

nently honourable to God, and meritorious for yourselves, and which by possibility may yet be of relief and comfort to him, if he be still before the bar of Divine Justice; while under any circumstances it will be always a grateful tribute of respect to his long enduring memory.

I should be glad, if it were possible, to compress within the limits of a Funeral Oration, not a complete Biography, but such a comprehensive and accurate sketch as would do bare justice to the memory of the departed. But with the scanty materials on hand, and the little time at my disposal amid the many cares of my office, I have but too much reason to fear that I can neither be just to him, nor give you or the public that amount of information which you have a right to expect. Without any promise, therefore, I must content myself by briefly referring to the marked epochs and the leading events of his life, which, through the Catholic Press of Ireland and the United States, are already more or less before the public.

My dear friend and father, as you are aware, was born in the City of Waterford, in Ireland, in the month of November, 1804. His life, as known to us, began in school. In his early progress in knowledge, in the unprecedented success that marked his first years, in the many dawning virtues for which he was so soon distinguished, we have evidences of the spiritualised nature and heavenly dispositions with which God blessed him, and of the parental care expended in the formation of his character and the training up of his first years. I have more than once heard from his companions in those days that before the age of ten his great facility in learning, his retention of memory and his entire devotion to study were such as were never surpassed in the Catholic College of his native City. At that early period he won for himself a position which, instead of losing, he ever afterwards improved, until the last day of his scholastic curriculum. Year after year, every successive examination gave new proof of the wonderful progress he was making, and of the ever widening distance between him and his competitors. At the early age of fifteen, his strong good sense and amiability of temper, coupled with undoubted intellectual merit, so raised him up among his class-mates that he was regarded as an oracle and a refuge in every difficulty, rather than in the light of a mere companion. That