

by this it daily appeareth: for when we are slain, crucified, cast to wild beastes, into the fire, or geuen to other tormentes, yet we goe not from our confession: but contrary, the more cruelie and slaughter is wrought against vs. the moe they be that come to picke and faith by the name of Iesus: no otherwise then if a man cut the vine tree, the better the branches grow. For the vine tree planted by God and Christ our Sauour, is his people. Hæc Iust.

To comprehend the names and number of all the Martyrs that suffered in all these ten persecutions (which are innumerable) it is impossible, so it is hard in such varietie and diuersitie of matter, to keepe such a perfect order and course of yeares and times, that either some be not left out, or that euery one bee reduced into his right place, especially seeing the Authoꝝ themselves, whome in this present woꝝke we follow, doe diuersly disagree, both in the tymes, in the names, and also in the kynd of Martyrdome of them that suffered. As for example, where the common reading and opinion of the Church, and the Epistles Decretall doe take Anacletus to succeede after Clement, next before Euaristus. Contrary Eusebius, Lib. 3. & Lib. 5. cap. 6. making no mention of Cletus, but of Anacletus, sayth that Euaristus succeeded next to Clement. Likewise Rufinus and Epiphanius, speaking nothyng of Anacletus, make mention of Linus and of Cletus, next before Clement, but say nothyng of Anacletus, whereby it may appeare that Cletus and Anacletus were both one. Sabellicus Ænead. 7. Lib. 2. speaketh of Linus and of Cletus, and sayth that they were ordained helpers vnder Peter, while he laboured in his Apostleship abroad, and so sayth also Marianus Scotus. Contrary Irenæus Lib. 3. contra Hæres. speaketh of Anacletus, making no mention of Cletus. whereby it may appeare by the way, what credite is to be geuen to the Decretall Epistles whome all the latter byboozes of the Popes Church do follow in this behalfe, &c. Moreover, where Antoninus, Vincentius, Iacobus in Supplemento, Symoneta, Aloyfius, with others, declare of Linus, Cletus, Clemens, Anacletus, Euaristus, Alexander, bishops of Rome, that they died Martyrs. Eusebius in his Ecclesiasticall history writing of them, maketh thereof no mention.

And first as toucheth Clement (whom Marianus Scotus calleth the first Bishop of Rome after Peter) they say that he was sent out in banishment of Traianus, beyond Ponticus, with 2000. christians, where he opened to them a well spring, whiche in the wilderness were condemned to the thimmes. Afterward being accused to the Emperour, he was thowne into the sea with a Millstone fastened about his necke, and that not long after his body was cast vp & buried (as Platina sayth) at the place where the well was made. Some say it was found first in the dayes of Pope Nicholas the first, Falcicul. tempor. But so farre as I kinde of his Martyrdome no firme relation in the ancient authoꝝ, but onely in such newe writers of latter tymes, which are wont to paitie out the liues and histories of good men, with fained additions of forged miracles, therefore I count the same of little credite; as I do also certaine Decretall Epistles, vntreuely (as may seeme) ascribed and intituled to his name. Eusebius in his third booke, writing of Clemens, geueth no more of him, but thus: After he had gouerned the Church of Rome ix. yeares, the sayd Clement left succession thereof to Euaristus.

Of which Euaristus next Bishop of Rome, thus we find in Irenæus, Lib. 3. cap. 3. Peter and Paule (sayth he) committed the charge of that church to Linus. After whome came Anacletus, then succeeded Clemens, next to Clemens followed Euaristus, after whome came Alexander, and then Sixtus the vi. Bishop of Rome after the Apostles. After Sixtus came Telesphorus, then Higinus, then Pius, then Anicetus. And when Soter tooke the place after hym, then the xij. Bishop of Rome was Eleutherius. Thus after Clement followed (as is sayd) Euaristus in the second or third yeare of Traianus as sayth Eusebius; or as Nicephorus sayth, the fourth yeare of the sayd Emperour. But howsoever the counte of the yeares stand, little or nothing remaineth of the Actes and Monumentes either of this, or of other Bishops of Rome in those dayes, whereby it may appeare that no great account was then made of Roman Bishops in those daies, whose actes and deedes were then either so lightly reputed, or so slenderly committed to history. Notwithstanding certaine Decretall Epistles are remaining, or rather thrust vpon vs in their names, containing in them little substance of any doctrine, but all together stuffed with lawes, inunctions, and statelie decrees, little to the purpose, and lesse fauoring of the nature of that time then present. Amongest whō also are intybred the two epistles of this Euaristus. And when he had geuen these orders, & had made vi. byettes,

two Deacons, and siue Byshoppes, for sondry places (sayth the story,) he suffered Martyrdome, but what kinde of death, for what cause he suffered, what constancy he shewed, what was the order or conuolation of hys life, is nothing touched, and seemeth therefore the moze to be doubted that which our newe histories do say: because the olde ancient writers haue no remembraunce thereof, which otherwise would not haue passed such things ouer in silence, if they had bene true. Agayne, neyther do the authoꝝ fully agree in the tymes of hys martyrdome, which Nauclerus writteth to be in the last yeare of Traianus: but Platina thinketh rather that he suffered vnder Hadrianus: Falcicul. temporum, referreth it to the third yeare of Hadrian, Volateranus, to the beginning of the reigne of Hadrian, Contrary, Eusebius, comming neare to the simple tructh (as seemeth) doth affirme that Euaristus succeeded Clement in the third yeare of Traianus, and so geuing to him ix. yeares, it should follow thereby that Euaristus deceased the xii. yeare of Traianus.

