

where the right of appeal from all bishops to the Apostolic See was confirmed by a special decree.

3. — In 403, Pelagius, a British priest, spread a heresy in Britain in which he denied the necessity of divine grace; whereupon Pope Celestine, the same who sent St Patrick to Ireland, sent St Germanus of Auxerre, as «his Vicar with Britain, and that he might drive away heresy, and restore Britain to the Catholic faith.»

With the mission of St Germanus the early history of the British Church closes. A dark period of a hundred years succeeds, during which, abandoned by the Roman armies, Britain is left a prey to the invasion of Picts, Scots and Saxons. In the absence then of all proof to the contrary, and in the presence of the positive evidence which I have given that the British Church stood in the same relation to Rome during the earlier and purer ages of her history, as all the other churches of Christendom — namely, obedience to the Holy See, for St Irenæus of Lyons tells us that obedience to the Pope of Rome, as successor of St Peter, was in his time considered essential for all churches, just as at the present day it is still the essential feature of Catholic Christianity—it seems then to me that thoughtful and candid persons can hardly fail to admit that, as a controversial argument against the Catholic Church, the less said about the British Church the better.

A. M. BILLIAU, C. SS. R.

Erin's Lament

«Woman, why weepest thou?» (Jo. 20-15)

Where hath my Master, loved so truly, sped?
 Ah! they have borne Him hence, whilst I, in pain
 Deplore His loss, and comfort seek in vain.
 «In pity tell me, Sir,» poor Mary said,
 And, as she spoke, her heart with sorrow bled.
 Her loving words her loving Lord constrain,
 No longer can He in disguise remain.
 «Mary! He says. — Lo! all her grief hath fled.
 Sad has thy search for Jesus Erin, been
 In the long years of persecution wild,
 When rude hands tore Him from His shrines away;
 Oh! with what joy His face again is seen,
 Heard with what rapture are His accents mild,
 As on thy altars He abides to-day.

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