

ire (*de ira dei*), and called to the mercy of Christ; and being told that Ella was the name of the king of the province, replied alleluia, the praise of God their Creator shall be sung in those parts.

Gregory at once obtained permission to go and convert the Britains, and set out for that purpose; but so popular was he at Rome, that a mob attacked the Pope in St. Peter's Church, and demanded the recall of St. Gregory, who was immediately sent for and had to return.

Some seven or eight years passed away, and nothing was done, till Gregory being elected Pope at once proceeded to put his long cherished plans into execution, and sent Augustine and forty Missionaries with him to England, who landed in the Isle of Thanet A.D. 597, where they stayed, until they heard the pleasure of Ethelbert king of Kent, who was at that time a Pagan, but who had a Christian wife, Bertha, (daughter of Chaibert king of Paris): who on her marriage stipulated that she should be allowed the free exercise of her religion. Accordingly she made use of a Church first built by the Romans, while they had possession of Britain; this she dedicated to St. Martin of Tours, an eminent saint among the natives of her own country.

Probably through his wife's influence Ethelbert gave Augustine, who had previously been consecrated Archbishop of the English, a favourable reception, and allowed him to settle at Canterbury, and on the second of June, A.D. 597, Ethelbert himself was baptised in the Christian faith, and thus was the mind of Christianity in doubt quickened by the example and gest of the king as well as by the energy and earnestness of the Missionaries, that on Christmas day, in the same year, ten thousand Saxons were baptised into the Christian faith.

Ethelbert gave Augustine an old Pagan temple, midway between St. Martins Church and the City; this St. Augustine restored and beautified and dedicated to St. Pancras, a Roman boy of noble birth, who was martyred in the reign of Dioclesian at the age of fourteen, and was regarded as the Patron Saint of Children; so that any one can see the fitness and propriety of giving his name to a building, that was the first fruits of a nation, humanly speaking, converted to Christianity through the instrumentality of the three English boys in the slave market at Rome.

"The spot where the Church of St. Pancras stood, says Dean Stanley, is still indicated by a ruined arch of ancient brick, and by the fragment of a wall still showing the mark where according to the legend, the old demon, who according to the belief of that time, had hitherto reigned supreme, laid his claws to shake down the building, in which he first heard the celebration of Christian worship and felt that his rule was over."

Next to the Church of St. Pancras, Ethelbert granted to Augustine the ground on which was built the monastery, that afterwards grew up to be the Abbey of St. Augustine: and which continued to be for some time, one of the first, if not the first Abbey in the kingdom, and was continually being enriched by various donations and endowments.