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On the Celtic Languages in the British Isles; a Statistical Survey.

E. G. Ravenstein, Esq., F.R.G.S., &c.

Journal of the Statistical Society. Vol. XLII. Year 1879. Pp. 579-636

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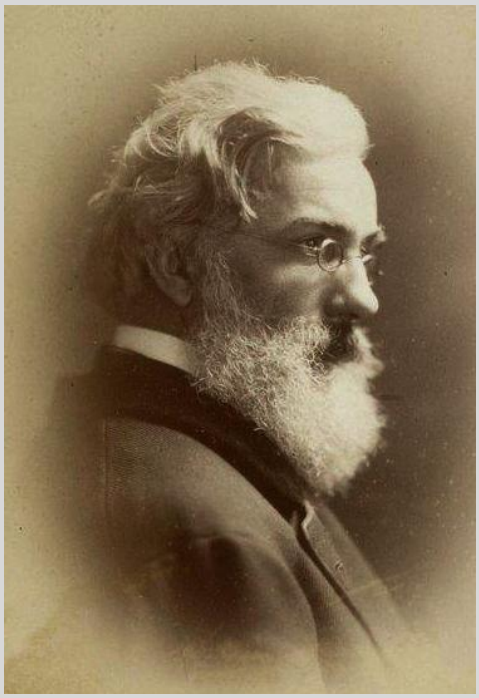
Creuwyd y tudalen IAH: 18-11-2022

Wikipedia 18-11-2022: Ernst Georg Ravenstein (Ernest George) FRSGS (30 December 1834 – 13 March 1913, aged 78) was a German-English geographer and cartographer.

Ravenstein was born in Frankfurt am Main (Kingdom of Prussia), to a family of cartographers. He spent most of his adult life in England in a house at Lorn Road, Lambeth, but died in Hoffheim am Taunus (German Empire).



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1879.

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September, 1879.

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(delwedd J6739) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (Mynegai)

On the Celtic Languages *in the* British Isles; *a* Statistical Survey. *By* E. G. Ravenstein, Esq., F.R.G.S., *&c.**

[Read before the Statistical Society, 15th April, 1879.]

Of all subjects of statistical inquiry, that relating to the nationality of the inhabitants of one and the same State, is one of the most interesting. In some of the great empires of the continent it is of vital importance. Until the beginning of this century, a process of amalgamation and consolidation had been going on in most countries of Europe, the weaker nationalities adopting the languages of their more powerful neighbours. But the spirit of nationality is abroad now. In its name have been carried on some of the most tremendous wars our age has witnessed, and even the smaller national fractions are loudly asserting their existence. The reign of one universal language appears to be more remote than ever before.

It appeared to me that an inquiry into the geographical distribution and numerical strength of the non-English speaking inhabitants of the British Isles might prove of interest to the members of the Statistical Society. Hence this paper. Fortunately, a question of language is not likely in these islands to lead to civil discord or dismemberment. No one dreams of ousting English from the place of vantage it holds, and even though the Irish Home Rulers succeeded in setting up a parliament of their own, its proceedings would have to be carried on in English. Yet, in spite of the comparative insignificance of the Celtic tongues which survive amongst us, this question of race and language abounds in interest. It has been strangely neglected. The census returns for Ireland distinguish between Irish and English speaking inhabitants, but no official notice has ever been taken of the existence of persons in Wales and the Highlands of Scotland able to speak Welsh or Gaelic. Nor, as far as I am aware, has an inquiry of the nature of mine ever been instituted before. The "Statistical Accounts" of Scotland contain a considerable amount of information on the language spoken by the inhabitants, but this information is of a

* Linguistic maps on a larger scale, illustrating this paper, have, by desire of a few gentlemen interested in this question, been published separately. The set includes two maps of Ireland, one of Wales, and one of Scotland. The maps are not sold separately. Copies can be procured from any bookseller, or through Messrs. Trübner. Price 5*s*.

(delwedd J6740) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 579)

most fragmentary nature, besides referring to a period now far behind us.

More recently, Mr. James A. H. Murray has traced the linguistic boundary between Gaelic and Lowland Scotch.* His inquiries, however, were confined to the border districts. As to Wales, nothing whatever appears to have been done except that Mr. Walter Davies, in a work published in Welsh, described the linguistic boundary such as it existed about forty years ago. As far as Scotland and Wales are concerned, I mainly rely upon information procured by myself. I sent out no less than 1,200 circulars, addressed to registrars of births, clergymen, schoolmasters, and others, likely to be intimately acquainted with the linguistic condition of their neighbourhood, besides carrying on a voluminous correspondence with gentlemen whom, in the course of my inquiry, I found to take a special interest in the subject I proposed to deal with. I am happy to say that fully one-half of my circulars met with a satisfactory response. Some villages, however, proved singularly obdurate to my appeals; but when the notabilities of the place, appealed to in turn, failed to furnish the information I wanted, I addressed myself as a last resource to the leading innkeeper, and generally obtained what I required. Of course, the information collected in this manner is not always trustworthy. There may exist a bias in favour of Gaelic or of English, which unconsciously colours all statements made with respect to them. The expressions used by some of my informants are occasionally vague, and in not a few instances authorities disagree as regards the same locality—not indeed as to the continued use of Gaelic or Welsh, but as to the number of persons still able to converse in it. In all these cases I have exercised my judgment to the best of my ability, and I venture to hope that the results now presented will prove, on further inquiry, to be a close approximation to the truth.

Four Celtic languages are at present spoken in the British Isles—three of which belong to the northern, Gaelic or Gadhelic, and one to the southern or Cymraig, branch. The former are Irish Gaelic, Scotch Gaelic, and Manx. The Cymraig branch, since the extinction of Cornish, is now represented only by the Welsh.†

* J. A. H. Murray, The Dialects of the Southern Counties of Scotland, with a Linguistic Map. London ("Transactions Philosophical Society," 1873).

† Up to the end of the fifteenth century Cornish was spoken as far as the Tamar. The Reformation led to its extinction, as it also led to the extinction of Celtic in Strathclyde. In 1707 English was spoken throughout Cornwall, but Cornish still survived in twenty-three parishes. In 1791 only one person able to speak Cornish was alive. (See Henry Jenner, in "Philosophical Society's Transactions," 1873-74, p. 165.)

(delwedd J6741) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 580)

Ireland.

I begin my survey with Ireland, chiefly because the census returns enable me to follow the vicissitudes of Irish since 1851, and to place before you, in an authoritative manner, some of the phenomena which attend the lingering death of a language retreating before a more powerful neighbour. I am quite aware that the completeness of the census returns has been questioned. An address prepared by the council of the "Society for the Preser-"vation of the Irish Language,"* asserts that the "figures shown "by the last census returns are by no means to be received as the "total, as the council are aware that the returns do not include the "entire number of people who speak Irish, since it is well known "that many persons, for want of education in the vernacular, and "of due appreciation of its value, do not admit their knowledge of "the language, and that many more who know it were never "questioned on the subject at the census taking." No doubt, the figures given in the census are not absolutely correct, more especially as regards persons able to speak a little Irish in addition to English. Upon the whole, however, I believe the census to reflect very fairly the linguistic condition of Ireland. If persons able to speak a little Irish have been omitted, the omissions of those able to speak a little English are in all likelihood more numerous. The experience I acquired in connection with my own circulars shows the difficulty of eliciting a satisfactory reply, even though the queries be formulated with much care. In many cases persons were stated to understand English without being able to speak it, which is quite contrary, I believe, to the experience of those who learn foreign languages from books. The council fails to support its assertion by facts or cogent arguments, and I shall therefore accept the figures as they appear in the census returns.

The time when Irish was the language of the bulk of the population of Ireland is not perhaps so far distant as might be imagined from the limited area it occupies at present. Our map, showing the distribution of the Irish speaking population in 1851, enables us to see at a glance that there were few counties even at so recent a period in which the old language of the country had altogether died out. Were I in a position to construct a similar map for the beginning of the century, most of the districts now covered with a pale tint, to indicate the paucity of Irish speaking Irishmen, would stand forth prominently in the deepest red. The localities where at the present day Irish continues to be the language of the

* To Mr. J. J. MacSweeney, the Secretary of that Society, I am indebted for valuable information.

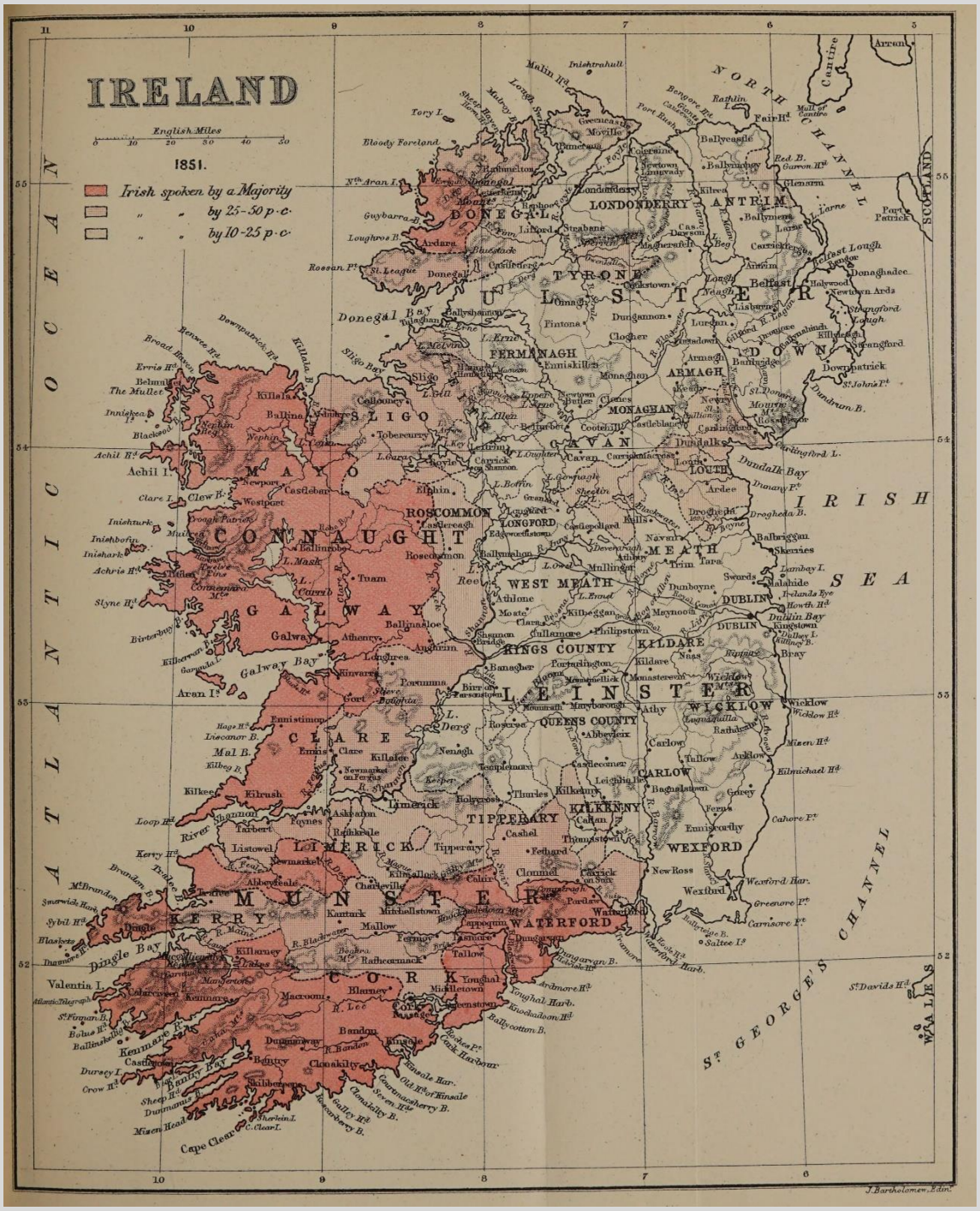
(delwedd J6742) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 581)

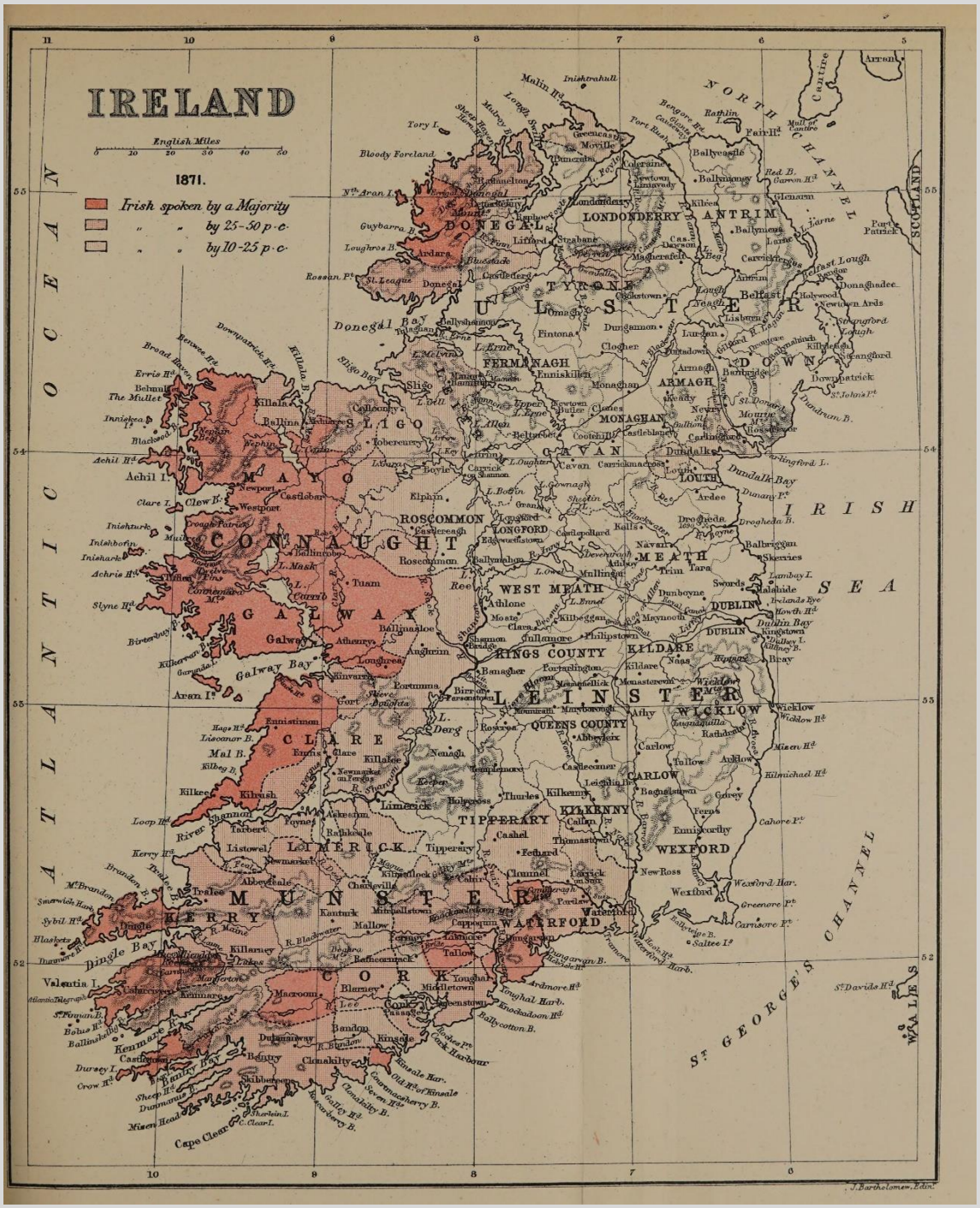
majority, are remote, their area is comparatively limited, and their population less dense than in the more fertile English speaking districts of the island. Even during the twenty years which elapsed between the censuses of 1851 and 1871 they have shrunk considerably. In the former year they had an area of 9,325 square miles, with 1,328,938 inhabitants, of whom 920,856 or 69·3 per cent. spoke Irish. In 1871 their area was 5,293 square miles, their population 545,658 souls, and the number of persons able to speak Irish only 343,297 or 62·9 per cent. Embracing all baronies and towns in which at least 25 per cent. of the population spoke Irish, we have, in 1851, an area of 15,714 square miles, with 2,471,214 inhabitants, of whom 1,348,768 or 54·6 per cent. spoke Irish; in 1871 an area of 10,529 square miles, with 1,305,977 inhabitants, of whom 644,678 or 49·4 per cent. spoke Irish. A glance at our maps shows that the baronies in which Irish was spoken by between 25 and 50 per cent. of the inhabitants are contiguous to those in which it is the language of the majority, with one remarkable exception. A dark patch will be observed, on the map, for 1851, occupying an area of 289 square miles, in Louth, Armagh and Monaghan, and extending from Carlingford and Dundalk on the Irish Sea, westward to the borders of Cavan. In 1851 this district had 102,185 inhabitants, of whom 27,952 or 27·3 per cent. spoke Irish; in 1871 its population was 87,992, of whom only 9,788 or 11·0 per cent. spoke Irish; and the next census will probably show the Irish language to have become nearly extinct. The Irish population of the baronies bordering upon this last refuge of the Celt in eastern Ireland, is comparatively numerous, and the time is not perhaps very remote, when a band of Irish speaking districts extended thence westward into Sligo and Donegal, thus separating the Scotch and English plantations in Ulster from the territories occupied by Normans and Saxons in Leinster. That band was first broken through in the direction of the great highway which joins Armagh to Monaghan, Clones, Belturbet and Longford.

Before proceeding to a consideration of the great Irish speaking regions of the west, I desire to draw your attention to the baronies of Lower Glenarm and Cary, in north-western Antrim. The Gaelic dialect spoken there is identical with that of Kintyre, in Argyleshire, with which up to the present time a constant intercourse is kept up, but it is dying out rapidly. In 1851 it was still spoken by 2,674 persons, or 9·6 per cent. of the total population, but in 1871 the number speaking it had dwindled down to 301, and by this time it is probably very nearly extinct.

We now turn to the west, where Irish is still the language of a considerable portion, and in many districts even of a majority of the inhabitants.

(delwedd J6743) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 582)


IRELAND
English Miles
1851.
Irish spoken by a Majority
" " by 25-50 p.c.
" " by 10-25 p.c.
ATLANTIC OCEAN
NORTH CHANNEL
IRISH SEA
ST GEORGE'S CHANNEL
SCOTLAND
WALES
ULSTER
CONNAUGHT
LEINSTER
MUNSTER
DONEGAL
LONDONDERRY
ANTRIM
TYRONE
FERMANAGH
ARMAGH
DOWN
MONAGHAN
CAVAN
LOUGH
SLIGO
MAYO
ROSCOMMON
LONGFORD
MEATH
WEST MEATH
DUBLIN
GALWAY
KINGS COUNTY
KILDARE
WICKLOW
QUEENS COUNTY
CARLOW
CLARE
TIPPERARY
KILKENNY
WEXFORD
LIMERICK
WATERFORD
KERRY
CORK
Donegal Bay
Galway Bay
Dingle Bay
Bantry Bay
Dundalk Bay
Belfast Lough
Lough Foyle
Lough Swilly
Lough Erne
Lough Neagh
Lough Derg
Lough Ree
Lough Corrib
Lough Mask
Lough Conn
Lough Gill
Lough Allen
Lough Sheelin
Lough Ennell
Lough Owel
Lough Derravaragh
Lough Gowna
Lough Oughter
Lough Melvin
Lough Macnean
Lough Arrow
Lough Key
Lough Gara
Lough Carra
Lough Mask
Lough Corrib



(delwedd J6745) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 582c)

The pronounced Irish portion of Donegal embraces the baronies of Kilmacrenan, Boylagh, and Banagh, lying between Lough Swilly and Donegal Bay; but only in Boylagh is Irish the language of the majority. Irish maintains its ground there more firmly than in any other part of Ireland, and the proportion of persons able to speak it has actually increased to a slight extent between 1851 and 1871. In the former year 47·4 per cent., in the latter 48·8 per cent. of the population spoke Irish. This relative increase, however, is by no means due to a spread of Irish among persons who originally spoke only English, but rather to the fact of migration and emigration being more frequent amongst persons having a knowledge of English.

The second great Irish district extends from Sligo Bay in the north to the estuary of the Severn in the south. It has shrunk very considerably between 1851 and 1871. In the former year Irish was spoken by at least one-fourth of the inhabitants throughout Sligo, Mayo, Galway, and Clare, only excepting the small barony of Clonmacnowen, in the north-western part of Leitrim, and in a portion of Roscommon. The territory within which the Irish speaking inhabitants were in a majority extended without a break from Killala Bay to the estuary of the Shannon. In 1871, Irish was found to have lost much ground. In 1851 it was spoken by 607,753 persons throughout this district (60·8 per cent. of the population), in 1871 by only 601,120 persons, or 55·6 per cent., being a relative decrease of no less than 8·5 per cent. The most intensely Irish parts of this district were, in 1871, the Aran Islands, Connemara, and Joyce's country, in the county of Galway, and the barony of Erris, in that of Mayo.

