

Agricola. defirous of martyr-dome. Agricola dyed martyr vpon the Crosse.

The cruell martyrdom of Vincentius. Ex August. in Sermon.

The tormentes exercised vpon Vincentius.

The comfort of the Lord vpon hys Sainctes.

Philoromus, Martyr.

Euseb. lib. 8. cap. 9. The confession and Martyrdom of Philoromus.

Procopius Martyr. The tormentes and constancie of Procopius to death.

Nicophor. lib. 7. cap. 15. Gregorius Martyr. The sundry tormentes of Georgius.

aduersaries to quicker speede, at length was fastned vnto the crosse and so finished his martirdome, which he so long desired, Ambros in Exhortatione ad Virgines.

No lesse worthy of commemozation is the lamentable Martyrdome of Vincentius, whose historie here followeth. This Vincentius was a Spaniard, and a quite most godly and vertuous, who at this time suffered Martyrdome at Valence, vnder Dacianus the President, as we may gather by Prudentius in his hymne. Bergomenis in his supplicent reciteth these words concerning his martyrdom, out of a certaine sermon of S. Augustine: Our heart conceiued not a vaine and fruitles light (as it were in beholding of lamentable tragedics) but a great light & marueilous, certainly, and there with singulare pleasure receiued it, when the painful passion of Victorious Vincentius was read vnto vs. Is there any so heauy harted, that will not be moued in the contemplation of this inuicible Martyr; so manly, or rather so godly fighting against the craft and subtilty of that Serpent, against the tyranny of Dacianus, against the horzors of death, & by the mightie spirit of his God conquering all: But let vs in few wordes rehearse the degrees of his tormentes though the paynes thereof in many wordes can not be expressed. First Dacianus caused the Martyr to be layde vpon the torture, and all the ioyntes of his body to be distended and racked out, untill they crackt againe. This being done in most extreme and cruel manner at the members of his painful and pittifull body were greuously indented with deadly woundes. Thirdly (that his doloz & grieues might be augmented) they miserably bered his flesh with yron combes sharpeply filed. And to y end the tormentors might vomit out al their vengeace on the meete & milde martyrs flesh, the tormentors themselues also were vily scourged at the Presidents commaundement. And lest his passion through want of paines might seeme imperfect or else to ease, they laid his body being all out of ioint, on a grate of iron, vpon which body when they had opened with iron hookes, they seared it with fire plates, with hote burning salt sprinking the same. Last of all into a hyle dongeon was this mighty Martyr drawn, the floure whereof first was thicke wydded wyth the sharpest shels that might be gotten, his feet then being fast locked in the stockes, there was he left alone without all worldly comfort: but the Loyde his God was with him, the holye spirit of God (whose office is to comfort the godly afflicted) fulfilled his hart with ioy & gladnes. Hast thou prepared a terrible racket, O cruell tyrant, O denouing Lion for the Martyrs bed: the Loyde shall make that bed soft and sweete vnto him. Rackett thou his bones and ioyntes al a sunder, his bones, his ioynts, his heates are all numbed. Tormentest thou his flesh with inuicible woundes: the Loyd shall poure abundantly into al his soyes of his oyle of gladnes. Thy scraping combes, thy sharpe fleshhookes, thine whorle searing yrons, thy parched salte, thy stinking prison, thy cutting shelles, thy pinching stockes that turne to this patient Martyr to the best. Altogether shall worke contrary to thine expectation, great plenty of ioy shall be reaped into the barnes of his soule, out of this mighty haruelt of paines that thou hast brought him into. Yea thou shalt proue him Vincentius inuider: that is, a banquisher, a tryumppher, a conqueror subduing thy madness, by his mekenes, thy tyranny by his patience, thy manifold means of tortures, by the manifold graces of God, wherewith he is plentifully enriched.

In this catalogue of company of such holy martyrs, as suffered in this soyleid tenth persecutio, many moe and almost innumerable there be expressed in authors, beside the whom we haue hether to comprehend, as Philoromus, a man of noble byrth, & great possessions in Alexandria, who being perswaded by his friends to fauour himselfe, to respect his wife, to consider his children and familie did not onely reiect the counsels of them, but also neglected the threats and tormentes of the Judge, to keepe the confession of Christ inuolate vnto the death, & losing of his head. Euseb. Lib. 8. cap. 9. Nicoph. Lib. 7. cap. 9. of whome Euseb. beareth witness that he was there present himselfe.

