

## DEDICATION.

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TO JOHN O'DONOHUE ESQ., BARRISTER, &C., &C.

*President of Catholic League, Toronto.*

MY DEAR SIR:—Permit me to usher this little stranger into life under the sanction of your name; stand sponsor for its veracity that it may gain admission to Irish hearths and access to Irish hearts. Let the lowly wayfarer be stamped with your approbation, and in its wanderings it cannot fail to be greeted with many a “*cead mille failte* ;” adopt the tender nursling that the defects of the *protégé* may be overlooked in the magnanimity of the patron. Though not an offspring of, it can claim near kindred to, the “Catholic League.” For it has been stimulated into being by the warmth and fervour of that thrice-blessed organization, whose wise teachings and patriotic efforts have vivified with new life and renewed hope many a drooping spirit.

The league, as sought to be represented by the enemies of Irish Catholics, is not a political organization. Its aim, as I interpret it from its constitution, is to solidify, to consolidate and concentrate into a combined whole, the great body of our people now scattered and divided, floating on an ocean of doubt and uncertainty, tossed about without guide or rudder by every wind of political doctrine. Its mission is to bring order out of chaos, to teach, to train, to instruct, to educate its members in the fundamental principles of self-government. When that noble and philanthropic object is accomplished, its task will be fulfilled, and it will, like its Irish congener, pass from life to immortality. Then, individuals, under the influence of natura! laws, directed by reason, will gravitate to congenial parties. Then shall no longer be witnessed the demoralizing spectacle of the union of *likes* and *dislikes*, the unholy alliance of antagonistic elements! This is as it should be, for no friend of his country can desire the perpetuation of *politico-religious* societies. Nothing can palliate, much less justify, such