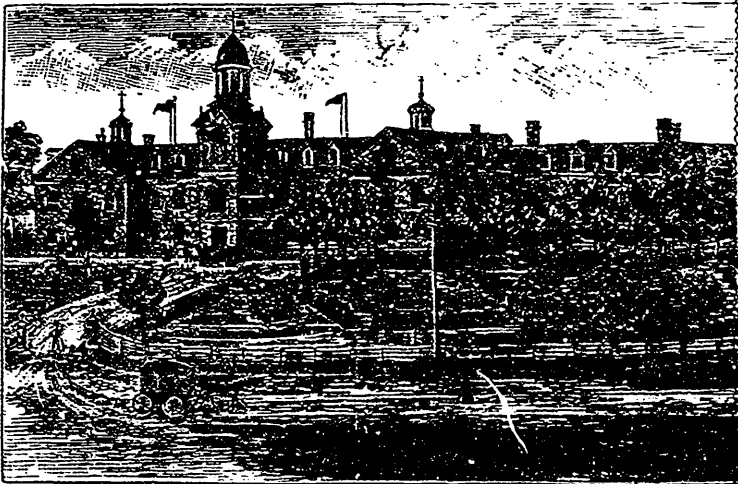


EXCELSIOR.

JANUARY,
1899.



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W B M Isaac

EXCELSIOR.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY STUDENTS OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S COLLEGE.

Vol. 3. ANTIGONISH, N. S., JANUARY, 1899. No. 5.

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ANTIGONISH, N. S.

Late though we are, we take this opportunity of wishing our friends a happy and prosperous New Year.

EXCELSIOR welcomes the boys back from vacation, and trusts they have laid away an extra store of energy against the hard work that is waiting for them between now and June.

It may be of interest to our readers to know that "Italy of To-day" is being written by a graduate of '97, who is now sojourning under Italian skies.

Since EXCELSIOR's last appearance, '98 has joined the great majority, and '99 has stepped into its place. How noiselessly has the exchange been made! Yet what thoughts in us have been awakened by this succession of the new year to the old. The failures of '98 have come vividly before our eyes, and it remains for us to profit by them. Let us resolve that the end of '99 will find us further on towards the goal of our desires. Let us not make many resolutions; let us, rather, make few, aye, one good resolution, with a determination to stick to it and for no consid-

eration to break away from it. One good resolution so kept outweighs any number taken only to be broken.

The calamities of our fellow-beings naturally arouse our sympathies. Whether the devastating element be fire or water, the afflictions of others are sure to call out our kindest feelings. Doubly true is this when the sufferers are found stemming life's stubborn tide shoulder to shoulder with ourselves. The year had attained only its sixteenth day when the news flashed over the wires that St. Ann's College, Church Point, Digby, had been destroyed by fire. The fire was discovered in the early morning, long before the dawn, and despite the heroic efforts of the Fathers and others the flames spread so rapidly that the hundred and more students had barely time to escape, leaving behind them what earthly goods they possessed. They were thus ruthlessly handed over to the inclement keeping of a January morning until some arrangement could be effected for their comfort. Fortunately all concerned escaped with their lives. The loss is estimated at \$75,000 — a very considerable one when we remember what exertions must be made before it is made good. In our country Catholics comprise the poorer portion of the population, and appeals to their charity and good-will of necessity at times bear but limited fruit. But where there is a will there is a way, and no doubt the Eudist Fathers, who are in charge, will at once recommence building; for although but a few years in operation, the College has become by this time almost indispensable. The want of it would now be sorely felt, and the people of the district are no doubt willing to make a deal of sacrifice to rebuild it. In all truth the cause is worthy the assistance of those who desire to see education and religion go hand in hand.

THE NEW YEAR.

O Time, how fast thy thread doth run
 Another year's already spun;
 Drops from the loom that knits the date
 The woven fabric "Ninety-eight."
 The slipping yarn, dissevered here,
 Glides fast into the issuing year;
 Which, be its pattern coarse or fine,
 We'll stamp and call it "Ninety-nine."

If men to sober thought attain,
 'Tis when the year has ceased to reign;
 For passing time at each year's close,
 Methinks, a deeper shadow throws.
 Accustomed to Time's changeless train,
 We, heedless, note no onward gain;
 Save when the files of the moving year
 Emblazed with other date appear;
 Then start we from our callous state
 An older world to contemplate:
 To find that life's fast length'ning chain
 Doth still another link contain.

All hail, thou princely "Ninety-nine"!
 Last of the Nineteenth Century line;
 Advance triumphal and sublime,
 Awaits thee now the throne of time,
 Which nigh six thousand kingly years
 Have haloed with their high careers.
 No nerveless summer lights thy way
 With feeble, uninspiring ray:
 Thou comest in thy wintry suit,
 With all the glow of lusty youth.

