

connexion with the past, the *via media*, one of her distinguishing characteristics, and her history, adorned by the names of the great and good, while they point her out as likely to aid in bringing about the reunion of Christendom, also assist in checking revolutionary changes. Compare the condition of Germany and England on the question of religious faith, and see whether our happier condition be not largely due to the mode in which the Reformation was carried out, and to the sober and primitive character of the Church of England herself. I say this not in a spirit of controversy, or of proselytism, or to depreciate other denominations, for that would be an unwarrantable abuse of my position here to-day. The civil and religious liberty which we enjoy, which enables us to respect one another's conscientious convictions, none of us would surrender, but the consideration of our civil constitution naturally led me to think for a moment of the dominant form of christianity in England. Both have features in common, and both are a blessing to the community at large. And it is possible that God has still further privileges for the Anglo-Saxon race, which some do not see their way to accepting. An idea is held by many minds and is undoubtedly spreading, that the descendants of the lost Ten Tribes are to be found in the Anglo-Saxon race. The idea has much to recommend it. Nothing can be easier than to throw ridicule on such a theory, and to denounce it without investigation as folly. Some details in the writings of those who uphold it may be erroneous, or may seem trifling, but that the main position deserves very careful and respectful consideration, I do not doubt. I do not urge it here as an article of faith, or as a certainty. I state it as something which may be true. As yet it has not been answered, while the probabilities of its truth seem accumulating. I would commend it, if I may, to the careful considera-