

various schools of the city and on other weighty matters relating to the temporal and spiritual administrations of the city. Every detail is gone into and only when he has heard all the circumstances from the lips of his gifted and devoted Vicar General will the Pope be at rest.

But for the Cardinal Vicar himself there is no rest. His active mind is engrossed with a thousand projects for the advancement of religion and education in the Papal city, and when not engaged in the duties of his sacred ministry he is found either amongst his books or

in the little chapel of the Vicariato, where prostrate before the Blessed Sacrament he finds that peace of soul which the Master in the Tabernacle bestows on the faithful servant of his Vicar on earth.

If the mantle of the Papacy should drop from the shoulders of the present great Pontiff, it could fall on no worthier successor than him who has for well nigh thirty years borne the brunt of the battle in the cause of religion and God, and who while a true son of the great Italian race has ever proved a faithful servant of the Vicar of Christ.

MAURICE FRANCIS EGAN.

By Thomas O'Hagan, M.A., Ph.D.

A name to conjure with in the Catholic literature of America is that of Maurice Francis Egan, poet, novelist and essayist. For more than twenty years Mr. Egan has with the devotion of a true knight consecrated his pen to the up-building of a native Catholic literature, contributing to it an abundance of sound criticism, novels of a truly Catholic tone and fibre, and poems set to the divine music of truth, beauty and love.

Maurice Francis Egan is in the truest sense of the word an artist—conscientious and sincere. He has, I should judge, taken full account of his own powers, for he knows, wisely, his capabilities and limitations. In the order of his gifts as a writer I would consider the artistic as highest, and add to this a sense of moral proportion which he exhibits in everything he develops, from the plot in a novel to the thought-germ in a sonnet.

His literary powers have been trained and disciplined so that each of his faculties is ready to be pressed into service whenever he wishes to embody in creation one of his cherished ideals.

Mr. Egan has essayed many things in literature, and it is but just to say that he has failed in none. His whole life work has been an admirable literary training, his journalistic experience yielding his pen a grace and freedom of touch which are frequently wanting in the professional litterateur, while his duties as Professor of English literature in one of the foremost universities of America entailed an accuracy and thoroughness in literary study and criticism entirely unknown to the stereotyped and perfunctory critic who day by day disposes of books in the literary columns of many of our most respectable journals as if your Tennysons, your Brownings, your