

## ARTICLE IV.

# CALVINISM: THE ORIGIN AND SAFEGUARD OF OUR CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES.<sup>1</sup>

BY THE REV. ABRAHAM KUYPER, D. D.

## IV.

WE go back another century, from 1650 to 1550, from the Calvinistic troubles in England to the struggle of the Huguenots in France. It must be shown that the Independents and the Huguenots were congenial to each other, as well as that they differed; only when the affiliation of the two is established, does the line of Calvinistic development appear unbroken.

Their spiritual affiliation is shown, first of all, by de Coligni's plan of colonization, which, though but little known, is exceedingly noteworthy. It is well known that de Coligni, however different in character, was the Cromwell of the Huguenots; and, without his faults, was, no less than the Protector, the soul and sword of Calvinism. As much as four years before the Huguenots took up arms against the court in 1559, and the martyrs' woes had been endured in silence for nearly forty years, the natural leaders of the Calvinists began to see that it would not do, in the long run, to submit to slaughter without defence. From a writing to Cardinal Boromeus it appears that the Huguenots numbered nearly half of the population of France, and this fact stimulated both their desire to offer armed resistance, and the purpose of the king to violently exterminate them. The very increase of their numbers rendered their position critical. This was suspected

<sup>1</sup> Translated from the Dutch by the Rev. J. Hendrik de Vries, M. A., Bronxville, N. Y.