

The beautiful chapel not being finished, the solemn opening took place on July 10th, 1823, when Bishop Baines pontificated, Dr. Coombes preached. The community choir was assisted by the chief singers, boys and men, from the cathedral of Wells. Count Mazzinghi played the music of a Mass composed by himself for the occasion.

The New College, as it was called, made a sensation ; a member of Parliament drew the attention of the House to the alarming increase of Popery : that two colleges had been lately opened, one at Stratton-on-the-Foss, the other at Downside near Bath !! Visitors were constantly coming to see and admire the building ; among the rest, Britton, the author of " Cathedral Antiquities of Great Britain," declared it to be the finest piece of modern Gothic. Welby Pugin, shortly after his conversion, saw and acknowledged that the effect of the chapel was good, and that, considering the lamentable state of Gothic architecture in the year 1820, it was most successful. To the young men of these days, the above may seem extraordinary from the confusion of style in the building, but they should remember that Rickman, the Quaker, who was the architect of Mount Carmel Church, Redditch, had not written on Gothic architecture, nor had Welby Pugin then appeared.

AN OLD GREGORIAN.

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## THE NEW BENEDICTINE MONASTERY AND COLLEGE, FORT AUGUSTUS, N.B.

THE recent Benedictine foundation in Scotland calls for some notice in our pages. In August last, the buildings, comprising monastery, college, and hospitiun, were completed and opened with a solemn Triduo in honour of St. Benedict.

On the evening of the 23rd of that month, the present writer found himself in company with many others on board the Loch Ness steamer, on his way to take part in the interesting celebration. The evening shadows were fast settling down on the mountains when our party caught their first glimpse of the tower of the new monastery. All of our party had heard much about the buildings at the Fort, and some had seen them at various stages of progress ; but one and all were astonished at the mag-



nificent pile which was displayed to their eyes as they approached.

Facing the Loch was the monastery block, with its tower of 140 feet, while at right angles to this the college buildings with a central tower in the old Scotch baronial style looked over the Caledonian Canal. From this, the clock tower, a peal of bells rang out right merrily to welcome us to the festival.

Fort Augustus is the centre of the great Glen of Albyn, through which the celebrated Caledonian Canal passes. The position of the old Fort, and of the present buildings into which it has been so wonderfully changed, is close upon the banks of the lake. In the old days the glacis of the fortress sloped away from the sombre-looking bastions to the water's edge. Now the ground is laid out in terraces, and stone steps conduct the visitor to the entrance of the monastery. On either side of the buildings the rivers Tarff and Oich come to pay their tribute to the waters of the Loch, thus making the ground on which the Fort stands a peninsula.

The history of the "Old Fort" may be given here in a very brief manner, as our desire is rather to speak of the present than of the past. It was built by General Wade in 1729 for the purpose of coercing the disaffected Highland tribes. Its position was admirably adapted for this object, as it commanded the only available roads and passes in this part of the country. The property is considered to have belonged in very old times to the monks of Beaulieu, near Inverness. The rebels captured it during the rising of '45, but after Culloden it was retaken by the Duke of Cumberland and occupied in force. Here the chief of the Clan Fraser, Lord Lovat, to whom the property belonged, was confined in a dungeon before being taken to London for trial and execution, as being implicated in the rebellion. From this place the "Butcher" Cumberland sent forth his soldiers to lay waste that Highland district, and to root out of it its ancient faith which still lingered there among the mountain glens. A garrison was maintained in the Fort up to the Crimean war, when the last detachment of soldiers was withdrawn. The buildings, after remaining unoccupied for some years, were bought from the Government by the late Lord Lovat. It was until lately used as a shooting-box by the present lord, and was then made over by him, together with some sixteen acres of land, to the English Benedictine Congregation.

Those who were acquainted with Fort Augustus in old times

will find it difficult to believe that St. Benedict's is the same place. Four years ago the tourist along the Caledonian Canal would have seen a cold grey-looking building, set all over with small square windows, each one the exact counterpart of the other. The low-pitched roof and the high-walled bastions gave the building an uninviting look, and if the visitor ventured across the threshold, the court-yard inside was if anything more forbidding. To-day all is changed. From the margin of the lake rises a goodly pile of buildings worthy of old monastic days, when men built for love and not for pay. The high-pitched roof, the crested gable, the towers which rise high over all, the pointed arch and mullioned window, are more in harmony with the grandeur of the surrounding scenery than were the frowning walls of the old Fort. Inside the change is even more wonderful still. The visitor enters through a spacious hall, from which a broad double flight of stairs leads to the upper floors; and, passing through an arched doorway, finds himself in one of the most perfect cloistered quadrangles built in modern times. Here there is much to be admired. The delicate tracery of the windows, the symmetry of the arched roof, the carved stone statues and the general effect of the green "quad," all claim our attention. At the end of one side, a flight of stone steps leads us into a charming little chapel,—the gift, we believe, of the Duke of Norfolk. On one side stands the Guest House, which contains some thirty bedrooms, and a very cunningly contrived double sitting-room. The adjoining side is occupied by the Collegiate buildings, the windows of which look out over the Caledonian Canal. The large and lofty Study Hall, well lit, well warmed, and well furnished, with the class-rooms made to look so much like work, are quite models. The play-room is spacious, cheerful, and airy, and the dormitory accommodation is everything that modern requirement could demand. The boys' library and billiard room, the lavatory and bath rooms, are all deserving of more than a passing notice. Everywhere there is an absence of "stint," and comfort, elegance, and study of detail are manifested in all the arrangements. Joined on to the Collegiate buildings is the Refectory, a large and well-proportioned hall, the windows of which are filled with stained glass displaying the arms of the chief benefactors.

