

English's linguistic descent

Indo-European

Germanic

West Germanic

Ingvaemonic

Anglo-Frisian

Anglic

English

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English's linguistic descent

Indo-European

 Germanic

 Celtic

 Italic

 Slavic

 Indo-Iranian

 etc.

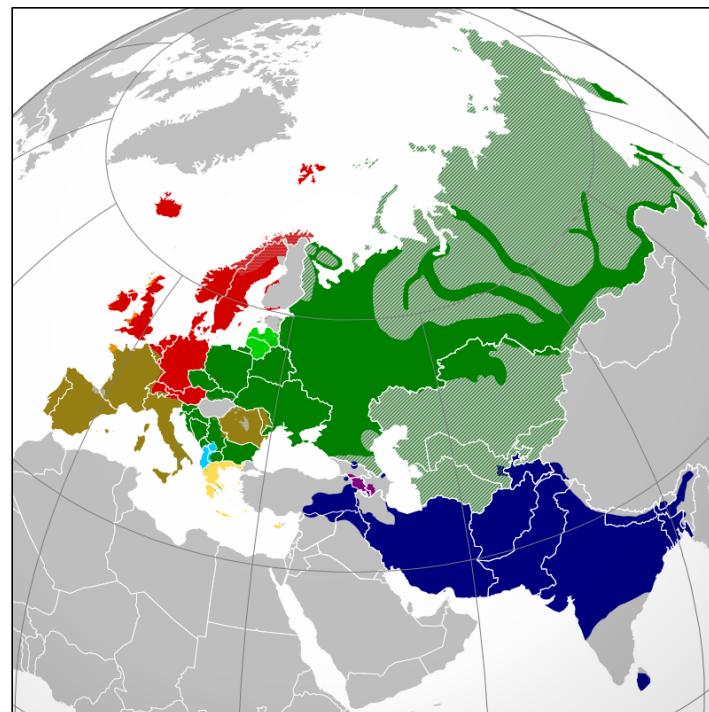


Image: Wikimedia Commons

English's linguistic descent

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etc.

Proto-Indo-European

- *ghrebh- ‘to dig, bury, scratch’
- *meug- ‘slimy, slippery’
- *skreu- ‘to cut; a cutting tool’

English

- grave, engrave
- moist, mucus
- shrew, scroll

(Calvert Watkins, *The American Heritage Dictionary of Indo-European Roots*, 2011)

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North Germanic

East Germanic (R.I.P.)

English's linguistic descent

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East Germanic (R.I.P.)

| English | Swedish | Gothic |
|---------|---------|--------|
| tooth | tand | tunþus |
| live | leva | liban |
| many | många | manags |

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Indo-European

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East Germanic (R.I.P.)

| Proto-Germanic | English | Swedish | Gothic |
|------------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| *tanþ-, *tunþ- (m./f.) | tooth | tand | tunþus |
| *libēn | live | leva | liban |
| *managa | many | många | manags |

(Guus Kroonen, *Etymological Dictionary of Proto-Germanic*, 2013)

English's linguistic descent

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English

English

tooth

live

many

Dutch

tand

leven

menig

German

Zahn

leben

manch

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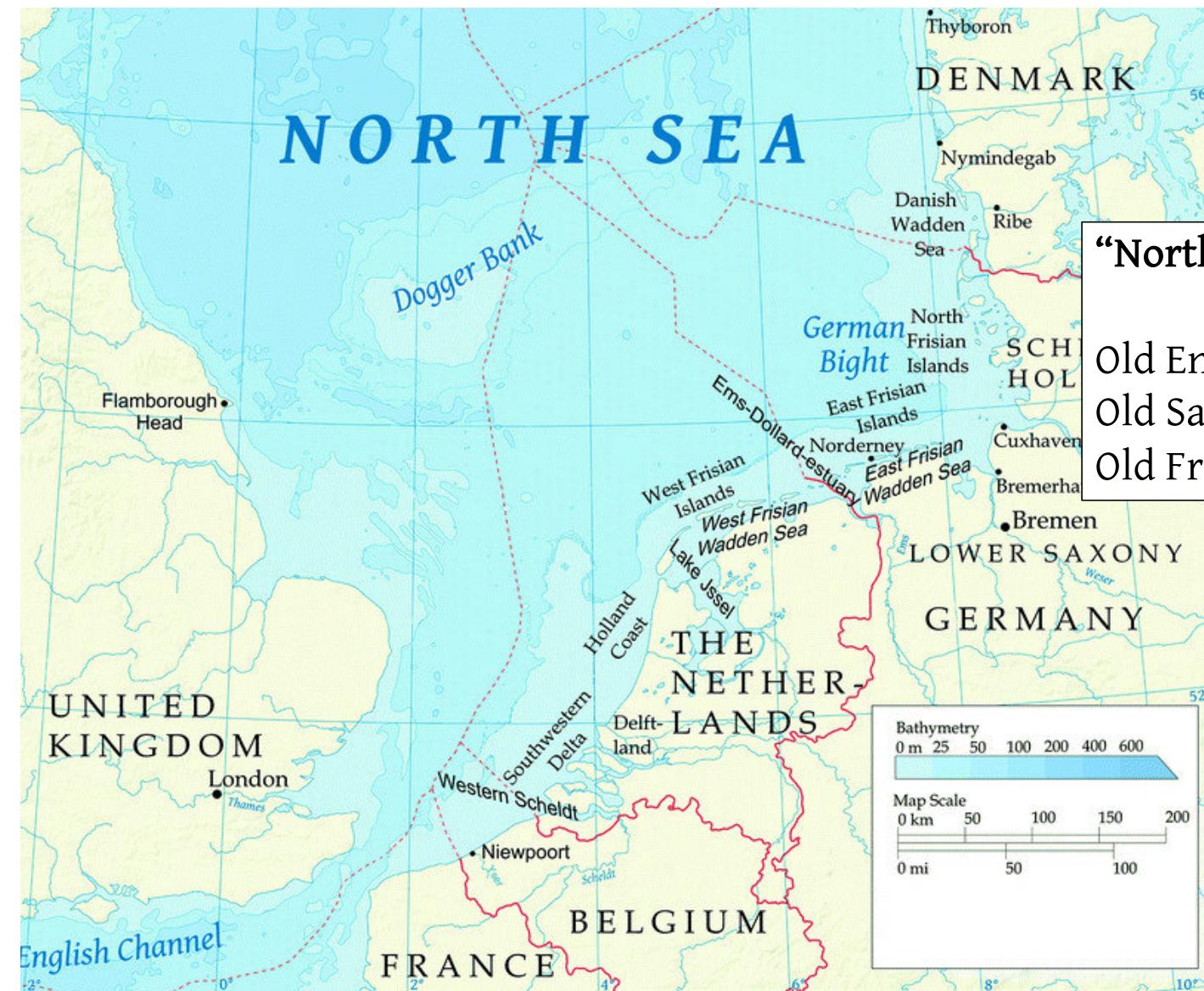
English

