

the students present, said he, who might not aspire to the highest positions in the land; but when he held up to them these lofty possibilities it was not to encourage them to seek for worldly honors, but to show them what an important part they might afterwards play for the good of their native land. For after the love of God, love of country is the noblest sentiment that can animate the breast of man. "I was born in Ireland," he continued, "and I love Ireland. Had I been born a Canadian, Canada would be dearer to me than any other country, and I am happy to see that such is the case with you."

But the sentiment of the address which pleased him most, that which touched the tenderest chord of his heart, was the expression of the love the students bore to mother Church. He had noticed in more than one instance that this love pervaded all their works; the pages of the "OWL," he remarked, afforded abundant proof of this. "Boys," he concluded, "continue faithful to your religion. Whatever be your calling in after life, whether you be doctors or lawyers, or priests, or whatever be the profession in which you aspire to excel, ever remember that you are Catholics, ever let the determination to stand by your faith be uppermost in your minds, and be assured that Heaven will smile upon you and bless all your endeavors."



OF LOCAL INTEREST.

Our annual retreat has come and gone, and we hope it has proved to all as beneficial as it should. Rev. Father Ring is certainly an eloquent and impressive preacher, and has fully realized even the loftiest anticipations based on the fame that preceded him. To him, and to the Rev. Father Pallier, who so acceptably directed the exercises of our French-fellow students, we owe our heartfelt thanks for the excellent opportunity afforded us of making a good retreat.

The Altar Boys' Society, so successful in years gone by, has been again organized. The society, as its name implies, has reference to the altar; its object being to carry out in a becoming and edifying manner all ceremonies within the chancel. With our increased membership and under the valuable direction of Rev. Father Tighe, there is no reason why this year's society should not surpass all former efforts. The following is the committee for the coming year: President, J. T. Hanley; Vice-President, E. A. Bolger; Sacristan, J. Breen; Master of Ceremonies, M. O'Connell.

The students of the sixth and seventh forms hail with joy the reorganization of what is to them the most important of all college societies, the Academy of St. Thomas. The object of this organization is to train the students in the art of philosophizing, of solving plausible objections, and proposing arguments in their most advantageous and forcible form. As philosophy is the all-important study during the last two years of a university course, and as knowledge of syllogistic rules and of true and false principles in philosophy is of very little value unless its possessor can put it into practice, the members, one and all, should give their most zealous support to the Academy, and thus aid their energetic and pains-taking director, Rev. Father Antoine, in making it the great success it promises to prove.

In speaking of our most important college societies and associations, grievous indeed would be our mistake were we to omit the Students' Reading Room. For the primary object which a man invariably has in view on entering college is to become educated. A knowledge of