

THE VIATORIAN.

FAC ET SPERA.

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WHY NOT THE SCIENCES.

It is with something like a sense of duty that I inscribe in THE VIATORIAN the following reflections upon the relative worth of letters and sciences:

My purpose here is to descend into and point out the many defects of sciences compared with letters. I fully agree with those who place the sciences in the lower order of human knowledge, for they treat of matter and of that alone. Now, as matter is lower than the mind that studies it, less worthy than thought and its marvellous combinations, it follows that the sciences rank lower in the scale of things worth knowing than literature, whose aim is to elevate the mind of man towards the beautiful and the sublime. I say the sciences tend to weaken the will and narrow the intellect.

"It narrows the mind?" queries the scientist. Will you repeat us that *ad nauseam* without a word of proof?"

Here is, in a few words, the solution of the mystery. It is a fact too easily proved, that men who devote themselves to sciences, take up in their studies but one branch, and the student is so absorbed in that single branch that he sees nothing else worthy of attention; it keeps his mind within very narrow limits; he has no breadth of vision, he has no love, his heart is cold, his intelligence cannot

appreciate the grandeur of other men's thoughts, he is bound to the matter; the habit of looking at a single order of facts coldly and always from the same point of view, takes from his mind all flexibility; it weakens the imagination, and hence, as Bishop Spalding says, though it is important that there be specialists, the kind of education of which they are formed, while it is suited to make a geologist or a mathematician, is not suited to call forth the free and harmonious play of all man's powers and thus form the better man.

Thus, Darwin himself attributes to his scientific studies the decay of his æsthetic and sentimental faculties. In his life we find this pertinent admission: "Now for many years I cannot endure to read a line of poetry—my mind seems to have become a kind of machine for grinding general laws out of large collections of facts; but why this should have caused the atrophy of that part of the brain alone on which the higher tastes depend, I cannot conceive."

To more fully establish the truth of what I have advanced relatively to the weakening and narrowing effect of the scientific study upon the human mind, I would adduce the testimony of a learned German professor of the Berlin University, who claims from a close observation of facts, that young men with a classical education, though

perhaps slower at first, are always superior in the end to the students who have given their sole attention to the sciences. The former give evidence of a more systematically developed mind, have more adaptability and flexibility, are capable of more sustained efforts, and always in the examinations leave the scientific boys far behind. The same was observed in Paris and Montreal. I might add further and with truth that a sustained study of science not only narrows the mind and drains the well-springs of affection, but that it has furnished the world the very choicest lot of cranks and monomaniacs.

Now the aim of all true education is not only to develop one faculty of our mind and make specialists, but it is to bring about a general development of all the faculties of all the powers of man; this is what a literary course has in view and does; but a scientific course is not at all adapted to this variety, for the reason that the sciences draw to specialities, and that specialists are narrow and incomplete. It is true that in their line they do great work; they are, we may grant, the leaders in some kinds of improvements, "but like the operatives that provide for our luxuries and comforts, they are themselves crippled by what they do."

Hence it comes that one who has received but a scientific education cannot perform things as great as he who embraces both—sciences and letters. Let us take Columbus, Copernicus, Newton, Bacon; those men who by their genius have raised human

science to a higher standpoint than it had yet reached, all had a literary course, joined to a scientific one; and thus when their enlightened minds stopped at a certain idea they were enabled by their general learning to carry it out successfully. Yet, I admit that men of genius have been able to make great discoveries without the aid of a classical course; but these are exceptions; their case is to the intellectual order what a miracle is to physical order. No one can deny that profound studies prepare the mind to sound the depths of nature. As it was necessary for the Egyptian princes to give a strong base to the pyramids they erected in their own honor, so it is with the man who wants to achieve great things—he must have a strong basis upon which to build. But it is the great fault of our day to try to reach heaven itself without any moral basis; the sciences tend to banish religion and God from man's thought and to enthrone themselves there as his fetich.

We have seen how meagerly informed the scientists are outside of what is directly connected with their studies. Yet scientists are most pretentious people; they think that because they can analyze a crystal, count the stars, or measure the distance from the sun to the earth, they are thereby enabled to pronounce on the essence of God, to put limits to His omnipotence, and even to measure His immensity with their miserably insignificant foot-rule. The silly pretensions of scientists are unbearable; the cynicism with which they enter our

temples and seemingly mock God is scandalous in the extreme.

Scientific studies tend to make man material, because they direct the mind first to the investigation and then to the worship of matter; for, man becomes what he mentally assimilates; and as hares become white which feed on snow, so scientists, feeding on matter, become materialists. It is related of the great Napoleon that on his death-bed he called for a priest; his physician, who was not a religious man, of course, was surprised; but Napoleon told him that physicians were only compounders of matter. It is a notorious fact that most physicians of the French and German schools are thorough-going materialists and out-and-out atheists.

Now we have seen how the study of science makes man material; but because they render him material they also rob him of his religious sense. How? Scientists begin to think that matter is in itself sufficient, omnipotent; that God is but a myth. Nature is their god and science their religion; hence they consider all kinds of religion needless, although history proves that no nation has existed but it had a religion. This, as well as other self-evident truths, may be denied; but unfortunately facts but too plainly prove my assertion. We have our great philosopher Ingersoll! Has he not denied the existence of God? Has he not proved on many occasions that matter was his god? and money his religion? About the same may be said of Tom Paine, Franklin, Darwin, Spencer.

St. George Mivart says: "It is a fact within our personal knowledge that a certain number of young men have assigned evolution as the reason why they gave up their belief in Christianity, while it is notorious that the opponents of that religion loudly proclaim the incompatibility of evolution therewith." Father Thein writes: "Restrained or modified Darwinism is not in itself a contradiction of the Bible. It can consequently be mentioned with necessary restrictions by believing Catholics as it is in fact by St. George Mivart and others. It is not in a strict sense opposed to Genesis; this theory is so by reason of its tendencies, and the manner in which most of its defenders support it. Most of those who have embraced Darwinism go far beyond what it teaches; they accept transformism with all its shocking and impious consequences, as Darwin himself did in his last years."

