

**THE ETHNOLOGY OF  
THE BRITISH COLONIES  
AND DEPENDENCIES**

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The Ethnology of the British Colonies and Dependencies by R. G. Latham

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**R. G. LATHAM**

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DEPENDENCIES.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE following pages represent a Course of Six Lectures delivered at the Royal Institution, Manchester, in the months of February and March of the present year; the matter being now laid before the public in a somewhat fuller and more systematic form than was compatible with the original delivery.



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# ETHNOLOGY

OF

## THE BRITISH DEPENDENCIES.

### CHAPTER I.

#### DEPENDENCIES IN EUROPE.

HELIGOLAND AND THE FRISIANS.—GIBRALTAR AND THE SPANISH STOCK.—MALTA.—THE IONIAN ISLANDS.—THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.

*Heligoland.*—We learn from a passage in the *Germania* of Tacitus, that certain tribes agreed with each other in the worship of a goddess who was revered as *Earth the Mother*; that a sacred grove, in a sacred island, was dedicated to her; and that, in that grove, there stood a holy wagon, covered with a pall, and touched by the priest only. The goddess herself was drawn by heifers; and as long as she vouchsafed her presence among men, there was joy, and feasts, and hospitality; and peace amongst otherwise fierce tribes instead of war and violence. After a time, however, the goddess withdrew herself to her secret temple—satiated with the converse of mankind; and then

the wagon, the pall, and the deity herself were bathed in the holy lake. The administrant slaves were sucked up by its waters. There was terror and there was ignorance; the reality being revealed to those alone who thus suddenly passed from life to death.

Now we know, by name at least, five of the tribes who are thus connected by a common worship—mysterious and obscure as it is. They are the Reudigni, the Aviones, the Eudoses, the Suardones, and the Nuithones.

Two others we know by something more than name—the Varini and the Langobardi.

The eighth is our own parent stock—the *Angli*.

Such is one of the earliest notices of the old creed of our German forefathers; and, fragmentary and indefinite as it is, it is one of the fullest which has reached us. I subjoin the original text, premising that, instead of *Herthum*, certain MSS. read *Nerthum*.

“ — Langobardos paucitas nobilitat: plurimis ac valentissimis nationibus cincti, non per obsequium sed procellis et periclitando tuti sunt. Reudigni deinde, et Aviones, et *Angli*, et Varini, et Eudoses, et Suardones, et Nuithones, fluminibus aut silvis muniuntur: nec quidquam notabile in singulis, nisi quod in commune Herthum, id est, Terram matrem colunt, eamque intervenire rebus hominum, invehi populis, arbitrantur. Est in