

use of it in his romance of *Konilworth*. At this cave, according to rustic folk-lore; dwelt the invisible smith. No one ever saw him; but any traveller who had the courage to avail himself of his skill, had only to deposit a piece of money on one of the stones and leave his horse beside it. On his return the horse was found to be shod and the money gone. Such was the last shadowy tradition of the venerable myth.

Though it might be supposed that from early times Weland would be a favourite surname, nevertheless in the race for popular adoption it has been far outstripped by its synonym Smith. Still we may say that under his more euphonious appellation, our traditional metallurgist has, with slight verbal variations, continued to hold his ground in every one of the old European tongues. In Iceland he was *Vœlund* or *Volundur*,—in German, *Wielant* and *Wielant*,—in Anglo-Saxon, *Weland* and *Velont*, modified in modern dialect to *Wayland* as a name and *Valiant* as an epithet. In the Latin of the middle ages, it became *Guilandus* and *Galannus*,—and in old French, *Galans* or *Galant*.

When applied to territory, *Wayland* might plausibly enough be traced to the Anglo-Saxon "*Wael*," signifying battle, slaughter, or death, and used in forming such compound phrases as *wael-feld*, a field of battle; *wael-shaft*, a war weapon; and so *wael-land* might well designate a place of slaughter. But in our early history the names of persons and places are so interchangeable, that we shall gain little by departing from the simple explanation first given above. How *Wayland* drifted into *Waylen* among the Wiltshire branches may easily be accounted for by the carelessness which characterizes the spelling of surnames in the middle ages; the scribes just following the sounds which their reporters furnished; though, if there were not good proof that the spelling of *Wayland* prevailed in the West of England before *Waylen* was heard of, we might assume the identity of the modern form *Waylen* with that of *Whelan*, which in Ireland where it is common enough, is pronounced *Whalan*. The final remark to be made under this head is that *Wehlen* the name of a picturesque town on the Elbe in Saxon Switzerland has a sound exactly similar.