The River Trent.

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THERE is no author who shows a more genuine love
of rivers than Izaak Walton of the " Compleate
Angler." This is evident in his description of the
Trent and its tributaries, and especially in the scene where
he introduces his companion to the Dove, at the foot of
" Hanson Toot." When asked the meaning of Trent he
gives the current interpretations ; how some said it re-
ceived its name from the village of Trentham ; others that
it came from the thirty tributaries which lose their names
in its greater flood, and which, in its turn, " augmenteth
the turbulent current of Humber, the most violent stream
of all the isle " ; while still others asserted that the name
arose from the thirty kinds of fish disporting in its waters.
To these speculations Izaak makes various wise objec-
tions, but perhaps the wisest is the simple statement that
he himself did not know the meaning of Trent. Two
centuries later we have the cumulative experience of
many failures and some successes in this treacherous field
of . knowledge, and although failures such as he gently
ridicules give no help, others greatly lighten the task.
The first thing to do, in dealing with such a difficult name
as Trent, is to collect the most reliable variants and
arrange them in classes showing the different influences
which have modified their spelling and pronunciation.
This is attempted in the following table :—

Variant Forms of Trent.

TYPES.	VARIANT SPELLINGS.	SOURCE.
I. Romanised Anglo- British Forms.	Treanta	Bede
	Treenta	Bede
	Trenta	Paulinus and A.S. Chronicle
	Treonta	Anglo-Saxon Chronicle
	Treontha	Camden
II. Anglo-British Forms.	Trenth	Hundred Rolls, 1278
	Trensh	Scotter Manorial Roll, 1599
	Trentham	Place Name, Stafford- shire
	Trenchepayne, Galfridus	Rector of Spytelgate, Grantham, 1349
	Trench, Trentham	Modern Surnames
III. Norman Forms.	Aqua de Trentte	Scotter Man, Roll, 1519
	le Trente bancks	Scotter Man, Roll, 1519
	Aquos de Trente	Scotter Man, Roll, 1553
	Ingestraund	Ingestre, Staff., 13th cent.
	Trend, Trent, Trenam	Modern Surnames
IV. Roman and Monkish Forms.	Trisantona	Tacitus ?
	Troventio, Troantia	Medieval Translations ?

Type IV. may be disregarded for the present, for these variants are of doubtful authenticity. The vital key to the name Trent lies in the last element, which is represented in type I. by t, as in the modern name ; in the Norman type by *tte* or *te ;* and in the Anglo-British type by *th* or sh, the latter being a corruption of *th*. In using Gothic names the Romans suppressed the *th* sound because they were unable to pronounce it, thus Cæsar writes *Cantium* in place of *Canth* or *Cænth*, and later Roman

writers give us *Cunetio* for *Cyneth* or *Cæneth*, and more
corrupt still, *Camboricum* for a British form *Camareth*.
Anglo-Saxon writers were usually monks, and, although
the *th* sound was perfectly familiar, they were so addicted
to Latin that they always turned to it when writing Trent,
Kent and similar names ; and even Bede substituted t
for *th* in writing Trent.

The general British word for river or water was *oy*,
with its variants *ay* and *ey ;* while a river bend, or the
junction of a tributary, was denoted by the word *hum*,
or one of its variants *hamm*, *hemm* and *homm*. The
Britons originally spoke a language related to the Gothic,
and therefore akin to Anglo-Saxon, and in Lindsey they
appear to have still spoken it in a more or less pure form
at the time of the Roman evacuation ; but in the south,
and to a less extent in the north, they spoke latinised
dialects which apparently varied much according to the
strength of Roman influence.   The names of the large
rivers must have been fixed before the arrival of the
Romans, but inasmuch as all documents relating to law,
war and public works were in latin, the early British
pronunciation of such words as Trent, Kent, Glent and
Grant is in no case recorded, and we have to be content
with forms such as *Trenth, Chenth, Glenth* and *Granthe*,
which have survived from the middle ages owing to a
large admixture of British blood with Anglo-Saxon, and
to the fact that the Britons who thus remained used the
original native speech.   The following table gives the
analysis and meaning of Trent and some allied words :—

