TRACES OF HISTORY AND ETHNOLOGY IN THE LOCAL NAMES IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

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GLOUCESTERSHIRE, in the Saxon form GLEAUCEASTRE-SCIRE (Sax. Chron. *c.* 1016), and in Domesday GLOWEC'SCIRE, is so called from the town of Gloucester, which occurs in the Chronicles under 577, in the form GLEAWANCEASTER. This Saxon form is divisible into GLEAWAN, or GLEAU, which represents the GLEVUM or GLEBON of the Ravenna geographer, and the Saxonised Latin word CEASTER, a city. The same meaning was expressed in British by KAIR GLOU, which is given in Nennius, cap. 54. The form in use by Latin writers was, for the city, Glaworna or Glavorna, and for the district, Glawornensis provincia.

Gloucestershire is in the form of an ellipse, more acute at the north-east end. It is divided by nature into three distinct regions. 1st. The Cotswold, or hill country, is the eastern part, which may be separated from the rest by a line drawn from Clifford Chambers to Lansdown. The name has been derived from British *Coed,* wood, and Saxon, *weald,* which may mean much the same, the one being an addition to interpret the other. 2nd. The vale of Severn, the land of cheese, of cider, and of perry. 3rd. The Forest of Dean, the anomaly of the county, which, according to geographical symmetry, ought to have been bounded by the Severn. This district is called by Giraldus "Danubia" and "Danica sylva," by which he means "Danes' wood." But the name of the forest is probably attributable to the Saxon *dene*—a valley, which we see repeated in that district, *e. g.,* Mitchell Dean, *alias* Deane Magna ; Little Dean ; Ruardean.

Each of these three natural divisions is extolled by Drayton in his Poly-Olbion. Of the first, he has,—" Cotswold, that

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King of shepherds." Of the vale,—" The Queene of all the British vales." Of the third,—

> " Queen of forests all
> That west of Severn lie ;
> Her broad and bushy top
> Dean holdeth up so high."

Gloucestershire lies on the confines of Wales, but is not on that account to be regarded as one of the later Saxon annexations. On the contrary, it belongs, not indeed to the number of the first occupations, but to the early conquests by which the Saxon immigrants expanded themselves through the body of the island. There is, therefore, no ground for expecting to find in this county more British names than ordinarily present themselves in the ancient Saxon settlements.

Under the head of British elements the following are worthy of notice :

GLOUCESTER	LEACH
SEVERN	LECHLADE
AVON	NORTH-LEACH
COLN	CIRENCESTER
FROME	PILL
FRAMPTON	RHYD-LE-FORD
FROCESTER	

Most of these require a separate notice.

And first, of GLOUCESTER. Here the first syllable represents the ancient British name, and not only so, but preserves that name nearly, if not entirely, unaltered. Nennius (cap. 54) gives the British name as Cair-Gloui. The passage is as follows : " Gloui, qui ædificavit urbem magnam super ripam fluminis Sabrinæ, quæ vocatur Britannico sermone Cair-Gloui, Saxonice autem Gloucestre." In the twelfth century Henry of Huntingdon (lib. i.) gives the British name as " Kair-Glou, *id est*, Gloueceastria." The prefix *Cair* or *Kair*, is merely the British word for *city*, so that the proper name is Glou or Gloui. This appears to have received under the Roman occupation the Latin shape of " Glevum," of which the oblique " Clevo " is found in the Itinerary of Antonine, and the less trustworthy form " Glebon " in the Geographer of Ravenna. In our earliest

records, this city appears as already large and ancient. Its antiquity is implied in the citation from Nennius, where the founder of Gloucester stands at the remote extreme of the pedigree of Vortigern. At the date 1200, where we meet with this eponymous hero again, he is no longer Gloui, but Gloi ; and he is not the founder of the city ; only his name is given to it, through the fondness of his imperial father, Claudius or Claudien (it seems indifferent which), to whom the city belonged. What name it bore before this innovation, we are not informed. This is in Layamon's *Brut*, or History of Britain in verse. He did not find it in Master Wace's *Brut*, which was his main authority, and so we are at a loss to determine the source of the tale. It is a very tempting surmise that the original of this young myth is Robert Earl of Gloucester, natural son of, Henry I., who provided handsomely for his "love-child" by one of those well-endowed matches which chief-lords had the patronage of in feudal times. The following is a specimen of the passage referred to :

Line 9616.

