

By the Old Tower at Ayton the Derwent leaves the beautiful valleys of Hackness, and enters the expanse of the Vale of Pickering. (See Appendix.)

In this vale the river runs westward, between the northern oolitic hills and the southern chalk wolds; each of these ranges having at its foot a long series of ancient villages, on a line of ancient (not Roman) road. In each case the facility of obtaining spring water, and the proximity of high ground fit for sheep pasture may be regarded as determining the sites of population in very early periods—probably pre-Roman—as on the range of the Cliff Row in Lincolnshire, and below the Chalk Downs of Surrey and Sussex, Wiltshire and Berkshire. Beyond these villages, on higher lands to the north, and again similarly to the south, camps and earthworks abound, some British, some Roman, others Saxon—the same physical conditions having continued through successive periods, the same local centres of population, and similar military arrangements.

Among these may be mentioned the Cawthorn Camps, on the ancient road from the 'Street' near Malton to 'Dunum Sinus' at or near Whitby, which were probably constructed by the 9th Legion (see Plans of Camps); the Scamridge Dikes, north of Ebberston, the work of a ruder people; Obtrush Roque, north of Kirkby Moorside, with a multitude of other tumuli on the hills; and the old British village of Cloughton, near Scarborough.

At Wykeham remains part of a priory of Cistercian nuns.

THE RYE.

On approaching Malton, one considerable stream enters the Derwent from the west, under the name of Rye (*Brit. Rhe*, swift). The origin of this river is on the edge of the moorland hills of Cleveland, west of Burton Head, whence it flows down Bilsdale, and, receiving a branch from Snilesworth Dale, enlivens the grounds of Rievaulx Abbey, and then, turning round to Helmsley, enters the Vale of Pickering. Bilsdale has some features of grandeur, and the pass out of it at the head gives a