

## A UNIVERSITY FOR ENGLISH SPEAKING CATHOLICS.

To the Editors of THE OWL:—

For years the Catholic clergy and the Catholic press of the United States have been urging the necessity of a Catholic university, with affiliated law and medical courses; and, as a result we have the purposed—it may be said *the*, for the matter has gone beyond a mere proposal—university in Washington.

If such an institution is necessary in the States, is not a similar institution equally necessary in Canada? Will this Washington university supply our needs? I think not, and for several reasons, among which may be mentioned that its distance from us is too great; and moreover, the course there is likely to be too expensive for the great majority of us Canadians to take advantage of it. We may, I think, assume that the course will not be less expensive than is that of our present Catholic colleges in the neighboring republic; and that our colleges are cheaper than their sister institutions across the line is evidenced by the number of Americans who come to us to receive their education. Am I wrong in attributing this incoming to the expense.

All, or nearly all, the leading Protestant or so-called non-sectarian colleges in Canada have flourishing law and medical faculties connected with them. The same is true in the States. McGill, Queen's, and away east, Dalhousie, Yale and Harvard are notable examples.

Need I prove the necessity of having such courses? Surely, the benefit to be derived from having our students subject throughout their entire course to Catholic influence is a sufficient argument. But beyond this, while I am glad to be able to say that now, many of our Catholics before entering on their studies for a profession have completed an art course in some one of our colleges, and are thus fairly grounded in the leading principles of Catholic ethics; still, there is and perhaps must be a large number who never had and will not have this advantage, and as a result are not prepared to see where the teaching of their legal or medical lecturer runs counter to Catholic teaching.

Let me take an example or two to show such adverse teaching. Take divorce. Unless I have been misinformed a Catholic lawyer is forbidden to take part in such a case. Will he ever be told this in the ordinary law school? Again, there are cases of homicide in which there is no legal crime, but from an ethical point of sight, the guilty party must be condemned. There are also cases in which, although there is no moral guilt, still, legally, the accused will be found guilty. Even if as matters of law these decisions must be taught, should not the attention of the student be called to their ethical bearing? It goes, I think, without saying, that the medical schools differ in their teachings and on the most delicate points, from those of our Catholic moralists. The Catholic student is taught and advised to perform operations which as a Catholic he could never think of.

Is not too, the association a consideration of great moment? Take up the last McGill College journal. Read its complaint of the low moral tone of conversation in the reading room of the medicals. What must the atmosphere there be like when the organ of the university has to remark its impurity? Certainly not such as we would wish to see a Catholic student live in, if we wish his morals to be in a healthy condition. Perhaps to this source may be traced that carelessness in religious matters so apparent in many of our leading Catholics in the profession.

Something must be done to meet this evil. What means are to be taken? Perhaps the good Oblates would be willing to add to the labors they have already undertaken. They are obstacles in the way, but cannot they be surmounted? Will not THE OWL open its columns and give to our leading Catholics an opportunity to express their views on this important question?

H. F. C.

NOTE.—The suggestion of our correspondent is not new to the College authorities. It was a cherished idea of the late Rev. Dr. Tabaret, who was giving his great energy to its accomplishment when he passed to his reward; and it is the hope of his successor that it will yet be realized.

EDITORS.

## A CELEBRATED CASE.

At the beginning of the present term a vacancy occurred in the committee of the Debating Society owing to the withdrawal of C. J. Mahoney from the College. As Mr. Mahoney had been a member of the Fourth Form, class of '91, it was necessary that his class should elect some one to fill the vacated position. Although the necessity of such an election was not known until the evening on which it occurred, all were aware that two gentlemen had been canvassing for at least three months. (If any one is so obtuse as not to be able to reconcile these statements, he must be content to know that it is a paradox.) The two gentlemen in question were Jeremiah Coriolanus Moriarty and Francis Lucretius French. The election took place and Mr. French was the lucky candidate. At once Mr. Moriarty in the dark depths of his manœuvring intellect conceived a project for crushing his successful rival. (We should like to add a footnote just here, but fearing it would spoil the appearance of the page we shall parenthetically explain that the above sentence is highly figurative, and that in reality Mr. Moriarty was urged on to his diabolical action by extraneous forces utterly beyond his control.) The nefarious plot consisted in the prosecution of Mr. French for bribery and corruption in connection with his election. The injured and guilty innocent was summoned to respond to these charges before the High Court of Justice presided over by Judge Foley. The case was argued for the petitioner by Messrs. Fallon Q. C. and McDonald Q. C., for the respondent appearing Messrs. Phalen Q. C. and Campbell Q. C. (Should any of