

No. XIV.—*Observations on the Roman Road called Wrekendike, and particularly of that Branch of it which led from the Mouth of the Tyne, at South Shields, to Lanchester, in the County of Durham.* By the Rev. JOHN HODGSON, Sec.

TILL Gateshead Fell was inclosed there was only one house at the Five Lanes' end upon it, which commonly went by the name of the *Red Robins*, a nick-name given to a person who resided in it not many years since. It is still a public house, and stands on the west side of the old road to London, and at the head of the lane that leads thither from Lamesley, by Harley Green. After the enclosure of the common, Mr. Watson, of Warburton Place, on Carhill, founded a considerable village at this place, which, at my suggestion, he called WREKENTON. My reason for recommending this apparently antiquated and unintelligible, but certainly English-sounding name, to this new establishment, was—its contiguity to the course of an ancient military road, which was there called *Wrekendike*, and in other parts of its extensive course, *Rykenild-street*, and *Ikenhild-street*: and my object in writing this paper is to give some general account of this road, and of the meaning of its names; but more particularly to describe the part of it which runs westward from Wrekenton to Lanchester, and eastward to South Shields, in the county of Durham.

Ralph Higden, in his *Polychronicon*, as printed by “Wynkyn de Woorde,” in 1595, has a chapter “ON THE ROYAL ROADS,” in England, of which he gives the courses of four, and of the fourth thus:—“The forth is called Rykenilde-street, and stretcheth forth by Worceter, by Wycōbe, by Brymyngham, by Lychefelde, by Derby, by Chestrefelde, by York, and forth vnto Tynmouthe.”\*

In the Oxford edition of the *Polychronicon*, this road is described as

\* Lib. I. cap. xlv. fol. lxxv.

commencing at St. David's:—"Quarta via dicitur Ryknild-street, tendens ab affrico in boream vulturnalem, & incipit a Mavonia in West-Wallia, tenditque per Wygorniam, per Wicum, per Birmyngham, Lichefeld, Derby, Chesterfeld, Eborum usque ad ostium Tyne fluminis, quod Tynemutha dicitur."

A manuscript in the Cottonian Library,\* intituled, *Eulogium Historiarum*, "seems," as Gale observes, "to have been copied from the same draught" as Higden derived his information from, their description of the four great roads being nearly verbatim alike. These are the words of the *Eulogium*:—"Quarta via dicitur *Rykeneld-street* tendens ab affrico in Boream. Incipit enim a Menevia, et procedit per Herefordiam, Wigorniam, Wicum, Bermingham, Lychefeld, Derbi, Chesterfeld per Eboracum, usque ad ostium Tyne fluminis, quod nunc dicitur Tynemouth."

Harrison, in his *Description of Britain*, after noticing that some call the "Erming-street" "*the Lelme*," has the following description of this road:—"The *Ikenild*, or *Rikenild*, began somewhere in the south, and so held on toward Cirencester, then to Worcester, Wicombe, Brimcham, Litchfield, Darbie, Chesterfield; and crossing the Watling-street somewhere in Yorkshire, stretched foorth in the end vnto the mouth of the Tine, where it ended at the maine sea, as most men doo confesse. I take it to be called the *Ikenild*, because it passed through the kingdom of the Icenues. For albeit that Leland, and other following him, doo seeme to place the Icenues in Norfolke and Suffolke yet in mine opinion that cannot well be done, sith it is manifest by Tacitus that they laye neere vnto the Silures, and (as I gesse) either in Stafford and Worcester shires or in both, except my conjecture doo fail me. The author of the booke, intituled, "*Eulogium Historiarum*" doth call this street *the Lelme*. But as herein he is deceived, so have I dealt withall so faithfullye as I may among such diuercite of opinions; yet not denieng but that there is much confusion in the names and courses of these two latter, the discussing whereof I must leave to other men that are better learned than I."†

Drayton, in his *Poly-olbion*, personifies Watling-street for the purpose

\* Galba E. 7.

