

life; too slavish an exactness in the modes and customs of the world; too quick a sense of praise, reputation, and pre-eminence; too great an eagerness to grow rich; too brisk a relish of pleasures, too much diversion; too great a love of ease; or an uninterrupted pursuit of worldly business, which extinguishes all gust of virtue, and all relish of heavenly things, and leaves not the mind sufficient leisure or ardour for spiritual duties. These are symptoms of a soul tainted with a love of the world, which exceedingly checks the vigour of the mind. The means by which this defect is to be overcome is frequent meditation on eternal truths. One who has these deeply imprinted in his heart, will have no great taste of the honours, or the pleasures, or the interests of life; he will never be slothful or remiss, but always fervent in spirit serving the Lord; and will have no emulation but for good works, no ambition but for eternal glory. In the pursuit of this will he lay out the vigour and strength of his mind, retrench his profit by alms, deny his pleasure, and rejoice to lead an obscure, mean, laborious, and crucified life.

ST. DYMUNA, V. M.

SHE was the daughter of an Irish king, and having by vow consecrated her virginity to God, to avoid the snares to which she saw herself exposed at home, passed to Antwerp and chose her abode at Gheel, a village in Barbant, ten leagues from Antwerp. There she served God in retirement and assiduous prayer. But being at length discovered and pursued by those who were the enemies of her chastity, she was murdered by them because she refused to consent to their brutal passion.

Her relics were solemnly taken up by the bishop of Cambray on the 15th of May, and are preserved with veneration in a rich shrine at

Gheel. She flourished in the seventh century. See Molanus, Miræus, the Roman Martyrology, Henschenius, t. 3. Maij, p. 477, and Colgan, in MSS. Contin. Act. SS. Hibern.

ST. GENEBRARD, OR GENEBERN MARTYR.

HE was a holy Irish priest, who having baptised St. Dymphna in her infancy, was her attendant in her flight beyond sea and was beheaded by her murderers.

His relics were translated to Santbeck in the duchy of Cleves, where his intercession is devoutly implored, especially for relief under the gout and in fevers; and blessed rings which bear his name are used. Dr. Wintringham and Dr. Liger, in their treatises on the gout, inform us that this disorder rages even amongst labourers in the countries about the Rhine, in Silesia and others, where acid wines, such as Rhenish, &c. are much drank. On St. Genebrard, see Colgan, MSS. ad 15 Maij.

1876
MAY XVI.

ST. JOHN NEPOMUCEN, M.

From his life, collected by F. Balbin. Also Benedict XIV. and his life in French by F. Marne.

A. D. 1383.

THIS servant of God possessed in an eminent degree, the virtues of a perfect anchorite, and of a zealous apostle, and by his death merited the crown of a glorious martyr. His martyrdom was the more illustrious, because the religious seal of confession (or strict obligation to silence in that tribunal on the part of the priest) not having yet armed tyrants against it, had found no victims before our saint. He was born at Nepomuc, a little town in Bohemia, some leagues from Prague, about the year 1330. His parents derived from their virtue a splendour which their birth or rank in the world did not afford them. If our saint had fewer obstacles from the world to overcome