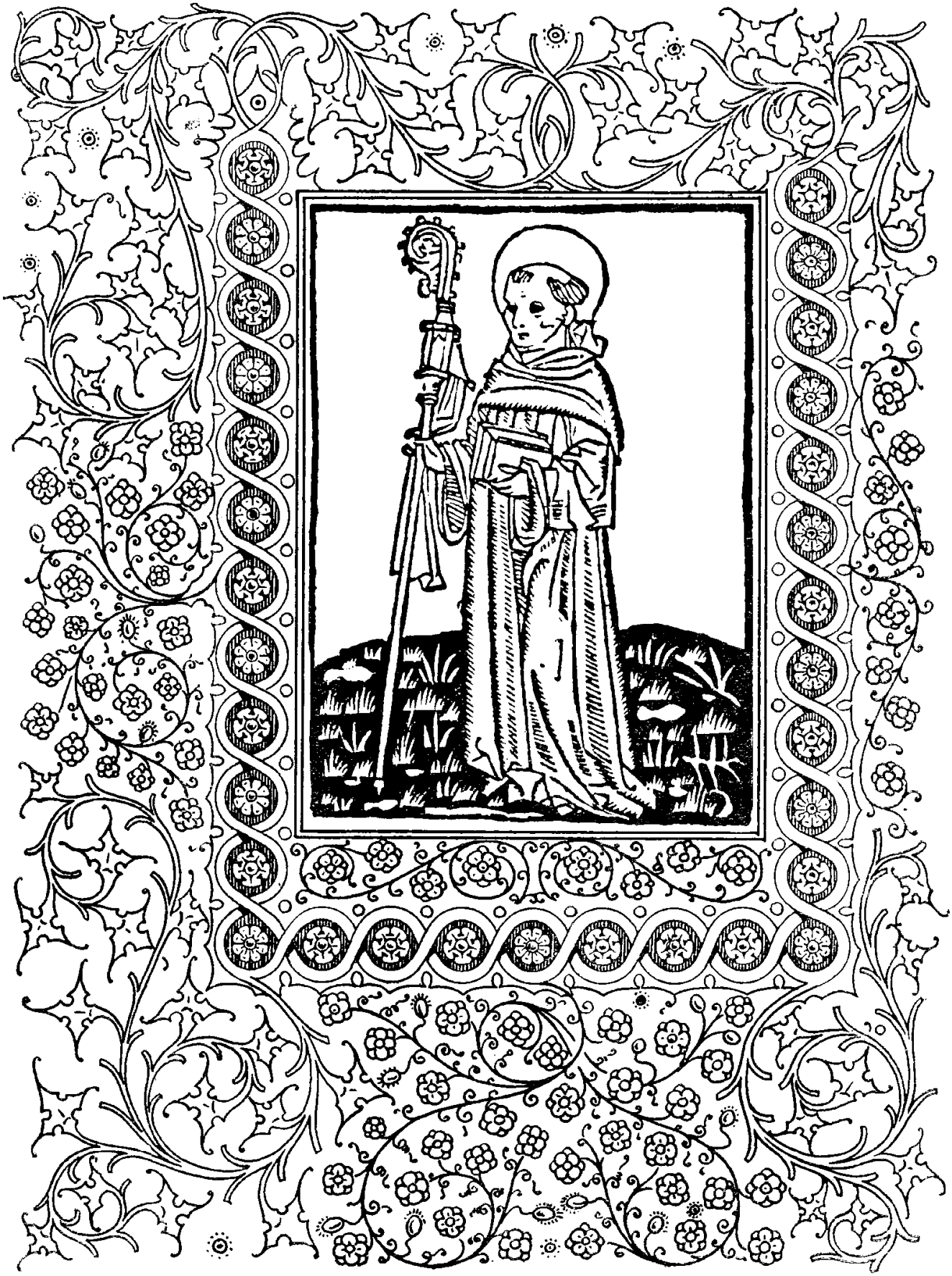

Glastonbury.

Sweet Isle of Avalon! thy sacred name
  Is fragrant with the spices of the Tomb
  Which held awhile Our God in virgin womb;
For thence it was the white-haired pilgrim came,
To spread among thy fields His virgin fame
  Who burst death's fetters and dissolved her doom.
  He crowned thee, then, with thorn of mystic bloom,—
Bare thorns thy fallen greatness now proclaim.

