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THE OWL is the journal of the students of the University of Ottawa. Its object is to aid the students in their literary development, to chronicle their doings in and out of class, and to unite more closely the students of the past and present to their Alma Mater.

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It is with pleasure we publish this month a contribution from an old friend and former student at present studying at Rome. This, we hope, is but the first of a series which Tom will send us while sojourning in the classic land of Italy. We cordially invite other alumni in various parts of the world to do as much for Auld Lang Syne, that we may be able to make this very interesting feature of THE OWL permanent.

NATIONAL SENTIMENT.

"Ottawa is not a city, it is a collection of wards; and when one ward gets a three inch nail the others want a bunch of tacks." So wrote a witty citizen of the Capital some years since. Whether or

not this was ever true of Ottawa we shall leave for others to determine; but *mutatis mutandis* and allowing a reasonable margin for obvious exaggeration, it expresses not inaptly and all too accurately the political condition of Canada at present. Canadians are of course attached to Canada, and things Canadian in a quiet way, but they are French-Canadians, Irish-Canadians or Anglo-Saxon first, and Canadians in the broader sense of the term afterwards.

The late premier was so identified with the history of the Dominion, and enjoyed for so long a period the confidence of all classes, that loyalty to him personally, held the place of national sentiment in the hearts of many Canadians. His death has left us without even that poor substitute, and indications are that old party ties will soon cease to hold the great mass of the people; nor will new party cries prevent the disintegration of parties as at present constituted. People's minds will turn to other and greater questions than party politics. True these questions may be adopted by one or other of the existing parties, or new parties may be formed. But politicians follow public opinion, they do not lead it; a question is not adopted until it has found such favour with electors that it has a fair chance of carrying the party into power. It is not to politicians, as such, that we must look for the guidance of the public sentiment. The press, which shows signs of emancipation from partyism, and the teachers from the primary schools to the Universities, must decide the future of Canada. It is on the influence of the teachers we must depend in a great measure for the growth of a national spirit truly Canadian.

Those who would have Canada remain a British Colony for an indefinitely long period, advocate Imperial Federation; but this has received such rebuffs from all quarters that it can be safely relegated to the regions of the impracticable. Annexation