

PREFACE.

THE volume here offered to the patrons of the work embraces the History of the Catholic Church in the United States, in the original diocese of Baltimore and in that of Louisiana and the Floridas, carrying the narrative from 1763 to 1815. In the growth of Catholicity during that period the Most Reverend John Carroll, Prefect-Apostolic of the United States, Bishop of Baltimore, and first Archbishop of that See, stands as a noble and central figure for nearly thirty years of that half century the controlling and guiding mind in the affairs of the Church. Only during the last decade of colonial days was he absent from his native land: then his priestly labors began; he witnessed the struggle for national existence, full of patriotic sympathy and giving his country's cause all the support compatible with his sacred calling.

The efforts of Bishop Challoner at an early date to be relieved of his responsibility for the transatlantic portion of his flock, and to obtain the appointment of a Vicar-Apostolic: the difficulties that arose, and the subsequent project of extending the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Quebec to Pennsylvania and Maryland when the conquest of Canada had brought all Northern America under the British sway, have never yet been made known. Researches in the archives in England, Canada, and Rome, for which I am