

Painful proof of this meets us at every line of the long annals of senseless slaughter, varied by milder ecclesiastical contests, which make a great part of what stands for the history of Northumbria, through five centuries of violence and misrule.

How feeble the influence for good of the Christianity preached with so much devotion by Augustine (597) and Paulinus (601)! How slight the benefit from the sovereignty of Britain attained by Edwin in 617! Slain at Hatfield by the merciless hands of the Christian Cadwalla and the Pagan Penda, his death was at last revenged by the bloody victory at Winwidfield near Leeds (655), and Deira and Bernicia, which had been separated since his death, were again united to pursue the same course of foreign oppression and domestic wrong.

At length the Dane—fit instrument of vengeance—brought 300 years of piratical invasion to complete the misery of the brave but disunited people. We are not compelled to repeat the tale of rapine and devastation which accompanied every step of the 'army,' though York, the stronghold of Northumbria, occasionally felt the fury of the Dane, and the cathedral was often robbed by them. Rapine and slaughter everywhere marked the path of the Danes, and these Pagan warriors spared none of the monasteries in which wealth was to be had by sacrilege. But there is a great difference in the aspect of their incursions according as we look upon them from the Saxon or Anglian districts. Sussex and Wessex, the really Saxon parts of the island, were the constant opponents of the Danes through all the period of these miserable wars; but in the Anglian kingdoms the invaders were hardly strangers. The five towns given to them were in the Anglian territories—Lincoln, Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Stamford. The settlers of East Anglia and Northumberland sheltered the Danes from defeat, and furnished horses and men for fresh inroads, which were again repelled by the compact strength of Wessex. Thus we see continued and renewed that internal feud between the north and the south, which was of very early date.