

**THE SPIRIT AND MISSION OF THE
CISTERCIAN ORDER: COMPRISING THE LIFE
OF S. ROBERT OF NEWMINSTER, AND THE
LIFE OF S. ROBERT OF KNARESBOROUGH ;
WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE FOUNDATION
OF FOUNTAINS ABBEY**

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The spirit and mission of the Cistercian Order: comprising the life of S. Robert of Newminster, and the life of S. Robert of Knaresborough ; with an account of the foundation of Fountains Abbey by H. Collins

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H. COLLINS

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TRANSFERRED

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FOUNTAINS ABBEY.

BY THE
REV. H. COLLINS, M.A.

"Omnia Cistercium erat."

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TO
AMBROSE PHILLIPPS DE LISLE, ESQ.,
OF GARENDON, IN THE COUNTY OF LEICESTER,
FOUNDER OF ST MARY'S ABBEY,
OF MOUNT ST BERNARD,
IN THE FOREST OF CHARNWOOD,
OF THE PRIMITIVE OBSERVANCE OF THE CISTERCIAN ORDER,
THESE PAGES ARE INSCRIBED,
AS A TOKEN OF PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP,
AND OF GRATITUDE ON THE PART OF
A SON OF THE ORDER.



[THE historical part of this work is taken from ancient authentic documents; the mystical portions are principally from Görres' "Mystik." The history of S. Robert of Knaresborough is appended to that of S. Robert of Newminster, because many authors have supposed these two saints to be one and the same person, which is found to be a mistake.]

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SPIRIT AND MISSION OF THE CISTERCIAN ORDER.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY DAYS OF S. ROBERT—HE BECOMES A
BENEDICTINE MONK.

*Light are their steps who in life's earliest dawn,
The mountain-tops of heavenly life ascend;
Brushing the dew-drops from the spangled lawn,
Nor ever from the straighter path descend;
Fixing their eyes upon their journey's end,
Sweetest, best thoughts are theirs, such as have striven,
With childhood and with dawning conscience blend,
To flee all other love but that of heaven,
Ere weighed to earth with sin and much to be forgiven.*

GOD has His Saints in all ages. There are, however, some periods, when in greater prodigality He has bestowed these jewels on the world, out of the rich abundance of His treasures. But this mine of wealth is never exhausted. God contains within Himself an infinite number of these models of perfec-