

among his disciples, abbot and bishop at Llan-Elwy. Our saint was a diligent preacher, and had frequently this saying in his mouth, "They who withstand the preaching of God's word, envy the salvation of men." St. Asaph wrote certain canons or ordinances of his church, the life of St. Kentigern, and some other works. He died about the close of the sixth century; for he flourished about the year 590.

From him the see of Elwy took the name of St. Asaph's: though it continued long vacant; for we find no mention of any other bishop of St. Asaph's before the twelfth century, when Geoffrey of Monmouth was advanced to that episcopal chair. Wharton gives him a predecessor named Gilbert. See Le Neve's *Fasti*, p. 20. Dr. Brown Willis, and principally Leland de Script. Angl.

ST. MARCOU, OR MARCULFUS,

ABBOT of Nanteu, in the diocess of Coutances, in Normandy, famous for miracles, especially in healing the scrophulous disorder, called the king's evil. He died on the first of May, in 558, and is honoured in the Martyrologies of Coutances, Evereux, &c.

SAINT SIGISMUND, KING OF BURGUNDY, M.

WONDERFUL is the providence of God in the means by which he preserves his elect from the contagion of vice, and conducts them to eternal life. This saint was son of Gondebald, the Arian king of the Burgundians, but embraced the catholic faith through the instructions of St. Alcimus Avitus, bishop of Vienne.¹ He succeed-

¹ The Burgundians were a principal tribe of the Vandals, as Pliny and Zozimus assure us, and is farther proved in the late history of Burgundy, and in *L'Essai sur les premiers Rois de Bourgone, et sur l'Origine des Bourguignons*, à Dijon, 4to. 1771. They are first met with on the banks of the Vistula, in Prussia. When Procopius wrote, on this side of the Elbe, below the Thuringi; in 407, they passed the Rhine into Gaul, and, under their first king, Gondicaire, in 413, conquered the country betwixt the Upper Rhine, the Rhone, and the Saone, where they settled their kingdom, and shortly after extended its limits, so that it comprised what was afterward the duchy of

ed to the kingdom of his father in 516, and in the midst of barbarism lived humble, mortified, penitent, devout, and charitable, even on the throne; a station in which the very name of true virtue is too often scarce known. Before the death of his father, he built the famous monastery of St. Maurice at Agaune, in the Valais, in the year 515, where many holy hermits lived before that time in scattered cells. God permitted this good prince to fall into a snare. He suffered his son Sigeric to be put to death, upon an accusation forged by his second wife, of a conspiracy against his life: but afterwards discovering the calumny, and pierced to the quick with remorse, he retired to Agaune, where he did penance in tears and sackcloth. He made it his prayer to God that he might be punished in this life, to escape the divine vengeance in the next. His prayer was heard:—for being taken prisoner by Chlodimir, the barbarous king of the Franks, he was, by his order, drowned in a well at Columelle, four leagues from Orleans, after he had reigned one year.

His body was kept honourably at Agaune, till it was removed to the cathedral of Prague by the emperor Charles IV. It has been famous for many miracles. See St. Gregory of Tours, Henschenius.

Burgundy, the Franche Comté, Provence, Lyonnois, Dauphiné, Savoye, &c. with the cities Geneva, Lyons, Autun, Basil, Nevers, Grenoble, Besançon, Langres, Viviers, Embrun, Vienne, Orange, Carpentras, Apt, &c. Gondicarius, the first king of the Burgundians, reigned fifty years, from 413 to 463, as appears from his letter to pope Hilary, and that pope's answer, in which he styles him his son, &c. Chilperic, his son, who succeeded him, was a zealous catholic prince; but, having reigned about twenty-eight years, was assassinated with his wife, two sons, and brother Godomar, by his ambitious brother, Gondebald, who had embraced the Arian heresy. After a reign of twenty-five years, he died, in 516, leaving two sons, Sigismund and Godomar. He reformed the code of the Burgundian laws, called from him *Loi Gombette*. His brother Chilperic's two daughters were brought up at his court at Geneva: Chrone, the eldest, took the religious veil, Clotildis, the second, was married to Clovis, king of the Franks, who waged war against him, to revenge the murder of Chilperic, and besieged him in Avignon, but afterward made peace with him. Clodomir, king of Orleans, with his brothers, renewed this war against St. Sigismund, whom he took and caused to be drowned at Orleans, in 524. Clodomir pursued his brother and successor Godomar; but