

so many monuments of our illustrious saint, and have preserved his memory fresh and untainted till the very hour in which Doctor Ledwich wrote his book, as the antiquarian himself acknowledges."

CHAPTER III.

PLACE OF HIS BIRTH—THE SAINT'S FAMILY—NO RELATIVES OF HIS IN IRELAND IN HIS EARLY CAREER.

AMONG writers on the Ecclesiastical History of Ireland, an inquiry into the birthplace of St. Patrick has caused much controversy. Some writers claim it for Scotland, others for England, while a third class award to France the glory and the dignity of his birth. The arguments in favor of France are numerous and grave. It is a fact, which Colgan acknowledges, that among the inhabitants of Armoric Britain, or Boulogne-sur-Mer, an ancient tradition prevails of their country being the birthplace of St. Patrick, and "that some Irishmen were of that opinion." No British antiquary will be able to designate a place in Great Britain which accords with the account of St. Patrick regarding the place of his birth. "My father," says the Saint in his Confessions, "was Calphornius, a deacon, son of Potitus, a priest of the town Bonavem Tabernie. He had near the town a small villa, Enon, where I became a captive." Bonavem Tabernie was in Armoric Gaul, being the same as Boulogne-sur-Mer. The name of the town was well known to the Romans under the name of Gessoriacum; but about the reign of Constantine the Great, the Celtic name Bonaven, or Bonann, became more general. According to Bullet, *am, aven, on*, signify a river in the Celtic language, and the town was so called from its situation at the mouth of a river. Hence many places in Ireland, similarly situated, are so called. The addition of Tabernie marks the district of Tarvenna, alias Tarabenna, a celebrated city not far from Boulogne, the ruins of which still remain under the modern name, Teroname. It is often mentioned under the name of "Civitas Morinorum," *i. e.*, the city of the Morini, in which Boulogne was also situated. Jonas, in his life of the Abbot Eustasius, written near