

tion of Wales by the Gaels previous to its settlement by the Cymry. The Gaelic for water, and hence river, is *uisge*. When the Romans heard it they Latinized it into *isca*. Now, a glance at the map of Great Britain during the Roman sway reveals to us how thickly dotted these *iscas* were. *Uisge* is our Exe (Exeter—*Isca Damnoniorum*), Esk, Ox (as in Oxford), Axe, and lastly, our *whisky*.

At the end of the sixth century the English had succeeded in planting themselves firmly on the soil of Great Britain, and the Brito-Welsh (Welsh is derived from the Anglo-Saxon, *wealh*, a foreigner, a slave) had been thrust to the extreme west, where they lay in unbroken line from the Clyde to the Land's End. They occupied the kingdom of *West Wales*, that is, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall (subsequently reduced to Cornwall); *North Wales*, almost identical with modern Wales (*Cymry*); *Cumbria*, comprising Lancashire, Cumberland, Westmoreland and a small part of Western Yorkshire, and *Strathclyde*, a triangular territory with its northern angle on the Clyde and its southern base (Galloway and Reged) formed by the coast-line of Wigtown, Kirkcudbright and Dumfries (*Gael*). To the north lay the unconquered Scots (*Gael*) and Picts. The English in their career of conquest caused British emigration to Armorica, where the Britons joined their Celtic kinsfolk, whom the Franks had not subdued. The new stream of immigrants gave to the land the name Brittany or Lesser Britain. Ireland was inhabited by the Gaels; also the Isle of Man, where the Manx dialect, akin to old Irish speech, is still spoken.

*Celtic Literature.—Its wandering nature.*—We leave the history of the Celt and examine the spirit of his Literature. Whether we take the Cymric or the Gaelic variety it matters little; the intellectual aspect is very much the same in either case.

It seems to me that the first great fact worthy of note is the nearness of Gael to Gael, of Welsh to Welsh. I refer not only to position, but also to similarity of thought, habit and perhaps one might add language. Irish and Scots (not the Lowland Anglo-Scots) are practically one; North Welsh, West Welsh, and the Welsh of Brittany are practically one. A hero is common property and he is claimed by the several divisions of Celts in turn, until the truth about him is hidden in obscurity. Arthur is the hero of all the Welsh; Finn of all the Irish and Scotch Gaels. The heroic story as its sped often had new features ascribed to it.