† Hooker's Edit. 1586, p. 113.

of making it give an account of its own course, and that of the Foss, the Icing, and the Rickneld, which last it describes thus :—

“ And Rickneld, forth that raught from Cambria’s farther shore,  
“ Where South-Wales now shoots forth St. David’s Promontore,  
“ And, on his mid-way neere, did me in England meet ;  
“ Then in his oblique course the lusty stragling Street,  
“ Soone ouertook the Fosse ; and toward the Fall of Tine,  
“ Into the Germane Sea dissolu’d at his decline.”\*

In support of this general opinion, that an ancient road called *Rikenild-street*, passed from the western part of Wales, by way of Worcester and Birmingham, to the mouth of the Tyne, at South Shields, I shall endeavour to bring some collateral, and, I think convincing, testimony.

In the foundation charter of the Abbey of Hilton, in Staffordshire, one of the boundaries of a property granted to that institution is described thus :—“ Ascendendo per Richinild-streete et per villam de Mere.”†

Selden, in his notes on Drayton’s *Poly-olbion* says :—“ This name of Ricen-ild is in Randal, of Chester, and by him derived from St. Dewies, in Pembroke, into Hereford, and so through Worcester, Warwick, Derby, and Yorkshire, to Tinmouth, which, upon the author’s credit reporting it to me, is also iustificable by a very ancient deed of lands bounded near Bermingham, in Warwickshire, by *Rickenild*.”

Mr. Horsley, in his *Britannia Romana* tells us, that “ the Roman way which ran by Little Chesters, a mile below Derby, is called Ricnig-street.”

In the Additions to Camden,‡ speaking of this street, it is said, that “ in an old survey or map of the county of Derby, about Tupton Moor, made in the last century, it is called Rignall-street.”

In Lyson’s *Derbyshire* we have the following observation :—“ Rikenild-street is called by the name of Rignal-street, in an old survey of Sir H. Hunlocke’s property, in Derbyshire, as well as in those of other estates in Warwickshire and Staffordshire, where it is described as their boundary.”§

\* Selden’s Ed. fol. 248. † Dug. Mon. vol. ii. p. 942. ‡ Vol. ii. p. 431. § P. ccix.

On the north side of the hamlet of Eighton-banks, in the county of Durham, there are vestiges of an ancient road, which there forms the boundary between the parishes of Chester-le-street and Gateshead, and further east, between the parishes of Jarrow and Washington, and in that particular spot is called *Wrekendike*. This road extended from the mouth of the Tyne, at South Shields, to the south-western corner of Gateshead Fell, where it branched off towards Gateshead to the north, Schaden's Law and the Wear to the south-east,\* Chester-le-street to the south, and Lanchester to the west.

Having now, I think, satisfactorily shown that the Wrekendike, on Gateshead Fell, is a part of the Rykenilde-street of the Monk of Chester, and our other old Topographical writers, I shall endeavour to give a rational etymology of the term Rykenilde, and a more particular account of the ancient road which led from South Shields towards Lanchester.

ILD, is a Saxon word meaning *old*. STREET, in its most obvious sense, is from the Latin *stratum*, and means a paved road, but was very probably in its origin from the same source as the Greek *στράτος*, an army, and applied to such great public roads in the Roman Empire, as were made by the *military*, and maintained at the public cost.

DYKE, as applied to roads, means a *ridge* of earth with a ditch on each side of it. In this sense it appears in Graham's Dyke, Offa's Dike, &c.

RYKEN, I suppose to be derived from the Anglo-Saxon *hriġg*, † a ridge, in which sense it is still used in the north of England in the expressions—"a rig of land," "the riggen tree," "the riggen of the house," and in this sense, *the Ricken-ilde-street* is a name of the very same import as "*the old Ridge-way*." In support of this derivation it might be urged, that a collateral branch of Ikeneld-street, which ran from Streetley, on the Thames, in Oxfordshire, by Ashbury, Taunton, and Redruth, to the Land's End, is, to this day, called the

\* "De Semer per altum iter usq; Scadneslawe" (Surtees, ii. 210).

† The Saxon *hriġg* or *hriġg* and the Islandic *Riggur* mean a back or back bone; and are probably of the same origin, as *P'άκτις*, i. e. *spina dorsi*, which in the common language of Northumberland is called a *rack*; hence also they call a neck of mutton "*the rack*."

