

ments he suffered for it was all drawne together and most pitifully wounded and scorched, so that it had therewith lost the proper shape of a man, in whose suffering Christ obtained unspeakable glory, for that he overcame his adversary, and to the instruction of others declared, that nothing els is terrible, or ought to be feared where the love of God is; nor nothing greivous, wherein the glory of Christ is manifested.

And when those wicked men, began after a certayne time againe to torment the Martyr, & hoped well to bring it to passe, that either they should overcome him in causing him to recant, by reuocating his torments, now whē his body was so sore & swollen, that he might not suffer a man to touch him with his hande, or els that if hee died vnder their handes, yet that thereby they should strike such feare into the hearts of the rest, to cause them to deny Christ. But they were not only disappointed herein, but also contrary to the expectation of men, his bodye was in the latter punishment & torments souped & restored, and toke the first shape and vse of the members of the same, so that the same his second torment was by the grate of Christ (in steede of punishment) a safe medecine.

Also Satran now thinking to haue setteled himselfe in the hart of one Byblides, being one of them which had denied Christ, and thinking to haue caused her, being a weak and feeble woman in faith, to haue damned her soule, in blaspheming the name of God, brought her to the place of execution: inforcing to wrest some wicked thing out of the mouth of the Christians. But she in middle of her torments, returning to her selfe, and waked as it were out of her dead slepe, by that temporall paine, called to her remembrance the paynes of hell fire, and against all mens expectations reuiled the tormentors, saying, How should we Christians eate young infants (as ye reported of vs) for whom it is not lawfull to eate the blood of any beast? Upon that to some as she had confessed her selfe to bee a Christian, she was Martyred with the rest. Thus when Christ had ended those tyrannicall torments, by the patience & sufferance of our Saintes, the diuill yet inuented other engynes and instruments. For when the Christians were cast into prison, they were shut vp in darke and ougly dungeons, and were drawne by the leete, in a racke or engine made for that purpose, euen vnto the last hole. And many other such punishments suffered they which the furious ministers stirred vp with deuillish surtye, are wont to put men vnto: so that very manye of them were strangled & killed in the prisons, whom the Loide in this manner would haue to enjoy euercasting life, & set forth his glory. And surely these good men were so pittifully tormented, that and if they had had all the helpe, & medicines in the world, it was thought impossible for them to lyue, & to be restored. And thus they remaining in prison destitute of all humane helpe, were so strengthened of the Lord, and both in body and minde confirmed, that they comforted & stirred by the mynnes of the rest, the ponger sort of them, whiche were latter apprehended, & put in prison, whose bodies had not yet felt y^e last of whip, were not able to endure y^e sharpness of their imprisonment, but died of y^e same.

The blessed Photinus, who was Deacon to the bishop of Lyons, about 90. yeares old, and a very feeble or weak man, & could scarcely draw breath for the imbecillitie of his body, yet was he of a lively courage & spirit. For the great desire he had of martyrdom, when he was brought vnto the iudgement seate: although his bodye was feeble and weak, both because of his old age, and also through sickness, yet was his soule or life preserved to this purpose, that by the same Christ might triumph & be glorified. He, being by the souldiers brought to the place of iudgement, many Citizens & men of great ability following him, and the whole multitude cried vpon him directly, as though he had bene Christ himselfe, gaue a good testimony. For being demanded of the chiefe ruler, what was the Christian mans God, he answered: If thou be worthy to knowe thou shalt knowe. He being with these words somewhat nere touched, caused him to be very sore beaten. For those that stood next him, did him all the spit & displeasure y^e they could both with hand and foote, hauing no regarde at all to his olde age or white heares. And they which were further of, whatsoeuer came next to hande, they threwe at him, & euery man thought y^e he did very wickedly retaine that withheld his hande from not doing the like. For by this means they thought that they did reuenge the quarrell of their Gods. Photinus, now euen as it were gasping after life, was throwen into prison, and within two daies after dyed.

