

# THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

NOT THE MOTHER CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

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We did not go out from them; but "they went out from us."—1 JOHN, ii. 19.  
"Non enim nos ab illis, sed illi a nobis recesserunt."—CYPRIANUS DE UNITATE.

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Every one who reads his Bible must be aware that in the times of the Apostles there were Churches, or, to speak more correctly, branches of the Church, planted at Rome, at Corinth, in Galatia, at Ephesus, at Phillippi, at Colosse, and at Thessalonica; for we have epistles addressed by St. Paul to the Christian converts in each of these places.

In like manner we find St. John, in the book of the Revelation, addressing the Angels or Bishops of the Churches in Ephesus, in Smyrna, in Pergamos, in Thyatira, in Sardis, in Philadelphia, and in Laodicea; thus proving that in *his* time there existed branches of the Church in those seven districts of Asia Minor. We find St. Paul, too, speaking of the Church in Macedonia, and writing to the Romans of his intended journey into Spain, doubtless to preach the gospel there, and establish in that country a branch of the Church, as he and his fellow-apostles had before done in so many other countries. Now, we are told by early church historians, that St. Paul did fulfil his intention of preaching the gospel in Spain, and that he went to the uttermost bounds of the west, and the Islands that lie in the ocean.\* It has therefore been believed by some very learned men, that the Apostle St. Paul was either himself in Britain, or that he sent some of his companions to preach there the unsearchable riches of Christ.†

It is, however, *certain*, that a branch of the Christian Church was founded at a very early period in Britain, probably as early as the Apostles' time; for Tertullian, a Christian Father who flourished A. D. 190, thus testifies to the introduction of Christianity into Britain:—"Some countries of the Britons, which proved inaccessible to the Romans, are subject to Christ."‡ And again,—"*Britain lies surrounded by the ocean: the Mauri and the barbarous Getulians are blocked up by the Romans, lest they should*

\* Euseb. Demonstrat. Evāgel. Lib. iii. c. 7. p. 3.

† Stillingfleet. Origines Britannicæ, chap. 1. § 3.

‡ Tertullian adv. Judæos, ch. viii.