



SKETCH OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE XAVERIAN BROTHERS.

THE FOUNDATION AND PROGRESS.

As our purpose of presenting this circular to the Rev. Clergy is to solicit their aid in encouraging vocations to our Institute, we deem it proper to lay before them a brief synopsis of its history and object.

The Founder, Theodore James Ryken, was born August 30, 1797, at Elshout, in the Catholic province of North Brabant, Holland. His parents having died while he was still young, his moral and educational training was committed to his saintly uncle, and into no better hands could it have fallen. Piety seems to have been hereditary in his family, as is evidenced by the number of his relatives who were distinguished for their virtue, charity and zeal in the cause of religion. During the early part of his life he was associated with the celebrated convert and writer. Le Sage Ten Broeck, in conducting an asylum for orphans and destitute boys. The sight of these poor children, together with the knowledge of the evil effects

