

and maintained for their own particular advantage. Besides, it was mathematically demonstrated in a pamphlet published at the time of the Plenary Council of Quebec, that an English-speaking university ran great risk of being a failure if it were not established in the centre of an English-speaking population: in Toronto, Hamilton, or anywhere else so that it be not in French Ontario or on the boundaries of the Province of Quebec.

It is expedient, some have said, that Ottawa, an important city of Ontario, should possess an English university. How much better it would be to reason like a good Catholic concerning a religious question! For whom does Rome erect universities? Is it, yes or no, for Catholics? Well, the population of the eight wards of Ottawa (1) gives a total of 36,698 Catholics, of whom 22,210 are French-Canadians — a French-Canadian majority of 7,722. Ottawa has, therefore, the university which befits it, a bilingual one. And let everybody know this: no person has ever thought, and no person thinks, of disturbing in the least the courses of studies of the English-speaking students.

It has equally been said that in the capital of an English colony, an English university was necessary. This is a Greek sophism. In the first place, Canada is not an English colony; it is an Anglo-French British colony which introduces many shades of distinc-

tion. And, moreover, if a university is required in the capital, it is doubtless so that the Church may exercise its supernatural influence upon our governing class. Now, what is the Canadian Church? — the two millions of French-Canadians? or the half million of Catholics of every language and tribe? (2)

We look in vain for a reason upon which anyone could catch in order to excuse an attempt that might be made to anglicise the University of Ottawa.

If one may play the part of the prophet, does the future reserve sorrowful disappointments to the French-Canadians? In all times, seers, inspired by their feelings rather than by the truth, have predicted the disappearance of the French language from the soil of Ontario. Our bishops and priests, better informed by their observation of facts, have affirmed the contrary. Who was right? Will not the same causes produce the same effects? The French-Canadians still possess a generous and prolific blood; their language, which has kept them aloof from the deliterious influence of protestantism, has preserved them to the Church and she, to-day as in the past, renders immune from a multitude of corrosives, the nations that impregnate their morals with its divine precepts. Combinations that result from human wisdom may doubtless strangely counteract the forward movement of a people that does not impose itself by its

(1) The other parts of the City of Ottawa are included in the Counties of Carleton and Russell in the census of 1911.

(2) All these figures are taken from the official census of 1911.