



ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE, CANTERBURY.

guide, "if you wish to see them; but you will be much disappointed. They are not worth seeing." But he went, and his eye rested on the melancholy picture which the writer of the letter had described. His whole soul was stirred within him at such unrighteous profanation. His mind ran back to the days of Ethelbert, who, under the direction of St. Augustine, "built the church of the blessed apostles, Peter and Paul, and endowed it with various gifts." He thought of the great mission centre that this Church and the monastery attached to it had been for the Anglo-Saxons, when England was laying the foundation of its future greatness; of the learning that flourished there when "Cambridge was a desolate fen, and Oxford a tangled forest in a wide waste of waters"; of the abbots and priors and monks of old, who went on adding to their magnificent building, till a religious house worthy of standing close to the grand cathedral was completed; of the Norman kings that wrestled with the growing influence of priests, archbishops, and monks; of the long career that the monastery had; of its usefulness and mistakes, like all things human, until, in 1538, the commissioners of Henry VIII seized the whole property, and, to the dismay of the inmates, handed it over to the unrighteous king. The reign of the monasteries was over; but the magnificent buildings, what of them? He thought of the pitiful desolation that went on over all England, but especially at Canterbury; of the lead that was stripped from the roofs of the greater buildings, the church, the hall, the dormitory; of the walls that were slowly but surely demolished as time went on; of the cart-loads of treasure that were carried away, and the domains that were turned into hunting grounds; of the palace that was formed for Queen Eliza-

beth from what still remained of its ancient grandeur; of the nobles that resided there and entertained royalty; of Charles I., who kept his honeymoon there with Henrietta Maria, his bride; of Charles II., who lodged there on his passage through the city to take possession of the throne of his ancestors; of the trying days of William and Mary, the hopeful days of Anne, followed by the long and dreary darkness and lethargy under the Georges, when desolation spread more and more, and church and cloister, kitchen and refectory, shared in the common ruin, until the magnificent pile of ancient buildings had all disappeared, save the

gateway of Abbot Fyndon, the Abbot's private chapel, the Guesten Hall, and the ancient tower of Ethelbert; of this last mentioned relic, which even the dawn of the Victorian age could not save, but which, on the 24th of October, 1822, was ruthlessly bombarded by a couple of cannons and levelled to the ground; of the desecration and profanation that followed, until the ale house, the brewery, the vat, and the Lulling green were set up in the place where religious men had sung hymns to God, and from which they had gone forth to evangelize mankind. Of all this he thought, and much more. Then he noticed that the whole property, as it was, was placarded for sale. The brewery, as a business, had never prospered.

He went home to London and instructed his lawyer to buy the property for him. It thus passed into his hands. This gentleman was the Right Hon. Beresford Hope, then M.P. for Maidstone. But, now that it was his, what was he to do with it?

Another Englishman of noble mind solved this question for him. This was the Rev. Edward Coleridge, a well-known assistant master at Eton. He, along with some other grand men of England, began to feel the missionary spirit stir within him. George Augustus Selwyn went as missionary bishop to New Zealand. Coleridge stayed at home. He watched the last pebble that Selwyn trod on before he boarded the ship, and kept it as a precious relic. He ruminated over it until the conviction came to him with an irresistible power that England should help the men who had gone abroad, and the great idea formed itself in his mind that a missionary college should be established, where young men could be trained and sent out to help Selwyn and