

It is more pleasant to extract from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle a notice that in 876, "Halfdene apportioned the lands of Northumbria, and they thenceforth continued ploughing and tilling them;" and again that in 880, the army settled in East Anglia and apportioned it; for after this, some years of comparative quiet rewarded the wisdom of Alfred.

It is not often, amidst the prosperous fields of the north, that our ploughmen are startled by the perishing remains of Danish or Saxon combatants. It is not easy to point exactly to the spot where Edwin fell at Hatfield (633), and Oswald at Maserfeld (642), and their destroyer Penda at Winwidfield (655). Even Brunanburgh, the greatest Anglo-Saxon victory (937), where Athelstan—"of carls the lord, of heroes the bracelet giver"—three nations crushed, has no fixed place and no settled name. Only a curious eye can trace at Riccall the landing-place, and at Fulford the combat, which opened to Hardrada the gates of York (1066), or find at 'Stamford Brig' the 'Battle-flat' where the warriors of the Baltic lay by thousands round the heroic Northman, on the land he thought to rule.

This was, however, not the last of the 'Danish' invasions. In 1069, three sons of Sweyne came from Denmark with 240 ships into the Humber, and assisted by Waltheof and the Northumbrians, demolished the castle of York. In 1075 the Minster was pillaged by Northmen, and but for a mutiny in the Danish fleet, the year 1085 might have beheld the son of King Sweyne at the head of a mingled army of Danes and Northumbrians, and the battle of Hastings might have been won in vain\*.

\* See, on all points of Saxon and Danish history in England, the Saxon Chronicle, compared in the earlier parts with Bede's Ecclesiastical History, Ethelwerd's Chronicle, and Nennius's History of the Britons; Simeon of Durham, Henry of Huntingdon, William of Malmesbury, for the later events; and the Heimskringla and Egill's Saga for details as to Brunanburgh and Stamford Brig.