

proof against the lightning and the tempest. It is the right and prerogative of the Pope to confirm his brethren in the faith, and to sanction and give force to their legislative acts. Hence the Vatican Council decrees that to the Roman Pontiff belongs the full and supreme power of jurisdiction over the entire Church, not merely in things that appertain to faith and morals, but also in what concerns the discipline and government of the Church, spread throughout the world.

It is for this reason, and in accordance with canonical usage, the decrees of our First Provincial Synod have been sent to the Holy See for examination and confirmation. They have been returned stamped with the sanction of this supreme authority, and henceforward they have a binding power and force over the whole ecclesiastical Province of Ontario.

UTILITY OF PROVINCIAL SYNODS.

The fact that the Church enjoins the holding, at stated intervals, of Provincial Synods is a sufficient evidence of their great utility. In such solemn assemblies, holy Bishops and zealous and experienced priests, who are associated with them "as the chords of a lyre," meet together to examine into the state of religion in their respective dioceses, and in the whole ecclesiastical Province; they consult together regarding the wants of the Church; the state of ecclesiastical discipline; the abuses that may exist; the relaxation in morals that may have taken place amongst the flocks committed to their pastoral care. They deliberate as to the best means of re-establishing or preserving ecclesiastical discipline; of removing abuses; of stimulating the piety and zeal of the clergy; of promoting the growth and practice of Christian virtues amongst the laity, and they draw up such laws and regulations in their judgment are best suited to forward and advance the aforesaid objects. Surely there can be no doubt as to the immense utility and importance of such Synods, and the vast amount of good they are calculated to effect. "The whole