

PREFACE

THESE sermons and essays would never have seen light in book form if they had not been preserved by my faithful secretary, Mr. Joseph A. McAllister, and their publication had not been prompted by the good Franciscan Missionaries of Mary who are doing such admirable work among the poor of the East side.

I have been usually careless in preserving what I may have written. I have used and thrown most of it aside, with the intention of never looking at it again.

When, therefore, the Sisters asked me to permit them to publish my sermons and essays, I told them I had kept none of them, and besides, I did not think them good enough to preserve. But they said that they thought they could gather enough to make a book ; and then I suggested that if they could, and sell it for the benefit of their charities, I was willing to let them try. Sympathy for their work rather than a belief that I had ever preached a sermon, or written an essay worthy of permanent preservation prompted my consent ; and Mr. McAllister's care has done the rest.

Just before I left Rome in 1862, Pius IX said to me, the first alumnus of the American College : "As you are the first, defend me there in America." From that day I took his words in their fullest comprehension, and from that day I am not conscious that I have ever written or spoken a word disloyal to the teaching or to the discipline of the holy Catholic Church of which he was then the Visible Head.

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