

**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

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The Fathers for English Readers.

GREGORY THE GREAT. c

BY
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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