

580 - 599

580.CRONICUM SCOTORUM The battle of Druim Meic Erce in which Colgú son of Domnall son of Muirchertach fell. Aed son of Ainmire was victor.

580.Annals of Inisfallen. Death of Cairpre, king of Caisel. Repose of Finnián of Mag Bile. The battle of Colgu, son of Domnall, son of Mac Erce, and of Baetán, son of Cairell, in which they fell. Aed, son of Ainmire, was victor.

580. Annals of the Four Masters

The thirteenth year of Aedh. Fearghus Scannal, King of Munster, was slain.

580 Annals of Ulster The battle of Druim Meic Erce in which Colgu son of Domnall son of Muirchertach son of Muiredach grandson of Eógan fell. Aed son of Ainmire emerged victor. The expedition to Innsi Orc by Aedán son of Gabrán. Cennalath, king of the Picts, dies.

580 Annales Cambriae Gwrgi and Peredur sons of Elifert died.

SBG St Peredur. Peredur and brother of Gwrgi., the sons of Elifer Gosgorddfawr, belonged to North Britain, and met their death there as men of war, in 580. Peredur as a character is partly historical and partly mythical. He seems to have been the original of the Perceval of Romance.

SBG St Oudoceus No sooner, was Budic dead, than Macliau entered Cornubia and expelled Tewdrjg, who remained for long a wanderer. However, he did not lose courage, and in 577, having collected a body of followers, he swooped down on the Bishop, killed him and his son James, and recovered possession of Cornubia. We do not know the date of the death of Teilo ; accordingly not that of Oudoceus's succession to the abbacy and bishopric ; but he can hardly have been under thirty-five when elected into the room of his uncle. That would be in 580. He does not seem to have revisited Brittany. His brother

Tewdrig was prince then in Cornubia, and Oudoceus may have thought it inadvisable to appear in his territories, lest Tewdrig, who was his junior by a few years, should misunderstand his purpose in returning, and have his throat cut. But doubtless he sent some of Teilo's disciples to the foundations made by that saint in Armorica, to see to their welfare and maintenance in good discipline. He had, moreover, plenty to occupy him in Wales. He was particularly interested in assuring his hold over Penally and Llandeilo Fawr. We are informed that he visited them and met with an unpleasant experience on his way back.

He had gone there relic-hunting. Returning from a visit to S. David's, with some relics, he went to Llandeilo Fawr, where he collected "relics, of the disciples of S. Teilo his maternal uncle, and these he placed in a suitable coffer." 1 From Llandeilo Fawr he went on to Penallt in Cydweli, his "family bearing the relics reverently, the holy cross going before, and singing psalms." Then certain men rushed down on them

from the rocks shouting, "Shall these clerics get away, laden with gold and silver, and, with so to speak, the treasure of Saints Dewi and Teilo? Let us catch them, and enrich ourselves with the great store of gold and silver metal."

The legend as a matter of course makes the men become rigid and blind, till restored by the prayer of S. Oudoceus. Another story told of S. Oudoceus is, that, when he was thirsty one day, passing some women who were washing butter, he asked for a draught of water. They answered, laughing, that they had no vessel, from which he could drink. Then he took a pat of butter, moulded it into the shape of a bell, filled it at the spring, and drank out of it. And, lo! it was converted into a golden bell; and so it remained in the Church of Llandaff till it was melted up by the Commissioners of Henry VIII.

Einion, King of Glywysing (roughly, modern Glamorganshire), was hunting one day, and the stag took refuge under the cloak of S. Oudoceus. The saint seized the occasion to beg the prince to make him a grant of that bit of land, on the Wye, now represented by the parish of Llandogo, which the stag had encompassed in the day's hunt. The possessions of the abbey of Teilo beyond the Towy created friction. Cadwgan, the king, determined to drive Oudoceus out of them, and Oudoceus, unable to resist by force of arms, cursed his territory, and from that time forth the jurisdiction over Penally, Llandeilo Fawr, and Llanddowror seems to have ceased, 1 though the biographer pretends that Cadwgan was brought to his knees and obliged to make restitution.

In the time of Oudoceus began the ravages of the Saxons in Gwent. In 577 the fatal battle of Deorham had cut off the Britons of Wales from those in Devon and Cornwall, and it had left the Severn Valley and those of the Wye and Usk open to be entered and

ravaged at any time. The Hxviccas had settled in the rich land of Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, and as they stretched their limbs, they laid hold of ever more and more soil and wrenched it from the Britons. They crossed the Wye, laid Ewyas waste, and devastated the valleys of the Dore and of the Worm. A slice of what is now Herefordshire was lost to the British.

One day, when Oudoceus was wrapt in devotion, sobbing and crying, a monk ran to him with the announcement that some beams that had been cut for his buildings, and had been left where hewn, in the wood, were being carried off. Oudoceus jumped up, seized a hatchet, and ran off to the banks of the Wye to see after his beams, and found that the depredator was none other than Gildas the historian, who was just then spending some time in retreat on the Isle of Echni (the Flat Holm) in the Bristol Channel, and who wanted timber for his own buildings. Oudoceus shouted to him, as he rowed away with the beams, to come back and restore or apologize, but Gildas turned a deaf ear to entreaty and oburgation, and Oudoceus in a rage brought down his axe on a mass of stone hard by with such force as to split it, and the split remained as witness to the same till the time when the biographer wrote. Unhappily for him, the story is chronologically impossible. Gildas died in 570, and Oudoceus was not bishop till 580.

Meurig, the King of Morganwg, had committed murder. The case was gross, for he and Cynuetu, whom he slew, had come before Oudoceus and had sworn over relics to keep peace and friendship together. Very soon after, Meurig killed Cynuetu. Thereupon, Oudoceus called together the three abbots of most consequence in the district, Concen, Abbot of Llancarfan, Catgen, Abbot of Llantwit, and Sulgen, Abbot of Llandough, and hurled a curse upon the King and all his family, and cut off his land by interdict from Baptism and Communion, for the space of two years and more.

