English Saints and Martyrs
July

Fisher and More! in you the Church and State
Of England—England of the years gone by—
Her spiritual law, her civil equity,
Twins of one justice, for the last time sate
On equal thrones. 'Twas England's day of fate:
Ye kenned the omens and stood up to die:
State-rule in Faith, ye knew, means heresy:
That truth ye wrote in blood, and closed debate
By act, not words. A blood as red, as pure,
They shed, that brave Carthusian brotherhood,
St. Bruno's silent sons. Martyrs! be sure
That o'er the land, thus doubly dyed and dewed,
The Faith your death confessed, shall rise renewed—
A tree of peace for ever to endure.

Aubrey de Vere.

July 1.

Ven. David Gunston, Knight of S. John ; martyred at S. Thomas' Waterings, 1541. Ven. Thomas Maxfield, priest; martyred at Tyburn, 1616. Ven. Oliver Plunket, Archbishop of Armagh, the last Martyr of the penal times ; martyred at Tyburn, 1681.

Peter was kept in prison. But prayer was made without ceasing by the Church to God for him.
- Acts xii. 5.

On the eve of the Venerable Thomas Maxfield's martyrdom the Blessed Sacrament was exposed in the Spanish Ambassador's chapel in London, where the family and other Catholics spent the night in prayer in behalf of this holy priest.

July 2.

VV. George Beasley and Momford Scott, priests; martyred in Fleet Street, 1591.

Whereas the Gentiles speak against you as evil doers, they may by the good works which they shall behold in you, glorify God in the day of visitation. I. S. Peter ii. 12.

At their martyrdom a certain man saying: “Is this the treason? I came to see traitors and have seen saints,” was thereupon cast into prison.

July 3.

The Son of Consolation, a Levite. Acts iv. 36.

In his prison none saw or came near him but received new comfort, new fervour, new desires to please, serve, and suffer for Christ Jesus, by his very presence. There appeared in him something beyond expression, something more than human: the most savage and hard-hearted people were mollified and attendered at his sight.

July 4.

VV. John Cornelius, priest, S.J.; Thomas Bosgrave, John Carey, and Patrick Salmon, laymen ; martyred at Dorchester, 1594. VV. William Andleby, priest, convert ; Edward Fulthorp, convert, and Thomas Warcop, laymen; martyred at York, 1597.

Cornelius . . . a religious man . . . giving much alms to the people, and always praying to God.
Acts x. 1, 2.

It was said of the Venerable John Cornelius that his charity for the poor was such as to give them all that came to his hands, committing the care of himself to God's Providence.

July 5.

VV. Richard Yaxley and George Nichols, priests ; Thomas Belson and Humphrey Prichard, laymen ; martyred at Oxford, 1589.

By the grace of God I am what I am. I. Corinthians xv. 10.
Then Mathathias said , , , I and my brethren will obey the law of our fathers, God be merciful unto us. I. Machabees ii. 19, 20, 21.

At his examination (Dr. Nichols stoutly saith: “I confess that by the grace of God and of the Holy See Apostolic, I am a priest of the true, holy, Catholic Roman Church.”

The two priests saluted those who had come out to see them die, saying: "Behold we are here brought to die for the confession of the Catholic Faith, the old religion in which our forefathers and ancestors all lived and died.”

July 6.

Blessed Thomas More, Chancellor of England; martyred on Tower Hill, 1535.
VV. Thomas Alfield, priest and Thomas Webley, layman; martyred at Tyburn, 1585

Thou shalt not fear this tormentor, but being made a worthy partner with thy brethren, receive death. II. Machabees vii. 29.

Tomorrow (July 6th) is Saint Thomas' Even, and the Octave of Saint Peter, therefore tomorrow long I to go to God. It were a day very meet and convenient for me.

Blessed Thomas More.

He said to the executioner: "Thou wilt do me this day a greater benefit than ever any mortal man can be able to give me.”

July 7.

Translation of S. Thomas of Canterbury.

VV Roger Dickenson, priest, and Ralph Milner, yeoman; martyred at Winchester, 1591.

Let us also go that we may die with Him. S. John xi. 16.

When the Venerable Roger Dickenson, having done much good in God's vineyard, was arraigned at Winchester, many that were taken with him being at the bar, cried that they might have the same sentence that he had, and that they were as guilty of death as he was, both being only for their conscience.

