ANCIENT DORSET.[1]

By WILLIAM BARNES, B.D.

At a gathering of the learned in the olden life of Britain and England, although a man may have but little to cast into the great store of their knowledge, yet his little may be so far of a kind that others have overlooked, that it may be as welcome as would be much more of the kind of which others are full. I can lay before you only such additions to the early history of Dorset as may be gathered from the writings and languages of the three races—Roman, Briton, and Saxon;—and I have taken up for my inquiry the time at which the Saxon-English and British were meeting in Wessex, and therefore in Dorset. It is the fashion to mistrust the early traditions of the British and English peoples. We are no longer, it seems, to have a King Arthur, and unless we hold fast King Alfred, I fear that even he may be wrested from us; but, whereas there is a tendency to take early writings to be all false till they can be proved true, I would hold them to be all true till they are shown to be false. I am ready to believe in every triad and triban, and can see by other lights that many of them must be trustworthy. We learn something of the Britons from the Romans, and if we would believe, as I think Dr. Guest believes, in the old British writings, we might win, as he has already won, a further insight into the British times of our land.

It may be worth while to observe that the Romans, in their Itineraries and other writings on Britain, took the names of places and men from British lips, and then moulded them into a Latin shape, so as to fit them to their language and their utterance. Caswellawn became, with the Romans, Cassibelaunus; Bran, Brennus; Byddic (whose name, like that of our beloved Queen, was Victoria), Boadicea; Gwent, Venta; Gwenydd, Venetia. Now, if we could learn into what Roman clippings the British ones were turned, we might, conversely, resolve the Roman names into British words,

[1] Communicated to the Historical Section at the annual meeting of the Institute held at Dorchester, and read August 2, 1865.

which would help us to settle some of the Stations of the Roman Itinera. From some tables that I have gathered, I find that the British Gw or W became mostly a Roman V, or sometimes a B. Then conversely, if I take, for instance, the name Durobernium, and turn the b into gw, I shall bring out Dwr gwern or Dwr wern, "the Swamp or Moor water." Thence, wherever might have been the station Durobernium, I think it was by some moor or swamp. So again if I take Durnovaria (the Roman name of Dorchester), and turn the v into w or gw, I have Dwrn or Dwrinwyr—the Dwrin people or district; Durn (Dwrin) being the British name of the head town or district of Dorset. The men of Dorset, or of its mother town, are called by Ptolemy, and also by some Latin writers, Durotriges, *i.e.*, waterside dwellers, from the British Dwr, water, and trigo, to dwell; not because their whole shire had a seaboard, but because the head-quarters of the tribe were on water. Dorset men of the whole county are no more waterside dwellers than are those of any sea-touching shire of Britain. Ptolemy, the geographer of Alexandria under Trajan, Hadrian, and Antoninus Pius, after speaking of the Regni and Belgæ, says: "Τούτων δ' ἀπὸ δυσμῶν καὶ μεσημβρίας Δουρότριγες, ἐν οἷς πόλις Δούνιον" (after these, on the west and south, Durotriges, among whom is a town Dúnion). Camden cites the various reading Durnium,[2] but Richard of Cirencester says their capital was Durinum, and that he is right is betokened by forms of the word Durin with other writers, Roman, Briton, or Saxon. The Roman Station in Dorset, Dorchester, was called *Durnovaria*, which, by the rule of word-mutation already given, would be the British Dwrinwyr, the men of Dwrin, *i.e.*, the *castra* of the Dwrin men. Asser says that the district of Dorset was called in British Durn-gueis, in modern Welsh spelling Dwrin-gwys, *i.e.*, the Dwrin district, but in Saxon, Thornsaetta, or as another Saxon writer gives it, Dornsaetta, *i.e.*, the Dorn or Dwrin settlement, from which, by the outdropping of the n before s (as in Greek), we have Dor-saetta, Dorset; and in several Saxon charters, quoted for me by Mr. H. Moule, Dorchester is called—

(1) Dornwara ceaster, the Dwrin people camp, ceaster meaning the Roman *castra*, a proof that the Roman Durno-

[2] "Ptolomæo pro exemplarium varietate *Durnium* et *Dunium* falso nominari videtur."—Camd. Brit., Dorsetshire, p. 155; edit. 1607.

varia was the British Dwrinwyr, for the British gwyr, men, was of the same meaning as the Saxon wara in other names, as in Cantwara, the Kent people; Burhwara, the town-people; Wihtwara, the Isle of Wight people.