Enlivened with thy regal cheer
 We, too, are young like thee, O Year!
 The gem-like stars' pale, quivering light
 Gleams cold and brilliant o'er the night;
 The crisp snow creaks beneath our feet;
 Our very pulses quicker beat;
 The light of youth beams from our brow;
 Nor life nor death can daunt us now!

O youthful year—but more to speak,
 Though fain, my words were all too weak;
 The forceful thoughts thou dost suggest
 Are stayed, and flow not from my breast;
 As when the ice-fraught brook, late freed,
 While surging on with freshened speed,
 Is by the massing fragments' force
 Retarded in its onward course.
 O infant year! may God ordain
 Thou be not born for us in vain;
 That when thy sceptre's lowered we may
 Be wiser, nobler for its sway.

J. BRANSFIELD.

ITALY OF TO-DAY.

III.

Thus "United Italy" began her existence. She was heartily welcomed by many of her sister nations. A race of politicians guided her who had great expectations. They were going to make Italy great,—great in wealth, great in power, great in influence. And indeed there was every indication of such an outcome. Compared with many lands in Europe, Italy was then rich. Besides, from various circumstances, Italy was always the centre of the civilized world; and also being the centre of the religious world, the influence she would wield, provided she were great, would be immense. The climate, the position, the soil were such as to render the accumulation of wealth easy. The people over whom the new rulers found themselves were an intelligent race, and what was more, a moral and religious people. They had, under fair circumstances, shown great expansive powers and held out in that direction still greater hopes.

The people, when they found themselves compelled to submit, went quietly about their work and obeyed the new government. The Pope, by forbidding Catholics to run as deputies for the Italian Parliament, left the government of Italy entirely in the hands of its own supporters—the so-called Liberals. Their own fate, the fate of United Italy was in their hands.

The Pope also, following the principles of justice, refused to recognize, as Burke said of France, "that pretended kingdom

founded on crimes and existing by wrongs and robbery; which, far from giving a title to anything, was at war with mankind," and also knowing that "to be at peace with robbery was to be an accomplice with it," he laid down his demands for a complete restoration of the Church's rights. Being constituted the guardian of these rights, he could not resign to any power the least claim to anything, even although restitution should not be in immediate sight.

Thus at the very outset the government of "United Italy" was opposed to the Pope, and as a natural consequence to the religion of which he is the head. This, in a land where not to be a Catholic is to be entirely without religion, has led to dire results. To the irreligious character, then, of the leaders, but principally to the absence of the moral influence of the Catholic Church (for real Catholics do not take part in the government), is due all the miseries of bad rule from which Italy suffers and has suffered.

Thus the very life of the Italian Government depended, as it still does, on the opposition to the Church. This opposition for a time held the ranks of the governing party solid. As in every country, two parties were gradually evolved, which in the end became bitterly hostile on all matters of policy but opposition to the Church. The party which upheld the Pope looked on and confined their efforts to improving the social, the moral, the religious condition of the people. Another distinct and very important party stood from the very beginning aloof from the Government of "United Italy." This was the Republican party, which had made common cause with the enemies of the Church in overthrowing the Papal Power. This element had existed in Rome years before the advent of Garibaldi, and, thinking that the opportunity would be favorable for setting up a republic, favored his coming. In their hopes they were disappointed, for they soon found themselves governed by a king. This did not please them, and giving some trouble they accordingly fell under the displeasure of their new master, who since that day has to extinguish them with fire and sword. In spite of this the Republican party has steadily acquired power and influence, until to-day it forms one of the most dangerous of the many enemies of the Italian monarchy.

The Italians having made Rome their capital, the court moved from its northern home and settled in the Eternal City. Ministers

and other great members of state came to reside in Rome. Ambassadors from foreign nations came to the court of new Italy. This had no doubt its effect in partially weakening for a time the Church party. In fact, for the first years its decline was perceptible. Of late, however, it has gained more strength than it ever had in its strongest days, not only within the ancient Papal States, but throughout all Italy.

IV.

