

and the present state of my knowledge does not allow me to assert which of these connections is the most worthy of confidence.³ I may not even have discovered the precise relations in which the personages with whose history I deal stood to one another. Yet this, I think, will be found indisputable, that they were intimately related, and that *their descendants constituted an important element in the great Celtic family of nations.*

My starting point is the family to which Gilead belonged. This family I believe to have been that of Bethlehem. However, this for the present is immaterial. We read that Gilead had a sister, whose name was Hammoleketh, or, The Queen.⁴ This remarkable lady, for such her name would indicate her to have been, has no husband assigned her in the Bible, but the names of her three sons are given. These are Ishod or Ishchod, Abiezer, who is also called Ezer, and Mahalah. In seeking for a fuller genealogy of the family of Hammoleketh, I found it impossible to associate any of the Ezers of Chronicles with her second son, and for the first no connections appear. A geographical trace is, however, afforded for the identification of the former in a place in Abiezer of Palestine, called Ophrah.⁵ Now Ophrah is mentioned among the descendants of Othniel the Kenezite. His father is Meonothai, who seems to have married Hathath, the daughter and only child of Othniel. It is very probable, therefore, that Meonothai was the son of Ezer or Abiezer.⁶ A more interesting connection has been found for Mahalah. His name is identical, not only with that of the place called Meholah or Abel Meholah, which was Gilcadite, as was also Ezer, Jazer or Abiezer, but also with Mahol, the name of a sage mentioned in the book of Kings.⁷ There his three sons are spoken of, their names being Heman, Chalcol and Darda. These sons of Mahol again appear in the book of Chronicles among the descendants of Judah with slight changes, Calcol and Dara presenting variations illustrative of the mutable character of early language.⁸ Heman, Calcol and Dara are in Chronicles called sons of Zerach, an honour which they shared with

³ Eponyms like Ishod and Eshton, Moleketh and Molid, Abishur and Abiezer, Mamro and Zimran, Eschol and Chalcol, cannot fail to present great difficulties in the attempt to distinguish their traces in many languages.

⁴ 1 Chron. vii. 18.

⁵ Judges vi. 11.

⁶ 1 Chron. iv. 13, 14.

⁷ Judges vii. 23; Numb. xxi. 32; 1 Kings iv. 31.

⁸ 1 Chron. ii. 6.