

INTRODUCTION.

To, is a preposition and prefix of extensive use in our mother tongue. It occurs as a prefix, in such words as, *to-bracan*, to break; *to-beran*, to bring on; (*judicare*). We retain it in *to-gether*, *Sax. togaderi*; and in *to-wards*, *Sax. toward*, *towards*; and in *to-morrow*, *to-day*, *to-night*. The Dutch write it *toe*, and the Germans *zu*, and both nations use it extensively as a prefix. In Gothic it is written *du*, as in *du-ginnan*, to gin, that is, to begin. It would be gratifying to learn whether the Ethiopic *ṭā*, which is prefixed to many verbs, is not the remains of the same preposition.

Un, is a Saxon prefix of extensive use, as a privative or particle of negation. See *on* and *in*.

Under, is a Saxon preposition and prefix of considerable use, in the present English sense. The Germans write it *unter*, and the Dutch *onder*, and use it in like manner. The Danes and Swedes write it *under*, and use it in the same sense.

Up, *uppe*, is a Saxon preposition and prefix of considerable use, in the present English sense. The Gothic has *uf*, in the sense of the Latin *sub*. The Germans write it *auf* and the Dutch *op*, the Danes *op* and the Swedes *up*, and all use it as a prefix.

Us, in Gothic, is a preposition and prefix. This is the German *aus*, and equivalent to the Latin *ex*. It is the Saxon *ut*, the English *out*, Dutch *ut*, Swedish *ut*, and Danish *ud*, dialectically varied. To this answers the Welsh *ys*, used in composition, but *ys* seems rather to be a change of the Latin *ex*, for the Latin *ex* is written in the Welsh *yspelone*, and *extendo* is *estyn*.

With, in Saxon, from the root of *with*, denotes *against*, or *opposition*. It is a prefix in *zaxo*, written in German *wider*, in Dutch, *veeder*; Dan. and Swedish *teker*. It is obsolete, but retained in the old law term *withernam*, a counter-taking or dispute.

In the German language, there are some prepositions and prefixes not found in the Saxon; as,

Ent, denoting from, out, away.

Er, without, out or to. Dan. *er*.
Nach, properly *nigh*, as in *nachbar*, neighbor; but its most common signification in composition is *after*; as in *nachgehen*, to go after. This sense is easily deducible from its primary sense, which is close, near, from urging, pressing, or following. In Dutch, this word is contracted to *na*, as in *nabuur*, neighbor; *nagaan*, to follow. The Russ has *na* also, a prefix of extensive use, and probably the same word. This fact suggests the question, whether the ancestors of these great families of men had not their residence in the same or an adjoining territory. It deserves also to be considered whether *na*, is not the Sclavonic *ъ*, occurring as a prefix to verbs.

Weg, is a prefix used in the German and Dutch. It is the Saxon, German, and Dutch *weg*, *way*, in the sense of *away*, or passing from, from the verb, in Saxon, *weggan*, *weggan*, to carry, to weigh, Eng. to *wag*, the sense of which is to move or pass; as Ger. *wegfallen*, to fall off or away.

Zer, in German, denotes separation.

In the Gothic dialects, Danish and Swedish, *fra* is used as a prefix. This is the Scottish *fra*, Eng. *from*, of which it may be a contraction.

From in Swedish, and *from* in Danish, is also a prefix. The primary sense is to go, or proceed, and hence it denotes moving to or towards, forth, &c., as in Danish *frenfrøder*, to bring forth; *frenkalder*, to call for. But in Danish, *fremmed* is strange, foreign, and it is probable that the English *from* is from the same root, with a different application. It may be from the same stock as the Gothic *from*, origin, beginning, Latin *primus*, signifying to shoot forth, to extend, to pass along.

Gien, *igen*, in Danish, and *igen*, in Swedish, is the English *gain* in *again*, *against*. This is a prefix in both these Gothic languages. It has the sense of the Latin *re*, as in *igienkommer*, to come back, to return; of *against*, as in *igienkalder*, to countermand, or recall; of *again*, as *gienbinder*, to bind again. This may be the Latin *con*.

Mod, in Danish, and *mot*, *enot*, in Swedish, is a preposition, signifying to, towards, against, contrary, for, by, upon, out, &c.; as *mod staden*, towards the city; *modstrider*, to resist; *modgift*, an antidote; *modbor*, a contrary wind; *modneid*, the same. This is the English *meet*, in the Gothic orthography, *motgan*, to meet, whence to *moor*.

Od, in Swedish, is a negative or privative prefix, as in *otidig*, immature, in English, *not tidy*.

Paa, in Danish, *på* in Swedish, is a preposition and prefix, signifying *on*, *upon*. Whether this is allied to *be*, *by*, and the Russ. *po*, I shall not undertake to determine, with confidence; but it probably is the same, or from the same source.

Sannam, signifying together, and from the root of *assemble*, is a prefix of considerable use in both languages. It answers to the Saxon *sam*, *sannod*, equivalent to the Latin *con* or *cum*. It seems to be allied to *sane* and the Latin *similis*.

