of the machinery, from which the author explained that the machine was actuated by water pressure, produced by an engine placed at the bottom of the shaft. The water is conveyed in malleable iron pipes to the machine, a distance of about 600 yards, the pressure employed varying from 150 to 300 lbs. per square inch. The cylinder is 4½ inches in diameter, and 18 inches stroke, making 25 strokes per minute, and using in that time 40 gallons of water. The cutting bar is furnished with three cutters, thus effecting, at one stroke, a depth of three feet three inches. As much as 39 feet in length, on the face of the coal, has been cut in the above depth in an hour. At the conclusion of the paper, an animated discussion ensued between Mr. Philip Cooper, of the Holmes and Masbro' Colliery; Mr. Jeffcock, senior; Mr. Warrington, and Mr. Embleton, when the latter explained that the cost per ton on the coal obtained, including interest of capital and all labour, varies from 3½d. to 5½d.; while hand-labour cost 8d. per ton. The produce of slack is 8 per cent. by the machine, and all the coal is sent up to the surface. By hand-labour the average slack is 18·3 per cent., besides 18·75 per cent. left below, the latter proportion of which is altogether lost. Thus showing that, independent of the saving of time and labour, much less coal is destroyed and reduced to slack by the machine. Without entering into details to reduce this difference of production to money, the result is a saving of rather more than 10½d. per ton upon the produce. (See Plate and further information.)

The Chairman then called upon John James, Esq., F.S.A., of Brincliffe Edge, to read the second Paper—

ON THE EARLY HISTORY OF SHEFFIELD.

There exists in the human heart a universal and predominant passion, which powerfully induces all intelligent classes to seek eagerly for information respecting the former
state of the district they inhabit, or transactions in which men who lived on the same local stage as themselves played a part.

To use the words of an old author, "We are curiously listening after the memory of our ancestors." We delight to hear the voice of the past describing the objects of natural scenery, or the affairs of our own locality in ancient times, and generations of old.

For these considerations I have chosen for the subject of this paper, "The Early History of Sheffield," as I apprehend it will be of peculiar interest to many here assembled. I propose tracing the history of this district to the time of Doomsday Survey, under three divisions—the British, the Roman, and the Saxon. Should any of the views entertained by me excite discussion, I hope it will be approached in a candid and unbiassed spirit, and with a desire only of ascertaining the truth.

After much consideration, I have arrived at the conclusion that the Don formed the boundary between two of the British tribes, the Brigantes and the Coritani; between the Roman provinces, Maxima Caesaris and Flavia Caesaris; and between two of the great Saxon kingdoms of the Heptarchy, Northumbria and Mercia. In the ensuing narrative I shall adduce several reasons in support of these conclusions, which I have formed with some reluctance, and offer with all deference to the authority of the late Mr. Hunter, the able and learned historian of Hallamshire, who was of a contrary opinion.

**British Period.**

The Roman historians inform us that when their countrymen landed on our shores, they found the country divided among many independent tribes, somewhat resembling the septs or clans of Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland in the middle ages, and ruled by chiefs or petty kings.
The most powerful of these tribes, the Brigantes, inhabited nearly the whole of the territory now forming the counties of York, Lancaster, Westmoreland, Cumberland, Durham, and Northumberland. The neighbours of the Brigantes on the south and east—namely, the Coritani, or Coritavi—were also a large and powerful tribe, inhabiting, among other districts, what now constitutes the counties of Derby, Nottingham, and Lincoln. The great natural boundary in one part, between these two tribes, is, by all antiquaries, admitted to have been the Humber; and, in my opinion, the Don in another part, and the Pennine Mountains in another. That the present artificial boundaries now dividing Yorkshire from the counties of Derby, Nottingham, and Lincoln, could not be the line of demarcation between those tribes, appears evident; for—in addition to the reasons hereafter adduced regarding the boundaries of the above-mentioned Roman provinces—it must be remembered that the British tribes carried on a continual war with each other; were, like the Red Indians, exceedingly jealous of encroachments on their hunting-grounds, and, in fact, of the smallest invasion of their territory by neighbouring tribes.

We have historical evidence that, to secure these objects, the British tribes were separated from each other by estuaries, great rivers, lakes, and high mountains. What, then, more probable than that the Don constituted one of the great natural boundaries between the Coritani and the Brigantes?

Unlike the Britons of the southern parts of the island, the tribes above-mentioned were purely a pastoral and hunting people. They neither sowed nor reaped, and were altogether a more primitive and rude race, who apparently had been thrown back by the successive waves of continental emigration.