SBG St Padrig ab Alfryd Padrig founded Llanbadrig on the northern coast of Anglesey, There is a strange story in the Icelandic Landndma Boc of a certain Orlygr Hrappsson, who " had been fostered under Patrick the Bishop and the Saint in the Sudereys. He desired to go to Iceland, and he begged Patrick the Bishop to go with him. The Bishop gave him timber for building a church, which he was to take with him ; also a plenary, an iron bell, and a gold penny ; also consecrated earth to be laid under the main posts of the church, and to consider this as consecration, and he should dedicate it to S. Columcille."

Orlygr first reached a bay which he named after his foster-father, Patrechsford, and finally settled near the mouth of the Faxa river. As this took place between 860 and 870, it

is very obvious that the Patrick referred to was not the Apostle of Ireland ; and as Padrig ab Alfryd belonged to the latter half of the sixth century, the foster-father of Orlygr cannot have been he.

Landnama-Book. Helge Beolan, the son of Cetil Flat-neb, went to Iceland from the Southreys. He was with Ing-wolf the first winter, and took at his rede all Keel-ness between Mo-gils-river and Midge-dale-water. He dwelt at Temple. His sons were Battle-Hrapp and Ey-wind Shelty [Shetlander], father of Col-swegen, father of Ey-wind, who had to wife Thor-laug, Claeng's daughter. Their daughter was Thor-gerd, mother of Thora, whom Thor-kell,-the son of Osgar Cnaf, had to wife. Their son was Ag-mund, father of bishop John the saint [of Holar].

Aur-Lyg was the name of a son of Hrapp, the son of Beorn Buna. He was in fosterage with bishop Patrec, the saint in Southreys. A yearning came upon him to go to Iceland, and prayed bishop Patrec that he would give him an outfit. The bishop gave him timber for a church and asked him to take it with him, and a plenary and an iron church-bell, and a gold penny, and consecrated earth to lay under the corner-posts instead of hallowing the church, and prelates : dedicate the church to Colum-cella [Columba o' the Cells].

Then spake bishop Patrec : ' Wheresoever thou turnest in to land, dwell only there where three fells can be seen from the sea and a frith running between each fell, and a dale in each fell. Thou shalt sail to the furthest [southernmost] ; there shall be a shaw there, and further south under the fell thou shalt light on a clearing and three stones^ raised or set up there. Do thou raise thy church and homeste there.'

Aur-lyg put to sea, and in a second ship with him a man named Coll, his sworn brother. They kept company out. On board Aur-lyg's ship was a man whose name was Thor-beorn Sparrow ; another called Thor-beorn Talcni ; the third, Thor-beorn Scuma. They were the sons of Bead-were Bladder-pate. But when they came where they might look out for the land, there arose a great storm against them, and drove them west about Iceland. Then Aur-lyg called upon bishop Patrec, his foster-father, to bring them ashore, and [vowed] that he would give the place a name after his name wherever he should first come ashore. And after that they were but a little while ere they got to land ; and he brought his ship in to Aurlyg's haven, and called the frith Patrec's frith therefore. But as for Coll he called upon Thor or Thunder. They were parted in the storm, and he reached the place called Coils-wick, and there his ship was wrecked. H^is crew got to land some of them, and shall be told after.

And in the spring Aur-lyg fitted out his ship, and sailed away with all that he had ; and

when he came south off Faxes-mouth, he saw the fells that had been spoken of to him, and knewtiefh". And then the / iron bell fell overboard and sunk in the sea. But they sailed in along the frith, and went in to the land at the place that is now called Sand- wick / on Keel-ness, and there lay the iron bell in the sea-weed.

Aur-lyg took up his abode at Esia-rock [Clay-rock], by the rede , of Helge Beolan his kinsman, and took land in settlement between Mo-gils-river and Os-wif's becks. He built a church at Esia-rock, as . was commanded him.

Help was the name of his wife. Their son was Wal-theow, who came to Iceland a full-grown man with Aur-lyg. Afterward Aur-lyg had to wife Is-gerd, daughter of Diarmaid Bresesson. Their son was Gar-mund, father of Hall-dora, whom Theost-wolf, the son of Beorn Gold-bearer, had to wife.

581 Annals of Ulster The battle of Druim Meic Erca. The death of Baetán son of Cairell. The expedition to Innsi Orc.

581. Annals of the Four Masters The fourteenth year of Aedh. Aedh, son of Suibhne, chief of Maenmagh, died.

581.CRONICUM SCOTORUM Baetán son of Cairell, king of Ulaid, died.

SBG St Kyndeyrn.

Rhydderch submitted his entire kingdom to Kentigern, to be its spiritual head. Kentigern assembled the people for a great conference at Hoddam in Dumfriesshire, near the Annan river, and the church of S. Mungo, near by. There was a mound, which the saint ascended, and whence he was able to address the people.

Although it was known that the King Rhydderch favoured Kentigern, there was a strongly opposed faction, which clung to old usages and beliefs.

One of the superstitions most strongly resisted by Kentigern was the disfiguring of the face and body, in honour of the heathen gods, with staining, probably with woad. As late as 785 it fell under ecclesiastical censure, and there are allusions to it in the Lives of the Irish saints as symbols or badges of demoniacal homage, in contradistinction to the tonsure, that marked those who became servants of the living God.

When Kentigern preached, he routed these dyed and disfigured adherents of paganism. After a thorough cleansing of his own diocese, Kentigern proceeded into Galway among the Picts. He erected churches and placed clerics in various parts of Alba, and even

despatched some of his disciples to the Orkneys, to Norway, and to Iceland.

