



THE SILVER JUBILEE OF ST. MARY'S ACADEMY.

Last Thursday, the 14th inst., was the long expected day of rejoicing for the good Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary and their grateful pupils and friends. It was intended to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary, not of the Order (as two of the Winnipeg dailies said), for the Order was founded more than fifty years ago, but of the arrival of these sisters in Manitoba. Invitations had been addressed several weeks ago to their many patrons, old pupils, and friends, and now a beautiful winter's day with bright sunshine and bracing atmosphere tempted all their well-wishers to go out and enjoy the silver jubilee festivities. The pupils of the St. Boniface convent of the same order, in particular, gladly crossed the icebound Red River, under the guidance of their religious teachers, and hied them to St. Mary's Church: for this was the high festival, not only of St. Mary's Academy, but also of the six other convent schools of the Holy Names Sisters in the province.

The celebration opened it was proper that it should, as with a solemn High Mass in St. Mary's Church, Winnipeg, at half past nine; His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface was celebrant, the assistant priest being Rev. Father Beaudin, O. M. I.; the deacon of honor, Rev. Father Tourangeau, S. J., the sub-deacon of honor, Rev. Father Gravel; the official deacon, Rev. Father Trudel, the official sub-deacon, Rev. Father Woodcutter; the Master of Ceremonies, Rev. Dr. Beliveau. All the music was provided by former pupils of St. Mary's Academy and was exceptionally good. Miss Madge Barrett and Miss Flanagan sang the solos of Bordese's Mass, supported by a large and efficient choir of young ladies. At the offertory Miss Perkins gave Lugge's Ave Maria, and after the elevation Miss Flanagan sang the O Salutaris. The church was filled with worshippers from Winnipeg and St. Boniface, conspicuous among whom were the Sisters with their pupils.

His Grace preached in English on the excellence of virginity. He dwelt eloquently on the great motive for choosing this better life, viz., the example of Our Blessed Lord who was the first to recommend this greater perfection to his chosen followers. This holy state enabled the clergy to devote themselves unreservedly to the care of souls and evoked all the latent heroism of truly Christian women. The wisdom of this mode of life is apparent to all in the sisterhoods that spend themselves in works of charity; but it is none the less visible in those who consecrate themselves, as do the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, to the education of girls. Doubtless there are some married people who take a lifelong practical interest in teaching, but, as a general rule, the cares of a family are incompatible with that thorough and unselfish consecration of one's life to teaching which is the characteristic of such

orders as that of the Sisters who are celebrating to-day. His Grace then spoke in French of the history of these valiant Sisters in the provinces of Quebec and Manitoba, showing how the recent extraordinary increase in the number of their convents in this province was an earnest of God's special blessing on the great work of Catholic education.

After the Mass the guests invited to the banquet repaired to St. Mary's Academy, where three dining halls had been tastefully decorated, two for the former pupils of the institution and one for the clergy. The Archbishop, having said grace for the young ladies, presided over the clerical tables, at which the following guests sat down: The Most Rev. Archbishop Langevin, O. M. I., Very Rev. A. Dugas, V. G., Rev. Fathers Cherrier, Guillet, O. M. I., Louis, Superior of the Trappists, Poitras and Beaudin, O. M. I., Drummond and Lebel, S. J., Jolys, Fillion, Jutras, Turcotte, Martin, Gravel, Trudel, Bourret, J. A. Magnan, Cahill, O'Dwyer and Kulawy, O. M. I., Rousseau, Rocan, Lavigne, Brother Lewis, Superior of St. Mary's Catholic schools, and Brother Boisrame, O. M. I.

In the course of the dinner, which, by the way, was a triumph of Mrs. Hample's skill, the following telegram from Very Rev. Mother Oliver, General Superior of the entire Order of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, was read by His Grace.

TELEGRAM FROM MOTHER OLIVER, SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE ORDER.

Mother Provincial
St. Mary's Academy,
Winnipeg, Man.

Festal greetings to Sisters and pupils from Mother General and Councillors.

MOTHER GENERAL.

Letters written in French were also read from the Archbishop of Montreal, the Bishop of St. Albert and the Vicar Apostolic of the Saskatchewan. The following letter, written in English by the Bishop of Sherbrooke, is printed as a most opportune utterance from a gifted prelate:—

Sherbrooke, Dec. 4th, '99.
Reverend Sr. Angélique of Mary,
St. Mary's Academy,
Winnipeg, Man.