RIVER WORDS.	ELEMENTS.	MEANING.
(Variants in Italics).		
Trent		The landing place(s)
Trenth	the re hemm heth	in the winding
Tarent	the ay re hemm heth	river reach(es)
Darenth	de ay re hemm heth	

RIVER WORDS.	ELEMENTS.	MEANING.
Derwent		The landing place(s)
Derewenta	de ey re hemm heth	in the winding
Dyrwente		river reach(es)
Deorwenta	de oy re hemm heth	
Derby		
Dereby	de ey re by	The farm settlement
Darby	de ay re by	on the river reach
Deoraby	de oy ra by	
Dorte	de oy re heth	The landing place
Dart	de ay re heth	at the river reach
Darwin	de ay re hum	The (tributary)
		junction at the
		river reach
Neath	hamm heth	The landing place at
Nethe	hemm heth	the bend [or at the
		river junction]
Antwerp	hamm heth werp	The landing place on
		the alluvium at the
		river bend

British *heth*, a landing place, represented by the final t in Trent is, from a philological standpoint, the most important element in this river name, and its full identification must be accomplished in stages. The common name Derwent, Darent or Darenth is really a fuller form of Trent, differing from it mainly in the definite article *de* in place of *the*. The w of Derwent is adventitious, and is explained by the surname Darwin in which the *heth* element is omitted. The suffix *win* is derived from British *hum*, which commonly contracted to *him*, *in* or *yn*, as in *Himbre* now Humber, *Sabrina* now Severn, and *Chipyn* now Chipping. Darwin comes from *de ay re hum*, meaning the river junction at the reach, but it referred usually to the angle of land enclosed on two sides by a stream and its tributary. The w in Darwin and Derwent is introduced for the sake of ready pronunciation, though

it is omitted in the south country Darent and Darenth because in these the syllables are differently stressed. The spelling Darenth is a strong link in the chain of identification, this Kentish name agreeing exactly with *Chenth*, the Norman-Flemish form of Kent, and Chenetheford, the Ramsey Abbey form of Kentiord in Suffolk.

Some of the most valuable information is derived from Norman sources. The Normans were a mushroom people of Gothic extraction, and their literature was of recent growth ; but in William the Conqueror they possessed a ruler of superb intellect, and Domesday Book shows that his genius extended even to the selection of scribes for its execution. These scribes were of Norman, Flemish, Breton and other nationalities, but most of them show some acquaintance with Gothic speech, for even the Normans, who spoke the latinised language of the Franks, had some familiarity with the speech of their immediate forefathers. Hence the evidence of these trained scribes is of the utmost value, often far superior to that obtainable from Anglo-Saxon sources, as for instance in the case of Kent, which the Anglo-Saxons call *Cent*, *Kænt* and *Kant*, after Roman *Cantium*, but which Norman scribes call *Chenth* and *Chenethe*, thus revealing the origin of the t from old Frisian *heth*, a landing place. These scribes were either Flemings, or Norman natives acquainted with their ancestral speech, and so free from latin influence that they were able to reproduce the colloquial pronunciation of the men of Kent and Suffolk.

Thelnetham in Suffolk is of exceptional value, for it supplies important information both from Anglo-British and Norman sources. It is an Anglo-British name derived from *the lyge hemm heth hamm*, the water enclosure at the landing place near the boggy river junction. The suffix *ham* is from A.S. *hamm*, and refers to the knoll on which the village stands in the angle of the streams. The formula *the lyge hemm heth* appears to be mainly British, and

describes the landing place near the junction of a stream-
let with the Little Ouse. This landing place must have
been just below the church, opposite St. Mary's Well,
where the road is now carried over the stream by a bridge,
for this is the most convenient site near the village where
a firm landing place could be obtained. The pronuncia-
tion of Thelnetham corresponds with that of *Trenth-am*,
and Kesteven *Granth-am*, and *Byth-am*, the last being
spelt *Bytheham*, when " William ad Crucem " was pre-.
sented to Spytelgate Church at Grantham in 1349.
Usually the Norman scribe could not sound *th*, and Thel-
netham, as repeated to him by the Domesday jurors,
incorporated it twice over. The first *th* he wrote t, as the
Romans did, but the second he rendered tte, agreeing
with *Trentte*, the Norman form of *Trenth*, and with
Judette for Judith, so that he wrote *Teluetteham*, from
the lyge ey heth hamm, this formula differing slightly from
that of the modern name. However he repeated the
name as *Telnetham* and *Thelueteham*, giving the modern
formula once, and also the initial *th*.