Whilst at Glasgow an event took place which has left its mark on the arms of the city. The queen, whose name was Langueth, having a young lover, gave him a ring, which had been a present of her husband. Rhydderch observed this on the man's finger as the latter lay asleep, and drawing it off, cast it into the Clyde, and then demanded the ring of his wife. In her difficulty she had recourse to S. Kentigern, who prayed, and, lo, a salmon was caught, that had the ring in its belly.

582. Annals of the Four Masters The fifteenth year of Aedh. Fearadhach, son of Duach, Lord of Osraighe, was slain by his own people.

582. Annals of Inisfallen. Death of Fergna, son of Caibléne.

582 Annals of Ulster The battle of Manu, in which Aedán son of Gabrán son of Domangart was victor. Death of Fergna son of Caibléne.

583. Death of Feradach son of Dauí, king of Osraige. Pelagius, a Roman by birth, sat 10 years, 2 months and 10 days. The battle of Manu won by Aedán. Death of Fergna son of Caibléne. Or this year, the repose of Brénainn of Cluain Ferta.

583. CRONICUM SCOTORUM The killing of Fergus Scannal king of Mumu. Repose of Fergus bishop of Druim Lethglaise, who built Cell Biain.

583 ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE. This year Mauricius succeeded to the empire of the Romans.

583. Annals of the Four Masters The sixteenth year of Aedh. St. Fearghus, Bishop of Druim Leathglaise, died on the 30th of March; and this was the Fearghus who founded Cill mBian.

583. Annals of Inisfallen. The battle of Manu [gained] by Aedán, son of Gabrán.

584. Death of Bruide, son of Maelchú.

584. Annals of the Four Masters The seventeenth year of Aedh. St. Nathcheimhe, Abbot of Tir Da Ghlas, the brother of Caeimhghin, died on the first day of May.

584 Annals of Ulster Repose of Fergus, bishop of Druim Lethglaise, who founded Cell Biain. Mauritius reigned 21 years, as Bede and Isidore state. Death of Bruide son of Maelchú, king of the Picts, and death of Feradach son of Dauí, king of Osraige. Or this year, the repose of Eichen.

584 ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE. This year Ceawlin and Cutha fought with the Britons on the spot that is called Fretherne. There Cutha was slain. And Ceawlin took many towns, as well as immense booty and wealth. He then retreated to his own people.

Ethelwerd's Chronicle After seven years, Ceawlin and Cutha fought against the Britons, at a place called Fethanleage [Frethern?] : there Cutha fell ; but Ceawlin reduced a multitude of cities, and took immense spoils.

584 Annales Cambriae Battle against the Isle of Man and the burial of Daniel of the Bangors.

585 Annals of Ulster Repose of Mac Nisi, abbot of Cluain Moccu Nóis, in the 17th year of his abbacy?. Death of Aed son of Suibne, king of Maenmag.

585.CRONICUM SCOTORUM Repose of Mac Nisi of the Ulaid, abbot of Cluain moccu Nóis.

585. Annals of the Four Masters The eighteenth year of Aedh. Breanainn, Lord of Teathbha Teffia, died. It was he that had, some time before, granted Dearthagh to God and to Colum Cille. Baetan, son of Cairell, King of Ulidia, died.

585. Annals of Inisfallen. Death of Feradach son of Dui, king of Osraige.

585 William of Malmesbury,

At the expiration of twenty-four years, he had for his successors his son Otha, and Otha's son, Ermenric, who, in their manners resembled him, rather than their grandfather and great grandfather. To the times of both, the Chronicles assign fifty-three years; but whether they reigned singly or together, does not appear.

After them Ethelbert, the son of Ermenic, reigned fifty-three years according to the Chronicle; but fifty-six according to Bede. The reader must determine how this difference is

to be accounted for; as I think it sufficient to have apprised him of it, I shall let the matter rest. In the infancy of his reign, he was such an object of contempt to the neighbouring kings that, defeated in two battles, he could scarcely defend his frontier; afterwards, however, when to his riper years he had added a more perfect knowledge of war, he quickly, by successive victories, subjugated every kingdom of the Angles, with the exception of the Northumbrians. And, in order to obtain foreign connections, he entered into affinity with the king of France, by marrying his daughter Bertha. And now by this connection with the Franks, the nation, hitherto savage and wedded to its own customs, began daily to divest itself of its rustic propensities and incline to gentler manners. To this was added the very exemplary life of bishop Luidhard, who had come over with the queen, by which, though silently, he allured the king to the knowledge of Christ our Lord. Hence it arose, that his mind, already softened, easily yielded to the preaching of the blessed Augustine; and he was the first of all his race who renounced the errors of paganism, that he might obscure, by the glory of his faith, those whom he surpassed in power. This, indeed, is spotless nobility; this, exalted virtue; to excel in worth those whom you exceed in rank. Besides, extending his care to posterity, he enacted laws, in his native tongue, in which he appointed rewards for the meritorious, and opposed severer restraint to the abandoned, leaving nothing doubtful for the future.

586. Annals of Inisfallen. The grandsons of Crítán.

586 Annals of Ulster The killing of Baetán son of Ninnid son of Dauí alias son of Fergus Cennfhata son of Conall of Gulbu, king of Temair, who reigned one year. Cuiméne Son of Colmán Bec son of Diaimait, and Cuiméne son of Librén son of Illand son of Cerball, killed him at the instigation of Colmán, i.e. at Léim ind Eich. Or this year, the battle of Druim Meic Erca.

586. CRONICUM SCOTORUM The killing of Baetán son of Ninnid son of Dauí son of Conall Gulban, king of Temair. Cuini son of Colmán and Cumaine son of Librén son of Illadon son of Cerball killed him at the instigation of Colmán Bec at Léim ind Eich.

By Conall, as 'tis admitted, Was won the joyful battle;

A happy path, prosperous streams spread Before Conall and Eoghan.

The beginning of the reign of Aed son of Ainmire.

