BEGINNINGS OF PLYMPTON HISTORY.

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THIS paper is simply intended to bring into connection such materials as we have for the history of Plympton ere it finds definite place in the national life and record. To some extent, of necessity, speculative, it is hoped that fact and inference are sufficiently distinguished to avoid what Glanville phrased "the vanity of dogmatizing."

We have evidence of the occupation of the immediate locality by man at a very early period. His remains have this year been found at Cattedown in association with those of extinct cave mammalia. Flint flakes and implements, ranging from the rude to the highly-finished, occur at Staddon, the Hoe and other parts of Plymouth, Cattedown, and Crownhill; and, it has been said, in Plympton itself. There is a kitchen midden of much interest on the inner edge of the isthmus at Mount Batten. Kistvaens, tumuli, and various other Stone Age interments have been opened, not only on the moorland immediately within the parish confines, but in the towns of Plymouth and Stonehouse; while hut circles are still so plentiful on the slopes of the tors —there is one on Crownhill—as to suggest the ancient presence of a comparatively numerous population.

Traces of the Bronze Age are exceptionally abundant. Spear heads were found at Bloody Pool, South Brent; a bronze palstave at Yealm Bridge; a hoard, consisting of sixteen celts, a chisel, three daggers, and a spear head, at Plymstock in 1868; two palstaves, a celt, and other articles, at Torr Lane, Plymouth, in 1884.

But the most important local discovery connected with this period was in 1865, when an ancient cemetery was opened at Fort Stamford, Turnchapel, and a number of

highly-interesting relics found, including portions of two bronze mirrors, pronounced by the best authorities purely Keltic in their character, without a trace of Roman influence, and dating before the Roman invasion.* British gold and silver coins are recorded in close proximity at Mount Batten; and Mr. J. Evans, F.R.S., has proved that there was a British coinage at least a century and a half B.C.

And here it is we get the first glimpse of the locality in history. One of the cities named by the anonymous Ravennas is Stadio Deuentia, which, dropping the inflections, is simply Stad Deuen = Staddon.† When this place ceased to exist as a town we know not, but the character of Stamford cemetery shows that it must have been of some importance.

There are but five other notices touching the neighbourhood before the Conquest, and two of these are doubtful.

Ptolemy mentions the Tamar river and the town Tamara (probably near Tavistock). Geoffrey of Monmouth, who unquestionably worked on old materials, has several allusions to Hamo's Port, and there is a fair presumption that the original references were to the Hamoaze.‡ The *Saxon Chronicle* records the defeat of the Danes in 851 at Wicganbeorge, commonly identified with Wembury, but also claimed for Okenbury and Wickaborough; and the fact that in 997 the Danes sailed up the Tamar and burnt Tavistock.

The next and last of the five is not only the first record of Plympton by name, but supplies important information touching this community.

There is in the British Museum§ the copy of a Saxon deed, a grant *circa* 904 by Eadweard the Elder, son of Ælfred the Great, to Asser, Bishop of Sherborne, and the convent there, of Wellington in Somerset, West Buckland, and Bishops Lydeard—twelve manors—in exchange for "the monastery, which in the Saxon tongue is called Plymentun." The document has been treated as doubtful; but while Domesday in its statements of ownership and value offers collateral proof, there is really no ground to question the transaction, so that Plympton therefore in another seventeen years may fairly celebrate its millennium.

* Vide for references papers by Mr. F. Brent, F.S.A., *Trans. Plym. Inst.* ix. pp. 307–13, *Trans. Dev. Assoc.* xvii. pp. 70–73; and description of the Stamford finds, by Mr. C. Spence Bate, F.R.S., *Archæologia*, xl. pp. 500–10.

† Proof of this is given in my paper on "The Ancient Recorded Topography of Devon," *Trans. Dev. Assoc.* xvii. pp. 345–65.

‡ Vide *Trans. Plym. Inst.* viii. 44.

§ MS. Cott. Vit. E. v. fo. 124, b.

