
REV. MOTHER TERESA DEASE

she sought and found in the Institute of Mary the happy haven of her religious aspirations.

The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the fruitful vine planted by God's own Hand in the vineyard of the Church during the days of persecution in England, founded on the Cross and bearing the precious fruit of the Cross—the knowledge of God and salvation of souls, owes its origin after God to the strong faith, firm hand, brave heart, and heroic virtue of a noble, delicate, God-fearing woman, Mary Ward. The story is now well known how, at a time when Catholics in England suffered tortures and death for conscience sake, God inspired this noble woman to leave her home and kindred early in the seventeenth century, to seek an asylum in a foreign land, where she might serve God in peace, and form the nucleus of an Institute to which the higher classes of English Catholics to which she belonged, might send their children without peril to their faith. Her stay at St. Omer with its crucible of suffering, her return to England where God seems to have further enlightened her on the work to be done for Him, and the sufferings that would accrue therefrom, her departure again for the Continent, with a band of chosen souls, and the spread of the Institute from St. Omer to other parts of the Continent are matters of history. St. Mary's Convent, Micklegate Bar, York, is one of the very few Catholic institutions, which survived the storm of persecution raised against the Church in England, after Protestantism had been fairly established; and, after the lapse of centuries, it still holds the place as the home whence emanates true culture,