

After Vespers, Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament was given by the Bishop.

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE.

"Sunt hic etiam sua premia laudi."

The College was re-opened, after the Christmas Holydays, on Wednesday last. On that day, Thursday, and yesterday, an Examination of the various classes was held by the Bishop and Clergy. We believe that premiums will be distributed on Monday next to such of the students as distinguished themselves at this Examination.

LAITY'S DIRECTORY FOR 1846.

A new Directory for the present year, for the use of the Laity in the Diocese of Halifax, has been just published at the office of the Cross. In addition to the Calendar of Festivals and Saints' Days for 1846, it contains some very useful and practical instructions on the Sacraments, &c., in the English language. This Directory is an indispensable companion to the Roman Missal, and we hope no Catholic family in the Diocese will be without a copy of the Diocesan Calendar. We may venture to promise that next year this publication will be considerably improved and enlarged.

LITERATURE.

THE WOODEN CROSS.

A RELIGIOUS TALE.

Chapter 2.

[Continued.]

The lady and Sophy had a very pleasant journey. They arrived at nightfall at the country-house, made a light supper, and departed, in order to take some repose. Sophy was lodged in a nice little room, which, besides a good bed, contained some elegant furniture, such as she had never seen in her poor parents' miserable abode. She soon fell asleep, and spent a delicious night. The crowing of the cock awoke her at early dawn. She got up without making any noise, dressed herself, said her prayers, and went to the window. What a beautiful sight was presented to her view! The sun was rising in all his splendour, and was reviving all nature—the spring was displaying all its luxuriant beauty. In the town poor Sophy lodged in a narrow and dirty street, to which the rays of the sun had never penetrated. Here, all seemed gay and smiling. At her feet she perceived a superb garden, filled with flow-

ers and fruit-trees; farther on, magnificent allies wound their devious way through the green tapestry, and terminated in arbours, around which were trailing the honeysuckle, and verdant ivy. Lilies, and a thousand other flowers embalmed the air with their sweet perfume. On the opposite side the eye discovered many beautiful villages, whose steeples seemed to lose themselves in the clouds, corn-fields, cheerful meadows, vine-clad hills and magnificent forests, gave this country a really enchanting aspect. This assemblage of such various beauties was more than sufficient to make a deep impression on poor Sophy's mind. Every thing was new to her, and she felt indescribable joy. She was so affected by the sight of this variety of magnificent objects, that she could do nothing but admire them more and more.

She was lost in the reflections suggested by the contrast of her present situation with her sad condition a few days before, when the door of her chamber gently opened, and she saw Madam de Linden enter. This noble lady fancied she would find her still in bed, and was much surprised to see her already on foot. "Well, Sophy," said she with great kindness "how have you passed the night in your new lodging?"

"Ah! Ma'am, it is the first time these three months that I have had a sound sleep: I seem to be in a new world. What gratitude do I not owe you, Ma'am, for having brought me here! I will from this moment strive to deserve your goodness more and more."

"Come with me, I am going to give you your breakfast. For the future, when you get up, you will go down to the kitchen to apply to the work that shall be marked out for you."

Sophy instantly obeyed, and from that moment she made it her business to study the will of her mistress, and even to anticipate her desires. She endeavoured to read her thoughts, to surprise her by a thousand little acts of kindness, and to perceive in her countenance what would be agreeable to her. Her whole conduct breathed nothing but obedience, gentleness, modesty, and (what is the necessary companion of virtuous conduct) candour. Her piety was exemplary, and animated all her actions. A fortnight had hardly elapsed, when she was perfectly acquainted with the service of the house, and made herself a favourite with every one.

Madam de Linden, who narrowly watched her entire conduct, grew fonder of her every day, and laboured to cultivate her mind and dispositions. In the neighbourhood of her mansion this estimable lady had founded a school for the children of the village. Sophy, who already knew how to read very well, was sent there to perfect herself in arithmetic and writing. She distinguished her-