

obsequies, and composed his epitaph. A history of a great number of miracles performed by means of this saint, and attested by eye-witnesses, may be read in the Bollandists.(1) His relics were taken up, and translated to a more honourable place in the church, with the greatest pomp and devotion, by an order of Gregory IX. in 1233, twelve years after his death. They have been since enclosed in a mausoleum, which is one of the finest monuments in Italy, and the church is one of the best finished, whether we consider the structure, or the riches, order, taste, and beauty of the ornaments. St. Dominic was canonized by Gregory IX. in 1234.

The characteristic virtue of this saint was an eminent spirit of prayer, and the constant recollection of his soul in God: and this practice he recommended above all others to his disciples. One of the greatest lights of his Order, and of the church, Bartholomew de Martyribus, archbishop of Braga, addresses himself to all pastors on this subject as follows:(2) "Woe to you, ministers of the Lord, if the source of devotion be dried up in your souls. This tender and sincere spirit of piety is the spring of living water which communicates fertility to all our virtues, and sanctifies all our exercises and actions, which, without it, are dry and barren. This is a heavenly wine which fortifies our hearts with a joy altogether divine. This is the balsam which heals our passions. It is also the tongue with which we speak to God, and without which our souls are dumb before him. It is this that draws down upon us the heavenly dew that strengthens our hearts, and is the spiritual nourishment which enables us to labour with fruit in the vineyard of the Lord."

### ST. LUANUS, OR LUGID,

SOMETIMES CALLED MOLUA, ABBOT IN IRELAND.

HE was educated at Benchor under St. Coemgall, and, as St. Bernard assures us, founded one hundred monasteries in Ireland. Among these the chief was that of Cluain-fearta Molua,\* on the borders of Ossory and Queen's county, in Leinster. St.

(1) P. 541.

(2) Barthol. de Martyr. in Stimulo Pastor. c. 4.

\* There was another Cluain Fearta, corruptly called Clonfert, in Connaught, founded by St. Brendan.

Lugid prescribes a monastic rule which was long observed in Ireland; in it he enjoined the strictest silence and recollection, and forbid women being ever allowed to approach the church of the monks. He passed to immortal glory on the 4th of August, 622. See Usher's Antiquities, &c.

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## AUGUST V.

### THE DEDICATION OF ST. MARY AD NIVES.

THERE are in Rome three patriarchal churches, in which the pope officiates on different festivals, and at one of which he always resides when in the city. These are the Basilics of St. John Lateran, St. Peter's on the Vatican hill, and St. Mary Major.\* This last is so called because it is, both in antiquity and dignity, the first church in Rome among those that are dedicated to God in honour of the Virgin Mary. The name of the Liberian Basilic was given it, because it was founded in the time of Pope Liberius, in the fourth century; it was consecrated under the title of the Virgin Mary, by Sixtus III., about the year 435.(1) It is also called St. Mary ad Nives, or *at the snow*, from a popular tradition, that the Mother of God chose this place for a church under her invocation by a miraculous snow that fell upon this spot in summer, and by a vision in which she appeared to a patrician named John, who munificently founded and endowed this church in the pontificate of Liberius. The same Basilic has sometimes been known by the name of St. Mary *ad Præsepe*, from the holy crib or manger of Bethlehem, in which Christ was laid at his birth. It resembles an ordinary manger, is kept in a case of massy silver, and in it lies an image of a little child,† also of silver. On

(1) See Anastasius in Liberius and Sixtus III.

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\* The pope's three great palaces in Rome are the Lateran and the Vatican, (both contiguous to the two great churches of the same name,) and that of Monte Cavallo. This last is situated in the most healthful part of the city. When the pope resides at this palace, he dates all bulls, &c. at St. Mary Major.

† Or *bambino*, to use the Italian word.