
INTRODUCTION

obedience to the prelate's wishes, Frances Ball, a distinguished member of the Community, accompanied by three other Sisters, sailed for Ireland and founded Loretto Abbey, near Dublin. It was named after the historic shrine of Loretto, Italy, and from this Abbey the title has, by common consent, become identified with the Institute in English speaking countries, and its members are now known, wherever the English language is spoken, as "Loretto Nuns."

Answering an invitation from the Bishop of Toronto, Rt. Rev. Dr. Power, Rev. Mother Ignatia Hutchinson, accompanied by three Sisters and a young novice, sailed from Ireland, and on September 16th, 1847, landed at Toronto. The saintly superior, worn out by the vicissitudes and severity of a rigorous climate and by trying conditions, died early in March, 1851. She was succeeded in office by Rev. M. Teresa Dease, whose life and letters, written and edited by a Sister of Loretto Abbey, Toronto, are now, for the first time, given publicity.

An impulse to record an appreciation of a refined and saintly personality and to perpetuate her beloved memory led to the compilation of this work. Those of us now living, who knew Mother Teresa, will rejoice that her letters are placed in our hands, for they will assist us in interpreting her beautiful character with more accuracy and at close range. To readers of this volume who were not privileged to know her, but only to have heard of her, these letters of a most spiritual and devout religieuse will be a spiritual tonic.