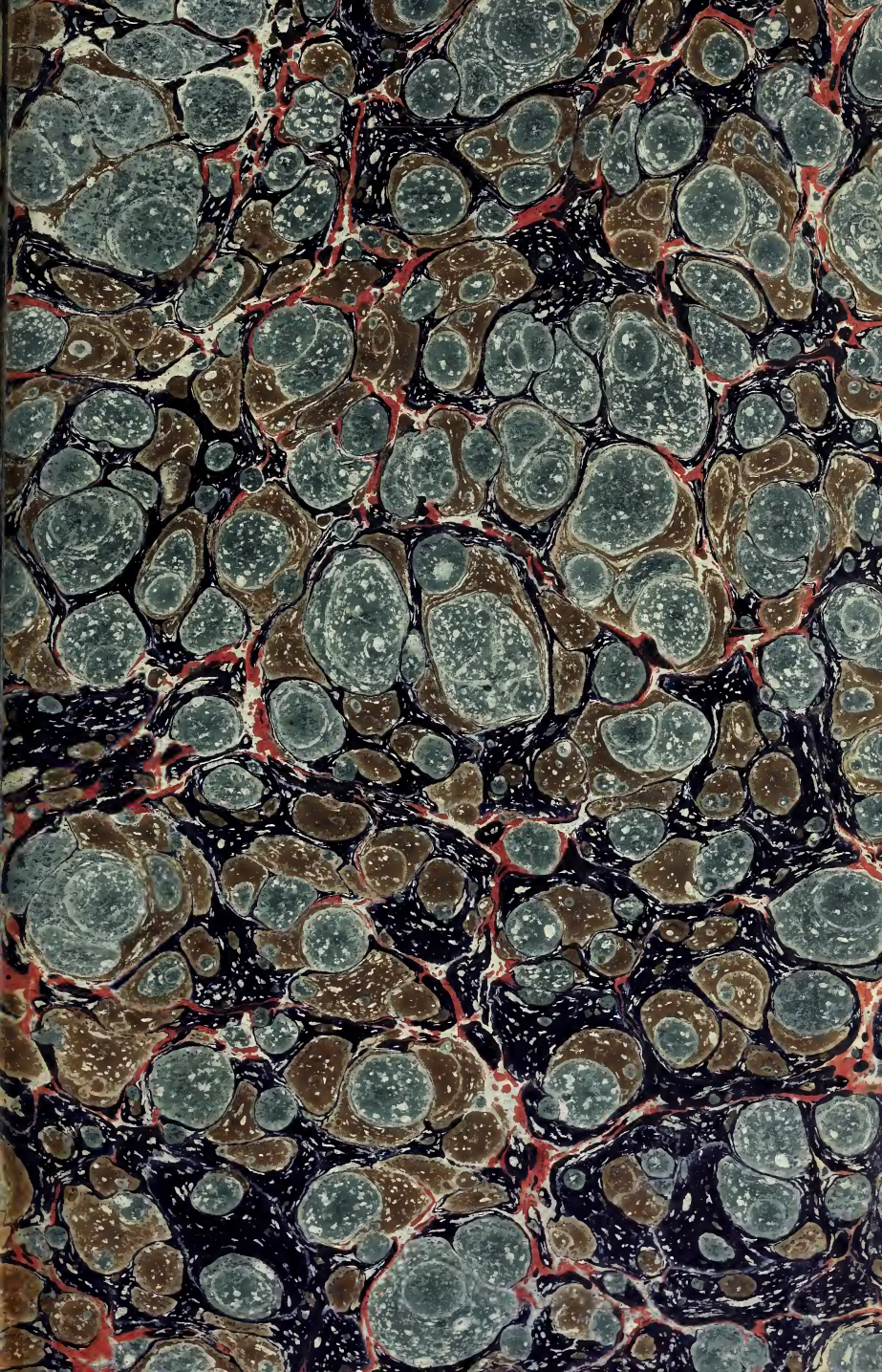






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THE  
*Beauties*  
of  
ENGLAND AND WALES ;  
OR  
*DELINEATIONS*  
TOPOGRAPHICAL HISTORICAL  
and  
DESCRIPTIVE.

*SOUTH WALES*



*Remains of  
Strata Florida Abbey.  
Cardiganshire.*





THE  
BEAUTIES  
OF  
*England and Wales:*  
OR,  
ORIGINAL DELINEATIONS,  
TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, AND DESCRIPTIVE,  
OF  
EACH COUNTY.

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EMBELLISHED WITH ENGRAVINGS.

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*SOUTH WALES.*

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BY THOMAS REES, F. S. A.

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VOL. XVIII.

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“ Whoe'er thou art whom these delights can touch,  
Whose candid bosom the refining love  
Of Nature warms; O! listen —  
And I will guide thee to her favorite walks,  
And teach thy solitude her voice to hear,  
And point her loveliest features to thy view.”      AKENSIDE.

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1815.

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TO  
THOMAS JOHNES, ESQ.

OF  
HAFOD UCHTRYD,

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, LORD LIEUTENANT, AND CUSTOS ROTULORUM,  
OF THE COUNTY OF CARDIGAN, &c. &c.

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DEAR SIR,

*I CANNOT deny myself the gratification of placing your name at the head of these pages. Under no other auspices can a work of this nature, purporting to exhibit a Sketch of the BEAUTIES OF SOUTH WALES, be with so much propriety ushered into the World. HAFOD is a word of magic sound in every Welshman's ears, from the sublime and enchanting scenes with which it is associated : and to whom can I so well inscribe my little Volume, as to him who has made Hafod what it is ;—whose eye has so justly appreciated the charms of his native Country ; and whose polished taste and munificent spirit have imparted to those charms, in so remarkable an instance, the most extensive and substantial improvements they were adapted to receive from the hand of Art.*

*Unworthy as this offering may be of your acceptance, you will, I trust, receive it as a testimony of my esteem ; and of the sincerity with which I subscribe myself,*

*Dear Sir,*

*Your much obliged Friend, and very humble Servant,*

THOMAS REES.

London,  
January 18th. 1813.



## *PREFACE.*

---

THE following Sheets were composed at the request of the Proprietors of the **BEAUTIES OF ENGLAND AND WALES**, and designed to form the concluding portion of that work. It had been originally intended that the **REV. JOHN EVANS**, who wrote for them the account of North Wales, should have described the whole of the Principality: but the declining health, and ultimately the death of that Gentleman, which took place shortly after he had finished the first part of his undertaking, obliged them to entrust its completion to other hands.

These facts are stated to account for the repetition in this Volume, of some particulars which had been previously noticed by **MR. EVANS**. As his plan contemplated South as well as North Wales, in order to clear his way against he came to the **Topographical Survey**, he introduced into a general introduction, under the head of **CAMBRIA**, all that he meant to state relative to the **Ancient History, Roman and British Antiquities, the Manufactures, Commerce, &c.** of both divisions of the Principality; and by this means partially anticipated the labours of his successor.

When

When I came, however, to examine what he had written, I found that it would be impossible to take up and pursue his plan without creating for myself considerable difficulties, and rendering my own work exceedingly defective in some of its most important points. I mention this with no view of depreciating MR. EVANS'S labours; for I well knew his superior qualifications for the undertaking: but I soon perceived that it would be impracticable to enter so exactly into his views, and so to adapt my arrangements, language, manner, and style, to his, as to give to the whole the appearance of one work. Under these circumstances I deemed it most advisable to form my own plan; and, without regarding what had before been written, to include in the present Volume all the particulars of information relating to South Wales, which seemed to offer a fair claim to insertion in a publication of this nature.

To those whose acquaintance with such pursuits qualifies them to form a judgment in the case, and who know the very scattered and almost inaccessible state of many of the documents on which an Historical and Topographical account of this division of the Principality must be founded, I need say nothing of the difficulty of the task I have had to execute;—and to such persons I can confidently look for every candid allowance which the imperfection

fection of its execution may in any instance seem to require. All that I shall presume to say on its behalf is, that I have spared no pains or research to render the work as comprehensive and accurate as the limits prescribed to me, and the nature of my materials, would allow. The authorities which have been principally followed in the Historical part, and in such local matters as are not noticed from my own personal knowledge, have been regularly acknowledged in the references at the bottom of the page. Great use, it will be seen, has been made of the Welsh manuscripts lately published in the "Myfyrian Archæology;" and the intelligent reader will perceive that new light has been thrown, by these valuable documents, on some obscure portions of Welsh history.

When I entered upon this work I felt authorized in calculating upon much aid from various friends in the Principality, whom I knew to be well qualified to furnish information, both of a general and local nature, illustrative of the History, Antiquities, and Topography, of the Country; but my expectations in this respect have in several instances resulted in disappointment. To some individuals I have, nevertheless, to express my obligation for assistance, which I appreciate the more highly from the kind and handsome manner in which it has been imparted.

My acknowledgments are in an especial degree due to **THOMAS JOHNES, Esq.** of Hafod, who voluntarily burdened himself with a labour of no small weight, and from whose observations the work has materially benefited. To **SIR WILLIAM PAXTON**, of Middleton Hall, I am also indebted for much polite attention, and for some interesting and valuable communications. I have in one instance noticed my obligation to my esteemed friend **DR. DAVIES** of Caermarthen: he has since increased my debt by the transmission of other materials important to the illustration of the local history of parts of this district. Nor must I withhold my thanks from my intelligent friend, **RICHARD PHILIPPS, Esq.** the able Editor of the Caermarthen Journal; who, besides collecting for me such information as was to be found in the circle of his acquaintance, kindly availed himself of the medium of his Paper to procure contributions from other quarters.

There are, besides, several other benefactors in this way whom I cannot specify, and some whom I am forbidden to name; but they are all equally remembered, and will be pleased to accept my best acknowledgments for their Services.

T. R.

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# *SOUTH WALES.*

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## BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

**SOUTH** Wales, the country to be described in the present volume, comprehends the modern counties of Brecknock, Caermarthen, Cardigan, Glamorgan, Pembroke, and Radnor; of which Brecknockshire, conformably to the alphabetical order of arrangement that has been adopted, will be first noticed.

The territory now included under this name, though with some difference in its boundaries and extent, was anciently denominated Garth-Madrin. The origin of this appellation is not clearly ascertained; nor is the etymology of it free from difficulty. Garth is a British word, commonly denoting a steep elevated ridge, or precipitous mountain, and Madrin is an old and obsolete term for a fox. Hence Mr. Theophilus Jones, in his History of this county, translates Garth Madrin, "Fox Hill, or Fox hold:" and he supposes this compound appellative to have been given, as at once descriptive of the face of the country, and indicating its early condition, when it is thought to have been infested by this species of vermin.

This explanation is, perhaps, the best that can be devised; but it is not entirely satisfactory. The name of Garth can, with propriety, be applied to only particular parts of the county: and the supposition that foxes existed here, at any time, in such numbers as to communicate a peculiar and characteristic feature to the district, is perfectly gratuitous. If, however, Mr. Jones's etymology be admitted, the fact may probably be, that some portion of the county might, for the reasons he as-

signs, have been called Garth Madrin, and the appellation afterwards extended to the whole.\*

The modern name Brecknock, sometimes written Brecon, and in Welsh Brecheinog, and Brecheiniawg, is allowed to have been derived from Brychan, a prince, or Regulus, who held this territory under his dominion about the beginning of the fifth century.†

At what period this tract of country was first peopled, the few historical notices that remain do not enable us to determine. While the Britons continued to hold their more fertile territories to the east of the Severn, it is not probable that a region, in many respects so inhospitable and forbidding, could boast of many inhabitants: nor can it be supposed that the possession of its bleak mountains and wooded vallies would have been much disputed with its aboriginal brute proprietors, until the Romans, by their conquest of England, had forced the natives to seek a more secure and independent asylum in the wilds of Cambria. There can at least be little doubt but that the population of this part of the country derived considerable accessions from the progress of the Roman arms in other quarters; and that the influx of inhabitants thus created led, by degrees, to the occupation and culture of districts which were before deemed scarcely suited for the residence of man.

The Roman generals having expatriated a large proportion of the population of England, it became their next object to pursue the fugitives into their retreats, and to exert all their power to reduce them to subjection. They directed their forces first of all, to the conquest of the native Britons who had retired to the northern parts of Wales. South Wales escaped for a time, through the policy of its chieftains; who led their followers to the assistance of their northern countrymen, and to the attack of the common foe at a distance from their homes. Owing to this circumstance, the Roman legions do not appear to have marched into this quarter till the hopes of the Britons had

\* Jones's Brecknock, I. 1. 2.

† Ib. Camden's Brecknockshire.

had received their death blow by the defeat and capture of their brave and celebrated leader, Caradog, or Caractacus, who for nine years had bidden effectual defiance to the Roman commanders. After this event, which left him without much to apprehend from the north, Ostorius Scapula bent his steps towards the south. Antiquaries are not agreed as to the exact line of his march: nor is it of consequence to our present purpose to have this point accurately ascertained. Whatever route he pursued, it appears unquestionable that he passed through the county of Brecknock, and left behind him military works which evidence his progress, and perpetuate the triumph, of his arms. The historian of Brecknockshire conjectures, with great probability, that "most of the Roman fortresses in this county were built during the life of this general."\*

The principal station which may be referred to this period is that of the Gaer, or Caer Bannau, the Bannium of the Romans, which is situate about three miles above the town of Brecknock, near the confluence of the rivers Yskir and the Usk. The camp "is a parallelogram of 624 feet by 456, the longest parallels pointing nearly south and north. The foundation of the wall, which bounds this area, remains entire; and even the ruins of it above ground are in some places (particularly on the north and east sides) from three to six feet high, and part of the facing is still perfect. This consists of squared stones of about twelve inches' dimension, the middle being filled up with rubble, and the whole thickness of the wall is nearly seven feet and a half. It is in every respect similar to the remains of the wall of Caerleon and Caerwent in Monmouthshire. The farm house and offices at the Gaer are built in the northwest angle of this camp, and chiefly from the ruins of the said wall."† "The walls at present‡ are much overgrown, and in some places concealed by underwood; but they may be traced without any difficulty round the whole of the field, and

B 2

with

\* Jones's Brecknock, I. 25.

† Mr. Strange's letter, *Archæologia* of the Society of Antiquaries, I. 292. read April 1769.

‡ 1809.

with a trifling expense the foundations might not only be rendered visible, but they would form a sufficient fence to prevent the intrusion of cattle, excepting where it adjoins the farmyard, and where, if it be not downright profanation and Celtic barbarism, a new wall may be erected on the track of the old one to exclude trespassers. The whole area of this encampment is at this moment covered with fragments of bricks; one with the inscription of LEG. II. AUG. was dug up here, and is in [the] possession of the proprietor of the soil; as are also three coins found here, of Nero and Trajan; the two first are gold, and the last silver. The gold coins of Nero weigh one of them four pennyweights sixteen grains, and the other four pennyweights: they are in tolerable preservation, and the heads, particularly the cheeks, in high relief: On the most weighty, round the margin, and surrounding the head, NERO CAESAR, reverse a figure sitting, which may be either male or female, according to the imagination of the virtuoso, holding an olive branch, underneath ROMA: on the second coin also a head, and the same inscription round the margin, reverse, a female figure with a radiated head, holding in her hand what I conceive to be a small image of victory,—inscription AUGUSTUS GERMANICUS. The silver coin of Trajan weighs two pennyweights only; around the head, as far as it can be made out, for it is not perfectly legible IMP. TRAIANI ER. DAC PN C. PP. on the reverse a female figure, the head in part defaced, holding in her right hand a pair of scales, and in her left a cornucopia: the inscription is not legible, farther than that it commences with COSU, and concludes with PRINC.”\*

There is a causeway leading to this station, running in a direction nearly at right angles with the river Yskir, which Mr. Strange conjectures to have been “a branch of the great Roman causeway, leading from Caerleon in Monmouthshire, through the vale of Usk, and the eastern part of Brecknockshire to Ariconium, which is the 12th Iter in Antoninus’s Itinerary.”

\* Jones’s Brecknock. II. 102, 103.

nerary.”\* This was a raised way about forty feet wide, and appears to have been made with large round pebbles of various sizes, which might have been collected from the adjacent rivers. Though much damaged, and overgrown with underwood, it may still be easily traced.

On this causeway is a stone first introduced to public attention by Mr. Llwyd, in his communications to Gibson’s Camden. It is called *Maen y Morwynion*, or the Maids’ Stone; † an appellation which it derived from two figures rudely carved on it, that were supposed to represent two females, whom the tradition of the country states to have been murdered near this spot. It is now admitted to be a Roman remain. There is a Latin inscription on it, partially obliterated, of which the words *CONIVNX EIVS* are easily discernible. Hence it may be inferred, that it commemorates a Roman soldier and his wife. The figures are in bas relief, and measure about three feet and a half in height, with a proportionate width.

Mr. Harris ‡ pronounces this station to be the *Magnis* of Antoninus, and grounds his conjecture on its being denominated, in some grants of Bernard Newmarch to the town of Brecknock, *Vasta Civitas*. Mr. Jones § successfully combats this supposition, and satisfactorily accounts for this denomination, from the circumstance of the ancient metropolis of the county, which stood here, having been destroyed by the Norman lord, for materials to build his castle of Brecknock. After such dilapidation it might well have been called *Vasta Civitas*, or a ruined city.

There is another Roman encampment, also called the Gaer, in the parish of Cwmdû, in the hundred of Crickhowell. It is situate at the entrance of the vale on a rising ground, by a small stream called Ewyn, and not far from the river Rhian-goll. Its dimensions are much the same as those of *Caer Bannau*,

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nau,

\* *Archæologia ubi supra*, I. 296.

† *Maen y Morwynion*, is literally “The stone of the Maids,” not the “Maiden Stone,” as absurdly translated in the *Archæologia*.

‡ *Archæologia*, II. 21.

§ *Hist. Brecknock*, I. 29, 30.

nau, but in form it approaches nearer to a square. The prætorium may clearly be distinguished at the north west end, being more elevated than the rest of the area. Fragments of bricks abound over the whole inclosure, and some Roman coins are said to have been discovered here.\* This camp lies in nearly a direct line between the Brecknock Gaer and Abergavenny, the Roman Gobannium, being nearly midway between those two stations, and on the Via Julia, which passed this way from Caerleon (Isca Legionum) to Caermarthen (Maridunum).

There is a stone in this neighbourhood, now thrown down, bearing the following inscription in characters of the rudest execution :

CATACHUS HIC JACT FILIUS TESERHACUS.†

These are the only Roman encampments now to be traced in this county : and a conjecture may be hazarded, that the spirited and successful attacks which the Britons commenced against the invaders of their country, and which, by harassing his mind, evidently hastened the death of Ostorius, prevented, for a time at least, the erection of other military works.

Aulus Didius, the immediate successor of Ostorius, and the other generals who, for some years, followed him in the command of the Roman forces, unable to pursue the advantages of their predecessors, and vanquish the remnant of the Britons thus driven to the fastnesses of their mountains and forests, seem, as if from necessity, to have acted merely on the defensive, and to have confined their operations to secure their possessions against the incursions of the British troops.

It was not until the arrival of Julius Frontinus, about A. D. 70, that South Wales can be said to have been subdued. This able commander led his victorious legions through the heart of the country, and in a short period completed what Ostorius

had

\* Jones's Brecknock, II. 500.

† This inscription is strangely disfigured in Gough's Camden, and indeed rendered wholly unintelligible. Vol. III. 103. Ed. 1806.

had failed to accomplish. No details are transmitted by ancient historians of his progress and victories. Tacitus\* simply states that “ he conquered the powerful and warlike nation of the Silures, having, besides the courage of the enemy, the difficulties of the country to contend with.” But the road that bears his name may be regarded as indicating with tolerable exactness the chief line of his march. There can be little doubt that, with the view of securing his conquests, he restored and strengthened the works which Ostorius had erected, but which had been subsequently greatly injured, if not destroyed, by the unremitting activity of the Britons : and that he established new fortifications in other places. For the same purpose, and in order to facilitate the communication from one part of the province to the other, he constructed the great Roman road, called after himself *Strata Julia*. The track of this road will be more particularly marked when the counties through which it passed come to be described. In order, however, the better to understand the bearing and connection of those parts, which are found in the county now under consideration, it may be right just to state its general course.

Commencing at Bath, it proceeds to the northward of the Avon, by Bristol, and over Durham Down to the Severn, which it crossed nearly in the direction of Caldecot, † and thence passed through Caerwent to Isca Silurum or Caerleon, in Monmouthshire. From

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this

\* In *Vita Agricolaë*. Warrington, History of Wales, 8vo. Vol. I. p. 23, narrating this circumstance on the authority of Tacitus, writes, “ Julius Frontinus conquered from the Silures, the forest of Dean, and the present counties of Hereford and Monmouth.” By which it appears he considered the *Silurem gentem* of Tacitus to have been merely the inhabitants of that district, which he here specifies, and which some have supposed to have constituted the ancient *Siluria*. But, not to say that it is impossible, from every thing extant on the subject, to fix with certainty the exact boundaries of *Siluria*, it is evident that Tacitus here comprehends under the name of *Silures* the population of South Wales generally, to distinguish them from the *Ordovices*, or inhabitants of North Wales.

† Coxe's *Monmouthshire*, I. Introduction, p. 13.

the station it continued in nearly a direct line to Cardiff, Neath, and Loughor in Glamorganshire, and thence to the town of Caermarthen, the Maridunum of the Romans. Another branch turned from Caerleon through Usk and Abergavenny into Brecknockshire. Having entered this county, it passed through Crickhowell and Tretower, to the station of Gaer in Cwmdû. Hence it proceeded through a pass called Bwlch, and in a line to the northward of the present turnpike road, towards the town of Brecknock, which it pervaded in the direction of a street, from this circumstance called the *Struet*; and then took its course to the station of Caer Bannau on the confluence of the Yskir and the Usk. It shortly after crossed the latter river, and continuing in a westerly direction recrossed it at Rhyd y Briw, where some traces of it were seen about forty years ago;\* hence it proceeded to Tal y Sarn, Llys Brychan, and down along the vale of Towy to Maridunum, where it united itself with the other branch. The road last described has been called *Via Julia Montana*, while the other, from its course along the coast, has been denominated, *Via Julia Maritima*.

In addition to these two principal military ways, several other vicinal or cross roads are to be traced in this part of the principality, which, however, it is unnecessary to notice here farther than they connect themselves with the county of Brecknock. The first that occurs in our progress from the eastward is Sarn hir, which formed the communication between the two stations of Tibia Amnis, or Cardiff, and Caer Bannau, near Brecknock. It runs in a direction nearly north and south: branching from the *Via Julia* at Cardiff, it passes by Caerphilly, and enters Brecknockshire at a place called Bryn Oer; then continuing in the same line it crosses the Usk, and joins the *Via Julia Montana*, at or near the Roman station of Caer Bannau.†

From some appearances of a road, discovered some years back

\* *Archæologia*, Vol. I. 296.

† *Jones's Brecknock*, I. 33.



back in the parish of Tir yr Abad in the northern part of this county, another Roman way seems to have passed in this direction from Caermarthen, connecting that station with Cwm in Radnorshire.\* Another Roman way which traverses a part of this county is the Via Helena, or Sarn Helen. This road diverges from the Strata Julia Maritima at Neath, crosses the river a little above the present bridge; and, taking a nearly north east direction, passes through the parish of Creinant, and enters Brecknockshire at a place called Ton y fildra. "A little south eastward of Ton y Fildra it crosses a brook called Nant hir, pursues the same direction to Blaen Nedd by Cefnuchel-dref, leaving that farm, and also the lime kilns at Carnau Gwynion in Ystradfellte to the south, keeps a course parallel with the road from Pontneathvaughan to Brecon for near a mile, passes close by a stone of about nine feet high, called Maen Llia, and instead of proceeding as the present road does to the head of that nearly precipitous dingle called 'Cwmdu, it may be traced gradually descending on the south side of the Senni river and vale; from this place it is now no longer visible for a considerable distance, but it probably passed above Blansenni house, where the inclosures and the plough have completely effaced or concealed it, until we come near Blangwrthid in the parish of Llanspyddid, where it is again seen. Here we lose it, and we can only conjecture, that it entered the vale of Usk near Bettws, or Penpont Chapel, where it joined the Julia Strata, and proceeded with it to Gaer."† From this station it is likely another road, which may be regarded as a continuation both of this, and of Sarn Hir from Cardiff, proceeded to the northward in a direct line for Chester.

A hasty view having been thus taken of the military works of the Romans in this county, it may be proper, before this period is passed over, to notice a remain of a different kind, illustrative of their domestic habits, but which no longer exists to gratify the exploring eye of the antiquary. In the year

1783,

1783, some men employed by Jeffrey Wilkins, Esq. in clearing a piece of rough ground on his estate, near the village of Lanfrynach, about two miles to the south east of the town of Brecknock, rooted up a large ash tree, which uncovered part of the ruins of a Roman hypocaust or bath. The first portion they observed, consisted of some pillars capped with tiles, three feet three inches high, formed of flat bricks, seven inches square, and one inch in thickness. At the eastern end a passage was discovered, which conducted to other pillars similar to the former, and joining them at right angles. These pillars supported a floor of cement, and also a bath seven feet four inches, by five feet one inch, and four feet in depth, with steps descending into it, two of which remained entire; it was lined with cement, two inches and a half in thickness, formed apparently of lime and pounded brick, and bearing a polish like marble. The inside angles were filled with this cement to the thickness of about two inches, gradually rounding towards the sides. In the walls on the east and west ends were two square perpendicular brick pipes, or flues, one in each, four inches by four and a half in diameter, with occasional openings in the sides; and at the bottom of the bath, in the south east corner, was a small arched aperture for letting out the water. From its construction, this appears to have been a warm bath.

At a short distance to the south east were two cold baths, also lined with cement, which was mostly destroyed by the workmen in clearing out the rubbish. The floor of the building was of unequal elevation, the passages, connecting the apartments, being gently inclined planes. The whole seemed to have been covered with a tessellated pavement, the greater part constructed of blue and white dies, one inch square, and one portion composed of half inch dies. The brick tiles were impressed with various marks, but none were seen bearing inscriptions. Some pieces of compost were discovered, with im-

pressions

pressions of leaves and the feet of animals; and in the neighbourhood a few large stag horns.\*

Several Roman coins have been at different periods found about this spot, all of them of copper, except one of silver, one side of which bore a head, with an inscription IVLIA AVGVSTA, and the reverse, a female figure seated in a chair, with PVDICITIA. Mr. Jones† has given a plate of some of these coins, in the possession of Mr. Jeffrey Wilkins, of the priory, Brecknock; and also a representation of a symposium, found in the same quarter.

Foundations of other buildings were traced contiguous to the baths, as were likewise the ruins of an old water course, or conduit, by which water appears to have been conveyed to them from some springs situate at the distance of a mile.

As no military works exist in this neighbourhood, it is probable this formed the summer residence of one of the Roman commanders, after the country had been reduced into peaceful submission to the Roman yoke.

From the reduction of the Silures by Frontinus, about A. D. 70 or 75, to the final departure of the Romans, which may be dated about A. D. 400, no mention is found in any historical document, entitled to credit, of the affairs of this district. We are not even informed of the nature of the domestic government which they exercised here, during the period they held it under their dominion. It would appear, however, from the pedigrees contained in some of the old British manuscripts, drawn up by the Arwydd feirdd, or heralds, and which, if not to be implicitly relied upon as unexceptionable evidence, are yet entitled to considerable weight, that the native chiefs were permitted, agreeably to the general policy of the Romans in the nations they conquered, to retain their titles, with some of the forms at least of their original authority. When the distracted state of the empire, in its other extremities, obliged the  
Roman

\* *Archæologia*, Vol. VII. 205—8. † *Ilist. Brecknock*, II. 598.

Roman emperors to abandon their British possessions, the country seems to have reverted to its ancient condition ;—to have been separated into a number of petty states, each governed by a prince or Regulus of its own; while at times these provincial governors were regarded as subject to one supreme monarch, who was distinguished by the title of Brenhin Prydain oll, or the king of all Britain.

From a collation of the best manuscripts, the following brief notices appear to comprise all the information worthy of rational credit, that can now be gathered relating to the British government of this county during the latter part of the Roman domination.

The first prince, or regulus, whom these authorities introduce to us, is Gwraldeg, who is said to have reigned about A. D. 230. Morvydd, his daughter and sole heiress, married a young adventurer, named Teithall ap Annwn Ddu, or Teithall the son of Antoninus Niger, who, in right of his wife, succeeded his father-in-law about A. D. 260. Teidheirn, the son of Teithall, follows next in succession, and with him this race of princes seems to have terminated. Teidwallt, assisted by some of the northern barbarians, who were at this time infesting England, and with whom he had made common cause against the Romans, now usurped the government: he ruled about A. D. 342, and began a new line of princes, which continued to hold the sovereign authority, such as it was, for several centuries. His immediate successor was his son Tewdrig, or Tudor. It was probably during the reign of this prince, about A. D. 380, that Maximus, the Roman commander, took the first decisive step towards the evacuation of Britain, by carrying with him into Gaul the Roman legions then stationed in the country, and with them “the flower of the British youth,” to support his claims to the Imperial purple.

Tewdrig, or Tudor, had issue one daughter named Marchell, latinized Marcella, who, being his only child, was the heiress to the government of Garth Madrin. Having been sent to

Ireland\* by her father, on account of a pestilential disorder, which is stated to have raged in his territories, she there married Aulach, the son of Cormach M<sup>c</sup> Carbery, or Coronawg, king of Ireland. From this union sprang Brychan, to whom this county is indebted for its present name.

After her marriage Marchell, accompanied by her husband, returned to her native country, and settled there during the remainder of her life. But whether Aulach ever became possessed of the sovereign authority does not appear. The contrary seems deducible from the documents that are extant, which state Brychan to have followed his grandfather in the government, though not without strong opposition from the native princes, on account of his foreign extraction. His reign may be dated from A. D. 400 to 450.

Little is known of the conduct of Brychan in his regal capacity. He holds, however, a most distinguished place among the worthies of Wales, from the number, and the celebrity, of his children, and the connection of the names of most of them with the religious, and especially with the parochial, history of the principality.† The family of Brychan was denominated one of the three holy families of Britain, for this reason, according to the Welsh Triads, “bringing up his children and grandchildren, in learning, so as to be able to shew the faith in Christ to the Cymry, when they were without the faith.”‡

There is a singular discrepancy in the accounts transmitted to us of this progeny of saints. All authorities agree that Brychan had three wives, “of-names,” Mr. Jones observes, with his usual sarcastic humour, “most unintelligible and uncouth

\* Those who are fond of the marvellous may find a curious history of this Lady's journey to Ireland, in a MS. in the Cottonian library, British Museum (Domitian A. 1. fol. B. 157) intituled *Cognacio Brychan, unde Brecheynawc, &c.*

† *Quibus passim per Cambro-Britannicam, templa et Divorum et Divarum Nomina inscribuntur.* Girald Camb.

‡ Owen's Cambrian Biography sub Brychan.

couth even to a Welshman, whose powers of swallowing consonants are supposed to equal those of an ostrich in devouring and digesting iron."\* These are written in Bonedd y Saint† Eurbrawst, Rhybrawst, and Pheresgri. But though the number of mothers is determined, that of the children, as well as their names, remains unsettled; no two lists at present known agreeing in these particulars. It is difficult, in such circumstances, to decide which catalogue to choose. The following is copied from the tract above referred to, Bonedd y Saint, which appears to have been drawn up from a collation of various authorities:—

#### THE SONS OF BRYCHAN.

1, Kynawc; 2, Cledwyn; 3, Dingad; 4, Arthen; 5, Kyvlevyr; 6, Rhain; 7, Dyfnan; 8, Gerwyn; 9, Kadawc; 10, Mathayarn; 11, Pascen; 12, Neffi; 13, Pabiali; 14, Llecheu; 15, Kenbryd; 16, Kynfran; 17, Hychan; 18, Dyfric; 19, Kynin; 20, Docvan; 21, Rhawin; 22, Rhun; 23, Cledawc: to which Mr. Owen,‡ adds a 24th, Caian.