(2) It is called Dornmere ceaster, that is, the Dwrin-mere-castra, or the ceaster of the Dwrin-mere—lake or pool.

(3) Dorne ceaster.

(4) Dorca ceasteria.

(5) Dornwarana ceaster, the ceaster of the Dwrin people; warana being the genitive form of wara.

And, lastly, Dorset is called Dornsetan, and Dorsetan.

But what and where was Dwrn or Dwrin? Y Dwrin means, in British, the Little water; but the Durotriges were called also Morini, and y Môrin is "the Little Sea;" which little water or little sea is, I think, the Poole water reaching up to Wareham (which, I believe, was the capital of the Durotriges, and it was a place of note in the Saxon times), and might be the Dwrin from which Dorset took its name: while the Roman *castra* among the Dwrinwyr, or Dwrin people, was called Durnovaria, *i.e.*, the station of the Dwrinwyr.

I have observed that one of the names of Dorchester, in the Saxon-English charters, is *Dorn-mere-ceäster*, the ceäster of the *Dwrinmere*, lake or pool; and we know that the town of Poole takes its name from the pool, or from a pool; and, that such a piece of water might be called a little sea, we have a proof in *Mor-bihan*, which in Welsh spelling would be *Môr-bychan*, "the Little Sea," in Brittany.

There is yet in Dorchester a street, leading east to the old Wareham Road, called *Durnlane* or *Durngate Street*, and there is a farm at *Durnford*, near Langton Matravers, in Purbeck; there is also in that neighbourhood a fine length of old road-hollow; and Durnford may have taken its name from a road to Wareham, as a Durnford near Salisbury may be on a British road into Dorset. That states should take the names of their capitals is no wonder to those who think only of Athens or New York.

There are in the Church of St. Mary, at Wareham, some incised stones, which, I believe, will bear on the question of *Dwrin*, as I hold that they were stones of a British church. They have been preserved within the walls of old English buildings; and some of them are flat-faced, while others are

monumental stones of geometrical forms. They were found in the walls of the old nave at its demolition in 1841, and the flat-faced ones were built into the new walls, while the monumental stones were placed, where they now lie, in the chapel or crypt, called Edward's Chapel. The letters are those of the Welsh monumental or later Bardic alphabet, (not the *coelbren* letters of the Bardic rods,) or those of the Cadvan stone, such as are given in the ancient Welsh grammar of Edeyrn Davodaur, compiled in the thirteenth century, and printed by the Welsh MS. Society in 1856; and such as the *fac simile* of a MS. of a Bardic triban or triplet of the end of the eighth century, as given by Villemarqué in his "Bardes Bretons." A fragment of a monumental stone, which was about ten inches in diameter, bears the inscription ENNIEL F.... at which last letter the stone is broken off; it is as clear that *Enniel* is not an *English* name or word as it is that it has a British form, *anial*, wild, or *enwol*, namy, famous. The dressing of the monumental stones, although their forms are true, is rough; as if it were rather the work of a hammer than of a chisel and mallet. The old incised stones in Wareham church are—one under the tower near the south porch; one measuring 28 inches by 12, which seems to have been a door-jamb; one in the north aisle, 19 inches by 8; another, 44 inches by 12 inches, inverted in the wall of the north aisle; a monumental stone of four faces with carved triangles, 22 inches high and 10 inches in diameter; and another 2 feet high and 10 inches in diameter. Some writers, as Baxter and Stukeley, have taken the walls of Wareham to be a Roman work, and Wareham, therefore, to be a *castrum*. Now the Saxon-English settled in England so near the time of the withdrawing of the Roman legions, that they found their *castra* with many, if not with the most, of their marks of Roman life and handiwork, and, from Manchester down to Dorchester, have marked the Roman *castra* by the word ceäster, now chester; and yet, although they must have known Wareham as early as Dorchester, and took it as their Dorset haven, they did not call it a ceäster, but took it only as a 'Wareham' Mound-Inclosure. I do not know that the spade reaches, at Wareham, any tessellated pavement, or turns up such Roman remains as betoken a long holden abode; nor are the walls quite up to the Roman plan in straightness or squareness of form. Without doubt the

Romans knew Wareham, and it would be interesting to find how they reached their station at Dorchester; whether they landed at Wareham (then a Dorset port), or whether they marched down from Kent or London by the xvith Iter. A British trackway, as it is believed to be, leads out of the west gate of Wareham, and that gate, like the east gateway, is still called a port—West port,—East port. Oh! the Latin scholar will say, *port* is the Roman *porta*. No, I would answer, *Porta* and *Porth* are not mother and daughter words, but sisters. The British *porth* is a passage, a ferry, gate (*porta*), and port (haven). In the Welsh version of St. Matt. vii. 13, we read—"ehang yw'r porth, a llydan yw'r ffordd" —"Wide is the gate, and broad is the way." It is true that the word port was not unknown to the Saxon-English, but in Matt. vii. 13, it is our Dorset word geät.

