

### ***Translation A J. G. F. Powell***

Of these two classes one consists of druids, the other of knights. The druids attend religious ceremonies, arrange sacrifices both public and private, and pronounce on questions of religion. A large number of young men flock to them for their education; and they are held in high honour among the people. They decide virtually all disputes whether public or private; if a crime is committed, if there has been a murder, or if there is a quarrel about inheritance or a boundary dispute, it is they who make the decision and who settle any award or penalty. Any individual or community which fails to abide by their decision is debarred from the sacrifices; this is the severest penalty among them. Those who are so debarred are regarded as impious and criminal; everyone avoids them; they will not approach them or talk to them, so as to avoid any misfortune as a result of contact with them. They have no redress for their claims, and they are barred from any office. One of the druids presides over all the rest, and has the highest authority in the community. When he dies, either there is an obvious successor who is more suitable than the rest, or else, if there are several candidates of equal merit, they compete for the leadership in an election among the druids, and sometimes also by armed combat.