

ating a course of lectures on Moral Theology which he was then giving to the ecclesiastical students of the Ottawa Seminary. Upon the orders of his superiors, he withdrew to the Lachine Novitiate, near Montreal; and there, while piously preparing himself for death, he drew up *with the greatest possible care* (1) the memorial of the most glorious event of his career. Here it is as wholly and faithfully transcribed from the original:—

“Here are the circumstances under which the university charter was granted to the College of Ottawa by Upper and Lower Canada.

“It was a matter of vital importance for the College of Ottawa to obtain a university charter before the promulgation of the Act of Confederation. For the French-Canadian vote was certainly in favor of it; at least, we had reason to believe so! At any rate, we hoped to obtain a more favorable vote than when the provinces would be federated since the majority would then have become English-speaking.

“I was prefect of studies at that time, and I was chosen to interview the Catholic members of Parliament, especially the French-Canadians, so as to interest them in our favour, for it was especially upon these last-named that we counted in order to obtain this charter. It must be remarked, in point of fact, that it was not a matter of trying to obtain a *Catholic* university only, since we knew that such a charter had been granted, scarcely

a fortnight before, to Kingston (Regiopolis), and that the government had bound itself to grant only one university to each denomination in each province. But we wanted a university charter for the College of Ottawa to benefit particularly the French-Canadians, then very numerous in the Ottawa region, and of which English-speaking students would profit also.

“It was a matter of obtaining a university charter which would answer to these particular needs, that is, a charter which would allow us to place the English and French languages upon a footing of equality. It was, moreover, a necessity for the diocese, and for the *Capital* of a bilingual country.

“I was delegated to see the members of the Legislative Council and also of the Legislative Assembly. I first saw Mr. Chapais who told me we would not succeed, for Mr. Donnelly had forestalled us and obtained a university charter for Kingston (Regiopolis) in favour of the Catholics, and that it was a rule to grant only one university per province for each religious denomination. I then saw Mr. Hector Langevin who gave me the same answer. Mr. Cartier did the same. They all appeared determined to leave the matter in this state: one university per province for each religious denomination.

“One means alone was left out: that was to place the matter in the hands of the Opposition. Fortunately I knew one senator intimately, Mr. Letellier de Saint-Just. I therefore went and consulted him, and told him of the objection raised by the government.

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(1) This is attested by several Oblate Fathers.