

**CONVERSION OF
THE
WEST; THE ENGLISH**

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Conversion of the West; The English by G. F. Maclear

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G. F. MACLEAR

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CONVERSION OF THE WEST.

THE ENGLISH.

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WITH TWO MAPS.

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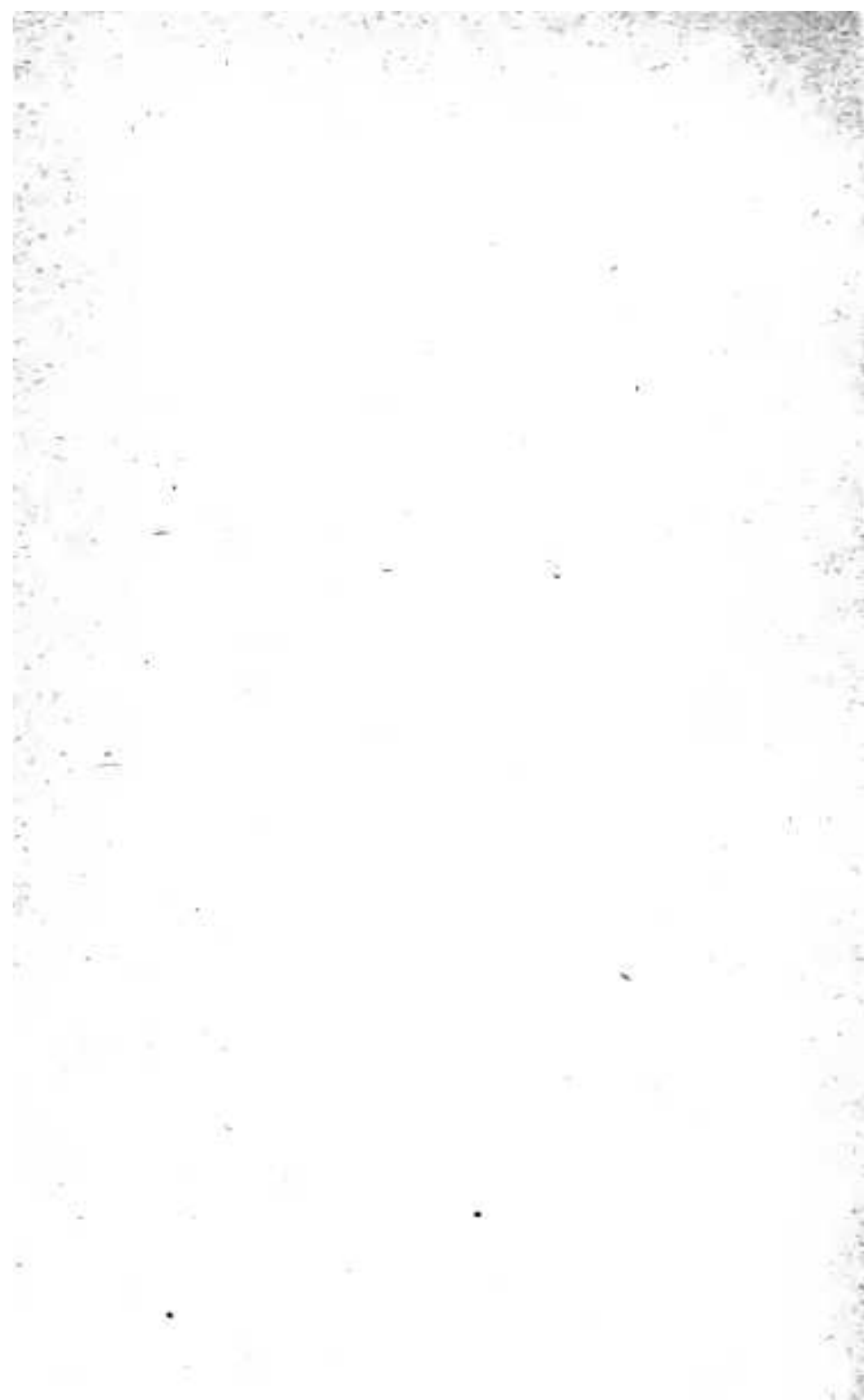
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CONVERSION OF THE WEST

CHAPTER I.

THE TEUTONS IN ENGLAND.

THE wave of migration which flung the Celt upon the European Continent, was succeeded by a second wave, which bore other tribes from the same Aryan homes to the frontiers of the Roman Empire. The masters of the world chose to call these new comers, as they called the Greeks, by a name which was not their own. This name for them was *Germans*. Amongst themselves, on the other hand, they were Diutisc, Thiudisco, Deutscher, or, in its Latin form, *Teutons*.

Into the greater part of their country the Romans never penetrated after the times of Drusus and Germanicus. They regarded them as barbarians, but admired the austerity and purity of their manners, the honour they paid their women, their spirit of independence, and warlike energy. They never dreamt

of the future that lay in store for these "interesting examples of fresh and vigorous nature."¹ No seer or prophet whispered that they were "the fathers of a nobler and a grander world than any that history had yet known; that here was the race, which under many names, Franks, Allemanns, Angles and Saxons and Jutes, Burgundians, Goths, Lombards, were first to overrun and then revivify exhausted nations; that it was a race which was to assert its chief and lordly place in Europe, to occupy half of a new-found world, to inherit India, to fill the islands of unknown seas; to be the craftsmen, the traders, the colonists, the explorers of the world."²

But what then lay hidden in the dark, uncertain future, has been realized, and has become a matter of history.

Many, doubtless, of different Low Dutch tribes joined, during the fifth century, in expeditions to our island, but, as is known to all, three tribes stood out above the others. From northern Denmark and southern Sweden had come the Jutes; from the south of Denmark and what is now called Schleswig-Holstein, the Angles; from Hanover and Friesland

¹ "Tacitus," remarks Guizot, "has painted the Germans, as Montaigne and Rousseau the savages, in a fit of ill-humour against his country."

² Dean Church's 'Influences of Christianity,' p. 99.