

## II.

ON THE ANCIENT AND MODERN ETHNOGRAPHY OF SCOTLAND. BY JOHN  
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In a pamphlet issued and circulated by the Society of Antiquaries of France, and a copy of which has recently been presented to this Society, the distinguished author, M. Alfred Maury, after having enumerated the many and varied agencies which always have been, and will be working towards the amalgamation of races, proceeds to propound a most comprehensive and important question.

“In spite of so many disturbing causes,” he asks, “have some traits distinctive of any of the primitive races of our country continued to subsist? Has the physical and moral type of each of these races been completely effaced; or

<sup>1</sup> I find in the plate of Prinsep, with which I was not acquainted when this paper was laid before the Society, several coins whose attributions are not so certain. I possess also one or two uncertain; and I owe to the kindness of A. O. Brodie, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., an opportunity of inspecting others, which may be at some future time brought before the Society.

has it continued to exist within certain limits, where it has been comparatively unexposed to the causes of mixture and alteration? This diversity of idioms, of dialects, of manners, of costume, does it not betray an essential difference in the races? Such," he continues, "is the question which we may ask at present, and which it is important to solve before the incessant progress of the means of communication, the perpetual intermingling of our citizens among themselves, due to the development of the railway system, and the cosmopolite habits which become general in the same ratio with the advance of education, shall have caused the disappearance of the last traces by whose aid we may travel back to the very beginnings of the different races."

M. Maury proceeds to enumerate the several departments which require special investigation, namely, the varieties in prevailing forms, features, and complexions—in mental and moral character—in customs, usages, traditions, and superstitions; in costumes, in dialects, in accent, in family names, and in the names of places, and of the natural features of the country.

In Scotland, which may almost be said to be the native country of Ethnology, several of these departments of inquiry have been worked out with prodigious labour by a crowd of eminent Antiquaries and authors. The questions connected with the origin, history, and language of the ancient Picts, have been as hotly debated as that of the guilt or innocence of Queen Mary. Chalmers, in particular, has furnished, in his great work, a vast mass of historical and philological information relative to this and similar problems; and I have drawn chiefly from his *Caledonia* the materials for the second part of this paper.

None of these authors, however, so far as I am aware, have bestowed much trouble upon that department of investigation which M. Maury has placed foremost in the list, as being one of the most immediately important. Grant and Logan collected personal descriptions of the ancient Celts, but do not seem to have compared them with those of their supposed descendants of the present day. Pinkerton formed and promulgated certain notions, right or wrong, as to the physical traits of the typical Celt and Saxon; but he evidently took little trouble about the verification of his ideas by careful observation.

In attempting partially to work this little-trodden field, I have directed my attention to those physical characters which are most obvious and readily ascertained: I mean the colours of the hair and eyes. As people differ much in their ideas as to the nomenclature of shades and colours, it is difficult for one observer to compare his own results with those of another. M. Maury has indeed suggested a plan which seems feasible enough, and which might be contributed to by any number of Ethnological zealots: I mean the collection of portraits of

persons who present most distinctly the features and complexion typically characteristic of each district.

In the endeavour to acquaint myself with the physical characters, and more especially with the complexional marks, of the natives of this country, I have traversed most of the districts that seemed particularly interesting, in an Ethnological point of view, and have made observations upon about 20,000 individuals. Still I have left many interesting localities, and even several large districts, such as Sutherland, Berwickshire, Lower Argyle, and the Western Hebrides, wholly unvisited; while, in other quarters, the number of individuals observed has not been sufficiently great to allow of certainty in generalisation. These omissions I shall endeavour to supply before quitting Scotland. Meanwhile, I am desirous of presenting to this Society an account of the general results derivable from the numerical tables which I have lately published.<sup>1</sup>

