

LIFE AND LETTERS

—OF THE LATE—

JAMES A. McMASTER,

EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK FREEMAN'S JOURNAL AND CATHOLIC REGISTER.
BY THE LATE VERY REV. MARK S. GROSS.

CHAPTER XVII. (CONTINUED.)

NEW YORK, April 20, 1884.

Rev. Mother Prioress:

MY VERY DEAR FRIEND,—Yesterday I forwarded you the first copy of the translation of Father Herman's life. I had not time even to read a line of it. I also, some days ago, sent a copy of Father Goffins'—(now Bishop of Southwark)—translation of St. Alphonsus' Preparation for Death. There are some excellent things in the Preface. Thank you for all the goodness you and all the dear nuns show to me and mine. I had a short sailor's note from Alphonsus a day or two ago. He had reached Cuba and seemed cheerful and in good dispositions. Thank God. I do not think I would have written you this morning, Rev. dear Mother, except to ask your community's prayers for me *to-morrow*. To-morrow night my paper goes to press, and I have to denounce a very pretentious "Catholic Dictionary" just published in London and New York.* I send here what I said of it last week—but since in the word "scapular" I find the scandalous assertion that the vision of St. Simon Stock was a *myth*, that the Bulls of Pope John XXII., and that of Pope Alexander V. were clumsy forgeries," etc. *Of course* I must denounce this; and I ask your good prayers *to-morrow* and later—for this will not be the last of it,—especially that I may write in a good *spirit and with charity*.

Tell my sweet Sister Teresa I will write her soon, and visit her, with your permission, in a few weeks. I am just now exchanging letters every two or three days with our lawyer in Pittsburg. That "filthy lucre" business needs praying for also. When I can do anything for you in New York be sure and let me know. Have you not yet had the bill sent in

*The article on the Scapular in the Catholic Dictionary, of which McMaster speaks, has been since rewritten for the American editions.

for binding Breviary? That must be sent to me, or I told of it when it comes to you.

Ever devotedly in the Sacred Hearts,

JAS. A. McMASTER.

NEW YORK, May 11th, 1883.

Rev. Mother Prioress and very dear Friend:

I have but hurried minutes for writing to-day. I think I have received *all* your letters. I did the one with addresses of Father Provincial in Belgium, etc., for which I thank you.

I have sent, with order to be delivered to you *early on Saturday*, a box of two hundred oranges, and a box of two hundred lemons. I wish you would ask the good Sister in charge to see if they are all in *perfect* order. The importing merchant of whom I buy them *wishes them* to be so; and *if not*, it is proper that the inattention of his clerks be reported. If our dear Sister Teresa can not eat of them herself, I know she will be glad to have others of her dear Mothers in Christ enjoy of them on her birthday—May 13th—birthday also of the great Pope Pius IX., and this year, Pentecost. I have other things I wish to write of, but I must cut off for to-day. I ask to make for dear Sister Teresa's birthday, also, a little offering to our Lady of Mt. Carmel, of \$25.

I pray more than once every day for all of your holy community, and more particularly for those burdened with the misery of office—Prioress and Novice Mistress. And it consoles me to think in my miseries and weaknesses, that your holy community prays for me. *I know* you do. For I know I have received great graces through your prayers.

In the Sacred Hearts of our Lord and His Immaculate Mother,

Devotedly your servant,

JAS. A. McMASTER.