

## P R E F A C E

TO THE SECOND AMERICAN EDITION.

---

COUNT DE MONTALEMBERT'S *Life of St. Elizabeth of Hungary* has been now some years before the public, and, though more recently translated into English, its merits are not unknown to the Catholic world. It is a work of such rare merit, in its kind, that wherever it goes it will be sure to make friends and admirers for itself, and requires not a word of commendation. There is a winning charm, a soft poetic halo around the whole narrative, that is in admirable keeping with the life and character of the charming princess whose brief mortal career it chronicles. It required a Montalembert to write the *Life of Elizabeth*, and it would also require a master's hand to render it faithfully into a new language. It is by no means so easy as some imagine to translate a book, especially if it be a work of genius, for not only does it require an intimate acquaintance with both languages, but also a certain

portion of the creative genius which brought it forth from nothing. When Miss Hackett translated the *Life* itself, she omitted the *Introduction* of the noble author, which is certainly a valuable appendage to the work, presenting, as it does, a beautiful and graphic picture of the Christian world during the half century which included the brief career of Elizabeth. This omission I endeavored to supply to the best of my ability, fully conscious at the same time, that I could hardly do justice to so admirable a composition.

In preparing this second edition for the press, I have carefully compared *the whole work* with the original, and I trust it will be found comparatively free from the typographical and other errors which disfigured the former edition.

MONTREAL, Feb. 1857.