

Monte Cassino, the cradle of the Benedictine Order, come to testify that these English monks, descendants of St. Augustine, are one in faith, religious rule, and practice with the unbroken monastic line of Monte Cassino and Subiaco.

Our first missionaries before setting foot in England had spent nearly a year in Gaul. The Bishop of Autun had been their counsellor, their friend, their generous host. The most distinguished and most eloquent in the long line of occupants of that See, His Eminence Cardinal Perraud, Bishop of Autun, is here with us to-day. Inheritor of the same faith, of the same large-hearted zeal for the conversion of souls, he has undertaken this long journey to show that the Catholic Church of France is one with the Catholic Church of England to-day as in the beginning. We welcome him with loving and most grateful hearts. We thank the Bishop of Autun for the hospitality given by Autun to our first Fathers in the faith. With enthusiasm we hail his presence here to-night. We listened with reverent submission and delight to the words of wisdom which he addressed to us on Sunday, as the heralds of Christian civilization of England had listened to the words of his predecessor, St. Syagrius, 1300 years ago. And we look forward eagerly to hear him speak to us again in Canterbury, where the memory of St. Augustine still lingers with that of St. Thomas, St. Edmund and Cardinal Pole.

We have with us another link of connection with the Church of France. St. Augustine received episcopal consecration from the hands of St. Virgilius in the old cathedral of Arles. The archpriest of this most ancient cathedral, representing the successor of St. Virgilius, is upon this platform. He has come to share and add to our joy by assuring us that Arles still remembers the first Archbishop of Canterbury, that it is in close communion with us, and that the success of our mission, like that of Augustine, has a large place in its prayers. Welcome then, hearty welcome, to the successor of St. Virgilius in the See of Arles. But how is it that these representatives of the enduring churches, with which Augustine and his monks were in communion, have found their way to our humble gathering and not to Lambeth? The question needs no reply. All England knows that the fair line of continuity in faith and doctrine falls among those who no longer hold the ancient cathedrals or dispose of the ancient revenues. We hold the ancient faith, others hold the ancient foundations.

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