

be so,—and it cannot be denied—we may surely believe the Church of England to be the *same* Church that it was when it was represented in the Council of Arles in France by the Bishops of London, York, and Lincoln, although the usurpation of Rome and its accompanying errors subsequently prevailed over it for centuries. Length of time makes no difference whatever in the *principle* of the thing. If it be the same Church after an usurpation of ten years, it is the same Church after an usurpation of one thousand years. And if so, we cannot be guilty of schism. Nor can the Roman Catholics with any truth assert, (as they have done, that the Church of Rome is “the mother Church” of England, and that the Anglican Church was instituted and founded, like the generality of the Protestant sects, by certain Reformers in the sixteenth century. No: at the time of the glorious Reformation, Archbishop Cranmer, and those who aided him in his good work, discovered that all the errors which were in the Church, were innovations gradually and imperceptibly introduced, and not originally or essentially belonging to the Church of England. They determined, therefore, as was unquestionably their right and duty, *not to overthrow the existing Church*, but to correct the abuses which it had contracted in the lapse of time, and to restore it to its primitive beauty. And this they did, by asserting, first, their own independence, against the usurped authority of the Pope of Rome, 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 giving the scriptures to the people, and re-arranging and improving the ancient Ritual and Liturgy. But though they did all this, they still remained the same bishops—the same divines, and members of the same branch of the holy Catholic, Apostolic Church.

In Mary's reign, an attempt was made to restore things to what they had been before the Reformation. The ven-