#### DAUGHTERS OF BRYCHAN.

1, Gwladus; 2, Anianwen; 3, Tanglwst; 4, Mechell; 5, Nevyn; 6, Gwawr; 7, Gwrgon; 8, Eleri; 9, Lleian; 10, Nefydd; 11, Rheingar; 12, Goleuddydd; 13, Gwenddydd, or Wawrddydd; 14, Tydiu; 15, Elined; 16, Keindrych; 17, Gwen; 18, Kenedlon; 19, Kymorth; 20, Dwynwen; 21, Keinwen; 22, Tydvil; 23, Envail; 24, Hawystl; 25, Tybie."

This list of uncouth names may carry little or no interest to the mere English reader; but to a Welshman it will not be deemed unimportant, or superfluous in this place, as many of them will connect themselves in his mind with religious edifices,

\* Hist. Brecknock, I. 44.

† Myvyrian Archæology of Wales, Vol. II. p. 29. This tract is intitled Bonedd y Saint, neu achau Saint Ynis Prydain; Genealogy of the Saints, or Pedigree of the Saints of the Island of Britain.

‡ Camb. Biog. Brychan,

fices, and local circumstances, already familiar to him. They who may wish to see the history of this holy band detailed more at large, may consult Mr. Jones's work.\* This elaborate author has been at some pains to trace their memoirs; but such minutizæ are unnecessary here. Occasional anecdotes may be given in the course of the work, when the name of any of the family occurs as attached to a place to be described.

So large a number of the children of Brychan having entered into religious orders, it remained no difficult matter to settle the succession to the sovereignty. After his decease, his kingdom or principality was divided, according to the Welsh custom of Gavelkind, between his two sons Cledwyn and Rhain, the latter of whom was called also Drem and Drem-rudd. Of these petty monarchs, or reguli, history relates little that is deserving of commemoration; nor have their immediate successors left more than their *names*, to bear testimony to their having lived, until we come to Caradog Fraith Fras,† the grandson of Brychan, who united the two kingdoms or provinces into one under his government. This Caradog is celebrated in Welsh story as one of Arthur's knights, and his name implies his prowess in the rude warfare of his age. His wife, named Tegau Earfron, was pronounced by the bards, to be one of the three chaste women of Britain. She had three ornaments which she alone was deemed worthy to possess; her knife, her golden goblet, and her mantle; the latter of which was reputed to have this remarkable property, that it would fit none but a chaste woman!

Caradog was succeeded by his son Cawrdaf, called in the Triads, one of the three prime ministers of Britain‡. Cawrdaf left issue several sons, but little is known of his descendants, before

\* Hist. of Brecknock, I. 44, et seq.

† Or Caradoc with the brawny arm. He lived in the close of the fifth, or the former part of the sixth, century. Owen's Camb. Biog.

‡ Myvyrian Archæology, Vol. II. 4.

before the name of Teithwalch occurs about the beginning of the eighth century. The reign of this prince is rendered remarkable by the first invasion of South Wales by the Saxons, under Ethelbald, king of Mercia, between whom and the Britons a sanguinary engagement was fought at a place called Carno, near Crickhowell, in which the latter obtained a complete victory. This event is placed by the Welsh chronicle, *Brut y Tywysogion*, in the year 728.\*

To Teithwalch succeeded Tegyd his son. In the reign of this prince, the territories of the Regulus of Brecknock were considerably narrowed by the loss of the greater part of Ferregs, the district comprehended between the Severn and the Wye; which had been united to this lordship since the time of Caradog Fraich Fras. This separation was effected by the incursions of the Saxons under Offa, who, having driven the Britons from this fertile province, erected his noted dyke to secure his conquest, and defend his border subjects from the attacks of his enemies. Tangwydd the son of Tegyd, in consequence of this misfortune, inherited from his father only a part of Brecknockshire, with so much of Radnor as had belonged to Ferregs, and a small portion of Merionethshire. Tangwydd was succeeded by his son Anharawd, and Anharawd again by his son Gwendydd. But history is silent as to their exploits.

The next Regulus, probably the immediate successor of Gwendydd, was Hwgan, latinized Huganus. Edward, the Saxon monarch, being at this time occupied in repelling the Danes who had invaded his kingdom, Hwgan profited by the occasion to attempt the recovery of those parts of the dominions of his ancestors, which had been wrested from them by their Saxon neighbours, as well as to revenge the injuries his countrymen had so repeatedly sustained. Having mustered all the forces he

\* Mr. Turner, *Hist. of the Anglo Saxons*, I. 163, places Carno in Monmouthshire. In this he has been misled by the Welsh chronicle, which states it to have been in Gwentland; whereas it is in the parish of Langatock in Brecknockshire.



he could collect, he advanced upon the Saxon frontiers; but being unexpectedly met by Ethelfleda, the sister of Edward, who had a powerful army under her command, he was overthrown by her after a severe engagement. Ethelfleda, improving her victory, marched with the utmost expedition into the heart of his province, stormed his castle,\* and carried away his consort and her attendants prisoners. The defeated Regulus fled for refuge to the Danes at Derby, but was closely pursued by his active conqueror; and here, in a vigorous attempt to defend the town against the assaults of her troops, he fell covered with wounds.

Hwgan was succeeded by his son Dryffin. This prince being a friend to peace, his reign is remarkable for few public events, excepting such as were created by the turbulent spirit and ambitious designs of some of his contemporaries, in which he reluctantly became involved. The first of his misfortunes, in this respect, was brought upon him by the Saxon monarch Athelstan, who about the year 930 invaded his territory, and obliged him, together with the neighbouring Reguli, to pay a tribute of considerable amount. About the same time, what yet remained under his dominion of Ferregs, was wrested from him by an adventurer named Elystan Glodrydd, or Athelstan the famous, who was afterwards killed in a civil commotion. About the year 982 Alfred, the earl of Mercia, invaded the possessions of Dryffin, and spread desolation through the country: he was, however, obliged to retire by the arrival of succours from Hywel Dda, at that time the reigning prince of North Wales, and from Owen prince of South Wales.

During this reign, and about the year 944, a survey was made of the territory of Brecknock, in common with the rest of Wales, by order of Hywel Dda, who had united under his

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supreme

\* The situation of this castle is not exactly determined by antiquaries.

supreme government the kingdoms both of North and South Wales.\*

Maenarch, the son of Dryffin, succeeded to the government of his father. By marrying the heiress of Cantreff Selyff, he united under his dominion the whole of the territory now included in the county of Brecknock, which had been separated into two petty principalities since the time of Brychan, or his immediate successors. In the reign of Bleddin the son of Maenarch, the next in succession, we are brought to the close of the British sovereignty over this district. In consequence of his marriage with the sister of Rhys ap Tewdwr, the reigning prince of South Wales, the fate of this regulus became involved in that of his unfortunate brother-in-law.

Some Norman adventurers having been invited to Glamorganshire, and obtained possession of that country, by the defeat of Rhys ap Tewdwr, the example of their success encouraged others of their countrymen to embark in similar enterprises in other quarters. In the number of these was Bernard Newmarch, who, with a large body of followers, entered Brecknockshire. Few particulars are known respecting the events of this invasion, but its consequences proved fatal to the sovereign independence of the lordship.

A general engagement appears to have been fought by the contending parties near Caerbannau, in which Bleddin was assisted by the remnant of the troops of his brother-in-law, commanded by that prince in person. Victory declared for the Normans. Rhys ap Tewdwr was slain in retreating after his defeat,

\* In this Survey Brecknock was divided into four cantreds, or hundreds, Cantreff Mawr, Cantreff Tewdos, Cantreff Eudaf, and Cantreff Selyff: these Cantreffs were subdivided into Cwmmwds, or Comots; Cantreff Mawr into Cwmmwd Llywel and Cwmmwd Dyffryn Honddu; Cantreff Tewdos, into Cwmmwd y Gelly and Cwmmwd Glynbwch; Cantreff Eudaf into Cwmmwd Tyr Ralph, Cwmmwd Ystradwy, Cwmmwd Crughwel and Cwmmwd Ewyas; and Cantreff Selyff into Cwmmwd Brwynllys and Cwmmwd Talgarth.

defeat, and Bleddin fell gallantly defending himself in his residence, against the lawless invaders of his country.\*

Bernard Newmarch, being by this decisive blow left master of Brecknockshire, soon directed his attention to the improvement of the advantage he had obtained. His first care was to reward the commanders who had assisted him in his conquest, by sharing among them the greater part of the territories he had acquired, reserving to himself the largest allotment, with the feudal seigniority over the whole.

“To Sir Reginald Aubrey, he gave the manors of Slwch and Abercynrig; to Sir Humphrey Bourghill, or Burghill, the manor of Crickhowel; to Sir Peter Gunter, the manor from him called Tregunter, or Gunterstone; to Sir Miles Picard, de Picarde, or Pitcher, the manor of Scethrog; to Sir John Walbieffe or Walbeoff, the manor of Llanhamlach and Llanvihangel tal y llyn; to Sir Humphrey Sollers, the manor of Tredustan; to Sir Walter Havard, the manor of Pontwylym; to Sir Richard de Bois, the manor called from him Trebois; to Sir Richard Peyton, the manor called from him Peytin; to Sir John Skull, the manors of Bolgoed and Crai; to Sir Thomas, or as others, Sir Richard Bullen or de Boulogne, the manor of Wern fawr; to Sir Phillip Walwyn, the manor of Hay; to Sir Hugh Surdwall the manor of Aberescir; to Sir Giles Pierrepoint, otherwise Parkville, the manor of Gileston; and to Walter de Cropus, lands in Llansaintfread.”†

While Bernard was thus careful to requite the services of his own followers, he did not wholly forget what was due to the losses and sufferings of the offspring of the prince he had vanquished. He granted to the sons of Bleddin several portions of land for their support, and treated Gwrgan the eldest

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son,

\* This battle is placed by the Welsh chronicle, *Brut y Saeson*, (*Myvyrian Archæology*, Vol. II. 527.) in the year 1091; but Mr. Jones (*Hist. of Brecknockshire*, I. 91.) conjectures that it must have taken place a few years earlier, as there are some grants by Bernard Newmarch, in the county, dated 1088.

† Jones's *Brecknock*, I. 92.

son, and the rightful heir to his father's dominions, with a considerable share of respect, allowing him as much freedom, as could be deemed compatible with the necessary regard to the security of his own sovereignty, in his newly acquired possessions.

Aware of the strong prejudices which were entertained against his government by the Welsh, on account of his being a foreigner, the politic baron thought he might remove, or soften it, by a marriage connection with some native female of distinction; but his choice cannot be deemed very honourable to his character. He married Nest, the grand daughter of Griffith ap Llewelyn, prince of North Wales; a woman distinguished, indeed, by her rank, but infamous in her conduct; having before borne a son to Fleance, son of Banquo king of Scotland, who became the lineal ancestor of the royal house of Stuart.

Soon after his conquest of the country, the Norman lord rased Caerbannau, the ancient capital of Brecknockshire, and erected with the materials the castle of Brecknock, which he constituted his residence.

The last act of his life, agreeably to the custom and superstitions of the age, was to make his peace with heaven for a life of violence and plunder, by liberal donations to religious houses.\* The year of his death is not recorded; it is assigned to the reign of Henry the first. From an inscription preserved in Leland,† he appears to have been buried in the cloisters of Gloucester Cathedral.

What children Bernard left is not certainly known; only two of them, however, offer any claims to the notice of the historian. Mahel, the eldest of his sons, was disinherited through the extraordinary and shameless conduct of his own mother. Having detected her in a criminal intrigue with a soldier, and executed summary justice on the violator of his father's bed, he became the object of her  
most

\* Jones's Hist. of Breck. has given an enumeration of these, Vol. I. 96.

† Itin. IV. p. 80.

most rancorous and deadly hatred. To revenge what she deemed an insult offered to herself by the chastisement of the companion of her guilt, she became the herald of her own infamy, swore in the presence of the king (Henry the first,) that Mahel was not the son of Bernard, but the fruit of an adulterous connection; and, by thus proclaiming his illegitimacy, excluded him from his lawful inheritance.\*

By this iniquitous proceeding the lordship of Brecknock fell to Sybil, the eldest daughter of Bernard, whom her mother acknowledged to be legitimate; and through her marriage with him devolved on Milo Fitzwalter, constable of Gloucester.† This nobleman supported a high character in the council and in the field, and was distinguished for many private virtues, and generous qualities. Carte,‡ on the authority of an old chronicle, relates an anecdote which may serve to place him on a rank with some of the first heroes of Romance.

Richard Fitzgilbert earl of Clare, and lord of Cardiganshire, having been slain in an incursion made by the Welsh, his Countess threw herself for protection into one of his castles in that county. Here she was closely besieged, and in the most imminent danger of falling a prey to the rage and lust of the assailants. Her situation being made known to Milo, he resolved, in the true spirit of chivalric heroism, to attempt her rescue, though the enterprize appeared most difficult and dangerous. Not dismayed, however, by the perils which threatened him, he pursued his march along the most unfréquented ways, gained the castle in safety; and, with a prudence and conduct equal to his valour, succeeded in carrying away the countess and her attendants.||

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\* Girald. Itin. Lib. I. cap. 2.

† Giraldus, ubi supra.

‡ Hist. of Eng. I. 538.

|| The blunders of historians in relating this story are somewhat remarkable, Carte gives it on the authority of *Gesta Regis Stephani*. Lord Littleton, *Henry II.* 4to. 1767, Vol. 2. p. 60. erroneously from Giraldus, and this error has been

On the arrival of the empress Matilda in England, to prosecute her claims to the crown, she found in Milo an able and steady friend. He espoused her cause with firmness, and adhered to her as his sovereign, through all the vicissitudes of her fortunes;—aiding her in the field with his forces, in the council with his advice, and in her distresses, with his purse; contributing from his ample revenues to the maintenance of herself and her household.\* In return for his services, she created him earl of Hereford.† Soon after this, on Christmas eve, 1143, or 1144, he was accidentally shot by one of his own knights, who had aimed his arrow at a stag which they were hunting. He was buried in the chapter house of St. Mary de Lantoni near Gloucester.

Milo left eight children, five sons and three daughters, of whom his eldest son Roger succeeded to the earldom of Hereford, with the lordship of Brecknock, and the greater part of his father's other possessions; to which, by his marriage with the daughter of Payne Fitzjohn, the lord of that territory, he added Ewyas in Herefordshire.

Roger inherited many of his father's virtues, being, according to Carte, "an active, valliant and deserving man, but unequal to his father."‡ He espoused the party which Milo had so ably supported, and became early attached to the young prince Henry. He was one of the noblemen who accompanied him into Scotland, when he was sent there to be knighted. But the friendship thus begun did not long continue uninterrupted, though the circumstance which led to the

rupture

followed by Warrington, *Hist. Wales* I. 444—447, who quotes Lord Littleton. It is most likely, after all, that the whole story is fabulous, as the Welsh chronicles give a very different account of the death of the earl of Clare.

\* Littleton's *Henry II.* ubi supra, I. 225.

† Rymer's *Fœdera*, I. 8. This is the first instrument of the kind in English History.

‡ *Hist. of Eng.* I. 551.

rupture of it must be viewed rather upon public than private grounds.

Stephen, in the course of his reign, with the view of strengthening himself against his rival claimant to the throne, had given away among his nobles, a very large proportion of the crown lands, and by this means crippled to a great extent the royal revenues. As many of these grants had been extorted from him by the rapacity of his adherents, whose turbulent spirit he was unable to control, Henry, on his accession, thought it necessary, as well from pecuniary considerations as to confirm his power, to annul them. In this delicate and bold procedure, a regard to impartiality obliged him to include in his revocation the grants which had been made by the Empress his mother to the partizans of her cause, equally with the others. A requisition was consequently sent to Roger, to render up the castles of Gloucester and Hereford, as royal fortresses. This demand the young Earl indignantly resented; and, being joined by several other discontented lords, he raised a formidable party, in defence of what he deemed his hereditary rights. By the advice of the bishop of Hereford, who probably acted by the king's instructions, he at length, however, complied; and afterwards received back, as the reward of his submission, the moat and castle of Hereford.\*

He was a munificent benefactor to the church; and, in the latter part of his life, took the cowl, and enrolled himself among its members. He died without issue 1156, and was buried in the abbey of Gloucester, of which he had become a monk.

On the death of Roger, the lordship of Brecknock descended successively, and within a short interval, to his brothers William and Henry, who dying without issue were succeeded by their younger brother Mahel, named after his unfortunate and injured uncle.

Mahel, according to Giraldus,\* "was the most remarkable (of the brothers) for his inhumanity; he persecuted David, the

\* Gough's Camden, III. 68. Edit. 1806.

† Hoare's Girald. I. 34;

second bishop of St. David's, to such a degree, by attacking his possessions, lands, and vassals, that he was compelled to retire as an exile from the district of Brecheinoc, into England, or some other parts of his diocese." After a short, but tyrannical rule, he died, according to the same authority, in the following manner.\* "Being hospitably entertained by Walter Clifford, in the castle of Brendlais, the house was by accident burned down, and he received a mortal blow by a stone falling from the principal tower on his head: upon which he instantly dispatched messengers to recal the bishop, and exclaimed with a lamentable voice, 'O my father and high priest, your saint has taken most cruel vengeance of me, not waiting the conversion of a sinner, but hastening his death and overthrow.'" Having often repeated similar expressions, and bitterly lamented his situation, he thus ended his tyranny and life together; the first year of his government not having elapsed." Previously to his decease, however, he had endeavoured to make atonement for his offences by liberal donations to the church, which might probably operate as strong arguments to appease the resentment of the good bishop of St. David's, for the persecution he had endured from him.

Mahel being the last surviving son of Milo Fitzwalter, the inheritance devolved at his death on the female branches of his family. The lordship of Brecknock, with some other possessions, fell to the lot of Bertha the second daughter, and thus passed to Philip de Breos, or de Braiosa, lord of Builth, to whom she had been married.

The family of de Breos, formed one in the numerous train of adventurers who accompanied the conqueror to England; and they became possessed of immense wealth by the marriage of the father of Philip de Breos with the rich heiress of Johel of Totnes and Barnstable in Devonshire. It is probable they were introduced into Brecknockshire by Bernard Newmarch, and that Philip, having subdued the district of Builth, obtained  
the

\* Hoare's Giral. I. 34.



the lordship of that territory for himself, previously to his alliance with the family of Milo Fitzwalter. Little more is known of him; nor is the time of his death clearly ascertained; but it must have taken place soon after the accession of Henry the second.

He left two sons, William and Philip, the former of whom inherited the lordships of Brecknock and Abergavenny, with the whole of his father's other possessions. He married Maud, or Matilda, the daughter of Reginald de St. Waleri, a woman it should seem of extraordinary character, whose conduct enters largely into the history of this period, and whose name holds a distinguished place in the popular traditions of the county.

The character of William de Breos stands tarnished by the guilt of one of the most atrocious acts that have ever disgraced the most barbarous of times or countries. Sometime towards the latter end of the year 1173, Sitsyllt ap Dwfnwal, and Ifan ap Ryrid, two chieftains of considerable influence in Gwentland, then in arms against the king of England, obtained possession of the castle of Abergavenny, through the treachery of the king's officers, to whom it had been entrusted. They soon, however, delivered it up, and on their submission obtained the king's pardon, and were received into favour. The castle was then restored to William de Breos.\* This baron, in the true spirit of his ancestors, had, it seems, cast a longing glance at the fair territory of Gwentland, and indulged the wish of adding it to his other domains; but hitherto all his schemes for this purpose had been frustrated by Sitsyllt ap Dwfnwal, who appears to have been a sturdy Welshman, and a determined enemy to the Norman invaders. De Breos finding all his plans defeated, principally by the opposition of this chieftain, fixed upon a daring expedient which determined him to attempt by treachery what he could not accomplish by open

\* The Welsh Chronicles Brut y Saeson, and Brut y Tywyrogon, in the Myvyrian Archæology, Vol. I. p. 575. Wynne's Hist. of Wales, p. 200. Edit. 1774.

open measures. Profiting by the circumstance of their recent reconciliation with the king, and under the pretence of offering them his congratulations on that event, he invited the leading men of Gwentland, and in the number, Sitsyllt and his son, to an entertainment in his castle. In the midst of the festivities, he bluntly proposed to his guests to bind themselves by oath not to bear thenceforth about their persons, either bow or sword, or any other weapon. He must have been well convinced, that these were stipulations to which they would never consent; and he received their instant and peremptory refusal. This he had, in all probability, anticipated; for the answer was no sooner delivered than he gave the signal to his attendant myrmidons, who instantly rushed into the apartment, and slaughtered the unarmed and unsuspecting chieftains. As soon as they had completed their work of death, and while their swords were yet reeking with the warm blood of their victims, the murderers sallied forth to Sitsyllt's castle, which lay at no great distance. Having made good their entrance, they first of all secured his wife Gwladis, and immediately after dispatched her son Cadwalader in her presence; then setting fire to the castle, they conveyed her a prisoner to the mansion of their lord.\*

Various motives, besides that above intimated, have been assigned for this inhuman and sanguinary proceeding. Giraldus† scruples not to ascribe the massacre to the counsels of the king, while Matthew Paris,‡ whom Holinshed§ follows, with greater colour of probability, assigns as its cause revenge for the death of his uncle, Henry of Hereford, whom some of the company were said to have murdered.

The cruelty of this monster did not, however, rest here. Some years afterwards (1196) Trebaern Vychan, or the little, one of the descendants of Gwrgan ap Bleddin, and a man of great power in Brecknockshire, coming to Langorse to meet  
William

\* Wynne's Hist. of Wales, 204.

† Giraldus, lib. I. cap. 4.

‡ Sub. Anno, 1176. § Vol. II. p. 164. 4to. London, 1807.

William de Breos with the design of holding a friendly conference, was treacherously seized by his orders; then fastened to a horse's tail, and, in this ignominious manner, dragged through the streets of Brecknock to the gallows, where he was beheaded, and afterwards suspended by his feet.\*

These enormities roused the stifled spirit of the Welsh. The first outrage was avenged by the men of Gwent, who, upon the massacre of their chieftains, assailed the castle of Abergavenny, and after destroying, or taking prisoners, the whole of the garrison, rased it to the ground.

The cause of Trehaern was warmly taken up by Gwenwynwyn, prince of Powis, who was related to him by marriage. To prosecute his revenge he marched a body of troops into De Breos's territories in Radnorshire, and laid siege to Payne's castle in Elvel. But de Breos receiving succours from England, and being assisted also by the lords Marchers, Gwenwynwyn was defeated in a general engagement with the loss of upwards of 3000 of his men.†

From Stow‡ it appears that De Breos was one of the adherents of prince Arthur, for he was taken prisoner with him in France, by king John, who, though he released him from confinement, seems to have regarded him ever after with an eye of jealousy and suspicion. When the war with the barons broke out, John demanded of de Breos to have his sons as hostages; but his wary wife Maud de St. Waleri told the messengers "she would not deliver them unto him, who had already slain his own nephew";|| a message which, as may well be imagined, greatly exasperated the king, who immediately banished de Breos, and declared his possessions confiscated to the crown.

At

\* Brut y Saeson, Myvyrian Arch. Vol. II. p. 582. Jones's Brecknock, Vol. I. p. 115. Lloyd's Wales, p. 182. Mr. Jones calls Trehaern lord of Langorse, whereas Lloyd calls De Breos, by that title, and the Welsh chronicle referred to only states that Trehaern went to meet W. De Breos to Langorse.

† Carte, Vol. I. 775, on the authority of Diceto.

‡ Anno 1202. Edit. 1631. fol. 166.

|| M. Paris Sub. Ann. 1202, Stow, ubi supra, 157.

At what time this sentence was revoked does not appear; but we find De Breos shortly after, in quiet possession of his estates.

The latter part of his life was, however, a continued scene of contention with the king. Having neglected or refused to pay the sum of five thousand marks, which he stood indebted to the crown for the province of Munster, John commanded Gerard de Athiis, his bailiff in Wales, to levy a distress for the money on De Breos's property in that country. Upon which his wife, with some of her friends, came forward with proposals of accommodation, and agreed to deliver up to the king De Breos's castles of Hay, Brecknock, and Radnor, to be held by him as forfeited to the crown, in case the debt were not discharged by the time then fixed by mutual consent. It soon became apparent, however, that De Breos had no intention to abide by this arrangement; for availing himself of the temporary absence of the officers, whom John had entrusted with the command of his castles, he hastily assembled his followers, and attempted to gain possession of them by surprise. Being defeated in this enterprise, and justly apprehending the king's resentment, he embarked for Ireland, accompanied by his wife and family.

John now determined upon an expedition to Ireland to chastise his faithless and contumacious vassal, as well as to intimidate those chieftains, who had countenanced his disobedience by granting him an asylum. But De Breos, who was constantly on the watch, determined if possible to divert him from his purpose, and save his friends. With this view, he contrived to obtain letters of safe conduct to come to England. On his arrival he proceeded with the utmost speed to Herefordshire; and, having prevailed on several discontented persons in that district to espouse his cause, succeeded in alarming the king by an imposing show of hostility, and forced him to defer his expedition, and reland in Pembrokeshire. Through the mediation of the earl Ferrars, he was here allowed once more to confer with the king, but not personally, and  
offered

offered to purchase his reconciliation by the payment of forty thousand marks. To this proposal, however, John demurred, upon grounds certainly of a singular kind, and which evince, most clearly, the influence that Maud had over all the proceedings of her husband. The following are the monarch's own words on this remarkable occasion :—“ We knew full well that it was not in his power, but his wife's, who was in Ireland, to satisfy the debt due to us, and, therefore, we sent to inform him that we were now about to sail for Ireland, and that if he was in earnest, we would accompany and supply him with a safe conduct for that kingdom, to enable him to talk with his wife and friends about the amount of the fine he was to pay, and the ratification of the terms to be agreed upon : and we farther undertook that if we could not agree upon those terms we would send him to the same spot in Wales, on which he then stood, and in the same condition.” This indulgent offer to visit his wife the wily and dissembling baron did not think proper to accept.

John now embarked with his expedition ; but Maud, whom it was one object of his voyage to consult, having no desire of an interview, and probably fearing the consequences of remaining on the spot to await his arrival, fled to Scotland, accompanied by young William de Breos, his wife and two sons, and her own daughter Matilda. Here the whole party were taken by Duncan de Caryc, and sent back prisoners to the king in Ireland. When brought before him she proposed, with great coolness, to pay the sum before offered, to purchase her own liberation and her husband's pardon ; but this stipulation again, as soon as the king had agreed to accept it, she refused to ratify. On the return of John to England, whither he had brought her a close prisoner, he was once more prevailed on to listen to the same terms, to which, however, she now proposed to add ten thousand marks, as a fine for the breach of her contract. Hostages being given for the performance of this agreement, De Breos, who had

had been proclaimed a traitor, was released from his sentence, and permitted to visit his estates, to raise the sums thus stipulated to be paid to the crown; but, as soon as he found himself at liberty, he violated his engagement and fled to Ireland. Maud was again consulted on this occasion, when, notwithstanding she was so completely in the king's power, she boldly declared, she would not pay the money. She was in consequence confined with more rigour; and at last, by the king's orders, inhumanly starved to death in Windsor castle. De Breos, not thinking himself safe in Ireland, sought refuge in France, where he died shortly after, 9th August 1212, or 1213, in great indignance and misery:\* he was buried in the abbey of St. Victor at Paris.

In the midst of his villanies, De Breos was not unmindful of the customary means to conciliate the church, and purchase the pardon of his guilt. He gave liberally towards the support of religious houses: and this may account for the manner in which Giraldus glosses over his crimes, and palliates their enormities.†

The possessions of De Breos having escheated to the crown, John gave a great part of his Brecknockshire estates to Fitzherbert, a grandson of Milo Fitzwalter. But Giles, bishop of Hereford, the eldest surviving son of William De Breos, who had been obliged to absent himself from the kingdom in consequence of a quarrel with the king, on the subject of his dispute with Langton, archbishop of Canterbury, having been restored to his episcopal dignities, resolved to recover also his paternal inheritance. Being assisted by Llewelyn, prince of North Wales, and some English barons favourable to his interests, he, in a short period, and apparently without opposition, possessed himself of the Welsh estates which had been withheld from him, and given to others. Giles died at Gloucester, November 17th, 1215, after having made several grants to the church, and was succeeded by his brother Reginald.

Reginald

\* Stow, ubi supra, 168.

† Giraldus, Lib. I. cap. 2.

Reginald De Breos married Gwladis, the daughter of Llewelyn. In consequence of this family alliance, he leagued with his father-in-law against the English monarch, John, who took, however, prompt and vigorous measures to chastise his vassal, by marching an army into his territories, and committing to the flames his castles of Radnor and Hay. Henry the third finding, on his accession to the throne, the important advantage Llewelyn derived from the co-operation of his powerful kinsman, made it one of his first concerns to dissolve the confederacy; and in this object he completely succeeded by engaging to restore to De Breos, as the reward of his return to his allegiance, the English possessions of his family, including the honours of Totnes and Barnstable in Devonshire.

Llewelyn, who was ignorant of this proceeding till all was settled, highly incensed at the desertion of his ally, immediately led a powerful force towards the town of Brecknock, which he menaced with destruction, but afterwards spared at the supplication of the inhabitants. He then proceeded towards Gower, pursuing his course through a country, which, from its almost impervious woods and deep morasses, must have opposed the most formidable obstacles to the march of an army. While he lay encamped in Languke, the first parish on his route after entering Glamorganshire, De Breos, fearing the consequences of his farther progress, waited on him in person to offer his excuses, and succeeded in effecting his reconciliation. But this peace with his father-in-law again involved him with the king, who deprived him of the lordships of Blaenllyfai and Talgarth, which were given a second time to Peter Fitzherbert.\* Reginald died in the year 1228, and was interred in the priory church of Brecknock.

On the decease of Reginald De Breos, the Welsh estates and honours that remained to him devolved on William De Breos,

\* Jones's Brecknock, I. 127.

Breos, his eldest son by his first wife Griselda, daughter of William Bruere, lord of Bridgewater.

William, little mindful of the amicable engagements so lately entered into by his father with Llewelyn, attached himself warmly to the interests of the English king, and was one of the foremost to aid him with his forces in a formidable expedition into North Wales, which was designed to crush the power of the Welsh prince. Here the chances of war threw him a prisoner into the hands of his adversary, where he was suffered to remain without any stipulation for his release, when Henry was compelled, by the failure of his enterprise, and the increasing difficulties of his situation, to conclude a peace upon humiliating terms. One of the Welsh chronicles states, that he afterwards purchased his liberation, by giving up the castle and territory of Builth, and paying besides a large sum of money.\*

A story is related of De Breos by the historians of this period, that seems hardly entitled to belief, but which, from its connection with the only account we have of his death, must not be passed over in silence. It is asserted that, during the period of his confinement, when he was receiving from Llewelyn the hospitalities due to a guest, rather than a prisoner of his high rank, he disgraced himself by a criminal intrigue with his princess, Joan, who was a natural daughter of king John, and consequently Henry's sister. Llewelyn was not apprised of his dishonour till after De Breos's departure. In order, therefore, to get him again into his power, he concealed his knowledge of the fact, and sent him a friendly invitation to an entertainment which he proposed to give at Easter. Here he openly charged him with his baseness, and then commanded him to be instantly hanged on a neighbouring hill.† The scene of this tragedy

\* Brut y Tywysogion, Myvyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 455. Lloyd's Wales, p. 204. Edit. 1811.

