

By my grace to begin the world,
I say, "Heaven and earth
Be they created by my judgment."

A writer of the time of Henry VIII states "that in Cornwall is two speeches, the one in naughty English, and the other in Cornish speeche, and there be many men and women which cannot speak one word of Englyshe but all Cornyshe." In the reign of the same king, Devonshire and Cornish men protested against an attempt that was made to introduce a new Church Service composed in English, "And so we the Cornish men (whereof certain of us understand no English) utterly refuse this new English." In a book which was probably written in 1584 and not published till 1728, Norden, the author says, "of late the Cornish men have much conformed themselves to the use of the Englishe tongue. . . . In the west part of the country, the Cornishe tongue is most in use amongste the inhabitants. But it seemeth that in a few yeares the Cornishe language will be by little and little abandoned." In 1640, a certain Vicar was forced to administer the Sacrament in Cornish, because the aged people did not understand English. The Rector of Llandewednak preached his sermons in Cornish as late as 1678.

Tintagel, which is supposed to have been the birthplace and principal residence of the famous Arthur, was in Cornwall. So doleful are the changes which time has effected in the palace of Arthur, that it is no longer like the residence of

"That Arthur who
Shot through the lists at Camelot and charged
Before the eyes of ladies and of kings."

"The old order changeth, yielding place to the new." There is an old couplet in Carew's Survey:

"3y Tre, Pol and Pen,
You shall know the Cornishmen."

Camden has the couplet:

"By Tre, Ros, Pol, Lan, Caer and Pen,
You may know the most Cornishmen."

A melancholy interest attaches to Cornish among the Celtic languages, inasmuch as it ceased to be spoken a hundred years ago. In his account of a tour which he made through Cornwall in 1808, Warner remarks, "that with the disappearance of their language, the Cornish have lost almost all those provincial peculiarities in customs and amusements which distinguish them from the inhabitants of othe