By making man irreligious it follows that the study of sciences makes him immoral. Scientists are either cynics, having no regard for anyone, no sympathy, no heart, or they are Epicureans with all the disgusting sensualism that the word implies. There are not lacking examples of eccentric scientists who will neither speak to nor look at anybody; or if they do they will begin talking of bugs, flies, and other insignificant insects; or fall at once into x 2's and y 3's to lengths interminable. Tom Paine furnishes us with an example of the sensual scientist. We are all acquainted with his extravagant

life. Here are a few words from his physician when Paine was about to die: "A more wretched being in appearance I never beheld. He was lying on a bed sufficiently decent in itself, but at present besmeared with filth; his look was haggard, his countenance forbidding, and his whole appearance that of one whose better days had been but a continual scene of debauch."

Scientific studies are not subjects that men, and especially boys, naturally take to. They have no magnetism of their own; they do not draw. Men did not go to the sciences but the sciences have been thrust upon the world, and by whom? By the agents of the corruption of the age, by men whose religion is self-indulgence and whose god is matter. We have heard it yawped from every Masonic lodge, re-echoed by every public school in the country, "You're ignorant! Study the sciences." Men, and especially Catholic men, must perforce study the sciences in order to save their souls intelligently. This is a very stupid way of proclaiming the merits of the sciences. I really believe that all this noisy propagandism done by the gong-men of the scientific school has brought the sciences into disrepute and made them a hated thing.

I have, I think, adduced some solid reasons why scientific studies are not exclusively to be preferred. Someone else may easily please our gullible age by making a spread-eagle apotheosis of the sciences. I am not so partisan as to deny all merit to the sciences. I have admitted their practical useful-

ness, and said that they necessarily enter as essential elements into the education of the universal man.

J. V. LAMARRE, '95.

ASSUREDLY THE SCIENCES NOW.

I uncompromisingly advocate the claims of science upon the modern student, who not only lives in his age, but is *of* his age and *for* his age. I confess I am staggered at the hostile attitude which some of even my fellow students take toward the sciences, calling them all sorts of bad names and making them responsible for innumerable losses to the best interests of humanity. I admit the subject is open to discussion, and that latitude must be left in which the peculiar idiosyncrasies of each student will find room and opportunity for expansion and development.

The classics have their merits; that is unquestionable and unquestioned. However, it is as undoubtedly true that, of the two, the sciences deserve the larger share of our attention, in this our age of lively scientific research and discovery.

Let me be permitted to make a succinct enumeration of the reasons why I think so.

True science claims not only to investigate the proximate causes of external phenomena, but to reach, if possible, the ultimate cause. It is, therefore, a very noble pursuit, and one quite worthy of the human mind. Now, precisely because it is so exclusively an intellectual pursuit it requires greater study and more pene-

trating minds; which fact, no doubt, forbids many an ardent lover of the classics from being a scientist.

In the next place, the sciences claim our attention now not only on account of their practical utility, but chiefly by reason of their being indispensable necessities in any and all professional careers. A knowledge of the sciences is as necessary as tools or instruments in the hands of one who is engaged in any of the liberal and mechanical arts.

The lawyer and the judge, besides being adepts in justice and rights, must be psychologists; the physician, the painter, the sculptor, the singer, all must know anatomy, physiology, and kindred sciences in order to be experts in their especial lines. Even the locomotive engineer is required by civil service regulations to be acquainted with the properties of steam and electricity.

The general diffusion of scientific notions among the masses has improved men's mode of living. They live better, more comfortably, more safely, and longer, and suffer less in sickness.

To the sciences are due many of those discoveries which have revealed to the human mind the mysteries of nature, and have made the elements again docile to the hand of man.

Were it not for the patient studies of astronomers we might yet think the earth is stationary, and that the sun, moon, and stars move around her. No Columbus could ever, at this rate, have discovered America.

Without following the promptings of science we would not be led to in-

vestigate the hidden treasures of the earth to develop her resources, therewith clothing the naked and feeding the hungry, etc.

It is not surprising, then, that the sciences, on account of these world-benefits, have become so universally popular that the schoolboy and the octogenarian alike seek to know the secrets of science and enjoy its helpfulness.

Now, why, I would ask, should we students, Catholic or non-Catholic, remain aloof from the sciences as though they were unholy things?? Why not be up to the times? Because, forsooth the pious classicist will say the sciences have damning tendencies, and bind men in the bonds of mere material loves?

This is mere goody-goody talk drawn from the elastic imagination of classical scholars who rarely deign to descend into the region of positive facts and truths worth the knowing. Could we catch their ear we would quiet the apprehension of these sensitive souls by whispering to them that the scientist's motto is "*Ad Deum per Naturam.*" In this spirit have Agazzis, Mivart, Pasteur, Newton, and hosts of others studied the things God has made. We would tell them with de Maistre that the sceptre of science belongs to Christian Europe. While not pretending to excuse or defend the scientific and religious vagaries of Darwin, Virchow, Hæckel, Straus, Vogt, Moleschott, and others, we would call their attention to the Catholic explorers and geographers, Indicopleustes, Marco Polo, Columbus,

Vasco da Gama, Cortez, De Soto, Balboa, La Salle, and Marquette; to the religious scientists Albertus Magnus, Roger Bacon, and Lenardo da Vinci; to Copernicus, Galileo, Gassendi, Lerverrier, Pascal, Descartes, Lavoisier, Volta, Galvani, Ampere, and a host of others too numerous to mention, but surely to be found among the benefactors of the human race either as physicists, chemists, mathematicians, astronomers, naturalists, inventors, or discoverers.

