

CHURCH HISTORY.

THE CELTIC CHURCH.

*Q.* To whom is the foundation of the Church in Britain ascribed?

*A.* To S. Paul himself.

*Q.* On what authority is this belief founded?

*A.* A saying of S. Clement that S. Paul taught "righteousness throughout the whole world, having travelled to the utmost bounds of the West."

*Q.* What other writer makes a similar statement?

*A.* S. Theodoret who says S. Paul "brought salvation to the islands lying in the ocean."

*Q.* What other Scriptural name is associated with the early British Church?

*A.* Aristobulus, saluted by S. Paul. Rom. xvi. 10.

*Q.* What is said of him?

*A.* It is related that he returned from Rome as a Bishop with Caractacus, the British general.

*Q.* Are there any further allusions to New Testament characters at this early date?

*A.* Yes, Pudens and Claudia mentioned by S. Paul (2 Tim. iv. 21) are the son-in-law and daughter of this same Caractacus.

*Q.* What modern commentator admits this as a likely fact?

*A.* Alford. (Commentary, vol. iii. Proleg. p. 104.)

*Q.* Give the testimony of Justin Martyr as to the early origin of the Church in Britain?

*A.* He says that "Christianity prevailed in every country known to the Romans"

*Q.* What is Tertullian's testimony?

*A.* He speaks of those British districts "hitherto inaccessible to the

Roman arms, but subjected to Christ.

*Q.* What does Origen say on the same subject?

*A.* "The power of God the Saviour is even with those who live in Britain and are separated from our worlds."

*Q.* At what dates did these writers flourish?

*A.* Justin Martyr A. D. 150; Tertullian A. D. 200; Origen A. D. 230.

*Q.* Who is the earliest ecclesiastical historian?

*A.* Eusebius, who lived about A. D. 340.

*Q.* Does he refer to this subject and how?

*A.* Yes. He says "that some of the Apostles should cross the ocean to the isles called Britannic, I no longer think to be the work of a mere man."

*Q.* Can we accept these statements as absolutely true?

*A.* Probably not all; some of them are admitted to be legendary.

*Q.* But what do they prove, nevertheless, as a whole?

*A.* That a Christian Church existed in Britain shortly after the Apostolic age.

*Q.* Who may have been the first missionaries?

*A.* Soldiers in the Roman legions, or merchants trading with Cornwall.

*Q.* From what country did Britain derive episcopacy?

*A.* Probably from Gaul.

*Q.* How do you show this?

*A.* (a) Gaul had flourishing churches as early as A.D. 150.

(b) Britain and Gaul had the closest ecclesiastical intercourse

(c) Many of Britain's churches