

Nuns of Ottawa under the patronage of His Lordship Bishop Guigues.

"This establishment, whose existence dates back some twenty years, has as its object one of the most pressing needs of this part of the country. As everybody knows, the City of Ottawa, through its geographical situation, forms the link that unites Upper and Lower Canada. From this fact the necessity arises for all of its inhabitants to have a perfect and equal knowledge of both the French and English languages.

"Nothing has therefore been spared to help French and English young ladies to attain this double aim, and the numerous and honorable testimonials our institution has always received prove that our efforts have not been made in vain. The greatest care is always taken to ensure the perfect pronunciation and the daily practice of both languages. . ."

The University civil charter attests that the same thought reigned at the College in 1866, and that the same energy was put forth for the same cause, since it was granted precisely to sanction the practical teaching of both French and English which the Oblate Fathers were giving to their pupils. (1)

And thus, Mgr. Guigues having seen that his diocese, partly Lower, partly Upper Canadian, where two populations elbowed one another, and where two languages were in

constant use, needed an institution which would weld the two provinces, unite two peoples and make intelligible to each the language of the other, opened a college in Bytown in order to undertake, at this meeting-place of all the divers elements of the Ottawa, the training process out of which would come a much desired uniformity. The wish to help without showing any partiality, and to bring to mutual accord the two races suddenly thrown together, caused him to prepare and maintain a programme of studies where the French and English languages were placed upon an equal footing. The students, Irish as well as French, received their instruction in the two languages, from which we see that the French language was not thrust upon the College of Ottawa, nor did it enter it as an intruder. Let us resolve the question: this thought of the founder of the College who opens up his inmost thoughts to the President of the Executive Council, Sir Hypolite Lafontaine, seems to give to the French language a supremacy which the French-Canadians shall never surrender for a mess of pottage.

Let us therefore bow before Mgr. Joseph Eugène Guigues, one of the principal benefactors of the French-Canadian cause upon the soil of Ontario.

II

The Civil University, 1866-1869.
A.—The Meaning of the Civil Charter.

The second phase in the existence of the College of Ottawa opens up at a turning-point in Canadian history, at the moment when the

(1) The letter written by R. F. Lavole, O.M.I. R. F. Lavole obtained the University civil charter, in the name of the College, from the Union Parliament in the summer of 1866.