

APPENDIX.

I.

¹Life of St. Catharine.²

My Lords, attend, and understand that which I shall tell unto you respecting the blessed virgin, who was called Saint Catharine. She was daughter of the king of Constantinople, who in English was called Alexander. She never told an untruth, and was only eighteen years of age when she devoted herself to divine service, and gave her maidenhood to God.

There was in Alexandria a king who greatly hated God and the saints, whose name was Maxen, and he had obtained the curse of God, and of the Christians. And he made a great feast, and commanded the people of his country to come and sacrifice to his gods, and ordered that

¹ From the Cott. MSS. in the British Museum. Titus D. XXII.

² It is thought that all the particulars which we have relating to this Saint, on which we can depend, is what we meet with in Eusebius, though that historian mentions not her name. He says, "There was a certain woman, and a Christian, and the richest and most noble of all the ladies of Alexandria, who, when the rest suffered themselves to be deflowered by the tyrant (Maximin,) resisted and vanquished his unbounded and worse than beastly lust. The lady was most illustrious for her high birth and great worth, and likewise for her singular learning; but she preferred her virtue and her chastity, to all wordly advantages. The tyrant having in vain made several assaults upon her virtue, would not behead her, seeing her ready to die, but stripped her of all her estates, and goods, and sent her into banishment."—Butler's Lives of the Saints, (St. Catharine.)

The churches in Wales dedicated to Saint Catharine, are Grandstone, Pembrokeshire; Llanganten, Breconshire; and Llanfaes, Anglesey.

such as would not come should be put in prison. The rich came there, and brought great presents with them, and the poor gave according to their ability. In that country was a maiden virgin called Catharine, who would not come to serve him, nor offer sacrifice to his gods. And he without much delay commanded the maiden to be brought to him, and they brought her, and the wicked man began to say to her, "Ha Fair Maiden," said he, "in whom dost thou believe? and I command thee to believe in my god, and if thou wilt not believe as I do in the faith which I owe to Apollo, and the exalted Thervagawnt, I shall soon cause thee to be executed, and hanged as a thief, or put in a strong prison, where thou wilt not see either thy feet or hands, if in Jesus thou believest."

"I believe," said Catharine, "in the son of Mary, who gave me a soul, and life, and understanding, and power, and strength; in him I believe, and him I will honour, and in him is my hope; my body thou mayest destroy, but I believe from my heart in the Lord, who is able to destroy both soul and body." And Maxen became very angry when she spoke of God, and he called some of his servants, and ordered them to put Catharine in prison; and the maiden was imprisoned; and God however showed mercy to her, and afforded light, so that the goal was all luminous, and the angels came down, and communicated such joy to the maiden, as no man in the world could describe, nor heart conceive, nor scholar communicate in writing, saying, "Maiden of God, do not fear, but believe firmly, thy place is already appointed before God, and there a crown will be placed on thy head."

And Maxen called his men to him, and asked their advice, by what means he might turn the mind of the maiden from God, and serve his god Apollo. His councillors advised him to send without delay for the most learned men of the country, and the logicians, and the astronomers, that he might overcome the maiden. The learned men came there, and Maxen told them, how foolish the maiden called

Catharine was, in not believing in his gods, and said, "If you can overcome her, I will give you plenty of gold and silver." The first teacher that came, soon said to the maiden, "Thou oughtest to believe," said he, "for on thy account we came here, and we have had much trouble, and thou oughtest to show thy sense, and thereby sensibly attend to us." The maiden said, smilingly, "Truly I say unto thee, I commend thee but little, for thou knowest my God, and therefore I ought to say of him, Reject thy falsehood respecting him."

Then said the teacher, "Fair maiden, in whom dost thou believe, and why dost thou reject our gods, answer without delay." "I believe," said she, "in the son of Mary, who was born of the holy Virgin without sin and without folly, and without any mixture of evil, and he suffered a cruel death for our sins, and through him we have been delivered from the pains of hell, and shall obtain the most exquisite joy which will never have an end." Then the teacher said, "Now I hear thy folly," said he, "of Jesus taking flesh without sin and without folly, which is against reason, for a virgin to have a son and that to take place without sin is impossible." "Thou tellest an untruth," said the maiden, "because what thou sayest respecting the young child is very foolish, Jesus proceeded from the Holy Ghost, he was not born of God but of Mary, Jesus came through the Holy Spirit to her, as it is written in the creed, and he is Almighty, and there is nothing that can be against him; why then could he not be born of a virgin; answer me therefore, False Teacher."

