

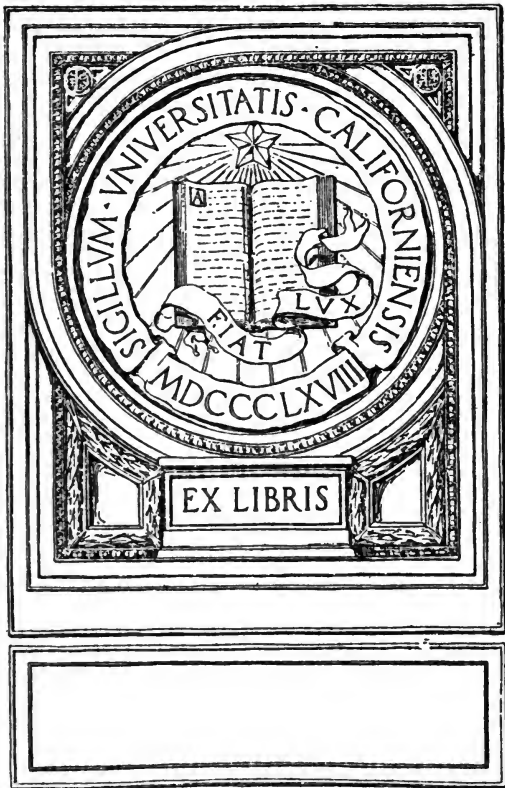
UC-NRLF

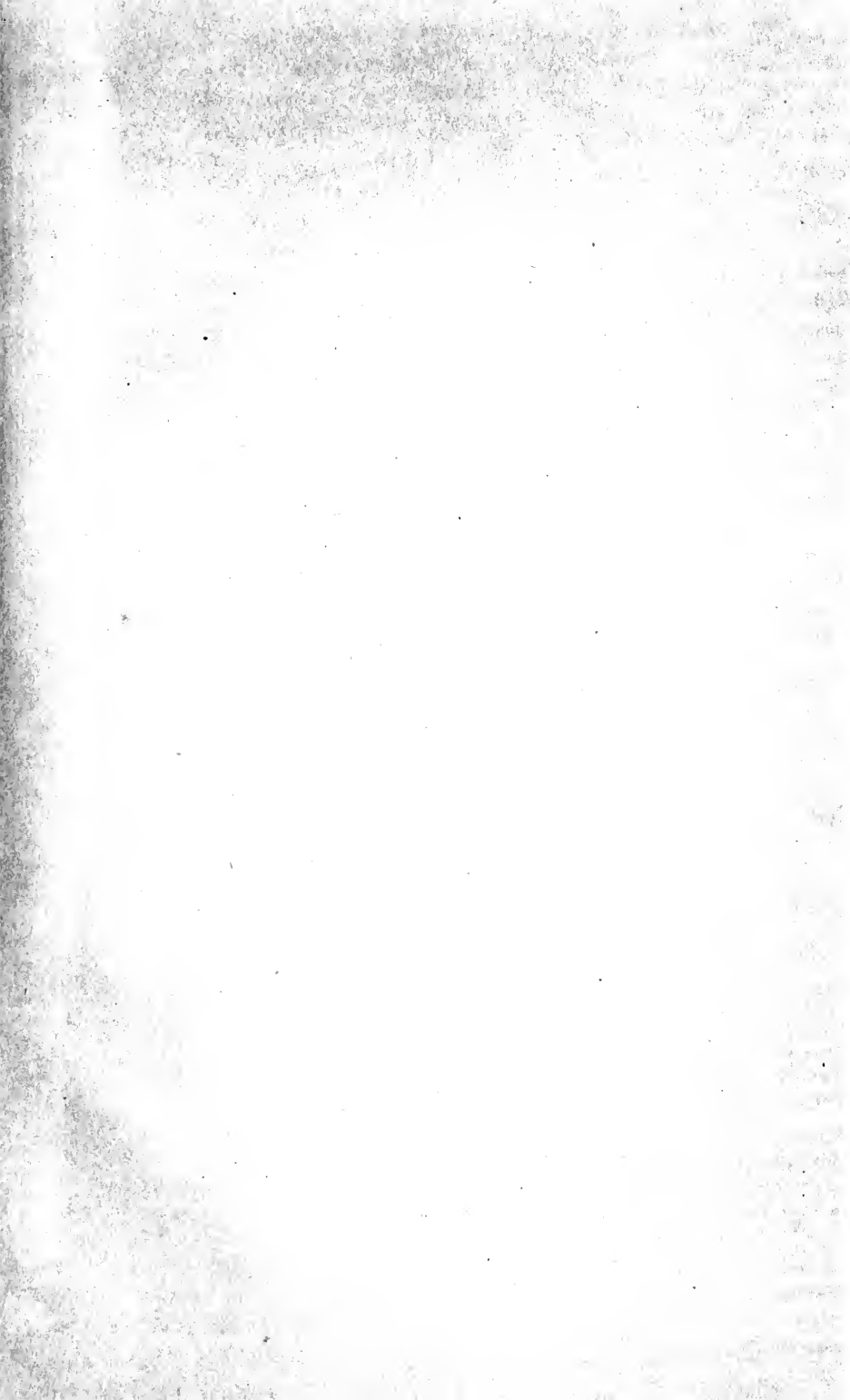


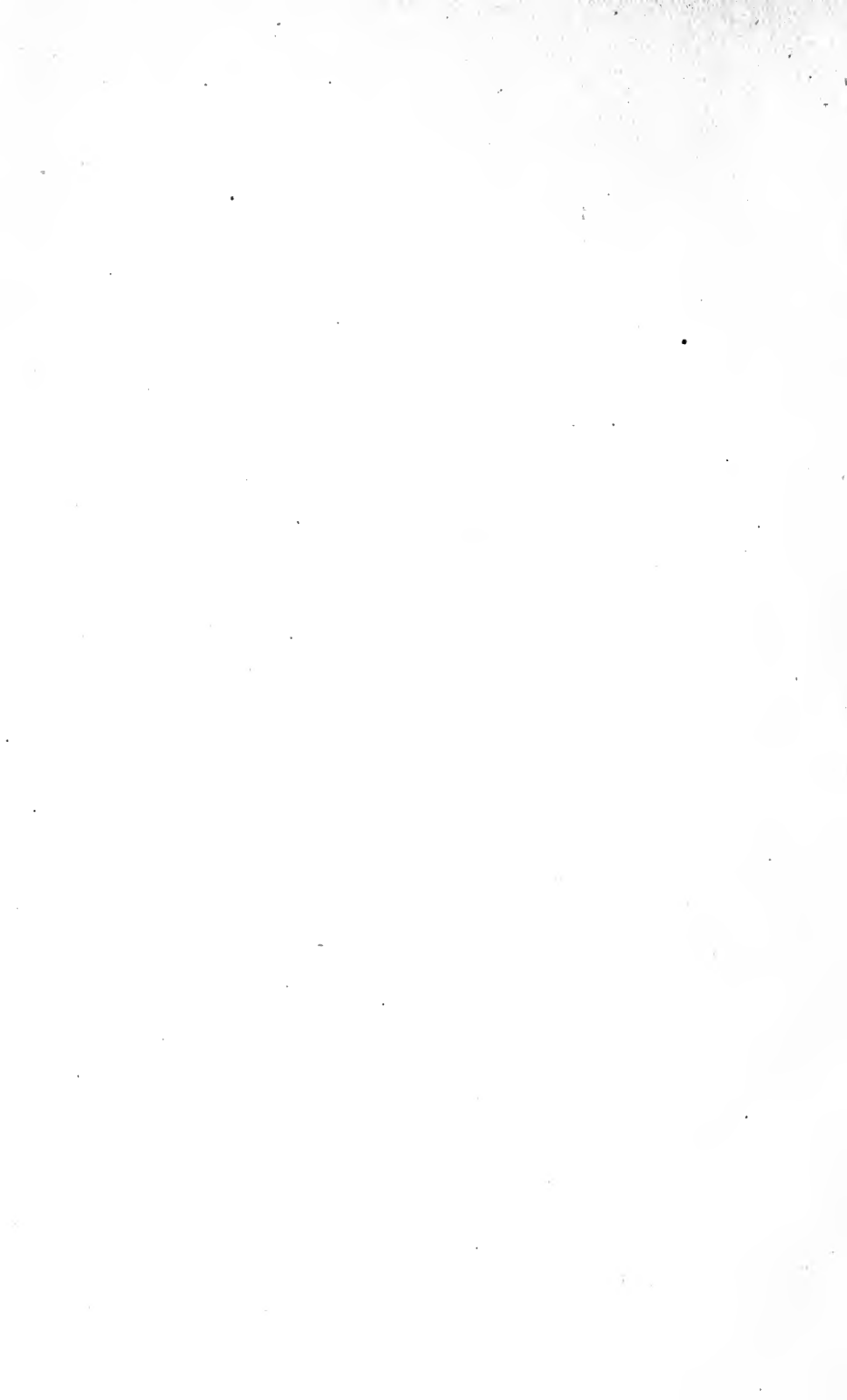
LB 755 780

THE PLACE-NAMES OF DURHAM

CHARLES E. JACKSON







THE PLACE-NAMES
OF ~DURHAM



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2008 with funding from
Microsoft Corporation

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

THE PLACE-NAMES OF DURHAM

BY THE

REV. CHARLES E. JACKSON

M.A., S. JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXON

RECTOR OF LONGNEWTON, DURHAM



LONDON: GEORGE ALLEN & UNWIN LTD.
RUSKIN HOUSE 40 MUSEUM STREET, W.C.

70 VMD
ANSONIA

DA670

D9J3

First published in 1916

(All rights reserved)

A. N. W.

PREFACE

THE investigation of the place-names of Durham is made greatly more difficult by the fact that there was no Domesday Survey of the county, and therefore that valuable source of the early forms of A.S. names is not available. Further, as the status of the county was a kind of *imperium in imperio*—there is a document extant wherein the king of the land begs permission of the bishop of the diocese to raise recruits therein!—and one in which documents were not carefully kept, there is not so full a supply of information from this source as is the case in some other counties. I went through one standard work of several hundreds of A.S. charters and found, I think, only one relating to Durham.

The place-names of the county are nearly all of native origin. Of some the secret is hidden with the greatest of undesigned diligence, but in most cases they yield what is required when the principles of the development of the dialect are applied.

The Psalmist would find no reason to abate his complaint that the people “call the lands after their own names.” A large portion of the place-names

Preface

have their origin in the personal names of the original possessors. Of these some are quite easy, and others the exact reverse, with abbreviations, and diminutives, with as little likeness to the original as our Bet, or Dick, or Jug have to Elizabeth, Richard, Judith. All such names denote possession.

A second class signifies place, e.g. *Norton, Southwick*. It has been common to call the latter part of a compound name the suffix. This appears to be a wrong description of the main part of a word. I have used the word *terminal*.

In the county records there are many pretty, interesting, and amusing names which have long ages ago dropped from the ranks. In making my lists I have consulted all the directories and maps of which I have knowledge. Some names of no interest, and others of which the meaning is clear, I have omitted.

Of two courses available I have chosen the alphabetical as being attended by less consulting of the index, but I have prefixed a short glossary of the chief words used as terminals. In dealing with such words the modern meaning, e.g. *town, bury, ham*, should be for the moment forgotten, and the word considered as the single enclosure, or dwelling, of the first colonist, or family.

Anglo-Saxon is practically a new and difficult language even to an educated Englishman who approaches it for the first time. Two or three

Preface

facts should be known about it. First it was a very highly inflected language, with grammatical gender, with five cases, and case endings for each gender and number. Adjectives agreed with their nouns in gender, number, and case. Hence it will be seen how many little things had to be known ere our far-off ancestors could use properly, e.g., the adjective "good."

There were two main declensions, strong and weak, and in addition irregular declensions. A knowledge of these is in part needful for the elucidation of place-names. Roughly, then, nouns, or names ending in *e* or a consonant, e.g. Leofric, Hunsige, are strong, and form the gen. case by adding *es*, e.g. Leofrices, Hunsiges. Others ending in *a*, e.g. Hunna, form the gen. by adding *an*, e.g. Hunnan. This does not apply to feminine names, but their occurrence in place-names is rare.

Secondly, all this elaborate system of case endings, etc., has wholly disappeared with the exception of the plural endings, and the 's of the gen. or possessive case. Many causes operated to bring about this disappearance. The most powerful, perhaps, was the neglect which was the lot of the language for a century and a half or so after the Conquest, when it was left, as a rude and barbarian dialect, to the tender mercies of the careless and uncultured portion of the inhabitants of the land. When this period ended the language was almost without words for

Preface

expressing the cultured side of life ; and the case endings, with the exceptions above mentioned, were almost all reduced to *e*, which, however, was sounded. Since then the process has continued, and that *e* has now either dropped out or become silent.

Thirdly, the vowel sounds have undergone a complete change. Before the Conquest the A.S. vowel sounds were the same as on the Continent to-day ; but since that time the long *a*, pronounced as *a* in father, has become as *oa* in boat, e.g. *ath* is now oath. The long *e*, pronounced as *a* in pay, has become as *ee*, e.g. *wep* is now weep. The long *i*, pronounced as *ee*, has become as *ei* in height, e.g. *swin* is now swine. The long *o*, pronounced as *oa* in coat, has become as *ue* in blue, e.g. *dom* now doom. And the long *u*, pronounced as *oo*, has become *ou*, e.g. *cu* is now *cou*. N.B. The *w*, for *u*, in cow is due only to the tiny twirl with which writers finished writing a final *u*. Examples of these changes will be seen in operation in certain of the place-names, and constant reference will be made to them in the following pages.

The real derivation of many place-names puts to confusion a host of the popular and beloved etymologies. It is, however, positively amazing what "stuff" is in cold blood put forth in this respect. I heard an educated man, and a member of an ancient university, tell his guests at his table that the name Surtees demonstrated the

Preface

early greatness of the family, meaning, as it did, "Sir, or Lord, of the Teesdale." All the while he had in his house a book with the sentence, "Ricardus de super Teysam." In respect of this word *sur*, how countless are the times I have heard men with the hoods of learning upon their shoulders gravely hold forth to their congregations that their *sur*names were "the sires' or fathers' names."

It may interest some to know that the *Liber Vitae*, referred to in these pages as L.V., is a book which was laid upon the high altar of Durham Cathedral about the year A.D. 800, in which were inscribed in letters of gold and silver the names of benefactors of the Church. The book began with several thousands of names, which were added to constantly, as new gifts were made, during the six centuries the book lay upon the altar. The name "Book of Life" is the expression of the hope that the names inscribed therein may be also found in the "Lamb's Book of Life." Like many other precious possessions of the Church, the book is now a "private possession."

Further, I would say, that in many cases the dates given are only approximate. In the case of a reign, period, etc., the first year thereof is given. F. or B.H. refers not only to the work proper, but also to charters, etc., therein produced.

SOME COMMON TERMINALS

Berge is the A.S. *beorh*, modern Eng. *barrow*, G. *berg*, W. *bre* = a hill ; all from the Sans. root *brih* = strong. This word is often confused with the A.S. *burh* = burgh, borough, from the verb *beorgan* = to cover.

Bury, Berry, is the A.S. *burh*, dative *byrig*, G. *burg*. The dative of this word produces the modern *bury*. In A.S. the final *h* was guttural, hence from the nominative we have *borough*. The M.E forms were *burgh*, *borge*, *borwe*, the last has become the verb *borrow*, literally to cover. The word "cover" is still used as security for loans.

Biggin is from the A.S. *buan* = to dwell, and signifies a dwelling.

Bottle is also a dwelling from *buan*, as is also *bold*. From the same source come many words in common use, e.g. *bower*, *boor*, *burly*, *neighbour*.

Brae is in many Aryan dialects, e.g. A.S. *bru*, W. *bryn*, Brynmawr. The oldest form is the Sans. *bhrū* = an eyebrow.

By, we have been told is Scand., but there is in A.S. *bu* = a dwelling, from *buan* = to dwell, to

Some Common Terminals

which word the Scand. is related, both being from the same ultimate root.

Byre, A.S. *bur*=bower, now a cowstall, had originally a somewhat wider meaning. As *Bere Ferrers*, and *Bere Alston*, in Devon, it seems lordly enough to have come over with the Conqueror.

Burn, also **Bourne**, is the A.S. *burne* (f), *burna* (m), G. *brunnen*, Dan. *brond*. Here it has suffered a common metathesis, e.g. *thrid*, *drit*, now third, dirt.

Comb is the Celtic *cwm*, Corn. *cum*, cf. Latin *cavus*, Greek *koilos*. Described by Tennyson as "a cup-like hollow of the down."

Coat or **Cot**, A.S. *Cot*, is in many Aryan dialects. Said by some to be from the Latin, *casa*=a dwelling; if so it is another form of the French *chez*=at home.

Dale, the A.S. *dæl*=valley, gulf; Dan. *dal*, G. *thal*, existing in *thaler*, *dollar*. According to Grimm's law, whereby Greek *th* becomes A.S. *d*, it is related to the Greek *tholos*=a building with a dome-shaped roof.

Den, as in *Wolfden*, is the A.S. *denn*, resort of wild animals as opposed to *ley*, e.g. *Cowley*, that of domestic animals.

Den or **Dene**, from the A.S. *denu*=a valley; although related to *denn* and often confused therewith, it is a different word.

Dun or **Don** is the Celtic *dun*=a fort; A.S. *dun*=a hill, or down, later, *dune*=a sand-hill. As

Some Common Terminals

a terminal it lost, as terminals do, stress or accent, became *don*, and then often, by further confusion, became *ton*. It may not be generally known that to fall *down* is literally to fall *off dune*.

Field is not, as is often said, "felled," i.e. a wood-clearing, but is A.S. *feld*, Dutch *veld*, and is connected with the obsolete A.S. word *folde* = the earth,

He gaf to the kowherde a kastel ful nobul
The fairest upon *fold* that ever freke seie.

WM. OF PALERNE.

Forth, A.S. *ford*, Dutch *voort*, G. *furt*, e.g. *Frankfurt*, Latin *portus*, Greek *poros*, e.g. *Bosporus*, all from the root **Per**; A.S. *faran* = to go. In the Ormulum there occurs "They *ferrdenn* towardd Nazaræth." It was common for *th* to become *d*.

Frith. There are two such words, one Scand. *fiord*, related to *ford* above, and meaning a going, a passage; and the other the A.S. *frith* = peace, and later an enclosure for protection.

Gate, we have two, (1) Scand. meaning a road, e.g. Crossgates, related to the verb, to go. In Chaucer's day "*allgates*" for all ways, was quite elegant. (2) A.S. *gæt*, *geat* = an opening; M.E., and in some dialects still, *yat*.

How, as in *Foxhow*, is the Scand. *haughr* = a hill. The word is derived probably from A.S. *heah* = high, but comes into the language as stated. It

Some Common Terminals

is sometimes confused with A.S. *hoh* = spur of a hill, found in place-names as *hoe*, *oe*, *o*.

Hope, I have read, is the A.S. *hop* = a valley, but as a matter of fact *hop* appears in no A.S. dictionary I have been able to consult. There seems to be two words, or two applications of the one, from different sources. One is the Scand. *hopr* = a small land-locked bay. In the "Bride of Lammermoor," chap. xii, Scott describes such a place called "Wolf's hope (i.e. Wolf's haven)." The other, a hoop, or cup-shaped valley, or recess in a valley, a kind of *cul-de-sac* valley. I do find in A.S. dictionaries the word *hop-pada*, which has evidently caused some difficulty. Now if *hop* signifies a circular valley, or bay, then *hop-pada* means a circular cloak. In the Prologue to "Canterbury Tales" Chaucer wrote,

Of double worsted was his semicope,
That *round* was as a bell out of a press.

Finally, *hope* seems to have had three meanings: (1) A small land-locked bay; (2) a little *cul-de-sac* valley; and (3) a patch of firm land surrounded by bog.

Ing. We have at least five *ings* in the language. (1) The present part., in A.S. *ende*; (2) what is called the verbal noun, originally *ung*, e.g. *huntung* = a hunting; (3) the diminutive as in *farthing* = a little fourth; (4) to express relationship. In A.S.C., A.D. 557, there is a long list: "Ælla Uffing,

Some Common Terminals

Uffus Usfrithing, Usfrith Wilgising," etc., meaning Ælla was the son of Uffa, etc.; (5) the gen. ending *an* often appears as *ing*, e.g. Hanning for Hannan.

Ley, Lay, Leigh, Lee, etc., are the A.S. *leah*, dat. *leage*. As the final *h* is guttural *leah* supplies *leigh*, although the guttural is no longer sounded. The word has been explained as the place where the cattle *lie*. The real root is **Luk**=shining, seen in Latin *lucem*=light; *lucus*=a grove, English *lucid*, and the meaning is "lighted," i.e. by clearing to let in the light. Now it usually means "pasture land."

Law and Low, the A.S. *hlæw*=a slope, a burial mound, *hlænan*=to cause to lean.

Ton is the A.S. *tun*=a fence, an enclosure. The idea of the word is "strengthened for protection," and it is thought to be connected with the Latin *durus*=hard. It has been very ingeniously connected with *tine*=the branch of a stag's horn, A.S. *tind*=a stake, thus meaning a "stake fence," but this is impossible.

Ham we have in the language three times, (1) A.S. *ham*=a dwelling, a home; (2) A.S. *hamm*=an enclosure, found in place names and difficult to distinguish from the above; (3) A.S. *hamm*, the ham, the inner bend of the knee.

Hale, also as **Hall, Ale**, etc., are from the A.S. *healh*, dat. *hale*=a nook. It appears in modern E. as *haugh*, with the meaning of flat land in, or

Some Common Terminals

on the level of, a river's bed. It has become confused with *hall*, from *helan* = to cover, with which it has nothing to do. Further the meaning of mansion for hall is late.