The chiefest relic of remote antiquity possessed by Plympton is the spacious earthwork named in the Ordnance map Boringdon Camp; but known in the neighbourhood by the less misleading title of "Castle Ring." This is the oldest distinct evidence of human residence in the parish, for it is of Keltic or British type. It is the *bury* which gives name to Boringdon; a word found in many forms in various localities—as Burraton, Burrington, Burradon, Byrington, Burton, and Boraton, the simple meaning of the whole being Bury Down, or the "earthwork on the hill." Dun is indeed often used alone in this sense, and the burh may be merely a Saxon reduplicative.

The position of Castle Ring is argument of high antiquity. It stands nearly five hundred feet above the sea, on the ridge which divides the valleys of the Plym and the Torry. This ridge is cut, as it descends from Dartmoor, by tributaries of these streams into three irregular spurs; and the Castle occupies the highest point of the southern, which slopes gradually to the hill above Boringdon, but falls away suddenly to the northward, and the Plym.

The site is thus of great strength. Moreover, it commands the whole estuary of the Plym as well as the two valleys; and is sufficiently removed from the higher land of Dartmoor, to be safe against surprise from that direction.

The work may be regarded as a good average example of a fortified British town. It is certainly not a camp in the correct temporary acceptation of that word; still less is it entitled to the dignity of a hill fort. In plan it is fairly circular; the enclosure about four acres in extent, and with an internal diameter averaging five hundred feet. The circumvallation consists of a single rampart and ditch (it is not now clear whether the latter was continuous), and the extreme outside breadth probably approached two hundred yards. The circuit was therefore a third of a mile.

The rampart is practically complete; half a dozen openings made through it for the purposes of cultivation, and a slight interference by the hedge of a plantation on the south, excepted. The ground within is higher than the field without; and the rampart was thrown up mainly from the exterior. The greatest outside height of the bank does not now exceed ten feet, or the inside four; when perfect, with its slopes, it was probably over twenty feet in breadth. Throughout most of the circuit no ditch is visible; and in all likelihood it has been ploughed down. On the south, however, in the angles between the rampart and the hedge of the plantation,

the trench is well marked, and at points exceeds three feet in depth.

The original entrance was on the S.S.E., at the point where the plantation hedge cuts the circle. This is unfortunate; but luckily the hedge does not actually enter the enclosure, and only mars its rim. Hence the protected character of the access is still apparent. The opening in the rampart was covered within by a crescent-shaped bank, the hollow facing outwards, and there are still traces of a passage or covered way between the end of this bank and the rampart on the east. There was probably another passage on the west, but it is not now evident. Traces of further works may also be seen in the plantation—slight undulations indicating that two banks were thrown up in advance of the entrance, so that the approach was by a kind of commanded zigzag. When the rampart was crowned by a stockade, Castle Ring had considerable strength: though simple in outline it was defenced with much skill.

Now this earthwork is unquestionably much older than the place in the valley first known by the name of Plympton; and still older than Plympton borough and Castle. It has been held that Plympton is in some sense Roman; but evidence is wholly wanting. The assumption that Ridgeway indicates the existence of a Roman road was the chief foundation for this hypothesis, originally started by antiquaries who were unacquainted with the importance of the British trackways, and who did not recognise the patent distinction between roads which followed the crest of a hill (and the old trackways kept to high ground as much as possible), and those which were raised upon an artificial bank. The Plympton Ridgeway was simply the road along the natural ridge which came down to the tidal waters of the estuary, between the Torry and its tributary brook from Plympton Erle.* Roman characteristics are wholly wanting.

Another point of evidence prayed in aid is the occurrence of the name "Dark Street Lane." I am not sure that Dark Street is the original form, but even if it were it would have to be shown to date from Roman times, or at least from very remote antiquity. Dark Street is no more indicative of Roman origin than Fore Street, and there is nothing exceptional in the addition of lane.

* For the true course of the Fosseway *vide* my "Notes on the Ancient Recorded Topography of Devon," already cited.

