

we find it in old writings and in modern authors. Any account of the period must be tentative and provisional, depending on annals and sagas which cannot be trusted implicitly, and on inferences which a wider knowledge may upset. But there is one class of misstatements which ought to be cleared away at the beginning—the wide-spread belief in the pre-historic Viking. There is no reason to assert that Scandinavian sea-robbers, as distinct from the Angles and Saxons of the fifth and sixth centuries, appeared on the coasts of Britain before the end of the eighth century.

In a well-known book, justly popular on account of its wealth of illustration, the late Paul du Chaillu used the argument from this doubtful entry of “Northmen from Hærethaland” to enforce his idea that the “so-called Saxons,” as he was careful to call them, were precisely the same people as the Scandinavian Vikings, whose sagas, he remarked, never called the English “Saxons,” as the Celtic nations did. He contended that from Roman days to the twelfth century there was a continuous stream of invasion setting in from the Baltic shores to Britain; *littus Saxonicum* was a Viking settlement; the English came from Engelholm on the Cattegat, and from places named Engeln in Sweden; Tacitus mentioned the boats of the Suiones, and surely their “mighty fleets” must have been employed between the days of Agricola and those of Charlemagne in more than local traffic; the whole millennium was a Viking Age.

Burton also (*Hist. Scotland*, i. 302) wrote that