

SURREY ETYMOLOGIES.

 THE HUNDRED OF WALLINGTON.

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PART I.

OF the various kindred topics that have engaged the attention of thoughtful men in these times, few have been found more interesting than that branch of Philology which relates to the names of places. So important, indeed, has it become, that it may well be raised to the rank of a separate science, and designated "*Onomatology*," a term for which we are indebted to the Rev. Isaac Taylor, the author of a recent work, entitled "*Words and Places*;" the most useful and able treatise that has been written on the subject in our own country, or, (probably) in any other.

To the philosopher, the study of these names cannot fail to be of great value, as illustrating the persistence of those general laws which in all ages have influenced men in their conquests, migrations, and colonizations, as well as in their home lives. From this study the historian may obtain materials for his labours, far more reliable than the idle tales and legends preserved by the old chroniclers; while to the philologist it is invaluable, from the assistance which it affords in the investigation of those conditions which have always regulated and influenced the construction, as well as the diffusion, of language.

But while in these various sciences the study of local etymology is found thus useful, to the Archæologist and Topographer it is indispensable, at least in our time, although hitherto it has been much neglected. In a certain

sense, and within a limited area, he is required, if not to exercise the functions of the historian and the philologist, at least to select and prepare the materials with which their work is done.

The question "what's in a name?" is one which he can readily answer; for to him names, at least the names of places, are things—realities. As has been well observed by the author of "Words and Places," "Local names are in no case arbitrary sounds; they are always ancient words, or fragments of ancient words; each of them, in short, constituting the earliest chapter in the local history of the places to which they severally refer." They are thus chronicles of the past, as well as regards the condition of the earth, as of those who dwelt upon it—ripple-marks are they on the sands of time—lines of growth on the vast shell of human society. Existing for ages before the historian began his annals, they survive for ages after these have mouldered into oblivion; not only supplying the place of histories, which, if they ever existed, have long since perished, but affording materials from which to correct the errors of those that remain. They enable us to trace and record the origin and progress of the former possessors of the soil—the ebb and flow of tribes and races; their migrations, conquests, and colonizations; they assist us in determining their modes of life, their religion, and their political and social conditions; supplying information upon these various topics, often as conclusive as the evidence which enables the Geologist to detect and trace the changes which have taken place in the physical conditions of the earth and its inhabitants, by means of successive epochs of elevation and degradation.

Impressed with the importance of the study of local etymology, and aware how much it has been neglected generally, (and nowhere perhaps more than in this county), the Council of our Society desires to publish in its proceedings a series of papers designed to explain and illustrate the origin and meaning of the names borne by the various villages and towns in Surrey; and not alone the names of villages and towns, but those also of

the various hamlets, manors and estates, and the hundreds and tithings, as well as those hills and streams and woods which are known to bear any ancient name. Hitherto what little has been done in this department of etymology has been almost entirely confined to cities and towns and villages, to high mountains and important rivers; and indeed few county historians or topographers could be found with the ability, and, combined with the ability, the opportunity and leisure, to describe a whole county so minutely as is now proposed.

By means, however, of that organization and division of labour which may readily be attained in societies like our own, and which, indeed, constitute their chief excellence, we cannot doubt that that which has never been achieved, and hardly attempted in any other county, may by degrees be effected in this; and if so, the result can hardly fail to be satisfactory.

The names of the various districts and estates within a parish, are frequently as ancient as that of the parish, sometimes indeed more ancient; and a careful investigation of them is just as likely to illustrate the history of our ancestors and their dwelling-places, as an examination of the etymologies of the towns or villages themselves, inasmuch as within the same area we find more abundant and varied materials from which to draw our conclusions.

In compliance with the wish of the Council, I have not hesitated to undertake the first of this series of papers. Conscious of my inability to do justice to the subject, I rely with confidence, not alone upon the indulgence of the Society, but upon the assistance and encouragement of many friends more competent than myself; and I have the satisfaction of knowing that my defects can hardly fail to be in a great measure compensated by the labours of those who have engaged to proceed with the work.

It is perhaps premature to speak of the result of inquiries which have hardly commenced, but I may perhaps be permitted to suggest, that that result can hardly fail to strengthen the conclusion which has been

arrived at on other and independent evidence; namely, that until a comparatively recent period, our county was but thinly inhabited.

It cannot be doubted that the aboriginal Britons or Celts must have traversed the heaths and chalk downs, and lurked in the woods with which the county was in their time well-nigh covered; yet these hills and woods, and the rivers also (with one or two exceptions), are alike silent as to the people who probably first of the whole human race, beheld and possessed them; they have passed away, and left no trace of their presence—their land's language tells not of them; for, with the exception of the river Wey, which is Cymric or Welsh, and possibly the Wandle also, hardly a single Celtic name is to be detected in the compass of the whole county, unless, indeed, we regard the Anglo-Saxon or Celto-Saxon *cumbe* and *don*, and one or two other suffixes, as adoptions by the Saxon invaders, of the native *cwm* and *dún*, rather than as words which, although originally derived from the same root as the Celtic, were nevertheless imported by the Jutes and Angles. Probably at that date our hills and streams were for the most part not of sufficient importance to require or justify the imposition of any distinctive name; and as regards the soil, it is obviously only as population increases and civilization advances, that land becomes of sufficient value to render it necessary to subdivide it, and for the purposes of that subdivision to attach specific names to certain districts; and it would seem that the absence of British names throughout the county, taken in conjunction with the great scarcity of sepulchral remains of the British period, may be taken as conclusive proof, that prior to the Roman conquest the county was but little known, and sparsely inhabited.

