

our English histories: "The secular clergy are no enemies to the pleasures of the table, and some of them contrived to convert gluttony and drunkenness into religious ceremonies, by the celebration of "Glutton Masses," as they very properly termed them. These glutton masses were celebrated five times in a year, in honor of the Virgin Mary, in this manner: Early in the morning, the people of the parish assembled in the church, loaded with ample stores of meats and drinks of all kinds. As soon as the mass was ended, the feast began, in which the clergy and laity engaged with equal ardor. The church was turned into a tavern, and became the scene of excessive riot and intemperance. The priests and people of different parishes entered into formal contests, which of them should have the greatest glutton masses, that is, which of them should consume the greatest quantity of meat and drink, in honor of the Virgin Mary."

Sir John Chardin states, concerning the Christian churches in Persian Georgia, that "no men are more addicted to beastly drunkenness than the Georgians, in which filthy practices they indulge with more freedom, because it is so common, and not looked upon as scandalous. The churchmen will be as drunk as others; and it has been remarked by the Catholicos or Patriarch of Georgia, that he who does not get drunk at great festivals, such as Easter and Christmas, cannot be a good Christian, and deserves to be excommunicated."

The religious ceremonies of the Danes and Anglo-Saxons, present the same debasing practices; and it is said, that during their festivals they used to drink large draughts of intoxicating liquors to the honor of Christ, the Virgin Mary, and other Saints."

William of Malmesbury relates, "that King Edward I. was