The south-western Irish speaking district extended in 1851 from the estuary of the Severn to Waterford and the lower Bann. It included the whole of the counties of Kerry, Cork, and Waterford, with the exception of the cities of Cork and Waterford, as well as western and south-eastern Limerick, southern Tipperary, and southern Kilkenny. The districts in which Irish was the language of the majority included the greater portion of Kerry and the whole of south-western Cork, nearly all Waterford, and portions of adjoining counties. In 1851 Irish was spoken by 655,611 persons, or by 52·5 per cent. of the population, whilst in 1871 only 253,458 persons, or 43·0 per cent. of the population were able to express themselves in it, being a relative decrease of no less than 18·1 per cent. In the former of the two years Irish was the language of a majority in two extensive districts, of which the one embraced nearly all Kerry and the south-western portion of Cork, whilst the other included nearly all Waterford, with some of the neighbouring baronies in Cork, Tipperary, and Limerick. At that time a portion

(delwedd J6746) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 583)

of Kerry, including the peninsula bounded by Dingle Bay and the Kenmare River, was as intensely Irish as any part of Mayo. In 1871 there remained only eight baronies out of thirty in which Irish was spoken by a majority of the inhabitants, viz., the baronies of Corkaguiney, northern Dunkerran, and Iveragh, in Kelly; the baronies of Bear, West Muskerry, and Kinnatalloon, in Cork, and the baronies of Decies within Drum, and of Glenahiry, on the upper Suir, in Waterford. Numerical details of the distribution of the Irish speaking population are given in Tables I and II, whilst its geographical distribution can be gathered more readily from our maps than from a lengthy description of linguistic boundaries. The general results are presented in the following set of tables:—

1. *Geographical Distribution of the Irish Speaking Population of Ireland.*

	1851.					
	Area. Square Miles.	Proportion per Cent.	Total Population.	Proportion per Cent.	Persons Speaking Irish.	Proportion per Cent.
Districts in which Irish is spoken by a majority	9,325	29	1,328,938	22	920,856	60
Districts in which it is spoken by 25 to 50 per cent	6,389	20	1,142,276	18	427,912	28
Districts in which it is spoken by less than 25 per cent. of the inhabitants	16,817	51	4,103,064	60	175,518	12
Total, Ireland.....	32,531	100	6,574,278	100	1,524,286	100

	1871.					
	Area. Square Miles.	Proportion per Cent.	Total Population.	Proportion per Cent.	Persons Speaking Irish.	Proportion per Cent.
Districts in which Irish is spoken by a majority.....	5,293	16	545,658	10	343,297	42
Districts in which it is spoken by 25 to 50 per cent.....	5,236	14	760,289	14	291,281	37
Districts in which it is spoken by less than 25 per cent. of the inhabitants	22,002	70	4,106,430	76	173,197	21
Total, Ireland.....	32,531	100	5,412,377	100	817,875	100

(delwedd J6747) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 584)

2. *Parts of Counties in which Irish was Spoken by a Majority of the Inhabitants.*

	1851.				1871.			
	Area, Square Miles.	Total Population.	Persons Speaking Irish.	Proportion per Cent.	Area, Square Miles.	Total Population.	Persons Speaking Irish.	Proportion per Cent.
DONEGAL	244	21,642	16,326	75·6	244	21,988	15,931	72·4
WESTERN DISTRICT.								
Mayo	1,907	231,289	158,768	68·6	1,521	163,517	99,980	61·1
Roscommon	128	22,026	11,465	52·1	—	—	—	—
Galway, county	1,933	218,950	175,976	80·4	1,828	153,137	105,597	68·9
„ town	38	34,146	22,855	67·0	—	—	—	—
Clare	668	116,532	89,035	76·4	549	68,559	40,424	58·9
Total	4,674	622,943	458,099	73·5	3,898	385,213	246,001	63·9
SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICT.								
Cork	1,779	310,328	198,377	63·9	492	52,407	31,988	61·0
Kerry	1,410	150,743	106,476	70·1	577	49,711	37,208	74·9
Limerick	395	73,109	41,455	56·7	—	—	—	—
Tipperary	183	32,823	21,585	65·8	—	—	—	—
Waterford	640	117,350	78,540	69·9	80	36,329	22,269	61·4
Total	4,407	684,353	446,434	65·2	1,149	138,447	91,465	66·1
Grand total	9,325	1,328,938	920,856	—	5,293	545,658	343,297	62·9

3. *Parts of Counties in which Irish was Spoken by more than 25, but less than 50 per Cent. of the Inhabitants.*

DISTRICT OF DUNDALK.								
Louth	107	39,000	10,612	27·2	—	—	—	—
Armagh	77	31,664	9,229	29·1	—	—	—	—
Monaghan	105	31,521	8,111	25·7	—	—	—	—
Total	289	102,185	27,952	27·3	—	—	—	—
DONEGAL	762	99,572	41,129	41·3	762	84,473	36,028	42·7
WESTERN DISTRICT.								
Leitrim	172	28,561	8,948	31·3	—	—	—	—
Sligo	721	128,515	49,228	38·3	189	48,023	16,156	33·7
Roscommon	545	26,033	11,446	44·0	36	3,388	1,034	30·4
Mayo	224	43,210	21,310	49·3	386	82,513	38,981	47·2
Galway, county	421	54,974	20,761	37·7	204	38,834	18,485	47·6
„ town	—	—	—	—	38	19,843	9,363	47·2
Clare	625	95,908	37,961	39·6	218	32,306	9,241	28·6
Total	2,708	377,201	149,654	39·7	1,071	224,907	93,260	41·5

(delwedd J6748) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 585)

3. *Parts of Counties in which Irish was Spoken—Contd.*

SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICT.	1851. Area, Square Miles.	1851. Total Population.	1851. Persons Speaking Irish.	1851. Proportion per Cent.	1871. Area, Square Miles.	1871. Total Population.	1871. Persons Speaking Irish.	1871. Proportion per Cent.
Limerick	317	61,105	23,547	—	151	21,351	7,178	33·7
Kerry	443	87,511	40,022	—	1,136	123,181	40,173	32·6
Cork	1,107	253,248	97,657	—	1,366	233,611	86,141	36·9
Waterford	77	20,586	8,229	—	567	50,713	20,028	39·5
Tipperary	409	100,202	26,858	—	183	22,053	8,473	38·5
Kilkenny	277	40,666	12,864	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2,630	563,318	209,177	—	3,403	450,909	161,993	35·9
Grand total	6,389	1,142,276	427,912	—	5,236	760,389	291,281	38·3

A comparison of the census returns for 1871 with those for 1851 enables us to obtain a very clear notion of the manner in which a language fallen into disuse amongst educated classes dies a lingering death in the face of a more vigorous usurping tongue. In 1851 Irish (or Irish in addition to English) was spoken by 1,524,286 persons, or by 23·3 per cent. of the population; in 1861 it was spoken by 1,105,536 persons (19·1 per cent.); in 1871 by 817,875 persons (15·3 per cent.). The absolute decrease, therefore, amounted to 27·4 per cent. between 1851 and 1861, and to 26·2 per cent. between the latter year and 1871. This almost looks as if Irish were maintaining its ground more firmly than formerly. Such, however, is not the case, for if we take account of the general decrease of the population, we find that between 1851 and 1861 the relative decrease of Irish amounted to 18 per cent. and increased to 21 per cent. for the years 1861-71.

Amongst females Irish loses ground at a slightly more rapid rate than amongst the males. On the other hand, the number of females who in addition to Irish speak also English, is smaller than that of the males similarly circumstanced.* Two agencies,

	1851.	Proportion per Cent. of Total Female or Male Population.	1871.	Proportion per Cent. of Total Female or Male Population.
* Number of females who spoke Irish only	183,538	5·5	60,515	2·2
Number of females who spoke Irish and English	600,702	17·8	349,718	12·6
Number of males who spoke Irish only	136,063	4·2	43,047	1·6
Number of males who spoke Irish and English	603,982	19·0	364,595	13·8

(delwedd J6749) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 586)

operating in contrary directions, account for this fact. Young Irishwomen who migrate into English speaking districts soon forget their native language, but their sisters, who remain at home, leading a life of greater seclusion than the men, retain it all the more tenaciously. Hence I do not hesitate to say it is woman who will have the last word in Irish, as she had it in Cornish, and is supposed to have it in all tongues.

After what has been stated it cannot be doubted that Irish is on the decrease, but opinions may still differ with respect to the agencies to which this decrease must be ascribed. Some may feel inclined to look to emigration as the main cause, and if they were able to show that the Irish speaking natives of Ireland emigrate in larger numbers than their English speaking countrymen, they would have proved their case. The emigration returns, however, warrant no such conclusion. The number of emigrants sent forth from Connaught and Munster, the two strongholds of the Irish, are not as numerous, proportionately, as those from the English provinces of Leinster and Ulster. I have shown elsewhere* that the local element in the population is strongest in western Ireland, that is, in those parts of the country where Irish most firmly retains its hold upon the people, and that migration sets towards the east, the places of emigrants being occupied by migrants from the west. The children of these migrants forget the language of their parents, and hence it is this migration, and not emigration, which weakens the Irish element. The loss is positive, but it does not affect the intensely Irish districts which sent forth these migrants. In these districts it is the national schools in which only English is taught, which have proved the great extirpators of Irish. The potency of their influence may be judged from the fact that in 1841 only 47 per cent. of all persons five years of age and upwards were able to read, a proportion which in 1871 had been raised to 67 per cent. This influence of English schools joined to the necessity of acquiring a knowledge of English for purposes of business, sufficiently accounts for the decay of Irish even in those parts of the country where it remains to the present day the language of the majority. We may judge of the rate at which Irish is being forgotten by the younger generation from the following tabular statement, which classifies the general and Irish speaking population of Ireland according to ages:—

In 1851 23·3 per cent. of the total female population spoke Irish or Irish and English; in 1871 only 14·8 per cent., being a decrease of 36·5. Amongst males the decrease only amounted to 33·6 per cent.

* "The Birthplaces of the People and the Laws of Migration." London, 1876. (With seven maps.)

(delwedd J6750) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 587)

Age.	General Population, Proportion per Cent.		Irish Speaking Population, Proportion per Cent.	
	1851.	1871.	1851.	1871.
Under 10 years	22·2	24·7	11·0	7·4
10 and under 20 years	26·2	22·0	25·0	17·0
20 „ 30 „	16·2	14·7	17·4	14·2
30 „ 40 „	11·2	11·0	13·6	13·7
40 „ 50 „	9·7	8·7	12·8	12·8
50 and upwards	14·5	18·9	20·2	34·9
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

Between 1851 and 1871 the proportionate number of children speaking Irish was diminished to the extent of 33 per cent. And this decrease is by no means confined to districts in which English is the preponderating tongue. In the county of Galway in 1871, 25·9 per cent., or more than one-fourth of the general population consisted of children less than ten years of age, whilst amongst the Irish speaking population their number only amounted to 12·7 per cent. There, too, Irish is being rapidly forgotten, and we can foresee the time when the language will be extinct.

The decrease varies in different parts of the country, and there are even a few baronies in which Irish has relatively increased since 1851. But it would be absurd to conclude from this that Irish is reviving. As might have been expected, the relative decrease is least in those counties which in 1851 had a majority of Irish speaking inhabitants. In Mayo, the most remote of all, it only amounted to 14 per cent., in Galway to 18 per cent., in Waterford to 30 per cent., in Clare to 34 per cent., and in Cork to 36 per cent. This is approximately the order in which these counties would rank with respect to their Irish speaking population. In all these cases the absolute is far in excess of the relative decrease.

One county there is in which the Irish speaking population exhibits a slight relative increase since 1851, although it too exhibits an absolute decrease, like all other counties. This is Donegal. The increase, however, is clearly due to an excess of emigration amongst its English speaking inhabitants.

Amongst the eight baronies which between 1851 and 1871 exhibited a relative increase amongst their Irish speaking inhabitants, there are five in which the Irish speaking decreased at a slower rate than the English speaking population.*

In one barony, Glenahiry, in Waterford, the general population

* These baronies are Tirhugh in Donegal, Callan in Kilkenny, Bear and Cork in Cork, and Loughrea in Galway.

(delwedd J6751) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 588)

decreased, but the Irish speaking population increased, owing no doubt to immigration from neighbouring baronies. In two baronies, Costello in Mayo, and Kilculliheen, which is virtually a suburb of Waterford, the Irish speaking increased at a more rapid rate than the general population. I do not hesitate to say that in none of the above cases are we justified in assuming that Irish has gained ground among persons who previously did not speak it. The relative or absolute increase of persons speaking Irish is solely due to an excess of English emigration, or to migration of Irish from neighbouring baronies.

Of agencies calculated to encourage the use of the Irish language, there existed none until quite recently. The Government of the country was English, the school was English, and so was the pulpit. But as we have said before, the spirit of nationality is abroad. It has roused a number of Irish gentlemen into activity, and they have founded a "Society for the Preservation of the Irish "Language." The Society desires to encourage a familiar use of Irish, to promote the formation of classes for teaching it, to encourage modern Irish literature, and above all to advocate its teaching in the national schools. This latter object has been attained more readily and with less opposition than was anticipated. The commissioners of national education promptly complied with a request that Irish should be placed on the programme of the national schools and on a footing equal to Latin or Greek.* Up to the present time, "even in places where few or none of the adults "know a word of English, the language of the national schools, "the books, the teaching, &c., are entirely English," and Mr. P. C. Keenan, resident commissioner of national education, is undoubtedly right when, from an educational point of view, he insists upon the desirability of teaching Irish children Irish, and English through its medium.

Thus far the Society's undertakings have been fairly successful. It numbers 293 members, and has local associations in twenty-one towns of Ireland, at Sheffield, Leeds, and Wigan, and in the United States. Irish classes, attended by over a thousand pupils, have been established in connection with thirty-six national schools, and Irish is also taught at numerous colleges. In America, we are told, "thousands are devoting themselves to the study of "Gaelic, and classes, consisting of three and four hundred, have "been formed in American cities." The elementary books of the Society meet with a ready sale, 26,000 copies of the "First Irish "Book," and 12,000 of a "Second Irish Book" having been disposed of since 1877. At the same time we are bound to direct

* A fee of 10*s.* will be allowed for each pupil who passes in a programme of examination laid down by the commissioners.

(delwedd J6752) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 589)

attention to the fact that probably not 5,000 persons throughout Ireland are able to read an Irish book, that not a single Irish newspaper is being published, and that the translations of the "Iliad" and Moore's "Melodies," made by the Most Rev. John MacHale, however valuable, are not works published to meet a popular demand. Even the elementary books published by the Society are adapted only for the use of persons acquainted with English.

Time alone can show whether the efforts put forth by the Society are able to stay the decay of the Irish language, but whatever its success—and we sincerely desire to see it successful—the use of English will become more universal from day to day, in proportion as education makes progress. In 1851 there lived in Ireland as many as 319,602 persons (136,063 males, 183,539 females) who had no knowledge of English; in 1871 only 103,562 (43,047 males, 60,515 females), a vast decrease, even though we bear in mind the decrease of the entire population of the country. In most parts of Ireland a traveller would hardly notice that the inhabitants speak anything but English. Only in the more remote western districts would the fact of the existence of a Celtic speaking population force itself upon his attention. Of counties in which more than 1 per cent. of the inhabitants are unable to express themselves more or less fluently in English, there are only eight—Cork, Clare, Kerry, Waterford, Donegal, Galway, Mayo and Sligo. There is not a barony, and probably not a village, in which English is not understood by a majority of the inhabitants. Of districts in which over 15 per cent. of the inhabitants do not know English, there are four, and their entire population, in 1871, only amounted to 160,325 souls. These districts are:—

1. The barony of Boylagh, in the most remote and sterile portion of Donegal, where 30·1 per cent. do not know English.

2. The barony of Erris, a wild region in the north-western corner of Mayo, where 17·8 per cent. do not speak English.

3. A portion of Western Galway, including the Aran Islands, the most Irish region of all Ireland, in Connaught, Joyce's country, with its famous peasantry, and Connemara to the west of Lough Corrib, and the barony of Clare to the east of that lake. In Joyce's country nearly 40 per cent. do not know English. The vicinity of these intensely Irish baronies has influenced the linguistic features of the town of Galway, where English is less known than in any other town of Ireland, 12·3 per cent. of the population not being able to speak it.

4. The baronies of Dunkerran and Iveragh, in Kerry, between Dingle Bay and Kenmare River, and to the east of the Lakes of Killarney, a district famous for its picturesque scenery, where 18·8 per cent. are unable to express themselves in English.

(delwedd J6753) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 590)

How widely English is known in Ireland may be gathered from the following table, from which it appears that 87·6 per cent. of the entire population reside in districts to all intents and purposes English, and that the population of these districts is denser than that of those in which Irish still maintains its grounds :—

Districts in which English is Spoken by	Area Square Miles.	Proportion per Cent.	Total Population, 1871.	Proportion per Cent.	Unable to Speak English.	Proportion per Cent.	Inhabitants to a Square Mile.
Over 95 per cent. of all inhabitants	26,794	82·4	4,793,986	87·6	24,002	0·5	175
90 and under 95 per cent.	2,712	8·3	338,755	6·3	25,535	7·6	125
85 „ 90 „	957	2·9	119,311	2·2	15,892	13·3	124
80 „ 85 „	1,256	3·9	99,422	1·8	17,944	18·1	79
Less than 80	812	2·5	60,903	1·1	20,189	33·1	75
	32,531	100·0	5,412,377	100·0	103,562	1·9	166

In conclusion, I might be expected to say something about the Irish residing outside Ireland in other parts of the British Islands. We learn from the census returns that the natives of Ireland in 1871 numbered 566,540 in England and Wales, 207,770 in Scotland, and 4,328 in Man and the Channel Islands. Including the children of Irish parents, the Irish population of Great Britain probably exceeded 2 millions, but of this vast number very few spoke Irish—probably not 50,000. There are no churches the services of which are conducted in Irish, and the branch associations of the Irish society mentioned above will first have to prove whether they possess the vitality undoubtedly possessed by similar associations existing amongst the Welsh of Lancashire and other parts of England.

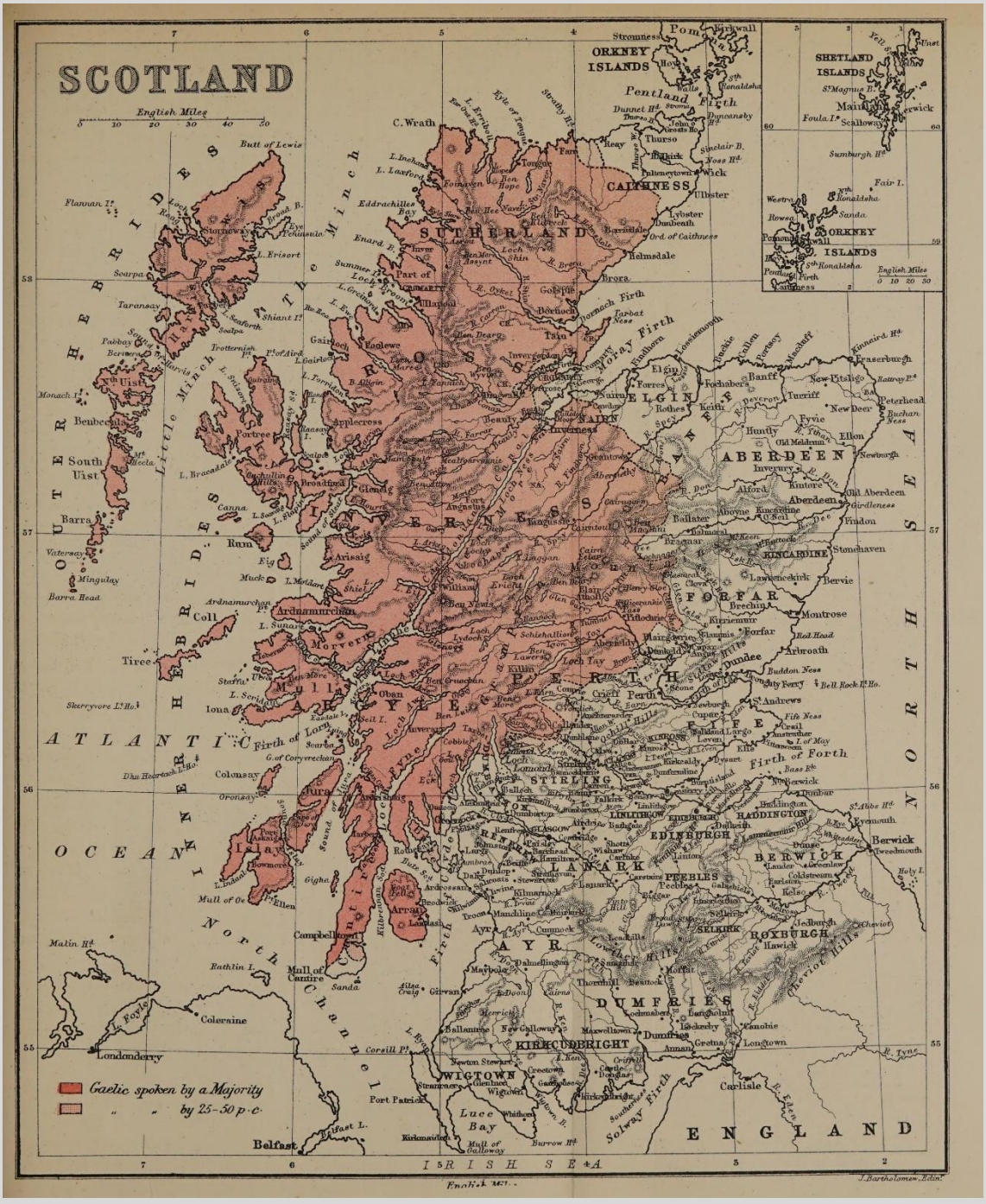
The Isle of Man.

In what I say on the Isle of Man, I entrust myself to the guidance of Mr. Henry Jenner, who satisfactorily dealt with the subject a few years ago.* The Manx Gaelic holds a middle place between Irish and Scotch Gaelic, but inclines considerably to the latter. About the beginning of the seventeenth century the wealthier inhabitants adopted the English language and English customs, and towards the end of that century the "gentry were "more willing to discourse in English than in their own "language."† By the beginning of the eighteenth century every parish had its English school, but two-thirds of the inhabitants did not understand English. The decline of Manx has been rapid

* The Manx Language, "Transactions Philological Society," 1875, p. 172 (with map).

† Camden's "Britannia" (1695).

(delwedd J6754) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 591)



(delwedd J6755) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 591b)

since the beginning of the nineteenth century, and the only parish church in which a Manx sermon can now be heard is that of Kirk Arbory in the south-western part of the island. The Wesleyans, however, occasionally use Manx in their religious services.

