
EDUCATION AND VOCATION

voice of conscience. The words of denunciation and solemn warning sank deep into the heart of Mrs. Ball, and fearful of incurring the Divine displeasure, she, on her return home, accorded to Frances the permission she had waited and sighed for so long in vain.

Frances had already been chosen by Dr. Murray, the Archbishop of Dublin, as the instrument he considered the most fitting to carry on the work of the Catholic education of girls in his diocese. He felt sure that his spiritual child possessed all the qualities requisite for so noble a task, and to St. Mary's Convent, the hallowed home of her childhood, he applied for her admission as a member of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with the hope of introducing in time the Community to all Ireland. Catholic Ireland, and indeed many other countries, thus owe an immense debt of gratitude to the Bar Convent, which, like the sturdy oak of the forest, has braved the storms of well nigh three centuries, and the whirlwinds of passion and hatred raised with increased violence in tempestuous times, for at the Bar Convent the future foundress of the Irish branch was received as a member of the Community on June 11th, 1814. But not only the teaching orders were benefited by this kindly spirit of religious generosity of the Ladies of the Bar, but the Sisters of Charity also had received their training at York, for Mary Aikenhead had preceded Frances Ball to the Novitiate, and there received the lessons in kindly ministrations of charity which have proved such blessings to the Irish race.

Indeed Dr. Murray had as judiciously selected the