

woman. "I have the old blood in me," she writes, "although I was educated and lived in England many years." At the age of sixteen she commenced to pen articles for the press. Being of an exceedingly studious nature, and gifted with a refined taste, she took a delight in tracing on paper the thoughts she entertained on various subjects. These essays, the germs of a young imagination, were but the forerunners of the many works, more mature and profound, which in latter years have made the Convent of Kenmare synonymous with being the home and habitation of Irish literature. Miss Cusack was always of a deeply religious turn of mind; from her childhood she possessed an innate desire to do works of charity, and help the needy; and prompted by a wish to devote her life to a mission of such a nature, in an untrammelled position, she entered a community of sisters of her own religion—the Protestant one—where she entered on her career of charity. Here, however, she did not find herself altogether at home: some idea induced her to believe that she was not perhaps in the right place; this idea afterwards grew into a conviction, and ere long we see her bidding adieu to the community in question, and embracing the Catholic faith. It appears that as long as she remained a member of the English Church, she enjoyed some valuable private property of her own; but of the greater portion of this she was deprived, on account of her change of religious persuasion. However, no motive of a worldly nature should weigh aught in the balance where the peace of one's soul is weighed and considered; and far from Miss Cusack's mind was such a motive, when she sacrificed to a sense of duty her own private advantages. Her entry into the Catholic Church was quickly followed by her novitiate and