

ago. We were called Popish for some centuries. We gave a good deal of adulation to Rome ; we for centuries sent a good many pence to the so-called vicar of Christ there, and then we were called Protestants, but that is a misnomer ; people spoke of a Reformation, but that is a word which we repudiate ; at least, we do not like it, we do not speak often of it, and we would be glad if you did not say much of it. There was, of course, a Reformation on the Continent, and there was one up north there in Scotland among those half-barbarians, with their unspeakable Scotch lingo, but in England there was no revolutionary Reformation ; a little change only, a ripple on the surface, that was all. Lanfranc was in Canterbury, so was Cranmer, and so on with the others that were before as well as after that nasty man whose name we do not want to name, Henry the Eighth. But seriously, there must be lopped off a little from that 1900 years that have been dinned into our ears. I do not want to be anything but courteous, but I do not feel disposed to go further back than Augustine, and I concede a good deal when I do that. We'll say, A.D. 597, that is, in round numbers, thirteen centuries instead of the nineteen. But the Church of Scotland on the same principle has as good grounds for going back to the settlement of Columba in Iona, and beginning her age then. In that case we are older by more than thirty years. Columba's settlement dates from 565. We are quite willing to have this question adjudged for us by impartial and unprejudiced umpires ; we are prepared to leave it to arbitration. What is there that can be said of the claims of the one, to begin with