

**ANCIENT BRITAIN IN THE  
LIGHT OF MODERN  
ARCHÆOLOGICAL  
DISCOVERIES**

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Ancient Britain in the Light of Modern Archaeological Discoveries by Alex. Del Mar

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# ANCIENT BRITAIN

*IN THE LIGHT OF MODERN*

ARCHÆOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

BY



ALEX. DEL MAR

FORMERLY DIRECTOR OF THE U. S. BUREAU OF STATISTICS, AUTHOR OF  
"A HISTORY OF THE PRECIOUS METALS," "A HISTORY OF MONETARY SYSTEMS," "THE MIDDLE AGES REVISITED," "THE WORSHIP OF AUGUSTUS CÆSAR," ETC., ETC.



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## ANCIENT BRITAIN

*IN THE LIGHT OF MODERN DISCOVERIES*

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### PREFACE.

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It has been shown by writers of the highest credit, among whom are Sir Francis Palgrave and Thomas Wright the antiquarian, that the monkish chronicles which relate that Britain was occupied by Anglo-Saxons in the fifth century, are forged or corrupted, some of them centuries later than the æras of their pretended authors. These spurious works were issued by or under the express authority of the same college which issued the forged Letter of St. Peter, the forged Donation of Constantine, the forged capitularies of Adrian and numerous other impostures. Albeit the true character of the false Saxon chronicles have been frequently exposed, they still continue to colour our popular histories and to injuriously affect our national policy. The archæological discoveries and especially the numismatic finds which have come to light in late years, not only corroborate the conclusions of Palgrave and Wright, they impress upon us so ample a body of testimony against the false witnesses of Rome that, inert and indifferent as we have hitherto been in the matter, we are now compelled to choose between them; and upon that choice must depend the disposition of several important subjects of practical administration.

As with the period of the barbarian occupation, so with the circumstances of the Roman conquest, the early records of Britain have been largely falsified or perverted. Many of our institutes of freedom, such as the right of assemblage, of trial by jury, of immunity from unlawful detention, of representation in the Comitia and the subjection of the ecclesiastical to the civil power, which are clearly derived from the early Roman republic, together with others of an entirely differ-

ent sort, like the privileges and benefices of the priesthood, the feudal system and the institution of caste, which clearly sprang from the later Roman hierarchy, have, with careless inconsistency, been ascribed to the barbarians. It may be safely assumed that the tree which bore such diverse fruits sprang up in a cloister; for it will nowhere be found in the domain of nature. The worship of the Living Emperor, which was the corner-stone of the Roman hierarchy and was enforced in Britain for several centuries, giving rise at the very outset to the Revolt of Boadicea and remaining unshaken until it was overthrown by the Goths; this too has been falsified or suppressed. The presence of Moslem influence in Britain—a fact unmistakably indicated by the gold dinars of Offa, the common use of Arabian marks, manusses, carats, and sterlings, and many other circumstances—all this has been omitted from our histories and its place filled with fables stolen from the idolatrous mythologies of the Orient, or manufactured in the hotbeds of medieval imposture.

Among the numerous products of hierarchical ingenuity none have more effectually fouled the stream of British history than the invention of a line of Bretwealdas, or over-lords, who it is pretended, united the distracted chieftains of the Heptarchy and governed them in the name of Rome. This conceit, touching and warming a false national pride, has found belief, when it should only have excited contempt. It has slandered, belittled, and in some cases entirely removed from history, many of our brave Norse ancestors, those, who, whether pagans or christians, stamped upon our race the qualities and aptitudes for which we have the most reason to be proud, and filled their places with a succession of "kings" without royal powers, of heroes whose only virtue was subserviency to Rome, and of saints who never existed at all.

The design of the present work is to restore to the pages of British history those circumstances of which forgery and imposture have deprived it and which archæology has found safely preserved in the pure bosom of the earth.