Evidently our adversaries commit themselves to sophism when they single out a few atheistic scientists and shout with assurance "*Ab uno disce omnes.*" The study of the sciences may be the occasion of spiritual defections, but it is never necessarily their cause.

For a more lengthy explanation of the necessary harmony between faith and science, I respectfully refer the reader to Father Zahm's excellent work entitled "Catholic Science and Catholic Scientists;" to Father Hughes' "Principles of Anthropology and Biology," and Jouin's "Evidences of Religion."

In conclusion I would say, that if so much time is given to the classics which merely lend pleasure to diletanti, how much more justly do not the sciences claim our attention since it is through them that such great boons are conferred upon the human race; since through them we have discovered quinine, the microbe-killer, and those hundreds of ingenious contrivances which not only shield modern life from countless dangers, but

surround it with luxuries undreamed of in the most prosperous days of the most prosperous republics of the world.

THOMAS F. QUINN.

OUR IMPRESSION OF THE WORLD'S FAIR.

The white city itself, so beautifully emblematic of peace, so rich with all the products of industry, and garrisoned only with the sheathed and hushed implements of war, so populous with smiling representatives of every clime and nation under the sun, impressed me as a splendid demonstration of the universal brotherhood of man, which will one day be so practically acknowledged as to make nations disarm their troops and live together in universal friendship, love, and harmony. I have admired very much the peristyle, the entire court of honor, the line of bridges spanning the water-courses; all of which views, I think, are unique in splendor, can never and nowhere be seen in such ensemble, and shall certainly never pass from the memory of those who appreciate beautiful architecture. The Plaisance struck me as an agreeable object-lesson in geography and history. The various treasures housed in the buildings we shall have other opportunities of seeing, perhaps, but the *white city*, never.

T. PELLETIER.

I have seen the World's Fair just enough to be overwhelmed by its magnitude. Its immensity in every particular struck me much as a whole

library of open books would affect a science-seeker: the task of reading them all is a hopeless one. When I was told that the site of the Fair was a year ago partly park and Chicago prairie, I was amazed at the push, activity, and general executive ability of those who had in hand the building of these fairy castles. Chicago push is indeed a marvelous thing! It will be forever a credit to Chicago and America to have thus brought together the ends of earth. Again, that this beautiful thought, gratitude to the Catholic Columbus, should be so splendidly concreted in the white city, and in the many auxiliary congresses is most gratifying to a Catholic.

T. SMALL.

That upon which I could ponder the longest with an untiring interest and ever increasing satisfaction was the section adorned with the exhibits from the various Catholic institutions.

They bespeak more for our schools and colleges than words could possibly do, no matter how lofty and laudatory. It indicates clearly the increasing love for intellectual progress, with which the youth of our schools are inflamed.

Manual training has by no means been neglected or retarded by this progress in letters, for we find many striking examples of proficiency in this as well as in the former.

I think that the Catholic educational exhibit is in itself the most eloquent denial that could have been made to the objections coming from modern secularism, and the most

thorough refutation of all the gratuitous accusations of our latter-day agnosticism, while it is at the same time a cause of gratulation, pride, and hopefulness for Catholics everywhere.

PATRICK KELLY.

Jackson Park, so suddenly transformed into a veritable fairy land of white palaces, was indeed in itself a wonder as great as any of the wonders of the world. In the Fine Art building one beheld the best productions of the genius of the brush and chisel. One could see, too, the vast difference between the true genius and the mere amateur. The many and varied works of human skill in Manufactures building were very beautiful and interesting. Still, the transportation exhibition, showing the various stages of the evolution of vehicles, interested me more than anything else. The contrast with the primitive stage coach and our modern palace cars appeared to me one of the most striking ones the entire exposition afforded.

C. O'REILLY.

I think that the World's Fair was the greatest undertaking that could be imagined. There at Jackson Park was the whole earth, and even our neighbors, the stars, were represented by fragments of meteors. It was a grand success, and anyone who missed the opportunity of visiting this great concentration of the world's best products missed something the like of which he will probably never again in his life have the chance of seeing. I think the most wonderful exhibits

were in the Transportation and Machinery Hall buildings. The things to be seen there exceeded the most extravagant ideas I had formed of anything pertaining to machines and vehicles. To go through these two buildings and thoroughly understand the fine points of each exhibit would take a lifetime. Among the other wonders was the enormous Manufactures and Liberal Arts building, and the countless number of articles collected from almost every nation on the face of the earth. Then to visit all parts of the United States we had but to enter the separate state buildings; and what each state could not place in its own building, ample room could be found in the Agricultural and Mining buildings. Electricity, wonderful in itself, was represented in all its phases and uses in the Electricity building. As for man, he could be found in all the stages of life in Midway Plaisance. The greatest novelty in the great fair was the Ferris wheel, from the top of which one could take a birds-eye view of the white city. There were many other wonders at the World's Fair; in fact, it was a collection of wonders making one grand wonder; and were something similar to take place again I would borrow all I could, and pawn all I could spare, to view an equal of the World's Fair.

T. E. LYONS.

I am just returning from a short visit to the World's Fair city, where I took a last lingering look at the fading glory of the Jackson Park mirage. To say that it is all "too bad" is put-

ting it mildly. One cannot help feeling overpowered with a sense of sadness such as is caused by the sudden death of a dear and beloved friend. I have loved the Fair as one loves a friend; I delighted in seeing it decked in all its glory, peopled with the teeming thousands from the farthest corners of the world, just as one likes to see a friend in the full glow of health and surrounded by appreciative admirers. It has certainly been the great wonder of the age, and I could not enter its gates without feeling myself transported in a terrestrial paradise. But now it is just like a vanished dream; the streets of the white city are all deserted and her magnificent palaces all dismantled. The flags which gaily waved from the proud and lofty towers of the buildings have disappeared. The whole scene is now like a vast cemetery, reminding one of the ruins of Athens and Herculaneum. As the Very Rev. Canon Bruchesi said in his able address to the French Literary Society, Sunday, the 5th inst.: "We see in this the fleeting character of material things and the mere nothingness of even the most colossal works that have been performed by human genius."

