

## LIFE AND CATHOLIC JOURNALISM

—OF THE LATE—

### JAMES A. McMASTER,

EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK FREEMAN'S JOURNAL AND CATHOLIC REGISTER.

EDITED BY VERY REV. MARK S. GROSS.

#### CHAPTER IX.—CONTINUED.



It was the custom with his children always to kiss him upon first meeting him in the morning, and again when he was about to leave home for his office, when they all assembled to bid him good-bye. It was their aim to be the first to welcome him on his arrival home. He rarely failed to bring them something every evening, flowers, fruit or candy. In May he always brought flowers for Our Blessed Lady's altar, and in June for the Sacred Heart. Every night before retiring they each in turn got his blessing, kissing his hand, and saying: *Laudetur Jesus et Maria*, to which he responded. He then would question them as to whether they had said their beads and made some pious reading. He always inculcated saying the beads early in the morning, at least one decade. It was his own practice, and he said that when he failed in it everything went wrong with him. He acknowledged to one of his daughters that he had to be very faithful to all his little devotions, and to his daily visit to the Blessed Sacrament, or else his heart got the better of him—his natural affections being so strong. He did all in his power to win the confidence of his children, by his tender interest in all that concerned them. He would seat them on his knee and talk to them late into the hours of the night, and he would speak so beautifully about God and Heaven, and of the vanity and nothingness of the things of this world. He used to take special pleasure in reading

to one of his daughters the hymn "Coelestis urbs Jerusalem," commenting upon it, and particularly upon the verse "Scalpro salubris ictibus," etc. He endeavored to impress one of his daughters with the thought that it would be so beautiful to die young, and at one time when she was in very delicate health, he taught her how to prepare herself for death in her daily life and actions. She had an intense fear of death which he could never understand, and he often spoke to her of the Infinite Mercy of God, commented upon the words of the Psalmist: *Et copiosa aqua cum redemptione*. From the time his children made their First Communion, he insisted upon their approaching the Sacraments every week. After receiving Communion, they had to remain in Church for at least twenty minutes, in order to make their thanksgiving. At Mass and after Communion he rarely used a prayer-book. After Communion he would pray with his eyes closed, and oftentimes the tears streaming down his face. His daily prayer was that they all might meet in Heaven, "not one missing." He often spoke to them of their mother, her virtues, etc., doing all he could to keep her memory green. He always continued to practice a little devotion she had taught him, which was to say the *Subve Regina* when in the train or conveyance of any kind, before it started. His first question to his children on such occasion was: "Have you said your *Subve*?"

Once when traveling with his children, as they had a private compartment in the train, he proposed saying the beads together. While thus engaged—he praying with all his heart—the boy came around with *Harper's Magazine*, etc. This was too much for him, and addressing the lad he told him: "Take your dirty, filthy