

## STANDPOINT OF A ROMAN CATHOLIC ON RELIGION.

**P** RIMITIVE Christianity, and the British Church ; or that the appeal of the English Reformation « the so called Established Church, » to Christian antiquity, has no foundation. I have thought a good deal over all you said yesterday. Now I should like to hear how you make out that the primitive Christians were Catholics. I know we were always taught, and I've read several books about the old British Church which seemed to me to prove pretty clearly that, up to the year 600, or thereabouts, the early Christians in Britain knew nothing of the authority of the Pope, and opposed his claims when they were put forward by Augustine on his coming over to convert the Saxons.

— If you will allow me, I will read you a passage of the « Saturday Review, » which may serve me as a text for what I shall have to say in answer to your question about the British Church, and how I make out that the early Christians were Catholics. — « The distinctive principle of the English Reformation was an appeal to Christian antiquity as admirable, and probably as imaginary, as the « Golden Age » of the poets. The writer then goes on to say, that the era of Reformation was before the age of accurate historical criticism. The true method of historical criticism was as yet uncreated, and it is not too much to say that whatever accurate knowledge we now possess of the Church of the first centuries, has been obtained within the last fifty years, and that a better acquaintance with the remains of antiquity has convinced us that many doctrines and practices which have been commonly accounted to be peculiarities of later Romanism, existed in the best and purest ages of Christianity. »

— Ah ! I should not wonder if they had hit the right nail on the head there ; I must read that article, how is it headed ?

— You can't miss it, the title is *Primitive Christianity*, Well, then, to answer your question, we argued yesterday as to the