

of earls and bishops—the centres of political power—but also the scattered centres of commerce, the market towns. This would be made easy in many instances merely by referring to the name: Thus, since in “cheap” and “chip” we find the root of the Saxon verb “to buy,” we at once suppose—and our supposition is supported by history—that towns which bear these prefixes were market towns or places of sale; *e.g.*, Cheapside, Chippenham, Chipping Norton, Chipping Sodbury, Chepstow. Occasionally, these have been translated centuries since; *e.g.*, Market Harborough, Market Weighton, Market Drayton, etc. Again, in dealing with the geographical history of the two important counties of Kent and Sussex—which were comparatively more important in days when they literally were the *high-roads* to the Continent—it might tip a shaft with an instructive point to show that the towns or villages with the affix “den” lay in the marches or borderland between these counties—*e.g.*, Tenterden, Castleden, Hazleden, Eversden. These matters are all the more important, as every child should be familiar with the geography and history of at least his own country.

NAMES AND MEN.

Again, what a vivid scene might be placed before the class of the piratical attacks and subsequent settlements of the Scandinavian Vik-ings, or port-peoples, upon our coast! How closely, by looking at the places-names, might their track be traced as they sailed up the narrow inlets or came to safe anchorage in an open bay, and finally built their rude homes on cliff and beach with the sea-gull and the marten. Suppose the teacher follows this word “vik”—meaning a port in this sense—a little further. He would show that these vik-ings, or port-peoples—for, as a rule, men have taken their names from places, and not *vice*

versa—were not the first to use the word. It is much older than this, for it is found in Greek as *oikos*, and Latin as *vicus*. The Greek sense was that of a “dwelling,” but the Latin *vicus* approached the Saxon sense in meaning a collection of houses along a road—*i.e.*, a hamlet or a straggling street. He would further point out that among these Saxons “wic” meant a village or settled home in the country; but that, to the Scandinavian pirate, a permanent corsair, “wic” or “vik” would mean a bay or cove where he could easily beach his ships and build a few huts as headquarters for his piratical and öl-drinking crew. Thus from their Scandinavian homes, from Vigten and Westervik, from Ulvik and Laurvig, he would trace their geographical distribution along the eastern coasts of England and Scotland, to the Shetlands and the Faroë Isles, to Iceland itself. The chief links in this chain would be Reykjavik, Lerwick, Berwick, Norwich (on the ancient estuary of the Yare), Ipswich and Sandwich. And further, in connection with this word “wic” or “vik,” he would limit the geographical distribution of the various races by the changes the word has undergone. Thus, in the north, where the Scandinavian element preponderated, it would remain harsh, while in the south the more melodious tongue of the comparatively suave Saxon would soften its form. So we still have in the north Lerwick, Berwick, Hawick, and Alnwick, while in the south Sandwich, Woolwich, Ipswich and Norwich long since assumed their present forms.

In tracing the geographical distribution of tribes through the names they have bequeathed to us, we find ample example in our own isles. If, for instance, the teacher were to follow up the difference between harsh and soft forms as demarcating the influence of Scandinavian and Saxon, how much he could reveal! Thus the northern