



CARDINAL McCLOSKEY.

THE first American Cardinal was born in Brooklyn, in the year 1810. The city of his birth now boasts of half a million inhabitants and contains more than fifty Catholic churches; but in the boyhood days of the present Cardinal it contained no Catholic temple and had a population below five thousand. His devout parents on Sunday mornings always conducted him across the East river to St. Peter's in Barclay street.

In his eleventh year the boy was sent to Mount St. Mary's College, and ardently pursued his studies until 1828, at which early age his scholastic attainments and well poised character already

gave promise of a brilliant career. Consecrating himself to the ministry, he spent four more years in theological study, was ordained January 12, 1834, and a twelvemonth later repaired to Rome to qualify himself more fully for the duties of a teacher. Trained and equipped by a three year's absence in Europe, he returned to New York, and a projected diocesan seminary not being ready for occupation, was appointed to the pastorate of St. Joseph's Church, where his zeal and gentleness won all hearts. On his 34th birthday he was consecrated a Bishop, as condutor to Archbishop Hughes, and in that capa-