



P R E F A C E .

MORE fortunate than the other Foundresses of Religious Institutes in Ireland, Catherine McAuley's memory has been preserved, not only in the traditions of her children, but also by the pen of able and distinguished biographers. The first account of her was published in the *Dublin Review*, by her friend, Very Reverend Mile-tius Gaffney, Dean of Maynooth College, in 1847. Where he and her other historians disagree, we follow him in preference to any other, because, as her friend and spiritual director, he had abundant opportunities of acquiring accurate information, and was, in several instances, an eye-witness of what he relates. This sketch, however, is very short—about ten pages.

In 1848, a biography was commenced by Mother M. Teresa Wildridge, of the Convent of Mercy, Cork. This lady, whose memory is still held in benediction by the poor of the city in which she passed her short but full Religious career, was equally fitted by her piety and talent to accomplish this useful undertaking. But she was called to a brighter world ere she could complete her task. Very Rev. Dominic Murphy, Dean of the Diocese of Cork, continued her work. His connection with the Order as friend, benefactor, or confessor, gave him ample opportunities of learning facts connected with the Foundress, whom his solid piety and judgment enabled him to appreciate as she deserves. We have been informed that