

highshire, under the direction of a very holy abbot called Elerius, who governed there a double monastery. After the death of the abbess Theonia, St. Winefride was chosen to succeed her. Leland speaks of St. Elerius as follows: "Elerius was anciently, and is at present in esteem among the Welsh. I guess that he studied at the banks of the Elivi where now St. Asaph's stands. He afterwards retired in the deserts. It is most certain that he built a monastery in the vale of Cluide, which was double, and very numerous of both sexes. Among these was the most noble virgin Guenvrede, who had been educated by Benno, and who suffered death, having her head cut off by the furious Caradoc." Leland mentions not the stupendous miracles which Robert of Salop and others relate on that occasion, though in the abstract of her life inserted in an appendix to the fourth volume of the last edition of Leland's Itinerary, she is said to have been raised to life by the prayers of St. Benno. In all monuments and calendars she is styled a martyr; all the accounts we have of her agree that Caradoc, son of Alain, prince of that country, being violently fallen in love with her, gave so far way to his brutish passion that in his rage he one day pursued her, and cut off her head, as she was flying from him to take refuge in the church which St. Benno had built at Holy Well. Robert of Shrewsbury and some others add, that Caradoc was swallowed up by the earth upon the spot; secondly, that in the place where the head fell, the wonderful well which is seen there sprang up, with pebble stones and large parts of the rock in the bottom stained with red streaks, and with moss growing on the sides under the water, which renders a sweet fragrant smell; and thirdly, that the martyr was raised to life by the prayers of St. Benno, and bore ever after the mark of her martyrdom by a red circle on her skin about her neck. If these authors, who lived a long time after these transactions, were by some of their guides led into any mistakes in any of these circumstances, neither the sanctity of the martyr nor the devotion of the place can be hereby made liable to censure. St. Winefrido died on the 22nd of June. The most ancient life of this saint in the Cotronian manuscript, places her death; or rather her burial, at Guthurin, on the 24th of June. The words are: "The place where she lived with the holy virgins was called Guthurin, where sleeping on the eighth before the calends of July, she was buried and rests in the Lord." Her festival was