Nor, as it would seem, was the condition of Surrey very different under the rule of the Romans. We have not a single town, or village, or river, or hill, the name of which can reasonably be attributed to a Latin origin.

We know indeed that this part of the country was not entirely unknown or unvisited by its Roman conquerors, since, besides the discovery of Roman antiquities in various localities, including a temple at Farley Heath, we have at Titsey, and at Walton Heath, undoubted remains of Roman villas, as distinct and characteristic as those found in the ruins of Uriconium. These, however, were probably hunting-lodges, resorted to by young legionaries from the *Civitas Augusta*, or the camp of *Noviomagus*, when wild boars and venison were in season: at that time it was hardly likely that any one would have dwelt on Walton Heath for any other purpose. In the state of England, and its relations with other countries at that date, it would seem that no part of the county was of great strategical importance; and as the Romans could, and did, freely pass and repass to and from the capital into Gaul and Italy, without going through any part of the county, probably few of them cared to visit a district which was of little or no value for purposes of commerce or agriculture.

It is then to the Anglo-Saxon race that we must attribute the reclamation and settlement of the county, and with them, its nomenclature,—to that race to which must be ascribed the merit of having in their institutions laid the foundations of the constitution which we yet enjoy; foundations laid so wisely and so well, that having endured through the chances and changes of over a thousand years, it still offers to an admiring world the practical solution of that great problem “of uniting the completest obedience to the law, with the greatest amount of individual freedom.”

In peopling and cultivating the county, the Anglo-Saxons seem to have visited every portion of it, since we everywhere find their test words, “*ham*,” “*hyrst*,” “*stede*,” “*ton*,” &c., as suffixes. This colonization must have occurred between the departure of the Romans, and the Norman conquest; for although it is certain that there were Saxons in England long before the departure of the Romans, since one of their chief

officers bore the title of "*Comes littoris Saxonici per Britannias*," that very title shows that they were confined to the coasts of Norfolk and Suffolk, a district from which Surrey was then very remote, and comparatively inaccessible.

The Danes, who ravaged England so often and so cruelly during the Heptarchy, probably penetrated but little into Surrey. Indeed, after the year 941, the *Danelagh*, or Danish district, did not extend south of the Thames, being divided by the compact between Alfred and Guthrum, from the Saxon kingdom by the Thames, the Lea, and the Ouse. The Danes were not usually fond of *interiors*, except for the sake of plunder, and wisely chose their stations, when they did condescend to settle, on the sea-coast, or on great estuaries, or navigable rivers; thus securing a ready passage to and from those seas which they were accustomed to sweep. We find traces of them in Surrey, just where we might expect them. The names "Thorp," "By," "Fleet," which now designate villages on the banks of the Thames, were probably given by some of the piratical Danes who sailed thus far up the Thames to found a settlement.

It is remarkable that few (if, indeed, any) ancient towns or villages in the county derive their names from conventual or ecclesiastical foundations. We have neither mynster nor chapel nor abbey nor priory. Indeed, prior to the conquest, Chertsey, on the extreme confines of the county, was the only religious house of any importance. It will also be found that very few places have any Norman patronymic name.

It would seem that the absence of British and Roman names, of ecclesiastical foundations, and of baronial possessions, may all be ascribed to one and the same cause,—that which has saved many countries from invasion,—the poverty of the soil. Until a comparatively recent period, a great part of the county was either covered with underwood or heath, or was bare chalk down; but with the introduction of improved methods of agriculture, and particularly turnip husbandry, the breeding of sheep has largely increased, and with that, a prodigious increase

has taken place in the growth of corn; and thus these wealds, and downs, and denes, formerly dreary and pathless wastes, in which the ancient Britons gained a scanty and precarious livelihood from the chase, are now seen covered with flocks and herds, or teeming with golden harvests.

SURREY.

This word is very commonly understood to be derived from *South-reye*, which, it is said, although I know not on what authority, means the south realm or kingdom. But with all deference to many able and learned writers who have adopted this etymology, there seem to be strong reasons for rejecting it, and others equally strong for accepting another. I cannot find any evidence that the word was ever written *Suthrice*, or *Suthric*, which would have been the case had it been intended to designate a kingdom, for which the word *ric* or *rice* is the proper Anglo-Saxon equivalent, as may be seen from the various versions of the Lord's Prayer by King Alfred in 875, Father Aldred in 870, and at least six other authentic MSS. of about the same age, all of which are printed in the *Journal of Sacred Literature* for January, 1865.