Thi, both in Danish and Swedish, is a prefix, and in Danish, of very extensive use. It is equivalent to the English *to* towards, and signifies also *at*, *in*, *on*, *by*, and *about*, and in composition often has the sense of *back* or *re*, as in *tibage*, backwards, that is, *to back*; but generally it retains the sense of *to* or *onward*; as in *tibdyder*, to offer, that is, to speak or order to; *tilriver*, to drive on; *tilgive*, to allow, to pardon, that is, to give to, and hence to give back, to remit. This is the English *till*, which we use in the same sense as the Danes, but in English it always refers to *time*, whereas in Danish and Swedish, it refers to *place*. Thus we cannot say, "We are going

till town;" but we say, "wait till I come, till my arrival;" literally, "wait to I come," for *to* my arrival; that is, to the time of arrival. The difference is not in the sense of the preposition, but in its application.

The Scotch retain the Danish and Swedish use of this word; no slight evidence of their origin.

U, in Danish, the Swedish *O*, is a prefix, equivalent to *in*, and is used as a privative or negative; as in *uaer*, an unreasonable year; *uartig*, uncivil.

RUSSIAN.

Vo or *ve*, signifies *in*, *at*, *by*, and may possibly be from the same root as the Eng. *be*, *by*. But see *po*.

Zo, is a prefix signifying *for*, *on account of*, *by reason of*, *after*, as in *zadriyati*, to envy, from *vid*, visage; *viju*, to see, Lat. *video*; *zadriayti*, from *deru*, to tear; *zamiroyti*, to be astonished or stupefied, from the root of Lat. *miror*, and Russ. *mir*, *peace*, *miruyti*, to pacify, to reconcile; *zamiro*, pacific; *zamiroyti*, peace, pacification; *zamiroyti*, to make peace; Arm. *mirret*, to hold, to stop; the radical sense of wonder, astonishment, and of peace.

Ko, a preposition signifying *to*, *towards*, *for*.

Na, a preposition and prefix, signifying *on*, *upon*, *at*, *for*, to, seems to be the Germ. *nach*. Dutch *na*, as in *nagrada*, recompense; *na*, and the root of Lat. *gratia*; *nusidayti*, to sit down, &c.

Nid, a preposition, signifying *above* or *upon*.

Ob, a preposition, signifying *of* *from*, and *for*.

Ob, a preposition and prefix, signifying *to*, *on*, *against*, *about*, as *obnemayti*, to surround, to embrace; *ob* *Sax. neman*, to take.

Ot, is a preposition, signifying *from*, and it may be the Eng. *out*.

Po, is a preposition and prefix of extensive use, signifying *in*, *by*, *after*, *from*, &c. as *podayti*, to give to; *polagayti*, to lay, to expend, employ, lay out; to tax or assess; to establish or fix; to believe or suppose; *po* and *lay*. This corresponds with Eng. *by*, and the Latin has it in *possideo*, and a few other words. [Sax. *besitten*.] Ponen, remembrance, *po* and *mens*, mind.

Rad, a preposition signifying *for*, or *for the love of*.

So, a preposition and prefix of extensive use, signifying *with*, *of*, *from*; and as a mark of comparison, it answers nearly to the Eng. *so* or *as*.

Y, with the sound of *u*, is a preposition and prefix of extensive use. It signifies *near*, *by*, *at*, *with*, as *ubrayti*, to put in order, to adjust, to cut, to reap, to mow, to dress, Fr. *parer*. Lat. *paro*; *ugoda*, satisfaction; *ugodnei*, good, useful, Eng. *good*; *udar*, a dale, from *dol*.

WELSH.

The prefixes in the Welsh Language are numerous. The following are the principal.

Am, about, encompassing, Sax. *amb*, Gr. *αμφ*.

An. See *Sax. in*.

Cy, *cyl*, *cym*, *cym*, implying union, and answering to *cum*, *con* and *co* in Latin. Indeed *cym*, written also *cyn*, seems to be the Latin *cum*, and *cyn* may be a contraction of it, like *co* in Latin. *Cu* seems also to be a prefix, as in *caboli*, to polish, Lat. *polio*.

Cyn, *cynt*, former, first, as if allied to *begin*.

Di, negative and privative.

Dis, negative and precise.

Dy, iterative.

E and *re*, adversative.

Ed and *ei*, denoting repetition, like *re*, Sax. *ed*, *oth*.

Es, separating, like Lat. *ex*. See *ys*.

Go, extenuating, inchoative, approaching, going, denotes diminution or a less degree, like the Latin *sub*; as in *gobrid*, somewhat dark. This seems to be from the root of English *go*.

Hm, expressive of origination.

Lled, partly, half.

Of, all.

Rhag, before.

Rhy, over, excessive.

Tra, over, beyond. Lat. *trans*.

Try, through.

Ym, mutual, reflective.

Ys, denoting from, out of, separation, proceeding from, answering to the Latin *ex*; as *yspellaw*, to expel. So *es*, Welsh *estyn*, to extend.

In the sense of these prepositions, when used as prefixes, are so distinct as to be known to be prefixes.

But in some instances, the original preposition is so obscured by a loss or change of letters, as not to be obvious, nor indeed discoverable, without resorting to an ancient orthography. Thus without the aid of the Saxon orthography, we should probably not be able to detect the component parts of the English *twist*. But in Saxon it is written *edwitan* and *othwitan*; the preposition or prefix *oth*, with *reitan*, to disallow, reproach or censure in the teeth.

It has been already suggested to be possible, that in the Sclavonic languages, the *ъ* in trilateral roots, may be the same prefix as the Russian *na*, the Dutch *na*, and German *nach*. Let the reader attend to the following words.