

the final word being the precise equivalent in sound to the Gaelic *Uisge*, though it cannot be denied that it may come directly from the Welsh *Wysg*, which also is an old word for water.

Again, in Wales, on Cader Idris, there still remains the name of a lake, *Llyn Cyri* (pronounced *Curry*), a word unintelligible to the Welsh (as *Arran* is to the Gael), but easily explained by the Gaelic word *Coire*, a cauldron, or *Corrie*, a word applied to those great cliffy semi-circular hollows or *cirques* in the mountains, in which tarns so often lie. Other places called *Cyri*, of like form, are also found in Merionethshire.

If, then, the earlier inhabitants of Britain were Gaelic, they were driven westward into Wales, and northward into the mountains of Scotland, by the superior power of another and later Celtic population that found its way to our shores, and pushed onwards, occupying the more fertile districts of England and the south of Scotland, and possibly even creeping round the eastern coasts north of the *Tay*, and occupying the lowlands of *Caithness*. The Gael, including the *Picts*, would not willingly have confined themselves to the barren mountains if they could have retained a position on more fertile lands. One proof of this as regards Wales is, that as late as the early part of the sixth century all that part of the country west of a line roughly drawn from *Conway* to *Swansea* was inhabited by an Erse-speaking people, the *Gwyddel*¹ of the Welsh,² who were slowly retiring before the advancing *Cymry*, and their last unabsorbed relics expelled from the coast finally sought refuge with their kindred

¹ *Gwyddel* literally means dwellers in the Forest, *Forestieri*, *Waldmen*, Welsh.

² See 'The Four Ancient Books of Wales,' Skene, vol. i., p. 43.