Tha the time wes ifulled ;
that hit fulleht sculde habben.
æfter than athelene lagen ;
that stoden o then ilke dægen.
nome heo him aræhten ;
and Gloi that child hahten.
This child wæx and wel ithæh ;
and muchel folc to him bah.
and Claudien him bitœhte ;
tha burh the he ahte.
and sette heo mid cnihten ;
the gode weoren to fehten.
and hæhte heo wite wel faste
and heote heo Gloichestre.
al for his sune luven ;
the leof him wes an heorten
the seoththe bigæt al Walisc lond ;
to his agere bond.
and therof he wes deme ;
and duc feole yere.

[TRANSLATION.]

When the time was fully come
That it baptism should have
According to the national laws
That stood in those same days ;

A name they devised them
And they named the child Gloi.
This child grew and flourished well
And much people bowed to him,
And Claudien committed to him
The borough that he owned,
And manned it with knights
Which good were to fight.
And ordered them to guard it securely
And he called it Gloucester ;
All for love of his son
Who was dear to his heart,
Who afterwards conquered all Welsh-land
to his own hand.
And thereof he was demster
and duke many years.

The next British word is—

SEVERN, which in Welsh is now called Hafren, but in Latin was Sabrina. All who have had any practice in philology will at once see that these words are fundamentally identical, H and S being well-known correlatives or reciprocal modificatives of each other, as also B and F. Still, the question rises, how came the Latin form to be Sabrina and not rather Hafrina or Hafrena, if the Romans found the name Hafren in vogue ? The probable account of this is, that the Welsh pronunciation has altered since that time, and that the Romans heard "Sabren" rather than Hafren, uttered by the natives.

COLN occurs as a river-name, not only here, but also in Essex, where it has imparted its name to the city of *Col*chester. A third passes through Herts and Middlesex.

AVON is said to be a river-name of every county in England. It is the common name for "river" in Welsh at this day, and they write it *afon*. In Asser, it stands *Abon*. Common as this word is in Welsh, it is almost more deeply imbued with English than with Keltic associations, through the oft-heard sound, "the bard of Avon."

FROME is also a British river-name, which is found elsewhere, as in Somersetshire, &c. Here it has generated two town-names, Frocester and Frampton.

LEACH is probably another of the same class. It has a Saxon air about it, and so has the river-name "Ley," near London—Walton's Ley—Saxonice *Lyga*—but I give both of them credit for being British. The Ley has stamped its

name on the deceptively spelt Leighton Buzzard, and the
Leach has occasioned a name better known than itself, viz.,
Lechlade, fabled parent of the University of Oxford.
Northleach also is named after the river Leach.

CIRENCESTER contains the British element *Ciren* or *Corin;*
in Ptolemy the name is given as Κορίνιον.   It appears to be
the Durocornovium of Antoninus :—Cornovium is only another
form of Corinium.   This word (Corn) seems to have been
a generic prefix, if we may surmise it to be identical in this
and the following instances : 1. *Cornubii, i. e.,* the men of
Kernyw, which was the native name of Cornwall ; 2. The
Κορναυιοι placed by Ptolemy in the north extreme of
Caithness ; 3. Another nation of Κορναυιοι, placed by the
same author between Warwickshire and Cheshire ; 4. The
Carnutes or Carnuti, Καρνοῦτοι (Strabo), Καρνουτῖνοι (Plutarch),
whom Cæsar calls the centremost people of Gallia, and says
the Gallic Druids held there an annual assembly ; and
whose national appellation is still perpetuated in the name
Chartres, which is the ancient Autricum of their territory.
5. The Carni, an Alpine tribe, who gave name to the Alpes
Carnicæ, and who were doubtless a Keltic folk, for the Fasti
Triumphales record a triumph of M. Æmilius Scaurus in
B.C. 115, " de Galleis Carnis."   This name lives on in the
well-known Latin form Carnia, and in the modern duchy of
Carniola (called in German *Krain*), as also in the adjoining
province of Carinthia (called in German *Kärnthen*).   Dr.
Smith's Dictionary of Classical Geography will help us to
augment the list of Carn-beginning Keltic names.   Thus we
have—6. Ptolemy's Carnonacæ, a folk in Sutherlandshire ;
7. Carnuntium, an ancient and important town of Pannonia,
about which a great deal may be read in that Dictionary,
sub voce.   8. Karnac in Britanny, famed for megalithic remains
of unparalleled extent ; and Karnak by Thebes in Upper
Egypt, familiar to Europeans through the obelisk now in
the Place de la Concorde at Paris.   This latter name
presents a singular coincidence, if nothing more.[2]

