

save him for a time from his too certain doom. Amidst the vast crowd that had flocked to the shore to witness the cruel spectacle, one heart alone was touched. The bishop went boldly into the presence of Radbod, and begged the life of the children, declaring it iniquitous that beings made in the image of God should be exposed to the sport of demons. 'If your god Christ,' Radbod replied, 'will deliver them from their present peril, you may have them for your own.' Thereupon the bishop prayed mightily to God, and, as the story runs, the waves seemed suddenly to gather in a heap and leave the spot where the children stood, so that it became as dry land. Then the bishop flung himself into the waves, and seizing one of the children in his right hand and the other in his left, conveyed them safe to land, and restored them to their mothers. They were afterwards baptized, together with a considerable number of the Frisians." In this story there is probably an admixture of truth with fiction, pointing to the bishop's willingness to encounter peril, and steadfastness in exposing the superstitions of the people.—The incidents may have been coloured at a later date in the quiet recesses of the monastery.

#### BONIFACE.

One of the most celebrated missionaries of the eighth century was St. Boniface, an Englishman of noble family, who set himself to the task of evangelising many of the still heathen portions of Germany. Thuringia was the chief scene of his labours. After ten years work with unflagging energy, "numbers were baptized, heathen temples disappeared, humble churches rose amid the waste forest lands overspread with oaks; monastic cells sprung up wherever salubrity of soil, and especially the presence of running water, suggested a healthy site; the land was cleared and brought under the plough; the sound of prayer and praise awoke unwonted echoes in the forest glades, and the simple lives of Boniface's little band of missionaries won the hearts of the rude but hardy tribes." Boniface invited assistance from England, and was cheered by the flocking to him of numerous labourers from his native land. His disciples spread abroad over many parts of Germany and Holland, and one of them established, about 755, a missionary college at Utrecht, where youths assembled to be trained to evangelistic work, from England, France, and different countries of central Europe.

#### OPERATIONS AMONG THE SAXONS.

The spirit with which some of these missionaries executed their commissions is shewn in the following address by one of one of them to the Saxons, then a wild and warlike race inhabiting the banks of the Elbe. Lebnin, an Englishman, presented

himself to the astonished Saxons as they were engaged in solemn sacrifice to one of their gods. With a cross in one hand and a volume of the Gospels in the other, he thund'ed forth, "Hearken unto me, and not indeed to me, but unto Him that speaketh by me. I declare unto you the commands of Him whom all things serve and obey." Struck dumb with astonishment, the warriors listened as he went on: "Hearken all ye, and know that God is the Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and all things that are therein. He is the one only and true God. He made us, and not we ourselves, nor is there any other than He. The images, which ye call gods, and which, beguiled by the devil, ye worship, what are they but gold, or silver, or brass, or stone, or wood? They neither live nor move nor feel; they are but the work of men's hands; they can neither help themselves nor anyone else. God, the only good and righteous being, whose mercy and truth remain forever, moved with pity that ye should be thus seduced by the errors of demons, has charged me as His ambassador to beseech you to lay aside your old errors, and to turn with sincere and true faith to Him by whose goodness ye were created, and in whom we live and move and have our being. If ye will acknowledge Him, and repent, and be baptised, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and will keep His commandments, then will He preserve you from all evil, He will vouchsafe unto you the blessings of peace, and in the world to come life everlasting. But if ye despise and reject His counsels, and persist in your present errors, know that ye will suffer terrible punishment for scorning His merciful warning. Behold I, His ambassador, declare unto you the sentence which has gone forth from His mouth, and which cannot change. If ye do not obey his commands, then will sudden destruction come upon you, for the King of kings hath appointed a brave, prudent, and terrible prince" (Charlemagne), "who is not afar off, but nigh at hand. He, like a swift and roaring torrent, will burst upon you, and subdue the ferocity of your hearts, and crush your stiff-necked obstinacy. He shall invade your land with a mighty host, and ravage it with fire and sword, desolation and destruction. As the avenging wrath of that God whom ye have now provoked, he shall slay some of you with the sword, some he shall cause to waste away in poverty and want, some he shall lead into perpetual captivity; your wives and children he shall sell into slavery; and the residue of you he will reduce to ignominious subjection; that in you may justly be fulfilled what has long since been predicted: 'They were made a handful, and scattered and tormented with the tribulation and anguish of the wicked.'" Inflamed by such bold and intrepid lan-