It is impossible to be certain as to what part of the
Trent first received this name. The name Thames is
cast in a plural form, and was known in the middle ages
as *Theamyse*, from *the hamm eyse*, the winding waters,
hence it appears to refer to all the reaches of the river.
The Trent, however, like the majority of river names, is
cast in the singular form, yet we know that the Britons
who named both rivers were a sea-faring Continental
people, and we may be confident that they regarded the
broad tidal reaches of the lower Trent valley as a whole,
and that the name probably arose in Lindsey, but was
carried inland at an early period, for the tributary name
Derwent is quite as ancient, and is so closely related as
to be almost identical with it, differing merely in its
less contracted form, and in the use of *de* in place of *the*.
Amongst primitive people river landing places were

usually in bends or at junctions, a fact which is illustrated
on the Derwent by such settlements as Belper, Duffield
and Derby. The early name of Derby was *Northworthige*,
but the Danes adopted *Deoraby*, from the formula *de oy
ra by*, the farm settlement on the river reach. The suffix
by is Danish, but the prefix is pure British, *ra* being the
early Gotho-British variant of *re*, a reach, as in *Humbra*,
Iraland and *Yraland*, the last named forms coming from
ey ra land, the land beyond the water reach, that is the
country across the Irish Channel—Ireland. There is a
Derby on the Trent as well as on the Derwent. It is an
ancient hamlet near Burton Stather, standing immediately
above the terminal reach of the river in Lindsey. Like
Derby it is also called Darby. The variants *ey, ay* and *oy*
appear to have been used quite impartially, thus one
native used *ey*, and spoke of Derby, another preferred *ay*,
and called it Darby, while a third used *oy*, as in *Deoraby*
and *Deorbyscire*. It is remarkable that the Danes often
added their own suffixes, such as *by* and *thorp*, to British
prefixes rather than Anglo-Saxon, and Derby is a notable
instance of this. We shall find, in the course of these
investigations, similar evidence that the British language
was used side by side with Anglo-Saxon, and that modern
English has been profoundly influenced by this fact.

In the middle ages the tidal reaches of the Trent were
said to extend from Trent Falls to Dunham, a distance of
nearly 50 miles along the stream, and thus far the river
was accounted an arm of the sea. We may, however,
examine it for ancient landing places from Gainsburgh
downwards. Gainsburgh was a fortified holding in Anglo-
Saxon times, and early earth-works on " Castle Hills,"
ancient charters connected with its market and river
staithe, and the special niche which the town occupies in
history, are sufficient evidence that a landing place has
existed here, even from Roman times.

North of Gainsburgh and Morton there is evidence of

an early settlement on the actual warp bank of the Trent
at Walkerith ; and there is no name which shows more
significantly the power and treacherous nature of the
" eagre " tides.   The Patent Roll of 1329 gives the history
of the " Gyme Holes " near Walkerith.   These pits are
as much as 38 feet deep, and were caused by an immense
breach in the Trent bank in 1329 or somewhat earlier.
A commission, entrusted to Philip de Nevill and Peter de
Ludyngton, both of Scotton, and John de Crossholm, was
empowered to repair this rupture, and it is expressly
stated that the tidal waters had covered the low-lying
lands of the valley from Gainsborough to Burton Stather.
The king's document describes the damage done to the
lands of the Lady Isabella, his mother, and her tenants
at Morton, *Walcreth* and *Stokheth*, and it is probable that
" le great gyme close " at Susworth, mentioned in the
Scotter Roll of 1628, commemorates this great gyme of
1329.   Walkerith occurs in old documents as *Walcreth,*
Walkerith, Walkeryth and *Walkereth*, variants which leave
no doubt that the prefix is related to the word *wealcan,*
the original of our verb to walk, but here meaning to roll
from side to side, and that it refers to the rolling action
of the tidal wave as it rushed impetuously up the river
twice daily.   The variants *Walkareth* and *Walkreith* in-
corporate respectively British *heth*, and A. S. *hyth*, and
the full name denotes *the landing place at the rolling reach,*
the river being more turbulent here than lower down,
where it had liberty to spread over a wider expanse.

