

III

THE WILL OF THE MAN.

"The responsibility of freedom of will is ours: good and evil are before us, constituting the touchstone by which souls are proved."
—O'Brien.

"Once I was tempted to turn back, but I do not like giving up, so I went on, and joined the others on the top." This from a letter written by Archbishop O'Brien at Cairo in 1896, refers to his determined ascent of the Great Pyramid Cheops. He had suffered severely from rheumatism before leaving Canada, and when half-way up the tiresome ascent, he became so tired and his heart beat so rapidly that he felt he must turn back.

"But I do not like giving up; so I went on. . . " the Archbishop wrote, and the stray sentence is rather significant of His Grace's will-power. . . .

In his later life, in the quiet repose of his study at night, Archbishop O'Brien has at rare moments spoken of his strong desire when in Rome to enter a contemplative order, and withdraw entirely from the