Before proceeding to do this, however, it seems to me advisable to run through a brief abstract of the Ethnological history of Scotland. In so doing, I shall avoid, as far as possible, controverted points. About the period of the abandonment of Britain by the Romans, we find the northern parts of the island occupied by sundry peoples and communities, all of which I may, I hope, be permitted to mass together as certainly of Celtic blood.<sup>2</sup> South of the Wall of Antoninus dwelt several semi-Romanised tribes, whose nearest kindred were the Cymric people of Cumberland and North Wales, and who themselves long continued to glory in the name of Cumry. North of the wall, the whole of the mainland, with the Hebrides and the Orkneys, but not the Shetlands, was probably occupied by the Picts—a people with respect to whom I am disposed, with much diffidence, to follow the opinion of Chalmers, who supposed them to have been Cymric Celts—wholly un-Romanised—and therefore differing somewhat in dialect, and more in manners, from their kindred in Strathclyde and Lothian. These Picts were commonly considered as divisible into two great sections, to the southern or Lowland one of which the names *Mœatæ*, *Vecturiones*, *Piccardach*, were successively applied; and to the northern or Highland section, the names of *Caledonii*, *Deucaledonii*, and *Picts* proper. The division, however, though latterly it must have been political, as Mr Skene very well shows, was perhaps, in earlier times, geographical or social; and the distinctive names were very loosely employed by those who have transmitted them to us; some of whom, moreover, must have been almost wholly ignorant of the territories and character of the northern Picts. Whether the *Caledonii*, taking the word

<sup>1</sup> A Contribution to Scottish Ethnology. Edinburgh: Maclachlan & Stewart.

<sup>2</sup> It seems unadvisable here to touch upon the question how much of the primeval Iberian, or Allophylian element, may have been mingled in various quarters with the predominating Celtic blood.

in its most limited extent, as applying to the Picts of Athol, and some adjoining districts, did not belong rather to the southern than to the northern division, seems to me very problematical.

It is probable enough that the Irish Scots, allied as they constantly had been with the Picts against the Romans and provincial Britons, may have already settled to some extent on the western shores of Scotland. At any rate, at the commencement of the sixth century, we find them settled in a compact body in Southern Argyle, which they thenceforward continued to hold, gradually extending their settlements along the coasts of Morvern and of Inverness-shire to the north, crossing the Clyde to mingle in the strife of the Cumbrians and the Angles, but interfering little with the Southern Picts, from whose settlements in Perthshire they were separated by a wide tract of mountain and moor.

About the middle of the sixth century, the Northumbrian Angles of Ida began to pour into Scotland from the east. The counties of Berwick, Roxburgh, and East Lothian, were speedily occupied by them; the Britons, defeated in the sanguinary battle of Caltraith, yielded the best portions of their territory to a more energetic race. There is no doubt, however, that great numbers of them remained within the limits of the lost territory; some as free denizens—more, probably, in a state of slavery. About the year 600, the defeats sustained by them on Stainmoor and at Dawstane—the latter of which places is said by Bede to have been within the British territory, while its Saxon name, applied at the present day to a spot near the head of Liddesdale, proves, I think, that it cannot have been very far from the boundary;—these events, I say, may assist us in distinguishing the British from the Saxon territory. The frontier probably ran from Stainmoor northward, along the Pennine range of England, till it reached the mountain-knot to the south of Jedburgh; thence turning north-westwards, it may have followed the line of the ancient dyke, called the *Cat-rail*, crossing successively the Teviot above Hawick, the Borthwick Water, the Ettrick, and the Yarrow, and passing near to Galashiels.

Whether the three Lothians were then properly Saxon, is uncertain; but in the reign of Oswald, not many years afterwards, the whole of that fine region had become so, for the Saxon monastery of Abercorn would not have been founded very close to a hostile frontier.

Oswy and Ecfrið continued to push their frontier westward, but the Northumbrian dominion outstripped in its growth the advance of Saxon colonisation. Ecfrið occupied Carlisle, which he bestowed on St Cuthbert; and I suppose that the plain country of North Cumberland thenceforward remained in the hands of the Teutons, who thus separated the British or Cumbrian territory into two parts, and obtained a starting-point for the colonisation of the northern

shores of the Solway and the Irish Sea. But this career of conquest was now to meet with a check. The headstrong Eofrid, bent on the subjugation of the Picts, perished in the woodlands of Angus with the flower of the Northumbrian warriors. The Saxon territory collapsed within the limits of their colonisation, and West Lothian ceased to be a secure abode for the good monks of Abercorn.

