

### III.

## Life of St. Aidus.<sup>1</sup>

HERE BEGINNETH THE LIFE OF SAINT AIDUS, BISHOP. II. OF THE  
CALENDS OF MARCH.

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**T**here was a certain nobleman in the province of Connaught, of the name of Sedia, who had a wife of the name of Eithne, of the seed of Amolgida, of the descendants of the Maccuates. This man and his wife not having offspring, came to some religious persons who dwelt at Driumlethan, and asked them to pray to the Lord Christ on account of their barrenness. Then those religious persons besought the Lord of Heaven that he would grant to them the conception of a good son. And they said to them, "Go in the name of the Lord, and return to your conjugal intercourse." And in the following night the old people had such intercourse, and the man Sedia saw a white star falling from heaven on the mouth of his wife Eithne; and she also in a vision saw a bright moon falling on his. And when they awaked, they told each other what they had seen; and after some interval their dreams were fulfilled, by God granting their petition. And the woman who was barren, conceived a son full of the grace of God and of miracles, as is shewn in his life. For before he was born,

<sup>1</sup> From the Cott. MSS. in the British Museum, Vespasian, A. XIV.

when the mother of Saint Aidus was riding in a chariot nigh to a council of her people, a certain magician who heard the sound of the chariot, said, "That chariot sounds either under a king, or under the grace of God," that is, because he was then in the womb of his pregnant mother. And Saint Aidus was born in the island of Brercimaige; and in that island light has not been wanting to the present day.

There was also a great king, Ammerus, who was hard-hearted to the common people, that were subject to him, and had hostages of their sons. And fifty-three boys were delivered to him, and Aidus was one of them. Then Aidus came on his hands to the king; and king Ammerus seeing him, said, "That is my boy, he shall come to my part." To whom the boy said, "If thou wilt defend me, O king, defend the other boys with me." Then the boy Aidus delivered himself, and fifty-three boys from the power of the king, and afterwards he liberated the kings of Connaught.

At another time, the same holy boy, Aidus, was a keeper of sheep, and looked after eight sheep and eight wethers; and on a certain day, when Aidus saw eight very hungry wolves coming, he had pity on them, so that they might eat the wethers, and immediately the hungry wolves devoured them. After a short interval, when the boy saw his aunt, that is, the sister of his mother, coming to him, he feared her on account of the wethers, and called to the Lord, saying, "Lord assist me." And the Lord heard the prayers of the holy boy, and sent eight wethers to the eight sheep, as they had been before. And on a certain time, the aforesaid religious persons asked the Lord if he would show them the place of their resurrection; and an angel came to them, and said, "A holy boy who resides with you, named Aidus, will show you the place of your resurrection." Then they asked the boy, who said to them, "Have ye ever heard the sound of a bell?" and they said, "We have not?" And the boy said to them, "Come with me." And he led them through thick woods, and put them in the place of their resurrection, and showed them the place. Also, on another day, the

holy boy, Aidus, read in the fields with a loud voice, and in that hour, a certain hunter quickly pursued with with dogs a stag in those fields. Then the stag being weary in its journey, and hearing the voice of the boy, turned to him, and asking for assistance from him, fell on its knees to the ground before him, and Saint Aidus put his book on its horns and read; and the dogs running about could not see the stag, which accordingly escaped uninjured.

Also, on another day, Saint Aidus and Saint Molassus who were companions, were reading in one place, and agreed with each other to travel, but they did not know where they should go; and in that hour there were before them two large sticks, and then inspired by God, they said to those sticks, "In the name of the Lord, reveal to us what we shall do, and shew what is to be for us." And immediately those two sticks fell to the ground, one northwards, and the other southwards, and thereby they understood that one of them, that is Molassus, should go southwards, to the island of Boum, and Aidus to the right, to the borders of the Lagenians. Again, on another day, when the holy boy Aidus was on the mountain which is called Betho mountain, at the end of the day, he would go to the place where Aired Siniuch dwelt. Then angels came to him, and taking him up in their hands, brought him to the place, and dismissed him near the cross in the middle of his castle before night came on. And at another time, there was a certain boy near the pool Eruc, named Bosargente, the son of Ehdach mother of Oruntham, and that boy and two others with him, were drowned in the bottom of the pool. Then the mother, that is of the aforesaid boy, lamenting went round to all the holy persons, requesting them to raise up her son for her. And she came to Saint Molassus, who said to her, "Go and wait near the pool in which thy son is drowned, and Saint Aidus travelling will come to thee, and thou wilt ask him, and he will raise up thy son for thee." The mother therefore came and did so, and when Aidus came to her, she wept before him; then

Aidus walking over the pool dry shod, went to the place, where the boys had been drowned therein; and there praying, he raised the three boys to life. And king Cuchait offered his son with all his family to Saint Aidus for ever; and Saint Aidus gave to Saint Molassus the same son, and all his family.

