

English counties." He further states, "that Mr. Davies Barrington made a journey into Cornwall in search of its remains in 1768, but could only find one person, Dolly Pentreath, an old fisherwoman at Mousehole, who could speak Cornish." "Notwithstanding our most assiduous inquiries," Warner adds, "we were unable to discover any one who spoke it at present, though from Whittaker's account, we have no doubt that it still lurked in some hole or corner, arrived to the last fluttering pulse of its existence, and doomed probably to give up the ghost without being again brought forward into public notice."

In 1860, Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte, in union with the Rev: John Garret, vicar of St. Paul, erected a monument in the churchyard at St. Paul, in memory of Dorothy Pentreath, "who died in 1778,—said to have been the last person who conversed in the ancient Cornish." Dr. Barrington remarks on the authority of Polwhele, that William Bodenner, who died about the year 1794, at a very advanced age, could converse "with old Dolly, and talked with her for hours together in Cornish." Whether Dolly Pentreath was the last person who spoke Cornish or not, it is admitted that towards the close of the last century Cornish ceased to be a spoken language. With the extinction of any language, so far as speaking it is concerned, very much of the distinctive peculiarities and affections of a people must die with the death of the language that served as a common bond of union, and by means of which, so long as it was spoken, the power of oblivion was kept at a distance. "The Cornish language is extinct," writes Max Muller, "if by extinct we mean that it is no longer spoken by the people. But in the names of towns, castles, mines, mountains, fields, manors and families and in a few of the technical terms of mining, husbandry and fishing, Cornish lives on, and probably will live on for many ages to come."

NEIL MACNISH.

*Cornwall, Ont.*