

**THE EASTERN ORIGIN OF THE CELTIC
NATIONS 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**

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The Eastern Origin of the Celtic Nations 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

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BY

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

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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.

ADVERTISEMENT.

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.

INTRODUCTION.

SECTION I.

Different opinions respecting the population of the world—Autochthones—Hypothesis of the ancients—Modern opinion—Way of investigating the subject—Physical evidence—Comparison of languages—How far this inquiry has tended to elucidate the history of nations—General relations and value of philological inquiries.

MANY writers on natural history and geography have maintained the opinion that each particular region of the earth must have been supplied from the beginning, by a separate and distinct creation, with its peculiar stock of indigenous or native inhabitants. Among the ancients this notion prevailed almost universally. There existed, indeed, in the pagan world an obscure tradition of a primitive pair fashioned out of clay by the hand of Prometheus or of Jupiter; but this belonged to mythology; which, in its literal sense, at least, was of little authority with the best informed, and the frequent occurrence of such terms as *autochthones*, *indigenæ*, or *aboriginal inhabitants*, whenever reference is made to the population of different countries, indicates a general prevalence of the ideas which such expressions are fitted to suggest. The prevailing opinion in modern times has referred all the nations of the earth to a common parentage; and this it has done chiefly, as it would appear, on the authority of our Sacred History, the testimony of which seems hardly to be re-

conciled with a different hypothesis. Of late, however, many learned men, chiefly on the continent, have been strongly inclined to adopt an opinion similar to that of the ancients; and this seems now to be gaining proselytes among the French naturalists and physiologists, and among writers on history and antiquities in Germany. Some of the former speak of the Adamic race as of one among many distinct tribes. Von Humboldt, who has collected so many evidences of intercourse between the inhabitants of the eastern and western continents, yet seems to have regarded the primitive population of America as a distinct and peculiar stock. The celebrated geographer Malte Brun has plainly taken it for granted that each part of the earth had indigenous inhabitants from the earliest times, into whose origin it is vain to make inquiries; and even the accomplished Niebuhr, who is not more distinguished by the great extent of his learning than by the novelty and ingenuity of his critical speculations, has adopted a similar opinion in connexion with his researches into the early history of Italy^a.

It would be no difficult matter to cite names of equal celebrity on the other side of this question^b, but it is not by the authority of opinions that it can ever be decided. The most learned men, and those of the most profound research, are equally liable with ordinary individuals to adopt erroneous notions on subjects which lie beyond a particular sphere; they are perhaps even more disposed to prejudices of certain kinds. It is only by examining the evi-

^a Römische Geschichte von N. G. Niebuhr. I. Ausgab. Vorrede, p. 38.

^b Sir W. Jones.