

—*whale's-path* and *swan-road* for the sea, *wave-horse* for a ship, *war-adder* for an arrow, and *gold-friend of men* for king, occur very often. The rules by which the oldest English poems are written allowed of the repetition of the same thought or fact several times. This is very common in the Hebrew; for instance: "The sound of the sea-horse was awful;" "The snort of the steed of the ocean."

4. **The Language** in which the earliest English poems were spoken or sung differs much from the English of to-day. It was brought from Jutland, or Saxony, by the pirates who landed in Britain and drove the Britons, whom they called Welsh, into Wales and Cornwall, and into the part of France called Brittany. The latter preserve a separate language and literature to this day. Later, the stories of the Britons crept into English literature. *The Tales of King Arthur*, the great epic of Tennyson, was a British, not a Saxon, story. The Britons left us some Celtic words, of domestic import or the names of places: *avon* and *ex* (meaning water), *cradle*, *mop*, *pillow*, *barrow* (a funeral mound), *mattock*, *crock*, *kiln*, and a few others. Some Saxons probably married British wives, and hence we have the domestic British terms; but the majority of the Britons fled, leaving the land to the Saxon conqueror and his language.

5. **The First English Poems and the Epic "Beowulf"** were doubtless composed long before the seventh century, and taken from the continent to England in the memory of Saxon bards. *Beowulf* was