If we eliminate the Roman claim for the earthworks (walls) of Wareham, must we allow a Saxon-English one? I think not. Against whom should the Saxons have formed them? Against the Britons or the Danes? I know of no grounds for a belief that the Saxons made earth-mounded strongholds against the Britons. What, if they did cast up such earthworks, did they call them? The most likely word would be *burh* or *burh-faestan;* but I cannot recall any account, in Saxon-English law or history, of the forming of a war *burh*.

That the Saxon-English cast up the walls of Wareham against the Danes is unlikely, to my mind, as the Saxon Chronicle tells us that Bertric, who died before the inroads of the Danes, was buried at *Wareham*, then so called; a proof,—since Wareham means the Mound-Inclosure or Defence—that it was then surrounded by its walls. The stem form, *h*m*, as in *ham*, means something of inclosing or surrounding, either lineally or superficially. A *ham*, as the name of a field, is an early inclosure, as distinct from open lands, and a man's *home* was his inclosure; *ham* and *hamel* (a secondary form), are applied to British earthworks, at *Hamdon Hill*, in Somerset, and *Hameldon Hill* in Dorset. *Hambles*, in old English, is an inclosed haven, and *hemmel*, in south English, is a fold or a hovel; as himmel, the sky, in German, is the Great Inclosure. A hem is an inclosure, or rim of cloth; and a hamper is an inclosed basket. I hold, therefore, that Wareham has been mound-girt as long as it has been called Wareham.

Some words of Asser have been read so far otherwise than as I understand them, as to seem to have shown that Wareham was unwalled in A.D. 876, when, as he says, the Danes came into a castle called Wareham; as if the castle (*castellum*) were a stone castle in Wareham; whereas he says that the castle was Wareham; so that we understand him to speak of Wareham as a *castellum*, the diminutive of *castrum*, with the old meaning of an earthwork.

The early history of English Dorset is bound in with that of the settlements of Wessex under Cerdic and Cynric, in the year 495. The first settlers landed in Hampshire, and, within about six years, in 501, others seem to have taken a footing at Portsmouth (Portesmutha), where, according to the Saxon Chronicle, was slain a young British man of high nobility. I hold, with Villemarqué, that we have another account of the battle of Portsmouth and of the death of the young Briton, in a poem of Llywarch Hèn, the British bard, on the death of Geraint the son of Erbin—"(Marwnad Geraint ab Erbin)"—a prince of Devon or Cornwall (Dyvnaint), and therefore a young British man of high nobility. The battle was fought at *Llongborth*, *Llongporth*, and, as Villemarqué observes, Llongporth means in all the Celtic speech-forms (Portesmutha), the mouth of the haven; *Llong*, an opening, a passage, gullet, throat, and *porth*, a port or inlet, or ferry-water. The belief that Llongborth was Langport in Somerset seems to be ill grounded, since the Wessex settlements began in Hampshire, and spread slowly to the west; so that to think that the English were fighting in Somerset, when they first landed, is much like holding that, when the early English settlements were made in New England, the emigrants fought with the Indians far down in the west of North America. The youth of Geraint seems to be shown by the bard in one of the verses of the poem, in which he is called the great son of his father, "Mawr mab ei dad," as if his father were still alive.

In 519, "Cerdic and Cynric West Seaxena rice onfengon" formed the settlement into a state, as we have done in Australia and at the Cape in Africa, and took Wight the Island; Ynys Gwith? the Channel Island? 552. Cynric was making his westward way in a battle at Salisbury. 577. Ceawlin took from the Britons Bath, with Gloucester and Cirencester. In 643. Winchester was in English hands, as a