*Ridgeway*;\* and that *Iken*, or as it is frequently written *Hiken*, is a mere synonym of *Riken*, signifying *High*, as in the Teutonic *Hoogestrade* and *Hoogen-wegh*.†

That the name *Wrekendike* was not imposed in modern times upon the branch of this road, which it is the object of this Essay to describe, but is of very ancient standing, I am able to advance indubitable evidence.‡ For Hugh de Pudsey, who was Bishop of Durham from 1153

\* Gough, in the preface to *Camden's Britannia*, p. lxxv. says, the "Ridge-way" runs "by Tamworth." And in another place, "Watling-street, so named from one Vitellanus, supposed to have directed it (the Britains calling Vitellanus in their language Auctalin) and Werlam Street, from its leading through or by Verolam, and called in other places by the people, High-dyke, High-ridge, Fortie-foot-way, and Ridge-way."

† See the Glossary to Wilkins' *Leges Anglo-Saxonicae*.

‡ The following documents are from certified copies made in the time of the Commonwealth, from original records belonging to the Dean and Chapter of Durham. I found them among a bundle of useless papers at Hebburn Hall: they have suffered by damp, and only the English translation of the first instrument fell into my hands:—

No. 1. *The charter of the towne of ffollensbie granted to vs*:—HUGH by the grace of God bishop of Durham to all his barons of Haliewerfolke to French and English greetinge. Know ye that I have given and granted to God and Saint Cuthbert and to the monks of Durham the towne of Foleteby in free and perpetual almes by bounds which I myselfe have sett out vnto them betweene Boldun and ffoleteby. That is to say from Le-strothie even vnto Restale and from Restale to Blakelawe and from Blakelawe to the marches of *Wrackenndberge* by theis bounds I grant vnto them the foresaid towne free and quitt from all service, that they may possess the same free and quitt for ever with all thinges belonginge to it as well in the plains as in the feedinges and in woods, even as they do possesse their other lands quiet and free. Witness being made of theis deeds. John . . . . . Theobald Clerke. The hand of the Presbiter. Mr Thomas . . . . . ll. Ralphe Noble. Thomas son of Gilbert Hellias Ellco. . . . . Parke. Luke of Rana and many other clerkes and laikes.

No. 2. *Cōmissio ad faciend. Inquisitiōem de communi pastura in mora de Boldon pro tenent' de Wardley*. ROBERTUS Dei gratiæ episcopus Dunelm. dilectis et fidelibus suis magistro R. de Herteburn et domino Johanni de Eggesclive saltm. Mandamus vobis quod per sacramentū duodec. proborum et legal. virorum de visnet. de Boldun<sup>a</sup> diligentem faciatis inquisitiōem per quas metas et divisas prior et conventus Dunelm. et homines sui de Wardley per averia sua pascere solebant pacifice pasturā manerij nostri de Boldon<sup>a</sup> temporibus episcoporum. Nicholai et Walteri predecessor. nostror. et maxime a tempore quo Walterus de Seleby predictam villam de Wardley dictis priori et conventui Dunelm. resignavit: Et inquisitiōem unde factam aperte et distincte . . . . . lari faciatis et veritatem dicte inquisitiōis facte nobis in primo adventu nostro scire faciatis. Dat. apud Middleham xxvij<sup>o</sup> die Nouembris Pont. n'ri. anno secundo.—Hec est nomina juratorum qui sūmoniti fuerunt veniend. coram magistro R. de Hertburn et d'no. Johanne de Eggesclive super moram de Boldon<sup>a</sup> die Sabbati px. post festum Sancti Andree Apostoli anno gratie M.cclxij. ad veritatem recognoscend. super sacramentū suum per quas metas et divisas averia prioris et conventus Dunelm. et hominū suorū de Wardeley solebant pascere

to 1195; gave to the monks of Durham the town of Follensby, by bounds which he himself set out between Boldon and Follensby, that is to say, from "Le Strothie even unto Restale, and from Restale to Blakelawe, and from Blakelawe to the Marches of *Wrachenndberge*;" and Robert de Stitchell, who presided in the same see from 1260 to 1274, issued a commission on the 27th of November, 1262, to inquire into the rights, which the Prior of Durham, for his lands at Wardley, had on Boldon

