

Such documents we now possess, at least one of them for to day, and it is for us, old client of St. Anne—read *unworthy client*, if you wish,—a real pleasure to hold it at last and to let you read it.

But what is this precious document? It is, as you have just read at the heading of this article, a poem entitled *Lez-Breiz*, written in the old dialect of Cornouailles (Brittany). *Lez-Breiz* is the popular surname of one of the most famous heroes of the Middle Ages. The true name, the real hero, is the rival of Louis the Meek, Morvan, viscount of Léor, celebrated in the history of the IXth century, as one of the upholders of Breton independence.

Six complete fragments of the poem still remain. The first shows us *Lez Breiz* leaving his mother's house, at an age when the love of arms awakes unexpectedly in his soul. The second relates his return, the others, his battles and his death, or rather the strange turn of fortune which ended his history.

After having shown him victorious over a warrior whom the king of the Franks had entrusted the mission of killing him, then over a Moorish giant gifted with magic powers, the poet represents him fighting with the king himself. The latter is more fortunate than his emissaries. Conquered and wounded, *Lez Breiz* disappears from the world, but not without the hope of returning.

To what date must we ascribe the composition of this poem? Very probably to the first quarter of the NINTH CENTURY. Such was its popularity from its very first appearance that all Brittany learned it by heart, as of old Greece has learned the songs of Homer. From Brittany it soon passed over to Wales. Later on, during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, the greatest poets of the time, Christian of Troyes, in France, and Wolfram of Eschenbach, in Germany, disdained not to borrow fragments of it. Finally, a French poet of our own times, Brizeux, undertook one day to translate into French verse the character, the