

"that a university charter was asked and granted to the College of Ottawa specially for the advantage of the French population." In support of his testimony, irrefutable under the circumstances, he produces a proof which I consider it my duty to reproduce because it throws such a light upon the thought of the Oblates and upon the nature of the civil University of Ottawa.

He writes in his memorial of 1902: "Here is the document which was submitted to Parliament to obtain the university charter: (1)

"The College (of Ottawa) is situated in the centre of the country formed by the counties of Pontiac, Ottawa, Argen-teuil, Vaudreuil and Two-Mountains, in Lower Canada, and Lanark, Renfrew, Carleton, Prescott, Russell, Grenville, Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry, in Upper Canada.

"The population of these counties was, according to the census of 1860, 263,179, of whom 75,272

were of French origin, the Catholic population of the said district being then 132,391.

"The present population of these counties may be estimated at 355,791, a 35 per cent. increase. This would give a French population of 101,617, or a Catholic population of 177,727.

"This institution is particularly valuable to this section of the country, particularly to the large French population who, without it, would in a measure be deprived of the advantages of superior education."—Ottawa, 21st July, 1866.

The above certainly does not lack in clearness, does it? But let us continue examining the archives.

The second document is the account left us by R. F. Lavoie, of the advances he made to the government in the name of the College with the object of obtaining the university charter.

Joseph-Theophile Lavoie entered the Oblate Order in 1860 after having studied Law in Laval University, Quebec. After having been sent to Nancy, France, to undergo the trials of the novitiate and to study theological sciences, he returned to Canada in 1864, a priest and religious. From that moment he occupied none but posts of the highest confidence, either in teaching in our Colleges of Ottawa, St. Boniface, Manitoba, or Buffalo, or in the pastoral ministry as Superior and parish priest of our parishes of St. Mary's, Winnipeg, the Sacred Heart, of Lowell, or Holy Angels, Buffalo. In 1906, the disease that was to lead him to the grave prevented him from termin-

(1) I hold this document from another absolutely certain source. "This document[†] Initialed by myself", writes Solicitor N, "was remitted to me by Rev. Father X himself, when he was Rector of the University of Ottawa. In giving it he certified that the said document was authentic and had been printed, at the date shown upon it, with the object of obtaining the help of the members of the Canadian Parliament then in session, so that they would vote for the bill in favour of granting a civil charter for the erection of the civil University of Ottawa. Then follow the signature of the solicitor, which I omit — as also the name of the Rector—through delicacy.