

ANTIEN TALE S IN ARYAN NUMERATION.

BY G. H. HUNTER.

THE SHEEPSCORING NUMERALS.

These numerals were first recorded in the Lake District, and were called the "Lakeland numerals" by the authorities who discovered them. As they were afterwards found in other parts of England stretching from Epping Forest to Northumberland, and into Scotland, this name was too restricting, and, as they closely resemble the Welsh, they have been called "the Brythonic numerals."

Non-English numerals are used for counting sheep south of the Thames, but four versions reported in "Word Lore," Vol. I, are not Brythonic but Goidelic. These only go up to ten.

All enquiries in the neighbourhood of Haughley have failed to find any trace of these numerals, but one interesting point came to light. An old shepherd at Gipping stated that he always counted his sheep by sixties not by hundreds. He was using an old duodecimal tale, which when doubled we know as the "long hundred."

In "Word Lore," Vol. I, a version of the Brythonic numerals was given as East Anglian, but it was not stated whether it came from Norfolk or Suffolk. This only went up to ten, the original tale of our present decimal notation.

One sees then that old tales of ten, twenty, sixty and a hundred and twenty are still in use, but an examination of the versions of the sheep-scoring numerals used in Epping Forest and at Rathmel in Craven, Yorks, enables one to go further back, and shew that the Goidels of Epping at one time only counted in fours (tetrad counting), while at Rathmel they had added another number to their earlier tale of four, and had become five counters (pentad counting). The terms tetrad and pentad will be used to denote groups of four and five consecutive numbers respectively.

SHEEP, SCORING NUMERALS.

Epping.	Rathmel.	Wensleydale	Knaresbro.
1 In	1 Aen	1 Yahn	Yan
2 Tin	2 Taen	2 Jyahn	Tan
3 Tethera	3 Tethera	3 Tether	Tethera
4 Fethera	4 Fethera	4 Mether	Methera
1 Fip	5 Fubs	5 Mumph	Pimp
2 Lethera	1 Aather	6 Hither	Sittera
3 Methera	2 Lääther	7 Lither	Littera
4 Co	3 Quother	8 Auver	Over
1 Debera	4 Quäther	9 Dauver	Dorer
2 Dick	5 Dugs	10 Dick	Dick
3 In dick	1 Aen a dugs	11 Yahn dick	Yan dick
4 Tin dick	2 Taen a dugs	12 Tyahn dick	Tan dick
1 Tethera dick	3 Tethera dugs	13 Tether dick	Tethera dick
2 Lethera dick	4 Fethera dugs	14 Mether dick	Methera dick
3 Bumfit	5 Buon	15 Mimphit	Jiggit
4 In a bumfit	1 Aen a buon	16 Yahn a mimphit	Yan a jiggit
1 Tin a bumfit	2 Taen a buon	17 Tyahn a mimphit	Tan a jiggit
2 Lethera bumfit	3 Tethera buon	18 Tether a mimphit	Tethera jiggit
3 Methera bumfit	4 Fethera buon	19 Mether a mimphit	Methera jiggit
4 Gigot	5 Gunagun	20 Jigit	Brumfit
Studies in Nidderdale Lucas	Rev. W. S. Sykes, Birkenhead.	Folk Löre. Northal "Nominees."	The late T. L. Chadwick, Dewsbury

THE EPPING FOREST VERSION.

In this version Le.ther.a=6 and Me.ther.a=7. Three is Te.ther.a, and 13 is Te.ther.a Dik, as in most of the other versions, but 18, i.e., 3 over 15, is not Te.ther.a Bumfit as one would expect, but Le.ther.a Bumfit, which as Le.ther.a=16, should =21.

Again; Fe.ther.a = 4, but 14. is not Fe.ther.a Dik, as in those versions in which 4 is represented by some form of Fe.ther.a, but Le.ther.a Dik, which as Le.ther.a = 6, should = 16, while 19, i.e., 4 over 15, is not Fe.ther.a Bumfit, but Me.ther.a Bumfit, which as Me.ther.a = 7, should = 22.

This apparent confusion disappears if the whole version be written out in fours, when it will be seen that Le.ther.a and M.ether.a, where they occur, occupy the second and third places in the tetrads respectively. Hence Lethera, Methera, Co, though now used for 6, 7 and 8, are really the second, third and fourth elements of the second Tetrad, and must previously have meant 2, 3, 4.

The form for "1" in this (the second) Tetrad has been displaced by "Fip," the Pentad counters form for 5, but can be recovered.

At Rathmel, in Craven, Yorkshire, the form for 6 is Äa.ther and that for 7 is Lää.ther. Now Lää.ther is evidently a dialectic variant of the Epping Le.ther.a, and like it must have previously have meant "2," and Äa.ther can be shewn to have meant "1."

As in Yorkshire an original long a (\bar{a}) is often replaced by aa, e.g., Father and rather being pronounced Fääther and räather, and as "-ther" is the English form of the Aryan ending "-ter" (-tar, -tor, -tur), Aa.ther stands for an older *A.ther, the English form of *A.ter, the Goidelised form, with the normal loss of n before t, of an Aryan *An.ter, compounded of the Aryan an = 1, preserved in the Anglo-Saxon "an," and the numeral ending -ter.