No' only were Catholics forbidden to act as deputies,—they were even advised not to vote at the elections. The character of the men returned to Parliament can well be imagined. They were nominally Catholics, as they are still, but in reality professed no religion. All morality, if such ever existed in the government, disappeared. No Italian could be a successful politician who could not bribe, and steal, and lie, and persecute the Church, and grind the faces of honest people as much as was possible. Down to the present hour the same conditions prevail. However good or bad a government may be it cannot please all, not even of its own supporters. If it is good, it has some chance of convincing and therefore pleasing honest men, let rogues think what they may. If it is bad, it displeases the honest man as well as the rogues, for honest men cannot look on evil indifferently, while all rogues can never be satisfied. The latter thing happened in Italy, for the bad government did not please men, whether they were in the one party or the other which supported the new regime. The corruption, the unjust laws, and the glaring inconsistencies of each succeeding party government hastened the formation of two entirely new parties—at first the Socialists and then the dreaded Anarchists. Both of these parties, and especially the latter, are the pick of the worst anti-Catholic party; men who, because corruption failed to fill their pockets, turned from it in disgust and formed other parties for robbing on a larger scale. No doubt there are in both parties, and especially in the Socialistic, men who look to the good of their country and firmly believe their policy to be the best. There are also others, perhaps the great majority, driven into these dangerous parties in self-defence. Men in other parts of the world are surprised that one having the use of reason should for a moment entertain the thought of joining either of these parties, especially the Anarchistic; but given glar-

ing violations of the most just laws in favor of government supporters, open rapacity and high-handed despotism, men can be made to do desperate things, even to become Anarchists.

One of the first enactments of the new government of "United Italy," and one which has contributed to swell the lists of malcontents, of criminals and of Anarchists, was the establishment of godless schools. At first, in spite of these schools, the old Catholic influence and sentiment which obtained before 1870, and to a certain degree still permeates the country districts, kept the people moral, just and patient. In the schools the young were given no Christian training whatever. They were taught all species of ancient and modern paganism, from Egyptian mythology to the latest theory of undenominational education. Not only was Christianity untaught—it was divided, lampooned. Religion was but the superstitious beliefs of the simple and of fools. The result was that the rising generation of Italians, particularly in the cities and towns, had no respect for God, much less for man. They were infidels in all but the name. The schools were the hot-houses of Free Masonry, while in the army, navy and civil offices this vicious creed was brought to its second stage. Every effort was thus made to pluck the elements of religious thought and feeling which make for a moral people and social order out of the hearts of the people, and to encourage associations and modes of thought and principles of action which would in the end, although its promoters saw it not, make for national disasters. To this was added a religion-sneering literature and a sentiment to the same effect, all of which contributed to a fearful deterioration of the Italian character, particularly of the governing character. It led to corruption of the most unblushing sort. It led to open violation of all laws. It led to the formation of societies which threaten not only the foundations of the state, but even those of society. It has united in a compact body the most desperate in the land. Their means, their ends no one knows, for they act in secret. All secret societies were at first encouraged by the government, for to them it owed not only its power but its very existence. These societies were used as supports by each succeeding government, and by all of them as a power against the Church. But the formation of secret societies in opposition to the government has put another face on the matter. The Italian government is now as eager to stamp out by force all opposing

secret societies as it was and still is eager to uphold and foster Freemasonry. These secret societies are no doubt a menace to society, but the government which by its very misrule drove people into them and fosters a dangerous one itself, deserves little sympathy at the hands of honest people in its battle with these secret and most dangerous foes. The King of Italy has lately invited the European nations to a congress for taking steps to crush out Anarchism. This seems very strange that he who owes his throne and power to one species of anarchy and has by his oppressive legislation driven desperate men to form others, should invite honest men to crush what caused him and what he caused. No doubt other nations have contributed to swell the ranks of anarchy, but outside of Russia, European anarchy can be spoken of as Italian anarchy. There is no body of men in the civilized world whose rule is so like the theory of anarchy put in practice as is that of the rulers of Italy. There is no more despotic, no more brutal, no more desperate government under the sun. The condition of affairs is not known in the outside world because in times of disturbances the press is completely crushed, and such a strict censorship is otherwise maintained that what goes on here is known only in the wicked consciences of rulers and the broken hearts of subjects. It must not for once be thought that the Italian government thus treated its subjects in the past and that now it has changed its policy for the better. No; it began bad, and has gone from bad to worse.

(To be continued.)



XAVERIANA.

Since our last issue vacation with its varied sources of diversion and recreation, its joys and festivities, has come and gone. Once again, (although the return of some was unduly late) does St. F. X. embrace within maternal walls her reunited family. With hardly an exception they came back rested and mentally refreshed. There was certainly need for this, as at their return the bodiful examinations—the students' *dies irae*—loomed ominously near on the view. This probationary period is now happily at an end. To the energetic and persevering student the results will be in no wise alarming. It will be to him the present need of long hours of patient study, since industry combined with ordinary intelligence and talent is surely an earnest of success in college.

The exams. being over, the old routine is again in order. The several classes have been reorganized, and work is progressing with all possible animation. The law class, which numbers in its ranks a large proportion of the senior and junior years, grows apace in knowledge of legal lore. Judging from the enthusiasm which its members display the future stability of the class may be safely predicted.

A pleasing instance of the cordiality and good-will which exists between the students and their prefects was given before the Christmas vacation when Mr. J. J. Walsh, eccl. prefect of the Intermediate study, was presented with an address by the boys. The address was accompanied with a present of no small value.