The third side of the quadrangle is occupied by the Monastery. The ground floor contains lecture-rooms, library, and calefactory; and above, two stories of rooms give accommodation for forty

monks. High above the roof of the monastery rises a tower containing the large bell which calls the monks to office. On the fourth side is placed the "Scriptorium," a very handsome and spacious room, from which we may hope some day will proceed many well-printed books and artistic works. The church is about all that remains to be built to make the pile of buildings perfect, and what has been done so far makes us ready to believe that it will not be long before we shall be again invited to assist at its dedication.

We may now give a short account of the Triduo, by which the opening of the buildings we have described was celebrated.

On the night of Monday, August 23rd, there was a goodly party gathered together within the hospitable walls of the new monastery. At one time during the Triduo the number of those thus accommodated rose to above 130. On Tuesday morning the High Mass was sung by the bishop of the diocese, Dr. Macdonald, in the presence of the Archbishop, Dr. Strain. The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, who was to have preached, was prevented by ill health from being present. In his place the Very Rev. the Prior, Dom. Jerome Vaughan, preached an eloquent and earnest discourse. The remainder of the day was devoted to an excursion to the Falls of Foyers, and Benediction and Compline were sung at night.

The principal feature of the proceedings on Wednesday was the procession of relics round and above the cloisters.

Great numbers attended the function, and the memory of that ceremony will live for a long time in the minds of those who witnessed it. The Mass was sung by the Bishop of Adelaide. In the evening there was a magnificent procession of the B. Sacrament, and four Scotch gentlemen in Highland costume carried the poles of the canopy.

Thursday, the 26th, was the last and grand day of the Triduo. From early morning at almost all the masses there were many communicants desirous of gaining the great indulgences granted by the Pope to those attending the festival. The ceremony of the morning commenced by the blessing of several statues of the saints, and then the procession was formed to the Church, where Mass was sung by Archbishop Strain. The sermon, a soul-stirring discourse, was preached by Bishop Hedley. Shortly after the Mass dinner was served in the Study Hall, and the afternoon was devoted to pleasant strolls over the grounds, or watching the Highland dancing on the green. At night a solemn Te Deum

closed the ceremonies of the memorable three days. Let us hope and pray that from this Triduo may in after years be dated the revival of the Benedictine Order in a land once so peopled with sons of St. Benedict.

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THE REV. DOM. OSWALD DAVIS, O.S.B.

IN MEMORIAM.

POOR dear Father Oswald is dead. May his soul rest in peace ! How many times has not this exclamation been uttered since that morning of September 25th, when the community of St. Gregory's first expressed it, and sent round the melancholy, but not unexpected, news to hundreds of loving and anxious friends ! Seldom has such deep and sincere sorrow been felt at the loss of a member of a religious community ; for, although the death of one amongst those who are linked together by the ties which bind such brethren, is always an occasion of sorrow to those left behind, yet in the case of some there is caused a void which no substitution can fill ; and such has been the case with the death of the good and well-loved Father Oswald Davis. Who will ever at Downside look upon his like again ? Long will the community of St. Gregory's remember his acts of kind considerateness to each one of them : his good-natured, honest, outspoken denunciations of any acts of pride or conceit which came to his knowledge : his hatred of dissimulation or underhand dealing : his firm demeanour when there was any question of disobedience or insubordination : his determination to maintain discipline in every department for which he was answerable, and his success in maintaining it in days when it was threatened by an element which had a passing existence, towards the commencement of his prefectship. The life of a college is like the life of an individual : it has its critical periods, and it is by watchful, discreet, firm though kind management, that the trials of such periods are surmounted, that dangers are removed, and the constitution strengthened and made proof against the recurrence of such dangers. If Downside is now, as, thank God ! it is, in possession of a traditional discipline, which makes college life there so effective and so happy, those who rule its destinies are always glad to acknowledge how much they owe Father Oswald for the fruit which they are now