

THE PRESENT IRISH LITERARY REVIVAL.

Before commencing the lecture, which your Society has kindly invited me to give, allow me to say that I have looked forward to this occasion with peculiar pleasure, and that this pleasure is now greatly enhanced to me by the fact that His Grace the Archbishop of Toronto has been able to be present and to take the chair.

We have many things for which we have to thank His Grace, but this week it is but natural that the subject of the National Council of Women of Canada should be uppermost in our thoughts, and towards that Council the Archbishop has ever proved himself a most true friend. When at the outset there was some doubt as to whether this movement would be successful, His Grace was amongst the first to come forward with encouragement and counsel, and ever since he has never failed to give assistance whenever needed, and to advise the societies and institutions under his direction to federate with the Local Council in Toronto; and last Tuesday, when prevented by indisposition from being present himself at the public meeting held at the Pavilion, he sent his blessing and a living message of good cheer in the person of Father Ryan, who delivered so eloquent and beautiful a speech on that occasion.

I should also like to tender the thanks of the Women's National Council to the Young Ladies' Catholic Literary Association for the hospitality and kindness which they have shown to those of our delegates whom they have entertained this week.