T. F. LEGRIS.

—The feasts of All Saints and All Souls were duly observed here, and a good many of the boys are performing daily devotions for the souls in purgatory.

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EDITORIAL.

We sympathize with the students and faculty of Notre Dame University for the loss which they sustain in the death of the venerable founder of Notre Dame, Very Rev. Edward Sorin, C.S.C.

THE VIATORIAN congratulates the Rev. E. J. Dunne, late pastor of All Saints' Church, Chicago, upon his recent election to the Episcopal See of Dallas, Texas. Father Dunne's long and active service in this diocese brought him in contact with its many and various educational and charitable institutions; he is by no means a stranger to us. We gladly recall his visits and the ever well-chosen words of advice and encouragement he addressed to us on these occasions. While we regret to lose him, we congratulate him upon the new honor which the church confers upon him, and we wish him rich harvests in the new fields to which the Holy Spirit has appointed him.

We are happy to quote the following remark from one of our exchanges, simply to show that our discussion of the relative merits of classics and sciences is neither a threadbare theme belonging to a past age, nor a question of mere local interest:

"The *Cadet* extols the sciences over the classics. That the sciences, as the word is popularly accepted, have a greater practical value than the classics, may be granted. That the classics have a greater educational value, greater power for intellectual expansion, will also be granted. But mere advantage is not what man looks for."

—*University Record*.

Many excellent "Impressions of the World's Fair" have reached us, a few of which we publish in this number on account of their variety and terseness. We avail ourselves of this opportunity to thank our fellow-students and editors upon the interest, or rather enthusiasm, which they display in regard to subjects suggested by THE VIATORIAN. There is in this a welcome evidence of life and public spirit on the one hand; while on the other lie the advantages to the writers themselves of cultivating habits of observation which are thought-supplying, and of fusing impressions into correct, beautiful, and concise forms of expression.

We find *The University Record* thus commenting upon the propriety of military exercises in a college course:

"Napa College has added a military course to its curriculum of study. With all the civilized world clamoring for arbitration and disarmament, it is

a strange phenomena that the liberty-loving American will stick to soldier play and foster a spirit that its constitution condemns. There is much in brass buttons and parades, etc."

We beg to say that in military drills there are other and more material advantages than the distant hope of brilliant exploits on the battlefield or the present enjoyment of shining in brass buttons. Having been under the military regime ourselves for the last few years, we are prepared to enlighten our esteemed contemporary on the subject, by representing the physical, moral, and intellectual benefits derived from such exercises. Military drills, like any other kind of gymnastic or athletic evolutions, develop the physique; but they do more—they lend grace and pliancy to general bearing, which parallel bars, indian clubs, and dumb-bells cannot do. They help us morally by accustoming us to ready and unquestioning obedience to orders, a virtue which American boys do not, as a general thing, possess by innate disposition, and which they consequently must somehow or other acquire. Lastly, they improve the mind on the old and true principle, *mens sana in corpore sano*—a sound mind is at home in a sound body; therefore that which develops the body, imparts to it vigor, and gives it snap, also supplies the mind more apt instruments wherewith to work, inasmuch as, according to correct psychology, the senses and their organs are the handmaids of the mind. Again, the mind itself is by no means the loser for having learned the complex intricacies of military tactics,

theoretical and practical. All our expert tacticians, and they are many, are found possessing to a remarkable degree that mental alertness easily traceable to the peculiar virtue of military training. We therefore contend that there are excellent reasons for the existence or introduction of military features in colleges here and now. As for the Constitution of the United States, a much abused thing, we do not want to fight any more than it wants us to, be sure of that. We are for peace always, arbitration, etc. Now, if the enlightened interpreters of the Constitution think that West Pointers and our cadets are doing anything unpatriotic, unnecessary, or harmful, they can confiscate our guns and swords and other military play-things. Until liberty and peace, etc. get to mean that, let us play soldiers, mindful by the way, that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, and that our favorite sport prepares us to be of service to our country should the worst come.

FATHER DALY DEAD.

Rev. John Daly, professor of mathematics and languages in this institution for the last ten years, died Monday night at 10 o'clock after a lingering illness of several months. Father Daly had just reached his sixtieth year when death claimed him. His venerable form was well known to students of the last decade and the Father was revered and esteemed both for his years and his great learning. Having consecrated the last

years of his life to teaching he exercised the utmost zeal in the discharge of his functions as professor. Through all sufferings to which his infirmities made him subject, he ever displayed the most edifying courage, patience, and resignation. His soul goes to its reward full of good works and merit. The funeral took place from the parish church. Rev. J. J. Cregan, C.S.V., was celebrant, assisted by Rev. G. M. Legris as deacon, and Rev. A. Labrie as sub-deacon. All the students assisted, two companies and the staff being under military orders. The remains were interred in the Grove Cemetery by the side of Bro. Bernard and Father Peborde. R. I. P.

ROLL OF HONOR.

FOR OCTOBER NOTES.

Classical Course.

—The gold medal for excellence was awarded to Thomas Lyons.

—Distinguished—W. Saindon and J. Marx.

—The Guilfoyle composition medal was equally deserved by Thomas Lyons and John Marx; drawn by John Marx.

—The first silver medal was equally deserved by T. Lyons, W. Saindon, P. Dube, M. Flaherty, A. Gross, J. Marks, T. Small; drawn by M. Flaherty.

—The second silver medal was equally deserved by H. Ruel, A. Granger, C. Quille, J. Gregoire, J. Mortimer, T. F. Quinn, J. Hayden, T. Kelly, J. O. Dwyer, T. Lyons, W. Lemire, S. Brenock, and P. Kelly; drawn by A. Granger.

