
EDUCATION AND VOCATION

inspired by the tenets of our Holy Faith. To that venerable Institution in 1803 came a little child in her tenth year, from her dearly loved home in Dublin, to be trained in the refined Christian manner, which was characteristic of that famed Convent even in those far off days. For in those penal times there was no provision made for the education of Catholic girls of the upper and middle classes in Ireland, and to Mr. and Mrs. Ball the Bar Convent was well and favourably known, owing to the fact that their elder daughters had been educated there, with results entirely satisfactory to these good parents who sacrificed the promptings of parental affection to the claims of religious duty.

So, one bright fair morning, little Frances Ball waved adieu to her Celtic home and boarded the packet in Dublin Bay that was to convey her to the land so loved by Mary Ward, and to the Institute that resulted primarily from Mary's heroic struggles and labours. But she was not as a stranger in a strange land, for on arriving at her destination the first to greet her, after the Religious of the Institute, was her sister, Anna Maria, who was on the point of leaving school, and who suggested a walk in the garden after luncheon where the conversation that meant so much to an impressionable child drifted to another world and the elder sister addressed little Frances in the memorable words, "Seek ye, therefore the Kingdom of God and His justice, and all other things shall be added unto you." Solemn words to be addressed to a mere child, but who knows how far reaching may have been the effect? Longfellow says,