Hay. Again we have several words which have been confused, (1) A.S. *haga* = haw, fruit of the wild rose, also hedge; (2) *hege* = hay, or hedge, e.g. Roundhay; (3) *hecg* = hedge, or *ecg* = edge.

Wich, Wick, Wyke, etc., are from A.S. *wic* = a dwelling, Latin *vicus* = a village. This is one of the few words which the Romans left behind.

Wick on the coast, also **Wyck** of the salt towns, is Scand. and means a creek, a salt-pit, Icel. *vik* = a creek, *Vik-ing* = belonging to a creek, i.e. a Creeker.

Worth, A.S. *wyrth*, *weorth*. The idea of this name is something "warded." The root is certainly **Ver**, which supplies Latin *vereri* = to respect, and such words as *ware*, *wary*, A.S. *wær* = cautious, *weard* = a warder, *weardstall* = a warehouse.

Yard is the A.S. *geard* = an enclosure, the same word as *garden*. The origin of many now imposing words is very lowly. Court, e.g., was originally the cattle pen, around which the other buildings grew, thus forming what is known as a "court."

LIST OF AUTHORITIES

- R.M.** Reginaldi Monachi Dunelmensis. Surtees Society.
B.B. The Boldon Book, 1185. Surtees Society.
H. Halmote Prioratus Dunelmensis 1296-1384. Surtees Society.
D.R. Durham Account Rolls, 1307. Surtees Society.
B.H. The Survey of the Palatinate of Durham, 1345-82. Surtees Society.
L.V. Liber Vitæ Ecclesiæ Dunelmensis. Surtees Society.
P.F. The Charters, etc., of the Priory of Finchale. Surtees Society.
F. Feodarium Prioratus Dunelmensis. Surtees Society.
J. Inventories, etc., of Jarrow and Monk Wearmouth. Surtees Society.
S.D. Sanctuarium Dunelmense, etc. Surtees Society.
S. Symeon of Durham. Surtees Society.
H.S. Historia Ecclesiæ Dunelmensis. Symeon. Rolls Series.
A.S.C. Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. E. Gibson, 1692.
R.C. Rotuli Chartarum In Turri Londinensi, etc.
T.E. Taxatio Ecclesiastica. 1291.
V.E. Valor Ecclesiasticus, Henry VIII.
C.R.C. Calendarium Rotulorum Chartarum, John-Henry VI.
R.Bk. Red Book of the Exchequer. Selby.
F.S. Facsimiles of Ancient Charters in the British Museum.
Gt.R. Great Rolls.
D.K. Deputy Keeper's Record.
D.B. Domesday Book.
C.D. Codex Diplomaticus Ævi Saxonici. J. M. Kemble.
 Cartularium Saxonicum. W. de Gray Birch.
 Diplomatarium Anglicum. B. Thorpe.

List of Authorities

- R.P.D.** Registrum Palatinum Dunelmense, 1311-16.
Onomasticon Anglo-Saxonicum. W. G. Searle.
N.E.D. The New English Dictionary.
Anglo-Saxon Dictionary. Bosworth-Toller.
Student's Dictionary of Anglo-Saxon. H. Sweet.
Etymological Dictionary of the English Language. W. K. Skeat.
Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words. Halliwell.
Lectures on the Science of Language. Max Müller.
Place-names of Berkshire. W. K. Skeat.
Place-names of Staffordshire. W. H. Duignan.

THE PLACE-NAMES OF DURHAM

Aislaby, in the parish of Egglescliffe. In a list of knights from Durham who fought at the battle of Lewes it is spelled *Aslakby*; L.V. *Aslabi*; B.H. 14th, *Aslayby*; D.K. 14th, *Aslacby*. In D.B. what would be the A.S. form appear as *Aslachesbi*. The meaning is "Aslac's dwelling," from the p. name *Æslac*, or *Aslac*, and the Scand. *by* = dwelling, a word closely allied to the A.S. *buan* = to dwell.

Alden Grange, in the parish of Bearpark. P.F. 12th, *Aldingrig*; Gt.R. 1197, *Barony of Alden*; D.R. 1416, *Aldyngrigge*; F. 15th, *Aldynrige*; V.E. *Aldyngraunge*. The prefix is the A.S. p. name *Ealda*, gen. *Ealdan*. An early A.S. form of it appears in a charter, A.D. 785, *Ældenham*, now *Aldenham*, Berks. A still earlier charter, A.D. 692, has *Aldingburne*. The original terminal is the A.S. *hyrcg* = ridge; hence "Ealda's ridge."

Allansford, 2 miles S.W. of Consett. B.H. *Aleynforth*. The references are very rare and not variable. I take the origin to be the p. name *Ælla*, gen. *Ællan*, therefore *Ælla's* ford.

The Place-names of Durham

Amerston, in the parish of Elwick Hall. P.F. 12th, *Aymundeston*, *Amundeston*. The meaning is "Amund's tun," from the p. name Æmund or Amund.

Annfield, 10 miles S.W. of Newcastle. Direct references seem not to be forthcoming. The L.V. and B.H. have each William de Hanepole, and Birch records a charter with Hanefeld, Sussex. These may be from A.S. *hana* = a cock, and thus be "cock-field" with reference to wild-fowl. Again in D.B. we find Anele = Ann's field; Anestan = Ann's tun. There are personal names Ean, Eana, Æne. With this origin the meaning would be "Ann's field." Needless to say the above are masculine names.

Auckland. Spelled S. *Alclit*, *Acleat*, *Aclat*; B.B. 1183, *Alcland*, *Aclet*; P.F. 1200, and R.C. 1213, *Auclent*; 1250, *Aucklent*; T.E. 1291, *Aukland*. Because of the early forms of this word, it has been doubted whether the time-honoured derivation "oak-land" is correct. Two or three little things must be noticed: (1) The varied spelling *alc* and *acl* are quite immaterial—they are found from the same pen in almost consecutive words; (2) the A.S. *d* often stands for an original *t*, and the great thing to notice about *d* is its proclivity for reverting to *t*; (3) the letter *n* had an effect upon a preceding vowel, i.e. it turned an *a* into *o*, and an *e* into *i*. As late as the 14th century, in "Robert of Gloucester," there are instances of this:—

The Place-names of Durham

“Englelond is a wel god lond, ich wene of eche lond best,” and (4) the disappearance of *n* from words was a most common occurrence.

Aycliffe, 5 miles N. of Darlington. S. *Heaclif*; F. *Acle*, *Hacle*, *Acleia* (the Latin form); Gt.R. 1130, *Achelia*; 1211, *Aclai*; T.E. 1291, *Acley*; D.K. 1345, *Aclyf*; P.F. 1367, *Achlyff*; F. 1403, *Aclyff*. It will be seen that Symeon, the monk historian of Durham, has the terminal *clif*; after which it is *leah*=a field, until 1345, when *Aclyf* reappeared and has remained. The prefix is the A.S. *ac*=an oak, of which the long *a* became regularly *oa* in the change of vowel sounds. Perhaps Symeon may be right. That he knew the difference between *Aclea* and *Heaclif* is proved by the fact that writing under the year 851 of *Aclea*, now Ockley, in Surrey, where Ethelwulf defeated the Danes, he defined it as “quercus campus”=an oak plain.

Aycliffe, School, appears with practically the same variations as the word above. As a compound it is spelled L.V. *Scholacle*, and *Scolakly*; F. *Scole Acley*. The idea of a school may be dismissed. The matter is not quite clear, but from the records it appears that this place was private property after the vill of Aycliffe had been given to the Church. The origin of the prefix is the p. name *Scula*, or *Scule*, and the meaning of the name is *Scul's Aycliffe*. It was a common name. After the battle of Corbridge, Regenwald

The Place-names of Durham

gave the property of Saint Cuthbert between Eden and Billingham to one of his generals named Scula. A nephew of King Harold bore this name, and it has been conjectured that Sculcoates in Yorkshire was his property. There are in Yorkshire several places with the prefix Scole, e.g. Scholey, Scholecroft, Scholes, etc. Personally I am persuaded that the change from *u* to *o* in these names is due to the confusing of the sound of A.S. *u* with F. *o* by Norman writers, and that the origin of them all is this same name Scula.

Barford, in the parish of Winston. S.H. and B.B. *Bereford*, F. *Bareforde*, is from one of the most common of the A.S. *p.* names, viz. *Beorht*, also *Bere* and *Beore*; all from the A.S. adj. *beorht* = bright, then glorious, etc. It survives in modern Christian names, e.g. Bertha, Bertram, etc. The meaning is "Beorht's ford." Barham, Kent, appears in a charter, A.D. 809, as *Beoreham*.

Barlow, in the parish of Winlaton. B.B. *Berley*, *Berlei*, are the only references I have been able to find; but as they are from the three M.S.S. of the Boldon Buke, may be considered correct. In which case the origin of the name is A.S. *bere* = barley, and *leah* = a field. Barton, of which there is a number, appears in D.B. as *Beretun*. It is perhaps only right to say that *bere* came to mean grain. The modern word barley is A.S. *berelic*, literally "barley-like." I am not satisfied that

The Place-names of Durham

all names with this prefix come from A.S. *bere*, e.g. Barford. As *bearness* was a wooded grove, I see no reason why Barlow should not be a wooded hill. In this case it will be seen that the terminal has been changed. The original meaning was "barley-field."

Barmpton, 3 miles N.E. of Darlington. S. *Bermetun*; C.R.C. 1199, *Bermeston*; F. *Bermentun*, *Bermpton*; *Barmtone*; V.E. *Barmeton*. This is from the p. name Beorn, which was very common. The changes are easily accounted for. The *m* in the modern form is the usual change of *n* to *m*. The *p* is intrusive, as in Hampshire, cf. Hants. Both the changes may be seen in the modern *whimper* from the A.S. *hwinan* = to whine. The meaning is "Beorn's tun."

Barmston, in the parish of Washington. See under BARMPTON.

Barnard Castle, on the Tees (C.R.C. 1327, *Bernardes Castel*), was built by Bernard Baliol in the early part of the 12th century, within an immense tract of country given to him by William Rufus. Bernard is a contracted form of Beornheard; which is not, as some persons appear to think, from A.S. *bera* = a bear, but from *beorn* = a hero. In A.S. *beorncýning* was a king of warriors. The terminal has a first meaning of "hard," but in compound names it conveys the sense of "mighty," hence the meaning is "mighty hero's castle."

The Place-names of Durham

Beamish, N.W. of Chester-le-Street. R.Bk. 1167, *Beumeis*; B.B. *Bewmys*; V.E. *Bedme*. Joan, the heiress of this place, married a knight named Bertram Monboucher. In the list of knights from the county who fought at the battle of Lewes appears "Sir Bertram Monboucher demorant a Bewmys." The terminal is the difficulty. I think it may be some form of the French *mise* = a setting. It is true that *mise* is a feminine noun, and was so in the 16th century, but *beau* in this case may be used adverbially. See under BEWLEY.

Bearpark, 3 miles S.W. of Durham. Spelled H.P. 1328, *Beurepayr*, 1361, *Bewrpayr*; D.R. 1374, *Biewepair*; V.E. *Beaurpayr*. The place was founded by Prior Bartram, 1244-58, as a place of solace and rest, and named *Beaurepaire*, or "pleasant retreat." The French verb is from the Latin *repatriare*, which means, curiously, to return to one's own country.

Bedburn, in the parish of Firtree, 2 miles N.W. of Howden, spelled B.H. *Bedburn*; R.P.D. *Bedebourn*, is = "Beda's burn," from the p. name, found also in Bedford. In A.S. *gebed*, of which *ge* has no translatable value, means "religious," e.g. *gebedhus* = a chapel.

Bellasis, or **Bellasize**, in the township of Billingham. Spelled H. 1345, *Belasis*, *Belleys*; F. *Bellacyse*, *Bellassis*; V.E. *Bellace*, *Bellasez*. In D.K. there is mention of a Belle of Elvet in 1333; and in B.H. there is Bellesclos; C.R.P. has Bellestre,

The Place-names of Durham

i.e. Bell's tree. The terminal is the mediæval Latin *assisa*, French *asise*, modern English *assize*. When first brought into the language it signified a "fixed rent," e.g. we read of "assize of beer." A secondary meaning was portion, lot, site, etc. In H. occurs the sentence "acres medow assigned for their provision called Belasis. The meaning is "Belle's allowance or assize," from the p. name Bæll. The N.E.D. quotes from the poem "Rom. Rose," "it was in his right *assise*."

Belmont, adjoining Durham. T.E. 1291, and R.P.D. *Bello Monte*; B.H. *Bellemonte*; L.V. *Bello Monte*. This name is often assumed to be French. The above forms are all Latin, viz. *bellus* = beautiful, and *mons* = a hill. There still exists in the parish a hamlet called "Bell's vill." I think there can be no doubt that the origin of the name is the p. name Bæll, that it was originally "Bell's hill," of which the above forms are the Latin translation.

Benfieldside is a township with no village of its own name in the manor of Lanchester. Spelled P.F. 12th, *Benelands*; B.H. *Benefeldside*; R.P.D. *Bennesfeld*, and *Bennefeld*. Although I have not been able to find it there must have been a p. name Ben, Bene, because Birch has A.S. charters, A.D. 664, with Benifelde, and A.D. 780, with Beningwyrthe. If the R.P.D. form is correct we must have a genitive in *es*. I take the meaning to be "Ben's field-side."

The Place-names of Durham

Bents, The, in the parish of Whitburn. This place supplies no references. In C.S. there is a charter, A.D. 962, with *Beonetlæge*, now Bentley. This is from the A.S. *beonet* = strong grass. The word as *bent* was at one time much used. Drayton wrote, "His spear was a *bent* both stiff and strong." A place covered with such grass was called a *bent*. "Appone a *bent* without the borghe," Halliwell.

Bewley, otherwise Newton Bewley, 6 miles from Stockton. F. *Beaulieu*; defined as *Bellus Locus*, H. 1332, *Beulu*; D.K. 1377, *Bieulwe*; V.E. *Bewley*. Many French names have been ludicrously corrupted, e.g. Chateau Vert has become Shotover; this is *Beaulieu* = "Beautiful Place."

Biddick. There are two places of this name in the county. Spelled B.B. *Bedic*, *Bydyk*; C.R.C. 1272, *Bydick*; P.F. *Bedyk*. It is difficult to say whether the prefix is the preposition *by*, e.g. by the dike, or the noun *by* = a town, e.g. town-dike. F.S. has a charter, A.D. 822, with *Bydictun*, which must be town-by-the-dike. In an interesting 12th-century charter appear almost consecutively, "bi est the ker," "bi the segges," "bi sut Hodic," and "up by the strete." The sense should be "by the dike," A.S. *dic* = a trench, and also an embankment.

Billingham, 2½ miles N.E. of Stockton. L.V. 800 *cir.*, *Billingham*; R.C. 1204, *Billingeham*; T.E. 1291, *Bylingham*. The meaning is the home-

The Place-names of Durham

stead of the sons of Bill. They were an important family, and had many settlements in the country, also a "house in town," as witness Billingsgate.

Binchester, in the parish of Byers Green. S. *Bynceastre*; B.B. *Byncestre*; B.H. *Bynchestre*. One Durham historian states that the Roman name for a most important Roman station at this place was Vinovia, which signifies "water's edge"! Another statement is that the Romans called the place "Binci castra" = twin camps. I know of no such word. Latin *bini* = two-by-two. I take the meaning to be "Bini's Chester." It must be remembered that in A.S. *ceaster*, Latin *castra* = a camp, signified a city, village, etc. In the *Ormulum* we find,

Inntill the land of Galile,
Till Nazaræthess *chesstre*.

Birtley. There are two places of this name. Spelled B.B. *Britlei*; P.F. *Brittele*, *Byrtelay*; D.R. 1326, *Bircteley*; B.H. *Brithley*; D.K. 1345, *Birteley*. The A.S. adj. *beorht*, *berht* = bright, was also a very common p. name as *Beorht*, *Briht*, *Brith*, *Bryth*. Metathesis, i.e. the change of the position of a letter in a word, is common with words containing *r*, e.g. *cærs* cress, and *gærs* grass. The meaning is either "Beorht's field," or the "bright field." Birch records a charter, A.D. 880, with *Berhtanwella*, now Brightwell, Oxon.

Bishopton, about 6 miles from Stockton. P.F.

The Place-names of Durham

Bischopton; L.V. *Bissobtun*; T.E. 1291, *Bissoptun*; V.E. *Busschopton*. The derivation is the A.S. *biscop*, and *tun*. It must not be thought that all places with this prefix have any episcopal connection. Between A.D. 596 and the Conquest many Latin words, and some Greek in Latin form, were adopted into A.S. Of these one was *episcopus*, abbreviated at once into *biscop*, which at an early stage became a personal name. It is found in L.V., probably commemorating the enlightened monk Biscop, who founded the monasteries of Wearmouth and Jarrow. The name is "Biscop's tun."

Bitchburn, 3 miles N.W. of Auckland. B.K. *Bichebourne*; H. 1367, *Bicheburn*; B.H. *Bycheburn*. The M.E. form of A.S. *bicce* = bitch is *bicche*, but *biche* is found. The M.E. form of *bec* = beech is *beche*, therefore neither of these words will suit the references. There is the personal name Bica, of which the *c* becomes *ch* by what is called palatisation, hence we have Bich, and the meaning is "Bicha's, or Bica's, burn."

Blackwell, a mile S.W. of Darlington. B.B. *Blakwell*; B.H. *Blakewell*. The A.S. adj. *blæc* = black was also a p. name. It is difficult to decide whether this was "Black's well," or "black well." Moorland was called black land, but I see no reason why a well should be so styled.

Blakston, in the parish of Fishburn, has ap-

The Place-names of Durham

peared in innumerable forms: F. *Blaichestun*; R.C. 1204, *Blekeston*; R.P.D. *Blaykeston*; V.E. *Blaxton*. In early times *c* was hard in all positions. The Durham farm labourer who says *kaff* for chaff has only stood still for a dozen centuries or so. The meaning is "Black's tun." See under BLACKWELL.

Blaydon, in the parish of Stella. Spelled D.K. 1333, *Blakden*; 1345, *Blakedene*, *Blacden*; V.E. *Bladal*. The references with variations of *c* and *k* are numerous. Blac was an early personal name. See under BLACKWELL. The meaning is Black's valley, A.S. *denu* = a valley.

Bolam, 7 miles N.W. of Darlington. C.R.C. 1199, *Bolume*; R.L. 1227, *Bolom*; T.E. 1291, *Bele* (?); D.K. 1345, *Belem*. Not one affords a clue, but D.B. has Boleham, now Bolham, Bolebi, and Bolchestre. There is a p. name Bolam, which appears in local names, e.g. Bolamtre, but in this case there is no terminal. B.H. records, also in the Darlington Ward, Polumpole. Is this a mistake for Bolumpole? And has the terminal been lost? The meaning is either "Bolam's . . ." or "Bol's ham," A.S. *ham* = a homestead.

Boldon, in the N.E. of the county. B.B. and Gt.R. 1197, *Bolesden*; L.V. p. 81, *Bollesdun*; V.E. *Bolldon*, *Boolton*. Without the early forms there is great temptation to derive the name from the A.S. *bold* = a dwelling, from A.S. *buan* = to dwell. The meaning is "Bol's down," A.S. *dun* = down,

The Place-names of Durham

hill. The terminals *dun* and *den* were often confused. See BLAYDON.

Bollihope, in the parish of Frosterley. Spelled B.H. *Bolyopshete*; L.V. p. 101, *Bolehope*. Because it is in the lead district, and places with the remains of ancient smelting are known as "bole hills," this name has been so derived, but the origin is the personal name Bol, and the meaning is "Bol's valley." See HOPE.

Bradbury, in the parish of Sedgefield. B.B. *Brad bire*, *Brad berry*; S. *Brydbyrig*; V.E. *Brayd berry*. The meaning is "broadborough," A.S. *byrig*, dative case of *burh*=a fortified place; and A.S. *brad*=broad. The full A.S. form would be "æt thæm bradan byrig."

Bradley, in the parish of Medomsley. B.B. *Bradlei*; P.F. *Bradeley*. It is quite possible that the *e* in the form is the remains of a genitive case. There is a personal name Brada, in which case the meaning would be "Brada's field"; otherwise it is the A.S. adj. *brad*=broad, and the meaning "broad field."

Braeside. I have found one indirect reference, viz., Breodun is a charter (Birch), A.D. 772; L.V. has Emma de Brai, i.e. Emma of the Brow (hill). The origin is A.S. *bræw*; Scot. *brae*; Welsh *bryn*. The ultimate origin is doubtless what produced the Sans. *bhru*=an eyebrow. In some towns it is common to find the word in street names, e.g. Pinner's Brow, School Brow, in Warrington.

The Place-names of Durham

Brafferton, 5 miles N. of Darlington. F. *Bradfortun*, *Bratfertun*; B.B. *Bradferton*; B.H. *Brafirton*; V.E. *Braferton*. From A.S. *brad*=broad; *ford*=a ford; and *tun*. Hence the "broadford tun."

