

PREFACE

IN every old organization there are a few characters that by virtue of their position attract the public gaze, while the many by virtue of their work court but oblivion. The former are applauded, and the latter forgotten. The general of an army, though he be swayed more by personal ambition than by patriotism, is more apt to gain the permanent thanks of a nation than is the volunteer private who has dared and died through sheer love for his land. The monument built over the "Unknown Soldier" tells nothing of his appearance, his deeds, his discouragements, dreams and hopes—nothing save that he died for his country. We should like to know, also, how he had lived for it. The Known Soldier who had the same bravery and the same sentiments we permit to sell apples on the corner of our streets, or to hang on his crutches and stretch out his lead pencils towards the passing throngs. We could learn all about him, but we stop not—not even to ask his name. Yet without him and his fellow privates there would have been no general.

In every old educational institution like Niagara University it is the Presidents and Treasurers, though swayed by no personal ambition but only by their love for God, who chiefly receive recognition; while the toiling professor, whose world is his classroom, is known but to those whom he daily teaches. He is happy in being unknown. To stand on the heights of publicity would make him dizzy. But his modesty is by no means the reason why we should not recognize his worth and proclaim it. More is due to him than to his officers. Without him and his companions there would not be need of officers. To realize that each needs the other should not blind us to the fact that we have too often forgotten the one while honoring the other. In the seventy-five years of Niagara's ex-

istence she has had some four hundred professors of the Vincentian Order, of the secular clergy and of the laity. How few of them are known to the world! Fewer of them have wished to be known. Their pupils have risen to eminence in church and state: the teachers find happiness in seeing the pupils' success, whether that success lies on the heights to which the world's faces are ever upturned, or upon the plains of life amid the swirling multitudes. But their success is due perhaps more to the plodding professor, happy in his daily grind of duty, than to his leaders, not quite so happy in their onerous duties. And these leaders of Niagara would be the first to state that without him they could have done nothing.

We have tried to present the History of Niagara in a manner attractive not only to our Alumni, who can visualize old places and faces in the tinted haze of memory, but, also, attractive to the general public who may never have seen either places or faces. For the former, the name of a person, of a building, or of an event brings back the past pictured with a vividness that no artist of words or color can hope to imitate; but for the latter, the persons, places, things, are simply names unless pictured in the proper environment. Few can find more enjoyment in studying train schedules than landscapes, or skulls than faces. These few will find more pleasure in reading the lists in back of this volume than in the narration of events.

But, principally, we have adopted the present manner of presentation as the more attractive to our future students, that they may glean something of the romantic region through which their years of study lie. Not many places on the continent have more romantic history, and none more beautiful scenery. The Indian traced the first mysterious white strangers along the ledge of this Gorge. Here the cavaliers of France clashed with the armies of England, and the ill-clad warriors of the young nation wrestled with the British Lion; while the fur traders of the three nations threaded the forests from post to post, or wigwam to wigwam; or in their canoes

glided over the still waters, bearing the skins of the buffalo, beaver, bear or marten from the forests of the middle west to Albany or Quebec, for shipment to London or Paris. The great pathway of the fur and metal trade of the Mississippi Valley to these European ports lay over the road that now skirts the University's campus. The Indian saw three nations struggle for this pathway, while his own nation was doomed to extinction.

We have but sketched this romantic history, hoping that our future students will fill in the outline with research work done for their theses. For their help we append the sources of our present sketch. Volumes have been written about the region; but some phases are still mysterious; and some, we are confident, are still untouched. What a mine of historic lore lies still unearthed in the story of Fort Niagara! of Lewiston and the Falls! The grim old Fort still awaits the real novelist who will make the facts of research live and breathe.

The History of the University we have endeavored to picture in this setting of the past where facts are more romantic than fiction. So far removed places as Italy, France, Ireland and Texas have given clues to the process of events that led to the founding of the institution. Of course, we have been warned by the supersensitive that for our pains we can expect nothing but a cyclone of criticism. We thank them for their solicitude; but we state that we cannot understand the timidity of sensitive souls encased in healthy bodies which "gooseflesh" at the mention of criticism. Why, we expect it, we welcome it, we crave it. We recognize that in a work like this where thousands of dates and details, and hundreds of characters and events are involved, there must of necessity creep in, despite all care, some inaccuracies. It is only by criticism that these inaccuracies can be discovered and corrected. We want the truth. The greater the number of critics, the greater the hope of finding it. Criticism shows interest: only apathy is dangerous. We shall thank all who will call our attention to anything inaccurate. Their communications

will be promptly acknowledged, and filed away in the archives, so that the chronicler at our Centenary may have an easy opportunity of remedying our defects.