“North Sea Germanic”

Old English → English

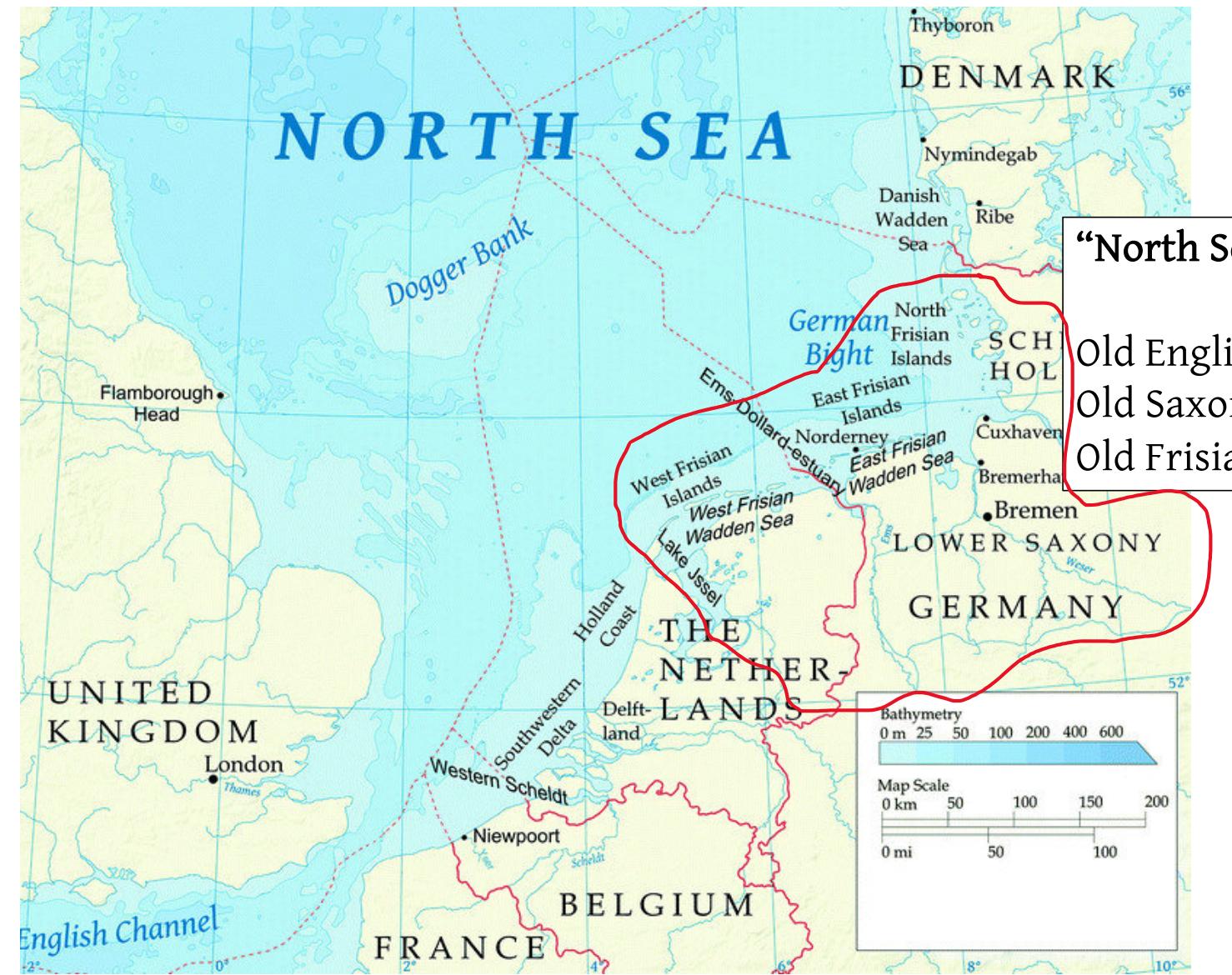
Old Saxon → Low German

Old Frisian → Frisian



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English

English

egg

wind

earth

Frisian

aai

wyn

earde

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English

English

narrow
mother
bone

Scots
nairae
mither
bane

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English's muddled history

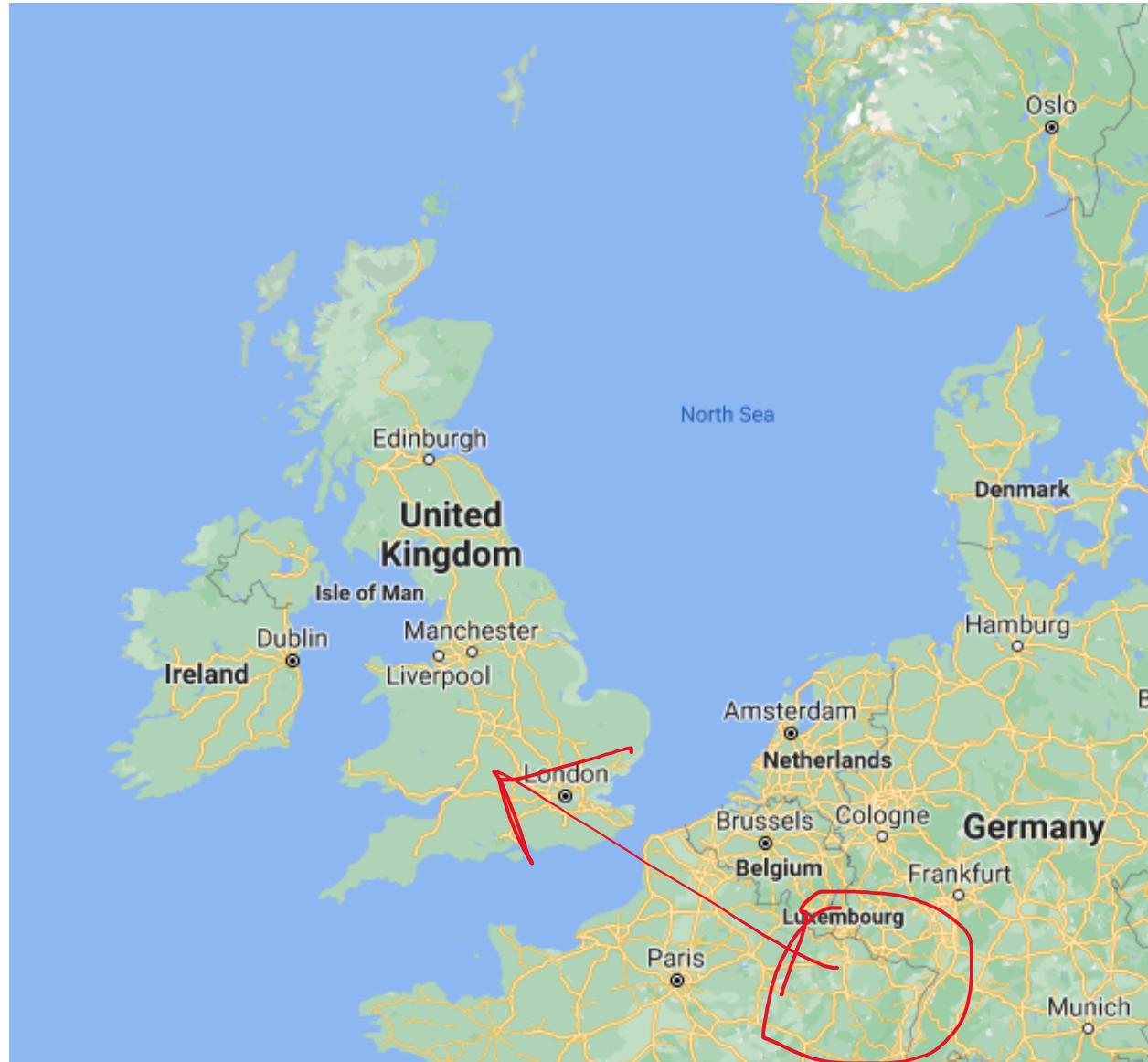
Celtic languages!

Latin!

Norman French!

