stronger proofs than the assertions of uninformed history, or the report of vulgar tradition. The Picts continued through­out the succeeding period (from 843 to 1097) to be men­tioned by contemporary authors, though they were govern­ed by a new race, and were united with a predominant people.”@@1

Sect. III.—*The Scottish Period.*

The union of the two nations of the Picts and the Scots, under one powerful prince, forms the commencement of the third great division of Scottish history, which extends from the middle of the ninth century (843) to the expiration of the eleventh (1097), a period of two centuries and a half.

For ages before the time of this union, the Pictish do­minions were confined by the Forth on the south, Drum- alban on the west, and the German Ocean on the east and north ; while at the period of its occurrence the Scots pos­sessed the whole western coast, from the Clyde to Loch Torridon, with the extensive kingdom of Argyle, which stretched its arms from the Clyde on the south to Loch Eir and Loch Maree on the north, and reached from the sea on the west to Drumalban@@2 on the east. These extensive dominions were now united ; the name of Scotia, as marking the whole kingdom, gained ground over that of Pictavia ; and from the tenth century (934), when the Saxon Chro­nicle first mentions *Scotland* as invaded by Athelstan, this distinctive appellation for the kingdom of North Britain gra- ually gained ground till it excluded every other.

It has been observed by Sir Walter Scott, “that the de­scendants of Kenneth Macalpine pass us in gloomy and ob­scure pageantry, like those of Banquo in the theatre and it might have been added, that the impression left upon the mind by the perusal of their various reigns is as sha­dowy and unsubstantial. To fatigue and perplex the rea­der, by a detail of historical passages, which led to no great results, is not the purpose of this sketch, but to mark the features which prominently distinguish the period. Nor were these either few or unimportant.

1. The first event which demands our notice, is the com­mencement of those invasions by the Danes, which for se­veral centuries continued to be the greatest scourge of Scot­land. It was under the reign of Constantine, the second monarch in succession from Kenneth, that these fierce pi­rate leaders, known under the name of *Vikinghr,* or sea- kings, first made their appearance in North Britain. Hav­ing established a settlement in Ireland, they soon became acquainted with the commodious havens of the Scottish coasts ; and after a partial visit in 866, a more formidable armament sailed from Dublin, under Anlaf and Ivar, in 870. During this invasion, they took Alcluyd, or Dunbar­ton, ravaged the whole extent of North Britain, and re­turned glutted with slaughter and b∞ty to Ireland. These sea-wolves having once tasted blood, were not slow to re­turn. Thrice under the same reign were their vessels seen on the coasts of the devoted country, in 871, 875, and 876 ; and at last, in 881, the Scottish monarch met his death on the banks of the Forth, in an ineffectual attempt to defend his people, and repel their ravages. Reappearing under the reign of Donald, who succeeded to the throne in 893, they were defeated on the banks of the Tay, in the vici­nity of Scone, and again, in 904, repulsed by the same prince, who lost his life, after he had slain their leader. This, however, did not prevent their return in 907, and af­terwards, in 918, under the reign of Constantine the Third, who, with the assistance of the northern Saxons, encoun­

tered and repulsed them at Tinmore ; a check which appears for a considerable period to have given repose to the king­dom.

In 961, under the reign of Indalf, who had succeeded to the throne in 953, the Vikinghr made a descent in the bay of Cullen, in Banffshire ; and this monarch with difficulty defeated them in a desperate action, in which he lost his life. In 970, Kenneth the Third, who is represented as a monarch of extraordinary vigour and ambition, succeeded to the throne, and under his reign the Danes reappeared with a numerous fleet in the Tay ; but after a sanguinary struggle, in which they at first succeeded, were ultimately defeated by the bravery of the Scots, commanded by Ken­neth in person. This contest, which appears to have been attended with an enormous loss on both sides, took place at Luncarty, where many tumuli still remain, to mark the field of battle.@@3

After this the country enjoyed a quiet of nine years ; but in 1003, the Norsemen, who had now for some time perma­nently settled themselves in Orkney, again made their appearance in great strength upon the coast of Moray. They seized and fortified the promontory known by the name of the Burgh-head of Moray, where they found a commodious harbour, and from which, in 1010, they led an army to plun­der that fertile region. But they were met and defeated with great slaughter by Malcolm the Second, in the battle of Mortlach, where the king, in gratitude for his victory, endowed a religious house, which became the seat of the earliest Scottish bishopric.

These repeated repulses checked and disheartened the pirate kings ; but they disdained to relinquish the contest. Their last efforts appear to have been made on the coast of Angus and Buchan, where they were repulsed in succes­sive conflicts, fought at Aberlemno, Panbride, and Slaines Castle. At length a convention, or pacific treaty, was en­tered into between Malcolm, and Sweno, king of Denmark, in the year 1014, which was followed by the evacuation of the Burgh-head of Moray, and the final departure of the Danes. Thus, after a severe struggle, which at various intervals, and with various success, appears to have con­tinued for nearly a century and a half, (866 to 1014), the energy of the Scots ultimately triumphed over the ef­forts of the Norsemen ; and while the Danish rovers esta­blished themselves in some of the finest countries in Eu­rope, and in England alternately fixed themselves as perma­nent settlers, or extorted an odious tribute as the price of their absence, Sweno, though one of their most powerful princes, found himself at last compelled to desist from the contest.

2. The second event of importance which marked this period, was the enlargement of the Scottish provinces of Mal­colm the First, by the pacific acquisition of Cumberland from Edmund the Saxon king of England. Against this young prince, the Danes, who had established themselves in the northern part of his dominions, declared war, and calling the Norwegians to their assistance, threatened to subdue the whole country. Edmund opposed them with great courage and success, reduced Northumberland, then a Danish province, and next turned his arms against Cum­bria, or Cumberland. After wasting this little country, then inhabited by the Britons, under their king or chief leader, Dunmail., the English prince, aware perhaps of the diffi­culty of retaining his new acquisition, delivered it up to Malcolm the First, under the condition that he would be­come his associate *(medwertha)* in war, or, as the terms are explained by Matthew of Westminster, “ that he would de-

@@@' Chalmers's Caledonia, vol. i. p. 833.

@@@i Drumalban, the ridge of mountains which separates the rivers running into the sea on the west coast of Inverness-shire and Argyll from those which run into the sea of Norway. Macpherson’s Geographical Illustrations.

@@@1 Chalmers’s Caledonia, vol.i. p. 394, 393.