

# THE OWL.

VOL. VI.

OTTAWA UNIVERSITY, NOVEMBER, 1892.

No. 3

## THE VERY REVEREND JOSEPH FABRE, O.M.I.,

*Second Superior General of the Oblate Fathers.*



IN the 26th of October the religious family under whose care a kind Providence has called us to pursue our studies and fit ourselves for the battle of life, was grieved by the sad news of the death of its Superior General, the Very Rev. Father Joseph Fabre. As head of his Order, Father Fabre joined uncommon administrative ability to high religious perfection. The founder, the illustrious Mgr. E. de Mazenod, on his death-bed, left charity and zeal as watch-words to his sons. His immediate successor spared no pains to carry out in all its bearings the dying wish of his father in religion and, knowing that a superior's example is more powerful than his word, he endeavored in the government of his large family to be always a father to each and all of its members.

For thirty-one years did Father Fabre fill the office of Superior General, and under his direction the Oblates vastly extended their work in every continent. At the death of Mgr. de Mazenod they had numerous establishments in France, England, Ireland and Scotland; they had already founded houses in Texas, the Island of Ceylon and Canada, and had begun those missions in the North West which furnish some of the brightest pages to the history of the Church in our century; in the field evangelized by them were also counted immense provinces in South Africa. Since Father Fabre's election the missionary work of the Oblates in all these parts of the world has been doubled, and in many instances quadrupled. When the

famous decree of expulsion was enforced against the Oblates in France they found shelter in Holland and Italy. Thanks to the energy and foresight of the Superior General that trial has been changed to a blessing; already a large number of German and Italian young men have entered the congregation and will soon be found carrying on among the people of their nationality the same good work as the French and Irish Oblates in other parts of the world.

Time and space do not permit us to take up in detail the great works achieved and encouraged by Father Fabre in Europe, Asia and Africa. We shall confine ourselves to a brief mention of the advances of the Oblate Fathers in the States and in Eastern Canada.

The late Superior General was untiring in his efforts to insure the success of the College of Ottawa. It was with great satisfaction that he saw that institution grow in efficiency and in the esteem of Catholics, but his hopes for its success were more than realized when, through the powerful influence of His Grace, the present Archbishop of Ottawa, the college, already a civil university, was raised to the enviable dignity of a Catholic university. May he from heaven still watch over the institution for which he did so much, and obtain for its teachers and students the blessings of the Father of Light!

It was also during his wise administration that the Province of Canada built a fine and spacious novitiate-house at Lachine near Montreal, established in connection with the university a juniorate for the training of young aspirants to the