July 8.

Ven. Griffith Clark, Vicar of Wandsworth, with his curate and servant; and Ven. Friar Waire, O.S.H. ; martyred at S. Thomas' Waterings, 1539.

Then are they glad because they are at rest: and so He bringeth them unto the haven where they would be. Psalm cvi, 30.

There beside the Living Waters
Now they see Him eye to eye,
Where shall go no oarèd galley,
No brave ship shall pass thereby ;

Living Waters, where at noon-day
Heed the flocks of that far land;
Glassy and triumphant ocean,
Where the guerdon'd Conquerors stand. *I. M. Neale.*

July 9.

What doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? S. Matthew xvi, 26.

The Venerable Ralph Milner desiring his Judges to be good to his wife and eight or nine small children, was answered thus: "Go to church, fool, and look to thy children thyself." He replied that the loss of his soul was too high a price to pay for so small and vile a commodity. At the gallows, his pardon being offered him if he would go to church, he answered: "No, no, I, will hang," reached his hand to the ladder and went up, and so died blessedly *in Domino*.

July 10.

Blessed Adrian Fortescue and Ven. Thomas Dingley, Knights of S. John; martyred on Tower Hill, 1539.

The words of the mouth of a wise man are grace, Ecclesiastes x, 12,

Obey well the good Kirk, and thou shalt have the better,

Above all things love God with thy heart;
desire His honour more than the health of thine own soul.

Give fair language to all persons, and especially to the poor and needy.
Blessed Adrian Fortescue.

July 11.

VV. Thomas Sprott and Thomas Hunt, priests ; martyred at Lincoln, 1600.

Certain men of the Synagogue of the Libertines . . . rose up disputing with Stephen: and they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke. Acts vi. 9, 10.

Both before and after their condemnation they were attacked by some preachers upon the articles of their religion, whom they so confuted and confounded that the magistrates commanded the ministers to hold their peace. These made use of their own far stronger arguments of hurdles, halters, knives, and fire, which these two servants of God courageously met and gloriously conquered.

July 12.

Ven. John Buckley, priest, O.F.M.; martyred at S. Thomas' Waterings, 1598.

Knowing that while we are in the body, we are absent from the Lord: we are confident, and have a good will to be absent rather from the body, and to be present with the Lord. II. Corinthians v. 6, 8.

A lover feareth not, but rejoiceth at the approach of the Beloved. Hence the joy of this holy martyr seemed still to increase with his danger, and was fully accomplished by an assurance of Death.

July 13.

Ven. Thomas Tunstal, priest, O.S.B.; martyred at Norwich, 1616.

Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God. S. Luke xiv. 15.

At the gallows, asking what o'clock it was, and being told it was about eleven, "Then," says he, "it is near dinner-time. Sweet Jesus admit me, though most unworthy, to be a guest this day at Thy heavenly table."

July 14.

Ven. Richard Langhorne, layman; martyred at Tyburn, 1679.

These are they who in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience. S. Luke viii, 15.

The death of Richard Langhorne reveals to us to what a height of perfection persecution had raised English Catholics of the seventeenth century. A man honest and upright, suddenly snatched from his tranquil and laborious life, shews himself a hero and a saint. He accepts death with calm and simple courage, and displays in the midst of his sufferings a detachment no less perfect, but even more surprising, than that of the religious whose whole life had been a preparation for martyrdom.

July 15.

He that is called in the Lord, being a bondman, is the freeman of the Lord. I. Corinthians vii. 22.

The first of the four martyrs (who suffered at Dorchester on July 4th, 1549) to be ordered up the ladder, were the two servants, John Carey and Patrick Salmon. Carey kissed the rope when it was to be put about his neck, saying: "O precious collar!" Salmon admonished the people that the only way to secure their eternal salvation twas to embrace that faith for which he and his companions died.

July 16.

Ven. John Lion, layman; martyred at Oakham, 1599. VV. John Sugar, priest, convert, and Robert Grissold, layman; martyred at Warwick, 1604.

A good man out of a good treasure, bringeth forth good things. S. Matthew xii, 35.

