

**STUDIES IN CHURCH HISTORY;
THE REFORMATION IN
IRELAND, A STUDY OF
ECCLESIASTICAL LEGISLATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649688289

Studies in Church History; The Reformation in Ireland, a Study of Ecclesiastical Legislation by
Henry Holloway

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HENRY HOLLOWAY

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STUDIES IN CHURCH HISTORY

THE REFORMATION
IN IRELAND

A STUDY OF ECCLESIASTICAL LEGISLATION

BY

HENRY HOLLOWAY, M.A., B.D.

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LONDON

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING
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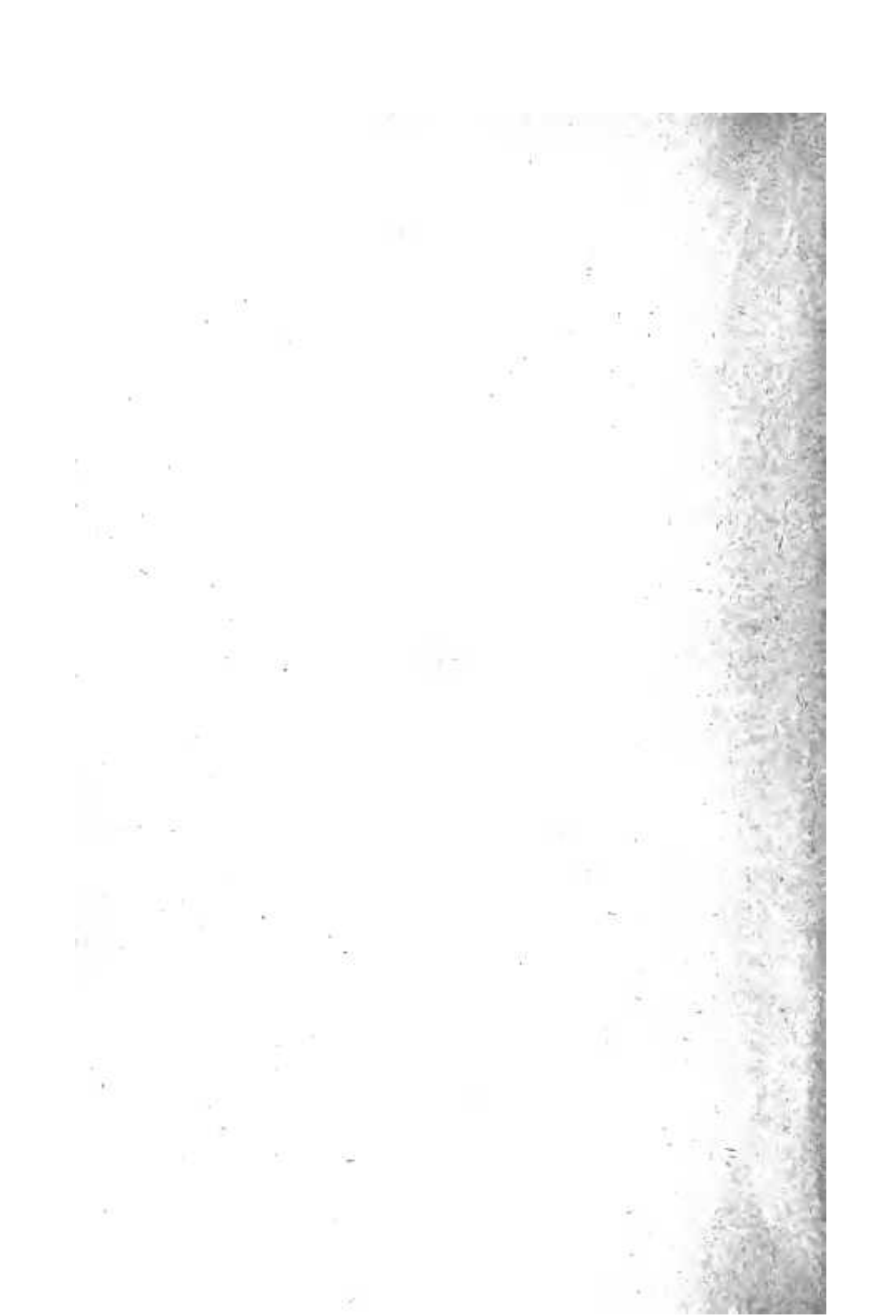
NEW YORK : THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1919



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PREFACE

IRISH history is but little known in England, and if a remark once made to the writer be true—there is no country that knows less of its own history than Ireland—it is not too well known in Ireland. This is one reason for the publication of this book. It has not been written with the object of defending any particular theory, or view, of Irish history; it is mainly concerned with setting out the facts of the subject with which it deals.

An English churchman going to Ireland not unnaturally wonders why the ecclesiastical conditions there are so different from those on "the other side the water." He finds the Church of Ireland geographically covering the country, though only consisting of a small minority of the population, while the majority belong to the Church of Rome. The question arises, Is the Church of Ireland merely an English intrusion into the country, or has she any reasonable claim to her official title? This question cannot be answered on merely sentimental grounds; it is only by the knowledge of what actually happened at the period of the Reformation that it is possible to come to a conclusion. Even with this knowledge different conclusions are possible, but conclusions which are not founded upon knowledge are of no value. This book is a fair endeavour, however imperfect, to set out the

facts. The conclusions of the writer, for what they are worth, may be gathered from the last chapter of the book.

I have to thank Professor Lawlor, D.D., of Trinity College, Dublin, and Mr. J. G. Smith, M.A., formerly of University College, Cardiff, for advice concerning books to be consulted. To the latter I owe the note and calculation on page 60. For the dimensions of the Ardagh Chalice, mentioned on page 134, I have to thank Mr. John Ward, M.A., F.S.A., Keeper of the Archaeological Department of the National Museum of Wales at Cardiff, where there is a duplicate of the original, as well as of some other Irish antiquities.

H. H.

THE REFORMATION IN IRELAND

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

THE ecclesiastical legislation which took place in Ireland under the Tudors was with a few differences in detail parallel to that of England, though the effects, owing to different political circumstances, were very different in the two countries. In England great changes followed in the religion of the people, while in Ireland the Reformation movement proved a failure, as far as changing the religion of the majority of the population was concerned. In studying this period, it will be helpful to inquire what was the state of the Irish Parliament and of the Irish Church at the time when the reforming legislation commenced. But before definitely coming to this point it will be well to survey some anterior events, which led up to the state of things that prevailed under the Tudors.

Parliamentary development in Ireland, amongst the inhabitants of the Pale, closely followed that in England. Previously to 1295, the great barons assembled in the great Council of the realm, to enact