After whome succeeded next Alexander, in the gouernance of that Church, of whole tymes & death the like discrepance is among the writers, Marianus Scotus, sayth, he was the fourth Byshop from Peter, but that could not be. Some say he was the first & some the vii. but they likewise were deceiued. For the most part all do graunt Sixtus to be the vi. Damasius affirmeth that hee was in the reigne of Traiane. And how can that be, when the sayd Damasius affirmed before that Euaristus hys predecessor suffered in the last yeare of Traiane, and then the Byshopricke stood at least a moneth voyde, except hee meane that the sayd Alexander succeeded Euaristus in the last yeare of Traianus? But then how can that stand with Bede and Marianus Scotus, which say, that he suffered vnder Traianus, or with Otto Fruisingensis, which sayth he suffered the fourth yeare of Hadrian, when he had bene Byshop ten yeares, by the generall consent of most writers?

They which write of the deedes and doynages of this blessed Byshop, as Bergomenis, Antoninus, Equelinus and such as follow them, declare that he had conuerted a great part of the Senators to the faith of Christ, amongst whom was Hermes a great man in Rome, whose sonne being dead, Alexander rayled agayne to life, and likewise restored sight to hys mayd being blinde. Hadrian the Emperour then absent hearing this, sent word to Aurelianus gouernour of Rome, to appehend Alexander, with Euentius and Theodulus, otherwise called Theodorus, as Platina sayth, hys two Deacons, and Hermes, and to commit them to waite with Quirinus the Tribune: whiche being done as their story recordeth, Alexander included in a diuers prison from Hermes. Notwithstanding by the guiding of an Angell through three dooyes to three lockes a peere, was brought with candle light to the lodging of Hermes. And lo returning to the prison agayne: cured the daughter of Quirinus his keeper, named Balbina, by reason whereof the sayd Quirinus, with his whole household were all Baptized, and suffered also for the faith of Christ.

Thus then sayth the story, about the second yeare of Hadrian, Aurelianus the ruler tooke Alexander the Byshop, with Hermes, hys wife children, and hys whole household, to the number of a CCCC. and thre, and threw them in prison. And not long after the sayd Alexander with Euentius his Deacon, and Hermes and the rest were burned in a fornaice, Theodulus an other Deacon of Alexander, leeping and rebuiuing the crueltie of the tyrant, suffered also the same Martyrdome.

Quirinus also the same tymes (as sayth Antoninus) having first his tongue cut out, then his hands and feete, afterward was beheaded and cast to the dogs. Equelinus sayth that he was beheaded and cast into Tyber in the raigie of the Emperour Claudius, but that cannot be. Albert Platina maketh relation but onely of Alexander with his two Deacons aforesayd. Declaring moreover, that in the tymes of this Bishop, Saphira of Antioch, and Sabina a Romaine suffered Martyrdome.

Florilegus, the Authoꝝ of Flores Historiarum, affirmeth that Alexander the Byshoppe of Rome was beheaded seuen myles out of Rome, where he lyeth buried, anno. 105. but that agreeth not with the Chronicles aboue recited. Eusebius recordeth of him no more, but that in the third yeare of Hadrian, he ended his life and office, after he had bene bishop ten yeares.

Diuers miracles are reported of this Alexander, in the Canon Legends, and liues of Santes: which as I deny not but may be true: so because I cannot enough them by any graue testimony of ancient writers, therefore I dare not affirme them, but do referre them to the authoꝝ & Deacons thereof, where they are founde. Notwithstanding, whatsoeuer is to be thought of his miracles, this is to be affirmed

The Church increaseth by persecution.

Disagreement in authoꝝ touching the liues and tymes of Martyrs.

Linus Byshop of Rome.

Cletus and Anacletus both one.

Clement Byshop counted a Martyr.

The liues of Martyrs paynted out with fained miracles.

Euaristus Byshoppe of Rome and martyr.

The decretall Epistles.

Naucl. p. 4. Platina. Volateran. Anthropol. Lib. 22. Euseb. Lib. 3. Cap. 24.

Alexander Byshop of Rome and Martyr.

Authoꝝ disagree.

Alexander. Euentius. Theodulus. Hermes with hys household. Quirinus with hys household Martyrs.

Ex Platina in Vita Alexandri.

Saphyra. Sabina. Martyrs. Ex Florilego.