And when Saint Aidus would leave his nation and country, and go into banishment, the king of his nation, named Albus, would not let him go, to whom the holy man said, "Let me go into banishment, and I will give thee the kingdom of heaven, and thou shalt receive the new tonsure from my hand, and thou shalt be under that tonsure until old age and death." The king said, "It pleases me that thou shouldest go, if thou wilt stay with me until the time of tonsure, that we may see if the hair will grow again." And Saint Aidus remained with him until that time, and then he let him go on his journey, and the king remained until his old age under the new tonsure.

Saint Aidus came to the borders of the Laginensians, and being desirous to read the Holy Scriptures, he sailed over the sea to the regions of the Britons, and there reading at the city of Saint David, he remained a long time, and performed many miracles. And on a certain day, when Saint Aidus was there reading, the steward came to him, saying, "Arise and take a cart that thou mayest go with the brethren to carry loads of what is necessary." The obedient boy arose immediately, and through haste left his book open; and although heavy rain fell, the book was not injured until David himself came to it. And the steward said to the holy boy that he should hold two wild and untamed oxen, and immediately those oxen became mild and tamed under the hand of the boy; also the steward gave to the boy a yoke without straps, and the yoke adhered to the neck of the oxen, as if it had been safely fastened with straps. And the boy asked the steward for a wooden peg that he might apply it to the cart; to whom the steward said, "For that peg put thy finger, and so the obedient boy

did, yet his finger was not hurt. Therefore all the workmen went before him, and he remained and a little boy with him; and the boy said to him, "It is right that we should proceed on our journey." And Aidus said to the little boy, "Mark thy eyes, and come after me," and they passed over very moist land, and kept the road which remains to the present time; and Aidus preceded the workmen with their carts; and in that hour David went to the sea coast with his family, and there said to the holy boy, "Why didst thou leave thy book open to the rain?" The boy Aidus hearing this, went on his knees, and prostrated himself before David, and would not rise until his senior David should tell him; and he did not then say to him, "Arise." And the brethren came to his house, and the boy remained prostrate on the shore; afterwards David enquired, "Where was the boy," and the brethren said, "We have not seen him but when we saw him prostrate on the shore." Then David sent his family to the shore, and found the sea full, and the boy lying in the sea, and the sea was raised in a circuit about him, and they with a rope drew him into the ship.

Also at another time, the steward being excited with envy, thought to kill the holy boy Aidus, and on a certain day he sent the boy with another layman and a carriage, that they might bring sticks from the woods; and the steward persuaded the layman to kill the boy in the woods; therefore having yoked the oxen, the layman and holy boy went together to the woods; and when the boy there stooped that he might raise a stick, the layman raised his axe that he might strike it against his head, but his hands when raised up dried in the air. Then the layman confessed his crime, and by the prayer of the saint he was restored. And this circumstance was told to Saint David, and he arose quickly and ran. Then the brethren were disturbed on seeing their senior walking without a shoe, and his having a shoe only on one foot, and they followed him; and the holy boy came with the carriage to the river which is called Cledde, and when David saw the boy coming, he there stopped,

and said to the brethren, "Do not follow me," for David saw innumerable troops of angels about the boy. And the boy seeing David afar off waiting for him, came quickly through the river, and by near ways, on which no man ever walked before, in a straight road to the place where he saw David standing, and where a cross was placed, and remains to this day. And when the brethren returned home, David began to scold the steward, and the holy boy said, "It is not necessary that thou shouldest scold him, for if thou so dost, he will soon die, and no one will see his sepulchre." And so it happened.