—The Lesage French composition medal was awarded to René Pugny.

Commercial Course.

—Gold medal awarded to J. Sullivan.

—First silver medal equally deserved by

F. Hagan, C. Gallet, J. Quigly, N. Lyons, and J. Maley. Drawn by J. Maley.

—Second silver medal was equally deserved by J. Goyer, H. Lacharité, T. O'Malley, and S. Olf. Drawn by J. Goyer.

—We regret that there were no contestants for the Conway medal in this department, as none obtained the requisite average.

Conduct—Senior Department.

—Gold medal equally deserved by Messrs. E. Brais, D. Bissonette, J. Casey, M. Campion, W. Dolan, P. Follen, J. Fitzpatrick, M. Ford, J. Flaherty, C. Gallet, J. Goyer, A. Granger, W. Granger, J. Granger, J. Gregoire, J. Hayden, A. Lyons, J. Lynch, J. Lauriault, Thos. Quinn, H. Ruel, J. Ruel, F. Richard, T. Small, J. Whalen, J. War-
rick.

—Distinguished—J. Besse, C. Castonguay, John Canavan, P. Deslaurier, J. Hayden, J. Kirby, P. Kelly, T. Kelly, Louis Legris, J. Lamarre, T. Lyons, H. Lacharité, H. Martin, J. O'Dwyer, T. O'Malley, R. Pugny, W. Saindon, E. St. Aubin, F. St. Aubin.

Conduct—Junior Department.

—Gold medal for conduct equally deserved by Messrs. S. Brennock, E. Brouillette, P. Dubé, C. Kolb, J. Marx, J. Rondy, J. Sullivan.

—Distinguished—A. Biron, J. Cullerton, A. Dietch, W. Delahunty, A. Grosse, F. Hagan, L. Kroschowitz, A. Martin, J. Mortimer, W. Sayre.

Minim Department.

—Excellence medal awarded to P. Hansil.

—Distinguished—A. Abeles, L. Driscoll, A. Le Fils, E. Marcotte, G. McCann, F. Milholland, G. Puscheck, E. Platt, W. Sullivan, and F. Wirth.

—The conduct medal was equally merited by L. Driscoll, W. Flannagan, C. Flannagan, A. Goudreau, P. Hansil, J. Legris, G. McCann, F. Milholland, and G. Puscheck.

—Distinguished in politeness—R. Gorman, P. Hansil, A. Le Fils, G. McCann, E. Marcotte, F. Milholland, and G. Puscheck.

OUR COLUMBIAN GUARDS.

As it often happens that in a family there is a "white-haired boy," so in the college fraternity there are not infrequently found those who both for their youth and their alertness and gentleness, are pointed out as "our daisies." Such is the case of our minim swordsmen known as the Columbian Guards. Although their existence as a distinct military organization dates but a year back, their harvest of laurels is a rich and glorious one. According to the official report of the literary, scientific, and military societies of St. Viator's College, sent to the World's Fair educational exhibit, the Columbian Guards were organized October 12, 1892, by Rev. G. A. Williams, C.S.V., for the purpose of introducing sword tactics in the military circles of the college. At the meeting held October 13, 1892, the following officers were elected :

President—Rev. G. A. Williams, C.S.V.
 Vice-president—G. McCann.
 Treasurer—P. W. Flanagan.
 Secretary—R. Gorman.
 Reporter—F. Moross.
 Captain—E. Legris.
 Standard Bearer—H. Otis.
 Drummer—F. Robesson.
 Bugler—H. Anderson.

The other members of the organization for the year 1892-93, were Masters :

F. Hagan.	T. Vandeventer.
F. Gazzolo.	H. Sullivan.
J. Audette.	A. Reiman.
F. Milholland.	G. McKenna.
C. Levreau.	D. Moore.
A. Lefils.	W. Lennon.
A. Abeles.	C. Webster.
S. Olff.	

Shortly after their organization the boy soldiers began to appear in our public celebrations. They filled most creditably the numbers assigned to them, whether they chose to entertain us with their splendidly executed sword-tactics or with singing or declaiming. It was always a delight to see them or hear them.

They first appeared at the St. Viator's Day celebration, 1892, and a few days afterwards at the Columbian celebration in Kankakee, where they won the admiration of all who saw them. They furnished us a pleasant military, musical, and dramatic entertainment at the close of Columbian year, December 22, the eve of our departure for Christmas holidays.

At a meeting held January 15, 1893, Treasurer Flanagan submitted the following report, which proves that the little fellows meant business:

RECEIPTS.

Initiation Fees.....	\$ 32.00
Cash from Friends....	30.00
From Tax for Columbian Celebrati'n	48.00
Entertainments...	25.00
Monthly Dues	9.60
Members for Swords.....	100.00
College (for Belts).....	100.00
Rev. M. A. Dooling	3.00

Total Receipts.....\$347.60

EXPENSES.

For Bashes.....	\$ 23 60
Swords	100.00
Belts	100.00
Banquet.....	75.00
Entertainments	15.00
Sundries.....	3.00

Total Expenses..	\$316.60
Total Receipts.....	\$347.60
Total Expenses.....	316.60

Balance in Treasury.....\$ 31.00



THE COLUMBIAN GUARDS—1893.

F. CAZZOLO.	A. ABELES.	H. OTIS.	H. ANDERSON.	
F. HAGAN.	W. FLANAGAN.	T. VANDEVENTER.	R. GORMAN.	G. M'KENNA.
G. M'CANN.	G. LEVREAU.		H. SULLIVAN.	C. WEBSLER.
J. AUDETTE.	A. LEFILS.	ED. LEGRIS.	D. MOORE.	T. MOROSS.
F. MILHOLLAND.		A. REIMAN.	W. LENNON.	S. OLFF.

