



BARBAROUS.

DENTIST: "DON'T MIND OPENING YOUR MOUTH ANY WIDER, SIR,—I'M GOING TO STAND OUTSIDE!"

NOTES AND QUERIES.

My attention has been directed to a short and scholarly article by Mr. John Reade, in the last number of the *Canada Scotsman*, on the subject of "The Celts," in which I find the following passages:—

"The Celts were the original inhabitants of a great part of the West of Europe, Belgium, France, Spain and the British Isles were originally peopled by them, and the traces of their race are still discoverable in the spoken language of topographical names of these countries."

"The Celtic language is spoken to some extent in the North Western districts of Spain, where it is called "Basque," more extensively in Brittany, where it is known as "Armorican;" largely in the Isle of Man, where it is called "Manx;" and generally among the lower classes in Wales and Cornwall."

"The Erse and Gaelic dialects of it are those which are best known as in common use in the North and West of Ireland, and the Highlands of Scotland."

The learned Spanish Jesuit, Hervas, published in 1800, his famous Catalogue of Languages, in which, according to Max Müller (*Science of Language*, Vol. I., p. 141), he proved "that the Bask was not, as was commonly supposed, a Celtic dialect, but an independent language spoken by the earliest inhabitants of Spain, as proved by the names of Spanish mountains and rivers." Max Müller also informs us that "Leibnitz held the same opinion, though he considered the Celts in Spain as descendants of the Iberians."

There is no doubt that Celts existed in Spain in the time of Herodotus; but what evidence is there of another race of people existing in Iberia before them?

I am certain that Mr. Reade is in error in saying that Celtic is "spoken generally" in Cornwall. Old Cornish became extinct early in the present century, and must now be ranked as a dead language. I remember that,

about ten or twelve years ago, a subscription list was opened, to collect funds to erect a monument to the last old woman who spoke Cornish.

Besides the countries mentioned by Mr. Reade, the Celts at one time peopled, in part, a considerable portion of the Baltic provinces, Switzerland, the Tyrol, the countries South of the Danube, and Northern Italy. To quote Max Müller again, (and he is generally very careful in assertions of this kind,) "About the same time (280) a Celtic Colony settled in Asia, and founded Galatia, where the language spoken at the time of St. Jerome was still that of the Gauls."

Can any correspondent inform me if a Celtic language be spoken at the present day by any existing people, other than those mentioned by Mr. Reade? I have been informed that the Walloon language, spoken quite generally by the inhabitants of the South East of Belgium and the neighbouring portions of France, is of Celtic origin. In this tongue, there is, I believe, no literature, either ancient or modern. I have seen, in Liège, a French and Walloon Dictionary of an extremely imperfect character, but the orthography of the words in the latter tongue was unmistakeably phonetic and arbitrary. The sound of the spoken language is very different from either Gaelic, Irish, Welsh or Breton; in fact, much softer and more labial than guttural; and many of the words have an unmistakeable old French and Latin origin. These may, however, be interpolations.

I should be much obliged for information relative to—

- I. The Ancient Inhabitants of Iberia.
- II. The Basque Language.
- III. The Walloon Language.

A. B.

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"BULLS AND BEARS."—Query No. 1.—I have no memory, beyond hypothesis and "The Stock Exchange" of 1720, as to the origin of this. I give the following, however, which may elicit further information. The root, or first meaning to the word "Bull," I take from the Italian, "Bella,"—a "bubble," or blister. Secondly, something "strong," or "antagonistic; and also "lead," and hence a "seal," as the Bulls of the Pope were generally issued with a leaden seal.

The South Sea Speculation (1720) was called a "Bubble." Pope was credited with the following "Epigram on a Punch Bowl," chased with *Jupiter placing Callisto in the skies, and Europa with the Bull*:—

"Come fill the South Sea goblet full,
The gods shall of our stock take care;
Europa pleased, accepts the Bull,
And Jove, with joy, the Bear."

Again, the seller on "Change" was called "Bear," possibly in allusion to an old Fable of a Huntsman selling the Skin of a Bear before the Bear was killed.

The foregoing is simply for its worth. I add a not unreasonable explanation:—That the Bulls are those who endeavour to *lift up* the prices of Stocks (with reference to the Stock Exchange), and the Bears are those who try to pull, drag, or *Bear* them down.

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"IRON MASK."—Query No. 2.—Von Hammer, in his "*History of the Ottoman Empire*," states that the Historical "Man in the Iron Mask" was the Greek Patriarch Avedick (or Arwedicks), who was carried off mysteriously and forcibly from one of the Levantine Islands by a French vessel, at the instigation of Ferriol, the French Ambassador. This is one of the latest suppositions, but see Delort's (Paris, 1825) "*Histoire de l'Homme au Masque de fer*," and Hon. Geo. Agar Ellis's "*True History of the State Prisoner, called commonly 'The Iron Mask'*" (London, 1826.) I have no copies of these works, and cannot give their ideas; but it is not generally thought that "James," in his "*Life of Louis XIV.*" has strengthened the belief in Mathioli being the "Man;" nor has the hypothesis, that the twin brother of Louis was the captive, been generally sustained. In fact, it is even yet more of a mystery than the authorship of "Junius;" as, to some, this latter appears settled.

AN OBVIOUS DEDUCTION.

A correspondent states he has some hope that bright days are in store for the Grand Trunk, when so much concern is shown for it by Mr. Potter, its President. The Yankées call it a "big concern,"—and, evidently, Mr. Potter is of the same opinion, for he styles it "this concern" no less than eighteen times in a comparatively short speech.—(*See Gazette, October 21st, 1869.*)