And he answered with great anger, and could scarcely speak from indignation, and said, "I will prove," said he, "that there is no truth in thy answer, if it be as thou sayest, that God should be a man, should be a son; by what means could a son of God die, or suffer mortal death; he could not die, for death was not in his nature; if he died as a man, he could not suffer death as God, nor come to life after he was dead. By what means could he as a

man suffer death, if God himself died ; that was wrong," said he, "and thou speakest contrary to nature and against the reason of God and man that he could die. He must be either God or man, for he could not be otherwise than one of them."

When he had ended his saying, she answered like a wise maiden, "Thy saying is against truth," said she, "since thou wilt not believe, nor hold it to be true, when I tell thee that Jesus was both God and man, and if thou dost wish to know the truth, get rid of the pride that is in thy heart, for thou hast not the truth ; if thou wilt become my disciple," said Catharine, "I will cause thee to know the truth." Then said the Teacher, "I will believe in the Holy Spirit, and in the Son, and in Almighty God, and I will reject the wretched Maxen." And the other Teachers believed in the same way. And Maxen caused the Teachers to be soon burned, but God however showed his mercy, and the fire had no power over them, nor their clothes ; and angels came there and brought their souls before God, and a crown was placed on the head of every one of them. And Maxen said to Catharine, "Ha, fair maiden," said he, "if thou wilt yet observe my law, I will take thee to be my wife, and I will be king and thou shalt be queen, and I will cause an image to be made in the town, which is called Alexandria, wholly of gold, and like to God, and whosoever will go that way, will pay obedience to thee, and so thou wilt be honoured. Then the blessed Catharine answered, "Thou art getting foolish," said she, "I love the Lord, and I will not reject his love for anything that is worldly ; all thy speech is to no purpose, were I to part with my Lord, who is the creator of the heaven and earth, thou wicked, villanous man, I should be worthy to be drawn and hanged." And Maxen became very angry, and he called his servants to him, and said to them, "Take this woman and fasten her to a tree, and beat her with rods until you think that she is dead." And those wicked persons beat her until the blood ran from every part of her body,

as water runs in the winter ; and her whole flesh was rendered yellow like violet.

And Maxen said to Catharine, "Reject without delay the son of Mary, and unless thou wilt cast him off, thou shalt lose thy life." Then said the maiden of God, "And thou sayest that I am miserable, and foolish ; but with respect to the pain and anguish that I suffer for the love of God, indeed I say unto thee, that they are sweeter to me than honey, or the most pleasant milk." "Take her," said Maxen, "and put her in the strongest prison, so that she shall have neither meat nor drink." In prison she was placed, but however Jesus the son of Mary did not leave the service of the maiden without remembrance, and he sent angels to her, who gave her a kind of joy and delight, such as no one in the world can describe, and no heart can conceive, nor can a scholar write the amount of that joy, and that delight which the angels communicated to Catharine. And Porfir heard the joy, and he went to the queen, and mentioned to her the joy he had heard in the gaol ; and they both went privately through good hope in God, but king Maxen did not know of their going. In the gaol they saw an illumination, and it was not easy for any one in the world to describe the tenth part of the music, mirth, and joy that were there. And they called on Catharine, the maiden of God, and said,—

"Pray indeed in charity for our hearts to Jesus Christ the son of Mary, and we will reject Yholkyn, and Thernagawnt, and Apollo, and we will believe in the sufferings of God, and his resurrection." And then said the maiden, "I thank Jesus Christ, the merciful God and creator of all things for this ; you will be martyrs on account of his love, and do not fear anything." And afterwards they went to Maxen, and that wicked man ordered Catharine to be brought before him, and commanded various kinds of punishment to be inflicted on her. "Maxen," said the queen "thou art committing a great injury on Catharine, because she believes in God, and in Jesus who made all

things, Father and Son, and Almighty is he, and wretched Maxen, thou art doing what is wrong, and I will walk in the honour of the great Father, and Mary his mother, and God Almighty; and wretched Maxen, I will reject Tharnagawnt and Apollo, I am not afraid of thy punishment."

And then Maxen began to be foolish, and he called his servants to him, and ordered them to take the queen, and to beat her with stout rods until she should die, "and afterwards hang her," said he, "by her hair, and cut away her breasts, and when she is dead, do not bury her, but give her body to dogs." When Porfir heard that, he said unto him, "Maxen thou art an inhuman wretched dog, and thou art full of the devil, thou hast ordered thy wife to suffer death; why wretched man, didst not thou allow her body to be buried, thou dost thyself deserve to be executed." Then Maxen said to his men, "Lay hold of Porfir without delay, and take away his life and his limbs;" and Porfir arose on a bench, and with a ladder in his hand slew four thousand of the men of Maxen before him, and wounded as many more whilst Maxen looked on. And then Maxen dreaded and trembled with fear, thinking that he should be killed at last. And Catharine when she saw that, said to Porfir, "Do not kill him, but remember the sufferings of God our Lord Jesus Christ, how humbly he endured them without contention, and without complaint. If God wishes that thou shouldst die, and become a martyr to him, thou shouldst not contend, but be obedient to death." Then Porfir said, "Maiden of God, I am doing what is wrong, pray for me to Jesus; and to thee, Lord Almighty, will I devote myself, and wretched Maxen I will reject." And he threw the ladder from his hand, and it broke all to pieces. Then Maxen ordered Porfir and the queen to be drawn away, and their heads to be cut off. And the angels brought the souls of those blessed persons before Jesus Christ, as they went from their bodies. "Say," said Maxen to Catharine, "that thou wilt reject the son of Mary,

