

**THE FATHERS FOR
ENGLISH READERS.
GREGORY THE GREAT**

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The fathers for English readers. Gregory the Great by J. Barmby

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J. BARMBY

**THE FATHERS FOR
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GREGORY THE GREAT**

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~~1875~~
The Fathers for English Readers.

GREGORY THE GREAT.

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CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

- Gregory and his Age—Ascendency of the Church—
Results of Controversies—Imperial Domination—The
Roman See—Effects of Barbarian Invasions—Justinian
—Pope Vigilius—The Three Chapters—Spread of
Christianity—Jurisdiction of the Popes—Monasticism—
Benedict of Nursia—State of Morals and Religion *page* 9
-

CHAPTER II.

- Gregory's Parentage, Education, Early Life—He becomes
a Monk—Ordination and Residence at Constantinople
—Return to Monastic Life—Asceticism—Distressed
state of Italy—Election to the Papedom—Reluctance
to accept—Gregory as Pope—Habits of Life—Istrian
Bishops—Deference to the Emperor—African Donatists
—Sanction of Persecution—Tolerance towards Jews
(540-591) *page* 29
-

CHAPTER III.

- Correction of Monastic Abuses—Separation of Monks and
Clergy—Exemption of Monasteries from Episcopal
Control—Case of Venantius—Nunneries—Sanctity of
Marriage—Endowments—Election of Bishops—Con-

firmation—Use of the Pall—Respect for Episcopal Rights—Januarius of Cagliari—Natalis of Salona—Correction of Clerks—Sanctuary—Privileges of Clergy—Celibacy—Administration of the Patrimony—Charities	<i>page</i> 52
---	----------------

CHAPTER IV.

The Church in Spain—Letters to Leander and Reccared—Appeal of two Spanish Bishops to Rome—Correspondence with Irish Bishops—St. Columban's Letters—Eastern Illyricum—Hadrianus—Natalis—Maximus—Remonstrance with the Emperor—Letter to the Empress—Final settlement—Claim to authority over the Eastern Church—Letter to John the Faster—Lombard Invasion—Gregory's Sermons—Patriotic activity—Thwarted by the Exarch—Letters to the Emperor and Empress—Truce with the Lombards—John the Faster calls himself Universal Bishop—Gregory's view of the question—His remonstrances—His sarcastic vein—He addresses the Patriarchs of Antioch and Alexandria—Cyriacus succeeds John the Faster—Gregory's renewed remonstrance—Correspondence with the Patriarchs—His view of St. Peter's Primacy being shared by Antioch and Alexandria—Renewed Lombard invasions—Gregory's activity—Results of his efforts (591-596)	<i>page</i> 71
--	----------------

CHAPTER V.

The Mission to England—Story of the Slaves in the Roman Forum—State of the Church in France—Correspondence with Brunchild—Pall sent to Virgilius—Reforms urged—Candidus sent—Cyriacus—A General Synod desired—Failure to obtain one—Eventual results—Augustine despatched to England—His success—His	
--	--

alleged Miracles—His questions and the replies to them —Scheme for the English Church—Letter to Mellitus —Letters to Bertha and Ethelbert—The British Christians—The Lombards—Theodelinda—Conversion of Agilulph (596-601)	<i>page</i> 104
--	-----------------

CHAPTER VI.

Accession of Phocas—His Character—His treatment of Mauricius and the Imperial family—Gregory's letters to him—To Leontia—Consideration of Gregory's conduct on this occasion—Its result—Former letters in praise of Mauricius—Palliatives—Suffering from gout—Last letter to Theodelinda—Death and burial—Conduct of the mob after his death—Archdeacon Peter—Personal appearance of Gregory—His costume—Ecclesiastical Vestments in his day—Relics of him preserved at Rome (601-606)	<i>page</i> 130
--	-----------------

CHAPTER VII.

Gregory's writings—His letters—Extracts from them : To the Subdeacon Peter—To Marinianus of Ravenna— To Dominicus of Centumcellæ—To Maximus of Salona —To the ex-Prefect Libertinus—To Gregoria, a lady at Court—To the Emperor's sister, Theoctista—Another letter to the same lady—Liber Pastoralis Curæ—Its renown—Its plan—Summary of its contents—The Book of Dialogues—Occasion of its composition—Its contents—References to Benedict of Nursia—the fourth book about the state of the soul after death—Its effects on Christian thought—Commentary on Job—Milman's account of it—Specimens of its style—Homilies—On Ezekiel—On the Gospels—Extracts—Sacramentary, Antiphony Hymns—The Lord's Prayer in the Eucharistic Office—Genuineness and style of the Hymns—Gregorian and Ambrosian music	<i>page</i> 144
---	-----------------

CHAPTER VIII.

Gregory's character—His talents—His attainments—His doctrinal views—On the authority of the Church—Augustinianism—Baptism—The Eucharist—Purgatory—Intercession of Saints—Relics—Pictures and Images—Slavery—Authority of the Roman See—Results of his policy	<i>page</i> 191
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Note to Page 77.

The statement in the text that the bishops of Ireland consulted Gregory on the subject of re-baptising Nestorian heretics is erroneous. The epistle referred to (B. xi., Ind. iv., Ep. 67) appears to have been addressed to the bishops of *Iberia*, not of *Hibernia*, as in the old editions.

GREGORY THE GREAT.

CHAPTER I.

Gregory and his Age—Ascendency of the Church—Results of Controversies—Imperial Domination—The Roman See—Effects of Barbarian Invasions—Justinian—Pope Vigilius—The Three Chapters—Spread of Christianity—Jurisdiction of the Popes—Monasticism—Benedict of Nursia—State of Morals and Religion.

IF the title "Great," applied to an historical personage, may be rightly defined as implying the combination of high moral purpose with commanding ability, so used as to affect extensively the history of mankind, such title has not been without cause assigned to the first Pope Gregory. In all cases favourable circumstances are of course required, that the result may be actual, not mere potential, greatness. There must be suitable environments for the development and display of all high and influential life. Gregory might have lived and died with no renown beyond that of ascetic saintliness, had not circumstances called him when they did from his monastery to the highest seat in Christendom; and even there in a less eventful age his great qualities might not have found their adequate field for exercise. He stands out on