

A GRAND CELEBRATION.

Tenth Anniversary of St. Ann's Young Men's Society

A Short History of the Organization—The Religious Demonstration—The Literary and Dramatic Entertainment.

About ten years ago, and shortly after the arrival of the Redemptorist Fathers, in St. Ann's parish, Rev. Father Catulle, the then rector, propounded to himself a series of questions, and, without a moment's hesitation, answered them. The queries were: "How about the young men of the parish? Have they within reach the means whereby their leisure hours may minister to their mental and physical wants? Are they banded together with a common aim in view,—an aim at once ennobling and elevating?" The answer came: "No, but they shall!" He called to his side a number of energetic young men. He unfolded his plans; he told them of his hopes and desires. In his fatherly way he convinced them that his idea should take practical shape and form; and it did. The clay was ready for the hands of the sculptor; his judgment did not err and lead him astray. He was right in his pre-conceived estimate of young Irishmen, for on that day his dearest wish was realized—on that day the St. Ann's Young Men's Society was born.

The next thing to be done was to choose a leader—a director for the young society. He looked around among his able co-workers, and his eye rested upon one man. And here again his judgment was unerring. That one possessed the qualities necessary to him who would win the hearts of his followers, and, having won them, lead them onward and upward. That one was chosen, and from that moment ten years ago, Rev. Father Strubbe, their true and faithful counselor, has guided the steps of the hundreds of young men known as the St. Ann's Young Men's Society.

And now for a home wherein to meet and pass those leisure hours. Rev. Father Catulle recognized the necessity for such a home, and it became an accomplished fact. A large building was erected on the corner of Young and Ottawa streets. A portion of it was reserved for physical development—the gymnasium; another portion for the development of the mind—the library; and a third for a combination of both—the recreation room. The large hall over the class-rooms of St. Ann's School was renovated, and soon became the field whereon many a talented young man has moved his audience to tears or laughter, as he interpreted the conceptions of the playwright.

The inauguration of the new hall took place on Sunday, the 8th of November, 1885, and consisted of a religious demonstration in St. Ann's Church, followed by a banquet, and on Monday evening by a musical and dramatic entertainment.

Among the earliest workers for the society were the following: Messrs. M. Loughman, Thos. Davis, M. J. O'Donnell, T. J. Quinlan, W. P. Clancy, D. Kiely, T. M. Jones, J. Rielly, J. Brennan, J. Thornton, Wm. Davis, M. Shea, L. Power, F. Clarke, P. McDermott, Jos. Johnson, P. J. Cooney, J. Ahern, and indeed a host of others whose names would fill a column.

The first president, Mr. M. Loughman, was succeeded by Mr. Morgan J. Quinn, who was followed by Mr. J. J. Gethings, and he, in turn, gave place to Mr. P. T. O'Brien. Then followed Mr. M. Casey, and the present incumbent of the office is Mr. M. J. O'Brien.

The public entertainments given by the dramatic section of the society have always been attended with marked success. A great number of plays have been produced, among which we might name the following:

"The Expiation," "A Celebrated Libel Case," "The Miser, or the Hidden Treasure," "The Harvest Storm," "Sir Thomas More," "The Irish Eviction," "Robert Emmet," "Falsely Accused," "The Irish Rebel," "Shandy Maguire," "The Man from Galway," "False Friends," "Innithore," "Handy Andy," "The Plan of Campaign," "Betrayed," "The Malediction," "Lamh Dearg Abao" (The Red Hand Forever), "The

Triumph of Justice," "O'Rourke's Triumph," and "The Accepted Warning."

Some years ago the Society had a dramatic author engaged for several months, and under the direction of Mr. T. J. Quinlan he wrote several new plays and re-arranged others to admit of their being presented without lady characters. "Lamh Dearg Abao," and "O'Rourke's Triumph," were specially written for the society by one of its members, Mr. James Martin. The former was presented for the first time in the Queen's Theatre, on St. Patrick's Night, 1893, and the latter on St. Patrick's Night, 1894, the success of both being fresh in the minds of our readers. The author, who has received the highest commendations from the whole press of the city, is as modest as he is clever, which was evidenced on the occasion of the first production of "O'Rourke's Triumph," when the audience enthusiastically demanded his appearance on the stage to receive their hearty congratulations, and in response to which he modestly disclaimed the honors of the day in favor of the actors who so faithfully and intelligently presented the play. Both pieces have been produced in several cities of the United States and in every place they have been received with as much favor as in this city.

A series of lectures was given some years ago, and among the eloquent speakers on these occasions were: Hon. J. J. Curran, Hon. Judge Doherty, Hon. Judge Barry, Dr. Hingston, Dr. Guerin, Messrs. H. J. Kavanagh, J. K. Foran, Lit. D., L.L.B., J. D. Purcell, John Lesperance, M. J. Murphy, Chas. Fitzpatrick, of Quebec, Rev. Father Morrell, and many others.

