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ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MISSION OF INCHICORE.

 HE foundation and early struggles of the first House, Convent, or Mission of a Religious Order or Congregation must always have circumstances of more or less interest connected with it, that are worthy of being recorded for future generations. Having had the privilege of being the first Oblate Father to be settled at Inchicore from the time of its foundation, I propose to endeavour, in this paper, to release from oblivion some memorable features connected with that event. During the time that the Most Rev. Dr. Murray was Archbishop of Dublin, one of the earlier and most venerated amongst the companions of our holy Founder, Monsigneur de Mazenod, went to Ireland, for the purpose of obtaining the sanction of the Archbishop for the introduction of the Oblates into his Archdiocese. This zealous pioneer of our Congregation, the V. Rev. Dr. Cassimir Aubert, having obtained a favourable promise from his Grace, went to Youghal in the South of Ireland, and became a teacher of the French language in order to learn the English language himself. Years passed by after his return to France, and the promise remained unfulfilled. Meanwhile Archbishop Murray went to his reward, and was succeeded in the See of Dublin by Archbishop Cullen, who was translated from Armagh, and who was subsequently better known as Cardinal Cullen. In the year 1856, the Fathers were invited to give a Mission in the old Chapel of the Augustinian Fathers in John's Lane. This Mission was for the Month of Mary, and was so largely attended from all parts of

Dublin, that it had to be prolonged for a week or ten days into the month of June. To this day it goes by the name of the great Mission in John's Lane. At that time amongst the Augustinian Fathers were the Prior, Fr. Martin Crane, who is at this moment the blind Bishop of Sandhurst, Australia, Fathers John and William Walsh, Father Spratt, and Father Pen-
thony. There was also a retired Augustinian Bishop living in the community, the Right Rev. Dr. O'Connor, Bishop of Saldes. The names of these holy men are justly regarded with great affection by the Oblate Fathers as it was through their influence and with their assistance that we obtained our first footing in Ireland, the Isle of Saints.

I am here tempted to relate an anecdote of the venerable Bishop, Dr. O'Connor, as I often heard him repeat it with considerable gusto. The good bishop spent most of his time in the Confessional, and was universally called the *Refugium Peccatorum*. Many years previous to the date of our Mission, when Father O'Connor was the Prior of the Augustinian Convent in Cork, his name was recommended to the Holy See, by a brother Augustinian, the celebrated J. K. L. Dr. John Doyle, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin. Dr. Doyle received the document by which Father O'Connor was appointed a Vicar Apostolic in India under the title of Bishop of Saldes. Well knowing that Dr. O'Connor would move heaven and earth to escape the infliction of this unwelcome dignity, the moment he had despatched the document to Cork, Dr. Doyle hurried away to his friend, the Bishop of Down and Connor at Belfast. Dr. O'Connor reached Carlow, and found