

Church, because it would not submit to the Roman, refused not only to eat at the one table with the Romanist, but even in the same house.—*See Bede, Lib. ii, Chap. 4.* In adopting this want of apparent toleration, the Irish Prelate was acting only in conformity with the Canons of his own church, and consequently it may be inferred that the Irish considered the Romanists as excommunicated.

Nor was this the isolated act of one over-zealous ecclesiastic, as both the Britons and Irish acted invariably on the same principle. We have the testimony of Bede, that "the Britons would no more communicate with the Romanists than with the Pagans.—*Bede, Lib. ii, Chap. 4.* "The British Priests," says Aldhelm. "puffed up with a conceit of their own purity, do exceedingly abhor communion with us, insomuch that they will neither join in prayers with us in the church, nor in communion, nor will they enter into society with us at table; the fragments we leave after refection, they will not touch, but throw them to dogs. The cups also, out of which we have drunk, they will not use until they have cleansed them with sand and ashes. They refuse all civil salutations and will not give us the kiss of pious fraternity. Moreover, if any of us go to make our abode among them, they will not vouchsafe to admit till we are compelled to spend forty days in