

XII.—ON THE DERIVATION OF THE LATIN OTIUM.

BY THEODORE AUFRECHT, Esq.

[Read June the 13th.]

Amongst the abstracts in *ia*, *io*- (*ium*), we find several derived from a past participle. Thus, *exercitium* from *exercito*-, *nuptiae* from *nupto*-, *argutiae*, *minutiae*, from *arguto*-, *minuto*-, *controversia* from *controverso*-, *inscitia* from *in-scito*-, *impolitia* from *im-polito*-, *comitium*, *exitium*, *initium*, from *comito*-, *exito*-, *inito*-. Lastly, I mention *lōtium* from *lōto*-, as bearing the greatest resemblance with our word. As *lōtus* is a contraction of *lav-ī-tus* from *lāvere*, we may perhaps suppose that *ōtio* comes from a participle *oto*-=*avito*-, this being derived from a verb *avere*. Everybody knows, that the verbs terminating with a *v* undergo a strong syncope in the past participle, as *jūto*-, *cauto*-, *fauto*-, *fōto*-, *mōto*-, for *jūv-i-to*-, *cāv-i-to*-, *fāv-i-to*-, *fōv-i-to*-, *mōv-i-to*-. I hope that a better etymology will be proposed hereafter; in the mean time I offer it as my conjecture, that *ōtium* meant originally “enjoyment, happiness,” and owes its origin to the verb *avēre*, “to be happy,” of which the imperative *ave*, *aveto*, *avete*, and the infinitive have alone been preserved*. The fact that *avere* has an initial *h* in some inscriptions and manuscripts is, I conceive, no objection to my proposed derivation. I tried to show elsewhere (Aufrecht und Kuhn, Zeitschrift. I. p. 358) that the English *rest*, and German *rast* (Gothic *rimis*) come from a root *ram*, which in Śanskrit signifies both ‘to be happy’ and ‘to rest.’

scholars who have been most intent upon replacing the digamma in the Homeric text; and the same remark will apply to the restitution of the initial sigma. As the consonants were confessedly lost in the progress of the language, and as such a change in pronunciation could not have taken place suddenly, there must have been a period and state of transition; and this time of transition may have been earlier for some words, and later for others. It is possible, therefore, and not at all improbable, that, when the Homeric poems were composed, some at least of the words, which anciently began with *F* or *σ*, were in a state of transition, and may have been used by the poet, sometimes as beginning with a consonant, sometimes with a vowel.—ED.

* Compare also Gellius xix. 7, 9, (Laevius) ‘avens’ posuit pro ‘libens.’

I know only of one previous explanation which deserves any attention. Graff, Wellmann, and Döderlein connected *ōtium* with the Gothic *auþ* ‘deserted,’ *auþida* ‘a desert.’ Solitude might be an apt name for leisure, if *auþ* signified solitary, but neither the Gothic nor the other Teutonic languages exhibit it in any other meaning than that of ‘deserted, waste, barren, empty.’

XIII.—ON THE LATIN TERMINATIONS *TIA*, *TIO*-.

BY THEODORE AUFRECHT, ESQ.

[Read November the 6th.]

The Latin abstracts ending in *tia*, *tie*-, *tio*- (*tium*), must not be confounded with those in *ia*, *ie*-, *io*-, derived from nouns the crude form of which has the termination *to* or *t*, as for instance *angustia* from *angusto*-, *scientia* from *scient*-, *septomontium* from *septomont*-, *silentium* from *silent*-. In Latin the former are never derived from a verbal root. Professor Bopp says indeed, in his Comparative Grammar, § 844: “We find in Latin, together with *i-tio*, also *i-tiu-m* in the compound *in-i-tiu-m*, which agrees in its suffix with the noun-derivative *servi-tium*.” But it need hardly be stated that this comparison is wrong. While *servitium* contains the termination *tio*-, we have to derive *initium*, as well as *exitium*, *comitium*, from the participles *inito*-, *exito*-, *comito*-, by means of the suffix *io*, unless indeed words like *exercitium*, *lotium*, *nuptiae*, *argutiae*, *inscitia*, are to be divided into *exerci-tium*, *lo-tium*, &c. I intend at present to offer a conjecture as to the origin of the first-mentioned abstracts in *tia*, *tie*-, *tio*-. Most of them are derived from adjectives, only a few from substantives. I know of the following:—

I. A-declension.

Amicitia, *inimicitia*, *avaritia*, *blanditia*, *canitia*, *duritia*, *justitia*, *injustitia*, *laetitia*, *lautitia*, *malitia*, *moestitia*, *mollitia*, *munditia*, *immunditia*, *notitia*, *pigritia*, *planitia*, *primitiae*,