Brancepeth, 5 miles S.W. of Durham. Spelled R.M. 1165, *Brantespethe*; P.F. *Brandspethe*; T.E. 1291, *Brauncepeth*; B.H. *Brenspad*; V.E. *Brandispethe*. Birch has a charter, A.D. 712, with Branteswyrth. Especially in Durham where legend was legion, the tale of Hodge of Ferie and his oath to slay the "horride brawne" may be sent whither legends go. The word *brawn* is not found in A.S. It entered the language probable after 1300 from the French. The meaning "boar's flesh" is purely English (N.E.D.). Chaucer uses the word of the lower limbs, e.g. "his brawnes hard and strong," Knight's tale, 2137. We may take the early forms to be correct. In A.S. we find both *brand*=a sword, and *brant*=tall, and both words are found as personal names. As *t* very rarely changes into *d*, we may fairly choose Brant as the origin, hence the meaning is "Brant's path," but Branterton, Suff., appears in D.B. as Brantestuna. Finally *ce* was introduced by French writers for the final *s*, e.g. *anes* once, *trewes* truce, etc.

Brandon, 4 miles S.W. of Durham. P.F. *Bromdun*, *Bramdon*, *Brampton*; D.K. 1333, *Brandon*. We may assume the first forms, two centuries earlier than the last, to be the more correct, in which

The Place-names of Durham

case we have A.S. *brom* = broom, a plant; and *dun* = a hill, hence "broomhill." Later, when the long *u* of *dun*, used as a terminal, lost its accent it became *don*, which was constantly confused with *ton*. Broomhill, Wilts, appears in a charter, A.D. 937 (Birch), as Bromel.

Brearton, 3 miles from W. Hartlepool. B.H. *Brerton*; D.K. *Brevereton*; from A.S. *bræw* = briar, including thorns, brambles, and *tun*. "The enclosure by the thorn copse."

Breckon Hill, near Chester-le-Street. B.H. *Braken*, also *Brakenburn*; there is a further mention of *Brakenthwayth* = a bracken clearing. The M.E. form is *braken*, and should come from the A.S. *braccan*, but no search in A.S. dictionaries discovers such a word. The nearest is the verb *brecan* = to break, p. tense *brake*, often used for a tangled growth of woodland. The meaning, however, is "Bracken Hill."

Broom, near the city of Durham, appears, P.F. *Brom*, *Brun*, *Brune*; R.P.D. *Bromm*; V.E. *Brome*. F. has also Brumtoft, and Bruntoft of the same place; and Richard Brun, Bron, Broune of the same man. The place is so called from its situation on the stream, A.S. *burne*, and *brunna*, now known as the Brownie.

Brusselton, in the parish of New Shildon. Of this place I have found no references. It is evidently a much corrupted word. Among cognate names I find *Broseley*, Salop; *Burslem*, Staff.;

The Place-names of Durham

the latter appearing in D.B. as Barcardeslim = Burweardes hlimme, or Burweard's stream. A.S. *hlimme* = a swift stream. *Burwardsley*, Cheshire, appears in R.C., 1280, as Borwardesleye = Burhweard's field. Bur, or Burh, in the above is a corruption of the very popular p. name Beorht = bright, glorious, etc., which is found in numerous compound names. There is the further question of the *l* in Brusselton to solve. This might be the remains of A.S. *leah* = ley, a field; but in D.B. there is Brochesbi for Brochlesbi = dwelling of Brocwulf, now Brocklesby in Lincs. Therefore from these analogies I take our name to be Beorht's, or Burhwulf's, tun.

Burdon. There are at least three in the county. B.B. *Birden*, *Burdon*; Gt.R. *Bireden*; R.Bk. *Burdun*; B.H. *Burton*, *Birton*. Bardsley derives the surname Burdon from the French *bourdon* = a pilgrim's staff, but this word did not come into the language until the Crusades, whereas Birch records a charter, A.D. 931, with Byrdene. I take the prefix to be the A.S. *bur* = a dwelling, and the terminal *denu* = a valley, hence the meaning "dwelling in the valley."

Burntoft. F. *Bromtoft*, *Bruntoft*; D.K. *Brintoft*; D.R. *Bruntoft*. The terminal is the Scand. *toft*, *toft* = a building site; M.E. *toft* = a homestead. According to Canon Taylor there are in Normandy about one hundred places with this

The Place-names of Durham

terminal, e.g. Lilletot = littletoft. The meaning is "the burn house."

Butsfield, about 5 miles W. of Lanchester. Spelled B.H. *Butesfiel*, 1386, *Buttesfield*, also *Butlesfeld*. In charters recorded in P.F. are such phrases as "the but" and "super butte." In R.P.D., 14th century, there is Buttethorn. There are personal names Bot, Bud, Bota, Budda, of which some are found in place names, e.g. Botanwell, Buddanbroc. As *d* in A.S. can change to *t*, Bud would supply Butes and Butesfield. On the other hand, the word *but* was used of a small, irregular shaped piece of land, of a projection of land, and of a mound. To one of these must be referred the titles Oldmenbuttes, Athill-butes, etc., found in the county records.

Butterby, 2 miles from Durham. D.K. 1345, and D.R. 1355, *Beautroue*, *Buttry*, is a case of the romantic being made commonplace. The original form of the word was *Beautrou*. Evidently some English in those days spoke French like the Duke of Wellington, "with courage." A poetical Frenchman might write "un *beau trou* vert plein des fleurs dont le parfum," etc. It would suffice a laconic Englishman to say "beautiful spot."

Butterwick, about 3 miles from Sedgefield. L.V. *Butterwike*; D.R. 1354, *Buterwike*, *Boturwyk*; B.B. *Boterwyk*; D.K. 1333, *Buttrewyk*. Canon Taylor states that Butter Hill in Pembrokeshire is an old Viking settlement, and that the name

The Place-names of Durham

signifies "Buthar's Hill." Personally I think it is as foolish to speak of a butter-farm as to speak of a grain-granary. There is a common p. name Bothere, which a French writer, proverbially careless about aspirates, would reduce to Botere or Boter, hence I prefer "Bothere's homestead." Certainly Butermere in a charter (Birch), A.D. 863, cannot be a butter-lake! The form of D.K. suggest But's = Bud's, tree-wick, where tree would signify a landmark. But the form is late. See under BUTSFIELD.

Byers Green, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Bishop Auckland. B.H. *Bires*, *les Byres*, *villa de Byres*; V.E. *Byresgarth*. There appears to be no direct reference. It has been gravely stated, in fact "prented": "'The Bires'—a term equivalent to 'The Woods,' or the 'Wooded Hills,' is the Saxon *Bearwas*." Bosworth's A.S. dictionary has only "bearwas" = a wheelbarrow. The prefix is either the A.S. *byre* = a mound; or *byre* = a cattle stall, hut, etc.; from *þuan* = to dwell. On the other hand, Byr is another form of Beorht, and thus the meaning might be "Beorht's Green."

Byshottles, alternative name for Brandon, may be the "town latrines" or the "town lock-up," from A.S. *scytels* = a bolt, bar. Or again it may be from A.S. *scaden* = to divide, e.g. *gate-shodel* = road-parting. Time has dealt kindly with our ancestors' lack of reticence. Mixne, and Mixenden, Yorks., are from A.S. *mixen* = a dunghill.

The Place-names of Durham

Carlbury, also **Kerleburie**, 5 miles W. of Darlington. B.H. *Carlebury*. This ancient place has partially retained the old form and pronunciation of the A.S. *ceorl*=a free man; also a p. name. The terminal is the dative case *byrig* of the A.S. *burh*=a town. The meaning is "Cheorl's town."

Carlton, 4 miles N.W. of Stockton. B.B. *Carlton*, *Careleton*; R.P.D. *Carleton*; J. *Scharilton*. In A.S. times there were practically two classes, *eorl*=a man of consideration; and *ceorl*=a free man of lower rank. The meaning is Cheorl's tun. See CARLBURY above.

Cassop, a few miles E. of Durham. B.B. *Cazehope*, *Cassehopp*; D.K. 1345, *Casshop*. This is the p. name Casa, found in local names as Casanthorn, and the clan name Casing, which remains in Kessingland, near Lowestoft. The meaning is "Casa's vale." See v. HOPE.

Caudwell, in the parish of Harton. L.V. p. 90, *Caldewel*; P.F. *Caldewell*, simply "coldwell." See under COLD ROWLEY.

Chester-le-Street, 6 miles N. of Durham. S.H. *Cuncestre*, *Cunæceastre*, *Cunecacestre*, *Cunkecestra*, and finally Symeon says, "quae corrupte nunc *Ceastre* vocatur." Leland, writing in the time of Henry the Eighth, said, "The toune of Chester is chiefly one *streate* of very mean building." The A.S. prefix is the p. name Cyne, also Cun. For Chester see under BINCHESTER.

The Place-names of Durham

Chilton, in the parish of Ferryhill. F. *Cilton*; B.H. *Chilton*; L.V. *Childon*. In F.S. also Birch, there is a charter, A.D. 909, with Ciltancamb now Chilcomb, Hants. The origin is the A.S. *cild*=a child; and signifies "child's tun." In earlier times the word *child* signified a young man who had not yet earned knighthood, as in Spenser's "Faerie Queene," and Byron's "Childe Harold." Again, the p. name Cil was another form of Ceol, and therefore it may also be Ceol's tun.

Chopwell, in the parish of Winlaton. J. 1416, *Chapwell*, also the name *A. Cheppeman*. There is the p. name Ceapa which gives the local name Ceapan hlæw = Chop's hill. There is also Cheping. The A.S. *ceap* = a price, gives *ceapian* = to buy, and *ceaping*, or *chiping* = a market; hence the name Chipping Norton = the north town market. Ceapman was the merchant, hence cheap-jack, horse-coper, etc. In a charter (Birch), A.D. 675, there is Chepsted, which signifies the dealer's stall. The meaning is "Ceappa's or Chopman's well." In some dialects *to chop* still is used for an exchange of articles.

Claxton, in the parish of Greatham. F. *Clackeston*, *Clacheston*; B.B. *Clacston*. Clactun and Clactorp of Domesday Book have become Cloughton, and Claxton in Yorks. There is a p. name Clacc, gen. Clacces, which appears also as a place name, e.g. *Clacces wadlond*, hence the meaning is Clac's tun.

The Place-names of Durham

Cleadon, between Sunderland and S. Shields. B.B. *Clevedon*; R.C. *Cleveton*; R.P.D. *Clyvedon*; B.H. *Cleveden*. It will be remembered that there was no *v* in the A.S. alphabet; *f* did duty both for *f* and *v* until about 1150, when *u*, nearly always between two vowels, took its place, becoming finally *v*, but at the end of a word, for some strange reason, it was written *ve*. The prefix of the name is A.S. *clif*=a crag, hillside. The terminal must originally have been *tun*. The absurdity of a "hill on a slope" was evidently felt, because a writer in B.H. wrote *den*, A.S. *denu*=a valley. The meaning is "cliff-tun."

Cleatlam, in the parish of Gainford. S. *Clettinga*, *Clettingha*; R.P.D. 1314, *Cletelame*; D.K. 1345, *Cletlum*; D.R. 1390 *Cletlem*; V.E. *Cleteclam*. According to Searle, Clito is another form of Ætheling=the sons of Æthel, hence the meaning is the "homestead of the Æthlings."

Coatham. There are several. B.H. *Cotom*, from A.S. *cot* or *cote*=a cottage. The meaning is "cottage homestead." The word *coterie* was originally a co-operative society of cot-dwellers.

Coatham-Mundeville, 4 miles N. of Darlington. Gt.R. 1155, and P.F. *Amundeuilla*; L.V. *Mundevilla*; B.H. *Menville*; V.E. *Cotommonyle*. The references for the terminal suit two personal names, viz. Amund and Mund. In F.S. is a charter, A.D. 909, with Mundesden, Worc. If we accept the earliest references as correct the meaning is

The Place-names of Durham

“cottage-homestead of Amund’s vill.” The French appearance of the name is accidental. The terminal *vill* is quite English. Wordsworth wrote, “The tenantry of thorpe and *vill*.”

Coatsay, in the parish of Heighington, stands for Cots-on-the-moor. Is found in F. as *Cotes supra moram*; V.E. *Cootes super more*. Also Coats-a-moor, and Coatshaw. From A.S. *cot* or *cote* = a cottage, and *mor* = a waste or expanse, from Sans. *maru* = a desert.

Cocken, 5 miles N.E. of Durham F. *Cochen*; P.F. *Coken*; R.C. *Cochen*; V.E. *Cokyng*. The difficulties of this prefix are many. The writer of the last reference, when he was collecting information as to church and monastic revenues for Henry the Eighth, thought or was told that there was a p. name Cok, for he wrote Coking = sons of Cok. There is a p. name Cocca, gen. Coccan. If this is correct then the terminal ford, cliff, or whatever it was, has been lost. The meaning is “Sons of Cok,” cf. Reading = Sons of Reada; or it is “Cocca’s . . .?”

Cockerton, 1 mile from Darlington. S. *Cocertun*; B.B. *Cokirton*; D.H. Cokerton. On a small brook called the Cocker; a name which probably coincides in origin with that of the Couquet in Northumberland. If the *r* of Cocker has not been needlessly introduced, as was often the case, it may represent a dative case, and be from A.S. *coc*, cock, with reference to wild fowl, and be “the cock-stream.” See under COXHOE.

The Place-names of Durham

Cockfield, between Barnard Castle and Auckland. S. *Cokefield*; B.H. *Cokfeld*; V.E. *Cokffeld*. In the list of knights who fought at Lewes is Sir W. Cavasas (Vavasour), demorant a *Cokfeld*. S. also records *Cochanfeld*; and F.S. has a charter, A.D. 991, with Cochanfeld, now Cockfield in Suffolk. The meaning is "Cocca's field."

Cold Rowley, in the parish of Castleside. B.H. *Rouley*, from A.S. *ruh* = rough. In A.S. a final *h* was guttural, consequently the adjective in M.E. became *rugh*, *rou*. Cold, the A.S. *ceald*, was used in place-names from early times. F.S. has a charter, A.D. 972, with Caldwyll.

Collierly, N.W. of Lanchester. R.P.D. *Cullerfagh*, *Cullerfawe*; B.H. *Colierley*; V.E. *Collierdley*. This name is difficult. It is clear that there has been the notion of connecting it with coal, with which it has nothing to do. It is evidently a much corrupted p. name, probably a compound of Col, Cole, Ceol. Ceolf is an abbreviation of Ceolwulf, and appears in place names, e.g. Ceolfestun. There is also a name Culfre, which would give us Culfresleah, easily corrupted into Cull.

Colton. There are many Coltons in the land, but none yields definite information as to its origin. J. 1326, has *Collewell*. The only coal, A.S. *col*, before the Conquest was charcoal. Charcoal-burners were common. Colman appears several times in the L.V. There is no reason Colton

The Place-names of Durham

should not be the "charcoal burner's tun." But we find in B.H. Colson and Collesknave; and in F.S. there is, A.D. 995, Colles hyll. Hence we are led to the p. name Col, Ceol, found in local names, e.g. Ceolsleah and Ceolescumb. Birch has a charter, A.D. 901, with Ceols-el-den. I think the meaning is Col's tun.

Coniscliff, W. of Darlington, A.S.C. 778, *Cyningesclife*; S. *Cingesclife*; T.E. 1291, *Conesclif*; C.R.C. 1199, *Cunesclive*; R.P.D. 1314, *Conysclif*; D.K. 1381, *Consclif*. The meaning of the modern name has been sometimes given as "conies' cliff." It is in reality "King's cliff," A.S. *cyn* = the race, and *ing* = son of, hence son of, or representative of, the race. Birch records a charter, A.D. 604, with the earliest A.S. form, *Cyningesmarce*.

Consett. B.B. *Conkeshued*, *Concheshuet*, *Conekeshaved*; B.H. *Conkeshed*; P.F. *Consyde*. Is said to be called after the Cong Beck, although it is not anywhere near, nor connected therewith. I suggest that the origin of the name is the Gaelic *cnoc* = a hill, or high place; which by common metathesis becomes *conc*, with gen. *conces*. Further, Consett does stand upon a hill about 870 feet above the sea level. The original meaning, therefore, would be "hill-top"; A.S. *heafod* = head. The present terminal does not appear until the middle of the fifteenth century.

Copley, in the parish of Lynesack (S. *Copland*, *Copeland*), appears as part of the lands put in

The Place-names of Durham

pledge to Earl Ethred and others, by Bishop Aldhun, A.D. 990-1018. Copman was a personal name, as was also Coppa, which appears locally. The meaning is "Coppa's field." Birch has the name in full, A.D. 821, Coppan-stan.

Cornesay, 3 miles S. of Lanchester. B.B. *Cornshowe*; R.C. *Cornesho*; V.E. *Cornesaraw*. Coen was a common p. name, especially in compounds. I find Coenhere in the L.V. I consider this name to be "Coenhere's hill-spur," A.S. *hoh* = a projection of land, hill-spur.

Cornforth, 6 miles S. of Durham. Names with this prefix have given some trouble. Cornworthy in Devonshire doubtless is the "corn-farm," but Cornwood, is in D.B. as Cornehude, "corn-wood," which is absurd. Some writers have thought that the prefix is an old name for a stream. There are, however, several Cornbrooks in the land. The application of the prefix to, e.g., a wood, or a ford, or a homestead, irresistibly implies possession, therefore I conclude in favour of "Cœnhere's ford." *See above.*

Coundon, 2 miles E. of Bishop Auckland. B.B. *Coundon*, *Condon*; R.P.D. *Comdown*; D.R. 1341, *Counesden*; Gt.R. 1197, *Cundun*; B.H. *Condom*, *Coundonn*; V.E. *Cownedon*. It will be remembered that *n* often changed to *m*. The common name Cyne has also the form Cun. In the ordinary change of vowel sounds *cu* has become cow, and Cun has become quite regularly Coun.

The Place-names of Durham

The meaning is Cun's hill, A.S. *dun* = a hill, down.

Cowpen, Bewley, in Billingham parish. C.R.C. *Cupun*; H. *Cupun, Cupon, Coupon*; F. *Coupon*. The word is literally "cowfold." A.S. *cu* = a cow, and *pund* = an enclosure. The effect of several processes may be seen in this name. The *u* of *pund* became *y* of *pyndan*, to shut in, by vowel mutation; second, the *d* has been lost as in several other words, e.g. A.S. *lind*, now lime (tree). In M.E. *pinfold* was both penfold and pondfold. Thirdly, *u* has become regularly *ou*, as in the *cou* of the references. The modern spelling *cow* is due simply to the little flourish with which writers finished writing the word, just as *j* is due to the little flourish wherewith writers wrote the last of two or more Roman *i*'s, e.g. *vij*.

Coxgreen, .5 miles W. of Sunderland. In F.S. there is a charter A.D. 995, with Cucesham, now Cuxham, Oxon. In earlier times the A.S. *grun* = green had a wider meaning than now; e.g. village green was the whole of the village common land; a man's green was the whole of his pasture land. The origin of the prefix is either *cocc* = a cock, or *coc* = a cook. There is no manner of doubt that each was a p. name. I take the meaning to be "Cook's Green."

Coxhoe, N.E. of Ferryhill. P.F. *Cockishow* *Cokishow, Coxsow*; B.H. *Coxhowe*; F. *Kokeshou*.

The Place-names of Durham

See under COXGREEN. The terminal is A.S. *hoh*, spur of a hill, etc.

Crawcrook, 1 mile from Ryton-on-Tyne. Gt.R. 1130, *Crawecroca*; B.B. *Craucroke*; V.E. *Crawcruke*. The only p. name I can find in the records is the feminine name *Crawe*, gen. *Crawan*, appearing in a charter A.D. 909, *Crawanlea*, now *Crawley*. There must, however, have been a masculine form *Craw*, or *Crawe*, gen. *Crawes*, because we find in D.B. *Crawscroft*. The prefix is the A.S. *craw* = a crow; and the terminal is the Scand. *crook*, and signifies the bend of a river. Sydney wrote, "Those sapphire-coloured brooks, with curious *crooks*." The meaning is "Craw's bend."

Crook, 5 miles N.W. of Auckland. P.F. *Crok*, *Croke*, *Croche*; R.C. *Cruch*; B.H. *moram del Croke*. This is perhaps the most common element, certainly in Durham, in place-names. *See under* CRAWCROOK. There seems to have been a tendency to confuse it with Latin *crucem* = a cross, with which it has nothing to do.

Croxdale, a few miles S. of Durham. R.C. *Crokesdale*; D.R. *Croxstale*; V.E. *Croxdall*. This is from the p. name *Croc*, gen. *Croces*. The meaning is *Croc's dale*; A.S. *dæl* = a valley.

Dalton, 6 miles S. of Sunderland. C.D. 931, *Daltun*; F. 1082? *Dalton*. If the origin of the name is, as it appears to be, A.S. *dæl* = a valley, then the modern title, "Dalton-le-Dale," is tautology. I imagine that the meaning is "the valley

The Place-names of Durham

tun," and that the extension of the name is of later date, when the meaning of the name was forgotten.

Darlington, S. *Dearnington*, *Dearthington*; F. *Derington*; B.B. and B.H. *Derlington*; V.E. *Derlyngton*. In the reign of Ethelred one Styr presented to S. Cuthbert a vill called Dearthington, spelled by Symeon, Dearnington. It will be seen that there is no *l* in the early forms (v. Hartlepool). If Symeon is correct, the origin of the name is the p. name Deorna, which appears in place names, e.g. Deornan Mor. The full A.S. form would be Deornantun, and later, the *an* changing into *ing*, as was often the case, Deornington. Hence the meaning is "Deorna's tun."

Dawdon, in the parish of Seaham. S. *Dalden*, *Daldene*; D.K. *Dalleden*. D.K. has also Daldeford. There are difficulties, but I take the origin of this prefix to be the p. name Dealla, and the terminal the A.S. *denu* = a valley, hence the meaning is "Dealla's vale."

Denton, between Darlington and Staindrop, appears in S.D. as *Dent in Valle*. The p. name Dene is found in several other places in the county, e.g. Denshelm, Denesende; therefore I take the name to be, not valley-tun but "Dene's tun." See under DINSDALE.

