

A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS DETERMINING THE ETYMOLOGY OF DARTMOOR NAMES.

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PHILOLOGISTS have determined that the names found in any district are coeval with the language from which they are derived,—that the names of rivers are generally those which represent the language of the earliest people that occupied the land, while those of the mountains, if not representing the earliest, yet date back to a very remote period. Hence it has occurred to me that if a close and exhaustive analysis of the etymology of the names of the rivers, hills, and places on Dartmoor were undertaken, we might be able to read an unexplored page in the unwritten history of the early inhabitants of the island. This would probably be more important in relation to Dartmoor than to any other district, inasmuch as the primitive condition in which the locality continues is in itself strong evidence of the comparatively small amount of change that has taken place in the physical aspect of the country, and the probable little inducement there has been to change the names of the places. This still further receives support by a comparison of the names in the oldest remaining documents with those of the present day, more particularly as pronounced by the inhabitants of the locality.

In the pursuit of this idea, I have endeavoured, to the utmost of my ability, to obtain the most ancient records extant. In this I have to express my great indebtedness to Mr. Thomas Atkyns, of Lovick, for an inspection of a map and perambulation of Dartmoor of 24 Henry III. (1240); to the copies and translations of the same perambulation, as well as that of 1609, in the appendix to Rowe's *Dartmoor*; to another copy of the first perambulation (1240) in Risdon's *Survey of Devon*, as well as to that work generally; to Chapple's *Review of Risdon's Survey of Devon*; also to a curious old book entitled "*Admirable Curiosities, Rarities, and Wonders in England, Scotland, and Ireland*"; or, *An Account of many Remarkable Persons and Places*, and likewise of the

Battles, Sieges, Prodigious Earthquakes, Tempests, Inundations, Thunders, Lightnings, Fires, Murders, and other considerable Occurrences and Accidents for several hundred years' past; together with the Natural and Artificial Rarities in every County, and many Observable Matters.

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The rivers on Dartmoor are very numerous, whence Risdon says it is the "mother of many rivers." Many of these as they proceed unite, so that when they reach the sea they increase in volume while they diminish in number, forming nine only when they debouch upon the ocean—the Tamar, Plym, Yealm, Erme, Avon, Dart, Teign, Taw, and Torridge.

These rivers, holding as they do important consideration in local geography, have most of them had their etymology determined. The root of Tamar is the same as that of the river Thames, and signifies broad water: as Tam Isis is the broad Isis, so Tam Iâr is the broad river.

The roots of the names Plym and Yealm have not been properly determined. Chapple, in his *Review of Risdon*, says "that Baxter (Gl. p. 196) derives the former from Pilim, which in the Erse or old Scoto-brigantine Irish, he says, still signifies volve, to roll, and thinks the Pilais of the anonymous Ravennas should be written Pilmis, or Pilim Isc; i. e., *convolvens aqua*, the rolling water denoting the impetuosity of the current." To this Chapple adds a query.

Yealm or Yalm, Chapple, with a doubt, thinks may be from Yean, or *eu* water and *limp*, smooth(?)—the smooth water.

The Erme, formerly written Arme, Chapple doubtfully thinks may be derived from "Iâr, a river (or perhaps only the prepositive article *Yr*), prefixed to *Am*, water—*m* in the Latin and ancient Celtic, according to Baxter, making *v* in the British (or rather then *f* used instead of *v*); so *am* is the same as *av*—*Unda vel Amnis*; or *am* may possibly come from the Cornish *ara*, slow, and *am*, water. Note *ara* is Gothic for water, and *Armor* is in Cornish, a wave." Whence, says Polwhele, *Armorica*; who also suggests that the root of Arme or Erme may be found in that of Armenia, and

believes that the name of the British river is evidence of the Phœnecian colonization.

It, however, appears to me, that the etymology of these three last rivers has not been determined: the root is probably lost, or to be found in the earliest wave of the Celtic progress, that which the Rev. Isaac Taylor calls the Gadhelic tongue, which is now represented by the Erse of Ireland, Gaelic of the Scotch Highlands, and the Manx of the Isle of Man. I think the evidence that the Erse was known in this district is, that the ancient Cornish for *Irish* is "Guydhalek." The other rivers may have their etymology determined with greater accuracy, which I believe has generally been accepted.