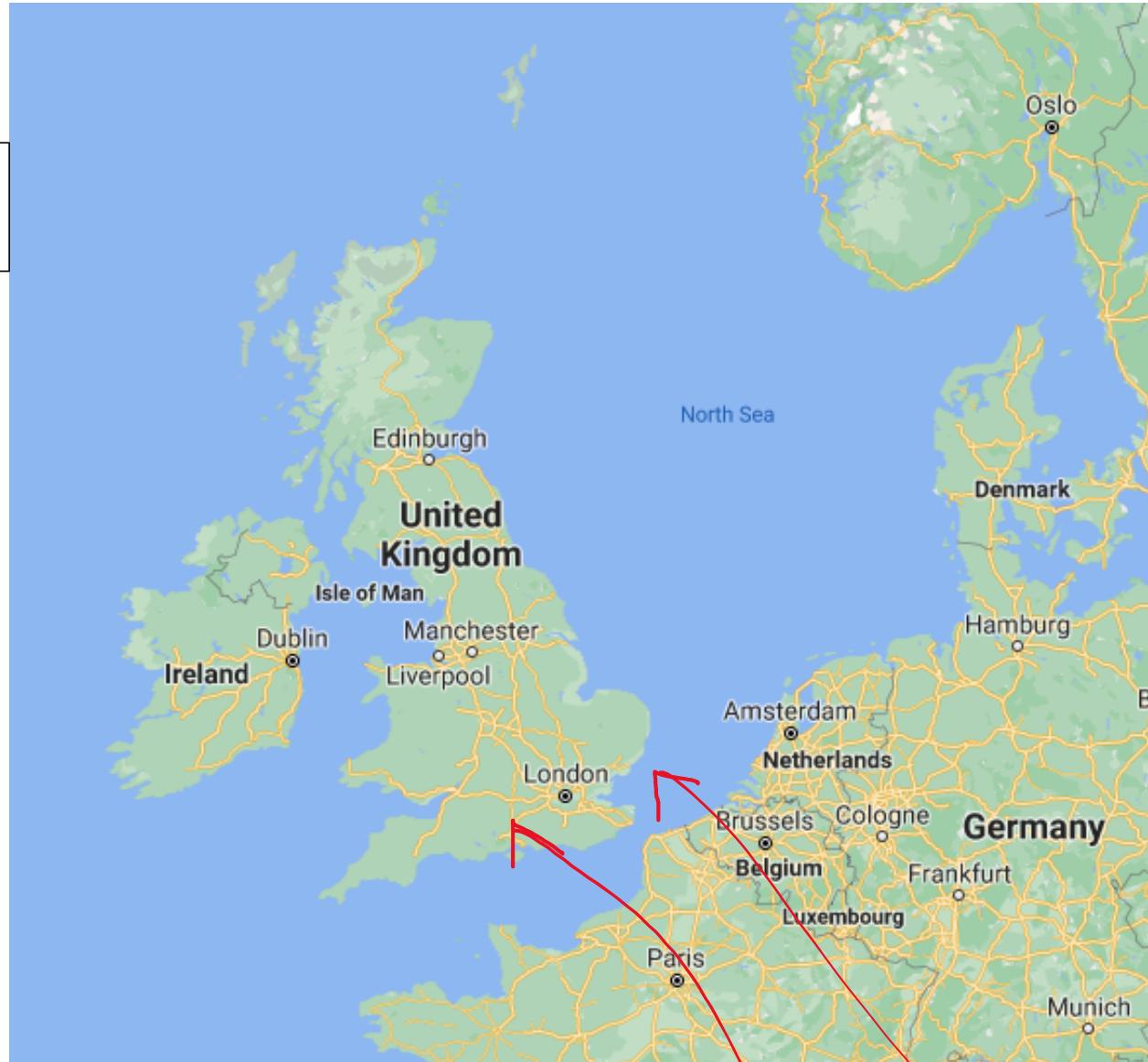
North Germanic languages!

Celts arrive
about 600 B.C.



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about 600 B.C.