Dear Sister,—I regret most deeply that it will not be in my power to attend the Silver Jubilee celebration of your Academy. I thank you, however, none the less cordially for having remembered me, an old Key Wester as yourself, and for having in so delicate a manner, expressed the earnest desire that I should be numbered among your honored guests on such a memorable occasion.

The good work which you and your devoted sisters are doing in the North-West under such trying circumstances challenges the warmest sympathies and unbounded commendations of all right minded Canadians, who cannot but link the welfare and prosperity of our dear land with a thoroughly Christian education of its children. Your wish, therefore, that I should bless you and your work, I readily and feelingly accede to. Be ye all of good heart, who suffer for justice sake! Truth and justice, forget it not, are, happily, mightier than men and politics. And when championed by a legion of devoted

self-sacrificing adherents under the leadership of so prudent and fearless a chieftain as the Archbishop of St. Boniface, truth and justice must and will triumph in the end, in spite of all rancorous prejudices and political astuteness.

With renewed thanks for your kind invitation believe, me dear Sister,

Yours sincerely in Christ Our Lord,

PAUL,
Bishop of Sherbrooke.

About 175 of the former pupils of the Academy sat down to the table with some 25 of the present pupils.

The main dining hall was elaborately decorated for the occasion, being hung all round with garlands and festoons of flowers, symbolic in some cases, and simply ornamental generally. One of the floral mottoes read: "May this eventful day, dewy with its silvery memories, be registered in the jubilee of eternity." Another in French read: "Ce sera un jour de souvenir; vous le fêterez comme la fête du Seigneur."

After the banquet came Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament given in the pretty convent chapel by His Grace, during which Miss Barrett sang Cherubini's "Ave Maria," and other hymns were rendered by a select choir of Sisters and young ladies. Most appropriately for the occasion, Our Lady's great song of thanksgiving, the "Magnificat," followed immediately after Benediction, instead of the "Laudate."

Then was given, after a brief interval, the musical and dramatic entertainment which was, of course, the intellectual feature of the day. The cardboard programme was most tastefully printed with the title page bearing the two dates, 1874 and 1899, and the words "Souvenir" and "Silver Jubilee" printed in silver. The centre of the three inside pages contained two half-tones, one of the original wooden structure which sheltered the pioneer nuns in 1874 and the other of the present large brick building with its two towers. The overture, an instrumental duet by Mozart, was played in perfect time and tune by twelve pupils, the Misses E. Coyle, K. Dancer, B. Champion, R. McBride, M. and A. Dubuc, L. Holbrook, E. and H. Holiday, E. Lauzon, M. L. and E. Prud'homme. "Chœur d'Athalie," a classical production, was excellently rendered by the pupils of the senior department, the accompanists being Misses E. Coyle, L. Holbrook, M. L. Pond'homme, A. Dubuc. A very interesting essay, covering the whole historic ground with exquisite tact and fine sense of proportion, was read in a most natural way, with a faultless English accent, by Miss Ethel Adams, who wore her university B. A. hood.

This was followed by "Joyeux Anniversaire," a French dialogue carried on by little tots of children with their dolls, graduating up to larger girls until they blossomed into gracious angels with gauze dresses and wings, all chatting in an easy, pleasant manner about all that had happened since the first Sisters came to Winnipeg in 1874. Whenever the name of Mother John of God, the first Superior, who, being now Assistant to the Mother General, had come here for this festival, was mentioned the audience applauded

ed vigorously. The mention of the name of Sister Fiset was also most favorably received. She was the Superior of the Grey Nun convent which received the Holy Names Sisters on their arrival here, and she was present Thursday with the Mother Vicar and a couple of other Grey Nuns. It may be well to remark here that apart from the clergy, the Grey Nuns and the Sisters of Mercy, the audience was entirely made up of former pupils, there being no room for even the mothers of the present pupils unless they had been at one time pupils of St. Mary's Academy. The names of the actors in this dialogue were: K. Flanagan, E. Bertrand, A. Courtney, D. and E. Guertin, B. Georgeson, R. Bernier, E. Bertrand, A. Prud'homme, M. O'Brien, A. Hamel, A. Meunier, B. Simon, R. Oliver, M. J. Dubuc, A. Chevalier, Y. Hazel, A. Dagenais, E. Lauzon, A. Monchamp, A. Bourbeau.

The next number was an instrumental solo with mirth and song. Pianists: E. Coyle, E. Lauzon, L. Holbrook, A. Stark, C. Sullivan, M. Bernier.