The island in 1871 had 54,042 inhabitants, of whom 190 spoke only Manx and 13,600 Manx and English.* That is to say, 25·6 per cent. of the population still understood Manx. There are four parishes in which Manx is spoken by a majority. Three of these (Bride, Lizayre and Jurby) are in the north of the island; one (Arbory) is in the south-west. These four parishes have an area of 65 square miles and 5,518 inhabitants, of whom 4,263 or 77·5 per cent. speak Manx. The chief strongholds of Manx at the present day are the valleys diverging from the Snaefell and Pen-y-Pot, in the centre of the northern part of the island; portions of Kirk Bride and Kirk Andrews, in the extreme north-west; Dalby, in the parish of Kirk Patrick, on the western slope of the island; and Cregneesh, near its extreme southern point. In the parishes of Santon, Marown and German, which stretch across the southern part of the island, very little but English is heard.

Scotland.

The traditional Highland boundary of 1745 commenced at Dumbarton and swept thence to the town of Nairn, passing through Doune, Crieff, Little Dunkeld, Blairgowrie, Western Forfarshire, Upper Aberdeenshire, Tomintoul and Inveravon. I shall show that the actual limit of the Highland districts in which Gaelic remains the language of the majority lies in many localities far to the north or west of that old line, whilst in others it still coincides, and in a few instances even overlaps it. The linguistic boundary which Mr. Murray laid down in 1870† included all districts in which Gaelic was then spoken by any of the natives, regardless of the fact that English might have been the language of the majority of the people. My line will only include those districts in which Gaelic continues the language of the majority, and the differences between it and that laid down by Mr. Murray, which in some instances are very considerable, are therefore not ascribable to a rapid decay of Gaelic during the short interval which has elapsed since he instituted his inquiries.

The districts to which I shall have frequent occasions to refer are registrar's districts, which coincide in most instances, but not in all, with the parishes. My counties, however, are counties proper and not registration counties.

* I make an estimate for the town of Douglas, which Mr. Jenner excluded from his account.

† "Philological Society's Transactions," 1873.

(delwedd J6756) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 592)

CAITHNESS is English in its north-eastern portion, Gaelic in its south-western. About 1834 Gaelic was spoken generally throughout Latheron, less so in Falkirk, and it retained some hold upon Reay. At the present day it may almost be said to have disappeared from Reay, is spoken by no more than 37 per cent. of the inhabitants of Falkirk, but maintains its grounds in Latheron, to some extent through Highland immigration. Mr. Murray draws his linguistic boundary along the water of Forss, to the west of Thurso, through Falkirk, and thence to Bruan Head, near Lybster on the east coast. I am inclined to think that a line beginning at a point on the Sutherland boundary, five miles from the coast, and running thence nearly directly to Lybster, will be found to include all those districts where Gaelic is spoken by a majority. In former times the burn of East Clyth marked the linguistic boundary on the east coast, but English now predominates far to the south of it, more especially near the coast. Outside the line indicated by me Gaelic is spoken only by a few old people and by immigrants whose children, however, never acquire it. There are no Gaelic schools in Caithness, but Gaelic services are held in four or five churches. The language, nevertheless, dies but slowly, more especially in Latheron. English is spoken by all.*

SUTHERLAND is Gaelic throughout, with the exception of the lower part of Strath Halladale, in the parish of Reay, where English has gained the upper hand. The number of persons able to speak Gaelic varies between 70 and 100 per cent. in different districts, and is highest in the interior and along the north and west coasts. Along the east coast much English is spoken, and Gaelic is said in a few instances to lose ground. In the streets of Helmsdale, for instance, little but English is heard now, which also preponderates in all public affairs at Golspie. There are very few schools in which Gaelic is taught, but in religious services it maintains its ground, and where it has been discarded by the Established Church, it is still cherished by the Free Kirk. There is certainly no parish or village in which Gaelic may not be heard from the pulpit. Amongst the persons speaking only English are many sheep farmers and their shepherds, who immigrated from the south. Their children, in many instances, are said to learn Gaelic.

ROSS AND CROMARTY may be conveniently considered under three heads, the statistics for which are as follows :—

* My returns are as follows :—Reay (including Sutherland portion), 2,331 inhabitants, of whom 12 speak Gaelic only, and 500 Gaelic and English. Falkirk, 2,664 inhabitants, of whom 1,000 speak Gaelic. Latheron, 7,400 inhabitants, of whom 6,600 speak Gaelic.

(delwedd J6757) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 593)

	Population.	Persons able to Speak Gaelic only.	Persons able to Speak Gaelic and English.	Proportion per Cent. Speaking Gaelic.
English District or Black Isle	5,449	—	190	3·5
Remainder of Eastern Watershed	34,935	1,870	24,240	74·9
Western Coast	17,088	4,900	11,580	97·0
Lewis Island.....	23,483	4,480	14,840	82·2
Total	80,955	11,350	50,850	76·9

The three English districts of Black Isle include Cromarty, Rosemarkie, and Avoch, which are said to have been settled in the days of James VI by people from the south. The Gaelic element there is represented by immigrants, for whose accommodation a few Gaelic services are held.

In the remainder of the eastern slope of Ross-shire, Gaelic is more or less quickly losing ground. My summarised statistics show this, no less than the information which I have obtained for particular districts. In the town of Dingwall a minority only speak Gaelic (700 out of a population of 2,125), and the children of Gaelic parents do not as a rule acquire their mother-tongue. In the village of Evanton, lower down on the Cromarty Firth, the Gaels are likewise in a minority, and so they are in the district of Knockbairn (2,155 inhabitants, 900 Gaels), which adjoins the English district of Avoch. In fact, all along the coast Gaelic appears to have lost ground fast, except in Tarbert, where 2,000 out of a population of 2,182 still speak it. In the district of Tain, where about the year 1831 it was spoken by nearly 99 per cent. of the inhabitants, it is spoken now by only 84·4 per cent.* Further away from the coast Gaelic is more universal, and is said to maintain its ground. In churches its use is still general throughout, but it is not taught in a single school, as far as I know.

Far different along the west coast. There Gaelic is almost unanimously declared to maintain its ground, and even the children of English immigrants, of whom there is a considerable number, are said to acquire and to prefer it. Gaelic is not only the language of the Church, it is also taught in many of the schools. In Lochbroom, however, where many southern farmers have settled, and which is much frequented by sportsmen, it is said to die. But even there it is spoken by 92 per cent. of the inhabitants.

* In 1831 the district had 3,078 inhabitants, of whom 162 spoke Gaelic, 2,881 Gaelic and English. My own information tells me that now, out of 3,221 inhabitants 600 speak Gaelic, 2,100 Gaelic and English. Of course immigration has influenced these proportions. Amongst the young Gaelic is said to be dying fast.

(delwedd J6758) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 594)

In Lewis, Gaelic is spoken by a vast majority, and the proportion would be higher even than along the west coast if it were not for the town of Stornoway, where two-thirds of the inhabitants are said to "have" no Gaelic. Landward it maintains its ground, and is taught in some of the schools, thirteen of which, attended by 650 children, are supported by the Gaelic School Society at Edinburgh. In the interior of the island English sermons are delivered only occasionally.

INVERNESS-SHIRE I propose to deal with according to its geographical regions, as in the case of the preceding county. The statistics for these are as follows:—

	Population.	Persons able to Speak Gaelic only.	Persons able to Speak Gaelic and English.	Proportion per Cent. of Persons able to Speak Gaelic.
Beauly Basin	6,877	760	5,700	93·9
Inverness and Loch Ness	27,641	790	14,810	56·5
Strath Nairn	2,778	100	2,050	77·3
Strath Dearn	980	20	960	100·0
Strath Spey and Badenoch	7,557	1,870	5,550	98·1
South-western Slope	7,292	2,200	3,960	84·5
Skye	18,151	7,980	9,950	98·8
Other Hebrides	16,255	10,800	5,400	99·7
Total	87,531	24,520	48,380	83·3

The basin of the Beauly is still thoroughly Gaelic, except, perhaps, in the village of Beauly at its mouth; but Gaelic, as elsewhere, is said to be coming into disfavour with the younger generation.

The second region exhibits a high proportion of persons not able to speak Gaelic, but this is due entirely to the existence of the large and prosperous city of Inverness, the capital of the Gaelic Highlands, although Gaelic is understood only by a minority, and Gaelic religious services are not much in vogue. The immediate environs, however, are inhabited by Gaelic speaking men, and so is the neighbouring district of Petty, but not that of Ardersier, at the entrance of the loch, which is almost wholly English.* The existence of Fort George within it accounts for this fact. The interior of the county is almost wholly Gaelic, but English, nevertheless, preponderates at a few spots in Glenmore, much frequented by tourists; and in all places which have some contact with the outer world English is given the preference by the young. Gaelic is taught in a few schools, and is used in most religious services.

* Ardersier, 1,284 inhabitants (6 Gaelic, 56 Gaelic and English).

(delwedd J6759) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 595)

Straths Nairn and Dearn, at the back of the county of Nairn, are still wholly Gaelic, but a knowledge of English is very universal, and the children are said to talk it better than their mother tongue.

In Strath Spey and Badenoch Gaelic is still spoken by a vast majority; but it is stated to lose ground slowly. There are a few schools in which it is taught to a limited extent, and most religious services are conducted in it. The proportion of Gaelic speaking inhabitants here varies between 95 and 100 per cent.; but even in the latter case I am told that children prefer to talk English.

In that portion of the south-western slope of the county which debouches upon Loch Eil and adjoins Fort William, a good deal of English is spoken, though mainly by English shepherds on the large farms, and Gaelic is said to lose ground "slowly." In Glenelg, however, on the open Atlantic, Gaelic, as along nearly the whole of the west coast, maintains its ground. In the schools it is employed merely to explain the meaning of English words.

In the Isle of Skye nearly everybody speaks Gaelic, but English gains "slowly but surely." A few Gaelic schools still exist there. There are thousands who do not know English.

The Western Hebrides, finally, are the great stronghold of the Gaels, and there, rather than in the recesses of the Highlands, will Gaelic linger longest. About two-thirds of the inhabitants do not understand English, and even the children of immigrants acquire Gaelic. Nevertheless, instruction in most schools is carried on in English, to the utter neglect of Gaelic, and in the end English must prevail.

ELGIN has still Gaelic speaking natives, but the language is rapidly becoming extinct. A line drawn from the knock of Brae Moray to the Spey, below Cromdale, and thence to the watershed between the Spey and the Avon, embraces a district of 57 square miles, with about 3,000 inhabitants, of whom a majority speak Gaelic. In Inverallan,* as well as in Cromdale, it is only the adults who speak Gaelic. The children do not learn it, and its use is "strictly prohibited in the schools," although still employed in religious services. Gaelic is therefore sure to die out at an early date. Outside the boundary indicated Gaelic is only spoken by immigrants. About seventy years ago it was common in Knockando; now it is never heard there. In Dallas, too, it is now quite extinct. In the town of Forres it is spoken by 25 to 30 immigrants from the north.

* Inverallan, 2,522 inhabitants, of whom 1 speaks Gaelic only, and 60 per cent. Gaelic and English. Cromdale, with Alvie, 1,295 inhabitants, of whom 5 speak Gaelic, 430 Gaelic and English, 860 English. No Gaelic is spoken in Alvie.

(delwedd J6760) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 596)

In BANFFSHIRE Gaelic is still spoken by a majority in the upper Strath Avon, above the village of Tomintoul; but although that district has an area of 90 square miles, its sparse population numbers less than 300 souls. In the village English is spoken by a majority, but in the glens Gaelic still lingers. Lower down, in Kirkmichael, a considerable number of the older people know Gaelic. In the neighbouring Glen Livet, only 12 persons out of a population of 1,796 souls are reported to speak Gaelic. The children only speak English, and although Gaelic services are still continued at Kirkmichael, no Gaelic whatever is taught in the schools.*

NAIRN still possesses a majority of Gaelic inhabitants in the district of Cawdor and Croy, and in the more inaccessible parts of the country bordering upon Inverness-shire. In Cawdor, Gaelic is still spoken by all the older inhabitants, more especially in the south, where it decidedly preponderates. It is no longer taught in the schools, but still employed in divine service. In Ardclach it is spoken by a small majority of probably not over 200 of the older inhabitants. It is not taught in the schools, but is still employed in a short weekly closing service in the Free Church, attended by a congregation of from twenty to forty persons. It is gradually dying out in this district, and there are very few cases of a native under 30 years of age in which it has been acquired from parental example. The linguistic boundary encompasses the districts of Croy and Cawdor, crosses the Findhorn above the bridge of Dulsie, and runs thence in the direction of the Knock of Brae Moray. All within that line is still Gaelic, all beyond it decidedly English. In the town of Nairn, with reference to which James I is reported to have boasted in the presence of a foreign ambassador, that he had a city in his dominions so large that the people at one end did not understand the language spoken by those at the other, Gaelic is still spoken by about 200 persons, but they are all of them immigrants. Gaelic is gradually dying out, excepting in the more remote parts of the county towards the south-west, though immigrants from the west will prevent its total abolition for a considerable period. "These immigrants acquire English "with wonderful rapidity, and even at times attempt to pass in the "community as Saxons pure and simple."

In that detached portion of Nairn which lies within the borders of Ross, close to Dingwall, Gaelic is spoken by a vast majority. The statistics of the county are as follows:—

* Kirkmichael, 477 inhabitants, of whom 2 speak Gaelic, 230 Gaelic and English. Tomintoul, 799 inhabitants, of whom 2 females speak Gaelic and half of the remainder Gaelic and English.

(delwedd J6761) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 597)

	Square Miles.	Inhabitants.	Able to Speak Gaelic only.	Able to Speak Gaelic and English.	Proportion per Cent. able to Speak Gaelic.
Main portion { Gaelic	80	2,166	20	1,100	41·6
Main portion { English	128	5,951	—	320	5·5
Detached portion in Ross	7	1,108	80	920	91·0
Total	215	10,225	100	2,340	23·9

In ABERDEENSHIRE Gaelic is now heard only in some of the more remote glens of the upper Dee. In Glengairn and in the country about Micras, near Crathie, about 60 old people still use it—not a tithe of the inhabitants. In Crathie and Braemar it is spoken in everyday life in the remote glens, and by a few of the old people in the valley, in their intercourse with the glensmen. All, or nearly all speak English, and Gaelic services have been discontinued since 1843. In Strathdon Gaelic lingered until a few years ago, but is now quite extinct. In Glenbucket it has not been used for years.*

In FORFARSHIRE Gaelic is spoken only in a very small district, namely, in Blacklunans, which to the south of Mount Blair projects into Perthshire, and geographically belongs to Glenshee. The names of many people, no less than the geographical nomenclature, point to a great extent of Gaelic in a former age, but Gaelic preaching has been discontinued for generations, except at Dundee, where services are held for the convenience of immigrant highlanders.

In PERTHSHIRE the Gaels occupy by far the greater proportion of the area, but being very thinly sown, they are as one to five to their English speaking countrymen. The city of Perth alone has more inhabitants than all the highlands of Perthshire together. There are few counties in which the highland element, though still very strong in many districts, appears to lose ground as fast as in Perthshire. Even from remote valleys my query as to whether it maintains its ground has been answered in nearly every instance in the negative. This decay is mainly due to the construction of railways, which facilitate the visits of tourists and sportsmen. Besides this, for a considerable number of years, graziers from Ayrshire and Lanarkshire have leased large holdings in the Highlands, bringing with them their Saxon servants. Whilst these strangers made themselves at home in the county, the natives, expelled from their small holdings, went forth to seek their fortune elsewhere. Gaelic

* Crathie and Braemar, 1,566 inhabitants, of whom 20 speak Gaelic, 500 Gaelic and English.

(delwedd J6762) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 598)

does not appear to be taught in a single school, even in districts where 99 per cent. of the inhabitants still speak it, and its employment in divine service is of the most limited nature.

The linguistic boundary begins at the Bald Head on the Forfarshire boundary, runs west to the junction of Glenshee with Strath Ardle, intersects Cluny forest, crosses the Tay to the north of Dunkeld, sweeps round on the west to the top of Birnam Hill, then follows the range of hills which bounds Strath Bran on the south, crosses Glen Almond above Newtown, and follows the watershed to Lochearn Head. It then runs south to Callander, and following the southern watershed of Lochs Vennachar and Katrine, passes on to the boundary of Stirlingshire. Within that boundary Gaelic is spoken by 87 per cent. of the inhabitants, but there are hardly a thousand persons who do not also speak English. Outside of it are a few districts in which Gaelic is spoken by more than a fourth of the inhabitants. One of these includes Dunkeld and its immediate vicinity; another extends over portions of the districts of Comrie, Kilmadock (Doune), Port of Menteith, and Aberfoyle. The western boundary of this latter district begins at the head of Glen Turret, crosses the lower Glen Lednock, passes through St. Fillans on Loch Earn, runs across the lower Glen Artney, follows the hills beyond and the Braes of Doune into the valley of the Teith, which river it crosses about half way between Callander and Doune, and runs through the Loch of Menteith to Gartmore on the Stirlingshire frontier. Incidentally I may remark that this boundary coincides in a remarkable manner with the line which on Geikie's capital geological map separates the old red sandstone from the Silurian rocks.

We will now consider the Perthshire Highlands and border parishes somewhat in detail. In that portion of Stormont which has Blairgowrie for its chief town, Gaelic is spoken only by a few old people, nearly all of whom are immigrants. At Blairgowrie itself they number about one hundred. Even in Alyth, where much Gaelic was spoken in the beginning of the century, it is now quite extinct.* On reaching the junction of Glenshee and Strath Ardle we find ourselves in a Gaelic region, but in one where Gaelic has been banished from the schools, and is used only at an occasional communion service in the parish church of Kirkmichael.† In Glenshee, which borders upon the English county of Forfarshire, Gaelic is far less used than in the neighbouring valleys, and in both it is spoken in a corrupt form.

* The districts of Alyth, Rattray, Kinlock, and Lethenty, Clunie and Blairgowrie, have 11,611 inhabitants, of whom about 200 speak Gaelic.

† Persie and Kirkmichael have 1,718 inhabitants, of whom 20 speak Gaelic, 1,415 Gaelic and English.

(delwedd J6763) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 599)

Ascending the river Tay, from Perth, where a Gaelic service is held once a month for the benefit of about 200 Highlanders, we cross the Gaelic boundary on approaching Dunkeld, where the language, however, is but rarely heard in public. In Strath Bran, which debouches upon the Tay on the left, Gaelic is spoken by a majority, and so it is higher up on the Tay, in Dowally. Logierait, at the junction of the Tay and the Tummel, is thoroughly Gaelic. It is a parish of small agricultural holdings, with Highland tenants, who have lived there undisturbed from generation to generation.* Proceeding still higher up the Tay the influence of southern graziers and sportsmen makes itself felt. In Aberfeldy the Saxons are more numerous still, and in Kenmore, celebrated for its shootings, one-fourth of the population is unable to converse in Gaelic. Beyond Loch Tay we enter Killin and Strath Fillan, where Gaelic speech is as widely known as in the more remote parts of Sutherland, though there is not an inhabitant who cannot make himself understood in English. This is the only part of Perthshire with respect to which I am unreservedly told that Gaelic maintains its ground.

In Blair Athol, in Glen Ranoch, and other districts of this north-western portion of Perthshire, there are but few persons unacquainted with Gaelic.†

In the border districts of Auchtergaven, Moneydie and Monzie, Crieff and Monzievaird, the two latter on the river Earn, Gaelic, excepting in the upper Glen Almond, is spoken only by Highland immigrants, whose children never acquire it.

At Comrie, higher up on the Earn, scarcely anything but English is spoken, and Gaelic services were discontinued about fifteen years ago. But higher still, around Loch Earn, and in Glens Lednock and Artney, the older people still speak Gaelic, and occasional services are held at St. Fillans for their convenience. "In a few years," so one of my correspondents writes, "Gaelic "will not be spoken here, and the sooner it disappears the better "for the poor Highlanders." I may add that the "Statistical "Account," published about 1834, states that forty years before that time the attendance at the English services held at Comrie was limited, whilst then (that is in 1834) hardly a fourth of the people attended them. Even now the basin of the Earn has practically ceased to belong to the "Highlands."‡

* The Duke of Athole is landlord.

† Dunkeld, 881 inhabitants (220 Gaelic and English); Dowally, 461 inhabitants (350 Gaelic and English); Logierait, 1,739 inhabitants (3 Gaelic, 1,680 Gaelic and English); Aberfeldy, 2,286 inhabitants (286 Gaelic, 1,714 Gaelic and English); Kenmore, 1,215 inhabitants (250 Gaelic, 660 Gaelic and English).

‡ Comrie district, 1,911 inhabitants, of whom 130 speak English and Gaelic.

(delwedd J6764) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 600)

A similar fate threatens the basin of the Teith. In the western part of Kilmadock (Doune), a few old people speak Gaelic, but the children know nothing of it. Callander, and the beautiful lacustrine valley, thence branching off towards the Trossachs, still remain in the possession of the Gael, but there too the old tongue is being forgotten. It is no longer taught in school, and only occasionally employed in divine service.* Higher up, however, in Strath Ire and Balquhidder, Gaelic continues the language of the vast majority.

In the upper basin of the Forth, in the districts of Port of Menteith and Aberfoyle, Gaelic is still spoken, but by a minority, whilst about 1724 its use was general. Young people are rather "ashamed now of their mother-tongue in the presence of English "speaking persons."†

In the ninth century Gaelic was spoken throughout what is now known as Perthshire, as far as the Sidlaws and Ochils, the Saxons being confined to a narrow strip along the coast. In the course of ten centuries its boundary has receded 15 miles. With our schools, our railways, our sportsmen, tourists, and grazier farmers, how many centuries shall elapse before Gaelic, in Perthshire, shall be a thing of the past?

