

he was consul of Rome in the later end of the fourth century, at which time—and for some time before, and for many centuries after—Ireland was well known by the name of Scotia, as I have shewn before (chap. i). Besides, the English Mastive was no way comparable to the Irish Wolfdog in size or elegant shape, nor would it make an *astonishing* figure in the spectacles exhibited in the Circus. On the other hand, the Irish Wolfdog has been thought a valuable present to the greatest monarch, and is sought after and is sent abroad to all the quarters of the world; and this has been one cause why that noble creature has grown so scarce amongst us, as another is the neglect of the species since the extinction of wolves in Ireland; and even of what remain, the size seems to have dwindled from its ancient stateliness.”

Warr also gives as a frontispiece to his book, an allegorical representation of a passage from the Venerable Bede, in which two dogs are introduced, bearing a very strong resemblance to the Irish Wolfdog, or Scottish Deerdog, in those days doubtless the same animal. The Venerable Bede was born 672, died 735.

It may be as well here to quote the following interesting extract from Richardson; culled by him from the *Irish Penny Journal*:—“The Scoti who were in possession of the Island (Ireland) at the time of the introduction of Christianity, appear to have been to a great extent the successors of a people whose name and monuments indicate a close affinity with the Belgæ (a Teutonic tribe) of Southern Britain. A people also called Cruithore, by the Irish annalists, who are identifiable with the Picts of Northern Britain, continued to inhabit a portion of the Island distinct from the Scoti, until after the Christian Mission; and it is observable that the names of mountains and remarkable places in that district still strikingly resemble the topographical nomenclature of those parts of North Britain which have not been affected by the Scotie conquest. The monuments and relics which attest the presence of the people considerably

advanced in civilization at some period in Ireland, such as Cyclopean buildings, sepulchral mounds, containing stone chambers, mines, bronze instruments, and weapons of classic form and elegant workmanship, would appear to be referable to some of the predecessors of the Scoti, and indicate a close affinity between the earliest inhabitants of Ireland and that ancient people.” Richardson then goes on to say we may infer then that, as Ireland was peopled by the Belgæ, the Belgic dog of antiquity was the source whence we derived our Irish Greyhound.

We are informed by two very eminent authorities, the Venerable Bede and the Scottish historian Major, that Scotland was peopled from Ireland. We know that by the early writers Scotland was styled Scotia Minor, and Ireland Scotia Major, and it is scarcely necessary to make any remark as to the native languages of the primitive inhabitants of the two countries. The colonisation therefore of Scotland from Ireland under the conduct of Reula being admitted, can we suppose that the Colonists would omit taking with them specimens of such a noble and gallant dog, and one that must prove so serviceable to their emigrant masters, and that, too, at a period when men depended upon the chase for their subsistence? True, this is but an inference, but is it not to be received as a fact when we find that powerful and noble dog, the Highland Deerhound, a *tall* rough Greyhound, to have been known in Scotland since its colonisation? Formerly it *was* called the Wolfdog, but with change of occupation came change of name. In Ireland wolves were certainly in existence longer than in Scotland, but when these animals ceased to exist in the former country, the Wolfdogs became gradually lost. Not so in Scotland, where abundant employment remained for them even after the days of Wolf-hunting were over. The *red-deer* still remained, and useful as had these superb dogs proved as Wolfdogs, they became perhaps even more valuable as Deerhounds.”

Richardson then goes on to show us, from Ossian's poems,

*Reula*

*This is  
strongly  
confirmed  
by Prof. Hogg  
Pellie Prof.  
University  
of Dublin  
Dec. 1896*