

searched for the treasure, in every quarter. At last, they met with a small chest, secured with bolts, keys, and iron plates, which they broke in pieces; but instead of the expected riches, they found nothing in it but a hair shirt, a discipline, and other penitential instruments, with which this holy man chastised his body, though already worn out by years and austerities. They found, it is true, with these pious implements, a trifle of money, which he gave to the poor, whenever he used the discipline. Thus the guards, disappointed for their expected booty, went off quite confounded.

This aged and venerable confessor resisted, contrary to all expectation, but supported by the grace of God, fifteen months' imprisonment, and, at last shed his blood in defence of the pope's supremacy in opposition to the tyranny of a profligate king. He was brought to trial, on the 22nd of June, 1535, and because he refused to acknowledge Henry's church supremacy, he was condemned to death. When he perceived the scaffold, prepared for his execution, he threw away the crutch, which supported him, and said: "Well the way is short, and my feet will perform the rest of the journey." When arrived at the place he raised up his eyes to heaven, and said: "We praise thee, we confess thee, O God, and so ended the hymn; his head was cut off at a single stroke of the hatchet, was fixed at the end of a pike, and exposed to the view of the people on London bridge; but as it attracted the veneration of all the spectators, it was taken away.—*Sanders' English Reformation.*

FAIRS.

To the intervals of busy occupation belonged a kind of religious interest in the Christian towns, which might even supply matter for a curious episode in their history. When religion had given rise to an extraordinary concourse of people at any place, assembling in consequence of devotion to some saint on his festival; merchants availed themselves of the circumstance, and fairs were established during the interval, so that the faithful might exercise their devotion, and at the same time reap the advantage of a plentiful and cheap market for things of a more rare or difficult attainment. At Jerusalem, during the seasons when the pilgrims from the West resorted thither, there was a fair held; at Loretto, on the festival of our Lady in September; at Pavia, on the festival of St. Augustine, whose relics are there enshrined; and similarly in other places, according to the epoch of their respective patrons, annual fairs were held. At Lyons, the famous fair, des Merveilles, owed its origin to a solemn festival, celebrated in memory of the 19,000 victims whose blood was shed for the faith in the primitive Church. This drew such a concourse of people, that the fair was established. The celebrated fair of Beaucaire was held at the feast of Magdalen. In the time of king Charles V. Gilles Malet, Seigneur of Villepeche, obtained leave to have a fair in this place, to begin on St. George's day, on account of the concourse of people there, which was under the invocation of that saint.

Such was the crowd of devout people who resorted to the abbey of Gercy on the festival of its patron, when his relics were exposed, that the abbes obtained leave, in 1510, to establish a fair on