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THE CATHOLIC FAMILY.

ITS INFLUENCE IN FORMING A GREAT MAN—THE CASE OF COLUMBUS AS AN ILLUSTRATION.

From the Messenger of the Sacred Heart.

Even in the case of self-made men—as they are styled—early education and the surroundings of childhood exert a life-long influence. They imprint on the character certain indelible marks, which later contact with the world can never entirely efface. A man may rise superior to the associations of boyhood, or he may sink down to a level far beneath them. Yet there will be found in him, in nine cases out of ten, certain qualities which are to a great extent the sources of his failure or his success and whose origin may easily be traced back to the family-circle or the schoolroom.

Careful training is necessary in every station of life ; whereas wealth, a fashionable circle of acquaintances, a thorough education in merely secular branches, in a word, all the most favorable opportunities can never supply the void which has been left by neglecting to form the character of the child to habits of virtue