An amusing illustration of the way in which an enthusiastic antiquary may not only deceive himself, but delude others, is afforded by the inclusion in Mr. Gomme's admirable selections from the *Gentleman's Magazine*, upon Roman Britain, of a contribution from Mr. Joseph Chattaway, written in 1829. That gentleman, apparently unaware of the existence of a chapel dedicated to the Virgin at Plym Bridge, saw in three niches in an old wall then standing there, the remains of a Roman votive temple; and in the curious little roadside chapel adjoining the road northward of the bridge, relics of Roman masonry. And Mr. Gomme actually cites them in his preface as illustrations of the Roman occupation in Devon—a thing he never would have done if he had seen for himself.

I have called the building a roadside chapel because it is difficult (a well would hardly be required so near the river, unless built as a drinking-place when the bridge was erected) to see what else it can be; and it claims mention here as a curious relic of mediæval antiquity, doubtless connected with Plympton, though just beyond the parish bounds. As it remains, it is simply a little arched structure of rubble masonry, with no special architectural features, built against and partially into the hill. The interior breadth is barely five feet, averaging four feet ten inches, and the height from the present surface of the bottom to the apex of the vault about seven feet, the accumulations of earth and leaves on the floor being a foot to eighteen inches below the level of the road. Its original height can only be ascertained by excavation, but was probably not much more. The vaulting is elliptical, verging on pointed. The depth of the building, from the front opening to the back wall, is seven feet. The most curious feature is a slate shelf in the back of the recess, built in just at the springing of the vault, three feet two inches below the apex, and two-and-a-half inches to three inches thick. The middle part of the slab is broken away, but the portions on each side show that it was originally eighteen inches in depth. The orientation of this little structure seems to forbid the idea that this was used as an altar in the strict sense, but it may very well have held a crucifix and votive offerings. I am inclined to think the building was originally a place of devotion for those who had crossed or were about to cross the ford represented by the now ancient bridge, and earlier than the chapel of St. Mary already cited.

Again, Mr. J. C. Bellamy, in his *Natural History of South Devon*, states that a few years previously (to 1839) a

portion of a Roman galley was brought to light in excavating at Newnham Park: but we are not told who identified the vessel, or the position in which it was found; and within the historic period it has been impossible for a vessel from the sea to find its way so far up the Torry valley. The tide undoubtedly at a much later period reached to Plympton St. Mary church, possibly beyond (even now the highest tides in the Plym pond back the waters of the Torry nearly as far); but the level of the rocky bed of the stream at Newnham forbids the idea that the sea has flowed there since the Christian era, except on the supposition of a change of level which there is ample evidence to show did not take place. The land in fact must have been at least seventy feet lower than it is now; and in that case, to go no further, how would Efford have indicated an "ebbingford"? At the same time I am not prepared to deny that remains of some vessel were discovered. It is quite within reasonable probability that the Torry at this point anciently expanded into a lake; the existence of which, moreover, may be indicated in the Domesday name of the locality—*Loche*tore, now Lough Tor.

However, I have no doubt that the Romans did find their way to Plympton, though I disbelieve in their settlement. Roman coins are casually found throughout the district; and I have in my possession five, very much defaced, found on the site of Plympton Priory.

Let us see what hints may be gleaned from the local nomenclature.

Only a few of the place-names of Plympton and its vicinity are Keltic, but that of the place itself is partially so. Plympton is not, and never was, upon the river called the Plym. It was upon the estuary now called the Lary. Why then should it be named after the river? The answer lies in the derivation of the word. I have little doubt that the Keltic name for the estuary was simply *lyn*—a "lake or pool," retained at the present day locally by the estuary of the Notter, the Lynhir, or "long lake;" and found translated into Saxon in such names as Stonehouse Lake, Keyham Lake, St. John's Lake, Millbrook Lake. Penlyn is "the head of the lake." Penlinton exactly expresses the site of the original Plympton, which we find in Domesday as Plintona. Precisely this contraction has taken place in Cornwall, where Pelynt is often called Plynt.

On this hypothesis Plympton gave name to the Plym,

Penlin being first blunderingly applied by the Saxons to the estuary, and thence to the river. We have in Devon several instances of names being carried up rivers. Such are the East and West Dart, and the East and West Okement; whereas many tributary streams of less importance have their own distinctive titles. Only those who were ignorant of the true original names would duplicate that of the lower river. Mewè, or Meavy, the name of the main branch of the Plym, really means "the greater water;" and as the Lary is easily resolvable into the "lesser water," that may well have been the name of the branch which of late years, without the smallest authority, because of a poetic "slip," it has been the fashion to call the "Cad." Plin passed into Plym through Plinmouth, whence Plymouth, just as at the present day the local pronounciation of Lynmouth is Lymouth.

