

executioners said to Sapricius: "Kneel down that we may cut off your head." Sapricius said: "Upon what account?" They answered: "Because you will not sacrifice to the gods, nor obey the emperor's orders, for the love of that man that is called Christ." The unfortunate Sapricius cried out: "Stop, my friends; do not put me to death; I will do what you desire; I am ready to sacrifice." Nicephorus, sensibly afflicted at his apostasy, cried aloud to him: "Brother, what are you doing? renounce not Jesus Christ our good master. Forfeit not a crown you have already gained by tortures and sufferings." But Sapricius would give no manner of attention to what he said. Whereupon, Nicephorus, with tears of bitter anguish for the fall of Sapricius, said to the executioners: "I am a Christian, and believe in Jesus Christ, whom this wretch has renounced; behold me here ready to die in his stead." All present were astonished at such an unexpected declaration. The officers of justice being under an uncertainty how to proceed, despatched a lictor or beadle, to the governor with this message: "Sapricius promiseth to sacrifice, but here is another desirous to die for the same Christ, saying: 'I am a Christian, and refuse to sacrifice to your gods, and comply with the edicts of the emperors.' The governor on hearing this, dictated the following sentence: 'If this man persist in refusing to sacrifice to the immortal gods, let him die by the sword:' which was accordingly put in execution. Thus Nicephorus received three immortal crowns, namely, of faith, humility, and charity, triumphs which Sapricius had made himself unworthy of. The Greek and the Roman Martyrologies mention him on this day.

#### ST. THELIAU, BISHOP AND CONFESSOR.

HE was born in the same province with St. Sampson at Eccluis-Guenwau, near Monmouth. His sister Anaumed went over to Armorica, in 409, and upon her arrival was married to Budic king of the Armorican Britons. Before she left her own country she promised saint Thelieu to consecrate her first child in a particular manner to God. Our saint was educated under the holy discipline of St. Dubritius, and soon after the year 500, made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem with his schoolfellows St. David and St. Paternus. In their return St. David stopped at Dole, with Sampson the elder, who had been bishop of York, but being expelled by the Saxons, fled into Armorica and was made bishop of Dole. This prelate

and St. Theliau planted a great avenue, three miles long, from Dole to Cai, which for several ages was known by their names. The people of Dole, with the bishop and King Budic, pressed our saint to accept of that bishopric; but in vain. After his return into the island, St. Dubritius being removed from the see of Landaff to that of Caerleon, in 495, Theliau was compelled to succeed him at Landaff, of which church he has always been esteemed the principal patron. His great learning, piety, and pastoral zeal, especially in the choice and instruction of his clergy, have procured him a high reputation which no age can ever obliterate, says Leland.<sup>(1)</sup> His authority alone decided whatever controversies arose in his time. When the yellow plague depopulated Wales, he exerted his courage and charity with an heroic intrepidity. Providence preserved his life for the sake of others, and he died about the year 580, in a happy old age, in solitude, where he had for some time prepared himself for his passage. The place where he departed to our Lord was called from him Llan deilo-vaur, that is, the church of the great Theliau: it was situated on the bank of the river Tovy in Caermarthen-shire. The Landaff register names amongst the most eminent of his disciples his nephew St. Oudoceus, who succeeded him in the see of Landaff, St. Ismael, whom he consecrated bishop, St. Tyfhei, martyr, who reposeth in Pennalun, &c. See Capgrave, Harpsfield, Wharton, Brown-Willis, D. Morice, *Hist. de Bretagne*, t. 1. p. 22. and the notes, p. 785 and 819. Bolland. Feb. t. 2. p. 303.

### ST. ANSBERT.

ARCHBISHOP OF ROUEN, C. IN 695.

HE had been chancellor to King Clotair III. in which station he had united the mortification and recollection of a monk with the duties of wedlock, and of a statesman. Quitting the court, he put on the monastic habit at Fontenelle under St. Wandregisile, and when that holy founder's immediate successor St. Lantbert was made bishop of Lyons, Ansbert was appointed abbot of that famous monastery. He was confessor to King Theodoric III. and with his consent was chosen archbishop of Rouen, upon the death of St. Owen in 683. By his care, good order, learning, and piety flourished in his diocese; nevertheless Pepin, mayor of the

(1) De Script. Brit. c. 30.