

tial home of learning, which is still in the course of erection. Although their efforts have not been attended with the degree of success to be desired, we have every reason to hope that in the near future, the University of Ottawa will once more take her place among the leading educational institution of Canada, a worthy monument to the patient and self-sacrificing efforts of the Oblate Fathers under whose direction she gained such eminent distinction in the past.

To the future of our Alma Mater, I ask you to join me in a toast to which Mr. C. J. Jones will respond."

In an eloquent speech Mr. Jones replied

"To me has been allotted the honor of responding to the toast of Alma Mater. It is indeed fitting that this toast should occupy a prominent place at a student's banquet, and doubly so when the occasion is the festal day of the patron saint of a race whose name with that of Catholicity and education is almost interchangeable. For truly has Ireland earned the title of "Isle of Saints and Scholars." Even before it became Christian, Hibernia was famed for its bards and its poets. This spark of love for learning, which seems spontaneous in its origin, needed only the invigorating breath of Christianity to fan it into a glorious flame that was to make Ireland the one bright spot in an age of darkness. With the establishment of the Christian religion, schools sprang up throughout the land and Ireland became the Mecca of those in search for knowledge. From her fountains students of every land, free of charge, imbibed their knowledge of Celtic Literature, of Hebrew, Greek and Latin, of Mathematics and Physics, of the Logic of Aristotle and of the works of the Fathers of the Church. For ages this flame continued to burn and to illumine, not only Ireland, but every portion of the then known world. Then came the dark days of suffering and persecution. But though the Penal Laws might dim the flame they could never extinguish it, and the spark which St. Patrick found when he first set foot on Irish soil, continued to smolder in the breasts of the children of Erin, to burst forth anew in the friendly air of freedom found in foreign lands. And this love for learning which prompts the Irish parent to make any sacrifice to give to his children the education denied him and his fathers in the land of their birth, has developed in the race a natural ability, has given it a preeminent position in every walk of life throughout the Anglo-Saxon world. From the humble position which the Irish were forced to occupy when coming first to Britain's colonies and