The familiar Pen we have again in Pen Beacon; but the most significant of the Keltic place-names surviving is that of the Torry. The "y" is probably *ea* = water; but in the Tor we have either the Keltic *dwr*, which means precisely the same thing, or a form of the widespread river-name found in *Ta*mar, *Ta*vy, *Tei*gn, and *Taw;* in *Tay* and *Thames;* and in many another. Torridge comes very close to Torry, and there the combination appears to be with *rhyd*, a ford. The oldest form of Torry is almost identical with Torridge; *i.e.* Torix. Venton is the Keltic *fenton*, "a spring;" and Goose, as in Goosewell, would be *cus*, a "wood." *Col*, a "ridge," occurs in Coleland; *gweal*, a "field," in Veal Home.

But it is the Saxon who has left his mark most clearly on the district nomenclature. There is no corner of Devon in which so many distinct general Saxon place-names are found. We have *ball*, a "rounded hill," at Hemerdon Ball; *burh*, an earthwork, in Boringdon and Hooksbury; the rare *botl* (*i.e.* "house") in Bottle Hill; *coln*, "pebble," in Colebrook = "the pebbly brook;" *combe*, a valley, both singly and in combination, as at Staddiscombe and Billacombe; *down* or *dun*, in Boringdon, Fursdon, and Down Thomas; *ea*, "water" in Torry; *feld* or *field*, probably, in such a name as Thornville; *fleet*, a "running stream," specially one flowing into a tideway, at Pomphlett and Coffleet—the former possibly Baumfleet, the "stream of the tree" (*beam*), and the latter certainly Cove-fleet; *ford*, in Woodford and Efford (= Ebbford, "the ford at the tide ebb)—but many of the fords have another meaning, and refer simply to roads, and some may be corruptions of the Keltic *veor* = "great;" *ho* or *hoe*, a

"high place," at Hooe; *ham*, a dwelling, in Saltram, really Salterham = salternham, "the dwelling of the salt work," Newnham, "the "new house," and Leigham; *hay*, "a place hedged," as Hay; *ley*, originally an "open place" in a wood, at Leigham, Lee, Challonsleigh, Elfordleigh; *moor*, as in Goodamoor, which also preserves the Keltic *coed* = wood; *ora*, "the shore" we possibly have in Oreston, properly Osan or Horson, but it *may* have something to do with Hooe; *ridge*, in Ridgeway; *stede* or *stead*, "a place," probably in Staddon and Staddiscombe; *stoc*, a "stockaded enclosure," in Plymstock; *slade* (a shallow basin of land with an outfall, but without a spring, and no stream except from rainfall), at Slade; *sell* or *shiel*, a "cottage," in Shell Top, where the Top is also a Saxon equivalent for the *pen* of its neighbour, Pen Beacon; *sceaga*, "rough wood," in Shaugh, which is only the familiar *shaw*; *steart*, "a tail," thence a projecting headland, in the old name of Mount Batten, Ho Start; *tun* or *ton* frequently, as in Plympton itself, Brixton (Brictricston and Briseston = the tuns of Brictric and Brise); *wood* in Woodford, Chaddlewood, Underwood, Cornwood (query *carn* = cairn); *well* in such names as Sparkwell, Halwell (Hagwila = the "holy well"); *weorthig*, "a farm enclosure," on the flanks of the moor, associated with personal names, as at Portsworthy, Trowlesworthy, Britsworthy, Ditsworthy; *wick* in Hardwick, which from the current pronounciation "Yardick," appears to carry with it the Saxon *yard*, and to equal the "enclosed dwelling;" *wych* in Brimmage = Bromwich.

