

Bishop of the Anglo-Saxon Church, the first of the long and uninterrupted line of the Bishops and Archbishops of Canterbury. And, although Dr. Benson, the 92nd Archbishop, has been taken to his Rest, his great successor, Archbishop Temple, the 93rd of this glorious Line, has renewed the invitation, and has entered fully into the spirit of this great Commemoration.

It is not, my brethren, that we are to celebrate the thirteen hundredth anniversary of the *introduction* of Christianity into England. For we can never forget that there was a British Church which had existed for two or three hundred years at least before the arrival of Augustine, a British Church whose Bishops are recorded to have attended several early Councils of the Church of Christ, a British Church with its Martyrs and its early remains. But at the same time we know very well that at the period when Augustine landed in Kent, while the Queen Bertha was a Christian woman, ministered to by the French Bishop Lullhard in the little restored British Church of St. Martin's, at Canterbury, Her Royal Consort Ethelbert, King of Kent, and his subjects, and, indeed, the Saxon Races throughout the Angle-Land were living in Heathen darkness, having driven the British Church with the Light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ into Wales, Cornwall and Cumberland, and into what is still called Brittany in the North of France. And, by the work of Patrick, Ninian, and Columba and others, that glorious Light was dawning fast on old Ireland, and upon the Lowlands and Highlands of Scotland besides. Thus, we have to thank God that he was pleased, in 597, to send his servant Augustine, by the command of Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, to evangelize our heathen Saxon forefathers. And we also have to thank God that we were thus, as a country and as a people, brought into touch with the Western Church to the moderating of cruel Rulers in evil days, and to the bringing of the Faith and Worship of the Church with the attendant restraints of true Religion and beneficial Arts of Civilization to our ancient shores. All this was for our good in many ways; and thus the English Branch of the Holy Catholic Church was founded, and, with the assistance of the British or Celtic Church under Aidan and other great British Saints, soon our whole Land received the precious Message of the Cross.

But, because a Missionary of the Western Church, whose headquarters were and are in Rome, came to our shores and became the first Bishop of the Anglo-Saxon Church, this no more gives to the Bishop of Rome any position of government over the English Church than the Archbishop of Canterbury could expect to hold over the English Church here in Canada, or in the United States, or in any other part of the world, on the ground that the first Missionaries of our Church came from England.