

ARCHÆOLOGIA ÆLIANA.

No. I.—*Extracts from an ancient Bede-roll. Communicated by W. C. TREVELYAN, Esq., in a Letter to JOHN ADAMSON, Esq., F. A. S., &c., Secretary.*

Edinburgh, 25th March, 1844.

MY DEAR SIR,

I ENCLOSE you a curious extract from an ancient "Bede-roll." Commissions, I find, were issued by several Popes to enquire into the facts regarding miracles, alleged to have been performed in favour of those, who invoked the intercession of Henry VI., but they were arrested, and his canonization prevented, by subsequent events.

The ancient Bede-roll, in which the following prayers to King Henry VI. are found, is seven feet in length and three inches wide. It contains, besides, a number of other prayers to our Saviour, to the Virgin, St. Anna, St. Sebastian, St. Christopher, and St. Apollina, "the true length of the III. nelis that oure Lordys handes & fete were neyled to the crosse," &c., &c. The original has been preserved in the family of Trevelyan probably from the time in which it was written. In an old English Kalendar in "*Chronology of History*," p. 108, King Henry is inserted as King and Martyr. In "*the English Martyrologe, by a Catholicke Priest*" (Watson), 1608, it is stated that "King Henry the 7th dealt with Pope Julius the 2nd about his (H. VI.'s) canonization, but by reason of both their deaths the same was broken off."

I am, my dear Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. C. TREVELYAN.

Here ys a devoute p̄yer of Kyng Herre.

Gaude princeps populorum
 Dux et decus Britanorum
 Rex Henricus nomine
 Istud regnum adornasti
 Cum honore fulminasti
 Lucens celi lumine
 Multa sacra hic fecisti
 Caritatem servans Christi
 Mortis in supplicio
 Ac superbos neglexisti
 Avariam non petisti
 Precem prebens filio
 Frequentasti ieiunare
 Verbi nulli velles dare
 Ante visū Domini
 Artem lenæ respuisti
 Fructū carnis amisisti
 In concensu animi
 Multa bona erogasti
 Et p̄cepta conservasti
 Omnia prudentia

Sic in mundo te iecisti
 Et post mortem meruisti
 Celi existencia
 Ibi fulges clara luce
 Digna signa X̄po duce
 Revelasti gentibus
 Offendentes remisisti
 Ac eosdem exaltasti
 Expurgatis mentibus
 Memor esto famulorum
 Terge sordes Anglicorum
 Qui te laudant vocibus
 Fac nos omnes o lucerna
 Introduces ad superna
 Sacrosanctis precibus.
 Ora p̄ nobis beate Henrice ut dig.
 &c.

ORATIO.

Omnipotens et misericors Deus qui beatū Henricū regem et martyrem
 tuis gloriosis miraculis multipliciter decorasti et ad suam salubrem petici-
 onem languidis medelam misericorditer annuisti presta quesumus ut quem
 veneramur obsequiis in omni temptatione angustia et adversitate muniamur
 eius auxilio et sue conversationis p̄ficiamus exemplo p̄ Dominum nostrum
 Īhm X.

Another prayer of Kynges Herre.

In certe cythera rex Henricus
Christi servus et amicus
 Clarens iam miraculis
Est ad locum electorum
Alme raptus et celorum
 Gaudet hitaculis (*habitaculis*)
Hic vir magnæ sanctitatis
Vivit regno claritatis
 In celorum patria
Quem corona castitatis
Illustravit cum beatis
 Celi super atria
Visum reddit execatis
Claudis gressum et curvatis
 Lesis fert auxilium
Ægros sanat et languores
Febres fugat graviores
 Procul in exilium
Hic in vita multa passus
Caritate nunquam lassus
 Inimicos diligit

Eius pietas et benigna
Mira mundo dedit signa
 Quod sic pati voluit
Miles Dei virtuosus
Cunctis fuit graciosus
 Malis bonum reddidit
Gaudet nunc gens Anglicorum
De patrono quod eorum
 Deus sanctum reddidit
O Rex* Anglicorum
Gubernatorque Francorum
 Te mox invocantibus
Esto tutum adiuva
Et fer semper relevamen
 Nobis deprecantibus.
Ora pro nobis beate serve Dei
Henrice ut dign: &c.

ORATIO.

Deus regum corona et sanctorum gloria annue nobis beati servi tui Henrici expiri patrocina ut per tuam gñ in eius memoriam glorificamus magnificentia coronā vite diligentibus te picipamus repromissa p Xñ Dñm.

In Lynwode's *Provinciale*, Oxford, 1679, page 75, in the mandate of Pope Alexander VI. to Cardinal Morton, Archbishop of Canterbury, and

* A word has evidently been omitted here by the transcriber, perhaps "magne."

to the Bishop of Durham, dated Rome, 7th October, 1494, after stating that he had learnt from the letters of King Henry VII. and from other respectable sources that King Henry VI. had lived and died in the practice of heroic sanctity, and that numerous miracles were reported to be wrought in favour of those who had invoked his intercession, and that a general opinion prevailed that he was worthy of being added to the Catalogue of the Saints, he adds, that, duly estimating his Majesty's zeal and piety in soliciting a due inquiry on this subject, and, following the footsteps of his immediate predecessor Pope Innocent VIII., who had directed a similar commission, he also requires of the prelates aforesaid to investigate the reported facts and circumstances, and to summon and examine witnesses on oath, and then to make their juridical report of the whole to the See apostolic.

For this reference to Lynwode I am indebted to the Rev. Mr. Oliver, of Exeter, who is now engaged in publishing a valuable Monasticon of the Diocese of Exeter. A similar commission was probably issued by Pope Julius II., as referred to in the *English Martyrologe*.

In Mr. Halliwell's introduction to the *Warkworth Chronicle*, published by the Cambden Society, p. 20, is a Hymn to King Henry VI., commencing "Salve miles preciose," of which a translation is given in Miss Strickland's *Lives of the Queens of England*, vol. iii. p. 351. In a Service-book in Gough's collections in the Bodleian Library (Missal 54), is the following prayer, printed in *Forms of Bidding Prayer*, Oxford, 1840, p. 26.

"Deus, qui beatum regem Henricum tuum sanctum militem ecclesie defensorem amicum in omnibus adversis perfecte caritatis amore decorasti, —quæsumus ut eius exempla sequentes tam in mundi prosperis quam in eius adversis perfecto corde tibi vivamus; qui vivis in gloria, regnas cum potencia, moderans ac regens cuncta secula. Amen."

W. C. T.