Saint Ursula.

Lady blithe and debonair
Girt about with maidens fair,
Lily Queen of lily band,
Whence those arrows in thine hand
Ursula, Saint Ursula?

Whence those roses on thy brow,
Blushing deep with crimson glow,
Whence those drops of ruby hue
Which thy damask robe bedew,
Ursula, Saint Ursula?

Wherefore from thine island home,
Pilgrim-princess, wouldst thou roam?
Perils that thou canst not guess
Wait thee in the wilderness,
Ursula, Saint Ursula!

Stays thee not the noonday heat,
Winter snows clog not thy feet;
Than the sun more strong thy vow,
Than the snowdrifts whiter thou,
Ursula, Saint Ursula!

Faith the destined goal revealed,
Innocence thy triple shield,
Hope the guiding star above,
Christ thy staff, thy banner love,
Ursula, Saint Ursula!

Priceless treasures dost thou hold
Hidden 'neath thy mantle's fold—
Virgins thou hast taught to die
For dear love of chastity,
Ursula, Saint Ursula!

Hail, Cologne! thy walls are blest
Where the Victor-Virgins rest:
Through all time thy purest boast
Is the maid who led that host,
Ursula, Saint Ursula.

D.B.C.

October 1.

VV. Robert Wilcox, Edward Campion, Christopher Buxton, priests; Robert W Widmerpool, layman ; martyred at Canterbury, 1588. Ven. John Robinson, priest; martyred at Ipswich, 1588. Ven. William Way, priest ; martyred at Ringston-on-Thames, 1588. VV. Ralph Crocket, and Edward James, priests ; martyred at Chichester, 1588.

"Salvete, Flores Martyrum!"

When Mr. Wilcox, who was the first to suffer, had mounted the ladder, he turned to his companions with a smiling countenance, and bade them be of good heart, telling them that he was going to Heaven before them, where he should carry the tidings of their coming after him.

October 2.

Happy Mother Church and happy land
Where the Saint's memorials fadeless stand!
Antiphon from Sarum Office of S. Thomas of Canterbury.

Robert Widmerpool, having the rope about his neck, began to speak to the people, giving God most hearty thanks for bringing him to so great a glory as that of dying for the Faith in the same place where the glorious Martyr, S. Thomas of Canterbury, had shed his blood for the Honour of His Divine Majesty.

October 3.

I am ready not only to be bound, but to die also for the Name of the Lord Jesus.
Acts xxi, 13.

The Venerable Edward Campion being in prison with some who meditated flight, they tried to induce him to join them, but he replied: "I would readily consent, if I did not hope to suffer martyrdom with the rest."

"If I cannot dispute for my faith as well as some others, I can die for it as well as the best."
Ven. John Robinson,

October 4.

For we who live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake.
IJ, Corinthians iv, 11.

They stood apart (those students of Douay), as a band Devoted to sacrifice, each learning to read upon the brow of his fellow the mark of doom. . . . Thus they became a company, bound together by no common bond, a company set apart for death, sitting as it were in the evening in a quiet room, waiting for the sound of the footfall in the passage, waiting for Death, with linked hands, whose clasp was a more Sacred bond of brotherhood than we can understand.

October 5.

Ven. William Hartley, priest; martyred at The Theatre, London, 1588. Ven. Richard Williams, priest ; martyred at Holloway, 1588. Ven. John Newitt, priest; martyred at (Nile End Green, 1588. Ven. Robert Sutton, layman, convert ; martyred at Clerkenwell, 1588.

Fight the good fight of faith : lay hold on eternal life.
I. Timothy vi, 12.

Ripe men of martyrdom, that could reach down
With strong arms their triumphal crown.
Such as could with lusty breath
Speak loud into the face of death
Their great Lord's glorious Name.
Crashaw.

October 6.

The mother was to be admired above measure . . . who beheld her seven sons slain in one day, and bore it with a good courage, for the hope that she had in God.
II. Machabees vii. 20,

The Venerable William Hartley was executed, his mother looking on, and rejoicing exceedingly that she had brought forth a son to glorify God by such a death.

October 7.

Sing to the Lord with the psaltery, the instrument of ten strings.
Psalm xxxii. 2,

The Venerable Ambrose Barlow had a great devotion to the Rosary, which he daily recited, and recommended much to his penitents. When the Venerable Philip Howard in his last Sickness was no longer able to read the Divine Office, he constantly recited the Rosary, the beads being scarcely ever out of his hands. The Rosary was his dying prayer, the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary his latest words.

October 8.

Ven. Robert Bickerdike, layman, convert; martyred at York, 1586. UW. John Lowe, priest, convert ; John Adams, and Richard Dibdale, priests ; martyred at Tyburn, 1586.

Whosoever shall give you to drink a cup of water in My Name, because you belong to Christ : Amen I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.
S. Mark ix. 40.

Robert Bickerdike was indicted for aiding a priest (Ven. John Boste), because they were seen to drink together, and the heretics surmised that this young man paid for the pot of ale, which they thought was matter sufficient to hang him.

