

city in 1774. In early girlhood she displayed a superior intellect, a strong mind and a correct judgment, with a great inclination to piety. She delighted in reading the Scriptures and religious works, and wore on her person a small crucifix, wondering, as she afterwards expressed it, that Protestants as well as Catholics should not be desirous of possessing the emblem of salvation. She received Confirmation and the Lord's Supper in the Episcopal Church, and in her twentieth year she married a New-York merchant, Mr William Seton. They traveled in Italy, where shortly afterwards at Pisa Mr Seton died, in 1803. While waiting in Leghorn for the vessel which was to convey her to America, she allowed herself to be persuaded by a friend, who wished to divert her mind from its melancholy musings, to enter a Catholic church one Sunday during the celebration of High Mass. It was near the moment of the Consecration when she entered. Struck by the grandeur and solemnity of the ceremony and the fervor and humility of the prostrate multitude, she fell upon her knees before the altar, and when the sacred Host was elevated for the adoration, not one in that assembly felt with a heart more replete with awe and fervor than Mrs Seton. Long after the Mass was over she remained, fervently praying to the Father of Light to dispel the doubts which agitated her, and show her the right path. For some time her mind was in a continual state of agitation. She left Italy, determined to become a Catholic. But on her return to New-York she was assailed by powerful family influence, and other formidable difficulties.