In STIRLINGSHIRE there is but one district in which Gaelic is still heard, viz., that of Buchanan, which stretches along the eastern shore of Loch Lomond. A few heads of families speak Gaelic between the pass of Balmaha and Rowardenan. To the north of the latter, in the direction of Loch Katrine, the use of Gaelic is more general, but it is gradually being forgotten. A line drawn eastward from Rowardenan would probably bound the only corner of Stirlingshire in which Gaelic is still spoken by a majority. But even there it has ceased since 1868 to be the language of the school or of the Church.‡

In DUMBARTONSHIRE the only district in which Gaelic survives among the natives of the soil is Arrochar, to the east of Loch Lomond. Glen Douglas separates it from Luss, where a hundred and fifty years ago Gaelic was as common as English, but where the former is now only spoken by a few of the oldest and by immigrant shepherds, some thirty in all. In Arrochar§ one half do not speak Gaelic, and in half a century it will probably be extinct, except it be kept alive by immigration. In other parts of Dumbartonshire Gaelic is understood by numerous immigrants, of

* Callander has 1,870 inhabitants, of whom 2 speak Gaelic, 1,068 Gaelic and English.

† Aberfoyle, 432 inhabitants, 3 Gaelic, 140 Gaelic and English.

‡ Buchanan, 591 inhabitants, of whom 100 speak Gaelic.

§ Arrochar, 525 inhabitants, of whom one-half speak Gaelic and English.

(delwedd J6765) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 601)

whom there are 500 in the district of Bonhill (9,593 inhabitants), and several hundred in Dumbarton.

ARGYLESHIRE presents perhaps more variety in the numerical proportions of its Gaelic speaking inhabitants than any other county of Scotland. No county has lost so many of its native inhabitants through emigration; no other, Bute perhaps excepted, has received so many Lowlanders of Saxon speech in return. Thus, though the proportion of Gaelic speaking persons throughout the county amounts to 82 per cent., there are two districts, and one of them a very populous one, where English is the speech of the majority in every-day life, and others, in which the Gaels barely exceed a majority, and are not likely to retain it for many years to come. The following are the proportions for the principal divisions of the county:—

	Population.	Persons able to Speak Gaelic only.	Persons able to Speak Gaelic and English.	Proportion per Cent. of Persons Speaking Gaelic.
Cowal	11,523	200	4,930	44·7
Knapdale	7,638	860	6,870	91·2
Kintyre	13,067	70	8,250	64·0
Argyle	4,918	100	3,800	79·6
Lorn, &c.	20,516	6,200	13,500	96·1
Islands	18,017	2,910	14,210	95·1
Total	75,679	10,340	51,560	81·8

The low proportion of Gaelic speaking inhabitants is due to the existence of a small but populous district, embracing 20 square miles and 6,070 inhabitants, within which the number of English speaking immigrants is exceptionally large. This district extends along the eastern coast of Cowal, from Kilmun to Castle Toward; Dunoon, the largest town of Argyleshire, lies within it. It has 3,756 inhabitants, of whom 50 speak Gaelic, and 250 Gaelic and English. Gaelic services are still held regularly in one church, and occasionally in two others, but the children born in the place hardly ever learn Gaelic. Sandbanks (620 inhabitants), close by, has 150 Gaelic speaking inhabitants. The number of Saxon immigrants is considerable. At Inellan (605 inhabitants) Gaelic is spoken only by 50 people. Toward, further south, is quite English. In the remainder of Cowal the Gaels are in a majority, but taking into account the universal use made of English, their majority is decisive only in the remote district of Kilfinan, where they constitute 99 per cent. of the population, and where there exists even a desire to have Gaelic introduced into the schools. In Lochgoilhead and Strachur, which form the neck of the peninsula, Gaelic is

(delwedd J6766) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 602)

spoken only by about 60 per cent., but in Inverchaolain, in the south, and opposite to Bute island, it is spoken by 73 per cent. Gaelic is used in the churches, but as far as I can make out it is not taught in schools, and there are not consequently many persons who can read it. It is generally reported to lose ground. English is understood by nearly all.

Knapdale is still thoroughly Gaelic, but there, too, English is stated to gain ground in the villages. Gaelic is taught in several schools, and is generally employed in the churches.

Kintyre is nearly as Gaelic as its northern neighbour, Knapdale, except in the extreme south, where Campbelltown and the district of Southend add largely to the Saxon element. In the latter only 90 out of 1,044 inhabitants speak Gaelic, most of these living towards the north-west. Many of the ancestors of the present inhabitants were Lowlanders, who came over after the battle of Dunaverty, in 1647. In Campbelltown, to the best of my belief, nearly one-half of the inhabitants speak only English. In the remainder of Kintyre Gaelic is taught in several schools; the statements as to its losing ground are conflicting.

In Argyle Saxon speech has made considerable progress, not only at Inveraray Village, but also lower down on Loch Tyne, in the district of Cumlodden, where lowland labourers quarry granite. Gaelic is said to maintain its ground, especially in the interior of the country, and there are a few classes in which it is taught.*

Further north, in Lorn, Appin, Glencoe, Morvern, and Ardnamurchan, Gaelic continues the language of the vast majority. In Oban, which next to Campbelltown and Dunoon, is the most populous town of the county, the services at four churches are in Gaelic and English, those at three in English only; Gaelic is spoken in all the shops except in five, and taught in one school.† A good deal of English is spoken towards the head of Loch Eil. Gaelic certainly maintains its ground there, but not in southern Lorn. In some of the more remote parts English appears to be known very little.‡

On the islands, of course, Gaelic still holds its own, and the further away they are from the coast, the firmer appears to be the hold which that language has upon the inhabitants. "It is in no

* In Glassary, 1,535 inhabitants, there are said to be only 34 persons who do not know Gaelic. In Cumlodden (826 inhabitants), on the other hand, 226 speak only English.

† Oban, with district, 3,402 inhabitants, of whom only 300 know no Gaelic.

‡ In the district of Ballahulish and Glencoe, now 2,210 inhabitants, only 210 persons are said to be able to speak English, although that language is taught in the schools. This, no doubt, would be an extreme case, but I fancy my informant has been rather rigid as to linguistic requirements.

(delwedd J6767) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 603)

"danger of being forgotten," one of my correspondents writes triumphantly, and is taught in many schools.

In BUTESHIRE, as in Argyleshire, immigration is far in excess of the increase of the native element of the population, and if it were not for the fact that many of the immigrants are Gaelic speaking Argyleshire men, Gaelic, on the Isle of Bute, would have become extinct long ere this.

In Rothesay town about 900 persons speak Gaelic, out of a total population of 7,800 souls, and Gaelic is preached in two churches out of ten. In the northern half of the Island of Bute, Gaelic is still the language of the majority, owing, no doubt, to immigration. In the south (Kingarth) it is spoken by 25 per cent., the older people. The younger learn a few phrases when domiciled with Gaels, otherwise Gaelic provokes a smile.*

In Arran Island Gaelic is still spoken by over nine-tenths of the population. It is not taught "to any appreciable extent" in the schools, but employed in one-half of all religious services. "Although struggling hard for recognition, it is losing ground. "It was the language of the playground not many years ago, while "now it is a rare thing to hear a Gaelic word. Old people, when "speaking Gaelic, have often to draw largely on their English "vocabulary to help out their narration."

The Cumbraes are English entirely.

The details for the county are as follows:—

	Area Square Miles.	Population.	Persons able to Speak Gaelic.	Persons able to Speak Gaelic and English.	Proportion per Cent. of Persons able to Speak Gaelic.
Bute	46	10,094	150	1,680	18·3
Arran	162	5,259	—	4,800	91·3
Cumbraes	7	1,613	—	—	—
	—	16,966	150	6,480	39·1

It now remains for me to determine the number of Gaelic speaking Highlanders who reside in parts of Scotland which have not yet come under our notice. This I can do approximately by a comparison of the results obtained above with the number of natives born in each county. It results from this, that the number of Gaelic Highlanders is 301,000, and as 266,953 are included in the counties noticed, there remain about 34,000 for the remainder of

* According to Mr. Murray not 10 of the native farmers can speak Gaelic, and the Gaelic population is almost entirely immigrant. This, to judge from the information I received from the island, is an exaggeration.

(delwedd J6768) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 604)

Scotland.* Of course, many of these Gaels speak their native tongue only on rare occasions, but where they reside in larger bodies, as at Edinburgh and Glasgow, they find churches in which the services are conducted in Gaelic.

I now append a series of tables similar to those which I have prepared for Ireland, referring to the Appendix (p. 635) for a table giving the details for each county:—

1. *Geographical Distribution of the Gaelic Speaking Population of Scotland.*

	Area, Square Miles.	Proportion per Cent.	Total Population.	Proportion per Cent.	Persons Speaking Gaelic.	Proportion per Cent.
Districts in which Gaelic is spoken by a majority	15,571	50·3	268,496	8·0	242,207	80·7
Districts in which it is spoken by 25 to 50 per cent.	427	1·4	36,536	1·1	12,954	4·3
Districts in which it is spoken by less than 25 per cent. of the inhabitants	14,833	48·3	3,054,986	90·9	45,792	15·0
Total, Scotland	30,831	100·0	3,360,018	100·0	300,953	100·0

2. *Parts of Counties in which Gaelic is Spoken by a Majority of the Inhabitants.*

	Area, Square Miles.	Total Population.	Persons Speaking Gaelic.	Proportion per Cent.	Persons able to Speak English.	Proportion per Cent.
Caithness	343	8,350	7,180	86·0	8,350	100·0
Sutherland	1,870	23,717	21,612	91·2	22,365	94·4
Ross and Cromarty	3,198	68,175	59,360	87·0	57,125	85·8
Inverness	4,246	71,736	68,288	95·2	47,272	65·9
Nairn	95	3,274	2,120	64·8	3,174	96·2
Elgin	64	3,000	1,906	63·3	2,994	99·9
Banff	87	300	283	94·3	297	99·0
Forfar	4	140	100	71·4	140	100·0
Perth	2,080	20,600	18,070	87·7	19,580	95·1
Stirling	38	150	80	53·3	150	100·0
Dumbarton	45	525	263	50·0	525	100·0
Argyle	3,321	61,877	57,840	93·4	51,607	83·3
Bute	180	6,652	5,105	76·8	6,602	99·3
Total	15,571	268,476	242,207	90·2	220,181	82·0

* That is of Scotland exclusive of Aberdeen, Forfar, the whole of Perth, Stirling and Dumbarton, for the whole of which counties I have roughly estimated the Gaelic population, and inserted the numbers in my tables.

(delwedd J6769) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 605)

3. *Parts of Countries in which Gaelic is Spoken by more than 25, but less than 50 per Cent. of the Inhabitants.*

	Area, Square Miles.	Total Population.	Persons Speaking Gaelic.	Proportion per Cent.	Persons able to Speak English.	Proportion per Cent.
Sutherland	16	600	150	25·0	600	—
Ross and Cromarty	23	7,331	2,650	36·3	7,031	100·0
Inverness (Inverness town)	2	14,510	4,550	31·4	14,460	99·7
Banff	32	976	349	35·6	974	100·0
Aberdeen	165	1,500	520	34·6	1,480	98·6
Perth	160	4,030	1,210	30·2	4,030	100·0
Argyle (Campbelltown)	2	6,688	3,300	49·3	6,688	100·0
Bute	27	901	225	25·0	901	100·0
Total	427	36,536	12,954	35·5	36,164	99·0

It appears from our tables that not quite 9 per cent. of the total population of Scotland is able to speak Gaelic, and that eight-tenths of these are distributed over nearly half the area of the country where they are in the majority. Thus, whilst in the Saxon districts there are as many as 206 inhabitants to the square mile, in the Gaelic Highlands there are only 17. The Gaels, like their kinsmen in Ireland and England, and like many a small tribe in other lands, have been driven into the hills, or where they remained in the more fertile lowlands, they have become amalgamated with the intruding Saxon. This confinement to sterile tracts, lying aside from the usual highroads of traffic, condemns to an intellectual death, and to physical extinction as a race speaking a language of its own.

That Gaelic is dying out cannot be doubted. In the more remote parts of the Highlands and in the Hebrides it still maintains its ground; but wherever Gael and Saxon meet face to face the latter ends by forcing his language upon his only too willing fellow countryman. And the Gael learns English quickly, for he is a shrewd man, and knows that in all the more remunerative walks of life a knowledge of English cannot be dispensed with. The appreciation in which English is held by the Highlander may be gathered from the fact, that when he desires to say something exceptionally severe, he says, "Don beurla Orta," that is, "May "you never speak correct English." The agencies which undermine Gaelic, and will end in destroying it, are gathering strength from day to day. The Highlands are becoming more accessible from day to day; a compulsory system of education in *English* schools has been in operation since 1872; and whilst the Gael is leaving his native home in shoals to seek his fortune in the lowlands or across

(delwedd J6770) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 606)

the ocean, the voids left are partly filled up by graziers and sportsmen of English speech.*

In the face of these destructive agencies, those which contribute towards the maintenance of Gaelic are but few and feeble. "Professor Blackie," writes one of my Ross-shire correspondents, "has undoubtedly given an impetus to the Gaelic language by his "fervent advocacy for the institution of a Celtic chair in the "University of Glasgow;" and from Perthshire I hear that "Gaelic or anything Highland or rustic is much more in vogue "within the last few years." But neither University chairs nor Highland sports can save Gaelic; they will not even delay its extinction for a single day. The only thing that could put off, perhaps for centuries, the day on which the last of Gaelic will be heard in the Highlands, is its introduction into schools. There are Gaelic schools we know, but they are few and far between, and, for the most part, in the west, where Gaelic is strongest.†

The Education Code for 1878 determines that Gaelic "may be "taught during the ordinary school hours, either by the certificated "teacher, or by any person specially employed for the purpose." This, however, is but a small concession; for though in the payments for mere attendance Gaelic will thus count like any other subject, no additional payments, such as are given for proficiency in special subjects, will be made. In the more remote parts of the Highlands there certainly exists a desire to cultivate Gaelic more carefully than has been done hitherto. Actually the number of Gaelic schools is very small, and they are wanting more especially in those districts in which English has already gained a somewhat firm footing. But even were Government to grant all that is desired by the advocates of Gaelic, it would only put off, but not for ever, the day on which Gaelic will be gathered with its fathers.

* The great emigration of Highlanders and partial depopulation of the country is due to the ejection of the small tenants, to make room for the farmers from the south, and to the conversion of all the uplands into sheep walks or shooting grounds. The number of these large farmers, writes one of my correspondents in Inverness-shire, "has decreased very much during the last few years; large farms "do not pay now. The proprietors are, in many cases, obliged to take them into "their own hands, and, as a general rule, they employ native shepherds." I am glad to hear it. A country minister, who deplores this exodus, says in the last "Statistical Account of Scotland," that "the right of landlords to manage their "properties according to their own pleasure no one will pretend to doubt." I do doubt it. The decrease of the population in Scotch Highlands is an occurrence for which rapacious and unprincipled landlords ought to be made amenable.

† The "Society for the Support of Gaelic Schools" maintains 26 schools, attended by 1,048 children. They are for the most part in the Hebrides. The income of the society in 1877 only amounted to 662*l.*, and it is urgently in want of funds. Mr. Thomas Martin, 49, Castle Street, Edinburgh, is assistant secretary.

(delwedd J6771) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 607)

Wales.

I shall begin my survey with the border counties, tracing in every instance the linguistic boundary embracing those districts in which Welsh is spoken by a majority of the inhabitants.

FLINTSHIRE has a mixed population, but that portion of the county which lies within the linguistic boundary is as purely Welsh as any other part of Wales. In Maelor Saesneg, the Saxon land (43 square miles, 5,948 inhabitants), a detached portion of the county, Welsh has wholly disappeared since the days of Henry VIII. When Defoe visited Bangor Monachorum, about 1730, he failed to procure a guide capable of giving the explanations he required. At the present day English alone is spoken.*

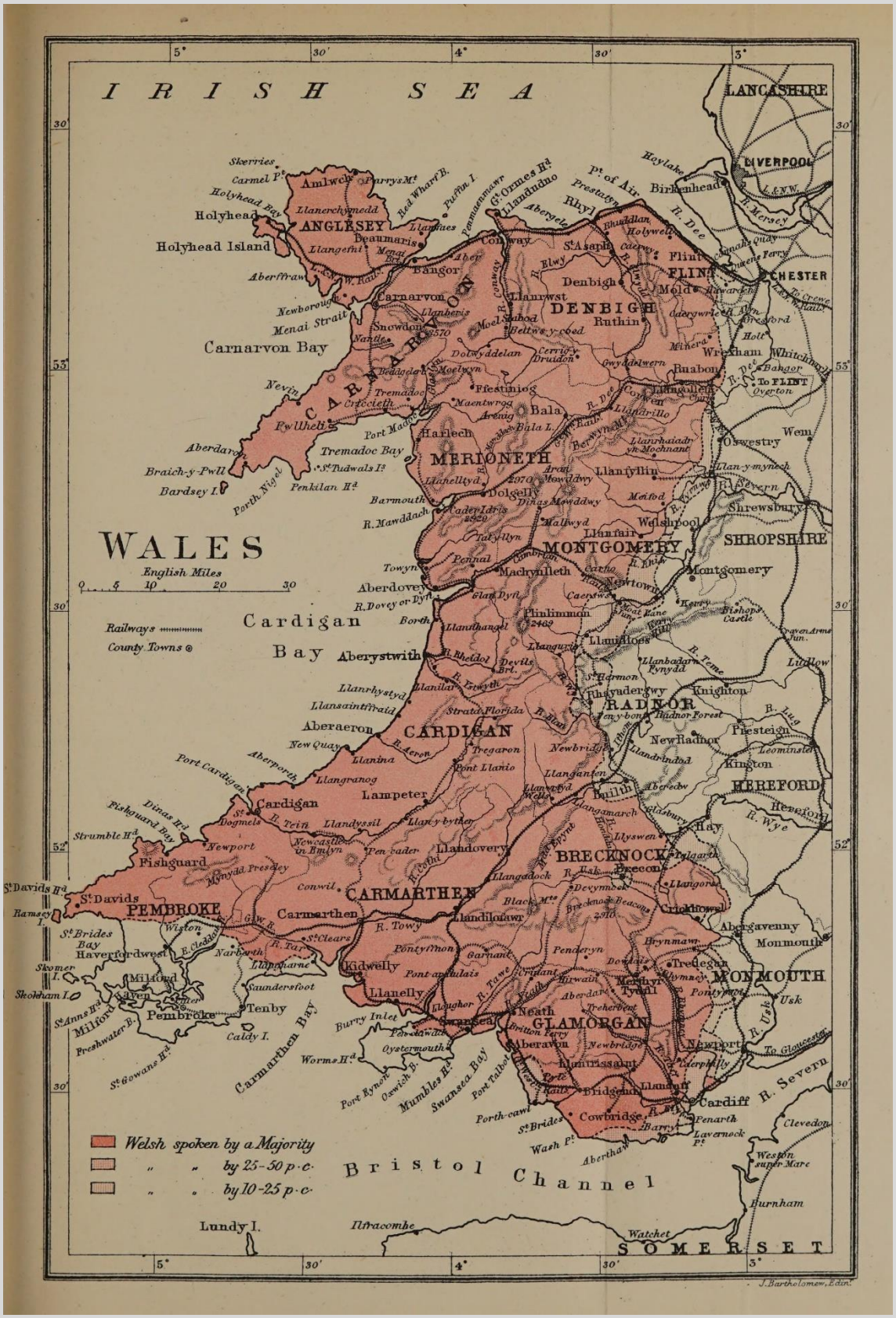
The linguistic boundary which divides the county proper into two portions of very unequal size begins at Wepre, at the mouth of the river Dee, runs south-west, crossing the river Alyn above Hope, and then follows closely the right bank of the river mentioned. All to the south-east of that line is English, with the exception that a large number of Welsh labourers are employed in the hamlets of Chemistry, Shotton, Queensferry, Pentre, and Sandycroft, all of them near the Dee, in the Saltney township of Hawarden. These labourers, forming about 40 per cent. of the population of the township, are immigrants, and their children do not learn Welsh. In the western portion of the parish of Hope (Hope Mountain, beyond the river Alyn), Welsh still keeps its ground, but with difficulty. In the towns of Welsh Flintshire English is of course the language of business, but Welsh is spoken by the bulk of the people. In Holywell (3,540 inhabitants, of whom 95 per cent. speak Welsh) and in Mold (3,976 inhabitants) it is said to maintain its ground, but in Flint and St. Asaph it is gradually being superseded by English. In the meantime nearly all religious services are carried on in Welsh, and there is hardly a Sunday school in which it is not employed.

The English portion of Flintshire has an area of 53 square miles, with 18,111 inhabitants, of whom 750 speak Welsh. The Welsh portion embraces 211 square miles, with 58,201 inhabitants, of whom 52,560, or 90·3 per cent., speak Welsh.

DENBIGHSHIRE, with the exception of a territory of limited extent, but including the important town of Wrexham, is wholly Welsh. The linguistic boundary enters the county a short distance to the west of the river Alyn, passes to the east of Brymbo and Broughton to within a couple of miles of Wrexham, then runs

* For interesting information on this old frontier land, see "Archæologia "Cambrensis," July, 1874; April, 1875; April, July, and October, 1876; October, 1877, and January, 1879.

