

*e.g.*, "is mi, is tu, is e, is sinn, is sibh, is iad," which, if put into literal English, would be "me is, thou is, he is, we is, you is, they is."

And yet, though it sounds strange to an English ear, this is the most natural way of talking in the world ; and, accordingly, it was really the mode that prevailed in old Sanscrit and old Greek. The same is also true of Latin, and in the familiar forms of "sum, es, est, sumus, estis, 'sunt," one can easily see the verb "is" (call it whatever you like) commencing every word ; and it is likewise certain that the *endings* of those Latin words are mutilations of old personal pronouns. These are, indeed, the views of all modern philologists, and I therefore beg that they will not be credited to an undue love of mine for my mother tongue.

In continuing my remarks upon this subject, I should like to refer to the matter of affinity as existing between these verbs and words, which are of frequent use in old classical languages. Fortunately, this is so plain, that I anticipate no difficulty in bringing home at least the leading facts to the understanding of any ordinary Highland scholar. With the exception, perhaps, of "robh," all these Gaelic verbs are easily identified with words which are their genuine relatives in other languages.

To avoid complication, take each in turn :—

We find "is" in the English, "is" in the Hebrew *esh* and in other forms too numerous to mention.

"Bu" is clearly the Sanscrit "bhū" (was). We have it also in the Greek *φύω* and in the Latin "fui."

"Beil" is not so easily traced ; yet I think we find it in an old Greek verb, *πέλω*. May it not also be related to the Latin "velle," and therefore to the English "will?"

"Bi" is doubtless the English "be," and I give it the credit of a long list of derivations. I connect with it the following Gaelic words, viz., "bith, beo, biadh, beatha, beathach, beathaich." I connect with it also the Greek "*βίος*," the Welsh "byd" (world), and the Latin "vita." And if the Gaelic "beathaich" (to feed) comes from "beatha," nothing ought to