586. Annals of the Four Masters The nineteenth year of Aedh. St. Daigh, bishop, son

of Cairell, died on the 18th of August. Feidhlimidh, son of Tighernach, King of Munster, died. The battle of Magh Ochtair was gained by Bran Dubh, son of Eochaidh, over the Ui Neill, at the hill over Cluain Conaire, to the south.

587. The twentieth year of Aedh. St. Caerlan, Bishop of Ard Macha, died on the twenty fourth day of March. St. Seanach, Bishop of Cluain Iraid, died.

587.CRONICUM SCOTORUM The battle of Belach Daithe in which Colmán Bec son of Diarmait fell. Aed son of Ainmire was victor. Daig son of Cairell rested.

587 Annals of Ulster The battle of Doaethe(?) in which Colmán Bec son of Diarmait fell. Aed son of Ainmire was victor. Daig son of Cairell died; and in this Librén son of Illand son of Cerball fell. Or here the death of Baetán son of Cairell, king of Ulaid.

587. Annals of Inisfallen. Repose of Mac Nise, abbot of Cluain Moccu Nóis.

588.. Death of Baetán, son of Ninnid.

588 Annals of Ulster Repose of Cairlén, bishop of Ard Macha—the bishop of Ard Macha, i.e. Ciarlaech from the territory of the Uí Nialláin. Repose of Senach, bishop of Cluain Iraid. Death of the grandsons of Giun(?). The conversion of Constantine to the Lord; and a great snowfall; and the slaying of Áed Dub son of Suibne, in a ship.

588 ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE. This year died King Ella; and Ethelric reigned after him five years.

588.CRONICUM SCOTORUM The slaying of Aed Dub son of Suibne Araide, who slew Diarmait son of Cerball. Repose of bishop Aed son of Brec. Repose of Aed son of Brénainn, king of Tethba. It is he that granted Dermag to Colum Cille. In the same year there occurred a very hot and dry summer. Daid of Cell Muine died.

588. Annals of the Four Masters The twenty-first yer of Aedh. St. Aedh, son of Breac, Bishop of Cill Air, in Meath, on the 10th of November. Lughaidh, of Lis Mor, died.

589 . The twenty second year of Aedh. St. Macnise, Abbot of Cluain Mic Nois for a period of sixteen years, died on the thirteenth of the month of June.

589 Annals of Ulster Repose of bishop Aed son of Brec. Aed son of Brénainn—i.e. it

is he who granted Dermag to Colum Cille—king of Tethba, died. And in the same time there occurred a very hot and dry summer.

589 Annales Cambriae The conversion of Constantine to the Lord.

589. Annals of Inisfallen. Repose of Daig, son of Cairell son of Colmán Bec, son of Diarmait. Repose of David of Cell Muine. Repose of Aed, son of Brec.

590. Great snow. The battle of Mag Óchtair [gained] over Mumu.

SBG St David Dies 589

590. CRONICUM SCOTORUM Death of Feidlimid son of Tigernach, king of Mumu. The birth of Cuimine Fota.

St Gregory I The Great. Pope 590-604

590. Annals of the Four Masters The twenty third year of Aedh.

The battle of Eadan Mor was gained by Fiachna, son of Baedan, son of Cairell, son of Muireadhach Muindearg, over Gerthidhe, son of Ronan, Lord of Cianachta, of which was said:

On the other occasion, when the soldiers of Baedan shall go into Breagh,

The Cianachta shall be on the alert, they shall not be the next to the shot.

Seanchan, son of Colman Mor, was slain. St. Gregory of the Golden Mouth was appointed to the chair and successorship of Peter the Apostle, against his will.

590 Annals of Ulster Death of Feidlimid son of Tigernach, king of Mumu. The battle of Lethreid won by Aedán son of Gabrán. The battle of Mag Ochtair won by Brandub son of Eochu over the Uí Néill. Or this year, the repose of Fergus, bishop of Druim Lethglaise, who founded Cell Biain.

591. An eclipse of the sun, i.e. a dark morning. Or here, the repose of Mac Nisi, abbot of Cluain Moccu Nóis.

591. Annals of the Four Masters The twenty fourth year of Aedh. Aedh Cerr, son of Colman, son of Cairbre, King of Leinster, died.

591.CRONICUM SCOTORUM An eclipse of the sun i.e. a dark morning.

Death of Lugaid of Les Mór.

591 ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE. This year there was a great slaughter of Britons at Wanborough; Ceawlin was driven from his kingdom, and Ceolric reigned six years.

POEMS RELATING TO URIEN AND HIS SON OWEN. XLVI. BOOK OF TALIESSIN XVIII.

A rumour has come to met from Calchvynydd,
A disgrace in the south country, a praiseworthy pillage.
And he will give to a lion the fierceness of his baptism.
Full is his strath of joyful produce.
The people are satiated with warfare, the strangers are satiated,
A battle of encroachment, during the excessive heat of the country,
A wonder of Cymry that relate it.
Let the cattle of the son of Idno come to Dyved.
And let no one dare not to come.
10 To pay a hundred cows I will give one calf.
The slaughter of thy foes about thy country,
Like fire it heats a vapour where it happens to be.
When we made an expedition to the land of Gwydno,
There was a corpse delicately fair between the gravel and the pebbles on the bank.
When he returned in the autumn from the country of Clydesmen,
The cow did not low to her calf.
Will greet Mabon from another country,
A battle, when Owain defends the cattle of his country.
A battle in the ford of Alclud, a battle in the Gwen,
20 A battle, in conjunction of tumult to them.
A battle against Rodawys of snowy-white aspect,
Brandishing of spears and black, and bright sheets,
A battle on this side of the gleaming guiding heart of oak.
A shield in hand, the camp trembling,
Saw Mabon on the fair portion of Reidol.
Against the kine of Reged they engaged,
If they had wings they would have flown.

