

THE CANADIAN JOURNAL.

NEW SERIES.

No. LIV.—NOVEMBER, 1864.

INQUIRY INTO THE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ANCIENT AND MODERN CELT OF GAUL AND BRITAIN.

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Among the terms of a distinctive ethnical significance, derived from classical authorities, and applicable to living races, few have been employed more loosely and indefinitely than that of *Celt*. The causes of this arise, in part, from the great antiquity of what appears on many accounts to have a just claim to be ranked as the oldest member of the Aryan family of European nations. The peculiar relations traceable between the various Celtic dialects and any assumed common mother tongue of all the Indo-European languages, appear to indicate that the former separated at an earlier stage than the classical languages. I have assigned reasons in a former paper* for believing that the historic advent of the Gauls, on their invasion of Rome and Central Italy in the fourth century, B. C., so far from indicating their first appearance in Europe, in reality marks the commencement of their decline and decay. They were then beginning,

* *On the Intrusion of the Germanic Races into Europe.* Edin. Philosoph. Jour. N. S. January, 1855.