



APOSTOLICAL LETTER
OF OUR HOLY FATHER LEO XIII

POPE BY DIVINE PROVIDENCE

TO THE ARCHBISHOPS, BISHOPS AND OTHER ORDINARIES
OF THE CONFEDERATION OF CANADA IN PEACE AND IN COMMUNION
WITH THE APOSTOLIC SEE.



*To Our Venerable Brethren the Archbishops, Bishops and other Ordinaries of
the Confederation of Canada, in peace and in Communion with the Apostolic
See.*

LEO XIII, POPE.

Venerable Brethren, greeting and apostolical benediction.

IN addressing you to-day, — and We do so with a loving heart, — Our mind naturally reverts to those relations of mutual kindness, to that interchange of good services which have always existed between the Apostolic See and the Canadian people. Beside your very cradle we behold the Church with her charity. And ever since she has received you into her bosom, she has not ceased to keep you in close embrace, and to lavish upon you her bounties. If that man of imperishable memory, who was François de Laval-Montmorncy, was enabled to accomplish deeds of such exalted virtue, and so fruitful for your country, of which your ancestors were witnesses, it was assuredly with the support of the authority and favor of the Roman Pontiffs. Nor was it from any other source that the works performed by succeeding bishops — men of most striking merits — drew their origin and the assurance of their success. Likewise, to ascend to the remotest period, it is truly under the inspiration and owing to the initiative of the Apostolic See, that generous bands of missionaries learned the way leading to your country, in order to bear thither, with the light of the Gospel, a higher culture and the first germs of civilisation. And it is those germs, which, fertilized by them also, at the cost of long and