

held a state prisoner; and although he escaped with his life, all his property was swept away, and the family in consequence became impoverished, but not to such a degree as to prevent the mother of Mr. McGee from receiving a very good education. She was a woman of unusual refinement, and of deep religious feeling; her great object was to instill into the minds of her children their duty to God, first, and next to instruct them in the rudiments of a sound English education. An Irishwoman in heart and feeling she impressed on her first-born son, that undying love for Ireland which clung to him throughout his life. In 1833 Mr. James McGee was ordered to Wexford, and there in that year he lost his wife. Thomas D'Arcy was then only eight years of age, but so well had his good mother laboured to improve his mind, that at that tender age, although he had never spent a day at school, he was very far advanced for a child of his years, not only in the rudiments of learning, but the substantial foundation of a moral and religious education had also been laid in his youthful mind, and those lessons learnt in his early childhood at his mother's knee, impressed on his memory by his good mother's example and precept, were never forgotten in his after life. Amid the storms and whirlwinds of revolution and party strife, amid the trials, pleasures, victories, disappointments and dangers which marked his most eventful career, his mother's early lessons of piety deeply impressed on his child's heart with her smiles and tears, were ever present to his mind, and influenced, in a marked degree, the conduct of his whole life. After his mother's death Thomas was put to school, and, it is needless to say, was remarkable for the ease and rapidity with which he mastered his lessons and outstripped his comrades in the various branches taught in Wexford school. Mr. McGee never had a regular classical education; his father could not afford him the opportunity from his very limited means; and a man endowed with less talent than him, would never, with the scanty means of acquiring knowledge at his command, have risen above mediocrity, but great minds burst the chains which would confine lesser ones, and freeing themselves, soar far above the slavery of circumstances, of birth, and opportunity, and in their flight upwards scatter lessons of wisdom which tend to improve mankind and to illustrate the power of the Creator. Select the greatest names recorded of the rulers, instructors, or benefactors of mankind, those names which belong to no one nationality or creed, but which are the common property of the human family; the brightest lights of civilization, the great moralists, the good Samaritans of our race; the great reformers of the world, the great discoverers; those men who have almost annihilated time and space, and rendered the earth, the air, and the waters, the slaves of man, those philosophers who have,