

the sixteenth century. It is commonly supposed that England and England's Holy Church was entirely Latin or Roman Catholic until that period, and that there had never existed in England the Apostolic Church except the Latin or Roman part of it, and the English Church is supposed to have had no separate existence till the Reformation, when She was founded by the profligate, godless King, Henry VIII. Now this fictitious history is not fact. It may be stated in some historical books in our public schools, but that does not prevent it from being a gross libel, or a piece of surprising ignorance. No student of history—ecclesiastical or profane—can ever consistently believe it. For the first thing that meets us in beginning the study of the Divine founding of the Church, as given in the acts of the Holy Apostles, is to find the Apostolic Church one in Faith; one in Discipline; one in Fellowship; one in Sacraments. That Faith, that Discipline, that Fellowship, those Holy Sacraments the Church of England has kept undefiled from the first. The Apostles taught that the essence of the religious life consists in the objective worship of the Ever-blessed Trinity, and not merely in preaching and hearing religious truths apart from a life of devout worship. The Christian Church was founded on the Day of Pentecost—Whitsunday—in the city of Jerusalem. At the first synod, S. James, the Less, the first bishop of Jerusalem, was appointed to preside. Remember this. It was not S. Peter who had the place of honour in the first Church council, it was S. James, the Less. Indeed, we do not find that S. Peter ever appeared to have had, or to have asserted any superiority or authority over his brother Apostles. From Jerusalem the Church extended Her borders through Asia Minor, and from thence reached the European Continent through the ministry of the Apostles, but chiefly of S. Paul. We are told but little in the Holy Scriptures as to the particulars of the Apostles' work in extending the Church of GOD, but we learn from many sources that the Apostles visited almost every known country in the world, and ancient Fathers tell us that S. Paul visited Spain and Britain. Be that as it may, we know that there was commercial intercourse between ancient Rome and ancient Britain, and by this means, if by no other, Almighty GOD mercifully ordained that the doctrine of the Apostle was carried to Britain, if not personally proclaimed by him. Suffice it to say, that the Church was founded in ancient Britain in Apostolic days, and took deep root in the virgin soil. In com-