The Avon or Aune—for it is called both, and more frequently among the inhabitants of the Dartmoor region is it known as the Aune than the Avon—derives its name from the Celtic Avon, or Gadhelic (Manx) Aon. It varies but little from its root, and even in its corruption assimilates with the modern Welsh name Avon, a river. Polwhele, in his Cornish vocabulary, says Avon is a river, and *Aue* (pl. *Auen*) means water. There is no doubt therefore, whichever name is accepted as the earliest, but that the river received its name from the ancient Celtic people. The name moreover is one that is common to many English rivers. There are thirteen so called, and about a dozen others that are believed to be corruptions from it. The Auney, another Devonshire stream, is a Celtic diminutive, meaning the little Avon. The name of the river Hayne, that flows by Bovey and falls into the Teign, is probably the same word with an asperate prefixed, and is a corruption probably from the more ancient form of the word, Amhain. There is another river in Devonshire that bears the name of Hain. It is a branch of the Tavy, from which it is not improbable this latter name itself also may come by the addition of the prefix T, a Celtic preposition which means *at*, to the Celtic diminutive of Avon. But Mr. Taylor thinks that the Taw and the Tavy both may come from the same root as that of the Tamar and the Thames: the Taw being the Cymric, and the Tam the Gaelic name of the Celtic tongue.

The Dart derives its name from the Cymric root *Dwr*, which signifies water. In *Richard of Cirencester* (book i. ch. 6-18) it is called *Durius*; and Mr. Polwhele says that in old writings it is called *Darant*.

The distinction between the names of the Avon and Dart is natural and convenient; for while the Avon runs from its source to its *embouchure*, with no feeder or tributary of

any importance, the Dart is fed by many rivers that spread over a large extent of country. Judging by the great amount of alluvial plain that stretches out on each side of the present river as it approaches the lowlands, and which has been deposited by the river, we must admit that in point of size and the importance of its watershed, the Dart in its early history must have appeared a very extensive stream. In all times it has given its name to a very large district of country, and it must be considered as the most important river between the Exe and the Tamar; and for the reception of small boats of feeble and canoe-like form, its estuary was probably one of the most safe and convenient on our southern seaboard.

Writing of this river, Risdon says its "fountain is to be fetched from Dartmoor hills, the mother of many more; but this the first-begotten hath its apellation from thence, and is of more especial fame, for the Britons' first founder landed here. Some have supposed the river to have taken its name from the swiftness of its current, like the river Arrow, in Warwickshire, and as Tigris, which importeth a shaft; or for it hath not in its course so many meanders as others, but like a dart straightforth as best agreeing to the name; which is also written Darant by some, and first saluteth the sun not far from Gidleigh, passing through the moor by a long solitary course."

The Teign, which Risdon says is "so called by the Britons, for that it is straightly pent with narrow banks, whose fountain is to be fetched from the forest of Dartmoor, near the Gidley Hills." The Rev. Isaac Taylor says its name is derived from the root *don*, "but whether this latter word is connected with the Celtic *afon*, as *dwr-afon* by crassis might possibly become *d-aon* or *don*, or whether it is an unrelated Celtic or Scythian gloss, is a point not yet decided." The same author says, in a note to the passage in which he writes of the Teign in Devon, that some of these names may be from the Celtic *tian*, running water, or perhaps from *Ta-aon*, the still river. He also states that there is a Gadhelic word *Tain*, water. It is this last that I am most inclined to believe is the true solution; for, although it is called "Tyng" in one of the Perambulation Records of 1240, it is to be observed that it is written "Teinge" in another.

These are all the rivers that debouch into the sea on the south coast. The Taw, the Okement, and the Torridge empty themselves at a single estuary on the north coast of Devon.

The Taw is from the Welsh *Tawy*, which is corrupted into several forms, *Taff*, *Tav*, *Tavy*, and signifies "water," though Mr. Taylor thinks it the Cymric form of the Gaelic *Tau*. The Oke or Okement has its root in the Celtic *osc*, water, while the Torridge, according to Chapple, is from the Celtic *dwr*, water, and the Saxon *rieg*, from the ridge or military way of the Romans (being their northern road into Cornwall, which crossed this river at or near Little Torrington).

These rivers, as they approach their source, are fed by many streams of more or less importance.

