

THE VATICAN LIBRARY.

NEW YORK: HICKEY & CO.; BARCLAY ST.

The title "Vatican Library" indicates the project and purpose of a new series of publications. Mr. P. V. Hickey, who had, as editor of the *Catholic Review*, already done so much for the cause of Religion on this Continent, in the newspaper press under his direction, saw fit lately to extend his sphere of usefulness, and in a new direction. The "use" of reading is illimitable—its "abuses" are manifold. A writer may poison the minds of the public just as a doctor may poison their bodies; and it needed no very prying eyes to discover—for every news-vender's counter, in every city all over the land, afforded palpable proof—the extent to which literature of a most unwholesome class and character was scattered, broad-cast, at prices easily accessible by the million. We will not stay to speculate on the amount of mischief produced by these agencies—morals undermined, virtue endangered, social and domestic obligations set at defiance, and ruin accomplished. Many a heart and home have felt the malign influences of the sensational and suggestive serials of the various "Libraries" competing for public patronage by the issue of the most prurient tales of imagination; and it was in recognition of this condition of things that the projectors of the "Vatican Library" undertook to supply an antidote to the poison, by the publication, in an attractive form, and at a marvelously low price, of a moral-toned and elevating Literature of Fact and Fiction. Commencing with Cardinal Wiseman's "Fabiola," which combines all the charms of Romance with the realism of History, the enterprising publishers have produced, in succession, several standard works, until now the series published number over a dozen, ranging at prices from five to twenty-five cents. We need not add a word in recommendation of these facts. A high class Catholic Literature will compete with demoralizing publications on their own ground, and the appreciation of the people of such a timely and essential boon will be best evidenced by a hearty and generous patronage of the spirit that prompted the "Vatican Library."

MCGEE'S ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY.

Cheap Literature is one of the distinguishing signs of the times; and the people of this age are singularly favored in the accessibility of high class works at low prices. There is a department of this Literature, however, which plays no inconsiderable part in the progress in this direction—the cheap illustrated weekly papers; and amongst the many claimants for patronage in this order, we know of none more entitled to support than McGee's Weekly. It is refreshing, after the many abortive attempts at Irish Illustrated Weeklies, to find one with the true ideal of a national publication. The letter-press matter is interesting and of instructive tone; and the pictures of Irish remarkable places and Ireland's illustrious men are executed in first-class style, and in many instances, within our knowledge, with rare fidelity to the scenes and persons represented. We can only wish for McGee's Weekly a success commensurate with its merits, and if this be accorded, the enterprising publishers shall have no cause to regret a failure.

TRUTH.

An ardent desire for truth, and an undeviating adherence to it, are absolute essentials for the acquisition of knowledge—for the development of science.

That men err; that they pursue false objects; that they obtain spurious knowledge, is the affliction of humanity, caused through the fall of our common progenitors. The primal earthly parents of mankind knew all things necessary for them to know. A divine enlightenment irradiated their understandings. At first, truth was all they desired, sought or thought of. God led them by the hand, and thus imparted the Word to them, and that word is Truth; but in an evil hour the woman listened to the tempter, and desired that knowledge which was not truth. They sought it as too many of their unhappy children have since sought it, not in truth, not in simplicity, not in obedience to the divine Father, but in egotism, restlessness, and arrogance. They obtained it.