

INTRODUCTION.

Heb. **נָחַם** To look, to behold, to regard. The primary sense of *look*, is, to reach, extend or throw.

Ch. To look; also to *bud* or sprout.

Ar. **نَظَمَ** To spring, or issue as water; to flow out; to devise or strike out; to draw out.

If the first letter is a prefix, the Hebrew word would accord with Lat. *video*; the Chaldee, with *video* and with *bud*, Sp. *bater*, Fr. *bouter*, *bouter*, to put, and Eng. to *put*, and Fr. *bout*, end, from shooting, extending.

Ar. **ذَمِتَ** To bud; to germinate. See Ch. *stupra*.

Heb. **נָפַל** To fall; to sink down; to wither; to fall off, as leaves and flowers; to act foolishly; to disgrace. Derivative, foolish; a fool; **נָפַל** Heb. Ch. Syr. Sam. to fall.

Ch. **נָפַל** To make foul; to defile; that is, to throw or put on.

Ar. **نَظَلَ** To shoot, as an arrow; to drive as camels; to excel; also to die, that is probably to fall.

Can there be any question, that *fall*, *foul* and *fool* are this very word, without the first consonant? The Arabic without the first consonant agrees with Gr. **φάσκω**, and the sense of *falling* then, is to throw one's self down.

Heb. **נָחַם** To keep, guard, preserve, retain, observe.

Ch. To observe; to keep; to lay up.

Syr. and Sam. *id.*

Eth. **ሰሰ** To shine.

Ar. **نَظَرَ** To keep; to see; to look; to attend.

Remove the first letter, and this coincides with the Greek **ερεω**.

No person will doubt whether **נָחַם** to circumsise, is formed on **נָחַם**.

Ch. **נָחַם** to cut; to saw. Syr. *id.* Lat. *serra*, *serra*.

Ar. **نَفَدَ** To fade, to vanish, to perish, to be empty, to fail.

Heb. **נָחַם** to blow, to breathe. Ch. Syr. Eth. Ar. *id.* from **נָחַם**, to blow. If the Shemitic *ph* in these and similar words is a prefix or the remains of a preposition, it coincides very closely with the Russ. and Dutch *na*, and the latter we know to be a contraction of the German *nach*. Now the German *nach* is the English *nigh*; for no person can doubt the identity of the German *nachbar* and the English *neighbor*.

In the course of my investigations, I very early began to suspect that *b, f, p, c, g* and *k* before *i* and *r*, are either casual letters, introduced by peculiar modes of pronunciation, or the remains of prepositions; most probably the truth of this conjecture, before I had received Owen's Dictionary of the Welsh language. An examination of this work has confirmed my suspicions, or rather changed them into certainty.

If we attend to the manner of articulating the letters, and the ease with which *bl, br, fl, fr, pl, pr, cl, er, gl, gr* are pronounced, without an intervening vowel, even without a *sheva*, we shall not be surprised that a prepositional prefix, like *be, pe, pa, po, or ge* should, in a rapid pronunciation, lose its vowel, and the consonant coalesce closely with the first letter of the principal word. Thus *blank, prank*, might naturally be formed from *belank, perank*. That these words are thus formed, I do not know; but there is nothing in the composition of the words to render it improbable. Certain it is, that a vast number of words are formed with these prefixes, on other words, or the first consonant is a mere adventitious addition; for they are used with or without the first consonant. Take the following examples.

Hiberno-Celtic, or Irish, *brac* or *brach*, the arm, is written also *raigh, Welsh brai*, whence **βραχια**, brachium. *Braigh*, the neck, Sax. *hraca*, Eng. *rock*, Gr. **ραχίς**, *Frach*, heath, *lake, brake*, L. *erica*.

Welsh, *llawr*, Basque, *lurra*, Eng. *floor*.

Lat. *floccus*, Eng. *flack* or *lock*.

Sax. *hraccan*, Eng. to reach, in vomiting.

Sax. *haccad*, Eng. *ragged*.

Ger. *rock*, Eng. *frock*.

Dutch, *geluk*, Ger. *gluck*, Eng. *luck*.

Greek, *Eolic Dialect*, **ροδορ**, for **ροδο**, a rose.

Latin, *clunis*, Eng. *loin*, G. *lende*, W. *clun*, from *llun*.

Eng. *cream*, Ger. *rahm*, Dutch, *room*.

Sax. *hlof*, Polish *chleb*, G. *leib*, Eng. *loaf*.

Sax. *hleadan*, Eng. to *lade* or *load*, *hlose*, *ladu*, to lay.

Greek, **κλινω**, Lat. *clino*, Sax. *hlīnian*, *hleanan*, Russ. *klonyu*, Eng. to lean.

Greek, **λαγνηος**, Lat. *lagena*, Eng. *flagon*.

Sax. *hrysan*, Eng. to *rush*.

French, *frapper*, Eng. to *rap*.

Sax. *geradum*, to make ready; in Chaucer, *greith*, to make ready. Sax.

hærd, quick; *hradian*, to hasten; *hrædnes*, Eng. *readiness*.

Spanish, *frisar*, to curl or *frizale*; *visar*, the same.