The Tamar receives many, some of which are on the Cornish side, others from the interior of Devon, as the Tavy, Walkham, Stour, Rattlebrook, Lyd, Lew Water, Thrustle or Thistlebrook, the Week, the Derle, Deer, Claw, Werrington, Cary, Linhay, and the Lynher.

The Plym bears the name of *Laira* or, as anciently written, *Leery*, as far as the extent of its estuary, and its extremity above Cadover Bridge is known as the *Cad* or the *Plym*. Into this, several unimportant streams run, which bear the names of the dells or vales through which they flow, as Longcombe, Shavercombe. It is also below Cadover Bridge fed by the Meavy and Torrybrook. The river that flows by Newnham and Plympton into the *Laira* was called the *Tavy*.

The Yealm receives in its whole course several streams, but none of sufficient importance to have a name, except that of Broadall, near its source, and the Silver, which joins it near Kitley, about two miles from its mouth.

The Erme receives no important stream, but several mountain rivulets near its source have received the names of Red Lake, Hook Lake, Drylake, Left Lake.

The Avon has no important tributary except the moorland streams at its source, which are called Redbrook, Middlebrook, Balabrook, and East and West Wellabrook.

The Dart divides into two branches under the names of East and West Dart, being fed by the Webber, that is again divided into East and West Webbers. Besides these large rivers, there are many of less importance, as the East and West Langlake, Wallowbrook, Wobrook, Cherrybrook, Cow-sick, Blackabrook, Wenver Water, Deanburn, Yeo, Harburn, Inglebourn, Washburn.

The Teign divides itself into North and South as well as East and West Teign. It also has several less important branches, as Wotesbrook Lake, Wallabrook, Hayne, Halwell Brook, Becky, and Wrey rivers.

The Taw has several branches, some of which find their

source in Exmoor, as the Bray and the Mole, as well as the Yeo and the Little Dart.

The Torridge is fed by the two Ocks or Oakments and the Waldron.

In reviewing the names of these rivers and mountain torrents, we observe that those of the chief streams are derived from the language of the more ancient forms of the Celtic tongue; but in almost every case, and certainly so in the uncultivated region of Dartmoor, the streams, many of which are unimportant watercourses, are known by a general name common only to the neighbourhood of the river into which they flow. Thus the moorland streams on the Plym are called "combes," from the Saxonised form of the Celtic word *cwm*, an open or rounded valley.

On the Erme all the streams are known by the name of "lake." This was evidently at an earlier period in the history of Devon a very common name for a rivulet or small river. Besides on the Erme, it is to be found on other parts of the moor, as East and West Langlake, at the head of the Eastern Dart. The river, now called the Yeo is "in the bounds and limits of the Fenfieldmen's tenures," spoken of in *Risdon* as "Podaston Lake, running through Ashburton in Dart Stream." Grim's Lake is a small stream on the West Webber that flows through Grim's Pound. In the Perambulation of 1240 there is a river branching from the North Teign that is spoken of as Wotesbrokelake, and in the Perambulation of 1609 this is supposed to be the same as that called Whoodlake, both of which names appear now to be lost. The name, moreover, lingers about places on the banks of rivulets mostly that are not named, as Stain or Steanlake, a moorland farm on the Meavy; Higher and Lower Lake, on an unknown stream in Woodland parish, near Ashburton; Lakemoor, on an unknown (in the map) stream flowing through Buckfastleigh into the Dart; also Gaw Lake and Cock Lake on the Dart, Red Lake on the Teign, Veney Lake on the Mew, and Back Lake on a branch of the Tamar above Lifton. The word, moreover, lingers among the inhabitants when they "wash in the lake," as the rivulet is not unfrequently called in out-of-the-way places, as at Port Isaac.

The old Cornish Celtic name of rivulet is *lakka* in Pol-
 whele's *Vocabulary*, which he says we still call *leak* or *leate*.
 Dr. Bannister says that *lake* is a rivulet, and *lakka* a spring
 of water. The Norwegian for a stream is *lekr*, and the Ice-
 landic is *lekr*. From this same root, no doubt, we have our
 modern word *leak*, when a small stream overflows.

On the Avon all the streams are called brooks, as Redbrook, Middlebrook, Balabrook, Wallabrook.

On the Dart they are mostly known as burns, as the Webber, formerly called Widburn, Washburn, Deanburn, Harburn, Inglebourn. Some are also known as brooks, as Wallowbrook, Wobrooke (anciently written Okebrooke), Cherrybrook, Blackabrook, &c. But there are others, as the Yeo (anciently Podaston Lake), East and West Langlake, the Cowsick, and Minver Water.