The DeVerne Sisters, as announced, gave a most enjoyable treat to the public in the College hall on the 16th inst. To refer to any particular part of the programme in terms of praise, were to do an injustice to the remainder. The DeVerne Sisters are skilled and accomplished musical artists.

We look forward with no small degree of eagerness to the lecture to be given by Mr. Nicholls of Boston, in the College Hall in the early part of next month. The life of Mary Queen of Scots will be the subject of his lecture, and will be illustrated by stereopticon views of those historic events connected with her life and sad fate. Mr. Nicholls lectured on the subject in Antigonish in 1892 and was received with *great eclat*. This fact coupled with the excellent facilities for eloquentary display and public

convenience which the College Hall offers, bids fair to make the lecture an unmitigated success.

A wave of *la grippe* seems to have passed over the county—not forgetting to visit us either. A number of the students succumbed for a period to the unwelcome and unceremonious visitor. The Rev. Dr. McDonald was confined to bed for several days, but we are glad to state is again engaged in the arduous duties of his profession.

VACATION AT THE COLLEGE.

The principal event at the College during the vacation was the concert given by some of the students who had remained to spend their two weeks' vacation at St. Francis Xavier's. The concert was given on the evening of December 29th in McDonald's Hall, and was largely attended by the people of the town. The programme was rather long, but well carried out, and the smile on every face at the end of the performance showed how it had been appreciated and what satisfaction it had given. Of the many excellent features it would be hard to find one more worthy of praise than another, and indeed considering the small number who took part, and the very short time which they had to prepare, every individual member of the troupe proved himself worthy of the highest praise. The little trombonist surprised everyone with his excellent imitation of the trombone, and many people were of the opinion that he used an instrument. Yet Barney did not need one. The musical part of the programme was very well rendered, and Mr. O'Keefe certainly drew a very neat line. But the Irish Boy was the hero of the evening. "Hat My Father Wore" was encored again and again, and "Micky Flannigan" took the house. The recitations were very good, and the spectators will not soon forget Mr. Hayes' rendering of "The Maniac." The first part of the programme terminated with club and torch swinging by Mr. Morrison.

The title of the second part, "Realistic Scenes in Coontown," describes it perfectly. The colored quart, Messrs. McIsaac, Boudreau, Hayes and Corbett, made a hit with the "coon songs" and "melodies." The following was the programme:

Announcer—College Trombonist, Barney Magee, '04.

PART I.

Song — "Hat My Father Wore,"	J. Fitzpatrick,	'00
Recitation — "The Maniac,"	H. Hayes,	'02
Song — "The Bell Buoy,"	J. J. Corbett,	'99
Recitation — "The Vagabonds,"	A. Grattan,	00
Song — "Sweet Refrain,"	R. A. J. MacIsaac,	'99
Recitation — "Gordon Highlanders,"	A. Bernasconi,	'03
Recitation — "The Murderer,"	A. A. Boudreau,	'02
Song — "Tell Me With Your Eyes,"	A. A. Boudreau,	'02
Comic Song — "Mickey Flannigan,"	J. Fitzpatrick,	
Recitation — "Whispering Bill,"	A. Grattan,	
Song — "Magnolia,"	A. A. Boudreau,	
Recitation — "Women of Mumble's Head,"	A. Bernasconi,	
Dance — "Irish Washerwoman,"	J. Fitzpatrick,	
Recitation — "The Raven,"	H. Hayes,	
Farce,	B. Magee, J. Fitzpatrick,	
Torch Swinging, Club Swinging,	Mr. Morrison,	

PART II.

Realistic Scenes in Coontown	Latest Coon Songs
Darkey Melodies	Cornet Solos
College Song	Chorus
God Save the Queen.	

The concert was not by any means the only amusement at the College during the absence of the "majority." Another feature was the mock trials. There were three in all, and the future members of the bar had plenty of scope. D. McL. was arrested on his return from a visit to the country and brought to trial on what the warrant characterized as a grievous offence—that of "deserting his fellow-students without *their* permission." Mac was found guilty and sentenced to remain at the College during the next two weeks. Lawyer Flannigan got every one of his clients off "scot-free."

The skating during the holidays was very good. The stay-at-homes enjoyed it, and took the full benefit of the liberty allowed them. They amused themselves, and time passed unnoticed until the stray sheep began to wander back to the fold. Then there was much speculation as to who would come next, and thus the vacation closed. On Wednesday morning the old class-bell dinged as usual, and all responded readily to its call.

EXCHANGES.

