

have signed. This much is known, however, that they will live in the north-eastern part of the country, with Alfred as their king. Hostages were also given up by them.

The manners and customs of these people would indeed seem odd to you, if you were to come to this country for a while. The people have for the most part no education; it is only a few young men that come to the monasteries to study, and a few of the nobles of Alfred's court that can read, write and cypher. Practically all books are written in our Latin tongue, and they are very scarce, being found only in the monasteries. There will be more time spent in learning in the future, and it is hoped that the next generation will be noted more as scholars than as soldiers, as the Saxons of to-day are. However, as you must know, it would take many years to make such a change.

Perchance you would like to know how these people fought and protected themselves against their enemies; as I know, that in your youth, as my pupil, you often thought that you would be a great warrior when you grew up. They were indeed a sturdy set of men as they were ranged up for that last great battle at Ethandune. They are all tall, muscular and light complexioned. They wore tunics of different colored cloth. Those of the richer were fastened at the neck with gold brooches. They wore caps of a sort and sandals. Most of them carried shields of platted twigs, covered with skins. Many had bows and arrows with which they are very skilful; while others had swords and axes. They had very good order for such uncivilized people; this was due to the good training from their king.

The Danes, their enemies, arrayed for battle, certainly make a very fierce appearance. They all had shields of wood, bark or leather, and in the cases of chiefs, plated with gold, which covered them from head to foot. These they locked together so as to form an almose impassible barrier. They wore helmets of leather, some had coats of mail, and they were armed with swords and bows and arrows. They were in no way physically superior to the Saxons, but they differed in that their complexions were very dark. It is indeed a wonder that our Saxons could withstand the force of such an army as these.

I assure you, my dear pupil, that I have never witnessed so much feasting and revelry as ensued on this great victory.

The people have now returned to their homes—small wooden houses, the floors of which they cover with straw—to resume their peaceful occupations of hunting and tilling the soil. It is hoped that they will be able to continue this, and never have to take up arms again. It is said by some of