

the Cumbrian bards, and listened to those mighty strains, which for hundreds of after-years animated the mountaineers to glorious war against the Saxon, Norman and English sword. That a considerable portion of the natives might remain under the rule of Ida—who is painted in fair colours as a brave and generous prince—is almost a necessary inference; but we may as freely admit that, long before the days of Ida, detached bands of Northmen had entered Bernicia, for there seem hints that even Taliesin had been brought up at the Court of Norway. The opposition to Ida seems to have been chiefly from the mountainous west, and his rule was on the eastern coast.

Ida and his descendants fought many battles against the Britons, but there is no record, nor any sure ground for affirming, that any of these battles were fought in Yorkshire. It is remarkable that along the whole eastern coast, from the Tweed to the Thames, the very slight narrative of Anglian conquest reads more like a further colonization of lands which were already held by a kindred race, than a violent expulsion of an earlier people. We find indeed, in 620, Edwin employing his power to drive out from the principality of Elmete*, Cerdic or Cereticus, supposed to have been a British regulus or petty king. And if Mr. Stephens is right in his view of the meaning of the great poem of Aneurin—the Gododin—the fight of Catterick was at Catterick, the assailants were Saxons, and the defenders Britons†. But Mr. Davies explains this interesting composition differently, and extracts from it a full description of the treacherous feast and cruel slaughter at Stonehenge‡.

Nothing, however, prevents our acknowledging that under Ida's immediate successors the subjugation of Northumbria became complete; and from that time the country of the North acquired feelings and interests always distinct from those of the South; always ready to sympathise with the Danes, and to contend with the Saxons and Welshmen.

* Nennius.

† Literature of the Kymri.

‡ Mythology of the British Druids. See Appendix.