

Philip Laracy, of Boston, concerning Patrick Phelan, says:—"I am particularly anxious for his welfare—I have known him in childhood: in his childhood he gave presages of his subsequent virtue and merit. I had an opportunity of witnessing the conduct of his boyhood: that conduct was exemplary. Providence had allotted that I have been his Parish Priest these four years, and in that capacity I pledge my public character that no one ever gave a Parish Priest more gratifying satisfaction. I never met a young man of better conduct."

To return to the subject of his education, we learn that the Parish Priest, the Rev. Father Hosey, had established a Latin school, and, as he was interested in Patrick's success, he offered him his choice of commencing a course of classics or accepting a situation in the Bank of Dublin; but Patrick, whose sole intent was to prepare his studies so as to be able to embrace, at some future day, the ecclesiastical state, preferred to choose the former. He then commenced the study of Latin, under the direction of Father Hosey, but in consequence of this reverend gentleman being shortly afterwards removed from the Parish, the school broke up. He was then sent to Freshford, where there was a Latin school established by the Parish Priest, the Rev. Father Grady. Here he remained for three years, and Almighty God blessed his labors with such success and enabled him to make such proficiency, that he himself became an assistant teacher, as we learn from one of the certificates of character which was furnished him, when there was question of his leaving Ireland. As this document has reference to his life and conduct at Freshford, it will be proper to insert it here. We learn, consequently, according to the attestation, made the first of May, 1821, by a number of priests and a respectable body of laity, that "Patrick Phelan resided for some years in the Town of Freshford, and assisted there in teaching the classics, at a numerous and respectable school—that his conduct there had been every way laudable and correct, his attention to those under his care assiduous and unremitted, and his exemplary moral demeanor not only unexceptionable but highly edifying."

About this time he was bereaved of his good father, and, as we should naturally suppose, this loss would have weighed heavily on the mind of Patrick, were it not that a firm faith sustained him in his affliction. Knowing as he did the holy intentions of that fond parent in his regard—how he sought to encourage and advance him in his studies, and conscious that his last prayer was breathed for his son's welfare, Patrick could not but experience the greatest sorrow; moreover, that at that moment, the loss might have appeared to him as a means of frustrating his pious designs, or at least of rendering the prosecution of his studies much more difficult. However, Providence watched over him, and paved the way for him to continue his course of classics. The College of Castlemarket or Lowhillmore, Ballynashill, in the Queen's County, had been in the course of erection, and was just completed at the time; so that his mother, who always see-