

the Younger, Columkille, Columba, the son of Crimthain, the two Brendans, Laserian, Canicus or Kenny, Ruadan, and others.

St. Finian was chosen and consecrated bishop of Clonard.\* The great monastery which he erected at Clonard was a famous seminary of sacred learning.† St. Finian, in the love of his flock, and his zeal for their salvation, equalled the Basils and the Chrysostoms, was infirm with the infirm, and wept with those who wept. He healed the souls, and often also the bodies of those who applied to him. His food was bread and herbs, his drink water, and his bed the ground, with a stone for his pillow. He departed to our Lord on the 12th of December, in 552, according to the Inisfallen Annals, quoted by Usher, but according to others in 564. See his life, published by Colgan, on the 23rd of February. Usher, *Ant. Brit.* c. 18, p. 493, and *Index Chronol.* p. 531. Sir James Ware, *Ant. Hib.* c. 29, de *Eccl. Cathedr.* p. 291, and on the Bishops, p. 136. See also the note on St. Ultan, 4th of September.

#### ST. COLUMBA, SON OF CRIMTHAIN, ABBOT.

HE was a native of Leinster in Ireland, a disciple of St. Finian, and became a great master of a spiritual life. He founded and governed the monastery of Tyrdaglas, in Munster, and died of a pestilence which raged in Ireland in the year 548.

St. CORMAC, an ancient Irish saint, is mentioned in the *Caendars* on this day, as an abbot of eminent sanctity. Usher supposes him the same who paid a visit to St. Columkille, mentioned by Adamnan, l. 3, c. 117.

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\* Simon Rochfort, the last bishop of Clonard, translated this see to a monastery of Regular Canons, which he built at Trim in honour of SS. Peter and Paul, in 1209. He and his predecessor, Eugenius, first took the title of bishops of Meath; to which two other sees were united about the thirteenth century, namely, that of Kenlis or Kells, where St. Columkille founded his monastery of Cella about the year 550, and that of Duleek, anciently called Damliag, which bishopric was founded by St. Cianan, who is honoured on the 24th of November.

† The monastery of Regular Canons of St. Austin, which subsisted at Clonard till the dissolution of religious houses, was erected upon the ruins of St. Finian's abbey, in honour of St. Peter, by Walter Lacy, lord of Trim, son of the ambitious Hugh Lacy, who having conquered this country was made lord of Meath by Henry II. but afterwards beheaded by one O'Meey, an Irishman, as he and O'Meey were measuring the fosse which surrounded the castle then erecting at Dairmagh, now called Durrow. See Littleton's Henry II. and Harris's Hib.

ST. COLMAN, abbot of Glendaloch, is also mentioned this day in the Irish Calendar : he died in 659. See Colgan's MSS.

### ST. EADBURGE, ABBESS OF MENSTREY,

IN THE ISLE OF THANET.

SHE built there a new church in honour of SS. Peter and Paul, into which she caused the body of St. Mildrede, her immediate predecessor, to be translated. Her death happened about the year 751, according to Thorne, quoted in the *Monasticon*.<sup>(1)</sup> St. Eadburge seems to be the abbess of that name to whom St. Boniface sometimes wrote. Capgrave confounds her with St. Ethelburge (daughter of Ethelbert, king of Kent), who, after the death of King Edwin, her husband, consecrated herself to God, and died abbess of Lyming, in Kent, towards the close of the seventh century. The relics of St. Eadburge were translated to Canterbury, in 1055, and there deposited in St. Gregory's church. St. Mildrede is honoured on the 20th of February.

### ST. VALERY, ABBOT.

THIS saint was son to a gentleman of Auvergne, and in his childhood kept his father's sheep ; but out of an ardent desire of improving himself in spiritual knowledge, privately learned to read, and got the psalter by heart. He was yet young when he took the monastic habit in the neighbouring monastery of St. Antony. From the first day such was his fervour that in his whole conduct he appeared a living rule of perfection, and, by sincere humility, esteeming himself below all the world, he meekly and cheerfully subjected himself to every one. Seeking the most perfect means of advancing in the paths of all virtues, he passed from this house to the more austere monastery of St. Germanus of Auxerre, into which he was received by St. Aunarius, bishop of that church. The reputation of the penitential lives of the monks of Luxeu, and of the spiritual wisdom of St. Columban, drew him afterwards thither, and he spent many years in that community, always esteeming himself an unprofitable servant and a slothful monk, who stood in need of the severest and harshest rules and superiors ; and, next to sin, he dreaded nothing so much as the applause of men or a

(1) Dugdale, *Monast.* vol. 1, p. 84.