

opinion of the late celebrated Dr. Johnson, "to omit for a year, or for a day, the most efficacious methods of advancing Christianity is a crime of the greatest magnitude *." The recent formation of several societies in England, Scotland, and America, for the purpose of sending Missionaries among the Heathen, must afford sincere pleasure to the genuine disciples of Christ; and I cannot but think that the Welch Indians have the strongest claim imaginable to the regard of those Societies. I indulge a hope, that the existence of such a people will be established beyond a doubt, and that some effectual means will be devised to send Welch preachers among them.

I have been credibly informed, that, in the year 1793, a Mr. John Evans, a native of Wales, who had resided some years in London, was strongly inclined to recognize his British brethren on the Missouri; and accordingly went to America. I know it to be a fact, that, having obtained proper letters of recommendation, he left the house of Dr. Jones, near Philadelphia, early in the spring of that year, and set out upon his long journey, through Kentucky, to the Mississippi. For a long season nothing was heard of him, and his friends began to fear that he had perished. But I have a letter from the Rev. Mr. D——, of Somersetshire, who received information from his son in America, that Mr. Evans had returned in safety, having fully accomplished the object of his journey. The following is an extract:

"He states, that a young Welchman is returned from a long journey which he had undertaken, with a view to discover whether such a people existed as the Welch Indians. He saith, this person has discovered such a tribe, inhabiting the country west of the mouth of the Missouri about 700 miles; that they treated him with friendship and hospitality, and adopted him as their son. Their language is the old British, and he particularly noticed the common words to be the same as are now in use in Wales to describe the same objects; such as houses, light, windows, water, bread, &c. &c. The history these Indians give of themselves is this: That their ancestors came from a far country, and landed at the mouth of the Mississippi from thirteen ships, about the year of Christ 1018; there they built a town; but since that period, their descendants have been falling back to their present residence."

* See a Letter on this subject in Boswell's Life of Dr. Johnson, vol. i. p. 216.