

hinder the recognition of a connection between the English word "feed" and such a word as the Latin "vita." That would be giving a more rational account of the word than anything I have seen in our common English dictionaries.

"Tha" seems related to the Hebrew "hayah," and this connection appears more likely when one understands that the letters "I" and "H" are frequently interchangeable. Compare, *e.g.*, the English words "hole, hall and home" with the corresponding Gaelic words "toll, talla and tamh."

One of the most singular things in the history of languages is the number of strange combinations into which substantive verbs enter, particularly in the way of forming some tenses of verbs.

Max Müller, who is a good authority on such matters, regards the first future active of Greek verbs, as formed by the addition to the stem of the verb, which in Gaelic and English takes the form of "is." In that case, $\tau\upsilon\psi\omega$ (I will strike) is equal to $\tau\upsilon\pi$ + is. In the same manner, the Latin future in such words as "amabo" is equal to "amo," plus the Gaelic "bu" or Sanscrit "bhu" (was). Gaelic seems to make a similar combination, since "bhualas," in the phrase, "ma bhuaileas mi," looks like a compound formed by adding the verb "is" to the verb "buail;" and the broad Scotch has likewise the form, "I'se tell thee," in the sense of "I *will* tell thee." This peculiar use of substantive verbs is not confined to *future* tenses; on the contrary, we have such *perfect* tenses as the Latin "rexī" (I have ruled), which would seem equal to reg + is; and we have likewise such forms as "amavi" (I have loved), seemingly equal to am + bi (be), and possibly the latter part of "amabam" may have a similar origin.

Again, we sometimes find *two* substantive verbs unite to form one word, as in the Latin "fuisse;" or two such words may throw themselves into the embrace of one verb, as in the Latin word "amavisse" = am + bi + is. The English phrase, "is being done," supplies a parallel instance.

I have merely to add, that "bha," "bu" and "bi" look to me as if they were modifications of one original root.