

FOREWORD.

It is not the purpose of this book to chronicle in any great measure the works of Archbishop O'Brien— with which indeed the people of Canada are already familiar; it aims rather to portray the inner life of the man, out of which these works proceeded. Forceful and dominant as churchman and publicist, Archbishop O'Brien was ordinarily so reticent that after attempting an analysis of his friend, Archbishop Howley sums up his personality as unique; somewhat difficult to understand and appreciate, and easily misunderstood.

In many letters of regret and sympathy, written upon the Archbishop's death, it was a coincidence that the writers should express in various ways the sentiment penned by Governor Jones a few days before his own death—"I feel indeed as if I had lost an old friend for whom I had a great admiration and respect." Yet of those who wrote—Catholics and Protestants in two continents—the majority implied or said directly that theirs had not been even an intimate acquaintance with the Archbishop.

They had closely followed his works; they had admired him, loved him perhaps; they had frequently