

kind of fish's tail, and also some female characteristics, not clearly shown in the prints." The "Dæmones" at Iken may really have been a few remaining, and probably degenerate descendants of an earlier race; but it is impossible to say what race it can have been.

This paper may fittingly conclude with the Collect for St. Botolph's Day (S.B.): "Deus omnium regnorum Gubernator, et Rector, qui famulis tuis annuam Botulphi Confessoris tui, atque Abbatis, largiris celebrare festivitatem, nostrorum quaesumus dele cicatrices vulnerum, caelestisque patriæ donis refice sempiternis."

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NOTE.

The following note on the configuration of Suffolk in St. Botolph's time has been supplied by Mr. Claude Morley, F.Z.S., etc. It bears closely on the situation of Iken.

"Suffolk bore a very different aspect in the seventh century from what it now presents. Since that time the whole of our east coast has been modified to a quite unknown degree. The county has lost a vast number of acres by sheer erosion; Ptolemy's "Exoche" is the most eastern point of England in Roman days and computed to have extended five miles further seaward than does Easton Bavents to-day; and it has been, perhaps rashly, said that Dunwich extended seven. On the other hand, many stretches, such as Lowestoft denes, the Hollesley salt-marshes, and most particularly the low-lying land about Iken, have considerably silted up to at least some compensating extent. Suffolk then possessed a second sea-board westward, for the erstwhile fen-sealand was open sea with very few islands, such as Ely, showing above its waves. The old coast-line from Lakenheath to Exning, where Anna was doubtless watching for Penda's attack when Saint Æthelthryth ("Etheldreda") was born, is still traceable and clearly discernable from the coast Castle, yet a considerable and complex earthwork, at Freckenham, the warrior's home. The gradual drainage, on the west, of this Fen Sea, sailed by the Norsemen who slew Eadmund and razed Botwulf's monastery, probably just north of Iken church, and of the coast marshes on the east of the county, has had the effect of reducing the volume of all our rivers by (I do not hesitate

to say, after examining the "dip" of the fen water-mills: this was five feet in 1825 and but  $2\frac{3}{4}$  in 1895) full five feet. Add these feet; and we find that Framlingham had a lake of many acres between its Castle and College; Debenham church was erected on a promontory jutting into a broad expanse of water; the Blyth was half a mile broad to Halesworth; Breydon Water was the great estuary, Hierus Fluvius; the Gipping cattle-marshes were submerged from Barking Lion to Shrubland Park; and the Ipswich dead had been ferried across to Crane Hill. There can be little doubt that two centuries later King Guthorm was attracted to Hadleigh and its monastery by the fine estuary running down through Shelley to Higham on the Stour, which Geoffrey de Fontibus in 1150 terms "fluvium cursu rapidissimum," which it is not now: in fact, Eastengle was, as Abbo describes it in the tenth century, "washed by waters on nearly every side," except the neck across which still stretch the Great Dykes. Desiccation was further hastened by the gradual felling, already begun in Botwulf's time, of the vast forests which everywhere covered at least the boulder-clay of High Suffolk, where all but the smallest villages are upon rivers, then navigable, though now mere runlets and in summer often dry. The water-shed of the county runs from Shadingfield in the north-east to Stansfield in the south-west, and this is still the most sparsely populated line in the county. Our upland water is mainly derived from orographical rain, the precipitation of which is caused by the interposition of lofty objects in the wind's path, so the rainfall is in direct ratio to the extent of forest. No wonder "bridge-building" was one of the great Trinoda necessitas, inherited from the Romans, throughout Saxon times."