October 9.

Lord, the devils also are subject to us in Thy Name.
S. Luke x. 17.

When the martyr (Dibdale) cast out devils from possessed persons, they obeyed the prayers and exorcisms of the Church, confessing and declaring to their own confusion, the virtue which the sign of the Cross, holy water, and relics (as well of the ancient saints as of those that suffer in these days in England for the Catholic faith) have against them.

October 10.

Judgement without mercy to him that hath not done mercy.
S. James ij. 13.

It is a very inhuman part to tread on him whom misfortune has cast down. The man that is void of mercy God hath in great detestation.

Ven. Philip Howard to the Lieutenant of the Tower.

October 11.

You adore that which you know not: we adore that which we know: for salvation is of the Jews.
S. John iv. 22.

When the vestments in which I had been taken were shown to the Parliamentary committee, one of them said they were but mean. "They are too good," said I, "for those that now have them." The chairman gravely said: "As mean as they are, they can serve for an idolatrous worship as well as the best." "What idolatrous worship, Sir ?" said I. "Why," said he, "is it not idolatry to worship bread for God?" I replied: "We worship not the bread and wine for God in the tremendous Mysteries; but we worship Jesus Christ under the species of bread and wine, as the Church of God has always done from the days of the Apostles."

Ven. Thomas Bullaker.

October 12.

Ven. Gbhomas Bullaker, priest, O.A.M.; martyred at Tyburn, 1642.

The chief priests and Pharisees said to Pilate: This seducer (by which name our Lord Jesus Christ was called, for the comfort of His servants when they were called seducers;) this seducer said whilst He was yet living : After three days I will rise again. *S. Augustine.*

Then the Court cried out that I was a seducer. "Now," said I, "you give me occasion to rejoice, because you treat me with the same title as the Jews did my Saviour, whom they called a seducer."

Ven. Thomas Bullaker.

October 13.

Translation of S. Edward the Confessor, in Westminster Abbey, by S. Thomas of Canterbury, 1163.

His sepulchre shall be glorious.
Isaias xi. 10.

We stand upon the threshold of an age
When England, rising from her fears at last
And looking fully on the Church's page,
Will make atonement for a darksome past.

And who shall doubt that in that welcome day
The priestly voice, the Mysteries Divine
Will shed their majesty o'er Edward's shrine,
And hail the dawn for which his pilgrims pray.
G. Elliot Anstruther.

October 14.

Thou shalt fear evil no more.
Sophonias (Zephaniah) iii, 13.

Who would not die to kill all murd'ring grieves?
Or who would live in never-dying fears?
Who would not wish his treasure safe from thieves,
And quit his heart from pangs, his eyes from tears?
Death parteth but two ever-fighting foes,
Whose civil strife doth work our endless woes.
Ven. Robert Southwell, S.J.

October 15.

It is enough for the disciple that he be as his Master, and the servant as his Lord.
S. Matthew x. 25.

Blessed Jesus, who art the Way, the Truth, and the Life; behold I do most willingly take up and bear my Cross, as Thou hast commanded me, and do give Thee most humble thanks that Thou art pleased to dignifie my death with as many circumstances of Thy most Sacred Passion, as Thou art pleased to bestow on it.

Ven. Richard Langhorne.

October 16.

Ora et labora, The things, good Lord, that I pray for, give me Ghy grace to labour for. Amen.
Blessed Thomas More.

October 17.

Ven. Richard White, schoolmaster, convert ; martyred at Wrexham, 1584.

He was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith.
Acts xi, 24.

The Proto-martyr of Wales was most cruelly tortured in order to make him acknowledge that he had been to confession to a priest whom the persecutors sought to destroy. He prayed aloud for strength, and for pardon for his torturers. As be refused to go to the Protestant service he was carried by force to the Church at Wrexham, on the shoulders of four men, who paraded him three times round the font in mock procession, his head hanging down and knocking against the stones. But nothing could shake bis constancy.

October 18.

So that we may boldly say: The Lord is my helper: I will not fear what man shall do unto me.
Hebrews xii. 6.

The Blessed Thomas Woodhouse was fearless in all that concerned God's service. He not only recited his Office regularly, but said Mass daily in his room in the prison, and was unmoved by the more timid or prudent counsels given him by fellow-prisoners.

October 19.

Ven. Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel, convert ; died in the Tower, 1595.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saints.
Psalm cxv. 15.

At 12 o'clock at noon, on Sunday, October 19th, 1595 (after nearly eleven pears' imprisonment), in a most sweet manner, without any sign of grief or groan, only turning his head a little aside, as one falling into a pleasing sleep, be surrender'd his happy soul into the hands of Almighty God, who to His so great glory had created it.

October 20.

With glory and honour Thou hast crowned him, O Lord.
Psalm viii. 6.

The more affliction we endure for Christ in this world, the more glory we shall obtain with Christ in the next.

To be bound on account of sin is a disgrace; but to sustain the bonds of prison for Christ's sake is the greatest glory.
Inscriptions, cut by Ven, Philip Howard on the walls of the Beauchamp Tower.