In the days of these ancient inhabitants of this district, vast forests covered the whole face of the country with an
almost impenetrable shade. A remnant of these forests still exists in the woodlands of Wharncliffe, in whose high groves it is probable the Druids practised the barbarous rites of their creed. Here in this thick Hercynian forest, which covered the slopes and valleys of Hallamshire, roamed the wolf—which was a denizen of Yorkshire even so late as the days of Edward II.; the fierce wood boar, which afterwards afforded so much sport to the lords of Sheffield Castle; the wild cat, then a formidable beast; the wild ox, of which the type may yet be seen at Chillingham Castle, and other wild animals, now extinct in England.

We do not possess many British remains in this locality. Most likely the traces of castramentation existing on Wincobank are vestiges of British work. The camp has been of circular form. A mighty earthwork still shows its bold front, and stretches from Wincobank for miles to the north, under the names of Roman Rig, Danes Bank, and Scotch Balk. It was probably raised to defend the frontier of the Don against the incursions of an enemy. Several vestiges of British occupation are mentioned by Mr. Hunter as existing in remote parts of Hallamshire: for instance, a Carnedde, or British tumulus, called the Apron-full-of-Stones, near Broomhead; a trench, called Bardike, in the same locality, is also noticed by him as a British remain; likewise, a circular encampment which lately existed at Castle Dyke, in Ecclesall.

Roman Period.

We now come to the Roman period. When the Romans had subdued Britain they divided it into several provinces, for the purpose of better local government. There is strong proof that the boundary between two of these provinces—Maxima Cæsariensis and Flavia Cæsariensis—was, in these parts, the Don. The Brigantian kingdom was included in the first of these provinces, and the Coritani in the latter.
In the eighteenth iter of Roman Roads in Britain, compiled or transcribed by Richard of Cirencester, we find, in a station named Ad Fines (eighteen Roman miles from Legeolium, Castleford), a singular reflex of the word Rother, which the celebrated glossarist, Baxter, defines as a British word, signifying boundary; and this, to my mind, furnishes important evidence that the neighbourhood of Rotherham constituted the boundary of the Brigantes, and also of the above-named Roman provinces.

The Roman station, Ad Fines, is, by all antiquaries, believed to have been in the neighbourhood of Rotherham—Whitaker, the acute historian, of Manchester, placing it at Greasborough, and Mr. Hunter at Templeborough, where a Roman camp has been. But there is even stronger evidence than this. In the fourth iter of Richard of Cirencester, it is stated that at Danum (Doncaster) the road entered the province of Maxima Cæsariensis—that is, as I take it, on crossing the Don—clearly enough proving, at all events, that the large tract of country east of the Don, now included in Yorkshire, did not form part of the province of Maxima Cæsariensis.

Scattered throughout Hallamshire many Roman coins have been discovered. A hoard of about twenty of the coins of Hadrian, some years ago was found at Crookes. But a more important discovery of Roman remains was made in 1761, when, at the Lawns, or rather Launds, near Stannington, two manumission tablets of copper were ploughed up. They are now in the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries, and, being partly defaced, are not easily deciphered. Their purport, however, can be gathered. They are decrees of the Emperor Trajan, conferring upon Roman Legionaries, as marks of honour and reward, the rights of Roman citizenship. Such grants were inscribed on plates of copper or brass, and, after being registered at Rome, were, it appears, sent to where
these new citizens resided. These Roman colonists were often placed on border lands to check the inroads of the unsubdued natives who inhabited the mountains and difficult portions of the kingdom. Perhaps some of these colonists were placed on the banks of the Rivelin to keep in awe the Britons of the Peak, and here, probably, stood a Roman town. There is a tradition that, in these parts, a city was destroyed by fire, and this may have been a Roman town devastated by the Saxon or the Norman. It must, however, be noted that, on this spot—the Lawns—no other Roman remains have been found.*

The Saxon Period.

Many reasons may be advanced to show that this district belonged to the kingdom of Mercia in the days of the Heptarchy. In the first place, it is altogether improbable that the two great kingdoms of Northumbria and Mercia were divided by a mere rivulet, such as separates, on the south, the parish of Sheffield from Derbyshire. These nations, it is known, were almost perpetually at war with each other. Their border lands, a very Flanders, formed the battle-fields for centuries of these turbulent neighbours. Some proof has been given that the Don formed the boundary of the Brigantian kingdom and of two Roman provinces. What so likely as that it also constituted the boundary of Northumbria and Mercia? There are abundant traces in the names of places and the dialect of the inhabitants of the parish of Sheffield, of the Mercian tongue.