Aa.ther would have appeared at Epping as *E.ther.a, as it is the rule in these numerals, that the forms for

“ 1 ” and “ 2 ” should have the same root vowel, and the modern form of the Epping Tetrad would have been *Ethera, Lethera, Methera, Co for 1, 2, 3, 4.

But these were not the original meanings of these forms.

Le.th, where Le is the root, and th (silent) is the vocalic mutation of t, the remains of the substantial ending which appears in latin as -tas, in liber.tas, etc., in Gælic and Irish means “ half,” so Le.ther.a would mean “ the half of the Tetrad, while Me in Me.ther.a may be collated with the Gælic “ mo ” which means “ greater,” so Me.ther.a would mean the “ greater ” part of the Tetrad, while Co. on the analogy of Le.ther.a and Me.ther.a should mean the “ whole ” of the Tetrad. Cf. The Welsh Cooble (phon) = the whole.

In Latin we find Antecursor and Præcursor used as synonymous terms, both meaning “ forerunner.” Here an and præ, for the te of ante is only a later adverbial ending, as in rec.te and len.te, must both have meant the one “ to the fore,” “ in front ” or “ the first.”

It is generally considered that the cardinals were originally ordinals, so one may say that “ an ” originally meant “ the first.”

We may then restore the primitive meanings of the Goidelic Tetrad as

*Ethera meaning the first part of the Tetrad.

Le.ther.a	„	half	„
Me.ther.a	„	greater part	„
Co	„	whole	„

THE RATHMEL VERSION.

As Aather for 6 and Laather for 7 have been shewn at one time to have meant "1" and "2," from their position in the series they must have been the "1" and "2" of the second pentad, shewing that the Goidels of Rathmel had become five counters, and having completed the first pentad, had commenced the second with their own forms for "1" and "2."

The forms for 6, with two or three exceptions, which can be otherwise explained fall into three groups. In the first the root is a vowel or diphthong, in the second this initial vowel is aspirated, in the third this initial H is replaced by S.

The Goidels brought the form *Ater to Rathmel, whence it spread with gradation of the vowel forming the vowel group.

These forms were acquired by non-Goidelic and probably non-Aryan peoples, who aspirated the initial vowel. (Cf. Wensleydale Hi.ther = 6).

These H forms were afterwards passed on to other tribes, who objecting to, or unable to pronounce initial H, substituted for it the sibillant S (e.g., Knaresbro-Sittera). These peoples' forms thus differed from those of the H people, as the Latin Sex and Septem differ from the Greek Hex and Hepta.

The sequence of change was then, 1, Vowel; 2, aspiration of vowel; 3, substitution of S for H as the initial; all these forms then mean the "1" of the second pentad.

Hence these Lakeland numerals count in fives not only from 10 to 20, but also from 1 to 10, and the Lakeland score consists of four distinct pentads.

THE ARYAN NUMERALS FOR 6 AND 7.

If the Greek Hex, i.e., H.ek.s = 6, be compared with the Sanscrit Eka = 1, it is seen to contain ek a shortened form of Eka with the initial vowel aspirated and s, a numerical ending, added.

Hence Hex is the "1" of the second pentad.

Hepta = 7 means the "following one," and corresponds to the Latin secundus, and is the second ordinal. Hence Hex and Hepta are the first and second numerals of the second pentad shewing that the Greeks, like the Goidels of Lakeland and other parts of Britain, at one time counted in two distinct pentads from 1 to 10.

The Latin Sex and Septem shew the initial S substituted for the Greek H in Hex and Hepta.

One sees then that the forms of 1 in the Sanscrit, in the first pentad, and the Greek and Latin in the second, shew the same sequence of vowel, H and S in the initial as the Lakeland forms.

This sequence can be supported by two parallel examples :

	Vowel.	H.	S.
	Sans.	Greek	Latin
one	Eka	H.ek.s.	S.ek.s
over	u.par.i.	H.u.pér	S.u.per
water	u.dan	H.u.dor	S.u.dor
			S.i.tula

Sudor, sweat = water on the skin.

Situla, a pitcher = water bearer (tollo).

As all the other literary Aryan forms for 6 with the exception of the Zend (Khshvas) and the Welsh, Cornish and Breton begin with S (or Sh) they may

be classed with sex (s.ek.s) as S forms meaning "1." The Welsh, chwech, the Breton, chouech, the Cornish Huic or whe=6 resemble the Zend form and the Goojerati form Chä and this is explained by the form Cha meaning "1" in a Sans. MS in the library of Morden's College, Blackheath, given by the late Chas. Collyer Esq., librarian, i.e. the "1" of the second pentad.

Hence all the decimal counting Aryans at one time, not necessarily synchronously, counted in fives from 1 to 10.

The Epping Tetrad is apparently the oldest form of Aryan numeration so far discovered, and the Epping Goidels must have drifted from their continental home, westward into Britain, probably many hundreds if not thousands of years before their decimal confrères came to the west.

As we find methera=7 in Epping Forest, and the corrupted form Mithy at Millom on the Cumberland coast, this seems to prove that the Goidels *did* land at the mouth of the Thames, and spread across Britain and thence to Ireland, for it is difficult to see on the new theory that they went straight to Ireland from the west of France, how, bringing the corrupted form Mithy from Ireland to Cumberland; and crossing England in the reverse direction, they restored the full form Methera at Epping.