pacifice in mora de Boldon<sup>a</sup> temporibus Episcoporum &c. *ut supra*.—Robertus de Elmeden: Adam de eadem presbiter: Walterus de Seleby: Johannes de Merley senior: Johannes de Merley junior: Gilbertus Gategang: Willimus de Elmeden: Rogerus de Vsworth: Willimus de eadem: Richardus de Stretforth: Willimus Ruffus de Newton: Galfridus de Riklinden: Willmus de Yolton: Alexandrus de Hilton et Johannes de Linz—jurati dicunt super sacramentum suum quod Prior et conventus Dunelm. et homines sui de Wardley usi sunt pasturâ de Boldon<sup>a</sup> pacifice in australi parte ultra *Wra-kyndik* usq; campum de floleby scilicet de Wittemere versus occidentem:—ITEM dicunt quod predict. prior et conventus de Wittemere usq; Blakeslaulech pascebant aliquâ pasturam et capta fuerunt averia sua per homines episcoporū et fugata apud Boldon sed nesciunt quoquo deliberata fuerunt. Et dicunt quod mora illa de Wittemere usq. Blaklaulech continet per eorum estimacōem xiiij acras. DICUNT etiam quod a Blaklauleche versus Boldon tota mora est solum et d'nica pastura Episcopi et hominū de Boldon ex parte australi scdm. quod lapides et mete protendunt se vsq. ad finem cuiusdam fossati tempore Hugonis episcopi levati versus orientem.

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of the late deane & Chapter  
of Durham. } THOS BULLOCK  
Notary Publiq;  
& late Registrer  
RA: HEDLEY  
Not. Publiq.

No. 3. *Inquisic'o capta de Boulbornehead iuxta Heworth.*—INQUISIC'o facta apud Bolbourneheued die Jovis prox. ante Pent. anno pont. d'ni Roberti Ep'i. quarto p. tales subscript'. scilicet. p. Robertū de Elmeden: Rogerū de Ousworth: Will'm de Yolton: Robertū de Rauenesworth: Will'm de Elmeden: Joh'em Ayer de eadem: Galfridū de Quichā: Walterū de Vpeth: Richardum de Holmside: Joh'em. de Kimlesworth: Will'm. de Pockerley: Willimū de Swallowell: Willimū de Redley: Qui jurator. dicunt per sacramētū suū quod homines d'ni prioris cū omnibus averijs suis toto tempore d'ni Richardi de Marisco quondam Ep'i Dunelm. et ex tunc usq. in hunc diem paner<sup>t</sup> (\*) pasturam more p. totum a fonte qui dicit<sup>r</sup> Bolburneheued descendendo secund. cursū eiusd<sup>m</sup> fontis versus Orientem usq. campum de ffolansby et sic descendendo per *Wrakendike* versus orientem usq. Wytemer et siketū quod descendit a marisco subtus Blakelaw et sic descendendo per *Wrakendyke* versus orientem usque Wytemer et quod in dicta mora ab eod<sup>m</sup> tempore et prius absq. aliquo impedimento soluti sunt bruerā eradicare et turbas exortare ad libitum suum.

This is a true coppie  
of the Record remaining . . . . } Examined by me  
the Records of the . . . . } . . . . HEDLIE  
and Chapter of Dur. . . . . } . . . . ubliq.

\* Sic: in the translation which accompanies this document it is "did eate the pasture more by the whole from a fountaine which, &c."

Moor; and an inquest, in 1265, found that "the Prior's men, from the time of Richard de Marisco, in 1217, till that day, had enjoyed for their cattle the whole eatage of the moor, from a well called Bolburnehead, descending by its course toward the east to the ground of Follansby, and so descending by *Wrakendike* towards the east to Wytemer, and the sike which goes from the bog under Blakelaw; and so descending by *Wrakendike* towards the east of Witemer; and that on the said moor, from the said time, they had without hinderance been accustomed to pull as much ling, and pare as much turf as they pleased."