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[2] In the Report of the Archæological
Section of the *Association Bretonne* for
1846, there is an investigation by M. de
Kerdrel of the chief elements of local
names in Britanny.   Among these *kran*
holds a prominent place, and M. de Ker-
drel maintains that it means *wood,* silva.

Another member disputes this interpre-
tation, and assigns that of *bois sur une
eminence*, which finds many supporters,
who call up instances of " collines et
mamelons couronnés de bois, dans le nom
desquels entre le mot *kran,* soit seul,
soit en composition."

There seems strong probability in favour of Diefenbach's view (Celtica, i. 153), that we have in all these names the well-known Keltic word *carn* (Welsh and Gaelic), which we have Anglicised into *cairn,* so that this would mark a nation occupying a rocky district, which in several of the cited instances is obviously applicable. Whether Cirencester comes naturally into this class must be decided by knowledge of the locality,—observing, however, that the same elements recur in place-names with various degrees of force, and we must not look for a *striking* applicability in every case of *carn,* any more than in every case of the British *coombe,* or the Saxon *bury.*

It is worthy of insertion here, that Armstrong, in his Gaelic Dictionary, gives *Carnanaich* as a native name of the Highlanders.

The next Keltic relic on our list is—

PILL. There is a fringe of " Pills " on either side of the Severn estuary ; *e. g.,* Step Pill, New Pill, Chessel Pill, Aust Pill, Littleton Pill, Cowhill Pill, Oldbury Pill, Hill Pill, Clapton Pill, Conygore Pill, Berkeley Pill, Holly-hazle Pill, Kingston Pill, Frampton Pill, Longmarsh Pill, Hope Pill, Garden Pill, Collow Pill, Bull's Pill, Brim's Pill, Lydney Pill, Cone Pill, Ley Pill, Grange Pill, Horse Pill, Walden's Pill, &c. In this list we have followed the banks of the Severn upwards from the mouth of the Avon, and then downwards to the mouth of the Wye. On both sides the line of Pills continues beyond the confines of this county. Nothing short of enumeration could convey an idea of the prevalence of this term. One might expect to find it still in use among the natives as a common noun, even as it was three centuries or more ago, when these parts were visited by Leland. He probably learnt in his travels to speak, as he does, of a "*pille* or creke." Halliwell's definition (Archaic Dictionary, *sub voce*) answers well for the Gloucestershire Pills. " The channels through which the drainings of the marshes enter the river are called *pills.*"

The source of this word is hardly doubtful. It is the *Pwll* which constitutes such a frequently recurring factor in Welsh names, as Pwllheli, Pwllycrochan, in the tintinnabulant name of that little old church by the Menai Bridge, Llanfair-*pwll*gwyngyll, and others. Now as to the original origin of this Pwll, a long dissertation might be written, weighing the

arguments adducible on either side, as to whether the Kelt
first borrowed it of the Goth, or *vice versâ*. But, for our
present purpose, it will be quite safe to regard it as a Keltic
word, that is to say, as carrying with it a trace of Keltic oc-
cupation of territory. These "Pills" along the Severn-stathe,
belong to the county of Gloucestershire, as a border land to
Wales.