Against Mabon without corpses they would not go.
Meeting, they descend and commence the battle.
30 The country of Mabon is pierced with destructive slaughter.
When Owain descends for the kine of his father,
There broke out lime, and wax, and hawthorn.
Is it not fair prey for any one to take a bald cow?
Support each other against men with ruddy spears.
Against the four-way-spreading conflagration,
Against the mighty rising.
Against gore on flesh,
Against a dismal straining.
A rumour came to me,
40 From the bright lands of the South.
Splendid and liberal chiefs declare
That thou shalt not be addressed by vulgar ones.
About the ford of the boundary, about the alders his battle-places.
When was caused the battle of the king, sovereign, prince,
Very wild will the kine be before Mabon.
From the meeting of Gwrgun.
The resting-place of the corpses of some was in Run.
There was joy, there will be for ravens.
Loud the talk of men after
50 Battle. Escaped not the shield of Owain.
With notched shield an opposing in battle tumult,
Cattle would not run about without crimson faces.
Crimson were the kine of Bender, and great his grace,
Gore surrounding the top of his head.
And a white face conspicuous the gasping.
The golden saddle (was) drenched in gore, as to its appearance.
The Gwentians praise the booty, the booty was extended,
The booty in front of the eager battle of the eager strangers.
A booty of heads with forked branches. On the shields
60 Awfully the blades are falling about the head.
A battle in front of Owain, great, great his rage.
A fine day, they fell, men, defending (their) country.

There rested the extreme-impelling advantage of their father.

591. Annals of Inisfallen. Great drought this year.

592. Fintan Corad, coarb of Brénainn, rested in Christ.

592. Annals of the Four Masters The twenty fifth year of Aedh.

Colum Cille, son of Feidhlimidh, apostle of Alba Scotland, head of the piety of the most part of Ireland and Alba, next after Patrick, died in his own church in Hy, in Alba, after the thirty fifth year of his pilgrimage, on Sunday night precisely, the 9th day of June. Seventy seven years was his whole age when he resigned his spirit to heaven, as is said in this quatrain:

1. Three years without light
was Colum in his Duibh-regles;
He went to the angels from his body,
after seven years and seventy.

Dallan Forgaill composed this on the death of Colum Cille:

1. Like the cure of a physician without light,
like the separation of marrow from the bone,
Like a song to a harp without the ceis,
are we after being deprived of our noble.

Aedh Dubh, son of Suibhne, King of Ulidia, was slain by Fiachna, son of Baedan. It was by this Aedh Dubh Diarmaid Mac Cearbhaill had been slain.

592 Annals of Ulster . Death of Lugaid of Les Mór. Birth of Cuiméne Fata. A dark morning. Beginning of the reign of Aed son of Ainmire.

592. CRONICUM SCOTORUM Death of Óengus son of Amalgaid. Uatu son of Aed, king of Connacht, died. Gregory, a Roman by birth, whose father was Gordian, sat 13 years 6 months and 10 days in the time of Maurice, and was buried in the basilica of St. Peter the apostle in front of the sacristy.

The killing of Senchán, son of Colman Mór.

592 ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE. This year Gregory succeeded to the papacy at Rome.

593 ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE. . This year died Ceawlin, and Cwichelm, and Cryda; and Ethelfrith succeeded to the kingdom of the Northumbrians. He was the son of Ethelric; Ethelric of Ida.

Ethelwerd's Chronicle In the eighth year there was a great slaughter on both sides, at a place called Wodnesbyrg [Wemborow ?] , so that Ceawlin was put to flight, and died at the end of one more year. After him, Cwichelm, Crida, and Ethelfrid, succeeded to the kingdom.

593 Annals of Ulster Death of Aengus son of Amalngaid. Gregory, a Roman by birth, whose father was Gordian, sat 13 years, 6 months, 10 days. He was Pope in the time of Mauricius the emperor, and Foccas—in the second year of the same Foccas; and he was buried in the basilica of St Peter the Apostle in front of the sacristy. Or this year, the battle of Belach Daithe, in which fall Colmán Bec son of Diarmait, from whom are descended Clann Cholmáin i.e. the Uí Mhaeil Shechlainn, etc. Áed son of Ainmire was victor.

593. Annals of the Four Masters The twenty sixth year of Aedh. Cumuscach, son of Aedh, son of Ainmire, was slain by Bran Dubh, son of Eochaidh, at Dun Bucat, as the Bishop St. Aedhan said:

. I implore the powerful Lord, near Cill Rannairech,

It was he that took revenge of Comuscach, that slew Aedh mac Ainmirech.

The battle of Sliabh Cua, in Munster, was gained over the Munstermen by Fiachna, son of Baedan. Tibraide, son of Calgach, died.

593. Annals of Inisfallen. Death of Feidlimid son of Tigernach, king of Caisel. Repose of Aed, grandson of Cathaír, from Birra.

594. Eclipse of the sun in the morning.

594 Annales Cambriae Aethelbert reigned in England.

594 Annals of Ulster The battle of Gerrthide, king of Ciannachta. At Éudann Mór it was won. Fiachna son of Baetán—Fiachna son of Baetán son of Cairell son of Muiredach Muinderg—was victor.

594. Annals of the Four Masters After Aedh, son of Ainmire, son of Sedna, had been

twenty seven years in the sovereignty of Ireland, he was slain by Bran Dubh, son of Eochaidh, in the battle of Dun Bolg, in Leinster, after Aedh had

gone to exact the Borumha, and to avenge his son Comusgach upon them. Some nobles fell in this battle of Bealach Duin Bolg, together with Beg, son of Cuanach, Lord of Oirghialla. Of the death of Aedh was said:

. At Buac, the wave buffets the brink,

News were heard, who, in weariness, slew Aedh, son of Ainmire.

The wife of Aedhi cecinit:

Three sides were dear, from which to change is affords no hope,

The side of Tailtin, the side of Teamhair, and the side of Aedh, son of Ainmire.

