

abbey of Gorze, four leagues from Metz; those of St. Nazarius in that of Lorch or Lausheim, in the diocese of Worms; and those of St. Nabor in that of St. Hilary on the Moselle, since corruptly called St. Avol's, *i. e.* St. Nabor's in the diocese of Metz. See Paul the deacon, Rabanus Maurus, Notker, &c.

why?

ST. ESKILL, BISHOP AND MARTYR IN SWEDEN.

THIS saint was an Englishman by birth; but so long as the Catholic religion flourished in the northern kingdoms of Europe, was honoured in that part of the universe as one of the most illustrious martyrs of the gospel of Christ. St. Anscharius, archbishop of Bremen, having by his zealous labours laid the foundation of a numerous church in Sweden, was obliged to return into Germany. After his departure the Swedes returned to their paganish superstition, and expelled Simon, whom St. Anscharius had left bishop of that church. The news of this apostacy afflicted extremely the servants of God who inhabited the northern provinces of England, and St. Sigefride, archbishop of York, resolved to undertake a mission in person to rescue so many souls that were running upon the very brink of perdition. Eskill, his kinsman, desirous to have a share in this laborious and dangerous enterprise, accompanied him thither, and behaved in that country with so much zeal and prudence that, at the request of the king and people, St. Sigefride, before his return to England, consecrated him bishop at a place called Nordhan's Kogh. By his zealous labours, which were supported by the example of his apostolic life, the church was exceedingly propagated, till good King Ingon was slain by the infidels, and the wicked Sweno, surnamed the Bloody, placed on the throne. Upon this revolution they revived their most impious and barbarous superstitions, with which they celebrated a most solemn festival at a place called Strengis. St. Eskill's zeal was enkindled at such abominations, and attended by several of his clergy and of the faithful, he hastened to the place of the sacrilegious assembly. There he strongly exhorted the idolaters to renounce their impious worship. Finding them deaf to his remonstrances he addressed his prayers to the Almighty, beseeching Him by some visible sign to give evidence that He alone was the true God

Instantly a violent storm of hail, thunder, and rain fell upon the spot, and destroyed the altar and sacrifices. This prodigy the infidels ascribed to art or magic, with which they charged the saint, and by the king's orders they stoned him to death. His sacred body was buried in the spot upon which he suffered martyrdom, and soon after a church was there built, in which his sacred remains were exposed to the veneration of the faithful, and were honoured with miracles. He glorified God by martyrdom in the eleventh century. His festival was formerly kept on this day in Sweden, Poland, and other northern countries. See his life published by the Bollandists; Messenius, *Scandia Illustrata*, p. 31. and Benzelius, *Monum. Eccles. Suevogothe. ex MSS. Upsal. 1709*, p. 29.

ST. ONUPHRIUS, HERMIT.

HE lived some time in an austere monastery of one hundred monks, near Thebes in Egypt. A desire of imitating the solitude of St. John Baptist moved him to seek a retreat in the most solitary wilderness of that country. He for some years struggled with grievous temptations; but by perseverance overcame them, and by the exercises of holy solitude prepared his soul for the closest communications with God, in which he found the repose of his heart, the comfort of his earthly pilgrimage, and a kind of anticipation of the eternal enjoyment of heaven. He spent in this retirement sixty years, unknown to the world; but by his prayers never ceased to implore the divine mercy in its behalf, and for the protection of the church under the persecutions of the two Arian emperors, Constantius and Valens. A date-tree and a palm-tree which grew near his cell furnished him with food. He died on the 12th of June. See his life by one Paphnutius in Rosweide, p. 99, and Janning's *Collections and Notes*, t. 2. Jun. p. 519.

ST. TERNAN, BISHOP OF THE PICTS, C.

ST. PALLADIUS, the apostle of the Scots, ordained St. Servanus, or Serf, bishop of Orkney, and St. Ternan of the Picts, in 440. This latter had sanctified himself many years in the abbey of Culross, in Fifeshire, in which St. Kentigern had