And on another day, the holy boy Aidus carried a tribute vessel full of ale to the city, and when he came to another difficult road near the valley, the cart with the vessel fell into the valley with the oxen; and the holy boy marked the vessel and the oxen, and not one drop was lost from the vessel, and it came safe in the cart to level ground. And on a certain day the son of the king, who was blind and lame and deaf, was brought to the holy boy Aidus, and by his praying he cured him of all his infirmities. Also on a certain day, a man was brought who had a plain face without eyes and nostrils, and Aidus blessed his face, and gave him eyes and nostrils. At another certain time, the Saxons came to war against the Britons; and then the holy boy being requested, went with the Britons to the war, and the Saxons when they saw him were immediately put to flight, and the Britons pursued them for seven days, and so through means of the blessing of the holy boy, not one man fell on that day. And as long as the boy Aidus dwelt in the country of the Britons with Saint David, the Saxons did not dare to come there. Certain vagabonds of the Saxons came into those regions of the Britons that they might injure some one if they could, which Aidus knowing, they immediately became blind through his imprecations; and neither injuring, nor killing any one, they returned back, and were blind for a whole year. A certain king of the Saxons came to prove him, saying, "I

am blind and deaf;" to whom Aidus answered, "On the contrary, thou art neither deaf nor blind; but as thou hast lied in tempting me, from this day thou wilt not be a king, and thou wilt continue blind and deaf to the day of thy death." And so it was fulfilled.

After this, Saint Aidus sailed with the blessing of Saint David to the island of Ireland, and came to the regions of Fothart Campi Itha, and when he approached the land, he saw on the sea the murdering of some strangers, who came with their ships into that district, and by the king of that nation were slain. Then Saint Aidus said to his attendants, "Let us go quickly and assist those wretched persons, who are now murdered;" and Aidus struck his bell on the sea, and the king hearing the sound of the bell, said, "That sound is of a bell of a man with favour;" and they left off killing the strangers. When therefore Aidus had come to the harbour, the king sent to him one of his attendants named Drinma the son of Cainre, and he received Aidus on his shoulders from the ship; and the king offered him the district named Brentocht, and also at the same time, he gave up his district with his son-in-law, and offered it to Aidus for ever. And when Saint Aidus was in that district, he considered it in his heart, saying, "I am sorry that I did not ask my instructor, Who in this island of Ireland should be the friend of my heart." Then he arose that he might go over the sea to Saint David; and when he had walked on the sea dry shod to the third part, lo! an angel of the Lord met him and said, "There was great confidence in what thou hast done, in going on foot over the sea." To which Aidus answered, "I have not done this through confidence, but through the strength of faith." And the angel said to him, "There is no need that thou shouldst have a friend of thy heart, for God loves thee, and between thee and the Lord there will not be a middle person; but if thou wilt have a friend of thy heart, thou mayest have Molue the mother of Choche." Then Aidus returned to Ireland.

After these things, Aidus came to the district which is called Ardladrand, and when there, and he had returned to the place called Arcel, he recollected that he had forgotten his bell in the country of the Britons. And when it was necessary for him that he should strike his bell at the legitimate hour, he immediately saw his bell coming to him from Britain over the sea, and placed by him; and rejoicing at its coming, he gave thanks to God. Also, on another day, Saint Aidus went in his chariot over the great sea, from the place which is called Ardladrand, as far as Fin Dubuir Ierthnandesse, and the hoofs of his horses, and the wheels of his chariot were not dipped in the sea, for it was as solid as the hardest earth. After these things Aidus came to a place called Dissert Nambri, and there dwelt with his brethren; and he had two cows with one calf; and on a certain night, when Saint Aidus heard the noise of the hungry wolves seeking food from their owner, he pitied them, and came and placed the calf of the two cows before the mouths of the wolves, and they devoured it. And when it was morning, the cook rising enquired for the calf, to whom Aidus said, "Do not enquire for it, for while thou wast sleeping, I gave it to the hungry wolves." The cook replied, "How can we appease the cows?" To whom Aidus said, "Give me thy head that I may bless it." And he blessed his head, and said to him, "Go and shew thy head to the cows," and the cows on seeing the head of the clergyman came and licked it, and so were appeased until they again brought forth calves; and this miracle Aidus performed more than once, for on the calves dying, he blessed the head of the servant, and the cows loved him as a calf.