† Knyghton, in Scrip. Hist. Angl. p. 2439. Matth. West. Francof. 1601, p. 289. Math. Paris. Lond. 1684, p. 307. Brut y Tywysogion, Myvyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 455.



tragedy is supposed to have been near Aber in Caernarvonshire, where one of Llewelyn's castles was situate, and a tradition of the country still commemorates the event. A bard, it is said, meeting the princess before she was informed of the ignominious fate of her parainour, addressed her, tauntingly, in the following couplet :

Diccyn Doccyn, wraig Llewelyn,  
Beth a roed am weled Gwilym ?  
Hark ! Llewelyn's wife,  
What wilt thou give to see thy Gwilym ?

To which she replied :

Cymru a Lloegr a Llewelyn,  
A rown y gyd am weled Gwilym.  
Wales and England and Llewelyn,  
All would I give to see my Gwilym :—

Upon which the pert bard pointed to the tree whereon her lover was suspended.\*

But how little credit so ever may be due to this tale, so far as relates to the intrigue,† the fact of the ignominious execution of De Breos by Llewelyn can hardly be disputed : and the probability is that the whole of the other particulars were a mere invention, designed to cover the resentment of the Welsh prince against his former ally, for his desertion of him, and to justify his conduct to the king, in having put one of his most powerful vassals to death, without even the form of a trial.

Llewelyn, not satisfied with the strong measures he had already taken to satiate his revenge, proceeded to attack and devastate the unprotected territories of his late victim. In his march he took Rhaiadr and Brecknock ; and pursuing his course

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\* Pennant's Tours in Wales, 8vo. II. 298.

† One circumstance alone may serve to prove it a fabrication ; the reader will bear in mind that the princess was the wife of the father in law of De Breos's father, and must, at the date assigned to the transaction, have been well advanced in years.

through Caerleon into Glamorganshire, he laid every thing waste with fire and sword. Shortly after his return he again entered Brecknockshire with a hostile force: but, being foiled in his attempt to take the castle of Brecknock, he set fire to the town, and then withdrew into North Wales.

The lordship of Brecknock passed, on the death of William De Breos, to Humphrey de Bohun, the sixth earl of Hereford of that name, in consequence of his marriage with Elenor, his second daughter. After him it devolved on his son Humphrey, who inherited also the earldoms of Hereford and Essex.

This baron drew upon himself the displeasure of his sovereign Edward the first, by a quarrel with his late guardian the earl of Gloucester, which had nearly involved both the lords in very serious consequences. The earl of Gloucester had at this time large possessions in Glamorganshire, some of which lay on the borders of Brecknockshire, contiguous to the territories of the earl of Hereford. To defend these he had erected a small castle on what he conceived to be his own property; but the earl of Hereford, claiming the land as part of his estates, lodged a formal complaint against the building in the king's courts. Edward having taken upon himself the settlement of this dispute, commanded both parties to forbear hostilities, until he should investigate the affair, and give his decision. The tenants and vassals of the earl of Gloucester, however, notwithstanding this prohibition, entered on the lands of the earl of Hereford, and were proceeding to take away some cattle and other plunder, which they had seized, when the vassals of the latter assailed them and retook their stolen property. The king, on being informed of these outrages, issued a special commission to examine into the affair, after which he summoned the two barons to appear before him at Ambresbury to answer for their violation of his order. The inquest under the first commission had only found against Gloucester, but a second commission was now issued to enquire into the conduct of Bohun, who was found to have counte-

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nanced the proceedings of his tenants, in their hostilities against those of the earl of Gloucester. The result of this investigation was a decree that the liberties of Glamorgan and Brecknock should be forfeited to the crown, during the lives of their respective lords, who were sentenced by the king himself to be imprisoned during his pleasure. This sentence was, however, soon commuted, and they were both restored to their personal freedom, and their estates;—the earl of Gloucester by the payment of ten thousand marks, and the earl of Hereford by the payment of one thousand.\*

Narrowly as the earl of Hereford seems to have escaped on this occasion, he soon stood forward, armed with great influence and power, to resist the pretensions of Edward, and to check his incroachments, on the liberties of the people. In his dispute with the earl of Gloucester, it appears from the returns of the inquests, that he had only asserted his rights, and defended himself against the unprovoked attacks of that nobleman. It therefore seems hard that he should have incurred so heavy a sentence; and there is some room to suspect a wish, on the part of the king, to reduce the power of a subject of his known independent principles, and from whom he had reason to dread a formidable opposition to some of his ambitious and arbitrary designs. A circumstance occurred shortly after, which shewed that such apprehensions were not without some ground. The king, having ordered the earl of Hereford and the earl Marshal to join his forces then engaged on the continent, received from both these barons a direct refusal, alleging that from their offices, they were exempted from quitting the kingdom, unless to attend his majesty in person, which they expressed themselves then ready to do. This reply highly incensed the king, who threatened to punish them for their disobedience and contumacy. Upon this they flew to arms, with a determination to assert their privileges; and the haughty Edward found himself under the mortifying necessity,

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\* Carte, Hist. of Eng. II. p. 222.

from the situation of public affairs, to let the matter pass over without farther notice. Nor was this the only instance in which Bohun displayed his high and independent spirit. The Parliament of St. Edmundsbury having granted to the king a tax of the eighth penny, he openly opposed the collection of it, and applied to the citizens of London, to make common cause with him in asserting their liberties. For this conduct, however, he was suspended in his office of high constable of England.

He made another bold stand against the incroachments of the royal prerogative, during the absence of the king in Flanders. Being summoned to Parliament by prince Edward, who acted as Regent for his father, he marched to London, accompanied by the earl Marshal, with a body of forces consisting of 500 cavalry, and a large number of infantry, and insisted on his own troops being put in custody of the gates, before he would enter. When the Parliament was assembled, he refused to consent to any measures submitted to their adoption, without a stipulation being first entered into, on the part of the king, that he would confirm the great charter of John, and the Forest charter, with some new articles which he then proposed: and that no taxes or other payments should be levied on the people, without the consent of the barons in Parliament assembled. He also insisted on the pardon of himself, and the other barons, who had associated with him, for their disobedience to the king's commands in refusing to go abroad. These terms, offensive and humiliating as they must have been to Edward, Bohun obtained—such was the influence of a single peer in this tumultuous age!

Bohun died at Plessy 1298, and was buried at Walden in Essex.

Humphrey De Bohun, was succeeded in his titles and estates, by his eldest son of the same name, who took a very different part in the politics of the day. To appease the resentment of the king, which had been roused by the conduct of his father,

father, he resigned into his hands the whole of his honours and estates, including the high constabship of England. After this extraordinary proceeding, for which it is difficult to assign the true motive, he allied himself to the throne by marrying Elizabeth, the seventh daughter of Edward by his first wife. This lady was the widow of John earl of Holland, &c. to whom she had been united when only fourteen years of age. The king on this occasion restored to him all his titles and possessions, but securing the reversion of the constabship, and some of the estates, to the crown, and the remainder to the Bohun family, in case the earl should die without issue. Submissive as had been the conduct of De Bohun, during the lifetime of Edward the first, he soon appeared under a different character, when his son, though so nearly allied to him, ascended the throne. He now began to evince some of the spirit of independence, which had rendered his father so formidable to the crown. The young monarch having shewn a determination to support and patronize his foreign favourite Gaveston, whom he had raised to the earldom of Cornwall, the earl of Hereford, with other powerful barons, became highly incensed, and by their proceedings ultimately succeeded in procuring the destruction of Gaveston, and obliged the king to sign their own unconditional pardon.

In the Scottish war, which succeeded shortly after these commotions, the earl of Hereford was taken prisoner, but was soon released, together with his followers, though much against the king's will, in exchange for Bruce's wife, and other noble Scottish prisoners, who had fallen into the hands of the English.

The next public transaction of consequence, in which the name of the earl of Hereford occurs, is the rebellion raised by him and several others of the lords Marchers, to oppose the claims of D'Espencer to the lordship of Gower. The vigour with which these barons prosecuted their measures procured the banishment of both the D'Espencers, who were then

abroad ; but on the appeal of the banished favourites against the sentence, the tide of affairs took a turn unfavourable to the revolted barons ; and the king evincing a disposition to act with energy, many of them were induced to come in, and throw themselves on his clemency. The earl of Hereford, however, still held out, and marched his forces to the north to join the earl of Lancaster, who was also in arms. But this baron finding it necessary to fall back, as the king's troops were advancing to give him battle, the earl of Hereford was obliged to consult his safety by flight ; and, in passing the bridge at Boroughbridge, was killed March 6th, 1321,\* by a Welshman who was lying in wait to attack him : he was buried at York. The execution of the earl of Lancaster, who was taken nearly at the same time, brought this formidable rebellion to a termination.

The Welsh property of the earl of Hereford, being confiscated, was given by the crown to the younger D'Espencer ; but at his decease reverted again to the family of De Bohun, in the person of John De Bohun, who succeeded to all his father's honours and possessions.

This baron appears to have enjoyed a larger share of the royal favour, than any of his immediate ancestors. Though the state of his health obliged him to execute the office of high constable of England by deputy, he did not altogether withdraw from the active duties of his station, as a feudal lord, for he attended his sovereign in that character, on several of the occasions which called him to the field. He was installed a knight of the Bath by Edward II, in the 20th year of his reign, when, by the order of prince Edward, an earl's robes were granted to him for the solemnity, from the royal wardrobe.† On Edward the third coming to the throne he accompanied him in an expedition to Scotland ; and a few years afterwards, the ninth of that monarch, he attended him a second time

\* Dugdale, Baron. I. 184.

† Ib.

time into that country. He died in the year 1335, and was interred in the abbey of Stratford le Bow near London.

John De Bohun dying without issue, all his estates and honours descended to his brother Humphrey De Bohun. Humphrey was among the followers of Edward in Scotland, in the eleventh year of his reign, when he appears to have been stationed at Perth. Some time after, April 1338, we find him in the naval engagement between the English and French fleets at Sluys, wherein the latter was defeated. Pursuant to his office of high constable, he accompanied Edward into France, followed by a retinue of 300 men from his Brecknock possessions; and when an invasion was apprehended, he was by royal command sent into Essex to assist in defending his property in that district, against any hostile attempts of the enemy. He died at Plessy, 15 Oct. 1354, and was buried in the church of the Augustine monks, in London, which he had refounded.

As he left no issue, the inheritance fell to Humphry, the son of his brother William De Bohun, at this time a minor, under the guardianship of Richard Fitzallen, earl of Arundel. In the year 1366 Humphry was the principal person deputed to wait on Galachius duke of Milan, to negotiate a marriage between Leonel duke of Clarence, and Violanta the duke's daughter.\* He afterwards accompanied the king in two expeditions into France. In the year 1371 he was sent ambassador to the duke of Bretagne, to induce him to join in the war against the French king. The last time he appears on the public theatre of the day is in the engagement fought this year between the English and Flemish fleets, in which the latter, commanded by Peterson, was defeated.† He died in the year 1377, and was buried at Walden in Essex.

With this baron the male line of this noble and powerful house became extinct. Humphrey De Bohun left issue two daughters, between whom the possessions and honours of the family were divided. Elenor, the elder daughter, married Thomas of Woodstock, the sixth son of Edward the third, who,

\* Dugdale, Baron, I, 186.

† Carte, Vol. II, 598.

in right of his wife, obtained the earldoms of Essex and Northampton: with these honours he received also the constablership of England, though it should seem to be held only during the king's pleasure. Mary, the younger daughter, married Henry, earl of Derby, afterwards Henry the fourth of England, on whom, by this union, devolved the earldom of Hereford. Neither of these noble barons appears to have been seised of the lordship of Brecknock, which remained vested in the countess dowager of Hereford, during her life,\* but the reversion of it was settled on the earl of Hereford, who was created duke of Hereford, and through him descended to his son, king Henry the fifth.

Shortly after the death of the countess dowager of Hereford, Anne, the daughter of Elenor de Bohun countess of Essex, who had been married to Edmund earl of Stafford, but was at this time a widow, petitioned the king for the portion which rightfully belonged to her, of her grandmother's possessions: upon which Henry relinquished to her and her son the earldoms of Hereford, Buckingham, Essex, and Northampton, to which was added the lordship of Brecknock. The countess of Stafford afterwards married William Bouchier, earl of Eu. She died in the year 1439, and was buried in the abbey of Lanthoni near Gloucester.

The inheritance now passed to her son Henry, earl of Buckingham, who, in the twenty third of Henry the sixth, was created duke of Buckingham. This nobleman is chiefly distinguished in Welsh history, for his overbearing tyranny towards the tenants of the lordship, of which several instances are on record: but he proved a firm friend to his sovereign in all his misfortunes; and, at the battle of Northampton 1460, lost his life in the vain effort to support his sinking cause.

His only son, Humphrey earl of Stafford, having, in his own life time, fallen at the battle of St. Albans, he was succeeded in the dukedom of Buckingham, together with all his  
other

\* Jones's Brecknock. I. 157.



other honours and estates, by his grandson Henry. This young nobleman being at the time in his minority, Sir William Herbert, afterwards created earl of Pembroke, was appointed steward of the lordship of Brecknock, and entrusted with the management of the duke's other Welsh possessions.

Henry appears to have passed his time at first principally in retirement in his castle of Brecknock; and to have refrained from taking any active and prominent part in public affairs, until the duke of Gloucester, on the death of Edward the fourth, manifested some disposition to usurp the royal power. Stow\* states that he dispatched a secret messenger to the duke of Gloucester, who was then at York, to sound his intentions, and to tender him his assistance and support. He soon after joined him with his forces at Northampton, and acted in concert with him in all the measures he so successfully planned to inveigle the young monarch, Edward the fifth, into his toils. When the two dukes reached London, Buckingham endeavoured, by a bold step, to give a colour of public approbation to the ambitious views of Gloucester; for at an audience which he contrived to have attended by several peers and commoners of distinction, he, as their delegated spokesman, called upon him, in the most undisguised terms, to ascend the throne, and exclude the young Edward as unfit to be entrusted with the sovereign authority.† While he was thus almost anticipating his wishes by his services, and as long as those services appeared essential to his success, Richard loaded him with honours, and fed his hopes with promises of still fairer things behind. But no sooner was he seated on the throne, to which he had passed through the blood of his relations, than he changed his conduct, and gave Buckingham fully to understand, by refusing to ratify his engagements with him, that he had used him only as a convenient stepping block to gain the elevation to which he had aspired. Finding himself thus disappointed and insulted by the man whom he had almost created  
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\* Stow, ubi supra, p. 460.

† Buck's Richard, III. p. 20.

what he was, and on whose account he had stained his soul with guilt, Buckingham withdrew from court, breathing resentment, and resolved upon revenge.

One circumstance seemed particularly to favour his hostile designs. He held at this time in custody at Brecknock John Morton, bishop of Ely, whom, on account of his known attachment to the cause of the murdered princes, Richard had committed a close prisoner to his charge. On his return to his castle, Buckingham's first measure was to ascertain the feelings of Morton, and endeavour to secure his co-operation. Stow \* and Speed † detail at considerable length, the conversation that is supposed to have passed at their first interview, but which, it is obvious, can possess little weight as historical evidence, though, from the circumstances of the case, both the matter and language may in substance be correct. Having come to a mutual understanding on the important subject of their deliberations, they finally agreed upon a plan to remove Richard from the throne, and bring in the earl of Richmond as the representative of the house of Lancaster.

Morton, being now liberated, departed for the continent to inform Richmond of Buckingham's disposition, and to concert measures for the execution of their enterprise; while Buckingham proceeded to make the necessary arrangements at home. He hastily raised a large body of troops on his estates, and began his march towards Salisbury, to join the other partizans of the cause, who were assembled in the neighbourhood of that city. But on approaching the Severn, he found his farther progress impossible;—the river being swoln by a prodigious flood, which inundated to a considerable distance all the adjacent lands. Here his troops, which were probably but ill provided, grew discontented, and deserted in such numbers that he found it necessary to consult his personal safety by flight and concealment. He accordingly retreated with the utmost speed and privacy towards Shrewsbury, and sought

\* Stow ubi supra, p. 461. et seq.

† Speed, p. 716. Ed. 1627.

sought an asylum in the house of an old domestic, named Humphrey Bannister, "whom he had tenderly brought up," and on whose gratitude, therefore, he thought he might safely depend for a secure shelter in the present desperate state of his affairs. By this wretch, however, tempted by the reward of a thousand pounds, which Richard had offered for his apprehension, but which he never received, the unfortunate Buckingham was basely betrayed and given up to his enemies. He was immediately conveyed to Salisbury, where the king was then stationed, and beheaded by his order, without even the form of arraignment and trial.\*

The titles and estates of this powerful house were forfeited to the crown; but on the accession of Henry the seventh, in consideration of the services of the late duke, all the possessions and honours of the family, including the lordship of Brecknock, were restored to his son Edward, who, on the death of the earl of Derby shortly after, was created constable of England, and was the last who held that high office. Greatly, however, as he was honoured by the king, a quarrel with the haughty and vindictive Wolsey laid the foundation of his ruin, and in the end brought him to the scaffold. Being charged with entertaining views to the throne, and, on this groundless accusation, found guilty of treason by men whose judgment his unrelenting persecutor had taken effectual measures to secure, he was condemned, and afterwards beheaded.

The dukedom of Buckingham now became extinct, and the lordship of Brecknock, with all the territories and revenues pertaining to it, again escheated to the crown. The union which took place in the succeeding reign, of Wales with England, when the present division into counties was settled, placed the principality in the same situation, in respect to the laws, as the rest of the kingdom, and the lords Marchers, who had maintained a kind of regal authority on their respective

estates,

\* Hall's Chronicle 410. p. 394, 395. Edit. 1809. Buck's Richard the third, p. 37.

estates, were reduced, as to their territorial government and privileges, to the level of other lords of the manor. From this period the history of this country merges in that of England; it will be unnecessary, therefore, to pursue it farther in this sketch. Some occasional historical notices may hereafter be introduced in the topographical description of places which are rendered interesting by some memorable event. In conclusion, it may be well, however, just to observe, that in the year 1617, the lordship of Brecknock was leased out by the crown to Sir Francis Bacon and Sir John Dacombe, and others in trust, for the use of prince Charles, afterwards Charles the first. Charles, in the seventh year of his reign, conveyed the fee to trustees, for the use of Sir William Russel, only reserving to the crown a fee farm rent of forty four pounds and one halfpenny per annum. Sir William Russel sold his interest to the earl of Pembroke, who again disposed of it to William Morgan, Esq. of Dderu in Brecknockshire. At his death it fell to his daughter and heiress Blanch, who marrying William Morgan, Esq. of Tredegar in Monmouthshire, conveyed the lordship to that family, who are its present possessors.\*

#### BOUNDARIES,

\* Jones's Brecknock, I. 193-4.

"The lordship or manor of Brecon is that part of the county which, since the erection of the castle of Brecon, continually has been appendant and appurtenant to that fortress;—it consisted of nearly the whole of the hundred of Merthyr Cynog, of that part of Llywel, which is northward of the Usk, and of the parishes of Llanspyddid, St. David, and Cantreff, to the river Cynrig. The lordship of the great forest, or, at least, a great part of it, being acquired by the successors of Bernard Newmarch, subsequent to the conquest of Wales by Edward I. was not part of the lordship Marcher, but was held by the lords of Brecon, like all other territories in Wales, (except the Marches,) as a fief under the crown of England.

While both these possessions continued in the same hands, and under the same tenures, they were properly called the great lordship of Brecon: but since the attainder of the last Stafford duke of Buckingham, when they were dissevered, this term is erroneous. The lordship of the Forest, which contains the most extensive part of the district, (now held under lease by Sir Charles

**BOUNDARIES, EXTENT, &c.** The present county of Brecknock is bounded on the east by Monmouthshire and Herefordshire, on the north and northwest by Radnorshire and Cardiganshire, on the west by Caermarthenshire, and on the south by Glamorganshire, and part of Monmouthshire. In form it approaches nearly to a circle, the diameter of which may be estimated at about thirty miles. Its superficial contents comprise eight hundred square miles, or 512,000 acres of land: together with about 300 acres of water, exclusively of the surface covered by the rivers and smaller streams.\* It is divided into six hundreds, namely, Builth, Merthyr Cynog, Talgarth, Crickhowell, Penkelli, and Devynock, and contains 61 parishes, and four market towns.† The county returns one member to Parliament, and the borough of Brecknock another.

**POPULATION.**—According to the Parliamentary returns, the population in 1801 was stated at 31,633; to this number Mr. Jones adds 500 for the county militia, absent at the time of making the census, and 100 for the females who accompanied them, making the probable number of the inhabitants 32,233. The population in 1811, according to the official returns, comprised 37,735 persons, which must also be considered as not including the county militia.

**RIVERS.** The Wye bounds this county on the north, for a distance of about thirty four miles, and separates it from Radnorshire, through nearly the whole of that extent. But as it is  
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Charles Morgan,) should be called the manor of the great forest, or the great forest of Devynock, within the county of Brecon; and the remainder, which he holds in fee, when compared with this, will almost sink into the *little* lordship of Brecon.”—“In 10. G. I. this manor was demised by the Prince of Wales to William Morgan of Tredegar, Esq. to hold for twenty one years after the expiration of a term then in existence, at the yearly rent of 20*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* This term has been frequently since renewed; and, under a late grant from the crown, Sir Charles Morgan now holds it for a certain number of years yet to come.” Jones ubi supra.

\* Jones's Brecknock, I. 14.

† Gough's Camden, Vol. III. 99.

more properly a Radnorshire river, the description of it must be reserved for the topography of that county.

The Usk rises in the Black mountains some miles above Trecastle, on the borders of Caermarthenshire; which it separates from Brecknockshire for a short distance; then, taking an easterly direction, it pursues its course to Brecknock and Crickhowell, where it enters Monmouthshire; and after passing the towns of Usk, Caerleon, and Newport, empties itself into the æstuary of the Severn. This river abounds with fish of different species, including Salmon and Trout, for the latter of which it is greatly celebrated.

The Irvon, which is wholly a Brecknockshire river, has its source in the upper part of the hundred of Builth, and after a course of no great length falls into the Wye, a little above the town of Builth.

The Tawe rises on the southern side of the Black mountains, and enters Glamorganshire at Ystradgunlais; whence it proceeds through the latter county to Swansea, and discharges its waters into the Bristol channel.

The Taaf has also its source in Brecknockshire, but is an inconsiderable stream until it enters Glamorganshire, and receives an accession of waters from other rivulets. Among the minor streams may be mentioned Taaf Vychan, or the smaller Taaf, which joins the other river of the same name on the borders of the county; the Llyfni which passes through Langorse mere, and empties its waters into the Wye at Glasbury; the Mellte, remarkable for its subterraneous passage, in one part of its course; the Hepste celebrated for its beautiful cascade: and lastly the Honddi, from the junction of which with the Usk, the town of Brecknock derives its British name of Aberhonddi.

LAKES. The principal lake in this county, and one of the largest in Wales, is Llynsavaddan, or more properly Llynsafeddan,\* called also by the several names of Llangorse mere, and

\* Still or standing lake.

and Brecknock mere. It spreads its waters over a surface of about five miles in circumference, being about two miles in its greatest length, east and west, and one mile in width. The general depth has been stated to be from nine to twelve feet; but in some places it deepens to twelve or fifteen yards. Mr. Jones\* calls it "a beautiful sheet of water;" but the propriety of the appellation may admit of some dispute. The flatness of the land in its immediate vicinity, and its low marshy borders, overgrown with rushes and other aquatic plants, must be allowed to be no trifling blemishes in its appearance, and certainly very materially injure its picturesque effect. Fish of different kinds are found here in great plenty, among which may be enumerated as most abundant pike, perch, and eels. Trout, though an inhabitant of the river Llyfni, which passes through the lake, is excluded probably by the presence of its voracious enemy the pike.† Many are the fabled wonders related of this celebrated spot. A manuscript in the British Museum‡ assigns the formation of the lake to the judgment of heaven on the descendants, in the ninth generation, of a man who had robbed and murdered a carrier, to obtain money to marry his mistress. According to this story, when the whole of the family were assembled at a feast, an earthquake swallowed up, both themselves and all their lands and houses, leaving the site covered with water. The common people, and indeed some persons of more cultivated minds, in the country, even at this day believe that a city once stood here, which Camden, with a blindness and credulity unworthy of his genius, pronounced to be the long sought Loventium. Giraldus§ glances

\* Hist. of Brecknock, II. 356.

† The mud at the bottom of this lake "consists principally of lime in that state, in which it is found in marls, and of a little but very little iron.

Jones's Brecknock, II. 357. Note.

‡ Harleian Collection, No. 6831.

§ Camden's Annotator has committed a singular mistake in quoting this passage. His words are: "Llyn Savadan is described by Giraldus as surrounded

glances at this tradition, and both he and Leland mention several prodigies said to have been observed here, which, however, it would be a waste of time to detail in this place.\*

**MOUNTAINS.** This county is pervaded by two ranges of mountains, which present some eminences of considerable elevation. The first occurs in the approach from the northward, and is known by the denomination of the Eppynt hills. This chain rises on the north eastern confines of the county of Caermarthen; and proceeding in an easterly direction, terminates at Llyswen on the banks of the Wye, after separating the greater part of the hundred of Bwilt, from the other portion of the county. The second chain, which partly divides Brecknockshire from the two neighbouring counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth, may be said to commence on the west, with two conspicuous hills of abrupt elevation, called  
Bannau

rounded with houses, gardens, cornfields and orchards.”—Gough’s Camden, Vol. III. p. 99. The passage in Giraldus stands as follows:—Ad hæc, (q. d. the other wonders he had been relating,) etiam totus ædificiis consertus, culturis egregiis, hortis ornatus, et pomeriis ab accolis *quandoque* conspicitur. Itin. lib. I. cap. 2. Which Sir Richard Hoare, in his elegant and valuable translation of this author, renders thus—“It is sometimes seen by the inhabitants covered and adorned with buildings, pastures, gardens, and orchards.” Vol. I. p. 38.

\* These fables have been strung together in the following order, by the monk of Chester:

“ Ad Brechnoc est vivarium  
Satis abundans piscium,  
Sæpe coloris varii,  
Comma gerens Pomarii,  
Structuras ædificii.  
Sæpe videbis inibi.  
Sub lacu cum sit gelidus,  
Mirus auditur sonitus. “  
Si terræ princeps venerit,  
Aves cantare jusserit.  
Statim depromunt modulos,  
Nil concinunt ad cæteros.



Bannau Sir Gaer, or the Caermarthenshire beacons; then, stretching in a line nearly parallel with the Eppynt range, extends into Monmouthshire, and terminates on the southern side of the Usk, below the town of Crickhowell.

The most elevated summits in this chain, and probably the highest ground in South Wales, are two contiguous peaks, situate about five miles to the southwest of the town of Brecknock, being computed to be 850 yards above the bed of the Usk at this place, and about 1000 yards above the level of the sea, at the junction of this river with the Severn.\* These summits are sometimes distinguished by the name of the Van, or Beacon, in the singular number; but more commonly, and with greater propriety, by the plural appellation of Bannau Brecheinog, or the Brecknockshire Beacons. They are also known by the denomination of Cadair Arthur, or Arthur's chair; Welsh traditionary Romance assigning this spot as one of the seats of the fabulous hero of that name.† Towering

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as

\* Jones's Brecknock, II. 618.

† It may not be deemed an useless or uninteresting digression to give here a short account of this far famed character, in order to correct the mistake which has so long obtained currency in the world, and which has induced many literary men of eminence to doubt his very existence.

The chronicles and romances of the middle ages are filled with the exploits of Arthur, and abound with the most extravagant fictions as to his person and stature, and especially as to his influence over the natural elements, and the fancied world of spirits. This admixture of fable with what are given as the events of real history, has served to bring the whole into discredit; and rendered it the duty of the historian, now that his means of information are so much more ample and satisfactory, to separate what ought never to have been united, and to rescue authentic facts and circumstances, from the imputation and suspicions which this heterogeneous union had drawn upon them.

The enquiries that have been instituted on this subject have clearly evinced, that all the blunders have arisen from confounding two personages of the same name, the one real, the other fictitious, and ascribing to each some of the features and transactions which pertained to the other. The Arthur of

as they do above the lofty hills which compose their base, these peaks form a very striking and picturesque object from  
 very

real history, of whose existence there is no more ground to doubt, than there is to question that of Cæsar, was a chieftain of South Wales, celebrated indeed for his valour, but reproached for many of the vices of his age. About the year 517, when the Saxons were landing armament after armament on the coast, and threatening the entire subjugation of the island, he was chosen by the British states to the Pendragonship, or supreme command, and in this situation acquired the highest military reputation, for the skill and intrepidity with which he opposed the invaders, and protracted the fall of his country. A quarrel with his nephew Medrod brought the hero at last to an inglorious end. In the civil war which, about the year 540, their unhappy dispute occasioned, Medrod joined his forces to those of the Saxons; and at the battle of Camlan, fought between the parties in 542, Arthur was mortally wounded. He was removed from the field by his friends, and conveyed to Glastonbury, where he died. His remains are said to have been discovered here, in the year 1189.

The Arthur of Romance is a being of very different character, with scarcely any thing mortal in his composition, and embodying in his attributes some of the most extravagant conceptions of the poet's imagination. Neither his presence nor his reputation is confined to this quarter of the world, nor even to this globe. From the remotest ages his fame has been celebrated in the farthest regions of Asia, and his name is written in the constellations of the heavens. In the Mabinogion, or juvenile stories, some old mythological tales in the Welsh language, many wonders are related of him illustrative of his person and power, while the romances of the middle ages are well known to owe much of their machinery to the extraordinary qualities, with which he was invested by the prevailing traditions of the time. Most of the errors which have been perpetuated by subsequent writers, respecting these two personages, have arisen from the mistake of the early chronicles, in attributing to the Arthur of history the fabulous origin of the Arthur of romance. The latter was said to be the son of two mythological beings, Uthyr Bendragon (or Wonder, the supreme leader,) by Eigyr, (or generating power,) who have been converted into real personages: but the British hero was the son of Meirig ap Tewdrig, a Silurian chieftain, and the twentieth in descent from Brân ap Llyr. The curious reader may consult on this subject, Owen's Camb. Biog. and Biog. Britannica, verb: Arthur. Mr. Turner's excellent History of the Anglo-Saxons, 4to. Vol. I. p. 101. et seq. and Mr. Geo. Ellis's interesting and valuable Introduction to his Specimens of Old English Romances.

very distant parts of South Wales, and command a prospect of prodigious extent and variety.

Giraldus states, that there is a spring on the summit which forms a square pool like a well—giving birth to no stream, but containing trout; and this account has been repeated by Leland and Camden. Sir Richard Hoare, however, in commenting on this passage of Giraldus, observes, that, after a very attentive examination of the ground, he could find no such spring, and justly concludes that the credulous archdeacon must have founded his assertion on the report of others.\* The fact is, that the only water to be seen on this elevated spot is a small stagnant pool, depending upon the rains for its supply, and which in dry seasons is wholly evaporated. At some distance below, there is a small lake, of about a mile in circumference, called Llyn Cwm Llŵch, inhabited by immense numbers of the *lacerta aquatica*, or water lizard. The superstitious legends of the country assign to this pool an unfathomable depth. The probability, however, is, that if proper means were applied, its bottom would be reached without any very marvellous extent of sounding line.

