

HER CONVERSION ACCOMPLISHED.

After nearly a year of severe trials she consented to take the important step, and she received the conditional baptism from the Rev. Matthew O'Brien, of St. Peter's Church, in that city ; and on the Feast of the Annunciation, the 25th of March, 1805, she received for the first time the Holy Communion. After this change her position became truly painful. Her husband's death left her in straitened circumstances and with the maintenance of five children. Her friends became estranged on account of her conversion, not reflecting that the courage she manifested in embracing a religion, the practice of which imposed additional sacrifices entitled her to their increased esteem and adoration. But in losing old friends she gained one who became her counsellor and guide, and who was instrumental in aiding her in the execution of her subsequent great design, viz., the foundation of a Sisterhood of Charity in the United States. In 1806 the Rev. Mr Dubourg, then President of St. Mary's Academy, Baltimore, who was afterwards Archbishop of Besançon, in France, visited New-York. Celebrating Mass one morning in St. Peter's church, he noticed the uncommonly fervent and pious department of a lady who approached to receive the Communion. The same day he was introduced to Mrs Seton, and having heard the story of her conversion, became very much interested in her welfare. Acting on his advice, she removed to Baltimore with her daughters with the intention of opening an academy for young ladies. Her fame had preceded her, and her acquaintance was universally sought. « But, » says her biographer, « she visited only the poor, the sick and the afflicted. » She was soon joined by her sister-in-law. Cecelia Seton, who