Scattered before us in a manner anything but systematic we find the Christmas numbers of our exchanges. That they are most interesting is an assured fact; and the reason one may easily surmise if he only reflect upon the season the events of which are chronicled in their pages. It seems as if the representatives of the college world vied with one another, as it were, in conveying to their respective readers the most joyous tidings and the happiest thoughts which that Season of Christian Gratitude could inspire. Christmas poems and short stories are in abundance, while every editorial page heralds forth the greetings of its staff. Again many of our confreres incur the additional expense of clothing their papers in a new garb, suitable to the season, and are thereby successful in attracting the eye.

We now come to our review — a very embarrassing and unsatisfactory task for journals. We feel that we must, though reluctantly, slight with a cursory glance others which are equally worthy of commendation.

The S. V. C. *Student*, from Los Angeles, Cal., first attracts our attention because of its outward appearance: We should say without any hesitation whatever that, for beauty of dress, this journal is far in advance of any Xmas number which entered our sanctum. The design of its cover is in itself unique and very symbolic; but when embellished with gold and bordered with blue, it becomes a garb of rare beauty. Going below the surface we find a lengthy article on His Holiness Pope Leo XIII. It is written in an easy, flowing style, giving the pedigree of His Holiness, his standing as a man of letters and his relation to Christendom and the world in general. Heeding the invitation of the writer: "Wake up and rub your eyes and come along," we get a glimpse of Rome, the inmost recesses of the Vatican, and of St. Peter's. We trust that the staff of the *Student* will succeed in inducing the writer of "A Glimpse of Pope Leo" to keep up his good work, that we may become better acquainted with the City of Peter.

The *Acadia Athanæum*, also clad in honor of the season, we find to be in the full sense of the word a Christmas number, several of its pages being devoted to that festival. The views of the *Athanæum* on "Intercollegiate Debating" are to the point, and very plausible. It shows the necessity of making the debate

an essential part of a college education, by pointing out the practical utility of "clear and logical" expression in every sphere of life. If the hints which have been thrown out on this subject would only materialize and develop into a well-established league in the Maritime Provinces, more interest would be awakened and, consequently, more good accomplished in this line, than is attainable by any one college working by itself. "In union there is strength." Why not let us have it?"

Much pleasure is afforded us in perusing the pages of a new and very welcome visitor, *The Holy Cross Purple*, published by the students of Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass. This paper, from a literary point of view, may easily be assigned to place among the leaders; rating it by its degree of excellence from the artistic point of view, we feel safe in saying that it is superior to any that has yet reached our table. Though equal in many respects to the average magazine, it evidently does not presume, like some of our college journals, to pose as such. "From Rome to Ireland" is a most interesting article, and displays a great richness of description. That the muse smiled upon some of *The Purple's* staff is very apparent. "The Locomotive's Christmas Whistle" gives evidence of a vivid imagination and a mastering of the pathetic in literature.

In the December number of the *Ottawa Review* appears a profound criticism of "The Poetry of Aubrey De Vere." The writer first makes mention of the fact that the people of Ireland are, generally speaking, led by the poet's name to believe that he is a Frenchman rather than a son of the "Isle of Song." The different styles of the poet are taken up and commented upon by the critic; and though he hints that his review is only superficial, nevertheless it fathoms to no mean depth the productions of De Vere's pen. The criticism is not of the one-sided class, for, while the good qualities are highly praised, the faults are judiciously censured.

We are pleased to learn that the success of *The Boston Provincialist* during the past year will warrant it in appearing more frequently in the future.

 THE GRIP BACILLUS.

[Based on the latest conclusions reached by medical experts. See "Montreal Daily Star," Saturday, January 7: page 6.]

Our very undesirable acquaintance *La Grippe*, is, according to the testimony of skilled physicians, none of your old-fashioned influenza, known to an older generation. It is not even perhaps a distant cousin of that venerable visitant, but a brand-new ailment *Sui juris et alteri communicabilis*. It is pronounced to be both contagious and infectious, so that there is absolutely no way of escape from it. If you go its way, it will catch you sure; if you try to keep out of its way, why then, it will thrust itself into yours, and so get at you in the long run, just the same.

The more recent arrival is, of course, quite modern and up-to-date in everything. It has even been found to have a bacillus of its own. Ah! those blasted bacilli! They are, the whole tribe of them, a mean, lowborn lot—sneaking insidious little vermin, every puny one of them! The grip bacillus is understood to be particularly so. It has, it is said, a way of lurking about the cavities of the throat, careless for how long. There it bides its time—"lies low," we are told, waiting for the momentous moment when bacillus, the tiny toil-pole, can develop into grip, the frog. Then you have "frog in your throat," and grip has you in its clutches.

There is this peculiarity about it, too, which serves to mark it off from the other members of the same numerous family, that it cannot be got by dint of coaxing or any cunning known to man, to attack the lower animals. It will feed on the "paragon of animals"—or die of hunger. Other bacilli, failing a human victim, will make shift with an old cow or worn-out horse. They are especially fond of guinea-pigs, and are even known to have made a meal on a half-starved rabbit. But the grip bacillus scorns all such ignoble prey. At least in this, if in nothing else, it is like the grim Monarch whose livery it wears, it "loves a shining mark."

