

## THE CECILIAN SOCIETY.



OUR University Band, in point of importance and excellence, compares very favorably with any other organization in our midst.

It is therefore a source of no little gratification to us to be able to present, in this issue, a short historical sketch of the Band and a portrait of its present members.

Our Musical Society, it seems, is the oldest student organization now existing in the University. It was already full-fledged before our present philosophical, scientific, literary, debating and athletic associations existed at all. About its early history, information could be had but from one man now in the University-- the venerable Father Chaborel.

When we called upon Rev. Father Chaborel for information he, with his accustomed good nature, smiled and assured us that we had found the right man in the right place. "To tell the truth," he said, "we had no band properly so-called before 1865. In that year one was organized under the direction of Rev. Father Derbuel, assisted by myself, then Brother Chaborel. I played B flat bass; we had in all about ten members. We had not at first sufficient instruments, but a kind friend in Montreal purchased five for us at a cost of fifty dollars. Our instruments were not first-class. I remember there wasn't a student in the house with sufficient lung power to evoke a note from our massive B flat bass. However we soon made ourselves heard and, ours being the only band then in Ottawa, we, in a short time, gained an enviable reputation throughout the neighborhood. In 1866 the Irish people of Gloucester invited us to their town to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. We went out in a sleigh and, to be candid with you, we almost froze to death on the way there. The weather was cold indeed, but Irish hearts were as warm then as they are now, and once we got to Gloucester you may be sure we had a good time.

I acted as Director of the Band after Father Derbuel's departure and remained in charge of it until 1869 when Rev. Father Balland succeeded me."

Rev. Father Balland, as all of our readers who had the privilege of being acquainted with him well know, was a very energetic, practical man. From the time he took the Band in charge we have a history of its yearly doings. On the 4th of June 1873, the Band became a properly organized society, and took the name of the Cecilian Society. The officers were: Rev. F. Balland, Director; R. Gillie, Assistant-Director; E. Bauset, Secretary-Treasurer. It is interesting and a trifle amusing to read over the regulations which Rev. F. Balland drew up for the government of this organization. To mention one of these rules that is all our space will allow us:--"There shall be a fine imposed on any one who comes late for the practices. For the first offence, the fine shall not be less than two nor more than five cents. For all succeeding offences, it shall not be less than ten cents, nor more than one dollar." Such legislation was productive of abundant good fruit, and in a short time the Cecilian Society was far superior to any other musical organization in the Capital. In fact such was its success under its able Director, that it soon became well and favorably known throughout Quebec and Ontario. During the academic years from '73 to '77, Sig. Liberati, the now famous cornetist, was a member of the Cecilian Society. In the year '73-'74 the Band took part in the great musical contest held in Montreal, and was awarded second prize by the judges. The majority of the connoisseurs present, however, maintained that the Ottawa College musicians were entitled to first honors. This, too, was Rev. Father Balland's opinion, and he positively and persistently refused to accept the second prize, which was a handsome silver cup.

In 1880 the Cecilian Society was invited to Quebec to take part in the grand celebration of St. Jean Baptiste's