

BOOKS AND READING

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Books and reading by Patrick Francis Mullany & John Aloysius Mooney

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PATRICK FRANCIS MULLANY & JOHN ALOYSIUS MOONEY

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—BY—

BROTHER AZARIAS

OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

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TO THE MEMORY
OF THE RIGHT REVEREND
MONSIGNOR JAS. A. CORCORAN, P. P.

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BY THE AUTHOR.

MEMOIR
OF
BROTHER AZARIAS, F. S. C.

Brother Azarias, (Patrick Francis Mullany) who died at the Hotel Champlain, near Plattsburg, on August 20th, 1893, was a native of Ireland. His parents emigrated to the United States when he was a child, and his boyhood was passed at their home in Deerfield, N. Y., not far from the residence of Horatio Seymour, with whom, as boy and man, he maintained the most kindly relations. It was at the District school that young Mullany's schooling began. There, however, he did not long remain. His parents desired that he should enjoy the advantage of a more thorough course of studies, and of a sound religious and moral education, and therefore sent him to the Academy of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, in Utica. Studious and gentle, the youth was a favorite with his fellows and teachers, and earned the affection and good will of Brother Justin, then his teacher, and now Provincial of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

The serious character of the youth, his love of learn

ing, the high ideal he entertained of the calling of a teacher, are sufficiently proved by the sacrifices he made at the early age of fifteen; for at that age he joined the disciples of the great de la Salle. That a man of talent should adopt a profession which promises a comfortable livelihood, leisure, social advantages, the delights of an intellectual home, position, and, it may be, even wealth, is not surprising. But how many youths of fifteen become teachers wholly from a love of others? This Patrick Francis Mullany did. Entering the Brotherhood of the Christian Schools, he vowed himself to poverty, to obedience to his superiors, and to a chaste community life; and thus deliberately denied himself all the pleasures and ambitions in the pursuit of which men ordinarily place their happiness. The completeness of the sacrifice a Christian Brother makes will impress itself on those unacquainted with the rule of de la Salle, when they consider that, with everything else men cherish, one gives up the family name. At the age of fifteen, then, Patrick Francis Mullany became Brother Azarias. That his youthful ideal of the teacher's calling never altered, that his sense of the duty of a teacher never diminished, that his love of youth and his desire to aid youth to be knowing and strong never weakened, is proved by the fact that, after thirty years of sacrifice, he was devoted to his community, proud of it, happy in it, and thankful to the good God who had inspired him to give up every-

thing material for the sake of the education of the young.

Pursuing his studies in the Novitiate of the Christian Brothers, Brother Azarias soon became a useful member of the community. At the age of eighteen he was permitted to teach, and during the ten following years he held professorships in several of the more important institutions maintained by the Christian Brothers. To the study of English literature he devoted himself especially, though he did not fail to enlarge his acquaintance with the classics, and to pursue the study of modern languages. If his responsibilities were increased, so were his opportunities also, when, in 1875, he was appointed President of Rock Hill College, Maryland. This office he administered so satisfactorily, that he retained it during ten years, and then he was compelled to give up his charge by failing health.

A journey through Europe somewhat improved his health, but the eight latter years of his life were years of suffering. Ill-health, however, did not interrupt his studies, which were continued abroad as well as at home; nor did ill-health put an end to his career as a teacher. During the six years immediately preceding his death, he held the Professorship of English Literature in the "De La Salle Institute," New York City.

At an early age Brother Azarias developed a talent for writing, and this talent he cultivated assiduously during his whole life. Considering his duties as a