P.S. To the twenty six verbs quoted above (p. 174) as having in the prefix *re-* an equivalent for our *un-*, may be added some fifteen others, *recan-* = *recanta-*, *redargu-* 'disprove', *referu-* (Cic. Brut. 91) 'become cool again', *refrena-* 'unbridle', *religa-* (Catul., Lucan.) 'unbind', *relin-* 'unwax' so to say, *re-ne-* 'unspin', *renuda-* 'unbare', *repect-* 'uncomb' so to say or 'dishevel', *resolu-* 'unbind', *restring-* (Plaut. Capt.) 'open', *resuto-* 'unsewn', *retura-* (compared with *obtura-*) 'uncork, open', *reuolu-* 'unroll'.

XX.—A QUERY ON THE PHRASE *DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED*. BY R. F. WEYMOUTH, ESQ.

Probably few students of the English language, who have any acquaintance with Logic, would judge it to be very unlikely that the adjective *diametrical* and its derivative adverb, as they are commonly used, are borrowed from the logicians, and in their original sense have exclusive reference to "contradictory" propositions. At any rate this seems highly probable. *Ἡ διάμετρος* (sc. *γραμμῇ*) of the Greek mathematicians, was not only a certain line in a circle or a sphere; but also, and much more commonly, the diagonal of a parallelogram. So the term is used by Plato, Aristotle, Euclid, and others. Now the logicians invented a "schema oppositionum", in which the universal affirmative (A) and the particular negative (O), and again the universal negative (E) and the particular affirmative (I), were exhibited at the opposite extremities of the *διάμετροι* of a square. Thus these "contradictories" were *ἐκ διαμέτρου ἀντικείμεναι*, *ex diametro oppositæ*.

We have moreover received several other logical terms into the language of common life, such as *proposition*, *maxim*, *genus*, *species*, *definition*, *category*, and many besides. It is therefore the less improbable that the term under consideration may have had this origin. Nor should it be forgotten that Logic, with which now-a-days very few seek to make themselves acquainted, was among the school-boy studies of those who wrote and spoke in early English. Grammar, Rhetoric, and Logic, constituted the *trivium* which was regarded as the basis and groundwork of education; so that with these subjects every well-informed man was of necessity familiar. They took precedence even of Arithmetic, which with Music, Geometry, and Astronomy (*sive* Astrology) constituted the nobler *quadrivium*. My authority is the distich, quoted by Hallam in one of the early notes in the first volume of his *Literature of Modern Europe*, but overlooked by some more recent writers on this subject:

Gram. loquitur; Dia. vera docet; Rhet. verba colorat:

Mus. canit; Ar. numerat; Geo. ponderat; Ast. colit astra.

So much then for theory: the question remains, do the facts of the case correspond therewith? When does the phrase "diametrical opposition", or any of its kin, first occur; and is it employed in this logical sense? Perhaps indeed it can be shown that the Greek or Latin equivalents of these phrases were in use before the logicians invented their "schema". If so, Lucian's ἐκ διαμέτρου may be understood to signify "at opposite poles" of opinion or sentiment; but it would not follow even then that some modern writer may not have intended a distinctly logical allusion when he introduced the English expression "diametrically opposite".

[The following extract from a letter to a lady-friend, was read by our President at the Meeting of the Society on April, 1861, merely to elicit the opinion, on the first point raised, of some Keltic scholars who happened to be present. On being asked for the Paper, that it might be sent to press, the Bishop refused to have it printed, saying that it was too slight a thing for type, and that he had never intended to print it; so I considered the Paper lost to us. But in September Sir Gardner

Wilkinson wrote to me to ask whether the Paper was printed, and in what volume of our Transactions it was to be found. I renewed my appeal to the President for his Paper, and he allowed me to send it to Sir G. Wilkinson, and then to press, provided that I stated the circumstances under which it was sent.

F. J. FURNIVALL, *Hon. Sec.*]

XXI.—ON THE NAME *WELSH*, AND THE WORD *AQUA*.

BY THE RIGHT REV. CONNOP THIRLWALL, D. D., Lord Bishop of St. Davids, President of the Philological Society.

The question discussed by Sir G. Wilkinson in his Paper on *The Rock Basins of Cornwall*, note 2, p. 21—whether *Welsh* is a national name identical with *Gael*, *Celt*, &c., or originally signified a *foreigner*—is one of some nicety as well as of considerable interest: but on the whole I venture to think that the evidence clearly preponderates in favour of the last mentioned opinion.

If we were to look only to our own island, it might be difficult to decide the point. It is certain indeed that the Saxons brought the word over with them, and in the form *wealh*. And if to them it then signified simply a *foreigner*, it does not seem to me 'unreasonable', but rather quite natural that they should apply it to the Cymry, with whom alone for a very long time they had to do, and that it should thus have become the English proper name for this branch of the Celtic family. Still this proves nothing as to the original meaning, and in order to trace it to this, we must go over to the continent. And, first, observing that the word is common not only to the German but to the Scandinavian dialects (Old German *walah*, Old Norse and Swedish *wal*) in the same sense of *foreigner*, we must ask what ground there is for supposing that it was connected with the proper names *Gael*, *Gall*, *Kelt*, &c. It is not alleged, nor could it be proved, or even shewn to be probable, that it was adopted by all these Teutonic and Scandinavian tribes, because the Celts were *the* foreigners with whom they *all* came into collision, so that the name of *Gael* became with them all a general term for a *foreigner*. It is much easier to suppose that they all brought the word with them from their more ancient seats.