On the Teign they mostly take the name of brook, as Wallabrook, Whoodlake (anciently Wotesbrook Lake), Hallwell Brook, Radford Brook. The Becky, Bovey, Wrey, and Hayne are generally known as rivers.

Many, or I may say that most, of these rivulets that have been here named are merely mountain torrents that are frequently dry during the summer months. I think, therefore, from the fact of these having received special names, that we may suppose they have played a distinctive part in the history of the moor beyond that which their capacity as rivers would warrant us in accepting. We may, therefore, hope that by a careful study of the true meaning of these names, read by a close analysis of the roots from which they come, we may get an insight into some dark and unwritten page of the early history of the inhabitants.

The name of Wellabrook or Wallabrook appears to play a conspicuous part in the history of the Dartmoor streams. There are, or were, no less than seven streams, besides other places, known by this name and derived from the same root. I think, therefore, that there can be little doubt but that it is the key-word to the history of the pre-historic period of Dartmoor. In the Charter of Henry III. when the moor was first forested we find it first mentioned, and in that of 1609 we see it again repeated. In the copy published in *Risdon* we find some streams so called that are not mentioned in that given in the appendix to Rowe's *Dartmoor*.

There is a stream of this name on the North Teign, and *Risdon* gives another on the South Teign. There is one that flows into the Dart, and another that is a branch of the Wobrook. *Risdon* mentions an Eastern and Western Wollabrook on the Avon, and another on the Erme.

It is corrupted from Wallacombe into Walkham on the Tavy, and it is repeated in Walliford Down on the Deanburn near Buckfastleigh.

The prefix *Wal* is one that is very extensively distributed over Europe. The root generally is to be found in the Ger-

man *waller*, which means anything foreign or strange, and therefore exists in the names of frontier territories. The Welsh were foreigners; and in the charter of the Scoto-Saxon kings the Celtic Picts of Strath Clyde are called *Walensis*. The chroniclers spoke of Wales and Cornwall as North Wales and Corn Wales. The German word is scarcely however applicable to the numerous rivulets and places found with this prefix on Dartmoor. Looking, therefore, at the conditions of the country and the surrounding circumstances, I am led to believe that it is to be found in the Cornish word *whela*, to work, the source probably of the old word, revived in recent times and applied to almost every mine in Cornwall, *wheel*, which comes from the root *huel*, signifying a tinwork or mine.

If we turn from the names to the places that bear them, we shall find that the bed of almost every river has been extensively worked for tin. I believe this to be the origin of the word, and that the rivers were spoken of as tinworks or mine streams. Corroboration of this view is to be found in the names of other rivers and places. Thus Ballabrook, on the Erme, I take to be derived from the Celtic Cornish word *bal*, which Polwhele, in his *Vocabulary of Cornish Words*, says is a parcel of tinworks together, and comes from *balas*, *baly*, to dig or cast up. From this same root I take it that such highlands as Coryndon Ball, Hemerdon Ball, and Redbrook Ball, derive their names, being hills on which tinworks were carried on. And I beg to suggest that the same root may exist in the ancient name Balerium, the land of tin, rather than that it bears any evidence of the introduction of Baal and his worship into this country.

Blackabrook is probably a corruption of Ballabrook. Whether the several tors named Bel Tor, Bellever Tor, and Belstone derive their names from the same source, or from an ancient British prince called Beli, or from the Norwegian word *baal*, a funeral pyre, or Baal, the heathen god, is difficult to determine.

Connected with Bel Tor, on the Dart, Mr. F. Amery told me of an old traditionary custom of the inhabitants, which made it a lucky omen for any one to see on a certain day in the year the reflection of the rising sun in the water that was in a rock basin at its summit. This old custom, handed down probably from remote periods, is suggestive that the tor once was the seat of a deified sun-worship.

The roots from which the names of other rivers and places are derived are evidence of the great extent to which the

valleys and the hills of the moor have been worked in the eager search for tin.

The Webber Rivers (East and West), on the Dart, were formerly written Widburn, which, I take it, is derived from the Celtic *gweid*, workings, and *burn*, a brook.

On the Erme, the stream known as Drylake is, I presume, derived from *Terhi*, to break, from the banks being broken and worked for tin.