The track of this road, from the Roman station on the Law, near South Shields, to Biddic-lane, which runs from East Boldon to Jarrow Slake, is accurately described by Mr. Surtees, in his account of the remains of the Roman works, on the south side of the Estuary of the Tyne. From Biddic-lane to Hedworth Fell Gate, its course is more distinct, but still much obliterated. From that place to the south end of Monkton Mill-lane the hedge on the south side of the Leam-lane, is upon the north side of the old road; and from thence, till it enters the Leam-farm, in the township of Upper Heworth, its ridge is still bold and high, and the present high-road runs upon it. From the east end of Leam-farm, to a public foot-path from Heworth White House towards Usworth, the northern hedge of the Leam-lane is generally upon the southern margin of the Old Ridgeway. The road of the present Leam-lane again runs upon the old one, till it is crossed by the high-road from Newcastle to Usworth, at which place it still bears the name of *Wrekendike*, and keeps it till it reaches the north-west boundary of the hamlet of Eighton Banks, where the bishop of Durham, in 1387, granted to a hermit, called Robert Lamb, an acre of land on "the north side of the ville of Eighton, near the highway leading towards Gateshead, namely, on the east side of the said way, near the rill that falls from the well called the Scottes-well, to found a chapel and hermitage upon, in honour of the Holy Trinity." The junction of several roads, like the end of a bridge, was a convenient spot for one of these pitiable enthusiasts to establish a begging station upon.

From the west end of Eighton Banks to High Eighton, the track of

Wrekendyke is still visible. Dr. Hunter, in 1750, says that "here the ridge" of it "not having been ploughed up, it is partly overgrown with broom;" and "there is a foot-path along the ridge of it."—(Hut. vol. ii. p. 613, 8vo. ed.) From High Eighton to Stanley it points in a line perfectly straight; but is wholly through inclosed grounds, passing in its course on the south side of the villages of Lamesley and Kibblesworth; on the north side of the township of Urpeth, and the south side of the manor of Causey. From Stanley, Horsley supposed it passed to Maidenlaw, and thence to the station at Lanchester;\* but he found it impossible to trace its course through the bogs between Stanley and Maidenlaw.

This road not only forms a boundary between the parishes of Gateshead and Chester-le-street; and between Jarrow and Washington from the north-east corner of Eighton Banks to the foot-path from Newcastle, by Whitehouse, to Usworth; but from the first cross below that point to where it crossed the Don, at Hedworth, it was an ancient southern boundary of the possessions of the monastery of Jarrow, till the removal of the monks of that house to Durham; after which time it gradually ceased to be so, with respect to the lands on the south of it, in the township of Hedworth, the greater part of which were acquired by the Prior and Convent of Durham, in exchange for lands, in other places, with the Hedworth family.

From the pediment of the cross, which stands in the middle of Leam-lane, at Whitemere Pool, to another pediment of a cross in the centre of the lane between that place and Gingling Gate, it is a boundary between the parishes of Jarrow and Boldon: and, from the last-mentioned cross to the foot-path from Whitehouse to Usworth, it divides the ville of Follensby from the township of Upper Heworth.

From the west end of Eighton Banks westward, I am not aware that it ever formed the boundary, either of any property, or of any civil or ecclesiastical division of the county. About the year 1116, the

\* Surtees also says the same, vol. ii. p. 305; though he quotes Hunter for an opinion that it ended at Stanley (vol. ii. p. 102 and 230): A little to the east of Lanchester Church there is a farm called the Peth House, and fourteen years since, there were remains of an old ridge-way from that house towards Holmside and Chester-le-street.



boundaries of Eighton, Lamesley, and Ravensworth, are very distinctly described in Bishop Flambard's grant of these manors to his nephew Richard; but these boundaries run very considerably both to the north and south of this antient way; a circumstance which, joined to the high antiquity of the lane that runs parallel to it from Wrekenton to Lamesley, and from thence to Kibblesworth, induces me to think that, in Flambard's time it had ceased to be a public road from Eighton Banks westward; while the names of certain places on its line, and especially of *Harley Green*, *Lamesley*, *Urpeth*, and *Causey*, remain as strong presumptive evidences, that, in some part of the Saxon æra, it was not only made use of as a boundary, but that it was paved with stone, and supposed to have been made for military purposes.

