

---

## THE WILL OF THE MAN

---

active world to one of prayer and scholarly work. He had decided otherwise. But the years had brought much of care and responsibility, and he spoke of his phantom-cloister with that touch of wistful tenderness with which we speak of some lost dream of content.

He had no regrets for his choice, however. Chance had not entered into it; it had been entirely the outcome of self-knowledge and the will to act upon his highest instincts. . . .

These two circumstances—the one a mere incident that marked a tour; the other, a critical step in life—illustrate in Archbishop O'Brien's will its qualities of fixity and governance by a sense of responsibility. If his thought was independent, his will was superb in its strength. It could be inflexible; an opponent might be provoked to call it stubborn; at least its acts were prompted by conscience and never depended merely upon the approval of the world.

His Grace's will-power was notably exercised during life in his work for the promotion of religious education. This matter was one of the earliest and latest burdens in that "heavy charge of Divine interests," to which he was introduced at his consecration.

Shortly before his arrival in Halifax, St. Mary's College, a small institution aiming at higher education for boys, had drifted into extinction. The lapse of a government subsidy, enjoyed for some years previous, had seriously handicapped it financially, and the