In the Perambulation of the Boundaries of Dartmoor Forest in 1240, we find names applied to places, not very distant from this rivulet, that bear the same signification. The boundary proceeded, "Et sic ascendendo Okebroke usque ad Drywork et ita ascendendo usque ad la Dryfieldford." These are the names evidently of two streams on the Okebroke, known by their being tinworks.

In the Perambulation of 1809, the name Drywork is spelled "Dryeworke," and is also called Drylake, the latter name having the precedence. It is spoken of as a stream being the boundary of the forest, which ascends by Drylake unto Crefield fford or Dryefield ford, which latter name is also corrupted from Dryfield to Crefield, the earliest name being Dryfield. Terhifield means the worked field or hill.

Not very distant from this place is a high hill known as Fieldfare, and a little farther on another known as Rider's Hill. It is a curious coincidence that these two hills on Dartmoor should be so near, since Mr. Rowe, in his book on *Dartmoor*, when praising the scenery near Fingal's Bridge, says that it put him in mind of a view in Westmorland, near a place called Fairfield and Rider's Mount.

In the North-west of England the usual name for a hill is fell. It is derived from the Scandinavian word *fjeld* (pronounced "fiell"). Mr. Isaac Taylor says that the Anglo-Saxon *field* or *fell* is from the same root as the Norse *fell*, a place where the ground is on a fall—in fact, a not very steep hill. Thus the Dryfield means the worked hill, in allusion to some tinworks that formerly existed here. Now, in the Perambulation of 1609 there is also mentioned Dryfield or Crefield; for the name is beginning to be lost in the change of pronunciation. Dryfieldford means a road or trackway over the worked hill.

Ford did not mean in the olden days merely a passage through a shallow river, as in this modern time, but it was the Saxon name of a road. Thus we find it applied to high ground, and also to the tors themselves, as Chittaford, Longaford, and Sittaford Tors. Thus Dryfieldford was the tract or

roadway from the tinwork on the banks of the Drylake, leading probably to Fieldfare, as *fare*, a traveller, is derived from the same root as *ford*—that is, from *faran* or *fara* to go, as a cabman or waterman's fare is his passenger. Fieldfare, the bird, is so named from its characteristic habit of travelling over fields. Fieldfare on Dartmoor means the traveller's path over the hill. In continued support of this idea, we find that the adjoining hill is known as Rider's Hill, which is most probably derived from the Celtic word *rhyd*, a ford, and is probably the root of our English word *road*. There is, moreover, near where Dryfield must have been an old tinwork marked in the maps as Skir-Gut. *Skir* probably comes from the same root as the word *skerries*, and this means rocks or cliffs. And *Gut* is a Scandinavian word for road or passage, corresponding with the word *gate*. Thus *Skir-Gut* means the rocky passage.

Being on the moor in this neighbourhood, I found from an intelligent moorman that it is known to them, not as Skir-gut, but as Skir-gert; "that is," he continued, "the name of the place is Skir, and there is an old Gert there, just as there are Gerts in several other places," one of the deepest being at a place called Ringingshot. On my inquiry, he said that a Gert was a deep cutting made in olden times when they streamed for tin. *Gære* is the Icelandic for *to work*. Thus we see Gert is an ancient work according to the meaning of the word, as well as in the old traditionary sense of the moorland name, and in the evidence of the place itself.

Thus from Skir-gert, or the Rocky Workings, as well as from the Dry Lake, or Terhi Lake, the stream works, and Dryfield or Worked Hill;—from these tin works, over Dryfieldford, Fieldfare, Rider's Hill, through Wallaford, or the Mine Road, down by the side of Deanburne, the Dane's Brook, the old dwellers of the moor—the men who worked for tin in the centre of Dartmoor—passed when they journeyed with their produce of the interior to the cultivated districts of the South Hams, near Buckfastleigh.

The difficulty that at first appeared great to me was, that we should find names from the old Scandinavian race in the centre of Dartmoor, connected with rivers and hills, which ethnologists have determined are named by the earliest inhabitants of the district.

