

# 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.