Mr. Sugar was in his life chaste and innocent, in conversation humble and mild, in helping the poor and distressed pitiful and charitable, in his diet very spare and temperate, and in prayer fervent and continual. Robert Grissold was simple and upright in his actions; unlearned, but enlightened with the Holy Ghost; feared God, hated sin, led a single life and chaste: was kind to his friends, mild in conversation, devout in prayer, bold and constant in professing the Catholic religion, and heartily loved and reverenced priests.

July 17.

And Eliseus said to Elias: As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. - And they two went on together. IV. Kings ii. 6. [ed. now 2 Kings 2:6]

As Grissold was going on foot to the gallows, one willed him to go a fair way, and not to follow through the mire Mr. Sugar, who was drawn on the sledge before him. To whom he answered: "I have not thus far followed him, to leave him now for a little mire." And go through the mire he went after him.

July 18.

God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Galatians vi. 14.

Mr. Sugar blessed the rope with the sign of the Cross, saying: "I came into the world with the sign of the Cross; and with the sign of the Cross I go out of it again . . . for I make account that I was not in this world as a Christian, till I was signed with the sign of the Cross in Baptism."

July 19.

Ven. Anthony Brookby, priest, O.F.M., Observant ; Strangled with his own cord in Newgate, 1537. Ven. William Plessington, priest; martyred at Chester, 1679.

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name: the just wait for me, until Thou reward me. Psalm cxli. 8.

Come, the least of all the Saints, is given this grace, Ephesians iii. 8.

O blessed prison, which your presence has glorified! O blessed prison which sends me to heaven!

S. Cyprian.

Thieves and robbers would have served God in a greater perfection than I, had they received so many favours and graces from Him as I have. *Ven. William Plessington.*

July 20.

Ven. John Hambly, priest; martyred at Salisbury, 1587.

Recovered strength from weakness, became valiant in battle. Hebrews xi. 34.

The prise, the prize secure !
The athlete nearly fell— -
Bare all he could endure,
And bare not always well :
But he may smile at troubles gone
Who sets the victor-garland on. *I. M. Neale.*

July 21.

Ven. William Davies, priest; martyred at Beaumaris, 1592.

And they walked in the midst of the flame, praising God. Daniel iii. 24,

On hearing the verdict of the jury, the holy priest burst forth into the Te Deum Laudamus, and the four students, his companions in suffering, chimed in with their young voices. Immediately after his condemnation he was put in a place of Beaumaris Castle called "The Black Alley," a dark, loathsome aisle between two walls, where he gave himself wholly to prayer and meditation until that very morning he was brought forth to be executed.

July 22.

VV. Philip Evans, S.J., and John Lloyd, priests; martyred at Cardiff, 1679.

I will go unto the altar of God, to God who giveth joy to my youth. To Thee, O God, my God, I will give praise upon the harp. Psalm xlii. 4, 5.

When the orders came for their execution the next day, Father Evans was abroad, engaged in some innocent pastime; and when the gaoler came to acquaint him with the news and bring him back to prison, he unconcernedly replied: "What haste is there? Let me first play out my game"; and so he did, and then returned to the prison. Here he asked for a harp, upon which, in spite of bis chains, he accompanied his hymns of joy.

July 23.

A threefold cord is not quickly broken. Ecclesiastes iv. 12.

When Garlick did the ladder kiss,
And Sympson after hie,
Me thought that there Saint Andrew was
Desirous for to die.

When Ludlam looked smilingly
And joyful did remain,
It seem'd Saint Stephen was standing by
For to be ston'd again.

And what if Sympson seemed to yield
For doubt and dread to die?
He rose again, and won the field,
And died most constantly.

From an ode by a probable eye-witness of their death

July 24.

VV. Nicholas Garlick, Robert Ludlam, Richard Sympson, convert, priests; martyred at Derby, 1588. Ven. John Boste, convert, priest; martyred at Durham, 1594.

And Jacob saw in his sleep a ladder standing upon the earth, and the top thereof touching heaven : the angels also of God ascending and descending by it. Genesis xxviii, 12.