Dinsdale, 5 miles S.E. of Darlington. Gt.R. 1197, *Ditleshal*; T.E. 1291, *Dyteneshall*; R.P.D. 1314, *Dytensale*; B.H. *Didynsale*; F. *Dictensale*; V.E. *Dittynsdale*, *Dynnesdal*. This name appears

The Place-names of Durham

to have been the source of some trouble, and the uncertainty of early times continues. Taylor suggests that it may be the Dan. *ding* = a meeting, as in Dingwall, and implies a Danish settlement. Another historian states that it is recorded in Domesday Book as Dirneshale, and Digneale, whereas there was no Domesday Survey of the County of Durham. Fordyce says "Dittensale, or Danes' Dale." D.B. does record a Denesberge in both Devon and Hereford, also a Denestone in Staff. There can be little doubt that the prefix is the p. name Dene. Judging from the early forms, the original terminal was *hale*, the dative case of *health* = a nook, hence the meaning is "Dene's nook."

Dunston, W. of Gateshead. I have found no direct reference, but in D.R. 1311 there is *Dunwelmedu*, and in D.B. there is Duneston, now Dunston in Staff. The A.S. adj. *dunn* = dun, brown, supplies the p. names Dun, Duna, Dunne—evidently there were Browns and Brownes in those days! The meaning is "Dun's tun."

Durham. S. H. *Dunhelm*, *Dunelm*; A.S.C. 572, *Dunholme*, 580, *Dunholm*; B.B. *Dunolm*. The original prefix is the very common p. name Dun, Dunne, which appears in very early charters, A.D. 672, Duntun, 779, Dunnestreatun, 814, Dunhamsted. The original terminal was the Scand. *holmr* = holme, signifying (1) an island, (2) a stretch of flat land by a river liable to be flooded, hence "Dun's holme." With regard to the modern name,

The Place-names of Durham

its first appearance seems to be in the 12th century, viz. Durealme, where *r* is evidently put for *n*. The adoption and consolidation of the mistake in a diocese and county devoted to the chase is quite feasible and natural. The etymological change of *n* to *r* is most rare.

In 1692 Gibson, editing the A.S.C., said, "Deorham, i.e. ferarum habitaculum," and he adds that it is the name of a large number of places, but Durham, the capital of that county, is *always* called Dunholm. Personally I do not accept the A.S. *deor* = animal, deer, as the origin of all these names. There are p. names Deor, Deora, which appear in place-names both singly and in compounds. In S.H. Deorestrete appears twice, and certainly implies that one Deor, or Deora, had a made road of his own.

Easington, about 10 miles S. of Sunderland. Gt.R. 1197, *Esinton*, B.B. and B.H. *Esyngton*, is the settlement of the Essing family, the sons of Esi. A French settlement of the same clan is Essigny. Searle gives Esi, A.D. 720, as Bede's authority for the facts of his history.

Ebchester, on the Derwent. L.V. *Ebbecestre*; T.E. *Hebcestre*. This place is on the site of a Roman camp, said to have been called "Vindomora, in the British language," i.e. "the edge of the black moor." The modern name has been defined as Upchester = "the camp on the height." The place is named after S. Æbbe, who

The Place-names of Durham

founded a nunnery here in A.D. 660. *See under* BINCHESTER.

Eden, on the coast N. of Hartlepool. S. *Geodene, Iodene, Yoden*. The *ge* of the first reference requires a little explanation. The *e* does not really belong to the word. It is what grammarians call parasitic. It crept, to the speaker's unconsciousness, into his pronunciation of a word with an initial *g*, and the next step, that of writing it down, was easy. Later, initial *g* became *y*, and *ge*, being really *g*, did so also; thus we have the almost obsolete words *ywis*, and *yclept*, for *gewis* and *geclept*. The parasitic *e* being thus cast out of the form *Geodene*, there remains *Godene*, of which the prefix is the p. name *God*, gen. *Godes*, hence the meaning is "God's vale," A.S. *denu* = a valley. There were two words, viz. *God* = *God*, and *god* = good. The latter is still a surname. With regard to the third form, it remains only to say that *i* and *y* were often confused; indeed, they were used at one period almost indifferently.

Edmondsley, 5 miles N.W. of Durham. B.B. *Edmansley, Edmondlesley*; D.K. *Edmansle, Edmanesley*. The meaning is Edmund's field, A.S. *leah* = a field.

Edmundbyers, on the Derwent. B.B. *Edmundbyres*; T.E. *Edmundbyr*. The origin is the popular p. name *Ædmund*, and A.S. *byre* = shelter, cattle-stall.

Egglescliffe, on the Tees near Yarm. Gt.R. 1197, *Ecclesclive, Egglesclive*; R.C. *Eggesclive*;

The Place-names of Durham

T.E. *Eggysclyff*; B. H. *Eggescliff*; D.K. 1340, *Eggisclive*; V.E. *Eglisclif*. There has been much confusion as to the origin of this name. It is not eagle's cliff, because *eagle*, French *egle*, Latin *aquila*, did not come into the language until A.D. 1300. It is not *eggles* cliff from French *eglise*, Latin and Greek *ecclesia* = a church, because the word *ecclesia* was never in the A.S. language at all. The A.S. word for church was *cyrica*, found in A.S.C. 789. Further, as proof of the A.S. use, Birch has a charter, A.D. 882, with the interesting clause, "qui a ruricolis appelatur *Cyrices tun*," i.e. which by the rustics is called Churchtown. In the same charter occurs *cyrices-wudu* = the churchwood. This place is now Creech in Somerset.

Further, if the form of the name in A.S. times had been Eglesclif, then, since $g=y$, it would have become Aylesclif, as *Æglesbyrh* has become Aylesbury. The prefix is from the p. name *Ecg*, gen. *Ecges*, hence the meaning is "Ecg's cliff." It will be noticed in the forms that the *l* in the prefix did not appear definitely until very late.

Eggleston, in the parish of Middleton in Teesdale. Gt.R. *Egleston*; B.H. *Egliston*; V.E. *Egleston*. This name presents some difficulties. I can find no p. name *Æcle*, and as $g=y$, *Ægle* would have become Ayle. As *Ægle* is a late form of the p. name *Æthel*, I conclude that this is a special form of "Æthel's tun."

The Place-names of Durham

Eighton Banks, in the parish of Wrekenton. R.P.D. *Ayketon*; D.K. 1381, *Eghton*; F. *Ayton*, *Aketon*. It has been rather naïvely said the modern name is from John de Heyghton, its part owner, whereas it is clear that the man took his surname from the place. From a consideration of the forms and those of Aycliffe (*which see*), I take the name to be "oak tun," another form of the many Actons.

Eldon, near Bishop Auckland. S. *Elledun*; R.C. 1204, *Heldun*; R.P.D. *Ellesden*; V.E. *Elldon*. In the A.S.C. 823 mention is made of Ellendune, defined as Mons Eallae = Ealla's hill. There are several p. names, viz., Ælla, Ælle, Ella, Elle. Whether the terminal is *dun* = hill, or *den* = vale, it is as difficult to say as to define where the one begins and the other ends. The meaning is "Ella's Hill or dale." Ailsham, Lincs., appears in D.B. as Elesham.

Elemore, in the parish of Pittington. There are no direct references. The property was part of a grant made by Bishop Pudsey to the Priory of Finchale, in the records of which place there is mention of Ellewell. I take the place to be Ella's moor.

Elstob, 7 miles N.E. of Darlington. B.H. *Ellestop*; D.K. *Ellestubbe*; V.E. *Elstobe*. The meaning is "Elle's post," probably a boundary, A.S. *stybb* = the stump of a tree.

Elton, 3 miles from Stockton. R.P.D. *Elleton*;

The Place-names of Durham

V.E. *Ellton*. This name has been defined as the "old tun" from A.S. *eald* = old, Latin *altus* = high, from *alere* = to nourish; but whereas it is difficult to find this word used as a prefix with the *d* lost, it is quite common to find it as *ald*, e.g. *aldacres*, etc. The derivation is the same as *Eldon*, and the meaning is "Ella's tun."

Elwick Hall, S.W. of Hartlepool. C.R.C. 1199, *Elevet*; Gt.R. 1211, *Ellewi*; T.E. 1291, *Elwyk*; R.P.D. 1314, *Elleswik*; V.E. *Elwett*, *Ellwyk*. For the terminal there is a local legend in support of the modern meaning of the word, but the position of the place, so hidden that the pedestrian scarcely sees it until he is upon it, is the strongest proof for *hale*, the dative case of *healh* = a nook. The full meaning is "Elle's vill-nook"; A.S. *wic* = dwelling, or vill, from the Latin *vicus* = a village.

Embleton, 4 miles S.E. of Sedgefield. There are many references in the county records to a place of the same name in Northumberland. A charter, A.D. 884, has *Hymeltun*, now *Himbleton*. The local name is said to have been derived from a copse of elms in some neighbouring valley. Such popular derivations are mostly worthless. There is a p. name *Æmele* which supplied *Æmelestun*. The *b* of the modern name is intrusive. As such it is very common after *m*; e.g. *thum*, thumb; and grumble from *grommeln*, etc.

Eppleton, in the parish of Hetton-le-Hole.

The Place-names of Durham

Gt.R. 1197, *Appleden*; P.F. *Epplingden*; B.H. *Epplyden*; D.K. 1345, *Applynden*; V.E. *Eplynden*. In spite of the lack of an A.S. form there can be no doubt that the prefix is the A.S. *æppel*=apple. It appears very early in charters, e.g. A.D. 749, Eppelhyrste. It will be noticed that the modern terminal is an innovation. The original was A.S. *denu*=a valley. The meaning was "apple-vale." The modern spelling of *apple* is absurd and unaccountable. It appeals only to the eye.

Escomb, 1 mile from Bishop Auckland. S. *Ediscum*; B.B. *Escumb*; B.H. *Escom*. The prefix is from the p. name *Æd*, or *Ed*., gen. *Ædes*. As early as A.D. 93 the A.S.C. mentions *Ædesbyrig*. The terminal is the Celtic *cwm*, A.S. *cumb*=a hollow; cf. Tennyson's "cup-like hollow of the down." Hence the meaning is "*Æde*'s hollow."

Esh, 5 miles N.W. of Durham. P.F. *Esche*; R.P.D. 1314, *Esshe*; F. *Essh*. It is difficult to say whether this name is the A.S. *æsc*=an ash, or the p. name *Æsc*. Early as A.D. 488 the name appears in the A.S.C. as that of a king of Kent. A final A.S. *c* becomes *ch* in modern English, e.g. *bec*, beech. If the *e* in the forms is the remains of a genitive case, the terminal has been dropped. The A.S.C., A.D. 648, mentions *Æscedune*, now Ashdown in Berks. If it represents a dative case of *æsc*, the full form would have been "*æt thæm æsce*," and mean "at the ash-tree."

The Place-names of Durham

Etherley, or **Edirley**, 3 miles S.W. of Bishop Auckland. I find no direct references, but Symeon, in his Hist. Reg. 877, has Ederandum for Ethandum. The county records have Etheredesacres, and Etherdacres, B.H. *Edirdacres*; D.K. *Ethardacres*; V.E. *Edderdacres*; from all which I conclude that the name is from Æthred = Æthelred, and that the meaning is "Æthred's field." The A.S. symbol *th* was a variation of *d*.

Evenwood, 6 miles from Bishop Auckland. S. *Efenwuda*; R.C. 1199, *Evenewude*; B.H. *Evenwode*. There is an Evenlode in Worcester, of which an early form is Eowinglade, where the prefix is the A.S. *earwinga* = public; but here the prefix is evidently the A.S. *efen* = level; and the sense is "the level wood."

Fatfield, 3 miles from Chester-le-Street. I have found no reference to this place, nor to any similarly named. The prefix is evidently intended as descriptive of the character of the field. A.S. *fæt* = fat, was the participle of a verb, and signified "enriched," e.g. "golde fætt sweord," i.e. a sword enriched with gold. Is it poetry—"a flower-gemmed field," or simply "richly fertile field"?

Felling, 2 miles E. of Gateshead. D.K. 1345, *Fellyng*; J. 1351, *de l'Felling*, *Felligwater*. B.H. has Smythfelling. The name means no more than a place where the timber has been felled,

The Place-names of Durham

A.S. *feallan* = to fall. Even now purchasers of growing timber do not fell but *fall* the trees.

Fendrath, or **Fendrith**, I take to be the A.S. *fenn* = a bog, fen, and *rith* = a stream. I think all names for running water beginning *ri*, *rhi*, e.g. river, Rhine, Rhone, Ribble, etc., are from the same ultimate root meaning to flow. The *d* is intrusive.

Ferryhill, 6 miles S. of Durham. B.B. *Feri*; R.C. 1204, *Ferie*; F. *Ferye*. Birch in C.S. has a charter A.D. 966, with *Feregenne*, which may be the place. The difficulty with the name is that there was no A.S. word for the modern ferry. The nearest to the word is the verb *ferian* = to carry. There is A.S. *fær* = a going, from *faran* = to travel; and there is *færmannes* = a road. Secondly, the situation of the place makes the derivation *ferry*, to say the least, doubtful. Personally I think it is the p. name *Fær*, *Far*, *Fer*, *For*, with the terminal lost; and that the original meaning has been "Fær's road." Birch records charters, A.D. 670 and 791, with *Ferring*, where also the terminal may have been lost. The sense of the modern word "ferry" is late. The N.E.D. gives A.D. 1425 as the first instance of its use.

Finchale, on the Browney, near Durham. S. *Wincenhale*, *Winchanheale*, *Pinchala*; P.F. *Finkale*, *Finchale*; R.P.D. 1314, *Feynkhale*; B.H. *Fynghall*, *Fynkhalgh*; D.K. *Fenkal*; V.E. *Fencall*. The

The Place-names of Durham

editor of "The Priory of Finchale" for the Surtees Society asks "What is a fink?" It is a twelfth-century rendering of the A.S. *finc* = a finch. Symeon's use of *w* in the above forms is a mistake arising from the great similarity of shape of the symbols *f p w* in the A.S. alphabet. Finches appear to have been an object of larger observation then than now. In Chaucer there is the line.

Full privily a finch eke could he pull.

The meaning is "finches' nook," A.S. *hale*, dative of *healh* = a nook.

Firtree, 2 miles N.W. of Howden-le-Wear. I have found no direct references. There is Furland in B.H., and Firtilthorn, Firtillesthorn in F. If Cæsar is to be relied upon there were no fir-trees in Britain. The word does not appear in A.S. Once only there is in a gloss *fuhrwundu* = a pine-tree. I am inclined to think that the name is Fær's tree, or boundary. See under FERRYHILL. The A.S. *fær* could not rightly become *fir*. It has first become confused with, and then adapted to it.

Flass, 5 miles W. of Durham. B.H. *Flash*, *Flaske*; R.P.D. *Flaskes*. The word also appears in the common substantive *flassks* = low-lying, boggy land. The derivation is the mediæval French *flasque* = a pool. It is doubtless the same word as *flash*, *plash*, found in the dialects of other counties. Halliwell quotes, "Of terryble death the wylt stacker [stagger] in the *plashes*." The word

The Place-names of Durham

plyssch appears in a charter, A.D. 891, of a grant made by Alfred. Also in another, A.D. 941 (Birch), there is *plyssh*, *plussch*.

Follonsby, in the parish of Hedworth. C.R. 1204, *Fayceby*, *Folleteby*; R.P.D. *Folestebey*, *Foletby*; H. *Folasceby*; F. *Folaunceby*, *Follansby*; V. E. *Folansby*, *Folanceby*. The forms of this word are very numerous and comprise almost all variations of the elements given. The forms do not follow in a sequence of development. As it will be seen, they are used indifferently and at the same period. From this it becomes clear that in early times there were abbreviated pronunciations of names, as strange as those of modern times, e.g. Worcester, Cirencester, etc. I take the origin to be the p. name Fullan. The full form would be Fullanesby, i.e. Fullan's dwelling. It is true that this is an uncommon name, but there is proof enough in the variations that those called upon to deal with the word were dealing with a word strange to them. As Cholmondeley is pronounced Chumley, so Follanesby could become Fulasceby and Faceby. The A.S. *u* became French *o* often owing to the similarity of their sounds; also the French turned an A.S. final *s* into *ce*, hence Fulans became Folance. The forms with *t* I can account for only on the supposition that it is an intrusion, often the case after *s*, and that later it was held to be part of the name, which was conformed accordingly. An interesting example of this in-

The Place-names of Durham

truding *t* is to be seen in the word *earnest* = a pledge, which came from the French *arres*, Latin *arrha*, Greek *arrabon*, Hebrew *arab*, all of which, it will be seen, are without the *t*.

Forest and **Frith**, extending from near Middleton in Teesdale to the borders of the county. B.H. has *in le Frith*. For Forest see FROSTERLEY. Frith is the A.S. *frith* = peace; German Friede. Later it meant an enclosure for safety, and became contrasted as valley with hill, e.g. "frith and fell." There is a Chapel-in-le-Frith in Derbyshire. It appears in many names, e.g. Godfrey, *ey* because the French could not pronounce *th*, and very curiously in *belfry*, which has nothing to do with bells.

Framwellgate, N.W. suburb of Durham. B.H. *Framwelgat*. This has been defined as "a framed well," i.e. with a framework structure over it. But our meanings of the word *frame* are all secondary and late. The A.S. adj. *fram*, means vigorous, bold, and the verb *framian* = to profit. This adj. supplied the p. name Fram. There is no reason why the name should not mean "Fram's well-road."

Friarside, in the parish of Burnopfield, denotes monastic property. The word came through the French from the Latin *frater* = brother. The prevalence of such names bears witness to what a huge portion of the county was either monastic or ecclesiastical property.

Frosterly, between Stanhope and Wolsingham.

The Place-names of Durham

B.B. *Frosterley*; B.H. *Forsterley*; D.K. *Frosterle*; V.E. *Frostley*. The Normans brought *forest* into the language from the Latin *foris* = out of doors. The keeper was the *forester*. D.K. also mentions *Forstersknav* = the forester's man. The meaning is "forester's field."

Fulwell, 1 mile from Sunderland. F. *Fulewelle*; T.E. 1291, *Fulewell*; F. 1539, *Fullwell*. There is no very material difference in the forms found. The prefix is very common. In F.S. there is a *Fulebroc*, A.D. 947, a *Fullanpette*, A.D. 991. In Durham also there are a *Fulthorpe* and a *Fulford*. The origin may be either S.S. *ful* = full, or *ful* = foul. The cleanness of a well or the fullness, would be taken as a matter of course, therefore I take the meaning to be "dirty well." Again the p. name *Fula* appears in local names, therefore it may be *Fula's well*.

Gainford, between B. Castle and Darlington. S. *Gegenford*, *Geynford*; C.R.C. 1191, *Gaynesford*. There was a family of *Gægings*, whose settlement is the modern *Gagingwell*, Oxon. Therefore there must have been a *Gæga*, although his name has not been found. In C.D. also there is a charter with *Geganlege*. The gen. of *Gæga* is *Gægan*, which is correct for the earliest forms above. Thus the name is "*Gæga's ford*." Of course *Gæging* above may stand for *Gægan*, and thus be "the well of the *Gægings*," but that does not alter the fact that there must have been a *Gæga*.

The Place-names of Durham

Garmondsway, in the parish of Kelloe. S. *Gar-mundi via*; B.B. *Germundeswey, Garmondeswey*. Symeon records that Cnut walked with bare feet along this road when making his pilgrimage to the shrine of S. Cuthbert. The meaning is "Gar-mund's road." A.S. *weg*=a way, or road. The word is common to many Aryan dialects; its origin is probably Sans. *vah*, seen in Latin *vehere*=to carry, English *vehicle*.

Gateshead. S. *Caput Caprae*=goat's head, glossed *Gatesheved*; T.E. 1291 *Gatisheved*; F. *Gaytshede*; V.E. *Gatteshead*. In modern English we have two *gates*: (1) A.S. *gæt*, M.E. *yat*, *gate*=an opening, and (2) Scand. *gata*=a path. *Gateshead*, from the latter, means "the end of the road," i.e. where the road reaches the river.

Gibbs Knees can, I think, be nothing but "Ibe's headland, or promontory," A.S. *næs*=a headland. See under NEASHAM and GIBSIDE. The place is on the Gaunless, in hilly country.

Gibside, 6 miles S.W. of Gateshead. D.K. 1345, *Gippesheved*, 1406, *Gybset*. In B.H. there is *Tybbesmawclos*. Searle records only one instance, in the work of a German author, of *Tib* as a p. name. It must be remembered that *g=y*, and *y*, owing to its confused use therewith, may be said to stand for *i*. *Gippeswic* of the A.S.C. is now Ipswich. There is the p. name *Ibe*, spelled also *Eobe*, with gen. *Ibes*, therefore I take the meaning to be "Ibe's side."

The Place-names of Durham

Greatham, 6 miles from Stockton. B.H. *Grytham*, *Gretham*; L.V. *Grethame*; F. *Greteham*. There are several streams in the country named Greet, and Greta, with places named after them; but the Durham Greatham is not on a stream so called. Therefore it must have another derivation. The A.S. *groot* = sand would not produce the earlier forms *gryth*. It is true that it has become *grit*, but only in late times, and by confusion with *grit*, from A.S. *grytt* = coarse meal. I am inclined to the conclusion that the name is from the A.S. *grith* = peace, and which became *gryth*, *greth* in M.E. The Anglo-Saxon rover who made himself a home in the sheltered and safe seclusion of a pleasant stream after struggling with a stormy North Sea would not need a very romantic imagination to call it Grytham, i.e. "Home of peace."

