

## A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE ABBEY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, AND ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE.

As dull as a Cathedral Town, is an old saying, the truth of which is nowhere better exemplified than at Canterbury; with its narrow dirty streets, badly paved, and worse lighted, and its old fashioned style of shops; and yet in nearly all those old cities dull as they are, there are generally one or two or more places of historical interest, that seem to carry one back in memory to the good old time of yore.

Now Canterbury has two buildings that are of great interest to those who care anything about English Ecclesiastical history: The noble old Cathedral that seems to tell a tale of its own about Thomas A-Becket, and his murder within her sacred walls: and also the ancient pile of buildings that was formerly known as St. Augustine's Abbey, and now in its revived and restored condition as the Missionary College of St. Augustine, serving as a connecting link between the past and the present; its present inmates being engaged in the same kind of work that its first inhabitants were near twelve hundred years ago, converting the heathen to the Gospel of Christ.

It is of this institution and the history attending it, that I should like to make a few remarks.

At the risk of being tedious I must ask you to carry your memory back to the sixth century, when the old Roman Empire was being broken, and fierce droves of savages were forming in all directions, scattering destruction all around them, England, or as it was then called Britain, being one of the countries that thus suffered.

Although a Christian Church was planted in Britain, at a very early period, some say from the days of the Apostle St. Paul, yet the fierce Saxons invading the Island at all points drove the inhabitants into Wales and Cornwall, and so almost extirpated Christianity out of the kingdom. It was about this time that Gregory who was afterwards Pope, heard that a cargo of slaves had just arrived at the slave market at Rome, and there he saw three young slaves, who were remarkable for their fair complexion and light hair. Gregory at once asked the name of their nation, and was told that they were Angles or English. It is not without a thrill of interest, that we hear of the proud name that is now heard with respect and awe from the rising to the setting sun, uttered for the first time in the Metropolis of the world, thus awaking for the first time a response in the Christian heart. "Well said," replied Gregory, "rightly are they called Angles, for they have the face of Angels and ought to be fellow heirs of the Angels in heaven." Next he asked the name of the province they came from, and was told from Deira, or the land of wild beasts or wild deer, a name given to the tract of country between the Tyne and the Humber, including Durham and Yorkshire. Well said again, answered Gregory, with a play on the words that can be best seen in Latin, rightly are they called Deirans, plucked as they are from God's

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