

importance at once arose with Saint Cuthbert, whose shrine became a place of pilgrimage.

Cuthbert began life as a shepherd, in the valley of the Tweed, not far from Melrose, where a religious house had recently been established under the auspices of St. Aiden. As Cuthbert was one day playing at ball with his companions, there stood among them a fair young child, and he said to Cuthbert, "Good brother, leave these vain plays; set not thy heart upon them; mind thy book; has not God chosen thee out to be great in his Church?" But Cuthbert heeded him not, and the fair child wrung his hands and wept, and threw himself down on the ground in great heaviness, and when Cuthbert ran to comfort him he said, "Nay, my brother, it is for thee I weep, that preferest thy vainsports to the teaching of the servants of God," and then he vanished suddenly, and Cuthbert knew that it was an angel that had spoken to him, and from that time forth his piety and love of learning recommended him to the good Prior of Melrose, who instructed him carefully in the Holy Scriptures.

About this time Oswald, the pious King of Northumberland, had embraced Christianity, and in order to convert his people, had invited St. Aiden to plant the cross in his kingdom. Aiden made choice of the Island of Lindisfarne for his Monastery, and wrought wonders of peace and refinement amongst the turbulent nobles of the north, and had acquired a high fame as a saint. On a certain night as Cuthbert watched his flocks by the river-side, he beheld a glorious vision of angels, who were bearing