

. PREFACE.

In the compilation of this little manual, on the Church of our fathers, I have had in view the correction of several popular errors with regard to British Christianity, and which are due merely to ignorance—want of information—upon the plain facts of history. Of course those who have ready access to the standard histories which bear upon these subjects, are not under the necessity of being enlightened ; but the great mass of our people have no such opportunity of correcting their own errors, or of being able to refute the plausible stories of those who wish to mislead them—perhaps the blind ignorantly leading the blind.

The erroneous impressions which I wish particularly to correct, are : 1.—That the British Church cannot exhibit traces of an apostolic foundation,—an origin in apostolic days. 2.—That the present “United Church of England and Ireland” cannot boast, for herself or her Colonial offshoots, an unbroken connection in organization with the Primitive Church of Britain. 3.—That whatever church was originally founded in Britain, was founded by Romish agencies. 4.—That there was no Protestant Church or Church of Protestant principles in Britain previous to the Reformation. 5.—That the present Church is an invention of the Reformation era, like other Protestant bodies. 6.—That the Romish Church of the present day in Britain and the British possessions, is not the proper lineal and doctrinal representative of the English Church which existed before the Reformation.