In 710, the death of Eofrid was avenged by the slaughter of King Bredei and a Pictish army; but on this occasion the Picts had been the aggressors, having apparently traversed all Lothian, and invaded Tindale. From this time dates a second period of Saxon ascendancy. The Saxons and Picts seem to have held each other's prowess in wholesome respect; neither people crossed the Forth, except when both combined to harass and oppress the Strathelyde Britons. Saxon colonisation extended westwards, as the north was denied to it; and the low country of Galloway was dotted with their settlements, and subjected to the spiritual authority of their Bishop of Whithern.

Eadburt, in 750, wrested from the unhappy Britons Kyle and Cunningham, which were, with the exception of the apple-orchards of Clydesdale, the only fertile country that had remained to them. Indeed, it is difficult to see how the Saxons could have penetrated into Ayrshire at all, without subduing either Carrick or some portion of Lower Clydesdale; and as Carrick was an uninviting country, and Saxon names of places are particularly uncommon there, and inasmuch, again, as the Picts were just then in alliance with the Northumbrians, whom they assisted a few years later in the sacking of Dumbarton, I am disposed to think that the Saxon dominion must for a short period have extended from the Forth to the Western Sea.

From that period, the two nations hitherto predominant in North Britain, namely, the Picts and the Saxons, began rapidly to decline, by reason principally of intestine commotions. At the same time, the superabundance of the Gaelic population of Ireland began to be discharged upon the south-western coasts of Scotland, thereafter called Galloway; while other portions of it were probably increasing by immigration into Argyle, the numbers and power of the hitherto unimportant Scottish kingdom. The limits of Argyle, which were always regarded as coinciding with those of the Scottish monarchy, were advanced northward as far as Loch Maree, in Ross-shire. King Domnal-breac, in the preceding century, had fought a battle in Glenmoriston, in the heart of the old territory of the Northern Picts, and close to the royal residence, where Columba had met with and converted the Pictish king. The Northern Picts, moreover, as Mr Skene has shown, were long in firm alliance with the Scots; so that Scottish blood may have been introduced insensibly, and in the course of friendly intercourse, into even the remotest corners of Pictovia.

At length, in the year 842, occurred a revolution, of the exact nature and extent of which we are not aware, but which had the effect of placing Scottish princes on the throne of Pictland, and introducing a great deal of Scottish blood into the territories of the Southern Picts.

We must now direct our attention yet farther to the northward, where a new element in the Ethnology of Scotland is beginning to grow into importance.

At what period the Scandinavians first occupied Orkney and Shetland, is not exactly known. It is certain, however, that towards the end of this, the ninth century, when the Norwegian *jarls* and *vikings* were fleeing from the wrath of Harold Haarfager, they possessed not only these islands, but also the outer or Western Hebrides, whence they plundered the coasts of the mainland. The relentless sword of Haarfager followed his foes into their fastnesses, and jarls subordinate to the kings of Norway, were established in the islands: Ketel ruling in the Hebrides, and Sigurd over the Orkneys and Shetlands, which he transmitted to his posterity through many generations. These countries were, to a great extent, and Shetland and Orkney perhaps at first wholly, stocked with a Scandinavian population, who also settled in smaller numbers on the convenient fiords of Argyle and Ross, less thickly inhabited since the emigration of so many Scots to the east. But even in Orkney and Shetland, their race must soon have ceased to be perfectly pure, inasmuch as crowds of Celtic captives must have been dragged from their mainland homes to serve as thralls to their victorious enemies; and, moreover, these sturdy pirates were ready enough to admit into their company and alliance men of Celtic, or otherwise alien blood, provided only that they possessed limbs as stalwart, and spirits as fierce and dauntless as their own. I have somewhere read that Hasteinn, the most illustrious of pirates, was a Frenchman by birth; and a Welshman, named Bjorn, was among the eighteen whose lives were spared by Earl Hakon, after his great victory over the vikings of Jomsbürg. In the Hebrides and the Isle of Man, these adventurers were still more mixed with Celts, and, in the inner Hebrides, may probably have been merely a dominant caste, ready, like the continental Romans, ready to relinquish their language, and melt rapidly away, when no longer sustained by the continual influx of fresh blood from the mother country.