(delwedd J6772) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 608)


IRISH SEA
WALES
English Miles
0 5 10 20 30
Railways
County Towns
Cardigan Bay
Bristol Channel
Carnarvon Bay
Tremadoc Bay
Carmarthen Bay
Swansea Bay
Welsh spoken by a Majority
" " by 25-50 p·c·
" " by 10-25 p·c·
ANGLESEY
CARNARVON
DENBIGH
FLINT
MERIONETH
MONTGOMERY
CARDIGAN
CARMARTHEN
PEMBROKE
GLAMORGAN
BRECKNOCK
RADNOR
MONMOUTH
HEREFORD
SHROPSHIRE
CHESTER
LANCASHIRE
SOMERSET
Holyhead
Holyhead Island
Amlwch
Beaumaris
Bangor
Carnarvon
Snowdon 3570
Menai Strait
Nevin
Pwllheli
Aberdaron
Bardsey I.
Braich-y-Pwll
Porth Nigel
Penkilan Hd
Harlech
Bala
Festiniog
Dolgelly
Barmouth
R. Mawddach
Tremadoc
Aberdovey
R. Dovey or Dyfi
Towyn
Machynlleth
Aberystwith
Borth
Plinlimmon 2469
Llanidloes
Newtown
Montgomery
Welshpool
Llanfair
Oswestry
Wrexham
Ruabon
Denbigh
Ruthin
Mold
Flint
Holywell
Rhyl
Prestatyn
Pt of Air
Birkenhead
Liverpool
Aberaeron
New Quay
Llanina
Llangranog
Lampeter
Cardigan
Newport
Fishguard
St Davids
St Davids Hd
Ramsey I.
St Brides Bay
Haverfordwest
Milford
Pembroke
Tenby
Caldy I.
St Gowans Hd
Skomer I.
Skokholm I.
St Anns Hd
Milford Haven
Freshwater B.
Carmarthen
St Clears
Llandilofawr
Llandovery
Llanwrtyd
Builth
Llangamarch
Llyswen
Hay
Brecon
Crickhowell
Abergavenny
Monmouth
Tredegar
Pontypool
Usk
Newport
Cardiff
Penarth
Barry
Cowbridge
Bridgend
Llantrisant
Aberavon
Neath
Swansea
Oystermouth
Worms Hd
Mumbles Hd
Port Eynon
Oxwich B.
Burry Inlet
Llanelly
Kidwelly
Llanstephan
Saundersfoot
Pendine
Laugharne
Ferryside
Llanybyther
Llandyssil
Newcastle Emlyn
Pen-sarn
Llangadock
Llandeilo
Llandilo
Llandovery
Llanwrda
Llangamarch
Builth
Llanfair
Llanfyllin
Llanymynech
Welshpool
Llanrhaiadr yn Mochnant
Llanarmon
Llangollen
Corwen
Ruthin
Denbigh
Llanrwst
Conway
Llandudno
Great Ormes Hd
Puffin I.
Red Wharf B.
Parrys Mine
Carmel Pt
Skerries
Holyhead Bay
Llanerchymedd
Llangefni
Menai Bridge
Aberffraw
Newborough
Llanddwyn I.
Llanbedrog
Pwllheli
Criccieth
Tremadoc
Port Madoc
Portmadoc
Beddgelert
Snowdon
Nantlle
Llanberis
Moel Siabod
Cerrig y Druidion
Dolwyddelan
Gwyddelwern
Corwen
Llandrillo
Berwyn Mts
Llanrhaiadr yn Mochnant
Llanfyllin
Llanymynech
Oswestry
Wem
Whitchurch
Ellesmere
Wrexham
Minera
Holt
Overton
Bangor
To FLINT
To Crewe
Aberystwith
Borth
Devils Brid.
Llanbadarn Fynydd
Llanbadarn Trefeglwys
Llanidloes
Llanwnog
Llanbrynmair
Llanfair
Llanfyllin
Llanymynech
Welshpool
Llanfechain
Llanrhaiadr yn Mochnant
Llansantffraid
Llanrhystyd
Strata Florida
Tregaron
Pont Llanio
Llanina
Aberaeron
Aberporth
Port Cardigan
Cardigan
Fishguard Bay
Dinas Hd
St Dogmels
R. Teifi
Llandyssil
Llanycrwys
Pen-sarn
Newcastle Emlyn
Llandovery
Llandilofawr
Llangadock
Llandeilo
Llandilo
Llanwrda
Llangamarch
Builth

along the Great Western Railway until it reaches Offa's Dyke, that famous old national barrier, which it follows to the boundary of Shropshire, with this exception that Ruabon and its immediate vicinity are inclosed within it.

The territory to the east of this line is English. It has an area of 39 square miles, with 20,315 inhabitants, of whom only 800 speak Welsh. Within it lies the town of Wrexham, which had 8,576 inhabitants at the last census, but has now 10,000, and where Welsh is used by three or four congregations, English by twelve.

Ruabon (15,150 inhabitants in 1871, 18,000 now) lies within the Welsh boundary. All, or nearly all religious services are conducted there in Welsh, and "more Welsh is spoken every day," owing no doubt to the immigration of labourers. Only 600 persons are said to speak English only, and 2,000 Welsh and English.

In the parish of Chirk, the western portion of which is intersected by Offa's Dyke, there is a Welsh chapel, poorly attended, and Welsh is now understood only by a few old people.

In the parishes of Bersham, Broughton, Brymbo, Minera, and Esclusham above, to the west of Wrexham, which have a total population of 13,259 souls, Welsh is spoken by seven-eighths of the population, and English by the same number, but further in the interior of the country, and more especially in those parts which are at some distance from railroads, the knowledge of English is still very limited, scarcely more than half of the inhabitants being able to express themselves in it.

In the parish of Llansilin, on the boundary of Shropshire, the children are said to know Welsh very imperfectly, and the information I have received tends to show that along the Dee and in the valley of the Clwyd, up to Llanelidin, it is slowly losing ground, the railway proving its most powerful enemy. In the far greater portion of the county, however, it maintains its ground firmly, and the greater part of the religious services are conducted in Welsh. In Ruthin (3,298 inhabitants) Welsh is spoken by 85 per cent. of the inhabitants, and in Denbigh (6,323 inhabitants) it is employed in eleven out of fourteen places of worship. Very little English is spoken in the country districts.

Shropshire is an English county, but a small portion of its western extremity is Welsh, including the parishes of Selattyn and Llanyblodwell, and the township of Sychtyn, which have an area of 19 square miles and 2,469 inhabitants, of whom 900 speak Welsh. The linguistic boundary is formed by Offa's Wall, and by a line running through the townships of Sychtyn to Garth-uchaf on the Afon Tanat, in the parish of Llanyblodwell. To the west of that line Welsh preponderates, to the east English. In Selattyn Welsh is spoken now only by the older people, but there are still two

(delwedd J6774) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 609)

services in Welsh to five in English. In the township of Sychtyn, the Welsh are in a majority. In Llanyblodwell Welsh preponderates in the west, English in the east, and the children of Welsh parents are often unable to speak Welsh. The Welsh service in the parish church has been discontinued since 1875, owing to a paucity of attendance. The few Welsh in the neighbouring parish of Llanymynech are immigrants, and Welsh immigrants are indeed numerous throughout Shropshire, and there are Welsh chapels at Oswestry, Shrewsbury, Houlston, Coedway, Bomer Heath and Cyrmbwch.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE is one of those border counties in which Welsh is visibly losing ground. In the valley of the Severn, up to within a mile or two of Llanllwchaiarn and Newtown, and to the east of that river, Welsh is heard only in the mouths of immigrants, and of a few very old people. At Welshpool and Montgomery Welsh has been extinct among the natives for these fifty years. At Newtown, however, about 30 per cent. of the inhabitants are still able to converse in Welsh, and a similar proportion of Welsh speakers* is met with as far as Llanidloes, beyond which the Severn valley penetrates a territory which is still wholly Welsh. Along the whole of the Severn, from Llanidloes down to and beyond Newtown, Welsh is gradually being forgotten, although still largely employed in the religious services of the dissenters and occasionally even in the Established Church.

Welsh has also disappeared from the valley of the Lower Vyrnwy, next to the Severn the most important river of the county. At Llandysilio it is not spoken at all; in the parish of Llanymynech only by a few old people, and it is only when we enter the parish of Llansaintffraid yn Mechan that Welsh is heard more frequently That parish is divided by the river Cfernwg into two parts. In the northern part about one-half of the older people (say one-third of the population) speak Welsh, which is generally used in the services of the nonconformists, and once a month in the Established Church. The younger people rapidly forget Welsh; in one Sunday school, out of eleven classes there are only two in which religious instruction is imparted in Welsh, and these two classes are attended by adults. In the southern part of the parish very little Welsh is spoken. Proceeding up the Vyrnwy we first enter the Welsh districts on approaching Meifodd.

The linguistic boundary† on crossing the northern frontier

* Aberhafesp 20 per cent., Llandinam 27 per cent.

† A correspondent at Llansaintffraid has kindly forwarded to me a boundary line described in the "Byegones" column of the "Oswestry Advertiser," for 2nd October, 1878. That line I accept in its main features; I do not, however, include Llansaintffraid within it, for in that parish the majority no longer speak Welsh.

(delwedd J6775) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 610)

passes between Llansaintffraid and Llanfechan, strikes the Vyrnwy below, and follows that river up to Meifodd, thence it runs south to Castle Careinion, crosses the River Rhiw between New Mills and Llanwyddelan, leaving Manafon to the south. It then proceeds by Greygynog Hall and Bwlch y ffraid to Llanwnog, crosses the Cambrian railway at the Pont dol goch station, intersects the parish of Trefeglwys, approaches close to the Severn at Dollys, passes to the west of Llanidloes, and finally reaches the Radnorshire boundary to the east of the Wye. In the districts which border upon this line on the east Welsh is still spoken, but not by a majority, but to the west of it, Welsh is the language of the bulk of the inhabitants. Indications are not wanting that Welsh is slowly losing ground on the eastern watershed of the county, but on the western slope, in Cyffeiliog, its hold is firm. Even immigrants and their children frequently acquire it, and English is used very little in religious services. The following is a summary for the county:—

	Square Miles.	Population.	Able to Speak Welsh only.	Able to Speak Welsh and English.	Proportion per Cent. able to Speak Welsh.
Welsh part { Cyffeiliog	115	8,794	4,700	4,000	98·9
Welsh part { Eastern slope...	346	19,123	1,570	12,740	75·1
Mixed districts.....	137	18,536	280	5,470	31·1
English „	160	21,170	50	890	4·5
Total Montgomeryshire	758	67,623	6,600	23,100	43·9

Radnorshire, if the language now spoken by the vast majority of the inhabitants be allowed to decide, is a portion of England and not of Wales. In former ages, however, it was purely Welsh. "The names of places (villages, farmhouses, hills, rivers, &c.), are "almost exclusively Cymraig. Amongst the inhabitants, however, "there is a large admixture of Saxon names, which bespeak a "considerable Saxon immigration." As in the Highlands, the natives of the county emigrate in considerable numbers to England, whilst natives of England settle in the county. In 1871 no less than 14 per cent. were natives of England. Welsh still lingers in the extreme north-western corner of the county, but elsewhere it is spoken only by a few immigrants. The existence of Welsh Black Letter Bibles, like that at Nantmel, which dates back to the year 1620, shows that the extinction of Welsh is not to be measured by centuries. The services of the Church of England throughout the county are conducted in English, with one curious exception,—at Rhayader, where four Welsh sermons must annually be delivered, "under a bequest." Nor do the Independents appear to have any

chapels in which Welsh is preached, for the two mentioned in the "Congregational Year Book" are without ministers, and, as far as I can make out, without congregations.

The Welsh language, as I have said, still lingers in the extreme west of the county. At Rhayader (976 inhabitants) 200 persons still speak Welsh, but the younger people have altogether forgotten it. A few classes in the Calvinist Sunday schools are taught in Welsh. In the neighbouring parish of Cwmtoyddwr, Welsh is somewhat more general, especially in the valley of the Elan, above Nantgwilt, and there are even two or three families who understand no English. In the parish of St. Harmon, some fifty years ago, when one of my contributors was a boy, all the services, with rare exceptions, were in Welsh. At the present day Welsh is only spoken by the older people, and only in that part of the parish which abuts upon the river Wye is it spoken by a majority. As to Nantmel, Welsh appears to have been general about a hundred years ago. The vicar now tells me that it is wholly extinct, whilst another informant makes it linger in the north-western part of the parish, towards Rhayader. Practically it is extinct. I believe a line which crosses the Wye above Rhayader and then runs south at some distance from it, to Elan Vale, where there is the only Welsh Baptist chapel of the county, will be found to include that small portion of Radnorshire where Welsh is still the language of the majority. This small territory embraces 54 square miles, with 713 inhabitants, of whom 470 speak Welsh. Outside of it lies a smaller district of 20 square miles, with 2,000 inhabitants, inclusive of the town of Rhayader, within which about 530 speak Welsh. All the rest of Radnorshire is as completely English as any county in England.

BRECONSHIRE is much influenced by its contact with English speaking districts, but for the present the language of the majority is Welsh. English is invading the county from three points, viz., from Builth, from Hay, and from Abergavenny, on the Usk. The immediate neighbourhood of Builth, including villages having such thoroughly Welsh names as Maesmynis and Llandoewi'rcwm, has become quite English, and only on rare occasions can a Welsh sermon be heard there. Hay, on the Hereford frontier, and the neighbouring parishes of Llanigon and Aberllunvey, are likewise English, Welsh being spoken only by a few old people and by immigrants. It appears to have survived longest at Capelyffin, an outlying hamlet of Llanigon, near the head of the Afon Honddu. At Talgarth Welsh was common many years ago, but is now spoken only by a minority. At Crickhowel, on the Usk, it is spoken only by old people, and Welsh services are no longer held in the parish church, though still continued in four dissenting chapels. The neighbouring parish of Llangenny has become completely Anglicised.

(delwedd J6777) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 612)

Brecknock, the capital, in the very centre of the country, has become a fourth focus, whence English spreads in all directions. It is used there only by the older people, and is declining rapidly.

Throughout the remainder of the county Welsh remains to the present day the language of the vast majority, it being heard most frequently in the country extending from the river Usk towards Glamorganshire. In the districts to the north of the Usk it is spoken by about 80 per cent., and in the valley of the Yrfon, in the north-west, by 75 per cent.; Llanwrtyd, however, on the Carmarthen border, being wholly Welsh. The only large town in which Welsh is spoken by a majority is Brynmawr, on the Monmouthshire frontier.*

Welsh is said to lose ground, in some cases rapidly, nearly throughout, but in the south and extreme west it is said to maintain itself, though English is coming into more general use.

The statistics for the county are :—

	Area. Square Miles.	Population. 1871.	Able to Speak Welsh only.	Able to Speak Welsh and English.	Proportion per Cent. able to Speak Welsh.
Welsh portion	650	45,194	6,340	29,950	80·3
Mixed ,, ...	18	9,149	—	3,230	35·3
English ,, ...	51	5,558	—	350	0·6
Total Brecon.....	719	59,901	6,340	33,530	66·8

Of MONMOUTHSHIRE only a small portion in the extreme west is Welsh, and curious to say, it is just that portion of the county which is most densely populated, owing to the attraction exercised in former times at least, by its stores of coal and iron. Whilst in Welsh Monmouthshire we find 741 inhabitants on a square mile, there live in the English part of the county only 250. Formerly Welsh was spoken over the whole of the county, and the geographical nomenclature remains Welsh to the present time. Even as recently as in the middle of the eighteenth century an English writer† says "that the people seldom acquire a knowledge "of English," and pathetically exclaims that "the multiplication of "languages is a more immediate and perhaps more fruitful source "of moral evil, than the frailty of Adam and Eve, or the loves of "Cupid and Psyche." The two languages still exist, but Welsh has been pushed back beyond the Usk, and if it were not for the

* Brynmawr, 5,739 inhabitants (100 Welsh, two-thirds English and Welsh).

† J. Gardner, "The History of Monmouthshire," London, 1746.

(delwedd J6778) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 613)

immigration of Welsh miners, it would have disappeared before this altogether.

A line drawn along the watershed between the rivers Llwyd and Ebbw to the junction of the latter with the Sihowy, and thence to the Rumney above Machen, includes all that remains Welsh. Within that line, at Tredegar, Aberystwith, Mynyddyslwyn, and Bedwelty, Welsh is understood by 74 inhabitants out of every hundred, and it is more extensively made use of in churches and chapels than English. But it loses ground; on this point all the reports I have received are unanimous. "Fifty years ago," says one of my correspondents, "I lived in Tredegar, and the little boys in "the streets did all talk Welsh while playing; I was there last "summer, and did not hear any child speak Welsh." In Aberystwith, "the young do not know much of Welsh," elsewhere "the "majority of the children do not learn it." All this points to the certain extinction of Welsh within a comparatively short period. The growing generation will speak English only.

There are two districts in which Welsh is still spoken by at least a fourth of the population. One of these embraces the country on the lower Ebbw and Rumney, and is bounded by a line passing to the east of Risca, Bassaleg, Marshfield, and Peterstone, where it reaches the coast. Rumney, a parish within that line, is said to have a majority of Welsh speaking inhabitants, whilst in Machen, on the Rumney, Welsh is spoken only by a tenth of the population, and two Welsh chapels had to be closed within the last few years, owing to the non-attendance of worshippers.

The second of these mixed districts embraces Blaenavon, where Welsh is spoken by some of the older people (one-third of the inhabitants), and employed in a few chapels of dissenters.

Everywhere else throughout Monmouthshire Welsh holds a very inferior place. At Abersychan (14,569 inhabitants), on the Llwyd, it is still taught in the Sunday schools, but only 500 persons speak it, and it dies fast. At Pontypool (4,834 inhabitants) it is spoken by a few of the old and by immigrants, 834 persons in all, and even those who speak Welsh prefer to attend an English church. At Caerleon only English is heard. At Newport (29,877 inhabitants) it is spoken by about 1,000, and there are three Welsh chapels.

Throughout the valley of the Usk, up to the Brecon frontier, Welsh is now the language of an insignificant minority. At Usk about 40 persons speak it, at Abergavenny it is seldom heard, although that town boasts a Welsh chapel. To the east of the Usk Welsh is very rarely spoken, and that only by immigrants. The statistics for the county are as follows :—

(delwedd J6779) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 614)

	Area. Square Miles.	Population. 1871.	Able to Speak Welsh only.	Able to Speak Welsh and English.	Proportion per Cent. able to Speak Welsh.
Welsh portion	83	61,525	1,500	44,850	73·7
Mixed ,, ...	32	17,713	—	6,380	36·0
English ,, ...	461	116,210	—	3,770	3·2
Total Monmouth	576	195,448	1,500	55,000	29·8

In GLAMORGANSHIRE English is perhaps more generally spoken than in any other part of Wales, but the language of the religious services is mainly Welsh. Welsh chapels abound in every district, including the large towns, and although the services in the Established Churches are not so frequently held in Welsh as they would be under similar conditions in the neighbouring diocese of St. David's, they are not entirely wanting in the rural districts. A very small portion of the county can be called English, the greater portion is purely Welsh or has a strong sprinkling of Welsh speaking inhabitants. The only tract of any extent within which English is spoken to the entire exclusion of Welsh is the peninsula of Gower, in the west. It is bounded by a line drawn from the west of Penclawdd to the neighbourhood of Swansea. Upper Llanrhidian, which lies to the north of that line, is Welsh.

The only other locality where English is spoken by more than three-fourths of the inhabitants, lies to the south of Cardiff. It includes the villages of Penarth and Lavernock. At the latter only two persons are said to speak Welsh, at the former Welsh is spoken by about 17 per cent.

Cardiff itself forms the centre of an extensive district in eastern Glamorganshire, within which Welsh is no longer spoken by a majority, and which is separated from the more thoroughly Welsh part of the county by a line commencing on the river Rumney, above Machen, and running thence to the north of Whitchurch, between Cardiff and Llandaff, past Leckwith, St. Lythans, Barry, Porthkerry, St. Athan, and Llantwit-major, to the coast near St. Donats. All the villages named lie within this "mixed district." In Cardiff (39,536 inhabitants) Welsh is spoken by nearly 15,000 persons, but at Roath, which belongs now to the borough, the Welsh are in a considerable minority. Further west, likewise on the coast, there is a smaller district of the same nature, which embraces the villages of Newton Nottage (with Porthcawl), Kenfigg, Pyle, and Margam. In these districts the Welsh is losing ground rapidly, and children addressed in Welsh by their parents will not unfrequently reply in English.

(delwedd J6780) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 615)

In the remainder of Glamorganshire Welsh remains the language of the majority, not only in the villages, but also in the towns, in which the Welsh element is being continually reinforced by immigrants from the interior. In Swansea (56,995 inhabitants) Welsh is said to be spoken by 42,000 persons, many of whom know no English. Those parts of the town which lie to the south and west of the market place are English; the north is Welsh, with a considerable sprinkling of Irish. Three years ago there were 5,269 Welsh communicants, 4,168 children in Welsh Sunday schools, and an average attendance of 11,503 persons at Welsh chapels. The number of these is said to be increasing. At Neath the services in six places of worship out of a total of fourteen are in Welsh, and English is spoken only by immigrants or by those who have risen in the social scale. Aberavon has a majority of Welsh speaking inhabitants, but Welsh is said to be declining.

All the towns in the interior of the county boast a majority of Welsh speaking inhabitants. In Aberdare (36,112 inhabitants) 26,000 speak Welsh; at Merthyr Tydvil (51,947 inhabitants) 34,400. Many English and Irish immigrants have settled in these towns, and Welsh is unanimously said to lose ground among the younger generation.

There are, however, parts of the county, away from the railways and highroads of commerce, where Welsh firmly maintains its footing, and the day when it shall cease to be spoken in Glamorganshire is yet far in the distance. The statistics for the county are as follows:—

	Area, Square Miles.	Population.	Persons able to Speak Welsh only.	Persons able to Speak Welsh and English.	Proportion per Cent. able to Speak Welsh.
Welsh	581	323,617	44,950	204,640	77·1
Mixed	147	63,731	3,400	18,010	33·6
English	82	10,511	—	460	4·4
Total Glamorgan	810	397,859	48,350	223,110	70·8

CARMARTHENSHIRE is far more intensely Welsh than Glamorgan, for if we exclude a small English district in its south-eastern corner, Welsh is spoken by more than 95 out of every hundred inhabitants, the proportion being lowest at Llanelly, Pembrey (Port Rush), St. Clears, Carmarthen, and Llandilo, but nowhere descending below 78 per cent.

The English district just referred to extends from the estuary of the Taf, westward, into Pembrokeshire. It includes the parishes of Laugharne, Llansadurnen, and Pendine and Marros, and is popularly supposed to have been settled by Flemings. Its area is

(delwedd J6781) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 616)

32 square miles, and it has 2,226 inhabitants, of whom less than 600 are able to speak Welsh. For the convenience of this portion of the population Welsh services are still held at Laugharne and Marros.