Greenside, 2 miles from Ryton-on-Tyne. There seems to be no direct reference; but the prefix is common in place names. I am far from satisfied that the A.S. adj. *gren* = green is responsible for this prefix so often as it is held to be. It appears absurd to call, e.g., a meadow green. One at once asks, "What are its neighbours?" Further, *Grenesknoll*, e.g., is certainly a genitive, therefore it must mean Green's hill. In Greenside the prefix evidently means the village common land, therefore the meaning of the name is "the common-side."

Grindon, 4 miles from Stockton, B.B. *Grendon*, is doubtless the "green hill." See under GREENSIDE.

The Place-names of Durham

Hallgarth, in the parish of Pitlington. There are several mentions in the county records; but the only form is *Halgarth*. The name is stated to be derived from a hall built there by Hugh Whitehead, Dean of Durham, 1542, but the name is found previous to that. Further, the word "hall" for "mansion" is late. I derive the prefix from A.S. *healh* = a nook, and the suffix from the Scand. *garthr*, which corresponds to the A.S. *geard* = an enclosure. Hence the meaning is the "nook enclosure."

Hamsteels, S. of Lanchester. D.K. 1333, *Hamsteles*; B.H. *Hamstels*. The name is from the A.S. *ham* = a homestead, and *steal* = a stall, or standing for cattle. The meaning is the "homestead-stalls." A charter (Birch), A.D. 849, has the clause "at thæm ham stalle."

Hamsterley, 7 miles N.W. of Bishop Auckland. B.H. *Hamsterle*. This place stands upon the brow of a hill, therefore there would be a "climb up," possibly steps to the original homestead. I take the middle syllable of the name to be the A.S. *staeger* = stairs, from the verb *stigan* = to ascend. Hence the meaning of the name is "homestead steps-field."

Hardwick, 2 miles from Castle Eden. F. *Herdwich*; B.B. *Herdewyk*; C.R.C. 1199, *Herdwic*; B.H. *Herdwyk*. This name is from the A.S. *heord* = a flock, herd, and means "cattle-farm."

Hare Law, in the parish of Collierly. P.F. *Herilaw*, *Herlawe*; B.H. *Harelaw*; F. *Harlaw*. It

The Place-names of Durham

will be seen that originally the word was a compound, and not as now. The prefix may have one of several possible origins, of which I think the most probable is the A.S. *har*=hoar, old. The word was later applied to almost everything that acted or was regarded, as a boundary, perhaps because of the usually venerable appearance of those things. Thus, I define the meaning as "boundary hill," A.S. *hlæw*=a mound, hill.

Harrogate, near Darlington. B.H. has *Harewbank*, *Harowdyke*. The prefix is the A.S. *hearh*, *hearg*=a (heathen) temple. Harrowdean in Beds, and Harrow-on-the-Hill have the same origin. The meaning is "temple road." Birch records a charter, A.D. 825, with "æt Hearge," i.e. at Harrow.

Hart, 4 miles from Hartlepool, claimed as the birthplace of Robert Bruce. *See under* HARTON.

Hartburn. There are several. Several authorities have *Herteburn* and *Hertburn*. The county was overrun with deer. The bishops and their courts were keen sportsmen. Many ecclesiastical tenants held their farms, etc., on terms of providing so many hounds, horses, etc., for the chase. The prefix is A.S. *heort*=a stag, and was very common.

Hartlepool is given by Bede as "*Heruteu*, id est, Insula Cervi." C.R.C. 1199, *Hertelpole*, *Hertepole*; R.C. 1201, *Herterepol*; V.E. 1291, *Hertirpol*. Here it must be noticed (1) that the *l* in the prefix is intrusive, and (2) that the *e* is what remains of

The Place-names of Durham

the A.S. *ieg*, *ig* = an island. This terminal appears in many place-names, e.g. *Chelsea*, *Hinksey*, etc. I imagine that A.S. *pol* = pool, was added when the sense of the terminal was obscured. As the name at present stands water appears in it in two guises. It will be noticed that Bede gives "stag-island" as the meaning of *Heruteu*.

Harton, between Shields and Sunderland. S. *Heortedun*; J. 1351, *Herton*; F. *Hertendun*, *Hertedun*. This word well illustrates the need to examine the beginnings of every name. By the analogy of *Harwell* we might at once call this *Hara's tun*, but as the form from *Symeon* declares, it is "hart's dun," from A.S. *heort* = a stag. We know something of the way in which deer were preserved. How they overran the country is proved by the number of local names wherein *hart*, or *hind*, or *deer* occurs. It will be noticed that the original terminal was A.S. *dun* = a hill.

Haswell, N.E. of Castle Eden. P.F. *Essewelle*, *Hessewelle*, *Hedswell*; B.H. *Heswell*; V.E. *Hes-sylwell*, *Hashwell*. The last form metaphorically describes its immediate forerunner. The French were notoriously careless about the aspirate. I take the name to be "Esse's well."

Haughton-le-Skerne, 1 mile from Darlington. S. *Halhtun*; B.B. *Halcton*, *Halton*; T.E. 1291, *Halgton*; R.P.D. *Haluchtton*. The origin of the prefix is the A.S. *healh* = a nook. Hence "the nook tun on the Skerne."

The Place-names of Durham

Haverton Hill, near the mouth of the Tees. The only reference I can find is "Sir William de Herington demorant a Herverton," in the list of knights; and in F. there is a charter, A.D. 1295, whereby T. de Herington made a grant to the convent of Durham to maintain two chaplains . . . one "in capella de Herveton." At this time the place was a vill in the parish of Billingham. A headland on the Northumberland coast, originally Hafodscelfe, i.e. head-shelf, is now Hauxley. Haverton was the last vill on the peninsula, therefore it may well have been the Hafodston, the "headland tun." Again, it may be from the p. name Hæfa, which appears in place names, and thus be "Hæfa's tun."

Hawthorn, in the parish of Easington. F. *Hagathorn*; D.R. *Hawethorne*; R.P.D. *Haughthorn*; R.C. *Hauthorn*; V.E. *Hewthorn*. The name is from A.S. *haga* = an enclosure. Later the word signified also the enclosing fence, hence the modern *haw* = a hedge. A hawthorn is strictly a hedgethorn.

Healey Field, in the parish of Castleside. B.B. *Heleie*, *Heley*; R.P.D. *Helaye*; B.H. *Heley Aleyn*. The forms are perplexing. The name must be corrupted. As it stands it is "Hea field field." I imagine that it was originally Healaw, A.S. *hlæw* = a mound. The prefix might be the Celtic *heol* = a road, but unfortunately it occurs in other places in the county and across the border. I am

The Place-names of Durham

inclined to accept the p. name Hæl, also Hel, and say it is "Hael's hill-field."

Hebburn, W. of Jarrow. S.H. *Heabrym*; R.C. 1204, *Heb'me*, *Hebine*; J. *Heberine*; R.P.D. 1314, *Hebern*; F. *Heabyrine*, *Hebbarne*; V.E. *Hebbarne*. There were two A.S. words, (1) *brim* = sea, the water, found in many compounds, e.g. *brimclif*, *brimfugol*, etc.; and (2) *brymme* = the shore. These two words have been much confused. Even the "Century Dictionary" leaves us with the information that one "is usually explained as a particular use" of the other. They are different words. With regard to Hebburn the modern terminal may be rejected at once. The place is on the Tyne, not a streamlet. And in spite of all the later confused forms I am going to say that Symeon is right, and that the terminal was originally *brym* or *brymme*, meaning water or river; and that the prefix is A.S. *heah* = high; but as the adj. conveyed the idea of deep, perhaps also broad, I take the meaning of the original name to be "deep, or broad water"; the original name would doubtless be in the dative case, and signify "at," or "on," etc.

Heddlam, in the parish of Gainford. F. *Hedlum*; and in p. names as *Hedlam*, *Hedlem*. The p. name *Æthel* appears also as *Adal*, *Edel*. This name I take to be *Adel*, or *Æthel's* homestead. Needless to say *Æthel* was a man's name.

Hedley, in the parish of Lamesley. B.B. *Helley*,

The Place-names of Durham

Hedley; in a charter of Bishop Pudsey, *Hethley*. The prefix is the A.S. *hæth*=heath, and the meaning is the "moor-field."

Hedworth, 2 miles from Jarrow. S.H. *Heathewurth*; F. *Hethewrth*; D.K. *Hethwurth*; F. *Hettwurth*. The meaning of this name is "the warded farm on the heath," from *wyrth*=a defended place; A.S. *werian*=to defend. See under HEDLEY.

Heighington, 6 miles from Darlington. B.B. *Heghyngton*; T.E. *Hechington*; B.H. *Heihington*, *Heingthone*; V.E. *Heghington*. The meaning is the settlement of the Hæcings, i.e. the sons of Hæcca.

Helmington, 4 miles N.W. of Bishop Auckland. S. *Healme*, *Helme*. This is the settlement of the Helmings, i.e. the sons of Helm.

Henknoll, in Auckland S. Andrew's parish. B.B. *Henknolle*; B.H. *Henknoll*. Heane was a p. name appearing in place-names, e.g. Heanespol. In L.V. there is (p. 82) *William de Hanepole*. I take this name to be Hean's knoll, A.S. *cnoll*=a hill, or hill-top.

Herrington, near Houghton-le-Spring. B.B. and P.F. *Herington*; Gt.R. *Erinton*; B.H. *Haryngton*. The meaning is the settlement of the Heorings, i.e. the sons of Heor. There is a place called Herring in the S. of England, and there is a Harrington in Northumberland.

Hesilden, 2 miles S. of Castle Eden. A.S.C.

The Place-names of Durham

780, *Seletun*; S. *Seletun*; C.D. 931, *Heseldene*; P.F. *Hesilden*; F. *Haseldene*, *Munkhesilden*; V.E. *Heslyden*. The early forms are evidently from the A.S. *sealh*, *salig* = a willow, e.g. *sealhyrst* = a willow copse. The later name is the A.S. *hæsel* = a hazel, e.g. *hazelhyrst* = a hazel copse. The full A.S. form appears in a charter, A.D. 802, *Hæseldenne*. The meaning of the present name is "hazel-vale," A.S. *denu* = a valley.

Hett, 4 miles S. of Durham. F. *Heth*, *Hette*, *Hett*, *Het* is the A.S. *hæth* = heath. There is a place in Beds. called Broom.

Hetton-le-Hole, 6 miles N.E. of Durham. Gt.R. 1197, *Eppedon*; P.F. *Heppedun*; R.P.D. *Heppale*; F. *Hepton*, *Hettone*; V.E. *Hepton in Valle*. The terminal was *dun*, but being unaccented it became *don*, and then confused with *ton*. The meaning is "Æpe's hill in the Vale."

Heworth, 3 miles from Gateshead. F. *Hewarde*, *Hewrtha*; B.B. *Heworth*; R.C. 1208, *Heywurth*. The meaning is "hedge-worth," i.e. the farmstead with a hedge. A.S. *hege* = a hedge, and *wyrth* = a warded place, a farm.

Holmeside, 6 miles N.W. of Durham. B.B. *Holneset*; B.H. *Holmeset*. The meaning is "flat water-land side." See under HULAM.

Hoppy Land, S. of Wolsingham. R.L. 1226, *Hoppiland*; B.H. *Hopyland*, *Hopeland*. The p name *Oppa* appears in place-names, and I take this name to be "Oppa's land."

The Place-names of Durham

Horden. S. *Horetun, Horeden*; L.V. 98, *Hordene*. The A.S. *har* = hoar had a secondary meaning of "boundary," and I am inclined to think that this name signifies the "boundary valley"; but on the other hand, there is the p. name Hor. Birch has a charter, A.D. 874, with Horatune, now Horton, in Kent, therefore it may be Hor's valley; again there is the A.S. *hor* = filth, and as one of the forms has *tun*, it might possibly be "dirty tun."

Houghall, 1 mile from Durham. F. *Howhale, Hocchale, Houhal*; V.E. *Houghall*. The sense is "nook on the hill-spur," from A.S. *hoh* = spur of a hill, modern hough, and *healh* = a nook.

Houghton-le-Spring. B.B. and Gt.R. *Hocton*; P.F. *Hoghton*; B.H. *Houghton*. This place, at the head of a valley sheltered by hills, is appropriately the "hill-tun," A.S. *hoh* = the spur of a hill. The place was once held by a family with the name Le Spring.

Howden, 4 miles N.W. of Bp. Auckland. S.H. *Hoveden, Offedene*; Gt.R. 1130, *Houenden*; R.C. *Houeden*; F. *Howedene*. The *u* in some of the forms is the consonant used first to express the sound of *v*. The prefix is the A.S. *hof* = an enclosure, dwelling, temple. Hofweard was probably the janitor of the temple. The German *hof* signifies court, palace. The meaning of the name is "house in the valley."

Hulam, 1 mile S. of Castle Eden. S.H. *Hulam*;

The Place-names of Durham

B.B. *Holome*; D.R. *Holim*; V.E. *Holme*. This is the Scand. *holm* = flat land by water, or in the bed of a river.

Hunstanworth, on the W. border of the county. B.B. *Hunstanesworth*; T.E. 1291, *Hunstanworth*. This is "Hun's stone's farm," probably a boundary stone. See under HUNWICK.

Hunwick, 2 miles from Bp. Auckland. S. *Hunewic*; B.B. *Hunewyc*, *Hunwyk*, R.P.D. 1314, *Honewyk*, *Hunnewyk*. This is from the common p. name Hun, and the meaning is "Hun's farmstead." The meaning of Hun does not appear to be known. It is given hypothetically as "cub."

Hurworth, on the Tees. R.C. 1204, *Hurthewrth*; P.F. *Hurthworthe*; T.E. 1291, *Hortheworth*; Gt. R. 1197, *Hurdeword*. I take the origin of the prefix to be the p. name Heard, and the meaning "Heard's farmstead." The *th* of the prefix may be due to the influence of the *th* in the terminal, or to a confusion of the symbols *d* and *th* (the latter was a special form of the former), or that the French, who changed a final *t* into *th*, did so here in the case of the other dental *d*.

Hutton Henry, near Castle Eden. S. *Hotun*; B.B. *Hoton*, *Hotton*; P.F. *Hoctun*; D.K. *Hocham*, *Hecham*; F. *Henricus de Hoton*. The last reference explains the latter part of the name. The prefix is the A.S. *hoh* = heel, spur of a hill, etc., modern hough. The sense is "tun on the spur of the hill."

The Place-names of Durham

Ingleton, in the parish of Staindrop. S. *Ingletun*; D.K. *Ingleton*. Angel, Engel, Ingel are p. names, but only the first is found alone, the others appear in composition, e.g. Ingelbeorht. The words mean Angle, or English. About a dozen Englebys appear in Domesday Book. In the Danish terminal *by* may be found the explanation, as marking the dwelling-place of an Angle in a Danish colony. Ingleton, i.e. Angle's tun, may have marked the dwelling of an Angle where all surrounding colonists were from another province.

Irish Hope, 1 mile from S. John's Chapel. B.H. has Johannes *Yrishe* and F. has *Yreshal*. The adj. Irish was in use in early times. In Layamon's Brut, twelfth century, occurs among other mentions, "And tha Irische weoren nakede." Here it marks the possession—a valley—of one of that nationality.

Iveston, in the parish of Leadgate. B.B. *Ivestan*; P.F. *Yvestan*; V.E. *Juestan*. The terminal is *stan*, A.S. *stan* = stone, in all the forms. There is a famous stone in the place. Therefore the modern form may be held to be incorrect. Searle records Ivo as a personal name as early as A.D. 575, and also as the name of a British bishop. The original meaning was "Ivo's stone."

Jarrow, on the Tyne. S.H. *Girvum*; S. *Girwa*, *Girvi*; R.C. *Gerwin*, D.R. 1278, *Jarue*; F. *Gyrwe*, *Gryuum*, *Jarwe*, *Jarrow*. Symeon says that the place was called Portus Ecgfridi in the A.S.C. 794, but in my edition the writer speaks

The Place-names of Durham

only of a monastery at the mouth (river). In a letter from the Bishop of Rome, A.D. 757, he calls it "Donæmuthe." Jarrow is situated where the Don enters the Tyne. It is a curious fact that although the word *yare* = a weir, absolutely abounds in the Durham County records, yet costly and imposing dictionaries are without it. I take the prefix of Jarrow to be that word. The confusion of *g*, *y*, and *j* needs a little explanation. First the A.S. *g* = *y*; and *j*, which is a chance invention of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, was adopted to express a sound for which up to that time *g* and *y* were used. Thus Symeon wrote Geddewerde for what is now Jedworth; but Jarome has reverted and remains Yarm = weir-ham. With regard to the terminal there can be no doubt that it was originally A.S. *wic*, a vill. Leland had no doubt on this point and wrote Gyrovicensis, but its identity seems to have become confused, and merged into either Scand. *how* = a hill, or the A.S. *hoh* = the spur of a hill. Thus I take the modern meaning to be "weir-hill," and the old meaning to have been "weir-settlement."

Kelloe, between Durham and Sedgefield. R.M. 1165, *Kelflau*; T.E. *Kellaw*, B.H. *Kellau*, *Quellaw*; F. *Kylow*. The meaning is Ceol's hill, or burial-mound. In A.S. *c* was hard in all positions. After A.D. 1150 *k* took the place of *c* before *e* and *i*; about the same time also *qu* began to take the place of *cw*, which accounts for the form (mistaken)

The Place-names of Durham

Quellaw. The terminal is the A.S. *hlæw* = a hill, etc.

Kepier, on the Wear, near Durham. P.F. *Kyppeyer*; T.E. *Kipeyer*; D.K. *Kepewyk*; B.H. *Hipwyk*; V.E. *Kepeyere*, *Keipier*. The definition from the word "to keep" cannot be correct. The records mention, L.V., Juliana de Kippeswic, and Juliana de Chipwic; therefore, although I cannot find it, there must have been a p. name Cyb, or Cyp, with a gen. in *es*. The terminal is *yare* = a fishing weir. See under JARROW. Many are mentioned, e.g. Ebsyare, etc. Thus the meaning is "Cyp's weir."

Ketton. F. *Cattun*, *Cathon*, *Chettune*; B.B. *Ketton*. From the forms above I am inclined to accept as the origin of the prefix the p. name Ceatta, because *ce* was pronounced as *ch*, e.g. *ceap* = cheap; *cealc* = chalk, etc. In which case it is "Ceatta's tun." At the same time, although Searle does not record it, there can be no doubt that the A.S. *catt* = a cat, was a p. name. Birch has charters, A.D. 800, with "Cattes hinc," and A.D. 939 with "Cattes stoke."

Keverston, in the parish of Staindrop, appears in the list of knights in B.H. as *Kevyrston*. In Symeon's list of the gifts of Cnut to S. Cuthbert is *Cnapatun*, said to be Keverston; if so it has been renamed. This name may be an abbreviation of Ceolfrith. The full form would be Ceolfrithestun. The Norman difficulty with *th* would make it

The Place-names of Durham

Ceolfrystun. There are instances of *l* being dropped in the abbreviation of the names, e.g. Cered for Coelred.

Kibblesworth, 6 miles S. of Gateshead. P.F. *Kibbeswurhya*; L.V. *Kyblesworth*; F. *Kibleswig*; D.K. *Kebillsworth*. This must be Cynebill's farmstead. The name Cybba, which appears in local names, e.g. Cybbanstan, is probably a pet form of Cynebill, as Cutha is of Cuthgil.

Killerby, 7 miles N.W. of Darlington. F. *Culuerdebi*, *Kiluerdebi*; B.B. *Kyllerby*, *Kyllirby*; I can find no name but Culfre. The full form would be Culfresby. In the A.S. alphabet at the outset the symbol *f* did the work of both *f* and *v*. In the twelfth century the consonant *u* was introduced for the latter sound. Thus the form Culuerdebi is arrived at, and finally Killerby, when all traces of the case endings were lost. Thus the meaning would be "Culfre's dwelling."

Killinghall, in the parish of Middleton S. George. B.H. *Kylinghall*; V.E. *Kelyngall*. L.V. has Kylinton, and D.K. Kylingworth. The meaning is Cylla's nook. The gen. of Cylla is Cyllan, of which the *an* has been turned into *ing*, as was often the case. The terminal is A.S. *healh* = a nook.

Kimbleworth, 2 miles N.W. of Durham. R.C. 1199, *Kimelsworth*; T.E. *Kymillesworth*; B.H. *Kymbelsworth*; V.E. *Kymlesworth*. The meaning is "Cynebeald's farmstead." It may be noticed

The Place-names of Durham

that *n* becomes *m* before *b* or *p*, e.g. *henep* = hemp. Kimbolton in Notts is also "Cynebeald's town."

Kininvie, in the parish of Barnard Castle. For this place I can find no references. R.C. has a charter, A.D. 1204, with Kinestan in another county. The *p.* name Cyna, Cina, gen. Cinan, occurs in the L.V. It is possible that the name signifies "Cinna's dwelling," Dan. *by* = a dwelling.

Kirk Merrington, near Bp. Auckland. F. *Merington, Merinton, Merigton*, is the settlement of the Mærings, or Myrings, the royal race of France. Taylor states there are no less than twenty-four settlements of the family in France and seven in Germany. The first element—Kirk—explains itself, but it is interesting as asking the question, "Where did the Anglo-Saxons obtain their name—*cyrica*—for church?" It is the Greek *κυριακός*. I think it is clear that some of our A.S. forbears had been converted to Christianity by Greek-speaking missionaries ere leaving their native shores for this land.

Knitsley. B.H. *Knychel, Knycheley*; R.P.D. *Knygtheley*. The origin of the prefix of this name would appear to be A.S. *cniht* = a boy, servant, and the modern knight, found in records as *knyth*, e.g. Sir G. Lumley Knyth. The name is clearly "the knight's field." See LEY, page 15.

