

The emphatic words of all these various titles are "*The Church.*" The Church established in England was a part of this one great society ; and although there may be room for doubt as to the precise date at which, or the precise person by whom, the Christian Church was planted in England, yet there is no room at all to doubt that it was certainly established there, with the threefold ministry of bishops, priests, and deacons, before the year 314.

#### THE ROMAN PERIOD.

It must be conceded that very little is known of the progress which the Church had made in England prior to the arrival of Augustine in 597. Up to the year 450, England had been, for over 400 years, occupied by the Romans, and had undoubtedly advanced considerably in civilization during that occupation. At the time it ceased, England and Wales were divided into five Roman provinces, and these provinces again had been divided into thirty-three *civitates*, or districts, each of which had a separate local government. These *civitates* probably resembled our counties, and the provinces the various provinces of this Dominion. In Gaul, where a similar division existed, there was in each *civitas* a bishop and in each province an archbishop ;