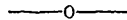


THE FIRST ENGLISH MARTYR.

Among the furious zealots of the times, none were more conspicuous than Archbishop Arundel, by whose efforts and influence, in the year 1400, an act of Parliament was passed, authorizing all such unhappy persons as the clergy should deem guilty of heresy, to be burnt to death. The following account of the proceedings against Rev. Sir William Sawtree, the first who was burnt at the stake in England for religious opinions, is given by an English writer :

"The Archbishop, impatient to put his cruel law in execution, even during the session of Parliament that made it, brought Sir William Sawtree, rector of Oswyth, London, to take his trial for heresy before the convocation of the province of Canterbury at St. Paul's. The chief heresies of which he was accused were these two that he refused to worship the cross, and that he denied the doctrine of transubstantiation. The unhappy man, in order to avoid the painful death with which he was threatened endeavored to explain away his heresy as much as possible. He consented to pay an inferior kind of worship to the cross on account of him who died upon it. But that gave no satisfaction.

He acknowledged the real presence of Christ in the sacrament, and that, after the words of consecrations were pronounced, the bread became the true spiritual bread of life. He underwent an examination of no less than three hours on that subject, February 10, A. D. 1401; but when the Archbishop urged him to profess his belief, that after consecration the substance of the bread and wine no longer remained, but was converted into the substances of the body and blood of Christ, which were as really and truly in their proper substance and nature in the sacrament, as they hung upon the cross, as they lay in the grave, and as they now resided in heaven, he stood aghast, and after some hesitation, declared 'That whatever might be the consequence, he could neither understand nor believe that doctrine.' On this the Archbishop pronounced him an obstinate heretic, degraded him from all the clerical orders with which he had been invested, and delivered him to the Mayor and Sheriffs of London, with this hypocritical request, that they would use him kindly; he well knew that all the kindness they dared to show him was to burn him to ashes. He was accordingly burnt in Smithfield, and had the honor to being the first person in England who suffered this painful kind of death, for maintaining those doctrines which are now maintained by all Protestant churches.



LABRADOR.—Two children, six and seven years of age, have died at Hope-dale, leaving the most delightful evidence of having gone to be with Christ. The older said one day to his mother, about nine months previous to his departure, "O my dear mother, how happy must the children be who have gone to our Saviour! I often long to join them in singing his praise." It is a pleasing token of the increasing value which the people put upon the ordinances of the Christian church, that nine Esquimaux couples who for some years had lived as man and wife, have asked to be married in the Christian manner. Another couple, who had been guilty of the grossest sins, have been baptised. The transaction was attended with an evident blessing to the whole congregation, and some visitors from a great distance seemed much impressed with the solemnity.