Their next step was to prepare for Washington's Birthday, on which occasion they were presented a beautiful pennant by Mrs. James Carroll, of Chicago. Prof. W. H. Thorne, in the presentation address heartily congratulated the boys and expressed his surprise at their really surprising proficiency.

The Guards then graced St. Patrick's Day with some more of their artistic work, and thereafter bent their minds upon getting their pictures taken for the Fair and going themselves. It is there the little soldiers gained their most glorious victories, drilling in front of the Administration Building in presence of Director General Davis, Mr. P. Palmer, and other notables, in a manner which elicited most laudatory comments from such papers as the *Chicago Herald* and the *Chicago Tribune*. Their camping at Ravenswood was another affair to which the little fellows did ample justice. After their return from the White City they told us their impressions in their well-conceived commencement day dialogue. Considering their comparatively very recent origin and the many beautiful things they have accomplished, we have reason to be proud of our Columbian Guards and to wish them that the same harmony and goodwill which made their success not only possible, but so brilliant, may preside over all their future deliberations and lead them to new fields of glory. They will pardon us for saluting them in the classic phrase, "*Macti virtute este*," or in Irish, "*More power to ye*."

VIATOR.

THE SCIENCES HERE.

CHICAGO, Nov. 10, 1893.

Editors Viatorian:

I noticed in a recent number of your excellent journal that the discussion as to the relative merits of the sciences and letters has been again taken up. Having been a member of the Mivart Scientific Association of the college, I confidently take the liberty of asking you a few inches of space in which to express my opinion, not so much on account of anything sensational or startling I may have to offer, as to give expression to the keen interest I still cherish for the themes of college days. I am not at all surprised at the ability and earnestness with which some are upholding the claims of the classics; nor is it my intention to destroy, even to breath upon the fairy fabric of their arguments, beautiful, and winsome, and light as that appears. Living now these few years in the regions of hard facts, I will beg to state my reasons in favor of scientific studies in a few plain, everyday words.

So far as I have been able to observe among the people with whom my special studies in pharmacy have brought me in contact, I would say that students of chemistry and medicine usually get along swimmingly, *a la Shakespeare*, with a little Latin and less Greek, provided they are fairly acquainted with the principles of science such as there are taught in colleges generally. Your own scientific studies in physics, physiology, physical geography, chemistry, etc ,

etc., are an excellent practical preparation for the successful mastering of the subtle difficulties of pharmacy and medicine. Expert chemists and skillful physicians are not mere luxuries in this era of sickly and much-to-be-drugged humanity—they are absolute necessities. Therefore, the hours which in college are consecrated to the studies of science are well invested, since they are indirectly conducive to render more helpful the services of such indispensable ministries as those I speak of. No doubt those of my companions of '89 and '90 who are now pursuing other avocations could say as much of the necessity of the college scientific course as related to the work which is to be done by civil and mechanical engineers, electricians, etc.

Now, to my knowledge, such studies and after-studies do not deprive people of their appreciation of Hamlet or Faust or a page of Longfellow any more than a good dinner makes them inappreciative of the delicacies, *café* and *pousse-café*, which come at the end. At all events it is certain that the more real, solid knowledge a man has the better off he is; but as one cannot in the short span of human life embrace all he would crave to know, he must therefore discriminate, and he should study in particular those things which are best calculated to fit him for intelligent, successful, and efficient service in the career he means to follow in life.

Respectfully,

VIATEUR G. RIVARD.

2401 Indiana Ave.

SOCIETY NOTES.

Wednesday, November 8, St. Patrick's Literary and Debating Society held its second meeting. After the reading of the minutes the election of the following new members took place: Messrs. T. Small, J. Fitzpatrick, T. Legris, H. Ruel, T. Pelletier, A. Lyons, C. Iuille, F. St. Aubin, and F. Lauriault.

After the gentlemen had been introduced by Sergeant-at-Arms, Carroll, the following address was delivered:

PRESIDENT HAYDEN'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

If I may speak for the society in general, I will say that we extend a hearty welcome to those who were elected members this evening. Our aim has always been to make the hours spent in session the most pleasant and profitable of the week. Since the society was founded it has made a glorious record, and has ever been the leading association of the college. In looking over the archives of the association we see that its members delved in the sciences, met in lively contests in the arena of debate, and often settled questions which had long puzzled wiser heads; they culled from the flowery dells of poetry, gleaned through the fields and pastures of history, and even scaled the high summits of philosophy; in a word, they drank and drank deep of those Pierian waters which refresh and strengthen the youthful mind and lend it vigor and courage to contend with greater after difficulties. Such, in a few words, has been the grand work of our predecessors.

Now, as nearly all of the advanced students are members, and there is, I am confident, as much ability now as in the good old days, we propose to

make St. Patrick's Literary and Debating Society equal if not surpass its most splendid achievements of the past. As each member has an equal voice in the proceedings, we should all work in unison to accomplish this end. For this there is need of individual effort. Each one must take a lively interest in the affairs of the society, and must bring a ready good will with all the talent he has to the performance of his allotted task. In our work we have a two-fold interest: first, in carrying out the object of the society, which is the improvement of its members in debating, oratory, literature, and, the promotion of their intellectual, social, and moral welfare. To help us in this we have our own circulating library containing some hundred volumes from standard authors, and on our tables are to be found all the leading magazines and newspapers of America and some from foreign countries. During the year a course of lectures is given in public under the auspices of the society, by as many lecturers, both clerical and lay, as we can secure for the purpose; and with the aid of the committee on lectures we hope to have at least eight or ten such lectures during the year.

Now in working for our own improvement, which is our first object, we accomplish at the same time our second, which is the advancement of the society; for as the members improve so does the society.

As I have been honored with the position of president, I will do all I can for promoting the interests of the society, and hope to give satisfaction to all during the year. Judging from those who are members, I do not know that the society ever had better prospects for success, and when the work of this year is added to the worthy records of by-gone years, I see no reason why we could not say, with justifiable pride and credit to our-

selves, that this year saw St. Patrick's Society nearer to perfection than it ever was before. Again, gentlemen, we welcome you most cordially.

