeated plaudits. For several it was doubtless the occasion of developing elocutionary powers which, had it not been for this impulse, might have remained latent and thus deprived them of an important means of success hereafter. The classic language of this fine drama, impressed so as not easily to be forgotten, will permanently tend to cultivate their literary taste. In their memories are now indelibly impressed the leading facts of an historic popular movement, allusions to which they will ever readily comprehend.

Thus the closing scene of this anniversary celebration combined utility with pleasure, and like the effusion of filial sentiment of the eve, and the religious ceremonial of the morning, in which faith and piety were fostered, it exercised an excellent educating influence upon the students. Such a result could not fail to be highly pleasing to their honored and beloved President.

The educational institution of Notre Dame du Sacré Cœur, generally spoken of in Ottawa as the "Rideau Street Convent," is so well known not only to residents of our city, but at a distance, that it does not require us to herald its excellence through our columns. Its system of instruction, the refined and superior education inculcated, the care given to the development of the moral and intellectual faculties, and the thorough religious training imparted to the pupils confided to the Ladies' care, all contribute to fit them for their future position in society and to endow them with such qualities and acquirements as will cause them to adorn their homes. These are universally admitted facts, and it must be pointed out, in support of what is here asserted, that the children of many of our best families, seek within the walls of the Convent an education which, if equalled, is certainly not surpassed in the City.

The date of the foundation of the institution is 1845; it has, we are glad to state, taken a firm root in our midst, and it is one Ottawa is justly proud of. Several of its branches flourish in the neighboring republic, seven schools having been established in the Empire State alone. In Lowell, Mass., the Order opened a school this year, on the public school system, and the Ladies can already boast of no less than 700 pupils. Here, in this city, all the separate schools for girls as well as the High School, are under the supervision of the Sisters of this Community. The foregoing will give an idea of the work so successfully accomplished by the Grey Nuns who are entitled in a high degree to the patronage of our Catholic families.

In perusing the early history of Canada, the reader is forcibly struck by the resemblance which this period of our country's existence bears to the primitive ages of Christianity. It was truly an age of Faith, of heroic virtues and high souled chivalry. The blood of its martyrs' crimsoned our soil and secured to future generations, the possession of this beautiful land, now the home of civilization and refinement.

Among the many chosen souls whom God had destined to be the pioneers of the faith, and the bearers of the Gospel's consoling truths to the benighted savage, was a young girl of humble birth, who, having learned by a divine revelation of her vocation for the far West, and of the sublime mission she would there exercise, severed every tie that bound her to home and kindred, and vowed herself irrevocably to the heroic task of instructing the children of the redman. Distributing all her possessions in alms, she passed under the protection of Governor de Maisonneuve to the Canadian forests, guided by naught save the bright star of confidence in God. In the Fall of 1653 she landed in Montreal, then, a dreary and desolate wilderness. Here, amid such trials and privations as we, accustomed to the comforts and luxuries of this sensual age, can form no conception of, she began her heavenly mission. The children of the dusky savage were the first and dearest objects of her charity. To their untutored minds she revealed the knowledge of a Creator, and taught them the first notions of our holy religion. Thus did Margaret Bourgeois, animated with that spirit of fervent charity which shone forth in all her works, labor unwearingly until at length the haughty savage, won by the charm of her virtues, bowed in meek submission to the sweet yolk of Christianity. In the year 1656 Margaret Bourgeois founded that famous order of Religious, known throughout Canada and the United States, as the Congregation de Notre-Dame, and which, for more than two hundred years, has been the chief source, whence the female youth of this country have received that greatest of blessings, a religious education. This venerable tree planted by the Sainted Margaret has taken deep root in our soil; its ramifications extend throughout the

Dominion of Canada and the United States, and to-day 18,000 children are sheltered from the storms of error beneath its protecting branches. Instruction is imparted by 900 religious, in one hundred and fifty mission houses and schools. One of the most important of these branch houses, is the Institution of Ottawa, founded in 1868 by the Rev. Father Collins, Parish Priest of St. Patrick's, under the patronage of the Right Rev. Dr. Guigues, then Bishop of Ottawa. It holds a prominent rank among the Educational Establishments of Ontario and is growing rapidly popular owing to the solidity and finish of the education it imparts. Equal care is bestowed on all branches, whether literary, musical or artistic. Here the most useful branches are not overlooked, they receive special care and attention, the young ladies being daily allowed a short time for the exercise of domestic economy, etc.

This Institution contains also most perfect arrangements for the health and amusement of the pupils. The rooms are lofty and the ventilation is perfect. The dormitories have been constructed with a view to obtaining the most perfect system of sanitation. The many advantages which this Institution possesses for imparting a superior education, and the care given to the refinement and accomplishment of mind and body must commend it to those parents who are desirous of affording their daughters a good education. It has notably received the attention of many distinguished visitors since its establishment. His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne, and her Royal Highness the Princess Louise, have several times visited the Institution, the latter, on one occasion, subjecting the classes to a critical examination in the subjects taught. She was also pleased to present a collection of models in drawing and design to the Institution. At the late Dominion Exhibition, held in Montreal, the Council of Education for the Province of Quebec awarded to the Congregation de Notre-Dame, a first class Diploma for the system of education followed in the Institutions of the order, besides six first class diplomas for special branches.

PUBLISHER'S COLUMN.

THE "CATHOLIC SHIELD"—HOW RECEIVED.

Our little publication has received a cheery welcome from the Catholic press. The following kind notices in particular will be long remembered:—

A new monthly journal called the *Catholic Shield* has appeared in Ottawa. It contains sixteen pages and is gotten up much in the same style as the *New York Catholic Review*. It has a handsome appearance, is clean looking, and well printed and in so far as mechanism goes is certainly a success. But in our opinion it is more than mechanically successful. It is well written, and there is an absence of egotism about it, which is as unusual as it is indicative of success in this age of puffery and self assertion. We give its salutatory article in full.—*Post*, Montreal.

We have received the first copy of the "*Catholic Shield*," a Monthly Magazine, published at Ottawa. It is full of valuable and interesting reading.—*Freeman*, St. John, N. B.

This is the title of a new monthly published at Ottawa, the printer being A. Bureau, Sparks street. It is arranged in a convenient form of sixteen pages, and is intended to assist, as its leading article states, "in a modest way in propagating what is true and combating what is false in religion, philosophy, science, social economy, history, and the arts." The initial number gives evidence of considerable ability; and we have little doubt the *Catholic Shield* will more than realize the expectations of its friends. In wishing it success, we may state that the annual subscription is only one dollar.—*Irish Canadian*, Toronto.

We have received the first number of a new Catholic monthly published in Ottawa, entitled "*The Catholic Shield*." It is in sixteen page form, and presents a remarkably neat appearance. The matter, both original and selected, bears evidence of talent and good taste, and we earnestly hope our new contemporary will meet with that liberal support which it so eminently deserves.—*Catholic Record*, London, Ont.

We are in receipt of the initial number of the *Catholic Shield*, a sixteen-page monthly, at Ottawa, Ont. Its object cannot be better stated than in the words of its able salutatory: To assist in a modest way, in propagating what is true and combating what is false in Religion, Philosophy, Science, Social Economy, History and the Arts; and in cultivating a popular taste for the True, the Beautiful, and the Good." We trust the *Shield* will receive the patronage which its general excellence entitles it to.—*Catholic Union*, Buffalo, N. Y.