

we trace back the independent autonomy of our branch of the Church Catholic far beyond that struggle which was as the throes of a second birth; beyond its subjection to the Papal primacy; beyond the accession to it of the Saxon converts of Augustine, and its consequent first connection with the See of Rome, back through the persecutions and depressions of the British Christians, who also had their Bishops and their liturgy, to the very Apostolic age."

**6—OUR CHURCH REFORMED FROM THE ERRORS,
IDOLATRIES AND SUPERSTITIOUS CEREMONIES OF ROME.**

"Our Church of England dates from thence, and not from the Reformation; the separation from Rome was not a schism from the body, but a self-emancipation from an imposed yoke, a return to original independence; the renunciation of the errors, the idolatries, the superstitious ceremonies of Rome was the purging of the ancient Church from the accretions of defilement, through the mediæval period, that had dimmed her light and sullied her purity. And therefore, although with just pride we claim for our Church that she is no new Church, but the oldest of Churches, cleansed, remodelled and restored nearer to the pristine purity and the primitive pattern of faith and practice than any other Church, we cannot deny, if we would, that what we are as a Church to-day was the work of the Protestant Reformers. To these noble, holy and learned men, even if they were erring, who shed their blood to purchase with it for us the priceless heritage of a pure faith enshrined in a form of worship that is sublime in its dignity, venerable for its antiquity, and glorious with the beauty of holiness, we owe a debt which we cannot over-estimate, a debt which it were the climax of base ingratitude for us to repay, as some who call themselves Anglican Churchmen have done, by casting opprobrium upon their blessed memory."

**7 THE SPLENDID HERITAGE—BIBLE—BOOK OF
COMMON PRAYER—THIRTY-NINE ARTICLES.**

"The heritage they have bequeathed to us is indeed a rich one—a faithful version of the Holy Scriptures in our