The mixture of Norwegian blood at this period with that of the Eastern Scots, or Scotticised Picts, was, in all probability, very trifling. They never acquired a permanent settlement in the east of Scotland, and could have no more influence in modifying the blood of the people, than our English Buccaneers on that of the inhabitants of the Spanish Main. The low country of Caithness, however, was permanently settled by them; and at a subsequent period, embracing

a great part of the eleventh century, the potent Earls Sigurd and Thorfinn not only possessed all Sutherland, but domineered over the Celtic tribes of the whole north of Scotland.

Returning again to the southern division of the country, whose Ethnography is throughout almost distinct in its elements from the northern section, we find that, in 890, the long-harassed Britons, having seen their capital twice sacked, and their most fertile lands torn away from their realm by intruding races, determined on quitting the orchards of Clydesdale, and seeking a home among their kindred in the south. They seem to have experienced much opposition from the Saxons who dwelt in Eskdale and Annandale, and their leader is said to have been killed at Lochmaben. At length, however, having traversed a great deal of hostile or friendly territory, they reached the confines of North Wales, where lands were assigned to them by King Anarawd, and where, according to Chalmers, who seems to be quoting Llyud, "their descendants are, or were a century ago, distinguishable from their neighbours by a remarkable difference of person and speech. They are, or were, a people taller, more slender, and with longer visages. Their voices are smaller, and more shrill; they have many varieties of dialect, and generally their pronunciation is less open and broad than what is heard among the proper Welsh who live to the westward of them."—*Chalmers*, vol. i. p. 355.

I have quoted this description at length, as it may be of use when we come to consider the physical characters of the probable descendants of those Strathclyde Britons who remained in Scotland. For in fact, a considerable number of them did not share in the migration, but remained a distinguishable people in some districts of the north for at least three centuries and a half.

In the year 943, another heavy blow and great discouragement was dealt to the Cumbrian race. Edmund of England, having defeated Dunmail, King of Cumberland, and wasted his country, gave it up to Malcolm of Scotland, as an ally or feudatory. This rather curious proceeding was dictated by the wish to establish a counterpoise to the power of the Northumbrians, who had by this time become quite as much Danish as Saxon. But Edmund must have given up to Malcolm, together with the remains of Dunmail's Celtic vassals, the Saxon population of Carlisle, and probably of Eskdale and Liddesdale. Moreover, unless the King of Scots had at least a right of way through Lothian, it must have been troublesome to visit, and difficult to manage his new acquisition. Edred, the next English monarch, retained the government of Teviotdale; but Edinburgh, or at least Oppidum Eden, is said to have been given up by Earl Osulf to Indulf, King of Scots, about the same period. At length, in 971, according to Palgrave, Edgar the Magnificent gave up the Lothians and Merse

to Kenneth III. on the express stipulation that the English inhabitants should be maintained in their language, customs, and laws. It is possible that this was merely an acknowledgement, on the part of this powerful monarch, of a state of things which had been existing for some time, and was convenient to himself, as well as gainful to his ally. Chalmers remarks, that the Teutonic names in the maps of Lothian and Berwickshire are almost all Saxon, not Danish; that the latter class are more common even on the shores of the Solway; and that the word *fell*, applied to so many hills in Northumberland and the south of Scotland, is not known in the Lammermoor hills. We may surely gather from these remarkable facts, that the invasions and settlements of the Danes had affected Lothian much less than Northumberland and Yorkshire. The Lothian Saxons, indisposed perhaps to join in the frequent insurrections of the Danish Northumbrians, were exposed to their vengeance in case of refusal; and Edgar gave up a remote, and to him valueless province, to one who was near at hand to protect it.<sup>1</sup>

The same monarch, Kenneth III., who thus peacefully acquired what has ever since been the most valuable province of Scotland, won Strathclyde by the sword from the valiant Dunwallon, the last of its monarchs. At the same time, he probably acquired a species of sovereignty over the Irish, who were now, as the local names testify to this day, the predominant race in Galloway and Carrick.

In the next century, while some parts of Lothian were intruded upon by the Scotch, the Saxon element in the whole country was increased by the settlement in it of large numbers of Northumbrians, consequent on the restoration of Malcolm III. to his throne by their victorious arms.