We may safely conclude that when Yorkshire, in the time of King Alfred, became a county, it was carved out of the three great Saxon kingdoms of Northumbria, Mercia, and Cumbria. He must, indeed, be credulous who believes that

* Since this was written, I have been informed that Mr. Samuel Mitchell has discovered some Roman tumuli hereabouts.
the rivulets which separate Yorkshire from Derbyshire on
the one side, and Westmoreland on another, were ancient
divisions between great and rival kingdoms. We have, in the
Saxon Chronicle, a succinct but very clear account of the
manner in which counties, and their subdivisions, wapen-
takes and hundreds, were formed; and it is sufficiently
evident that the boundaries were mostly artificial, and deter-
mined by the limits of the lands of the great Saxon thanes,
or the community of interest which prevailed between neigh-
bouring districts. Mr. Hunter acknowledges that the
boundary line of Yorkshire has, on the east, been different
in former ages from the present one. As an instance, part
of the county of York, near Rossington, is, in an ecclesiastical
point of view, within Nottinghamshire.

We now pass into the light of the written records of the
kingdom. Doomsday Survey informs us that, at the Con-
quest, the great Earl Waltheof, Earl of Northumberland,
Huntingdon, and Northampton, had the Manor of Hallum or
Hallam, with its sixteen Berewicks, which, unfortunately,
are not named. These Berewicks were hamlets dependent
upon, and parcel of, the Manor. It contained 29 carucates
of arable land—about 3,000 acres—and there were twenty
ploughs. There were there, also, thirty-three villains, who,
at that period, were a superior kind of landowners. Earl
Waltheof married the Countess Judith, that wicked Jezebel,
as she is called in the Saxon Chronicle, the niece of the
Conqueror, and was allowed to hold his land in Hallam. He,
however, afterwards rebelled against the Norman king, and
was put to death; the Manor remaining at Doomsday Survey
in the hands of a grantor of his widow. Owing to the
devastations of the Conqueror, the Manor of Hallam, which,
in the days of Edward the Confessor, was taxed at 8 marks
of silver, is returned in the Survey as rated only at 40s.
Any one conversant with the modes of life of the Anglo-
Saxons will know that these 3,000 acres of arable land would afford support to a large population. In the Manor of Hallam there must have been a population of at least 1,200 persons. Were we to compare the population of the Manor of Hallam with that of the whole kingdom at this period, as estimated by the late Sharon Turner, we should find it great in proportion to that of the rest of the kingdom. In the whole of the Manor of Hallam there were only eight acres of meadow land: clearly enough showing that they did not keep much live stock in winter. There was a woody pasture which extended nearly over half the wide manor.

Sheffield was a distinct manor. It is spelled two ways in Doomsday Book, first as Escafeld, and then as Scafeld. I apprehend the latter spelling gives a clue to the etymology of the name. Mr. Hunter thinks the first syllable of the name is derived from a Saxon word signifying water, and that Sheffield means the field on the water. The word Scau, in Anglo-Saxon, means a woody slope; and, I think, the spelling of the name in Doomsday Survey favours this meaning.

It is mentioned that Sheffield and Attercliffe were separate manors from Hallam, and each contained three carucates of land, and were held by a Saxon thane of the name of Sweyn. It is also stated that these manors were "inland of Hallam," whatever that may mean. I think its signification is that they were surrounded by the Manor of Hallam.

At the time of Doomsday Survey the Manor of Hallam was held of the Countess Judith by a wealthy Norman, Roger de Busli; yielding, therefore, every year, as it seems, two white greyhounds. Two dogs a year would now represent very poorly the rental of Sheffield! In Hallam, Earl Waltheof had a hall or mansion, which, no doubt, was on a scale equal to his position as a mighty thane. Where this stood cannot now be ascertained, though Mr. Hunter gave
much attention to the subject. Many years after the publication of the History of Hallamshire, he confessed that his mind inclined to the conjecture that it stood on the spot where Sheffield Castle afterwards reared its head.

Soon after the Conquest, on the triangular plot of ground formed by the junction of the Sheaf with the Don, and now partly occupied by the Royal Hotel, a castle sprung up at Sheffield, and around it gathered, for protection, the nucleus of the present town. For nearly 800 years there have been, through the Lovetots, the Furnivals, the Talbots, and the Howards, a succession, by inheritance, of noble lords, unbroken by forfeiture: a circumstance which, so far as I remember, is unparalleled in the history of any other town in the kingdom. Indeed, during the whole of this long period the history of the town is filled with curious and romantic incidents.

In the mind’s eye we picture its ancient lords, the flower of chivalry, emerging with their knightly retinue from the spacious portals of their many-turreted castle, to enjoy the chase, or wave their proud standard on the battle-field.

We look back to a glorious past of exciting associations. We see in the present a large, important, and prosperous town, filled with an intelligent, industrious, and thriving population. We cast our eye forward, and discern in the vista of the future a great and noble sphere for the good old town. May she faithfully fulfil the great destiny which awaits her, and take that high position in literature, science, and the useful and ornamental arts, which she so well deserves!