Kyo. N. of Lanchester. P.F. *Kyhow*; D.K. *Kyowe*; V.E. *Kyhoue*. Also in B.H. are *Kyow-path*, and *Kyowloning*. The terminal *o* is the

The Place-names of Durham

A.S. *hlæw* = a hill, etc. The prefix is what remains of a p. name beginning Cy, Cyne, very popular alone, and in combinations.

Lambton, 2 miles N.E. of Chester-le-Street. P.F. *Lamton*. The meaning is "lamb-enclosure." See under LUMLEY.

Lamesley, 4 miles S. of Gateshead. T.E. 1291, *Lamesley*. The p. name Leofman became Leman. It appears in place-names, e.g. Leofmannes gemæro. The corruption of Lemanesley into its present form is easy and natural. The loss of an *n* was most common.

Lanchester. Spelled B.B. *Langchestre*; R.L. *Langecestre*; R.P.D. *Langcestre*; P.F. *Lonkastyr*; B.H. *Langchester*. There appears to be no adequate reason why the prefix should record the length of the village. There are p. names which agree with the forms, e.g. Lang, Langa, Lanc, Hlanc. This is, I think, "Lang's town." See under BINCHESTER.

Langley, 5 miles S.W. of Durham. P.F. *Langeley*; B.B. *Langlei*; B.H. *Langley*. The A.S. adj. *lang* = long supplied the p. name Lang. It is customary to derive this prefix from the said adj., in some cases, I think, wrongly. However, it is practically the same thing; the meaning is either the "long field" or "Long's field."

Langton, 2 miles N. of Gainford. S. *Langadun*; P.F. *Langeton*. Here the terminal was originally *dun* = hill. See under LANGLEY.

Leadgate, near Consett. Spelled B.H. *Lydegate*.

The Place-names of Durham

The popular etymology which refers to a toll-gate, where pack-mules laden with lead were taxed, cannot be upheld. The vowel sounds changed by rule, and A.S. *lead* could not be *lyde* in the 14th century. The N.E.D. says that A.S. *ludgeat* = a swing gate separating the pasture from the arable land. B.H., p. 83, has "apud Pelton lyde-gate." Birch has a charter which mentions "hlidgeates." Of course there was a p. name Lid = Leod. Birch records a charter with Lydesige = Lid's island; and 904, Lidgearde = Lid's yard, now Lydeard, Somerset.

Leamside, 4 miles N.E. of Durham. H. 1380, *Le Lemsid*; 1365, *Le Leme*. From the Fœdarium we learn that there was another district, belonging to the Prior of Durham, in the parish of Heworth, and spoken of as "in vasto nostro de Lem." I think there can be no doubt that the reference is to a stream, small or great. N.E.D. gives *leam* = a drain, or watercourse. Some of the stream names are rather poetical, e.g. Sherburn (which *see*) and Greta, from *greetan* = to murmur. This is perhaps from the A.S. *leom* = ray of light. Halliwell quotes from M.S. Ashmole, "The lyght of heven in a *leme*." Thus the meaning of "Le Lem" would be "the glittering." See SHINCLIFFE. Surtees suggested *leam* = easy, but I can find no such word; and he connected the name with "brown leamers" (really leemers, or ripe nuts), and Roman roads.

The Place-names of Durham

Leases, in the parish of Burnopfield. R.P.D. 1314, *Leases*. This name is the A.S. *laeswe* = pasture land, from *laeswian* = to feed flocks. The A.S. suffix *we* changed to *ow*, e.g. *widwe* = widow. Laeswe became Leasow, and is so found in the Wirral Peninsula to-day. The name is simply "pasture lands."

Leasingthorn, 3 miles E. of Bp. Auckland. There is a p. name Lesing. From this it would be "Lesing's thorn," probably a boundary. Again, the gen. plural of the A.S. *laes* = pasture land is *laesena*, which might have become *laesing*, and thus the meaning would be "pasture-thorn," being used as a sort of signpost.

Ludworth, 6 miles S.E. of Durham. D.K. *Ludeworth*; F. *Ludeurchia*, *Ludeurthe*. With regard to the last form it may be said that the A.S. alphabet used an old rune for *w*; it was replaced first by *un*, then later by the French *w*. The origin of this name is the p. name Lud, Lude; and the meaning is "Lud's farmstead."

Lumley, 2 miles S.E. of Chester-le-S. S. *Lum-malea*; P.F. *Lommeley*, *Lomeley*, *Lumble*; T.E. 1291, *Lambeleye*; B.H. *Lombley*; J. 1378, *Lumley*. One or two of the forms in which the vowel has been lengthened point to A.S. *lam* = loam, but this suggestion may be ignored. The origin is the A.S. *lamb* = a lamb, hence "lambs' field." There was considerable variation in the spelling of the word, e.g. *lomb*, *lemb*, *lombor*. There was some

The Place-names of Durham

carelessness in the use of A.S. final *m*, *mb*, and *mm*.

Luterington, in the township of W. Auckland. S.H. *Lyrtingtun*; S. *Luterington*; B.B. *Lutrington*, *Lotryngton*; B.H. *Lotrynton*. I can find nothing better than the p. name Hlothhere, thus the name is Hlotheringtun, the settlement of the sons of Hlothhere.

Lynesack. R.P.D. 1314, *Linesak*; B.H. *Lynsak*, *Lynesak*. There were many place-names in the county with this prefix, e.g. Lynholm, Lynehalgh, etc. There is a p. name Lin, Lind. It is well known that *d* drops from the latter, e.g. *lind* = lime (tree). The meaning is, "Lind's oak," A.S. *ac* = oak. There is a Rokesac = Hroc's oak in Beds.

Maidenstonhall, near Witton Gilbert. D.R. 1341, *Maydencastell*; B.H. *Maidestane*, *Maydenstanhall*; R.P.D. *Maidenstane*. In F.S. A.D. 975 there is Madanlieg, now Madeley in Staff. There are also in Durham Maiden Law, Maiden Castle, and Maiden Bower. Of Maidenhythe, Skeat has said that it is so called because it has provided a landing free from anything to excite feminine fears. Of Maiden Bower a writer has stated that it is so called because maidens were wont to assemble there to milk their cows. A most unpractical proceeding! In the name in question, "stone" is, of course, a boundary stone, and "hall" is from the A.S. *healh* = a nook. The prefix I take to

The Place-names of Durham

be the p. name Mada, gen. Madan, hence the meaning is "Madan's stone-nook."

Mainsforth, 3 miles N.W. of Sedgefield. B.B. *Maynesford*; H. *Manceforth* (due to the French practice of turning final *s* into *ce*); B.H. *Maynesforth*; F. *Mannesforthe*; V.E. *Manesforth*. The A.S. *mægen* = strength, and is found as a p. name both singly and in compounds. I take this name to be "Mægen's ford." It will be remembered that A.S. *g* = *y*.

Malton, in the parish of Hamsteels. No direct references forthcoming. In the A.S.C. in A.D. 913, and in half a dozen other places, there is mention of Mældune, now Maldon in Essex. The place is named from the A.S. *mæl* = a sign, token, etc., e.g. Cristes *mæl* = Christ's Cross. Therefore Maldon was a down with some sign thereupon, e.g. a cairn. Thus Malton may be a tun with a sign, e.g. a cross. Again, Mæla is a personal name, and Mæla's tun is not impossible.

Marley, 5 miles S.W. of Gateshead. B.B. *Merlei*; R.Bk. 1211, *Marlei*. The meaning is the "boundary field," A.S. *mær* = a boundary. The word was very common in compounds, e.g. *mærapul*, *mærstan*, etc.

Marsden, in the parish of Whitburn. I have found no reference. In F.S. there is a charter, A.D. 774, with Mersctun, now Merston, in Kent. The meaning is "marsh valley," from A.S. *mersc* = a marsh; and *denu* = a valley.

The Place-names of Durham

Marwood, near Barnard Castle. S. *Marawuda*; R.P.D. *Morewode*. This is the "boundary-wood" from A.S. *mær*. See under MARLEY.

Medomsley, 2 miles from Consett. B.B. *Medomesley*, *Medomsle*; Gt.R. 1211 *Madmesl'*. The references are neither many nor helpful. I take the name to be "Mæthelhelm's field." The p. name Mæthel had also the form Madal. Indeed, in Yorks to-day Methley is often pronounced Medley.

Middridge, 4 miles S.E. of Bp. Auckland. B.B. *Midderrigg*, *Midrige*; B.H. *Midrich*, *Mitrich*, *Midregg*, *Midderigge*, is the "Middle ridge" from A.S. *hrycg*=back of a man or beast, later any extended elevation. The M.E. form is still preserved in *rig*, for the back, in various dialects.

Some he breketh ther neck anon,
And of some the *ryg*boon.

Monkton, in the parish of Jarrow. F. *Muncatun*, *Munchetun*; R.C. *Munketon*; F. *Mounk-tone*, is the "monk's tun," so called because from early times it was monastical property.

Moorsley, in the parish of E. Rainton. C.R. 1199, *Morlawe*; F. *Moreslawe*; V.E. *Moresley*. There are p. names Mor, e.g. Moresburh; and More, an abbot mentioned by Symeon of Durham. The original terminal is A.S. *hlæw*=a mound (burial), hill, etc. I take the meaning to be "More's burial-mound."

The Place-names of Durham

Mordon, in the parish of Sedgefield, also Morton, and Morton Palms in the parish of Sadberge. B.B. *Morton*. The references much confuse the terminal. The meaning is "moor-down" and "moor-tun." The last is distinguished as belonging to one Brian Palmes, who was attainted and his lands escheated.

Morley, in the parish of Evenwood. H. 1199, *Morelega*. This is the "moor-field," A.S. *leah*, dative *leage*=a field, and *mor*=a moor.

Muggelswick, on the Derwent. B.B. *Moclyng-gecwyc*, *Muglyngwyc*; T.E. *Mukcleswyc*; B.H. *Mugliswyc*; F. *Muklingwic*; R.P.D. *Mukkclyn-geswyc*; V.E. *Mogelswyc*. It should be noticed that a French *o* often stands for an A.S. *u*. This is from the very common p. name Mucel, gen. Muceles, hence "Mucel's vill," A.S. *wic*=vill, from Latin *vicus*=a village.

Neasham, in the parish of Hurworth. T.E. 1291, *Nesham*; B.H. *Neseham*. The origin of this name can be nothing but the A.S. *næs*=a headland. The place is on an eminence near the river, hence the meaning is "headland homestead."

Nesbit, in the parish of Hart. B.H. *Nesebit*. *Nesbyt*; D.R. *Nesebyt*; F. *Nesebith*. The terminal is the A.S. *byht*=a bend, or bight of a river, from the verb *bugan*=to bow down. See under NEASHAM. Thus the name may be the "headland-bend." In L.V. there is mention of

The Place-names of Durham

“Nes the son of Nes,” therefore it will be seen that the meaning may be “Nes’s bend.”

Nettlesworth, 2 miles N.W. of Plawsworth. R.P.D. *Netlesworth*, B.H. *Nettilsworth*; J. 1392, *Netyrhewrth*; V.E. *Netheworth*. However boldly the modern form flaunts what its predecessors modestly hinted, the name has nothing to do with A.S. *nete* = nettle. It is from some p. name compounded with Nid, Nith, probably Nithbeald, Nidbeald. The A.S. *d* did become *t*; in fact, it does so still in countless words. I take the meaning to be “Nidbeald’s farmstead.” If not, it is the transference of *n* from the end of one word to the beginning of the one following, e.g. “æt then Ætheles worth,” has been written “æt the Nætheles worth.” Cf. *a newt* for “an ewt,” or *an orange* for “a norange,” which are the correct forms.

Newbiggin, sometimes **Newbegin**, is a common name. There is little variation in the forms found. Needless to say it has nothing in the world to do with “turning over a new leaf,” as some forms of pronunciations imply. The word is connected with the M.E. *bigg*, Scand. *bygge*, A.S. *bu* = a dwelling, but all these words are from a common source, the oldest known forms of which are the Sans. *as* = to be and *vas* = to dwell. The meaning is “a new dwelling.”

Newbottle, 2 miles N. of Houghton-le-Spring. B.B. *Newbotill*, *Newbottle*. The terminal is the A.S. *bottl* = a dwelling. According to Halliwell it

The Place-names of Durham

was applied to the manorial residence. The meaning is "new dwelling." The word "*botl*" is connected with the A.S. *buan* = to dwell, *byttlan* = to build, from the prolific root *BU* which supplies *bold*, *boor*, *bower*, *burly*, etc.

Newsham. There are two places of the name, B.B. *Newson*, *Newsom*; Gt.R. 1197, *Newehus*, *Newhus*; Bp. H. *Newsom*, *Newseham*; D.R. 1384, *Neuson*; J. 1372 *Neusom*; V.E. *Newhousse*. The full form was "æt thæm neowum husum." By dropping the *h* such forms as *Newsom* are at once explained. The meaning is "new houses."

Nuckton, in the parish of Hunstanworth. B.H. *Knokeden*. It will be seen that the terminal has suffered change. I can find no p. names, nor place-names in charters suitable. From the description of the place in B.H. it appears to have been cleared moorland. I am inclined to think that the prefix is the M.E. *nok*, *nuk* = a nook, Scotch *neuk*. Near there is a place named Craig Nook. Cold Knuckles, near Seaton Carew, I take to be "cold nook fields," A.S. *leah* = a field.

Nun Stainton, in the parish of Aycliffe. H. 1364, *Non Staynton*, 1580 *Newn Stainton*, *Nunstanton*; F. *Nun Stainton*. See under STANTON. This place was given by Iveta of Arches to a convent of which her sister was Prioress, hence the prefix.

Oakenshaw, 7 miles S.W. of Durham. No direct references. The meaning is clear. The *n* is some-

The Place-names of Durham

times taken, mistakenly, for a plural, like oxen. It really has no right in the word, though it may be the remains of the dative plural ending which was *um*. The derivation of the name is A.S. *scage* = a copse, and *ac* = an oak.

Offerton, 4 miles S.W. of Sunderland. S. *Uffer-tun*; B.H. *Wfferton*. The prefix of this name is from the A.S. preposition *ofer* = over, above; hence the name means the "upper tun."

Ouston, 3 miles N.W. of Chester-le-Street. There appear to be no direct references, but there is mention in the records of Oustre, Oustrefeld, in the same part of the county. As the Normans made a practice of dropping *w* before *o*, the name as it stands is Wouston, or Wulf's tun.

Owton, in the parish of Seaton Carew. P.F. *Oveton*. The reference is fairly early, and may be considered correct. The names Offa and Ofa are in the L.V., the latter more than once. The meaning is "Ofa's tun."

Oxenhall, 3 miles S. of Darlington. B.B. *Oxenhall*, *Oxenale*. The terminal has followed the usual course and here reached a *reductio ad absurdum*. It is not hall, but the A.S. *health* = a nook. The sense of the name is "a sheltered place for oxen."

Pallion, a district of Sunderland. B.H. (list of knights) *Pavylloun*; J. 1453, *Pavilyon*. This name is the French *pavillon*, from the Latin *papilionem* = a butterfly. It now signifies a tent, but it was at

The Place-names of Durham

first an erection for special purposes, belonging to a larger building or institution. The familiar manner in which it is mentioned in the latter of the above references gives credence to the idea that it was a retreat for the monks of Jarrow and Wearmouth.

Pelaw, in the parish of Fatfield. B.B. *Pelhou*, *Pelhowe*, *Pelowe*; R.P.D. *Pellawe*; B.H. *Pelawe*, *Pellowe*; D.K. *Pelewe*. The p. names available are Pil, also Bil, and Pælli. The meaning is "Pælli's mound," A.S. *hlæw* = burial mound, etc.

Pelton, 2 miles N.W. of Chester-le-Street. B.H. *Peltone*. It is nearly impossible to give a derivation where helping references are not forthcoming. There is a Peleshale in Domesday Book, now Pelsall, therefore there must have been a p. name Pel. The Normans used *e* to represent several A.S. sounds; therefore the meaning is probably "Pælli's tun."

Penshaw, or **Painshaw**, 3 miles N. of Houghton-le-Spring. B.B. and D.K. *Pencher*; P.F. *Penchere*; B.H. *Penchare*. There seems no doubt that the terminal is the Scand. *kjarr* = bog, or fen; English *car*. It remains in Batley Carr, Yorks; and is very common in some parts. The prefix has, I think, been a gen. case, e.g., Pines, or Pennes, as in Pennsfeld, Sussex; and the final *s* has been read as the initial letter of the terminal, making it *scar*, and as *sc* was pronounced as *sh*, the full name became *Penshar*, written as *Penchar* by French

The Place-names of Durham

writers. In this case the meaning is Pin's or Pen's marsh. There is the Celtic word *pen* = the head, hill, etc., but the objections to that derivation are too great to make it worth consideration.

Picktree, in the parish of Fatfield. B.B. *Piktre*; B.H. *Pyktre*. A tree appears often in place-names, probably as a boundary mark. The p. names Pic, Pice are also common in place-names. Domesday Book records Picote, Piceham, Picheurde, now Piccots, Pickham, and Pickworth. The meaning is Pice's, modern Pike's, tree.

Piercebridge, 5 miles W. of Darlington. S. *Persebrigce*; B.H. *Percebrig*; V.E. *Persebrig*. In L.V. are the names Wil. de Perci, and Alan de Perceio. The meaning is, not as often stated, Priest's but "Percy's bridge."

Pittington, 4 miles N.E. of Durham. R.C. *Pitindon*; C.R.C. *Pittenden*; H. *Putingdon*; P.H. *Petyngton*; D.R. *Pydyngdon*; B.H. *Pytyngton*. "The settlement of the Pætings" has been suggested, but that name could scarcely supply the various forms. There are two p. names, viz., Pita and Putta. There is a charter (Birch), A.D. 672, with Pitanwyrthe. The meaning is "Pita's hill." A.S. *dun*. It will be noticed that the terminal has been changed. The *an* of the gen., e.g. *Pitan*, often became *ing*.

Plawsworth, 3 miles N. of Durham. B.B. *Plausword*; D.K. *Plawseworth*; H.B. *Plausworth*. This is clearly a much-abbreviated p. name. Searle

The Place-names of Durham

gives Plesa, Ploesa, probable diminutives of Pleoweald. The name signifies the farmstead of a person with some such name as Pleoweald.

Preston, of which there are several. F. *Preostun*; *Presteton*; B.B. *Preston*, is the "priest's tun"; A.S. *preost*, Latin *presbyter* = priest.

Quarrington, 6 miles S.E. of Durham. S.H. *Cueorningtun*; S. *Queornington*; B.B. *Queringdon*; C.R.C. *Querington*; D.K. and D.R. *Queryndon*. The query put by the name is not quite easy to answer. Even allowing for corruptions there appears to be no suitable p. name. The place receives special mention in the Boldon Buke in connection with mills (*molendina*). There was an A.S. *cweorn* = a mill. The A.S. *cw* was replaced by the French *qu*, hence *queorn*, plural *queornan*. N.B.—The A.S. case ending *an* often became *ing*. Thorpe records a charter, A.D. 1060, with *Cuerintune*, D.B. *Que-
rentune*. I therefore conclude that the meaning is practically the "milling tun." The N.E.D. quotes from the Lindisfarne Gospel, A.D. 950, "æt cweorne," and from Ælfric, "æt thære cweoran."

Rainton, 5 miles N.E. of Durham. B.B. *Raynton*, *Raynton*; R.C. *Reinton*; F. *Reinuntun*; V.E. *Rauntone*. This is the settlement of the sons of Rein, or Regen, from the A.S. *regen*, with the sense of "supreme," e.g. *regenheard* = supremely hard; *regentheof* = archthief. The corrupted modern form is "Regen's tun."

Ramshaw, in the parish of Evenwood. B.H.

The Place-names of Durham

Ramsale; D.K. *Rameshewe*. The meaning is "raven's copse"; from A.S. *hraem*, *hraef*=a raven; and *scaga*=a copse. The prefix was also a p. name. Birch records the charter, A.D. 768, with Hrofiscestri, now Rochester, of which place the bishop signs "Roffen." Remenham in Berks=Raven's homestead.

Ravensworth, in the parish of Lamesley, appears as *Raffen*, *Raffenswoth*, *Raffensholm*; D.K. 1345, *Revensworth*. See under RAMSHAW.

Redmarshall, near Stockton-on-Tees. P.F. *Reedmershill*; T.E. 1291, *Redmershill*; R.P.D. *Redemershehille*; P.F. *Redmersell*; V.E. *Redemshall*. In a charter recorded by Birch, A.D. 755, is the clause "qui habet nomen Reada beorg," i.e. which has the name of Read's hill. Birch has other early charters, A.D. 758, with Readburne, 774, Readanhora, and 963, Reode mære leage, now Redmarley. In A.S.C. 871 there is Readingum, now Reading. The meaning is "Reada's marsh-nook," A.S. *mersc*=a marsh, and *healh*=a nook.

Redworth, in the parish of Heighington. B.B. *Redworth*; B.H. *Reddewort*; V.E. *Reidworthe*. This is "Reada's farmstead." See under RED-MARSHALL.

Ricknall, on the Skerne. F. *Richenhalle*; B.B. *Rikenall*, *Rykenhale*; B.H. *Rekenhall*, is "Rica's nook," A.S. *healh*=a nook; and Rica, gen. Rican.

The Place-names of Durham

Roker, a suburb of Sunderland. L.V. has *Rokersburc*, and in R.P.D. is Rochside. A charter, A.D. 938, has Hrocastoc, now Rookstock in Devon. The A.S. *hroc* = a rook was also a p. name. If the L.V. form refers to this place the terminal has been lost. On the other hand, it may be the remains of "Hroc's carr," or marsh. *See under* PENSRAW.

Rookhope, 5 miles from Stanhope. B.H. *Rokhop*, *Roghop*; D.K. *Rukehop*; V.E. *Racope*. The meaning is "Hroc's hope," or valley. *See under* ROKER.

Roughside, in the parish of Edmundbyers. B.H. *Rughside*, *Rughyde*; V.E. *Roughside*. The prefix is the A.S. *ruh* = rough. The meaning is clear.

Rowley, in the parish of Castleside. R.L. 1226, *Ruxley*; T.E. *Ruley*; R.P.D. *Rouley*; B.H. *Rowleye*, is the "rough field." *See under* ROUGHSIDE.

Ryhope, 3 miles S. of Sunderland. S. *Reofhoppa*; B.B. *Roshepp*, *Refhop*; Gt.R. 1197, *Riefhope*; V.E. *Revehop*. The origin is the p. name Raf, Ræf, and the meaning "Raf's hope."

Ryton, 7 miles W. of Newcastle. R.P.D. *Ryton*. This is the only reference I can find, except *Riton*, which is practically the same. In B.H. there is also Rygsonhous. There are two Rytons in Warwickshire, which appear in D.B. as Rietone, and later as Rugintune (Rugantun), Rutune, and Ruyton. These are from the p. name Ruga, gen. Rugan,

The Place-names of Durham

which appears in place-names, e.g. Rugan sloh, A.S. *sloh* = slough. Thus our name might be Ruga's tun. Again there are the p. names Ric, Rica, Rih, Riht, which appear singly in place-names, e.g. Ricanford; and in compounds, e.g. Rithres heafod, A.S. *heafod* = head. From this it might be Ric's, or Rih's tun. Further, as Ripon has been tentatively derived from Latin *ripa* = a bank, it might have this derivation, as Ryton is on an eminence on the banks of the Tyne, but this is most improbable.

Sacriston, 4 miles N.W. of Durham. B.H. *Sacristanhough*. The name is not quite so easy as it appears. First the modern terminal is incorrect; it should be *tan*. The explanation that it was the summer residence of the cathedral sacrist is not feasible. He was no such important personage. Possibly in the thirteenth or fourteenth century the French word *secrestein*, Latin *sacrista* = the keeper of sacred things, came into the language, where it remains as *sexton*. The said French word was also a p. name. One bearing this name owned the land in question. The really curious coincidence is that the official *sacrist* in 1435 took on a ninety years' lease some land near Sacristan's hough. Sacristan is nothing more than the name of the owner. The terminal has been dropped.

Sadberge, 4 miles E. of Stockton. P.F. *Satberge*; C.R.P. 1179, *Sabergh*; R.Bk. 1211, *Setnerge*; F. *Sitberry*; R.C. *Sudberga*; D.K.

The Place-names of Durham

Sadbery; V.E. *Sadby*. The terminal is the A.S. *beorh*=a hill, the modern barrow, and is not to be confused with *burh*=borough. The prefix has been defined as a "seed barrow," from A.S. *sæs*=seed; but the *t* of the early forms, which must be considered correct, forbids this derivation. A further suggestion is from the A.S. *sittan*=to sit, and *sadol*=a saddle, hence a "saddle-back hill." A final suggestion is the p. name Sith, also Sid. There were two symbols for *th* in the A.S. alphabet: one, voiced, became *d*, e.g. *forth*, now ford; the other, unvoiced, became *t*. I consider that the *t* of the forms may be due to this, and the modern *d* to be either the regular change from *th* in Sith, or to be the voicing of *t* before *b*, hence I take the meaning to be "Sith's, or Sid's, hill."

Satley, 4 miles S.W. of Lanchester. T.E. 1291, *Sateley*; R.P.D. 1314, *Satteley*; B.H. *Satleye*; F. *Satalay*, *Satele*. The forms suggest a gen. case, but I can find no suitable p. name. I am inclined to think that this prefix is the A.S. *set*=a fold, but when used in the plural, a camp; thus the *e* would be the remains of a plural ending, and the meaning would be "camp field."

Seaham, S. of Sunderland. R.P.D. 1314, *Seham*; V.E. *Sehame*, is just the "homestead by the sea."

Seaton Carew, S. of Hartlepool. S. *Ceattun*; D.R. 1308, *Seton*; B.H. *Seton Karrow*. The editor of S. for the Surtees Society appears to

The Place-names of Durham

have made an error in a footnote on p. 147 explaining "duas Sceottun" as Seaton, whereas that word becomes Shotton. It is difficult to reconcile Symeon's form with those of later date. According to him it is "Ceatta's tun," but the later forms are simply "the tun by the sea." A.S. *sæ* = sea.

Sedgefield. S. *Ceddesfeld*; B.B. *Seggefild*; T.E. *Segefild*; B.H. *Seggafild*. In Domesday Book there is Seggesleye, now Sedgley in Staff. The derivation is the p. name Secgga, an informer, from *secgan* = to tell. The name means "Secgga's field." The A.S. *cg*, *gg* became regularly *dge*, e.g. *brycg* = bridge.

Selaby, near Gainford. B.H. *Seleby*; C.R.C. *Selbye*; F. *Selysby*. From A.S. *sealh* = a willow, hence "dwelling by the willows." At the same time there is the p. name Seol, which appears in a charter, A.D. 714, "Seoles ige," now Selsey in Sussex.

Shadforth, 5 miles S.E. of Durham. P.F. *Shaundeford*; B.B. *Shadeford*, *Shaldeforth*; D.R. *Schaldford*; B.H. *Schaldeforth*. As this ford is across an unimportant beck the derivation is most probably A.S. *sceald* = shallow. But there is the p. name Sceald, which appears in a charter, A.D. 824, as "Sceldes ford," which is clearly "Sceald's ford."

Sheraton, 2 miles S. of Castle Eden. P.F. *Scurvetun*; S. *Scurufaton*; B.B. *Shuruton*, *Surueton*; D.K. *Shruveton*; V.E. *Shirotongaunga*.

The Place-names of Durham

Scurfa was the name of a Danish earl, among others. The meaning is "Scurfa's tun," which removes the seeming reflection upon the hygiene of the place.

Sherburn, 3 miles E. of Durham. B.B. *Sirburn*. *Shirburn*; Gt.R. 1211, *Scireburne*; T.E. *Schyreburn*; B.H. *Schirbourne*. The origin is the A.S. *scir* = clear, bright, hence "clear burn." There is a charter as early as A.D. 671, with *Scireburn*, now *Sherburn*.

Shields, at the mouth of the Tyne. F. *Scheles*; H. 1364, *Schelles*; V.E. *Shelles*. In Gibson's "Monastery of Tynemouth" it appears as *le Shelths*, and as late as 1625 as *Sheeles*. The *d* is intrusive as in alder, A.S. *alr*. The word has no connection etymologically or otherwise with shield, A.S. *sciold*. It is the Scand. *skjul* = a shelter. The word is very common in the Durham records. Burns wrote, "The swallow jinkin' round my *shiel*." The word was applied to shelters used by men pursuing their avocations away from home, e.g. shepherds. Here it is "shelters" for fishers.

Shildon, 3 miles S.E. of Bishop Auckland. Gt.R. 1211, *Selvedon*; T.E. *Schilvedon*; R.P.B. *Shilvedon*. From A.S. *scylf* = a shelf, very often found in place-names for shelving ground. The sense is the "shelving down."

Shincliffe, about a mile from Durham. F. *Sineclive*; R.C. *Sineclive*; D.R. *Schyncliff*; D.K. *Shin-*

The Place-names of Durham

clyf; V.E. *Shinkclyffe*. The origin is undoubtedly the A.S. adj. *scien* = beautiful, *scienfeld* = Elysian-field. There may be noticed in the forms the French practice of putting *s* for *sh*, to them a difficult sound. A.S. *sc* became *sh*, e.g. *scola* = shoal, *scrift* = shrift.

Shiney Row, 2 miles N.W. of Houghton-le-Spring. The origin of the name is A.S. *scien* = beautiful, and *ræw* = a row. Originally this terminal appears to have had a more extended meaning than now, and to have signified an extent of country. The prefix appears in L.V. pages 10 and 13, Surtees Soc., in the names *Seenuulf* and *Synniuulf*.

Shotton. There are at least three places of this name in the county. The name appears in S.H. *Scottadun*; S. *Scotton*; B.B. *Sioton*, *Shotton*; T.E. *Schotton*. The meaning is "Scot's tun"; *sc* was pronounced as *sh* (see above). In the records "Scot the son of Ælstan" is mentioned as a generous landowner.

Silksworth, 3 miles S.W. of Sunderland. S. *Sylceswurthe*; C.D. 931, *Sylceswyrthe*; C.R.C. 1327, *Silkesworth*; B.H. *Silceswurthe*. A.S. *seolc*, *seoloc* = silk, and there has been some speculation as to the sense in which the word could be applied to a farm; but there was also the p. name *Selc*, *Seolc*, therefore I take the meaning to be "Seolc's farmstead."

Simonside, 1 mile from Shields. P.F. *Symonseth*;

The Place-names of Durham

J. 1313, *Symondesett*; F. *Symondsett*; V.E. *Symondsyd*. This place was originally called Preston. The name is from Simund = Sigemund. In A.S. *sige* = victory, and *mund* = protector, or protection.

Skeringham, in the parish of Haughton-le-Skerne. Charter of Hy. II, *Schirningaham*; S. *Skirninghei*; R.C. *Skirnigeham*; C.R.C. *Serningham*; V.E. *Skyryngton*. This place is said to be named after the Skerne, which it is near. In 1238 this river is mentioned as *Scirn*. Is this an A.S. name? If so it ought to have become *Sheer*, as in Sherburn. Then the question arises, What has kept the *sc* hard? The personal name Scira is found in place-names, e.g. Scirnanburn. If this speculation is correct, then the terminal for river, whatever it was, has been dropped, and during the process of losing the case endings the *an* of Scirnan has become the *e* of the modern Skerne. Thus *ing* in Skirning is an instance of the gen. *an* becoming *ing*, and the meaning of the name would be "Scira's homestead" or "Scira's (river)."

Sledwick, in the parish of Whorlton. S.H. *Sliddeuisse*; S. *Sliddewisse*. The terminal is difficult. From the position of the place near the Tees I hold it to be connected with the A.S. *wase* = wetness, mud, and to denote boggy land. C.D. has a charter, A.D. 1000, with "wassen mæd," for meadow surrounded by bog; and Gt.R. has the curious word Waisdie, with the note "Weardale?" It is most likely "boggy." Again in C.S. there is a charter

The Place-names of Durham

with Wisce lea, of which the prefix would become Wishe; from this to Wisse is merely the common dropping of the aspirate; thus we have "wet low-lying land." The prefix might be A.S. *slæd* = a valley, after Sledmere and Slaidburne in Yorks; but I am inclined to think that Symeon was correct, especially as there was an A.S. *slidder* = unstable, just the word for wet, spongy meadow. The meaning of the name, therefore, I take to be "boggy meadow."

Smeles, B.B. *Smalei*; P.F. *Smaleleis*, *Smalellais*, *Smalleis*; R.P.D. 1314, *Smalleyes*; V.E. *Smalelez*. As will be seen from the varied and interesting forms, the meaning is "small fields," A.S. *smæl* = narrow, small, and *leah* = a field.

Sockburn, extreme S. of the county. A.S.C. 780, *Socabyrig*; S. *Socceburg*, *Sochasburg*; T.E. *Sokeburn*; D.K. *Sokburn*. In the first reference *byrig* is the dative case of *burh*, signifying "at the borough." The prefix is the A.S. *socu* = judicial inquiry. The modern term *soke* is the A.S. *soc* = inquiry. A *soketown* was a town possessing the right of exercising some judicial powers. Thus I take the *Socabyrig* of the A.S.C. to be a "Soke borough." How it came to be called Sockburn I am not able to say. The place was evidently of some importance. Higbaldus was consecrated bishop there. Its situation at the extremity of a long, un-get-at-able peninsula made it just the place for a soketown.

The Place-names of Durham

Softley, W. of Bp. Auckland. P.F. *Softeley*, *Softeleie*, *Softelawe*, *Softle*; D.K. *Softelawe*. There is a difficulty in finding a p. name for this prefix, but I cannot quite think that it is, as said, the A.S. adj. *soft*, implying a "spongy field," because the meaning of the adj. was "comfortable, easy," recurring in modern slang, e.g. "a soft job." It comes from an earlier *saft*, and I am inclined to think that the name Softley may come from the p. name Scaft. An A.S. *sc* followed by *e* becomes *sh*, hence it would be written Sheaft; and as the Normans constantly wrote *s* for *sh* it would further become Seaft, and thus correspond with the earlier form of the adj. *soft*, A.S. (one form) *seft*. Hence the meaning would be "Scaft's field."

Spennymoor, 5 miles N. of Bp. Auckland. T.E. 1291, *Spenigmor* ($g=y$); H. 1366, *Spennyngmour*; V.E. *Spennyngmore*. The records mention also High and Low Spen in another part of the county. The earliest indirect reference is a charter, A.D. 821, with the words "cum silva quae dicitur Spene," i.e. "together with the wood called Spen." Later D.B. has Spone, now Speen, in Berks.; Spondun, now Spondon, Derbyshire, and others.

First, the name is not possibly from Latin *spina* = a thorn. Our modern "spinney" is the French *espinoie*, Latin *spinetum* = a thorn-thicket. Secondly, it is derived from no p. name. As seen above, the A.S. form of the word was *spene*. If an adj., many

The Place-names of Durham

such were derived from words spelled with *o*, e.g. *grene* is from the verb *growan* = to grow, and means literally "growing." Thus we arrive at A.S. *span* = spoon, literally a chip, or splinter, seen in the phrase "spick and span," i.e. clean as a new spike and splinter.

From an examination of cognate dialects we find Scand. *spaan*, *sponn*, and modern German *span*, signifying a thin board, or shingle, for building fences and sheds. There would appear to be no doubt that the word here had that secondary meaning, and thus there would be Spendys, Spentuns, etc., i.e. "shingle-enclosures," "shingle-dwellings." Spennymoor is, I imagine, the moor, A.S. *mor*, called after the shingle-hut or huts erected thereupon.

Staindrop. S. *Standropa*; R.C. 1204, *Steindrop*; R.P.D. 1314, *Stayndrop*; V.E. *Standedrope*. It is usual to derive this name from the A.S. *stan* = stone. The A.S. long *a* in the change of vowel sounds changed with perfect regularity from *a* to *oa*, e.g. *ath* oath, *bat* boat, *gran* groan, etc., therefore I do not see how the above forms can possibly come from *stan*. I take the origin to be a p. name, viz., Stegen, and thus the meaning is "Stegen's village." A.S. *thorp* = village, German *dorf*. The p. name Stegen was popular, and appears also as Stain, Stan, Stein, Sten. The gen. is Stegenes, which agrees with one of the F. forms of Stainton, page 99. Further, *gegen* be-

The Place-names of Durham

comes *gain* in Gainford; and *Swegen Swain* in Swainson, *Regen*, Rainton, etc.

Stainton, 5 miles from Darlington. S. *Stantun*; F. *Stanincton*, *Steinintune*, *Staynestun*, *Stayntone*, *Steintun*. In the case of this name the evidence of the forms is again not in favour of *stan* = stone. The gen. of *Stan* is *Stanes*; the dat. *Stane*; in fact, there is no case ending containing an *n* to the word, therefore it appears to me impossible for *Stanictun*, or *Steinintune* to be derived from *Stan*; and so in spite of the earliest form I think it also is "Stegen's tun."

Stanhope, in Weardale. H. 1214, *Stanhop*; F. *Stanhoppe*. There is little variation in the forms. The meaning is "stone-vale." See HOPE.

Stanley. There are at least two; T.E. 1291, *Staneley*. The prefix in this case is A.S. *stænicg* = stony, and the meaning is "stony field."

Stella, 5 miles W. of Newcastle. B.B. *Stelyngleye*; B.H. *Stelley*. The only connection this pretty name has with the heavens is through the terminal *leah* = a lighted place. The meaning is "stall-field," A.S. *steall* = a standing for cattle.

Stillington, N.E. of Stockton. B.H. *Stellyngton*. A charter dated 1190 has *Stilend*, now Standeby. *Stiliend* is a present participle and means "resting." On the same principle I take Stillington to be *steall* = a standing place, stall, from the verb *stellan* = to set in a place, hence cattle-stall-tun.

The Place-names of Durham

Stockton-on-the-Tees has no reference more varied than C.R.C. 1199, *Stocton*; B.H. *Stokton*, *Stoketon*. The prefix either alone as Stoke, or in compounds is one of the commonest of place-names. I cannot accept the explanation that all the places were so called because of the proximity of a tree-stump, A.S. *stocc*. In A.S. a *stoccfald* = a fenced enclosure, therefore I give the meaning as "a stockaded or fenced tun."

Stotfold, in the parish of Elwick Hall. B.H. *Stotfeld*; D.K. has *Stottesyatt*; Rd.B. *Stoteville*; D.K. *Struttevill*. From these forms it will be seen that the prefix is an old and a common one. I do not think there is need to discuss the M.E. *stot* = a bullock. The prefix was in use some centuries, perhaps, before *stot* came into the language. There is the p. name *Stut*, gen. *Stuttes*, found in local names; hence I take this to be "Stut's field." The similarity of sound between the A.S. *u* and the French *o* was a constant source of confusion.

Stranton, S. of West Hartlepool. V.E. *Straunton*. From A.S. *strand* = the shore. The Strand was once upon a time a fashionable shore of the Thames.

Streatlam, in the parish of Barnard Castle. S. *Streatlea*. I have found no other reference. The Latin *strata* in the form of *street* is one of the six or seven words that the Romans left behind. It appears in many place-names, e.g.

The Place-names of Durham

Startforth, which is in the very near neighbourhood. The sense is the "field by the road." There is no evidence as to when the terminal was corrupted.

Sunderland. Spelled B.B. *Sunderland*; H. 1311, *Sundirland*. The town consists of Monk Wearmouth, so called from the monastery founded there in A.D. 634, and Bishop Wearmouth on the other side of the river, part of a grant made by Æthelstan to the Church. Land other than that possessed by the bishop or the monastery was called sonderland = private land, from A.S. *sundrian* = to set apart. Cf. *Sundorspræc* = private conversation; *sundorlif* = private life.

Sunniside, in the parish of Stanley. B.H. *Sonnyngside*, *Sunnynsyde*. Early forms are lacking, but in charters recorded by Birch we find, A.D. 815, *Sunnigwell*; A.D. 821, *Sunnungawille*. There are p. names Sunn and Sunna, gen. Sunnes and Sunnan. I take the name to be Sunnanside. It will be remembered that the gen. *an* often became *ing*.

Sunny Brow. See under SUNNISIDE.

Swainston, of which direct forms are lacking, is from the p. name Swegen, also Swain, and Suen. It still exists in modern surnames. The word probably meant "famous." It has no connection with *swain* of rustic life and romantic poetry, which is Scand. and means "swineherd." Swainston = "Swegen's tun."

The Place-names of Durham

Swalwell, where the Derwent enters the Tyne. B.B. *Sualwels*; B.H. *Swalwells*; D.K. *Swalewells*; V.E. *Sivalwell*. The origin of this prefix is A.S. *swealwe* = a swallow, hence "swallow-well." The junction of two rivers is a likely place for swallows to swarm.

Swinhope, in Teesdale Forest. B.H. *Swynhoplaw*. There are several places with this prefix, of more or less unimportance, mentioned in the county records. The derivation is the A.S. *swin* = swine. This is "swine-vale." See HOPE.

Tanfield, 9 miles S.W. of Newcastle. B.H. *Taundfeld*; R.P.D. *Tanefeld*; B.H. *Tamfeld*, *Taumfeld*, *Tannfeld*. The various forms are perplexing. There is a p. name Tada, which appears in place-names. As Taddenesschylf has become Tanshelf, this name may be "Tadden's field."

Team is so named after the River Team. River names are the most difficult because they are the oldest. Ours were bestowed by the Celts; some, probably, by the Iberians whom the Celts dispossessed, as they in turn were by the Anglo-Saxons. Some river names are descriptive; e.g. Thames, Tamar, Team, etc., are said to be from *tam* = "flowing" or "quiet."

Thickley. S.H. *Ticcelea*; S. *Thiccelea*; B.B. *Thikley*, *Thikle*; B.H. *Thockeley*. The county records contain also Tikhill, Tychill, Ticclinwell. Birch and Thorpe have charters, A.D. 901, 909, with Ticceburn, now Tichbourne; hence I take

The Place-names of Durham

the meaning to be "Ticca's field." The place is also called Thickley Punchardon. Bishop Beck—1283-1311—gave this place to his huntsman, Hugh de Punchardon.

Thornley. There are two in the county. The A.S. *thorn*=a thornbush is very common in place-names. The meaning is obvious.

Thorpe Thewles, 4 miles from Stockton. Spelled B.F. *Torp*; D.K. *Thorptheweles*, *Thumptheules*; B.H. *Troptheules*; P.F. *Thorpthewlesse*. The prefix is from the Dan. (Skeat says A.S.) *thorp*, *torp*, Dutch *dorp*, German *dorf*=a village. The terminal is the A.S. *thel*=a plank, and *theal*=a plank bridge. Such contrivances were common. In A.S.C. A.D. 45 there is mention of Thælwele, now Thelwall. The sense is "village with foot, or plank, bridge."