Shortly afterwards an event occurred beyond the boundaries of the country, which I may nevertheless be allowed to call the most important in the history of Scotland: I mean, of course, the conquest of England by the Normans. This was the occasion of the establishment of the English as the language of the nobility of Scotland, and of a vast influx of English blood. The sturdiest of the Dano-Saxons, successively driven by the Conqueror from the smoking desert into which he had converted Yorkshire, and from the plains of Cumberland, of which he proceeded to deprive Malcolm, seem to have spread themselves extensively in the south of Scotland. And while the class of freemen was thus augmented, that of the villains was so also, by the numerous captives

<sup>1</sup> See further, on this subject, Worsaae. Some Scottish authors state that Lothian continued an English province until yielded by Earl Ochtred, in 1013, or 1014. Palgrave's account seems more probable *a priori*, at least with respect to the date of the acquisition.



whom Malcolm dragged away from the unfortunate country he professed to come to defend.

The revolutions that followed Malcolm's death were the means of introducing fresh hosts of Englishmen, notwithstanding the strenuous opposition of the Celts, who beheld the ascendancy passing away from their own hands into those of strangers. Almost all these new settlers, however, appear to have remained south of the Forth, or confined themselves to the few towns then existing to the north of that river.

Many Norman nobles and gentlemen were now beginning to follow the example of the English, and seek their fortune in the north. Whatever were their causes of strife south of the Tweed, here they forgot their animosities, uniting against their political enemies, the Celts. It is not likely that the Norman-French were in sufficient numbers to affect notably the physical character of the race with which they coalesced.

With the reign of David I. the northward movement of the population, somewhat checked during the separation of Scotland and Cumbria, in the reign of Alexander the Fierce, recommenced with great vigour. Great numbers of gentlemen, Norman and Saxon, obtained grants of land in the Lowlands both north and south of the Forth; and many of them migrated with their vassals from England, and formed little English-speaking communities, from which radiated the influence that ultimately prevailed so far as to extirpate the Celtic speech everywhere except in the Highlands.

The repeated rebellions of the men of Moray, and the other Northern Picts, gave their sovereigns the opportunity of depriving them of large portions of their lands, which were gifted to such Normans or Englishmen as were willing to accept them. The opportune expulsion of a large and numerous body of Flemings from England, on the accession of Henry II., nearly coinciding in time with the suppression of another Moravian insurrection, gave Malcolm IV. opportunity to introduce a colony of them into "the laigh of Moray," which was in a short time so thoroughly settled, that the remains of the Moravians, who were confined to the hill-country, came to look upon it as a land of foreigners, and their own lawful prey. Many Flemings also settled at Aberdeen, where such places as Kirkton and Murcroft are already mentioned in the charters of King David.<sup>1</sup> In the Garioch they were less numerous, for the Gaelic language long continued to preponderate in that quarter.

Comparatively few foreign settlers arrived in Scotland after the reign of the Fourth Malcolm. At that period the new colonists, who received the general name of Saxons, were in possession of little more than the towns and strong-

<sup>1</sup> Registrum Episcopatus Aberdonensis.

holds in the Lowlands north of the Forth. But the whole of Scotland south of that river and the Clyde, except Galloway, Carrick, and the western half of Dumfriesshire, was by this time more Saxon than Celtic; and that continual northward movement of the Lowland gentry, exemplified in the history of the families of Dunbar, Lindsay, Oliphant, Sinclair, Keith, Gordon, Maule, Menzies, Cumyn, Burnet, Fraser, and many others, implies the settlement of many of their south-country vassals and dependents on the lands newly assigned to them. This gradual and steady Saxonisation of the Northern Lowlands must have been tolerably complete by the close of the 13th century, when the ambition of Edward I. began those troubles, which threw back Scotland more than a century in the scale of civilisation.

Since then there have been no marked alterations in the distribution of the races, except that by the imperceptible progress of individual migration and counter-migration. The Highlands and Galloway have become less purely Celtic, and the Teutonic element has been somewhat diminished in the Lowlands. Great towns, too, have grown up in the latter province, containing of course a very motley population. The great Irish immigration of late years is not, at present, ethnologically, very important; for the Irish are amongst us, but not of us, and generally intermarry among themselves.

