

of *Prydain*. Before the Christian era *Albin*, or *Albion*, was an appellation by which the countries now known as England and Scotland were designated. *Albin*, or *Albion*, is now restricted to Scotland, and is the term which the Scottish Gaels apply to that country. *Albin* is in all likelihood compounded of *alb*, *alp*, a mountain, and of *fhonn*, *fonn*, a country, the import of the word thus being *the country of hills or mountains*. The conjecture has been advanced that the name *Britain* is composed of *braigh*, a top, and *tonn*, a wave, *braitoir*; and that that appellation was given to Britain in consequence of its lofty coast line as seen from the opposite shores of Gaul. *Breac*, variegated, and *innis*, an island, *Breacinnis*, is another derivation which has been assigned for the word in question. It is almost needless to remark, that although such interpretations may be ingenious, very much that is fanciful enters into them. An interpretation of a more plausible and accurate kind has recently been given by Prof. Rhys, who maintains that "the Greeks of Marseilles obtained the word *Britanni* from the natives of the south-west of England, who brought their tin to market, and in whose country the only Celtic speech in use was as yet Goidelic." He discovers in the word *Britain*, *Bretnais*, *brat*, *brattan*, the Gaelic term for a covering or a *cloak*,—an argument in support of the theory, that the Celts assumed the name which the Romans afterward wrote *Britanni*, to distinguish themselves as a *clothed* or *cloth-clad* people (*braid*, a piece of cloth) from the naked races who preceded them in the occupation of the British Isles. Though, amid so many explanations of the origin and Etymology of the word *Britain*, it appears to be impossible to arrive at a solution that can be regarded as in all respects satisfactory, it may at least be conceded that the term in question is rather Cymric than Gaelic. *Breathnach* is the name which is applied in Irish Gaelic to a Welshman. *Dumbarton*, which was once the capital of a Kingdom of Britons in the valley of the Clyde, is compounded of *Dun*, a fort or hillock, and *Breatunn*, i.e., *the fort of Britain*, and, as we may fairly argue, *of the Britons*—if those to whose capital the Scottish Gaels gave the name *Dun-Breatuinn*—, the name by which Dumbarton is known to the Scottish Gaels of our own day. Such words as *Frangach*, a Frenchman; *Sasunnach*, an Englishman, a Saxon; and *Breatunnach*, a Briton, are merely adaptations to the Gaelic language of *France*, *Saxon*, *Briton*. The Scottish Gael is wont to characterize the inhabitants of Scotland as