

L I F E  
OF  
BISHOP PHELAN.

---

TO THE READER.

NEARLY five years have already elapsed since we were bereaved of a worthy Bishop, who had taken possession of every heart and whose whole life had been one continued series of acts tending to the welfare of a loving people. Ere I mention the name, Bishop Phelan, which to this day sounds sweet to every ear, you must readily understand whom I meant; and though it demands an abler pen than mine to portray his character and expose his virtues, I hope it will not be considered presumption, on my part, to attempt to give a sketch of his life, as I chanced to have a knowledge of much of his labor, and took a pleasure in watching his zeal. Not that this generation will ever forget him, and the rising one will love to speak of his worth; but my object is solely to perpetuate his memory, and solicit in his favor the prayers of a people—for whom he prayed much—and who will no doubt return gratitude for gratitude.

---

HIS CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH.

THE subject of the present memoir was born in January 1795, in the Parish of Ballyragget, County Kilkenny, Ireland. He was of "pious and Catholic parents," as testified by the Parish Priest—the Rev. Edward Walsh—who furnished his Baptisterium, on the occasion of his emigrating to America; and hence their exemplary and virtuous lives made such a deep and lasting impression upon his religious character, that his whole life was characterized by virtuous works, and his zeal showed forth conspicuous, whether as a simple missionary or a distinguished Prelate. He was baptized on the first day of February, and on this occasion he received the cherished name of Patrick