

**ESSAYS
MISCELLANEOUS**

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Essays miscellaneous by Brother Azarias & Brother Justin

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ESSAYS
MISCELLANEOUS

BY
BROTHER AZARIAS (FRANCIS PATRICK
MULLANEY)
Of the Brothers of the Christian Schools



WITH PREFACE BY
BROTHER JUSTIN

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PREFACE

TO write the preface to a work of miscellaneous character, to give the reader an idea of its contents, it is necessary not only to know the author intimately, but to be also familiar with his standpoint of action.

Brother Azarias was of good, pure, Irish religious stock. The family might almost be said to be sacerdotal. Love for the altar and reverence for the convent were among its most cherished heirlooms, and the happy effects of these sacred traditions were not without their influence on the character of the children.

Brother Azarias was highly gifted intellectually. It could not be said of him that he had buried his talent, for he was an industrious and methodical student up to the day of his happy death.

He entered the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools about the age of fifteen. He was a good, pious, earnest novice, and as the first duty of the novice is to study carefully the rules of the society of which he is about to become a member, he was scrupulously faithful to this as to the other duties of his chosen religious calling. The leading rule, "The Brothers shall look at all

things from the standpoint of faith, and through a spirit of faith they shall adore the orders and the will of God in all things," took root in his young heart and became the guiding principle of his religious life. The deep religious feeling which was inbred in the child grew with his years and was intensified by his meditations and developed by his religious profession. His ideals were high, his inspiration was from above, his aim was God, and his ambition the good of his fellowman. These traits the attentive reader of his works will recognize with greater force in proportion as he studies them more carefully.

"How," asked an eminent prelate, "does Brother Azarias come by his varied and profound knowledge?"

Brother Azarias was gifted with an extraordinary memory, a critical and correct taste and a sound judgment. He was a careful and judicious reader, and as he read he kept his pencil and notebook ever at hand. He read distinguished foreign authors in their own languages, and was thus enabled not only to appreciate them better, but to assimilate some of their excellencies. When he met with a passage that appeared to him beautiful he examined it critically, and if it did not conform to his ideals he at once rejected it. Thus throughout his literary career he labored assiduously and therein lay the secret of his wide and deep knowledge.

He was of a retiring disposition and as modest as a gentle girl. He was humble and even diffident. He never published an article that had not been

previously submitted to well-recognized ability and high authority. The reader is therefore safe in following his guidance.

It is a pleasure to the teacher of his boyhood to pay this simple and truthful tribute to the memory of his former pupil.

BROTHER JUSTIN.

MANHATTAN COLLEGE,
August 5, 1896.

