

CHAPTER I

REV. MOTHER TERESA'S BIRTH, CHILDHOOD, FIRST COMMUNION

AS appears from the Baptismal Register of the United Parishes of St. Mary, St. Thomas, and St. George, kept in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Marlborough Street, Dublin, Ellen Dease, daughter of Oliver and Ann Dease, was baptized according to the rite of the Catholic Church, on the 7th day of May, A.D. 1820, having had for Sponsors, William Whelan and Mary Nugent. The babe was three days old, when she received the cleansing waters of Baptism on her brow, and it was a happy coincidence, that she who was to carry the banner of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary into the Western Continent, made her primal entry into the Church on the day when the First Vespers of the great miraculous Protector of that Institute, Blessed Michael the Archangel, are chanted. Hence it is not surprising that the watchword of her whole life was, "Who is like unto God?"

Five children were born to Oliver and Ann Dease, two sons and three daughters, of whom Ellen was the eldest, and we may well imagine the joy which the advent of this child of benediction brought to her truly Christian parents. Undue importance is sometimes attached to illustrious lineage, yet in the admission of truth, there can be no error, and it must be