church was built there by Cenwalh. In 652 and in 654 he was taking a footing at Bradford on the Avon, and in 658 he fought with the British at Pen (Pendomer, near Crewkerne), and drove them to *Pedridan* or the Parret; "Cenwalh gefeat aet Peonnum with weallas, and hy geflymde oth Pedridan." 688. Ine (Ina), king of Wessex, built a church at Glastonbury, as his sister Cuthburh founded a minster at Wimborne: so that the Dwrinwyr (Durnovaria) had, ere his time, come fully into English hands. It seems that the upper Axe (Esk) and the Parret were for a long time the understood boundary between the Saxon-English settlers and the British, and I think it might then have taken the name of the Parret or *Pedred-an*, for *Parwyd* (Cornoak, *Paruet*), means in British a partition or boundary, as does also *Pared*, a wall; but whence came the *d* in Pedred? It is markworthy that in Cornoak British, or Celtic Cornish, a *d* is found before a liquid of a Welsh word, as *pedn* for *pen*, a head; and, if the Cornoak was the British of Somerset, then Pared or Parwyd, or Parwet would become Padred or Padrewyd, or Padret (as Banbury would become Badanbyrig), now Badbury in Dorset. I think the Parret might, at one time, have been called the Tôn, 'yr Avon Tôn,' 'The wave-river,' which is now the name of a branch of it at Taunton (Tôntûn), from the bore or tide-wave that, at times, flows up it. The West Saxon settlements spread slowly down through Hants, Wilts, Dorset, and Somerset, and might have reached the Axe and Parret about the time of Ceawlin, in 577.

I have smiled at the historical truth of the nursery rhyme—

> "I went to Taffy's house, and Taffy wasn't at home.
> Taffy came to my house and stole a marrow bone."

Since, whether the frontier of the English and Welsh were the Parret, Offa's dyke, or the Severn, it might happen that a raid would be made by the Saxon-English into British ground, while the British would steal over the border elsewhere, and take off not one marrow-bone, but all the marrow bones of all such cattle as they could sweep away.

I hold that the Saxon-English and British people were much mingled in Dorset, and that ethnologists are right in their opinion that we Dorset men have much Celtic blood. In the first place the presence of Britons among the English

in Wessex is shown by the laws of Ina, King of Wessex, who took his kingdom in A.D. 688. One of his laws is "Wealh gafogylda hund twelftig scill. His sunu hund; ned theowne sextig scill; somhwylcne mid fiftegum. Weales hyde mid twelfum. Wealh gif he hafth fif hyda he bith syx hynde," *i.e.*, "A Welshman, a Scotpayer, is rated for his were at 120 shillings; his son 100; a servant 60 shillings, sometimes at 50; a Welshman's skin at 12. A Welshman, if he hath five hides, he is a six-hundred man." Now it must not be holden that the law means, by Weälas, Welshmen, Cymru of Wales; as Weälas means men of another kindred, and the Britons of Lloegr, or England Proper, are called Weällas in the Saxon Chronicle. "Ceolwulf feäht with Weälhas" (Britons), it says. "Cenwalh gefeäht with Weälhas." "Cuthred gewon (strove) with Weälhas," &c. Here the British Scotpayer stood with an unfree as 120 to 60, or twice as high; and if a law was made, as a law was made, for a British landowner, we must believe that there were British landholders in Wessex in the time of Ina. It may be thought that the law was looking to a Briton who might be a landowner farther westward, under British law; an opinion that would seem ill-grounded, since, under Welsh law, land was not holden by hides, and by five hides, though the hide was a well-known holding under English law. Again, another law shows the presence of Britons, as of the lower landholding class, and of landless, but seemingly free, Britons. "If a Welshman has a hide of land his were is 120 shillings; if he has half, 80 shillings; if he has none, 60 shillings." In another case the Briton and Englishman were treated much alike. "If an Englishman steal he goes forth to acquittal by twofold, *i.e.*, 120 hides of land. If he be British he is not compelled to more." Another law was that if a British Theow should kill a free Englishman, his master should give him up to the lord, or the dead man's kindred could set him free, or buy him off, with 60 shillings. We can see then, by the laws of King Ina, that about 180 years after the beginning of the settlement of Wessex, Britons of sundry ranks were living among the English of West Saxony, and therefore in Dorset. Most likely English and British were in many places living side by side as neighbours, with many wedded pairs of the two races, and with English and British children mingled in their play. It may be said, but

were not the English and British deadly foes? to which I would answer, the foeship of English settlers and Britons was most likely much as has been that of Englishmen and Maories in New Zealand. They were friendly in the times between one land-quarrel and another. I believe that the old Britons thought, as thought a Welshman, who once said to me, "The Saxon is an encroaching fellow;" on the other side the Saxon might deem, with the writer of the life of Guthlac, the hermit of Crowland, that the English were greatly wronged if the Weälhas fought to keep their footing against them.

