

obstinate; yet persevered, till by his patience, meekness, charity, and prayers, he triumphed over bigoted superstition and lust, and planted throughout that country the faith and holy maxims of Christ. The great diocese of Cambray, which was extended beyond Brussels, was also committed to the care of this holy pastor, by St. Remigius, in 510, and the two sees remained a long time united. St. Vedast continued his labours almost forty years, and left his church flourishing in sanctity at his decease, on the 6th of February, in 539. He was buried in the cathedral, which is dedicated to God, under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin; but a hundred and twenty-eight years after, St. Aubertus, the seventh bishop, changed a little chapel which St. Vedast had built in honour of St. Peter, without the walls, into an abbey, and removed the relics of St. Vedast into this new church, leaving a small portion of them in the cathedral. This great abbey of St. Vedast was finished by St. Vindicianus, successor to St. Aubertus, and most munificently endowed by King Thodoric or Thierry, who lies buried in the church with his wife Doda. Our ancestors had a particular devotion to St. Vedast, whom they called St. Foster, whence descends the family name of Foster, as Camden takes notice in his Remains. Alcuin has left us a standing monument of his extraordinary devotion to St. Vedast, not only by writing his life, but also by compiling an office and mass in his honour, for the use of his monastery at Arras, and by a letter to the monks of that house, in 769, in which he calls this saint his protector. See this letter in Martenne, Ampliss. Collect. t. 1. p. 50.

SAINT AMANDUS, B. C.

HE was born near Nantes, of pious parents, lords of that territory. At twenty years of age, he retired into a small monastery in the little isle of Oye, near that of Rhé. He had not been there above a year, when his father found him out, and made use of every persuasive argument in his power to prevail with him to quit that state of life. To his threats of disinheriting him, the saint cheerfully answered: "Christ is my only inheritance." The saint went to Tours, and a year after to Bourges, where he lived near fifteen years under the direction of St. Austregisilus, the bishop, in a cell near the cathedral. His clothing was a single sack-cloth, and his sustenance barley-bread and water. After a pilgrimage to Rome, he was ordained in

France a missionary bishop, without any fixed see, in 628, and commissioned to preach the faith to infidels. He preached the gospel in Flanders, and among the *Slavi* in *Carinthia* and other provinces near the *Danube*: (1) but being banished by King *Dagobert*, whom he had boldly reprov'd for his scandalous crimes, he preached to the pagans of *Gascony* and *Navarre*. *Dagobert* soon recalled him, threw himself at his feet to beg his pardon, and caused him to baptize his new-born son, Saint *Sigebert*, afterwards king. The idolatrous people about *Ghent* were so savage, that no preacher durst venture himself amongst them. This moved the saint to choose that mission; during the course of which he was often beaten, and sometimes thrown into the river: he continued preaching, though for a long time he saw no fruit, and supported himself by his labour. The miracle of his raising a dead man to life, at last opened the eyes of the barbarians, and the country came in crowds to receive baptism, destroying the temples of their idols with their own hands. In 633, the saint having built them several churches, founded two great monasteries in *Ghent*, both under the patronage *St. Peter*; one was named *Blandinberg*, from the hill of *Blandin* on which it stands, now the rich abbey of *St. Peter's*; the other took the name of *St. Bavo*, from him who gave his estate for its foundation; this became the cathedral in 1559, when the city was created a bishop's see. Besides many pious foundations, both in France and Flanders, in 639, he built the great abbey three leagues from *Tournay*, called *Elnon*, from the river on which it stands; but it has long since taken the name of *St. Amand*, with its town and warm mineral baths. In 649 he was chosen bishop of *Maestricht*; but three years after he resigned that see to *St. Remaclus*, and returned to his missions, to which his compassion for the blindness of infidels always inclined his heart. He continued his labours amongst them till the age of eighty-six, when, broken with infirmities, he retired to *Elnon*, which house he governed as abbot four years more, spending that time in preparing his soul for his passage to eternity, which happened in 675. His body is honourably kept in that abbey. The *Sarum Breviary* honoured *St. Amandus* and *St. Vedast* with an office of nine lessons. See *Buzelin*, *Gallo-Flandria*, and *Henschenius*, 6 Feb. p. 815, who has published five different lives of this saint.

(1) See *Henschenius*, p. 828