And song, the dreamy music of the human voice, has not been forgotten. The Irish National Minstrels (composed of the choral section of the society) made their first appearance on St. Patrick's Day, 1889, in St. Ann's Hall, amid great enthusiasm. Besides the standard Irish songs so dear to the Irish breast, the Minstrels introduced ballads dealing with events in Ireland in our own day, most of them from the pen of Ireland's popular bard, patriot, M.P., and ex-Lord Mayor of Dublin, T. D. Sullivan, formerly editor of the Nation. Mr. T. J. Quinlan, an indefatigable worker for the society, has been instrumental in popularising, through the medium of the choral section, those gems of patriotic song, a few names of which are as follows:—

"Ireland's Faithful Irish Party," "The Land League," "The Land for the People," "Old Ireland's Cause Looks Cheery," "The Men of Tipperary," "Keep the Old Flag Floating, Boys," "A Toast for each Irish County," "The Plan of Campaign," "The Village Blacksmith," and last, but not least, "God Save Ireland."

The ever-ready and genial P. J. Shea, organist of St. Ann's, has been the musical director of the choral section since its inception, and much of the success attending their entertainments is due to his tireless work. He has composed several pieces, notably the air for "The Village Blacksmith" and heard in the forge scene of "O'Rourke's Triumph," and a beautiful march, "The Three Kings."

"Nothing succeeds like success!" and the career of St. Ann's Young Men's Society has been a phenomenal success. Hard work and conscientious endeavor will always tell, and as an instance of the almost continued labor of the dramatic section, we might mention the fact that although Monday evening saw the production of "The Accepted Warning," still another six weeks of rehearsal are before them, for a new and original play is now being written by Mr. James Martin, and will be produced on St. Patrick's Day; but the labor of both writer and actors is a labor of love, and as such is incapable of tiring either the one or the other.

Long may their success continue, and long may the Rev. Father Strubbe, the life and soul of the organization, be spared to the society he loves so well, and which, through his ceaseless endeavors, has become what it is: a credit to St. Ann's parish, to the city, and to the grand old Celtic race.

THE RELIGIOUS DEMONSTRATION.

Sunday was a gala day for St. Ann's Young Men's Society; yes, and for the parish as well, for the fathers, mothers and sisters of the young men partook of the pleasure that sparkled in the eyes

and thrilled the hearts of their sons and brothers, as they fired the first gun in the campaign of pleasure inaugurated that day.

In order to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Society, it was decided to hold a series of entertainments covering a period of three days, and, as a fitting commencement, the members attended eight o'clock Mass at St. Ann's Church and received Holy Communion. And it was a pleasing sight to witness that act of faith, an act that stamped two hundred young men with the grand old name of Catholic.

In the evening, at half-past six, the members congregated at their hall and marched to the church, headed by a band of music. Rev. Father O'Sullivan, of St. Albans, preached the sermon, the subject of which was "The Kingdom of Christ." The church was filled to its utmost capacity, and the eloquent preacher was listened to with rapt attention. Following is a resume of the sermon:

He had chosen a lofty theme, one suggested by the festival of the church to which the day was devoted, the feast of the Adorable Name of Jesus. He pointed out how our Saviour had humbled Himself on earth, and how God had promised to give Him a name above all others. That name, Jesus, was a sacramental one, for it produced what signified the perfect, complete and divine fulfilment of the attributes to the Redeemer of mankind. "Jesus" meant primarily Saviour. To Jesus had been given the sovereignty of heaven and earth. The day of earthly princes and potentates appeared to be passing away; but the sovereignty of the Son of God would endure for ever. Some earthly rulers surpassed their subjects only in the enormity of their vices and inordinateness of their ambition. Their power had been acquired by means of violence, or, perhaps, crime. But the sovereignty of our Saviour had been the outcome of unlawful usurpation; His excellence above His subjects consisted in the perfection of His virtues. He would rule for ever. At the last day He would mete out rewards to the righteous, and, to the wicked, justice. The Rev. Father, in the course of his sermon, impressed upon his hearers, and particularly upon the young men present, the desirability of avoiding all occasions of evil; of setting before themselves our Saviour as a model, and endeavouring, as far as in them lay, to imitate His virtues, and prove themselves Christian in more than in name.

After the sermon the choral section of the society rendered some of their choicest gems, under the direction of the organist, Mr. P. J. Shea, and the leader, Mr. John Morgan, after which His Grace Archbishop Fabre gave the Papal benediction. The service ended, the members of the society proceeded to the Presbytery, where His Grace was presented with an address, read by the president, Mr. M. J. O'Brien, and which was as follows:—

To His Grace EDWARD CHARLES FABRE, Archbishop of Montreal:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE.—We are, as you are aware, celebrating the tenth anniversary of the birth of our society. We cannot but feel that the benignity of your Grace in thus condescending to accept, (despite your many pastoral cares, the invitation of our Society to be personally present on the occasion, is one of happy omen for the Society, while leaving us under a heavy debt of gratitude to your Grace. Obedient to the sentiments of gratitude and congratulations that animate us at this moment, we gladly avail ourselves of the auspicious occasion which affords us at once the triple gratification of welcoming you in our midst, and offering to you the homage of our respect, of assuring you of our immutable attachment to your sacred person, while adding our humble, but heart-felt felicitations to the many you have already received at the termination, and still more happy issue, of the suit instituted against your Grace during the past year. The conscience of every Catholic was afflicted at the foul and mendacious attempts of a semi infidel press to manacle the hands of our Holy Mother the Church while holding back her children, and warning them of the shoals and quicksands they are sure to encounter in the perusal of literature that menaces alike the safety of religion and society.