To all our confreres our thanks are due. They have shown a spirit of co-operation greater even than we could have hoped for. But especially grateful are we to Father Felix Drouet who has so kindly corrected the proof sheets and has added the index; to Father William Brady of Germantown who was tireless in searching and transcribing records; to Father William Maddock of Baltimore whose keen historic mind disentangled many a web of conflicting testimonies; to Father Thomas Gorman of Brooklyn for whom no journeys were too long to verify a fact; to our Dean Father James Walsh for his suggestions and help on every occasion; and to Father J. Oliver Hayden of Germantown whose retentive memory is equalled only by his willing heart; and to our Alumni for their hearty co-operation, especially to Father James Bray of Lockport. All of them in their busy lives had always time to help.

—THE AUTHOR

Sources: Archives of Niagara University; Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis; St. Vincent's Seminary, Germantown; St. John's Seminary, Brooklyn; Immaculate Conception Church, Baltimore. Baptismal and matrimonial records of St. Mary's Church, Hagerstown, Md.; Sacred Heart Church, Niagara Falls; St. Peter's Church, Lewiston. *The Vincentians:* Bishop Rosati's "Life of Felix De Andreis;" anonymous, "Life of Father Jean B. Etienne;" Father Luke Grace's "History of Niagara University;" Father Rosa's manuscripts on "The Niagara Frontier;" "Bishop Odin's Life," serial in the Annals of the Congregation of the Mission, Vols. II, III, IV; Father Souvay's contributions to Rothensteiner's "History of the Archdiocese of St. Louis," and to Sister Mary Angela's "Catholicism in Texas, 1820-1860;" Bishop Timon's "Missions in Western New York;" the "Personnels of the Congregation of the Mission;" and the Diary of Father Thomas O'Donohue. *The Jesuits:* "Relations," Vols. 8, 18, 20, 21 and 42; Father Campbell's "Pioneer Priests in North America" and "The Jesuits." Father James Bray's article in the "Echo," Dec. 6th, '28. Ecclesiastical Review, on Bishop Lynch, Oct. '93. Dean Harris's "Catholic Church in the Niagara Peninsula." Parkman's eleven volumes dealing with the New York early frontier life. Severance's "Old Trails of the Niagara Frontier." Pool's "Landmarks of Niagara County." Carnochan's "Niagara, One Hundred Years Ago." Orr's "Pictorial Guide to Niagara Falls." Holley's "Niagara." Kirby's "Annals of Niagara." Van Cleave's "Hand Book for Travelers to Niagara Falls." Hunter's "Panoramic Guide from Niagara Falls to Quebec." Porter's "Niagara, 1805-1875;" "Reminiscences of Niagara;" and the Porter Collection of Manuscripts in the City Library, Niagara Falls; Wiley and Garner's "Cyclopedia of Niagara County." Williams' "Niagara, Queen of Wonders" and "Niagara County." Deuther's "Life of Bishop Timon." Zwerlein's "Life of Bishop McQuaid." Guilday's Lives of "John Carroll" and "Bishop England;" Hassard's "Life of Archbishop Hughes." Cardinal Farley's "Life of Archbishop Corrigan." Cardinal Gibbons' "Retrospect of Fifty Years." Fidler's "Observations on the United States and Canada." Lout's "Romance of the Rails." Cumberland's "Century of Rail and Steam on the Niagara River." The Diamond Jubilee Publication on the "History of the Diocese of Galveston." Kirlin's "Catholicity of Philadelphia." Pertinent articles in the "Catholic Encyclopedia." Statistics from the "World Almanac" for 1930 and 1931. Phillip's, also, Lounsbury's "Life of Fenimore Cooper;" "Correspondence of Fenimore Cooper" edited by his grandson of the same name. And one record from Mr. Rayman George Egan of Grand Rapids.