

In this truly remarkable decree, the Bishops show us in the first place, that the fathers of the first provincial Council, considering the great services which a catholic university can render to letters, to society, and to religion, had pledged themselves to do all in their power to procure to the catholics of this country the advantage of having their own universities, as well as their own colleges and schools.

They acknowledge in the second place, that it is at the reiterated request of the same Bishops also, that the Seminary of Quebec, at the price of immense sacrifices, has founded the Laval University. They next declare that they approve the Statutes of that University, and offer up fervent prayers for its increase and prosperity : which abundantly proves that it answers their expectation perfectly, and that it is their fond wish those catholic young men should flock thither, who intend to fit themselves for the liberal professions, by the study of the higher branches of learning.

In fine, considering that the number of students at the Laval University is far smaller than what it ought to be, and, no doubt, grieving to see that too many of our catholic young men persist in going to protestant colleges and universities, to the imminent peril of their faith and morals ; the fathers of our Council solemnly warn all the faithful of this Province, to watch over the salvation of those intrusted to their care : beseeching them in the name of the Lord, to provide first of all for the preservation of their faith and morals ; and, to this end, not to allow them to draw the waters of science but from the purest spring.

Let us hope therefore that all catholic fathers and mothers, who have the salvation of their children at heart, will comprehend these grave admonitions of their chief pastors, and that they will profit by them, for the honor of our Religion and the greater glory of God.

Such are in substance, D. B. B., the principal decrees of our third provincial Council, which we this day publish. Such is in short the result of the labors of the Bishops of the Province in their last reunion : labors undertaken for the interest of your salvation, and which they concluded with a fervent prayer addressed to Mary conceived without sin, the mother of God ; beseeching her, as the patroness of the Metropolis and of the whole Province, to take under her powerful protection their persons and their dioceses, your souls and theirs, and saying to her, with the whole Church of God : *Regina sine labe concepta, ora pro nobis.* Queen conceived without sin, pray for us.