And on a certain day, when Saint Aidus was in a mill grinding the flour of wheat, a certain man of the race of Ossan came to Aidus, and asked him for flour; and again the same man having changed his dress, and blinded one of his eyes, came to the holy man of God, and in the name of the Lord, asked for flour; but Saint Aidus knowing his cunning, said to him, "Why hast thou done this, that thou

shouldest come again, and ask? I will give thee flour through the name of the Lord, but thou wilt be blind until the day of thy death, and of thy kindred there will always be one blind for ever," which was so fulfilled. And at another time, when Saint Aidus was at the place which is called Vuainmar, the common people of that district came to Saint Aidus, that they might commit their money to his keeping. And when the king of the descendants of Neill, Aidus the son of Ammereth, came with his army into that district, it was told him the much of the money of the common people was committed to the keeping of Saint Aidus. The king therefore came with his guards, being desirous to obtain the money; then Saint Aidus set the mark of his stick between the enemy and the place where the money was deposited. And a certain herald came beyond the mark of the stick and said, "There is no clergyman who can forbid me to pass over." And when he had said this, he immediately died; and others seeing this did not dare to come, but being struck with great fear returned back, carrying with them the dead herald, and they glorified Saint Aidus.

Saint Aidus also came to the place which is called Senbothendi, and whilst he dwelt there, on a certain day, he saw a wolf going about, and very hungry; then he asked a boy who resided with him, "Have you any food?" The boy answered, "I have one loaf, and part of a fish." From whom Aidus took the loaf, and gave it to the wolf, and the boy blushed; to whom Aidus said, "Bring me a leaf," which, when brought, Aidus blessed, and thereof he made a loaf, and gave it to the boy. After these things Aidus came to the harbour of Ferns, and there sat under a certain tree; in which place there was no water; then Aidus said to his attendants, "Cut that tree," and immediately a fountain of water arose, which until this day is called Tipra Moedoc. Then a certain man named Bec, the son of Cogin, came to him and gave him the site for a residence, and there Saint Aidus remained; and women and the

daughter of Becca came that they might wash their clothes in the neighbouring river; and to see the women did not please the holy man, who said to them, "Go away;" but they said, "We will not go away." Then a woman who was washing clothes, moving her feet and leaping upwards suddenly her feet adhered to her shoes, and her shoes adhered to the earth, and the woman being altogether fastened, was nearly dead. Bec hearing this came to the man of God, requesting him to loosen his daughter, who, being liberated, Bec offered to Saint Aidus his habitation, and family for ever.

And at another time, a certain herdsman lived near the place Ferns, whose mother was tormented with a grievous disease near to death; and he, the said herdsman, came to Saint Aidus, and requested of him blessed water for his mother. Then Saint Aidus arose and went with the herdsman to his mother, but the herdsman ran quickly homeward before the man of God, and found his mother dead; who returned to the holy man, and said, "Man of God, do not be troubled, for my mother is dead;" to whom Aidus answered, "Go and tell thy mother to come and greet me." And the herdsman went and spoke to his mother, saying, "Arise, Saint Aidus calleth thee;" and she immediately arose in health from death, as from sleep, and hastening, ran to Saint Aidus, and gave thanks to God, and his saint. And on another day, Saint Aidus came with his auditors to holy Fintan the son of Tulchan, and were received as guests with great joy and honour, and supper being finished, Fintan said to his servant, "Go and tell Saint Aidus that on that night he should provide refreshment for them," and Aidus said to his servant, "What Fintan has said, we will do, and tell him that refreshment will be provided for all, in a similar manner, who reside at that place." Fintan replied to his servant, "Tell Saint Aidus that we cannot all have refreshment, for many of us are afflicted with very grievous diseases, and having those diseases, we cannot be refreshed." And Saint Aidus said, "God is able to give health to them all." And when he said this, immediately

in that hour all the sick were healed, nor was there any spot found on them. And on the third day, when Saint Aidus would go from that place, Mundu said to him, "Thou shalt not go from this place until thou hast given to every one the disease which he had before." To whom Aidus answered, "The Lord gave me the healing of them." And Saint Mundu said, "Although the Lord gave to thee the healing of them, thou shalt not go from this place until thou givest back to every one his own disorder." Then Saint Aidus gave his own disorder to every one, and he departed with a benediction.