Again it seems most improbable, indeed well-nigh impossible, that this district should ever have been called a kingdom or realm. There is no pretence for saying that it ever constituted an independent kingdom, although when joined to Sussex, a considerable portion of it was for a short period under the dominion of the same sovereign. But if Surrey was ever the south realm or dominion, Sussex, which is to the south of it, was so too; and it seems unreasonable to suppose that the northern portion

of a kingdom should be called the southern, either when under the same dominion as the northern portion, or afterwards.

In support of this view, I may cite the authority of the Saxon Chronicle, in which, under the date of 836, it is recorded that Ecbryght gave to his *sunu* (son) Æthelstan, *Cantware-ric* (the kingdom of Kent), and *Suthrigean* and *Suth-searna-ric* (Surrey and Sussex). Now if Surrey had then, or at any time, been regarded as constituting a separate kingdom, the writer could hardly have failed to substitute for *ric* (or superadd to it) the suffix *rice*, as was done in the *immediate* context with regard to Kent and Sussex.

Another derivation which has been suggested is that of *Suth rea*, which, it is said, means south river, and was designed to describe the county as the district south of the Thames. Camden indeed has lent the weight of his great authority to this derivation: he says, "Surrey, called by Bede *Suthriona*, commonly Suthrey and Surrey by the Saxons, from its situation on the south side of the river; *Suðpea* for *Suð* with them signifies the south, and 'ea,' a river." The proper suffix, however, as will be presently shown, was neither *rea*, nor *ea*, but *rige*, softened into *rey*, and *Suthrea* was merely the Latin form of *Suthrey*, just as *Suthrige* was rendered *Suthrigea* by those chroniclers who wrote in Latin. The phrase South river might well be used to describe the river itself, (and especially if there had been a river lying to the north, or east, or west, from which it was important to distinguish it); but such a phrase could hardly be intended to designate the district lying far beyond its banks.

Dr. Guest, in his paper on *Gentile Names*, published in the first volume of the proceedings of the Philological Society, has suggested yet another origin for the suffix *rey*. He says, "Other Gentile names appear to be formed from adjectives in *ig*—as, *Danige-frea*, land of the *Danige* or *Danes*; again in the Chronicle we have *Suthrige*, "the *Southrons*."

Although, for the present purpose, it is immaterial

to consider how far this view of the formation of gentile words is accurate, it may be observed, in passing, that no other example of this supposed usage can be cited; and further, that it is hardly consistent with the rule laid down by Hickes. He says: "Adjectiva gentilia et patria desinunt in *irc*, ut *Gr̄ypenirc*, *Cyrenæus*; *Iuðeirc*, *Judæus*; *Engleirc*, *Anglus*. Hinc gentilia nostra in *ish*; ut Danish, *Danus*; Swedish, *Suedus*, &c."

But, even assuming Dr. Guest's proposition to be well founded, the word *Suthrige* would in no way afford an illustration of it; for had it been intended, as he suggests, to represent the people inhabiting this district, as those of the south country, the gentile name—the adjective in *ig*—would have been *Suthig* or *Suthige*; and thus the *r* in *Suthrige* would have been superfluous. True, this letter is found in *Southrons*, which Dr. Guest treats as analogous; but that word is merely a modern corruption of the equally modern word *Southerns*, and has thus no bearing upon the question, even if we could believe that the people of Surrey were ever known as *Southrons* or *Southerns* (in the sense of *a* or *the* southern tribe or people), whilst other tribes inhabited the country lying south of theirs. As to this, it may be noticed that Ethelward, in his *Chronicles*, which were written before the Conquest, expressly calls the people of Surrey *Medii Angli*, and those of Sussex *Australes Angli*.

Several other modern writers have considered that *Suthrige* was only a gentile name, and not that of the region. If so, the district would be left without a name, since we cannot find that it has ever borne any other. We are not, however, driven to such an inconvenient conclusion, for although in some instances the old authors leave it uncertain whether by this word they meant the people or the country, numerous passages do occur from which it is clear that the country or district *alone* was spoken of, while almost all those chroniclers who wrote in Latin use the word as a noun, and in the singular number only.

The Saxon Chronicle contains several such instances. Thus, amongst others, under date 1011, it is recorded,

that the Danes had overrun all Kent, and Sussex, and Hastings, and “*Suðrige*,” and Berkshire, and Hampshire, and much of Wiltshire.

Again, Florence of Worcester, in his account of the battle of Aclea, A.D. 851, says that the pagan army “*perrexit in Suthregiam, quæ paga sita est in meridiana Tamensis fluminis ripa*” (it went into Surrey, which *district* is situate on the south bank of the river Thames).

Perhaps the difficulty which has been felt in dealing with this word may be solved by regarding it, when applied to the people, as a metonymical expression, the name of the country or district being put for its inhabitants. As we now say that Prussia and Austria combined to despoil Denmark, or Surrey played a cricket match against Hants, so we may believe that our Anglo-Saxon ancestors might, and did, symbolize and personify the people of Surrey or of any other county, under the name of the county itself; and thus used the noun singular as an adjective in the nominative plural, and gave it, when occasion required, a genitive and a dative case.

