

Normans and Celts rather than the German invaders, not only laid the corner stone, but were the chief builders of the British Empire. A people incapable of learning other people's language, are never ideal Empire builders. Welsh, Irish, Scotch and French can and do learn English—but how many English of German origin can speak Welsh, Irish or Scotch, Gaelic or French. Now let us hear further John Richard Green's account of the conquest of Britain by the German tribes of Angles, Saxons and Jutes—daylight robbers. He is quite honest about it. He does not seem to be the least shocked by the horrible deeds which he records.

"The Victory of Aylesford did more than give East Kent to the English, it struck the key note of the English conquest of Britain. The massacre which followed the battle indicated at once the merciless nature of the struggle which had commenced. While the wealthiest Kentish farmers fled in panic overseas to Armorica or Brittany, the poorer Britons took refuge in hill and forest, until hunger drove them from their lurking places to be cut down or enslaved by their conquerors. It was in vain that some sought shelter between the walls of their churches, for the rage of the English seems to have burnt fiercest against the Clergy. The Priests were slain at the altar—the churches fired—the peasants driven by the flames to fling themselves on a ring of pitiless steel. It is a picture such as this which distinguishes the conquest of Gaul by the Frank, of Italy by the Lombard proved little more than a forcible settlement of the one conqueror or other among tributary subjects, who were destined in a long course of ages to absorb their conquerors. French is the tongue not of the Franks but of the Gaul whom he overcame and the fair hair of the Lombard is all but unknown in Lombardy. But the English conquest was a sheer dispossession and slaughter of the people whom the English conquered. In all the world struggle between Rome and the German invaders, no land was so stubbornly fought for or so hardly won. The conquest of Britain was indeed only partly wrought out after two centuries of bitter warfare. But it was just through the long and merciless nature of the struggle, that of all the German conquests this proved the most thorough and complete. At its close Britain had become England, a land that is not of Britons, but of Englishmen. It is possible that a few of the vanquished people may have lingered as slaves around the homesteads of their English conquerors, and a few of the household words (if these were not brought