

cannot render you acceptable to God. Fraternal charity is the soul of a religious house." Having spoken these words, lifting up his hands and eyes towards heaven, he happily surrendered his soul into the hands of his Creator on the 15th of September, about the year of our Lord 687, in the sixty-third year of his age. A church was built at Jumieges in his honour. During the incursions of the Normans and Danes his relics were conveyed to Hapres, a priory between Cambray and Valenciennes, dependant on the great abbey of St. Vaast, and have since remained at the disposal of this monastery. See the life of St. Aicard in *Surius and Baillet*, 15 Sept. and another, older and more accurate, in *Mabillon, Act. Bened. Sec. 2*, p. 954, &c. Also the commentaries and notes of *Perier the Bollandist*, t. 5, Sept. p. 80, and, on his translation, *Baldericus*, in his *Chronicon Cameracense*.

#### ST. APER, OR EVRE, B. C.

HE was born at Troyes in Champagne, as was his sister, the holy virgin Apronia, honoured at Troyes and Toul on the 15th of July. Upon the death of St. Auspicius, sixth bishop of Troyes, in Champagne, about the year 486, he was chosen to fill that chair, for which he was prepared by a life devoted to the divine service from his infancy. *Baronius*, *F. Peter Chifflet*, and *F. Longueval* think him the same with *Aper*, who was married, had been a judge, and, after having led for some years a worldly life, was converted to God, and served him with great fervour, as we learn from three letters of St. Paulinus to him. But the authors of the new *Gallia Christiana*, and *Calmet*, in his history of Lorraine, show, that this *Aper* must have been above one hundred years old before he could have been bishop, which is incredible. Nor does it appear that the bishop had ever been married; on the contrary, he had served God in continency from his youth. He might, however, be the same to whom *Sidonius Apollinaris* wrote with respect. In the history of his life, his zeal, austerity, devotion, and miracles are set forth. He governed that diocese seven years, and was buried in the new church which he had begun to build in the suburbs, and which was finished by his successor. This church was dedicated under the title of St. Martin, but very soon after bore

the name of St. Aper, whose relics and miracles rendered it famous. A monastery was soon after built to this church; and, in the decline of the sixth century, the abbot Apollinaris governed both this church and that of Agaunum. St. Leo IX bishop of Toul, afterwards pope, carried certain relics of St. Mansuetus (first bishop of Toul in the reign of Constantine the Great) and of St. Aper with him, and by them cured many of his attendants of the pestilence on the road, as is related by Wibert, archdeacon of that holy pope, in his life. The chief parts of the relics of St. Aper are to this day kept with veneration in his church. See the life of St. Aper among the lives of the bishops of Toul, published by Martenne, t. 3, Anecd. Col. 991, and by Calmet, Hist. de Lorraine, t. 1, inter Instrum. col. 121, ed. 2dæ; also The History of the Bishops of Toul, &c.

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## SEPTEMBER XVI.

## ST. CORNELIUS, POPE, MARTYR.

From Eus. l. 6, c. 43. S. Pacianus, ep. 23. S. Cypr. ep. 52, ed. Pam. 55, ed. Oxon. ad Antonianum, item ep. 44, &c. ed. Oxon. See Berti, Diss. Hist. t. 2, p. 167. Oral and Tillemont, Suysken, t. 3, Sept. p. 18.

A. D. 252.

THE holy pope Fabian having been crowned with martyrdom on the 20th of January, in the year 250, the see of Rome remained vacant above sixteen months, the clergy and people not being able all that while, through the violence of the persecution, to assemble for the election of a bishop. St. Cyprian says, that such was the rage of the persecutor Decius, that he would more easily have suffered a competitor in his empire than a bishop in Rome. At length, however, when that emperor was taken up in opposing the revolt of Julius Valens, or in his wars against the Goths, at a distance from Rome, Cornelius was chosen to fill the apostolic chair in 251. St. Cyprian testifies that he was a person of an unblemished character and virginal purity, remarkable for his humility; meek, modest, peaceable, and adorned with all other virtues; that he was not advanced to the episcopal dignity on a sudden, but had gone through all the orders of the clergy, as the previous steps, and served the Lord in