


Another **ST. CORENTIN**, now called **CURY**, was honoured in Devonshire and Cornwall. He came from little Britain, and lived a hermit at the foot of Mount Menehent, which Parker, Drake, &c., take for Menehout, in Devonshire. He preached to the inhabitants of the country with great fruit, and died in that place in 401. See Borlase, *Ant. of Cornwall*, &c.



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## DECEMBER XIII.

### SAINT LUCY, VIRGIN, MARTYR.

Abridged from her Acts, older than St. Aldhelm, who quoted them in the seventh century.

A. D. 304.

THE glorious virgin and martyr St. Lucy, one of the brightest ornaments of the church of Sicily, was born of honourable and wealthy parents in the city of Syracuse, and educated from her cradle in the faith of Christ. She lost her father in her infancy, but Eutychia, her mother, took singular care to furnish her with tender and sublime sentiments of piety and religion. By the early impressions which Lucy received, and the strong influence of divine grace, Lucy discovered no disposition but towards virtue, and she was yet very young when she offered to God the flower of her virginity. This vow, however, she kept a secret, and her mother, who was a stranger to it, pressed her to marry a young gentleman, who was a pagan. The saint sought occasions to hinder this design from taking effect, and her mother was visited with a long and troublesome flux of blood, under which she laboured four years without finding any remedy by recourse to physicians. At length she was persuaded by her daughter to go to Catana, and offer up her prayers to God for relief at the tomb of St. Agatha. St. Lucy accompanied her thither, and their prayers were successful. Hereupon our saint disclosed to her mother her desire of devoting herself to God in a state of perpetual virginity, and bestowing her fortune on the poor: and Eutychia, in gratitude, left her at full liberty to pursue her pious inclinations. The young nobleman with whom the mother had treated about marrying her, came

to understand this by the sale of her jewels and goods, and the distribution of the price among the poor, and in his rage accused her before the governor Paschasius as a Christian, the persecution of Dioclesian then raging with the utmost fury. The judge commanded the holy virgin to be exposed to prostitution in a brothel-house; but God rendered her immoveable, so that the guards were not able to carry her thither. He also made her an overmatch for the cruelty of the persecutors, in overcoming fire and other torments. After a long and glorious combat she died in prison of the wounds she had received, about the year 304. She was honoured at Rome in the sixth century among the most illustrious virgins and martyrs, whose triumphs the church celebrates, as appears from the Sacramentary of St. Gregory, Bede, and others. Her festival was kept in England, till the change of religion, as a holiday of the second rank, in which no work but tillage or the like was allowed. Her body remained at Syracuse for many years; but was at length translated into Italy, and thence, by the authority of the Emperor Otho I. to Metz, as Sigebert of Gemblours relates. It is there exposed to public veneration in a rich chapel of St. Vincent's church. A portion of her relics was carried to Constantinople, and brought thence to Venice, where it is kept with singular veneration. St. Lucy is often painted with the balls of her eyes laid in a dish: perhaps her eyes were defaced or plucked out, though her present acts make no mention of any such circumstance. In many places her intercession is particularly implored for distempers of the eyes.

It is a matter of the greatest consequence what ideas are stamped upon the ductile minds of children, what sentiments are impressed on their hearts, and to what habits they are first formed. Let them be inured to little denials both in their will and senses, and learn that pleasures which gratify the senses must be guarded against, and used with great fear and moderation: for by them the taste is debauched, and the constitution of the soul broken and spoiled much more fatally than that of the body can be by means contrary to its health. Let them be taught that, as one of the ancient philosophers said: Temperance is the highest luxury; for only its pleasures are easy, solid, and permanent. It is much easier to conquer than to

satisfy the passions, which, unless they are curbed by a vigorous restraint, whilst they are pliable, will be harder to be subdued. Obstinacy, untractableness, sloth, and voluptuousness, are of all dispositions in youth the most dangerous.

Children, like tender osiers, take the bow,  
And as they first are fashioned always grow.

There are few Lucies now-a-days amongst Christian ladies, because sensuality, pride, and vanity are instilled into their minds by the false maxims and pernicious example of those with whom they first converse. Alas ! unless a constant watchfulness and restraint produce and strengthen good habits, the inclinations of our souls lean of their own accord towards corruption.

### ST. JODOC, OR JOSSE, C.

THOSE Britons who, flying from the swords of the English-Saxons, settled in Armorica in Gaul, upon the ruins of the Roman empire in those parts, formed themselves into a little state on that coast till they were obliged to receive the laws of the French. Judicaël, commonly called Gigueï, eldest son of Juthael, became king of Brittany about the year 630.\* This

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\* Conan is called the first prince of Lesser Brittany or Armorica, and is said to have died in 421, in the reign of Theodosius the Younger : having founded the dioceses of Cornouaille or Quimper, and of Vannes. Solomon I., his grandson, succeeded him, and after thirteen years was murdered by his own subjects, for his zeal in reforming their immoralities. Some think him the prince whose name occurs in some calendars of Brittany, rather than Solomon III. who was a murderer and usurper. Grallon or Gallon (from Gallus or Wallus) was the third prince, and seems to have governed for his little nephew, Audren. He could not have founded the monasteries of Landevenec and Ruis ; for he died in 445, and St. Gildas arrived in Brittany only in 530. Audren, son to Solomon, Guerich, and Eusebius then reigned successively, and sometimes aided the Roman forces against the Goths and Burgundians. Budic, seventh prince of Brittany, founded the church of St. Cyr, now St. Leonard's, in Nantes, and is thought to have been slain by Clovis I. who, about the year 506, made Brittany a province of his kingdom. Hoel I. or Riual, son of Budic, is called by many the first king or prince of Brittany ; having assembled the Britons dispersed in the islands, drove out the Frisians whom Clovis had settled in Armorica, and recovered the inheritance of his ancestors, but held it of King Chilbert, whom he waited on at Paris in 522. Hoel II., called also Riual, and Riguald succeeded, persecuted St. Malo, bishop of Aleth, and was murdered in 546, by his brother, Canao, who seized the crown ; but thirteen years after was slain by Clotaire I., who conquered Rennes, Vannes, and Nantes. Macliau, son of Hoel I. recovered the sovereignty ; but was killed in 577.