

DOWNSIDE REVIEW.

JANUARY, 1881.

EDITORIAL.

A FEW remarks may be allowed in bringing before our readers the second number of the "Downside Review."

First, we have to record our grateful thanks to all by whose kind co-operation we have been enabled, so far, to carry out the scheme proposed in our prospectus, and to make a beginning which, we trust, has found no less favour with others than it has been a source of encouragement to ourselves. It is hard to estimate and adequately to acknowledge our indebtedness towards those who have so willingly assisted the undertaking, both by the articles of great interest which they have contributed, and by other work in connection with it which they have cheerfully carried out. To all in authority at Downside, without whose approbation and encouragement our efforts would have been futile, we are most especially grateful.

We wish also to address to our readers a word or two of apology with regard both to the first number and the present.

For what may be found deficient in these two earliest numbers we would plead the "force of circumstances."

Scarcely had the proposed "Downside Review" been put well in hand before the editor left for Brussels and remained there during four months. The first number was therefore necessarily arranged by correspondence, and the difficulty of this may readily be imagined. We hoped, however, to have had more favourable opportunities of collecting material for, and bringing out, our second number; but very soon after the editor returned to

England his engagements obliged him to leave again for Russia, and the publication of this present number cannot be longer delayed.

In the first number we endeavoured to include as many articles as possible representative of the plan suggested in our prospectus, but some remained of considerable interest. Illustration, and especially illustration by means of sketches bringing back memories of the old place and its associations and characters, has been our chief aim. If, then, some articles of importance have still to be unavoidably postponed for a short time, and if the pencil does not even yet keep pace with the pen, we hope, for the causes we have mentioned, that we may meet with forbearance. On the one hand, we must continue to look to our subscribers for the sinews of war, and on the other, to our contributors for the soul which shall animate the existence of our magazine. So long as the latter is not deficient, the former, we trust, will not fail to be as readily granted to us as heretofore. In plainer prose, our first edition of 500 copies has been entirely exhausted, and we confidently hope for a continued sign of what (in more than one signification) is very sensible approbation.

One word more. The "Downside Review" is a private venture wholly dependent on the gratuitously supplied contributions and work necessary for its appearance. It professes to occupy itself solely with what is of interest directly or indirectly (and as far as possible directly only) to the Monastery and College of St. Gregory. It in no way attempts to compete with or rival any similar publication. It is only *published* for those specially interested in Downside. Lastly, it is in no way officially connected with the Society of St. Gregory as a body, though we are happy to know that it has obtained the approbation of that society, and has received a tangible proof of its good wishes in the grant of £10 made at the last meeting towards the expenses of publication.

