

LEO PP. XIII.

FOR THE PERPETUAL REMEMBRANCE OF THE EVENT.



AS the Apostolic See has at all times watched with anxious care over the preservation of the integrity of faith and morals, so also, has it ever been solicitous that there should be at the disposal of Catholic youth, well appointed institutions for the study of sciences and fine arts, in which there might be acquired, in furtherance of the private and public good of human society, a thorough mental and moral education. Nor has it ever neglected, whenever such seemed to be desirable, to promote the dignity, stability and prosperity of such institutions by the support of its own authority and power. For these reasons it was most pleasing to Us to learn, that there had been established, as early as the year of our Lord 1848, in Ottawa, a renowned city of Canada, a College for the education of Catholic youth, by Joseph Eugene Guigues of illustrious memory, a Priest of the Congregation of Oblates of Mary Immaculate, who was appointed the first bishop of Ottawa,—and that, in the course of time, the said College had auspiciously grown to ampler proportions, by new extensions made to the College buildings, as well as by the establishment of a library, and the addition of museums and of all means and appliances for the imparting of a complete and thorough education, and furthermore by the ever-increasing number of its students whom the fame and high standing of the institution had attracted even from distant localities, so that in the year 1866, the same College was judged worthy, by the highest legislative assembly in Canada, to receive the well deserved legal title of a civil University, and to be vested with all the rights and privileges which the other civil Universities enjoy through the authority of the civil power.

In consequence of the eminent success and prosperity of Ottawa College, there was submitted to the Apostolic See, in the year 1888, a request on the part of the Superior of the Congregation of Oblates of Mary Immaculate and of the learned members of the Faculty of the College, and also a letter on the part of the Archbishop of Ottawa, earnestly beseeching Us, that the said Ottawa College, which was deserving of such high commendation, be exalted, in accordance with the custom and established usage of the Apostolic See, to the dignity and rights of a Catholic University.

To these entreaties We have willingly accorded a favorable consideration, for we know what advantages for the pursuit of the most advanced studies this great College has, established in that most distinguished City of Ottawa, which, besides being the seat of the civil government, has been elevated to the honor of an Archiepiscopal See, and which by its central position amidst the cities of Canada possesses easy communication with every part of the country, and which, moreover, receives additional splendor from the presence of those distinguished men who preside over the Supreme