October 21.

SS. Ursula and Companions, Virgins and Martyrs.

The virgins that be her fellows shall bear her company, and shall be brought unto Thee.
Psalm xliv. 15.

Oh, when the Ring shall come, with His angels in judgement around Him,
Then shall each city bring forth with emulous joy and present Him
Jewels of silver and jewels of gold, her Virgins and Martyrs,
Relics enshrined in her earth till the day of the final
Appearing; Bar as the gales can blow, or the Catholic Faith can be died for.

J. M. Neale.

October 22.

Whosoever shall keep the whole law, but offend in one point, is become guilty of all.
S. James ii. 10.

What is the use of fighting for many articles of the Faith and to perish for doubting of a few? To escape shipwreck and to fall by the dagger? To flee from the plague and die of famine? To avoid the flames and be suffocated by the smoke? He believes no one article of the Faith who refuses to believe any single one.

Blessed Edmund Campion.

October 23.

Ven. Thomas Thwing, priest ; martyred at York, 1680.

I give Him thanks who hath strengthened me, even to Christ Jesus our Lord, for that He hath counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.
I. Timothy i. 12.

I acknowledge myself a priest, and to have about fifteen pears performed a priest's function; which I am so far from denying, that I think it the greatest honour imaginable.

Ven. Thomas Thwing.

October 24.

For I am delighted with the law of God according to the inward man: but J see another law in my members, fighting against the law of my mind.
Romans vii. 22, 23.

I know what liberty there is in obedience, what pleasure in labour, what sweetness in prayer, what dignity in humility, what peace in conflict, what nobleness in patience, what perfection in infirmity. But to reduce these virtues to actual practice, there is the rub.

Blessed Edmund Campion.

October 25.

I rejoiced at the things that were said unto me: We shall go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand in thy courts, O Jerusalem.

Psalm cxxi. 1, 2.

It is told me I must dye—
O Happy News!
Come on, my dearest Soul,
Behold thy Jesus calls thee,
He prayed for thee upon His Crosse,
There He extended His arms to receive thee;
There He bowed down His head to kiss thee;
There He cryed out with a powerfull voice
"Father, receive him, he is Mine
There He opened His Heart to give thee entrance;
There Ne gave up His life, to purchase life for thee.

Ven. Richard Langhorne.

October 26.

It is told me I must dye—
O Happy News!
I shall be freed from misery;
I shall no more suffer pain;
I shall no more be subject to sin;
I shall no more be in danger of being damned.
But from henceforth
I shall see and I shall live;
I shall praise and I shall bless;
And this I shall always do
Without ever being weary
Of doing what I always am to do.

Id.

October 27.

It is told me I must dye—
O what happiness !
I am going
To the Place of my rest ;
To the Land of the living;
To the Haven of security ;
To the Kingdom of Peace;
To the Palace of my God;
To the Nuptials of the Lamb;
To sit at the Table of my King;
To feed on the Bread of Angels;
To see what no Eye hath seen;
To hear what no Ear hath heard;
To enjoy what the heart of man cannot comprehend.

Id.

October 28.

Shut up alms in the heart of the poor, and it shall obtain help for thee against all evil.

Ecclesiasticus xxix. 15.

Blessed Thomas More used to go through the back lanes, and enquire into the state of poor families; and he would relieve their distress, when he ascertained a real need, by two, three, or four gold pieces. He very often invited to his table his poorer neighbours, receiving them, not condescendingly, but familiarly and joyously.

October 29.

F*or one day in Thy Courts is better than a thousand. Psalm lxxxiii. 11.*

I have been about a year in religion, in the world thirty-five; what a happy change, if I could say I had been a year in the world, in religion thirty-five.

Blessed Edmund Campion,

October 30.

Ven. John Slade, layman ; martyred at Winchester, 1583.

Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasure of the Egyptians. For he looked unto the reward.

Hebrews xi. 26.

My keeper was commanded to lay irons upon me and Mr. Slade again, with strait charge to keep us one from the other, and to see that no access might be to us. But we consider that irons for this cause borne on earth shall surmount gold and precious stones in Heaven. That is our mark, that is our desire.

Ven. Jon Body, from his "school of patience," Winchester Gaol.

October 31.

The devil shall send some of you to prison to tempt you.

Apocalypse ii. 10.

Let us fall to fasting, to prayer, to almsdeed in time, and give that unto God that may be taken from us. If the devil put in our mind the saving of our land and our goods, let us remember that we cannot save them long. If he fear us with exile and fleeing from our country, let us remember that we be born into the broad world (and not like a tree to stick still in one place), and that whithersoever we go, God shall go with us. If be threaten us with captivity, let us tell him again, better is it to be thrall unto man awhile for the pleasure of God, than by displeasing of God be perpetual thrall unto the devil. If be threat us with imprisonment, let us tell him we will rather be man's prisoners awhile here on earth than by forsaking the Faith be his prisoners for ever in Hell.

Blessed Thomas More.