The mingling of English and British households, in Wessex, shows us how we have brought down to our time so many British names of little outstep, and never widely-known places; and, conversely, such names would show that the two races were for a long time so mingled that the Englishman could take the name of a stream, a dell, or a knap, from British lips, as he could not have learnt it where not one of the old British dwellers of his neighbourhood had remained. A friend of mine once said to me, near Wool, "Do you know the name of that knap?" No. "It is Young Creech." We could see that it was a small hill, but we did not think it much younger than the bigger ones, and why was it called Young or Creech? Now, a creeg, Welsh; creek, old British; is a knap, hillock, or great mound. The g and d of modern Welsh were k and t in the older British, and, what is more to our purpose, in the Cornoak, or old British of the West of England.

Welsh—	caradoc.....	*Old Brit.*—	caratoc.
,,	crug (creeg).	*Cornoak* —	cruk (creek).
,,	blaidd (wolf)	,,	bleit.
,,	coed..... ..	,,	cuit.....*Old. Brit.*—coit.
,,	llygad	,,	lagat.

K, in late English, is tch; thence, in British law, the Sessions-mound or Court-mound was "y crug y gorsedd," from *sedd*, a seat or sitting, and *gor*, high; and I believe the West English places with the name of Creech can show a creek, a hillock, or big mound; as Creech Knowle (a double name, for a knowl is a creech), Creech St. Michael (which means St. Michael's Mount); Evercreech; Critchhill; but *eang* is big, and *Eang Creech* (Young Creech) is the big hillock or mound.

I might here, in speaking of the British people, caution

antiquaries against the too hasty conclusion that bits of charcoal found thinly scattered in the up-dug soil must be traces of body-cremation; as among the British, as early, at least, as the sixth century, a fire was kindled in March to clear the ground of scrub and other such growth. It was called *Tan Goddaith*, the Scrub fire, or *Tan mawr*, the Great fire. By the laws of Hoel Dda a fine was set for the kindling of the scrub-fire at any other time than between the middle of March and the middle of April; and that the scrub-fire was in use in the sixth century is shown by a line of a poem of Llywarch Hên, who says that the onset of the men was like the scrub-fire on the hill, "Rhuthr goddaith ar ddefaith vynydd."

Liscombe, by Milton Abbas, may be Llus'cwm, Bilberry-hollow. At Mapperton, near Beaminster, is a deep pitlike hollow, or dell, called the Mithe, and a meethe, *midd* in British, is an enclosed place or pit. The British name of Shaftesbury is said to have been Mount Palladore, Caer Paladr, or Peledr. Paladr is a shaft, stake, or stem; and most likely, as it was a stronghold by the well-timbered Vale of Blackmore, it was a stockade; Caer Paladr, the stake or stockade fastness, which the English seem to have translated in Sceaftesbyrig, Shaftesbury. I know it may be said that place names are very unsafe ground, as they are mostly taken by wild casts of thought; but the truth is that they are more or less trustworthy, as they are taken upon wider or narrower grounds of speechlore. He that handles them with a knowledge of only either British or Saxon-English, without the other speech of the two, is open to great mistakes; and the Latin and Greek scholar, without Teutonic learning, is still more likely to go wrong. Many places bear deceptive names, that have meanings, as taken both as Saxon-English and British; and one of them may be chosen before the other, on the known truths of the place, and a plain understanding of its fittingness; thus Radipol may be the English—Reedy Pool, or the British—Rhedig-Pol, the Flowing Pool. Another good caution for a wide ground of truth is, that, if the name of a place bears a meaning which befits it, it should befit other places of the same name. If a Saxon-English scholar should know only one Hinton, Hinton St. Mary, on high ground, he might cry, oh! Hinton is Heäntûn (High-tûn), but it would behove him to see how far this name would suit Hinton Martel, Hinton Amper (Hants), Hinton Parva (Wilts), and Hinton St. George (Somerset). If they are not Heäntûnes we must

give up Heäntûn as the name of either of them. Again, we may sometimes get some light on the history of places from a referential name, as Newton, Newtûn, which implies an old tûn (eäldtûn). Sturminster is the old tûn to Newton, at Sturminster Newton; but where is the eäldtûn to Buckland Newton? I think it is Eal'tûn, *Alton* Pancras, the next parish.

Gorwell is a deceptive name, as it may be the Saxon-English *Gor-well*, the muddy spring-head, or the British *Gor-well*, the high view.

