

collegiate church of secular canons. A town, which was formed round this monastery, bore long the name of St. Swidbert's Isle, but is now called by the old name, Keiserswerdt, and is fortified : it is situated on the Rhine, six miles below Dusseldorp : a channel of the Rhine having changed its course, the place is no longer an island. St. Swidbert here died in peace, on the 1st of March, in 713. His feast was kept with great solemnity in Holland and other parts where he had preached. Henschenius has given us a panegyric on him, preached on this day by Radbod, bishop of Utrecht, who died in 917. His relics were found in 1626 at Keiserswerdt, in a silver shrine, together with those of St. Willeic, likewise an Englishman, his successor in the government of this abbey ; and are still venerated in the same place, except some small portions given to other churches by the archbishop of Cologne.* See Bede, Hist. l. 5. c. 10. 12. and the historical collection of Henschenius, l. Mart. p. 84. Fleury, l. 40. Batavia Sacra ; and the Roman Martyrology, in which his name occurs on this day. His successor, St. Willeic, is commemorated on the 2nd of March, by Wilson, in his English Martyrology, in the first edition, an 1608, (though omitted in the second edition, an 1628,) and is mentioned among the English saints, by F. Edward Maibew, *Trophæa Congregationis Anglicanæ Bened. Rhemis*, 1625 ; and F. Jerom Porter, in his *Flores Sanctorum Angliæ, Scotiæ, et Hiberniæ. Duaci*, 1632.

ST. ALBINUS, BISHOP OF ANGERS, C.

HE was of an ancient and noble family in Brittany,† and from his childhood was fervent in every exercise of piety. He ardently

* The acts of St. Swidbert, under the name of Marcellinus, pretended to be St. Marchelm, a disciple or colleague of the saint, extant in Surius, are a notorious piece of forgery of the fifteenth century. We must not, with these false acts and many others, confound St. Swidbert of Keiserswerdt with a younger saint of the same name, also an Englishman, first bishop of Verden or Ferden, in Westphaly, in 807, in the reign of Charlemagne ; whose body was taken up at Verden, together with those of seven bishops his successors, in 1630. St. Swidbert the younger is mentioned in some Martyrologies on the 30th of April, though many moderns have confounded him with our saint. Another holy man, called Swidbert, forty years younger than our saint, whom some have also mistaken for the same with him, is mentioned by Bede, (l. 4. c. 32.) and was abbot of a monastery in Cumberland, upon the river Dacore, which does not appear to have been standing since the Conquest. See Leland, Collect. t. 2. p. 152. and Camden's Britannia, by Gibson, col. 831. Tanner's Notitia Mon. p. 73.

† It is proved by Leland in his Itinerary, published by Hearne t. 3. p. 4.)

sighed after the happiness which a devout soul finds in being perfectly disengaged from all earthly things. Having embraced the monastic state at Cincillac, called afterwards Tintillant, a place somewhere near Angers, he shone a perfect model of virtue, especially of prayer, watching, universal mortification of the senses, and obedience, living as if in all things he had been without any will of his own, and his soul seemed so perfectly governed by the Spirit of Christ as to live only for him. At the age of thirty-five years, he was chosen abbot, in 504, and twenty-five years afterwards, bishop of Angers. He every where restored discipline, being inflamed with a holy zeal for the honour of God. His dignity seemed to make no alteration either in his mortifications, or in the constant recollection of his soul. Honoured by all the world, even by kings, he was never affected with vanity. Powerful in works and miracles, he looked upon himself as the most unworthy and most unprofitable among the servants of God, and had no other ambition than to appear such in the eyes of others, as he was in those of his own humility. By his courage in maintaining the law of God and the canons of the church, he showed that true greatness of soul is founded in the most sincere humility. In the third council of Orleans, in 538, he procured the thirtieth canon of the council of Epauone to be revived, by which those are declared excommunicated who presume to contract incestuous marriages in the first or second degree of consanguinity or affinity. He died on the 1st of March, in 549. His relics were taken up and enshrined by St. Germanus of Paris, and a council of bishops, with Eutropius, the saint's successor, at Angers, in 556; and the most considerable part still remains in the church of the famous abbey of St. Albinus at Angers, built upon the spot where he was buried, by king Childebert, a little before his relics were enshrined. Many churches in France, and several monasteries and villages, bear his name. He was honoured by many miracles, both in his life-time and after his death. Several are related in his life written by Fortunatus, bishop of Poitiers, who came to Angers to celebrate his festival seven years after his decease; also by St. Gregory of Tours, (*l. de Glor. Confess. c. 96.*) See the Notes of Henschenius on his life.

that the ancestors of St. Albinus of Angers came from Great Britain, and that two branches of his family flourished long after, the one in Cornwall, the other in Somersetshire.