And at another time, king Brandub the son of Cochae, came with a great herd of cattle by the shore of Echrorno, and lo! a certain leprous man came, and asked for something from him. To whom king Brandub gave a thin black handkerchief, and the king went with his herd to the river which is called Slane, and remaining there that night, a grievous disease nigh unto death fell upon him, and in the depth of the disorder he saw a vision. For he was carried to hell, and he saw all kinds of beasts entering the mouth of hell with open lips; and he saw another great beast with open mouth in the gate of hell, whose claw drew the king to him. When the beast had nearly devoured him, a certain clergyman placed the thin black handkerchief in the mouth of the beast. And as the beast devoured the handkerchief, the king in the mean time returned from his mouth. And again a claw of the beast going after the king, drew him back, and he nearly devoured him. Then the same kind clergyman with his stick struck the head of the beast, and he shut his fiery mouth, and so king Brandub escaped the danger of hell; and the king was carried in his disease to the place called Bergrimtham, and there he was in great pain. Then his friends said to him, "A certain man named holy Aidus resides in this district, send therefore that blessed water may be brought from him to thee." To whom the king said, "I will rather go myself to the man of God." And going up

he came to the place of Saint Aidus; and when king Brandub saw at a distance Saint Aidus coming to him, he said to his attendants, "This is the clergyman who delivered me from hell." Then the king prostrated himself at the feet of the Saint and said, "I repent of all the evil that I have done; all things that thou hast told me in all my life, I will fulfil, for thou hast delivered me from the pains of hell, and its beasts." And in that hour the king was healed of every disease, the saint at the same time uttering his blessing. And Brandub gave much land to Saint Aidus, and in their whole life they were mutual friends.

And on a certain day, when Saint Aidus went from a place which is called Ardraland, he came to the rock of Druinne, and saw six ploughs going by mistake near the port of Ferns, and with elevated hand he blessed them from afar, and one of the ploughmen fell between the coulter and the ploughshare, and was not hurt, and amongst them nothing was injured, except one small strap, which Saint Aidus showed on the enquiry of his companions. And at another time Saint Aidus went to holy virgins, daughters to Aidi son of Cohirber, and took with him a plough and oxen, that he might plough with them. And when they yoked the oxen for ploughing, lo! a certain leprous woman came and asked that Aidus should give her the ox, to whom Aidus gave that which was chosen from the others. Then the ploughmen said to him, "What shall we do, and how shall we be able to plough?" To whom Aidus said, "Wait a little while for the ox which will quickly come to us; and suddenly they saw an ox coming to them from the neighbouring sea, which raising its voice bellowed three times, and humbly placed his neck in the yoke of the other ox; and it ploughed with them in the three months of the spring, and in the beginning of each day came from the sea to plough, and raising its voice three times, returned at the end of the day to the sea. And at another time, Saint David sent to Saint Aidus, requesting that he should come and greet him; and immediately obedient Aidus went to the country of the Britons.

And when the time came that he should again return, he said to Saint David, "How shall I go over the sea?" To whom the blessed David answered, "Go to the sea, and whatever animal will come to thee, go thereon, and pass over the sea. Then Aidus went to the sea in the country of the Britons, and he saw a large animal in the likeness of a great horse, and sitting on his shoulder he came across the sea to Ireland, to a place which is called Imber Cremthrain; and the animal returned to the sea.

Also, at another time, Saint Aidus remained for fifty days and fifty nights in his city eating and drinking nothing; and his body rather enlarged and increased in his fasting, for he had an enlargement the whole length of his body, and another on his girdle. And having completed his fast, God gave four grants to his petitions. First, whoever of the Lagenians should sit in his seat would go with him to heaven, and that hell should not be closed on his family after the day of judgment, and that on each day he should deliver a man from hell until the day of judgment. And on another day, when Saint Aidus went in his chariot to the ford Imgout, the driver said to him, "Tell me who will sit in thy seat after thee." To which Aidus answered, "The man who will open to us the gate of that ford, he will be the chief after me." Then they quickly saw a great many scholars with shields and spears in their hands; and it was winter and frost; and when the scholars ran, they saw one of them leaping from his armour, and opening the gate; and the driver of the chariot seeing the young man opening the gate without a key was astonished, and considering within himself, said, "Will not this person hold the government after Saint Aidus?" The scholar said to the Saint, "I will go with thee." To whom Aidus said, "Whence art thou, and by what name art thou called?" The scholar said, "I am of the family of the Mumunensians, and of the inhabitants of Hirlcore, and Cronanus is with me." To whom Aidus said, "It is suitable, Mochve Lochre, follow me," and

he immediately followed him. This Mochve Lochre was a holy and religious man, whom Saint Aidus appointed to hold the government after him. And Saint Aidus himself having performed good works, desired in good old age to migrate to God with great joy and triumph, between choirs of angels singing sweet hymns, and to be with Christ after the example of blessed Paul, but the Lord would that on account of many he should remain longer in the flesh.

