

**LIFE AND TIMES OF S.
WULFRAM, BISHOP
AND MISSIONARY**

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Life and times of S. Wulfram, bishop and missionary by William Glaister

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WILLIAM GLAISTER

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OF

S. WULFRAM,

BISHOP AND MISSIONARY.

BY

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P R E F A C E .

I N writing the following pages I have had by me, the "*Historia Ecclesiastica Bædæ*," and the "*Acta Sanctorum*," Joan: Bollandi, Tom: III. Martii. In this last work is the "*Vita S. Wulframni*" of Jonas, a Monk of Fontenelle, and the contemporary of S. Wulfram, to which is added an account of the translation of S. Wulfram to the Church of S. Peter, and of the miracles said to have been performed at Rouen and Abbeville; all of which may also be seen at length in the "*Acta Sanctorum ordinis S. Benedicti*," Mabillon and D'Achéry. Under March 20th, may be found a short account of S. Wulfram, both in Alban Butler and Baring Gould, their "*Lives of the Saints*," whose words I have used in several places. An interesting account of S. Willibrord and the mission to Friesland may be read in Maclear's "*Apostles of Mediæval Europe*"

(Sunday library series.) For lives of S. S. Columba and Ecgberht, and some account of the Irish and Hiberno-Scottish Church in the seventh century, see Montalembert's "Monks of the West," to whom I am also indebted:

The dates of the successive epochs of S. Wulfram's life vary considerably in different writers, I have endeavoured to give those which seem to be most generally received.

W. G.



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CHAPTER I.

PROBABLY very many who are interested in the parish Church at Grantham, and others too, who have paid only occasional visits to that noble building, have wondered how it came about, that a Church of such remarkable proportions and stateliness, was dedicated to the memory of one, who was not a Bible Saint, who, as far as we know, never set foot in England, but was a stranger of another land, whose life and labors seem at first sight to have had no connexion with this country, nor to have been of such general fame that foundations in his honor were universally common.

A dedication to S. Wulfram is certainly rare, and though I know not the particular reason which influenced the founders of Grantham Church in choosing their patron, I hope to be able in this short sketch to point out what was the probable connexion between S. Wulfram and this part of England, and the common interests which in the seventh and eighth centuries were shared alike by the zealous Churchmen of

Northern Gaul,—S. Wulfram's country,—and those of Northumbria, Lindesey and Holland.

EARLY LIFE OF S. WULFRAM.

S. Wulfram was born about the middle of the seventh century at Maurilliac, now Milly, a village in the old province of Gastinois, not far from the modern town of Fontainebleau. He came of a noble and wealthy family, his father, whose name was Fulbert, being Lord of Milly, and a soldier in high honors and favor in the court and camp of Dagobert I., and Chlodwig II., Kings of the Franks.

Although a child of the camp, where most of his early days were spent, following his father to the wars; war and arms and a soldier's life had no attractions for young Wulfram, and he soon prayed his father that he might quit the camp and be allowed to devote himself to a life of retirement and study. A strange whim of the lad, thought the old soldier, a strange choice for a noble young Frank to prefer his book and the cloister to his sword and his hunting spear. But when Fulbert saw how deep and earnest was his desire for the clerical life, he gave his consent, and Wulfram was allowed to take Holy Orders.

It was a rude and barbarous age, and learning and letters were little regarded; but Fulbert,