

STANDPOINT OF A ROMAN CATHOLIC ON RELIGION.

THE *Ancient Irish Church*. — It seems almost incredible how learned men can make statements so prodigiously wide of the most palpable facts of history, as those of the Bishop of Oxford concerning the «Irish Established Church,» and its alleged identity in doctrine with the Church of St Patrick. In a debate on the Irish Church, he maintained before the British Senate the ancient independence of Ireland of the See of Rome, and that the present Established Church is but the continuation of the ancient Church of St Patrick, hence its claim to the Church property of Ireland. — Suppose I first read the passage : « Three-fourths of the whole of the Irish Church property was given between the time of St Patrick and Henry II. to the native Irish Church. Do they teach the same doctrine that we do ? I maintain, and I defy any one to contradict it, that the Church of Ireland at that time agreed more completely with the High Church of England at this time than with the Romanists. They were jealous of Rome. They boldly refused to come under the Romish yoke. They were condemned by the Church of Rome as schismatics, if not as heretics, because they resisted the oppressions which were brought upon them. . . . which, then, did the Ancient Church of Ireland agree with—our Church or the Church of Rome ? The Irish Church as it then existed as a corporation is the Church which now exists. . . Now my Lords, how is it possible to deny these two facts — first, the comparative identity of doctrine at the time when the lands were given, and next the certain identity of body, the historical unity of the Church then with the Church now ? »

This is a surprising assertion, indeed, by a grave authority in the midst of the XIXth century and in the British senate, that the ancient Irish Church is an example of Anglicanism. But the Royal Supremacy and the whole position of the Anglican Church is no development of anything that existed in primitive