Besides these two chains, there arises another at Talgarth, on the eastern side of the county. This is called here the Black mountains, (a name also given to the range last described through a considerable part of its course,) and sometimes Mynydd y Gadair, or the Chair mountain; but, when it has entered Herefordshire, it is denominated the Hatterell hills. Its loftiest summit, styled Y Gadair fawr, or the Great chair, is in height second only to Arthur's Chair, already noticed. Probably the same fabulous tradition gave rise to the names of both these celebrated spots.

Other hills of lower elevation might be added, which diverge in various directions from these several ranges; but none of them are of sufficient magnitude to require separate description. Indeed the general geographical features of this

\* Hoare's Giraldus, I. 39. 65.

county consist in hill and dale, few level tracts of any considerable size occurring in its whole extent.

SOIL, AGRICULTURE, &c. From the great irregularity in the surface, and the difference in the elevation of the land, a corresponding variety must be expected in the nature and quality of the soil in this county. The vale of Usk is for the most part composed of a sandy loam, which being very porous, and consequently open to the action of the sun, yields but light crops, except in wet seasons. On advancing to the northward, the soil becomes more fertile and tenacious, until, on approaching the hundred of Builth, it changes to a dark brown peat surface, from six inches to a foot in depth, with an argillaceous or clay bottom. The vale of Wye presents a brown gravelly soil, which, on descending from Builth towards Glazbury and Hay, deepens, as the vale widens, into a fine rich loam.

The systems of agriculture pursued in this county are in general very defective, and ill adapted to the peculiarities of the soil. Some honourable exceptions, indeed, occasionally offer, where practical skill appears directed by sound judgement, and enlightened principles; but in every district, not excepting those where the best modern improvements have been introduced, and their advantages rendered obvious to the eye, hereditary prejudices prevail to an almost incredible extent, and entail on the farmer all the worst errors of former generations. The ruinous practice of raising white crops in succession, till the ground is completely exhausted, is not yet exploded, but some advances have of late been made in the introduction of green crops.

Wheat, rye, barley, oats, vetches, turnips, and potatoes, are the common arable crops of the south and south eastern parts of the county, and they are cultivated with tolerable success. The common practice of husbandry along the vale of Usk, in the present day, is this:—"fallow, wheat, peas, or barley, oats, turnips, barley, and clover; let the clover lie for two years.

years, and wheat upon the clover lay. But the more enlightened agriculturists pursue the following routine:—fallow and sow turnips, barley and clover one year, wheat on lay, pease, or oats, fallow again and sow turnips.”—

“The following are the modes of tillage.—For a fallow turn the soil about March, turn fallow in May, or early in June, lay on lime, and harrow it in; plough in August, lay on muck about Michaelmas, or early in October, and sow wheat as early as may be. In this, however, they are too apt to be remiss, and they often trifle away their most precious season. For barley on a wheat stubble, they plough about Christmas, and lay in the seed in April. For oats one ploughing; for peas one ploughing, provided the land be sufficiently fine, otherwise twice.

“Sowing is generally performed in broad-cast: wheat in the proportion of a bushel and a half, if sown early; two bushels, if sown late, upon a statute acre: barley two bushels and a half; rye one bushel and a half, pease one bushel and a half, oats two bushels and a half; clover seed, if the land is meant to lie two years, or for seed, ten pounds an acre; if for one year only, eight pounds, and generally two gallons of rye grass.”\*

“The average product, or returns, are these:—wheat on the low lands from ten to fifteen bushels per statute acre; rye from ten to fifteen ditto; barley from fifteen to twenty-five ditto; peas from fifteen to twenty-five ditto; upon some particular spots we may venture to increase the average.”†

The reaping hook, or sickle, is the instrument commonly used for cutting the corn; but the scythe and cradle offer such advantages in point of expedition, that, though now but partially introduced, they cannot fail in time to be universally adopted. The other agricultural implements may be very

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briefly

\* Jones's Brecknock, I. 315. 16.

† Ib.—317. but Mr. Jones observes that the average here given is that of the low lands; the average on the upland farms is incredibly smaller.

briefly dismissed. With the exception of a few farms, where a lighter English plough has been introduced, the instrument in general use, called here by this name, is formed after the rude and clumsy model of a primitive age; and offers some apology for the enormous power commonly applied to draw it through the groaning earth. When the present writer made his last tour of this county in the autumn of 1811, he had the opportunity of beholding, in some instances, six large horses, in others six oxen, yoked to a plough, to turn a dressed summer fallow, which would have offered scarcely any resistance to *two* of the number! And Mr. Jones, whose accurate local knowledge renders him an authority of peculiar weight in this case, states, that “the *usual* teams in tillage are four or five horses, otherwise six oxen, or four oxen and a horse!”

In candour, however, it must be added, that some of the Brecknockshire farmers are opening their eyes to the ruinous folly of this system, and reducing their ploughing team to a pair of horses, driven by the ploughman himself.

Carts and waggons are employed upon the farms over the greater part of the county; but in some of the mountainous districts the Welsh car, or sledge, which is drawn by one horse, is still retained.

There is little variety in the manures here employed. The most common are yard-muck and compost; but sufficient attention is not paid to increase the quantity of this valuable article, by an enlightened system of littering and soiling, in well constructed straw yards. Lime is much used in some districts, and might be applied with great advantage to the improvement of the cold peat soils, in the northern parts of the county, could it be procured at a moderate charge. But the length and difficulty of carriage operates as a prohibition to the occupiers of these lands, who are able to do little more than “live from hand to mouth.”

The lands not subjected to the plough, which compose a  
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very large proportion of this county, may be ranked under the two classes of natural meadows, and commons, which are appropriated to sheep walks. The produce of the natural meadows, excepting in some favourable situations on the banks of the Usk or the Wye, is not very luxuriant. Considerable pains are taken on many farms to increase their fertility by top dressings; and, where circumstances admit, by irrigation. The peat soils, already described, present extensive meadows called in Welsh *rhosydd*. These grow a species of short hay, (significantly denominated *gwair mân*,\*) which the farmer gathers for the winter fodder of his horned cattle; for the horses will not feed upon it. Some idea may be formed of the minuteness of the blade, when the reader is told that in some cases it cannot be removed unless in baskets or large sheets, provided for the purpose.

The commons in the lowlands are gradually disappearing. Some have already been inclosed and brought under cultivation, and measures are now in progress, to obtain the inclosure of several others. But the extensive mountain ranges must still be ceded to their numerous flocks of sheep, which spread a living whiteness over their dark summits, and give animation to the scene.

The following remarks on this important class of our domestic animals, as exhibiting some novel and interesting traits, are extracted, without apology, from the historian of Brecknockshire. After observing that the dispositions of these animals vary in different parts of the kingdom, he proceeds:—"In England they are docile and domestic;—they may there be confined by inclosures, and are patient of controul;—they are driven into their nightly folds without difficulty, and collected without labour by the shepherd;—while ours in Wales resemble their aboriginal masters in manners, and their mode of life. While they are depastured in fields and lowlands, and have boundaries prescribed to them, they have a mischievous activity,

\* "Small hay."

tivity, which baffles human ingenuity to correct. Place them on a mountain, where they are apparently free, and may roam whither they please, and they stick to a favourite spot, as if they were surrounded by a wall. After they have been accustomed to graze upon a particular part of a mountain, if they are not disturbed when at rest at nights, they are prisoners by choice, and cannot be removed from thence without difficulty. This is perfectly well understood by the proprietors of sheep in this country, who sometimes avail themselves of their knowledge, in a very artful manner:—when there is a right of inter-com-moning, which is frequently the case here, the shepherd who wishes to prevent a new flock from depasturing on the same bank or hill, with those called the *old settlers*, comes at the dusk or in the middle of the night, rattles some stones which he carries in his pocket, throws up his hat, or takes up clods, and throws them about him in all directions. This, one would suppose, disturbs his own sheep, as well as his neighbours': it is, indeed, particularly disagreeable and unpleasant to both; but the new settlers not being so much accustomed, and of course not so attached to the spot, give up the walk, and leave it in the sole possession of the old occupiers.

“There are also some other traits in their character, deserving of notice. When they are first driven to the hills from the low grounds, the old sheep, with that affection, which is, however, not peculiar to this animal, mount to the highest eminence, and leave, or rather confine, the yearlings, and youngest, to the lowest part of the hill, shewing them by their conduct; perhaps informing them in their language, that they are not so capable of enduring cold, as those who have been accustomed to a more bleak and elevated situation. It is very certain also that Providence has implanted in them, for the preservation of their species, a *presentiment* of the approach of hard weather, particularly of snow, sometimes so fatal to them. A day or two before it falls they are observed to avoid the ditches and other situations where drifts are likely to be formed; and



and sometimes, though seldom, they have been known to quit the hills entirely, to overleap all inclosures, and to come down into the vales, a day before a storm commenced.

“There is also a peculiarity (as it is said) in the sheep bred in Glamorganshire, when sold and delivered into Brecknockshire, which is very remarkable: but, incredible as it appears, it is attested by the universal voice of those who are conversant with this species of traffic. They assert positively, that if a lot of sheep be brought from the former county into the latter, the purchaser is obliged to watch them, for a considerable time, more narrowly and with greater care, than the other part of his flocks. They say that when the wind is from the south they *smell it*; and, as if recognizing their native air, they instantly meditate an escape. It is certain, whatever may be the cause, that they may be descried sometimes standing upon the highest eminence, turning up their noses, and apparently snuffing up the gale. Here they remain as it were ruminating for some time; and then, if no impediment occurs, they scour with impetuosity along the waste, and never stop until they have reached their former homes. Perhaps when we recollect the numerous instances that have been related of dogs, horses, and other animals, returning from immense distances, to their accustomed habitations, and native plains, this may not appear altogether so marvellous.”\*

The horses and the horned cattle of this county, as well as its sheep, are small. The farmers are attending to the improvement of the former both for the saddle and for agricultural purposes. For the latter kind they have given preference to the Suffolk punch breed, which they are crossing with their own. The cattle they are improving by crosses from the Glamorganshire and Hereford breeds, but principally from the latter.†

The value of land must necessarily vary materially in different parts of this county. In the mountainous districts, particularly

\* Jones's Brecknock, I. 321, 322.

† Ib. 319.

particularly in the hundred of Builth, many farms let at about six or seven shillings an acre, and some of the poorest as low as three shillings. In the vales the average price may be from fifteen shillings to a guinea an acre, and in the neighbourhood of towns rises as high as three or four pounds.

There is no general system pursued as to the lettings. Some landlords let at rack rent; others grant leases, commonly for seven, fourteen, and twenty-one years, but some of the great proprietors give leases of three lives.

Many of the improvements, which have for several years past been gradually introduced into this county, have originated in the attention and labours of the Society, which was instituted at Brecknock in the year 1755, by some gentlemen of property and influence, for the avowed purpose of encouraging agriculture and manufactures, in their native province. Its proceedings respecting the latter subject will be hereafter noticed. Their first efforts were directed to promote the culture of turnips for sheep and cattle, by the offer of proper and adequate premiums for the best crops; and the consequence has been the general introduction of this very useful vegetable: it has also succeeded in promoting the more extensive growth of clover and potatoes. The rewards at present offered by this institution are confined to the following objects:—"the cultivation and improvement of rough land overrun with fern, broom, furze, or heath; draining boggy soils; sowing, hoeing, and drilling, turnips; sowing turnip seeds, rye, winter vetches, or coleseed, as spring fodder for sheep; top dressing turnips, young clover, or grass land with peat ashes; sowing clover, acorns, ash-keys, chesnuts, beechmast, and other timber trees; raising hawthorn plants, and prickly holly plants fit for transplanting; improving the plough, and lessening the number of horses or oxen used in tillage; encouraging women to reap wheat; rewarding men and women servants in agriculture, for their good behaviour, and continuance for a length of time in the same service; discovering a receipt for the destruction of vermin; and for

for the improvement of the breed of horses, cattle, and swine.”\* These are objects of unquestionable importance to encourage; and it may be hoped, that the society will find its benevolent and patriotic exertions attended with increasing and accelerated success.

**MINERALOGY.** The mineral treasures of Brecknockshire, are neither very numerous nor very rich, but the materials of which the greater proportion is composed are of the first importance. The Rev. Walter Davies, in his communication to Mr. Jones on this subject,† classes the strata, which he observed in his survey of this county, into five principal species. The first, in the order of his enumeration, is argillaceous shale, or schist, which is found of various degrees of compactness. Next to this occurs what is in this country called *Pennant* stone; this is also laminated, and is used for the purpose of tiling houses. Proceeding southward the lime stone stratum appears; which degenerates towards the south west into a stone resembling *chert*. The chert, as it rises from the calcareous substratum, gets more and more siliceous, until it becomes a perfect *Burr*, which in this district is used for millstones, and the hearths of furnaces. The fifth species in this classification is described as a siliceous free stone, occasionally intervening between the Burr just mentioned, and the iron stone.

The chief objects of attention, however, in this department, which this county affords, are its lime stone, coal, and iron ore. In order to give a clear idea of the position and the quantity of these materials, that are found here, it will be proper to notice a curious and important paper in the Philosophical Transactions,‡ drawn up by Mr. Edward Martin of Swansea; a gentleman whose extensive experience in mining entitles his observations on this subject to much weight. By giving a connected view of his hypothesis in this place, the reader will be the better prepared to understand the details, that may hereafter

\* Jones's Brecknock. I. 309.

† *Ib.* 761.

‡ Vol. 96. p. 342. et seq.

hereafter be introduced respecting the mineralogy of this and of the other counties, to be described in the present volume.

Mr. Martin states that all the coal, iron ore, and lime stone, in South Wales, are comprised in a tract of territory, of an irregular oval form, stretching directly east and west for the distance of one hundred miles, from Pont y pool in Monmouthshire, to St. Bride's bay in Pembrokeshire; the average breadth of which he estimates at from eighteen to twenty miles, in the counties of Monmouth, Glamorgan, and Caermarthen; but, in Pembrokeshire, only at from three to five miles. This he denominates a mineral bason. The exterior stratum or boundary is composed of a bed of limestone, and within this are contained all the strata of the other materials which are found in these counties. According to Mr. Martin's map, the inside line of this boundary takes the following course:—On the north it commences in Pembrokeshire, at the north east angle of St. Bride's Bay; and, inclining with a gentle curve to the south eastward, passes by Haverfordwest, Picton, Templeton, towards Laugharne, where it enters the sea. It emerges again on the other side of Caermarthen bay, takes a north easterly direction by Kidwelly, and over the Great Mountain towards Llandybie, which is its most northern position. It now resumes its southeasterly direction, passes over the Black mountain, towards the head of the Swansea canal, near the village of Ystradgunlais in the county of Brecknock; and proceeds in nearly a direct line east, by Bryn Oer to Llangattock Crickhowell, in the same county. Its direction now changes to the southward; and, taking nearly a semicircular sweep, it passes by Pont y pool in Monmouthshire to Risca, Castell Coch, above Cardiff, Llantrissant, Newton Down, and Margam. Here it enters the sea, but rises again near the Mumbles below Swansea, pursues its course through Gower, towards Llanmadock hill, crosses Caermarthen bay, towards Tenby, whence it proceeds by Ivy Tower to St. Bride's bay,

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at the distance of from three to five miles, from its northern line before described.

With respect to the position of the several strata Mr. Martin states the following facts: "On the north side of a line, that may be drawn in an east and west direction, ranging nearly through the middle of this basin, all the strata rise gradually northward; and on the south side of this line, they rise southward, till they come to the surface, except at the east end, which is in the vicinity of Pont y pool, where they rise eastward.

"The deepest part of the basin is between Neath, in Glamorganshire, and Llanelly, in Caermarthenshire; the upper stratum of coal here does not extend a mile in a north and south direction, and not many miles in an east and west direction; and its utmost depth is not above fifty or sixty fathoms.

"The next stratum of coal, and those likewise beneath it, lie deeper and expand still longer and wider; and the lowest, which are attended with parallel strata of iron ore, of which there are, in some situations, about sixteen, accompanied by irregular balls or lamps of iron ore, occupy the whole space between Llanmadock hill, near the entrance of Bury river, to Llandybie, from the Mumbles to Cribarth, from Newton Down to Penderyn, from Castell Coch to Castell Morlais, and from Risca to Llangatock, and in length on the south side of the basin from Pont y pool through Risca, Tinkwood, Llantrisant, Margam, Swansea Bay, and Cline Wood, to Llanmadock hill, and on the north side through Blaenafon, Ebbwy, Sirhowy, Merthyr, Aberdare, Aberpergwm, Glyntawe, Llandybie, and the Great Mountain to Penbrey hill nearly Llanelly in Caermarthenshire, and their depths are at the centre range of strata from 6 to 700 fathoms.

"The strata of coal and iron ore, running from Penbrey hill, through Caermarthen bay, and Pembrokeshire to St.

Bride's

Bride's Bay, are only a continuation of those in the counties of Glamorgan and Caermarthen, which lie next to, and parallel with, the north side of the bason, all the remaining strata rising southward; and the middle ranges on the north side of the bason are lost, between where they meet the sea near Llanmadock hill, and the south of Penbrey hill, in their course towards Pembrokeshire, in consequence of a contraction of the sides of the mineral bason; or rather by its becoming shallower; for in Pembrokeshire none of the strata of coal or iron ore lie above 80 or 100 fathoms deep; consequently all those which do not lie above 5 or 600 fathoms, in Glamorganshire and Caermarthenshire, have not reached this county, by reason of the bason not being of sufficient depth and width to hold them.

“The strata of coal at the east end of the bason, running from Pont y pool to Blaenafon and Clydach, and on the north side from thence to Nant y Glo, Ebbwy, Beaufort, Sirhowy, Tredegar, Rumney, Dowlais, Penderyn, Plymouth, Cyfartha, Abernant, Aberdâr, and Hirwaun, Furnaces, and iron works, are of a cokeing quality, and from thence the whole strata of coal to St. Bride's Bay, alter in their quality to what is called Stone coal (the larger of which has hitherto been used for the purposes of drying malt and hops, and the small, which is called culm, for burning limestone;) the several strata of coal from Pont y pool, on the south side of the bason, through Risca Llantrissant, Margam, Cline wood to Bury river, Llanelly, and the south side of Penbrey hill, are principally of a bituminous or binding quality.”

Owing to the mountainous nature of the country, or rather through the operation of the same causes that produced its numerous hills and vallies, great irregularities are found in the courses of the several strata, which are in some places thrown hundreds of acres from their natural position. The principal of these irregularities, called by the miners *faults*, occur at

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Cribarth,

Cribarth,\* a remarkable limestone rock in the upper part of the vale of Tawe, where the strata are perpendicular to the plane of the horizon ; and at Dinas Rock, near Pont Neath Vaughan, in the vale of Neath, where the same appearance occurs.

With respect to the several proportions, in which the minerals are found in the counties that contain this bason, Mr. Martin ascribes the largest share to Glamorganshire, the next to Monmouthshire, afterwards in regularly diminishing quantities to Caermarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, and Brecknockshire, which contains the least of any.

“The strata of coal and iron ore in the last named county, which are the lowest in the bason, break out northward, and only take place in the three following distinct spots ;—viz. 1st. from Twrch river (which is the boundary between Lord Cawdor and Charles Morgan, Esq.) across the river Tawe, and the Drim mountain to the great forest of Brecon. 2nd. A corner of ground from Blaen Rumney, to the north of Bryn Oer. 3rd. Another spot, from Rhyd Ebbwy and Beaufort iron works, through Llwyn y Pwll, near Tavern Maid Sur, to where it joins Lord Abergavenny’s mineral property.”

The order of the several strata on the eastern extremity of the bason in this county, are thus given by Mr. Jones,† from the communication of friends :—“Clay pins and useless stuff about sixteen feet thick. Soft roof rock about three feet. Yard coal three feet. Mixture of coal and fire clay fifteen feet. Rock, very strong, and blackish, about eight feet. Iron mine in pins, imbedded in quar about five feet. Fire clay from

\* Antiquaries have been puzzled to discover the etymology of this name, but the appearance of the place to which it is applied seems to offer a very simple and easy explanation. *Crib*, is the Welsh for a *comb*, and *garth*, which in *regimine*, as in *Pen arth*, and other words, drops the *g*, is the name appropriated to a particular description of mountains. *Crib-arth* is, therefore, *comb-hill* an appellation correctly descriptive of the broken summit of this singular mass.

† Hist. of Brecknock, II. 766.

from nine to twelve feet. Coal one foot thick, about eleven feet above, big coal scarcely worked. Some quar and clay nine feet. Blackish rock roof to coal about two feet. Coal six feet. Quar nine feet. Iron mine spotted vein best ore, about four or five inches. Thin vein of coal scarcely worked. Quar, clay, and pins of iron mine, fifteen feet. Building rock about three feet. Quar four or five feet. Iron mine, rock vein about two inches and a half. Quar and pins six feet. Iron mine red vein about four inches. Quar and pins of iron mine about thirty feet. Iron mine yellow vein about three inches. Quar and pins of iron mine about six feet. Iron mine called big vein, about four inches. Coal two feet. Base line consisting of geld rock, shivery and useless."

The deep vallies which occur in this country, and intercept the strata of minerals in various directions, almost to their base, enable the miner to come at the object of his search by horizontal passages, or levels, driven into the hills. Along these he forms a regular road for carriages of a particular construction, which are sometimes drawn by hand, but of late most commonly by horses or mules. One considerable advantage attending this mode of mining, is, that the level acts also as an effectual drain, and supersedes the expensive apparatus of fire engines, &c. commonly so indispensably necessary to preserve works of this description from inundation. In some situations, however; where the nature of the ground, or the position of the strata, does not allow of the former method, perpendicular shafts, with the requisite machinery, are employed: and this plan must hereafter be more generally resorted to, when it shall be found necessary to work the lower strata, which in many places lie beneath the level of the deepest vallies.

About a century ago, Mr. Edward Llwyd examined the coal and iron mines of this county; but was not rewarded by the discovery of any thing very remarkable or really curious. "The slate," he observes, "above the coal, afforded only



stalks of plants, which we did not save, as it seemed impossible to reduce them to their several proper species; however, close by the pits (at Llanelly) we found a very valuable curiosity, viz. a stone, for substance like those they make lime of, of a compressed cylindric form, and as it were cut off at each end; about eight inches long, and three in breadth; its superficies adorned with equidistant dimples; in each dimple a small circle, and in the centre of each circle, a little stud like a pin's head. This is the only curiosity of the kind I have seen, and is not referrible to any thing of the kind I can think of in the mineral or vegetable kingdom.

“ Among the iron ores of the same hills we found some new spars, and several specimens of ores, shot into constant and regular figures, though not reducible into any animal or vegetable bodies.”\*

The general quality of the limestone in this county may be seen from the following analysis of two specimens, the first found on part of Abercynrig, near Brecknock, the second, at Ffrwdgrech. The former, on account of the larger proportion of oxyde of iron, is the best for water cement.

#### ABERCYNRIG LIME.

Carbonate of Lime (parts in a hundred).....	77·8
Water.....	4
Argill, Silex, with a small portion of Oxyde of Iron, and a trace of Sulphuric acid.....	21·57

#### FFRWDGRECH LIME.

Carbonate of lime.....	91·9
Water.....	5
Argill, Silex, and Oxyd of Iron, with a trace of Sulphuric acid	17

The variations in the proportions of the component parts in the other specimens are not very material.

In the enumeration given above of the strata of minerals on the eastern confines of the county mention was incidentally

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made

\* Philos. Trans, Vol. XXVII, p. 467.

made of Fire clay. This valuable substance (*Argillum Leucargillum*) is found of the best quality at Dinas Rock, near Pont Neath Vaughan, and on a tenement higher up, near the village of Penderyn. The former is the property of Dr. Bevan, a physician of Neath, the latter of the Rev. Watkin Price of Llanguke in Glamorganshire. Considerable quantities of this material are conveyed down by the canal to Neath, for the use of the furnaces in that neighbourhood, and also for exportation.

Some lead ore has been occasionally discovered near the same spot, and also above the village of Coed y Cymmer, near the road from Merthyr Tydvil to Brecknock; but not in sufficient quantity at either place, to remunerate the labours of the miner. There have been observed, likewise, some indications of the existence of this metal in the upper part of the hundred of Builth; no hopes are now cherished, however, of finding a vein of sufficient consequence to be pursued with adequate advantage, in a district so remote from the marts of commerce, and so very difficult of access.

Copper is not wholly unknown in this county. Several lumps were discovered a few years ago, near its northern boundaries, on the banks of the Wye, which induced some ineffectual attempts to search for a regular vein or stratum. The project has now been abandoned, as hopeless.

**MINERAL SPRINGS.** Several springs, possessing medicinal qualities, have been discovered in different parts of this county; but only a few of them have acquired any degree of celebrity, beyond their immediate neighbourhood. The first that may be ranked in the latter class, occur on a tenement called the Park, a short distance from the town of Builth, and consist of three springs of different properties, Saline, Sulphurous, and Chalybeate. Owing to their near contiguity, and the want of proper care in the workmen, employed some years ago in erecting a building on the spot, for the accommodation of visitors, their waters have united and intermixed. At present,

sent, therefore, they are of doubtful and uncertain application, in the cure of diseases, and are little frequented by valetudinarians. But the water which is highest in repute, is that of Llanwrtyd,\* on the banks of the Irvon, in the upper part of this hundred, called, in the language of the country, Y Ffynnon Ddrewllyd, or the stinking well.

A comfortable mansion, formerly the residence of a respectable family, is opened here for the accommodation of the numerous visitors, who flock in the summer season, from all parts of the kingdom, to try its healing virtues. The sanative qualities of this spring were first discovered in the year 1732, by the Rev. Theophilus Evans, vicar of Llangamarch, in this county. "Being then worn out by a radicated scurvy, of many years' continuance, and very near a leprosy, so that his blood and juices were all tainted, he was casually informed of this then reputed *venomous* spring. His curiosity led him that way, which, by the smell, he could easily find out without a guide: he sat on the brink of it a long time, dubious what to do. As he was thus musing, and revolving in his thoughts what he had best do, a frog popped out of the bottom, looked cheerfully, and as it were invited him to taste the water. He then immediately concluded that the water could not have any poisonous quality, because of that creature living so comfortably there, and took a moderate draught, about half a pint or more, without any concern or dread of danger."†

Finding no ill effects from this trial, Mr. Evans continued to use the water, jointly with some medicines, and occasionally applied it externally to his body; and the result was that in two months he was "made perfectly whole," though his case had been judged incurable. From experience this water is now ascertained to be of equal efficacy with that of Harrowgate in

F 2

scurbotic

\* Llan wrh Rhyd, the church by the ford.

† Jones's Brecknock, II. 223, from Mr. Evans's own account, published at the time in the St. James's Chronicle. Mr. Evans was Mr. Jones's grandfather.

scorbutic and scrophulous complaints, and is found particularly useful in ulcers, and foulness of the skin. It acts powerfully as a diuretic. A commodious warm sulphur Bath has lately been erected here, which greatly assists the effects of the internal use of the water.

It is rather singular, considering the proved efficacy of this water in various complaints, and the number of persons who resort to it for relief, that no correct and satisfactory analysis of its component parts has yet been given to the public. Sulphur is obviously the principal material which it holds in solution. All that we know of its chemical properties beyond this is, that it contains also a small proportion of iron, mineral salt, magnesia, and fixed air.

Dr. Blenkinsop, a physician of Abergavenny in Monmouthshire, had the well opened to examine its source. On removing the stones in the channel, a stratum of black turf was observed, about twelve inches in depth; below this was a stratum of dark coloured clay, with a mixture of marl, which was succeeded by a bed of gravel. As the water did not appear to spring from under the gravel, it was resolved to deepen the pit, when it was seen to boil up. The apprehension of stopping its course obliged him to desist from farther examination. He states his opinion, however, to be that it rises perpendicularly through a morass. The water he describes as transparent, and as sparkling when first poured into a glass: it is remarkably soft, and unites freely and intimately with soap. With regard to its medicinal properties, he observes that it sits easy on the stomach, and passes quietly through the kidneys: that it is a fine diuretic, and may therefore be useful in nephritic complaints, where a stone is not confirmed; and concludes with noticing its successful application in the cure of inveterate scurvy.\*

The

\* Gentleman's Magazine, Vol. XLIV. p. 471. It is much to be wished that some competent person would oblige the world with a more full and scientific

The praises of this spring have been sung by a poet of no mean talents, who, while he adopts the language, seems to have caught the inspiration, of Horace. The following classic "Ode to Llanwrtyd," cannot be denied a place in these pages without injustice to their author :

Nympha, muscoso latitans in antro,  
 Quæ sacros servas latices salubrem  
 Temperans fontem saturosque vivo  
 Sulphure rivos.

Te mero gratus violisque dono  
 O ! potens ægrum renovare pectus  
 Callida atq ; imæ implicitum medullæ  
 Pellere virus.

Dives undarum tibi cedit Hermus,  
 Sit licet multo pretiosus auro,  
 Ire, nec supra celebres timebis  
 Nomine Baias.

Perge solari miseros medendo,  
 Sic tuas parcat violare lymphas  
 Imber hybernus, nec iniqua fontem,  
 Hauriat æstas.\*

## F 3

## The

account of the chemical properties of this valuable spring. The present writer is indebted for the above particulars of its medicinal virtues to his much esteemed friend Dr. Davies of Caermarthen, whose eminent professional skill gives peculiar weight to his opinion.

\* Mr. Jones (Hist. of Brecknock, II. 226,) correctly ascribes this ode to Lieut. Col. Thomas of Cwr y Waun, near Llangattock, in the county of Caermarthen, who belonged to the 6th regt. foot, and was killed at the siege of the Havanna. The copy from which it is here printed, which varies in a word or two from that given by Mr. Jones, was found several years ago, without a name, by the author of this volume, among the papers of a revered relative deceased, who had for many years frequented this place, and whose classic taste would lead him to prize a composition which so ably sung the virtues of his favourite spring. The translation

The following English version is from the pen of another Cambrian bard :

Sweet Nymph, thou goddess of the mossy cave,  
 With sulphur temp'ring this soft-flowing wave,  
 Whose sovereign virtues roseate health bestow,  
 And bid the cheek with wonted vigor glow ;—

With off'rings meet I hail thy Sylvan shrine,  
 With purple vi'lets and with holy wine :  
 Thy springs salubrious matchless pow'r contain,  
 To cleanse and purify each tainted vein.

Hence golden Hermus, once the poet's theme,  
 Shall yield the palm to thy more precious stream :  
 And Baia's Baths, though raised by fame so high,  
 The muse foretells, no more with thee shall vie,

Continue still t'exert thy healing pow'r.—  
 So may no summer's sun, or winter's show'r,  
 With beams unkind thy gentle waters drain,  
 Or with foul floods thy crystal bosom stain.

**MANUFACTURES AND COMMERCE.** It has been already observed that the Brecknockshire Society, instituted in 1755, contemplated the encouragement and promotion of manufactures, equally with the improvement of agriculture and rural economy. As the county produced large quantities of wool, it formed one part of their plan, to have this staple commodity wrought into cloth at home ; and they thought it might besides be practicable to introduce the cultivation of flax, and to establish linen as well as woollen manufactories. With the view of effecting these patriotic objects, several very judicious regulations were framed by the society. Methods were suggested to afford every facility to the general introduction of the necessary machinery, and suitable premiums were proposed,

tion here given, which accompanied the original, and which also varies from Mr. Jones's copy, bears the name, and is inserted with the permission, of a gentleman, whom the present writer is happy to call " his own friend, and his father's friend ;" W. Davies, Esq. of Cringell near Neath.

posed, to promote the manufacture of yarn, both linen and woollen, and also of woollen cloth. But laudable as were its purposes, and judiciously as its measures seem to have been planned, its success fell very far short of what it might rationally have anticipated. Its projects in respect to the manufacture of linen appear to have completely failed; and the present state of the woollen manufacture of the county but too clearly evinces the result of their labours on this head. "We now," says the historian of Brecknockshire,\* "submit to export our wool, in order that it may be carried two or three hundred miles; when, after paying for converting it into cloth, part returns back at an expense, two thirds of which might have been saved if we employed our own workmen, who proceed no farther in this process than merely weaving the manufactures of private families, into what are called *hammerewe*, half wove, or raw cloth, sometimes seen at our fairs and markets. These are rolled up into pieces of from twenty-six to thirty-two yards long, and about one yard and a half broad, the prices from 27s. to 4l. 10s. per piece; they are afterwards carried into England, and there milled and dyed."