Of like estate and dignitie was also Procopius in Palestina, who after his conuersion brake his images of siluer, and golde, and distributed the same to the poore and after al kinde of tormentes, of racking, of cording, of tearing hys flesh, of goying and stabbing in, of fiering, at length had his head also smitten of, as witnesseth. Nicoph. Lib. 7. cap. 15.

To this maye be ioyned also Georgius, a yonge man of Capadocia, who stoutly inueighing against the inuious idolatry of the Emperours, was apprehended, and cast in prison, then torne wyth hooked yrons, burnt with hote lyme, stretched with cordes, after that his hands and fettes wyth other members of his body being cut of, at last wyth

a sworde had his head cut of. Nicoph. ibid.

with these aforenamed adde also Sergius, and Bacchus, Panthaleon, a phisition in Nicomedia, mentioned in Supplement. Lib. 8. Theodorus of the Citie Amasia in Hellest. mentioned of Vincentius. Lib. 3. Faustus a martyr of Egypt, mentioned of Nicoph. Lib. 8. cap. 5. Geroon wyth 318. fellow martirs which suffered about Coloure. Petr. de nat. Lib. 9. cap. 4. 9. Hermodogenes the President of Athens, who being conuerted by the constancie of one Menas, and Eugraphus in their tormentes, suffered also for the like faith, with Samonas, Guri-as and Abibus, mentioned in Symeon Metaphrast. Hieron also in certain of his confessors, vnder Maximinus, mentioned in Metaphrales. Iudes, and Domus, who suffred with many other Martyrs about mentioned, at Nicomedia, as recorded Metaphrales. Euelasius, Maximinus the Emperours officers, whom Fausta the virgin in her tormentes conuerted. Also Thyrsus, Lucius, Callinicus, Appollonius, Philemon, Afilas, Leonides, with Arrianus president of Thebaide, Cyprianus, likewise a Citizen of Antioche, who after he had continued a long time a filthy Magician, or sojurer, at length was conuerted, & made a Deacon then a Priest, and at last the Bishop of Antioche, Vincent Eualasius, Maximinus, Thir-lib. 12. cap. 120. of whome partly we touched before. This Cyprian to Ionius, Philemon, Afilas, Le-Iustina a virgin suffered among the martyrs, ovides, Arrianus the President. Glycerius at Nicomedia, Felix a mini-ster, Fortunatus, Achilleus, Deacons in the ci-ty Antioche. Iustina, Glycerius, Arthemius of Rome, Cyriacus Felix Priest, Fortunatus and Deacon to Marcellus the bishop. Carpo-phorus, Abundus hys Deacon. Jitem, Claudius, Syrinus, Antonius, which con. Claudius, Syrinus, Antioche. Sabellus, Felix By-enead. 7. Lib. 8. Cucufatus in the citie Barcinon-shoop. Adanctus, and Iannari-na. Felix Byshop of Apulia, with Adanctus & us, Fortunatus, Septimus, Ianuaricus hys priests, Fortunatus & Septimus Martyrs. hys readers, who suffered in the Citie Ven-usina vnder Dioclesian. Bergom. Lib. 8.

It were to long a trauell or trouble to recite al and singular names of them particularly, whom this persecutio of Dioclesian did consume. The number of whom being almost infinite is not to be collected or expressed: One stoppe yet remaineth, not to be forgotten of Caspianus, whose pitifull story being described of Prudentius we haue here inserted, ending metre for metre as followeth.

- 1 Through Forum, as in Italy, I passed once to Roome: Into a Church by chance came I, And stooode fast by a roome.
2 Which church sometime a place had bene, Where causes greate in laue: Were scand and tryed, and iudgement giuen, To keepe brute men in awe.
3 Thys place Sylla Cornelius, First built: he rayfed the frame: And called the same Forum, and thus, That City tooke the name.
4 In prayer feruent as I stooode, casting mine eie aside: A picture in full piteous moode, (Imbrude) by chance I spied.
5 A thousand wounded markes full bad, All mangled, rent, and torne: The skinne appeared as though it had, Bene iagde and prickt with thorne.
6 A scull of pictured boyes did bande, About that lothsome sight: That with their sharped gads in hand, His members thus had dight.
7 These gads were but their pens wherewith, Their Tables written were: And such as scholers often seeh, Vnto the scholes doe beare.
8 Whom thou seeest heere thus picturede sitte, And firmly doth behold: No fable is, I do thee witte, Vnake a Prelate tolde.
9 That walkt thereby: but doth declare, The history of one, Which written, would good recorde beare, What faith was long agone.
10 A skilfull scolemaister this was, That here sometime did teach: The Bishop once of Brixia as, And Christ full plaine did preach.
11 He knew well how to comprehend, Long talke in few lynes: