

rationen bedeutet, auch beide anderen ausdrücken kann. Infolge dieses Ideengang konnte *dyngus* und *dyng* nicht nur den Verkauf, sondern auch das Begießen ausdrücken, *smigus* aber nicht nur das Schlagen, sondern auch das Begießen und das Sammeln von Gaben bedeuten.

In dieser bescheidenen Skizze wollten wir nur das Material in eine Rubrik sammeln und einige Wörter deuten; das Vergleichen mit dem Gebrauch anderer Slaven so wie anderer arisoeuropäischen Völker behalten wir uns vor für eine künftige Studie.

## Ransom by Weight.<sup>1)</sup>

By Professor Henry Gaidoz.

In the *Mabinogi* of "Branwen, the daughter of Llyr," when Matholwch, King of Ireland, is returning to his own land at enmity with the Britons, owing to the insult he received from Eynissyen, Bendigeid Vran says (I quote from Lady Guest's translation, iii. 109): "Arise, Manawyddan son of Llyr, and Heveydd Hir, and Unic Glew Ysgwyd, and go after him [Matholwch], and tell him that he shall have . . . as an atonement for the insult, . . . a staff of silver, as large and as tall as himself, and a plate of gold of the breadth of his face."

In her note on this passage, Lady Guest says: "The compensation here offered to Matholwch is strictly in accordance, except as regards the size of the silver rod, with what was required by the Laws of Hywel Dda, where the fine for insult to a king is fixed at 'a hundred cows on account of every cantrev in the kingdom, and a silver rod with three knobs at the top, that shall reach from the ground to the king's face when he sits in his chair, and as thick as his ring-finger; and a golden bason, which shall hold fully as much as the king drinks, of the thickness of a husbandman's nail, who shall have followed husbandry for seven years, and a golden cover, as broad as the king's face, equally thick as the bason.' In another MS. the payment, instead of being only partly in gold, is said to have been entirely in that metal: thus, 'A golden rod as long as himself, of the thickness of his little finger, and a golden tablet as broad as his face, and as thick as a husbandman's nail.'"<sup>2)</sup>

The lives of the British saints will furnish us with examples of this custom. Let us take the *Vita S. Brioci*, "Life of Saint Briec," to call him by his French name, who was the founder and is the patron of the Breton town, Saint-Brieuc,

<sup>1)</sup> Diese Studie drucken wir mit Genehmigung des Verfassers aus der in London erscheinenden anglo-walisischen Zeitschrift der Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion „*Y Cymmrodor*“ (B. X. 1889) ab, welche ausserhalb ihrer Heimat und dem kleinen Kreise der Keltenforscher wenig bekannt ist. Der Aufsatz bildet den ersten Teil einer Reihe von Untersuchungen unter der Ueberschrift: „Comparative notes to the *Mabinogion*.“ Wir belassen den Beitrag unseres gelehrten Fachgenossen, in der englischen Sprache des Originals, weil wir annehmen dürfen, dass die allermeisten unserer Leser als Volksforscher auch des Englischen kundig sind. Anm. d. Red.

<sup>2)</sup> See the *Ancient Laws and Institutes of Wales*, edited and translated by Aneurin Owen, vol. i., London 1841, pp. 6—7, and 778—779. "Gold," says the Venedotian Code, "is paid only to the King of Aberffraw." The Gwentian Code has *gwialen aryant*, "a gold rod."