The remainder of the county is thoroughly Welsh, even in its towns. At Llanelly (14,973 inhabitants) the services are conducted in Welsh in 14 places of worship out of 23, and Welsh either maintains its ground, or yields very slowly. At Carmarthen, too, most services are conducted in Welsh, and the same is the case throughout the remainder of the county. Welsh is exclusively being used in no less than 38 churches out of a total of 104. Welsh fairly maintains its ground; English, to the exclusion of Welsh, being spoken only by immigrants and their descendants, and by some of the upper classes. Even immigrants are said to pick up a little Welsh.

PEMBROKESHIRE is Welsh in its northern, English in its southern half, and the line separating the two races is well marked. When Arnulf de Montgomery conquered the country, in the reign of Henry I, he no doubt brought English settlers with him. These were on two subsequent occasions reinforced by Flemings, who established themselves in Roose, with Haverfordwest for their capital, and in the peninsula of Castle Martin to the west of Tenby. In these early days southern Pembrokeshire was known as "Little England," and although the king's writ did not then run in Wales, it was duly acknowledged in this "Anglia trans-"Wallina." The present English inhabitants may no doubt claim descent from these early settlers, but they have perpetually been receiving reinforcements, and the dialect they speak is said to resemble that of Somersetshire.* Of course, there has been some intermixture between the two races, but down to the present day they differ in language not only, but also physically. The English occupy the smaller but more fertile area, and outnumber the Welsh in the proportion of 100 to 55.

The line which separates the two races begins in St. Bride's Bay, with the Gignog or Brandy Brook, to the south of Brawdy. It passes to the north of Roch and Camrose, crosses the western Cleddau about a mile below Treffgarne, and extends thence westward, passing to the south of Spittal, Clarbeston, and Bletherston, as far as the Eastern Cleddau or Cleddy, which it strikes to the north-east of the village of Llanwhaden. Within the parish of Llanwhaden all the names of farmhouses and cottages to the west of the Cleddy are English, whilst those on the eastern side are Welsh.

* W. W. Skeet, "Bibliographical List," published by the English Dialect Society, p. 132. At the present day, out of 7,843 natives of England residing in Pembrokeshire, the majority came from Devon, Gloucester, Cornwall, and London.

(delwedd J6782) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 617)

Welsh, however, is spoken on both sides, but by no means so much so on the west as on the east bank. Leaving the Cleddy to the north of Robeston Wathen, the boundary encircles the town of Narberth, where Welsh is spoken only by an occasional wanderer from the hills, leaves Crinow and Lampeter Velfrey to the north, and to the north of Crunwear it crosses into Carmarthenshire. All the country to the north of that line (337 square miles) is Welsh, all to the south English. At some distance within the border line Welsh certainly appears to maintain its ground, but where Welsh parishes border upon English ones, it appears to lose ground slowly, and the children of Welsh parents who migrate into English parts speak English only. The rector of Treffgarne says that within the last fifty years English has been gaining ground "a "little." From Spittal it is reported that Welsh "is being for- "gotten by the young." In the neighbouring parishes of East Walton and Llanwhaden Welsh is said to maintain its ground "so "far." In the neighbourhood of Narberth the younger generation gradually forgets Welsh, and the rector of Llampeter Velfrey predicts that twenty years hence little but English will be spoken in his district. A knowledge of English in the meantime is spreading amongst the Welsh, five-sixths of whom are able to converse in it.

Throughout the Welsh district the services of the Established Church, with two solitary exceptions, are conducted in Welsh or in Welsh and English. The dissenters use Welsh with rare exceptions, both in their meeting places and in their Sunday schools. They have a few Welsh chapels to the south of the boundary line.

The statistics for the county are as follows:—

	Area. Square Miles.	Population. 1871.	Able to speak Welsh only.	Able to speak Welsh and English.	Proportion per Cent. able to Speak Welsh.
Welsh portion	337	32,935	5,430	25,620	91·8
English „	278	59,063	—	1,700	2·8
Total Pembroke	615	91,998	5,430	27,320	35·5

CARDIGANSHIRE is Welsh throughout. Even at Aberystwith, its principal town, the services in 11 out of 16 places of worship are conducted in Welsh, and though most of the inhabitants speak English, there are few who do not also understand Welsh. But whilst Welsh is slowly losing ground there, it is said firmly to maintain its hold upon the people throughout the rest of the county. Only immigrants and a few "aristocrats" do not under- stand it. Only in 3 places of worship are the services of the

(delwedd J6783) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 618)

Established Church conducted in English; in 44 they are carried on in Welsh; in 39 in both languages. The dissenting bodies make but little use of English. At the same time there exists a very general desire to acquire a knowledge of English, which is spoken, more or less fluently, by a majority of the inhabitants in the towns, and by many country people. In the more remote districts, however, not 10 in a 100 are able to read and write English correctly. Upon the whole, I believe we may assume that rather more than one-half of the inhabitants are able to express themselves in English.

MERIONETH is quite as Welsh as Carnarvon, although a knowledge of English is more general. All speak Welsh, with the exception of immigrants and a few persons of the upper classes. All, or nearly all, speak English in towns, and many of the younger people in the country districts. The quarrymen of Festiniog are stated to speak Welsh only. Welsh maintains its ground. A "man of Harlech," 60 years of age, writes that "there is a great "increase in the knowledge of English as long since I remember, "but I do not think that there is any diminution in Welsh speaking, "reading, writing, or preaching." Nearly all religious services, including those of the Church of England, are conducted in Welsh.

CARNARVON is quite as Welsh as its southern neighbour, although owing to the larger number of English immigrants, the number of persons speaking Welsh is relatively smaller. Nearly all religious services are conducted in Welsh, and Welsh maintains its ground among young and old. English is "understood by many, spoken by "very few." The majority of the older inhabitants do not understand it, except in the principal towns of the south, where its use, for business purposes, is universal. The children of immigrants, I am informed, learn Welsh in most cases. In the town of Carnarvon 3,500 persons speak Welsh only, 5,000 Welsh and English, and 1,000 English only. English is employed in one church and two small chapels, whilst the services in three large churches and seven chapels are conducted in Welsh. The board of guardians, the vestry, and the two school boards of the district, transact their business in Welsh, and the circulation of the two Welsh weekly papers in the town is four times that of their two English contemporaries.

In Bangor Welsh is spoken by all except by about 300 natives of England. In Conway only 50 persons are stated not to be able to speak Welsh, whilst in the favourite seaside town of Llandudno 250 persons speak Welsh only, 2,312 Welsh and English, and 200 English, the Welsh services being four times more numerously attended than the English ones.

(delwedd J6784) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 619)

The quarrymen of Penrhyn, Llanberis, and Talysarn, about 10,000 in number, speak Welsh only.

ANGLESEY, in spite of its Saxon name, is thoroughly Welsh, and the knowledge of English is more restricted in that county than in any other portion of similar extent throughout Wales. I am even assured that Welsh "is studied to a greater extent by the younger "generation than formerly, and that even English immigrants "learn a little Welsh." Welsh is almost exclusively used in all churches, chapels and Sunday schools, those of the Roman Catholic Irish, who are numerous at Holyhead, excepted.

I now give a summary for the whole of Wales:—

1. *Geographical Distribution of the Welsh Speaking Population of Wales.*

	Area, Square Miles.	Proportion per Cent.	Total Population, 1871.	Proportion per Cent.	Persons Speaking Welsh.	Proportion per Cent.
Districts in which Welsh is spoken by a majority	6,050	76·5	1,025,573	78·1	887,870	94·9
Districts in which it is spoken by 25 to 50 per cent.	357	4.5	113,030	8·7	38,046	4·1
Districts in which it is spoken by less than 25 per cent. of the inhabitants	1,501	19·0	174,080	13·2	8,614	1·0
Total	7,908	100·0	1,312,583	100·0	934,530	100·0

2. *Counties and Parts of Counties in which Welsh is Spoken by a Majority of the Inhabitants.*

	Area, Square Miles.	Population.	Persons Speaking Welsh.	Proportion per Cent.	Proportion per Cent. able to Speak English.
Flint	211	58,201	52,560	90·3	90·7
Denbigh	583	84,787	80,200	94·6	53·4
Montgomery	461	27,917	23,010	82·5	77·6
Radnor	54	713	470	66·2	97·1
Brecon	650	45,194	36,290	80·3	86·1
Monmouth	83	61,525	47,350	73·7	97·8
Glamorgan	581	323,617	249,590	77·1	86·1
Carmarthen	915	113,484	108,150	95·3	66·7
Pembroke	337	32,935	31,050	91·8	83·9
Cardigan	693	73,441	70,100	95·5	53·1
Merioneth	602	46,598	44,000	94·4	63·5
Carnarvon	578	106,121	98,600	92·9	43·5
Anglesey	302	51,040	47,500	93·1	38·0
Total	6,050	1,025,573	887,870	86·5	81·7

(delwedd J6785) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 620)

3. *Parts of Counties in which Welsh is Spoken by more than 25 per Cent., but less than 50 per Cent. of the Inhabitants.*

	Area, Square Miles.	Population.	Persons Speaking Welsh.	Proportion per Cent.	Proportion per Cent. able to Speak English.
Flint	3	1,901	756	39·8	100·0
Radnor	20	2,000	520	26·0	100·0
Montgomery	137	18,536	5,750	31·1	98·4
Brecon.....	18	9,149	3,230	35·3	99·7
Monmouth	32	17,713	6,380	36·0	100·0
Glamorgan	147	63,731	21,410	33·6	94·7
Total	357	113,030	38,046	33·7	96·8

It would appear from this table that Welsh is still spoken within the borders of Wales by no less than 934,530 individuals. In England, too, Welsh is still spoken in their homes by numerous natives of the principality. In 1871, 166,717 natives of Wales resided in England. Taking into consideration the proportion born in each county of Wales, I find that about 62,000 of them (37 per cent.) had some knowledge of Welsh when they came to England. The Welsh speaking Welsh thus number no less than 996,530 within the limits of England and Wales.*

The Welsh, consequently, are more formidable in numbers than are either their Scottish or their Irish kinsmen, and they are more formidable, too, in other respects, and will survive long after the Celtic dialects of Scotland and Ireland shall be numbered amongst the dead. They have a literature, newspapers, and periodicals, one of which, the "Trysofa Plant," or "Children's "Treasury," has a circulation of 43,000 copies. Their literature is on the increase, and the Welsh language is more the subject of careful study than it ever was. "There is an abiding love of Welsh "which clings to the people with great tenacity," says one of my Glamorganshire correspondents. The Welshman may market in English, but he prefers his religion in a Welsh garb, gives a preference to Welsh reading, and cultivates Welsh at his fireside. Of course the language is sustaining serious losses from day to day

* "Welsh" chapels, at which Welsh is supposed to be preached, are numerous in certain parts of England, the Calvinists having 58, the Independents 35, and the Baptists 17. In London there are 14, the oldest apparently founded in 1792; in Liverpool 20, in Manchester 8, in 11 other towns of Lancashire 13 (and in addition 12 missionary stations); Cheshire has 17 Welsh chapels, of which 4 are at Chester and 3 at Birkenhead; in Shropshire there are 8, including 2 each at Shrewsbury and Oswestry. Staffordshire has 6 (3 at Hanley); Birmingham 4; Durham 10 (3 at Stockton-on-Tees); Middlesboro' (Yorkshire) 3; Hereford 3 (all under one minister); Bristol 1; and Swindon (Wilts) 1. There is also a Welsh chapel at Dublin.

(delwedd J6786) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 621)

wherever Welsh and English come into contact. Vast tracts, formerly inhabited by Welsh speaking people, have been lost, and others will follow. But a language to which the people who speak it cling with affection dies a slow death, and Welsh may survive for centuries to come, if not for ever.

Amongst the agencies which might contribute most towards the maintenance of Welsh the school does not, for the school is English, even in those parts of the country where the children have no knowledge of English.* But whilst the school is being used as a means of eradicating the Welsh language, the pulpit has proved its staunch friend.

The Established Church neglected for a long time the duty it owed to the people as respects religious teaching. For years that church was governed by English bishops, who felt no sympathy for the people whose spiritual life they were called upon to direct. From 1714 to 1870 not one Welshman was raised to the episcopal bench. The people were almost driven into dissent. At the present time there are in the principality 1,145 churches of the Establishment, and about 3,000 chapels of dissenters, that is, a place of worship to every 320 inhabitants. The three leading bodies (Calvinistic Methodists, Independents, and Baptists) have no less than 2,781 chapels between them, and in 2,338 of these the religious services are carried on in Welsh. Sunday schools are attached to all these chapels, and it is they that still supply a vast number of Welshmen with the rudiments of education. The English Church too has wakened up to the necessity of cultivating Welsh, and in the diocese of St. David's alone the services in 113 churches are conducted in Welsh, and in 189 partially so. Even the Catholics occasionally have Welsh services.†

I have thus arrived at the end of my task, and now will summarise the results obtained by me. The number of Gaelic speaking Celts throughout the British Islands I estimate as follows:—

Irish Gaels—	
In parts of Ireland where they form a majority	343,297
„ other parts of Ireland	474,277
„ Great Britain	50,000
Total	867,574

* Not a single instance of a Welsh school has come under my notice. Of course, many masters explain the meaning of words in Welsh when they know the language. That the children learn anything under so absurd a system is almost to be wondered at. They certainly do not learn much, and from an educational point of view, Wales lacks far behind England. The Sunday schools to some extent supply means of education. Of course they get no grants from the imperial funds.

† I gather these facts from the Year Books of these dissenting bodies, which must, however, be used with caution. They are anything but guides that may implicitly be trusted.

(delwedd J6787) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 622)

Manx men—	
Isle of Man	12,535
Scotch Gaels—	
In parts of Scotland where they form a majority	242,207
„ other parts of Scotland	58,746
„ Ireland (Antrim)	301
„ England and Wales	8,000
Total	309,254
Welsh (*Kymri*)—	
In parts of Wales where they form a majority	887,870
„ the remainder of Wales	46,660
„ England	62,000
Total	996,530

The Celtic speaking inhabitants of the British Isles thus amount to 2,185,890 souls, or to about 7 per cent. of the entire population. About 456,735 of them cannot speak English, viz., 304,110 Welshmen, 103,562 Irishmen, 48,873 Scotchmen, and 190 Manxmen.

In concluding, I must crave your indulgence for many shortcomings, in a paper dealing with a subject for which the available materials are by no means very abundant, and had for the most part to be collected by myself. I must also express my most sincere thanks to those many gentlemen in the sister kingdoms, and in the principality of Wales, whose co-operation alone enabled me to prepare the paper I have now laid before you.

(delwedd J6788) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 623)

APPENDIX.

TABLE I.—*Ireland. The Irish Speaking*

	Population.		1851. Able to Speak		1871. Able to Speak	
	1851.	1871.	Irish only.	Irish and English.	Irish only.	Irish and English.
LEINSTER.						
Carlow	68,079	51,659	—	243	3	127
Drogheda, town	16,847	13,510	1	598	—	30
Dublin, city	253,369	246,326	27	3,399	3	1,085
„ county	146,778	158,936	5	1,276	5	553
Kildare	95,723	83,614	1	513	—	260
Kilkenny, city	19,975	12,710	5	585	—	82
„ county	138,773	96,669	99	20,731	316	6,342
King's County	112,076	75,900	—	403	1	245
Longford	82,348	64,501	3	1,462	—	245
Louth	90,815	70,511	50	18,712	3	4,076
Meath	140,748	95,558	7	8,956	37	2,165
Queen's County	111,664	79,791	—	244	—	89
Westmeath	111,407	78,432	1	920	—	276
Wexford	180,158	132,666	1	799	1	209
Wicklow	98,979	78,697	—	135	5	89
Army, &c.	9,582	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1,682,320	1,339,451	200	58,976	374	15,873
MUNSTER.						
Clare	212,440	147,864	25,446	101,550	4,432	53,713
Cork, city	85,732	78,642	123	10,258	96	5,294
„ county	563,576	438,434	46,486	249,548	11,532	135,437
Kerry	238,254	196,586	44,455	102,043	12,009	69,959
Limerick, city	53,448	39,353	313	3,891	13	1,655
„ county	208,684	152,583	6,800	71,182	1,389	21,708
Tipperary	331,567	216,713	728	62,036	675	21,245
Waterford, city	25,297	23,349	140	3,963	121	1,857
„ county	138,738	99,961	21,845	64,978	3,700	41,659
Army, &c.	7,864	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1,865,600	1,393,485	146,336	669,449	33,967	352,527

(delwedd J6789) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 624)

APPENDIX.

Population, 1851 *and* 1871. (*Counties.*)

Proportion per Cent. of Total Population able to Speak Irish.		Decrease of Total Population, 1851-71.	Absolute Decrease of Irish Speaking Population, 1851-71.	Relative Decrease of Irish Speaking Population, 1851-71.	Proportion per Cent. of Illiterate over 5 Years of Age, 1871.	
1851.	1871.					
		Per cnt.	Per cnt.	Per cnt.		LEINSTER.
0·36	0·25	24	46	31	26·3	Carlow
3·57	0·22	20	95	94	34·2	Drogheda, town
1·33	0·44	5	69	67	19·5	Dublin, city
0·87	0·36	inc. 8	55	59	18·8	,, county
0·54	0·31	13	50	43	26·0	Kildare
2·96	0·64	36	86	78	30·5	Kilkenny, city
15·01	6·88	30	68	54	30·4	,, county
0·36	0·32	32	39	11	29·9	King's County
1·78	0·38	22	81	78	32·0	Longford
20·66	5·79	23	78	71	38·7	Louth
6·37	2·31	32	75	64	32·1	Meath
0·22	0·11	29	64	50	26·5	Queen's County
0·83	0·35	30	70	58	31·0	Westmeath
0·44	0·16	36	74	63	31·7	Wexford
0·14	0·12	20	32	14	28·1	Wicklow
—	—	—	—	—	—	Army, &c.
3·52	1·21	20	73	66	27·8	Total
						MUNSTER.
59·78	39·31	30	54	34	37·9	Clare
12·11	6·86	8	48	44	29·4	Cork, city
52·56	33·53	22	51	36	42·7	,, county
61·49	41·69	17	44	32	47·3	Kerry
7·86	4·24	27	60	46	29·4	Limerick, city
37·37	15·14	27	70	59	33·9	,, county
18·93	10·11	34	65	47	30·8	Tipperary
16·22	8·49	77	52	48	32·4	Waterford, city
62·59	45·38	28	47	30	50·7	,, county
—	—	—	—	—	—	Army, &c.
43·73	27·73	25	53	36	39·2	Total

(delwedd J6790) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 625)

The Irish Speaking Population,

	Population.		1851. Able to Speak		1871. Able to Speak	
	1851.	1871.	Irish only.	Irish and English.	Irish only.	Irish and English.
ULSTER.						
Antrim	264,622	236,361	11	3,022	14	454
Armagh	196,084	179,260	148	13,588	21	3,903
Belfast, town	87,062	174,412	—	295	—	294
Carrickfergus	8,520	9,397	—	17	—	10
Cavan	174,064	140,735	54	12,973	58	3,300
Donegal	255,158	218,334	34,882	38,376	18,629	44,506
Down	320,817	277,294	2	1,151	2	336
Fermanagh	116,047	92,794	10	2,694	10	349
Londonderry	192,022	173,906	28	5,378	65	1,319
Monaghan	141,823	114,969	243	10,712	138	4,964
Tyrone	255,661	215,766	405	12,487	130	6,421
Army, &c.	1,999	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2,013,879	1,833,228	35,783	100,693	19,067	65,856
CONNAUGHT.						
Galway, town	34,146	19,843	7,727	15,128	2,434	6,929
,, county	287,538	228,615	67,859	131,530	27,805	102,535
Leitrim	111,897	95,562	144	14,859	341	6,514
Mayo	274,499	246,030	49,643	130,435	16,509	122,452
Roscommon	173,436	140,670	1,326	44,970	739	17,364
Sligo	128,515	115,493	10,584	38,644	23 26	24,263
Army, &c.	2,448	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1,012,479	846,213	137,283	375,566	50,154	280,057
IRELAND	6,574,278	5,412,377	319,602	1,204,684	103,562	714,313

(delwedd J6791) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 626)

1851 *and* 1871. (*Counties*)—*Contd.*

Proportion per Cent. of Total Population able to Speak Irish.		Decrease of Total Population, 1851-71.	Absolute Decrease of Irish Speaking Population, 1851-71.	Relative Decrease of Irish Speaking Population, 1851-71.	Proportion per Cent. of Illiterate over 5 Years of Age, 1871.	
1851.	1871.					
		Per cnt.	Per cnt.	Per cnt.		ULSTER.
1·15	0·19	11	85	89	15·8	Antrim
7·01	2·18	9	71	69	30·4	Armagh
0·34	0·17	inc. 100	Sta.	50	15·7	Belfast, town
0·20	0·11	inc. 10	41	45	11·3	Carrickfergus
7·48	2·39	19	74	69	30·1	Cavan
28·71	28·92	14	14	inc. 0·7	48·5	Donegal
0·36	0·09	14	71	75	18·8	Down
2·33	0·39	20	87	83	27·6	Fermanagh
2·81	0·79	9	75	71	22·2	Londonderry
7·72	4·44	19	53	42	30·7	Monaghan
5·04	3·03	15	49	40	29·0	Tyrone
—	—	—	—	—	—	Army, &c.
6·77	4·63	9	38	32	26·4	Total
						CONNAUGHT.
67·02	47·29	42	59	20	50·4	Galway, town
69·36	57·01	22	35	18	56·9	„ county
13·41	7·17	15	54	46	32·8	Leitrim
65·60	56·49	10	23	14	57·4	Mayo
26·69	12·86	29	61	52	38·9	Roscommon
38·30	23·02	10	46	40	43·1	Sligo
—	—	—	—	—	—	Army, &c.
50·66	39·02	16	36	23	49·3	Total
23·26	15·11	18	46	35	33·4	IRELAND

(delwedd J6792) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 627)

TABLE II.—*Ireland.—The Irish Speaking Population*, 1851 *and* 1871.
(BARONIES.)

