

ST. RADBOD, BISHOP OF UTRECHT, C.

THIS holy prelate was by his father, of noble French extraction; and, by his mother, Radbod the last king or prince of the Frisons was his great grandfather, whose name was given him by his mother. The first tincture of learning and piety he received under the tuition of Gunther, bishop of Cologne, his uncle by the mother: his education was completed in the courts of the emperors Charles the Bald, and his son Lewis the Stammerer, to which he repaired not to aspire after honours, but to perfect himself in the sciences, which were taught there by the ablest masters. The hymns and office of St. Martin, eclogue on St. Lebwin, a hymn on St. Swidbert, and some other pious poems which are extant, are monuments of his piety and application to polite literature, as it was then cultivated: but the sacred duties principally employed him. In a short chronicle which he compiled, he says upon the year 900: "I Radbod, a sinner, have been assumed, through unworthy, into the company of the ministers of the church of Utrecht; with whom I pray that I may attain to eternal life." Before the end of that year he was unanimously chosen bishop of that church; but opposed his election, understanding how much more difficult and dangerous it is to command than to obey. The obstacles which his humility and apprehensions raised, being at length removed, he put on the monastic habit, his most holy predecessors having been monks, because the church of Utrecht had been founded by priests of the monastic Order. After he had received the episcopal consecration, he never tasted any flesh meat, often fasted two or three days together, and allowed himself only the coarsest and most inspid fare. His charity to the poor was excessive. By a

persecution raised by obstinate sinners he was obliged to leave Utrecht; and died happily at Dauter, on the 29th of November in 918. See his life wrote by one in the same century in Mabillon, sæc. 5. Ben. et Annal. Ben. t. 3. l. 40. § 26. Usuard, Molanus, Miræus, Becka, &c.

NOVEMBER XXX.

ST. ANDREW, APOSTLE.

The acts of this apostle's martyrdom, though rejected by Tillemont, &c. are maintained to be genuine by Nat. Alexander, Hist. t. 1. and by Mr. Woog, professor of history and antiquities at Leipsic, in learned dissertations published in 1748 and 1751. The authority of this piece being contested, little stress is laid upon it: and the following account is gathered from the sacred writings, and those of the fathers.

ST. ANDREW was a native of Bethsaida, a town in Galilee, upon the banks of the lake of Genesareth. He was the son of Jonas or John, a fisherman of that town, and brother to Simon Peter, but whether elder or younger the holy scriptures have not acquainted us. They had afterward a house at Capharnaum, where Jesus lodged when he preached in that city. It is no small proof of the piety and good inclinations of St. Andrew, that when St. John Baptist began to preach penance in the desert, he was not content with going to hear him as others did, but became his disciple, passed much of his time in hearing his instructions, and studied punctually to practise all his lessons and copy his example; but he often returned home to his fishing trade. He was with his master when St. John Baptist seeing Jesus pass by the day after he had been