

THE BLOOD OF THE BRITONS

A thousand years before Christ, the ancient Iberian Aborigines of the Stone Age in England were overwhelmed by the Celtic Britons, the vanguard of the Aryan invasion of Central Europe, who overran and populated the country. During the first four centuries of the Christian Era the Britons were under the military sway of Imperial Rome, although but very little Roman blood was infused into the native population. The Roman legions were withdrawn in A.D. 429, and the island was gradually overspread by hords of Angles-Saxons, and Jutes, Gothic tribes from Sleswick in Germany, who in a century exterminated or expelled the majority of the Britons, reduced the remainder to serfdom and by A. D. 550, constituted over four-fifths of the blood of the population, and indelibly impressed on the country their language and characteristics which prevail in the English race to this day. For five centuries the Anglo-Saxons dominated England and while towards the close of their regime there was considerable Danish settlement in the country, yet in A. D. 1066 nearly three-fourths of the blood of the two million population was Anglo-Saxon. In this year the Norman Conquest extinguished the rule of the Anglo-Saxons in England and stripped them of all ownership of the land, reducing them to Artisans, laborers and serfs of the soil; although the Norman Invaders comprised but one-sixth of the population, the establishment of the feudal system securely founded a powerful Norman landed Aristocracy, which by the custom of Primogeniture has endured. After the Norman Conquest there was a sharp caste distinction between the Normans and Anglo-Saxons, but gradually a welding together of the general mass of the population took place, and from the great numerical preponderance of the Anglo-Saxons their tongue became the predominate element in the evolution of the English language.

At the time of the settlement (New England- 1620-40), of the blood of the English Nobility, the Norman strain was still preponderant; but it is considered that of the blood of the great mass of the then four million popu-

King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG
26 J 7 volume 26) Genealogy - Mackenzie -
Charts, etc. n.d., 1925-1958

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