

tion of the robber-monarch and his satellites, who forcibly occupy the Eternal City. This expression of sympathy from the Capital of the Dominion has brought strength to the heart and the hands of the Holy Father, and if Ottawa's example be but followed by other important capitals, the Italian usurper will be obliged to cower before an incensed public opinion. At the conclusion of his reply, Archbishop Duhamel advanced to the altar and crosier in hand solemnly gave the Apostolic Benediction to the kneeling people. And now the students of Ottawa University, look forward to welcoming within their own walls the noble prelate whom they love and revere both as a benefactor and friend, the prelate who having been called to sit among the lofty ones of God's Church, has raised his Mother to a seat beside him. He comes to us on Easter Monday, and we shall give him such a rousing reception as only students know how to give.

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### PRIUS DEMENTAT.

If anything were wanting to condemn the Upper House of the Province of Quebec in the eyes of the rising generation, the want has been supplied by that august body's recent action towards McGill University. McGill has long been protesting against the injustice which refuses its graduates admission to the study of law unless they pass the preliminary examination. A short time ago a bill was introduced into the Quebec Assembly for the removal of this restriction. The Assembly passed it, but it was rejected by the Legislative Council who thereby placed themselves on record as denying the sufficiency of a university course in arts as a preparation for the study of law. A graduate of the high school or even of the public school who has been "crammed" with a view to passing the preliminary

examination may become an LL. B. within four years, but if another high school graduate matriculates into a university and becomes a B. A. at the same time that his school fellow becomes an LL. B. he is *ipso facto* so far inferior that a preliminary examination is still required to show whether he knows as much now as he did four years ago. It matters not that the papers set before him at matriculation were quite as difficult or perhaps more difficult than those of the preliminary examination, this preliminary examination must be passed. And why not pass it, if qualified to do so? it may be asked. Because, in the first place, it is utterly absurd and unjust to require it, and because, in the second place, a university graduate with all his mental powers well developed may yet possibly not have at the tips of his fingers all the historical dates and geographical locations which swarm in the brain of him who has passed through the hands of a "crammer." There are teachers who make it their business to "pass" students through various examinations. These men, from long practice and sometimes from dishonest collusion, have acquired a "second sight" as far as coming examinations are concerned. The result is that their pupils, having been drilled in the precise matter in which they are to be questioned, are wonderfully successful. But what comparison can there be between one of these human phonographs and the trained university graduate? The latter may not on the spur of the moment be able to tell the date of the Petition of Right, nor the exact situation of Trincomalee, but he has the outlines of the constitutional history of England clearly in his mind, and he knows how the natural features of a country have influenced the character of its people. Best of all, he has been taught how to work and how to think, where as the "crammee," to coin a word, is for a time as helpless as an an-