

depths of the wilderness they followed the flocks of their Master lest some might fall among wolves. These men were fathers among their children, and the generation they trained showed evidence of their work. Churches arose everywhere, and homes; and little by little, schools wherein the rising generation could be educated. The fields had widened, and the land gave promise of becoming that Arcadia it is to-day.

Some of the more prominent schools founded between the admission of the State into the Union and 1825 may be briefly mentioned here, since in every instance these have wielded a tremendous influence upon the status of Southern Catholicism. Here it may not be amiss to state a noteworthy fact, viz: that Catholicism at the South has always been distinctly, if not distinctively, intellectual. The Church in the South has been pre-eminently an intellectual force at periods when the literary instinct of that section was stagnant. It was Southern Catholicism which gave us "The Star-Spangled Banner," "The Bivouac of the Dead" and "Maryland, my Maryland." Later, it gave us the "poet-priest," Father Ryan, who sang the dirge of "The Conquered Banner." To the modest, unassuming Catholic schools, where almost alone a love of polite letters was imparted at a period when the South was given over to politics, may these literary gleams be traced.

The oldest sisterhood in Kentucky is that of Loretto. Seeing a new generation rising around him, the next thought of Father Charles Nerinckx was how to provide, in that rugged, isolated section, schools wherein these open, innocent minds should be educated. To this end he instructed Miss Mary Rhodes, a pious young girl of his parish, to open a day school in a couple of abandoned cabins near Hardin Creek. Hon. Benj. J. Webb, in his history of "Catholicity in Kentucky," says of these that "They were wretchedly dilapidated and without other flooring than the bare ground. They were roofed with rough boards that had shrunk so far apart as to afford but slight protection against the intrusion of wind and snow."