From Walkerith and Wildsworth northwards, on the
east side of Trent, there was no British or early Anglo-
Saxon village on the actual river bank, with the doubtful
exception of Burringham, for in this low lying district
the river was in possession of the valley, so that no settle-
ment could exist on its warp bank until its tidal power
had been curbed.   The villages in this low lying part of
the valley stood away from the river at distances varying

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from half to five miles or more. Amongst them were
Harwick, Scotter, Messingham and Bottesford, all being
connected with the Trent by tributary or tidal waters,
and these, having been investigated, may now be briefly
described. There are only two names in the lower valley
of the Trent having *wick* as a suffix, viz., Hardwick Hill,
anciently the hamlet of *Harwick*, and Butterwick lower
down on the other side of the river. Both these places
were in Roman use, and it is clear that the mixed Anglian
and British population of Lindsey and South Yorkshire
used *wic* to denote a water side settlement of Roman
origin. Hardwick Hill was connected with the Trent
by a short arm running through the site of Ferry Flash
to the foot of the hill, and evidences of Roman occupation
help to show that this was a military outpost commanding
the Trent, and intended to give protection and early
warning against marauders to Roman residents along
Ermine Street and the Cliff.

Scotter, on the river Eau or Eye, is an Anglo-British
name, ancient forms being *Scotere*, from *se cote re*, the
dwelling near the river reach, and *Scothithe*, from *se cote
hyth*, the dwelling near the landing place. The Manor
House still stands where, whether of brick, stone or wood,
it has stood for nearly a thousand years, and where, we
may certainly conclude, the original British *cote* stood.
Just beneath the Manor House and Churchyard a 50-feet
dug-out boat was discovered in the alluvium of the river
about a century ago, and was inspected by Sir Joseph
Banks. It is evident therefore that Humber, and even
sea-going vessels, were able to reach Scotter from the
Trent in early times. Messingham stands on a low lias
ridge still known as " Stather Hill," that is the hill near
the foot of which boats could land passengers in Danish
times, and therefore certainly in British times, for the
Romans had only water highways across this part of the
valley, and tradition still keeps them in memory. Bottes-

ford, on Bottesford Beck, cannot now be described as it deserves, but it may be stated that the stream discharges into the Trent opposite Butterwick, and that Roman remains have been found from time to time around the village, and that the name itself refers to the navigable character of the beck. In Roman times this stream undoubtedly formed a connecting link between the Trent and Ermine Street, and especially with *Pretorium*, now Broughton.

The west bank of the Trent was far more secure than the east, for on it were Amcotts, Keadby, Althorpe, Butterwick, Kelfield, Owston and Stockwith, all being ancient,. and several dating from Roman times. Butterwick was a Romano-British station connecting Yorkshire with Ermine Street by means of streams running into the Trent from Scotter, Messingham, Bottesford and elsewhere. Several of these streams have been abolished by modern drainage and enclosure, but in early times they were both tidal and navigable, and the river Eau and Bottesford Beck still exist, though no longer navigable,. for the tides have been shut out for many centuries.

Owston takes its name from the Trent and its tributary waters, the ancient form *Oueston* being equivalent to *Ouse town*, *ouse* being the British plural of *oy*, while Domesday *Ostone*, equivalent to *Oxtone*, as in Leland's *Oxtun*, contains a similar prefix in the latinised dialect,. *ox* being a plural of *oy*, agreeing with pure British *Ouse*. The number of aliases which Owston with its castle and ferry anciently possessed is extraordinary, the most important being *Oueston, Oxton, Kynnardfery, Kinnellferrie*, Kinafare Castle, Hum Ferry, and Hunn Ferry. Without exception these variants refer to the river, for even *Kinafare Castle*, though the castle was half-a-mile away, denotes *the castle near the ferry across the bent stream*,. the suffix *fare* being equivalent to ford or ferry.

