

# DOWNSIDE REVIEW.

JULY, 1880.

## EDITORIAL.

FEW words are necessary by way of introduction to this the first number of the "Downside Review." Nor, so liberally has our appeal for contributions been answered, can we afford space for more than a very few lines wherein to express our programme and aspirations for the future, and to point out to what extent we have been enabled to carry out so far the line of action which we laid down in the circular addressed a few months ago to the members of the St. Gregory's Society and to those for whose support we more especially appeal.

In the words of that circular, the "Downside Review" is a publication undertaken in the interests of the College of St. Gregory's at large, and in those of the St. Gregory's Society in particular, as a medium for the furtherance of the objects which the Society has in view, and of the welfare of the College generally, and to serve as a record of the present time and of past history, so far as regards that Alma Mater to whom we all look back with affection and solicitude.

So far as we are aware, no similar publication exists in relation to any other school or college. School magazines, the work of the present students, exist, it is true, and at some future time we hope to give an account of many of these; but the aim of the "Downside Review" is that it should be addressed to and be more exclusively the work of the "old boys,"—of those who now, since a period more or less recent, have been launched into the world to fight there the battle of life, and to whom reminiscences

of their old school-days, some account of the present progress of the school, some voices from time to time from those whose memory needs but to be recalled, and some valuable historical associations to be brought to light, cannot fail to be of interest.

Thanks to the willing hands which have been stretched forth to aid us, the limits which we proposed to give to our first number have been considerably extended. Our aim has been to render this our earliest essay as representative and as promising for the future as possible, and although some subjects upon which we proposed to treat must be unavoidably postponed, still we could not find it in our hearts to refuse admittance to or to curtail the proportions of those contributions which have spontaneously reached us.

If our readers will refer to the list of proposed subjects which we gave in our circular, it will be seen that in one way or another nearly all find a place in our present number. Our principal aim for the future will be to gather together as much historical information as possible, to unearth the archæological and artistic treasures which exist at St. Gregory's, giving some account with illustrations thereof; to reproduce such of the literary and artistic productions as have from time to time been executed, and which at present are for the most part unknown to the greater number of us; to keep our readers *au courant* of the inner life of those who have succeeded them in the places which they once occupied; to afford a means for ventilating ideas relating to the welfare of the Society which otherwise run the risk of being but too crudely and hastily discussed at the annual meetings; and in a word—to quote again the terms of our prospectus—to bring before our readers any matters of interest having reference, however small, to the College or those who have at any time been connected with it.

Our chief solicitude will be at no time to run the slightest risk of giving personal offence. Personal references will from time to time become necessary, but they will always be treated with the extremest care, and our readers may be assured that in all cases of doubt or difficulty a reference will be made to those most directly concerned, or to those whose advice on the subject may be esteemed as a sufficient safeguard. Devotional and strictly religious subjects do not enter into our programme, neither is it our intention so to trench upon them as to open up a ground for any questions which might be considered in the least degree debatable.

In conclusion, it only remains for us to acknowledge with

gratitude the willing support which we have received from our numerous contributors. With such assistance for the future we have no fear that our venture may not prove of interest and usefulness to St. Gregory's, and to the Society which has at heart the interests of Downside. We appeal again for contributions on the subjects suggested in our prospectus; we ask for correspondence and information on any subjects relating to St. Gregory's. Finally, we acknowledge our indebtedness for the kindness and approbation which we have received from those now resident and in authority at Downside, which have made our efforts a labour of love.

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## AD MVLTOS ANNOS.

To bend our efforts for the home we love,  
Is not this noble work? This work is ours.  
'Tis not the love of gain doth spur us on,  
Nor hot ambition, jealous for itself,  
Excites, destroying peace. The home we dwelt in,  
The house that fostered us in younger days,  
Bids us return her love. What shall we say?—  
Her sons shall gather to exalt her name,  
Each with affection adding what he can  
To raise her monument. The written word  
For her shall speak with power and gracefulness,  
And they who read shall feel within them then  
Their hearts more warmly beat, as knocking there  
To find response in action. This we hope for;  
And is not Hope the incentive power of work  
And pledge of sure success? Though grave the labour,  
Though poor the fruit which greets our early toil,  
Let kindly Hope make the first struggle light,  
And one day bring full harvest.

J. C. F.