

about the Papal farms in Sicily he passes to the conversion of Britain, the extirpation of simony among the clergy of Gaul, negotiations with the armed conquerors of Italy, the revolutions of the Eastern Empire, the title of Universal Bishop usurped by John of Constantinople."¹

His writings were voluminous, but his theological works, although greatly admired in his own time, are of little value. He organised the Roman ritual and introduced the mode of chanting which bears his name.

He was the first monk to become a Pope and was a great patron of monks and fosterer of missions. Nor was his activity confined to ecclesiastical matters. He was a most careful administrator of the possessions of the See. A great part of his time was taken up with civic and political affairs. On him fell the task of defending Rome against the Lombards and negotiating with their king. He was practically an almost independent governor of Rome. So widespread was his influence that one of his biographers speaks of him as "an Argus with a hundred eyes, casting his glances over the length and breadth of the whole world." In his epitaph the men of his time spoke of him as the "Consul of God," rejoicing in his triumphs.

Four centuries were to elapse before a man of equal greatness held the Papacy, but in the interval the powers of the Popes had been increased in some directions.

Gregory II. "for the first time drew a sharp line between the Church and the State,"² disclaiming the right of the Emperor to interfere in matters of faith. The point of dispute was with reference to the use in the

¹ Milman,

² Thatcher and Schwill.