Prepared as I was to expect, from the traditionary history of the tin country, I looked for names of Phœnician origin, and thought that I had met with some evidence in the river Jordan, Ephraim's Pinch, Benjey Tor, Carthahanger, and Car-

thamartha; but the idea of an early Norwegian incursion into the centre of Devon came upon me by surprise. That a few isolated names should alone remain to speak of an intercourse with a distinct race that must have remained long enough to have colonized and given names to the territory I thought very unlikely. I have therefore searched the oldest maps and records that I have been able to procure, so that I might be able to pursue the subject still farther.

This has led me to the following interesting and, I think, important results: That a series of names exist belonging to streams, hills, rocks, and homesteads, which demonstrate that at a very early date a horde of Scandinavian adventurers forced their way up the Dart, and perhaps the Teign also, and occupied the tin stream works at the head of the eastern Dart and Teign; and that they were a source of trouble to the old inhabitants, with whom they were continually at war.

The valley of the Dean I take to mean the Danes' Valley. I am aware that the old Celtic for valley was Den, and that the name may have come from that root; but the name is not a common one connected with valleys in Devonshire; and the relation of the district, with other evidence of the presence of a Scandinavian people, I think supports the conclusion that I have arrived at.

In this valley I find the names of Skireton spelled Sciredun in Risdon's *Survey*, and on a branch of the Dart near Holne Mill is Scoredon. Holm is a name that in the old Norse means a river island. And the Holne Chase is surrounded on three sides by the river Dart, and is almost an island. On this is an old encampment, consisting of an earth rampart with a ditch on the outer side. Whether or not we are warranted in accepting this as the source of the name I have doubts; but considering that *œ* is the old Norse for an island in the sea, and as Holm is the name of one in a river, it is not improbable that a spot so peculiar as Holne Chase, being almost surrounded by the river, as a distinguishing point, may have been called the Island in the river.

Farther down the Dart we have Fleet Mill, from *Fliot*, Icelandic for a stream; and Humber Forches—*Force* or *Foss* being Icelandic for a torrent or waterfall; and within the mountainous entrance to the Dart we find mentioned in *Risdon* a village named Hardness, *Hard* signifying a ford or landing-place, as the Admiral's Hard at Stonehouse, and *ness* a headland,—this probably being the spot on which the Scandinavian adventurers first took up their home on the shore. Farther out at sea, off the Start Point, we have the Skerries, from *Scarg*, a rock.

On the Teign a Druidical circle is on the Down called Scorhill, after the adjoining Tor; and near this latter place is a Pound called Crabeer—the Stone or Rocky Enclosure.

About two miles from Scorhill Tor is Watern Tor, called in the Perambulations of Henry III. Thurlston Tor. There is another Thurlstone Rock, from which the parish in which it stands is named. A third name, Thurshelton, is on the Thrustle River, a branch of the Tamar. This is mentioned by Mr. Isaac Taylor, who says, that “in the absence of all documentary evidence I was inclined to believe that the apparently Danish names in Devonshire must be explained from Saxon sources. I felt that I should hardly be justified in placing a Scandinavian colony in that county, so far removed from their compatriots in Danelagh.

“But all cause for hesitation was removed by the accidental discovery of an isolated farm-house, bearing the name of Dingwell. It stands on a plateau, steeply scarped on three sides, and about a mile from the village of Thurshel-ton, a name every syllable of which is of the Icelandic type, denoting the *Tun* or enclosure round the skaaler or wooden booths, which were usually erected at some little distance from the *Thingvellir*, for the convenience of persons attending the meeting. The *Thing* was inaugurated by sacrifices and religious ceremonies, which enables us to understand why the name of the deity Thor should appear in the first syllable of this name, Thurshelton. These two names, Thurshelton and Dingwell, surrounded as they are by names of the Norse type, seem to prove conclusively that the Northmen must have settled in this remote corner in sufficient numbers to establish their organized self-government.”

Now, it appears to me that if this argument is good in relation to the names of homesteads and villages, that it is of considerably more weight when they are found in connexion with hill and tor, and that of a district so primitive as Dartmoor.

