

*ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MISSION OF INCHICORE.**(Continued.)*

Counting up the hours that were spent in the building of the wooden chapel at Inchicore, we find that they amounted to ten hours and a half. No payment of any kind was made for labour, and the only expense was to cover the cost of wood and nails.

The size of the chapel was seventy-five feet in length, by twenty-eight feet in width. Within twelve months from the date of the foundation-stone of the wooden building being laid, the chapel was found to be too small for the congregation that assembled within its walls, and it had to be lengthened to one hundred and twenty feet. I have already mentioned that the owner of the house purchased by Father Cooke for the future residence of the Community had told him that he could not vacate it for several months.

Father Cooke returned to England as soon as he was convalescent, leaving me in sole charge of the new Mission. I went to live, therefore, with one of the most venerable and holy women I ever met, Mrs. Lynch, the mother of the late Archbishop Lynch of Toronto. I was in the habit of remaining near the chapel all day long, and superintending the additions and decorations which had to be carried out. After dismissing, with many thanks, the good men who had laboured for the completion of the frame of the chapel, I secured the aid of a few amongst them, and we remained there all night preparing for the High Mass which I had to sing there on Sunday morning, the Feast of S.S. Peter and Paul, at eight o'clock. With the help of evergreens and flowers the chapel presented a very devotional appearance. I had hired a harmonium in Dublin. The good Augustinian Fathers lent me a chalice, vestments, and all that was necessary, and the choir of their church came to sing the Mass. There were no seats nor benches, but the congregation was so large that more than half of them had to kneel on the grass outside: it made but little difference, as those who succeeded in obtaining admission within the wooden walls were also kneeling on the

grass which was still growing there. The contractor for keeping the Barracks in repair had kindly lent me all the windows that were required. I regret to say that these windows have never been returned to Her Majesty since then. Every week that passed by, the chapel was being adorned and finished. Flooring was laid down. The walls inside and out were painted, and made weather proof. A sanctuary was arranged, and a beautiful High Altar was placed within it. A niche over the altar contained a lovely statue of that Immaculate Mother to whom the Mission and church were dedicated. There were two small side altars, one for the Blessed Virgin and the other for St. Joseph, and finally a pulpit was erected. The people that continued to assemble there were comfortably seated, and Confessionals were made for those who came in great numbers from all parts of Dublin and even from country districts.

One night when I was about to leave for my lodgings, the proprietor of the house announced to me that he was unwilling to put me to any further inconvenience, that he had cleared out his belongings, that the house was empty, and that I might remain there that night if I wished to do so. He agreed to leave a large watch-dog to take care of me and of the empty house, as well as to keep away the rats, with which the place was swarming, from the proximity of the canal. Having by this time obtained many valuable gifts in the shape of altar furniture, I was afraid to leave the place unprotected, so I determined to take possession of the empty house. I wandered from room to room, but there was no chair, nor even an old box on which I could sit down. I had dismissed the good men who had remained with me until ten o'clock, and locked the gate. In a short time one of them returned and knocked at the gate. When I admitted him he pretended that he had left something in the house. After visiting every room and finding that there was nothing but emptiness, he returned to his companions who were awaiting him in the