

**THE EASTERN ORIGIN OF THE
CELTIC NATIONS
PROVED BY A COMPARISON
OF THEIR DIALECTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649567249

The Eastern Origin of the Celtic Nations Proved by a Comparison of Their Dialects by James
Cowles Prichard

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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JAMES COWLES PRICHARD

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THE
EASTERN ORIGIN
OF THE
CELTIC NATIONS

E. S. P. 1091

PROVED BY A COMPARISON OF

Their Dialects

WITH THE

SANSKRIT, GREEK, LATIN, AND TEUTONIC

Languages.



FORMING A SUPPLEMENT TO RESEARCHES INTO THE
PHYSICAL HISTORY OF MANKIND.

BY

JAMES COWLES PRICHARD, M. D. F. R. S. & c.

OXFORD,

PRINTED BY S. COLLINGWOOD, PRINTER TO THE UNIVERSITY,
FOR J. AND A. ARCH, CORNHILL, LONDON.

MDCCCXXXI.

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TO
THE REVEREND
WILLIAM DANIEL CONYBEARE, A.M. F.R.S. &c.
RECTOR OF SULLY,
AND TO
PROFESSOR JACOB GRIMM
OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF GOETTINGEN,
THIS WORK IS INSCRIBED,
IN TESTIMONY OF
THE HIGH RESPECT AND REGARD
OF
THE AUTHOR.

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THE treatise now laid before the public forms a Supplement to my "Researches into the Physical History of Mankind," and was announced in the first edition of that work, which was printed in 1813. Of the motives which induced me so long to withhold it, and of those which have at length determined me to the publication, a sufficient account will be found in the Introduction; and I have only a few words to premise on the circumstances and designation under which the work now appears.

It is termed, a Supplement to Researches into the Physical History of Mankind, because it was undertaken with the view of furnishing proofs of a series of facts, of which little more could be introduced into that work than general statements, containing the results of inquiries which had been sufficient for my own conviction. It forms, however, a distinct treatise, in exclusion of its reference to the history of nations or races of men; and it may be proper to remark, that some of the philological researches which it contains have been pursued into greater extent than the primary object of the work may seem to have required. If this is in one respect a fault, it may be hoped that contingent advantages in another

point of view will be found to atone for it. The examination of cognate languages, while it points out their resemblances and proves the affinity of the races of men of which they formed the vernacular speech, seldom fails at the same time to elucidate, in a greater or less degree, the structure of the respective idioms themselves; and it will appear, if I am not mistaken, that the relation of the Celtic dialects to the other languages brought into comparison with them, furnishes the means of throwing some light on the European idioms in general. I have followed the investigation which thus suggested itself, and have stated the results. If the latter are well established, they will be found both interesting by themselves to the philologist, and will at the same time strongly confirm the principal inferences obtained in respect to the origin and mutual affinity of the European nations.

As I have had occasion in several parts of this treatise to allude to the grammatical forms of some languages, with which I am but imperfectly acquainted, I have endeavoured to cite correctly the authorities on which I have depended for information. The names of various grammarians and other writers on philological subjects, with the designations of their works, will be found in the marginal references scattered through the following pages, and need not be mentioned in this place. But there are four living authors to whom in a more especial manner I am indebted, and am anxious to acknowledge

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my obligation. These are Mr. H. H. Wilson, the learned secretary of the Asiatic Society, author of the Sanskrit dictionary, and Professors Bopp, Rosen, and Grimm, to whose well known works I have made throughout this essay frequent references.

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