I hold that *Ford*, in many names of places in Dorset, is a British and not an English word (Cornoak, fford), and that it means, as it does in Welsh, a road, though we have rather confined it to a road through a stream. I do not think, however, that it could ever have meant water or a stream. In Welsh we hear—"A ydyw y ffordd yn ddá?"—Is the road good? and we have in Dorset very many places marked by the word *ford*—Sherford, Canford, Organford, Sandford, Milford, Longford, Thornford, Redford, Bradford, Heniford, Harford, Poford, Fittleford, Ockford, Enford, Hanford, Blandford, Winford, Muckleford, Bradford, Wrackleford, Stafford, Stinsford, Woodsford, Pipsford (Corscombe), Filford, Watford (Netherbury), Stokeford, Durnford. Now this word ford was not on our forefathers' lips till they came to Britain; I cannot find it in any Holstein or Friesic writings or word-books, nor in the names of places in the old land of the Saxon-English; and therefore hold that it is the British fordd or ford, a way, and that a British road went over our streams at every so-called ford; and with this faith we may make some more discoveries of British abodes and intercourse. Many of our deep-sunk old roads, pack-saddle ways and lanes, were, I think, the British roads, though, at the making of the turnpikes, some of them, wholly, or in lengths, were abandoned for so-thought better lines. These roads were made by and not for travelling, and on some slopes of rather soft soil were worn and washed out into hollows of a depth that bespeaks ages upon ages of use. Interesting portions of such road may be seen at Burton, half-a-mile from Dorchester, on the west side of the Sherborne turnpike, also by the west end of Poundbury and the paddock next to it. A piece appears at Came Rectory, and may be traced through the corner of Came Park to Cook's Hollow, in Whitcombe, and so to Littlemayne. There is a

remarkable road-hollow coming westward out of Wareham, and another near Langton, in Purbeck. I know of one that is yet a halter-road, hedged in, near Sturminster Newton, and if the hedges were cleared away it would show itself as a deep hollow, but I do not feel that it has been worn an inch deeper in my time.

Some of the ford-names seem to be wholly British, as Canford, the White-road; and I am not sure that *Organ-ford* is not Organ-ffordd, the White-sided road, as *can* becomes *gan* in composition, and so *orcan* becomes *organ*. Blandford, Blaenford, the front of the ford. Dibberford is plain British for a saddle-road, or pack-saddle-road; Dibber being Welsh and Cornoak for a saddle.

Some part, if not the whole, of the still well-timbered and formerly fully-wooded vale of Blackmore was called, by the Saxon-English, Selwood or Silwood, Selwudu, which means the continuous on-reaching, or, as Asser says, the great wood, in British coed-mawr, or, as he writes it, coit-mawr, as Silchester, Selceaster, may mean the great ceaster; and Ethelwerd says that the bishopric of Sherborne was the province which was then called Selwoodshire.

The element *sel* or *sil* is found possibly in the Dorset name of the *houseleek*, which is silgreen—continuously green.

The only name-traces of *Selwood* are now, Frome Selwood, on the west, and Pen Zellwood on the north.

The element *borne*, *bourne*, or *burn*, of many Dorset place-names, means primarily a water-spring, or spring-head; and then a brook rising from a spring-head. A collection of poems by Groth, the Holstein poet, is called the "Quickborn," that is, the Fresh spring. Among our *bornes* are, Winterbourne, Wimbourne; Cranborne, the Cranebrook; Chiselbourne, the Pebble, or Gravel brook; Oborne, &c.

Erne, which is an element in Dorset names, means a place or abode. In Alfred's Laws of Sanctuary, it is said, that if the people want their church, to which a man may have fled, they shall keep him in another place, "on othram aerne." Our *aernes* are Arne, Ewerne, Mintern, and Pimpern; in Wilts is Potterne, and in Somerset, Crewkerne.

Knowl, *knoll*, is another element of some of our place-names, and means a knob-like, or head-like, hill, as in Knowle, Chetnole, Hincknowle, Puncknowle, etc.

Wyke, *wick*, is a bend or bight, as in a shore, or river, or

among hills. We have several wykes and some wicks, as Swanwick, Shapwick, Butterwick, Witchhampton.

Comb, in place-names, is the British *cwm*, a hollow, and a word not brought by the English from Holstein and Sleswick, where they had few hollows, and I think no places marked by the name *comb*; some of our comb-names seem to be wholly British, as Liscomb (Milton Abbas); Lluscwm, Bilberry-hollow; Melcombe (Moelcwm), Barehill-bottom; Corscombe, Bog-hollow or Moor-hollow; Chilcombe (Cilcwm)—corner or recess bottom.