Hemerdon has its kin scattered throughout the country. Hamildon on Dartmoor and in Dorset, Hamilton in Scotland, Hembury near Honiton—are familiar examples. It is always applied to high situations. *Hem*, of course, is Saxon for "edge" or border.

The traces of Norse influence and settlement are few but unmistakeable. Noss, opposite Newton Ferrers, is the familiar "headland," *ness;* Smallhanger and Hanger and Hanger Down preserve the Northern *hangr*, a mound; Holland may embody the Norse *holl* = hill.

Among other names worth noting are — Voss, commonly the same as *fosse*, an entrenchment or ditch; Wixenford, the first syllables of which suggest the Keltic *gwic*, a bay or creek; Windwhistle, where the last two syllables possibly represent *twistle* = a boundary. Sherford is apparently the "dividing ford" or way, from the Saxon *scir*, whence shire and shear. *But*less and *Gore* are in all likelihood relics of the ancient common-field husbandry, from the *butts* and

gores;* and it is worth noting that in their locality much undivided ownership has survived to the present day.

Plympton I thus regard as essentially of Saxon origin, and the Saxon tun as the first settlement on the spot properly bearing the name. Nor do I think we are without indications that the parish in its germ is older than the borough in its origin. All who are familiar with the locality know that it retains a number of ancient roads. A glance at the map will show that Plympton Erle is somewhat off the main lines of traffic, while Ridgeway lies at their intersection. It is a fair inference that the former is of later date. Again, with trivial exception the boundary of Plympton Erle follows roads, and is prominently artificial. The point on which the old main roads of the locality centre is the angle between the Torry and its tributary, the site of Plympton Priory; and here, I believe, the original Penlinton or Plymenton stood. It was easy of access by water; fairly protected by the Torry and its feeder; and close to the ford leading over the Torry to the north and west, upon which converged the roads from the south and east.

Some interesting points connected with the ancient roads arise out of the presence in South-West Devon of the three flourishing religious houses of Plympton, Tavistock, and Buckland. Tavistock Abbey must have kept up communication with its manor of Plymstock before the Conquest; and in later days Plympton Priory with its manor of Shaugh, and with its churches at Meavy, Sampford Spiney, and its town and fishery of Sutton. There seems fair reason to assume that the intermediate roadside crosses originated mainly with the members of these houses. This at least is certain; we find them or their remains at every important fork or crossway between Plympton and Tavistock. There is one in the bed of the Torry, close by the bridge which replaced the original ford to Colebrook. There is the base of another where the road divides north of Brixton farm to Bickleigh and Shaugh. A second base lies near the point where the road to Cadover Bridge leaves that to Shaugh. There is a cross immediately above Cadover Bridge. Yet another stands in the bottom by the Meavy, where the road crosses the river at an ancient ford, a little south of the village, and sends off a branch to Buckland. There is also a cross on the continuation of this Tavistock road upon the hill above Huckworthy Bridge, at the crossing of the road

* *Vide* Sir J. B. PHEAR'S "Presidental Address," *Trans. Dev. Assoc.* xviii.

from Horrabridge to Sampford Spiney. The remains of an old cross are seen in the other direction in the centre of the village of Elburton, which probably had a like origin (Wembury Church belonged to Plympton Priory); and several others are scattered about: but what I specially wish to point out is, that the distribution of those named seems proof that they were intended to be useful for this world, as well as suggestive for the next.

We know nothing certain of the origin of the Saxon convent at Plympton; but *Domesday* speaks of its members as canons, and tells us incidentally in connection with Robert Bastard that it was dedicated to St. Peter; and in the Exeter book that the ecclesiastical land there was that of St. Peter of Plintona. There was a very early tradition that it was founded by King Edgar, and this was regarded as established in an early suit between the Crown and the later Augustinian Priory. According to the deed already cited, the community must have been in existence long before Edgar's time. It seems clear that the house consisted of five members —a dean and four prebendaries, and no doubt Plympton was one of the prebends. When, however, Leland adds that another prebend was that of St. Peter and Paul at Sutton, now Plymouth, he makes an assertion which not only now rests upon his own unsupported word—no doubt a point of monkish statement and faith—but is contradicted by the contemporary evidence, and on which the silence of *Domesday* should be decisive.