And yet I love thee best in thy disgrace,
  For his dear sake who robed thee in his blood,
That aged priest who held his thronéd place
  High in thy choir at coming of the flood;
His dying blessing from yon gloomy Tor,
Perchance shall quicken thee to life once more!

D.B.C.

November 1.

All Saints.

You are the light of the world. A city Seated on a mountain cannot be hid.
S. Matthew v, 14.

God's Saints are shining lights : who stays
Here long must passe
O'er dark bills, swift streames, and steep ways
As smooth as glasse;
But these all night,
Like Candles, shed
Their beams, and light
Us into Bed.

They are indeed our Pillar-fires,
Seen as we go ;
They are that Citie's shining spires
Woe travell to.
A swordlike gleame
Kept man for sin
First Out: this beame
Will guide him In.
Henry Vaughan.

November 2.

Ven. John Body, layman; martyred at Andover, 1583.

It is sown in weakness, it shall rise in power. It is sown a natural Body, it shall rise a Spiritual Body.
I. Corinthians xv. 43, 44.

At being laid on the hurdle he said thus: "O, sweet bed, the happiest bed that ever man lay on! Thou art welcome to me." When the hangman put the halter about his neck, he said: "O, blessed chain, the sweetest chain and richest that ever came about any man's neck!"

November 3.

It was fit that we should make merry and be glad, because this mp son was dead, and is come to life again. *S. Luke xv. 24, 32.*

The Venerable John Body's mother, hearing afterwards of her son's happy death, made a great feast upon that occasion; to which she invited her neighbours, rejoicing at his death as his marriage, by which his soul was happily and eternally espoused to the Lamb.

November 4.

Thou hast not withheld thy son, thy only son, front Me. Genesis xxti. 16.

At Preston, when the news of Fr. Greenaway's death arrived, they tolled the bells for sorrow. But his old mother ran from her house to the street when they had broken the news to her : “ Peal them, peal them!” she cried, “ for I have borne a martyr to God.”

November 5.

For you both had compassion on them that were in bands, and took with joy the being stripped of your own goods. Hebrews x. 34.

Dona Luisa de Carvajal offered up her prayers, penances, acts of heroic charity for the English Catholics and the conversion of their country. She made light of her instruments of penance, and exclaimed: "It is not these light chains I want; it is the heavy irons of the English Martyrs.”

November 6.

Have pity on me, have pity on me, at least you my friends, because the hand of the Lord bath touched me. Job xix. 21.

Remember our thirst while ye sit and drink, our hunger while ye be feasting, our restless watch while ye be sleeping, our sore and grievous pain while ye be playing, our hot burning fire while ye be in pleasure and sporting. So mote God make your offspring after remember you; so God keep you hence, or not long here.

"The Supplication of Souls,” by Blessed Thomas More.

November 7.

Here is the patience and the faith of the Saints. Apocalypse xiii. 10.

In my pained body, my spirit is not pained, nor in any disaster distress, or durance.

Ven. John Ingram.

November 8.

The kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence; and the violent bear it away. S. Matthew xi. 12,

Happy am I that can purchase with a short pain an everlasting life.

Ven. Philip Evans

Suffering is the money with which one buys Heaven.

Ven. Theophane Wenard

November 9.

Ven. George Nappier, priest; martyred at Oxford, 1610.

I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I shall drink it new in the kingdom of My Father. S. Matthew xxvi. 29.

He did celebrate Mass that day as reverently in all his actions, and with as much sweet behaviour, as ever I saw him in all my life. He shewed no fear in any respect ; and when he had made an end be fell to his devotions for some hours. But he would neither eat nor drink, Saying that he hoped in his Saviour that he should have a sumptuous banquet shortly.

November 10.

I am ready to be sacrificed, II. Timothy iv. 6.

Mr. Nappier, seeing the hurdle, most willingly went himself and laid him down with a lively courage, having blessed himself: he had not so much as a thread to bind him, which I, think never none but was bound saving himself,

November 11.

For I wished myself to be an anathema from Christ, for my brethren. Romans ix. 3.

The true lover of souls thinks he does not suffer enough, because he still sees souls around him deaf to grace; he begs our Lord to let him suffer more.

Ven. Just de Bretenieres

November 12.