595.CRONICUM SCOTORUM Repose of Colum Cille on the eve of Pentecost, the fifth of the Ides of June, in the 36th year of his pilgrimage, in the 76th year of his age, as is said:

Thirty years, without light, was Colum Cille in his Black Regles;

He went to angels from his body After seven years and seventy.

595.Annals of Inisfallen. The battle of Dún Cocuiche. The slaying of Gerthide.

595 Annales Cambriae The death of Columba.

The death of king Dunod son of Pabo.

Augustine and Mellitus converted the English to Christ.

595. Annals of the Four Masters The first year of Aedh Slaine, son of the son of Diarmaid, son of Fearghus Cerrbheoil, and of Colman Rimidh, in the sovereignty of Ireland Baeithin, son of Brenainn, Abbot of Ia Choluim Cille Iona, died on the 9th of June. Alithir, Abbot of Cluain Mic Nois, died.

595 Annals of Ulster Repose of Colum Cille on the fifth of the Ides of June in the 76th year of his age. Death of Eógan son of Gabrán. Or this year, the repose of bishop Áed son of Brecc, and of Aed son of Brénainn.

596 Annals of Ulster . The battle of Ráith in Druad. The battle of Ard Sendaim. The slaying of Aedán's sons i.e. Bran and Domangart. The battle of Corann.

596. Annals of the Four Masters

The second year of Aedh Slaine and of Colman. St. Sinche, virgin, of Cluain Leththeangadh, died on the ninth day of November. Suibhne, son of Colman Beg, Lord of Meath, was slain by Aedh Slaine, at Bridamh.

596 ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE. This year Pope Gregory sent Augustine to Britain with very many monks, to preach the word of God to the English people.

Ethelwerd's Chronicle Of the coming of Augustine, who was sent by the blessed Pop Gregory. As Divine Providence, mercifully looking down upon all things from all eternity, is accustomed to rule them, not by necessity, but by its powerful superintendence, and remaining always immoveable in itself, and disposing the different elements by its word, and the human race to come to the knowledge of the truth by the death of his only begotten Son, by whose blood the four quarters of the world are redeemed, so now by his servant doth it dispel the darkness in the regions of the west.

Whilst therefore the blessed pope Gregory sat on the episcopal seat, and sowed the seeds of the gospel of Christ, there stood by him some men of unknown tongue and very comely to look on. The holy man admiring the beauty of their countenances, asked of them with earnestness from what country they came. The young men with downcast looks replied, that they were Angles. " Are you Christians," said the holy man, "or heathens ?" "Certainly not Christians," said they, " for no one has yet opened our ears." Then the holy man, lifting up his eyes, replied, " What man, when there are stones at hand, lays a foundation with reeds ?" They answer, " No man of prudence." " You have well said," answered he ; and he straightway took them into a room, where he instructed them in the divine oracles, and afterwards washed them with the baptism of Christ : and further he arranged with them, that he would go with them into their country. When the Romans heard of this they opposed his words, and were unwilling to allow their pastor to go so far from home. The blessed pope Gregory, therefore, seeing that the people were opposed to him, sent with the men aforesaid one of his disciples, who was well instructed in the divine oracles, by name Augustine, and with him a multitude of brethren.

When these men arrived, the English received the faith and erected temples, and our Saviour Jesus Christ exhibited innumerable miracles to his faithful followers through the prayers of the bishop, St. Augustine ; at whose tomb, even to the present day, no small number of miracles are wrought, with the assistance of our Lord.

BEDE

CHAP. XXIII. How the holy Pope Gregory sent Augustine, with other monks, to preach to the English nation, and encouraged them by a letter of exhortation, not to desist from their labour. [596 A. D.]

IN the year of our Lord 582, Maurice, the fifty-fourth from Augustus, ascended the throne, and reigned twenty one years. In the tenth year of his reign, Gregory, a man eminent in learning and the conduct of affairs, was promoted to the Apostolic see of Rome, and presided over it thirteen years, six months and ten days. He, being moved by Divine inspiration, in the fourteenth year of the same emperor, and about the one hundred and fiftieth after the coming of the English into Britain, sent the servant of God, Augustine, and with him divers other monks, who feared the Lord, to preach the Word of God to the English nation. They having, in obedience to the pope's commands, undertaken that work, when they had gone but a little way on their journey, were seized with craven terror, and began to think of returning home, rather than proceed to a barbarous, fierce, and unbelieving nation, to whose very language they were strangers; and by common consent they decided that this was the safer course. At once Augustine, who had been appointed to be consecrated bishop, if they should be received by the English, was sent back, that he might, by humble entreaty, obtain of the blessed Gregory, that they should not be compelled to undertake so dangerous, toilsome, and uncertain a journey. The pope, in reply, sent them a letter of exhortation, persuading them to set forth to the work of the Divine Word, and rely on the help of God. The purport of which letter was as follows:

"Gregory, the servant of the servants of God, to the servants of our Lord. Forasmuch as it had been better not to begin a good work, than to think of desisting from one which has been begun, it behoves you, my beloved sons, to fulfil with all diligence the good work, which, by the help of the Lord, you have undertaken. Let not, therefore, the toil of the journey, nor the tongues of evil-speaking men, discourage you; but with all earnestness and zeal perform, by God's guidance, that which you have set about; being assured, that great labour is followed by the greater glory of an eternal reward. When Augustine, your Superior, returns, whom we also constitute your abbot, humbly obey him in all things; knowing, that whatsoever you shall do by his direction, will, in all respects, be profitable to your souls. Almighty God protect you with His grace, and grant that I may, in the heavenly country, see the fruits of your labour, inasmuch as, though I cannot labour with you, I shall partake in the joy of the reward, because I am willing to labour. God keep you in safety, my most beloved sons. Given the 23rd of July, in the fourteenth year of the reign of our most

religious lord, Mauritius Tiberius Augustus, the thirteenth year after the consulship of our lord aforesaid, and the fourteenth indiction."

