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1911

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U.S.A.

Briton or Breton ?

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HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THAT

**The English and French
in Canada**

ARE ONE SINGLE RACE ?

Have the same common parentage ?

Were 800 years ago the same stock ?

Used then OFFICIALLY the dual languages
French and English ?

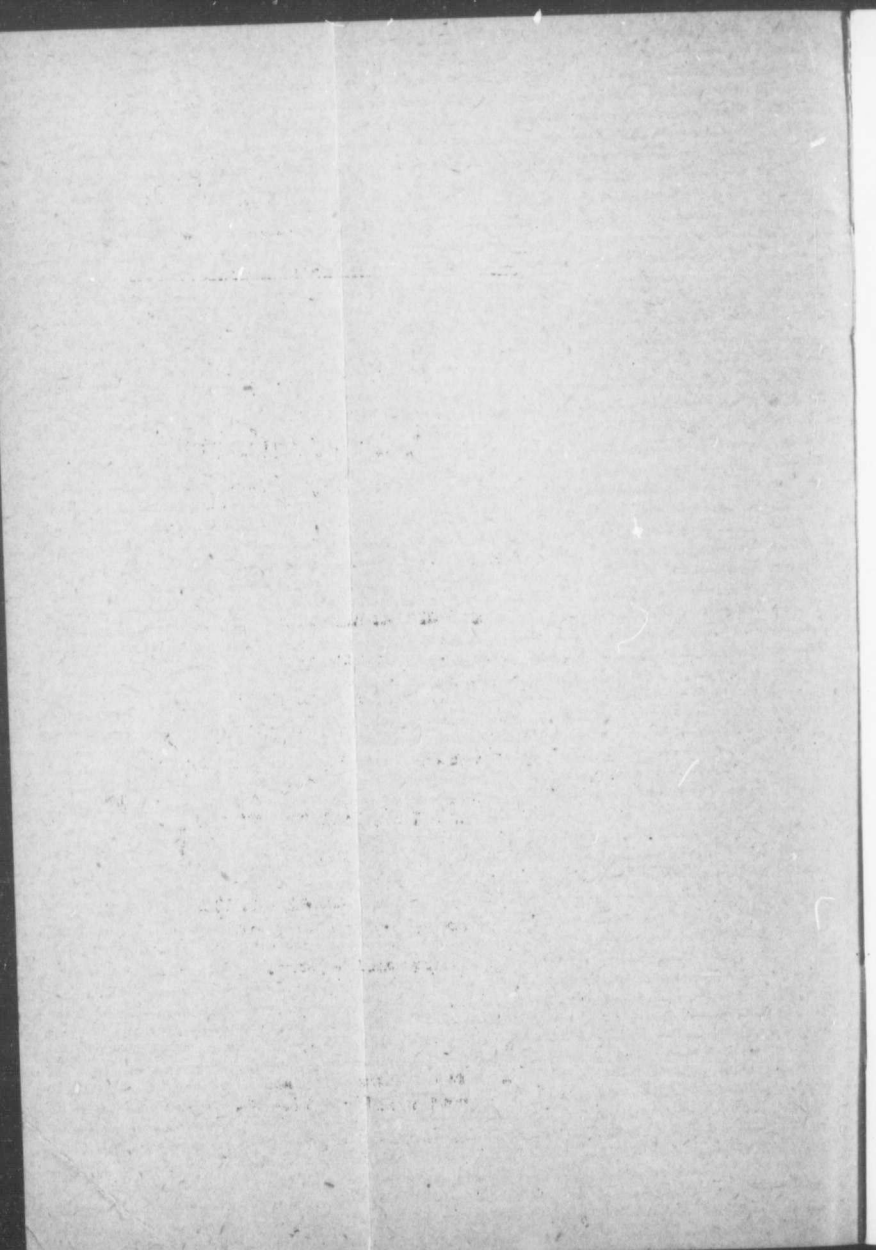
Under the same Norman Kings ?

WERE SEPARATED BY THE FORTUNES
OF WAR ;

And are here AGAIN UNITED as one of the
Daughters of Britannia—

“ A Nation and a company of Nations ? ”

“ The more thou searcheth the more
thou shalt marvel.”—4 Esdras 2 : 26.