Judas Machabeus who is valiant and strong from his youth up, let him be the leader of your army. And you shall take to you all that observe the law: and revenge ye the wrong of your people. I. Machabees ii, 66, 67.

In November, 1569, Blessed Thomas Percy and the Earl of Westmoreland entered Durham with their troops, and at once began to restore Catholic worship to S. Cuthbert's city. During the short month that the Northern Rising lasted, we read of altars rebuilt in the Cathedral and nearly all the churches, and of Masses heard by crowded congregations; of holy water carried to the people's houses, and of processions headed by the Cross, and, best of all, of thousands kneeling at the feet of priests commissioned by Christ's Vicar, to receive absolution from censure and from sin.

November 13.

You are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens of the Saints, and of the household of God. Ephesians ii. 19,

Is there a foreign land for those whose home is only in Heaven ?

Ven. Henri Dorie,

November 14.

BB. Richard Whiting, 0.S.B., last Abbot of Glastonbury; Roger James and John Thorn, monks, O.S.B.; martyred on Glaston Tor, 1539. Hugh Paringdon, O.S.B., last Abbot of Reading; William Eynon and John Rugg, priests, O.S.B.; martyred at Reading, 1539.

When Aaron went up to the holy altar, he honoured the vesture of holiness . . . and about him was the ring of his brethren : and as the cedar planted in Mount Libanus, and as branches of palm-trees, they stood round about him. Ecclesiasticus I. 12, 14.

Martyrs three from holy Glaston,
Martyrs three from Reading pass,
Blessed Hugh, his sons about him,
Standeth as at Holy Mass,
Boldly praying for the Pontiff,
True to Christ, and true to Rome,
Till their blood bedew the threshold
Of their old monastic home. *DBC.*

November 15.

These holy men shed their glorious blood for their Lord; they loved Christ in their life, and followed Him in their death : and therefore have they merited triumphal crowns.
Responsory from the Office of Many Martyrs.

Blessed Martyrs, through the tumult
Of this world on you we call,
Succour those who claim your kinship,
Save and help us lest we fall :
Sons of Gregory and Austin,
Loving still this blood-stained ground,
Nay we ever guard your traces,
Faithful 'mid the faithless found.

November 16.

Ven. Edward Osbaldeston, priest; martyred at Work, 1594.

In this I myself also study to have always a conscience without offence towards God and towards men. Acts xxiv. 16.

I pray God that I may not wish or desire anything in this life but what may best please Him, and honour Him and our Blessed Lady His Mother, and all the Court of Heaven the most, and edify the people, and strengthen them in the way to Jesus, the Ring of bliss.

Ven. Edward Oshaldeston, writing in prison.

November 17.

Subvenite, Sancti Dei, occurrite angeli Domini, suscipientes animam ejus : offerentes eam in conspectu Altissimi. *Burial Office.*

When the Venerable Robert Ludlam was upon the ladder, looking up towards heaven with a smiling countenance as if he had seen some vision of angels, he uttered these, his last words, " Venite, Benedicti Dei;" and with these words he was flung off the ladder, and so went to enjoy their happy company.

November 18.

Ven. Brian Cansfield, priest, S.J., convert; died in prison, 1645. Day unknown.

A light shined in the prison. Acts xii. 7.

A Protestant prison is a Papist's pleasaunce.

November 19.

He shall turn the heart of the children to their fathers. Malachias iv. 6.

In condemning us you condemn all your own ancestors— all the ancient bishops, priests, and kings— all that once was the glory of England, the Island of Saints, and the most devoted child of the See of Peter. *Blessed Edmund Campion, at his trial*.

November 20.

Very great for the $aving the elect of God, to overthrow the enemies that rose up against them, that he might get the inheritance for Israel. Ecclesiasticus xlvi. 2,

His native flowers were mixed with herb of grace,
His mild behaviour tempered well with skill ;
A lowly mind possessed a learned place,
A sugared speech a rare and virtuous will.
A saint-like man was set in earth below
The seed of truth in bearing hearts to sow.
Ven. Henry Walpole, on the Martyrdom of Blessed Edmund Campion.

November 21.

His hurdle draws us with him to the Cross,
    His speeches there provoke us for to die ;
His death doth say this life is but a logs,
    His martyred blood from Heaven to us doth cry.
His first and last and all conspire in this-—
To shew the way that leadeth us to bliss.
Blessed be God which lent him so much grace,
    Thanked be Christ which blessed His martyr so,
Happy is he which sees his Master's face,
    Cursed all they that thought to work him woe;
Bounden be we to give eternal praise
To Jesu's Name, which such a man did raise. *Id*

November 22.

