

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 extend the limits of their countries. And what shall we say of the Romans themselves who secure their empire only by the power of their armies? Neither are they able, with all their force, to extend their empire beyond these nations: whereas the kingdom of Christ and his name reach much farther: he is every where believed in and worshipped by all the nations above mentioned.”‡

Origen, another Father, who flourished early in the third century, thus writes: “When did Britain, before the coming of Christ, consent to the worship of one God?”§ This certainly implies, that, in his time, the Britons were known to be Christians, and had, through the profession of Christianity, been brought off from their former idolatry. In the fourth century, the eloquent Chrysostom thus testifies to the same truth: “The British isles, situated beyond the sea, and lying in the very ocean, have felt the power of the word, for even there Churches are built and altars erected.”|| And again, “Into whatsoever Church thou shalt enter, whether amongst the Moors, or the Persians, or the inhabitants of the islands

* Stillingfleet. *Origines Britannicæ*, chap. i. § 3.

† Tertullian *adv. Judæos*, ch. viii. ‡ *Ibid.*

§ Origen in *Ezek. Tom. iv.*

|| *Chrys. Tom. vii. p. 635.*