

those used by the other Britons and Scots, which being also used by the ancient English are now best known by the name of Saxon letter." It appears that the orthography of the few Cornish Mss. that are extant, is so far from being uniform that it is not uncommon to find one word written in half a dozen different forms.

In all the Celtic languages, many of the consonants at the beginning of a word suffer changes according to fixed rules, under certain grammatical or euphonic conditions. In Irish and Scottish Gaelic the initial consonant is never lost: it is retained through all the inflections which the word undergoes. In Welsh, Manx and Cornish, the initial consonant is often changed for another that represents phonetically the value of the sound.

Unlike Gaelic, Cornish has two articles, the definite *an en* for all numbers and genders: *un*, the indefinite article, is used for both genders. As in the case with the other Celtic languages, Cornish has two genders merely. The plural has several forms. In addition to having a singular and a plural number, Cornish has likewise what may be regarded with certain qualifications as a Dual number. The Dual, as Lhuyd remarks, "serves as in Armorican merely to express some parts of an animal that are pairs, and is made by prefixing *di*, *din*, *deau*, to the singular and uniting them." *eg. Dyulef*, two hands, *deuglyn*, two knees.

With the exception of the Genitive, all the cases in Cornish are formed as in English by prepositions. The inflected genitive of Cornish substantives furnishes the only trace of a declension in the Cymric class of language; and is at variance with the theory that cases were developed in Gaelic after the separation of the two families. Irish and Scottish Gaelic, and Manx have inflections in the declension of substantives. Welsh, Armorican and Cornish, with the exception of the genitive case which we are now considering, have no inflections. It is the conviction of Norris "that the Cymric was separated from the Gaelic before the division into Cornish and Welsh was effected, and that the Cornish is the representative of a language once current all over South Britain at least." The declension of Irish nouns and Gaelic nouns yet obtains. In the Cymric, the only remnant is the Cornish genitive. The argument which may be drawn from the continuous presence of inflection in Gaelic substantives, and from the absence of it in Cymric nouns, together with the softening and enfeebling of sounds and letters in words as they appear in Cymric, in comparison with the manner in which the same words are spelled and