

ARE THE KELTS OF KIMMERIAN ORIGIN?

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The Kimmerians lived north of the Black Sea, between the Don and the Danube. Traces of their existence in that region are still found in the names Eski-Krim (or old Krim), Crimea and Crim-Tartary. As late as the time of Herodotus, some of their old castles were still to be seen.

Homer, who wrote about the year 850 B.C., is the first writer who mentions the Kimmerians. He tells us "that Ulysses, in his wanderings, went to the farthest limit of the deeply-flowing ocean, that the race of the Kimmerians and their city were there, that they were covered with a cloud, and that the sun never beheld them with his beams." (*Odessey* XI., 13-22.) It is very plain that the great bard knew very little about them. Herodotus is the first writer who gives us a distinct account of them. The father of history visited the country which they once occupied, and gathered all the information about them that he could. About the year 671 B.C., a vast horde of Skythians crossed the Volga and took possession of the country of the Kimmerians. It is probable that a large number of the latter remained in their old home and became mixed up with the conquerors. Herodotus would lead us to suppose that all the Kimmerians who remained alive fled into Asia. That some of them fled into Western Asia is a matter of certainty; but that all of them fled into that region there is no ground for concluding.