

Two accounts of his adventures have been published and in both of them there is a portrait of our hero. They were entitled *A Genuine Account of the Proceedings on the Trial of Florence Hensey, M.D., London, 1758*, and *Genuine Memoirs of the Life and Treasonable Practices of Doctor Florence Hensey, London, 1758*.

## ANTHONY HICKEY

Father Anthony Hickey, Scholar and Historian of the Order of Friars Minor, was born in the County Clare in the year 1586. His father, Tadhg, occupied the hereditary post of physician to the O'Briens, and one of his brothers, Cormac, was Prior of Scattery Island, and Archdeacon of the Diocese of Killaloe. Father Anthony was himself christened Diarmuid and received his education in his native townland. He then entered the College of St. Anthony at Louvain where he received the Franciscan habit on the first day of November, 1607.

After a brilliant academical course under Hugh Ward and Hugh Mac Caghwell, two other Irish friars, he was appointed Professor, first at St. Anthony's, and later at St. Francis's in Cologne. At this time Father Luke Wadding was in Rome preparing his vast programme for the History of the Franciscan Order, and particularly of their activities in Ireland. From Waterford himself, he gathered many brilliant Irish scholars and collaborators around him, and O'Hickey was one of these, being transferred from Cologne to Rome, to assist in the great work.

When St. Isidore's College was opened in Rome in 1625, O'Hickey was appointed its first Lector in Theology and was soon recognised as one of the greatest Theologians of the Church. He particularly distinguished himself on the then much discussed question of the Immaculate Conception, and Pope Urban VIII appointed him to the Committee for the revision of the Roman Breviary. In 1639, he was elected Definitor General of the Franciscan Order.

He contributed three folio volumes of commentaries to Wadding's edition of the works of Dun Scotus, and was engaged on another three when he met an early and untimely death as a result of a simple accident. He slipped on the stairs in St. Isidore's and, blood-poisoning setting in, he died as a result on 26th June, 1641.

When Pope Urban VIII heard of his death, he exclaimed that: "Not only the Franciscan Order, but the whole Church, has lost a truly great and learned man." All his contemporaries thought well of Hickey, both for his sympathetic nature and sense of humour as well as for his great learning. Luke Wadding himself wrote the epitaph which, as well as his portrait, may still be seen at St. Isidore's. He was the author of four other theological tracts as well as the commentaries already referred to.