Upon the whole, and for the reasons above stated, it seems impossible to accept either of the various derivations usually given, and we may arrive at this conclusion the more readily, that there appears to be one which is free from all objection.

The derivation which I propose is from *Suð hrycg* (that is *South-ridge*), which, allowing for the conversion of the *g* final into *y*, and a slight change inevitable on the conversion of Anglo-Saxon into English, is identical with the modern word *Surrey*. Numerous instances are met with, in which the harsh Saxon *hric* (only now found in hayrick and cornrick) was softened into *ridge* or *rige*; amongst others, the *Wæcha-hric* in Hants, mentioned in the Codex, vol. iv., No. 739, is now known as *Wackridge*; *Hricgdike* is now *Ridgedike*, as *Hrycgleah* is *Ridgley*, and *Eppan-hrycg* is *Epbridge*. *Ridge* and *rige* and *rege*, again, have passed frequently into *rei* and *rey*; as *Ridgegate* into *Reigate*, *Eastrege*, in Kent, into *Eastry*, &c.

Every one acquainted with the county will be aware

that the phrase Southridge exactly describes its appearance when viewed from London, or the immediate neighbourhood; and that London was, so to speak, the centre of nomenclature, at least for the south of England, is obvious from the names given to Essex, Middlesex, Sussex, and Wessex.

Whenever it is possible to obtain an unobstructed view to the south, the range of chalk hills which is now known as the Surrey Hills, or (in contradistinction to the South downs), as the North downs, and which traverses the entire county from east to west, is seen bounding the horizon. At the time when the name was given, this range must have been fully in view from every part of London, and nothing could be more natural than that the inhabitants of that city should term it the *South ridge*, or *back* (just as the fortifications on the south bank of the river were known a thousand years since as the *South-werche*), and that the name thus given should be extended so as to include the district lying on both sides of it.

Many instances may be cited to show that an entire district or region has taken its name from some striking feature in its physical geography. We are told, for instance, that several of our own counties owe their names to local peculiarities; as Berkshire to its birch-trees, and Buckinghamshire to its beeches; in America the vast states of Missouri and Mississippi take their names from the rivers which flow through them; and it seems not unreasonable to believe that the district now known as Surrey derived its name from the chain of hills which, when viewed from London, forms so considerable and distinctive an object in the landscape; and that, when the kingdom was afterwards divided into counties and shires, it was found convenient that it should retain the name so derived.

It may also be noticed in support of this view, that Alfred the Great, who must have been perfectly well acquainted with the subject, in his translation of Bede's "Ecclesiastical History" (book 4, cap. 6), renders the word *Suthrigenalond*; Bede himself, speaking of Chert-

sey, described it (not, as Camden says, as *Suthriona*) but as “*in regione Sutherigeona*,”¹ obviously the latinized form of *Suð hþýcz*, or *Suthrige*.

The word occurs several times in the Saxon Chronicle. One of these passages has been already alluded to,—

The others are as follows—Anno 722.

“*And Ealdbryght þræccea] zepat on Suþrige and on Suþreaxe.*”

And Ealdbryght went an exile to *Suthrige* and *Suthseax* (Surrey and Sussex).

And again, Anno 823.

“*And Lantpape him to cyndon and Suþrige and Suþreaxe.*”

And Kent submitted to him, and Surrey and Sussex.

Amongst the numerous Anglo-Saxon charters printed in the *Codeæ Diplomaticus*, there are thirteen, ranging in date from 796 to 1066, in which Surrey is mentioned. Of these the earliest is a grant in Latin by Offa, in 796, to the church at *Uoccinges—Woking*, and dated from “*Freoricburne*” (wherever that may have been), “*in regione Suthregeona*. In the next in order of date (871), the word is *Suthregum*. In the others it is sometimes spelt *Suthregen*, *Suthrege*, and *Suthrige*, and occasionally *Sutherie* and *Suttherie*, and also *Suthrion* and *Suthrian*; whilst in the chronicles of *Florence of Worcester*, *Simeon of Durham*, *Henry of Huntingdon*, and in *Asser’s Annals*, the district is almost invariably described as *Suthrige* or *Suthrigea*, and the people as *Suthrigenses*, or *Suthregii*, or *Suthrigii*.

Thus in every instance we find the suffix *hþýcz*, *ridge*, or some other, formed, or that might have been formed from it; effectually excluding alike the words *ric* and *rice*, and *ea* and *rea*, and *ig*, and their respective derivatives.

¹ See Bede’s *Ecclesiastical History*, Cotton MSS., Tiberius, 2, 14.

WALLINGTON HUNDRED.

CROYDON.

Croydæne—*Cod. Dip.*, No. 492.

Croindene—*Domesday Book*.

I have already taken occasion to notice how little has been done hitherto by our county historians in tracing the etymologies of our towns and villages. If any proof were needed in support of this imputation, it might be found in the hasty and careless manner in which they have dealt with the etymology of this town.

