

any serious attention. The common derivation which is assigned to *Eirinn* (Ireland) is *I iar-fhonn*, the land of the western isle; or, the land of the island of the west. The letter I (island) occurs in Iona, Islay and many other topographical names. Max Müller gives in a footnote in his first series of lectures on the Science of Language, a very learned and elaborate disquisition by an eminent Irish scholar on the etymology of the word *Eirinn*. The most enthusiastic admirer of the Celtic race can scarcely maintain that the Celts of those far-off times had even an approximation to the philosophical ingenuity that is involved in the disquisition on the word *Eirinn*, to which allusion has just been made. I hold the opinion that the common explanation of *Eirinn* is correct, and that the disquisition to which Max Muller has given a place in his lectures is too learned to be of any practical value.

Various derivations of the word *Breatum* have been advanced. *Is Breatunnach mise*, I am a Briton. *Rugadh mise ann an Breatum*. I was born in Britain. *Breatum* and *Breatunnach* are, therefore, Gaelic words, and are very commonly employed. Some one has contended that *Breatum* is a compound of *brath*, extensive, and *in*, an island; and that, therefore, the signification accordingly is an extensive island. The presence of a fertile imagination is so unmistakably manifest in that interpretation of *Breatum* that no importance can be attached to it. An ingenious explanation of *Breatum* has been given by Mr. Clark in his "Caledonian Bardis," where he contends that the components of the word in question are *Braigh*, top, and *tomn*, waves. The argument whereby it is sought to defend that interpretation is very ingenious: "That Britain was at first peopled from the opposite coast of Gaul is a rational hypothesis, and accordingly it has been adopted by the most eminent historians. As Britain was within sight of Gaul, the inhabitants would bestow on it some name before they crossed the channel, is a supposition not altogether improbable. Ingenuity could certainly suggest no term more significant of the appearance of Britain from France, viewing it over the convexity which the globe forms in the breadth of some part of the channel, than the *land on the top of the waves*." To overthrow the fanciful interpretation that Britain means the *land on the top of the waves*, it is sufficient to consider that there is no syllable to correspond with *land* in *Breatum*; and that in the last syllable *um* there is evidently present the same root which forms the termination of *Albion*, *Eirinn*, *Sasum*. The word *Breatum* has also been resolved into *Breac Innis*, the variegated island. I find that Prydain is the name of the first legendary King of Britain, and that from him the British Isles have taken the appellation, *Ynis Prydain*. To contend that *Breatum* had its origin in Breton, the name of that portion of Gaul from which the Celts emigrated to Great Britain, is merely to thrust the difficulty aside, and not to explain it at all. Professor Rhys, of Oxford, has in recent years advanced another interpretation of *Breatum*. He asserts that when the Romans came to Britain they learned the name *Britannia* or *Brettann*, which the Brythones gave themselves. He is of opinion that *Britanni* and *Brettani* are regarded as of the same origin as the Welsh *brith*, spotted, parti-coloured—feminine *braith*: and that there can be found in them a reference to the painting or tattooing the body, already alluded to more than once. "It would appear," he writes, "that the word *Brythan* and its congeners mean a clothed or cloth-clad people. There is no reason why the name should not be treated as exclusively belonging in Britain to the non-Goidelic branch of the Celts of the second invasion. But some time later, there arrived another Celtic people with another Celtic language, which was probably, to all intents and purposes, the same as that of the Gaul. These later invaders called themselves Brittones, and seized on the best portions of Britain, driving the Goidelic Celts before them to the west and north of the island." It seems, however, to be impossible to explain the term *Breatum* in a manner that can be regarded as altogether satisfactory.

The Picts and Scots are by common consent admitted to have played a prominent and restless part in the early annals of Great Britain. In a paper which I prepared for the Canadian Institute last session, I entered somewhat fully into the