

RECENSIONES.

Rev. W. Odom, *Beauchief Abbey, Sheffield, its Founder, Benefactors, Canons and Services*. — Sheffield, printed and published by Sir W. C. Leng & Co., Ltd., "Sheffield Telegraph" services, 1927.

This little book contains a series of eight "Talks" on the Praemonstratensian Abbey of Beauchief, its Founder, Benefactors, and Canons, with a sketch of the life of St. Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury (considered from a protestant point of view) and a short account of the rise and growth of Monasterism in England. They were broadcasted from the Sheffield Studio of the British Broadcasting Company, and published afterwards in bookform.

There are some very interesting, but also sad events related in this booklet. Beauchief abbey was founded by Robert Fitz-Ranulph in memory of St. Thomas of Canterbury and dedicated to him (1176). This Robert Fritz-Ranulph, who was high-sheriff of Nottingham and Derby, although not one of the four principal actors in the murder of the saintly archbishop of Canterbury, seems to have been in some way concerned in it. The fact that he retired from his office, renounced the world and became a canon of Beauchief, would almost appear to warrant the conclusion.

Situated in the beautiful valley of the Sheaf, in the parish of Norton, on the borders of Derbyshire, the Abbey is within four miles of the great industrial town of Sheffield. Hunter, in his "Hallams-hire" observes that the foundation and completion of the Abbey "was doubtless a work contemplated with no little satisfaction by the people of Sheffield... They might now also look to enjoy those advantages of religious instruction and consolation, and of the orderly performance of the right of their religion, which the proximity of a monastic establishment afforded... This house, therefore, soon became popular amongst its neighbours at Sheffield".

On page 25 I quote : Early in the 14 th century, coal was worked

at Cold Aston and Alfreton, one of the 4 parishes deserved by the Canons of Beauchief. Sir Thomas Chaworth, amongst his many other grants, gave permission to the Canons, to dig for coal in certain of his lands "for the maintenance of one priest, to celebrate divine service daily in the abbey of Beauchief, for the health of his own soul, as also for the soul of Joane, his wife, and their ancestors".

On page 53: "Roger de Alfreton, who gave to the abbey 9 oxgangs and half of the land at Wymeswold, *for whom a Mass was to be said for ever*; Thomas Foljambe, for whom a full service was to be said with great commendation, *and a Mass be celebrated for ever* at the altar of St. John the Baptist".

On page 56: "Sir Gerard Furnivall (who died in Jerusalem) gave 20 shillings rent from his mill at Sheffield, *to sustain the sanctuary lamp*".

At the time of the Dissolution (1536), when, to quote the writer "nobles and court favourites received a generous share in the plunder of the monasteries", Beauchief Abbey was demolished and its stones furnished afterwards *a quarry* (!) for Beauchief Hall and various buildings in the district...

Nearly 300 bungalows and villa residences have lately been erected on the abbey grounds. Five of the old fishponds still remain, three close to the abbey and two near Beauchief Hall, some still fairly well stocked with trout.

The booklet (70 pages) is illustrated with 12 beautiful illustrations, two of whom were taken from Dr. Samuel Pegge's Historical Account of Beauchief Abbey, published in 1801, an extremely rare book.

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Regesta pontificum Romanorum. — Germania pontificia. — Vol. II pars II Helvetia pontificia. Auctore Alberto Brackmann. — Weidmannsche Buchhandlung, Berlin, 1927. — Ladenpreis: geheftet Mk. 36.

De uitgave der pauselijke regesten, in opdracht van de "Königliche Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen" onder leiding van P. Kehr in 1906 aangevangen, omvatte reeds zes deelen der "Italia pontificia" en twee deelen der "Germania pontificia", toen in 1914 de wereldoorlog uitbrak, die aan de wetenschappelijke reizen steeds grooter moeilijkheden in den weg legde, en de stille sfeer verontrustte, waarbinnen alleen de diplomatische onderzoekingen het beste gedijen kunnen.