

IV.

¹Life of Saint Carannog.²

HERE BEGINS THE LIFE OF SAINT CARANNOG, CONFESSOR,
XVII KAL. JUNE.

This solemnity is to be revered by all men, who believed in God when the blessed Carannog, son of Ceredig, was taken up to heaven, who descended from illustrious parents, was exalted according to the dignity of the age, so easy it is to deduce his descent from Mary, the mother of our Lord, than whom no one among the kings of the Britons is accounted higher. But to earthly kingdoms, he would not aspire; from the years of his childhood he preserved his innocency; and afterwards he went to the cave of Edilu, and read canonical lectures from the Old and New Testament. Then he went to Ireland, Patrick having preceded him; and they met each other and resided together; as it is said, "Behold how good, and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." And they consulted

¹ From the Cott. Lib. British Museum, VESPASIAN, A. xiv.

² Carannog was a son of Corwn, the son of Ceredig, and the founder of Llangrannog, Cardiganshire. His name occurs in the list of Cornish Saints, as the founder of Crantock church, in the deanery of Pydre, in that county, which in some measure confirms the story of his having journeyed there. The day of his death, (or rather burial,) was the 17th of the Calends of June, corresponding to May 16, eleven days after which, or on the 27th of the same month, being the festival of Saint Carannog, Old Style, a fair is held at Llangrannog aforesaid. His feast, according to an Old Calendar in the possession of Mr. Wakeman, is May 17, but according to the Cornish List, and an Old Calendar published in the Iolo MSS. it is May 16, as above.

together what they should do, and they agreed that they should separate, one go to the left, and the other to the right, because many clergymen walked with them, and others because they wanted health. And Carannog went to the right part, and Patrick to the left, and they agreed that they should meet once a year.

In those days the Scots overcame Britain for thirty years, the names of whose generals were Briseus, Thuthaius, Machleius, Anpachus. In the year of the birth of Saint David son of Sandde, Carannog was well received in Ireland, for it was not difficult for God to lead his servants: an angel of the Lord was sent to attend him in the form of a dove, and he changed his name, in the language of that country, to CERNACH. And the churches, and cities in the region of Legen were exalted under his name, and wherever he was, he performed by the direction of God innumerable miracles; he healed many thousands of persons who were afflicted with various disorders, as the blind, the lame, the lunatics, and the like to them, whom God enriched with the highest rewards and stations, to reign with happy princes in heaven. The works of the blessed Cernach are read in Ireland, throughout the country, as the miracles of the blessed apostle Peter are read at Rome; and his life was perfect, equal to that of the apostles; as it is read, "Go, and teach all nations;" and the grace which was given to the apostles was full in him. "Whomsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven, and whomsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven." Such a person was to be feared, and adored, who by good works, was powerful in the highest throne, and able to save bodies on earth; he was valiant and faithful, and a promoter of peace, for he was like the angels in a wonderful manner; under the sun he was a brave soldier, a wonderful, spiritual, and principal abbot, a patient teacher of faithfulness, proclaiming justice to all the just, and a preacher of the heavenly kingdom. He lived many years free from sin, he avoided crimes as they deserved, and rendered all thanks

to God in the highest, he uttered innumerable prayers by day and by night, that were most fervent, holy and salutary. This is the dear, aided Cernach, for he was heavenly, and divinely enriched with great gifts, to whom there was no decay which is appointed to men. And he found grace acquired by great labour, which was pious and most pure, and was most clearly represented by the parable of the candle, when the pastor of the church wonderfully held the ecclesiastical golden candlesticks. O Pastor most full, seven fold the best, holy and most modest; following the works of Peter in the apostolic chair, and Paul in doctrine, and bringing many countries to the faith. Saint Carannog converted districts of Irishmen against the wishes of the companies of magicians, and was honoured by kings.

And afterwards he came again to his own country, Ceredigion, to his cave,¹ with many clergymen, and there performed many miracles, which no one can enumerate. And Christ gave him an honourable altar from on high, the colour of which no person could comprehend; and afterwards when he came to the Severn to sail over it, he cast the altar into the sea, and it went before him where God wished him to go. In those times, Cato and Arthur lived in that country, dwelling in Dindrarthou; and Arthur went about that he might find out a very powerful, large, and terrible serpent, which laid waste twelve parts of the land Carrum; and Carannog came, and saluted Arthur, who rejoicing, received his blessing from him. And Carannog asked Arthur whether he had heard where his altar had landed; and Arthur answered, "If I shall be paid for it, I will tell thee," and he said, "What dost thou require to be done?" He answered, "That thou shouldst lead the serpent that is near thee, and we shall see whether thou art a servant of God." Then the blessed Carannog went and prayed to the Lord, and immediately the serpent came with a great