The next British instance on our list is—

RHYDLEFORD, which I presume is Rhyd-le-ford, consisting
of one British word, one French word, and one English. The
compound seems thus to belong to the class of self-inter-
pretatives, such as Penlee Point, Windermere Lake, &c.,
where the after part is a modern translation of a former
part of the name ; "point" is English for "Pen"—Lake
for the older "mere," &c. So here "ford" is English for
"Rhyd," which is the British (and still the Welsh) for
"ford." Thus the pretended British name for Oxford is
Rhyd-ychain, that is to say, "Ford of ox ;" and Latinised,
"urbs Redycina"—both which are ancient names manu-
factured in modern times. And even our present subject,
"Rhyd-le-ford," has rather a dilettante complexion, inso-
much that I suspect, if one had a minute local knowledge,
it would be found that some book-learned gentleman had
rescued that name from the rough usage of common parlance,
which treated it as "Ruddle-ford," or something equally
uncouth, and had restored it to a pristine etymological
propriety in giving it the form Rhyd-le-ford.

In bringing our list of British elements to a close, it may
be remarked that, here as elsewhere, the British syllables
show a decided inclination to linger in the neighbourhood
of streams and rivers of water. The other instances are in
populous towns or cities. The cause of ancient names proving
more constant in these two instances, is one which we shall
not be long in searching for. In both cases the invading
element has great difficulties to contend with. The name of
a large town is in the memory and habits of speech of the
population living within and around it ; and the stranger,
though he enter as a conqueror, can rarely, even if he
deliberately attempt it, succeed in its eradication. The
name of a river is established along its banks on either side,
throughout a course more or less prolonged, and it is almost
impossible to imagine a fortuitous combination of cir-

cumstances that could lead to the necessary concert for dropping the old name and taking up a new name for a stream of any extent.

We proceed next to notice the traces of ROMAN occupation that appear in Gloucestershire names. These are by no means copious. There is the familiar form—*cester*—in Gloucester, Cirencester, Frocester. The Roman *via strata* is, probably, stereotyped in the name of Stroud, though I do not see what Roman road took that line. The same name occurs in Kent, by Rochester, and there it is, doubtless, a corruption of *strata*. We may add here, the word *street*, in Akeman Street and Ermine Street, which converge upon Cirencester.

From Cirencester five Roman highways branched off in different directions, but these are unknown to us in their Roman names, with one exception. The *Fosse*-Way enjoys the credit of being a tradition from Roman times, and perhaps we should not be hypercritical on the perversity of the designation, wherein *Fossa* stands for a sort of equivalent to *Agger.* We can hardly assign a limit to the confusion which *may* ensue, when words are removed so far out of their native atmosphere, and left by their original owners to take their chance among strangers.

Before we quit the Roman division of the subject, a few words on the old Geographers and Itineraries. Ptolemy [A.D. 120] has the Σαβρίανα είσχυσις or Severn estuary. He enters Cirencester as follows : Μεθ᾿ οὓς Δοβοῦνοι, καὶ πόλις Κορίνιον = next to them [viz., the Silures] the Dobuni, and city Corinium. From the Itinerary of Antonine the following are assigned to Gloucestershire :

(Iter xiii.) Glevo = Gloucester ; Durocornovio = Cirencester; (Iter xiv.) Venta Silurum ; Abone, ix. ; Trajectus, ix. ; Aquis Solis, vi.

The identity of Abone and Trajectus remains unsettled. They seem to recur with slight variations in Richard of Cirencester.

Iter xi., *Ab Aquis, per Viam Juliam Menapiam usque, sic;*

Ad Abonam M. P. vi. ; Ad Sabrinam, vi. ; Unde trajectu intras in Britanniam Secundam et Stationem; Trajectum, iii.; Venta Silurum, viii., &c.