This was followed by a response in behalf of the new members, given by Mr. Thomas Pelletier, and conceived as follows:

Rev. Moderator, Mr. President, and Gentlemen:

As it is considered the highest honor and greatest advantage for a French man-of-letters to be admitted into the academy of the forty immortals, so have we also deemed that the highest privilege we could crave would be a place on the roll of St. Patrick's Literary and Debating Society. And why, may I ask, does the French writer so earnestly yearn for recognition by, and membership in the Academy? Is it not because that far-famed society of gifted men represents the best talent of the most polished nation of the world? That to be crowned by them is to receive a pledge of immortality? That to be admitted into their circle is to obtain the signal privilege of mingling as brothers with the most distinguished men of the times? Of educating the taste of their own generation and of shaping the destinies of letters? Unquestionably these are strong inducements for glory-loving Frenchmen.

Now, institutions of any kind are all of very relative value, importance, and helpfulness. They draw their share of importance from the breadth of the atmosphere in which they thrive and the magnitude of the ends which they serve. As we may call our college fraternity a little republic without belittling the American or French republics, so it will not be presumptuous on our part to compare St. Patrick's Literary Society to the French Academy.

We come to you with whatever tal-

ent nature has parceled out to us, and whatever learning persevering toil has permitted us to acquire. These we are anxious to place at your disposal both for your entertainment and for our own improvement. We recognize in you, gentlemen, the ability to cultivate and direct our particular aptitudes and tendencies, and we find in your society the proper arena for the exercise of such powers as will be of invaluable use to us in the practical work of future years. We shall esteem it ever a pleasure and our profit to converse with you, to debate with you, to declaim before you, to write essays and to be criticised or lauded by you.

In conclusion, allow me to assure you of our sincere thanks for electing us members of your society, and of renewing our promise to make our best efforts to help the full success of St. Patrick's Society of '93-'94.

The Rev. Moderator then begged to underline, by way of emphasis, one remark found in the speech of the newcomers, and said that a great deal of good-will would go a great way toward crowning the year with success. He invited the members to feel quite at home in St. Patrick's hall; that the society was theirs, of them, and for them; that while preserving parliamentary decorum and avoiding the disgraceful scenes enacted in higher deliberative bodies, there should be lively times and no sleeping during our sessions.

Librarian J. Casey then reported the recent addition of the following volumes to our private library: Century Magazine, 1 vol.; Current Literature, 1 vol.; Catholic World, 1 vol.; Donahoe's Magazine, 1 vol.; Public Opinion, 1 vol.; Atlantic

Monthly, 1 vol. Number of volumes in library, 241.

The president then appointed the following committees: Messrs. C. E. McCabe, F. C. Kelly, and J. Lamarre, on lectures; F. E. Lyons, T. Small, C. O'Reilly, on subjects; J. A. Casey, P. J. Kelly, D. M. Carroll, on periodicals. Adjournment.

THOMAS QUINN,
Secretary.

THE FRENCH SOCIETY IS HONORED.

An event which will be long and pleasantly remembered by the members of St. John the Baptist's Literary Association was the recent visit of the Very Rev. Canon Bruchesi, of Montreal, who graciously addressed us on the evening of the 5th inst. In response to an address of welcome by Mr. J. B. Surprenant, the reverend gentleman said it would be useless for him to urge us to cultivate the French language, since that was the purpose of our organization. Nevertheless, he enumerated the many and powerful motives which should inspire us to hold dear that language learned at our mothers' knees, and which should ever remain the language of the heart. He added that since distinguished foreigners, Englishmen, Germans, Russians, etc., prided themselves upon their ability to speak French, we should be very unwise not to cultivate that beautiful language which we inherit from our parents. Turning then to the World's Fair, with which he was connected in the capacity of director of educational exhibit of the Province of Quebec, he expressed his admiration of the Catholic American educational exhibit, to which he awarded the

palm; referred in glowing terms to Archbishop Ryan's able discourse Catholic education day, and hoped the Canadian policy of "Justice to all" would yet be adopted in the land of fair-play. He was glad to say that the Canadian exhibit was a credit to his country, and ascribed to Brother Pelerinus a large share of its success. The fair had been such a brilliant panorama that he regretted to see it vanish; its disappearance was a proof of the nothingness of even the most colossal works of man. The address was most interesting throughout, and was fittingly punctuated with applause by the appreciative audience.

J. V. L.

PERSONAL AND IMPERSONAL

—Dr. and Mrs. G. J. Rivard, of Assumption, Ill., visited Rev. E. L. Rivard, C.S.V., and other friends in the village, on their return from the world's fair, Oct. 30.

—Rev. F. Désilais, professor of sciences at Nicolette, Canada, with Dr. Roy, of Kankakee City, called upon Prof. A. Chassé, Sunday, Oct. 29.

—Sunday, Nov. 5, V. Rev. Canon Bruchesi, D.D., of Montreal Cathedral; Rev. F. Trepannier, of Deaf and Dumb Institute, Montreal, and Brother Pelerinus, of Quebec, Canada, paid us a pleasant visit.

—Mr. and Mrs. J. Provost, of Chicago, called to see their sons, Felix and Ulric, Sunday, Nov. 5.

—V. Rev. Canon Vaillant, of Montreal Cathedral, was with us All Saints' Day.

—Other visitors; Mrs. and Misses Moran, of Chicago; Miss Norriss, of Indianapolis; Mr. Bailey, of Chicago; Mrs. Senechal, of St. Paul, Minn.

—We heartily thank Rev. J. Bollman, of Sag Bridge, Ill., for \$5, which he kindly left at our office.

