

NOTES ON HISTORY.

NOTE THE FIRST.

BY EDMOND HUGOMONT.

In the perusal of Historical Works, the reader often meets with an allusion to some object or event of very small importance, it may be, to the general current of the narrative, but his ignorance of which still tends very much to prevent a due apprehension of the subject, and consequently, to lessen the interest and value of his studies. We therefore propose to lay before the readers of the LITERARY GARLAND, from time to time, short papers illustrative of some of these minor points, in the hope that such a series might be rendered useful, by affording such information on certain *minutiae* of History, as may not be usually encountered in a general course of reading. Many of our readers, we are persuaded, only require the *will*, to become writers; and we would gladly hail the co-operation of any such, who may be induced to assist us in our task.

To this task we now proceed, and shall take, as the subject of our first paper, the connection which has been supposed by many able investigators, to exist between

THE PICTS AND THE WELSH.

The Romans, on their invasion of Britain, found that portion of the island now known as the Principality of Wales, inhabited by several tribes of Celtic descent, called respectively, the *Carnarii*, the *Ordovices*, the *Demetæ* and the *Silures*; and in the famous geographical work of Ptolemy of Alexandria, written in the beginning of the second century, the three last-named are recorded as still having possession of that country. In none of these names, however, can the slightest resemblance be traced, either to the term *Welsh*, applied by their English neighbours to the race that at present inhabit the Principality, or to the designation of *Cymry*, which they themselves assume. In personal appearance, too, they are very different from their predecessors, one tribe of whom, the *Silures*, were noted by Tacitus for their dark curling hair and swarthy complexions. Their

own traditions represent them as being successors of a race who had been occupants of the Welsh territory long previous to their arrival there. All these considerations constrain us to the belief that, since the time of Roman domination in Britain, there has been a total change of the race inhabiting this district of country.

Our next step must be to ascertain whence this change arose; and what was the origin of the people who have thus superseded the ancient inhabitants of the land. Their English designation of Welsh does not assist us much in this enquiry, for it is evidently the same as the German word *Wælsch*, which denotes any race of strangers or foreigners, but is, we believe, principally applied to the Italian people and country, which are respectively denominated *Wælsch* and *Wælschland*. The other name of *Cymry*, however, affords us more aid in our search.

Amongst the most powerful of the nations that inhabited ancient Caledonia were the Picts, a tribe of Teutonic origin, whose emigration from the Peninsula of Jutland, then called, from its inhabitants, the *Cimbric Chersonesus*—seems well established. Their possessions were for many years confined to the north of the Forth, comprising the counties of Fife, Perth, Aberdeen and Forfar. In the course of the second century, we find them established further south, having founded, under Hurd the son of Erp,* the kingdom of Strathclyde, otherwise called *Regnum Cumbrense*, or the kingdom of the *Cymry*, of which Dunbarton, then called *Alelmyd*, was constituted the capital.

The names bestowed on places by any people or nation, are always the last marks of their occupancy to be effaced, and such traces are to be found throughout this last named region;—as, for instance, in the village of *Cumbernauld*, or the

* The age and martial achievements of this sovereign, obtained for him, from bards and chroniclers, the title of "King of a Hundred Years and of a Hundred Battles."