I have tried, as the reader may perhaps have remarked, to poke fun at grip junior, otherwise known as Bacillus Grip. But I know from some experience that it is anything but fun to be tackled by the youngster. That was only my way, and indeed my only way, of "getting even" with the little imp.

EXPERTUS LOQUOR.

THE PRIESTHOOD.

The following paper was read by one of the promoters and first editors of EXCELSIOR, at an entertainment given by the Leo Literary Society of the Grand Seminary, Montreal, to the retiring class of '98 previous to the Christmas ordinations:—

In an occasion like the present one when we seminariums see our more favoured ones about to leave us to enter upon their duties in the world without, we are apt to look forward to the time when we shall find ourselves as they do to-night. Then shall it be ours to don the sacerdotal armour and be in readiness to fight the arch-enemy of mankind; then shall it be ours to put on the priestly mantle and preach the Saviour to our fellow-man. What great work shall not then be allotted to each of us, how vast and noble our field of labour! Thoughts such as these engage our attention, as we see before us a chosen number, who, a few days hence raised to the sublime dignity of the priesthood, will receive the commission given to the priests of the Catholic Church to teach all nations. To comply with the duties of this sacred mission will soon be their happy lot—duties for which their own love of study and of piety combined with the untiring zeal of the fathers of the house have so well qualified them.

To understand the dignity attached to such a sacred mission, or to the state of life to which those who are to fulfil this mission have been called, requires a more enlightened mind than I can pretend to possess. However, there are some things connected with this state of life that make even the most casual or unobservant feel convinced that attached to it is the greatest dignity to which man in this life can attain. And who is the priest? He is one chosen by Jesus Christ to continue His work of sanctification upon earth, and to be His ambassador among men. To him has Christ confided what is most precious to Him here below; to him has Christ communicated that most sublime and holy dignity which His Father had conferred upon Himself. Him has Christ selected from the many workers in His vineyard, and after conferring upon him special graces sends him forth to do His own holy will, as He of old sent forth His apostles. He bestows His tenderest care upon him, prepares his heart and mind to heal infirmities in the souls of men, and daily feeds him with spiritual food to build him up in vigorous and manly virtues. How many incomparably greater favors does not the Divine Master bestow

upon His priests than upon the rest of the faithful! The priest may be a sinner and entirely unworthy of greater favors, still he is invested with august powers, for to him is given the most stupendous power that has ever been given to man, to perpetuate on earth the Sacrifice of Calvary, to offer up again the Redeemer as a holocaust to His Heavenly Father. The Angels tremble before the Divine Majesty, and are scarce pure enough to appear in His presence, while Christ suffers His priests to take in their hands His very flesh glorified in its state of resurrection and immortality. "To be chosen out from the chosen people, to be partakers of the priesthood of the incarnate Son, of His character and of His powers, to be the visible witnesses of His mind and of His perfections, to be set to make others perfect, to be consecrated to offer Christ continually as the victim for the sins of the world" are some of the privileges of the priest, and what greater privileges than these can man attain.

But apart from the fact that the priests of the Catholic Church are to be looked upon as the representatives of Christ upon earth, have their lives and works in the past been such as to demand our respect and reverence? Let us but look into the history of the past, and there we shall find an answer. When we enter upon a study of the priests of the Church of Christ, what glorious army of brave and self-sacrificing men rise before our vision! At their head march the Apostles, to be succeeded century after century by hosts of devoted and zealous men, who had no other desire than the glory of God and the sanctification of those for whom His Son chose to die. Decked with the thorny crown of poverty, laden with the chains of holy obedience, and bearing in their hands the lily of chastity they have suffered innumerable privations and persecutions for the love of their Divine Master and their fellow-man. All the ingenuity that hatred suggests, and all those diabolical means at which humanity shudders have at all times been used to make them swerve from their duties and to estrange from them the hearts of men. Individual tyrants, civil governments, and fanatical nations have employed all means which malice could devise to crush and obliterate their holy influence upon mankind. But with a supernatural fortitude have these victims of derision withstood all opposition, thereby proving that a still higher power bore them up. Overcome by this spectacle have their enemies, time and again, been converted to

the true faith, compelled to acknowledge in the fortitude of these pious souls the victory and triumph of the Saviour of the world. Detached from the fleeting vanities of the world, from wealth, sensuality, pride, self-will, and the thousand and one things so dear to the heart of fallen man, besides giving themselves up to Christ, they have sacrificed themselves for the world by offering, in their prayer, meditation, and vigorous mortification, a never-ending sacrifice of atonement and propitiation, rendering to the Divine Majesty that adoration and thanksgiving which the world owes, but which it so commonly neglects to pay.

