

tir, a promontory or projecting land), Pennycuik (*Pen-y-gwig*, the head of the thicket), and many other corrupted Welsh names. The wide area over which this language was spoken is indeed proved by the ancient Welsh literature, for the old heroic poem of the Gododin was composed by Aneurin, a native of the ancient kingdom of Strath Clwyd, which stretched through the west country beyond Dumbarton over Cumberland as far south as Chester.¹ In Mr. Skene's opinion, it records a battle, fought on the shore of the Firth of Forth some time between A.D. 586 and 603,² while others, and I incline to this view, suppose the battle to have taken place at or near Catterick in Yorkshire.

However this may be, it is certain that the British Celts, when the Romans invaded our country, overspread the whole of Great Britain south of the Firths of Forth and Clyde. By-and-by they mixed with their conquerors, but the Romans, as far as blood is concerned, seem to have played an unimportant part in our country. They may have intermarried to some extent with the natives, but they occupied our country very much in the manner that we now occupy India. Coming as military colonists, they went away as soon as their time of service was up, and finally abandoned the country altogether.

Partly before, but chiefly after, the retirement of the Romans, invasions took place by the Teutonic

¹ See 'Freeman's History of the Norman Conquest,' vol. i. p. 35.

² In the learned work by Mr. Skene, the author with great force and probability shows good reason, not only for the actual existence of Arthur, but he even traces his march through the country and shows where his battles were fought, ending with the crowning victory at Badon or Bouden Hill, in Linlithgowshire.