It may be worth while to remark, in concluding this part of my subject, that, after the 13th century, the inhabitants of Caithness and the Hebrides, and, to a less extent, the Orkneys and Shetlands, were almost cut off from intercourse with their Norwegian kindred. As they therefore received no fresh supplies of Teutonic blood, while persons of Celtic extraction were continually arriving from the mainland, the inhabitants of Caithness and the northern archipelagoes became much less purely Norse, and Celtic blood came to preponderate in almost all parts of the Hebrides.<sup>1</sup>

I shall now proceed to give a short account of the physical characters of the people of several districts of Shetland, premising, that with regard to the proportions of the different colours of hair and eyes, I have my numerical tables to depend upon; but that with respect to form and features, I have of course nothing to guide me save vague impressions, which may, in some cases, have been far from accurate.

My first district is that of Lothian and the Borders, from the Annan to the German Ocean. The people seem generally tall, large, and muscular; their outlines of face and figure are rounded, particularly in the forehead and chin; the nose varies in form, but as a rule, is short and straightish. The heavy overhanging brow and deep-sunk eye, which, with the high cheek-bones, are

<sup>1</sup> See again Worsaae, as to the retrocedence of the Norse of the Gaelic tongue.

generally sufficient to mark out a Scotchman from among a group of Saxon Englishmen, are, in this district, comparatively rare.

The prevailing complexion is fairer than in any other district I have visited; the eyes are, in the great majority of cases, blue or light grey, but hazel is not an uncommon colour. The hair varies from light yellowish red, and flaxen-yellow, through divers shades of brown. The people of Selkirk and its neighbourhood are a good example of those I have been describing. Their tall and comely persons, and fair complexions, have been remarked for many centuries, and they still answer to the old description.

It is probable that Teutonic blood is as pure here as in any part of North Britain, Shetland hardly excepted. In the Lothians, Saxons have been somewhat mingled with Scoto-Picts; in the West Border, and especially on the Annan, Dano-Saxons have been crossed with Strathclyde Britons.

My next district lies on the other side of the Annan, or rather perhaps of the Nith, and includes Galloway proper, with Carrick, Upper Nithsdale, and part of Kyle. The physical characters here differ markedly from those of their neighbours to the east. Light eyes prevail indeed, as they do throughout all Scotland, but dark grey and black are not uncommon, taking the place of hazel and light brown. The hair is, on the whole, much darker; we have about 40 per cent. of dark hair against 25 in Lothian. The frames are sparer, the foreheads and chins narrower, the cheek-bones more often marked.

In the whole of this area, the Irish Galwegians may be supposed to preponderate; the evidence of the local names is strongly in favour of this view, and certainly many of the Galwegians approach the Irish in appearance. In one or two sequestered parishes in the upper part of Kirkcudbrightshire, where the British or Cumbrian element might not unreasonably be expected to be, the people struck me as particularly tall, with lengthened features, fair complexions, grey eyes, and darkish-brown hair: a type, in some respects at least, resembling that described by Llwyd as appertaining to the Welshmen of Flintshire, who are undoubted descendants of the Strathclyde Britons.

I have not thought it worth while to visit the very mingled population of the country surrounding Glasgow. Farther to the north, in Upper Argyleshire and Western Inverness, and even in Kintail and in the town of Inverness, I found a people to whom Prichard's description seems very applicable. "The prevalent characters, in a great part of the Western Highlands," says he, "are, rather dark brown hair, uncurled, with a complexion not very fair, but with grey eyes." Red hair, I found not nearly so common as in the east of Scotland.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> I am aware that the Campbells are thought to be generally fair, or red-haired; but I am speaking of the people a little farther north, of whom I have seen more.

Black hair was particularly frequent, and black eyes occurred, though not so commonly as I had been led to expect. Yellow hair is found, however, in all the places I have visited; so that there is a great diversity in the complexions, though the general aspect seems to show the race to be tolerably homogeneous, and, moreover, to be nearly akin to the Irish. The inhabitants of Fort-William, and the neighbourhood, who are nearly all Camerons, and perhaps as pure-blooded as any West Highlanders I foregathered with, particularly reminded me of the Irish. The men have the bony frames, the high cheek-bones, prominent brows, and long noses, aquiline, sinuous, or curved upwards towards the point, which I have observed in almost all the more Celtic districts of Scotland. These marks are less decided in the females. In Kintail I found men much taller than those of Argyleshire, and otherwise differing to a small extent, just sufficiently so to suggest the idea of one's being near the frontier of a different race. In the Isle of Skye, which the local names and the presence of the clan Macleod lead me to suppose to be more Scandinavian than the rest of the Inner Hebrides, the difference from the mainland race, or rather the mixture of another one with it, is unmistakeable. It is evidenced by the general roundness of their figures and features, the commonly brown hue of their lank abundant hair, the shortness of their noses, and less prominence of their brows.

