

**THE LIFE OF SAINT  
GEORGE,  
MARTYR, PATRON OF  
ENGLAND, PP. 1-109**

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The Life of Saint George, Martyr, Patron of England, pp. 1-109 by William Fleming

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**WILLIAM FLEMING**

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BY THE  
*W. L. C. C. C.*  
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GULIELMUS CANONICUS GILDEA, D.D.,

*Censor deputatus.*

**Imprimatur.**

† HERBERTUS CARDINALIS VAUGHAN,

*Archiepiscopus Westmonast.*

96  
Cornelia Stearns Thwait  
4-17-11.5

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THE LIFE OF ST. GEORGE,  
MARTYR.

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*The Apocryphal Life of Saint George.*

THE life of Saint George, the Martyr, Patron of England, written by Simeon Metaphrastes, and accepted as trustworthy by many critics, has been much, though unjustly, discredited owing to the condemnation of a fictitious life of the Saint, by a Council assembled by Pope Gelasius, in the year 492, soon after his elevation to the Papacy.

The attempted corruption of the



Holy Scriptures, and of the Lives of the Saints, by Arians and infidels, occasioned the assembling of the Council in question. In one of the Canons the lives of the Saints, Quiriacus, Julitta, and George, greatly suspected of having been written either by Arians or infidels, were condemned as apocryphal. As the three saints mentioned then and ever since have held an honoured place in the Roman Martyrology, it is evident that only certain biographies of the saints, and not the saints themselves, fell under the condemnation. That the saints themselves were not condemned is sufficiently evident from the Canon, which is as follows: 'Gesta Sanctorum Martyrum, qui multiplicibus tormentorum cruciatibus, et mirabilibus con-

fessionum triumphis irradiant, quis ita esse Catholicorum dubitet, et majora eos in agonibus esse perpeſſos, nec ſuis viribus, ſed Dei gratia et adjutorio univerſa toleraſſet. Sed ideo, ſecundum conſuetudinem antiquam, ſingulari cautela, in Sancta Romana Eccleſia non leguntur, et ab infidelibus idiotis ſed ſuperflue vel minus apte quam rei ordo fuerit, ſcripta eſſe putantur, ſicut cujuſdem Quiriaci et Julittæ matris ejus, ſicut Georgii et aliorum paſſiones hujus modi, qui ab hereticis perhibentur conſcriptæ: propter quod, ut dictum eſt, ne vel levius ſubſannandi occaſio oriretur, in Sancta Romana Eccleſia non leguntur. Nos autem cum predicta Eccleſia, omnes martyres atque eorum glorioſos agones, qui Deo magis quam hominibus noti

sunt, cum omni devotione veneramur.' ('The acts of the holy Martyrs are made illustrious by numerous sufferings, and the wonderful triumphs of their confessions of faith. Who is there amongst Catholics that would doubt that they endured all their sufferings, more by the aid of God's grace than by their own strength? Therefore, according to the ancient custom, their lives which are pronounced to have been either written by men, of whose names we are ignorant; or to have been exaggerated, or more unbecomingly treated than the occasion requires, by foolish infidels; the Holy Roman Church, with singular caution, never reads them. For example, the passions of Quiriacus and his mother Julitta, and of St. George, and of