And here is the mighty prouidence of God, and the unspeakable mercy of Iesus Christ declared, which prou-

dence being assured amongst a fraternity, is neuer destitute of the aide of Iesus Christ. For those which in their first persecution denied Christ, they also were put in prison, and made partakers of the others affliction. Neither yet did it any way at all at that time helpe them that had denied Christ, but they which confessed him, were imprisoned as christians, neither was there any other crime obiected against them, but the other sort taken like heretics and wicked doers, were layd hand on, and had double moze punishment then the others had. These men were refreshed with the ioy of martyrdom, the hope of Gods promises, the loue toward Christ, and the spirit of God: The other their consciences accused them, & that very ioye in so much that by their gate, their countenances beflowed vnto the rest their guiltie consciences. For the Christians went forth hauing cheerefull countenances, very much adorned with glory and grace, in so much that the very bondes wherewith they were tyed, set them out as men in seemely apparel: and like as brides when they be decked in gorgeous and gay garments, and therewithal lawe: so as of the rebolent smell of Christ, so that it might be supposed them to be annointed with some sweet balme: whereas the other were doubtfull and sad, abject, shamed, filled, wth all shame, and furthermoze reuiled of the iudges theiuelues, as wretches, degenerate, hauing the crime of homicide and destitute of the most precious, glorious, and lively calling of the Christian name. And truly by these lightes the rest were comforted, & being apprehended, confiding Christ without any stacking, nor hauing so much as y^e thought of any such deuillish mind of denial. And in the same Epistle of the foresayd brethren of Fraunce, writing to the brethren of Asia, it followeth in this maner: After these things done, the Martyrdom of these holy Saintes were deuoted directly, into diuers Kindes and formes, as the offering to God the Father a garland decked with diuers and sundry Kindes of colours and flowers. For it so behoued the wor^d by Champions of God, after they had suffered diuers Kindes of torments, and so winning a triumphant victory to obtaine great reward of immortalitye.

Then Maturus Blandina, and Attalus together were brought to the common scaffold, there in the face of the people to be cast & deuoured of the beasts. And Maturus with Sanctus being brought y^e second time to the scaffold, suffered againe all kinde of torments, as though he thereto had suffered nothing at all, yea rather as though y^e aduersarye being oftentimes put to the worst, they as stryuing for the crowne, suffered againe more scourginges, the tearing of wilde beasts, & what thing els foucer the franticke people on euery side cryed for and willed. And about all the rest they brought an yron chayre, in the which their bodies being set, were so tyed and scorched as on a gridiron fried vpon the coales, filled with the fauour of the frying all the people that stood by. And yet for all that the tormentours ceased not, but wared moze fierce and mad against the, laboyng to overcome the patience of the Saintes. Notwithstanding al this they could not get out of Sanctus mouth any other thing but the confession which at the beginning he declared. And thus these holy men, after they had long continued aliuie in this their most horrible consistence, at the length were slaine, being made al that whole day a spectacle vnto the worlde in place and in kinde of the games and fights, which were wont to be exhibited to the people. And thus much concerning Maturus and Sanctus.

Now concerning Blandina, who being fastened vpon a stake, was cast to the rauening beastes to be deuoured, which thing was not done without the determinate will of God: to this ende that while she seemed to hang vpon a crosse (as it were) by the seruencies of her prayer, the much comforted the rest of the saintes, as beholding vnto her Christ, with their bodily eyes, which in that agonie suffered for them all, and that al which beleue in him, and suffer for the glory of Christ, might be assured to liue with him for euer. And when they sawe that no beast would come neare her thus hanging, they toke her downe from the tree, and cast her againe into prison till an other time, that the hauing y^e victory of many battels, might triumphe over that ugly Serpent the deuill: & that she being a weak and sely woman, and not regarded, armed with Christ the invincible conquerour, might encourage her brethren, and by the enduring of this battaile might winne a crowne of incorruptible glory.

Now to Attalus, who being also required and cald for of the people to punishment, already prepared for his conscience sake) cometh forth to the fight. For he being worthely exercised in the Christian profession, was alwayes a witness and a maintayner of our doctrine. Therefore when the presse of people was about the scaffold, and the table

The comfort of the godly standing to their confession. The deniers of their confession comfortles and notwithstanding punished.

The spitefull handling of Gods people.

Maturus and Sanctus Martyred.

Blandina brought forth agayne.

A miraculous working of God.

Byblides an holy Martyr.

Euenus ad quintum forum. Diuers Martyrs strangled in prison.

Other martyrs dyed in prison.

Photinus a blessed martyr.

The rage of the people agaynst Photinus.