from the rudest savages. They led a pastoral life, living on the milk of their flocks, or the produce of the chase ; they were polygamous and idolatrous ; their religion, which was Druidical, was stained with human sacrifices; and their rude form of civil government was intimately connected with their religion. They were armed with slight shields, short spears, and daggers ; and sometimes fought in small cars, which were drawn by little spirited horses. They raher burrowed in huts than lived in houses, went naked from choice, were brave to excess, capable of enduring all sorts of privation and fatigue, and had such loose ideas of property, that Dio does not hesitate to call them robbers. This character, with the exception of their Druidical form of worship, exhibits little more than the general features of every savage people ; and there seems no reason to be­lieve that the lapse of three centuries created any great change in those fierce and indomitable tribes which, inha­biting the more northern parts of the island from the Forth to Caithness, and latterly wresting from the Romans the provinces which they had subdued, were never brought under the yoke, or humanized by the arts of that great people.

At the period of the Roman abdication, we find that north Britain was inhabited by the descendants of the Caledonian clans which we have enumerated, who, under the name of Picts or Picti, became for four centuries the predominating nation in Scotland. Among these we must be careful to distinguish the five Romanized tribes who pos­sessed Valentia, or the country between the walls of Agri­cola and Antoninus, not as a race of different descent, but of improved civilization, while their fiercer brethren beyond the Forth bore fresh upon them all the stamp of barbarian life. The name of Picti is conjectured to be derived from Peithi, a British word which characterises *those that are without,* or the people of the open country.@@1

It would be a vain, and in a sketch of this nature, an idle labour, to enter upon the obscure and sanguinary annals of the Pictish period ; an era upon which, to use a quaint ex­pression of Chalmers, archaeology is loquacious, and history silent. From an ancient manuscript, first printed by Innes,@@3 and which had belonged to Lord Burleigh, this author has given us a list of their kings, from Drest, who succeeded in the middle of the fifth century, (a. **D.** 451), to a prince named Bred, who died about the middle of the ninth century, (a. **D.** 843). During the four centuries which elapsed between the accession of the first and the last of these monarchs, thirty- eight Pictish kings are enumerated. Of their authentic history there is scarcely a vestige ; but the blank has been filled up by the fables of Boyce, which unhappily were afterwards embalmed in the elegant Latinity of Buchanan.

Some points in this period, however, have been ascer­tained, and they are well worthy of notice. We have already seen, that on the entire abdication of Britain by the Romans, the five tribes which inhabited Valentia were declared inde­pendent. They were no longer provincial subjects of Rome, but a free, though an effeminate people. The constant at­tacks of the Picts rendered it necessary for them to unite in their own defence ; and from this union arose a new king­dom, denominated by ancient authors sometimes the *Ileg- num cuιnbrense,* or more frequently the kingdom of Strath- clyd. It appears to have included the present Liddesdale, Teviotdale, Dumfries-shire, Galloway, Ayrshire, Renfrew, Strathclyde, the midland and western parts of Stirlingshire, with the largest portion of Dunbartonshire.@@3 “ The metro­polis of this kingdom,” says Chalmers, “ was Alclyd, a city which they still retained when the pen dropt from the hand of the venerable Bede, in 734, and which is situated on the north bank of the Clyde, at the influx of the Leven. The

descriptive name of Alclyd, which signifies the rocky height on the Clyde, was applied to the bifurcated rock, on the summit of which these associated Britons had a strong hill fort, which formed a secure residence for their reguli or kings. To this fortress the Scoto-Irish subsequently applied the name of Dun-Briton, signifying the fortress of the Bri­tons, an appellation which, by an easy transition, has in mo­dern times been converted into Dunbarton.@@4 Among the little kings who reigned over Strathclyd, there are none whose names or exploits are worthy of preservation, with the single exception of the semi-poetic Arthur. It is sad that the severer hand of history should strip this glorious “ Childe” of his many-coloured robes, and reduce him to the cold reality of a Cumbrian Pendragon. At the commence­ment of the sixth century, Arthur, the chief military leader or Pendragon of the Cumbrian Britons, expelled his sovereign, Huail or Hoel, from Strathclyde, and commenced a reign of which it is impossible to separate the facts from the fictions with which they have become incorporated.

But the Pictish period is not only distinguished by the rise of a new kingdom, it is marked by the arrival in Scot­land of a new people, the Saxons, a race of Gothic origin, who invaded and finally effected a settlement in Lothian. This remarkable event, so important in its remote conse­quences upon our national history, took place in the middle of the fifth century (a. **D.** 449). It was not difficult for the Saxons, a people who certainly were far their superiors in courage and in arms, to subdue the feebler race of the Ot­tadini. They do not at first appear to have attempted to push their conquests to the northward of the Forth, but contented themselves with the occupation of a portion of the province of Valentia. After the lapse of a century, how­ever, Ida, one of the boldest and most adventurous of the sons of Woden, landed at Flamborough, and brought an important accession to the strength and numbers of his countrymep. It was by this great chief that the Saxon kingdom of Northumbria was founded ; nor was he arrested in his victorious career, till he had extended his dominions from the Humber to the Forth. Ida was succeeded in the Northumbrian kingdom by Aella, and Aella by Ethelred, under whose reigns occurred no event of importance ; but Edwin his successor, who came to the throne in the begin­ning of the seventh century, appears to have added essen­tially to the extent of the Saxon conquests, and to have im­pressed not only the southern Britons, but his fiercer and more northern neighbours the Picts, with the terror of his arms. There appears little doubt that Edinburgh or Ed- winsburgh, the present capital of Scotland, owes its founda­tion to this energetic Saxon chief.@@5

Hitherto, in speaking of the northern inhabitants beyond the Forth, we have designated them by the single appellation of the Picts. We must now mark the arrival of a different people, although probably sprung from the same ancient stock.

At the commencement of the fourth century, we find that the ruling or dominant people in Ireland were the Scots, a Celtic race ; and although there is no sufficient evidence that they had formed any permanent settlement in Britain previously to the abdication of the island by the Romans, it is certain that in the year 360 they invaded the Roman pro­vinces in that kingdom, and were repelled by Theodosius. In the beginning of the sixth century, three Irish chiefs, Loarn, Fergus, and Angus, sons of Erc, king of Dalriada, by which we are to understand the province of Ulster, led a colony into the ancient province of the British Epidii, and effected a settlement upon the promontory of Kentire.@@® As far as any light is afforded by the Irish annals, in this occu­pation of Kentire the Scoto-Irish met with but feeble opposi-

@@@, Chalmers's Caledonia, vol. i. p. 203.

@@@\* Innes’s Critical Essay, vol. ii. Appendix.

@@@3 Caledonia, vol. i. pp. 237, 238.

@@@‘ Caledonia, vol. i. p. 238.

@@@9 Caledonia, vol. i. p. 254.

@@@β Ibid. 274.