

twelve hundred years ago, calls Audomarus Bishop of Boulogne and Tarvana. There is also a remarkable circumstance, viz., the tradition of the inhabitants, that St. Patrick governed the diocese of Boulogne, or of the Morini, as bishop before he set out for Ireland; nay, even to the present day, green ribbons are worn there on his festival. Malbranc, in order to prove the truth of this tradition, refers to the chronicle of the Morini, the catalogue of the bishops of Boulogne, and the life of St. Arnulphus of Soissons. He, however, assigns a longer period to his ministry than can be reconciled with other circumstances of St. Patrick's life.

The most esteemed biographers of St. Patrick assure us, that it was in Armorica the Saint abode when made a captive; and he himself informs us that the place of his captivity was not far distant from the residence of his family. Fiech's Scholiast states, that certain pirates engaged on a plundering excursion in Armorica Gaul, carried St. Patrick and his family captive into Ireland. In 403, the date to which the first captivity of the Saint is assigned, Niall, an Irish prince, ravaged successively the coasts of Britain and of Gaul. Keating says, "I have read in an ancient Irish manuscript, whose authority I cannot dispute, that St. Patrick and his two sisters were brought captive from Armorica, or Britanny, in the kingdom of France, into Ireland," with whom O'Flaherty agrees on the point of his captivity. Probus calls St. Patrick's country, and the town where his family lived, Arimuric or Armorica.

It may be asked, how can this Armorican origin of St. Patrick be reconciled with the Nemthur of Fiech? This name of Nemthur is interpreted by some as "holy tower," nor can it be the name of the town in which St. Patrick was born; it was the name of a country or province well known at the time that Fiech's hymn was composed. Such a country we find in Gaul, the province of Neustria or Neptria; it comprised the extensive tract situated between the Meuse and the Loire, and consequently the territory of Boulogne. And here again Probus, consistent in his account of St. Patrick's country, gives the true meaning of Fiech, by asserting that Bonaveni, the birthplace of the Saint, was in the province of Neptria. In chronicles and breviaries, and by Probus himself, St. Patrick is styled a Briton. In older tracts of this kind, Britain was said in general terms to be his country; but in later ones, it has received the adjunct "Great;" and hence the corrector of the Rouen breviary, to guard against this interpolation, has, in the lessons of St. Patrick's office, designated his birthplace as Britannia Gallicana. This was the Britain of Probus, and which St. Patrick must have meant, when he mentions having been with his parents in Britain; for there is no other Britain in which the town of Bonaveni Tabernie can be met with.

Though prompted by a desire to visit his friends and relatives in his