An attempt to reconcile these two road-lists would meet with

serious difficulties, and it may be doubted whether they do not follow two different routes. At least, the specification "per Viam Juliam," invites the conjecture, that there was another road from Caerwent to Bath. On the other hand, the "Abone" and "Trajectus" of the one, seem at first sight to answer to the "Ad Abonam" and "Trajectum" of the other. And yet this apparent clue only complicates the problem more hopelessly. Most probably they are quite distinct, and the similarity of names is merely a coincidence. Indeed, I will go so far as to conjecture, that the "Trajectus" of the older, is identical with the "Ad Abonam" of the later list. Each of them is vi *millia* or more probably *leugæ*, i. e., ix. *millia* from Bath, and even if the routes varied, they may have had this stage in common. The distance is hardly enough to bring us to Bristol, but I find a strong inducement to adopt that site as the representative of "Trajectus," identified with "Ad Abonam." For Bristol is but a corruption of *Bricgestow* (Saxon) or *Bristow*, which are the genuine forms. This meant "the place of the bridge," viz., at which the Avon was crossed. In fact, Bristow is a condensed compound for "Trajectus ad Abonam." The "Trajectum" of Richard appears to be on the estuary of the Severn, whether at Oldbury, Aust, or on the opposite side ; and my friend Mr. Pearson is of opinion, that several of the forbidding-aspected names in the Ravenna Geographer are to be sought in Gloucestershire ; e. g., Brenna, Alabum, Cicutio, Magnis, Branogenium, Epocessa, Ypocessa, Macatonion, Glebon colonia, Argistillum, Vertis, Salinis, Corinium Dobunorum. Of these it seems difficult to exclude the three between Glebon and Corinium ; and perhaps we may discover a site for one of them, viz., *Salinis*, in Stow-on-the-Wold. For this place is in the hundred of *Sal*emanesberie (Domesday), and it has near it several places of the extraordinary name of Slaughter, for which explanation is required ; and the old name *Salinis* offers a possible source of the present distorted form. The Roman Fosse-Way runs straight for Stow and Slaughter. Whether there are, or may anciently have been, any salt-springs (*salinæ*) at this place, must be left to local industry to determine. This identification of *Salinæ* with Stow or Slaughter is due to a suggestion from Mr. Pearson.

The period when the Severn valley was first inhabited by

the Saxons has been fixed by Dr. Guest with preciseness, and with a very high degree of probability. He takes the two entries in the Saxon Chronicles under 577 and 584 as decisively importing that King Ceawlin was the conqueror of this district. The evidence from the Chronicles was strengthened by an elegy from the old Welsh poet, Llywarch Hen; and, from the combination of these records it seemed probable to Dr. Guest, that the ruin of Uriconium happened at the same epoch. With such slender data, it is hardly possible to arrive at unassailable conclusions. But this construction fits so well with the historic requirements of those early times, that we may gladly accept it until a better theory presents itself.

Assuming then that the Saxons became masters of the valleys of Severn and Dee in the sixth century, we shall not be disappointed to find that there are not many conspicuous traces of former occupiers.

How well this district was covered in Saxon times, is apparent from the number of names which Kemble, in the Index to the Codex Diplomaticus, has referred to this county.

These names, culled out from the others and set in a list by themselves, may not be without their use to the local antiquary. In the following list the identifications are Mr. Kemble's, and they are printed in accordance with his own plan, which was, to use Roman type for those of whose identity he was secure; prefixing a note of interrogation in case of doubt, and using italics only as suggestive of names that may *perhaps* be discovered in the localities.

Æfeningas	. Avening.		Caldanwyl	. *Caldwell.*
Æsctun	. Ashton.		Celtanhom	. Cheltenham.
Badimyncgtun	. Badminton.		Carlesleah	. *Charlsley.*
Balesbeorh	. *Balesborough.*		Cildeswíc	. Childswickham.
Bearwe	. Barrow.		Cirneceaster	. Cirencester.
Beccanford	. Beckford.		Cirringe	. (?) Cherrington.
Bellanford	. *Belford.*		Clif	. (?) Bishop's Cleeve.
Berclea	. Berkley.		Cliftun	. Clifton.
Bisceopes stoc	. Stoke-Orchard.		Clofesho	.
Bisleáh	. Bisley.		Cloptun	. *Clapton.*
Bleccanmære	. *Bleckmere.*		Coccanburh	. (?) Cockbury.
Brocnanbyrh	. *Brokenborough.*		Cohhanleáh	. (?) Coaley.
Buruhford	. Burford.		Collesburne	. Colesborne.
Burgtún	. Bourton.		Cudincleá	. *Cuddingley.*
Calfrecroft	. *Chalcroft.*		Cugganhyl	. *Cughill.*
Cealcweallas	. *Chalkwells.*		Cumtún	. Compton.

