

There is none. (1) It is, however, a necessity for each of us to know the two languages. But, we do not know them at birth; they must be studied, they must be learned, and to learn them they must be taught. Therefore, we must have this University of Ottawa where this double teaching is given."

"Messrs. Dorion and others had spoken in the same strain and given the same reasons in the Legislative Assembly.

"The bill passed the two Chambers without any substantial changes. It was shortly after sanctioned by Queen Victoria's representative. We had thus obtained an institution where French-Canadian and Irish Catholics could be taught each in his own language.

"I certify that the above is true and certain."

(Signed) J. T. Lavoie, O.M.I.  
Lachine Locks, Feb. 5th, 1907.

A close examination of these two documents will bring out the true sense of the charter of 1866.

In the first place, let us remark that it is not a question of obtaining a Catholic university; an institution of that kind had just been granted to Kingston, and the government, in order not to be troubled in its last moments by school dissensions, sheltered itself behind the expedient that one university only should be granted to each denomination in each province. The Oblate Fathers desired a charter which would allow them to place the English and French languages upon an equal footing. The arguments of Letellier de Saint-Just, their official mouth-piece, rest

upon the fact that the College of Ottawa, situated in a city which is at once the seat of a diocese, the centre of a region, the capital of a country, where live, mixed together, two races having different languages, has as its mission the teaching of the youth called to the sacred, professional, and political functions touching souls, clients, and citizens who have the natural and constitutional right to be freely heard in the French or the English tongue.

This at least is beyond doubt, that, in the intention of the Oblates and in the parliamentary discussion, as Father Lavoie has transmitted them to us, the situation of the French language in the University of Ottawa resembles that assigned to it in Canada by the Constitution of 1867 in federal matters. In other words: *French is altogether at home in the University of Ottawa.*

But there is more than this. For no one will imagine that the Ottawa educationists were particularly preoccupied in guaranteeing, in the future Province of Ontario, the existence of the English language, since it was in nowise endangered or threatened. They have a well determined and wholly different end in view. They want a charter to *benefit particularly* the French-Canadians, for the excellent reason—besides a hundred others—that, on the 26th July or thereabouts, the Government has raised the English-Catholic College of Regiopolis to the rank of a university. (2) They do not fear to

(2)The University of Regiopolis was never developed.

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(1) This was spoken in 1866.