

ST. MELITO, BISHOP OF SARDES IN LYDIA, C.

IN THE REIGN OF MARCUS AURELIUS.

To that emperor, in 175, he addressed an elegant and modest apology for the faith. From an eminent spirit of prophecy with which he was endued by God, he was surnamed The Prophet, as St. Jerom(1) and Eusebius testify.(2)

ST. GILBERT, BISHOP OF CAITHNESS IN SCOTLAND.

HAVING administered that see with great sanctity for twenty years, he died on the 1st of April, 1240. See the Aberdeen Breviary.

APRIL II.

ST. FRANCIS OF PAULA, CONFESSOR,

FOUNDER OF THE ORDER OF MINIMS.

From the bull of his canonization, and the memoirs relating to it, with the notes of Papebroke, t. 1. Apr. p. 103. also Philip Commynes, b. 6. c. 8. See Le Fevre, Cont. of Fleury, b. 115. n. 111. 120. 144. Helyot, Hist. des Ord. Relig. t. 9. p. 426. Giry, a provincial of his order, in his Lives of Saints, and in a particular dissertation · and De Coste, of the same order, in his judicious and accurate life of this saint, in quarto.

A. D. 1508.

THIS saint was born about the year 1416, at Paula, a small city near the Tyrrhenian sea, in Calabria, the midway from Naples to Reggio. His parents were very poor, but industrious, and happy in their condition, making the will and love of God the sole object of all their desires and endeavours. Their whole conduct was, as it were, one straight line directed to this point. Having lived together several years without issue, they earnestly begged of God, through the intercession of St. Francis of Assisium, a son who might faithfully and assiduously serve him, and become an instrument to glorify his name, to whose service

(1) Catal. c. 24.

(2) Eus. b. 4. Hist. c. 26. b. 5. c. 24.