Briton or Breton ?



WAY back two thousand years and more ago, before the Christian era, occurred the grand *trek*, the great Migration of those tribes from which sprung our present complex British peoples.

Westward came the Cymbri, accompanied by their old Assyrian neighbors, the Teutoni. So also came the Saka-suni, the Sakae or Deci, the Ga-el, the An-ga-el, the Danaoi, the Go-thei, all travelling from their Asian home by way of the Caucasus and Southern Russia, pushed always forward by still others in the rear, until the human avalanche arrived at the North Sea and the English Channel. Here they came in contact with the more ancient people of Brithaim, who had preceded them by sea from the Mediterranean, and now inhabiting the coast land of France and England.

Now, under their tribal chiefs the more adventurous of the newcomers crossed to England, and the history of the next few centuries is the story of their varying success in conquering and colonizing Britain and the Channel shore, tribe against tribe till at last they again amalgamate.

All of these but the Teutoni were of one blood, and

with a common language; and are traced back to the valleys of Media where they incorporated into their ancient Saka-suni idioms many of the words of their Persian neighbors, now the present Germans: and then in the great *trek* they took along with them a band of these native Teutoni, these latter using in language many similar words but a different idiom and linguistic sentence shape.

Centuries had passed in the long march, and the DAN-ube, the DAN-au, the Rho-DAN-us, show the footprint of the Dane, until he arrives at DAN-mark. Here, with the rest of his kindred, he spreads out on the sea-front and up through Scan-DAN-avia, until, in the sixth century, he has multiplied to a formidable host.

BRITANNIA RULES THE WAVES.

Sea-kings and pirates under the "rampant wolf," their standard, with their audacious war-galleys, ravage the whole Atlantic shore even as far south as Gibraltar. As Danes, Northmen, Norsemen, or later Normans, their very name spelled terror.

Under Guthrum, Hengist and Horsa, in the ninth century, the tribe that retained the special name of Dane gained a foothold in England, and became in short time assimilated with their brethren who had preceded them of the other tribes.

But not ALL of these our common ancestors had passed across. A residue remained for the work Providence yet had in hand for them: a remnant in whom perhaps more than in any other the united peoples of all Canada are deeply interested.

The story of the West Coast of France, of Normandy and Brittany, is the story of England itself. There in Caen is the tomb of our great king William the Conqueror. A fragment of castle wall marks the name of the Bruce, a tiny little village preserves the name of the Percy. As Green the historian says: "The very look of the country and its people seem familiar to us: the peasant in his blouse and cap recalls the build and features of the small English farmer; the fields about Caen with their dense hedge-rows, their elms; their apple orchards, are the very picture of an English countryside."

"Rolf the Ganger, or Walker, a pirate leader like Guthrum or Hasting, had wrested the land on either side the mouth of Seine from the French king, Charles the Simple, at the moment when Alfred's children, Edward and Ethelfled, were beginning their conquest of the English Danelagh."

THE DANE IN BRETTONY.

"The treaty in which France purchased peace by their session of the coast was a close imitation of the

peace of Wedmore. Rolf, like Guthrum, was baptized, received the king's daughter in marriage and became his vassal for the territory which now took the name of 'the Northman's land,' or Normandy. But vassalage and the new faith sat alike lightly on the Dane. No such ties of blood and speech tended to unite the Northman with the French among whom he settled along the Seine, as *united him to the Englishmen* among whom he settled along the Humber. William Longsword, the son of Rolf, though wavering toward France and Christianity, remained pagan and Dane in heart: he called in a Danish colony to occupy his conquest of the Cotentin, the peninsula which runs out from St. Michael's Mount to the cliffs of Cherbourg."

"Yet, in the end, the same forces which merged the Dane in the Englishman, told even more powerfully on the Dane in France. No race has ever shown a greater power of absorbing all the nobler characteristics of the peoples with whom they came in contact, or of infusing their own energy into them. During the long reign of Duke Richard the Fearless, the son of William Longsword, heathen Norman pirates became French Christians, and feudal at heart."