And at another time Saint Aidus went to the borders of the Mumunensians in the regions of the descendants of Neil Cluana Clabdig, wherein he loosed his neighbours from captivity, and came to the door of the king, with whom his son-in-law was a prisoner. The holy man fasted for three days; and in the very night of fasting, the daughter of the king died, whom Saint Aidus had raised at the request of the queen; but the king opposed the holy man with harsh words. And when Saint Aidus began to curse the king, a boy who stood near said, "Hail, senior, pour thy malediction upon this rock." And when Saint Aidus began to curse the rock, it was immediately divided into two parts. And the king seeing this, performed penance, and dismissed his son-in-law, and gave him the farm of Cluam Claidbich.

Also on another day, Saint Aidus was in a corn field with his brethren, in number fifty-three men, and king<sup>3</sup> Brandub came to the harvest; and admiring the concord and humility of so many persons, he said, "This is wonderful." To whom Saint Aidus said, "It is more wonderful that in the number there is not a child of death but one." To whom the king said, "Who is the child of death, that I might watch him." Blessed Aidus answered, "Thou wilt know him in the hour of celebrating." And when they had celebrated the third hour, and had sung "Pater noster," all bowed themselves to the earth, except the son of death. Then the king went out, and asked, "Why didst thou not bow with the others?" He answered, "My mind was thinking of other things, because I expect my nation, that they

may carry me to my province." And so coming, they carried him, and before the end of the week he was slain.

At a certain time, Saint Aidus went to the country of the Mumunensians, to the citadel Cassil; and the horses stood under the chariot immoveable; and an angel coming to him, said, "God wills that thou shouldest go another way, and to the cell of the sons of Duach in the district of Connaught, because king Guare is there afflicted with most grievous disorders near death, that thou mayest cure him." To whom Aidus answered, "I will not go." The angel said, "Although thou wilt not, yet go, because God wishes it." Then Aidus said to the driver of the chariot, "Let the horses go wherever they will," and they turned northwards. And when they had come to a pool, they went with the chariot, with dry feet, over the pool, as if upon dry ground. After these things they found in the road two men, to whom Aidus said, "Show us our way." One said, "If they are good clergymen, of rough places they may make a smooth road." Then Saint Aidus blessed the road, and they went over rough mountains, and through woods and hillocks, without impediment, to the cell of the sons; and there he cured king Guare, and said to him, "Thou wilt hold thy kingdom thirty years, and at the end of thy life, thou wilt be again in sickness, that thou mightest receive the kingdom of heaven;" and it so happened.

A certain holy man, named Molocca, who was the son of Dimme, being desirous to go abroad, came to Saint Aidus, and said to him, "I wish to go into exile;" whom Saint Aidus answered, "I am not willing that thou shouldst go abroad." And Molocca said, "If I shall not go to Rome, and to foreign nations, I shall die." Then Aidus took him with him in a fiery chariot, and they went together to Rome. And when they had remained therein one night, they again returned to the city of Ferns. And Aidus said to him, "Hast not thou a right to go to Rome?" Molocca answered, "I will not go there, I will go to my own countrymen, but I am ashamed to

go by the way which I came." Then Saint Aidus took him again with him in the fiery chariot, and went with him, and left him at his residence in the midst of his countrymen. And on another day, Saint Aidus was by the cross, at the door of the house of the abbot, writing psalms for a certain boy. And his father saw Saint Aidus suddenly ascending by a golden ladder placed between heaven and earth, carrying with him the book, or waxen tablet of the boy. And again returning after a long time, the boy could not endure his hall and his countenance; and Aidus said to the boy, "See that thou tell this to no one whilst I live." Whom the boy answered, "If thou wilt tell me where thou didst go, I will conceal what I saw." To whom Aidus said, "I went to the mirth which the family of heaven made on the arrival of a dove that was my friend." And on a certain day the steward Mochve Lochre came to Saint Aidus to enquire what he should do with respect to a small quantity of ears of corn, which remained in the barn, whether it was to be sown on the earth, or given to the family. Whom Aidus answered, "Sow it soon in the earth, and give daily abundantly to the brethren, and that small quantity will not fail until new bread will come again." And it so took place, for at the end of the autumn, the quantity of the ears of corn was found entire. Also on another day, the cook came to him, and said, "I have with me to-day in the kitchen only a moderate vessel of milk, and a small quantity of butter, Whether shall it be given to the guests or to the brethren?" To whom Aidus said, "Give to all, and so largely distribute, as if thou didst draw from a mountain or a river." Then the cook put aside his pot, and distributed the food to all, as much as every one wished to take.

