

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

THE 17th of March is a day dear to the heart of every Irishman, and, it might be added, of every friend of Ireland. That day recalls memories—sad, yet pleasant—of all that the great saint did for Ireland, and of the untiring and successful efforts of the Irish people to preserve the faith that Patrick gave them, even though these efforts entailed great personal sacrifices and often a loss of life. The Irish students of Ottawa College offer no exception to the general rule. They are proud of their lineage and do all in their power to honor in a fitting manner the feast of their national saint. In this they are ably and generously seconded by their fellow-students of different nationalities, and it may with truth be said that no day of our scholastic year is more enthusiastically and becomingly celebrated.

St. Patrick's Day, '88, amply proved this. In the morning, the green ribbon or typical shamrock might be seen ornamenting the breasts of those who wished the Green Isle well, while the interest taken in the various proceedings of the day showed that Ireland held a high place in the hearts and affections of both students and professors. The celebration of the day was divided into three parts—the religious services in the morning, the banquet in the afternoon and the concert in the evening. The Irish are first and above all, a religious people, and their sons have been blessed with a good share of this religious spirit. They feel that in their religion lies the strength and vitality of their nationality, and the only hope for the salvation of their country. Hence, no great day can be properly honored by them without the celebration of the Sacrifice of the Mass. This, then was the act with which the students began the observance of St. Patrick's Day. Grand High Mass was sung by Rev. Father Griffin, assisted by Rev. Father Guillet and Rev. Mr. Constantineau, as deacon and sub-deacon respectively. Besides the regular Grand Mass, the choir rendered several

hymns appropriate to the occasion. The sermon of the day was to have been preached by the Rev. Father McGovern, of the Basilica, an ex-student, and greatly beloved by the boys, but just before mass began, word arrived that he could not possibly come. Father Guillet consented to fill the vacant place, and, though the notice was very short, he preached a brief, but most interesting sermon on Ireland's Apostle. He who loves a person, said the preacher, desires to give to that person what he has himself. St. Patrick loved the Irish people, and he wished to make a manifestation of his love and give them some lasting proof of it. This he did, when he obtained from God the gift of faith for the Irish, and prayed that their faith would never leave them. He obtained for them a firm, open and glorious faith, such as he himself possessed, and which manifested itself in outward signs. St. Patrick suffered for his faith; the Irish have suffered for theirs, and in these sufferings they have found their crown and the best safeguard for their nationality. Father Guillet exhorted the Irish students to imitate the virtues of their patron saint; to seek his strong faith and ardent charity, and thus best honor him by following his example.

The feeling of disappointment, which had arisen, when it was learned that Father McGovern would not preach, gave way to one of pleasant surprise, and many and favorable were the comments passed on Father Guillet's sermon.

The time between the conclusion of mass and one p. m., was taken up by the immediate preparations for the grand banquet of the afternoon.

## THE BANQUET.

That which was looked forward to with the greatest expectation, was the annual banquet. For some years past it has been customary with the Irish students, to celebrate the return of their national day, by a banquet, followed in the evening by a dramatic representation.