

**THE NEW IRISH
LIBRARY. LAYS OF
THE RED BRANCH**

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The new Irish Library. Lays of the red branch by Sir Samuel Ferguson

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SIR SAMUEL FERGUSON

**THE NEW IRISH
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THE RED BRANCH**

The New Irish Library

LAYS OF THE RED BRANCH

THE NEW IRISH LIBRARY.

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LAYS OF THE RED BRANCH

BY

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Wales and Scotland," &c., &c.

With an Introduction

BY

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INTRODUCTION.



THE Literature of Ancient Ireland has for some minds—and those chiefly of high imagination—an indefinable yet powerful fascination.

Nor is this surprising, for it is the product of a Race highly dowered; keenly sensitive to the mystery and magic of Nature, and responsive to the spiritual no less than the heroic in Man.

The Celts of Ireland have been from very early times a literary people. Before they were acquainted with the art of writing, the tales of love, and war, and glory, in which they delighted, were recited by their Bards, and orally preserved in verse. In historic times these were committed to writing, and still exist, in books penned more than a thousand years ago. Their Brehons, or Judges, adjudicated the laws, and recorded the pedigrees so important to a tribal people