Aubrey, and Manning and Bray, are alike silent on the subject; Lysons declared that he could make nothing of it; and Steinman says that nothing can be affirmed with certainty concerning it. Ducarel derived the name from the French *craie*, chalk, and *don*, a hill; while Garrow attributed it to *croin* or *crone*, a sheep, and *dene*, a valley.

Now as this place was known by its present name at least a hundred years before the Norman language prevailed, or was hardly known in England, it is not very likely that it is to be traced to a French origin. Besides, the town is situate neither on the chalk, nor on a hill, but at the mouth or embouchure of a valley running from between the chalk downs to the south.

Nor is the derivation from *crone*, a sheep, at all more reasonable than the other. *Crone* is a provincial word, to designate an old ewe only. It is not Saxon or Icelandic, or Norse; and if it had been, it is absurd to suppose that a valley should take its name from the presence of old ewes alone, as if it were, *par excellence*, their dwelling-place. These mistakes are the more extraordinary and inexcusable, inasmuch as the etymology of the name is so perfectly obvious and easy. The word

is first met with in the joint will of Beorhtric and Ælfswyth (an Anglo-Saxon nobleman and his wife), dated about 962, transcribed in Lambarde's *Perambulation of Kent*, in Thorpe's *Registrum Roffense*, and again in the *Codex Diplomaticus*, No. 492.

It thus occurs as the church, or place, of which Ælfsie was priest, this Ælfsie having been one of the witnesses to a former donation, or grant of land to St. Andrew, or Rochester. In this document the word is spelt *Crog-dæne*. Now *Crog* was, and still is, the Norse or Danish word for crooked; whence, indeed, come our own words "crook" and "crooked." This term describes the locality with sufficient accuracy; it is *the crooked or winding valley*, evidently referring to the valley which runs in an oblique and serpentine course from Godstone to Croydon, forming an easy pass through the chalk downs, from the valley and basin of the Thames to that of the Weald of Kent and Sussex.

The Anglo-Saxon *g* is equivalent to our *y*; and thus the name was pronounced in 962, exactly as it is now, with the substitution only, in the final syllable, of the letter "o" for the diphthong "æ," a very common and venial corruption.

The *Croindene* of Domesday was probably one of the numerous mistakes into which the Norman commissioners very easily fell, when compiling this record from the accounts of those who did not speak their language. Possibly, indeed, the word may even at that date have been thus slightly corrupted from *Crogdene*, and afterwards restored; but such restorations are so rare, that it seems more reasonable to attribute the variation from the original spelling to a mistake of the compiler or transcriber.

THE WANDLE.

This river, which it is said was anciently called the Vandle, rises in Croydon, issuing from the base of the chalk downs, and falls into the Thames (after a short course of about ten miles) at Wandsworth,—that is,—*Wandelesweorth*, the village or town on, or near the Wandle.

Doubtless it was this clear stream which attracted the first inhabitants, and induced them to settle here, and eventually to found the church of which Ælfsie was priest some time before 962. Two derivations of the word Wandle present themselves, both so appropriate that it seems hard to choose between them. The first syllable perhaps may be taken from the Cymric or Welsh word *Afan*, which is the root of so many river names; but it seems more probable that it was derived from the Norse or Danish word *Vand*—water, introduced probably by the Jutes or Angles, before the coming of those whom we are used, somewhat inaccurately, to call Saxons, but who, as it would seem from their language, came from Friezland.

With regard to the second syllable, I was at one time disposed to regard it merely as a diminutive, implying the *little* Vand or water; but as no such form is known in Danish, I am led to believe that it is only a modification of *dale* or *dell*;—that thus the stream having given originally a name to the valley, the valley has in process of time given back that name (with the addition of the suffix) to the stream; and the Vand water or stream in this way becomes the Wandle river, that is,—the water-dale water, a mode of reduplication of which many instances are found in England and elsewhere.

THE BOURNE.

Anglo-Saxon *burne*, the name given to a remarkable stream which at various uncertain intervals (sometimes not for many years) issues from the base of the chalk hill near Marden Park after very wet seasons, and flows for some weeks. Its course is by the foot of Riddlesdown, and thence to the Wandle. Its appearance was supposed formerly to portend war or pestilence, or some other calamity.

COMBE AND ADDISCOMBE.

Combe, Anglo-Saxon *Cumb*,—derived originally from the Cymric or Welsh *Cwm*,—was either adopted by the Anglo-Saxons from the Britons, or derived by them from the same root, and so imported into England. It means a dingle or cup-shaped valley between hills. *Addiscombe*, anciently spelt *Adge-combe*, *Ege-combe*, and *Adscombe*, is the district lying at the edge or margin of the combe or valley. *Mount-Edgecumbe*, Devon, is synonymous.

COLD HARBOUR.

