

Many ethnological questions suggest themselves—questions as to how Great Britain and Ireland were first settled; as to what course the stream or streams of population took; as to whether there had been two streams that entered Britain from the continent of Europe, or whether it is possible to maintain that the differences which have existed for many centuries between what Zeuss chooses to term the Irish and British branches of the Kelts in Great Britain and Ireland—arose after the Celts had fairly taken possession of the British Isles. Scholars who have examined the question very carefully are disposed to believe that the differences which now exist between the representatives of the ancient Celts began and were developed in the British Isles, and are necessarily to be regarded as the result of two independent streams of population from the continent of Europe. Latham avers that, "no matter how unlike the Scotch and the Welsh may be, they are more like than the English that lie between them." It is altogether probable, according to a reasonable conjecture, that the route of which the earliest Celts availed themselves was the straits between Calais and Dover. The earliest settlers would extend northwards and westwards, reaching Scotland, and advancing to that portion of it which was subsequently known as Caledonia. As to the manner in which Ireland was peopled, for poetical legends are fanciful, it is natural to suppose that when the western portion of Wales was reached adventurous Celts would cross to Ireland; and that, when the stream of population had fairly reached and taken possession of Scotland, so great and marked are the facilities which the south and west of that country offer for crossing to Ireland, that Celts could in a very simple manner plant homes in that island. Owing to the rude interference of the Romans, and to the prowess of their arms, as well as on account of continuous invasions in later centuries from the north and west of Europe, the Britons or the early occupants of Great Britain found shelter in the mountainous regions of the country. In this manner we can understand how Wales and the Highlands of Scotland came to be inhabited strictly by Celts, and to furnish a home even to our own time for the descendants of the early occupants of the British Isles.

It has already appeared, on the authority of Aristotle and others, that Albion was at one time the name of what is now known as Great Britain, or as England and Scotland. The term *Albion* is now entirely confined to Scotland. We are wont to say: I am a Scotchman, *Is Albannach mise*. I am a Highland Scotchman, *Is Gaidheal Albannach mise*. I was born in Scotland, *Rugadh mi ann an Albainn*. He is an Englishman, *Is e Sasunnach a tha ann*. He was born in England, *Rugadh e ann an Sasunn*. There is no Gaelic word to represent England or Englishmen directly. We are wont to speak of England as *Sasunn*, or the land of the Saxons, and of Englishmen as *Saxons*, *Sasunnaich*. It seems to me that as the word *Albion*, which at one time was an appellation for Great Britain, has for many centuries been restricted to Scotland, we may find an argument in favour of the supposition that the Highlanders or the Gaels of Scotland are the descendants of the earliest Celts who occupied Britain: that they, therefore, continue to speak of themselves as *Albannaich*, a designation which must at one time have been general enough to include all the Celts of the British Isles, and that the Britons are a later stream of population than the Scottish Gaels.

*Albion* signifies the land or country of hills or mountains. *Alb* or *Alp* is the same root which is to be found in *Alps*. *Albion* is compounded of *Alb* or *Alp*, for *b* and *p* are convertible letters, and *fonn*, or with the aspirate *fhonn*, *Alb-fhonn*. The root *fonn* or *fhonn* occurs in *Eilean, eil fhonn*, another land. *Eilean* is the Gaelic name for island. The same word, *fonn* or *fhonn*, occurs in *Oban*, a term which strictly means the land of bays or creeks, an apt designation, as anyone will admit who has seen Oban in Argyllshire, and who has taken notice of the physical features of that bay and its neighbourhood. The same root, *fonn* or *fhonn*, is to be found in *Sasunn*, England, the land of the Saxons, and in *Firinn*, Ireland. The derivation of *Albion* (*ab albis rupibus*) from the white rocks of Britain is not to be regarded with