[This table includes *all* Baronies which had in 1871 an Irish Speaking Population of at least 1 per Cent.]

	1851.			1871.		
	Total Population.	Persons able to Speak Irish.	Proportion per Cent.	Total Population.	Persons able to Speak Irish.	Proportion per Cent.
LEINSTER—CARLOW.						
St. Mullins, Lower (Tinnahinch)	5,781	128	2·3	6,889	89	1·3
Remainder of Carlow county	62,297	115	0·2	44,761	41	0·1
Total	68,078	243	0·4	51,650	130	0·3
DUBLIN.						
Castlenock (Finglas)	10,196	243	2·4	9,597	100	1·0
Remainder of county	136,582	1,038	0·7	149,339	458	0·3
Total	146,778	1,281	0·9	158,936	558	0·4
KILKENNY.						
Callan (Callan)	6,365	477	7·5	3,410	440	12·9
Crannagh (Freshford)	12,741	1,411	11·1	8,513	318	3·7
Fassadinin (Castlecomer, Ballyragget)	20,917	390	1·9	15,908	140	0·9
Galmoy (Urlingford)	10,383	458	4·4	6,825	42	0·7
Gowran (Thomastown, Craigue-namanagh)	29,915	1,748	5·9	21,130	636	3·0
Ida (Rosbercon)	16,150	5,756	45·7	11,346	1,673	14·7
Iverk (Pilltown)	13,574	4,242	31·2	10,389	1,055	10·0
Kells (Kells, Kilmaganny)	9,725	2,216	22·8	6,334	918	14·5
Knocktopher (Mullinavat)	10,942	2,866	26·3	7,526	1,239	16·5
Shillelogher (Bennetsbridge)	8,091	1,266	15·6	5,288	198	3·7
Total	138,773	20,830	15·0	96,669	6,658	6·9
KING'S COUNTY.						
Garrycastle (Ferbane, Banagher, Cloghar, Shannon Bridge)	21,210	239	1·1	14,097	154	1·1
Remainder	90,866	164	0·2	61,803	92	0·1
Total	112,076	403	0·4	75,900	246	0·3
LOUTH.						
Ardee (Ardee, Castlebellingham)	22,274	3,715	16·6	15,094	660	4·4
Dundalk, Lower (Carlingford)	15,732	4,625	28·7	13,646	1,479	10·8
,, Upper (Dundalk, Blackrock)	23,268	5,987	25·7	20,866	1,495	7·1
Ferrard (Cullon, Dunleer, Clogher)	17,789	2,857	16·0	12,601	230	1·8
Louth (Louth, Lurgangreen)	9,424	1,672	17·8	6,568	210	3·2
Drogheda, Barony (adjoins town)	2,328	186	8·1	1,736	5	0·3
Total	90,815	18,762	20·7	70,511	4,079	5·6

(delwedd J6793) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 628)

TABLE II.—*The Irish Speaking Population*, 1851 *and* 1871. (*Baronies*)—*Contd.*

	1851.			1871.		
	Total Population.	Persons able to Speak Irish.	Proportion per Cent.	Total Population.	Persons able to Speak Irish.	Proportion per Cent.
MEATH.						
Fore (Oldcastle)	11,009	1,577	14·3	7,305	547	7·5
Kells, Lower (Moynalty)	8,964	698	7·1	6,655	214	3·2
„ Upper (Kells)	16,070	1,502	9·4	10,553	550	5·2
Morgallion (Nobber)	7,290	609	8·1	5,108	233	4·6
Navan, Lower (Navan)	12,523	911	7·3	8,799	285	3·3
„ Upper (Trim)	4,227	152	3·6	2,925	42	1·4
Slane, Lower (Drumcondra)	6,586	1,041	15·8	4,434	208	4·7
Remainder	74,079	2,473	3·3	49,779	123	0·2
Total	140,748	8,963	6·4	95,558	2,202	2·3
WESTMEATH.						
Brawny (Athlone)	8,568	85	1·0	5,082	53	1·0
Fore (Castle Pollard)	12,136	199	1·6	8,710	104	1·2
Remainder	90,703	637	0·7	64,640	19	—
Total	111,407	921	0·8	78,432	276	0·4
LONGFORD.						
Granard (Granard, Ballinalee)	22,539	686	3·1	18,017	72	0·4
Longford (Longford, Newtown Forbes, Drumlish)	19,911	417	2·1	16,808	92	0·5
Rathcline (Ballymahon, Keenagh)	10,229	282	2·7	7,720	36	0·5
Remainder	29,669	80	0·3	21,956	45	0·2
Total	82,348	1,465	1·8	64,501	245	0·4
MUNSTER—CLARE.						
1. Bunratty, Lower (Newmarket-on-Fergus)	15,263	3,853	25·2	9,984	1,633	16·3
2. Bunratty, Upper (Quin)	11,732	4,403	37·6	8,392	1,597	19·0
3. Burren (Ballyvaghan)	8,742	7,467	85·8	6,142	4,405	71·1
4. Clonderalaw (Killadysert)	20,719	11,557	55·8	15,089	4,906	32·5
5. Corcomroe (Ennistimon)	20,369	16,518	80·9	14,514	8,542	58·9
6. Ibrickan (Milltown Malbay)	18,675	14,567	77·8	14,560	7,458	51·1
7. Inchiquin (Corrofin)	14,468	10,518	72·5	11,510	8,013	69·7
8. Islands (Ennis, Clare)	26,503	10,704	40·4	17,217	5,335	31·0
9. Moyarta (Kilrush, Kilkee)	33,559	28,448	84·6	21,833	12,006	55·1
10. Tulla, Lower (Killalo)	19,353	5,533	28·6	13,649	2,338	17·2
11. „ Upper (Tulla)	23,057	8,428	36·4	14,974	2,912	19·4
Total	212,440	126,996	59·8	147,864	58,145	39·3
CORK.						
1. Bantry (Bantry)	12,328	8,537	69·4	9,534	3,381	34·4
2. Barretts (Mourne Abbey)	6,164	2,770	44·9	5,000	1,482	29·6
3. Barrymore (Queenstown, Rathcormack, Castle Martyr)	50,393	22,904	45·4	37,128	7,935	21·4
4. Bear (Bearhaven)	19,909	11,811	59·4	15,807	9,974	63·1

(delwedd J6794) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 629)

TABLE II.—*The Irish Speaking Population*, 1851 *and* 1871. (*Baronies*)—*Contd.*

	1851.			1871.		
	Total Population	Persons able to Speak Irish.	Proportion per Cent.	Total Population.	Persons able to Speak Irish.	Proportion per Cent.
CORK—*Contd.*						
5. Carbery, East (E. Division), (Clonakilty)	22,608	13,704	60·7	19,083	7,103	37·2
6. Carbery, East (W. Division), (Dunmanway, Ross Carbery)	26,119	18,051	69·2	23,521	10,637	45·3
7. Carbery, West (E. Division), (Skibbereen)	29,531	17,216	58·3	23,360	10,449	44·7
8. Carbery, West (W. Division), (Skull, Crookhaven)	26,702	18,294	68·5	22,277	8,093	36·3
9. Condons and Clangibbon (Fermoy, Mitchelstown)	32,523	10,736	33·0	25,236	6,543	26·0
10. Courceys (Ballinspittle)	2,604	2,017	77·6	2,111	1,398	66·6
11. Cork (Douglas, Blackrock)	28,500	7,721	27·1	21,876	6,781	30·9
12. Duhallow (Kanturk, Newmarket)	52,553	23,050	43·8	41,698	8,319	20·0
13. Fermoy (Mallow, Doneraile, Glanworth)	36,237	12,943	35·8	26,378	4,235	16·0
14. Ibane and Barryroe (Courtmacsherry)	15,225	9,334	61·4	12,400	4,252	34·2
15. Imokilly (Middleton, Youghal, Cloyne)	53,570	31,108	58·0	36,648	15,865	43·3
16. Kerrycurrihy (Passage, Monkstown, Crosshaven)	13,214	6,602	50·0	10,422	2,200	21·1
17. Kinalea (Inishannon, Oysterhaven)	13,734	9,341	68·2	9,819	3,942	40·2
18. Kinalmeaky (Bandon)	14,291	6,378	44·6	10,581	2,541	24·0
19. Kinnatallgoon (Ballynoe)	6,250	4,922	78·8	4,158	2,120	50·9
20. Kinsale (Kinsale)	10,321	4,199	40·7	10,325	1,074	10·4
21. Muskerry, East (Ballincollig, Blarney)	31,790	19,603	61·7	24,857	7,513	30·2
22. Muskerry, West (Macroom, Millstreet)	36,745	27,837	75·9	30,331	18,496	61·0
23. Orrery and Kilmore (Charleville, Battevant)	22,266	6,956	31·2	15,884	2,536	16·0
Total	563,576	296,034	52·5	438,434	146,969	33·5
Cork, city	85,732	10,381	12·1	78,642	5,390	6·9
KERRY.						
1. Clanmaurice (Ardfert)	28,442	15,316	53·9	25,047	7,260	29·0
2. Corkaguiney (Dingle)	28,989	20,749	71·5	21,676	11,834	54·5
3. Dunkerron, North	5,738	5,057	88·8	5,596	3,724	66·5
4. ,, South (Sneem)	10,951	9,089	82·6	10,367	5,074	48·8
5. Glanarought (Kenmare)	15,403	8,643	56·1	10,667	3,939	36·8
6. Iraghticonnor (Listowell, Ballylongford, Tarbert)	32,577	14,424	44·2	23,684	4,587	19·3
7. Iveragh (Cahersiveen)	26,937	24,123	89·7	22,449	13,650	60·9
8. Magunihy (Killarney)	34,283	23,498	68·5	29,820	13,927	46·8
9. Trughanacmy (Tralee, Castle Island)	54,934	25,598	46·6	47,280	17,973	38·0
Total	238,254	146,498	61·5	196,586	81,968	41·7

(delwedd J6795) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 630)

TABLE II.—*The Irish Speaking Population*, 1851 *and* 1871. (*Baronies*)—*Contd.*

	1851.			1871.		
	Total Population.	Persons able to Speak Irish.	Proportion per Cent.	Total Population.	Persons able to Speak Irish	Proportion per Cent.
LIMERICK.						
1. Clanwilliam (Castleconnel)	21,034	2,772	13·2	15,086	1,131	7·5
2. Connello, Lower (Rathkeale, Askeaton)	18,738	7,512	40·2	12,510	1,008	8·1
3. Connello, Upper (Ballingarry)	20,032	11,893	59·4	11,175	2,530	22·6
4. Coonagh (Oola)	12,567	2,077	16·5	9,841	290	2·9
5. Coshlea (Kilfinnane)	27,140	14,461	53·4	20,533	2,763	13·5
6. Coshma (Croom, Bruff).....	15,328	2,934	19·2	10,986	1,455	13·2
7. Glenquin (Newcastle, Abbeyfeale)	25,937	15,101	58·3	21,351	7,178	33·4
8. Kenry (Pallaskenry)	8,362	3,679	44·0	5,632	698	12·5
9. Kilmallock (Kilmallock)	3,160	746	23·3	2,102	55	2·6
10. Owneybeg (Cappamore)	7,229	725	10·1	5,946	225	3·8
11. Pubblebien (St. Patrick's Well)	15,152	3,726	24·5	9,341	1,096	11·8
12. Shanid (Glin)	19,816	7,270	36·7	17,114	3,062	17·9
13. Small County (Hospital)	14,189	5,086	35·8	10,966	1,606	14·6
Total	208,684	77,982	37·4	152,583	23,097	15·1
Limerick, city	53,448	4,204	7·9	39,353	1,668	4·2
TIPPERARY.						
1. Clanwilliam (Tipperary)	42,190	7,056	16·7	28,486	1,919	7·4
2. Eliogarty (Thurles, Templemore).....	33,811	2,254	6·7	21,041	492	2·3
3. Iffa and Offa, East (Carrick-on-Suir, Clonmell)	38,862	10,913	28·1	26,387	4,604	17·4
4. Iffa and Offa, West (Caher)	32,823	21,583	65·8	22,053	8,473	38·5
5. Ikerrin (Roscrea)	23,196	296	1·2	13,153	38	0·3
6. Kilnananagh, Lower (Dundrum)	9,143	1,070	11·7	6,973	393	5·6
7. Kilnananagh, Upper (Borrisoleigh)	15,291	1,875	12·2	11,961	519	4·3
8. Middlethird (Cashel, Fethard)	34,691	9,167	25·4	21,520	3,094	14·4
9. Ormond, Lower (Nenagh)	37,174	271	0·7	21,626	153	0·7
10. „ Upper (Silvermines)	18,634	437	2·4	11,484	72	0·6
11. Owney and Arra (Newport, Ballina)	19,103	1,001	5·2	14,352	312	2·2
12. Slievardagh (Killenaule)	26,649	6,778	25·4	17,677	1,851	10·4
Total	331,567	627,64	18·9	216,713	21,920	10·1
WATERFORD.						
1. Coshmore and Coshbride (Lismore, Cappoquin, Tallow)	24,883	16,653	66·9	17,111	7,649	45·7
2. Decies within Drum (Ardmore)	18,600	14,543	78·1	12,620	5,971	47·3
3. „ without Drum (Dungarvan)	42,678	27,248	63·8	30,429	18,909	62·1
4. Gaultiere (Passage, Dunmore)	12,376	5,190	41·8	9,294	2,540	27·3

(delwedd J6796) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 631)

TABLE II.—*The Irish Speaking Population*, 1851 *and* 1871. (*Baronies*)—*Contd.*

	1851.			1871.		
	Total Population.	Persons able to Speak Irish.	Proportion per Cent.	Total Population.	Persons able to Speak Irish.	Proportion per Cent.
WATERFORD—*Contd.*						
5. Glenahiry	8,210	3,039	37·1	5,900	3,360	56·9
6. Middlethird (Tramore)	14,880	8,805	59·1	12,019	2,934	24·4
7. Upperthird (Portlaw, Carrickbeg)	16,309	11,291	69·2	11,668	3,996	34·1
8. Kilculliheen (Suburb of Waterford)	802	54	6·7	900	128	14·2
Total	138,738	86,823	62·6	99,961	45,359	45·4
Waterford city	25,297	4,103	16·2	23,349	1,978	8·5
ULSTER—ANTRIM.						
Cary (Ballycastle, Bushmills, Armoy)	18,141	1,214	6·6	16,074	131	0·8
Glenarm, Lower (Glenarm, Cushendall)	9,853	1,459	14·9	9,522	170	1·8
Remainder	236,628	360	0·1	210,765	167	0·1
Total	264,622	3,033	1·1	236,361	468	0·2
ARMAGH.						
Fews, Upper (Newtown Hamilton, Crossmaglen)	22,399	4,187	18·6	18,482	1,136	6·1
Orior, Upper (Newry, Camlough)	31,664	9,229	29·1	30,311	2,658	8·8
Remainder	142,021	320	0·2	130,467	130	0·1
Total	196,084	13,736	7·0	179,260	3,924	2·2
CAVAN.						
Castlerahan (Ballyjamesduff, Mullagh)	28,097	2,991	10·7	23,362	648	2·8
Clankee (Bailliebourough, Kingscourt, Shercock)	26,606	2,701	10·1	21,606	431	2·0
Clanmahon (Bellnanagh)	19,952	2,035	10·2	16,443	268	1·6
Loughlee, Upper (Cavan, Ballyhaise, Swadone)	27,660	1,447	5·2	22,193	311	1·4
Tullygarvoy (Cootehill)	25,955	939	3·6	20,075	113	0·6
Tullyhaw (Swanlinbar, Ballyconnell)	20,207	2,746	13·6	17,286	1,559	9·0
Remainder	25,587	168	0·6	19,770	28	0·1
Total	174,064	13,027	7·5	140,735	3,358	2·4
DONEGAL.						
Banagh (Killibegs, Mountcharles, Ardara)	37,526	16,723	44·6	31,287	13,700	43·8
Boylagh (Glenties, Dunglow)	21,642	16,326	75·6	21,988	15,931	72·4
Inishowen, East (Moville, Carnedonagh)	31,933	7,704	24·1	28,807	4,793	16·7

(delwedd J6797) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 632)

TABLE II.—*The Irish Speaking Population*, 1851 *and* 1871. (*Baronies*)—*Contd.*

	1851.			1871.		
	Total Population.	Persons able to Speak Irish.	Proportion per Cent.	Total Population.	Persons able to Speak Irish.	Proportion per Cent.
DONEGAL—*Contd.*						
Inishowen, West (Buncrana)	16,311	950	5·8	14,397	710	4·9
Kilmacrenan (Rathmelton, Letterkenny, Kilmacrenan)	62,046	24,406	39·3	53,186	22,328	43·9
Raphoe, North (Lifford, Raphoe)	54,043	5,532	10·3	20,443	236	1·1
„ South (Castlefinn, Ballybofey, Stranorlar)				23,448	4,042	17·2
Tirhugh (Ballyshannon, Donegal)	31,657	1,617	5·1	24,778	1,395	5·6
Total	255,158	73,258	28·7	218,334	63,135	28·9
LONDONDERRY.						
Keenaght (Newtownlimavady, Dungiven)	29,016	375	1·3	23,738	280	1·2
Loughinsholin (Kilrea, Bellaghy, Magherafelt, Draperstown)	71,974	3,560	4·9	65,023	743	1·1
Tirkeeran (Muff, Feeny)	28,333	963	3·4	25,357	132	0·5
Remainder	62,699	508	0·8	59,788	229	0·4
Total	192,022	5,406	2·8	173,906	1,384	0·8
MONAGHAN.						
Cremorne (Ballybay, Castleblayney)	38,935	2,008	5·1	33,335	434	1·3
Farney (Carrickmacross)	31,521	8,110	25·7	23,169	4,159	17·9
Trough (Emyvale)	13,248	404	3·1	10,666	309	2·9
Remainder	58,129	432	0·8	47,799	200	0·4
Total	141,823	10,955	7·7	114,969	5,102	4·4
TYRONE.						
Clogher (Fintona, Fivemiletown, Ballygawley)	30,820	1,091	3·5	24,442	134	0·5
Dungannon, Upper (Cookstown, Coagh)	32,937	1,867	5·7	29,594	386	1·3
Omagh, East (Omagh, Beragh)	43,969	1,714	5·2	36,622	916	2·5
„ West (Castlederg)	18,920	1,332	7·1	16,404	841	5·1
Strabane, Upper (Gortin)	23,042	5,548	24·1	19,759	3,882	19·6
Remainder	105,973	1,370	1·3	88,945	392	0·5
Total	255,661	12,892	5·0	215,766	6,551	3·0
CONNAUGHT—GALWAY.						
1. Aran (Irishmore Island)	3,339	3,086	92·1	3,050	2,759	90·5
2. Athenry (Athenry)	5,858	4,013	68·4	3,998	2,546	63·6
3. Ballymoe (Ballimoe)	21,385	17,140	80·1	18,201	8,142	44·7
4. Ballinahynch or Connemara (Clifden)	24,356	20,809	85·2	23,969	18,362	76·5
5. Clare (Tuam)	32,351	28,594	88·4	24,684	18,280	74·0
6. Clonmacnowen (Ballinasloe)	13,614	2,652	19·6	8,330	1,066	12·8
7. Duhkellin (Oranmore)	17,475	12,790	73·1	13,069	8,535	65·1
8. Dunmore (Dunmore)	20,310	16,906	83·3	17,899	11,903	66·5

(delwedd J6798) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 633)

TABLE II.—*The Irish Speaking Population*, 1851 *and* 1871. (*Baronies*)—*Contd.*

	1851.			1871.		
	Total Population.	Persons able to Speak Irish.	Proportion per Cent.	Total Population.	Persons able to Speak Irish.	Proportion per Cent.
GALWAY—*Contd.*						
9. Kilconnell (Kilconnell)	11,565	6,114	52·7	8,030	3,528	44·1
10. Killian (Ballygar, Mount Bellew)	11,693	8,568	73·2	9,563	5,407	56·6
11. Kiltartan (Gort, Kinvarra)	19,602	13,912	70·9	12,603	6,815	34·1
12. Leitrim (Woodford)	19,669	8,469	43·0	14,443	3,183	22·1
13. Longford (Portumna)	21,473	5,745	26·8	14,171	2,009	14·1
14. Loughrea (Loughrea)	13,832	6,547	47·4	8,877	4,898	55·2
15. Moyculten or Lar Connaught (Oughterald)	21,979	18,544	84·4	22,103	15,236	69·0
16. Ross (or Joyce's country)	7,691	7,113	92·5	8,166	6,019	73·4
17. Tiaguin (Newtownbellew)	21,346	18,389	86·3	17,459	11,642	66·5
Total	287,538	199,389	69·4	228,615	130,340	57·0
Galway town	34,146	22,855	67·0	19,843	9,363	47·2
LEITRIM.						
1. Carrigallen (Ballinamore)	20,454	997	4·8	17,487	136	0·8
2. Drumahaire (Manor Hamilton, Drumkeeran)	28,561	8,948	31·3	25,366	4,317	16·6
3. Leitrim (Carrick-on-Shannon, Jamestown)	22,527	886	3·5	17,557	215	1·2
4. Mohill (Mohill, Cleone)	22,155	824	3·7	19,586	144	0·8
5. Rosclogher (Kinlough)	18,200	3,348	18·4	15,571	2,043	13·0
Total	111,897	15,003	13·4	95,562	6,855	7·2
MAYO.						
1. Burrishoole (Newport)	24,728	16,516	66·9	20,601	13,455	65·3
2. Carra (Castlebar)	32,687	23,041	70·3	28,611	15,517	54·3
3. Clanmorris (Clare)	19,784	11,618	58·7	17,669	9,880	55·8
4. Costello (Ballyhannis)	43,210	21,310	49·3	46,929	23,284	49·7
5. Erris (Belmullet)	19,630	17,216	87·8	17,953	13,869	77·5
6. Gallen (Swineford)	34,227	25,847	75·6	38,355	25,686	66·9
7. Kilmaine (Ballinrobe)	30,983	20,333	65·6	22,681	12,719	56·0
8. Murrisk (Westport)	24,983	16,094	64·3	17,647	8,854	50·3
9. Tirawley (Ballina, Killala)	44,167	28,083	63·5	35,584	15,697	44·1
Total	274,499	180,078	65·6	246,030	138,961	56·5
ROSCOMMON.						
1. Athlone (Athleague)	36,140	7,354	20·4	26,767	4,072	15·2
2. Ballintober, north (Roosky)	10,273	517	5·0	8,572	135	1·6
3. ,, south (Roscommon)	17,472	2,525	14·4	11,996	562	4·7
4. Ballymoe	4,817	1,873	34·9	3,388	1,034	30·5
5. Boyle (Boyle)	28,094	5,659	20·1	24,612	2,485	10·1
6. Castlereagh (Castlereagh)	22,026	11,465	52·1	19,462	3,309	16·9
7. Frenchpark (Frenchpark)	21,216	9,573	45·1	21,402	4,282	20·0