At the foot of the ladder the Venerable John Boste paused a little, made the sign of the Cross, and said: "Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae, et concepit de Spiritu Sancto," [*ed. The Angel of the Lord brought tidings unto Mary, and she concieved by the Holy Ghost*] with an Ave. At the next step he paused, and Said: "Ecce Ancilla Domini, fiat mihi secundum verdum Tuum," [e*d. Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me according to Thy word*] with an Ave. And at the third step he said: Et Verbum Caro Factum Est, et habitavit in nobis," [ed. *And the Word was made Flesh, and dwelt amongst us*] with an Ave Maria.

July 25.

Ven. John Ingram, priest, convert; martyred at Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1594.

The Lord keepeth all their bones, Psalm xxxiii, 21.

When be was taken at Berwick, the governor caused him to be searched, and finding some relics about him of some martyrs before executed, would have cast them into the fire; but the good man grieved thereat to lose such a treasure, and requested him very earnestly rather to take from him all that he had, and put him to what torment he would, so he might have them again; so in the end they were delivered unto him.

July 26.

Ven. George Swallowell, priest, convert; martyred at Darlington, 1594. VV. Robert Nutter, and Edward Thwing, priests ; martyred at Lancaster, 1600. Ven. William Ward, priest ; martyred at Tyburn, 1641.

And thou being converted, strengthen thy brethren. S. Luke xxii. 32.

When he was brought to his trial, Mr. Swallowell (who had lately been a reader of the Protestant Church, and was now arraigned for the Catholic religion), somewhat wavering and being upon the point of yielding through fear, Mr. Boste, in the public court, so effectually encouraged him to stand firm, that he immediately declared himself sincerely penitent for his staggering, and Mr. Boste, putting his hand on his head, publicly absolved him. I renounce all heresy.

Ven. George Swallowell, at the gallows.

July 27.

Ven. Thomas Cort, priest, O.F.M. Observant; died in Newgate, 1538. Ven. Robert Sutton, priest, convert; martyred at Stafford, 1587. Ven. Joseph Lampton, priest; martyred at Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1593.

And immediately, leaving their nets, they followed Him. S. Mark i. 18.

Robert Sutton was Vicar of Lutterworth, when by the extraordinary mercy of God, he received the gift of faith. He had the courage to denounce from his own pulpit the heresy he had hitherto professed; and then, throwing off his gown, he took flight for Douay, there to enter on his training for the true priesthood and for the martyr's crown.

July 28.

He who persecuted us in times past, doth now preach the faith which once he impugned. Galatians i. 23.

Willian Andleby, a young and zealous Protestant gentleman, came to Douay to convert Dr. Allen. That great man found it easy to silence, but impossible to convert him, until he relinquished argument and gave himself to prayer. After a night spent in imploring God's mercy for the young man, Allen had the happiness of seeing him come and throw himself at his feet, begging with tears to be received into the Catholic Church. Prom a zealous heretic he became an ardent apostle, a devoted missionary priest, and finally a glorious martyr.

July 29.

These hands I have from Heaven, but for the laws of God I now despise them: because I hope to receive them again from Him. II, Machabees vii. 11.

A year after the death of the Venerable Robert Sutton, the Catholics, wishing to have some relics of the holy martyr, one night carried off a shoulder and arm, when the thumb and forefinger were found uninjured and covered with flesh; so that on these, which had been anointed with holy oil, and sanctified by contact with the most holy Body of Christ, a special honour above the other fingers was conferred even in this world, before the day of the Resurrection.

July 30.

Ven. John Travers, priest, Austin hermit; martyred in London, 1539. BB. Thomas Abel, Richard Fetherston, and Edward Powel, priests; martyred at Smithfield, 1540.

It is better being put to death by men, to look for hope from God, to be raised up again by Him. - II. Machabees vii. 14.

Although our senses shrink from the intensity of tortures, yet our faith demands and requires us to bear them. Let us die, I pray you, that we may live with Him, to whom, Martyr of Martyrs, I commend you earnestly in my prayers.

From a letter of Blessed Thomas Abel in the Tower, to Blessed John Forest, also in prison.

July 31.

Blessed Everard Hanse, priest, convert ; martyred at Tyburn, 1581.

Your father rejoiced that he might see My day: he saw it, and was glad. S. John viii. 56.

For a moment or two, scarcely to be counted, he was left hanging, and then, alive and fully conscious, the other cruelties were inflicted. When his bowels had been torn out, and his heart, still palpitating, was in the hand of the executioner, he is said to have pronounced the words: "O happy day!"