

# **SKETCHES OF DINGLE PARISH**

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Sketches of Dingle Parish by William A. Matson & Henry Gregory

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**WILLIAM A. MATSON & HENRY GREGORY**

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DINGLE PARISH**





## *Sketches of Dingle Parish*

William A. Matson, Henry Gregory, Rev. Joseph M. Clarke

*Published by the Rev. Joseph M. Clarke, Dingle, 1870.*



Rev. Mr. Shepard writes down the sick man's confession.  
Page 114.

SKETCHES  
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BY A  
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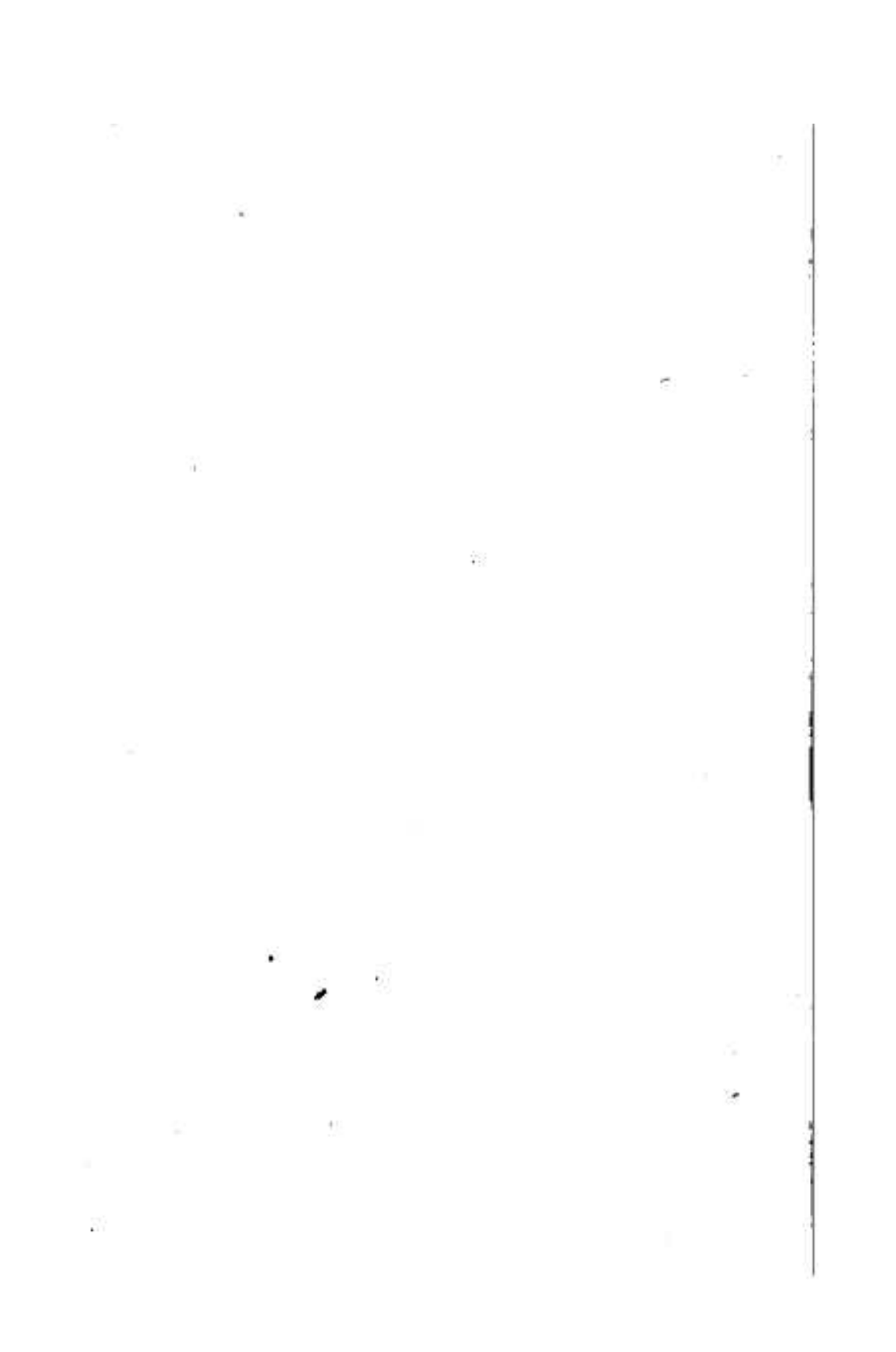
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CHURCH BOOK SOCIETY,  
87 BROADWAY.  
1856.

## PREFACE

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THE following Narrative was written for the (Utica) *Gospel Messenger*, in the columns of which it first made its appearance. The favor with which it was then received, and the humble hope that it may be instrumental in doing good in the cause of Christ and his church, is the author's apology for laying it before the public in its present form.





# SKETCHES OF DINGLE PARISH.

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## CHAPTER I.

*Introductory addressed to those readers who think they can take an interest in the affairs of Dingle Parish.*

THE various events which have transpired in Dingle Parish are all of a common order, and for that reason are deemed worthy of record. Were they any thing strange or wonderful, I am not sure that any one would become better or wiser by being made acquainted with them. Every day duties, every day temptations try the heart's strength, and these will form the chief subject of our account at the last day.

If my readers expect to find sketched in these pages the picture of a perfect parish, they will be disappointed, for the inhabitants of Dingle are

mortals, and consequently have their failings. If they expect to find in the character of its pastor, a model of a perfect clergyman, they will be disappointed. For, (I hope none of my clerical brethren will take offence if I say it) I never saw such a one; and if I had seen one I would not sketch his portrait, for fear that some of my lay readers might say of their own pastor "ah! he is one of the best of men, but he does not quite equal the Rector of Dingle Parish." Nor shall I take this method of giving vent to my dislike to any particular persons, by ridiculing them for their weaknesses, or abusing them for their faults. My object is neither to applaud nor to defame persons. I wish to give a sketch of real life, with enough of truth to say, here is my experience and observation, and enough of fiction to give unity to the narrative.

I seek in this narrative the good of the Church alone. And when you, kind reader, become convinced that what I write will not subserve that end, you may cease to read; and when I become convinced of it I shall cease to write. In short, let me say that Dingle Parish is neither as bad nor as good as it might be. It is bad enough to give its pastor his share of ministerial trials, and good enough to give him some encouragement, and therefore it is like many other parishes which