Sax. *gerfa*, Eng. *reze*, G. *graf*, D. *graaf*.

Lat. *glycyrrhiza*, from the Greek; Eng. *liquorice*.

But in no language, have we such decisive evidence of the formation of words, by prefixes, as in the Welsh.

Take the following instances, from a much greater number that might be produced, from Owen's Welsh Dictionary.

Blanc, a colt, from *llanc*.

Blith, milk, from *lith*.

Blind, fine linen, from *lliant*.

Plad, a flat piece or plate, from *llad*.

Pled, a principle of extension, from *lled*.

Pledren, a bladder, from *pledryn*, that distends, from *lled*.

Pleth, a braid, from *lleth*, Eng. *plait*.

Plicciate, to pluck, from *llig*.

Ploc, a block, from *lloc*; *plociau*, to block, to plug.

Plung, a plunge, from *llung*, our vulgar lunge.

Pluth, a glutton, from *lluth*.

Glas, a blue color, verdancy, a green plat, whence Eng. *glass*, from *llas*.

Glyd, gluten, *glur*, from *llyd*.

Clær, clear, from *llaer*.

Clav, sick, from *llav*.

Clupa, a club, a knob, from *llub*.

Clut, a piece, a clout, from *llud*, *llut*.

Clamp, a mass, a lump.

Clawed, a thin board, from *llawed*.

Cledry, a board or shingle, whence *cledry*, lattice, from *lled*.

Brin, Eng. *bran*, from *rhan*; *rhanu*, to rend.

Brid, a breaking out, from *rhid*.

Broc, noise, tumult, a brock, from *rhoc*.

Broc, froth, foam, anger, broet, to chafe or fret, from *bruc*, a boiling or ferment, from *rhuc*, something rough, a grunt, Gr. **βρυγ**.

Bryd, what moves, impulse, mind, thought, from *rhud*.

Brys, quickness, *bristaw*, to hasten, to shoot along, from *rhys*, Eng. to rush, and *crystaw*, to hasten, from *rhys*, to rush. (Here is the same word *rhys*, with different prefixes, forming *brystaw* and *crystaw*. Hence W. *brysg*, Eng. *brisk*.)

Graz, [pronounced *grath*.] a step, a degree, from *rhaz*, Lat. *gradus*, *gradior*.

Greg, a cackling, from *rhag*.

Gren, a crashing, gnash, a murmur, *gremiau*, to crash or gnash, from *rhem*. Hence Lat. *fremo*, Gr. **βρεμα**.*

We have some instances of similar words in our own language; such *flag* and *log*; *flap* and *lap*; *clump* and *lump*.

This is another class of words which are probably formed with a prefix of a different kind. I refer to words in which a preceeds another consonant, as *scalp*, *skull*, *slip*, *slide*, *sluggish*, *smoke*, *smooth*, *speed*, *spire*, *spin*, *stage*, *steep*, *stem*, *swell*, *spout*. We find that *togo*, to cover, in Latin, is in Greek **τεγω**; the Latin *latus* is in Greek **εφαλλω**. We find **μαμαγδος**

* I do not follow Owen to the last step of his analysis, as I am of opinion that, in making monosyllabic words to be compound, he often errs. For example, he supposes *broc* a tumult, to be from *rhoc*, a broken or rough utterance; a grunt or groan; and this, to be a compound of *rhys*, excess, what is over or beyond, and *oc*, a forcible utterance, a groan. I believe *rhoc* to be a primitive uncompound word, coinciding with the English *rough*.

Owen supposes *plad*, a flat thing, a plate, to be from *llad*, with *py*. *Llad* he explains, what is given, a gift, good things, and *py*, what is inward or involved. I have no doubt that the first letter is a prefix in *plad*, but beyond all question, *llad* is from the same root as *lled*, breadth, coinciding with Lat. *latus*; both from a common root signifying to extend. But I do not believe *llad* or *lled* to be compound words.

Dug, a duke, Owen supposes to be formed on *ug*, over, which cannot be true, unless the Latin *dur*, *duco*, are compounds. *Dur*, steel, he derives from *ur*, extreme, over, but doubtless it is from the root of the Latin *durus*.

So *par*, signifying what is contiguous, a state of readiness or preparation, a pair, fellow, or match, Owen makes a compound of *py*, and *ar*; *py*, as above explained, and *ar*, a word of various significations, *on*, upon, *surface*, &c. But there can be no doubt that *par* is from the root of the Latin *para*, to prepare, being the Latin *par*, equal; the root of a numerous family of words not only in the Japhetic languages of Europe, but in the Shemitic languages of Asia. It certainly is not a Welsh compound, nor is there the least evidence to induce a belief that it is not an uncompound word. Had the learned author of the Welsh Dictionary extended his researches to a variety of other languages, and compared the monosyllabic roots in them with each other, I think he would have formed a very different opinion as to their origin. I am very well convinced that many of the words which he supposes to be primitive or radical, are contractions, such as *rhys*, *lle*, *lly*, the last consonant being lost.

* H before l and j in Saxon corresponds to the Greek *z*, and Latin *c*, before the same letters.