

## GREGORY THE GREAT

THE Roman Church on this day, 12th of March, commemorates St. Gregory the Great, who was descended from noble parents. He very early in life applied himself to study and frequent acts of devotion. He gave away all his estate to the erection of religious houses. He was made Pope of Rome about the year 590, but he vigorously opposed the title of *universal Bishop* (which the Bishops of Constantinople did then, and the Bishops of Rome do now, assume) as blasphemous and anti-Christian.

He sent Austin, the monk, with forty other missionaries to convert the Saxons (who had testified their desire to embrace Christianity), which in a short time they achieved. He passed through France and landed at Thanet on the southern coast of the county of Kent. He was received by Ethelbert, King of Kent, whose wife was a Christian, and through whose influence he was baptized and afterwards admitted to the Church. Ten thousand Saxons, besides women and children, were baptized by the missionaries. At last having ordained Lawrence a priest, to succeed him, he died, A. D. 614.

Christianity was very flourishing on the Western coast of Britain, at the time of Austin's coming to these Eastern shores as "Bishop of England," for so Pope Gregory entitled him. Modern writers enumerate the seven sees to which Venerable Bede refers in speaking of the second Synod held at Austre Clive—now Gloucestershire—with the ancient British Christians (the Culdees, so called) chapt. xi. page 65, of Bede's Anglo-Saxon Chronicle; they are Worcester, Hereford, Chester, Bangor, St. Asaph's, Landaff and Monmouth or St. David's. St. Austin was the first that subjected the ancient Church of Britain to Rome by commencing persecutions which eventuated in a compulsory assent to the Pope's supremacy, but which none of the British Bishops in his time would acknowledge.

LORD HATHERLY, who was all his life a devoted Sunday-school teacher, used to tell a very instructive story. He said that after examining his children at St. John's, Westminster, on the words, "Take My yoke upon you," and asked them what was the meaning of "yoke," and a large number of them said it was the inside of an egg. In another case, after a lesson on the litany, a teacher asked his children what they prayed to be delivered from, and he was sorry to say that the answer was, "All Bishops, Priests and Deacons."

THE Presbyterian has the following: "It was an exaggeration, but it shows the tremendous hold which business takes upon men in our large cities, that when it was suggested by a missionary Bishop to a metropolitan rector in New York, to ask the attendance of business men at a weekday missionary meeting, he said: 'Get a man to come up from Wall street in the daytime to attend a missionary meeting! It is as much as I can do to get a man to come up town in the daytime, to attend his wife's funeral!'"

The doctrine of election is well illustrated by the following anecdote:—

A gentleman who was not a religious man, was amusing himself twitting an old black man on the subject of religion, and asked him:

"Well, now, Joe, do you really believe in this matter of election by God?" "Deed I do, Master," was the reply. "Well, then, do you think I am elected to be saved?"

"I scarcely know, Master, but I nebber hearn o' one being 'lected what wa'n't a canderdate."

"Give the more diligence to make your calling and election sure," says St. Peter.

Ex-Secretary Evans tells a good story at his own expense about a small donkey, which he sent up to his country seat some years ago for the use of his children, of whom some were then quite young. One of his little daughters, going out with her nurse to admire the animal in its paddock, was sorely distressed when the donkey lifted up its voice and brayed dolefully. "Poor thing! Poor thing!" exclaimed the sympathetic child; but suddenly brightening up, she turned to her nurse and said: "Oh! I am so glad! Papa will be here on Saturday, and then it won't feel so lonesome!"

## MARRIAGES.

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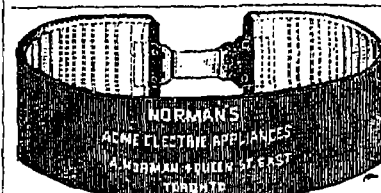
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