Mel, as an element of names in Dorset, is, I believe, the British moel, Cornoak moal, and means a bald or bare hill—a hill that was bald or bare in British times, though now it may be wooded by a plantation. Some instances of it are Melbury, near Shaftesbury, Melbury Bubb, and Bubb Down is most likely the mel, for bubb in English is a round bunch—as in the words ear-bob, bubbies, bubble. Melcombe Bingham, where, though the Binghams are of long standing, Melcwm is older than the Binghams. Fontmell is a village under Melbury, and is most likely the Cornoak an Funt, or Funten an mel, in Welsh y ffynnon y moel—the spring or brook of the Mel, or bare hill; and Arishmel is a spot by a moel, and very small stream. It may be the Cornoak an moal ar esk; in Welsh, y moel ar wysg, ar ish mel.

Dorset shows many of the British earthworks, caerau, or burys, as we have called them. Hutchins supposes some British caerau to have been Roman *castra*, though the Roman camp is pretty clearly off-marked from the British by a difference of form. The Roman *castra*, as is shown by Polybius on Roman castrametation, and by known Roman camps, were of straight lines and angles; whereas the British caer mostly followed the line of the hill-brow; and there is a British element in some of our names of earthworks: as Banbury (Blackmore), Ban, high, a prominence; Cadbury, from cadw, to keep, and cad, a battle. We need not believe that the dykes of Britain were cast up only as ramparts against the inroads of foes of another kindred. A law of Hoel Dda shows that Offa's dyke was taken as an understood boundary of jurisdiction for the sake of peace. It ordains that if outcomers of another kindred shall have gone from their lords before they shall have become owners, they shall leave half of their goods. If they shall have been born on the island, as

Englishmen, they shall not stay within Offa's dyke; *i.e.*, shall go back under English law. If they should have been born over sea, they were not to stay after they had met with a ship and a fair wind for their own land, and not to go into England to breed quarrels between the two governments.

Cor is an element of some place-names in the west, and I take it for the British côr, a circle, or ring. A côr, or ring, as an earthwork, differs from a caer or bury, both as it was a ring, and as it was for gatherings in peace; whereas the caer or cader, from cadw, to keep or hold, to fight, is a stronghold. There is a Corton near Hinton Martel, and I think, with a circle or côr; Corton Denham, near Pointington, has a côr; Corhampton, Hants; Corton, Wilts; Corton, Suffolk, may be so called from British rings. The côr, ring, answers to the "round" in Cornwall, where, in the time of the Cornoak speech, were performed the "chware mercl," or holy plays, of some of which we have still copies. On Hamdon Hill, in Somerset, there is a small côr within the caer; it is called the Frying-pan, from its shape.

I hardly know the difference as to use between the côr and the camp, also a British ring. The camp (circle), game, or campfa, might have been for such gatherings as manly games (gwrolgampau), and the côr for law meetings, or courts, or bardic teachings; though the sitting-place of the bard was mostly called the Gwyddva, place of appearance, and his mound or bench the crug y gorsedd.

We have in Dorset, as have other counties, streams with British names. We do not own an Avon, which means a river, but we have a Way (Wi, Gwy, water), and on it Upway, and Weymouth; the Lyddan, Llydan, broad; the Alaun, Allen, Alaw? waterlily? Cawndle, Cawndell, means just what it is, a reed-grass or sedge channel. We have some hill-names, which are British words for sundry kinds of hill forms—Creech, Crug, Cruk; Bryn, Bran, a height;—Pen, a head or head-like hill, as Pen Zellwood, Somerset, Pen Domer, Pen, Yeovil; Ponc, a hillock, tump, cone, as Puncknowle, which is a double name, British and English, as the Ponc is the knoll; Tout, Toot, I think is a peak, as in Nettlecombe Tout, Cleve Toot, Somerset.

Saxon-English names.—Bere is the name of several places in Dorset, and a Bere is a bunching up or bedding up together, as in the meaning of our word bed, a bed or bunch of something to lie on, whence bier; or a bere or bed of withies, brambles, or underwood, and thence Beer Hacket, Bere Regis, Tod-ber(e), or Fox-copse, and Bag-ber(e). Stoke, or Stock, I think means a rising or up-sloping of the ground, and my purpose in giving this opinion is that others may either confirm or refute it from their own knowledge of places with that name. It is true of Stoke-Wake in Dorset, Stoke-under-Hamdon in Somerset, and East-Stoke, between Dorchester and Wareham. Is it also true of Stoke Abbas, Stock-Gaylard, Burstock (Beaminster), Burton Bradstock, Cattistock, or Chardstock? Chesel, ceosel, Saxon-English; German, kiesel, is a flint or pebble, whence Chesilborne, Chesil Beach, and also a carpenter's chisel, a name brought down possibly from the stone-age of our Teutonic tribe, when a chisel was a chesil. Flint, from flean, the old English for an arrow, is the arrow-stone.

