

stream of the Cymry, or on the coast of Ayrshire,

"Where *Cumbray's* isles, with verdant link,
Close the fair entrance of the Clyde."^a

Whether the Cymry had extended their borders through mere love of conquest, or whether they had been forced to this step by the incursions of their warlike neighbours, the Scots, certain it is that we discover another step taken in their southward progress, by their establishment of the kingdom of *Cumbria*, on the North West coast of England, part of which is still known as the county of *Cumberland*.

These kingdoms of *Strathclyde* and *Cambria* remained as separate and independent states, till they were finally subdued by the Scots, in the tenth century; the ancient kingdoms of the Picts having previously been subdued by a sovereign of the same race, Kenneth I., in the year 843.

The destiny of the conquered people remains unnoticed by the chronicles of the day, but as we have thus traced the descendants of the Cimbri or Cimmerii of Jutland to the very borders of Wales, it requires very little play of fancy to suppose that, driven from their former seats, they had continued their course southward, and settling amid the mountains of Wales, became the ancestors of the present Cymry.

Besides the evidence of this fact, thus afforded by history, there is very strong corroborative proof, which we shall now proceed to adduce.

We have already noticed the strong reasons we have for believing the present occupants of Wales to be the successors of a more ancient race; and to this we may now add, what Lluyd and other Welsh antiquaries, have unhesitatingly acknowledged, that the oldest names of many localities in Wales are not Welsh, but Celtic. This assertion may startle some who have long held as an undoubted fact, that the Scotch, Irish and Welsh Gaelic are all dialects of the same tongue. There may have been—nay, we might say, there must inevitably have been—some intermixture of Celtic infused into the Pictish language, by the original settlers whom that people found in possession of the country, on their invasion of Wales; and this infusion of Celtic was likely to be still further increased, by the introduction of those Britons who sought refuge amongst the Welsh Highlands on the Anglo-Saxon invasion. Still, as complete languages, the Welsh on the one hand, and the Irish and Gaelic on the other, have been declared to be irreconcilably different by almost every writer who has critically studied the subject. Amongst these

writers may be enumerated the English Bishop Percy, the Welsh Roberts, the Irish O'Connor, (who declares that the Cymraeg or Welsh, and the Irish "are as different in their syntactic construction as any two tongues can be;") the Scottish Chalmers, the French Vallancey, the German Adeling; and, to return again to England—the learned and ingenious philologist, Sir William Betham, who devoted himself for many years to the critical study of both languages, in order fully to determine his opinion on this point, and who expressly says—that "even in vocabulary they exhibit very little resemblance to each other." A circumstance, in itself trifling enough, but which bears weight when taken in connection with others, has been noticed by a critical writer of the last century, the Rev. James Adams, as displaying the greater affinity of the Welsh to the German or Teutonic, than to the Celtic. "The Welsh dialect (of the English language) is characterized," he remarks, "by a peculiar intonation, and by the vicarious change of consonants, *k* for *g*, *t* for *d* and *p*, *f* for *v*, and *s* for *x*. Now this twang and change being common to the Germans, and moreover, not to be found in Irish, or Highland English,* there is an opening for a curious enquiry—I never met with."

The Cymry, then, not being the original colonisers of this country, the question naturally arises—whence did they come? Their own traditions furnish an answer to this question in exact accordance with the theory we now advocate, and refer clearly to the former establishment of their race in Scotland.

"Most of the Welsh pedigrees," observes Mr. Moore, † "commence their line from princes of the Cambrian kingdom, and the archaologist Lluyd himself boasts of his descent from ancestors in the province of Iredig in Scotland, in the fourth century, before the Saxons came into Britain. To this epoch of their northern kingdom all the traditions of the modern Welsh refer for their most boasted antiquities and favourite themes of romance. The name of their chivalrous hero, Arthur, still lends a charm to much of the topography of North Britain; ‡ and among the many romantic traditions connected with Stirling Castle, is that of its having once been the scene of the festivities of the Round Table. The poets Aneurin and Taliesin, the former born in the neighbourhood of the banks of the

* *i. e.* English as spoken by an Irishman or Scottish Highlander.

† History of Ireland.

‡ The famed eminence of Arthur's seat, that overlooks the Scottish metropolis, and that curious remnant of antiquity on the banks of the Carron, called Arthur's Oon or Oven, may be named as instances of this.

^a The Lord of the Isles.