

Plot brought greater hardships upon the Catholics, and compelled many of the priests to retire from England. Among these was a certain Dom Augustine Bradshaw, an Englishman, who had become a Benedictine monk in the great abbey of St. Martin, at Compostella, in Spain. In 1605 he conceived the idea of establishing Benedictine communities near to England, to be ready to serve on the English mission. He therefore settled in the university town of Douai, situated in what was then a part of the Spanish Low Countries, and gathered together a few of his religious brethren, and accepted scholars for education. This was the beginning of St. Gregory's College.

By the blessing of God the house flourished. It supplied many missionaries to England; of its members four shed their blood for the truth, while many suffered imprisonment; it took prominent part in the studies and teaching of the University of Douai, and it kept up a flourishing school for the education of the sons of the Catholic gentry of England. The list of Gregorian students of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, fragmentary though it is, is filled with names illustrious and staunch in Catholic annals; Acton, Middleton, Sheldon, Selby, Howard, Stourton, Smythe, Eyston, Anderton, Riddell, Moore, Swinburne, Canning, Errington, Lawson, Langdale, and many others occur.

Progress was made in peace, till the upheaval of the French Revolution in 1793 came, and undid the whole work. Monasteries and schools ceased to exist, and the English monks, after vicissitudes of imprisonment and danger, determined to seek their native land. On March 2, 1795, the remnant of the community of St. Gregory's landed at Dover, and a new era commenced at Acton Burnell, in the county of Salop. Downside property was transferred by purchase to them, and the community

and students reached their new abode on May 1, 1814, and St. Gregory's monastery and college commenced.

Downside is situated twelve miles from the city of Bath, and on the ancient Roman Foss Way. It stands on the upper slopes of the wide-spreading Mendip hills, in the county of Somerset, and is nearly six hundred feet above the level of the sea. It is a proverbially healthy spot, and few there are, even of most delicate constitution, who have not thriven in its clear and bracing air.

The numbers of students for past years have varied between 80 and 100. We do not aim at taking more than a hundred. At the present time the students in residence number 86.

The college is not particularly for ecclesiastical students. It is a lay college, instructing boys for careers in the world; vocations to the priesthood, and to religious orders are, however, by no means rare, and the community is recruited mainly from the school.

The full school course is seven years, ending with the London matriculation-examination. Generally, however, we have a few staying for their degrees in arts.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S, RAMSGATE.

Like Downside and Ampleforth is St. Augustine's college, Ramsgate, a splendid stone building, and has many very handsome and characteristic architectural features. It receives from 60 to 100 students. The course of studies is high class, and comprises all that is necessary for university matriculation. The monastery and college are remarkable for being built in the district, in which St. Augustine, the Apostle of England, landed and first preached, on being sent by Pope St. Gregory the Great to evangelize the pagan Anglo-Saxons.

The college and monastery date only from the year 1856, when the Cassinese