¹ This is said to have been among the rocks on the coast in Llangrannog parish in Cardiganshire. Above the small harbour in that parish is a rock having some resemblance to a large chair, and is called Eisteddfa Carannog.

noise, running as a calf to its dam. And it bowed its head to the servant of God, as an obedient servant to its master, with an humble heart, and downcast eyes. And he put his robe about its neck, and led it as a lamb, and it did not raise its wings or claws; and its neck was as that of a bull seven years old, so that the robe could scarcely go round it. Then they went together to the castle, that they might salute Cato; and they were well received by him. And he brought the serpent to the middle of the hall, that he might feed it before the people; and they endeavoured to kill it, but he would not let them, because he said that it came by the word of God to destroy the sinners, who were in Carrum; and for him to show the power of God by it. And afterwards he went without the gate of the castle, and loosed it, and in its departing, he commanded that it should hurt no one, nor return any more; and it injured none as God had commanded.

And the altar being received, Arthur intended to make it a table, but whatever was put thereon, was thrown off to some distance. And the king requested that he would receive Carrum for ever by a written deed, and afterwards he built there a church. Subsequently a voice came to him from heaven, directing him to place his altar in the sea, and he sent Cato and Arthur that they might make enquiry respecting the altar; and it was told to them that it had landed in the port of Guellit; and the king said, "I will again give twelve parts of land, where the altar may be found." Afterwards Carannog came and built there a church, and the city was called Carron. And a voice came to him from heaven, and said that he should go into exile, and leave his family. Innumerable persons were buried in that city, and their names are not mentioned, and he alone went to Ireland, and he was buried on the seventeenth of the calends of June, in his celebrated city, and the best of all his cities, which is called the city of Cherrnach. And he departed in peace, and left peace, and found peace, as it is read, "Blessed are the peaceable, for they

shall be called the sons of God." And again, the Prophet saith, "Precious in the sight of God is the death of his Saints." He was mindful that the substance of this carnal world was frail, and that all things, although at present fair, are corruptible. It was more empty than a hollow tube, and has gained many men. "O truly happy life, worthy of the God of gifts, O truly blessed man, in whom there was no deceit; judging no one, despising no one, rendering to no one evil for evil, he frequently wept for blasphemers; and he now remains spotless with joy and glory, amongst the hosts of angels for ever and ever, Amen.

At a certain time, there was a man named Ceredig, who was a king, and had many sons; of whom, one was called Carannog son of Ceredig, son of Cunedda, son of Edeyrn, son of Padarn peis Rudawg, son of Tegid, son of Kain, son of Gwrgain, son of Doli, son of Gwrdoli, son of Dwfn, son of Gwrddofn, son of Amguoloid, son of Enwerydd, son of Onwedd, son of Dwfn, son of Brithgwein, son of Owain, son of Avallach, son of Canalech, son of Beli, and his mother was Anna, who they say was the cousin of the Virgin Mary.¹

Cunedda had several sons. The firstborn was Tybiawn, who died in the country by the hand of Gudodin, and did not come hither with Cunedda and his brothers. But his brother Meiriawn divided the possessions of his father amongst his brethren. The second was Ishmael, the third Rhuvawn, the fourth Dunawd, the fifth Ceredig, the sixth Abalach, the seventh Einion, the eighth Dogmael, the ninth Edeyrn. This is their boundary:—From the river which is called, Dobyrr Duis, as far as another river called Guoun. And they held many countries in Western Britain. And Ceredig held Ceredigion, and from him it received its name. And after he held it, the Scots came and fought with them, and seized all the country. And Ceredig was an old man, and the elders said to him, "Thou art aged, Sir, and canst

¹ This genealogy is given with some variations, in the Lives of Saint Cadoc, and Saint David.

not fight, we ought to appoint some one of thy sons to be king." "Which is the eldest?" they said, "Carannog." "He ought to be king." But Carannog loved a heavenly king more than an earthly kingdom, and the will of his master better than human favour. And he, when he heard it, took to flight that they might not find him. Then he first took a better staff, and a spade from a certain poor man, and came to a place called Guerit Carannog, and remained there for some time, and would there pray to God. And when he was there, and would do some work, a pigeon came daily, and took from his staff what he had pared off. And he said, "Lord, to what place does it take it," and he resolved in his mind, "I will go, and see where it takes it to." And he arose and went through a wood, and forest, and the pigeon came and alighted in a place, where there is at present a church, and there it parted with it. And he saw, and said, "Here I ought to be, for God wills it." And he remained there some time, and rendered devout thanks to God.