596. Annals of Inisfallen. The slaying of Senchán, son of Colmán Mór. Birth of Cuimíne, i.e. the Tall, son of Fiachna.

597 . Repose of Colum Cille on Sunday night on the fifth of the Ides [9th] of June in the 35th year of his exile and in the 76th of his age. Repose of Gregory of Rome according to others.

597. CRONICUM SCOTORUM The battle of Sliab Cua in Mumu, in which Fiachna son of Baetán was victor. The killing of Cumascach son of Aed by Brandub son of Eochu in Dún Buchat. Death of Tipraite son of Calgach.

597 ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE. This year began Ceolwulf to reign over the West-Saxons; and he constantly fought and conquered, either with the Angles, or the Welsh, or the Picts, or the Scots. He was the son of Cutha, Cutha of Cynric, Cynric of Cerdic, Cerdic of Elesa, Elesa of Gewis, Gewis of Wye, Wye of Frewin, Frewin of Frithgar, Frithgar of Brand, Brand of Balday, and Balday of Woden. This year came Augustine and his companions to England.

Ethelwerd's Chronicle WHEN the man aforesaid arrived, Ethelbert bore rule over Kent, and receiving the faith, submitted to be baptized with all his house. He was the first king among the English who received the word of Christ. Lastly Ethelbert was the son of Ermenric, whose grandfather was Ohta, who bore the prenomens of Eisc, from which the kings of Kent were afterwards named Esings, as the Romans from Romulus, the Cecropidse from Cecrops, and the Tuscans from Tuscus. For Eisc was the father of Hengist, who was the first consul and leader of the Angles out of Germany ; whose father was Wihtgils, his grandfather Witta, his great-grandfather Wecta, his great-grandfather's father Woden, who also was king of many nations, whom some of the pagans now still worship as a god. And the number of years that was completed from the incarnation of our Lord was four years less, than six hundred.f

At the end of one year, Ceolwulf began to reigt over the Western English.^ His family was derived from Woden ; and so great was his ferocity that he is said to have been always at war, either with his own nation or with the Britons, or the Picts or Scots.

597. Annals of the Four Masters The third year of Aedh and Colman. The sword blows of Bran Dubh in Breagh. Brenainn, son of Cairbre, son of Fecine, Lord of Ui Maine, died. The battle of Sleamhain, in Meath, was fought by Colman Rimidh against Conall Cu, son of Aedh, son of Ainmire; and Conall was defeated. The battle of Cuil Cael, by Fiachna, son of Baedan, against Fiachna, son of Deman; and the battle was gained against Fiachna, son of Deman. Uata, son of Aedh, son of Eochaidh Tirmcharna, King of Connaught, died. Eochaidh, son of Diarmaid, Bishop and Abbot of Ard Macha Armagh, died.

597 Annals of Ulster The killing of Cumascach son of Áed, by Brandub son of Eochu, in Dún Buchat. The battle of Sliab Cua in the territories of Mumu, in which Fiachna son of Baetán was victor. Death of Tipraite son of Calgach.

BEDE

CHAP. XXV. How Augustine, coming into Britain, first preached in the Isle of Thanet to the King of Kent, and having obtained licence from him, went into Kent, in order to preach therein. [597 A. D.]

Augustine, thus strengthened by the encouragement of the blessed Father Gregory, returned to the work of the Word of God, with the servants of Christ who were with him, and arrived in Britain. The powerful Ethelbert was at that time king of Kent; he had extended his dominions as far as the boundary formed by the great river Humber, by which the Southern Saxons are divided from the Northern. On the east of Kent is the large Isle of Thanet, containing, according to the English way of reckoning, 600 families, divided from the mainland by the river Wantsum, which is about three furlongs in breadth, and which can be crossed only in two places; for at both ends it runs into the sea. On this island landed the servant of the Lord, Augustine, and his companions, being, as is reported, nearly forty men. They had obtained, by order of the blessed Pope Gregory, interpreters of the nation of the Franks, and sending to Ethelbert, signified that they were come from Rome, and brought a joyful message, which most undoubtedly assured to those that hearkened to it everlasting joys in heaven, and a kingdom that would never end, with the living and true God. The king hearing this, gave orders that they, should stay in the island where they had landed, and be furnished with necessaries, till he should consider what to do with them. For he had before heard of the Christian religion, having a Christian wife of the royal family of the Franks, called Bertha; whom he had received from her parents, upon condition that she should be permitted to preserve inviolate the rites of

her religion with the Bishop Liudhard, who was sent with her to support her in the faith. Some days after, the king came into the island, and sitting in the open air, ordered Augustine and his companions to come and hold a conference with him. For he had taken precaution that they should not come to him in any house, lest, by so coming, according to an ancient superstition, if they practised any magical arts, they might impose upon him, and so get the better of him. But they came endued with Divine, not with magic power, bearing a silver cross for their banner, and the image of our Lord and Saviour painted on a board; and chanting litanies, they offered up their prayers to the Lord for the eternal salvation both of themselves and of those to whom and for whom they had come. When they had sat down, in obedience to the king's commands, and preached to him and his attendants there present the Word of life, the king answered thus: "Your words and promises are fair, but because they are new to us, and of uncertain import, I cannot consent to them so far as to forsake that which I have so long observed with the whole English nation. But because you are come from far as strangers into my kingdom, and, as I conceive, are desirous to impart to us those things which you believe to be true, and most beneficial, we desire not to harm you, but will give you favourable entertainment, and take care to supply you with all things necessary to your sustenance; nor do we forbid you to preach and gain as many as you can to your religion." Accordingly he gave them an abode in the city of Canterbury, which was the metropolis of all his dominions, and, as he had promised, besides supplying them with sustenance, did not refuse them liberty to preach. It is told that, as they drew near to the city, after their manner, with the holy cross, and the image of our sovereign Lord and King, Jesus Christ, they sang in concert this litany: "We beseech thee, Lord, for Thy great mercy, that Thy wrath and anger be turned away from this city, and from Thy holy house, for we have sinned. Hallelujah."

