

days, he arrived there in 1814, he found his diocese so poor, and the want of missionaries so urgent that he felt obliged to cast aside all episcopal formality and act the part of a simple priest. Notwithstanding this poverty and hardships, however, the Catholic life of New York during his episcopate, was both vigorous and progressive. One year after the prelate's arrival, the city's first cathedral was dedicated to St. Patrick, and, between 1816 and 1819, ten thousand additional Irish Catholics landed in the bravely struggling diocese. About this time many conversions of non-Catholics are recorded, another new church was erected, and the site of the present magnificent cathedral was acquired. At Bishop Connolly's death, in 1826, the Catholic population had increased to 35,000. The next Bishop of New York, Right Rev. John Dubois, was distinguished for his energy, courage and untiring labors. During his episcopate, (1826-1843), the onward march of Catholicism in his diocese was a veritable triumph. The year of Bishop Dubois' death saw placed upon the episcopal throne of New York, one of the greatest champions that Catholicity on this continent has ever had, the renowned and energetic John Hughes. This prelate's early-life experiences amongst the turbulent Orangemen of his native Ulster, had well fitted him for surmounting every obstacle placed in the way of Catholicity in the rapidly growing city of New York. No man in America did more to win respect, esteem and honor for the Catholic cause than did the undaunted John Hughes. He found the New York church a vigorous, promising, and eager child, 'tis true, but, at his death, he left it a fearless grown-up American citizen, jealous of its rights and privileges,

and conscious of its power as an important factor in the grand Republic. The Sovereign Pontiff recognized the great man's natural goodness and administrative abilities, and consequently, in 1850, made his See a metropolitan, and sent him the sacred pallium. To Archbishop Hughes belongs the honor of having laid the foundations of that magnificent cathedral which is now the most beautiful monument of Catholicity in America. At his death, in 1864, there were no less than thirty Catholic Churches in New York, a surprising number, if we consider that, about eighty years previously, a carpenter shop was the only edifice of Catholic worship. The strongly aggressive Irish prelate found a worthy, though mild successor in the person of Archbishop McCloskey. A native of the Republic, and an ardent admirer of its greatness, this beloved churchman, America's first Cardinal, was well posted as to the existing requirements of the American Church. With a steady, mild hand he soon brought to a polished and ornamented perfection, the stout rough edifice of Catholicity erected by his predecessor. During his administration the number of Catholics in the diocese had, in 1876, reached 600,000, the number of churches rapidly increased, and many a new educational and charitable institution was added to the honor roll of New York's well known generosity.

By his death, in 1855, Cardinal McCloskey left a vacancy that was hard to fill, still, in the present illustrious Archbishop, he sees from heaven a noble successor. Under Dr. Corri-gan's gentle, yet firm and unerring touch Catholicity in New York has become racy of the soil; it has assumed the splendor, the dazzling sheen of burnished gold thrice tried.