

CHAPTER I

*A Glance at the Yester-years of English History*

It is a far cry from Bristow, Virginia, in the closing years of the 19th century to the troublous days of England in the time of King Charles I, but the story of Bristow had its real beginning then. On January 30, 1649, Charles was beheaded as a climax to a bloody civil war. The "Roundheads," led by the fanatical Oliver Cromwell, had defeated the king's army in a series of battles; a "high court of justice" had sentenced Charles to death, and England was a hotbed of mutiny and unrest. In this dilemma, the king's loyal followers found England very unsafe as to life and property. Cromwell, we are told, feared God but not man. In his mistaken zeal he would have "purged" the country of every drop of royal blood, and confiscated the property of the "Cavaliers."

Scotland had remained loyal to the cause of the king, its outraged people flocking to the support of Charles' son, whom they proclaimed Charles II. In Scotland, then, many of the royal families of England sought refuge, establishing themselves in a section of the country called Dumfriesshire. Here they settled, and finding it necessary to eke out their dwindling fortunes by some method of livelihood, they looked to the sea, and became merchants by trade.

The New World was just beginning to make itself heard on the other side of the Atlantic. The English settlers had many wants and needs which could only be supplied by the Mother Country, and the ships which brought the goods to their shores were sent back laden with tobacco. The settlers realized that there was money

See  
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#### CHAPTER IV

##### *The Benedictines Enter the Picture*

During all the years of her convent life Sister Baptista had not been unmindful of her responsibility to "Lintonford", and toward the close of the century the thought of its future disposal began to cause her some anxiety. The Southern Railroad had been built through part of the plantation, cutting off many acres which had been acquired as "right of way".

Miss Anne was constantly in need of money, demanding that more land be sold or converted into farms. The once far-flung plantation was gradually dwindling, along with all the other "land grants" of colonial times.

About this time, Sister Baptista happened to read "The Monks of the West" by Count de Montalembert. This account of the work of the Benedictine Monks so influenced her that she conceived the idea of giving over what remained of the Linton Estate to this order for educational purposes.

Miss Anne's future had been assured by some generous benefactor, who had promised to pay an annuity of \$1500 to Miss Anne as long as she lived. This remittance came regularly, twice a year, from a bank in Baltimore.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Haid, O.S.B. of Belmont Abbey, North Carolina, was known to Sister Baptista through mutual friends and by reputation, so she turned to him first with a plan which must have seemed bristling with unsurmountable difficulties, but Bishop Haid was in favor of the undertaking, seeing thereby, an opportunity to spread the Faith in northern Virginia.

Sister Baptista's plan was two-fold in scope; she would