Thrislington, in the parish of Cornforth, charter of Hy. II, *Trellesdene*; C.R.C. 1199, *Tresleden*; R.C. *Trillesdene*; J. 1415, *Thrylstanhugh*. The records give Trilda as another form of Trith. There is a feminine name Thrythhild and a masculine name Thrythbeald. It is quite possible for the full form Thrythbealdesden to become corrupted to Tryllesden. Again, the A.S. borrowed *thræl*=a slave, or serf, from the Scand. I am inclined to think that there must have been a p. name Thræl. The popular derivation of this word from the fabled custom of drilling, or, the old form, thrilling the ears of the person is, of

The Place-names of Durham

course, worthless. Its real origin is the Greek word *τρέκειν* = to run, and means a runner, or messenger. Cf. 1 Kings xviii. 46, where Elijah *ran* before Ahab as a sign of respect. It will be noticed that the original terminal, A.S. *denu* = a valley, has been changed.

Throston, 2 miles from Hartlepool. P.F. *Thurstanton*, *Turstanton*; B.H. *Thrustanton*. Thor, son of Odin, was the War Lord of Scand. mythology. Symeon records an impious deed of one Onalafbell, who swore "per deos meos potentes Thor et Odin." Alone, and in compounds, it was a favourite name. It exists in Thorsby, Thurso, etc. This is "Thurstan's tun."

Trimdon, 4 miles from Sedgefield. B.B. *Tremdon*, *Tremedun*; R.P.D. *Tremedon*; D.K. *Trendon*. It has been stated that it is so called because Cnut on his pilgrimage alighted at this place, and he and his court set themselves in order in the matter of dress, etc., A.S. *trymman* = to set in order. More probable is the p. name Thrim, Thrum, meaning glorious. Thus it is "Thrim's down." The popular etymology is, however, practically the same, because the verb *trymman* supplies the adj. *trum* = strong.

Tudhoe, 5 miles S.W. of Durham. D.K. *Tudhoe*, *Toddowe*. The forms are late. Tuda was a common name. It is in the A.S.C., A.D. 664, as that of a Bishop of London. I take the meaning to be "Tuda's hill-spur."

The Place-names of Durham

Tunstall. There are several. B.B. *Tounstall*; F. *Thuncstall*. This is the "tun-stall, or standing, for cattle." A.S. *tun*, and *steall*.

Tursdale, in the parish of Cornforth. I have found no reference. Tur is another form of Thor. See under THROSTON. It is Thor's dale, A.S. *dæl* = a valley.

Twizell, in the parish of Pelton. B.B. *Twisela*; D.R. *Twysilles*; B.H. *Twysill*; V.E. *Twysledale*. From A.S. *twisl* = a fork (of a river). The Twizell and the Cong burns fork a little distance from where the united streams enter the Wear. The A.S. verb *twisilian* = to branch off.

Ulnaby, in the parish of Coniscliff. Although this is a place of great antiquity it appears to have no history. The origin of the name is the p. name Ulfwine. It is "Ulfwine's dwelling," Dan. *by*, and A.S. *buan* = to dwell.

Unthank, S. of Stanhope. B.H. *Hunthank*; F. *Unthanke*. In P.F. there are also Thankeswelle, and Thancwelle. In G.R. occurs the place-name Unespac. I have found each of the personal names Hun and Thanc compounded with other words, but have not succeeded in finding them compounded together. Nevertheless I take the name to be "Hunthank"; the terminal, whatever it was, has been lost. There is at least one other place of the name in the county, and places of the same name in other counties.

Urlay Nook, in the parish of Eggliscliff. L.V.

The Place-names of Durham

has Ricardus de Ærleie and de Erleie. I take the place to be "Eorl's field Nook." Some place-names of which early forms have been found, e.g. Arley, Early, are defined as "Eagle's field," A.S. *earn* = an eagle; but apart from all else this appears to be a very unlikely place for an eagle's aerie.

Urpeth, 3 miles N.W. of Chester-le-Street. B.B. *Urpath*; B.H. *Urpeth*. There is an instance of Ur as a p. name, but it is late. This is probably an abbreviated form, of Eorl, or some compound thereof.

Ushaw, in the parish of Esh. B.H. *Ulleschawe*, *Ulueschawe*. The origin of the name is clearly Wulf, Ulf, gen. Ulves, so far as the prefix is concerned. The modern form points to A.S. *scaga* = a copse. In a charter, A.D. 1462, and quoted in P.F., occurs the clause, "To have the said wood with free entry and *uschew*" = exit. Therefore there is the probability of "Ulf's outlet."

Usworth, 2 miles N. of Washington. B.B. *Usworth*, *Osseworth*; D.K. *Oseworth*, *Usseworth*. The prefix appears to be the p. name Osa, which is an abbreviation of some longer name, hence the meaning is "Osa's farmstead."

Vallence Loo, W. of Middleton-in-Teesdale. The original name has been Valineslieu, cf. Beau-lieu. L.V. mentions a Hamund de Valines de Lamare. This man had two surnames, the second of which he took from property in England.

The Place-names of Durham

Probably his settlement in Teesdale was on the borders of the moor, hence his name became "Hamund Valines of the Moor." The name in question would mean "Valine's place." F. *lieu* = place, etc.

Wackerfield, 3 miles N.E. of Stanhope. S. *Wackerfeld*; R.P.D. *Wachenfeld*; B.H. and D.K. *Wakerfeld*; V.E. *Wakefield*. For indirect references Birch has charters, A.D. 726 and 821, with *Wacenesfeld*, from A.S. *wæcen*, *wacon* = a guard; and also *Wæclesfeld* from *wacol* = watchful. With this origin the meaning is the "wake-field," i.e. the field in which the annual "wakes" were held. But I see no reason why there should not have been a p. name *Wace* = watchful, cf. Hereward the Wake, but I have not as yet found this name. Thus derived it would be "Wake's field."

Waldridge, 2 miles S. of Chester-le-Street. B.H. *Walrig*. This name is simply an English form of the p. name *Wealdric*. We have several names similarly formed, e.g. *Coleridge* from *Ceolric*. If there has been a terminal it is lost.

Walworth, in the parish of Heighington. R.C. 1199, *Waleurthe*; R.P.D. 1311, *Walworth*; D.K. *Waleworth*. From the p. name *Wal*, *Wæl*, *Weal*, hence "Wæl's farmstead." *Waltham* in Berks appears in charters as *Wealtham*.

Warden Law, 2 miles E. of Houghton-le-Spring. S. *Wardelau*; B.B. *Wardon*; H. 1345, *Wardeknoll*. In the township is a hill upwards

The Place-names of Durham

of 650 feet in height, with a fine view of land and sea, known as Warden Law, which involves "vain repetition." The origin of the prefix is A.S. *weard*=a watch; e.g. *weardsteall*=a watch-tower. The terminal is *dun*=hill, hence "watch-hill," but with the addition of *law*=A.S. *hlæw*, a hill, it is "watch-hill hill."

Wardley, W. of Sunderland. P.F. 1260, *Wardley*; D.R. 1278, *Wardeles*; J. 1423, *Wardely*; F. *Wardelay*. This property belonged to the monastery of Jarrow. It is quite possible that the field in question belonged to the convent porter, A.S. *weardmann*, also *weard*=watchman, porter; thus it is the "weard's field."

Washington, 7 miles S. of Newcastle. B.B. *Wassyngton*; R.L. 1227, *Wessinton*; T.E. *Wessington*; D.K. *Quassington*; B.H. *Weschington*, is the settlement of the sons of Wæs. The name is an old one. There are several settlements of the family in the country, in addition to Wasing in Berks.

Waskerley, also Wascrow, in the parish of Muggleswick. F. *Wascroppe*, *Wascroppeheued*. Also in B.H. there is mention of Westcropbrig, and very curiously Birch has a charter, A.D. 759, with Wisleag, now Westleigh in Worcester. But I do not think the prefix has anything to do with A.S. *wase*=wetness. I feel persuaded that it is the p. name Was, or Wassa, which appears in place names, e.g. A.D. 780, Wissanburn. The

The Place-names of Durham

second part of the prefix is the Scand. *kjarr* = a copse of willows on marshy ground, also boggy land. Tooke, in his "Diversions of Purley," groups this word *car* with cart, chariot, charwoman, and Latin *currus*, as being all derived from a participle signifying "turned about" and he gives an interesting account of a floating copse of willows. The meaning is "Was's carr-field."

Westoe, a suburb of S. Shields. S. *Westun*, *Wertun*; B.B. *Wivestou*, *Wyvestowe*; D.R. *Wystow*; J. *Wyvistow*, *Wythestowe*; V.E. *Westow*. Copies of the charter of Æthelstan, from which the early forms are taken, vary. One quoted by Symeon has *Westun*, the Camb. MS. has *Werun*. The terminal is now the A.S. *hoh* = the spur of a hill. I take the prefix to be the p. name *Wiferth*, and the meaning "Wiferth's hill-spur." In 854 Æthelwulf, king of the West Saxons, made a grant to *Wiferth*, Wilts.

Wham, in the parish of Lynesack. B.H. *Whamkerr*, *Whamshela*. This is the A.S. *hwamm* = a corner. The A.S. *hw* is now written *wh*, e.g. *hwæte* = wheat. Whatever the original terminal—the references give two—it has been dropped.

Wheatley, in the parish of Thornley. There appear to have been more than one place of the name. B.H. *Whetley*, *Whatley*; V.E. *Wheteley Hill*. Here the prefix represents the A.S. *hwæte* = wheat. It is simply "wheat-field."

Whessoe, 2 miles N. of Darlington. D.K. 1333,

The Place-names of Durham

Quehowe ; 1345, *Whessowe* ; B.H. *Quesshowe*, *Qwhessow* ; F. *Wessow*. There was no *q* in the A.S. alphabet. In the twelfth century the French symbol *qu* began to be used in place of the A.S. *cw*, thus *cwen* became queen. If the origin of the prefix is a personal name it must therefore begin with *Cw*, e.g. *Cwen*, *Cwoen* ; the gen. of the latter is *Cwenes*, which would easily be abbreviated to *Cwes*, later *Ques* ; hence the meaning I take to be "Cwen's hill-spur," A.S. *hoh* = spur of a hill.

Whickham, 3 miles from Gateshead. B.B. *Quykhham* ; T.E. *Quicham* ; R.P.D. *Quikham*. This is the A.S. *wic*, Latin *vicus* = a village, and *hamm* = an enclosure ; hence the meaning is the "village fold."

Whitburn, N. of Sunderland. B.B. *Whitberne* ; B.H. *Whitburne* ; T.E. *Wytebern*. See under WHITWELL.

Whitwell, S.E. of Durham. B.B. *Whitewell*, *Witewell* ; B.H. *Whitwell*. The A.S. adj. *hwit* = white supplied the p. name *Hwit*. This place is either the "white well" or it is "White's well."

Whorlton, 3 miles E. of Barnard Castle. V.E. *Werelshierd*. This name is evidently much corrupted. The above reference is the only one I have found. I take the prefix thereof to be a gen. case, e.g. *Warbealdes*. The terminal *hierd* presents difficulties. A.S. *heord*, *hierd* = a flock :

The Place-names of Durham

with a secondary meaning of care, custody ; but this does not seem of any use. *Lideard*, Somerset, is in D.B. as *Lidgeard*, where *geard*=yard, enclosure. Also one early form of *Wynyard* is *Wynhyard*. Now modern *orchard* is the A.S. *ortgeard*, *orceard*, which word is a compound of Latin *hortus*=garden, and A.S. *geard*=yard. N.B. Both Latin, and A.S. words are from the same root, and mean practically the same, viz. enclosure. For Werelshierd I thus find nothing better than Warbeald's enclosure, making *hierd*=A.S. *geard*, *hard* in *orchard*, *Wynhyard*, etc.

Willington. There are two places of this name in the county records. One belonged to the Church, the other to the monks. It is almost impossible to separate them in the records. S. *Twinlingtun*, *Twilingatun*, *Twinlingatun* ; F. *Wiflinton*, *Wiflinctun*, *Wivelinton*, *Willyngton* ; V.E. *Wyllyngtounne*. All the forms later than Symeon are from the p. name *Wifel*, found in charters, A.D. 710, *Wiveleshale*, 863, *Wifelesberg* ; thus the meaning of the modern name is "Wifel's tun," which, by the way, has nothing to do with *wife*, but it is the A.S. *wifel*=an arrow. Of what was in the mind of Symeon when he wrote his prefix I can make no guess.

Windleston, 4 miles S.E. of Bp. Auckland. Gt.R. *Windlesden* ; H. 1366, *Wydellesdown*, *Wyn-dellestun*, *Wyndelsdon* ; F. *Wyndelston* ; V.E. *Wyn-dyllston*. The early forms fluctuate between *dun*=a

The Place-names of Durham

hill and *tun* = a town. The modern name has cut the Gordian knot by putting *stan* = a stone. The meaning is "Wændle's hill," from the p. name Wændel. The full form of the name is seen in Wendlesclif, from a charter A.D. 785.

Wingate, in the parish of Kelloe. P.F. *Wyndegate*, *Wyngates*; D.R. 1278, *Windegatis*; F. *Windgate*; V.E. *Wyngat*. In F.S. there is a charter, A.D. 691, with Windgeat, Wilts. There is no doubt that *d* has been dropped from the modern form. The prefix is from the p. name Wind, hence the meaning is "Wind's Gate." There is a charter with Windecild, i.e. Wind's child. For the terminal I prefer Scand. *gata* = a road, to A.S. *geat*, M.E. *yat* = gate, opening.

Winlaton, 6 miles S. of Newcastle. B.B. *Wynlakton*, *Wynlanton*; F. *Winlaketon*, *Wynlaketun*; B.H. *Wynlaton*. The origin is the p. name Wine-lac, which appears in the L.V. of Durham, hence "Winelac's tun." In records there is hopeless confusion in the use of *i* and *y*. We find *hym*, *him*, *cinyng*, *cyning*, almost in the same line. By the way, *y* was dotted, and not *i*.

Winston, W. of Darlington. F. *Wynston*; R.P.D. *Wineston*; H. 1296, *Wyneston*. This is from the p. name Win, Wyn, Wine. It helped to form many compound names, and it appears in many place-names. Gibson, writing in 1692, said *win* signified battle, and in place-names denoted some distinguished feat of arms; and I notice that a

The Place-names of Durham

modern writer associates the name with war. He was wrong ; Win is the Latin *vinum* = wine. Wyn is the A.S. *wyn* = joy, e.g. *wynfæst* = lovefeast, Winn = war. The meaning of the word in question is "Wyn's tun."

Wisserley, N. of Wolsingham. There seem to be no direct references. In a grant by Edgar, A.D. 968, there is mention of Wisclea and Wissele, which appears in Domesday Book as Wiselei, and is now Whistley. The prefix is connected with A.S. *wase* = wetness, and signifies low-lying wet land, land liable to be flooded. Roughly the meaning is "wet meadow." See under SLEDWICK.

Witton Gilbert, 4 miles N.W. of Durham. B.B. *Witton* ; B.H. *Wittone*. Probabilities, and also the absence of *h* in all the forms, are against *hwit* = white, for the origin of this prefix. We may choose between the p. name Wit, Wite and the A.S. adj. *wid* = wide, whereby it would be, "Wit's," or the "wide enclosure." C.D. records a charter with Wydecumb, which is now Whitcumb. The second part of the name is from one Gilbert-de-la-Ley, its owner.

Witton-le-Wear, 4 miles N.W. of Bp. Auckland. S. *Wuduton* ; B.H. *Wotton, Witton* ; T.E. *Wyton*. In spite of the modern spelling this is one of the many Wootons of the country. The dictionaries show many compounds of A.S. *wudu* = a wood. The meaning is simply "tun by the wood."

The Place-names of Durham

Wolsingham. B.B. *Wolsingham*; D.K. *Wulsingham*; V.E. *Wollsyngham*. This is the settlement of the Wælsings, the sons of Wæls.

Wolviston, near Stockton. F. *Wlueston, Olueston*; R.C. 1204, *Ulueston, Uluestune*. Olueston is due to the Norman custom of dropping *w* before *o*. The meaning is "Wulf's tun," from the common p. name Wulf, Ulf. The *u* of the forms = *v*.

Woodham, in the parish of Aycliffe. F. *Wdum, Wudum*; D.K. *Wodum, Wodom*. This is most probably the "wood-enclosure," A.S. *wudu* = a wood, and *hamm*, piece of enclosed land.

Wrekenton, S.E. of Gateshead, has no references. See under WREKINDYKE.

Wrekindyke. F. *Wrakendyk, Vrakendic, Wrachendhegge*. There is a good description of this place in a charter of Bishop Pudsey, 1153-95, where there is mention of streams, burns, drains, pools, bogs, marshes, etc., which amply substantiate the description of early writers that the country was desert and swamp. Across this was the way to the estuary of the Tyne, and to the sea. The Wrekindyke was a narrow road across this waterlogged country. In the charter above mentioned it is called *Wrachenndhegge*, of which I take the terminal to be the A.S. *hecg* = barrier, hedge, etc. The prefix is the present participle of the verb *wrecan* = to drive; and of which the intransitive use meant to advance, to march. From the A.S. intransitive verb *faran* = to go, we have *farendum wege* and

The Place-names of Durham

wegferende = wayfaring. Thus by analogy I take Wrachendhecg, or Wrekindike, to be roughly (using the word "causeway" in one of its accepted meanings of a made road across a swamp), "the travellers' causeway." The word is probably connected with the Scand. *reik*, M.E. *raike* = a sheep-track; A.S. *racu* = a river bed.

Wynyard, near Stockton. Bp.B. 1345, *Wynyard*; R.P.D. *Wynhyard*, *Wynhard*; V.E. *Wynyard*. This is evidently "Wyn's enclosure," A.S. *wyn* = joy. The terminal is another form of "garden." The letter *g* was sometimes followed by what is called a parasitic *e*. It crept unconsciously into the pronunciation, and was not unlike the *g-e-url* of ranting tragedians. The next step was for this new sound to be expressed by *y*, hence *g-e-arden* became yard.

Memorials of the Counties of England

Each Illustrated with about 35 Plates and many Illustrations in the text. Demy 8vo, cloth extra, gilt top. 15s. net each.

**GENERAL EDITOR : REV. P. H. DITCHFIELD,
M.A., F.S.A., F.R.L.S., F.R.Hist.S.**

- OLD CHESHIRE.** Edited by the Ven. the ARCHDEACON OF CHESTER and Rev. P. H. DITCHFIELD, M.A., F.S.A.
- OLD DERBYSHIRE.** Edited by Rev. J. CHARLES COX, LL.D., F.S.A.
- OLD DEVONSHIRE.** Edited by F. J. SNELL, M.A.
- OLD DORSET.** Edited by Rev. THOMAS PERKINS, M.A., and Rev. HERBERT PENTIN, M.A.
- OLD DURHAM.** Edited by HENRY R. LEIGHTON, F.R.Hist.S
- OLD ESSEX.** Edited by A. CLIFTON KELWAY, F.R.Hist.S.
- OLD GLOUCESTERSHIRE.** Edited by Rev. P. H. DITCHFIELD, M.A., F.S.A.
- OLD HAMPSHIRE.** Edited by Rev. G. E. JEANS, M.A., F.S.A.
- OLD HEREFORDSHIRE.** Edited by Rev. COMPTON READE, M.A.
- OLD HERTFORDSHIRE.** Edited by PERCY CROSS STANDING.
- OLD KENT.** Edited by Rev. P. H. DITCHFIELD, M.A., F.S.A., and GEORGE CLINCH, F.G.S.
- OLD LANCASHIRE.** Edited by Lieut.-Colonel FISHWICK, F.S.A., and Rev. P. H. DITCHFIELD, M.A., F.S.A. Two Vols., 21s. net.
- OLD LEICESTERSHIRE.** Edited by ALICE DRYDEN.
- OLD LINCOLNSHIRE.** Edited by E. MANSEL SYMPSON, M.A., M.D.
- OLD LONDON.** Edited by Rev. P. H. DITCHFIELD, M.A., F.S.A. Two Vols., 21s. net.
- OLD MIDDLESEX.** Edited by J. TAVENOR-PERRY.
- OLD NORFOLK.** Edited by Rev. H. J. DUKINFIELD ASTLEY, M.A., Litt.D., F.R.Hist.S.
- OLD NORTH WALES.** Edited by E. ALFRED JONES.
- OLD NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.** Edited by EVERARD L. GUILFORD.
- OLD OXFORDSHIRE.** Edited by Rev. P. H. DITCHFIELD, M.A., F.S.A.
- OLD SHROPSHIRE.** Edited by Rev. THOMAS AUDEN, M.A., F.S.A.
- OLD SOMERSET.** Edited by F. J. SNELL, M.A.
- OLD STAFFORDSHIRE.** Edited by Rev. W. BERESFORD.
- OLD SUFFOLK.** Edited by VINCENT B. REDSTONE, F.R.Hist.S.
- OLD SURREY.** Edited by Rev. J. CHARLES COX, LL.D., F.S.A.
- OLD WARWICKSHIRE.** Edited by ALICE DRYDEN.
- OLD WILTSHIRE.** Edited by ALICE DRYDEN.
- OLD WORCESTERSHIRE.** Edited by F. B. ANDREWS, F.R.I.B.A.
- OLD YORKSHIRE.** Edited by T. M. FALLOW, M.A., F.S.A.



RETURN TO → CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT
202 Main Library

LOAN PERIOD 1	2	3
HOME USE		
4	5	6

ALL BOOKS MAY BE RECALLED AFTER 7 DAYS

1-month loans may be renewed by calling 642-3405

6-month loans may be recharged by bringing books to Circulation Desk

Renewals and recharges may be made 4 days prior to due date

DUE AS STAMPED BELOW

AUG 6 1983

Sept 6

REC. SEP 7 '83

716890

DA670

D9J3

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY

