

PASTORAL LETTER

OF THE

Rt. Rev. John Walsh, D. D.

BISHOP OF LONDON,

*Promulgating the Decrees of the First Provincial Council
of Toronto.*

JOHN WALSH, by the Grace of God and the appointment of
of the Holy See, Bishop of London.

*to the Clergy, Religious Communities and the Laity of the
Diocese, health and benediction in the Lord.*

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

We have the pleasure to inform you that the decrees of
the first Provincial Council of Toronto have been returned
from Rome, revised and corrected by the supreme authority
of the Holy See. We have already solemnly promulgated
them to our clergy assembled in spiritual retreat, and
now again, we by these presents publish them for our
diocese, and ordain that they shall be reverentially and
obediently observed by all whom they concern within our
episcopal jurisdiction.

The First Provincial Council of Toronto forms an epoch
in the ecclesiastical history of this Province; it is as if
the term of an old state of things that has passed
away, and the starting point, let us hope, of a bright and
prosperous future for the Church in Ontario.

Until 1870 the Ecclesiastical Province of Quebec com-
prised Eastern and Western Canada; but in that year, the
Holy See, in its wisdom, and in its solicitude for the spiritual
welfare of its children, erected the Ecclesiastical Province of
Ontario, which comprises the civil limits of Ontario, with the
exception of that part of it which lies within the bounds of
the Diocese of Ottawa, and the Vicariate Apostolic of Pontiac.