

ing the Basque provinces, Lapland and Finland, whose tongue belongs to the Turanian class of languages. But though the literary remains of the old vernacular are very scanty, yet embracing as they do a vocabulary of the language as it was spoken before the conquest, and another, (and also a grammar of it) as it was used about a century before its final extinction as a spoken language, philologists are able to assert with confidence that it belonged to the Aryan family, was Celtic, and very much resembled the language of Wales and Brittany." Though it is conceded that Cornish was at one time the spoken language of the centre and south of England, the literature of it that remains is very limited indeed. Norris, the editor and translator of the ancient Cornish Drama, asserts that "all the monuments of Cornish literature may be summed up in half a page."

There is first, Mount Calvary, *Pascon Agan Arluth*, which consists of 259 stanzas, each of which is a quatrain of four double lines in rhyme. The Pascon has recently been published by Whitley Stokes, together with an English translation. The oldest copy of the Pascon is supposed to belong to the fifteenth century.

Secondly, there is the *Ordinalia*, comprising nominally three Dramas; each named *Ordinale*, a word used to signify the order of church service or the service itself, and in this case expressing the sense entertained of the nature of the dramas.

The *Ordinalia* form a Dramatic Trilogy, consisting of three miracle plays; *The beginning of the World*, *the Passion*, and *the Resurrection of our Lord*. Those dramas are probably translations or adaptations of French miracle plays in the end of the fourteenth century. Mr. Edward Norris published in 1859 in two volumes, the *Ordinalia*, with an English translation on the opposite page; and with the title page, "The ancient Cornish Dramas."

The third relic of the Cornish language is a miracle play, which, founded on the life of a son of the Duke of Brittany, was written in 1504, and was found by Whitley Stokes among the Hengwrt Mss. at Penraith.

The fourth relic of Cornish Literature is the Creation of the World with Noah's Flood, written in 1611 by William Jordan.

The portions of Cornish prose composition that remain, consist of "two versions of the Lord's prayer, the Commandments, the Creed, and two indifferent versions of the first chapter of Genesis; a few songs, a short tale, a few proverbs, and a Cornish glossary explanatory of Latin words."