We have very briefly examined a few of the village and.

landing place names of the lower valley of the Trent.
Special articles might be written on such names as Wal-
kerith, Scotter, Bottesford, Butterwick and Owston, the
last being the most important by reason of its extra-
ordinary assortment of British aliases, so that it is im-
possible to resist the conclusion that a considerable
British population survived at Owston. The valley of
the Trent below Gainsburgh is about 24 miles long, and
it has been ascertained that there were approximately
35 to 40 ancient settlements and landing places, without
counting those of mediæval origin. All these were situ-
ated either on the banks of the river, or on the east side
of its valley, where for 18 miles few, if any, villages
existed on the actual bank, the valley here being pro-
bably the site of a prehistoric lagoon. Of these settle-
ments four, possibly five, were fortified *burghs*, two had
the Roman suffix *wic*, four were *stathers*, and no less than
fifteen had the element *heth* or *hyth*, a landing place,
incorporated in the present name, or, as in Scotter and
Owston, in ancient variants. The majority of these
names show evidences of British elements in their struc-
ture, and not a few, such as *Scotere*, Amcotts and the
ancient variants of Owston, are believed to be wholly
British.

The variant *Trenth*, of the Hundred Rolls, is the most
valuable in our table, for it affords positive confirmation
of the strongest character to the evidence of such forms
as Trentham, *Trentte*, *Trensh* and *Trenchepayne*. It
shows in a word that the *th* sound in Trentham belongs
solely to the prefix, just as *Granthe* shows the same for
Grantham, and that this is the traditional form assumed
by the *heth* element in the absence of other influences.
Such forms as *Chenethejord*, *Bytheham*, *Glenthham* and
Glentworth are all but conclusive in themselves of the
existence of this element in British names, but the occur-
rence of fifteen place names incorporating *heth* in the

lower valley of the Trent, and of *Trenth* as a local form of Trent in 1278, removes every doubt as to the true meaning of the *th* sound. All these names point to a continuous ancestry back to British times, and suggest that the Britons who thus survived spoke British and Anglo-British rather than Romanised dialects.

The Hundred Rolls of the counties of Lincoln and Nottingham show the great pains taken, in the public interest, to keep the Trent clear of obstruction. The summary measures adopted were doubtless also intended to facilitate the munitioning of Nottingham Castle. This castle stood on a rock in a bend of the river Leen, near its outfall into the Trent, and the town lay in the bend and angle between the two rivers. There is an interesting connection between Nottingham and the name Trent. Even from the earliest times the Trent must have been an important factor in the rise and prosperity of Nottingham, for this water highway was the early representative of the railway line of modern times. Hence the river not only made the munitioning of the castle easy, but enabled the city to become a centre of industry in the mediæval period. The early name of Nottingham was *Snotingaham*, from *se homm heth inga hamm*, the enclosure of grass lands at the landing place near the river bend, the *homm* or river bend being formed partly by the Leen, and partly by its junction with the Trent, while the *ingaham*, or enclosure of grass lands, was the stream enclosed site of the town and its meadows. The dropping of the definite article *se* makes no change in the meaning of Nottingham, and is not unique even in this shire, for the river Smite or Snite, from *se hum heth*, is called *Myte* by Leland, and Sneinton appears in D.B. as *Notintone*. Nottingham is clearly Anglo-British, and the use of the metathesis *no*, in place of the simple contraction *on* of *Treonta* or *Treonth*, is quite regular, corresponding with *ne* in Nethe, Needham, Colne and Hoxne, derived from the variant *hemm*. In

colloquial speech the people of Nottinghamshire must
have often used the forms *Trenth* and *Treonth*, and to
this native pronunciation we owe the preservation of
Trenth of the Hundred Rolls.   Hethbeth-brig or Heath-
beth-brig is the ancient name of the bridge which Edward
the Elder first threw over the Trent at Nottingham.   The
suffix *beth* appears to be a duplicated form, its b being
possibly influenced by the following b in *brig*.   In the
middle ages the word *ey* was often aspirated, the river
Eye occurring as *Hey* and *Heye,* and Earith, on the Great
Ouse, appearing in the " Ramsey Chronicle " as *Herethe,*
from *ey re hethe,* the landing place at the river reach.
The original form of Hethbeth-brig was probably *ey heth
bricg,* the bridge at the river landing place, so that Edward
the Elder followed the usual practice in building his bridge
at the site of the old British ferry and landing place, and
this, we may believe, is the actual landing place indicated
by the letters tt in the name Nottingham.   Allowing the
bridge to represent the original landing place, the name
Nottingham still accurately describes this remarkable
site, for even to-day the city lies within its ancient river
boundaries, and part of the Anglo-Saxon *inges,* or river
side meadows, still survive, though they no longer form
the important item in the economy of the borough which
they did even up to the end of the seventeenth century.