A farm lying between Waddon and Haling. Many places of this name are found in Germany and in England. Mr. Hyde Clarke in a paper published in vol. vi. of "Notes and Queries," 2nd series, has enumerated about one hundred and fifty, and this list would certainly be doubled on further and closer examination. Surrey has

its full share of Cold Harbours; amongst several others we have one at Croydon; one just over the boundary between Croydon and West Wickham; another at Botley Hill, in Titsey, at about the highest point of the chalk range; another in Bletchingley, on some high ground overlooking the Weald; and another at Lingfield, on what was formerly waste. The road from Brixton to Clapham has also long been known as Coldharbour Lane.

The etymology of this word has long engaged the attention of antiquaries; and amongst others an able and elaborate paper on the subject, by Mr. Cuthbert William Johnson, was published in the first volume of our Society's proceedings. Notwithstanding, however, the learning and labour which have been bestowed on this investigation, no satisfactory result has yet been attained—the name still remains a stumbling-block and reproach to philologists and archæologists.

Mr. Johnson suggests that it may have been formed by prefixing the Celtic word *col* (a head or chief) to the Saxon *herberga* (a military station or resting-place); but besides other and obvious objections to this view, we find that the name frequently occurs in adjoining parishes, and all of these places cannot have been chief or even important military stations.

The conclusion arrived at by Mr. Hyde Clarke in the paper above referred to, and by the several eminent antiquaries whose opinions he quotes, viz., "that the *Cold Harbours* are in Roman stations," even if well founded, would in no way solve the difficulty; but I think that this opinion is not borne out by the facts.

In Surrey and Sussex we find at least forty places known by this name, of which only three or four are found near any Roman station or road.

The Rev. Isaac Taylor, in "Words and Places" (p. 269), suggests that this designation was intended to describe a sort of caravansary, or unfurnished inn by the way-side, for the use of travellers carrying their own provisions and bedding, like the khans and dak-houses in the East: but, amongst other objections to this view,

it may be noticed that the name has long been borne by a place or street in the very heart of the ancient city of London; at Croydon the Cold Harbour is within half a mile of the ancient palace and church; and at Clapham within about the same distance of the village. In neither of these places could a traveller have found himself so far removed from the dwellings of men, as to be obliged to resort for shelter to bare walls. Further, in many, indeed most, places bearing this name, there is not the slightest trace of any kind of building.

It is true that an inn was always esteemed as a harbour or shelter; but all places of harbour or refuge were not necessarily inns. And it seems to me, notwithstanding the inexplicable occurrence of a place so named in the heart of the city of London, that this was a facetious expression,—an ancient sarcasm, intended to describe a place so open to the wind and weather that *no* refuge or shelter was to be found in it,—*lucus a non lucendo*.

In the same way we commonly speak of a *cold welcome*, meaning that the visitor is not at all welcome. *Cold comfort*, again, is a phrase commonly used in several counties to describe anything particularly uncomfortable, and in this sense Shakespeare has used it in the “Taming of the Shrew,” and again in “King John,” whom he represents as reproaching his courtiers,—

“I ask *cold comfort*, and ye are so strait,
And so ungrateful, ye deny me this.”

It is important to notice, that although the name is so common *in* our towns and villages, there is not one town or village in the kingdom that bears it; nor does it once occur in the numerous Anglo-Saxon charters printed in the “Codex Diplomaticus,” nor I think in any other ancient document. May we not infer from this that it is of comparatively recent date,—Old English, not Anglo-Saxon, given long after the country had been divided into towns and villages? This circumstance induces a belief that the name was a *trivial* name, and thus seems to favour the view here stated as to its origin.

THE VICAR'S OAK.

The name given to a tree which anciently stood in Norwood, at a spot at which the boundaries of this and three other parishes meet.

I am unable to discover or suggest any satisfactory explanation of this name. There certainly is no necessary or obvious connection between a vicar and an oak tree. The tree, doubtless, from its position, was a boundary or mark-tree, like the famous Crouch or cross-oak at Chertsey, and in all probability, like that tree, it was marked with a cross. Possibly the country people may in their own minds have connected the sacred symbol with the vicar's functions, and so named the tree after him. The conjecture is vague enough, I allow, but is the only one I have been able to form.

CROHAM.

A manor and farm lying to the south-east of the town (now the estate of the Hospital of the Holy Trinity, in Croydon), comprising the wood known as Croham Hurst, and the valley known as Croham Deane.

I find from the old Court Rolls of the manor (temp. Henry VII.) that the name was then spelt *Crowham*, and it probably had the same origin (whatever that may have been) as *Crowhurst* and *Crowborough*; very probably from having been the resort of rooks, which found shelter in the hanging woods of the Hurst.

The word, however, is sometimes spelt *Cranham*; and if that was the original name, we may well suppose that this spot was in former times frequented by cranes, and derived its name from that circumstance. We know,

that, as lately as the time of Charles II., these birds were found in various localities in very large flocks, and many places in England are named from them; as, *Cranmore* and *Cranham*, and, in this county, *Cranley*.

PIT LAKE.

This name I take to be a corruption of *Pit-lea* or *lea*, the meadow in which was a pit or pool. The change from *lea* to *lake* is very easy. It is hardly possible that a lake or large pool should ever have existed here, or, if it had, that it should take its distinctive name from a pit or pond.

