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THE OWL is the journal of the students of the
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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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THE PAPAL BRIEF.

Through the kindness of his Grace the
Archbishop, we make public, for the first
time, the Brief, by which under the Fish-
erman's Ring, Ottawa College has been
elevated to the rank of a Catholic Uni-
versity. Other Popes may have been re-
markable for intellectual power, or force of
will or vast administrative ability, but Leo
XIII seems to have combined all these
grand qualities in himself; he scans with
keen and rapid gaze the whole Chris-
tian world and sees the wants of
all the countries under his paternal
care. But as an educator he has in
a special manner merited our gratitude.
Scarcely one year had elapsed after his
ascent of the throne of St. Peter, when he
proclaimed the Angelic Doctor the patron
of the Catholic Colleges and Universities,

for in his doctrine 'pure and without
mixture,' would be found the remedies for
the evils of our days. Canada received its
share of his universal attention. Hither-
to our education was necessarily utilitar-
ian. Our country needed men to do
laborious work who had but little
time to give to study. But the aspect of
things is changing; culture is gaining
ground every day and higher education is
an absolute necessity. In Quebec this
want was felt and supplied; it was but
just that its twenty-three Colleges should
have their crown in the University of Laval.
Ontario must not be behind the sister
province. There are here several powerful
chartered institutions which are necessarily
closed to Catholic students. It is then
with an eye towards raising the standard
and enhancing the dignity of the Catholic
training in Ontario that the Holy Father
has seen fit to create our College a Uni-
versity endowed with all the privileges of
older institutions, and serving as a centre
for Catholic thought in the English por-
tions of Canada. Founders of Universi-
ties in every age have desiderated a cen-
tral position as essential to the success of
their undertaking; and with reason, for a
University by its very nature is a light to
the surrounding country. Students flock to
it to get there what cannot be had at home,
and it becomes the trysting ground for all
that is great and good in a country. If it
combines political power with intellectual
attractions so much the better; such were
Paris, Rome, Bologna, Salamanca, and
Louvain in older days. Such will Wash-
ington be in the near future; and why
should not Ottawa be the same? Our
country has bright prospects before it;
rapid strides have been made in a short
while and mental activity must keep
abreast of political aspirations. What more
central position could be desired? We are
in the capital of the Dominion; the mem-
bers of the Senate and the House of
Commons meet here for three months