

name to beavers and lakes, is simply Pedwar-llech, the ancient Petouaria, marked, as other British towns seem to have been, by 'four stones'—in this instance, stones of sanctuary, a privilege of higher antiquity, it is probable, than Athelstane, by whom it is said to have been granted after the victory of Brunanburgh.

#### HOUSES.

The manners and customs of the Brigantes are chiefly to be gathered by interpreting what remains of their dwellings and tombs, their towns and camps, their stones of memorial and circles of assembly, their weapons and tools, ordinary earthenware and principal ornaments. Most of these are but incidentally noticed by the historians and poets of Greece and Rome, and seldom referred to at all by the Welsh Bards and Saxon Chroniclers. Cæsar, speaking of the southern parts of Britain, which had been filled with Belgian settlers, says, that the buildings were numerous and much like those of Gaul (v. 12). The houses therefore were tapering huts, constructed of wood on a circular basis. Of these humble structures we have only the foundations, and of such there appear to be three varieties. In the first example, which in Yorkshire occurs frequently in the north-eastern and south-eastern districts, the ground is excavated in a circular shape, so as to make a pit from 6 to 8, or even 16 or 18 feet in diameter, with a raised border, and of the depth of 3, 4 or 5 feet. Over this cavity we must suppose the branches of trees placed to form a conical roof, which perhaps might be made weather-proof by wattling, a covering of rushes, or sods. The opening we may believe to have been placed on the side removed from the prevalent wind. Fire in the centre of the hut thus constructed has left traces in many of those examined at Egton Grange\*. The pits in Westerdale are called 'Refholes,' *i. e.* Roofholes, for our Saxon word Roof has the meaning of the Icelandic *raf* and Swedish *ref*.

In several places these pits are associated in such considerable

\* Young, Hist. of Whitby, vol. ii. p. 680.