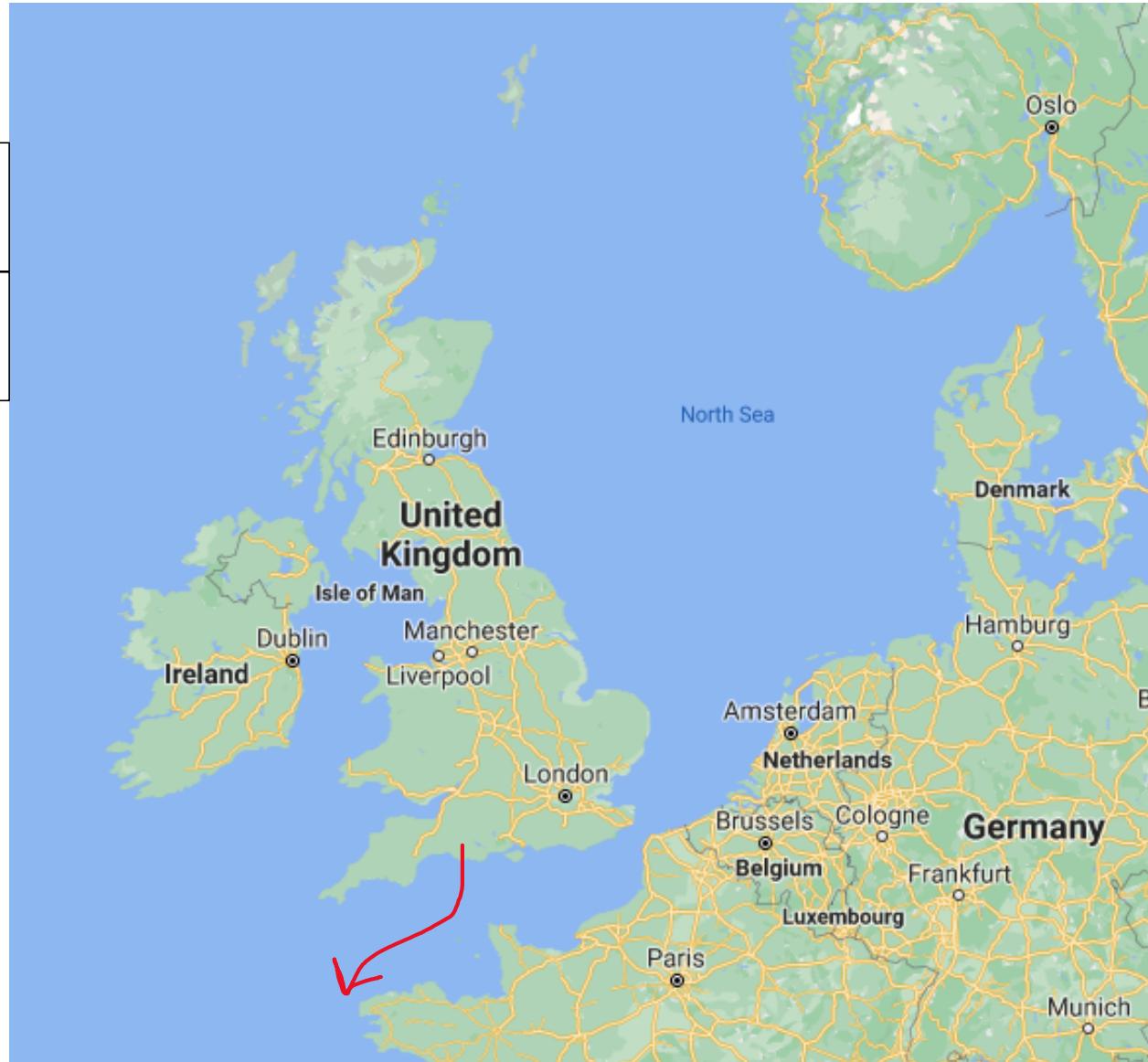
Roman conquest
about 43 A.D.



Celts arrive
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Roman conquest
about 43 A.D.

Romans leave
about 410 A.D.

