

ideal. We trace our history back, step by step, with unbroken continuity to the beginnings of Christianity in Britain. Changes in points of view as regards doctrine, in rites and ceremonies, and in methods of temporal administration have of course taken place, according to the needs of different ages ; but these have not affected her historic identity as a true branch of the Catholic Church, and our Church to-day is essentially one with the Church of England we read of in history—the *Ecclesia Anglicana* of Magna Charta, the Church of Alfred the Great and the Anglo-Saxons, the Church of the Ancient Britons, a primitive church of Apostolic origin, with Apostolic order and unbroken faith. The story that Henry VIII. at the time of the Reformation founded the Church of England is of course nothing but a silly fable. The English Reformers revised, simplified and purified the Church's ancient service books, abolished the superstitions and papal usurpations which had crept in during the Middle Ages, and by the Thirty-nine Articles defined the Church's attitude upon questions in dispute at the time ; but they did not create, neither did they intend to create, a new Church. Nay, they would have shrunk with horror at the suggestion that by their work they