HARLEY GREEN.—Mr. Hamper, in his "Observations on Hoar Stones," communicated to myself since this paper was read before the Society, has very clearly shown that "the Greek *ἄρα*" (which signifies both time, an hour, and a mountain), "the Latin *ora*, the Celtic and Welsh *or* and *oir*, the Armoric *horz*, the Anglo-Saxon *or*, *ord*, and *ora*, the obsolete British *yoror*, and the obsolete Irish *ur* and *or*, have all, to a certain degree, one and the self-same meaning, namely, *a bound or limit*" (p. 6.), and, as the lands of the little hamlet of Harley Green are bounded on the south by this branch of Wrekendike, it is fair, I think, to presume that some time prior to Flambard's episcopacy, this road, in that part of the Ravensworth estate, formed a boundary either of a public or private nature.

LAMESLEY, is written *Lamesleya*, in a charter of Richard, the nephew of Bishop Flambard. From Jarrow Slake to Wrekenton this road is called the *Leam-lane*: and there is a farm, in the township of Upper Heworth, called the *North Leam*, and one opposite it, in the ancient township of Follensby, called the *South Leam*. Now, while I think it probable, for I do not contend for it as a demonstrable matter, that Lamesley (which is the name of a chapelry and a village in the parish of Chester-street) had its name from being a *lea* over which this *Leam* or antient road passed, I think it very plain that the *Leam-lane* and the *North* and *South Leam* just mentioned, derived their names from it; and from the

very same reason that the numerous places called *Leam* or *Lemming* or *Lemington*, had their names, viz. because they were seated either immediately upon, or contiguous to some antient formed road.

Harrison, speaking of Erming Street, says some call it “*the Lelme* ;” and, we have before seen, that he supposes the author of the *Eulogium Historiarum* mistaken, in calling Rikenild-street, “*the Lelme*.” What is the derivation of this word *Leam*? Our modern words *loam*, signifying fat, unctuous earth; and *lime*, any kind of mortar, made of calcareous earth or mud, for building purposes, are of the same family as the Saxon *lame* and *lim*, which mean mud or clay, or earthen ware; *lamene*, clae; *gelman*, to agglutinate; and *liming*, a besmearing or daubing. In German *leim* is also clay, mud, slime, *potter’s earth*, &c.; and *lemich’t*, clammy, clae, &c.: and these several shades of meaning are very curiously preserved in old Glanville’s definition of *clay*, which he says “is tough earth, glewie and glemie, apte and meete to diuers works of potters.”\* *Leam* also is a word well known to every school-boy in the north of England, in the terms “a brown leamer,” and “it leams well,” as applied to a hazel nut, when it becomes brown and mealy ended, ripe, and ready to fall out of its husk. Were these roads, then, called *leams*, on account of the lightness of the friction of carriages upon them, in comparison with that on the common unformed trackways in the country? Did the wheels glide over them with some such sort of ease as clay is fashioned into earthen-ware on the potter’s lathe, or as a full ripe nut turns out of its husk? This conjecture, I think, assumes additional strength from the import of a word of similar sound and kindred meaning in the old Norske and Islandic languages, in which *hlemmi*, signifies to smooth; *hlemmi-gate*, a very smooth way; and *hlemmi-skeid*, a very easy carriage. The term, however, may be of British origin, for, as I have shewn in another place,† since this paper was written, mention is twice made of “*the formed way of Lleminig*” in Aneurin’s *Gododin*.

I shall now endeavour to show that the township of URPTH derived its name from its contiguity to this road.

\* De Proprietatibus Rerum, lib. xvi. c. 2. fol. 253. b. “An unctuous thing is meane between a gley-mie and vaporative thing.”—Ib.

† Hist. of North. part ii. vol. 1.

“Walterus de Urpethie,” Lord of Urpeth, when T. Emericus, Archdeacon of Durham, and Phillip de Hulecot were guardians of the see of Durham, in the latter end of the reign of King John, granted a third part of the ville of Pokerley, in the parish of Chester-le-street, to Daniel de Pokerley, and one of the witnesses to the deed is “Alanus de *Hurphath*.”

“Walterus de *Hurpath*” also occurs as a witness to a deed respecting lands in Pokerley, when Alexander de Bidic was Sheriff of Durham.\*

In the laws of Henry the First, and in the chapter “concerning the right of the King,” it is said that “every Here-street wholly belongs to the King.”

