

Scarborough is first mentioned in history in connexion with the stern Norwegian king, Harold Hardrada, who paid with his life at Stamford Bridge the penalty due to the invasion of Yorkshire. Cleveland first felt the fury of the Norsemen, perhaps supplied them with steeds; Whitby suffered by their visit; Scarborough withstood them in vain. Thus saith the Saga:—

“Sidan lagdi hann til Skardaborgar, oc bardiz þar vid borgarmenn; hann geck uppa bergit þat, sem þar verdr, oc let þar göra bal mikit, oc leggja i elld. Enn er balit logadi, toko þeir forka stora, oc skuto balino ofan i bæinn, oc tok þa at brenna hvert hus af ödro, gafz þa upp allr stadrinn; drapo Nordmenn þar mart manna, enn toko fe allt þat er þeir fengo.”

This might be more nearly expressed in the Yorkshire dialect, than in the ordinary English which follows:—

“Sithence he lay to at Scarborough, and fought there with the burgher-men; he ascended the hill which is there, and caused a great pyre to be made there, and set on fire. When the fire spread, they took great forks, and threw the brands on the town; and when one house took fire from another, they gave up all the town. The Northmen slew many people, and seized all that they found.”

It is not our purpose to trace the history of the formidable castle, built by William le Gros in the days of King Stephen, or of the Cistercian monastery, to which Scarborough owes its fine old church, lately in part restored. Hinderwell's History of Scarborough and the Local Guides may be consulted for many details regarding the Spaw, harbour, and natural history of the coast.

A valuable addition has been made to the attractions of Scarborough, in the Museum of local Natural History, erected near the Cliff Bridge, very much in conformity with the suggestions of Dr. William Smith, long resident here. The collection of organic remains placed in this building by Mr. John Williamson, and much augmented by other contributions, is an instructive display of the riches of the Yorkshire coast. Here