It is thus the coast of Normandy and Brittany became peopled with the descendant of the Dane, just as

in same fashion their kindred settled down in the east and southern parts of England.

THE FRANK A STRANGER.

The Franks, a powerful people of a different race, occupied the interior of what we now call France; and still further east came the Teutons. Between the Norman and France was almost incessant warfare; in fact, even to this day, the yoke of France chafes on the shoulder of the Breton, and centuries have failed to empty every drop of Norman blood and yield a willing acquiescence in the vassalage.

Nothing was more natural then than that, when the succession to the British crown came into question with Harold's usurpation, many in England should look to the Duke of Normandy, William the Great, or the Conqueror, as the lawful successor of Knut, the Dane, and see in him one of their own race.

So, in 1066, after a stubborn resistance by Harold, the people of Britain, of Brettony, and of Normandy, became united under one common king, and him one of a self-same blood. Following the Duke of Normandy across the Channel came in his train many of his nobles, to whom was parcelled out the manors of those of the English Earls who had resisted. But not only nobles, but many tradesmen and artificers followed from

the continent and settled down about London and throughout the smaller towns.

Thus, the British realm embraced both sides of the Channel ; that part now England, known as Britannia major, that on the continent as Britannia minor; and thus also, for several hundred years, to a large extent in England the use of the French tongue prevailed among the aristocracy, and the old Saxon among the common people.

SEVERED FOR A TIME.

But, as the power of the Franks increased, they pushed westward toward the sea. First, the Duchy of Anjou, the territory of the House of Henry of Plantagenet, fell into French hands, and, under the Edwards, the British frontier retired. By the treaty of Bretigny, 1360, Edward the Third waived his claim to the Duchy of Normandy and Brittany, until, at last, the Red Cross flag was providentially pushed back across the Channel ; where, safe, the nucleus of our mighty empire might grow and gather strength, till the time was ripe for it again to expand and spread, and stretch out to the utmost limits of the ends of earth.

At this date, the reign of the Plantagenets, we may begin the period when our Norman and Breton kinsmen still remaining on the continent came under the sway of the Franks and their king—the king of France. True,

a host of them in later years crossed over and settled in southern England, though many lingered.

But a still later exodus was to follow.

Yet further west than Britain a new world had been discovered. In 1506 (less than two hundred and fifty years after Edward, the king jointly of Britain and Brettony, was forced to retire before the powerful Frank) vessels from the Norman coast found their way to Newfoundland, then to the easternmost point of our Dominion, and which they named Cape Breton, after their own homeland.

Cartier, de la Roche, Pontgrave, Chauvin, Champlain, DeMonts, and the One Hundred Associates, like our kindred of to-day with the roving Norse blood in their veins turned ever westward their ships, until soon a settlement of large dimensions was made in Canada and Acadia of people gathered from the Breton and Normandy coasts. Once more the descendant of the ancient Dane has lengthened his cords, and sought out other fields to conquer.

AGAIN UNITED.

Then came the English-speaking Britons, Danes also, and under their standard-bearer, a Wolfe in person not in emblem, compelled a share in the fortunes of the new land.

Once more, as in old Britain and Brettony, Saxon and Norman language hold official recognition, and again a kindred people are united under a kingly successor to their Duke of Normandy. The plains of Abraham become the fit complement of the field of Hastings, serving as both have done to unite a wide-scattered kindred. How small availed the strategy of Philip and John of France to have acquired the soil of Normandy and Brettony, only to have the old Norman people sifted and drawn, or driven from out his dominions, again to combine beneath the ancient banner of their ancestral rulers, and the descendants of their illustrious kings.

Fitting it is that a new and unsullied continent, first discovered by our Norse ancestors, should be the free and happy home of that once more united people—the Northmen of the Western Hemisphere. So, bone to its bone, regathers the kingdom as of yore, an Empire now, world-wide under God's providence and their stout arm; and, though Briton and Breton may mark the distinction between the Saxon or the Norman tongue, yet once again they join—*One Flag, One King, One Country.*