The Iron works of this county form, however, an object of more importance. Most of these lie on the borders of Monmouthshire. The first is at Llangrwyne, in the parish of Llangenau, originally erected by Mr. Walter Watkins of Dan y graig, in Llanelly. They are on a small scale, and now form an appendage to the works of Messrs. Fothergil, Monkhouse, and Co. at Sirhowy in Monmouthshire, being chiefly employed in manufacturing the pig iron brought from thence, into bars, by the old process of hammering.

The next works are in the vale of Clydach, in the parish of Llanelly. These, which have existed about two hundred years, owe their establishment to one of the Hanbury family, of Pont y pool; and now belong to Messrs. Frere, Cook, and Powell, who are conducting them with much ability and

\* Jones's Brecknock, I. 292.

spirit. There are here two blast furnaces for smelting the ore, and two forges for converting the pig iron into bars. The raw material is obtained at the distance of about two miles, and conveyed from the mines by means of tram roads, and inclined planes. This establishment employs generally about four hundred hands.

There is another iron manufactory of about the same extent, in the parish of Llangattock : this is called the Beaufort works, and belongs to Messrs. Kendall, and Company. Although the number of blast furnaces and of forges, (two of each,) is the same here, as at the Clydach works, the number of hands employed does not usually exceed two hundred and fifty. The ore is raised at the distance of half a mile, and conveyed, as in the former case, by tram roads.

The other works on this side of the county are situate near the source of the Rumney river, on the borders of Glamorganshire. They were established by a company of adventurers from Bristol, who, not finding them succeed to the extent of their expectations, disposed of them to the late Mr. Crawshaw of Merthyr Tydvil. This gentleman afterwards transferred a part of the property to his son-in-law Mr. Hall, who still retains his share, and takes an active part in the management of the concern.

The minerals for all these works is supplied from the estates of the duke of Beaufort, who receives at this time from the several proprietors an annual rent of about two thousand pounds.

The only works that remain to be noticed are those at Hirwaun, in the parish of Penderyn, at the southern extremity of the county. This is the oldest establishment of the kind in this district, having been erected about the year 1758, by Messrs. Maybery and Wilkins, of Brecknock. A few years ago they were taken by Messrs. Bowzer, Oliver, and Overton. These gentlemen, flattered by the then promising aspect of affairs, commenced an extensive plan of improvement,



provement, with the view of embracing all the advantages which the situation seemed to offer. But the reverse which has befallen the iron trade generally throughout the kingdom, and a combination of other circumstances arising from the state of the times, have operated to check their progress before the capital, which had been embarked with so much spirit and judgment, could be brought to yield the returns that might have been fairly calculated upon. This has necessarily proved a mortifying result to the parties, and eventually a very severe calamity to the neighbourhood. The works comprise two blast furnaces, two fineries, with casting houses, a forge capable of rolling from 80 to 100 tons of iron per week; besides a capital blast engine, of Bolton and Watt's improved construction, and other appropriate machinery. They are very eligibly situated, within a convenient distance of water carriage to the ports both of Neath and Cardiff, and the mines that pertain to the property, and which are mostly held on very advantageous leases under lord Bute, are of great extent and of superior quality. It is to be hoped that every obstacle will soon be removed, and these works again flourish, were it only on account of the numerous labouring poor, whom they have long furnished with employment.

It has been observed above, that the oldest of the iron works in this county do not date their origin back above two hundred years. There is reason, however, to believe, from several masses of scoria, usually called here *Roman cinders*, which are found in various parts of the hundred of Crickhowell, that some mode of manufacturing iron must have been practised in this district, at a period long anterior to the erection of any furnaces on the modern plan. An intelligent manufacturer,\* and competent authority in the case, has remarked, that "the most ancient way of reducing the iron ore, was with charcoal in a kind of smith's hearth, called a bloomery, vestiges

\* Mr. Frere, one of the proprietors of the Llanely works, in a communication to Mr. Jones. Hist. of Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 767.

ges of which, in heaps of imperfectly fused scoria, in which a considerable part of the iron remained unreduced, appear upon most of the exposed knolls and points, adjoining the iron stone strata, and some at considerable distances from them. These heaps are generally unaccompanied by any vestiges of buildings, and some of them, though in situations where they cannot well be supposed to be diminished by subsequent circumstances, are so small, in many instances hardly the refuse of one ton of iron, as to make it probable that in early days a farmer or two and their servants, assisted perhaps by some itinerant of this branch of metallurgy, set up their rude and inartificial iron work, and made, as occasion required, a few pieces of iron for their own and their neighbour's use: when more iron was wanted, some other spot was thought more convenient for obtaining the fuel or ore, and the apparatus was at most a hammer, an anvil, and perhaps a pair or two of moveable and portable bellows; though probably the wind alone, directed by screens, or some contrivance similar to that found in use in Peru, a long ditch cut up the slope of a hill, and covered with stones, turf, and earth, forming a kind of reclining chimney, gave the requisite intensity to the fire." "Beyond this, there is little in these reliques worth notice, except as shewing the imperfect state of the art, by which so large a portion of metal was left in the scoria, and the very low state, or rather total want, of commercial intercourse in those days; for when a farmer found that to quit his daily employment and turn metallurgist was an *easy*, it must certainly have been the *only* mode of procuring the iron he wanted."\*

A tolerably correct idea of the nature and extent of the commerce of this county may be formed from what has been said in respect to its agriculture and manufactures. Wool constitutes

\* In Mungo Parke's Travels, 8vo. p. 425, et seq. is a singular account of the process of making iron among the Negroes in the interior of Africa, which the curious reader may consult. Compared with the process above described, the African has greatly the advantage.

stitutes a chief article among its exports. Some part of this staple commodity is wrought into the narrow cloth before described, and some manufactured into stockings, and in these forms conveyed for sale to the English markets. Considerable quantities of iron, in different states, may also be enumerated as an important article under this head. But, notwithstanding the amount of the commodities thus sent out of the county, there is reason to believe, and we have in this case only conjecture to aid us, that when the numerous articles imported in the endless forms and varieties of shop goods, &c. are taken into account, the balance of trade will be found to be against it. The commerce of the county is, however, daily growing in importance, and the facilities for its advantageous extension are constantly multiplying. A mail coach passes this way regularly on its route towards Milford, and there is a stage coach several days in the week, which passes through Brecknock on its way from Caermarthen to Hereford. There are also waggons established along all the principal roads, connecting with others that branch off to every part of the kingdom. But one of the most important improvements which have of late been effected in the commercial intercourse of this county has been the formation of its canal. The act passed in the year 1793, for cutting a canal from the town of Brecknock to join the Monmouthshire canal, near Pont y pool. It was begun in 1796, and in 1800 was completed from Llanelly to Brecknock, so as to enable the inhabitants to receive their coal fuel from the pits in the neighbourhood of the former place. Considerable delay occurred in carrying the work forward towards its completion. In the autumn of 1811, when the present writer rode over the ground, it had not joined the Pont y pool canal, but the workmen were busily engaged in effecting this object; and, since this period, some time in the course of the last year, (1812,) the whole was completed, and the communication opened by water from Brecknock to the sea. This canal is ten yards in width, with a depth of four feet and

a half of water, and is navigated by barges of twenty-five tons' burden. In the distance from Brecknock to Newport there are in all forty locks, and the entire fall in that extent is three hundred and ninety-nine feet.\*

The southern divisions of this county, bordering on Glamorganshire, derive considerable advantage from two other canals, one from Swansea along the vale of Tawe, which pervades a part of Brecknockshire in the parish of Ystradgunlais, and one from Neath, which is connected with it by means of a tram road. By the former it is enabled to dispose of its stone coal, which is conveyed to Swansea for exportation, and also its limestone from Cribarth, which is purchased in considerable quantities by the farmers on the line of the canal, for manure and other purposes. By the latter the valuable fire clay found at Dinas, and elsewhere in the parish of Penderyn, is carried to a profitable market at Neath.

It is now time to enter on the more minute topographical description of this county. In proceeding with this survey it will be impossible, from the nature of the country, and the various ramifications and intersections of its public roads, to lead the reader along any one regular route that shall bring him acquainted with the numerous objects of curiosity, worthy his attention, which it contains. A desultory tour must, therefore, be pursued, which, while it will conduct him to the principal towns, and over all the main roads, will also allow of occasional excursions, to explore places and remains, in many respects interesting and important, which occupy less frequented situations, and are less known. We shall, then, commence our journey by entering the county from the eastward, along the beautiful vale of Usk, and proceed in this direction towards Brecknock, the metropolis of the shire. The first object on this road that claims attention, is the little town of

CRICKHOWELL,

\* Jones's Brecknock. I. 300.

## CRICKHOWELL,

which is pleasantly situated on a rising ground near the banks of the river Usk, at the distance of thirteen miles from Brecknock.

There is nothing in the appearance of the buildings to indicate any very remote origin to the place; but the circumstance of its being nominally a borough town, with privileges of unknown date and derivation, prove it to be of no very modern erection, and also evince its having derived at one time considerable comparative importance from its trade and manufactures. It is governed by a bailiff, who is annually chosen; but the chief duty of this officer, is to collect the burgage rents for the lord of the manor, and the tolls appointed to be paid at the fairs and markets. The town hall, or the apartment so denominated, is erected over the market place. Here the lord of the manor holds his courts for the lordship of Crickhowell; but sometimes, as occasion may require, the seat of judgement is degraded to the uses of a prison. There are here two markets in every week, in every respect well supplied; and one fair in the year, which is held on the twelfth of May. The population of this parish, according to the parliamentary returns for 1811, amounted to 643 persons. From the same document it appears, that the number of houses at this period was 137, which were occupied by 138 families.

The parish church in this town is an object of some interest. At present it is cruciform, having a chancel, nave, and two transepts. Its entire length is 113 feet, and its greatest width 47 feet 8 inches. The transepts are named after two estates in the neighbourhood, to which they probably appertained formerly, as private chapels. The rood loft is still entire, but has nothing remarkable in its construction, to recommend it to the notice of the curious. This church is considerably reduced in size, from what it was originally. In the year 1765, the church wardens obtained authority to demolish two side  
7  
aisles,

aisles, which then belonged to it, in order to raise money from the materials, for repairing the other part of the structure. These side aisles were ornamented with the insignia of the several trading companies of the borough, carved in wood, of which not a vestige now remains;—nor has any other of its ancient characteristics been suffered to escape the transforming touch of the modern repairers, besides a lancet window, with three divisions, which is over the principal entrance at the west end. The tower, which contains five bells, is remarkable, as being the only one in the county surmounted by a spire. The chancel contains some ancient monuments, commemorative of illustrious families that once gave importance to this neighbourhood. There is one on the south side, exhibiting a mutilated figure of a knight, raised to one of the Pauncefoots, and another on the north side, bearing two alabaster figures, which the inscription underneath informs us, are the effigies of Sir John Herbert, of Dan y Castell, and his lady.

The old custom, now so generally discontinued, of singing carols in the church at cock crowing, or the earliest dawn of the morning, on Christmas day, is still continued here, but must be considered as entitled to almost any other appellation, than a *religious* rite. The date of the erection, and the name of the founder of this edifice, are equally unknown. It is dedicated to that holy martyr of sainted memory, distinguished more by his miracles when dead, than by his valour while living, Edmund,\* king of East Anglia, whose feast is held here regularly, the Sunday after the 20th of November.†

At

\* Edmund, in the terrible irruption of the Danes through the eastern parts of England in the year 870, was taken prisoner by the Danish general Ingwar. After being fettered and severely beaten, he was tied to the trunk of a tree, and whipped. In this situation the Danish soldiery covered his body with their arrows; and at last, to close the tragedy, Ingwar himself severed his head from his body. The monkish historians re-

At the western extremity of the town, adjoining the road to Brecknock, there are some fine remains of a castellated mansion of one of the Herberts of this place. They consist at present of an old Gothic gateway, and part of the wall which appears to have surrounded the palace inclosure. This now bears the name of Cwrt y Carw, or the Stag's court.

A short distance out of the town, to the eastward, stand the ruins of the castle, which, though of no great extent, are rendered venerable to the sight by the Ivy that embosoms them. The present remains are confined to a tower, in one of the angles, and a lofty artificial mound, on which probably once stood the keep.

Mr. Jones‡ has inserted a sketch of this castle, taken from a survey in the duke of Beaufort's library at Badmington, made in the 29th Elizabeth, which furnishes some idea of its original external form, and shews it to have been pentagonal. It was then, however, in a dilapidated condition. The whole of the area included within the walls, was eight acres, of which the castle with its courts occupied about two acres and a half. The date of the erection of this fortress is not ascertained. It was probably the work of some of the early Norman

late that, after treating his body with every mark of indignity, they threw it into an adjoining thicket. Some years subsequently, when the retreat of the invaders gave them leisure and security, his pious subjects sought for his remains, in order to have them reverently interred. The body they soon found, but the head was undiscovered, when "there happened a wonder not heard of in any age before;—for whilst they dispersed themselves in all parts, and each one demanded of his companions, where it was the Danes had cast the head, *the same head answered them aloud, in their own tongue, Here, here, here!*" This miracle led them to the right place, where they found the head guarded by a wolf, who held it between his forefeet; but quietly relinquished his trust to the searchers. This, however, is only the beginning of a series of miracles, equally astonishing, and equally credible! See on this subject Cressy's "Church History of Brittany,"—under the history of St. Edmund.

† Jones's Brecknock, II. 426

‡ Ib. I. 164.

man settlers in this country, and designed as a frontier bulwark against the chieftains of Gwentland.

In the partition of Brecknockshire by Bernard Newmarch among his followers, the district of Crickhowell was allotted to Sir Humphrey Burghill:\* but whether it included the ground on which the castle stands, is uncertain. About this period we find a considerable portion of the lands in this neighbourhood in the possession of one of the Turberville family, who were introduced into Wales among the followers of Robert Fitzhammon; and it may reasonably be conjectured that this edifice owed its erection to one of these lords.

By marriage with the heiress, this property, including the manor and castle of Crickhowell, passed, some time during the reign of Henry the third, to Sir Grimbald Pauncefoot, of whose family little is known in connection with the affairs of this county. It appears to have remained, with a few temporary interruptions, in his descendants until the reign of Henry 6th. Having become vested in the crown, it was granted, by Edward 4th, among other estates, to Sir William Herbert,† who was afterwards created earl of Pembroke. The granddaughter of this nobleman, to whom the property had devolved, after the death of her father, conveyed it, together with the other immense possessions of her family, to Sir Charles Somerset, afterwards raised to the earldom of Worcester, from whom it has descended to the present owner, the duke of Beaufort.‡

A little to the eastward of Crickhowell stands the church of Llangeney, or Llan Genau, the church of St. Cenau. This saint is said to have been one of the numerous family of Brychan, although her name does not appear in the catalogue of his children, inserted in this work. The church is mentioned here, with the view of noticing a remain of a singular kind which was discovered in the neighbourhood some years ago, and

\* See above p. 19.

† Dugdale. Baron. Vol. II. p. 256.

‡ Jones's Brecknock, II. 447.



and which is thought to have ascertained the site of the original oratory or chapel. On a farm, called Pen y daren, was dug up a small bell, having four sides or faces: the height from the mouth to the handle or cray, by which it was suspended, is eleven inches. Its circumference at the upper part, is seventeen inches, and at the mouth twenty-four inches. It weighs at present twenty pounds, without the clapper, which has not been discovered.\*

The most wonderful miracles ascribed to this saint, are the transmutation of the serpents, which infested the lands allotted to her for her settlement, into stones of that class called *cornu ammonia*; and communicating to the water of certain springs, called after her name, properties perhaps of questionable utility.†

There is another relic of antiquity in the same neighbourhood, concerning the origin and use of which antiquaries have not yet agreed. This is one of that class of ancient monuments called Meini Hroni, or Long Stones. It consists of a single upright stone, about thirteen feet in height. From its situation on the borders of the county, it is with much probability conjectured to have been erected to mark the boundaries of the different properties.

Before we proceed with our route towards Brecknock, it will not be an uninteresting digression to pass over the long and narrow bridge of Crickhowell, rendered romantic by that dilapidation which cannot but inspire the passenger with sensations of fear, and make a short circuit through the parishes of Llanelly and Llangattock, on the opposite shore of the Usk. The neat village of

### LLANGATTOCK

is enlivened by the appearance of a few gentlemen's houses in the neighbourhood, that form pleasing ornaments to the rich and

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delightful

\* Jones's ubi supra, 467.

† That which ever of two newly married persons, should first drink of the water, should rule the house during life! Cressy Book, X. chap. 14.

delightful landscape which this spot exhibits. Those more particularly entitled to notice, from the beauty of their situation, and the prospects they command, are Glanwysc, the seat of Fredrick Fredricks, Esq. Llangattock Place, formerly the residence of Admiral Gell, to whose taste it owes most of the improvements it has derived from art; Dan y Park, which lies to the eastward of the village, and Dan y Graig situated still farther down the vale. Just below the last of these mansions opens the little but romantic vale of Clydach, in which is placed one of the iron works, already noticed. The Brecknock Canal is carried over the river Clydach by an aqueduct of a truly tremendous appearance, being no less than eighty feet in height above the level of the stream. In ascending this vale there once occurred two cataracts, which, although not equal to several others in this county, to be hereafter noticed, were yet well worth visiting. The lower, which no longer exists, the water having been diverted by the rude hand of the miner, was named Pwll y Cwn, or the Dogs' Pool. The upper fall, which yet remains, is called y Pistyll Mawr, or the Great Cascade. It is romantically embosomed in a luxuriant wood, and exhibits some of the most beautiful features of this class of picturesque objects.

The parish of Llangattock has acquired some historical celebrity from the great battle fought on the hills of Carno, in the year 728, between the Saxons and the Welsh.\* The scene of this sanguinary conflict is marked by two large collections of stones, or carnau, one of which, on being examined, was found to contain a cist-faen † which is now generally understood to indicate a place of sepulture, and this may have contained the body of some British leader who fell near the spot in the defence of his country.

Recrossing

\* See above, page 16.

† For the information of readers not versed in British antiquities, it may be observed that Cist Faen signifies literally Stone Chest; and the name is descriptive of the thing, for it consists of four upright stones placed at right angles, with a fifth laid over them as a cover. These have often been found to contain human bones.

Recrossing the Usk, and passing through Crickhowell, the object that claims our first attention is a very remarkable ancient fortress, called

### CRUG HYWEL,

or Howell's Mout, which has transmitted its name successively to the town, and likewise to the hundred. This is an entrenched camp of nearly a triangular form, occupying the summit of a very high hill about two miles to the northward of the town. The inclosed area is 510 feet in diameter in one direction by 240 feet in another. The surrounding ditch is of great depth, and excavated with prodigious labour out of the solid rock. Neither the author nor the date of this work is known. Mr. Strange\* conjectures it to have been of Roman construction: but Mr. Jones † justly observes, that it bears no resemblance either as to situation or form to the camps or fortresses of that people; and scruples not to assert its claims to a British origin. As it is distinguished by no remarkable historical events, it can be little interesting to ascertain the derivation of its name. Who this Hywel was the chronicles of the age do not inform us; and it would be a waste of time on such a subject to enter on any investigation of conjectural probabilities.

At a short distance, to the north west of the town, lies an elegant mansion called

### GWERNVALE,

the seat of Mr. Everest. The present house is of modern erection, but its predecessor of the name, now occupied by a tenant, was formerly the residence of a family of the name of Progers, once of considerable weight and respectability in this county. In default of male issue the estate fell to a female descendant, and by marriage became the property of Dr. Samuel Croxall, whose name has been familiarized to the youthful reader by his translation

\* Archæologia, Vol. IV. p. 19.

† Hist. Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 436.

tion of Æsop's Fables. Dr. Croxall was born at Walton upon Thames, but in what year is not known. He received the first part of his education at Eton, and afterwards became a student of St. John's, Cambridge. As a clergyman he succeeded in obtaining at successive periods several valuable preferments and lucrative offices; and it has been thought that he would have been made a bishop had not his avowal of his whig sentiments in too open and pointed a manner, and probably with too little regard to *persons* and *places*, given offence to some of the ruling authorities. His literary talents were of a very respectable order, but he did not employ them upon topics calculated to secure for him permanent reputation. His theological writings consist of some single sermons; an Introduction to the Study of the Old Testament, under the title of Scripture Politics, designed for young persons; and a poetical work in a dramatic form, intituled "The Fair Circassian," in which he had the *hardihood* to *profane* the Song of Solomon, by paraphrasing it into an amatory dialogue between a king and his mistress, a circumstance which drew on his head the anathemas of some of the clerical brotherhood.\* He wrote also some political pieces, both in prose and verse, which, being grounded on temporary matters, have perished with the parties and the subjects to which they owed their birth. But the work that has chiefly contributed to the preservation of his name, is his version of Æsop's Fables above mentioned, to which he added some pertinent observations, though not always very elegantly expressed, by way of moral inferences. Gwernvale was only his occasional residence, his numerous public duties requiring his frequent attendance in the metropolis. He died on the 13th February, 1752, at an advanced age. †

Opposite

\* The following is the rebuke of Mr. Cragg, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, contained in some "*Spiritual Poems*."

Cursed be he that the Circassian wrote,  
Perish his fame, contempt be all his lot,  
Who basely durst in execrable strains,  
Turn holy mysteries into impious scenes!

† Biog. Brit.

Opposite to Gwernvale, adjoining the road to Brecknock, is, or more correctly was, a Cromlech, consisting of a very large flat stone laid in a slanting position on five others placed upright in the ground, so as to form three sides of a parallelogram—the end facing the north being open. The purpose for which these ancient erections were originally constructed has not been ascertained. Antiquaries have, therefore, amused their fancies with conjectures on this head, which, as usual in such cases, have widely differed from each other, and been equally unsupported by historical or other evidence.

A remain, probably of the Roman period, lies within a short distance of this spot in a field by the road side, which is noticed by Gough in his edition of Camden.\* It once bore an inscription of which TURFILII is all that is now legible. Formerly it stood in an upright posture fixed in the ground; but at present it lies prostrate on the earth.

Mr. Jones† ascribes its fall to the following circumstance: “Some strollers, who had seen the stone as they passed, conceiving that a penny might be made of it, applied to the farmer at Ty yn y wlad, [the farm in which it is situated,] to know if such, describing it, was not found somewhere in the neighbourhood, pretending to be deeply read in the Book of Fate, and that by their art they had discovered that under it, at the depth of one yard, was concealed an immense treasure, which no person could remove or possess, but the occupier of the land whereon it stood. Being answered in the affirmative, a few circles, crosses, and triangles, were drawn, and magical words mumbled, when the attempt was directed to be made precisely at twelve at noon, with the strongest assurance of success. The poor people were credulous enough to believe them; and in the mean time, as the conjurors had provided a fortune for the farmer, while he and his servants were employed in the work,

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they

\* Vol. III. p. 103.

† Hist. of Breck. V. II. 434.

they took care of their own, by removing every thing valuable and portable out of the house."

We must now quit the main road to Brecknock to make a short excursion to the northward to visit the picturesque ruins of

### TRETOWER.

The original name of this Castle is not known. Mr. King in his *Munimenta*, anglicizing its present appellation, calls it "Three Torr," implying that it had three towers, which etymology Dr. Malkin,\* rather unaccountably for a writer of his general accuracy, has adopted. It will sufficiently invalidate this conjecture to observe, that from a view contained in a survey taken in the reign of Elizabeth, (now in the Badmington Library,) an engraving of which has been given by Mr. Jones, it appears that this castle had then four towers, one at each angle of the square enclosure, and of these that now remaining was considerably the largest. The fact is, that the name of the fortress itself being lost, it was designated from the town or village in its vicinity, which was called Tre-twr, or Tre'r twr, literally the Town of the Tower.

This building is to be ascribed to an early period of the Norman occupation of the county, when the new settlers were obliged to trust their security to stone walls. It seems never to have held any considerable rank as a fortress, and is rather to be regarded as a castellated mansion. An opulent and powerful branch of the family of the Vaughans of this county take their name from this place, and were long its possessors. At present it is the property of the duke of Beaufort.

The Roman encampment, called the Gaer, in this neighbourhood,

\* *Scenery, &c. of South Wales*, 4to, 1804, p. 238.

hood, has been already described.\* Quitting then this spot, and pursuing our route towards Brecknock along the turnpike road, a very extensive British encampment presents itself to our attention, situated on the top of a hill between the road and the river Usk, and called

### PENMYARTH.

It is of a circular form ; but, unlike most military works of this class, it has no exterior defence except a slight wall of uncemented stones. Probably it was deemed to possess, from natural situation, sufficient strength to repel any hostile attack.

There is another British remain of a similar kind at a short distance to the northward, within the same parish : and on the opposite side of the Usk, on the summit of a hill called Trevil Glas, or Tir voel glas, may be seen some carneddau, or sepulchral heaps of loose stones.

Resuming now the Brecknock road, we ascend to a pass in the hills called by its proper British name Bwlch, which commands a prospect of great extent, and varied beauty. The traveller may here regale his eye with a retrospective glance of the rich and delightful country through which he has thus far ascended the vale of Usk, for a considerable distance into Monmouthshire, while before him opens a panoramic view of the wilder and more diversified scenery of Brecknockshire, terminated in almost every direction by its bold and lofty mountains, and filling him with anticipations of the pleasures that await him as he proceeds.

At the foot of this hill on the Brecknock side occurs

\* See page 5,

## BUCKLAND,

The seat of Thynne Howe Gwynne, Esq. The mansion takes its name from the ancient designation of a considerable district, within which it is situated, once celebrated for its deer. The first house erected here was built by Mr. Meredith James, who probably obtained the property by purchase. It fell afterwards by marriage with the heiress to Mr. William Jones of Ty Mawr in this hundred, who died here in 1661. After passing successively into the hands of different collateral branches of this family, the estate was purchased by Mr. Roderick Gwynne, whose son, the present proprietor, built the house which now forms the family seat.\*

## NEWTON,

in this parish, at present a farm house, has acquired some celebrity from having been, two centuries ago, the residence of two brothers of the name of Vaughan, a branch of the Tretower family. Thomas Vaughan was of Jesus College, Oxford; and, having taken orders, was inducted to the living of Llansaintfread. Being deprived by the "Propagators of the Gospel, in Wales," who acted under the authority of the Parliament, he devoted his attention to chemistry, to which he united the study of Judicial Astrology and Magic. Wood † gives a catalogue of his writings, which sufficiently indicate the objects of his literary pursuits. He died 27th of February 1665. Henry Vaughan, his brother, practised medicine as a physician. He is the author of two poetical pieces, which are but little known. They contain, however, some passages worthy of preservation. The following

\* Jones's Brecknock. Vol. II. p. 539.

† Athenæ Oxon. Vol. II. p. 253.



following couplets from his *Olor Iscanus*, or Swan of Usk, given in Mr. Jones's work, as they relate to a local subject, may be allowed a place here :

“ May thy gentle Swaines like flowers  
 Sweetly spend their youthful hours,  
 And thy beauteous nymphs like doves  
 Be kind and faithful to their loves,  
 Garlands and songs and roundelays,  
 Mild dewie nights and sunshine days.  
 The turtle voice, joy without fear  
 Dwell on thy bosom all the year.  
 May the evet and the toad  
 Within thy banks have no abode,  
 Nor the wily winding snake  
 His voyage through thy waters take  
 In all thy journeys to the mayne.  
 No nitrous clay, or brimstone veyne,  
 Mix with thy streams ; but may they pass  
 Free as the air, and clear as glas :—  
 And where the wandering chrystal treads  
 Roses shall kiss and couple heads ;  
 The factour winds from far shall bringe  
 The gathered odours of the springe,  
 And loaden with the rich arrear  
 Spend them in spicie whispers here.” \*

On the opposite bank of the Usk is situated

### MAESMAWR,

the seat of George Lewis, Esq. This property once belonged to a family of the name of Jones, lineally descended from Bleddin ap Maenarch, of which one branch settled at Buckland, as stated above. One individual of this family, Mr. Jenkin Jones, an elder brother of Mr. William Jones of Buckland, deserves some commemoration from the prominent part he acted

in

\* Jones's Brecknock. II. p. 540, et seq.

in this county during the civil dissension in the reign of that unfortunate but weak and arbitrary prince, Charles the First. The Parliament, partly from the attachment of many of its members to the Presbyterian form of church government and discipline, but chiefly from its suspicions of the king's design to establish Popery, and its fears of the assistance the bishops might afford him towards the accomplishment of his object; having abolished episcopacy, and appointed local commissioners to superintend the introduction of the new form of worship set forth in the "Directory," Mr. Jenkin Jones was, among others, appointed to this trust in the county of Brecknock. Did the plan of this work admit of such details, much that is interesting might be related of the transactions which took place here upon this revolution. Considering the violence and rancour of party spirit which actuated both sides, it is indeed extremely difficult to determine with accuracy how much ought to be believed of the accounts transmitted to us by the historians of the times. That some of the agents of the Parliament were men of loose principles and profligate lives is very probable, as they might have found it convenient in particular cases to select such persons for the execution of their mandates; and that many of the clergy who were driven from their livings were ornaments to their profession cannot for a moment admit of doubt; while it is apparent, from the circumstances of the case, that most or all of them, thus deprived of their chief or only means of livelihood, were, with their families, reduced to extreme indigence and distress. But the dispassionate inquirer of the present day cannot yield unhesitating faith to the highly coloured pictures of personal oppression and iniquity which some writers have given us of the conduct of the "Propagators of the Gospel," as they were officially denominated. Nor will he, without some scruple and reserve, receive for historical truth the caricatured delineations, especially, which Walker has given of these affairs in his "Sufferings of the clergy."

Mr. afterwards called Colonel Jenkin Jones, has received his full

full share of the odium which the episcopal party has thrown on all the ministers of the Parliament in this work. His office was from its nature ungracious and oppressive; and he may in particular instances have exercised his authority with unnecessary rigour, and an unfeeling disregard of the sufferings of the deprived incumbents; but, as far as appears, there is no evidence to fix upon him the enormities with which he has occasionally been charged. He was an enthusiast in the principles of his party; and, like most enthusiasts, suffered his principles to lead him into extravagant and culpable extremes. It is related of him, that he used to have his sheep milked in the parish church, in order probably to evince his contempt of the ceremony of consecration, which was one object of the attacks of the Presbyterians. When informed of the landing of Charles the Second he is said to have "mounted his horse, rode through the churchyard, and, discharging a pistol at the door of the church, to have exclaimed with great bitterness and agony of mind, 'Ah, thou old whore of Babylon, thou'lt have it all thy own way now.'" The historian of Brecknockshire adds, "the mark of a pistol ball perforating one of the doors, certainly appears at this moment, and in some measure corroborates this story."\*

He was a man well connected in the principality, and married into the powerful family of the Mansels in Glamorganshire. At the commencement of the civil wars, he had raised among his relations and tenants, and completely clothed, accoutred, and provided, at his own expense, a troop of horse, consisting of one hundred and twenty men. After the restoration his property was confiscated.

