

of a branch of the Christian Church.† Now I trust that it must be evident from what has been advanced, that the Church of England, so far from being a body of dissenters from the Church of Rome, can charge upon Roman Catholics the sin of schism, in having left the only Church of Christ in our native land.

The sister Church of Ireland can, in like manner, be shown to be "the Mother Church of Ireland," notwithstanding all that Roman Catholics may believe and say to the contrary; for it was only about four centuries before the English Reformation; or in the twelfth century, that this persecuted branch of the Church became subject to the Roman See.‡ The reformation of this branch of the Church was commenced in 1537, but not completed till 1560, when seventeen out of nineteen of the Irish Bishops adopted the principles of the Reformation; and the assembly of the Clergy offered no opposition.§

An objection, that may possibly have weight with some, and which perhaps it might be as well to notice here, is this:—"You trace the succession of your Ministry through the apostate Church of Rome! Antichrist is the mean of conveying to you the warrant of Christ!" This objection has been so well met by the Rev. T. D. Gregg, the celebrated Protestant champion of Dublin, that I shall merely transcribe his words. He says—"The Church is a corporation—a body—an undying body. The whole time of its duration hitherto is its life. It has lived eighteen hundred years, more or less. We must therefore reason about the Church as we should about an individual during his lifetime. Take, for example, the case of Judas. He was unquestionably an Apostle; but he apostatized: he lost his apostleship: he became Antichrist. But suppose that he had repented and was accepted again, where and what

† Palmer, part ii. chap. 2, sec. 11.

‡ Palmer's Church of Christ, vol. i. part 2, chap. 9, p. 505.

§ Ibid p. 507.