I think it may be worth while to state a fact or two of the very common ending of place-names in Wessex, ton, tûn. A tûn was an inclosure, or inclosed farmstead of the early English landholder, and now to *tine* ground means, in Dorset, to infence it. Where an *s* comes before the tûn or ton it affords fair ground for taking the former part of the name as that of an old landholder; as Herringston, the farmstead of the Herings. Some of our Dorset names show something of the settlements of the Saxon-English kindreds, since they afford names that are known or credible as Saxon-English, or such as are still known in Friesland, and given as Friesic names in Oatzen's Friesic Glossary, such as the following—

Tribe.		Stock.	Name.	Place.
		Saxon.	Friesian.	
The Allings	of the house of	Ælla	—	in Allington.
„ Bofings	„	Beof, or Bufa	—	„ Bovington.
„ Ceadings	„	Cead, or Chad.	—	„ Cheddington
„ Gealings	„	Geal.	—	„ Gillingham.
„ Lillings	„	Lille.	Lulle.	„ Lillington.
„ Mannings	„	Manna.	Manno.	„ Mannington.
„ Nottings	„	Cnotta (?)	—	„ Nottington.
„ Osmings „ Osmundings	„	Osmund.	—	„ Osmington.
„ Pealings	—	—	Palle.	„ Pallington.
„ Rollings	—	—	Rollo.	„ Rollington.
„ Scealings	—	Sceal	—	„ Shillingston.

The *Fordings* of *Fordington* were, I think, so called as the people of the ford.

We have other traces of Saxon-English landowners; such as—

Saxon Name.	Friesian Name.	Place.
Earm.	—	In Armswell.
Bardolf.	—	„ Bardolfston.
Æpelhelm.	—	„ Athelhelmston, or Athelhamston.
Bloca.	—	„ Bloxworth.
Ceam.	—	„ Camesworth.
Eadmund.	—	„ Edmondsham.
Gódman.	—	„ Godmanston.
—	Grim.	„ Grimston.
—	Hemme.	„ Hemsworth.
—	Hare.	„ Herston.
—	Kay, or Key.	„ Keysworth.
Manna.	Manno.	„ Manston.
Peal, or Palla.	Palle.	„ Pelsham.
Poca, or Poce.	—	„ Poxwell.
Porta.	—	„ Portisham.
Ramp, or Remp.	—	„ Rampisham.
Rean.	Ranne.	„ Ranston.

Worth, or Weorth, is a place-name which has been said to mean land, farm, abode, way. Tacitus says that a tribe of Frieses, the Cauci, Kauki, living in the low lands, dwelt on high patches of ground, tumuli, the Friesic name of which is, I believe, *kauchen*, though in the wordstore to the poems of Groth, the Holstein poet, Worth is given as the name, in Ditmarsh, of the upcast hillock on which the houses or villages have been built; whence the names of Holstein villages—Ammersworth, Busenworth, Trennenworth, Darenworth; and it would be worth while to enquire whether the high ground has given names to our places—Bloxworth, Lulworth, Bingham's Worth, Turnworth, Camesworth near Beaminster, Emsworth, and Hamworthy. *Huish* is a name of many places in Dorset and other counties of Wessex. Huish Hiwisce means a household—abode of a household. In a poem in the old continental Saxon we read of Jacob going into Egypt:—

"Thô giwêt im oc mid is hiwisca."

Then went he with his household.

I do not think that Portland is so called as the haven-land, or land with a port of our meaning. The port of Portland is, I believe (y Porth), with the meaning of ferry, the ferry-

land—(Tir y porth). But who are the Portlanders? Were they English or Northmen who settled on the island before the English settlements had as yet fully spread down through Dorset? They call a child of a Portland woman mated to a mainlander, and I believe a mainlander also, a *Kimberling*, and have been unwilling to give their daughters to the Dorset foreigners: a token of a difference of race. But what means Kimberling? *Ling* is an offspring or descendant, and *kimber* may be *Cymru*, British.

The old customs of the Portlanders should be up-gathered and recorded. They have had the usage of gavel-kind, but we hardly know whether it is of British or English origin. The Portlanders in a corps of riflemen differ clearly from others of Dorset, when all of them are seen together.