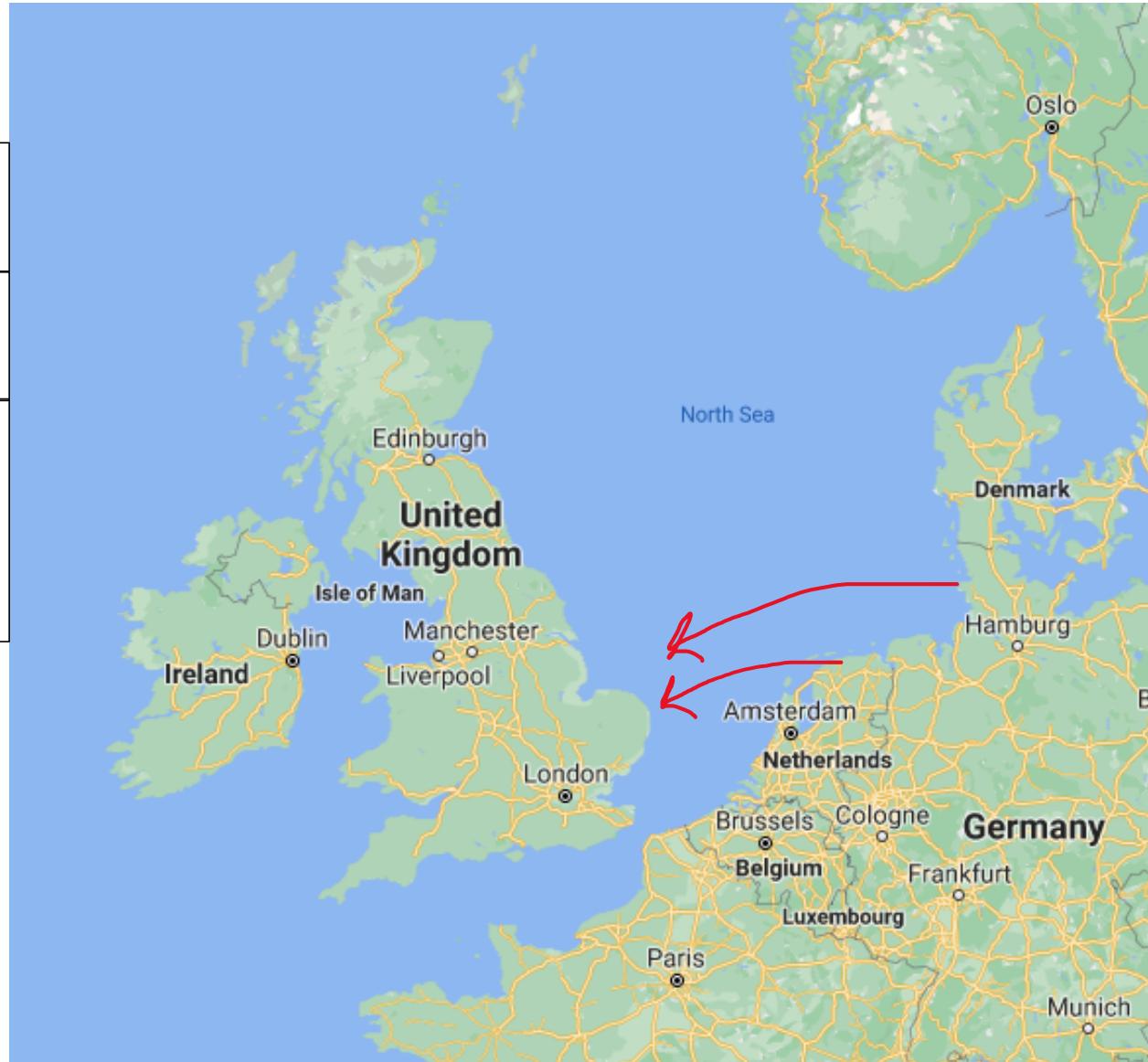


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Roman conquest
about 43 A.D.

Romans leave
about 410 A.D.

Angles, Saxons,
and Jutes come
between 410 and
the early 600s.



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Old English



PÆT PE GARD^E
na inceat²⁹ dagum. heod cymis^a
þrým se frumon huða æbelingas elle^b
fne medon. oft scyld scefing scefhe^c
þreatum mone^dū mæþum meodo setl^e
of teah^f e^gsode eorl sýddan ærest petri^g
feri sceapt funden he hæs sproffe^h se baⁱ
weox under volenum neond nýnd un hah^j