In the laws of Edward the Confessor it is enacted, that “in every county there shall be one *Heretoch*, chosen by election, to lead the army of the county according to the command of the King.” Also, that a “Folkmote ought to be holden in each county, on the first of the kalends of October, to provide there who shall be Sheriff, and who shall be *Heretoches*.”†

I will add another example of the meaning of *Here*, when it is applied to military persons. Bede, speaking of the Angles, says:—“Their first leaders are reported to have been two brothers, Hengist and Horsa,”‡ which sentence is thus rendered by Alfred. “Wæron tha ærest heora latteowas and heretogan twegen gebrothra Hengest and Horsa.”

From these quotations it is plain, that *here* in *Here-street* and in *Heretogan* have the same meaning as the adjectives *army* or *military*: and hence that *Urpath* or *Herpath* may mean the military way: but as the Roman road from Lanchester to South Shields passed very near the northern boundary of that estate, the most probable conjecture perhaps is, that *here*, as in numerous other places, the word means simply the *Boundary way*.§

\* Surt. Dur. vol. ii. p. 195.

† Wilk. Leges Sax. p. 205.

‡ Duces fuisse perhibentur eorum primi duo fratres Hengist and Horsa.—Smith's. Ed. p. 53.

§ Mr. Hamper by favouring the author with his “Observations on Hoar Stones,” has enabled him to add the latter and new definition of *Her*, *Har*, and *Hor*, as they occur in such words as *Herpeth*, *Harestane*, *Hoarstone*, &c., which definition he is now fully satisfied is the right one. There are

CAWSEY is a manor lying to the west of Urpeth, and had this road running through it. Its name is probably from the same source as the French word *chaussée*, or the English *causey* (corruptly written causeway) which means a foot-road; and in monkish Latin is rendered by *calceata* or *calcetum*, because such a road was *calcatum*, trodden upon. In 1399 the name of this place is written *Cauce*, when Bertram Momboucher held it of Aline Conyers.\* Cawsey Park, in Northumberland, adjoined the highway from Morpeth to Felton, and in a record of the time of Henry the Third, is written *la Chauce*.† In the 42d year of the same reign, an inquest is dated “apud Calcetum;”‡ and in 38 Hen. VIII. it is called Cawse Parke. §

After Wrekendike passed Cawsey I am not well acquainted with its course. Dr. Hunter, as has been observed, supposed that it ended at *Stanley*, which is a manor to the west of Cawsey, and has a square entrenchment on the height called Stanley Hill, where several Roman coins are said to have been found.|| But Horsley heard a traditionary account of Wrekendike passing by Stanley to Lanchester; and “was assured at Lanchester that several trees had been dug up on the moor,” west of Beamish, “which had been cut down with an axe, possibly to clear the way. And if trees have been sunk so much below the surface into the ground, no wonder if a heavy military way be much more so;”¶ and while I resided at Lanchester, from Easter, 1804, to August, 1806, I remember that I supposed I could see traces of it at Maidenlaw, and a little to the east of that place: and my opinion is, that it ran from Causey, thence through the north side of the manor of Stanley by the Shieldrow, which I take to be the place that in an old deed, dated at Stanley

numerous places in Northumberland in which *her*, *har*, *hor*, and *hare*, enter into composition in that sense, as Hordon-edge, Herpeth, Harewillows, Harehope, Harbottle, Horton, Harelawe, &c. &c. :— and “the Harestone at Edinburgh,” noticed by Mr. Hamper, stands on the edge of the Borough-moor there, on the *boundary* between the town’s property and that of *Marchiston*. It was in this stone (probably once a boundary cross) that James the Fourth of Scotland fixed his standard, before he commenced his march into England, and to his overthrow and death at the battle of Flodden Field.— (See Scott’s *Marmion*, and *Provin. Antiq. of Scot.* p. 111.)

\* Surt. Dur. vol. ii. p. 219. † Hist. Northumb. Part III. vol. i. p. 216. ‡ Sir Richard Heron’s Pedigree, p. 5. § Harl. MS. 757, p. 266. || Surt. Hist. Dur. vol. ii. p. 230. ¶ Brit. Rom. p. 451.

in 1308, is called *the "Schelis, near the Pethe, between Petheburne and Lyhtburne."*\* Peth and path are the same.