Certain cunning and deceitful men hid their clothes in the woods, and asked him for clothing; to whom Aidus said, "Stay a little while, until ye shall receive clothing." Then Aidus sent his servant privately to where their clothes had been hidden; and their clothes were brought to them, and

they knowing their own clothes, returned confused and without getting anything. Also, on another day, a certain man named Saran, killed Brandub, the king of the Laginensians. Aidus on hearing this said, "I wish that the hand which has killed Brandub, might fall from the side of the man, but yet after repentance;" which was done. For that Saran lay near the sepulchre of the king, with closed hands day and night, until the king said to him from the sepulchre, "O Saran, thou brute, it is forgiven to thee, what thou hast done." And with this the hand of Saran fell from his side. And Saint Aidus went to the sepulchre of king Brandub, and raised him therefrom. To whom the king said, "If thou wilt give me the kingdom of heaven, I request that I might now go there." Then having received sacrifice, he went to heaven, and was buried in the city of Ferns. A certain poor man, from whom the king exacted much tribute, came to Saint Aidus to ask for assistance from him. Aidus was at that time sowing seed in the earth, and he put half a bushel of barley in the bosom of the petitioner, which was immediately turned to gold. And Aidus said to him, "Give this to the king, and thou shalt be free." And the king seeing the gold, said to his servant, "Who gave thee so much gold?" He answered, "Saint Aidus gave it to me." To whom the king said, "This gold I will not receive, but I give it to God and Saint Aidus, and render thee free for ever." Then the servant went to Aidus, and he sowed the grain in the earth. And, at another time, when Saint Aidus would build an oratory, and not having a builder, he blessed the hands of a certain uninstructed man, named Gobban, and he immediately became a most skilful workman; and he built a most excellent oratory to the day of judgment; and Saint Aidus said that it would not fail; which was done. And on a certain day, Saint Aidus went out to wash his hands at the fountain; and some persons of the brethren looking on, said among themselves, "No one can move Saint Aidus to strife." Then a certain brutal man of them

said, "I can move him to strife." And Aidus was clothed with the skins of foxes, and the brutal man went out and threw him into the fountain. To whom Aidus said, "Thou art a most brutal young man on account of that deed." And the young man seeing that the clothes of Saint Aidus were dry without one drop of water, said, "I repent of what I have done." To whom the Saint answered, "Thou hast done well by declaring thy repentance; for if thou hadst not repented, the earth would have swallowed thee; now thou wilt obtain heaven, and on the fortieth day thou shalt die." And on another day, a steward namely Mochoe Lorram came to him, and said, "What shall we do, because we have already the materials for a church cut in the woods, but we have not men who will carry these numerous and heavy burdens." To whom Aidus said, "Go ye home, and whatsoever ye shall hear in the night, do not overlook." And in that night they heard a great noise in the city, and no one dared to look. Then a certain layman looked through a key hole, and saw a multitude of well formed youth with golden locks reaching to their shoulders, carrying the timber, and those angels measured out the foundations of the church. Then Saint Aidus said to the angels, "Cease from this work;" for unless a man had overlooked it, the angels would have built the whole church; afterwards Gobban built it.

