

peculiar esteem the priests of the perfect dispensation, which requires its more perfect observance.

As a full inquiry into the vestiges or monuments of the Pagan religion will be hereafter instituted, we shall proceed with the mission of Palladius, who was a deacon of the Roman Church, or, as others say, archdeacon. Having distinguished himself by his exertions to deliver Britain from the heresy of Pelagius, he was chosen by St. Celestine, and consecrated the first bishop of the Irish, as St. Prosper, Bede, and others, attest. It appears probable that he was a native of Britain. On his journey to the scene of his labors, he was accompanied by some missionaries, four of whom, Sylvester, Solonius, Augustin, and Benedict, are named in the Lives of St. Patrick. Where he landed is not particularly recorded; but it seems that it was not far distant from Wexford, for we find him soon after laboring in the territory of Hygarchon, over which Nathi, son of Garchon, was sovereign. His arrival, it appears, was early in the year 431, and also the year of his departure from Rome. His first efforts in preaching the Gospel were attended with success, as he baptized some converts, and erected three churches; that of Cell-fine, in which he deposited the sacred books and relics of Saints Peter and Paul, which he brought from Rome, along with his writing materials, all of which were carefully preserved for a long time; another called the Church of the Romans, and the third under the name Domnachard. These sacred structures are supposed to have stood in the territory, which the present county of Wicklow comprises. Such pleasing information as this having been conveyed to Rome, confidence of general success was excited, and hence St. Prosper did not hesitate to say, that the country, through the exertion of St. Celestine, was added to the universal fold. Too sanguine in his expectations, he did not await the confirmation of those glad tidings, nor was Prosper acquainted with the change which marred the prospects of the missionary.

The enemy of man's salvation seeing his empire invaded, alarmed the zealots of the ancient superstition, who forthwith denounced Palladius as a dangerous person. The sovereign entered warmly into the views which the opponents of Christianity put forth; and Palladius being unable to resist their violence, was forced to retire from the country, leaving, however, some of his associates who were less known, and of course less liable to persecution, to take charge of his converts, and also watch every opportunity to enlarge the vinyard of Christ. He sailed from Ireland towards the end of the same year in which he arrived, and after being tossed about by storms, he landed in Britain, with the intention of thence proceeding to Rome; but heaven willed otherwise, for he died at Fordun, in the district of Mearns, in Scotland. The day of his death