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CIRCULAIRE AU CLERGÉ.

BELCEIL, 16 Mars, 1873.

MESSIEURS ET CHERS COLLABORATEURS,

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Les graves affaires qui l'ont conduit à Rome, et qui sembleraient devoir être plus que suffisantes pour absorber son temps et ses soins, n'ont pas empêché notre digne Métropolitain de s'occuper du devoir important qu'il a à rempiir cette année envers sa Province Ecclésiastique, celui de convoquer et tenir un Concile,

Pour se conformer à la loi établie par le Saint Concile de Trente, en vertu de laquelle le Concile Provincial doit avoir lieu tous les trois ans, les Pères du quatrième Concile de Québec, tenu au printemps de 1868, avaient décidé par un décret promulgué en la dernière session, qu'un nouveau Concile serait célébré en 1871. Mais l'assez longue absence que durent faire les Evêques pour se rendre au Concile du Vatican; la mort de l'illustre et vénérable Mgr. C. F. Baillargeon, Archevêque de Québec, arrivée au mois d'octobre 1870; et par suite de cette mort, la vacance du siége métropolitain qui ne fut rempli que le 19 mars 1671, par la consécration et la prise de possession de Mgr. l'Archevêque actuel, devinrent autant de raisons qui engagèrent les Evêques de la Province à demander au Saint Siége la permission de remettre au printemps de 1873 le Concile indiqué, comme rapporté ci-haut, en la dernière session de celui de 1868. Le Très Saint Père accéda volontiers à ce vœu des Evêques, que le nouveau Métropolitain Lui soumettait quelque jours après sa Cousé cration.