Those taking part in "Our Silver Jubilee," a drama in two acts, were: Present pupils, G. Georgeson, K. Browning, L. O'Brien, M. Wilcox, N. Head, B. Champion, A. Fawcett, R. McBride, A. Marrin, M. Hastings, A. Connell, B. McDougall, K. McGee. Former pupils, each of whom composed her essay, M. Adams, W. Cummings, E. Châle, M. Marrin, A. and E. O'Donnell, E. Connell, M. A. Tiernay. This was probably the most educational feature of the programme. Miss Mabel Adams let the audience into the stern realities of a clever pupil not in love with mental arithmetic, Miss Winnifred Cummings, whose pure white dress recalled her convent days, discoursed with a most distinct utterance and great ease of gesture on the raptures of music, Miss Mary Marrin stood bravely up for religion and the cross which she held in golden guise before her, Miss Aileen O'Donnell spoke entertainingly of literature and of the convent paper, "The Gleaner," while her sister, Miss Ethel O'Donnell dilated on the triumphs of Science, Miss Eva Connell displayed consummate art in her reminiscences of the poetic effusions of her convent life and gave us a very good parody of Poe in the "Prayer Bells," and Miss M. A. Tiernay aptly recounted the lessons learned in those glimpses of true history which Catholics alone can have.

Miss Maria Dubuc recited in a very neat and appreciative manner a well written French poem on the Silver Jubilee composed by her sister, Miss Berthe Dubuc, who is now teaching school in the Saskatchewan Territory.

The pupils taking part in the piano solo, "Le Depart," were: N. O. O'Brien, B. Simon, C. O'Sullivan, M. and R. Bernier, R. McBride, N. Bernhardt, A. Stark, B. Whinery, E. Head, E. Coyle, L. Holbrook.

The entertainment closed with an address read very feelingly to His Grace, the Clergy, the Sisters and all the old pupils by Miss Alice Kavanagh.

His Grace, while congratulating the present pupils on having done very well indeed, was especially loud in his praise of the former pupils, those who were convent girls when he, be-

fore becoming archbishop, was their chaplain—a fact they had so gracefully commemorated in their dialogues and in the "Annals of St. Mary's." He did not wish to leave this hall till he had expressed the desire that "The Gleaner" be resuscitated at least once a year. This year let it be called "The Jubilee Gleaner."

Speaking in French the Archbishop added that he asked the Blessed Virgin to present the hearts of all the pupils of St. Mary's Academy to the Heart of her Son. The young, nay the very youngest of the pupils were very dear to him, but they must not be offended if he took a particularly fatherly interest in the less young girls who had left the convent and were now fighting the battles of life.

This closed one of the most successful and agreeable entertainments ever witnessed in St. Mary's Academy. Everybody felt that the Jubilee was a day of unclouded joy ever to be remembered.

The Sisters wish to express their thanks to Mesdames Monchamp, Champion, McIntyre and others for their aid in making the affair so great a success.

QUEER PROPERTIES OF A SOUTH AMERICAN LAKE.

From the Chicago Record.

A curious phenomenon is that metal never rusts in the waters of Lake Titicaca. You can throw in a chain or an anchor or any article of ordinary iron and let it lie for weeks, and when you haul it up it will be as clean and bright as when it came from the foundry. And, what is stranger still, rust that has been formed upon metallic objects elsewhere will peel off when immersed in its waters. This is frequently noticed by railway and steamship men. Rusty car wheels and rails, and even machinery, can be brightened by soaking them in the waters of Lake Titicaca. This lake, which has an area of 3,000 square miles, is on the table land of Bolivia, 12,000 feet above the sea, the highest large lake in the world.

The Free Press reporter of last Saturday's eclipse must have been an "absent-minded beggar" when he wrote: "The interesting total eclipse of the moon on Saturday evening was not visible in Winnipeg, owing to a light snow-fall, which came on in the afternoon and continued after the important astronomical event was past. At 10 o'clock and afterwards the moon was shining beautifully, just as if no eclipse had ever happened." True, the early phases of the eclipse were not visible on account of the haze in the air, but shortly before 9 o'clock the moon appeared with a considerable portion of her disc cut off. The period of greatest obscuration, which, however, was not quite total, could not be seen here, but the "important astronomical event" was certainly not past when the moon came out of the haze shorn of about a quarter of her beams by that re-entrant curve of blackness which is so different from a half or a gibbous moon.

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