HALING.

This name is to be found, under one form or other, in almost every county in England. Lambarde, when speaking of Halling, in Kent, derives it from *Heal* and *inge*, the wholesome meadow. There seems little ground for accepting this definition, since, under ordinary circumstances, all meadows are equally wholesome. Ducarel, in his "History of Croydon," is disposed to trace it to *halig* and *inge* the holy meadow; but this also seems unsatisfactory.

Rather than adopt either of these derivations, I should prefer to trace this word to *hele* and *ing*, the Hall, or Mansion-house meadow, and this the more readily because there is a tradition mentioned by Gale (on the Itinerary of Antoninus), and also by Camden, that Haling was once the site of a royal residence. It is, however, far more probable that this is an Anglo-Saxon patronymic, and that the place, with several others in England and

in France, takes its name from its having been the residence of some one or more of the family or clan of *Hallings* or *Hallingas*. As to which, see Appendix A to Kemble's "Saxons in England," vol. i., and also "Words and Places," p. 514.

THE MEAR OR MEER BANK.

A narrow bank or baulk lying in the open fields, and dividing the lands in Croydon from those in Beddington. The word is almost pure Anglo-Saxon. It is the *mære* or *gemære*, which occurs so frequently in Saxon charters, signifying the boundary between two estates or towns.

There was also another mear at *Woodside*, formerly known as the *Long Mear*.

WADDON.

The name of this manor and hamlet which it is said (although I know not on what authority) was anciently known as Wodden's, is derived by Ducarel, and some other writers, from that of the heathen deity Woden, and in some vague and unexplained way is connected by them with Haling, assumed to be the holy mead. I think, however, that we must be content to trace this name to a much less illustrious origin. The etymology of Haling is extremely doubtful; and further, it is not near enough to Waddon to warrant us in supposing that any such connection existed as is supposed. The worship of Woden was, as we well know, in great esteem with our pagan forefathers, and many places bear traces if it in the names which they yet retain. It was never

usual, however, in this or any country, to give to any place the very name of the god himself who was there worshipped; some suffix was always added; as, Wanstrow, *Wodnes-treow*; Wansdike, *Wodnes-dic*, &c. Here no such suffix is found, and on that account alone we may safely reject the derivation proposed by Ducarel.

It seems reasonable to trace this name to the Saxon *wæt* and *dene*, the wet or moist valley—a designation which is perfectly applicable even in the present day, a large tract of land here being still known as Waddon Marsh; or it may perhaps equally well be derived from *hwæte-dene*, the valley of wheat or corn.

In support of this last derivation it may be noticed that a place known as *Hwæte Dene*, is mentioned in a charter of Duke Alfred, dated between 871 and 889, No. 317 in the *Cod. Dip.* Mr. Kemble, indeed, has identified this with Wootton, Surrey; but I think in error. Probably he was not aware that there was a manor and hamlet of Waddon in Croydon. Some of the lands granted by this charter are described as being in *Selsdun*; others in *Sanderstede*, and in *Gatton*, and two hides are in *Hwætdene*. Now it is far more probable that the place known by this name was situate in Croydon (the parish which comprises Selsdon and adjoins Sanderstead, and is near to Gatton), rather than at a distance of thirty miles from all those places. At no time would it be convenient for a landowner that his lands should lie so far apart, still less when roads hardly existed, and travelling was both difficult and dangerous.

SELSDON.

Selesdún—Cod. Dip.

The name of this place is thus spelt in the Anglo-Saxon Charter above referred to, being a grant of land in *Selesdun* and *Sonderstede*, and the neighbouring

parishes. The derivation is evidently from *selle* or *sele*, a mansion, and *don* or *dun*. It means the hill upon, or near to which, the dwelling or mansion-house was placed.

SELHURST.

A wood south of the town, once of considerable extent, but now reduced by successive invasions to very small proportions.

The derivation is evidently from *sele* (from which comes our word *cell*) and *hyrst*. It is the wood attached to, or surrounding a mansion or dwelling-place.

SHIRLEY.

From *scyr*, Anglo-Saxon for a boundary (whence our *shire* and *shear* and *share*), and *leah*, a meadow or pasture—the pasture next or near the boundary, which exactly describes the position of this district.

THE WALDRONS.

Anciently spelt *Waldens* and *Wauldens*. The origin of this word is clearly to be attributed to the Anglo-Saxon *weald* or *wild*, uncultivated woodland (such as without doubt the steep hill and valley now known as the Waldrons formerly were), and *dene*, a valley. It was occupied by Sir Nicholas Carew, so late as the reign of Henry VIII., only as a rabbit warren.

BEGGARS' BUSH,

On the chalk down, at the southern extremity of the Mear-bank. Although places of this name are found in so many districts, and especially on chalk hills, its origin seems uncertain. Probably it was intended to denote a tree, or group of trees, under which gipsies, or houseless vagrants, were accustomed to seek shelter alike from storms and rain, and from the sun's heat. I mention the name here, in order to notice its antiquity, as it is found under the title *Beggares thorn* in a charter of Edgar's, dated in 975.—*Cod. Dip.* 687.