CHAP. XXVI. How St. Augustine in Kent followed the doctrine and manner of life of the primitive Church, and settled his episcopal see in the royal city. [597 A. D.]

AS soon as they entered the dwelling-place assigned to them, they began to imitate the Apostolic manner of life in the primitive Church; applying themselves to constant prayer, watchings, and fastings; preaching the Word of life to as many as they could; despising all worldly things, as in nowise concerning them; receiving only their necessary food from those they taught; living themselves in all respects conformably to what they taught, and being always ready to suffer any adversity, and even to die for that truth which they preached. In brief, some believed and were baptized, admiring the simplicity of their blameless life, and the sweetness of their heavenly doctrine. There was on the east side of the city, a church dedicated of old to the honour of St. Martin, (Note: St. Martin was

regarded with special reverence in Britain and Ireland. Possibly some of the earliest missionaries may have been his disciples, e.g., St. Ninian and, St. Patrick. The Roman church of St. Martin at Canterbury has been frequently altered and partly rebuilt, so that "small portions only of the Roman walls remain. Roman bricks are used as old materials in the parts rebuilt") built whilst the Romans were still in the island, wherein the queen, who, as has been said before, was a Christian, was wont to pray. In this they also first began to come together, to chant the Psalms, to pray, to celebrate Mass, to preach, and to baptize, till when the king had been converted to the faith, they obtained greater liberty to preach everywhere and build or repair churches.

When he, among the rest, believed and was baptized, attracted by the pure life of these holy men and their gracious promises, the truth of which they established by many miracles, greater numbers began daily to flock together to hear the Word, and, forsaking their heathen rites, to have fellowship, through faith, in the unity of Christ's Holy Church. It is told that the king, while he rejoiced at their conversion and their faith, yet compelled none to embrace Christianity, but only showed more affection to the believers, as to his fellow citizens in the kingdom of Heaven. For he had learned from those who had instructed him and guided him to salvation, that the service of Christ ought to be voluntary, not by compulsion. Nor was it long before he gave his teachers a settled residence suited to their degree in his metropolis of Canterbury, with such possessions of divers sorts as were necessary for them.

598 Annals of Ulster Repose of Baethéne, abbot of Ia. The killing alias the battle of Dún Bolg, in which fell Aed son of Ainmire, by Brandub son of Eochu, and Béc son of Cuanu, king of the Uí Meic Uais. Eochu, abbot of Ard Macha, rested. Beginning of the joint-reign of Colmán Rímid and Aed Sláine

Augustine came to England.

598. Annals of the Four Masters The fourth year of Aedh and Colman. St. Cainnech, Abbot of Achadh Bo, died on the 11th of October, after having been eighty four years in this life. The battle of Eachros, in Muirisc, by Colman, chief of Cinel Cairbre, against Maelcothaigh, chief of Cinel Fiachrach, of Muirisc; and the battle was gained over Maelcothaigh.

598. CRONICUM SCOTORUM Repose of Baethéne, abbot of Ia. The battle of Dún Bolg, won by Brandub son of Eochu with the Laigin, on the 4th of the Ides of January, in

which fell Aed son of Ainmire by Brandub son of Eochu and Béc son of Cuanu, king of Airgialla, and other nobles; of this was said:

At Buach The wave dashes against the brink;

Accounts report, though abhorrent, That Aedh, son of Ainmire, was slain;

His wife said:

There were three beloved sides Of whose return there is no hope;

The side of Tailtén, the side of Temhair, And the side of Aedh, son of Ainmire.

The beginning of the joint reign of Colmán Rímid and Aed Sláine. Ailither, abbot of Cluain moccu Nóis, rested: he was of the Músraige.

The Saxons receive the faith.

598. Annals of Inisfallen. The battle of Ráith in Druad and the battle of Ard Sendaim. The Uí Fhinn were put to flight. The Araid [were] victors.

599. The years from the Passion of the Lord were 572 in this year.

599 Annals of Ulster Ailither, abbot of Cluain Moccu Nóis, rests. Repose of Cainnech of Achad Bó, as Cuanu states.

SBG St Constantine. Constantine, son of Rhydderch Hael, King of the Cumbrian Britons. He was born after the return of Kentigern to Strathclyde in 573. Of him we know very little ; only what we are told in the Life of S. Kentigern by Joscelyn, which is this The queen (of Rhydderch), Langueth by name, was sterile, but, by the benediction and intercession of S. Kentigern, she conceived and bore a son, whom the Saint baptized, and to whom he gave the name of Constantine. The boy grew up in favour with God and man, and after his father's death succeeded to the sovereignty of the Northern Cymry, and was subject to the bishop, as was his father. And because God was with him, he succeeded in controlling all the barbarous neighbouring nations, without effusion of blood. And he excelled all the kings who had reigned before him in Cumbria in riches and glory and dignity, and, what was more considerable, in sanctity. Wherefore, illustrious in merits, finishing his course in prosperity, he was crowned with glory in heaven, Rhydderch is supposed to have died about 600, and we may put the date of the death of this Constantine as taking place about 630.

BEDE

CHAP. XXVII. How St. Augustine, being made a bishop, sent to acquaint Pope Gregory

with what had been done in Britain, and asked and received replies, of which he stood in need. [597-601 A.D.]

IN the meantime, Augustine, the man of God, went to Aries, and, according to the orders received from the holy Father Gregory, was ordained archbishop of the English nation, by Aetherius, archbishop of that city. Then returning into Britain, he sent Laurentius the priest and Peter the monk to Rome, to acquaint Pope Gregory, that the English nation had received the faith of Christ, and that he was himself made their bishop.

St Gregory I The Great. Pope 590-604