

bigoted obstinacy of the Tudors, and at a later date of the Stuarts, was such that the free action of the reforming party, the party that was really leavened with the Gospel, was hampered, and the progress was arrested when they had gone little more than half way. The legislation that was effected put a yoke around the neck of the Church, and it has in large part hung there to this day, to the wounding of many both within and without the Church of England. If the tolerance of later days had been understood and practised, if the Puritans had been retained instead of driven out, and at one time very little would have sufficed to keep them, what a blessing it would have been for the country at large as well as for the world? If the leading churchmen had only been of the temper of Archbishop Ussher, and the ministers of the Crown, or even the sovereign himself, had been different, the schisms would have been avoided. In that case the two tendencies would have reacted on one another, and the Church of England would not have had the bitter foe she has to-day in the powerful and influential body of Dissent that is in the land, and that is more and more a great factor in legislation. As the Church is so much the creature of parliament, the punishment of former sins tells all the more on her. When all this is considered, our neighbours, instead of assuming superior airs should be humble ; instead of unchurching others, they should be very thankful that they are not unchurched. If we stood on stepping stones with her and remembered the persecutions our fathers endured at the hands of their fathers ; if we called to mind the