

the one hand, and the Celtic clergy on the other ; fought with kings, nobles, and Witenagemots, endured deposition, exile, disgrace, and finally lived to see a general reconcilliation effected, and spent the rest of his days in peace. The career of Wilfrid is an important one. We see him the chief champion of Rome. He shows us the Roman hierarchical system in its law, order, and high organization in conflict with the free, unsystematic, careless, Celtic spirit. We see also the detestation of the Celt and Celtic ways which for ages has characterized the Saxon, and is still strong in his descendant.

The struggle was that of Roman supremacy against British independence, the rigid rule of the Roman hierarchy against the free personality of the School of Columba. The children of Columba, the sainted Aidan, the holy Colman and their followers had Christianized the English. They saw the arrogant monk endeavouring to appropriate their labours and bring them under his own control. This of itself was sufficient to lead them to resistance, but beside this there was something more, and that was the independent English spirit which animated king, noble, priest and people to resist the imposition of a foreign yoke.

On the other hand much may be said in favor of Wilfrid. In the words of Montelembert,—
 “ He was the first Anglo Saxon who secured the attention of foreign nations, the first of whom a biography has been preserved ; he appears before