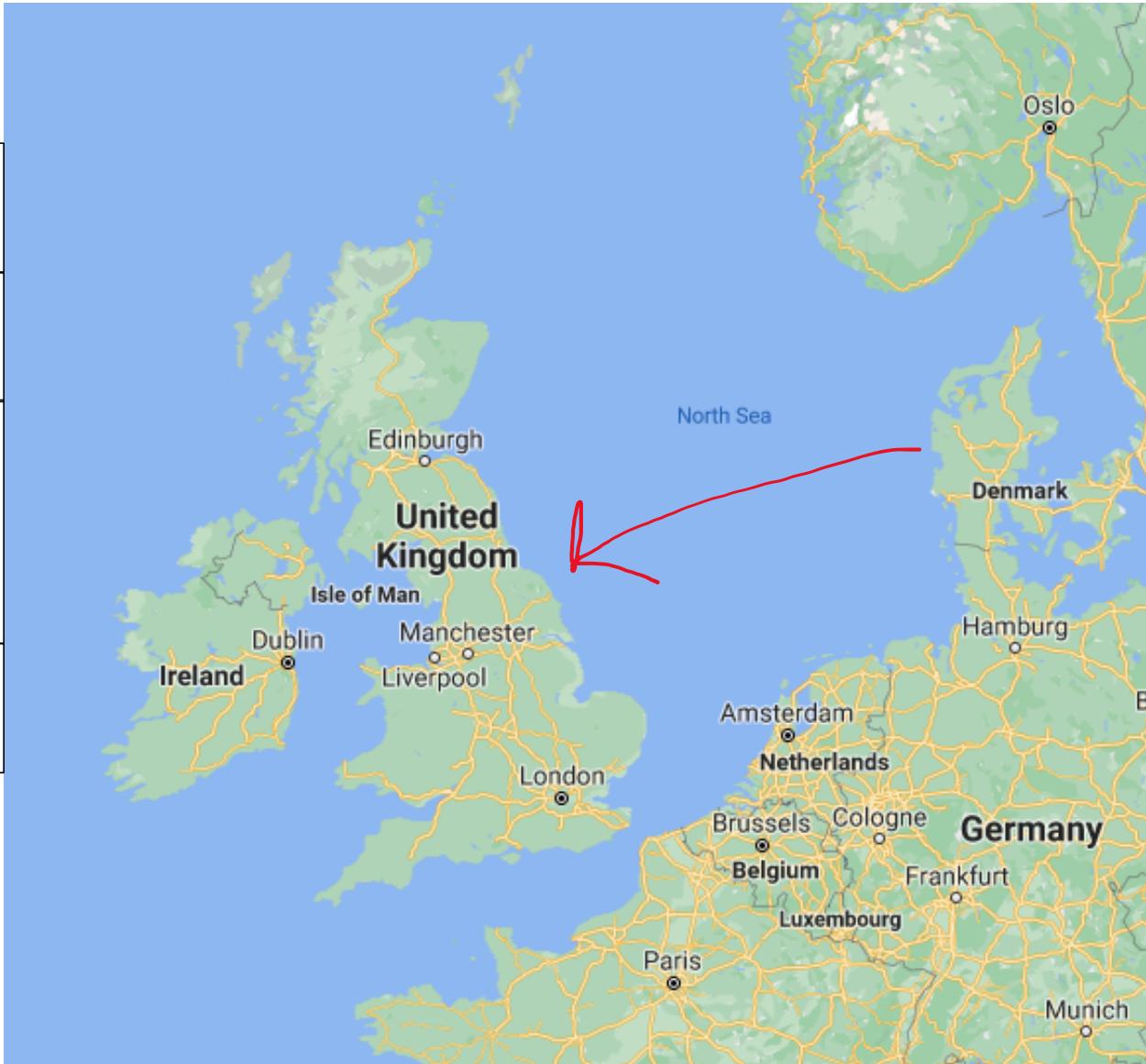
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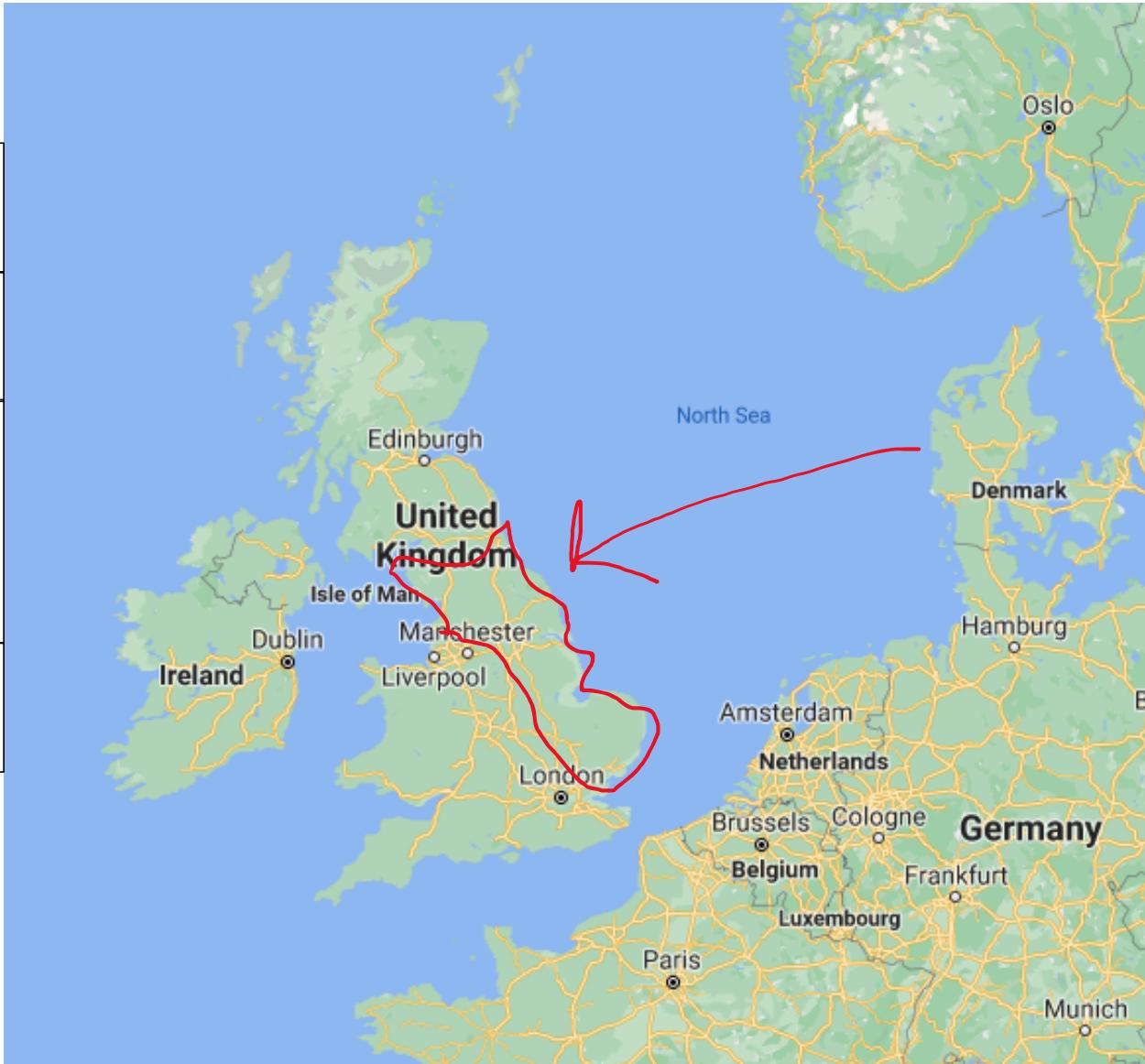