His son was sheriff of Brecknockshire under Oliver Cromwell, but on the restoration was removed; and his predecessor, Mr. Edward Williams of Gwern y figin,† whom he had supplanted, was replaced in the office.

After

\* Jones's Brecknock. Vol. II. 527, 528.

† Idem, p. 528.

After passing the church of Llansaintfread, or St. Bridget on Usk, which contains a few old monuments of the Jones's of Buckland, we come upon

### SCETHROG HOUSE,

the residence of John Jones, Esq. one of the oldest seats in this part of the county. The present mansion is of modern erection; the old family seat, at present called the Tower, being occupied by a farmer. The place derives its name from Brochwel Yscythrog, one of the grandsons of Brychan. After the Norman conquest of Brecknockshire the property fell into the hands of one of Bernard Newmarch's followers, of the name of Pitcher, whose descendants held it for several generations. Having frequently changed proprietors by marriage and otherwise, it was obtained at last by the present owner by purchase.

On the road side, near Scethrog, is a stone mentioned in the additions to Camden. It is of a cylindrical form, about three feet and a half in height above the ground, and bears an inscription greatly obliterated, of which the word VICTORINI, in rude characters, is alone legible, or at least intelligible.\*

Nor must we omit to mention another relic of elder times within the adjoining parish of Lanhamlwch, which has afforded materials for the exercise of the conjectural ingenuity of antiquaries. This is situated on the top of a hill called Mannest, not far from the road, and is known by the name of

### TY ILLTYD,

or Illtyd's house. The construction of this celebrated edifice is of the simplest fashion. Two large flat stones are placed parallel

\* Archæologia, Vol. IV. p. 15.

parallel to each other, upright in the ground, leaving an interval of about four feet; a third of a similar kind is placed at right angles with these, and reaching from one to the other. Over the whole is laid in a sloping position a large flag stone, about eight feet in length, which forms the roof, elevated about four feet from the earth. On one of the side stones are several rude figures, crosses, &c. of antique form and sculpture. The traditionary legend of the neighbourhood states this to have been the religious retreat or hermitage of the famous saint whose name it bears,\* where he is supposed to have improved his sanctity by austere discipline and mortification. Nor, indeed, can it be denied, that if want of household accommodation could contribute to the elevation of his piety, this place must admirably have suited his purpose, since it was impossible for him to have stood erect in it; and as a dormitory he could not fail to find it sufficiently inconvenient. But unfortunately for all the fancies to which it has given birth, the slightest inspection must convince every observer that this holy dwelling is nothing more than a British Cromlech, similar in every essential particular to its brethren of the same class, but inferior to many in the principality in size and consequence.

### PETERSTONE,

The seat of Thomas Harcourt Powell, Esq. is a handsome mansion, delightfully situated on the banks of the Usk, near the church of Llanhamlwch. The house was built about sixty years ago by Mr. John Powell, the father of the present occupier, who had then recently purchased the estate; but it is erected on the site of the old house, which had long been the residence

\* St. Iltyd, or Iltudus, was the founder of a celebrated college in Glamorganshire; and a farther account of him will be given when that county comes to be described.

residence of a branch of the Walbieff or Walbœuf family, originally introduced into the county by Bernard Newmarch.\*

On the opposite shore of the Usk are some inconsiderable remains of

### PENKELLY CASTLE.

It is not known when or by whom this fortress, which was afterwards converted into a castellated mansion, was built. It seems never to have been of much importance as a place of strength, but derives some consequence in the neighbourhood from its extensive territorial dependencies. The estates have been successively held by the Mortimers, Despencers, Staffords, Devereux, and Herberts, and are now for the greater part the property of Thynne Howe Gwynne, Esq. of Buckland.†

The Roman baths in the adjoining parish of Llanfrynach have already been described.‡ Another remain of antiquity was discovered in the year 1808, near the same spot. “ In a field called Cae Gwin, (perhaps corruptly for Carn Gwin,) was an immense heap of stones or carn, which being cleared by the proprietor of the lands for the purpose of agriculture, at the bottom was found a cistfaen, or stone coffin, formed of four stones set edgewise, eighteen inches high, with a fifth at the top of them, but as usual without any inscription, and, which is rather singular, human bones, particularly fragments of the scull and the lower part of the *tibia*, terminating with the *malleolus*, were found, not only within the inclosure, but also in a more perfect state, and in greater quantity, upon the cover or lid. The side stones of this ancient and rude sepulchre were of that kind used for foot pavements, called flags; they were

six

\* Jones's Brecknock. II. 579.

† Idem, II. 592.

‡ Page 10.

six feet in length, three feet across at top, and two feet six at the bottom, where the stone placed across had been so far driven in by the superincumbent weight, (as I conceive,) as to reduce the length of the inclosed space to four feet five. The bottom was of pure earth, which evidently never had been dug up or removed; and the covering stone, still more rude and shapeless than the sides, was of a bluish rock or river stone, in general of about half a foot in thickness.”\*

Having glanced at these several objects, the traveller may now be conducted across the Usk to the main road, and introduced without farther delay to the town of

### BRECKNOCK,

the metropolis of the county. This place is delightfully situated at the confluence of the Honddu, a wild and rapid rivulet, with the Usk, which, with this accession of waters, becomes here a majestic stream. It is from this junction of the two rivers that the British name of Aberhonddu, by which the town is known to every Welshman, is derived.†

Sir Richard Hoare has justly observed that “few towns surpass Brecknock in picturesque beauties: the different mills and bridges on the rivers Usk and Honddu, the ivy-mantled walls and towers of the old castle, the massive embattled turret and gateway of the priory, with its luxuriant groves, added to the magnificent range of mountain scenery, on the southern side of the town, form, in many points of view, the most beautiful, rich, and varied outline imaginable.”‡

The town itself, however, though possessed of all these advantages

\* Jones's Brecknock, II. 599.

† It may be proper to inform the English reader here, once for all, that Aber signifies the confluence of two rivers as in this case, or the junction of a river with the sea, as in Abertawe, Aberystwyth, &c.

‡ Hoare's Giraldu, Vol. I. p. 42.

vantages of natural situation, is very irregularly built. There are a few tolerably good streets, and several handsome private houses, occupied by very respectable and opulent families. The public walks hold a principal rank among the accommodations and attractions of the place. One lies along the shore of the Usk, under the old town wall, and commands a fine view to the southward of that river; the other is of a more sequestered character, being laid out with great taste through the priory woods, which overhang the Honddu, and add greatly to its romantic beauties.

The entire length of the town, including the suburb of Llanvaes, has been estimated at one mile, and its greatest breadth at about four hundred yards. It was once surrounded by a wall, defended at equal distances by ten towers of various forms and construction. On the eastern side, this wall was farther protected by the river Honddu, which separated it from the castle, on the southern by the Usk, and on the northern by an artificial excavation, which may yet be traced. Leland intimates that this was intended to divert a part of the Honddu this way so as completely to insulate the place.\* The entrances were through five gates, placed at the principal thoroughfares. Of these two still remain.

The town contains three parishes: St. John the Evangelist, and St. Mary; and St. David's, on the opposite side of the Usk, which is here crossed by a long narrow bridge. According to the last Parliamentary returns in 1811, the number of houses was stated to be 757, and the population 3196 individuals. There are here at present no manufactures of consequence. Hats form the chief article in this department, after which some inferior woollen cloth, already noticed,† may be enumerated. The late completion of the canal promises to give fresh life and vigour to its trade by opening new markets, and

\* Ther apperith digging wher menne laborid to bring a peace of Hondy about to insulate Breckenock with hit and wiske. Itin. V. fol. 68.

† See above, p. 71.



and yielding increased facilities for the transportation of merchandize.

Brecknock is a borough town, and sends one member to Parliament. It is indebted for most of its civil distinctions to its contiguity to the castle, whose lords conferred upon it from time to time a number of exclusive rights and privileges, which served to create an accession of inhabitants, and to promote the increase and prosperity of their favourite settlement. These advantages, however, depending on the will of the lord, were of uncertain value, and held by a tenure which in many instances proved very precarious. But when the feudal authority of the baronial proprietors ceased, they were permanently secured by acts of Parliament. The charter, under which the corporation now exists, was granted in the second and third of William and Mary. By this it is provided that the borough shall be governed by a bailiff, aldermen, and common council, and other officers usual in corporate bodies. It confers some singular immunities, which, however, Mr. Jones pronounces to be null from their illegality, and their interference with the prior established rights of other places. "At present the number of capital and other burgesses in this borough are [is] nineteen; fifteen of whom, including the bailiff, recorder, and aldermen, are common councilmen. The present chamberlains are also burgesses, and have consequently votes in the election of a representative in Parliament." "The revenues now possessed by the corporation arise from the tolls, and sealing of leather, and produce about sixty-four pounds per annum, which are paid to the bailiff; but the expenses of his office far exceed this sum, so that he pays for his honours."\*

Among the remains of antiquity which this place affords,

#### THE CASTLE

demands the first notice, from priority of origin. It has already been stated † that the former metropolis of this district

II

was

\* Jones's Brecknock, II. 25.

† See above, page 20.

was at Caerbannau, where it continued till the defeat and overthrow of the last British regulus by Bernard Newmarch. The Norman leader, probably not deeming that situation sufficiently adapted for security in a hostile country, demolished the old town, and with the materials erected, about the year 1094, the Castle of Brecknock, which became afterwards the residence of his successors. To this period the origin of the town of Brecknock is also to be ascribed.

The castle occupied the brow of an abrupt hill on a point of land formed by the rivers Usk and Honddu, and on the western side of the latter stream. The present remains are inconsiderable. The principal part consists of the keep, which, from having been the prison of Morton, bishop of Ely, and the supposed scene of his important conference\* with the duke of Buckingham, has since obtained the designation of Ely Tower. Both the form and size of the castle have been ascertained from the ruins of the foundations, which may yet be traced. It seems to have been originally a parallelogram of one hundred yards in length by eighty yards in breadth, having two watch towers at each angle.† There is an appearance of a deep trench on the northern side, which Mr. Jones conjectures to have been designed to convey a part of the waters of the Honddu in that direction, so as to insulate the whole site of the castle. The principal entrance was on the western side, where, according to Speed, there was a bridge of two arches over the moat. There was another gate, the postern, on the eastern side, which communicated with the town by means of a bridge of two arches; once a drawbridge. Within the building stood a chapel dedicated to St. Nicholas,‡ which was served by the monks of the adjacent priory of St. John's.

The

\* See page 42.

† Jones's Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 106.

‡ William de Breos, it seems, laid unholy hands on some territorial revenues

The chief historical events and biographical memoirs which relate to this castle and its noble proprietors, have already been noticed as much at large as the nature of this work will admit. While the Lords Marchers retained their authority, this formed the seat of government for the lordship of Brecknock; but after the act of union had put an end to these *imperii in imperio*, and the property had escheated to the crown, its consequence ceased, and the building being neglected fell into decay. Part of it was at a subsequent period converted into a common gaol for the use of the county. During the disturbances in the reign of Charles the First, the inhabitants of Brecknock, to avoid the burden of a garrison, and the evils attending a fortified place in time of war, demolished the castle to nearly its present state, and rased the walls which surrounded the town.\*

H 2

Near

venues which had been granted for the purpose of remunerating the monks for their services at this chapel. This circumstanœ could not escape the animadversion of the zealous archdeacon Giraldus, who gravely relates the following story on the occasion :—“ A chaplain, whose name was Hugo, being engaged to officiate at the chapel of St. Nicholas in the Castle of Aberhodni, saw in a dream, a venerable man standing near him, and saying, Tell thy lord William de Breusa, who has the audacity to retain the property granted to the chapel of St. Nicholas for charitable uses, these words;— ‘ The public treasury takes away that which Christ does not receive; and thou wilt then give to an impious soldier, what thou wilt not give to a priest.’ The archdeacon immediately knew them to be the words of Augustine; and, shewing him that part of his writings where they were found, explained to him the case to which they applied. He reproaches persons who held back tithes and other ecclesiastical dues; and what he there threatens, certainly in a short time befel this withholder of them; for in our time we have duly and undoubtedly seen, that princes, who have usurped ecclesiastical benefices (and particularly King Henry the Second, who laboured under this vice more than others,) have profusely squandered the treasures of the church, and given away to hired soldiers, what in justice should have been given only to priests.” Hoare’s Giraldus, Vol. I. p. 26.

\* Grose’s Antiq. Sup. Vol. II. sub Breckn.

Near the castle, on a delightful eminence above the western bank of the Honddu, once stood

### THE PRIORY,

of which almost the only vestige now remaining is a portion of the wall that surrounded the premises. This religious house was founded and endowed in the reign of Henry the First, by Bernard Newmarch, for six Benedictine monks, as a cell to the Abbey of Battle in Sussex, and was dedicated to St. John the Evangelist. Its revenues were afterwards greatly augmented by liberal grants from several of Bernard's successors in the lordship, and also by private bequests, and were estimated at the dissolution, 26 Henry the Eighth, at 112l. 14s. 2d. according to Dugdale, or 134l. 11s. 4d. according to Speed's account.\*

The mansion house, † now called the Priory, pertains to the marquis of Camden, who makes it his occasional residence. His lordship's father obtained this property by marriage with the heiress, Elizabeth, the grand-daughter of Sir John Jeffreys. After the dissolution, it was possessed by the family of Price, from a branch of which Sir John Jeffreys had purchased it: Sir John Price, whose name first occurs in connection with this house, was a native of Brecknockshire; but the place of his birth

\* Tanner's Notitia, p. 700.

† "In this house, King Charles the First, after the battle of Naseby, dined with Sir Hubert Price, called the governor in the Iter Carolinum, and slept on the fifth of August 1645; and from hence he dispatched a letter to Prince Charles, then in Cornwall, preserved in Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, in which he seems clearly to foresee his fate, and advises his son to quit the kingdom and fly to France. The royal fugitive came, *in his way from Cardiff*, to Mr. Prichard's, of Llanca-yach, in Llantrissant, Glamorgan-shire, and from thence to Brecon in one day; on the 6th he dined with Sir Henry Williams at Gwern-yfed, and supped at Old Radnor."—Jones's Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 111, note.

birth is not known. He went to Oxford, under the patronage of the earl of Pembroke, and entered a student at Broadgates Hall.\* He took his first degree as bachelor of civil law in 1534; and it is affirmed that he was afterwards admitted doctor of both laws. On being called to the bar, he was introduced to the notice of the king, Henry the Eighth, who appointed him a member of his council in the Court of the Marches, a situation for which his local knowledge might well be supposed, in a peculiar degree, to qualify him. When the union between Wales and England was projected, Sir John Price acted a prominent part, and contributed in a considerable measure to bring it to a successful and satisfactory termination. The petition addressed to the king from the inhabitants of Wales, which formed the groundwork of the subsequent legislative enactments, has been attributed to his pen, and reflects great credit on his judgment and talents. He next appears in the number of the commissioners appointed by the crown to superintend the suppression of the religious houses, those within the county of Brecknock being assigned to his charge. The king having by grants invested him with the right of disposing, at his own option, of the revenues of those establishments, he took especial care, it seems, in the first instance, to provide for his own wants, and accordingly appropriated to himself the possessions of the Priory of Brecknock, and of nearly all the other religious foundations in the county. The honour of knighthood he probably received from Henry the Eighth. Neither the place nor time of his death has been accurately ascertained. Wood places his death in the year 1553; but York, in his Royal Tribes, assigns to it the later date of 1572.†

H 3

His

\* Broadgates Hall stood on the site of Pembroke college.

† Mr. Jones conjectures that Shakespeare was indebted for his humorous character of Sir Hugh Evans to Mr. Richard Price, the second son of Sir John Price, who was, it seems, a man of learning, and a frequent visitor at court

His principal literary productions consist of a Defence of the British History against Polydore Virgil, which was published shortly after his death by his son Mr. Richard Price; and a Description of Wales, prefixed to Powell's edition of Caradoc of Llancarvan's Chronicle: the topography of this sketch is extremely defective in arrangement; and from this circumstance, joined to the strange perversion of the names of places, is almost inexplicable to the best informed native; but it is also open to the more serious objection of being exceedingly inaccurate in its details. He was also the author of a Latin Treatise on the Eucharist, besides a translation into Welsh of the Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer, published in 1555.\*

The church of ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST occupies a part of the same eminence, and once appertained to the Priory. The present edifice owes its erection to Bernard Newmarch; but it is conjectured, from the Saxon font, and some other architectural relics of the same character, which are still preserved here, that it might only have been rebuilt on the site of another church, which had grown into decay.† Viewed from some distance this edifice exhibits rather a striking and venerable appearance; but, on nearer approach, the eye is offended by the tasteless labour of successive repairers, who have miserably deformed its exterior aspect, and rendered it almost impossible to trace the style of its original architecture.

As

court during the successive reigns of Edward the Sixth, Mary, and Elizabeth. The following brief notice of Shakespeare's model is given in Mr. Jones's work, [Vol. II. p. 115.] "Sir Hugh Evans was the protégé of our antiquary Sir John Price, and his son Richard, the latter of whom presented him with the living of Merthyr Cynog in Breconshire in 1572; he appears to have been a man of reading, and to have left what at that time must have been considered as a very valuable library. He died in 1581."

\* Bp. Humphrey's Additions to Wood, quoted in the Cambrian Register, Vol. I. p. 155.

† Jones's Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 27.

As far as this can be discovered, however, it appears to have been what is usually denominated the Gothic.

The church, as first constructed, was probably exactly cruciform; but considerable alterations were afterwards introduced by the formation of guild chapels in the interior, and the erection of private oratories on the outside. Some of these have now disappeared; but others yet remain to disfigure the main building.

The nave measures about 137 feet in length, by 29 feet in breadth. At the western end the transept is divided into two parts, that on the northern side, which now forms the entrance into the church, is called the Chapel of the Men of Battle, and measures thirty feet six inches, by twenty-nine feet; that on the southern side, called the chapel of the red-haired men, (the Normans,) is of the same breadth with the other, but extends to thirty-eight feet three inches in length.\* “The chancel (sixty-two feet three in length, by twenty-nine and a half in breadth,) is now divided from the body of the church by a gallery, formerly the rood loft;—this [like the nave] is ceiled and divided into compartments, adorned with paint;† yet time and his apparent adversary, though frequently too powerful coadjutor, innovation, have here failed in their attempts to efface entirely the ancient magnificence of the church of St. John the Evangelist in Brecon. On each side are seen three rows of light beautifully clustered columns, broken off just above the corbels, though they shew parts of the ribs springing to support the roof: these, I have no doubt, were continued through the whole nave; for though the ceiling, or rather flat covering of boards, studded with stars, which preceded the present, was of early date, I do not conceive it to have been coeval with the fabrick.”‡ The steeple, which is

II 4

a lofty

\* Jones's Brecknock. II. 29.

† The whole ceiling has been since whitewashed.

‡ Jones, ubi supra, Vol. II. p. 29, 30.

a lofty and massive structure, ten yards square within the walls, is raised over the centre or intersecting point of the cross, and has an appendage of six bells.

The church contains a considerable number of sepulchral monuments, some of them of ancient date, but there are none that merit description or specification in a work of this general nature.

Nearly in the centre of the town stands the church or chapel of SAINT MARY; for the ecclesiastical authorities have not been able to decide by which title it ought to be designated. The period of its erection has been assigned to the latter end of the twelfth, or the beginning of the thirteenth, century;\* but the data are not sufficiently explicit and authenticated to determine this point satisfactorily. The present edifice is probably of later date. The interior consists of two aisles: and at the east end there is a guild chapel, which once pertained to the worshipful company of Shoemakers. But the most remarkable part of the structure is the steeple, which is more ancient than the body of the church. It is about ninety feet in height, and has a very majestic appearance. Within are eight "musical" bells, as Mr. Jones styles them, "cast by Mr. Rudhall of Gloucester." There are no monuments here worthy the notice of the antiquary.

The consistory court for the archdeaconry of Brecknock is held in this church.

The parish church of ST. DAVID'S, called in Welsh Llanvaes or Llandewi yn y Maes, St. David's in the field, is situated in the suburbs, on the southern side of the Usk, and adjoining the great western road towards Caermarthenshire. It is a small and neat edifice, but contains no object of antiquarian curiosity.

CHRIST CHURCH COLLEGE is also situated in the suburb of St. David's, on the banks of the Usk, at a short distance from the bridge.

\* Jones's Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 93, on the authority of Carte's MSS. in the Bodleian.



bridge. The precincts of this establishment, which are extra-parochial, comprise, according to Mr. Jones,\* “the church, a dwelling house, the residence of two or three bishops of St. David’s, a barn and outhouses, a school room, with rooms above, a small cottage adjoining, two cottages formerly forming part of the porter’s lodge, three or four more on the western side of the road leading from the church, and five or six pieces of excellent pasture and meadow ground.”

The history of the original foundation at this place is not known. It is ascertained to have been a monastery of Black Friars,† with an appurtenant church dedicated to St. Nicholas. At the dissolution it shared the fate of other similar establishments, and was surrendered to the king, Henry the Eighth, by Richard David, its last superior.

The existing institution may be traced to a project, of Dr. Thomas Beck, bishop of St. David’s, who in 1283 had purposed to erect a collegiate church at Llangadoc in the vale of Towy, Caermarthenshire, to comprise twenty-one canons, to be appointed by the bishop of the diocese for the time being, who was to be entitled to a stall. This scheme was, however, frustrated by the bishop’s death. Nor does there appear to have been any attempt to revive it before the year 1331, when it was taken up by Bishop Gower, who, while he adopted the plan and arrangements of his predecessor, chose a different place for the institution, and established it near the episcopal palace at Abergwili. The prebends and other dignities were attached to certain churches, the incumbents of which were not, however, to be withdrawn or excluded from their cure of souls.‡

Every thing remained in this state at Abergwili till the year 1531, when Henry the Eighth, at the instigation of the then bishop of the diocese, removed the establishment to Brecknock, assigning

\* Hist. Brecknock. Vol. II. p. 726.

† Tanner’s Notitia, p. 700.

‡ Dugdale’s Monasticon. Vol. III. Eccles. Coll. p. 100.

assigning for its seat the suppressed priory of St. Nicholas, and granting for its support the lands and other property which had pertained to that house. The alledged reason of this removal is rather a severe stigma on the inhabitants of Brecknock, who were represented by their anxious diocesan as so illiterate and disorderly; as to require the presence of a religious society of this kind to inform their minds, and improve their morals. The establishment consists of the dean, who is always the bishop of the diocese, *ex officio*, a precentor, treasurer, chancellor, and nineteen other prebendaries.\*

The present college church is only sixty-three feet in length by twenty-four in breadth, and comprises merely the choir and chancel of the original edifice. This probably occupied the site of the present churchyard, and seems to have consisted of a nave and two side aisles, extending in its entire length one hundred and ninety-eight feet.†

No description exists of the old church. During the civil commotions in the reign of Charles the First, it fell a prey to the avarice and fanatical zeal of some of the republican party, who seized the revenues, together with the moveable property that pertained to the place, and demolished the greater part of the building itself. The portion now remaining was, after the restoration of Charles the Second, repaired at the expense of the prebendaries, under the direction of Dr. William Lacy, then bishop of St. David's.

There are a few old monuments here, the wreck of the former church, which may agreeably detain the antiquarian traveller for a short time: in the number may be enumerated a beautiful stone cross, of which a description, with an engraving, has been given by Mr. Jones.‡

Attached

\* Tanner's Notitia, 700.

† Jones's Brecknock, II. 733, whose authority is implicitly followed in all the admeasurements of the Brecknock edifices.

‡ Vol. II. p. 735.

Attached to this foundation is a grammar school, from which young men are ordained, without the necessity of graduating at either university.\* It is, at present, under the able direction of the Rev. Mr. Williams.

THE COUNTY GAOL, a modern erection constructed on Mr. Howard's well intentioned but injudicious plan, is within this parish, and stands near the road side at a short distance to the westward of the church of St. David's, by the little river Tarrell.†

Within the precincts of this parish are a few ancient mansions, once the hospitable abodes of some of the earlier gentry of the county, whose posterity are now either dispersed, or sunk into less distinguished ranks in life. The oldest of these houses is

HEOLVANOG, or more correctly Aelvanog, the lofty brow. This was long the property of the Havards of Cwrt Sion Young, in this county, and formed the residence of some of the junior branches of that family.

## FRWDGRECH

\* It was long the practice in South Wales to ordain all young men of unexceptionable characters who passed examination, seldom a very severe one, without any inquiries as to the place of their education. But Dr. Horseley, when Bishop of St. David's, in order to exclude the pupils of dissenting school-masters, established a rule to admit none for ordination who were not educated at certain episcopal schools, which were licensed for the purpose. The Brecknock school is one of these.

† There is one disgusting object here, which is really a most offensive nuisance to the public, and ought therefore to be removed. This is a standing gallows, erected near the prison, and close to the junction of the Glamorganshire and Carmarthenshire main roads, to which is appended a *portion of the cord* with which the last criminal was executed! It cannot surely be pleaded that executions are so frequent in this county as to render it necessary to have the instrument of death always ready for use? Such a memento of the sanguinary spirit of our criminal code can answer no good purpose as a preventive of crime, and may conduce to many bad, or at least to very unpleasant effects, stationed as it is here in a great public thoroughfare, where it must meet the eye of every passenger.

FRWDGRECH is another seat once possessed by this family. It afterwards became by marriage the property of the Lewises, a female branch of which family conveyed it in the same manner to Mr. Edward Williams, third son of Mr. Daniel Williams of Abercamlais. Edward, the son of the last named Edward Williams, was sheriff for the county of Brecknock in the year 1659, and rendered himself obnoxious to the ruling powers by presenting a memorial to the government in behalf of the deprived clergy, and reflecting on the conduct of the "Propagators" appointed by the Parliament. He was removed from his office on account of this proceeding, but reinstated at the restoration.

A third seat of the Havard family was NEWTON, which passed by marriage into that of the Games's descendants of Sir David Gam, one of whom, Sir John Games, erected the present mansion. It is now the property of the Reverend Richard Davies, archdeacon of Brecknock.\*

This parish having been chosen for his last residence by a man who stands deservedly high in the annals of Cambrian literature, it will be proper to make some mention of him before we take our leave of it; this was the celebrated Dr. John David Rhys, who has established a high reputation both as a poet and philologist. He was born in the year 1534, of obscure parents, at Llanfaethlu in the island of Anglesea, and educated at Oxford. What college he belonged to seems not to be certainly ascertained; but Christ Church is mentioned by Wood, whereof he is said to have become a fellow in 1555. Being patronized by Sir Edward Stradling, he went this year to Italy, and studied physic at Sienna in Tuscany, at that time much celebrated for its medical school. Here he took his degree of M. D. He appears to have distinguished himself in a singular measure by his proficiency in the Tuscan language, the most perfect dialect of the Italian, being honoured with the appointment of public

\* Jones's Brecknock, II. p. 716, et seq.

public moderator of the school of the neighbouring city of Pistoia. He published, probably during the time he held this office, a treatise on the Italian language, which however is not known in this country. After his return to England he pursued his profession with some reputation and success; and in the decline of life retired to a small tenement "of his own" called Clyn hir, in the parish of St. David's, situated under the Brecknock Beacon, and in the vicinity of the small lake of Llyn Cwm llwch, which has been already noticed.\* He gives the following reasons for his preference of this county for his retreat:—"because I believe from my soul that there is no part of the principality wherein the nobility, gentry, and commonalty, are more worthy, whose mansions are more stately, where the dainties and delicacies of the table are more sumptuous, and the people of all ranks more distinguished for the neatness of their apparel, their kindness, or their hospitality, than the inhabitants of the county of Brecknock."† He died a Roman Catholic in the year 1609, according to Wood; but Mr. Jones conjectures, from the word *uxor* and not *vidua* being inserted on his wife's tomb, that he must have been alive in the year 1617. His great work, which has obtained for him so high a rank among British antiquaries, is intituled *Linguæ Cymraecæ Institutiones*, or Institutes of the Welsh or Cymraeg language, published in folio in the year 1592. This performance displays in the author most elaborate research, a profound knowledge of the subject, and great acuteness and ability in the composition. Its great merit has rendered it extremely scarce.‡

Among the natives of Brecknock whose names are connected with the literary history of the country, we must not omit to notice Dr. Hugh Price, the founder of Jesus College, Oxford. He

\* Page 51.

† Translated by Mr. Jones, Vol. II. p. 720, from the original Welsh in Dr. Rhys's preface to his Welsh Grammar.

‡ Owen's Cam. Biog. Jones, *ubi supra*.

He was the second son of Rees ap Rees, (abbreviated Prees or Price,) y cigwr, who was a butcher, as this appellation intimates, at Brecknock. The father was a burges of the town, and acquired by trade a considerable property, which descended principally to his eldest son. Little is known of the early history of Hugh Price, which was probably past in academic seclusion. Mr. Chalmers \* states that he received his education in Oseney Abbey, Oxfordshire, under an uncle who was a canon of that house; but the assertion seems to rest upon unauthenticated report, transmitted without examination from one writer to another. Mr. Jones † very reasonably supposes that he is not likely to have had an uncle in such a situation, from the great obscurity of all his family, with the sole exception of his father, who had been the architect of his own fortune. He was admitted to the degree of doctor of civil law at Oxford in 1525: he was afterwards a prebendary of Rochester, and treasurer of St. David's. Having observed, and probably experienced, the inconvenience to which the natives of the principality were subjected, owing to there being no foundations at the university to which they could be admitted, at a late period of life, with the benevolent view of supplying this deficiency, he applied to Queen Elizabeth for permission to raise a college which he purposed to endow. A charter was in consequence granted, bearing date June 25, 1571, to erect one under the title or designation of "Jesus College, within the city and university of Oxford, of Queen Elizabeth's foundation;" which he was to endow with sixty pounds ‡ a year for the support of a principal,

\* History of the Colleges, &c. of Oxford, Vol. II. p. 392.

† Hist. of Brecknock, II. 123.

‡ Mr. Chalmers says 160l. Mr. Jones 60l. Which last is the amount specified in Dr. Price's will. Many liberal benefactions have been made to this college in after times. Among the curiosities it contains may be mentioned a "magnificent and capacious bowl" of silver, presented to it, as the following inscription intimates, by Sir Watkin Williams Wynn in 1732.

principal, eight fellows, and eight scholars. The money expended on the building during his life-time amounted to 1500*l.* and a farther sum of 300*l.* appropriated to the same purpose, was left in the hands of Sir Eubule Thelwal, who afterwards became himself a liberal benefactor to the establishment. The real estate which he conveyed for the use of the college consisted of a small tenement in the parish of Llanvihangel Nantbran in Brecknockshire, and a few houses in the town, which still pertain to Jesus College. His death probably took place in 1574, as his will was proved in Doctor's Commons the 31st of August in that year. The witnesses to this instrument being at that period resident in Brecknock, there can be little doubt that he died there, and was buried in the church of St. John's.\* He is not known as the author of any literary productions. The following memorial of him stands on one of the gates of Jesus College:—

Breconix natus, patriæ monumenta reliquit,  
Breconix populo signa sequenda pio.

Since

Oxon.

COLL.

JESU.

D. D. Watkin Williams Wynn de Wynnstay in Com. Denbigh, LL. D.  
olim hujus Collegii Socio-Commensalis, 1732.

“ It contains ten gallons, and is of the following weight and dimensions :

F. I.	
Height . . . .	1 0
Girth . . . . .	5 2

Oz. Dwt.	
Weight . . . . .	278 17

The ladle holds half a pint, and weighs 13 oz. 9 dwt.”—“ An emblem,” says the writer who has furnished this extract, “ not only of Welsh. but of college hospitality.” See *Oxoniana*, Vol. II. p. 240, a very amusing and instructive work.