In pursuance of their high vocation, besides bringing the light of the Gospel into every quarter of the globe, thus pointing out daily to thousands the way to heaven, they have proved themselves the champions under whose fostering care civilization took shelter in the numerous upheavals of society since the dawn of the Christian era. In the throes of the Eastern world, amid the sad ruins of Greece, in the thundering crash of Rome's mighty empire, amid the horror and devastation of Hun and Vandal, who defended and preserved for future generations, who rescued from the general wreck consequent upon all these what existed of literature, arts and science brought to such perfection in the schools of Rome and Athens? Need it be said that the Catholic Church, chiefly in her clergy, proved to be the saviour of civilization in those trying times?

Notwithstanding all this, the priests of God can only expect persecution in return for their labors, for if worldlings be true to their past history they must hate and persecute the priests of Christ, since "in them dwelleth His life." "The world will hate you because it hath first hated Me," was the promise of Christ to His followers. The world cannot believe in disinterested heroic virtue, because it has never known the supernatural character of those means by which such virtue is acquired, nor has ever had any personal experience of the efficacious aids to virtue given by God, which are taken advantage of by His priests. Hence, hearing the judgment of these men on their own experience and their own interior life, worldlings can only accuse them of deception and hypocrisy. Thus it is that the voluntary poverty, the self-sacrifice, the heroic virtue of the priest is to the man of the world a reproach and a rebuke. Ridicule, calumny, abuse, perverse legislation and even open violence will be brought to bear

on these servants of God — but all in vain. The life of the Saviour, which for nearly nineteen hundred years has shone so brightly in them will still continue to shine till these brightest and fairest flowers in Christ's earthly garden shall have been transplanted to bloom forever in the paradise above.

SESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS OF PREPARATORY SCHOOL.

The figures refer to the rank taken by students in their various classes. Those whose papers were valued at 85 per cent. or upwards are marked in first rank. Papers valued at from 75 to 85 per cent. secure the writers a second rank; and those valued at from 65 to 75 a third rank.

FIRST YEAR.

History.

1, Fred MacGillivray; 2, C. F. Chisholm; passed, J. Hayes, J. Nulty.

Geography.

1, Fred MacGillivray, Colin F. Chisholm.

English.

1, Fred MacGillivray; 3, J. Hayes; passed, C. Chisholm, J. Nulty.

Useful Knowledge.

Passed, C. F. Chisholm, Fred MacGillivray, J. Hayes, J. Nulty.

Writing and Drawing.

3, Colin F. Chisholm; passed, Jack Hayes, Philip McCourt.

Algebra and Arithmetic.

2, Jack Hayes, C. F. Chisholm, Fred MacGillivray.

Christian Doctrine.

Passed, C. F. Chisholm, J. Hayes, F. MacGillivray, P. J. McCourt.

SECOND YEAR.

English.

2, Archie McK. Fraser; 3, Alex. McIntosh; passed, E. F. Grant, Arthur Losier, Harvey Hearn, Ronald MacDonald,

John MacPhail, How. MacDonald, B. Magee, Jos. MacDonald, Jas. Steele, Roy Cunningham, Geo. MacSweeney, Ed. Dorant, Jas. O'Brien, Ron. MacIsaac, W. B. MacIsaac, Geo. MacLellan, G. B. Oldfield.

Arithmetic.

3, Alex. McIntosh, A. McK. Fraser; passed, Jas Steele, A. Losier, H. Hearn, R. MacDonald, R. Cunningham, A. McNeil.

Geometry.

1, A. MacIntosh, Hugh McKinnon; 2, R. Cunningham; 3, A. McK. Fraser; passed, R. MacDonald, J. MacPhail, Jas. Steele.

Algebra.

1, A. MacIntosh, H. Hearn; 2, A. Losier, A. McK. Fraser, R. Cunningham; passed, A. McNeil, J. Steele, H. Millidge, R. MacDonald, J. O'Brien, How. McDonald, Ed. Dorant, R. MacIsaac, Jos. McDonald.

Latin.

2, A. McK. Fraser, A. Losier; 3, H. Hearn; passed, A. MacIntosh, J. MacPhail, How. MacDonald, Ed. Dorant, W. B. MacIsaac, Geo. Dixon, D. McLennan, H. Mullins, J. J. G. McKinnon, A. C. McMaster, Fred McIntyre.

Geography.

1, H. Hearn, A. Losier, A. McK. Fraser, H. Millidge; 2, E. Dorant; 3, J. Steele, A. MacIntosh, How. MacDonald, J. MacPhail: passed, E. Grant, H. Farrell, Hugh McDonald, R. MacDonald, Jos. MacDonald, R. Cunningham, M. Corbett, G. Oldfield, G. MacLellan, F. Gray, G. McSweeney, A. O'Toole, J. O'Brien.