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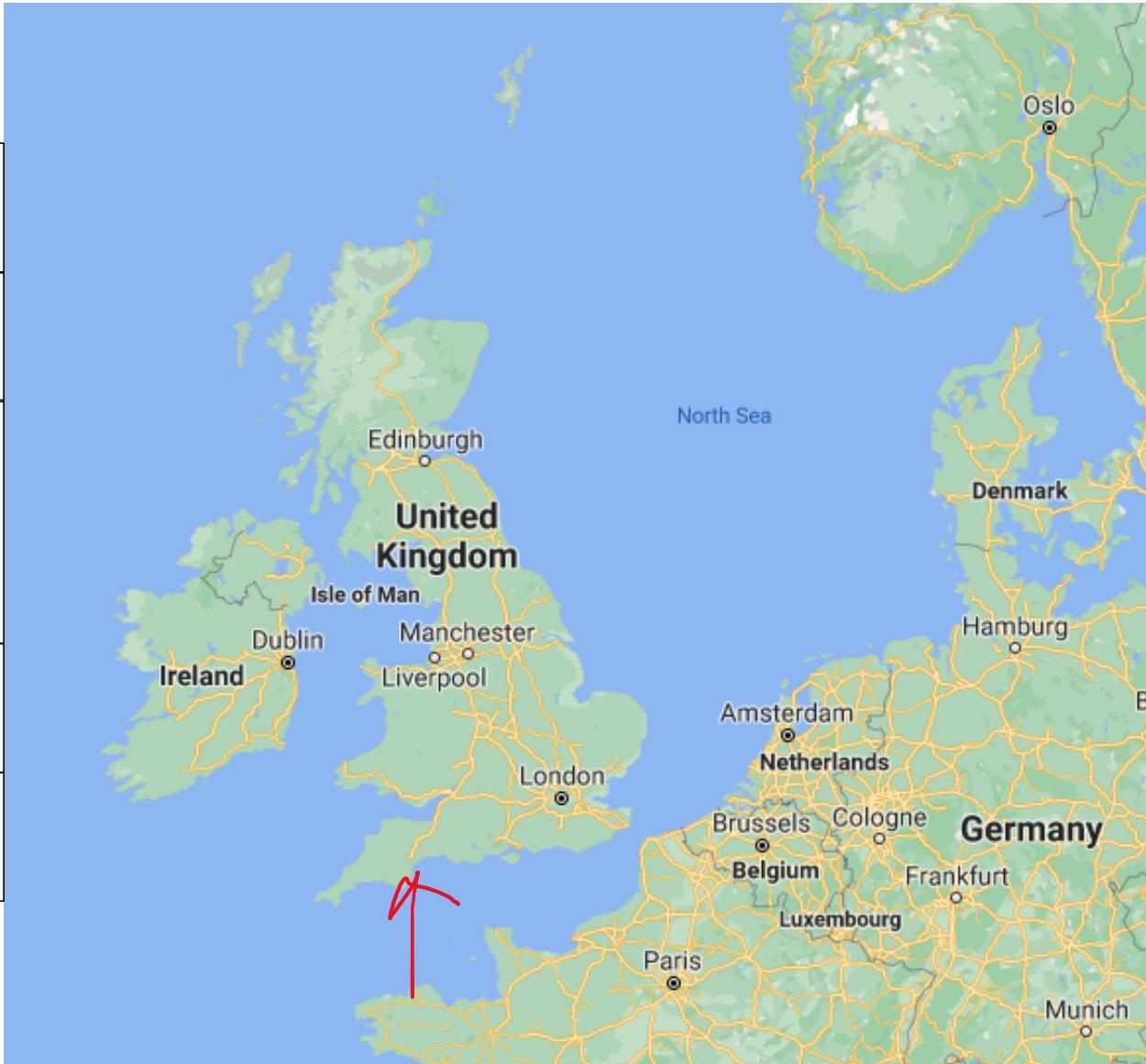
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English
cow, ox
sheep
fowl
pig, hog

