

bestowed great attention on the language and antiquities of Cornwall, thus writes in his "Chips from a German Workshop" (Vol. 3, pp. 242, 247): "The Cornish language is no doubt extinct, if by extinct we mean that it is no longer spoken by the people. But in the names of towns, castles, rivers, mountains, fields, manors and families, Cornish lives on and probably will live on for many years to come. More than four hundred years of Roman occupation, more than six hundred years of Saxon and Danish sway, a Norman conquest, a Saxon reformation, and civil wars, have all passed over the land, but like a tree that may bend before a storm but is not to be rooted up; the language of the Celts of Cornwall has lived on in an unbroken continuity for at least two thousand years." Norris, the editor of the ancient *Cornish Drama*, is of opinion that the Cymric was separated from the Gaelic before the division into Cornish and Welsh was effected, and that Cornish is the representative of a language once current all over South Britain at least. The author of the article on "Celtic Literature" in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* writes that "among the British dialects, the most archaic, i. e., the one which best represents the British branch, is Cornish, which is the descendant of the speech of the unromanized Britons of England."

So very numerous are the Celtic words in the Topography of Cornwall, that, in his Glossary of Cornish names, Dr. Bannister asserts that there are 20,000 Celtic and other names. Owing to the difficulty as well as the uncertainty which must of necessity obtain in arriving at the true derivation of so many words, Bannister has with commendable modesty adopted as his motto the expressive language of Horace:—

"Si quid rectius istis
Candidus imperti: si non his utere mecum."

The names of the streams and rivers of Cornwall are to a large extent Gaelic, e. g. :—

Tamar, *tabh*, water; *mor*, large.

Camel, *cam*, crooked; *heyl*, *tuil*, flood.

Alan, *geal*, white; *an*, river, *Gealan*. There is a river of the same name, *Allan*, in three counties in Scotland.

Lynher, *linne*, pool; *hir sior*, long.

Looe, *ioch*, or *luath*, swift.