

an ancient Iberian stock. In history they are known as the Silures and, perhaps, the Brigantes of England, the Picts of Scotland, and the Tuatha de Danans of Ireland. In feature their descendants exhibit many affinities to the Basque or Iberian population of the Pyrenees. "In their mode of warfare both Picts and Silures resembled the Iberians. They did not engage the Romans with all their force at once, but encountered them in guerilla warfare. According to Polybius, the Spaniards were armed with swords made for cutting and thrusting; and from Roman writers we learn that the Picts were armed with daggers and short spears. Strabo informs us that the Romans found it more difficult to conquer the Iberians than the Gauls, owing to their different modes of warfare. One battle broke down the Caledonians of Tacitus, while the Silures withstood the Roman arms for nine years. The Silures were a dark race, like the Iberians; the Caledonians resembled the ancient Gauls and Germans."¹ Tacitus was the first to suggest the Iberian origin of the Silures: "*Silurum colorati vultus, torti plerumque crines, et posita contra Hispania, Hiberos veteres trajecisse easque sedes habitasse fidem faciunt.*"² This passage is quoted with approbation by Richard of Cirencester, a writer of the 14th century, in his work on "The Ancient State of Britain."³ The Silurian name, of which the initial *s* was probably a Roman euphonic addition,

¹ The Scottish Highland Language and People. By Hector McLean. Journal Anthropological Institute, August, 1877, p. 9.

² Tacitus; Agricola., XI.

³ Richard of Cirencester on the Ancient State of Britain. Book I., Chap. 3.