

man at the great house, and a highly successful farmer on his own account. At the Union, Mr. Mathew, of Thomastown, was created Earl of Landaff, a peerage which like most of the same creation, expired in the second generation. It was the daughter of the first, and sister of the second Earl, Lady Elizabeth Mathew, who took the cost and charge of little Theobald's education upon herself, from the beginning, both out of love for the gentle, engaging child, and out of consideration for the numerous domestic responsibilities of James. Lady Elizabeth remained all her life a spinster; was considered "eccentric" by those who knew her, but kind-hearted and clever she certainly was, if the repartees reported of her are genuine; and her memory will live long as the first and best friend of Theobald Mathew. The adoption of our future Capuchin into the Thomastown family, where he had opportunities of acquiring the best manners of a generation which studied good manners as the first of the fine Arts, impressed upon his character the indescribable air of a true gentleman, which constituted one of his many personal attractions. Never did gentleness work such wonders in the way of reformation; for, contrary to the usual temperament of great reformers, he was never known to be bitter, or wrathful, or denunciatory, of those who stood blindly or perversely in the way of his work.

It is not a little curious that the young Mathew had to leave both his first schools,—Kilkenny and Maynooth,—from the over-indulgence of his social affections. The former, when little more than a child, longing for home, he left without leave, and walked above thirty miles, to his father's door; in Maynooth he transgressed a fundamental rule, by giving a party in his chambers to some of his fellow-students, and in consequence withdrew, rather than undergo rustication. This was in 1808. Proceeding to Dublin, he entered the noviciate of the Capuchins, one of the poorest and least influential of religious orders, and on Easter eve, 1814, was ordained priest in that order, by the late Archbishop Murray. His first mission was at Kilkenny, where, however, he did not remain long; for within the year we find him established as assistant to an aged incumbent in the old Friary

Chapel of Father Arthur O'Leary, in the poor, populous, and unhealthy neighborhood of Blackmoor's lane, Cork. This was the scene of his daily labors for a quarter of a century, until he ventured into that wider sphere to which no limit can be set, either in space or in time. Here, "the young Apostle," as he was even then called, from the sweetness of his disposition, the gentleness of his manners, and his devotion to the poor, found work enough to his hand. Always exemplary as to the neatness of his person, he was equally so as to the appearance of his church. The dingy little chapel under his charge became bright, and even elegant in appearance. The uncarpeted friars' room had a good picture or two on the bare walls, and flowers in their season always stood by his well-used desk.

PERSONAL HABITS AND CHARACTER.

By early rising, and punctilious exactness in all his appointments, he proved himself a true economist of time. As a confessor he became much sought after; as a preacher his success depended mainly on his downright earnestness and sincerity. If indeed, the Roman's definition of an orator, "a good man speaking," were sufficiently extensive, then was he one of the first of orators. He avoided merely controversial sermons; was not considered profound as a reasoner, nor extraordinary as a theologian; but his persuasive powers were of a high order, and his charity sermons were never preached in vain. But it was as an organizer of useful Associations—as an influential promoter of active works of benevolence, that he rendered his highest services to the people of his parish and city. In 1819, he founded the Josephian society among the young men of his own neighborhood, for visiting periodically the sick poor; a year or two later he started the female Industrial School, which, in 1824, counted 500 young girls, acquiring the rudiments of knowledge and of industry; and in 1830 he was the means of conferring on Cork the inestimable benefit of a new Cemetery, by the purchase for that purpose of the old Botanic Garden. This beautiful burial-ground is now called "the Mathew Cemetery," and in the midst of its shrubs and flowers, under the shade of a veritable cedar of Lebanon, his mortal remains repose in peace. But, per-