

ST. MUREDACH,

FIRST BISHOP OF KILLALA, IN IRELAND.

ST. PATRICK, in his progress through Connaught, coming to a pleasant place where the river Moy empties itself into the ocean, built on the south banks a noble church called Kill-Aladh, of which he made Muredach, one of his disciples, bishop, about the year 440. It is situated in the county of Mayo. The bishops of this see have been sometimes called bishops of Tiramalgaid, now corrupted into the barony of Tirawly; sometimes of O'Fiacra-Mui—i. e., O'Fiacra, on the river Moy, a small territory; but since the twelfth century, of Killala, from Kill-Aladh. The festival of St. Muredach is observed on the 12th of August. See Ware, t. 1. p. 649.

AUGUST XIII.

SAINT HIPPOLYTUS, M.

From Prudent. hymn. 11. De Cor. ed. a P. Chamillard, in usum Delphini, p. 278.

A. D. 252.

ONE of the most illustrious martyrs who suffered in the reign of Gallus* was St. Hippolytus, one of the twenty-five priests of Rome, who had the misfortune for some time to have been de-

* Decius raised the seventh general persecution against the church, which he carried on with the utmost cruelty during his whole reign, though this did not much exceed two years; for presuming to rage against God, says Lactantius, (l. de Mort. Pers. n. 4.) he was immediately thrown down. Having marched against the Carpi, a Scythian nation, who had possessed themselves of Dacia and Moesia, in Thrace, he was surrounded by the barbarians and a great part of his army was cut off; his eldest son was killed in the battle: Decius himself, in his flight, sunk in a morass, together with his horse, and there perished. His body could never be found, and he was deprived of the honour of a funeral. His death, which happened on the 27th of October, 251, restored peace to the church for a short time. Gallus, then his general on the Tanais, to whose treachery his misfortune is ascribed, succeeded him in the empire, and created his son Volusianus, Cæsar. Hostilius, the second son of Decius, was acknowledged his colleague in the throne, but soon died, whether by a natural distemper or through some contrivance of Gallus, is uncertain. The new emperor having purchased an ignominious peace of the Scythians, by subjecting the empire to an annual tribute, and