

to have been first invented by the Egyptians. Cerevisia, its Latin name, is derived from Ceres, the goddess of corn, because beer is generally prepared from that grain. The Pannonians, who inhabited the banks of the Danube, made it from barley and millet. The Germans prepared it from barley and wheat. It is known, in the writings of the ancients, under various appellations. Ammianus called it "Sabaia," or "Liquor paupertinus," a poor weak liquor. Xenophon named it "*οινοσ Κριθινοσ*," or barley wine. Pliny, in allusion to the western nations intoxicating themselves with a liquor made from corn, states, that it is called Zythum in Egypt, Celia, or Cerea, in Spain, and Cerevisia, in Gaul. Dioscorides refers to it, under the name of *Κορρμη*, and states that it was used by the Egyptians, Spanish, and British.

"Mead," which consisted of honey and water, reduced to a state of fermentation, appears to have been a favorite beverage among the ancient Britons. The ancient Irish, who also used this drink, termed it "Miodh," or "Milion," that is, honey wine.

The solacing power of these beverages, and the esteem in which intoxicating drinks were held in those days of moral darkness and debauchery, will be sufficiently displayed in the following exclamation, by Ragner Lodhrog, the last king of Scandinavia, who was taken prisoner in a descent he made upon England, and put to a cruel death. In the agonies of torture he exclaimed:—"We fought with swords. I am still full of joy when I think of the banquet that is preparing for me in the palace of the gods. Soon—soon in the splendid abode of Odin, we shall drink out of the skull of our enemies. But it is time to cease. Odin hath sent his goddesses to conduct me to his palace,