\* Jones, *ubi supra*, Vol. II. p. 125.

It is presumed the reader will not object to the following extract, though it relates to the living. The well-earned fame of the subject of it,

Since this work was undertaken, the catalogue of the deceased worthies of this county, whom we purposed to notice in our progress, has been unexpectedly augmented by the death of

MR. THEOPHILUS JONES,

of Brecknock, who by his valuable services in the elucidation of its history and antiquities, has established a well-grounded claim to its permanent respect and gratitude. It gives us pleasure to insert here a brief memoir of this gentleman, furnished by a learned and esteemed friend of his, who had ample opportunities of knowing his private worth, and was well qualified to appreciate the importance of his literary labours.

“ Theophilus Jones, the ingenious and learned author of the History of Brecknockshire, was born October 18, 1759. He was the son of the Rev. Hugh Jones, successively vicar of the parishes of Llangammarch and Llywel in this county; and a prebendary of the collegiate church of Brecknock. His mother was one of the two daughters of Theophilus Evans, clerk, author of a brief Epitome of British History, intituled “*Drych y prif oesoedd*,” or “*A Mirror of Ancient Times*,” written in the Welsh language, and much admired by his countrymen. Some other

might hereafter, without such evidence, after a well known example, lead different places to contend for the honour of having given her birth.

“ In this street, (the high street, Brecknock,) at a public-house called the Shoulder of Mutton, was born the celebrated Mrs. Siddons. I know not whether I may or may not, without offence, state her age; but presuming that there is no impropriety in my insertion of the copy of the register of her baptism, I take the liberty of stating that it was on the 14th of July, 1755, though her father is therein erroneously called George Kemble, a comedian, instead of Roger Kemble. I am informed that Hereford has been considered as the place of her birth, but the fact is beyond controversy otherwise, as might have been proved a very few years ago, by a woman now dead, who was present at Mrs. S.’s birth, and perhaps even now it may not be difficult to establish the circumstance if necessary.” Jones’s Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 110, note.



other small tracts are also said to have issued from his pen: but the most essential benefit conferred by this gentleman upon the public, and for which he was entitled to their gratitude, was the discovery of the valuable properties of the mineral springs of Llanwrtyd, which are deemed singularly efficacious in the removal of scrofulous and scorbutic complaints, and of which he published the first account in the public prints about the year 1738, or 1739.\* With his grandfather, Mr. Jones passed much of his early life. His principal education was completed in the college school at Brecknock, then conducted by the Rev. Mr. Griffith; and in that seminary he formed an intimacy which terminated only with his life, with Mr. Davies, the learned author of the "Celtic Researches," and "Mythology of the British Druids." A congeniality of disposition first recommended them to each other's notice; and matured age and ripened judgment strengthened the attachment to which the guiltless years of youth had given birth.

"Being destined by his parents to the law, Mr. Jones, at a proper age, was placed under the care of an eminent practitioner then resident in the town of Brecknock—and having passed with credit the period of his probation, entered into the profession upon his own account; and continued in it for many years, practising with equal reputation and success, as an attorney and solicitor in that place. Upon a vacancy in the Deputy Registrarship of the archdeaconry of Brecknock, he was appointed to that office, and held it till his death. From the documents now committed to his charge, and to which he was particularly attentive, he derived much valuable information connected with the parochial history of the county; and to this we are probably indebted for his subsequent engagement in that work. That the dry and severe labours of the law were not perfectly accordant with the real genius and feelings of our author, we have reason to believe. His natural bent inclined him to the pursuit of literary, rather than of legal, studies. The

I

law,

\* See above, p. 67.

law, it is true, was his profession, and it was necessary that he should pursue it; but history, and particularly antiquarian research, was his delight. It was not, however, till about the year 1800, or 1801, that he seriously entertained an idea of writing the history of his county. But this once embraced, so entirely did it take possession of his mind, that (if we may be allowed the strong expression) his very heart and soul were engaged in the undertaking.

“ It will readily be conceived, that the noise and bustle of an attorney’s office but ill agreed with the now abstracted sentiments of our zealous antiquary. Its duties were now attended to with less alacrity, and day by day became more irksome to him. In a word, he soon found, that in order to indulge the one, it was absolutely necessary that he should give up the other. The desk was, therefore, abandoned for the study; and the quill became the reporter of antiquarian, instead of legal, knowledge.

“ Having no children, and his amiable consort’s disposition most perfectly agreeing with his own, he resolved upon a retirement from professional engagements. A respectable, though not large patrimony, with that decent independence which the exertions of former years had secured to him, were deemed by this well-assorted pair, an ample sufficiency for the occasions of their future life. Happy in that enviable situation which is described as the wish of Agur, they coveted no greater wealth.

What tho’ from fortune’s lavish bounty  
 No mighty treasures they possess,  
 They found within their pittance plenty,  
 And were content without excess.

For still did each returning season  
 Sufficient for their wishes give;  
 And, as they lived a life of reason,  
 They wished no other life to live.

“ Thus

“ Thus disposed, Mr. Jones found no difficulty in resigning to his respectable partner Mr. Church, the attorney’s and solicitor’s business, reserving to himself, however, the Deputy Registrarship, which for obvious reasons he was desirous of retaining.

“ Being now more at liberty to pursue the great object of his ambition, he spared neither pains nor expense to carry it into execution. There was no part of the county into which he did not extend his personal researches ; inquiring most minutely into the natural history and antiquities of every place and parish—copying monumental inscriptions, and studying their history ; availing himself of all the information that could be acquired, and industriously collecting from every depository, that was open to his inspection, such documents as might enlarge, illustrate, or enrich, his work ; and his perfect acquaintance with the language of the country enabled him to employ them to the best advantage. Genealogy and heraldry were, however, the favourite subjects of his inquiry. There is scarcely a family of any consequence in the principality, whose armorial bearings and descent he has not diligently traced. Those of Brecknockshire appear in his history of the county ; and, generally speaking, we believe that they are correct. That here and there some names may have been omitted ; that some errors from misinformation may have crept in, is very possible—some, we know, have been complained of ; but such lapses are unavoidable. In a work of such multifarious inquiry, where the materials are to be collected from so many different sources,—where the families themselves to whom they more immediately relate, are so often ignorant, and still more frequently inattentive ; it is scarcely possible for the historian to be minutely accurate. No man, however, could take greater pains, than Mr. Jones did. In these researches, he was very materially assisted by the Golden Grove Books of MS. Pedigrees, which had been lent him, as it now appears, by the late Mr. Vaughan. It was, however, generally believed, and Mr. Jones himself certainly

1 2

considered,

considered, that they had been given to him ; but, shortly after his decease, a formal requisition having been made for their restitution by Lord Cawdor, the executor and representative of Mr. Vaughan, as an appendage to his library, and still remaining upon the catalogue, Mrs. Jones most honourably returned them to him. They are a very curious and valuable document, in three volumes folio, with a distinct index ; containing both the lineal and collateral descents, not only of the greater number of Welsh families and their connections ; but also of the numerous advenæ who from time to time had settled in the principality. They cannot be more happily deposited, than in the library to which they originally belonged.

“ The first volume of the Brecknockshire (in 4to.) comprising “ the Chorography, General History, Religion, Laws, Customs, Manners, Language, and System of Agriculture used in that County,” was published from the press of Messrs. William and George North, at Brecknock in the year 1805. And the second volume, divided into two parts, containing, “ the Antiquities, Sepulchral Monuments and Inscriptions, Natural Curiosities, Variations of the Soil, Stratification, Mineralogy, and a copious list of rare and other Plants, also the Genealogies and Arms of the principal Families, properly coloured or emblazoned, together with the names of the Patrons and Incumbents of all the Parishes and Livings in that County,” in 1809. This last the author has inscribed, with much affection, to his friend and school-fellow Mr. Davies—“ the associate of his youth, the kind correspondent and assistant of his literary pursuits, the sincere friend in mature age ; and, oh ! may he add, in trembling hope, (si modo digni erimus,) the partaker of a blissful eternity !”

“ In the patriotic ardour of his heart, it was the author’s wish to have had not only the printing, but even the fabrication of the paper, perfected within the county ; but, from the disinclination of the mill-proprietor, to engage in the manufacture of an article of superior quality to what he had been accustomed

to make, he was compelled to relinquish it, and recourse was consequently had to a London market.

“In style of language and expression Mr. Jones is, for the most part, plain, manly, and unaffected: it cannot, however, be denied that in some instances he has indulged too freely in that species of facetiousness, which the severer critic may be inclined to treat as unworthy of the sober dignity of history. But the real fact is this; Theophilus Jones on all occasions wrote with the same freedom and honest independence, as he thought and spoke: “I might as well” (said he to a friend to whom he had shewn his manuscript) “endeavour to write a history in rhyme, as in what is called dignified prose, but which I call sombrous, or sleep-provoking paragraphy. My disposition, and turn of thinking and speaking, must discover themselves; I should almost think myself a hypocrite to conceal them; and if I am not notorious for buffoonery or imbecile attempts at wit, I shall not much care whether my readers laugh at me, or with me.” As a County Historian, we may venture to assert generally that he is faithful.\* With the exception of a few communications to periodical publications, and two papers in the

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Cambrian

\* As we have made frequent reference to Mr. Jones's work in going over the ground which he has so ably trodden before us, our esteemed correspondent will allow us to add our testimony, such as it is, to its general accuracy and value. Mr. Jones's account of objects and places within the county are not properly subjects for our criticism, as his constant residence in their vicinity must be supposed to have given him a more perfect acquaintance with them, than could be acquired by strangers like ourselves in the course of two journies through the country; but in matters of historical and antiquarian research, where recourse was to be had to written documents, we may be allowed to pronounce a judgment drawn from actual inspection and comparison. It being our rule, as it was Mr. Jones's, not to take any quotation upon trust when reference could be made to the original authorities, we have availed ourselves of our advantage of access to the public collections in the metropolis, to collate nearly all the passages drawn from books and MSS. which we have had occasion to use; and we have

Cambrian Register, (Vol. II. p. 421 to 469,) intituled "Cursor Remarks on Welsh Tours or Travels," and "Remarks on the History of Monmouthshire, by David Williams," we believe this to have been his only literary production. It was, indeed, at one time, his intention to have extended his researches into Radnorshire, with a view to a history of that county; but his enfeebled state of health would not allow him to make the necessary exertions. The gout had made great ravages upon his constitution, and rendered him so great a cripple, that latterly he could scarcely walk; but still, notwithstanding his severe trials, though confined to his bed, or chair, by the severest visitations of that cruel enemy, it was remarked that his native hilarity of temper very seldom failed him. He still conversed with cheerfulness; and, when able to hold his pen, continued to write upon different subjects for his amusement. His last literary attempt, and which he had scarcely finished before his final illness, was a translation of that well written Welsh romance, intituled *Gweledigaethau y Bardd Cwsg*, or *Visions of the Sleeping Bard*, in the manner of the *Visions of Fr. de Quivedo*, by the Rev. Ellis Wynne, of Merionethshire, a divine of the last century. The style and humour of the work were peculiarly suited to the original genius of Mr. Jones; and he has translated

found them, with some very immaterial exceptions, most accurately and faithfully reported. The proofs we have had in these many instances of the author's patient research, leave us no room to doubt his correctness in other cases. That a county history, embracing such an infinite variety of subjects, and attempting the intricate and delicate task of tracing, through a long series of years, the family descents of so many persons, of whom a large proportion have been reduced by the vicissitudes of fortune to poverty and obscurity, should be executed with an entire freedom from errors, is next to impossible, and certainly would be expected by any one conversant in such labours, and apprised of their difficulty. We are, therefore, far from being surprised that mistakes and omissions should have been discovered in some of Mr. Jones's pedigrees: but the real value of his work will suffer little from those venial faults.

translated it with great spirit, as well as close accuracy. It was his intention, we believe, had he recovered, to have published it. The MS. still remains in the possession of Mrs. Jones. Thus much of his literary character.

“In private life, he was truly, as his friend Davies, in the preface to his Celtic Researches, has pourtrayed him, “the generous friend, and the best hearted of men.” Few were, indeed, more generally esteemed, or more sincerely regretted by those who knew him best. In his profession, he was that highly estimable character, an upright, independent, and unbiassed attorney. Zealous, as in duty bound, to protect and vindicate the legitimate rights and interests of his clients; but never sacrificing the convictions of his own unblemished conscience, at the sordid altar of advantage.

“In society he was kind, affable, and good humoured; hospitable, but unostentatious, in his habits and mode of living; and considerately benevolent to the necessities of his poorer neighbours.

“In his religious creed he was, upon the strictest principle, a member of the church of England; he embraced her tenets, not from the mere prejudice of education, but from conviction; for in this, as in all other matters, he strictly acted as he thought; but still in Christian charity towards those who conscientiously differed from him. His only enmity was with those, who, calling themselves Christians, were yet inattentive to all religious worship, and whom he aptly distinguishes as “*the sect of no-religionists,*” a sect unhappily but too prevailing, and comprehending all the varieties of profaneness, from downright Atheism to indifference and lukewarmness.

“His last illness is supposed to have been the effect of gout upon a habit long since weakened by reiterated attacks, and now unable to bring it to a crisis. The celebrated French medicine, the Eau Medicinale, had in some former fits relieved him; and in consequence became a favourite; but in this extreme case he totally declined its use, from a conviction that it

would be in vain. He lingered for some time; and, after a severe confinement of about six weeks, departed this life, upon the 15th of January, 1812; and, agreeably to his own desire, his mortal remains were deposited in the parish church of Llangammarch, in the same grave with those of his maternal grandfather, whose memory, through life, he had held in the highest veneration. "When I am dead," he was accustomed to say, "let me be buried in the grave of my grandfather, and let my inscription be: *Here lies Theophilus Jones, the grandson of Theophilus Evans.*" His afflicted widow, (Mary, the daughter of — Price, Esq. of Porth-y-Rhyd, in the county of Caermarthen,) has directed a neat marble tablet to be erected to his memory, in the collegiate church of Brecknock, of which he had been for many years chapter clerk, and in the improvement of which he had been always a most active agent.

"His valuable collection of books and MSS. were sold by public auction in the town of Brecknock, by Mr. Wise of Bath; and several of them, enriched with his own notes and observations, produced good prices. The copyright of his History of Brecknockshire, with the copper plates, and some MS. collections, &c. in his own writing, were purchased by Mr. George North of Brecknock, for the sum of 255l."

The chief remain of antiquity in the neighbourhood of Brecknock, the Roman camp at the Gaer, has been already described.\* Near this spot, at *Benni wood*, are the traces of a *British fortification*, probably of earlier origin. It is at present overgrown with trees, and the fosse has been so filled as to be hardly discernible.

At a place called *Pen y Crug*, or the summit of the hill, distant about one mile from this entrenchment, and two miles N. W. from Brecknock, is another *British military work* of the same class, correctly described by Mr. Strange as "one of the most curious and best preserved remains of that kind throughout the whole principality."† The form of this camp is oval,

the

\* Page 3.

† *Archæology*, Vol. I. p. 299.



the longest diameter lying N. and S. being 600 feet, and the shortest about 430 feet. This area is surrounded by four ditches, excavated to the depth of about eighteen feet. The western side of the eminence, and also the southern, where the entrance lay, are exceedingly steep and almost precipitous, a circumstance which must have added greatly to the strength of the place.

There are also some remains of a British camp on an eminence called *Slwch*, and sometimes *Cefn y Gaer*, or the camp ridge, on the opposite side of the valley. This is in every respect inferior to the last described. The form of the area is similar, but the size considerably smaller; and the surrounding entrenchment, which has in a great measure disappeared, consisted of only a double fosse, that does not seem to have been of any great depth.

Among the *ancient mansions* on this side of the town may be first mentioned *PONT WILYM*, latterly converted into a farmhouse, but once the seat of the Havards, a family which has already been noticed, and which at one time extended itself over the greater part of the county. They were of French origin, and introduced into Brecknockshire by Bernard Newmarch, or some of his attendants. Their earliest settlement appears to have been at this place; but the last of the name who resided here was Thomas Havard, who held the office of sheriff for the county in the years 1549 and 1555.\*

*CWRT SION YOUNG*, or John Young's Court, which lay on the road to the village of Battle, near Brecknock, and of which hardly a vestige now remains, was also held for many years by a branch of the Havards. It once belonged to a family of the name of Young, as the name indicates, from one of whom it was purchased by John Havard the younger, but in what year is not stated.†

*PENNANT*, another mansion, no longer standing, was situated  
a little

\* Jones's Brecknock. II. 126

† Idem.

a little farther to the westward. Its possessors are distinguished by no circumstances that claim particular specification.

On account of its intimate connection with Brecknock it will be proper to introduce here some notice of

#### LLANDDEW,\*

situated about two miles to the north east of the town. At present there is little to be seen here besides the church, which is one of the oldest in the county, but offers nothing remarkable to detain the antiquary; and a few straggling houses denominated a village. It was formerly distinguished for a palace belonging to the bishop of St. David's, whose property it is, together with the houses of the archdeacon of Brecknock, and other ecclesiastical dignitaries. Leland gives the following account of this place:—"Llannedeu, a mile from Brekenok, a lordship of the bishops of S. David, wher was sumtime a veri fayre place of the bishops, now no thing but an onsemeli ruine. The archidiacon of Brekenok hath a house even there, and that is also fallen douen for the more part. Giraldus makith mention of this house."† After this statement, it is almost needless to add, that little now remains undemolished of the bishop's castellated mansion. One side wall of the chapel, containing three lancet windows, is yet standing, and a part of the end. But the house of the archdeacon, of which Giraldus makes frequent mention in terms of much commendation, has been levelled with the dust. There is a manor attached to this property, that belongs to the bishop of the diocese for the time being, whose steward holds a leet court here every year.

Having

\* Llanddew for Llanddewi, the church of St. David's; this is the orthography and derivation adopted, probably correctly, by Mr. Jones; but Giraldus, who has been followed by subsequent writers, styles it Llandeu, quasi Llanduw, the church of God. "Landeu ecclesia Dei sonat." (Itin. Lib. I. cap. 2.)

† Leland's Itin. Vol. V. fol. 70.

Having now finished with the town of Brecknock and its immediate vicinity, it becomes necessary to arrange such farther excursions as will enable us to bring under review the objects of curiosity that may be afforded by other parts of the county. We shall commence by a tour along the road towards Hereford as far as the Hay, then from this place ascend the Wye; and, having examined this northern region, return to Brecknock along the direct road from Builth.

There is nothing to detain the antiquary on this road till he has proceeded a few miles, and entered the parish of Llanvillo, in which, a little to the westward of the church, on the summit of a hill, called after the saint\* to whom that edifice is dedicated,

#### ALLTFILLO,

there occurs a large British encampment. The entire area, which is of an oval form, measures 208 yards by 46, but it has been intersected nearly through the middle by a hedge.† The precipitous brow of the hill formed its natural defence, on one side; and the other part of the circumference was protected by a ditch. Neither history nor tradition has transmitted to us any account of this fortress, to inform us at what period or by whom it was constructed.

Seven miles from Brecknock, we arrive at

#### BRYNLLYS,

a poor and inconsiderable village, but deriving some historical celebrity from its castle. The present remains of this building consist of a lofty circular tower, placed on a moderately elevated site, on the banks of the Llyfni, and imparting much picturesque beauty to the surrounding scenery. Mr. King,‡ has indulged a  
most

\* St. Milburg, daughter of Merwald King of Mercia.

† Jones's Brecknock, II. 565.

‡ Monumenta Antiq. Vol. III. p. 31.

most extraordinary flight of imagination in relation to the age and architecture of this castle. "At Brunless," writes this learned author, "is found again, as at Launceston, the remains of a keep or tower of a most singular construction, unlike any thing Roman or Norman: and which, standing in a more humble situation, and not on a high rock, seems to correspond with Charadin's account of the subordinate kind of Median or Mingrelian ancient eastern castles. In later ages, it has been surrounded with many other more important, and more magnificent edifices; some of which are remembered, but all of which are now destroyed; whilst it has itself, from its exceeding strength, defied the devastations of time, and has remained just as it was at first, insulated, to bear its own most curious record." "It is built, in part, of small hewn stone; the art of forming which may very justly be conceived to have been acquired, in a degree, by these Cornish Britons from the Phœnicians."

"This tower, though it does not stand on a high rocky conical hill, there being none such naturally formed near the spot, yet seems to have, in its own structure, by way of distant imitation (as we shall find to have been the case in some other instances, both in this island and also in Syria,) the appearance of a little artificial mount formed of stone, and a little rise of ground beneath. At the bottom of this artificial stone mount appears a modern forced entrance, which is manifestly a mere breach that has been made for convenience of late years, with great difficulty and violence, in a part where most evidently was originally only the approach to a small loop, with a passage on the inside leading up to it.

"Far higher up appears the real original door of entrance, to which there could have been no access, except only by a steep flight of steps on the outside, and perhaps merely of wood, or if of stone, so narrow that only one could ascend or descend at a time.

"The particular construction of this door of entrance is most remarkable, and deserving of close attention; for although

it appears at first sight as if it were an arch, yet in reality *it is no arch at all*, being merely composed, as it is very narrow, of two pieces of stone, bending, and placed inclined in such a manner as to meet at the top and to support each other *in the form of an arch*.—And that only such an imperfect idea of the arch really existed in the minds of the architects when this tower was built, appears still more manifest, because in what may be called the state apartment, for residence, where there are great open windows, they are constructed in the same kind of manner, being, if possible, still *more oddly formed* of two inclined stones: and in the third story and uppermost apartments above, there is no sort of arch at all, but only a plain window of an oblong form, and flat both at top and bottom.

“ All these circumstances, surely, may lead one to believe, that this structure was raised originally *on the Syrian and Phœnician plan*, but yet so late as at a time when even the arch had actually been invented and slightly seen; but when its true use was not yet understood; that is, (as seems probable from a variety of circumstances,) in the interval of time between the first invasion of Britain by Julius Cæsar, and the subsequent one by Claudius, neither of which invasions did any ways molest or affect the Britons in Cornwall or Wales, and of which they could only have distant reports.

“ This *perhaps* was one of the latest of the fortresses erected for a safeguard before the Silures and Danmonii finally submitted to the Romans, and erected *probably* at the very time when they first heard of the successes of the Romans on the eastern side of this island, and dreaded their approach, and when they had not taken their resolution of submitting, which they afterwards adopted.”\* Such is the account given by Mr. King of this edifice; but though he speaks of *certainty* and *probability*, yet the whole of his hypothesis is totally unsupported by either. The building may, indeed, in some particulars resemble some of Phœnician and Syrian construction, for all

\* King's Monimenta, Vol. III. p. 31, et seq.

all the military erections of early ages, when architecture was in its infancy, and the modes of assault were similar, will be found to have many points of resemblance. Were not the learned author so grave an antiquary, we might be tempted to smile at his observation on the construction of the door-way, and the important inferences he draws from a circumstance so easy of solution as the "*form of its arch.*" Without entering on the inquiry, whether the architect understood the principles and use of the arch, it is apparent that he here studied his own convenience, and by the application of his hammer and chissel made two stones answer the purpose of several. This kind of arch is by no means peculiar to this edifice. In Glamorganshire especially, many of the family mansions which may be referred to the fifteenth or sixteenth century, as well as farm houses, of the same æra, have their door-ways, and occasionally their windows, constructed in this manner; and it is most probable that the simplicity of the work, rather than any studied imitation of a foreign model, led to its adoption.

There is, besides, no shadow of historical evidence to prove, that at the very early date assigned by Mr. King to this building, this part of the country was peopled by a race of men so advanced in the arts of life as the erection of mural fortresses of this description would necessarily suppose: much less shall we be able to discover the slightest reasons for the conjecture, that any connection or intercourse could at such a period have subsisted between the natives of the interior of Garthmadrin, and the Britons of Devon and Cornwall, from whom Mr. King imagines they must have derived this oriental architecture.

The probability (for after all we must be left to conjecture) is, that this edifice, like many others in the marches, owed its erection to William the Conqueror or one of his immediate successors, who attempted the conquest of South Wales from this quarter. The first mention we find made of it is about the period of Bernard Newmarch's invasion of the county, when

there occurs a grant of it from the crown to Richard Fitzpons. It was afterwards given by Henry the First, with his other possessions in this county, to the Cliffords, whose castle lay at no great distance. From an old record in the Tower, quoted by Mr. Jones,\* it appears that by some measures of violence, which are not explained, Maud, the widow of William Longspee, Earl of Salisbury, who had inherited this property from her ancestors through the failure of male issue, was *forced* into a marriage by John Giffard of Brimsfield in Gloucestershire, who thus possessed himself of the estates of her family. Brynllys is afterwards found in the hands of the Bohuns and the Staffords, from whom it escheated to the crown. Various grants were subsequently made of it to different individuals, whom it is needless here to enumerate; and, after passing through several hands by the same method of conveyance, it was obtained by the present proprietor by purchase.

It has already been stated,† on the authority of Giraldus, that Mahel, the son of Milo Fitzwalter, and the grandson of Bernard Newmarch, lost his life at this place by an accident.

A little to the westward of Brynllys stands,

### TREBARRIED,

once the residence of a branch of the Vaughan family. The present mansion is badly placed in a low situation, and has little to recommend it in exterior appearance. It contains a few family portraits, but none of very distinguished excellence as works of art.

This house is built near the site of an older mansion, called TREBOIS, the seat of a family of the name of Bois, from whom  
it

\* Hist. of Brecknock, II. 330.

† Page 24. Both Mr. King and Dr. Malkin, (*Scenery, &c. ubi supra*, p. 247,) erroneously state that the Mahel killed here was the unfortunate son of Bernard, and Camden, by another mistake, places the scene of this tragedy at St. Briavel's castle in the forest of Dean.

it was designated. The possessions of this opulent house passed by marriage to one of the Vaughans of Tretower. TREPILIP and VELIN NEWYDD in the same vicinity were also the seats of branches of these families; but they now possess little importance to recommend them to topographical notice.

#### PONT Y WALL,

the seat of F. Philips, Esq. is a handsome edifice, pleasantly situated on the same side of the turnpike road. To the southward of Brynilyls within the parish of Talgarth, stands

#### TREGUNTER,

so named from the Gunters, a family introduced into these parts among the followers of Bernard Newmarch. They once possessed considerable weight in the county, from their number and their opulence; but if any of their descendants remain here, they are stripped of their ancestral consequence, and amalgamated with the general mass of the population.

The present mansion was built about forty years ago by Mr. Thomas Harris, a native of Talgarth, who had acquired an honourable fortune in London by trade. He was what is genteelly denominated a man's mercer; and, in the latter part of his life, carried on an extensive business, as an army clothier. Much of his success has been ascribed to the following singular adventure. "Some of the fraternity of the *bon-vivants* had been *keeping it up* until daylight, and until Mr. Harris began his morning's work, when they were amusing themselves with breaking the windows in the neighbourhood. He immediately joined the party in the sport, and assisted them in demolishing his own; after which he told them, he knew the master of the house they were attacking, that he was a jolly fellow, kept an excellent bottle of wine in his cellar; and that he was determined to compel him to produce it, if they would partake of it.



it. The invitation was accepted ; the wine was good, and their associate was discovered to be the host. His good humour was never forgotten : from that moment his fortune was made : they not only employed him in his business themselves, but recommended him to their friends, and procured him contracts. By these means, in a few years he was able to purchase the estates of Tregunter, Trevecca, and a property surrounding them to the amount of 1000l. per annum, or thereabouts, and here he retired to spend the remainder of his days *in otio cum felicitate*, if not *cum dignitate*. He was sheriff of Breconshire in 1768.\* His monument in the church of Talgarth states, that “ in him the poor always found a most bountiful benefactor, his heart and mansion being ever open to the feelings of humanity, by relieving the distresses of the indigent.” He died 23d of September, 1782, at the advanced age of 77.

At his death Mr. Thomas Harris bequeathed Tregunter, together with nearly the whole of his other property, to the present occupier, Mrs. Hughes, the daughter and only child of his elder brother Mr. Joseph Harris. The unassuming modesty and retired habits of this gentleman have debarred the biographer of the necessary materials for writing any satisfactory account of his life and literary labours. The following information is furnished by the monument above referred to, which was raised jointly for himself and his brother. “ Joseph, the elder [brother] died in the Tower of London, September 26, 1764, aged 62, where his remains are deposited : his great abilities and unshaken integrity were uniformly directed to the good of his country, having by indefatigable attention gained the greatest proficiency in every branch of scientific knowledge. As an author, he published several tracts on different subjects, invented many instruments, monuments of mathematical genius ; yet, superior to the love of fame, he forbade having even his name engraven upon them ; his political talents were well known to the ministers in power in his days,

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who

\* Jones's Brecknock, II. 346—7.

who failed not to improve on all the wise and learned ideas, which greatness of mind, candour with love of his country, led him to communicate.”

The only work that appears to have had his name affixed to it, is a Treatise on Optics, which he had left unfinished, and was published, with a candid explanatory advertisement, in the year 1775. In this advertisement it is stated, that so early as the year 1742 Mr. Harris had purposed to write a Treatise upon Microscopes, on an entirely new plan, to which he meant to prefix a scientific introduction. Finding the work increasing in its progress beyond his expectations, he determined to enlarge his plan into a general Treatise on Optics. Two books, comprehending the elementary part, were finished and printed; but before he could complete his design by writing the third book, which was intended to explain the theory and mechanism of optical instruments, he was interrupted by increased demands upon his time from his official duties as assay-master of the mint, and ultimately by an illness, which ended in his death at the time above-mentioned. The printed portion of the work lay in this state for several years, his friends not feeling themselves justified in giving it to the public. At length, however, they were prevailed upon to publish it separately as an elementary work. For their compliance in this respect the public have to thank them; for it yet maintains a high rank as a treatise of sterling value, honourable to the genius and application of its learned and acute author.

Mr. Harris left several manuscripts on the same subject, but in too indigested and unfinished a state for publication.\*

Howell Harris, another, and the youngest, brother of this family, presents larger claims to our attention, if his labours, as a *public* character, are to regulate our estimate. He was born at Trevecca January 23, 1713; and, being designed for the church, was admitted a student of St. Mary's Hall Oxford, in November 1735. Here, however, he remained only during

\* Harris's Treatise on Optics. London 1775, 4to. Advertisement.

during one term, at the expiration of which he quitted the university, with the design of entering immediately on the duties of the clerical profession. He had by this time, apparently, imbibed the tenets and spirit of Whitfield, and determined to launch out as the apostle of Methodism. With this view he applied for orders, but was refused, on what grounds are not satisfactorily explained; his friend Whitfield states, however, that the alledged reason was the *false* pretence of his not being of proper age. Having commenced his ministerial career, he came into his native country, and exerted himself with a zeal and earnestness worthy a more enlightened cause; and it may safely be asserted that the prevalence and establishment of Calvinistic Methodism in South Wales must be attributed to him. His style of preaching was much the same as that still practised by the ministers of his connection, particularly among the Welsh, who have probably taken him for their model. It was bold, declamatory, and animated, to a degree that might often be denominated rant and vociferation. The reason and the judgment seemed to be regarded by him as out of the pale of religion; and his appeal was accordingly made to the feelings and passions of his hearers, which he endeavoured to rouse and affect by sounding language, and vivid pictures, that reached their ears and imagination, but could effect little impression on their moral principles and habits.

