

## A WORD TO THE READER.

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At the instance—indeed I might say the urgent request—of many friends of my deceased brother, the following pages are, after many years, given to the public. There is no pretence at book-making in this “Diary of an American Tour,” written by an Irish Missionary Priest in the United States and Canada. The jottings in his journal were evidently the impulsive impressions of the moment; and it is a matter of question with me whether they were ever designed for publication, or only meant as pleasant reminders of interesting circumstances and events.

Yielding, however, to the oft-repeated suggestions of friends, lay and cleric, on both sides of the Atlantic, I commit the Diary to the Press, and to the indulgent consideration of the Irish people the world over — “indulgent consideration,” advisedly. There may be found, here and there, thoughts and opinions savouring of a too free criticism of persons, parties and principles; and perhaps had the writer been spared, and induced to supervise publication, some angularities would have been filed down, and a few personal