

OLD BARCLAY STREET

Story of an Irish Schoolmaster and His Son.

Those who have travelled extensively will recall that in nearly every Catholic country of the Old World there may be found, especially in the large centres of civilization, book shops and publishing houses exclusively devoted to the publication and sale of books, magazines, etc., of interest to those of that faith. London and Paris, Rome and Berlin, Venice and Vienna,

mation concerning the Catholic Church, you can get it for 10 cents in Barclay street; if you would read the imaginative productions of Catholic writers like Father Sheehan, Father Ryan, William Barry, etc., Barclay street will wait on you for a reasonable profit. Of all the merchants who have prospered in that enterprise, none of their stories is more interesting than that of the old American Catholic firm of P. J. Kennedy & Sons. That firm conducts the publishing establishment at No. 5 Barclay street, and its counters are loaded with books of information, theological works and literature of a lighter vein contributed by Catholic writers in all sections of the world. If P. J. Kennedy, now deceased, did no more,

edy transferred his publishing house to No. 44 Centre street. That was in 1838. It was thought that enterprise, of a denominational character, would be benefited by proximity to the Cathedral Church, and for many years old St. Patrick's, in Mott street, was surrounded by big and little publishing houses and book stores. Mr. Kennedy moved to that section in 1848, and, at his death, he left his son, P. J. Kennedy, a thriving enterprise at No. 47 Mott street. P. J. Kennedy succeeded his father in 1866. Under his guidance the business was developed, and when he died he left behind him the present establishment at No. 5 Barclay street. It was built, as it were, on the wreckage of numerous failures. Mr. Kennedy was quick to see

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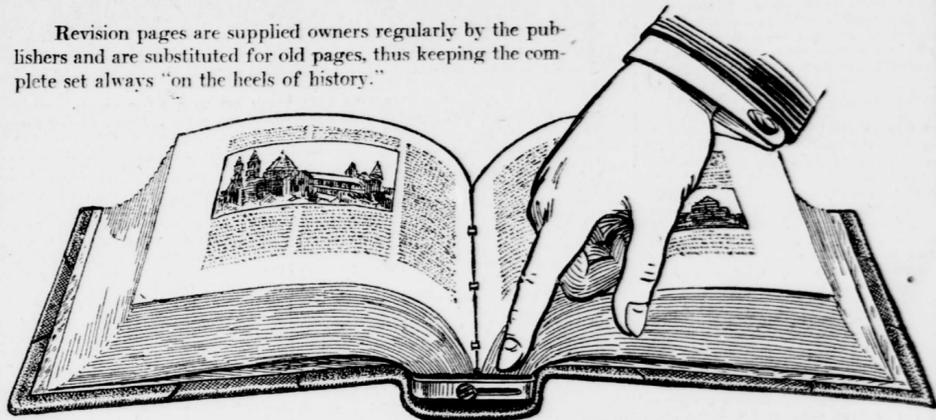
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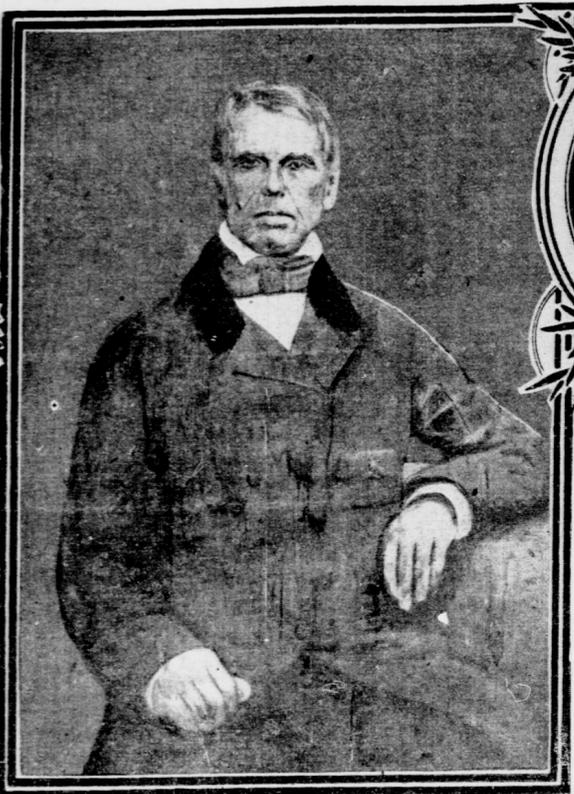
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JOHN KENEDY.



P. J. KENEDY.

the advantageous position of old Barclay street. He rented, in 1873, half a lot of the present establishment, now owned and conducted by the firm he incorporated. The business prospered, and in a few years Kennedy was on the street floor. In 1893 he purchased the building, and in 1895 Leo XIII, at the instance of Archbishop Corrigan, made him Publisher to the Holy Apostolic See.

In 1904 Mr. Kennedy associated with him in the business his two sons, Arthur and Louis, and the firm was incorporated as P. J. Kennedy & Sons. During his lifetime the father of the present heads of the firm published such well known Catholic works as "Hay's History of the Irish Rebellion," "Reeve's Bible History," a "Life of St. John Chrysostom," "The Maxims of St. Vincent De Paul" and a complete letter writer, of which he was the author. When the Baltimore Publishing Company suspended Mr. Kennedy bought the plates, etc., of Father Ryan's poems and brought out a larger edition. He also acquired from Dunagan & Bro. the rights of publishing, in this country, the Douay Bible and the voluminous works of St. Alphonsus de Liguori. Those who have been charmed by the late Monsignor O'Reilly's "Mirror of True Womanhood," etc., may find, on inspection, the imprint of the house of Kennedy.

The business of a Catholic publishing house is not limited to Barclay street. It extends to the remotest sections of the world, and wherever a mission band has found a place in need of spiritual comfort. The Kennedys ship their publications to Africa, India, the Hawaiian Islands and South America. They have business arrangements with and agents in all foreign countries. As has been already made known, Barclay street is a curiosity shop. No. 5 is one of its unpretentious establishments, but the traveller will find in it much instruction and not a little amusement.

his name should be perpetuated for the blessing he conferred on the laity by publishing a prayer book in readable type. The firm is now conducted by the third generation of Kennedys. It was founded by an Irish schoolmaster, and is being perpetuated by two businesslike grandsons, Arthur and Louis Kennedy. In the office of the firm there are two fine canvases that tell its story. John Kennedy, the founder of the house, came to this country when he was about twenty-one years old. He was a schoolmaster in Ireland, and for a while taught in this country. But his mind leaned to the business of publishing, and he eventually drifted to Baltimore, where, in 1826, he made the foundation of the present firm.

Glasgow and old Madrid have their little, narrow streets, where men of catholic taste and catholic faith conduct profitable enterprises. The publishing house is an adjunct of every denomination. Luther, in Germany, Calvin, in Scotland, and others of the group of great reformers acknowledged the power of the printed word and recognized the benefits of publicity. The late Pontiff Leo XIII prized the printing press so highly that on one occasion he saw fit to impart to "the city and to the world" a special commendation of it.

In America Barclay street is the centre of catholic activity in that particular field. No person may be said to have seen New York who has passed by that attractive section. It is a Catholic village in the heart of America's metropolis. If you are in quest of infor-