

Bertin were persons eminently learned. St. Omer also built the church of our Lady at Sithiu, with a small monastery adjoining, and a burial place for the monks of St. Bertin's or Old Sithiu. The author of his life recounts many miracles performed by him. In his old age he was blind some years before his death ; but that affliction made no abatement in his pastoral concern for his flock. When St. Aubert, bishop of Arras and Cambray, translated the relics of St. Vedast from the cathedral to the monastery which he had built in his honour, St. Omer and St. Lambert, bishop of Tongres, assisted at that ceremony in 667, and the former is related to have recovered his sight for a short time on that occasion. The most probable opinion is that St. Omer died in the year 670, on the 9th of September, the day on which his feast is celebrated. His body was buried by St. Bertin at our Lady's church, which is now the cathedral.\*

#### ST. KIARAN, ABBOT IN IRELAND.†

He was converted by hearing a passage of the gospel read at church. He put himself under the discipline of St. Finian, who, admiring his great proficiency and fervour, foretold that half the monasteries of Ireland would receive a rule from him.‡

\* The village of Sithiu by means of this abbey grew into a town, which was encompassed with a wall by Fulco, the eighteenth abbot, who afterwards succeeded Hincmar in the archiepiscopal see of Rheims. The city of Tarvanne having revolted to the French its ancient masters, was utterly destroyed by Charles V. in 1553. The bishop retired to Boulogne, which became the episcopal see for that part of the diocese which was then subject to France. The rest of it was divided into two other diocesses, those of St. Omer and Ypres, which were erected six years after, in 1559. See Guicciardini's Desc. Belgii, Gramaya in Ipreto, p. 178.

† This saint is surnamed Macantsaoir, being the son of a carpenter; and is also called the Younger, to distinguish him from St. Kieran, first bishop of Saigir, now a part of Ossory, who is honoured on the 5th of March.

‡ About a mile's distance from the parish church of Kileroghan, near the river Blackwater in the county of Kerry, is a curious hermitage or cell, hewn out of the solid rock, situated on the top of a hill; this cell is named St. Croghan's, who is the patron saint of the parish. The intelligent among the antiquaries say, that in this place the celebrated St. Kieran Saigar, who according to Usher was born in the island of Cape Clear, composed his rule for monks; although others say it was in an adjacent grotto. Be this as it may, the stalactical exudations of the above-mentioned cell are held in great estimation by the country people, who carefully preserve them as imagining them to have many virtues from the supposed sanctity of the place they grow in. See Smith's ancient and present state of Kerry, Dublin, 1756, p. 93.

St. Kieran afterwards founded a numerous monastery in the isle of Inis-Aingean, which was bestowed on him by king Dermotius. Committing the government of this house to another, he built, by the liberality of the same king, another great monastery and school in West Meath, called Cluain-Macnois,\* on the river Shannon, which soon became a bishop's see, Allemanne in his inaccurate *Monasticon Hib.* thinks in the life-time of our saint; but Cumman, in his letter to the abbot Segienus in the seventh century, does not give him the title of bishop.(1) The monastic rule, or, as it is called in the *Annals of Ulster*, the Law of Kieran, was very austere.† This saint died on the 9th of September in 549, and was honoured as chief patron of Connaught in the same manner as St. Brigit was of Leinster. See his Acts quoted by Usher, *Antiq.* p. 471, Suysken the Bollandist, t. 3, Sept. p. 370 to 383. Sir James Ware, &c.

#### ST. OSMANNA, VIRGIN.

SHE was descended from an illustrious family in Ireland, and retired to France to live in a state of virginity. She fixed her residence in Lesser-Brittany, served God there in solitude with great fervour, and died near St. Brieuc, about the seventh age. For several centuries her relics were kept in a shrine in a chapel dedicated to God under her patronage in the abbatical church of St. Denys near Paris; but part of them was dispersed by the Calvinists in 1567. She is mentioned in several Martyrologies under this day. See her two lives, one by Capgrave, the other shorter and more exact, published by Suysken, *Act. SS.* tom. 3. Sept. 419.

(1) Ap. Usher. in *Sylloge Epist. Hib.*

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\* Usher tells us that the name *Cluainmacnois* was in the provincial dialect *Dun-heron*; i. e. hill or habitation of Kieran, *Dun* signifying a house or fortress on an eminence. *Cluain* in the Irish signifies a plain or lawn between woods or bogs.

† The Scots honour on this day another St. Kieran, or Quiran, abbot of the monastery of Faille, near that of Kilwenin at Cunningham, and not far from Irwin in the county of Clydesdale. In the same province stood the celebrated abbey of Paisley, described by Bishop Lesley, *Descript. Scot.* p. 11. It was founded by Walter Stuart, great-grandson of him who was created grand-master of Scotland by King Malcolm III.—See Lesley, *Hist.* l. 6, &c. Some Scottish writers place this St. Quiran in the ninth age; but it is probable that they have confounded him with our Irish saint, who was in that age honoured at Paisley with particular devotion.