Anglo-Norman
beef
mutton
poultry
pork



A Gest of Robyn Hode,
written about 1450

He and listin gētīlmen þe offre bore
blode I shall you tel of a gode pemā his
name was Robyn hode Robyn was a pudeour
law as he was one was neuer non fōnde Ro
byn stode i bernesdale i lenyd hō to a tre i bi hō
Rode litell Johū a gode pemā was he i alsoo
dyd gooe Scarlok and much þ millers so The
re was none puch of his bodi but it was wor
th a grome. Than bespake lytell Johū all un
tooo Robyn hode Maister and pe wolde dyne
betyme it wolde doo you moche gode. Thā be
spake hō gode Robyn to dyne haue I noo lust
till that Ihauel sōbolde barō or som unkoung
gest that map pap for þ best or som knyght or

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Modern English since
about 1500 A.D.



Certaine Querries answered, which have been and are likely to be objected against M A T H B W H O P K I N S , in his way of finding out Witches.

QUERIE I.

Hath he must needs be the greatest Witch, Sorceror, and Wizzard himselfe, else hee could not doe it.

Answ. If Satans kingdome be divided against it selfe, how shall it stand?

Querie 2. If he never went so farre as is before mentioned, yet for certaine he mett with the Devill, and cheated him of his Booke, wherein Were written all the Witches names in England, and if he looks on any Witch, he can tell by her countenance what she is ; so by this, his helpe is from the Devill.

Answ. If he had been too hard for the devill and got his book, it had been to his great commendation, and no disgrace at all : and for judgement in Phisognomie, he hath no more then any man else whatsoever.

