

DEDICATION.

IN respectfully dedicating this volume to the descendants and scattered children of the ever-faithful people of Ireland, and the heirs of her faith, language more appropriate than that of the Pontiff Benedict XIV., in his memorable brief to the Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland cannot be adopted. "Cherish in your memories," says this illustrious Pontiff, "St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland, whom our predecessor Celestine, sent to you of whose apostolic mission and preaching, such an abundant harvest has grown, that Ireland, before his time idolatrous, was suddenly called, and deservedly is, 'the Island of Saints.' Cherish in your memories St. Malachy, Archbishop of Armagh, who stood forth undaunted in every manner, prepared to convert the wolves into sheep; to admonish in public; to touch the chords of the heart. Cherish with yet more sincerity, St. Lawrence, Archbishop of Dublin, whom, born as he was, of royal blood, our predecessor, Alexander III., constituted his Legate Apostolic for Ireland, and whom Honorius III. alike our predecessor, canonized. But if yet more we were to exhort you to cherish in your memories, the very holy men Columbanus, Kylian, Virgil, Rnmold, St. Gall and the many others, who, coming out of Ireland, carried the true faith over the provinces of the continent, or established it with the blood of their martyrdom. Suffice it to commend you to bear in memory the religion and the piety of those who have preceded you, and their solicitude for the duties of their station, which has established their everlasting glory and happiness."

And, in fine, cherish the virtues of your fathers, their piety and reverence towards their pastors, their contempt of earthly goods, and though