

us that the memory of this gallant Christian gentleman has been more than once cruelly assailed. He had not assumed to instruct American Catholics in the history of their Church, and did not write for them, or seek to press his work on their notice. He wrote honestly, and in good faith, after greater research than any of our own writers had given to the subject. That his work, abruptly closed by death, has done service, is evident from the constant references to it by all who have since written on the history of the Church in this republic, although it treated only of a very limited part of the subject.

No other general work has appeared on the history of the Catholic Church in the United States, but local histories and biographies have gathered and preserved much to interest and edify. These works bear especially on New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Kentucky, Oregon, and California, the members of the Hierarchy in general, and especially Lives of Archbishop Carroll, Archbishops Hughes, Spalding, Bishops Cheverus, Flaget, England, Neumann, Prince Galitzin, Father Jognes, Rev. Mr. Nerinecx, Mother Seton, etc. As a rule they treat of a period more recent than that embraced in this volume.

In preparing the work I have used a collection of printed books and unpublished manuscripts, made patiently and laboriously by many years of search and enquiry; and embracing much gathered by my deceased friends, Buckingham Smith, Esq., Col. B. U. Campbell, Rev. Charles I. White, D.D., Rev. J. A. Ferland, and by Father Felix Martin, S.J. I have been aided in an especial manner by access to the archives of the diocese of Baltimore, afforded me by His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons; to those of the diocese and Seminary of Quebec by His Eminence Cardinal Taschereau, who has enabled me also to profit by his own researches; to those of the Maryland and New York Province of the Soci-