The *heth* element has been illustrated fully, but its
importance is such that a few outside examples may be
given showing different developments in combination
with *hamm* and its variants, and for this purpose Antwerp
in Belgium, the river Neath in Wales, and Needwood
forest in the Midlands, may be quoted.   There are several
rivers called Neath or Nethe, and in all the *hamm* or
hemm element contracts to the utmost, m mutating to n,
while the *heth* element is preserved almost in full.   Similar
names, with *d* in place of *th*, are Needham and Needwood,
the latter being the well-known forest lying between the˙

Trent, Dove and Blythe rivers. Needwood comes from
hemm heth wudu, the wood at the landing place(s) of the
river junction(s), so that this name not only contains the
element *heth*, but the forest was surrounded by navigable
streams, two of which have the same element in their
names. Unlike the river names Neath and Nethe, Ant-
werp has its *heth* element fully contracted, as in Kent
and Ghent. Its name and situation indicate that it arose
as a river port, and that the landing place was on an
alluvial mound thrown up by the Scheldt where this river
makes a sudden turn seawards. The suffix of Antwerp
may be Flemish, and is cognate with Lindsey *warp*,
denoting fine river clay thrown on lands adjoining Trent
and Humber. The prefix of Antwerp is early Belgic,
but shows evidence of the Roman influence apparent in
Gant, Gent, Gand and Gend, the Romance variants of
Ghent.

Colloquial *Trensh*, occurring at East Butterwick in
1599, is inferior as a piece of evidence to the Hundred
Roll *Trenth* of 300 years earlier, but the following narra-
tive may be allowed to speak for itself. The resident
Lord of the Manor at Scotter was Marmaduke Tirwhitt,
and the Michaelmas court was attended by 22 Scotter
jurors, 14 from Scawthorpe, and by a third jury of 14
men from the townships of Messingham and East Butter-
wick. William Shereman, the scribe who wrote the roll,
possessed a good general education, but his knowledge
of latin was inferior to that of the monkish scribes sent
from Peterborough Abbey to conduct the courts of this
outlying manor before the Dissolution. Nearly all Shere-
man's rolls are in abbreviated latin, but the manorial
regulations which we now have to study are in English,
and to this fact we owe the preservation of the variant
Trensh. The regulations are divided into items, and those
which concern us are as follows.

" Itm it is laid in paine that nether of the towneships

of Messingham and Butterwick, nor any p'son therin
shall fell any wood w'hin the same carr, but for the
repairing and amending of Trent bankes or other comon
uses, nether shall cutt up any woode w'hin the same car
for hindring the spring but betwene Candlemas and St
Markes Daie in pain of ev'y default x^s except this year
so that they fell yt whear noa water can flowe."

"Itm it is laid in paine that none shall digg any furr
or oke betwene the trensh and the Ings in paine of xL^s."

"Itm that no p'son shall leave any fur stock holes
unfilled in paine of ev'y offence x^s."

