

notices of the Belgæ and other continental tribes, seemingly most nearly allied to others of south Britain, the Germanic or Celtic affinities of which have been made the subject of much controversy among modern ethnologists. In the previous book\* Cæsar expressly states that, while the inhabitants of Britain are regarded as aborigines, the sea coast is occupied by tribes derived from the country of the Belgæ, and bearing names corresponding to those of the states they came from. Strabo describes the Britons of about the commencement of the following century, in part from observations made on some of their young men seen by him at Rome; and he discriminates between them and the Gauls, assigning to the latter yellow-hair, a fairer complexion, and smaller stature, than their insular neighbours.\* This suggests a comparison with the description of the Caledonians given by Tacitus, in which he notes the huge stature and red hair of the latter, and recognises in them an approximation to the German type.\* The Silures, or West Britons, on the contrary, he contrasts both with them and the southern tribes, as *colorati vultus et torti plerumque crines*; they were of florid, or, rather in this case, dark complexion, with abundance of curly locks; and to this Jornandes adds that the hair was black. They thus contrasted very strikingly both with the northern and southern tribes; and Tacitus, in referring to an Iberian origin ascribed to them, adds the probable confirmation arising from the position of their country, standing as it does opposite to Spain. To the southern Britons alone, a common origin with the Gauls was assigned; though Tacitus himself recognises the correspondence between the whole of those insular tribes and the continental Gauls, in customs, language, and religious rites; and obviously attaches more importance to these points of agreement, than to those of physical difference.

The allusions to varieties of physical character, are so far valuable, though deficient in many important details. Virgil, Claudian, and other poets repeat them, but without enlarging their details, or adding to their credibility; and when every reference has been carefully weighed, it is surprising how little that is definite can really be inferred beyond the one important fact that considerable diversity prevailed. So vague is all that can be deduced from such references, that Nieb-

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\* *Bell. Gall.* lib. v. c. 12.

† *Strabo*, lib. iv.

‡ *Vit. Agricola*, c. xi.