

conquered the land along the east coast, and set up the kingdoms of East Anglia and Northumbria. Others advanced inland from the Humber and went into the middle of the land, whence they gradually drove the Welsh to the Severn Valley, and called their land the March or border land.

4. In this way Britain was conquered by the English, who drove the Britons or Welsh to the west, where they held Devon and Cornwall, Wales, and Strathclyde, or the country from the Clyde to the Mersey. But the English and the Welsh did not mix together, and the English learned from the Welsh none of the ways and customs which the Romans had taught them, but lived according to their own fashions which they brought with them from their own homes. They did not live in towns, as the Romans had taught the Britons to do, but were a farmer people, and lived together in villages, where were the homesteads of a few families. All the freemen had land given them when first they settled in England; and they lived at home and worked the land, except when the king and his Wise Men called them to go to war. All freemen had land, and those who had no land were slaves, and worked for others.

*Customs of
the English.*

5. The English were heathens, and learned nothing about Christianity from the Britons, whom they despised. But there was a wise and good Pope, Gregory I., who sent missionaries to England. It is said that he did so because he had seen in Rome some fair-haired boys for sale as slaves, and, marvelling at their beauty, asked who they were. When he was told that they were Angles, he said, 'They should be angels instead of Angles.' Hence he thought of the heathen English when he became Pope, and sent a company of monks, headed by one Augustine (597).

*Conversion
of the Eng-
lish, 597-627.*

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