Whenever begun, the Saxon house came to an end in 1121, being dissolved by Bishop Warelwast (who founded the college at Boseham, in Sussex, in substitution), and replaced by what afterwards became the famous Augustinian Priory of the Blessed Mary and Saints Peter and Paul. Leland's statement is that the old house fell because the canons would not leave their concubines; in other words, would not give up their wives; but this story smacks of later origin, and we need hardly seek further than the desire of the Bishop to replace secular clergy by regulars. It was not until October 29th, 1311, that the parish church of Plympton St. Mary was consecrated and dedicated to the Virgin, and that the parish became entitled to its present name.

The site of the Priory was, I take it, that of the previous college. The reasons which had dictated the original settlement were still in full force. There was a landing place from the sea (no doubt tidal) at the western extremity of the spit of land; and Leland could not then have said, as he did four

centuries later—"The lowermost buildings of the Priory be most clene choked with the sande that Torey bringgeth from the Tynne Workes." Leland found the Priory about half a mile from the Plym—his measurements were not very exact—and from this statement, as from the physical facts, there does not seem any reason to assume that the tidal waters which found their way to the Priory, were anything more important than such a narrow estuarine creek, as may be seen winding far into the land, at many points in the main estuaries on our southern coast.

The *Domesday* references to Plympton are important. Under the head of Plintona we are told that the manor belonged to the king, and had been part of the royal demesne before the Conquest. It was the most valuable estate in the district. There were twenty-six plough lands—twenty in the hands of the king, which yielded William £13 10s. a year; the other six held by the canons of St. Peter, and worth £1 15s. The next entry in order is that of Elintone, a manor of nearly equal importance, with twenty plough lands worth £12 10s. annually; while the clergy of the ville (in the Exeter copy called the clergy of St. Mary of Alentona) held a hide in alms, worth 10s. annually.

Now where is Elintone? It has been thought that we have really here the two Plymptons—St. Mary, and St. Maurice or Plympton Erle. But the latter parish is far too small for either, and the former far too large. We shall find, moreover, that there are several identifiable manors within the limits of the present Plympton St. Mary, and that there is actually no room for both Plintona and Elintona within the precincts of the existing Plympton parishes. The modern acreage of Plympton St. Mary is 9997 acres, and that of Plympton Erle 203—total 10,200. The *Domesday* acreage of the king's Plympton is 3146 acres,* and that of the canons' lands 720—together 3866. In Elintone there are 2683 acres, of which the clergy hold 252. But to the Plintona entry we have to add the figures for the other manors, clearly identifiable as within the precincts of the existing parish. These are Bachemore (Baccamore), 1224 acres; Bickefor (Bickfordtown), 304; Hoveland (Holland), 250; Lege (Leigh), 221½; Lochetore (Loughtor), 275; Fineton (Fenton), 841; two Odefords (Higher and Lower Woodford), respectively 960 and 271; Waliforde (Collaford), 140; and possibly Torix 141.

* I have reckoned on the basis laid down by our lamented friend Mr. J. B. Davidson, M.A.

Now these figures, together with the 3866 acres of Plympton proper, make a total of 8493½. The margin, therefore, is but 1700 acres; and as no account was taken of land that was unproductive or covered with water, or occupied by roads or buildings, we have the whole of Plympton parish fully accounted for, without Elintona, making any reasonable allowance for casual variation of boundaries.