Cwenenabróc	. . Quinbrook.
Cwéntún .	. . Quinton.
Cyneburgingctun	. . Kemerton.
Cvnelmesstan .	. Chelmeston.
Deórhyrst .	. . Deerhurst.
Dogodesuuel .	. Dowdswell.
Ductún	. . Doughton.
Dumoltan	. . Dumbleton.
Dynningden	. . Dinningden.
Ealretún .	. . Alderton.
Eástun .	. . Cold Ashton.
Eowcumb .	. . Ewcombe.
Geat	. . Yate.
Gleáweceastre	. . Gloucester.
Hæslburg .	. . Hazleborough.
Hæslden	. . Hazledean.
Hæslwel .	. . Hazlewell.
Haboccumb .	. . Hawkcombe.
Heantún .	. . Hampton Maisy.
Heardanleáh	. . Hardley.
Heortford .	. . Over Harford.
Holebróc	. . Holbrook.
Holenhyrst	. . Holnhurst.
Horpyt .	. . Horepit.
Hricgleáh	. . Ridgeley.
Hudicota .	. . Hidcote.
Hwǽtedun .	. . Wheaton.
Kineuuartún .	. Kemerton.
Léc .	. . . Leach.
Lintún .	. . . Linton.
Mǽrwil	. . . Marwell.
Merstun	. . . Marston.
Mycclantún	. . (?) Mickleton.
Mylepul	. . Millpool.
Mylenweg	. . Millway.
Mórseað	. . . Moorseath.
Neglesleáh	. . (?) Nailsworth.
Natangrafas .	. . Notgrove.
Norðhom .	. . Northam.
Oswaldingtún	. . (?) Olveston.
Pebeuurð	. . Pebworth.
Penpau	. . .
Pippenes pen .	. Pipspen.
Poshliwan	. . (?) Postlip.
Ráhweg	. .
Reódwel .	. . Reedwell.
Rýdmǽdwan	. .
Riscwil	. . . Rushwell.

Roddanbeorg	. . Rodborough.
Sapertún .	. . Sapperton.
Scírmére	. . . Shiremere.
Sengedleáh	. . (?) Sugley.
Seófonwyllas	. . Seven springs by North Leach.
Siðryðe wel	. .
Slehtranford	. .
Smiececumb	. . Smeechcomb.
Soppanbyrig	. . Sodbury.
Stánford .	. . Stanford.
Stánleah	. . . Stanley.
Stur .	. . . Stour River.
Sulmonnesburg	. . SalemanesberieHd. (Domesd.)
Suuelle	. . . Swell.
Sweordes Stán	. .
Tateringctún	. . Tarrington.
Todanhom .	. . Toddenham.
Tetteburi .	. . Tetbury.
Tetingford .	. . Tettingford.
Ðornbyrig	. . Thornbury.
Tidbrihtingctun .	. (?) Tibberton.
Tredingtun	. . Tredington.
Triphyrst .	. . Triphurst.
Túnwealdes Stan	. Tunstone.
Turcanden .	. . Turkdean.
Turcanwyl	. . Turkwell.
Under Ofre	. . Over Dudston Hundred.
Uptún	. . . Upton.
Uassanburne	. . Washborne.
Waldeswel	. . Woldswell.
Uuenrisc	. . Windrush.
Westburh	. . . Westbury.
Westminster	. . Westminster.
Uestún .	. . Weston on-Avon.
Wicwone	. . . Child's Wickham.
Uuidancumb	. . Witcombe.
Uuidiandún .	. . Withington.
Willerscia	. . Willersey.
Wincelcumb	. . Winchcomb.
Winterburne	. . Winterbourne.
Uuiðigrord .	. . Widford.
Wuduceaster	. . Woodchester.
Wudanhammes bróc	. Woodham.
Wudutún .	. . Wootton.
Uuelesburne	. . Welsbourne.

From this list may be formed some idea of a Saxon map of Gloucestershire. If in the extant Saxon charters alone there is found such a list of Gloucestershire names of places, we can hardly fail of the conclusion, that the face of the country was well filled with habitations. These instances belong to the period included between 700 and 1050 A.D.

(To be continued.)