

LIFE AND LETTERS

—OF THE LATE—

JAMES A. McMASTER,

EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK FREEMAN'S JOURNAL AND CATHOLIC REGISTER.
BY THE LATE VERY REV. MARK S. GROSS.

CHAPTER XV.--(CONTINUED.)

EXPRESSIONS OF GRIEF AND SYMPATHY—THE LOSS OF A NOBLE MAN DEEPLY
FELT—NO PRAISE TOO HIGH FOR HIM.



AFTER the death of McMaster had become known, profound expressions of grief and sorrow were heard on every side, and from all classes, for the loss which American Catholics had sustained in the death of Mr. James A. McMaster. In his death the Church has lost one of her most gifted and devoted sons, and the community one of its best citizens. The Rev. Father Prendergast, S. J., said in substance :

"The nobility of his character, the sterling qualities of heart, and his long and faithful services to religion in the field of Catholic journalism, have endeared his memory to those who shared with him the grand privilege of Faith.

Mr. McMaster belonged to the generation that is rapidly passing away, a generation that witnessed some of the most remarkable events that history records—great changes in the political and social condition of men, and of everything that contributes to the welfare and happiness of the human race. He bore a conspicuous part in firmly establishing the Church upon the soil of his native land, and devoted himself exclusively to her sacred cause."

Father Edwards, of Fourteenth street, said : "I can scarcely find words to express the deep sense of loss I feel. I consider the death of Mr. McMaster a great public loss. It is certainly a grievous loss to me and to every soul in this parish, where for many years his was a familiar figure. He attended Mass daily in the church, and was not only most devout and exemplary in observing the common duties which all faithful Catholics practice, but he never neglected an opportunity to perform those minor devotions, which he regarded with great favor. He was most zealous and earnest in all works of piety, and his presence was always a source of consolation and edification to those around him. He took the greatest possible interest in the welfare of the Church, and never wearied of talking on the subject. I consider that he was the best champion of the Church in this country. He stood up and defended her against the assaults of prejudice and ignorance, at a time, too, when it required the most fervent devotion to Faith and an equally strong indifference to public opinion to do so. He never wavered, but was always ready to sacrifice everything to the cause of his religion. He was a fine, ripe scholar, and a writer of rare force and clearness."

Father Lynch, of the Transfiguration,