

Aidan and S. Cuthbert, of S. Chad and S. Hilda, of Bede and King Alfred: its restoration to a measure at least of the pristine purity; and its coming back to a state when it was an independent branch of the Holy Catholic Church, free from the control of any foreign Bishop.

For its first beginning we must look back to the first or second Christian century; when missionaries from Gaul first visited the shores of the Britain of the Druids; or, when Christian soldiers came in the train of the armies of Imperial Rome to establish, or to consolidate the power of the Empire in the Province of Britain.

For its second beginning, after the Teuton invasion, we must look to St. Augustine, sent by Gregory the Great: and still more to St. Aidan, and to his large band of devoted fellow-laborers and followers, who came from Iona in the Western Hebrides, or who owed their training as Christian Missionaries to those who had been educated in St. Columba's famous Monastic and Collegiate home.

3. Once more, Our English Reformation, was NOT AN ACT OF SCHISM.

In the year of our Lord 1534, the Supremacy of the Bishop of Rome over the Church and Nation of England was formally renounced: first, by the Church in Convocation assembled; then, by the Nation in Parliament assembled; and finally by the King giving assent to, and signing the Act of Parliament.

This act was not an act of schism: for this reason: The Bishop of Rome had no legitimate authority whatever over our Church and Nation; No authority entrusted to him by Jesus Christ, or by a decree of a Universal Council: such authority as he did possess was usurped authority, an authority often resisted during the Middle Ages, and sometime with success by the ablest of our Plantagenet Kings.

For the first twelve years of the reign of Elizabeth, that is, from 1558 to 1570, the whole body of the English people conformed to the National, Reformed, Catholic Church, of England.

Who broke the peace? Who began the schism from the English branch of the Holy Catholic Church: The Pope.

On April 27, 1570, Pope Pius V. (a Canonized saint of the Roman Breviary) issued his famous Bull entitled, "The Damnation and Excommunication of Elizabeth:" deposing the Queen from her throne, absolving all her subjects from their

oath of allegiance to their lawful Sovereign, and commanding them to withdraw from their National Church.

A mere handful of Englishmen, in disloyalty to the Catholic Church in England, and in treason to their lawful Sovereign secured, and formed the Roman schism in England.

The guilt of the commencement of schism lies not at the door of the Church of England, where Bishops and Divines carried out the work of her Reformation, and whose acts in Convocation and Parliament freed her from the novel and usurped supremacy of a foreign Bishop, but at the door of Pope Pius V. who launched his Bull against our Queen, deposing her from her throne, absolving her subjects from their allegiance to their lawful Sovereign, and commanding them to withdraw from their National Church.

I have dwelt so long on the Nature of our English Reformation,

AS BEING A WORK OF TIME;

A WORK OF RESTORATION;

AND NOT A WORK OF SCHISM:

that I have left myself but little time to speak of the GREAT BLESSINGS of our English Reformation.

II. These however are so apparent, that I need do little more than mention them, or, rather some of them: for—

The Blessings of our English Reformation are manifold: They are bound up with all we do and enjoy. The Blessings of our glorious English Reformation meet us at every turn almost of our individual, family, social, political, and ecclesiastical life.

1. First, the Reformation, we have already seen, delivered our Church and Nation from the usurped authority of the Bishop of Rome.

This deliverance brought with it a multitude of blessings, the magnitude of which it is almost impossible for us to appreciate at a distance of three and a half centuries, and under the entirely altered circumstances of our modern society. The Bishop of Rome's power—a shadow now—was a dread reality then; backed not only by the spiritual artillery of Rome, but also by the fleets and armies of the Roman Catholic Sovereigns of Europe: witness the Spanish Armada, Rome's last attempt to subjugate England.

Every Canadian should be familiar with the history of his mother-land: That history will