

THE ILES OF BRITTAINE.

ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND
IRELAND: WITH THE ISLANDS
LYING ROUND ABOUT THEM.

The name by
whom, & why
given.



BRITTAINE containeth all those Ilands which lying betweene *Spaine* and *Germany*, are stretched forth in a great quantitie of Land toward *France*. *Lhuyddus* saith that not long agoe it was called *Prydanium*; *S^r Thomas Eliott* would have it called *Prytania*, being incited thereunto through the love of contention rather then truth, against the authority of *Aristotle*, *Lucretius*, *Iulius Caesar*, and other ancient Writers. But because heretofore all the *Brittaines* did paint themselves with woade, which gave them a blewish colour, that so their faces might be more terrible against their enemies in war, and in regard that in their ancient Language they did call any thing that was painted and coloured, *Brit*: some doe rightly suppose that the *Gracians*, understanding that the inhabitants were called *Brith* and *Briton*, did adde to *Brith Tania*, which signifies a Country, and therefore ^x *Brittaine* was called the Country of *Brittaines*, that is, the Country of painted and coloured men; like as *Mauritania* is called so of the *Moors*, *Lusitania* from *Lusus*, and *Aquitania* the Region of Waters. *Brittaine* is endowed by Nature with all gifts both of Aire and Soyle, in which neither the cold of winter is too violent, (as the Oratour hath it, speaking to *Constantine*) nor the heate of Summer, and it is so fruitfull in bearing corne, that it is sufficiently stored with Bread and Drink: Here the woods are without wilde beasts, and the earth without harmefull Serpents. On the contrary, innumerable flockes and herds of tame cattell, full of milke, and loaden with their fleece; yea, whatsoever is necessary to life is here: the dayes are very long, so that the nights are not without some light, and the Sunne which seemeth in other Countries to goe downe and set, doth seeme here only to passe by. Among all the Iles of *Brittaine*, two doe exceed the rest in greatnesse: *Albion*, (under which are containede *England*, and *Scotland*), and *Ireland*. The greatest of these is *Albion*, now alone called *Brittaine*, which was a name formerly common to them all: and this name is rather deduced out of Books, than used in common speech, only the *Scots* doe yet call themselves *Albinich*, and their Country *Albin*. Concerning the name of *Albion*, the *Grecians* first gave it to this Ile for distinction sake, seeing all the neighbour Ilands were called the Iles of *Brittaine*: so that it did first arise from the vaine and fabulous lightnesse of the *Grecians* in faining names. For seeing they called *Italy*, from *Hesperus* the sonne of *Atlas*, *Hesperia*; *France*, from the sonne of *Poliphemus*, *Gallatia*, &c. It is not unlikely that they fabulously named this Iland *Albion*, from *Albion* the sonne of *Neptune*, which *Perottus* and *Lilius Giraldu* doe

* If this bee true, then did it not receive its denomination from *Brittain*. See *Heylin* pag. 455.

The temper of the Aire.
The fertilitie of the Soyle.
The varietie of living Creatures.

The Ile of *Albion*.