

lish a protestant sect in its place, but merely to reform, to correct abuses in the existing Church. And, aided by the civil powers, this they did, by asserting, first, their own independence, as Bishops, against the usurped authority of the Pope, who had no more authority of right in England, than the Bishop of Canterbury had in Rome; by discontinuing practices which led evidently to unscriptural superstitions; by protesting against certain prevalent erroneous doctrines; by translating the Scriptures and the ancient Ritual and Liturgy, which latter, (the Ritual and Liturgy we still retain,) besides translating, they re-arranged. But, though they did this, they still remained the same bishops and divines of the same Church. An attempt was made to revive the old superstitions in Queen Mary's reign, but, by the pious firmness of Elizabeth, her Bishops were enabled to complete the work so happily commenced in the reigns of her father and brother.

Now, from this historical statement, you see the absurdity of which the Papists are guilty, when they accuse us of having deserted or dissented from the old Church, and of having reared a new Church, of human origin—the absurdity of their speaking of theirs as the old Church and the old religion.

About two years ago, this very chapel, in which we are now assembled, was repaired; certain disfigurements removed; certain improvements made; would it not be absurd, on that account, to contend that it is no longer the Chapel Royal? Would it not be still more absurd if some one were to build a new chapel in the neighbourhood, imitating closely what this chapel was five years ago, and carefully piling up all the dust and rubbish which was at that time swept from hence, and then pronounce *that*, not *this*, to be the ancient chapel of the sovereigns of England? The absurdity is at once apparent; but this is precisely what has been done by the Roman Catholic or Papist. The present Church of England is the old Catholic Church of England, reformed, in the reigns of Henry, Edward, and Elizabeth, of certain superstitious errors; it is the same Church which came down from our British and Saxon ancestors, and, as such,