

era in the literary world. But to Geoffry of Monmouth, who lived in the twelfth century, we are indebted, more than to all others, for unearthing this mine of literary interest. To that spring went Sir Thomas Mallory three centuries later; and, following him, Holinshed, Shakespeare and Sir Walter Scott., Sir Thomas Mallory was the biographer not only of a man but an age. The real Arthur was a man; the ideal was a descendant of the gods. He is the Ulysses of our Epic. Where there is no history the people create it; so the name of Arthur became a page on which the people wrote their traditions. But an epic without a Homer is a harp without strings. Chaucer, Spenser and Shakespeare did much to create an interest in our early traditions, but Tennyson is the real Homer of British literature. His "Idylls of the King" added another sovereign to the line of British monarchs. This we have sought to recognize by the most frequent quotations. The first edition of the "Age of Chivalry" was a splendid framework, without the embellishments of the poets. It lacked the touch of our modern Homer. Not only Tennyson, but Scott, Dryden, Matthew Arnold, Swinburne, Lowell, Bulwer, Schiller, Mrs. Browning and Miller, all have contributed their genius to these stories of chivalry and song. No one can read this edition of the "Age of Chivalry" without coming in contact with the best literature on the Arthurian legends. While retaining the old at the same time we have created a new work. The interest of these legends naturally centres about King Arthur and Queen Guinevere. In the case of Guinevere we have added a new section, and also enlarged the chapter that treats of Arthur and the passing of his kingdom. The names ranking next in interest are those of Launcelot and Elaine; here, too, we have written an additional section. At the close of the first part we have inserted a chapter on Mediæval Legends. St. George and Robin Hood attach to an importance scarcely surpassed by King Arthur himself. We have also drawn directly from Sir Thomas Mallory, especially in connection with the adventures of Sir Tor, Sir Pelenore, Sir Gawain, Sir Launcelot and Sir Galahad.

The close affinity between the original language of the Mabino-geon and the ancient Gaelic has induced us to add a Third Part, with seven additional Chapters, consisting largely of the writings of Ossian. Whatever may have been the origin of those strange