

It is here, my brethren, his piety found ample room for indulgence, and here he treasured in his mind the sacred dogmas, the wholesome maxims, and canonical institutes of the Church of Christ, on which he afterwards formed the different institutions which he caused, after a few years culture in the hearts of the people, to ornament their country; thus he continued indulging the ardour of his pious soul, when the fame of his eminent sanctity reached the ears and rested on the attention of the Roman Pontiff Celestine, the first of that name, and 43d. in succession from Saint Peter; this eminent man having a year or two before sent to Ireland for its conversion, his Arch-deacon Paladius, who, accompanied by twelve ecclesiastics, attempted to convert the people; but after building three or four houses of religious institution, he was obliged to retire and abandon his project; and returning by Scotland he baptized many persons and founded three Churches, in possession of which he left Augustine, Benedict, and Sylvester, he at length died in Britain, on the borders of the Picts. It is then that the Sovereign Pontiff, being informed of his death, and the great learning of the Irish, lamented that such a people should be doomed to pass their lives in darkness and impiety, and strangers to the light of Christianity: he then resolved to elevate our Saint to the Episcopal order, and sent him immediately on that mission, for which, from his infancy, the Lord seemed to destine him, and which he undertook with amazing fortitude and courage. No sooner was his arrival announced on the northern coast of Ireland, than the rage of idolaters began to swell against him; the magicians opposed his entrance in the most determined and violent manner, because being either told by some of the