



THE DOLMEN OF CRUCUNO, BRITTANY.

Portugal, and entering Africa at the Straits of Gibraltar. The Gauls, at some remote period, conquered these Iberian emigrants, and remained their masters until the Roman domination of the Gaul. In the fifth and sixth centuries Brittany was again overrun with swarms of emigrants from Britain. This part of France was then called Armorica, the Armorian tribes being of Celtic origin. Traces of the Iberian, Gaulish, Celtic, Roman and British occupation are still observable in Brittany.

Why did these Iberians, or later, Celts, erect so many granite monuments? In seeking for an answer one finds that even scholars disagree; indeed, according to a recent writer, "historians and archæologists of the present day do not profess to know nearly as much about the Druids or Celts as did those who wrote concerning them in a previous generation." Baring-Gould, one of the latest writers on the subject, is of the opinion that the religion of these remarkable people consisted of the worship of ancestors. The grave was to them the most sacred spot on earth, the centre of the tribe. The spirit of

the dead was supposed to animate the stones erected to their memory, and to expect that suitable sacrifices should be offered at their tombs. There were deities as well, such as the Goddess of Death, whose image is carved on certain sepulchres. Baring-Gould holds, therefore, that all these Brittany monuments had to do with the worship of the dead. Others think that, in addition, the lines or circles of standing stones marked the boundaries of sanctuary or proprietary rights.

The remnants of these ancient landmarks are of several kinds. The chief form is known as the dolemen (from *taal* a table and *men* a stone) —an unhewn table supported by several upright pillars, forming sepulchral chambers, which were family or tribal ossuaries. The dead were laid in them with their weapons of polished stone or bronze and with their personal ornaments, many specimens of which have been discovered. In some cases there are long lines of these rough boulders, constituting covered walks from sixty to eighty feet in length. A fine specimen of a single dolemen is the one