and thou shalt receive no harm to thy body; believe in my gods, and in me; and I will be all things to thee." "I will believe in Almighty God," said she, "the Lord who made every thing; and if thou wilt thus believe, thou shalt be my love, and we will strive to serve our Creator." Then Maxen saw that she would not do what he wished, but would believe in Jesus the son of Mary, her Lord. The heart of Maxen was therefore in great anguish and indignation with the maiden virgin; and there was present a man called Cursates, who had obtained the curse of God. "Lord, king," said that deceiver, "I will make her to obey thee ere long, and will closely examine her."

And he made four wheels,¹ and each of them to turn against one another, and they had teeth of iron, and upon those, Catharine was placed, and she looked towards heaven, and prayed to God, as follows. "O King supreme, I beseech thee to have mercy on my soul, as now I am in death, and in my blood shall be baptized." The wretched wicked men turned the wheels quickly, but Jesus, the son of Mary, did not leave his maiden without remembrance; he sent his angels to her, and they broke the wheels, and their sharp spikes killed ten thousand and forty of the wretched unbelievers; and many who saw those miracles believed in the Lord God; but through the means of Maxen some were killed who thoroughly believed, and their souls went to paradise.

And king Maxen was angry on account of the slaughter of his men; and he meditated by what means he should kill the maiden, and he spoke to her an untrue speech. "Fair maiden, take the matter into thy consideration, and still believe in my gods, and on account of thy beauty thou shalt have thy life." And the maiden of God answered, "Thy speech will have no effect on me," said she, "I do not dread thy punishment, for I am certain of supreme joy,

¹ Hence the name of Saint Catharine's Wheel.

which will never have an end." The wretched Maxen said to his men, "My Lords, what will you advise me to do, by what means I may revenge the folly of Catharine, because she will not believe in my gods."

Then the wicked men unanimously said, "Take her out of the town, and cut off her head." And then the maiden was taken out of the town, and was stripped; and there were many women weeping, and wailing [for Catharine, the maiden of God. A wretched man, one of these cursed persons, drew a sharp sword, and ordered her to stretch forth her head; "And afterwards," said he, "thou wilt lose thy beautiful head."

"My fair brother," said she, "stop a little, whilst I make one prayer to my Lord, the Creator of heaven and earth. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, called one God, the supreme King, I beseech thy mercy for my soul, and for every Christian who believes firmly in thee; and I beseech thee, Lord, for the sake of thy supreme name to preserve from their enemies, those who believe in my sufferings, and will keep my distress in remembrance, and to give grace to their souls, and to grant to such persons as shall come to my body, and request it in thy name, a cure from their disorders. O supreme King in the Trinity, deliver me from these wretched men, who torment me; for thy mercy's sake, forgive them this folly, for they know not what they do to me, and I will forgive them; and to thy hand, Lord, I commend my spirit." Then an angel came to Catharine, and said to her, "I have to inform thee that Jesus the son of Mary will grant thee all that thou hast requested of him, come quickly from this torment to certain joy eternal." Then Catharine said to the wretched man, "Now cut off my head, for my Lord has sent to me, ordering me to come to the joy that will never end." And that wicked man then cut off her head, and milk instead of blood ran out; and the angels took the soul of the blessed maiden to heaven, and they buried the body in mount Sinai.

And whosoever came there, requesting deliverance and

health, and believed in her sufferings, obtained them ; and four streams of oil ran through her grave from her breasts. Through them many men and women received deliverance, and there is no one who knows the number ; and that the Lord did for her sake. And let us pray to God our Saviour, for mercy for our souls, and that he will grant to us life in this world, that we may come to a good end ; and love, and serve God, so that we may obtain the joy which will never end, for the sake of Saint Catharine.¹ AMEN.

¹ From the uncommon erudition of Saint Catharine, and the extraordinary piety by which she sanctified her learning, and the use she made of it, she is chosen in the schools, the patroness and model of Christian Philosophers.—Butler's Lives of the Saints. (Saint Catharine's.)