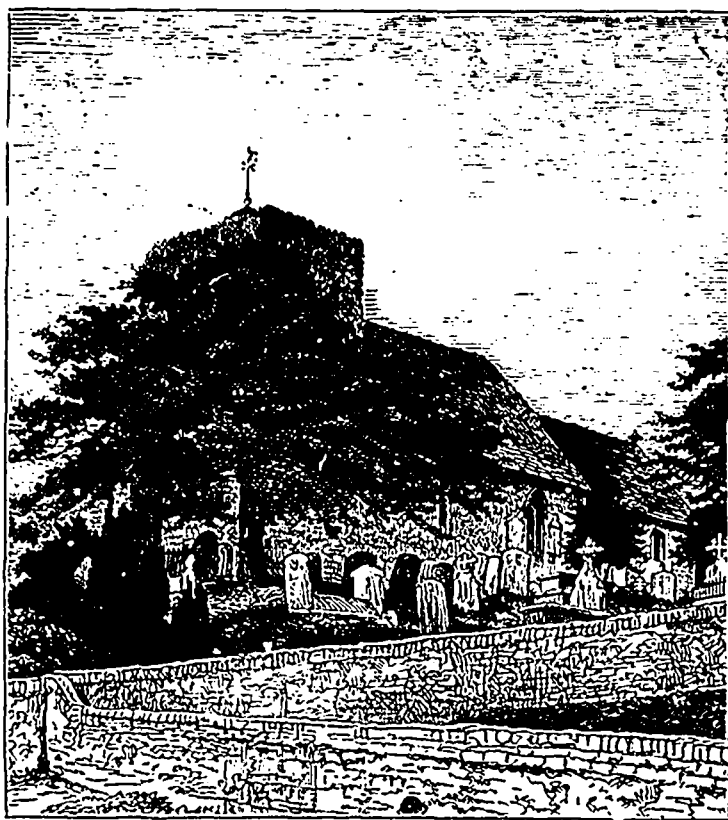




ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, CANTERBURY.

to the waters of baptism. King Ethelbert laid the foundation of a cathedral and endowed a monastery. New missionaries were sent out from Rome and spread themselves into different parts of England. A diocese was formed at Rochester, and Justus was made its first bishop. Sebert, king of Essex, Ethelbert's nephew, applied for missionaries, and the diocese of London was formed, with Mellitus as bishop. In the meantime Augustine was consecrated to the see of Canterbury by a French bishop—the bishop of Arles, and Gregory sent him the pallium, or cloak, which meant that he was to be metropolitan bishop, and hence he became the first archbishop of Canterbury.

But there were bishoprics in England that were older than Canterbury, five Welsh bishops (St. David's, Llandaff, Llanbadarn, Bangor, and St. Asaph), and two British dioceses, of which Gloucester was one. The name of the other does not seem to be known. These seven bishops found some difficulty in acknowledging the sway and power of St. Augustine, whose policy with them was marked by an imperiousness which was injurious to his cause. He ruled, however, his own diocese with much mildness and success, and when he died in A.D. 605 a loving people mourned his loss.

But Augustine did not pass away without

making arrangements for his successor. He selected Laurentius, a clergyman, not a monk, who had been with him from the first in his missionary work among the Saxons, and he became the second archbishop of Canterbury. He consecrated the church or cathedral which Augustine had founded, and to it the remains of Queen Bertha and those of the late archbishop were removed and buried in the porch. Laurentius also laid at rest the remains of the noble king who, under God, was the chief instrument of introducing Christianity among the Saxons. Eadbald, Ethelbert's successor, married his stepmother, a step which Laurentius denounced, and thereby incurred the resentment and anger of the young king to such an extent that the archbishop and his friends thought of abandoning the work and returning to Rome; but happily Eadbald listened to reason, and the missionaries were saved the humiliation of a return empty.

Laurentius died in 619, and was succeeded by Mellitus, bishop of London, who was the head of the new missionaries who were sent out to aid Augustine after his first great success. He was a man of "noble birth, and nobler mind," though not noted for courage. Indeed, he had fled from the diocese of London owing to the fierceness of the two sons of Sebert (after that good king had gone to his rest), and had taken refuge in France. Shortly after his return to England he became archbishop of Canterbury, holding the position for about five years.

On his death in 624, Justus, another of the mission band of 601, became archbishop. In his time Christianity was extended into Northumbria, and the old British diocese of Eboricum, or York, was revived and Paulinus appointed bishop in the year 625. His policy with the untutored Edwin, king of Northumbria, was none of the best at first, but resulted in the baptism of the king and the foundation at York of the church which afterwards developed into the noble minster now standing there. It was then but a building of wooden walls, but the hallelujahs within it were glad because they told of a kingdom converted to Christ.

Justus died in 630, and in the following year Honorius, almost the last of the original mis-