Humble thy heart, and endure. Ecclesiasticus ii, 2.

They caused needles to be thrust under the nails of the Venerable martyr, Alexander Briant, whereat he was not moved at all, but with a constant mind and pleasant countenance, said the Psalm Miserere, desiring God to forgive his tormentors.

November 23.

A secure mind is like a continual feast. Proverbs xvi. 15.

I have received your alms. When it is spent, I shall go down to my brothers the thieves in the pit, and subsist on the common basket of alms: and I shall go to it with more alacrity than ever to any banquet; for that bread of charity, for my Lord's sake, will be sweeter to me than honey or all kinds of dainties. Blessed Ralph Sherwin to Father Persons.

" Ah, Father Campion, I shall soon be above yonder fellow ”—pointing to the sun.

Blessed Ralph Sherwin, after his condemnation.

November 24.

My people shall sit in the beauty of peace, and in the tabernacles of confidence, Isaias xxxii. 18.

It would be a very unequal change to part with a Church which I am assured is an infallible guide by the Divine promises, as recorded in Scripture, for a religion which owns itself liable to error, and can give no assurance to its followers that it is not leading them on in the broad way of eternal damnation.

Ven. Arthur Bell, O, F.M.

November 25.

Restrain not grace from the dead. Ecclesiasticus vii. 37.

The comfort that we have here (in Purgatory), except our continual hope in our Lord God, cometh at seasons from our Lady, with such glorious saints as either ourselves with our own devotion while we lived, or ye with yours for us since our decease and departing have made intercessors for us.

"The Supplication of Souls " by Blessed Thomas More.

November 26.

VV. Hugh Taylor, priest, and Marmaduke Bowes, layman ; martyred at York, 1585.

I will accept you for an odour of sweetness, when I shall have brought you out from the people.
Ezechiel xx. 41.

The Providence of God was the more to be admired in bringing Mr. Bowes to this happy end, because he had, though a Catholic in his heart, conformed outwardly to the religion of the times. He died very willingly, and professed his faith, with great repentance for having lived in schism.

November 27.

All these things have come upon us, yet we have not forgotten Thee. Arise, © Lord, anv cast us not off to the end. Psalm xliii. 18, 23,

Lord, they may spoil our houses, and rob us of our all,
With threats of death and torture our fainting hearts appal :
But harried, vexed, imprisoned, we still will cling to Thee,
Then leave us not, sweet Jesu, in this necessity, *D.B.C.*

November 28.

The blessed standard-bearer of the soldiers of Christ, fought with a savage prince, and overcame the adversary and by his victory showed the way of victory to others. Antiphon from Office of S. Placid.

At his examination the Blessed Cuthbert Mayne asked for a Bible, and taking it into his hand, he made the Sign of the Cross, and kissed the sacred Volume, and the words came clear and firm, "The Queen never was, nor is, nor ever shall be, the head of the Church of England."

November 29.

Blessed Cuthbert Mayne, convert, proto-martyr of the Seminary priests; martyred at Launceston, 1577. Ven. Edward Burden, priest; martyred at York, 1588. VV. Henry Abbot, convert, George Errington, William Gibson, and William Knight, laymen ; martyred at York, 1596.

The scribes sent spies who should feign themselves just, that they might take hold of Him in His words. S. Luke xx. 20.

The four laymen were betrayed to their death by a fellow- prisoner, who, to gain his own liberty, feigned a desire to be reconciled to the Church, and persuaded them to introduce him to a priest.

November 30.

Ven. Alexander Crow, priest ; martyred at York, 1587.

And Judith said: Praise ye the Lord our God who hath killed the enemy of his people by my hand this night. Judith xiii, 17, 18.

The night before his martyrdom, the enemy of souls appeared to him under a hideous aspect, assuring him that bis soul was lost, and trying to drive him to despair and suicide. At last, after half an hour of conflict, he saw a great light in which appeared the blessed forms of our dear Lady and S. John, who put the demon to flight, saving: “Begone from hence, thou cursed creature; thou hast no part in this servant of Christ, who will shed his blood tomorrow for his Lord, and will enter into His joy.”