

tian. The Councils of Pisa, Constance and Sena admitted and affirmed this fact, making the conversion of the British Isles prior to that of France and Spain, and even of Rome itself; and attributing the dawning of light to the arrival there of Joseph of Arimathea, "immediately after the passion of Christ," (36-39, A. D.) Joseph is reported to have landed at Marseilles, in Gaul, along with Lazarus and sisters, and to have proceeded thence to Glastonbury, in Britain, where the first British Church edifice was erected. It was 60 feet in length, by 26 in breadth, built after the gothic style, of timber pillars and framework, doubly wattled inside and out, and thatched with straw.

So firm was the establishment of Christianity thus made, and so rapid its progress in Britain, that Tertullian testifies, in A.D. 192, that "regions in Britain which have never been penetrated by the Roman arms, have received the religion of Christ." The British chiefs who, during the preceding 150 years, had been waging war with the Romans, seem to have protected and nourished the Christian germ implanted by Joseph of Arimathea. Meantime Britain had been visited by Simon Zelotes and Aristobulus, both of whom were there martyred, and the lat-