
FORMATIVE INFLUENCES

A nature so finely balanced, endowed with "the sanity of true genius," a physique so attractive as the Archbishop's could only have proceeded from the union of quite harmonious forces—spiritual, mental and physical. This was very true of his parentage. His father, Terence O'Brien, a son of Walter O'Brien, Esquire, of Newross, Ireland, was a young Munster Irishman of good family, high-principled, of stubborn will and a marvellous ability for keeping his own counsel. In early manhood he crossed the Atlantic to Newfoundland and engaged there for a time in business with his cousin, Hon. Laurence O'Brien. Some time after, he visited Prince Edward Island where he met and married Miss Catherine O'Driscoll, an Irish maiden who had not long before accompanied her mother and stepfather to the Island from Cork, Ireland. Some idea of her spirit may be had from her declining to remain in Ireland in assured luxury with her paternal relatives who had objected to this second marriage. She willed instead to stay with her mother, cheerfully accepting with her the uncertainties of her stepfather's slim fortunes in a new country; the young girl's action was prophetic of the woman to be.

Upon his marriage Terence O'Brien seems voluntarily to have relinquished all intention of returning to the Ancient Colony with its excellent opportunities for material advancement; money, indeed, was at no time valued very greatly by him. He took his young bride out from her home in the city,