

PREFACE.

In presenting this "Life and Labors of Rt. Rev. Frederic Baraga" to the public, we hope that we are doing a service to religion, to the Church in the United States, and to our fellow-citizens in general. The subject of our narrative was a man of uncommon ability, learning, and piety. He distinguished himself as author of many works, written for his countrymen, for his Indian converts, and for linguistic scholars. As Indian missionary he was most wonderfully successful, having converted more Ottawas and Chippewas than any other priest the writer knows of. His converts were of the genuine kind, deeply religious, fervent, and well-behaved. If in the course of time some of them, or of their children, degenerated from their pristine fervor, it was not his fault, but the natural outcome of circumstances and environments, over which he could exercise no control, and which were detrimental to Indian moral advancement.

Bishop Baraga has won the lasting love and respect of the people of the Northwest, among whom he labored so long self-sacrificingly. To perpetuate his memory unto future generations the remembrance of his life of labor, prayer, and suffering, is the object of this work. We are well aware of its many imperfections, but we have endeavored to give the reader a perfectly reliable account of Bishop Baraga's life and labors. We have generally let him tell his own story, as there is a peculiar charm in reading the accounts he gives us of his doings and happenings. Moreover, they give us an insight into the motives and feelings that actuated him in all he did and suffered