

**THE HISTORY OF THE CELTIC
LANGUAGE: WHEREIN IT IS SHOWN TO
BE BASED UPON NATURAL PRINCIPLES,
AND, ELEMENTARILY CONSIDERED,
CONTEMPORANEOUS WITH THE
INFANCY OF THE HUMAN FAMILY**

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The history of the Celtic language: wherein it is shown to be based upon natural principles, and, elementarily considered, contemporaneous with the infancy of the human family by L. Maclean

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L. MACLEAN

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R. Campbell
Midway Lodge
Perthshire
THE
HISTORY *of the*

OF THE

CELTIC LANGUAGE;

WHEREIN IT IS SHOWN TO BE BASED UPON NATURAL PRINCIPLES,
AND, EMBLEMATICALLY CONSIDERED, CONTEMPORARIES
WITH THE INANCY OF THE HUMAN FAMILY.

LITERATURE

SHOWING ITS IMPORTANCE IN ORDER TO THE PROPER
UNDERSTANDING OF THE CLASSICS, INCLUDING THE SACRED TEXTS,
THE BIBLE, THE GOSPELS, THE CANON, ETC. ETC.

BY L. MACLEAN, F.O.S.,

Author of "Historical Account of Inca," "Sketches of the Kildes," &c. &c.



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MDCCLXI.

"IT CONTAINS MANY THINGS WHICH ARE ASTONISHING AND AT WHICH THE MORTAL MIND STUNNED: BUT THIS WILL NOT TAKE FROM THEIR ACCURACY."—FOR WOLFELE KETHAM'S LETTER TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF BURENDON, IN THE EARLY 13TH C.

"WORDS ARE THE MORTALS OF EARTH—THINGS ARE THE LORDS OF HEAVEN."—SALVATOR JORDAN.

Dedication.

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR ROBERT PEEL,
BARONET, M.P.

SIR,

AN ardent admirer of your character, public and private, I feel proud of the permission you have kindly granted me to Dedicate to you this humble Work.

The highest and most noble privilege of great men is the opportunity their station affords them of fostering the Fine Arts, and amplifying the boundaries of useful knowledge.

That this spirit animates your bosom, each successive day is adding proof: nor is the fact

unknown, that whilst your breast glows with the fire of the patriot, beautifully harmonizing with the taste of the scholar, your energies are likewise engaged on the side of that pure religion of your fathers, with which your own mind has been so early imbued, and which, joined with Education, is, as has properly been said, "the cheapest defence of a nation;" as it is the only solid foundation whereon to build our hopes of bliss in a world to come. This is the spirit, this the principle which obtained for the great and noble names of antiquity a consecrated place in our memory—whether philosophers whose minds led them to investigate the mysteries of human nature and the laws of things in general, or statesmen who commanded the senate not less by their oratory than by the wisdom of their counsels: this is the spirit, this the principle which made England mistress of the world; and this is the spirit, this the principle which is wooing this great empire to the name of the **RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR ROBERT PEEL.** That this volume,

which you have been pleased to patronize, is faultless, the Author is not vain enough to suppose; nor would he willingly compromise candour so much as to allow that it is altogether devoid of merit. “Whatever makes the past, the distant, or the future, predominate over the present, advances us in the dignity of thinking beings;” and what can be more conducive to this end than the study of man—the study of antiquity—the contemplation of fallen greatness!

The merits and demerits, however, no one requires to point out to you, whose classical acumen at Oxford gained the plaudits of a Byron, and whose penetration can see almost intuitively the true bearing, present and future, of a measure of state upon which haply hangs the destinies of monarchs. To be judged of by such a Patron, is the Author's anchor of hope.

That your life may be long spared to cheer the domestic circle, to protect your country's liberties,

properly so called, and to fill with your name a still larger portion of the history of the nineteenth century, and that that name may not suffer any diminution of its due respect and regard for having condescended to patronize this feeble but honest effort, is,

Right Honourable Baronet,

With profound regard,

The sincere prayer of,

THE AUTHOR.

ANGELL STREET, GLASGOW, }
23rd April, 1866. }
J

P R E F A C E.

If any person take up the *History of the Celtic Language*, as about to be submitted, and expect to get through it as through a song, for that person the author has not written : “*Intelligibilis non intellectum aufero.*”

At the commencement of the present order of material things, the first sun indicated day by a faint but perceptible heraldic emanation in the East, gradually waxing stronger and stronger, till now, behold! the king of day himself gilding the summit of the mountains with the splendour of his countenance, and now gradually mounting, and diffusing stronger light—stronger intelligence—till he arrives at the goal of noon. This appears to the author no inapt emblem of the commencement of the order of things in the *moral* world. If we would contemplate the human family in its infant state, we must