On the hill near Thurlstone Tor is a large cairn. About two miles and a half from Thurlstone is Dinger Tor; about two miles down the Okement is Shelston Tor; all of which are within an hour's walk of each other, and from Belstone Tor, which, if we are to believe, is derived from *bal* or *baal*, a funeral pyre, or from the word *Bealtine*, which, according to Polewhele, means “fires lighted to Belus;” *tine*, to kindle a fire, being still in use in the two counties. Belstone Tor or Bealtine Tor may have been the scene of many a human holocaust offered up at the worship of Thor, the war god of

the Northern Vikings. Thurlstone Tor is now called in the maps of this day Watern Tor. On the Okement also is a tor called Watern Oak. This name being the Scandinavian name for water, is curiously in these two instances applied to the mountainous tors. In the case of Thurlstone we have seen that the Watern is only a modern adaptation, since it does not exist in 1240 as the name of the tor. It was probably before this applied to the stream that runs at its foot, just as the stream in Wenver bottom is called Wenver Water. The name, while it has been preserved in its purely Scandinavian form, has lost its meaning, and been applied to the Tor on the banks of the water, thus affording a curious interchange of names.

The River becky, on the Teign, seldom spoken of now except in conjunction with its curious cataract (the Becky Falls), is a name purely Norse. *Bekkr* is an almost obsolete Icelandic word, the same as the Danish *bæk*, and mean a stream or rivulet. The word is in common use in the North-Western counties of England, but is exceptional in the South-Western, and is, I believe, the only name of Scandinavian origin between it and the Ness at the mouth of the Teign.

In the old book that I have previously quoted, entitled *Admirable Curiosities, Rarities, and Wonders of England*, the author says: "This county has many commodious havens for ships, among which *Totness* was famous for *Brute's* first entrance, if *Geoffry of Monmouth* say true, and another Poet who thus writes of *Brute*:

'The gods did guide his sail and course,
The winds were at command,
And *Totnes* was the happy shore
Where first he came to land.'

But it is more certain, and withal more lamentable, that the *Danes* first entered at Teignmouth to invade this land about 787, unto whom *Brightrick*, king of the West Saxons, sent the steward of his house to know their demands, whom they villanously slew, yet were forced back to their ships by the inhabitants."

This and many like excursions, as their descent on Lydford, mentioned in the *Saxon Chronicle* (A.D. 997), no doubt took place at various periods and dates. It is, I presume, to this Saxon time that we must attribute the erection of such hill forts as Henbury and Holne Castles on the Dart. An old legend, mentioned to me by Mr. Fabyan Amery, still current in the neighbourhood, supports this: "The people

say that the Danes when they built Henbury came not to colonize, but to rob. This is shown by the circumstance that they did not bring their women with them. The consequence was that they were always stealing the daughters of the inhabitants. A strong-minded woman, to meet the emergency of the case, finding that the men were not able to protect them, agreed with many others to visit the Danes' camp, and win the regard of the invaders; and that at a certain period of the night they should all arise, and each cut the throat of their lover. This stratagem succeeded so well that the surviving Danes withdrew from their position, and were never again heard of on the Dart."

But the incursion that took the Scandinavians far up into the centre of the moor must have been of far earlier date, and probably is to be attributed to the earliest stage of the bronze period, since in a kistvean near Fingal Bridge, some years since, was found spear-heads of pure copper. That the period of the Scandinavian occupation is coeval with the names of the hills and rivers, and in some instances with the antiquities also, I think may be demonstrated.

In the Rev. Isaac Taylor's work I find the following list of the Old Sea Robbers, the Vikings of the north, that were known to have made descents on the northern and western coasts of Britain:—Hamill, Grim, Lambi, Buthar, Thorni, Brodor, Hiam, Thor, Gorm, Sölvar, Hogni, Bakki, Sweyne, Hengist, Horsa, &c.

Nearly all these names appear in Dartmoor nomenclature. Hamill gives us Hamildon Tor. Grim, Grims Grave, Grims Pound, and Grims Lake. Buthar gives Buttern Tor and But-terton Hill. Brodor gives Bruton, on the Dart. Thorni gives Thornworthy. Hiarn gives Henbury (pronounced Hiarnbury). Thor gives Thurlstone. Sölvar gives Silver River, that flows into the Yealm, and Sivard's Cross. (In Risdon's copy of the old perambulation it is written as Silvard's Cross.) Hogni gives Hogam de Cosdon. Bakki gives Bicky River; though, as I have said, this most probably was from the ancient Icelandic word Bekkr. Sweyne gives us Sweyncombe, on the Dart, near which place is an isolated kistvean, the grave probably of the old Viking who gave his name to the comb or valley in which he was buried. Hengist gives Hingston Down; and Horsa gives Horse Hill. Though in this latter name it is the opinion of some that as the meaning of Hengist is a horse, the name Horsa may only be a translation of Hengist. It may be suggested that the Christian cross of Siward speaks of a much later date than that to which we are alluding in this paper.