Speaking of the materials of which this road was made, Horsley says "it consists of firm gravel and sand, very hard and compact, so as to make a very good way at this time (1731) at all seasons of the year. I also believe it had a mixture of stone, or somewhat of pavement:"† and in another place he observes, that his uncle's gardener, at Cousen's House, assured him "that he had seen, and helped to dig up some stones out of Wrekendike (which he called Brackendike), so that he was altogether of opinion that this part of it," through Ravensworth estate, "was paved."‡ About twelve years since I also recollect having had its line shewn to me over the newly inclosed grounds on the south side of Blackburn Fell, along which the pavement of it had sunk below the surface of the earth; and was then dug up to be used in the new fences. In one part, on that tract, which is a little to the south-west of Kibblesworth, very great quantities of querns were found. The lessee of the farm called the North Leam, also assured me, that he had frequently met with parts of its pavement, along the southern boundary of his grounds: and I remember having myself seen the border-stones of its pavement for several yards together, both between the Gingling-gate and White-mere-pool, and along the elevated ridge of this road opposite to South Wardley. All these traces, however, have vanished before the hand of modern improvement.

The subject I have been discussing, though full of local curiosity, does not seem to be fruitful in useful conclusions. The following observations may not, however, be thought to be unappropriately appended to this paper.

\* Hoc scriptū cyrographatū testat, q<sup>d</sup> Will's de Kyrkenný d'ns de Staneley concessit et dimisit Will'o fil. Radi ffader de Vrpeth, totam terram illā toftū et c<sup>o</sup>ftum cum omīb; edificys in dto. tofto sitis et cōstruct. que Rob'ts. de Pickering p<sup>r</sup>us tenuit in le Schelis iuxta le Peth sicut iacent inter Petheburne et Lyhtburn. Habend. &c. ad t<sup>m</sup> vite sue &c. Reddendo &c. octodecim solid. & vnū denar<sup>r</sup> argenti &c. Hiis testib; Joh'e de Birteley seniore. Ada de Holmset. Joh'e de Edmaunisle. Will'o de Linze. Hugone de Grendale. Rob'to del Ouerton de Linze. et aliis. Dat. apud Staneley die M<sup>o</sup>cur. in Vigilia Assumpcionis be' Marie. Anno d'ni Millmot rcentes<sup>mo</sup> octauo.— (*From the original in the Treas. of the Dean and Chapter of Durham.*)

† Brit. Rom. p. 452.

‡ Id. p. 451.

1. The number of names, which the lands and places along this line of road have derived from it, very distinctly points out the assistance that might be expected in tracing the lines of other antient roads, by proper enquiries being made after the names of the villages, fields, and streams that adjoin them.

2. By the branch of Watling-street, that passed through Lanchester by way of Corbridge, through Redesdale into Scotland, the distance is many miles nearer to the Frith of Forth, in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, than it is by the way that passed into that country from Binchester by Chester-le-street and Newcastle into the north. For the purposes of traffic, therefore, along the main line of central communication between London and the northern parts of the Roman dominions in Britain, a road from the mouth of the Tyne to Lanchester, could not be without important advantages, both with respect to imported and exported goods, and for military operations. From the Roman station, on the site of which the present church of Jarrow is built, to where Wrekendike crosses the Don below Hedworth, that stream is navigable at high water, and consequently afforded a convenient place for the delivery of goods, either to be sent into the country or brought from it by this road. Corn, I believe, was one of the principal exports from the eastern shores of Britain in the Roman age; considerable quantities of it were shipped for the garrisons on the Rhine:\* and extensive tracts of land upon our commons, which before their inclosure, were marked with ridges and furrows, showed how extensively the Romans had ploughed the country before it was portioned out by their Saxon followers.

3. That the Romans made use of this road for architectural purposes is also plain, from the great quantities of magnesian limestone, such as is found in the Marsden and Fulwell hills, still to be seen in the field walls on the north side of the Roman station at Lanchester. J. H.

*Upper Heworth, 16th October, 1822.*

\* Ammian Marcel. l. viii. c. 2. ed. Bip. i. 160.