The ings here referred to were a well defined area of
virgin grass land next the Trent bank, and though now
ploughed up and warped are still known as " Trent Ings,"
just as in the roll of 1579 they are called " Le Trent Ings
de Messingham." The whole of this strip of low lying
land next the river was full of oak and fir trees buried
in peat, and the practice of digging out this timber had
then been going on for centuries, and has continued ever
since, though it is now often removed by traction engines
in place of digging. The labour in digging out a whole
tree was very great, and there was a strong temptation
to neglect filling in the pit. The result inevitably was
that pits so left filled with water and became a source of
peril to cattle. Hence the heavy penalties for leaving
" fur stock holes " unfilled. This danger, however, was
small when compared with that incurred by digging trees
from under or even near the Trent bank, for the valley
lay below high-tide level, and there was the gravest risk
that tides would break through the bank where the trees
had lain. The Messingham and Butterwick jurors rarely
assembled, and it is certain that their main business on
this occasion was to stop such dangerous practices, for
many of them were occupiers of lands which would be
imperilled. They showed evidence of restraint by in-
flicting a fine of twelve pence on their own parson, Richard

Rowbottom, because he had not filled in " Le furr Stock Hole." The ten shilling fine for future offences was heavy, but the forty shilling penalty was equal to about £20 of our money, and shows clearly the extreme gravity of the practice of tampering with the Trent bank, and we may certainly read into this item some measure of the strong personal feeling which the jurors displayed, for it is reflected by the scribe, who so far forgot himself that, although he had just written the word Trent in his usual spelling, he now wrote the dialect word *Trensh* as he caught it from the jurors' lips. We may fairly conclude that the modern name Trent was derived from the Romans through Anglo-Saxon scribes, but that the British form *Trenth* continued in contemporary use up to 1278, and the corrupt forms *Trench* and *Trensh* even as late as 1599.

In Staffordshire Ingestre we have a remarkable instance of the elements of Trent Inges reversed and compressed into a place name. The late Mr. Duignan gives the old forms as *Gestreon, Ingestrent, Ingestraund* and *Yngestre. Ingestraund* is a late Norman form equivalent to *Ingestraunth*. The Domesday form *Gestreon* is decidedly interesting. The scribe who wrote it cannot have been a Fleming, and probably not a native of Normandy, for there are two unusual omissions in it. The jurors probably gave the name as *Ingestreonth*, the inges near the Trent, but the scribe omitted part of the first element, exactly as another Domesday scribe did when he wrote *Mingeham* for *Immingeham*. The Staffordshire scribe, however, also omitted the last element *heth*, and as this is absent in the Domesday name of Trentham, near Ingestre, we may fairly conjecture that the same scribe wrote both *Gestreon* and *Trenham*. Ing occurs as a prefix in the Inghams of Lindsey, Norfolk and Suffolk, which were sometimes spelt *Yngeham*, and which denote natural grass land partly enclosed by water. The modern name Ingestre is a contracted form of the thirteenth

·century *Ingestrent*, and is identical in meaning with the
Lindsey formula of 1578, " Le Trent Inges," both origi-
nally denoting virgin grass land near the river bank, and
it would be interesting to know whether extensive meadow
and pasture lands still lie on the Trent at Ingestre.

The most important surnames in the first table are
Trench and *Trenchepayne*. The prefix of *Trenchepayne*
is a colloquial form of British *Trenth*. Galfridus Trenche-
payne became rector of Spytelgate Chapel, Grantham, on
the death of Thomas Madelye in 1349. Three rectors
held this post in that fatal year, so that the Black Death
made havoc in Grantham as elsewhere. In such terrible
circumstances new rectors would have to be found locally,
and Trenchepayne came from Thurlby, a few miles north
of Grantham. His fate is not recorded, but probably he
died of the disease, for his successor William ad Crucem
of Bytheham, south of Grantham, was inducted the same
year. Thurlby is on the Witham about four miles from
Carlton on Trent, and, looking to the date, it is probable
that Trenchepayne had been in use as a surname only
about a century, and that it arose at Newark, Carlton,
Normanton or some other near site on the Trent.

In topographical names British *ay* and its variants
undergo three distinct mutations, which may be called
the W, B and P mutations. The W mutation occurs in
the river names Wye, Wey and *Wuse*, equivalent to Eye
Aye and Ouse, the last being the plural of *oy*, just as *Waes*
in Belgian " Land van Waes " is the plural of *ay*. The
B mutations are very numerous, thus amongst river
names are Bane from *ay hemm*, Boyne from *oy hemm*, and
Beane from *ey hemm*, and Boyton, Bainton, Boynton,
Beeston and Beezley are familiar place and surnames.
The suffix, *payne*, is an example of a P mutation of *ay*,
and comes from *ay hemm*, the river bend. When used
as a prefix it contracts to *pan*, as in Panton in Lincoln-
shire, and Panfield and the river Pant, in Essex, the ļast

coming from *ay hemm heth*, the landing place at the river bend. This P mutation, though not so common as the W and B forms, is widely distributed, as evidenced in the following table :—

TABLE SHOWING P MUTATIONS OF *ay* AND *ey*.