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of \$2 from Mr. William Ryan, of Danville, Ill., for VIATORIAN; also from Mr. Will Cleary, of Odell, \$2; Rev. P. Paradis, Kankakee, \$1; Rev. H. Boeskleman, of Elkhart, \$2; Rev. P. Tynan, of Pullman, \$5; Dr. G. J. Rivard, of Assumption, Ill., \$1; Mr. Dennis Ricon, of Shreveport, La., \$1; Rev. F. Evers, of Kankakee, \$1; Rev. T. F. O'Gora, of Wilmington, Ill., \$5; Rev. A. Leising, of St. Francis Seminary, Wis., \$1; Rev. A. Belanger, C.S.V., of Chicago, \$1; Mr. Maurice O'Reilly, of Chicago, \$1.

Other friends are respectfully invited to do likewise.—EDITORS.

—Prof. F. X. Chouinard, C.S.V., of Manteno, and Rev. A. Labrie, of St. George, Ill., spent a few hours with us the 9th inst.

—Prof. White's shorthand class is progressing rapidly and members claim they will soon be able to make practical use of the new system in classes and lecture room.

—Rev. E. L. Rivard, C.S.V., and Prof. J. Laplante were recently in the white city looking after our world's fair exhibit which will fill our already

well stocked library. The exhibit consists of some eighty volumes of original work by the students in the various commercial, classical, scientific, and literary courses of this institution. These books, besides being precious souvenirs of the great Columbian exposition, will be a valuable addition to our library, as they represent the best efforts of the ablest students of 1892 and 1893, and can inspire the present and future students of St. Viator's, the ambition to excel the good work of their predecessors. The pictures which were also a part of the college exhibit, will adorn the society and reception rooms. Specimens of minerals, shells, ferns, coins, etc., will not return to the museum.

—Now that the winter is almost upon us, the boys have begun the reorganization of literary societies. St. Patrick's Literary and Debating Circle elected the following officers for '93 and '94:

Rev. E. L. Rivard—Moderator.

J. T. Hayden—President.

Thos. Quinn—Secretary.

C. O'Reilly—Treasurer.

J. Casey—Librarian.

Membership, 33.

—There are two claims upon every college student that demand his recognition at all times—allegiance to his literary society and allegiance to his college paper.—*University Herald*.

—Several games of indoor base-ball have helped pass the afternoons that drag heavily on the students. Football claims as much interest as usual. Groups of students may be seen plot-

ting as to how they will get ahead of the professors in their match game to take place very soon.

—Those of our subscribers who are interested in the silver question may be glad to know that a silver dollar will liquidate their obligations to our business manager on the same basis as before the vote on the repeal bill.—*Ex*.

—A. Lacharite, '92, paid his brother a pleasant visit on his way home from the white city. Arthur is assisting his father in his rushing business at Assumption, Ill.

—Col. F. A. Moody called on the Ford Exhibition Squad relative to their appearance in Chicago some time before Xmas. Our Frank is still as great a lover of the "weapons" as usual.

—"November first was duly observed here. A solemn high mass was celebrated at 8:30 by the Rev. J. Reed, of Valleyfield, Canada, assisted by Rev. J. J. Cregan and Mr. J. Sévigny as deacon and sub-deacon respectively and Mr. J. A. Chassé as master of ceremonies. The Rev. deacon exhorted the students to imitate the many examples of the saints, as they were sure to find a patron among them in every walk of life.

"The afternoon was passed in playing ball and others went hunting along the Kankakee."—"Fairplay" in *N. K. K. K. Sun*.

—"What do I think of THE VIATORIAN? Well, to judge from the two numbers of this year, which I have seen, it impresses me as a traveler

dressed for the best society and gifted with such qualities as win the respect of acquaintances. It may be on account of distance, which 'lends enchantment to the view,' but at any rate it appears far superior in its articles, as most certainly it does in its appearance, to the journal of the past. I generally considered the locals dull, but so far that editor has fulfilled his duty, if I am to judge from the interest I have taken in his notes. When I have my 'cough' better and more spare time, or rather some, I will try to write something fit to publish."

DANIEL SULLIVAN.

St. Mary's Seminary, Cincinnati, O.

—Will Morrison, of '82, visited the college the 11th inst., the first time since he left it as a Minim eleven years ago, and greatly admired the many improvements made since. He is now with his brother, Vincent, in the employ of his father in the manufacturing of agricultural implements, Fort Madison, Iowa.

—Mr. Peter Engle, '78, recently called on the Granger family and college friends. Mr. Engle is engaged in prosperous business as lumber merchant in Ashland, Wis.

—That excellent college monthly, *St. Viateur's College Journal*, edited by the students of St. Viateur's College, Bourbonnais Grove, Ill., has begun on its eleventh volume and has changed its name to THE VIATORIAN. The board of editors consists of J. Lamarre, T. Lyons, C. E. McCabe, J. Casey, T. Quinn, and F. O'Reilly, and represents the philosophy and rhetoric

classes, as well as the scientific, military, athletic, and musical departments of the institution. THE VIATORIAN is a most interesting and well-edited paper, while from a typographical standpoint it is a model.—*Boston Pilot*.

VIATORIANA.

—Glory!

—F. Cecilia! Thanksgiving!

—Bum exploded.

—I lost my keys!

—The notables, Gaz and Cas.

—I'll advertise you.

—You walking tea-pot!

—Please do not spit on the floor.

—'Twas that same!

—"See them six Tom's."

—Hello, William Penn!

—I might loose.

—"The president of the wife."

—"O man, me satchel is gone."

—Music Box.

—"Handcuffs for the legs."

—We Juniors have a dark waiter.

—"Where did you steal the candle?"

—The minims choir has been re-organized under the direction of Prof. M. Dermody, and great musical treats are to be expected.

—The Columbian Guards gave a drill at Notre Dame Academy Wednesday eve, November 15, a full account of which will appear in our next issue.