I regret much that I have not yet visited Sutherland, nor, with the exception of Kintail, any part of Ross. Such natives of these counties as I have seen, have appeared to differ from the West Highlanders, being much superior to them in stature and size, and somewhat lighter in complexion; and I have been told by some who had paid attention to the facts, that I was correct in my impression. It is a matter of some importance, as it is likely that in Ross-shire and Badenoch some of the purest-blooded Northern Picts may remain. The Glenmoriston people, by their sturdy forms, and fair, smooth, comely countenances, give rise to a suspicion of Teutonic admixture from Moray, or elsewhere; but I have never met with any facts to support this suspicion, and perhaps, after all, my observation must be set down to the credit of the disbelievers in the permanency of national physiognomy.

Still circling round the country, we arrive at Caithness, and the neighbouring islands of Orkney and Shetland. A good deal of authentic history, almost the whole of the local names, and the universal prevalence of the English language, which has superseded the kindred Norse tongue, combine to prove that these populations were Scandinavian centuries ago. In spite of the introduction of multitudes of Scotch officials and traders, the Norse elements still greatly prevail in the islands, as well as in all the lower parts of Caithness, including Wick and Thurso, but not much land to the west of those places. In person,

the Caithness people excel the Islanders, being generally large and handsome men; there is also more variety of complexion among them. The Orkney and Shetland people very much resemble each other, and have something very English about their aspect, speech, and *bonhommie* of manner. Their figures, crania, and faces, have all a great tendency to roundness; their eyes, if not grey, are generally of a muddy hazel; their hair is of a rather light than dark brown. Buchanan mentions them as distinguished for their lofty stature: certainly his account does not apply to them at the present day. There seems to be a strong tendency in the islanders of the British seas to degenerate in stature—witness Jersey and St Kilda. Whether this be attributable wholly or partly to too much intermarriage, I cannot say.<sup>1</sup>

In Fifeshire, the type seems to become more Teutonic as one proceeds eastwards; but I think there is less of the broad, round, burly Saxon form, in the greater part of Fife, than there is in Angus. In fact, Fife must have been well stocked with a loyal Celtic population during the Saxon conquest, and I do not think that many of the intruders obtained lands within its bounds. The Teutonic element, both in Angus and Easter Fife, has been increased by the results of commerce with the Easterlings.

The people of Perth are more like those of Fife, to my eye. In all the central Lowlands, the prevailing complexion is decidedly fair, and the Highlanders who border on this district partake of the same peculiarity; at least black hair is somewhat less frequent, and red and fair hair much more so than in the Western Highlands. They have also larger frames, and in Atholl are conspicuously taller than the Argyleshire men. Unfortunately they are also less pure in blood; so that it is not justifiable to draw any positive conclusions from their characters.

Throughout the country between Nairn and Aberdeen, the people are hardly either Highland or Lowland in aspect. Celtic patronymics are rare, but the names of places are almost wholly Celtic. The features seem less hard, and the complexions lighter, as one approaches Elgin, on the one hand, and Aberdeen, on the other. In and about Aberdeen, indeed, the broad, round, flattish face, said to be so common in Flanders, is often met with. Still, I think, there is less Teutonic blood to the north than to the south of the Dee; and the frequent conjunction of dark hair with light eyes and a fair complexion, furnishes a presumption to that effect.

<sup>1</sup> It is curious that wherever, in the north of Scotland, Scandinavian blood abounds, hypochondriasis, hysteria, and other nervous disorders, are remarkably frequent; and they probably were so in the last century. See an account of a hysterical epidemic in Shetland, quoted in *Hecker's Epidemics of the Middle Ages*.

