

formance of Cornish plays is extant than that of Richard Carew whose survey of Cornwall was printed in 1602. "The *guare*, (gaire) miracle in English and miracle-play," he says, "is a kind of Interlude, compiled in Cornish out of some Scripture history with that grossness which accompanies the Roman *vetus comedia*. For representing it, they raise an earthen amphitheatre in some open field. . . . The country-people flock from all sides many miles off to hear and see it." The plays which they acted in these amphitheatres writes Borlase, "were in the Cornish language; the subject taken from Scripture history, and called Guirimir (guair mirkle). They were composed for begetting in the common people a right notion of the Scriptures, and were acted in the memory of some not long since deceased." A Cornish gentleman wrote shortly after the Restoration, that the disuse of the Guirremears (play shows and spectacles) was one cause of the decay of the Cornish language, solemnized as they were, not without show of devotion, in open and spacious downs of great capacity, encompassed about with earthen banks and in some parts stonework of largeness enough to contain thousands, the shapes of which remain in many places at this day, though the use of them is long since gone."

Mr. Norris, the editor of the Cornish Drama, justly remarks in his preface "that the three dramas which he translated constitute the most important relic of the Celtic dialect that was spoken in Cornwall." Mr. Norris translated each line as he transcribed it, and printed his version opposite the text. He states that he made the translation like a school exercise, word for word, without attending in any way to the English idiom. To show what the character of these Dramas is, it will be sufficient to cite the first stanza of *The Ordinale de origine mundi*.

En Tas a nef y'm gylwyr
 Formyer pup tr. a vyt gvyrys,
 Onan ha try on yn gvyr;
 On Tas ha'n map ha'u Spyrys:
 Ha hethyv Me a thesyr,
 Dre ov grath dalleth an beys:
 Y lanaraf nef ha tyr
 Bethens formyys orth ov brya.
 The Father of Heaven am I called,
 Thè Creator of all things that are made
 One and three we are in truth,
 The Father and the Son and the Spirit.
 And this day I desire