

churches in the East, keep with great solemnity the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin.\* St. Peter Damian pathetically exhorts all the faithful to celebrate it with great devotion.(1)

We celebrate the anniversaries of the birth-days of earthly princes, who on those occasions dispense freely their favours and liberalities. How ought we to rejoice in that of the Virgin Mary, presenting to God the best homage of our praises and thanksgiving for the great mercies he has shown in her, and imploring her mediation with her Son in our behalf! We shall doubtless experience the particular effects of her compassion and goodness on a day observed by the whole church with so great devotion in her honour. Christ will not reject the supplications of his mother, whom he was pleased to obey whilst on earth. Her love, care, and tenderness for him, and the sorrows which she felt for his sake in the state of his mortality : those breasts which gave him suck, those hands which served him, must move him to hear her ; the titles and qualities which she bears, the charity and graces with which she is adorned, and the crown of glory with which she is honoured, must incline him readily to receive her recommendations and petitions.

### ST. ADRIAN, M.

THIS saint was an officer in the Roman army, who, having persecuted the Christians in the reign of Maximian Galerius, was so moved by their constancy and patience, that he embraced their faith, and suffered many torments and a glorious martyr-

(1) S. Pet. Dam. Sermon. 2 et 3, de Nativ. B. M. Virg.

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\* On the history of this festival see Florentinus and F. Fronto, each in their notes on the old calendars, which they published; (Martenne l. de Antiq. Eccles. disciplina in div. Officiis, c. 34, n. 1; Tillemont, n. 4, sur la Vie de la Ste. Vierge; Baillet, Hist. de cette Fête; Pagius in Breviar. Gestorum Rom. Pontif. in Vitâ Innoc. IV. n. 18; Thomassin Tr. des Fêtes, l. 2, ch. 20, and principally Card. Prosper Lambertini, Part 2; De Festis B. M. Virg. p. 301. cap. 131.—136.) Schmidius objects (Prolus Marian.) that the feast of the B. Virgin's Nativity is not mentioned in the Capitulars of Charlemagne; but it was certainly celebrated in Italy long before that time. Thomassin did not find the feast of the Nativity of the B. V. mentioned by any authors before Fulbert of Chartres in the year 1000; but it is expressed on the 8th of September in the famous MS. calendar, kept in the treasury of the cathedral of Florence, written in 813. See F. Leonard Ximenes, Del Gnomene Fiorentino, at Florence, in 1757.) In France it is spoken of by Walter, Bp. of Orleans, in 871, cap. 18, Conc. Labb. t. 8, p. 648.

dom for the same at Nicomedia, about the year 306, in the tenth or last general persecution. His relics were conveyed to Constantinople, thence to Rome, afterwards into Flanders, where they were deposited in the Benedictin abbey of Decline, dedicated in honour of St. Peter, in the time of the first abbot, Severald. Baldwin VI., earl of Flanders, surnamed of Mons, because he married the heiress of that county, bought of a rich lord, named Gerard, the village of Hundelghem, in which stood a famous chapel of our Lady. The count founded there, in 1088, the town now called Geersbergen or Gerard's Mount, on which, by a famous charter, he bestowed great privileges. Besides many pious donations made to that place, he removed this abbey of St. Peter, which has since taken the name of St. Adrian, whose relics, which it possesses, have been rendered famous by many miracles. Geersberg, called in French Grammont, stands upon the Dender, in Flanders, near the borders of Brabant and Hainault. St. Adrian is commemorated in the Martyrologies which bear the name of St. Jerom, and in the Roman, on the 4th of March, and chiefly on the 8th of September, which was the day of the translation of his relics to Rome, where a very ancient church bears his name. See on the translation of his relics to the abbey of Geersberg, Gramay's *Antiquitates Gerardi-montii*, p. 40. Sanderus in *Flan-dria Illustrata*, &c., Stilting, p. 231.

#### ST. SIDRONIUS, M.

HE was crowned at Rome in the persecution of Aurelian; his principal festival is kept on the 11th of July. Baldwin IV., surnamed of Lille and the Pious, founded the collegiate churches of canons at Harlebeck, near Courtray, at Aire, and at Lille, in which last he was buried. His widow, Adela, after his death in 1067, went to Rome, received the religious veil from the hands of Pope Alexander II., and, bringing back with her the relics of St. Sidronius, enriched with them the Benedictin nunnery of Meessene, two leagues from Ipres, which she had founded, and in which she died. See *Miræi, Annales Belgici*, p. 609. Adela, the foundress, is honoured among the saints in this famous monastery on the 8th of January. See *Gramaye*, p. 182. *Lubin in Martyr. Rom.*