But I would beg those to remember that it was a very common custom for the Christian pioneers to erect their religious evidences on the remains of Pagan institutions. This cross may, and I think probably was, placed on the spot where an old kistvean stood. This I can only suppose was the cause for a double or even a treble name being given to Siward's or Neru's Cross. In a memorandum made, attached to the Perambulation of 1240, in the possession of G. Atkyns, Esq., of Lovick, is the following paragraph: "Hit is to be noated that on the one side of the Cross aforesaid their is graven in the Stone Crux Siwardi, and on the other syde is graven Roolande." I have visited this cross recently, and find no name engraved. Some old markings are there, which I took to represent the figures 1300. These, with some unreadable markings below, may have once formed part of the word ROOLANDE. This I think probable, seeing that the cross is spoken of in 1240.

In the name Bruton, on the Dart, which I believe comes from the Scandinavian Brodar, or some nearly allied name, we find the origin, I think, of Geoffry of Monmouth's story of Brutus when he fled from Troy, having landed at Totness, and gave his name to Britain.

The word Totness is one of distinctly Scandinavian origin. *Toft* is a Danish prefix, signifying enclosure, and demonstrates colonization. In Normandy and Brittany it has taken the form of *Tot*, where, according to the Rev. Isaac Taylor, it is abundantly displayed. I am not aware that the prefix *Tot* exists in any name except Totness in the south of England; and its being opposite to the shores of Normandy, where it is plentifully scattered as a suffix, suggests the idea that the Norsemen who colonized Totness were a branch of those settled in the north of France. The second syllable *ness* is a headland or a hill. Therefore the name Totness means the "village under the hill."

Brute therefore, instead of coming from the coast of Syria, was probably some old viking of the north—a Scandinavian adventurer that came in search of tin with which to make bronze, as eagerly as the modern Britons seek the wild tracts at the antipodes for gold in the nineteenth century. Geoffry of Monmouth was a worthy old monk, but, with not less stupidity and ignorance than his brothers, knew of no Brutus but he of Troy, and at all events thought that one was as good as another.

The enormous extent of the ancient stream workings on the West Webber under Warren Tor fully accounts for the

fortified positions and Scandinavian names in that locality. Hameldon Down, on the fortified hill of Hamell, stretches above them, and the enclosed village known as Grimspond is on the slope of the same hill side. The restlessness and warlike propensity of the warrior who bore the latter name is exemplified in the presence of a kistvean surrounded by a ring of stones placed on their edge, in testimony of their enclosing a distinguished warrior or prince in Longcombe Bottom, near Plym Head. This kistvean is without doubt the spot spoken of in the Perambulation of 1240 as Grymesgreve, and in Rowe's copy as Grimsgrrove, but which, he says, he cannot determine. It is most probably the grave of that old viking who fell in a battle that gave the name of Cad or Battle-field to that portion of the Plym that flows above Cadover or Cadaford (Battleford) Bridge.

The idea of the Cad or Cath, battle, being a name given to the neighbourhood in consequence of some sanguinary engagement, is supported by the name of the neighbouring tor, and the character of the megalithic antiquities that remain in this locality.

Trowlsworthy Tor is derived, I think, from Troheaul, a druidical custom, which Polwhele calls "a turnsol, and is still made in salutations and worship by the Western Islanders;" and Worthig, which means, according to the Rev. Isaac Taylor, "a place warded or protected, from the Anglo-Saxon warrior to defend."

From a walled village under the southern slope of Shell Top a line of embankment passes to the swamp above Trowlsworthy Tor, and from the tor again for nearly a mile towards the river Cad is a stone wall of defence in which there is but one gateway, and that is fortified. On the western slope of the hill are the remains of ancient habitations, as well as an enclosed village of peculiar character of fortification. On the eastern side of the tor is a kistvean that differs from Grimsgrrove in being placed above the surface of the ground, and near the same place are the remains of what appears to have been a circle of such places of interment.

The peculiar character of these remains, together with the distinctive Celtic name of the tor, is, I think, strong evidence that the extensive tin works in Blackabrook stream, which flows into the Plym, were possessed by a different race, whom, probably, Grims and his warriors invaded from the more central parts of the moor, and forfeited his life for his temerity.