

battle of Deorham, now Dyrham, in which the three British kings, Conmail, Condidan, and Farinmoil, fell, Cuthwin and Ceanliu took possession of Gloucester.

The period when the Severn valley was first inhabited by the Saxons, has been fixed by Dr. Guest, from entries in the Saxon chronicles, to be after the Battle of Deorham, A.D. 577.

In the reign of Alfred the Great, the Danes invaded England and drove the Saxons from their lands. At Twining Fleet (or Ferry) they turned back after the burning of Theobury, and pillaged the Saxon Granges and Church of Bredon. For two centuries the land was distracted with the wars between the English and the Danes. The country between Bath and Worcester was, in fact, the great battle ground on which the issue was fought out, during so many years, by Alfred and his invaders; the last great and crowning victory of the English king in 893, was gained at Boddington, about five miles from Tewkesbury. So far, we see the origin of the name and some associations of the place. It may have been that our Saxon ancestors bestowed this