History.

1, J. MacPhail, H. Hearn; 2, A. Losier, Hugh McDonald, M. Corbett; 3, A. McK. Fraser, J. Steele, How. MacDonald, Ed. Grant, J. O'Brien; passed, H. Millidge, R. MacDonald, R. Cunningham, H. Young.

Christian Doctrine.

1, Archie McK. Fraser; 2, Joseph MacDonald; 3, A. MacIntosh, A. Losier, H. Hearn, W. B. MacIsaac, Hugh McDonald; passed, E. Grant, How. MacDonald, George McSweeney, E. Dorant, J. O'Brien, R. MacIsaac, G. Oldfield, H. McGillivray.

Drawing and Book-keeping.

2, H, Hearn, How. MacDonald, A. McK. Faaser, Roy Cunningham, Alex. MacIntosh, Geo. McSweeney, J. MacPhail, passed, J. Steele, Ed. Dorant, Ed. Grant, A. Losier, H. Farrell, Henry Millidge, G. Oldfield. J. O'Brien, H, McGillivray, Fred Gray.

PERSONALS.

Rt. Rev. Bishop McNeil visited the College on his way to Halifax. His Lordship, who was Rector of St. F. X. from 1884 to 1892, expressed himself highly pleased with the many improvements recently made in the institution.

Among the old students who visited us during the holidays were Maurice F. Tompkins, '96, Daniel Doyle, Chrysostom Tompkins, John McKenna, Allan Cameron, '98, J. F. Chisholm, '98, Stephen H. DeCoste, '98.

We are pleased to note that Rev. Dr. Chisholm, our late Rector, is enjoying the pleasant climate of the sunny south. We trust his stay in Florida will prove beneficial to his health, and that in the spring he will return to his charge fully recuperated and strengthened for his arduous labours.

SPORTS.

The hand-ball alley is deserted, hockey is all the rage.

The first team of the College, under Captain Brown, met on the 28th inst., for the first time this season, a picked town team, captained by Mr. Daniel McLean. The result looked ominous for the College boys, as they had very little practice this year, and furthermore by reason of the massive proportions of those against whom they were pitted. Notwithstanding, our boys put up a star game.

The first half was very cleverly played by both sides. The town team began by combination playing, but were soon headed off; so that after their unsuccessful attempt they resorted to individual work. Our boys kept the puck well in the territory of their opponents, but failed to score a point, so the first half ended by neither side scoring.

The second half was more excitable than the first. Scarcely had five minutes elapsed when J. B. McDonald shot for a goal and succeeded in scoring the first point. The knights of the blue, white and blue, were wild with enthusiasm and in view of

their success decided to continue the work. The town boys, who expected a *snag*, soon discovered their mistake, and found they had foemen worthy of their steel. After a hard fight they scored a goal.

Ten minutes extra were played with no advantage to either side, except that our boys kept the puck dangerously close to the town goal. There was very little combination playing on either side. We strongly recommend our boys to practice carefully and thoroughly, then they will be in a position not only to even up scores but to defeat any and all opponents. A little incident arose during the progress of the game which would necessitate the defining of the duties of referee to avoid trouble in future games. It would be well for the referee to become more familiar with the duties incumbent upon him, and thereby avoid the inconvenience of interfering in the affairs of other officials.

ON THE HOP.

Heigh-ho! glad those exams. are over.

Have you heard of the *strike* in fuma? The price of Pictou twist has gone up lately. Dr. Mac says, "it was nasty stuff." Al-n declares his avoiddupois is increasing by leaps and bounds. Fitz tells us he can sleep much better. G. advises the disciples of nicotine to follow his example, while the result on J. is more evident three times a day in the refectory.

Attend S. P. U. A. A semi-visible discolouration of the upper lip is painfully evident in many of the more ambitious at the present moment.

Caution.—Don't overlook the mere possibility of side-boards also.

"I glory in you," exclaims boy in the shadow of the firs. Get up out of that! crack of whip! whirr of wheels.

TRAGEDY.

Act I.

Scene—grove near cemetery.

1 o'clock two boys enter grove; observe the track of a rabbit, follow the trail and soon locate the sleepy hare as he is taking his after-dinner nap. A-l-f quickly retires to procure a gun while J. F., in the meantime, entertains his hareship.

Act II.

Boom! the echo reverberated again and again in the grove. Did e'er so true an eye direct a muzzle! A tragedy was enacted.

Act III.

9.45 p. m., an "At Home" in room No. 1, East row—a grand time—everything was *done up neat*—a *rare-bit* of game was served—the host was at his best—all the guests well pleased.

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