
REV. MOTHER TERESA DEASE

admitted that in the matter of birth, this favoured child was singularly fortunate, for according to Dr. Hutch, "her grandsires' grandsires could be traced in long succession through the most distinguished families in the counties of Westmeath, Longford, and Cavan. Descended on the maternal side from Christopher, fourteenth Baron Delvin, there flowed through her veins the blood of the illustrious houses of Nugent, O'Reilly and Dease, and she was the near kinswoman of Count Nugent, whose ancestors rose to high positions in the Austrian Empire, whither they were forced to flee, in order to preserve their faith, during the dark and dreary days of persecution in Ireland. The fame of Nugent's Horse was won on many a hard fought field in Flanders, during the wars of Marlborough, and bravest where all were brave, the sword of John Nugent of Ballinacor flashed victory on that bloody day, when the serried ranks of England's choicest veterans reeled before the sabre blows of the Irish Catholic exiles, on the slopes of Fontenoy."

A great deal was claimed for heredity in those days, and doubtless the appointment of Oliver Dease to the Royal British Navy—one of the first Catholics to enjoy the privilege, was a recognition of the distinguished valour of his family. The happy father of the five interesting, beautiful children, must have looked forward to many years of bliss in the home circle, but the account of his stewardship was soon to be rendered. No matter what may be the claims of affection, the summons of the King must be heeded, and preparation for the Heavenly Court brooks no delay once the fiat has gone forth. Some writer has