

the year 1090, addressed a Treatise to the Bishops of Ireland *De Statu Ecclesie*. In this very interesting relic of antiquity, he minutely describes, amongst other things, the various orders in the Church, with their respective powers and duties. Speaking of the powers of a Priest, he says:—*Benedicere* potest, presente Episcopo, *aquam et sal* in Dominicis sacerdos. 'The Priest can bless water and salt on Sundays, in presence of the Bishop.' And in recounting a list of various things which it is fit for a Priest to have, and which do not require the blessing of a Bishop, the first he mentions is 'Holy Water, and the *Asperges*' or instrument by which it is sprinkled, then "the text of the Holy Gospel, the Psalter, the Missal, the Book of Hours, the Manual, the Synodal Book, &c.' *Aqua Benedicta*, aspergit (sen aspersorium). *Textus Sancti Evangelii*, *Psalterium*, *Missale*, *Horarius*, *Manuale*, et *Synodalis Liber*, &c*. The allusion to the *Asperges* or *Aspersorium*, the instrument with which the Holy Water is sprinkled by the Priest upon the people, or upon any thing which he blesses, naturally suggests a reference to the Heathen and Jewish mode of sprinkling the water of lustration, and with this, we are reluctantly forced to conclude, although much still remains to be said upon the subject.

In the sprinkling of the Lustral Waters of Paganism, a branch of the Laurel or the Olive was generally used. Thus in the well known lines of Juvenal, we read:—

——— Lustrari si qua darentur

Sulphura cum tædis, et si foret humida Laurus.*

(Sat. ii., 158. See Pliny, lib. xv., cap. ult.)

**Usserius. Vt. Epist. Hibernæ. pp. 58, 59.* Before we leave Bishop Gillibert, we cannot resist the temptation of quoting from this ancient Father of the Irish Church, the following splendid testimony in favour of the Primacy and Universal Jurisdiction of the Roman Pontiff. It is found in the concluding sentences of the Treatise *de Statu Ecclesie*.

'Locum itaque quem apud Orientales *Patriarchæ* possident, hunc apud nos *Primates* quodammodo obtinere videntur: utriusque Romano Pontifici primo gradu SUPPONUNTUR. Sed quia *Patriarchæ* sedibus president Apostolicis (ut *Hierosolymitanus*, *Antiochenus*, *Alexandrinus*) ideo Archiepiscopus ordinant et pares quodammodo Romano ascribuntur. SOLI TAMEN PETRO dictum est: *Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram ædificabo Ecclesiam meam.* PAPA ERGO SOLUS UNIVERSALI PRÆMINET ECCLESIE, ET IPSE OMNES ORDINAT ET JUDICAT.'