

PART II.

STORIES IN VERSE.

ST. GREGORY AND THE ANGLES (A.D. 597).

1. It was the market-place in Rome,
And crowds were there to buy and sell;
For merchants from afar had come,
And many wonders had to tell.
2. Full many various wares¹ were sold,
And brought from far across the waves;
Among the crowd you might behold
Some English children, captive slaves.
3. It chanced that holy Gregory
Was walking up and down that place;
And on those captives fell his eye,
For they were very fair of face.
4. Their eyes were blue, their hair was bright,
Their skin as white as buds of May;
When Gregory beheld that sight,
With saddened heart he turned away.
5. Then asked he of the standers-by
Those captive children's names to tell;
They answered, "Angles"—"Verily,"
Said he, "that name befits them well.
6. "Angles or angels, 'tis the same,
They have a most angelic face;

¹ *Wares, articles, goods.*