But we may carry this enquiry further. In Plymstock we can identify the manors of Plemestock (Plymstock), 510½ acres; Ho (Hooe), 245; Gosewelle (Gooswell), 242; Stotescome (Staddiscombe), 280½; Statdone (Staddon), 265; Wederidge (Withy Hedge), 68. These account for 1610½ acres of the present 3650, and there is no doubt that all the manors within this parish are not known. There is specially Elburton. This may be the Queen's manor of Aisbertone, held by Judhel, which was on an estuary, having two fisheries and a saltwork (Saltram?). It covered 1964 acres. In Brixton, the next adjoining parish, we know the two Brisestones (Brixton) each of 241 acres; Chichelesberie (Chittleburn), 250; two Harestanes (Hearston and Higher Hearston)—the one 242 and the other 300; Hagwile (Halwell), 244; Sireford (Sherford), 363; Spredelestone (Spriddlestone), 251; and Uluevetone (Woolaton), 250½. The total here is 2382½ acres out of a modern acreage of 2999, which is quite as near as we can expect to get. Passing on to Cornwood we find that Cornehode itself is estimated in *Domesday* at 2760 acres; while Ferdendel (Fardel) has 730—making 3490. The parish contains 10,680; but of these 6000 acres are part of Dartmoor, which finds no mention in the Survey; and there are unquestionably other manors unidentified. Shaugh is in much the same position; but the known manors here account for 2092½ of its 8707 acres; and as the greater portion of Shaugh is still waste and unenclosed, and part is appendant to the manor of Bickleigh, this is evidently a close approximation to the ancient valuation. There are: two Scages (Shaugh and Nether Shaugh), 845½ acres; Coltrestan (Callisham), 438½; Brictricestone (Brixton), 372; Fernehelle (Fernhill), 191; Pidehel (Pithill), 145½.

It is perfectly clear therefore that Elintone cannot be in either of these parishes, and if it is in the locality at all, there is only one place left. We turn then to Yealmpton, and find that the 2683 acres of the *Domesday* manor may well be represented by the 3537 of the modern parish, especially as there is reason to believe that a further identification can be made. The name Yealmpton does not appear

in *Domesday*, and if Elintona be not Yealmpton, then there is no name capable of representing it. The "n" stands for the modern "m" equally in Plintona; and in *Domesday* "E" with or without the aspirate, and "A" with it, are the common forms representing the modern "Y." The "y" in fact stands for a vowel sound = long "e" or "a," at the beginning of a syllable instead of at the end. Thus Hernescoma in *Domesday* is now Yarnescombe, and Erticoma, Yartecombe. One form of the *Domesday* Elintona is Alentona. The "p," both in Plympton and Yealmpton, is of later insertion. We know nothing, it is true, of any dedication to St. Mary at Yealmpton; but there is nothing to militate against its existence. (The dedication of the church of Newton Ferrers, which parish extends to the Yealm at Yealmpton village, *is* to the Virgin.) On the other hand the dedication at Plintona was to St. Peter, and St. Mary is not heard of until much later. Moreover, two distinct bodies of clergy were hardly likely to be planted in the same little community at this early date.

However, it is perfectly clear that whether Elintone be Yealmpton or not, it can be no part of Plympton, the point which most concerns us here.

Some interesting details as to the condition of the parish eight hundred years ago may be gathered from the entries of the Survey. The bulk of the arable land lay in the low ground in and about Plympton proper, over 3000 acres; while wood extended for a mile and a half along the slopes still indicated by the name Underwood. At Higher Woodford and Baccamoor there was a long stretch of upland pasture, Lower Woodford only having wood — thirty acres. The greatest area of meadow, also thirty acres, was in the valley of the Torry at Loughtor. The total areas under different heads in the parish were—arable, 5940 acres; pasture, 1648; meadow, 78½; wood, 789; coppice, 38. Little patches of wood or coppice were attached to every manor except the land held by the canons, which was exclusively arable. It is evident that the bulk of the lower land was under cultivation, with parcels of meadow in the bottoms by the streams; that the hill slopes were clothed or dotted with trees; and that the hills generally were open pasture. The picture drawn is, however, that of exceptional civilisation and utilization of natural resources.

The figures given for the population point in the same direction. There are enumerated in all 13 serfs, 57 villeins, and 30 bordars or cottagers—exactly 100. To this, of course,

the free population has to be added. Again, the stock on the different manors is correspondingly significant, and finally we find the total annual value of the enumerated properties no less a sum than £21.

The Saxon owners of the parochial manors were—the King, Alebric, Algar, Alwin, Elouf, Elmer, Seric; the Norman—the King, Count of Mortain, Judhel of Totnes, and Robert Bastard, Alebric coming next to Edward, and Judhel to William. The canons were tenants to each, and other Norman tenants were Ralph and Drogo, the former holding under Judhel.