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 archeological and artistic trea­
sures 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 be­
fore 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 sub­
jects 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
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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.

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.