BENCHESHAM.

The name of an ancient manor and estate lying to the north of the town; afterwards, and still, known as *Whitehorse*, from one of its former possessors, Walter Whitehorse, the king's shield-bearer. It appears from a chartulary of Rochester, printed in the *Textus Roffensis*, that, soon after the Conquest, the tithes of this manor were given to that monastery, by *Godfrey de Straenbrook*, and this grant was confirmed by successive archbishops, the estate being within their diocese. I have in vain endeavoured to find any satisfactory derivation for this name, and am obliged to conclude that it is taken from that of some former owner.

BIGGIN FARM.

A farm of some extent lying at the foot of Norwood hill. The name, in 1584, was *bygin* farm, and I think may fairly be deduced from the Saxon *bykan*, or *byge* (whence are derived bay and bight), signifying a corner. The farm is situate in the angle, or corner, between the Selhurst wood and the great North wood.

DUPPER'S, OR DUBBER'S HILL—TAINTFIELD.

Mr. C. W. Johnson, in the paper before alluded to, suggests a Celtic origin for these names, deriving the one from the Celtic *tain*, water, and *feld*, a field; and the other from the Celtic *dubadh*, a pond or pool. I cannot readily assent to these derivations. There is not, nor is it likely that there ever was, any pond or pool on Dupper's Hill; and, further, we may, and indeed must, apply to the nomenclature of places the rule that is found so useful in judging of those who dwell in them—*Noscitur a sociis*; and since, as we have seen, almost every ancient name in or near the town may be ascribed to an Anglo-Saxon origin, we are not at liberty, without far stronger reasons than those which have been assigned, to attribute the names in question to an earlier period.

SCAR-BROOK.

A small stream in the centre of the town, giving its name to the hill at the foot of which it issues.

Garrow derives this name from *Scar*, a steep or craggy hill; but, as I think, erroneously. *Scar* is not a Saxon word, and the hill is neither steep nor craggy. I prefer to trace the name from the Saxon *scir*, clear or pure, which would apply with truth to the former character of this spring.

THE WARPLE WAY.

It appears from the Court Rolls of the Manor that, in 1593, certain persons dwelling in Benchesham were amerced, for obstructing and inclosing an ancient way leading through the lord's land there, and known as the *Warple-way*. I have been unable to trace the etymology; but the word is evidently the same as is used in Sussex to denote a bridle-way, and in that county is usually spelt *Whapple-way*.

The following names speak so plainly for themselves as only to require a passing notice:—

Norwood, the north wood. *Woodside*, the district lying between Selhurst wood and Norwood. *Norbury*, the north bury or mansion. *Collyer's water*, probably the pool resorted to by colliers or charcoal-burners (who formerly abounded in Croydon). *Ham farm*, formerly *Escheam* or *Estham*, the east homestead—a manor and

estate lying at the eastern extremity of the parish, towards Beckenham, formerly the estate of Sir Thomas Walsingham. The *Hermitage* near Streatham, formerly known as the *Armytage*, doubtless so named from its having been the dwelling-place of one of these anchorites who were accustomed, before the Reformation, to take up their abodes near to some large village or town.

There are several other manors and estates in Croydon bearing names, as to the origin of which I have been unable to form any well-founded opinion. Nevertheless it seems proper to record them here, as some of my readers may perhaps succeed in finding a meaning for them. These are *Dagnall's*; *Passemores*; *Strowd-green*; *Pump pail*, formerly written *Pompe parle* and *Pumpe prile*; *Tyle-hurst*, or *Palmers*. The two first probably take their names from former owners.

It appears from the minutes or rolls of the Courts Leet, of which an unbroken series from the year 1584 is preserved (and for the use of which I am indebted to Mr. William Drummond), and also from the old court-rolls of the manor of Croham, that various estates or lands were formerly known by names which are now quite obsolete. Amongst these we find *Ang-herst*, the narrow, or rough and difficult wood. *Nep-crofte*, probably from *knipan*, to denote the sloping or inclining croft. *Blakeden*, the black valley. *Smith-haughe*, or *hawe*, possibly the same as *Smitham*. The *Trendle*, obviously from the Saxon *trendl* (whence our word *trundle*), to describe an oval or circular piece of ground.

In addition to these we find *Allards*, *Allenor's Grove*, *Ballookeden*, *Cangle-mead*, *Chitche-grove*, *Chaddeslewe*, or *Chaddes-lieu*, near to Streatham; the *Claye*, *dore-hawe* (possibly derived from *dor*, a gate, and *hawe*, a farm-yard); the *gosse*; the *hoke*; *hellfield*; in pleasing contrast to which name we have also *Christian field*, near to Streatham; *Theilverdine's coppice*; *Quasshe field* (perhaps a corruption of *quice* or *cwice*, twitch grass); *Skrevens*, *Titsands* and *Nether-titsands*; *Fickett-field*; and (in Selsdon) *Kingswood*.