But your Grace has come forth unscathed from the ideal, the inalienable rights of a bishop have been vindicated, even by a civil court, and throughout the length and breadth of your diocese the hearts of the faithful are exuberant with joy at the happy result. In union with them we join our hearts to say:

Long may you live to bless our land,
And glad our hearts as now;
The cross in your sacred hand,
The mitre on your brow.

In replying His Grace expressed the pleasure he felt while listening to the address and paid a high tribute to the zeal of the good Redemptorist Fathers through whose instrumentality the Society had attained its present position. Referring to that portion of the address which spoke of the late suit against the Archbishop, His Grace said that the Bishop

of Meath had written him some time ago, telling him that he was in a similar position, having been attacked through the courts by a section of the press, and asking for the text of the judgment in the Archbishop's case. It was sent and published over the water, and a few days ago he had the pleasure of learning that the case against the Bishop of Meath had been dropped. His Grace further remarked that the young men before him, being young Irish Catholics, should feel proud that the Hon. Judge Doherty was also an Irishman and a Catholic.

After receiving His Grace's blessing the young men returned to the hall, feeling that the first day of the celebration of their tenth anniversary had been well spent.

THE LECTURE AND DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT.

On Monday evening the society's hall was the objective point for hundreds of people, friends of the society. A lecture by Rev. Father O'Sullivan was not to be missed, for those who had heard him Sunday night knew what to expect, and they were not disappointed. We give an outline of the lecture as follows:—

He would not promise them a lecture, for he believed that most people nowadays are over-lectured. He would address himself to educators rather than the educated. Education consisted of three kinds—the Pagan, the secular and the Christian. The first was the education of the sensual in man and was derived from the pages of immoral books. Such an education carried with it its own condemnation. The second was the purely secular, refining the outward man if you will, but at the cost of the soul, to the salvation of which no thought was given. And lastly, the Christian education. This is opposed by two powerful enemies—self, as evidenced in the man who is too full of his own importance to bow to the decision of the Church. The other is Freemasonry. He closed his eloquent discourse by appealing to the parents and young men to follow the teaching of God's ministers, who were actuated solely by a desire to help them to live good lives, so that they might receive their reward in the world to come.

As a pulpit orator Father O'Sullivan had appealed to the minds—the intelligence—of his hearers, and as a lecturer he reached not only the mind, but also the heart. His graceful presence, coupled with an easy command of language, ranks him with the best, while a flow of lively humor proclaims him to be what he is—an Irishman.

The second part of the programme consisted of a three act drama, written by Mr. Carleton, of St. John, N.B., author of "More Sinned Against than Sinning," and presented by the well known dramatic section of the society. Its name, "The Accepted Warning," is a very appropriate one, for the main part of the play is a dream by a young doctor. Mr. T. M. Jones, as *Gerald Montgomery*, proved quite conclusively that he can play the part of hero as cleverly as he does that of the grasping, calculating villain, in which character we have seen him several times on the same stage. In fact, few professionals could surpass him in the "delirium." Mr. T. F. Sullivan as the villain, *Arthur Hardy*, well sustained his reputation as a finished actor. His portrayal of the character of the revengeful plotter was true to life. *Counselor Bloodface*, a happy-go-lucky-brandy-and-soda practitioner at the "Bar," was remarkably well handled by Mr. R. Byrne, who supplied most of the fun of the piece. Mr. J. J. Gethings, as *Augustus Littlebrain*, quite surprised those who had always seen him in heroic parts, for, as a rule, an amateur finds it difficult to wheel round from the grave to the funny, but Mr. Gethings can do it. *Henry St. Leonard* was ably given by Mr. H. P. Sullivan, an actor young in years, but very clever. *Barney Murphy* was very good in the hands of Mr. J. Whitty, and Mr. J. Maguire as *Tom Walls* was as hard-headed as he could be, and gave the character a finished touch. Master F. Hogan as *Wilke*, the doctor's son, proved himself an intelligent little fellow, and Mr. J. T. O'Connor made a splendid negro waiter, in fact he seemed to fit right into the character, and a right good fit it was. Mr. J. E. Orton, as *Slideback Silkhat*, was a first-class dandy with a great love for exploring other people's pockets. Mr. T. Conway looked after the peace of the city, and was very good as *Bob Buttons*. The orchestra under the direction of Mr. P. J. Shea, was, as usual, splendid. The