NAMES.	ELEMENTS.	MEANING.
Trenchepayne	(*Trenthe*) *ay hemm*	The river bend (or junction) at the Trent.
Pye Bridge	*eye bricg*	The bridge over the stream.
Piseham	*eyse hamm*	The enclosure amidst the streams.
Pillaton Hall (*Pilletenhale*)	*ey lyge heth hemm heale*	The nook at the landing-place in the bend of the boggy stream.
Pys	*eyse*	The streams.
Péronne	*ey re homme*	The river reach near the bend.
Paris	*ay re eyse*	The river reach near the waters.

The site at which the surname *Trenchepayne* arose is unknown, but it was certainly in a bend or tributary junction of the Trent, and almost certainly in Nottinghamshire ; and it is just possible that *payne* still survives as the name of some parcel of land. Pye Bridge and Pye Hill are on the river Erewash in Derbyshire, and Pilford Bridge is on the Ancholme in Lindsey. Pye Bridge is identical in origin and meaning with forms such as *Eye Bridge* or *Wye Bridge*, prefix forms associated together in Wyfordby on the river Eye, near Melton Mowbray. Pye Hill means the hill at the foot of which runs the *ey* or stream. Pillaton Hall, formerly *Pilletenhale* from *ey lyge heth hemm heale*, the corner at the landing place in the bend of the boggy stream, was known in 1004 as *Bedintun*, from *ey heth hum tun*, the town at the landing-place in the river bend, thus giving the extra-

ordinary instance of P and B mutations of *ey* at the same
site.

Pys in France is a plural form derived from *eyse*, the
waters or the streams, and is identical in origin with the
prefix of *Piseham*, an old variant of Pilham in Lindsey.
Pys stands on the river Ancre, where some of its springs
rise in the chalk. Péronne stands on the Somme just
where that river makes the great bend from which
its name appears to be derived. In the middle of the
bend is the town of Ham, from *hamm*, a bend, and at
the other end of the half-moon is St. Quentin. The
name Péronne describes the site of the town with mar-
vellous accuracy—*the river reach at the bend*.

Paris is the city of the *Parisii*, that is the people who
lived around the river reach of the waters, the river reach
being apparently the straight reach of the Seine, extending
from the junction of the Marne to the isles of the Seine,
while the *eyse* or waters were probably the divisions of
the river enclosing the islands, just as the divisions of the
Thames at Oxford are known as the Isis, formerly also
called *Owse*, Isis being a classical or poetical corruption
of *eyse*. These P mutations of *ay* and *ey* go back beyond
Roman times. Cæsar tells us that the south Britons were
derived from the Belgæ, and our table suggests that this
was also true of the Midland Britons. The history of the
suffix *payne* has been investigated, and its relationship to
cognate British and old Belgic forms illustrated by a
special table, because it establishes the origin of *Trenche*
from *Trenth* beyond reasonable doubt, and thus assists
also to establish the genuineness of the *Trensh* variant
of 1599.

The Roman name of the Trent is uncertain, but it is
of little importance compared with the British name
Trenth. The corrupt Roman form *Trisantona* has been
suggested as belonging to the Trent as well as the Arun.
If so it is highly latinised, *s* and *ona* being adventitious,

and is derived from a British *Treanth*, the original of Bede's *Treanta*. Old writers use *Troventio* and *Troantia*, and these are certainly less corrupt in form than *Trisantona*. They may, however, be regarded as monkish translations of current popular forms such as *Treoneth*, *Troanth* or *Troaneth*. This article must now be closed, although it is far from being exhaustive. No attempt has been made to follow the name Trent into the Trentino, where the town of Trent stands on the river Adige, and where numbers of Gothic names are disguised in Italian garb. Grateful acknowledgments are due to many correspondents who have assisted in this enquiry.