And at a certain time, when Saint Aidus walked in the borders of the Mumunensians, not far from the cell of Saint Ita, he heard a long sound of a bell; and when Aidus asked, "What was that sound," it was told to him, "Saint Ita, a pupil, is now dead, therefore come and raise her." Then Saint Aidus sent one of his attendants with his staff, and when it was placed on the maiden, she arose alive and well. A certain thief stole the best of the cattle of Saint Aidus, and eat it; and when he would swear before Saint Aidus that he had not eaten the animal, an ear of the cow was seen in his lips, and all the bystanders derided him. And on another day, certain men

came there having a holy man bound, and when they went through the woods, a certain little thief, one of their enemies, met them. Then they flying in different directions, left him who was bound, who returned to Saint Aidus, and was liberated. And on a certain day, Saint Aidus stood in a corner of his church for a long time; then Saint Mundu son of Tulchan seeing him, said to him, "What is that which thou seest, tell me;" then Saint Aidus marked the eyes of Saint Mundu, and he saw the whole world from the rising to the setting of the sun. And at another time, when Saint Aidus walked in the way, Colman, grandson of Fiacrach, met him; and in that hour the horse of Colman died. Then Aidus gave his horse for the chariot of Colman. And when they parted from each other, another horse, Jacinctus, sent by God, immediately came under the chariot of Saint Aidus. And when Colman returned, his horse alive and well arose to meet him. And on a certain day, when Saint Aidus planted apple trees in the ground, the man who brought to him the seeds of aples, also brought unfruitful trees with the others, as plum trees, and Saint Aidus planted them all in common, and of those unfruitful trees he made them fruitful with apples. Also at another time, multitudes of the descendants of Neil and of the Connaughtans, and Vlathanensians, and the Dalriati and the Dail Araadii, and northern persons of the whole country came that they might pillage their region in revenge of Cummascaig, the son of Aido son of Ameredius. Then king Brandub went out to greet Aidus, who said to him, "Go to the contest, and we shall all be therein." And in that night, Aidus passed the time in delay, but king Brandub engaged in the battle, and the northern men fled, and after twenty four contests in one night, gave themselves to flight. A certain paralytic man came from Rome, who sought a cure throughout the world for his complaint, and could not find it. When all said, "No one can cure thee unless Saint Aidus who is in Ireland." And when he went over the sea, he found Saint Aidus dead, but the spittle which he found in his mouth cured him of all his complaints.

There was a certain man in the borders of the Lagenians,<sup>1</sup> named Finan, who had been diseased for thirty years; he on the day of the festival of Saint Aidus, which is the eleventh of the calends of March, saw a wonderful chariot descending from heaven to the city of Ferns; in which were a delightful clergyman, and a cloaked woman. And he asked them who they were, and the clergyman answered, "We are Saint Bridget, and Aidus, and we come that we may bless our places, and them who honoured us on the day of our departure with gifts and oblations; and be thou glad, because on the third day thou shalt go to heaven." After these things, the chariot went to Kildare. And at another time, Saint Molling in Lochar held the government of Ferns, and went up to the bed of Aidus. To whom a certain clergyman said, "Do not go up to the bed of the holy man;" and Molling said, "I will sleep therein." And when he had gone up to the bed, immediately severe illness attacked him. Then Molling said, "A issu oro fetor ar saethu galar fil form inmain de cenom bebad a Issu,"<sup>2</sup> but pain did not cease to torment him. And again Molling said, "A issu oro fetor ar lussu nom nice nadab iarussu ni ertha liag act tusu."<sup>3</sup> But yet the pain did not cease greatly to torture him. And again Molling said, "A issu, dom comarce a meic de bi ar cec galar madam hi miner ica ni fil arthe nod ica fo nim."<sup>4</sup> Then Molling arose from the bed, and promised that he would not sleep in it again. And Molling said, "Not every one is worthy to sleep in the bed of Saint Aidus, I will not sleep therein." In this appeared how much glory Saint

<sup>1</sup> The people of Leinster.

<sup>2</sup> "O Jesus! as thou knowest our diseases. A distemper is on me. Welcome it is though I die of it. O Jesus."

<sup>3</sup> "O Jesus! as thou knowest our healing plants, No cure do I request. I ask no physician but thee, (O Jesus.)"

<sup>4</sup> "O Jesus! protect me, O! son of the living God. From all diseases, should they come to me. If you heal me not, there is not a charm to heal me under heaven."

The Editor is indebted to the kindness of Eugene Curry, Esq. of Dublin, the most eminent Irish palæologist, for decyphering and translating the above sentences.

Aidus had in heaven, in whose bed no one could sleep on earth. For Saint Aidus feasts in heaven, amidst choirs of angels and apostles and all the saints, in joy without sorrow, in a kingdom without end, in life without death, and in the sight of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory throughout all ages. AMEN.