If the probable descendants of the Picts in the east of Scotland could be shown to be decidedly taller and fairer than those of Scots in Argyle, an additional, though very weak argument would be furnished to those who maintain the Cumbrian consanguinity of the Picts. The same tall stature and light complexion seem to continue wherever there is much of the blood of the Northern Britons. It is the case in Cumberland, in North Lancashire, and in Flintshire; and, as I before stated, I think it is noticeable also in some localities among their ancient settlements in Scotland. The frequency of red hair in the east of Scotland is remarkable, and brings to mind Tacitus's description of the Caledonii. In fact, the "*rutilæ comæ, magni artus,*" which led Tacitus to derive them from Germany, are still attributable to a large number of their supposed descendants in Athol and Mar.

I have made a few observations upon the fisher-folk of Buckhaven, of St Monance, Newhaven, and Fisherrow, but they are too inconclusive to be worth dwelling upon. The narrowness of the crania and faces in many of the women tells against their Teutonic origin, and the family names of the Newhaven and Fisherrow folk are just those of the neighbouring counties; some of them, indeed, as Caird and Gilchrist, are Gaelic. Still there is a great resemblance between these people and the fisher-folk of Boulogne and Portel, who are generally believed to be of Flemish or Dutch descent; and I have observed a similar type to prevail among the peasantry in the vicinity of Antwerp.

It is only in Buckhaven that there seems to be any evidence of the settlement of a body of Easterlings. The two principal surnames in Buckhaven are Deas and Bonthron. I do not know whether these are truly Scottish or not. The Buckhaven people differ somewhat in appearance from those of the other villages. I think their crania are somewhat broader.

The general results of my investigations may be shortly stated thus:—

Black eyes and black hair are rare, except where Celtic blood may be supposed to preponderate. Hazel and light brown eyes; especially when conjoined with brown or flaxen hair, belong usually to the Teutons. In both races, the majority have blue or grey eyes, but dark grey belongs especially to the Celts. Red hair occurs everywhere; but the colour is more common, and also brighter and stronger, among some of the Celtic populations. Yellow and light brown hair are found in both races, but flaxen, and a light sandy red, belong to the Saxons and their kindred. The colour of the eyelashes seems to be a character of some importance; they are generally light in the Saxon, even where the hair and eyes incline to be dark.

Having found a great and pretty constant difference between members of

the two races in these respects, I feel constrained to believe that complexional characters are, to a great extent, hereditary in the peoples to which they belong, irrespectively of the climatic and other agencies which may be at work upon them. Not that I deny any power to such agencies; I only believe that their influence is exaggerated by some modern Ethnologists: *à priori*, it is true, one would think mere chromatic peculiarities of little importance. Under the microscope, a blue iris does not notably differ from a hazel one, except in the quantity of pigment; and a coal-black hair appears to be merely a brown, or a brownish-red one with the hue further deepened. This I have observed in the hair of a Chinese, as well as in that of a pure-blooded Indian, furnished to me by Dr Simpson.

I must acknowledge, that at present hair of a vivid red seems more common among the Celts, though the Roman writers pretty distinctly intimate that the Germans had it redder than the others. Probably that colour was then more common in both races than now. But the habitual use of soap by both must have tended to exaggerate the peculiarity; and the Romans, themselves probably almost universally of dark complexion, were struck with the novelty, and attributed to whole nations what really belonged only to a large number of individuals. That a great variety of complexions prevailed among the Gael in former ages, we know from the appellation of "fair," "black," "red," "brown," "freckled," bestowed on their kings and other notable individuals.<sup>1</sup> Yellow hair was the favourite colour; but it by no means follows (as Grant and Logan think) that it was particularly common. All Tasso's heroines had golden locks; almost all Titian's beauties he adorned with auburn hair. These colours were then, as now, much admired in Italy; but authentic portraits show that they were far from common, and that the Italians were then, as now, a dark-complexioned nation.

The Northmen were formerly, as now, a strikingly fair people; but that among them too there were varieties of complexion, is very clear. Thus, Kjartan, an Icelander, and the hero of a Saga, is described as "a handsome young man, with black hair."

<sup>1</sup> An Irishwoman is described, in the *Eyrbyggja Saga*, I think, as black-haired.