

have occurred to Madoc as well as to Columbus: and, by the aid of such knowledge as mariners could then attain, he might be enabled to maintain a westerly course, provided he had sufficient courage to persevere in it.

The numerous testimonies of respectable persons, totally unconnected with each other, and who have actually conversed with the Welch Indians, can scarcely be questioned; for they could have no possible interest in the invention and propagation of a falsehood.

It is, indeed, somewhat remarkable that more pains have not been taken, by the inhabitants of the new or old world, to investigate a subject of so much curiosity and importance. The complete discovery of this nation may prove highly interesting. A new and extensive source of commerce may possibly be opened by a friendly intercourse with them; and, what is infinitely more important, we, as Christians, may become the happy instruments of conveying to them the inestimable blessings of the Gospel of Christ.

Unaccountable and criminal supineness, in this respect, is chargeable upon almost all Christian countries. The great command of our Saviour has been already forgotten—"Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." Commendable diligence has been exerted in making geographical discoveries; and the mercantile world has not failed to extend its commercial efforts to the ends of the earth; but our infidelity has led us to undervalue the glorious Gospel at home, and to be careless about its universal spread. This conduct, however, is inexcusable, if, according to the

of Madoc's voyage; previous to which the Flemings had been settled by Henry I. in Pembrokeshire. It is probable that, from either of these places, Madoc might obtain sufficient assistance for the equipment of his vessels, if he needed it. For these and many other instances of the early maritime power of Britain, the reader may refer to Hackluyt's Voyages, and Dr. Henry's History.

"That modern writers have concurred to discredit the whole account will not appear surprising, nor of much consequence, when it is considered that the age in which we live is remarkably prone to disregard the evidence of facts, to which any natural improbability is attributed. It is often the case that cavils arise from the ignorance of those who make them; and one of the objections that has been raised against the proofs of Madoc's expedition affords a striking instance of this truth. Amongst several Welch words that are said to be used by American Indians, is the name given to a well-known sea-fowl, the Penguin, which, in the British language, signifies *white head*. To oppose this argument, it has been confidently asserted that the Penguin is not an inhabitant of the northern hemisphere; although it is, in fact, the most common bird upon the coasts of North America. There is more semblance of force in the objection, that the Penguin's head is not white, but black. Yet as the rest of the bird, when it swims, appears of the latter colour, and it has a white patch about the eye, it might be so called on that account: and this derivation is at least more likely than that which is substituted by the objectors."

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