(delwedd J6799) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 634)

TABLE II.—*The Irish Speaking Population*, 1851 *and* 1871. (*Baronies*)—*Contd.*

	1851.			1871.		
	Total Population.	Persons able to Speak Irish.	Proportion per Cent.	Total Population.	Persons able to Speak Irish.	Proportion per Cent.
ROSCOMMON—*Contd.*						
8. Moycarn	6,713	1,263	19·4	4,491	642	14·5
9. Roscommon (Elphin, Stokestown)	26,885	6,067	22·5	19,980	1,582	9·0
Total	173,436	46,296	26·7	140,670	18,103	12·9
SLIGO.						
1. Carbury (Sligo)	38,059	11,118	29·2	29,930	4,376	14·7
2. Coolavin	7,895	3,429	43·4	8,406	1,117	13·3
3. Corran (Ballymote)	13,173	5,685	43·1	12,152	1,652	13·5
4. Leyney (Tobercurry)	25,283	12,218	48·3	26,166	10,028	38·3
5. Tireragh (Easky)	24,324	10,740	44·2	21,857	6,128	28·0
6. Tirerrill (Coolooney)	19,781	6,038	30·5	16,980	3,288	19·4
Total	128,515	49,228	38·3	115,493	26,589	23·0

TABLE III.—*Scotland. The Gaelic Speaking Population.*

Counties.	Area, Square Miles.	Population, 1871.	Persons able to Speak Gaelic.	Persons able to Speak Gaelic and English.	Proportion per Cent. able to Speak Gaelic.
Caithness	703	39,992	—	7,800	19·5
Sutherland	2,120	24,317	1,362	20,400	89·6
Ross and Cromarty	3,258	80,955	11,350	50,850	76·9
Inverness	4,255	87,531	24,520	48,380	83·3
Nairn	215	10,225	100	2,340	23·9
Elgin	531	43,612	6	2,100	4·8
Banff	685	62,023	5	650	1·1
Aberdeen	1,970	244,603	20	1,560	0·6
Forfar	890	237,567	—	3,000	1·3
Perth	2,609	127,768	1,020	19,260	15·9
Stirling	466	98,218	—	1,900	1·9
Dumbarton	207	58,857	—	1,800	3·1
Argyle	3,380	75,679	10,340	51,560	81·8
Bute	215	16,966	150	6,480	39·1
Remainder of Scotland	9,327	2,151,705	—	34,000	1·6
Total	30,831	3,360,018	48,873	252,080	8·9

(delwedd J6800) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 635)

TABLE IV.—*Wales. The Welsh Speaking Population.*

	Area, Square Miles.	Population, 1871.	Persons able to Speak Welsh only.	Persons able to Speak Welsh and English.	Proportion per Cent. of Persons able to Speak Welsh.
Flint	264	76,312	5,420	47,890	70·0
Denbigh	612	105,102	39,500	41,500	77·1
Montgomery	758	67,623	6,600	23,100	93·9
Radnor	432	25,430	20	1,000	4·0
Brecon	719	59,901	6,340	33,530	66·8
Monmouth	576	195,448	1,500	55,000	29·8
Glamorgan	810	397,859	48,350	223,110	70·8
Carmarthen	947	115,710	37,800	70,920	93·1
Pembroke	615	91,998	5,430	27,320	35·5
Cardigan	693	73,441	34,500	35,600	95·5
Merioneth	602	46,598	17,000	27,000	94·4
Carnarvon	578	106,121	60,000	38,600	92·9
Anglesey	302	51,040	31,650	15,850	93·1
Total	7,908	1,312,583	294,110	640,420	71·2

DISCUSSION *on* MR. RAVENSTEIN'S PAPER.

Dr. NEILSON HANCOCK (of Dublin) said he had listened to the paper with very great interest. He had turned his attention to the question of race, which he thought was not sufficiently appreciated as an element in the government of the United Kingdom. The paper was an extremely able one, and as far as the information was concerned it was most admirably got up. With one or two conclusions he did not agree; but that had nothing to do with the merits of the paper. The point that struck him as extremely important was that in reference to the western part of Ireland. Looking at the figures of the census, it would be found that in Leinster the proportion of population who could speak Irish was 1 per cent. of the whole population, but in Ulster it was 4·6 per cent. That arose in part from a district he was acquainted with, to which the author had called attention, the district in the Newry mountains; it was a small district, and the language was rapidly dying out, owing to the spread of national schools. In Munster the proportion was 27·7 per cent., and in Connaught it was 39 per cent. In two counties in Connaught (Mayo and Galway) the proportion was 56 per cent. The cause was to be found in the defect of the Irish education system, which was voluntary and not compulsory, and which gave no assistance to schools where the patrons objected to the national system of non-denominational education. The greatest diminution in those who spoke Irish only between 1861 and 1871 had taken place in Munster: from 62,000 in 1861 to 34,000 in

(delwedd J6801) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 636)

1871. In Connaught in the same years the diminution was only from 78,000 to 50,000. Turning to the education figures in the census of 1871 that would be explained. The proportion per cent. between 5 and 16 years of age not attending school was 50 per cent. in Munster, while in Connaught it was 67 per cent. The backward district of Galway was connected with a dignitary of the Roman Catholic Church, who conscientiously differing from the national system, withdrew from connection with it, so that the only State-aided schools in Ireland did not for many years make the same progress in his diocese as in the rest of Ireland. It thus happened that the district of Mayo and Galway showed at present the greatest proportion of Irish speaking inhabitants. No doubt that afforded an opportunity for correction by assistance to schools being extended on a more liberal system, so as to check the unsatisfactory proportion of 67 per cent. of the children of school-age not attending school. In regard to the migration from Mayo and Galway, it was not a permanent migration to England, but a transitory migration for harvest work, and he believed that that migration had led the people to see the great value of education, so that the school as a place acceptable to the people could be easily extended. His knowledge of Irish affairs did not lead him to corroborate the information of people migrating across Ireland from county to county. He thought it was from the extreme west of Ireland that they migrated towards England. (Mr. RAVENSTEIN: I said they go by steps. Your transitory migration I do not call migration at all, because they come back to their homes.) Dr. HANCOCK said his impression was that some of the persons migrating to England remained permanently. There was a similar migration from Donegal to Scotland. From North Donegal they went to Derry, and thence across to Scotland, and formed a large proportion of the population there, but the conclusion that all the figures led him to was the one point, that the prevalence of Irish speaking arose now entirely where from some cause the proper supply of schools are wanting. In reference to the promotion of the cultivation of the Irish language, he thought the feelings of the people had not been sufficiently studied. The professors of Celtic established in the Queen's College, at the suggestion of Prince Albert, had all been suppressed; one at least of them ought to have been retained for prelections on Celtic literature and editing Celtic books and Celtic laws. The author of the paper had remarked upon the efforts of the people to get the Irish taught in the national schools, and at the close had spoken very strongly about including such teaching. At the meeting of the British Association in Glasgow, an interesting paper was read by a Scotch gentleman connected with some of the Gaelic schools in the Western Isles, and he said that if the children learnt to read in Gaelic first they always understood English, but if they first learnt to read in English, they always had a limited or parrot-like knowledge of it. This was stated as an observed fact, and therefore he (Dr. Hancock) thought that the teaching of Gaelic or Irish would not at the present day lead to the people speaking Gaelic or Irish only, but to their knowing English also, and knowing better than if taught

(delwedd J6802) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 637)

English only. He entirely concurred therefore with the author of the paper, that it was wrong to object to Gaelic or Irish languages being taught when this was the case. The English Privy Council had sanctioned the teaching of Gaelic, and the Education Code for 1878 provided that Gaelic might be taught during school hours by a person qualified for the purpose, so that the Scotch Education Board had been following the same course as the Irish National Board. He thought that Prince Albert had set a very wise example, which might well be followed, of cultivating the feelings of the Celtic speaking races.

Mr. H. Moncreiff Paul said he had listened to the paper with very great interest. There was one point, however, that had not been brought out, and that was the reason why the Celts were found in the west and in the north. Mr. Ravenstein had given no reason why the Celts should be found in Wales, in the west of Ireland, in the west and north-west of Scotland, and in the Isle of Man. He (Mr. Paul) believed that it was because in old times they were driven by stronger tribes from the sun rising to the sun setting. The idea he wished to express was a driving away of the weaker by the stronger from east to west and also to the north. Alluding to the question of teaching Gaelic in the schools, he thought the education department for Scotland had gleaned information which would show very much what the writer of the paper had endeavoured to prove, namely, that it was desirable in the first instance to teach pupils Gaelic in order that they might learn English. In response to a circular sent by the education department of Scotland in 1876 to 103 school boards, replies had been received from 90, and of these there were in favour of Gaelic education in the schools 65 and against it 25, proving that they considered, from practical experience, that it was better to teach Gaelic first, in order that the children should afterwards learn English. Then there was a further inquiry made as to whether there were Gaelic teachers available for this purpose, and there were 53 returns showing that Gaelic teachers could be procured and only 14 that they could not, proving that there was no difficulty in carrying out the plan. But unfortunately full returns from all the school boards were not received, consequently information was obtained with regard to 16,331 children only ; an estimate would therefore have to be made as to the number in cases in which no answers had been returned. This would bring the number up to about 24,000 children. One or two points had been alluded to with regard to Argyllshire. The writer of the paper had said that there was a portion of the inhabitants of the north of Ireland who spoke the same Gaelic as was spoken in Cantyre in the south of Argyllshire. That might be so, but he had never heard it definitely stated. From the fact, however, of there being a great migration from the north of Ireland to Cantyre, it was well known that there was a similarity of dialect, although they did not speak precisely the same Gaelic. Mr. Ravenstein had very properly alluded to there being a majority of English speaking people in Cantyre. That could be accounted for by the migration from Ayr-

shire, which might be regarded first from an agricultural point of view, and secondly from a distilling point of view. Campbelltown, the chief town in Cantyre, was famous for the distillation of whisky; and the distillers to a man were Lowlanders and not Highlanders; the descendants, in fact, of the old Ayrshire smugglers. With regard to Perthshire, Mr. Ravenstein had drawn a fair line between the Gaelic and Lowland speaking populations. He (Mr. Ravenstein) had said that only in Strathfillan was Gaelic spoken to any great extent; but he might have included the district of Balqhuiddar. (Mr. RAVENSTEIN said that he had included Balqhuiddar.) Mr. PAUL continued that it had been stated in the paper that Strathfillan was the only part of Perthshire where Gaelic maintained its ground; but he (Mr. Paul) held that it maintained its ground also in the district of Balqhuiddar. One very pertinent question might be asked as to what was the real advantage to the community of Gaelic being perpetuated either in Ireland or in Scotland. Enthusiasts who had promoted the establishment of a Celtic chair in Edinburgh, would contend that it was a great advantage that Gaelic should be studied and that there should be a Gaelic chair in the university, not for practical purposes, but for the same reasons as one should study Sanscrit, with the idea of obtaining information with regard to the ancient philological history of this country. He did not see that that was a sufficient reason why the study of Gaelic should be perpetuated. There could be no doubt that all who were alive to their own interests in the Highlands of Scotland preferred learning English, and they acquired it in different ways, partly by migrating among those who spoke only English, and it was well known that the highlanders of Scotland, although they understood English very well, preferred to conceal their knowledge of it, in order that, under the guile of ignorance, they might get information from those who spoke English, who all the time believed that what they said was not understood.

Dr. C. E. SAUNDERS wished to ask the author of the paper how he could explain the fact stated, that in Inverness, where the population was 71,000, of whom 68,000 spoke Gaelic, or a proportion of 95 per cent., the purest English in any part of Scotland was spoken.

Mr. CORNELIUS WALFORD said that on this particular occasion he neither represented England, Scotland, nor Wales, but he wished to suggest a use to which the maps accompanying the paper might be applied apart from the philological aspect of the question. He thought that anyone who studied these maps, assuming they were to be published in the *Journal*, or elsewhere, and took up some of the social questions which might arise from a careful perusal of the paper, would find facilities for obtaining a great amount of information not previously available in any well defined shape. The Gaelic population had been localised for the first time, and, in his opinion, it would be a matter of great interest to take up the general questions of education, the statistics of birth

(delwedd J6804) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 639)

and marriage rates, as also death rates, and still more important questions of crime and intemperance, with many other cognate questions which this Society was in the habit of inquiring into. If Mr. Ravenstein could be induced himself to follow up these social aspects so much the better; but whoever entered upon the inquiry, a large amount of information would be obtained of various kinds which had not hitherto been made the subjects of inquiry in regard to race. Those acquainted with "Green's History of the "English People"—a book still too little known to advanced students—would be aware that these maps would throw a great deal of additional enlightenment on the manners, customs, and habits of the early inhabitants of this island—points which careful readers of this work would know had in the past influenced our national destinies, and which probably were still at work in our midst, but which required the aid of statistical inquiry for their complete unravelment. In truth, he was becoming more and more convinced that history very frequently found its true exponent in statistical science, while on the other hand statistics themselves were very apt to lead to conclusions very fallacious unless interpreted by the light of history. Buckle had shown some recognition of this fact in his "History of Civilisation."

Professor Jevons said he wished to ask Mr. Ravenstein what he exactly meant by English speaking people and Celtic speaking people, because he could not gather what the meaning of those two terms were from the paper. He would ask what was the test as to whether anyone was a Gaelic speaking person or a non-Gaelic speaking person—whether it was the usual habit of speaking or the power of speaking it when occasion required? Mr. Ravenstein had brought before the Society a very important question, with an amount of research that had left nothing to be desired. He agreed with Mr. Walford that it was not simply a curious question. As Dr. Hancock had already said, it was mixed up with a great many important social questions, and he (Professor Jevons) apprehended that if the effect of migration to the different places referred to was thoroughly gone into, both as regards the present time and as regards the past, and some idea were obtained of the average composition of population, a key would be obtained to a great many perplexing questions. The rates of mortality and the degrees of drunkenness of the northern towns were facts which could not be at present explained, and he believed the real explanation was to be found in the ethnographic character of the people. It would be found that the migration was going on to a greater extent than had been supposed. The Irish migrate into England, but it was doubtful whether they migrated out of it again. Now if the Irish should continue to migrate into England and the English migrated to Australia, and all parts of the world, the result would obviously be that our population would become Celticised.

Mr. T. W. Hancock said that the author of the paper had given him very little opportunity for criticism, because in condensing his paper he had given so small a portion of time to Wales. The

(delwedd J6805) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 640)

author had said that the Welsh speaking population amounted to 1,006,450, and he wished to know if that included the Welsh speaking population in England? (Mr. RAVENSTEIN said that it did.) Mr. HANCOCK said that he had heard that the Welsh speaking population in London amounted to the population of the town of Cardiff, which, according to the last census returns, amounted to 59,000. He believed the Welsh speaking population in England would amount to about 100,000; at the same time he must say that it was a difficult matter to ascertain the number of the Welsh speaking population in England, but he thought it would amount to a larger figure than 62,000. He had glanced over the paper and found that in all the facts and figures, both as regards North Wales and some portion of South Wales (with which he was acquainted), the author was exceedingly accurate. It was only lately that the question as to the boundary of the English speaking population in Montgomeryshire had been settled. As to the practical question, the Welsh people considered the English language to be of more practical utility than the Welsh, although they had a very tenacious grip of their own language. He thought that at the present day the Welsh people had a stronger hold on the Welsh language than ever they had. There were no doubt a good many school boards where the business was entirely carried on in Welsh, and yet they encouraged the teaching of English; in fact, the members of the school boards in Wales in many cases understood very little English themselves. He thought there were about fourteen newspapers wholly in Welsh published in Wales and not one in England, and about twenty monthly periodicals, besides two quarterlies; these were more or less connected with religious denominations. Taking the monthly periodicals, there were about three periodicals per denomination.

Mr. RAVENSTEIN in reply said that he had used his best efforts to find out the truth as regarded the number of persons who spoke Welsh or Gaelic. He carefully weighed the information supplied to him by numerous correspondents, and believed the figures presented would on further examination prove to be a fair approximation to the truth. In making his estimate of Highlanders residing in the Lowlands he compared the birth places of the people, as given by the Registrar-General, with the proportion of persons speaking Gaelic as ascertained by himself for the Highland counties, and although this might be a rough way of arriving at the truth, it was the only one open to him. This comparison clearly brought out several facts connected with Highland migration. It showed very clearly, for instance, that in Elgin and Nairn, the Gaelic was kept up solely by immigration from the west. He thought that the number of Welshmen residing in England, and able to speak Welsh, could not exceed 62,000. Much higher figures had been given. As to the number of Welshmen and Highlanders able to speak English, he felt constrained to accept the statements made by his correspondents, some of whom probably over-estimated their number. But by taking the average of several parishes, he had endeavoured to eliminate errors. He hoped our next census would supply more exact

(delwedd J6806) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 641)

information than that now placed before the Society. Some of the gentlemen to whom he applied for information fancied he took up this subject in a partisan spirit, for in Glamorganshire more especially, the linguistic question was now being discussed with some acrimony. He need hardly say that his sole object had been to ascertain the truth. In answer to Mr. Walford he might state that the maps exhibited this evening, and copies of which would be published in their *Journal*, merely gave the general results of his inquiry, but that he proposed to publish more elaborate maps on a larger scale. He thought this question of languages was one of those practical questions which was more especially deserving the attention of a Society like theirs. A thorough knowledge of the geography and statistics of the land we live in, must prove in many instances of greater immediate advantage than anything we might learn with respect to foreign countries. As to the pure English spoken at Inverness, referred to by Mr. Saunders, he might say that the people there had in a large measure learnt their English from books, and consequently spoke it without accent. Similarly, the lowland Germans generally spoke purer German than those of upper Germany, whose dialects bore a greater resemblance to High German. Indeed, the best German was said to be spoken in the Baltic provinces of Russia. Referring to the education question, it might be asked what advantage would be secured in teaching Gaelic, or Irish, or Welsh. He thought the advantage would be very great, for these languages are the only means of reaching many thousands of children, utterly ignorant of English. In Ireland, Gaelic was not only to be taught in the schools, but the Commissioners were prepared to pay handsomely, whilst in Scotland, although permission had been granted to teach Gaelic, no money grants were to be made. In reference to the question of migration, he had considered that subject at length in a former paper, a copy of which he would send to Dr. Hancock. His figures he thought showed very clearly in what manner large and growing towns sucked up the population around them, their influence growing less and less with the distance, always allowing for facilities of access and other disturbing elements. In Ireland, migration certainly set eastwards, the great points of attraction being Liverpool and Glasgow.

Mr. H. Moncreiff Paul thought that the reason why so pure English was spoken in Inverness, lay in the fact that English soldiers were quartered there a great many years ago, and the inhabitants then learned English from these English soldiers and not from those coming from the lowlands of Scotland. They thus gradually interlarded English with the native Gaelic ; consequently, though there might be purity of language, there was a peculiarity of accent almost identical with that observable amongst the peasantry of certain districts in Norway.

The Chairman (Sir Rawson W. Rawson), in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Ravenstein, said that the present paper, in connection with the one previously read before the Society by

(delwedd J6807) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 642)

Mr. Ravenstein upon migration (and which he had had the pleasure to study), would be of great social value. If anybody would be at the trouble to take up the figures, and work out the details of the social life in connection with the origin of the people, very valuable results for the legislature might be expected. Two lessons might be learned from the paper: one was with regard to the past. The change in the language of the people was not confined to Ireland, and was not the result of English action in Ireland specially, but the result of natural causes. Mr. Paul had thrown out the idea that the native population was driven from east to west, as if the position of the sun had some influence upon their movement; but it was as clear as possible that it was the action of the civilised races entering from the south and the east, and driving the natives further back. Wealth accumulated first in the east, and so became a source of attraction. There were two sources of action: the wealth penetrating westward, and the wealth attracting the poorer classes from the different parts of the United Kingdom to its centre. So far it was like the sun. It might be said that it was the sun of wealth and civilisation, of learning and art, of increasing population, and everything that grew first in the east and south of England which had attracted the natives from Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, and the degree in which the Gaelic language had changed in those three sections of the United Kingdom had been apparently in proportion to the social position and means of producing a competence and comfort at home. In Wales the mode of settlement and the mode of division of land had left the people contented and less attracted to other places than the Scotch in the Western Highlands, and the Irish from the extreme west, and he thought that it was in correlation to the character and social position of the three races in those three parts of the United Kingdom that the change in the language had been brought about and was still in operation. The other lesson was, that societies might as well attempt to stem the tide of the ocean as to prevent the people in the whole of the British islands from gradually acquiring a knowledge of English. Most desirable it was that the children in the schools should be led from the known to the unknown, and also that the record of the language, the habits, and the literature of our forefathers should not be lost; therefore, wishing all prosperity to the societies in Ireland and Scotland engaged in this useful work, he thought it was a hopeless task for them to endeavour to preserve as the vernacular the ancient languages spoken by the people of those countries.

(delwedd J6808) (E.G. Ravenstein. Celtic Languages. 1879) (tudalen 643)

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