At a period when religious freedom was but imperfectly understood, even by those who most deprecated persecution, a man of Mr. Harris's active zeal for proselytism was not likely to pass unobserved. While, therefore, he became the idol of his own converts, he exposed himself to the wrathful bigotry of persons, who had not so far learnt the principles of the reformation and of Christianity, as to acknowledge the right of every man, who thought he understood Christianity, to teach it to those who might be disposed to hear his instructions. He was in some instances prosecuted, but more fre-

quently persecuted: his undaunted resolution, however, triumphed over every opposition, and rendered impotent every attempt to reduce him to silence. Many charges have been insinuated against the rectitude of his moral principles. In the consideration of these, the historian is bound to call for evidence before he transmits them to posterity, or even gives them currency among his contemporaries. On this point the present writer feels compelled to exercise great caution. All he thinks it his duty to state is, that he will attempt neither to exculpate Mr. Harris, nor to criminate him, in regard to the accusations that have been preferred against him—because he has been able to obtain no evidence to substantiate any of the charges, nor yet sufficient information to invalidate them. The motives of Mr. Harris's conduct, and the sincerity of his profession, which some have arraigned, he leaves to the decision of a higher tribunal.

Mr. Harris was not content to appear in a character merely religious. In the year 1756, when some apprehensions of an invasion were entertained, the Agricultural Society of Brecknockshire, thinking their attention ought not to be restricted within the narrow limits of their own county, addressed the throne, and offered to come forward with their "persons and fortunes," to be disposed of for the public service, as the king might deem expedient.\* Mr. Harris, on this patriotic occasion, would not be behind hand with his countrymen. He made a voluntary offer, to furnish, at his own expense, ten light horsemen completely armed and accoutred; for whom the bounty offered by government was to be paid to the society, who were to appropriate the money to such public uses as they might judge proper. The society's offer was declined by the ministry, who might probably think these loyal men, in their associated capacity, went beyond their proper province; but Mr. Harris's proposal was accepted.

Three years afterwards, A. D. 1756, we find Mr. Harris  
himself,

\* Jones's Brecknock, Vol. I. p. 309.

himself, *in propria personâ*, embarking in a military character. He was first of all appointed to an ensigncy in the county militia, but soon afterwards invested with the command of a company, in which were enrolled many of his own followers. During the time he held this commission, the regiment was marched through different parts of England. "In this progress very remarkable scenes frequently occurred: one part of the regiment were heard chaunting hymns along the road, while the others were roaring loyal or bacchanalian songs; sometimes the captain was elevated upon a table or a chair in the streets, preaching in his regimentals, at others he appeared mounted in the meeting house, holding forth in a black coat."\*

In the latter part of his life he derived much support from lady Huntingdon, the warm patroness of the Calvinistic Methodists, who came to reside in his neighbourhood, and who may be said to have herself established a religious sect. Mr. Harris died at Trevecca, July 28, 1773, and was buried in Talgarth church. He had married, in the year 1774, Anne the daughter of John Williams, Esq. of Screen in this county, and left one daughter, married to Mr. Charles Pritchard, surgeon of Brecknock. From this his only child, however, by an act of dubious justice, he left nearly the whole of his fortune, for the support of a fraternity of a singular kind; of which it may be proper to give some account.

In the year 1752, he formed the plan of a Religious Community, something similar in its constitution to the Moravian societies, not doubting he should be able to obtain from his followers whatever pecuniary assistance might be necessary beyond his personal resources. Accordingly he this year laid the foundation of

#### TREVECCA HOUSE,

with a sufficient extent of buildings, and garden and other  
K 3 ground,

\* Jones ubi supra, Vol. II. p. 347, 8.

ground, to accommodate a large number of inhabitants. Here he invited his disciples to assemble, and to invest their property in a common fund, of which all the members, as occasion might require, were equally to participate.

His project succeeded to a degree that can hardly be credited. Numbers of respectable families relinquished their ordinary modes of life, and enrolled themselves members of this community. To guard against the evils of idleness, and to create in the society itself the means of its support and continuance, some were occupied in the labours of agriculture, on the land pertaining to the institution; the surplus produce of which, after supplying the demands of the house, was carried to market. To furnish employment for the others, he established woollen manufactories, which supplied the adjacent country, and even distant parts, with some of the finest flannels made in the principality. The profits arising from these several sources were vested in the common fund, and became the joint property of the brotherhood; but the control and management of the property Mr. Harris prudently reserved to himself.

Religious exercises engaged a considerable portion of each day, in the course of which all the members were obliged to attend Divine worship, which was generally of very protracted length, three times in the house chapel, and attendance was enforced by very strict regulations and penalties, from which it was no easy matter to obtain a dispensation.

This establishment is said to have contained at one time about one hundred and fifty efficient members, to which must be added the children; for celibacy formed no law of the institution. Since Mr. Harris's death the number has considerably declined, and may at this time be estimated at sixty or seventy. The founder has made a liberal provision for its future maintenance, having for this purpose bequeathed the bulk of his fortune to trustees, with powers of appointing others in succession. It manifests, however, evident symp-

toms

toms of decay; and, the presiding genius being fled, there can be little doubt that this extraordinary *family* will gradually die away, and leave hardly a vestige to mark its former existence.

### LOWER TREVECCA

is an ancient mansion, built in the time of Elizabeth by an heiress of the name of Rebecca Prosser, from whom the house, and subsequently the hamlet in which it is situated, have been designated. On the front wall of the porch is a stone bearing some rude carvings, and an almost obliterated inscription and date, *Jesus 1576*. The stone is three feet square; and exhibits a raised circle of nearly that diameter, divided into four compartments by a cross bar, on which, near the point of intersection, the letters and figures are inscribed. Each compartment is occupied by an ill drawn figure, in bass relief, of a winged angel, dressed in something like a monk's habit, girded round the middle: on the breast is a plain escutcheon or shield, which the figure is made to hold with its hands, and the head is surmounted by a cross florée. It is evident that the figures were designed to be exact counterparts of each other, and owe their present uncouth diversity to the unskilfulness of the artist. The escutcheons were probably intended for the arms of the proprietor, which, however, appear never to have been inserted on them.\*

The countess of Huntingdon took this house, and converted it into a college, which she endowed for the education of twelve young men for the clerical profession in her own tenets and connection, and made it, for some time, the place of her

K 4

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\* Mr. Strange, in his communication to the Society of Antiquaries, has given a correct engraving of this stone, so far as relates to the figures; but Mr. Jones has satisfactorily shewn, that he has greatly mistaken in deciphering the date, which Mr. Strange had made 1176, instead of 1576. *Archæology*, Vol. IV. p. 20. *Jones's Brecknock*, Vol. II. p. 349.

own residence. This institution has long been dissolved, and the house has since been occupied by a dissenting minister, Mr. Walter Lewis, for a school, which has also been discontinued, through the removal of the master.

The little town of

### TALGARTH,

which gives name to the parish, and to the hundred, need not detain us long. "In the English \* Talegart," says Leland, "is

\* This distinction of *English* Talgarth, from *Welsh* Talgarth, which obtains also in other instances, originated in the different states of the tenures after the English settlers had obtained possession of some of the estates in this country, and refers to the laws by which the occupiers were severally governed. The following extract from Mr. Jones's work will give a luminous view of this subject, which is of some importance in local history.

"In some of the lordships there were two courts, one for the English inhabitants, called *Englischeria*, or the rights of an Englishman, and *Wallecheria*, or the rights of a Welshman; the former was abolished in the fourteenth of Edward the third. Mr. Gough † observes, that strictly speaking both these terms were applied to the untimely death of any person; and if he was not known, or the manner of his death notorious, an inquisition was to be made, whether he was an Englishman or a Welshman, upon which the coroner and his jury were to determine *super visum corporis*. Our lawyers ‡ derive the origin of *Englischerie* from an ancient law of Canute, who being about to leave the kingdom, and afraid the English might take advantage of his absence, to oppress and destroy his native subjects, procured the following law, in order to prevent homicides; that when any person was killed, and the slayer escaped, the person killed should always be considered as a Dane, unless proved by his friends or relations to be English; and, in default of such proof, that the ville should pay forty marks for the Dane's death; and if it could not be raised within the ville, that then the hundred should pay it: this singular, but oppressive, provision, it was thought would engage every one in the prevention or prosecution of such secret offences. It is probable that the presentment of *Welsherie* was founded on a like policy.

"There

† Camden, Vol. II. p. 401.

‡ Reeve's Hist. of English Law, Vol. I. p. 17.



“is no notable building, but a litle prison by Talegarth church in the town, and Mr. William Vehans, Esquiers place, caullid Porthamal, i. e. *Porta copiæ*, half a mile from Talegarth church in the valley. The howse hath a fair gate, and a strong waul embatelid.” \*

Tal-garth means literally the front of the hill, and the name is in this instance derived from the situation of this place, at one of the ends of the Black mountains, which stretch into Herefordshire. The town is a borough by prescription; but its privileges have ceased, and its magistrates have disappeared. The parish church is a substantial edifice, not graced by any architectural elegance, nor enriched by any remarkable monuments, ancient or modern: it has a tower, (containing six bells,) which forms a conspicuous object from most parts of the surrounding country.

The small tower or turret, mentioned by Leland, still remains, and probably was, as he states, designed merely for a prison.

### PORTHAML,

the ancient seat of an opulent branch of the Vaughans, of this county, is situated, as Leland asserts, in the vicinity. The meaning of the name is not, however, as he translates it, the gate

“There were also in some lordships, a mixture or jumble of the laws of both countries. Thus Leland tells us, that “Blain Leveni (Blanlyni in Breconshire,) though it be in Welsche Talgarth, yet the tenants kepe the Englische tenure.” So also in English and Welsh Penkelly, English, and Welsh Hay, and many others, lands are frequently said to be holden by English tenure, but by Welsh dole; Cyfraeth Saesneg a rhan Cymraeg;—and here the lord had the wardship of all the children, both sons and daughters: in many lordships none of the Welsh customs were permitted to be retained, but the English laws entirely prevailed; the whole jurisdiction in fact depended upon the will of the first conqueror.” Jones’s Brecknock, Vol. I. p. 247.

\* Itin. Vol. V. fol. 69.

gate of plenty, but literally "many-gated," or "of many gates." The embattled wall and the gateway are still standing, though the latter has been degraded to an entrance into a farm yard.

Sir William Vaughan, of this house, was the first sheriff for the county, after the introduction of the English laws. The property belongs at present to the earl of Ashburnham, the first lord of that name having acquired it by marriage with the heiress.

About two miles to the eastward of the town, in a field called *Croeslechau*, there is a very remarkable Cromlech. It is not particularly distinguished by its size, but from the circumstance of a hawthorn having sprung up at one end of it so near as to grow against the covering stone, and gradually, by its increasing bulk, to raise it some inches above its original seat.

Some other remains, which may probably be ascribed to the same period, are found in this neighbourhood. "Upon the hill called the Gader, or the Chair, being part of that range of hills usually called the black mountains, are stone circles, evidently Druidical." "The circles are placed so as to form, if a line were drawn from each, and from them to a large stone, an irregular triangle. They are of small loose stones, the whole about twenty yards in circumference; at the apex is the large stone about seven feet high. At the distance of eight hundred paces from this stone, in a direct line along the north side of this triangle, one of those circles occurs to which is a smaller attached; on the south are two others of the same kind, a larger and a smaller, but at the distance of four hundred paces, only from the great stone."\*

Within this parish, on the summit of a lofty hill commanding a pass on the road towards Crickhowell, once stood

DINAS

\* Jones's Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 338.

## DINAS CASTLE,

of which nothing has survived the hand of violence or the slow decay of age, besides a few broken fragments of the walls. Leland gives the following account of its condition in his time: "Dinas castel stondith a good mile\* from Blan Lleueni, upon a topp of a notable hille. It is now ruinus almost to the hard ground. Thir be manifest tokens of iii wardes, waullid abowt. And therby was sumtime.iii Parkes and a forest. The parkes be down, but yet good plenty is ther of redde deer. The tenantes of Dinas hold of the Walsch Tenor. It is set by like of one of the hilles caullid cathedrales." "The people about Dinas did burne Dinas castel, that Oene Glendour shuld not kepe it for his Fouteres."†

This post was considered of some importance during the turbulent domination of the lords marchers, and had extensive territorial dependencies. Leland's account of its destruction is probably correct. Owen Glendwr having led a formidable hostile armament into the county, the inhabitants might have thought it good policy so far to demolish the fortress, as to render it of no service to the invader, as a place of defence, in case it fell into his hands. Since this period it offers nothing of historical interest to the topographer or antiquary.

The adjoining parish of Cathedine‡ contains one object of antiquarian curiosity to detain us a little longer in this quarter, in

BLAENILLYFNI,

\* This "good mile," of our antiquary, is at least two in a direct line, and about four by the shortest practicable road. The forests and the deer, as well as the parks, have long disappeared.

† Itin. Vol. V. fol. 69.

‡ The etymology of this appellative is not certainly known. The land in this district having, with a generosity unusual in such public robbers, been given by Bernard Newmarch to Gwrgan, the son of Bleddin ap Maenarch, the last British regulus of this county, whom the Norman adventurer had vanquished and destroyed, Mr. Jones, with much ingenuity, supposes it

might,

## BLAENLLYFNI,

comprehending both the borough and castle so denominated. "The honor of Blain Lleueni," says Leland,\* "standing in a valley ys in the Walsche Talegarth, wher is yet the shape of a veri fair castel now dekeiying, and by was a borow town now also in decay." The borough still retains its name in the county rolls, and its chief magistrate is called over at the great Sessions: the inhabitants also still possess the privilege of exemption from tolls; but the reader will form a tolerable estimate of its importance, when he is informed that the entire population of the *parish* in 1811, as appears from the Parliamentary returns, only amounted to 316 individuals, and the number of houses to 35. Of the castle, which is placed in a low situation, commanded by more elevated ground on almost every side, scarcely a vestige now remains. Its founder is not known; and its history is involved in considerable obscurity, excepting that it is found enumerated in several grants, which, at various times, transferred the estates and manorial rights of particular parts of the county to different proprietors. From its contiguity to Brecknock mere, or the lake of Llynsaveddan, this has been thought to be the castle, called by historians Brecenanmere, which formed the residence of Hwgan, and was after his overthrow stormed by Ethelfleda, as related above.† This supposition rests, however, merely on conjecture.

Llynsaveddan, or Brecknock mere, the only other object of interest in this vicinity, has been already described:‡ nothing remains to be added here to that account, except that Tal-llyn  
House,

might, from Gwrgan's situation, as a kind of prisoner at large, have been called Tir y Caeth-dyn, or Caethiwed-dyn, the land of the captive, or bondman's land. Jones's Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 357,—8.

\* Itin. Vol. V. fol. 69.

† P. 17. See Jones's Brecknock, Vol. I. p. 78.

‡ P. 46.

House, formerly the seat of Champion Crespigny, Esq. stands at the northern extremity of the lake, and derives its name from its situation. It is at present occupied by a farmer.

Having completed our survey of this district,\* we may now resume our journey towards the Hay.

Four miles beyond Brynlllys we reach the village of

### GLASBURY,

on the banks of the Wye. The parish church, which is a respectable edifice, stands in Radnorshire, there being a small tract of land at this place, on the southern side of the river, that pertains to that county.

Near Glasbury, to the south-eastward, lies TREGOED, a seat of Lord Viscount Hereford; and in the same parish is situated GWERNYFED, at present the property of Colonel Wood, the member for the county of Brecknock. This was the residence of a family of the name of Williams, one of whom, Sir David Williams, was bred to the law, and made a judge of the Court of King's Bench about the year 1585. He died at an advanced age, and was buried in the Priory church at Brecknock, where there is a monument raised to his memory.

There stood formerly another mansion in this vicinity, now only known by name, which belonged to the Solers, one of the Norman settlers in this county.

At

\* "Within a carn in a field, [in the parish of Llanelieu, to the eastward of Brynlllys,] was found, a few years back, a remnant of antiquity, in comparison with which even the Roman remains in this island may be almost said to be modern; it was a spear's head of flint, near seven inches long and two broad, at the widest place: it is rudely chipped into its present shape, and seems to be more ancient than the use of iron in this country. In the same carn was also found a coarse earthen vessel." Jones's Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 309.

At a short distance from the church, on a small eminence, are some inconsiderable remains of a British camp.

The town of

### HAY,

in Welsh called Tregelli, four miles lower down the vale, and fifteen miles from Brecknock, is pleasantly situated on a gentle eminence on the southern bank of the Wye. It consists principally of one street running in the direction of the river, with a short cross street, near the eastern end; just beyond which it is divided from the county of Hereford by the little river Dulais, which here discharges its waters into the Wye. Its present extent may be judged of from the last Parliamentary returns, in 1811, which state the number of houses to have been then 231, and of inhabitants 1099, of whom 225 families are represented to have been chiefly occupied in trade, &c. and 16 families, employed neither in trade, &c. nor in agriculture. The houses are generally of the inferior class; but a few of a better description occasionally occur, that indicate the presence of some more opulent inhabitants. Hay is a borough by prescription; but possesses at present no privileges. The bailiff, or chief magistrate, whose official duties are now restricted to receiving the tolls at the fairs and markets, is annually appointed by the lord of the manor, to whom they pertain,\* and who holds a court leet here annually.

Its

\* In the time of James and Charles the First these tolls were not fixed, but regulated by the will of the lord. As the collectors were frequently exorbitant in their demands, serious altercations and personal contests took place between them and the people who brought their commodities to the markets. The following instance of *Welsh resentment*, consequent upon one of these scuffles, is given by Mr. Jones from the will of the party.

“ Evan

Its situation on the borders of the two counties, and in a rich agricultural district, seems to afford it considerable advantages as a mart for inland commerce. At present there is but one market here in the week, which is on Thursday, though formerly it had the right of holding another on Monday. It has five fairs in the course of the year, held on the Monday before Easter, on May the 17th, the second Monday in June, August 12th, and October the 12th. These are well attended, and afford opportunities for the sale of considerable numbers of cattle and horses. A woollen manufactory has been lately established here, which promises to answer the patriotic views of the proprietor.

Within the town formerly stood the parish church, dedicated to St. John, which, so late as the year 1684, was in sufficient repair to be used as a school house. Some of the walls yet remain, but in a most dilapidated state. There was also in Leland's time a chapel in the suburb, in which he says he heard mass;\* but this has disappeared. The present parish church, dedicated to St. Mary, is most delightfully situated on a precipitous

"Evan ap David, a pedlar, who brought his wares to this market to sell, by his will proved in 1576, thus expresses himself: 'I am note sicke by God's visitacon, but by the vilany and hurts receved at the handes of William Smythie, now baylyf of the Hai, David Goch, &c. Item. My will is that Margaret my wife, and William Bevan [his son] and John Vaughan of Llansaintfread, in the county of Montgomery, gent. and Jeffrey Vaughan of Clyrow, in the county of Radnor, my overseers to sue with my wif and my sonne for my deathe. Item. My will is that Margared vz. † Griffith and William Bevan my sonne shall enter into bonds of 200l. to the said John and Jeffrey Vaughan to sue for my deathe to the uttermoste that the law will geve and graunt thereunto, and not to take any ende without the consente of the sayed John and Jeffrey Vaughan, and that they shall mayntayn the sayed overseers to sue for my deathe as far as my goods will exteade.'" Hist. Brecknock, II. 396.

\* Itin. V. p. 72.

† An old abbreviation for verch—daughter.

pitous bank of the Wye, on a bold reach of that noble river, and commanding an extensive prospect down the vale. There is some appearance of its having been once separated from the town by a deep ditch, through which the waters of the Wye may have flowed. The church is small, consisting of a nave and chancel, with a tower at the west end, and contains no object of curiosity, excepting the silver chalice used in the Lord's Supper, which bears the following inscription, "OUR LADY PARIS OF THE HAIE," and is of ancient date.

The churchyard contains a stone effigy, now much defaced, which has generally been considered to represent some female, and is appropriated by the inhabitants to their celebrated townswoman Maud de St. Wallery, the wife of William de Breos, vulgarly called Moll Walbec; but Mr. Jones with reason supposes it was designed for one of the priors or monks of Brecon, who had extensive possessions in this neighbourhood.

Near the church is an artificial hill, noticed by Leland, which was probably occupied at one time by a small mural fortress.

The River Wye is crossed near the eastern extremity of the town by a long bridge, constructed partly of stone and partly of wood. It appears, however, to be only a temporary erection. Its predecessor, a handsome stone bridge of seven arches, was destroyed in the year 1795 by a flood.

The early history of this place is involved in some obscurity. Camden states that Roman coins had been frequently dug up here, and hence infers that it must have been known to that people;\* and the same circumstance is mentioned also by Leland; but the fact may justly be doubted. There is no satisfactory evidence to shew that it had any existence prior to the invasion of Bernard Newmarch, in whose division of the conquered territory we find the manor of Hay granted to Sir Phi-

\* Gough's Camden, Vol. III. p. 97.



llp Walwyn, who may have erected a castle on this spot for his own residence, and the security of his possessions. He does not appear, however, to have remained here long, as the property is found a few years subsequently in the hands of Bernard Newmarch; and it passed to his successors, with a few occasional exceptions, as an appendage to the lordship of Brecknock. The castle, part of which, including an old Gothic gateway, still remains, and the walls that formerly surrounded the town, which may yet be seen in some places, are ascribed by tradition to Maud de St. Waleri,\* called also Maud de Haia, whose extraordinary character has already been noticed.†

The manor of Hay was possessed in the reign of Henry the Eighth, though it is stated illegally, by James Boyle, one of whose descendants some time after, probably in the reign of Elizabeth or James, erected on a part of the site of the old castle a mansion which is yet standing; and, at present, inhabited by a family of the name of Wellington. This house was purchased by an ancestor of the present occupier from the heiress: it is now detached from the manor, which belongs to the widow of Dr. Harley, late Bishop of Hereford.

Hay has frequently suffered severely from the fury of invading armies. The castle was destroyed in 1231, by Henry the Second, but soon repaired by Henry the Third.

L

It

\* “ She built (say the Gossips) the castle of Hay in one night: the stones for which she carried in her apron; while she was thus employed, a *small pebble*, of about nine feet long, and one foot thick, dropped into her shoe. This she did not at first regard; but in a short time finding it troublesome, she indignantly threw it over the river Wye, into Llowes churchyard in Radnorshire (about three miles off) where it remains to this day, precisely in the position it fell, a stubborn memorial of the *historical fact*, to the utter confusion of all sceptics and unbelievers.” Jones’s Brecknock, I. p. 113. “ The fable of her carrying the stones, and completing the castle of Hay in one night, perhaps means that she collected, or rather extorted from her tenants, a sum sufficient for the purpose in a very short time.” Idem.

† See above, page 250.

It was taken in the year 1265 by Prince Edward, together with the castle of Brecknock, and some other places then belonging to Humphrey de Bohun, the sixth Earl of Hereford of that name. Llewelyn ap Jorwerth took and burnt it in his invasion of this country in the year 1264, and its final destruction, as a place of defence, is ascribed to Owen Glyndwr,\* who overran South Wales, with dreadful devastation, in the reign of Henry the Fourth.

Retracing now our steps towards Glasbury, quitting here the Brecknock road, and pursuing that which ascends the vale in the direction of Builth, we enter the parish of

#### LLYSWEN.

This parish derives its name, which signifies the white or fair court, from a palace of the princes of South Wales, that once stood here near the banks of the Wye, but on what spot is not known, as not a vestige of it remains. The only historical notice that seems to be taken of it, is in the directions of Roderic the Great, respecting the settlement of any disputes that might arise between his three sons, between whom, about A. D. 876, he divided the principality. He ordained that if any difference arose between the princes of Aberffraw and Dinevawr, (or of North and South Wales,) they should meet at Bwlch y Pawl, where the prince of Powis should act as umpire; if the difference should be between the princes of Aberffraw and Powis, the meeting should take place at Dol Rhianedd on the Dee, and the prince of Dinevawr should decide; but if the dispute lay between the princes of Powis and Dynevawr, they were to meet at Llyswen, on the Wye, where the prince of Aberffraw was to determine.†

The first old family seat we meet with in this parish is

DDERW

\* Leland's Itin. V. fol. 72.

† Wynne's Wales, p. 55.

## DDERW HOUSE,

at present tenanted by a farmer. It is chiefly memorable in the history of this county from the marriage of Blanch Morgan, the heiress of this property, with William Morgan, Esq. of Machen and Tredegar, who by this union became possessed of most of the immense estates held at this day in the county by his descendants.

Higher up the vale, at the distance of eight miles from the Hay, we arrive at

## LLANGOED CASTLE,

the seat of John Macnamara, Esq. This was formerly the residence of Sir Edward Williams, of whom it was purchased by the present possessor. The situation of the old mansion, which was built in 1633, was by no means well chosen; and Mr. Macnamara has made some progress towards the erection of a new house on a site in every respect more eligible, and adapted with better judgment and a more refined taste to the almost incomparable advantages of the grounds, and the beauties of the surrounding scenery.

“ The whole premises had been neglected in Sir Edward Williams’s time, till they had almost become a wilderness; but they are rapidly resuming an air of order and cultivation, under the management of Mrs. Macnamara, who, with a taste not common to ladies of fortune, hurries every season from the gaieties of London, to conduct the improvements, and even the farming concerns of this her ancient seat. It would, perhaps, scarcely be believed, if the assurance were not derived from my own personal observation of the fact, that a lady so circumstanced could solely regulate and superintend a farm round the house of eighteen hundred acres, with which Mr. Macnamara, whose taste does not lie in the direction of agriculture, never

interferes. He has been in possession of the estate between seven and eight years ; and in that space of time, an overgrown and ruined extent of two miles along the banks of the Wye has been drained and levelled, while the quality of the soil has been improved and reclaimed almost from the condition of a bog, by the mixture of sand with the brick earth, and the more mucky materials of which the ground was composed. The road, which ran between the river and the house, has been taken in, and a new one carried considerably above the house on the other side ; a bridge has been built for the county across the river Cletur, [Clettwr,] under the same auspices, where there had been none before, and a commodious drive is made about the hilly part of the grounds, commanding good views of the dingles, with frequent bridges across the watercourses from the mountains." "This place may be, and probably will be, made one of the first in Wales. A range of almost inexhaustibly wooded hills runs parallel with the Wye, but here they have what is not often to be found in mountain vallies, a very fine and sufficiently wide flat, for all the purposes of utility and comfort, admitting the minuter ornaments among the grandly folding draperies of nature." "In consequence of Mr. Macnamara having purchased the fine woody hill on the Radnorshire side of the Wye, that noble and romantic river is, as it were, domesticated on the estate, and exhibits all its varied and contrasted features within the precincts of the pleasure ground. Here a rapid and whitely foaming current, rolling over a rocky and impeded bed ; there a deep dark pool, with scarcely an appearance of motion on its duskily transparent surface. It is seldom that such a stream, in its choicest part, can be commanded as the central attraction of a gentleman's domain." \*

The territory in which Llangoed is situated formed a part of the grants made by Bernard Newmarch to Gwrgan, the son of  
Bleddin

\* Malkin's Scenery, &c. of South Wales, 4to. 1804, p. 251, &c.

Bleddin ap Maenarch. Gwrgan removed into Pembrokeshire, and allied himself by marriage with the heiress of Whiston in that county, and from this union sprung the family of Wogan, which is an obvious corruption of the original name. Mrs. Macnamara is of this family, and the only lineal descendant of Gwrgan; and it is a circumstance not a little remarkable, that by Mr. Macnamara's extensive purchases in this county, she has come into possession, after an interval of eight hundred years, of about one half of the estates of her remote ancestor: the other portion belongs to the earl of Ashburnham.

The turnpike road proceeds along the vale, in a most romantic course, with little, however, to detain the attention of the traveller besides the grandeur and picturesque beauties of the prospects which in endless variety it continually offers to the eye. At the distance of nineteen miles from the Hay, we enter the small town of

### BUILTH.

This place derives its name from that of the surrounding territory, which is correctly written, Buallt, or the land of Boscage, from *Bu*, an ox, and *allt*, a wooded eminence, being descriptive of the nature of the country, and of the uses to which it was anciently appropriated. The town is pleasantly situated on the southern bank of the Wye, in an open part of the vale, but surrounded in every direction by abrupt and lofty hills, which impart a romantic wildness to the scene.

It is at present a place of no great extent, consisting of two parallel streets, one close to the river, which is narrow, ill-built, and extremely dirty, and the other on the higher ground above, which is more open, and contains some good houses of modern erection. There are besides a few lanes that connect these main streets, in one of which stands the King's Head, the principal inn, in as inconvenient a situation as could possibly have been chosen for the purpose. In the lower street, which

is the principal thoroughfare, as it communicates with all the great roads leading to the town, almost every house is a tavern or a shop; from which circumstance a stranger would be induced to suppose that this must be a trading place of some importance. The fact, however, is far otherwise. The shops are all of them on a small scale and ill furnished, and with very few exceptions yield but a scanty subsistence to the proprietors. There is a market held here every Monday, which is resorted to by the thinly scattered inhabitants of the surrounding district for the distance of eight or ten miles; and there are five fairs in the course of the year, held on the third Monday in February, the Monday next before the 12th of May, the 27th of June, the 2d of October, and 6th of December. The adjacent country not being adapted for the growth of corn, the quantity sold here is inconsiderable, but the fairs are plentifully supplied with the small cattle and sheep which are reared on its bleak and inhospitable uplands.

By the returns of 1811 the number of houses in this parish is stated at 182, and the population at 815 individuals. The parish church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, and hence gives the town the name whereby it is most commonly known among the natives, St. Mary's in BUILT, (Llanfair Ym Mhuallt,) stands at the western extremity of the lower street, on the bank of the river. With the exception of the steeple, it is a modern erection, and is kept in tolerably neat order. It contains, however, one old monument, which, on rebuilding the chancel, was removed from the place it originally occupied. It purports to be the effigy of John Lloyd, Esq. of Towy, of whom little is known \* beyond the following brief memorial, engraven on a  
brass

\* " He was the son of Thomas Lloyd, the lineal descendant in the elder line of Elystan Glodrydd, by Angharad, his second wife, daughter of Morgan ap Evan Lloyd. This Thomas Lloyd was a partizan of the earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry the Seventh, and probably joined him with a considerable body of men in Cardiganshire, on his march to the battle of Bosworth Field. As a reward for his services, he had ample possessions bestowed

brass plate, formerly fixed near the monument, but at present deposited in the parish chest: "Here lieth John Lloid of Towy Squer to the bodye & Servante to O'r Sofveraigne Queene Elizabethhe who served herr Ma<sup>ty</sup>. father both at Mutrell & at great Bullen whē hit was gotten & also in Scotland. This man was steward of this man' under the right honorable the Erle of Essex transported out of Ireland into Carm'then: also the first Sherif & first Justice of the peace that ever dwelte in this lordship after the devision of Wales into Sherground, Whose father Thomas Lloid had been so listenant of this Countre XL yeeres together next after the arivall of that most famous prince Henry the seventh and Jasp' his uncle at Milfurde. This man dep'ted this lief the first day of March Anno dni 1585."

Near the church are some very respectable dwelling houses, among which may be mentioned, the seat of Richard Price, Esq. member of Parliament for the borough of New Radnor. The bridge over the Wye is a handsome modern stone structure, with six arches.

On the 20th of December, 1691, Builth was visited by a dreadful calamity, being almost wholly destroyed by fire. In the brief which was granted to collect money for the relief of

## L 4

the

ed upon him by the crown, and was appointed lord lieutenant of the county of Brecon, which office he held for forty years. His only son by the second wife, John Lloyd, went very early into England, and served in the French and Scottish wars, under Henry the Eighth; he was afterwards, as the inscription on a plate of brass in Builth church informs us, *Squer to the bodye*, (Esq. to the body,) of Queen Elizabeth, the first sheriff and justice of the peace, who resided in the county after the union,\* and steward of the manor or lordship of Builth, under Walter, earl of Essex, who was buried at Caermarthien." Jones's Breck. II. 230. Mr. Lloyd's seat was called Porth y crwys, or the gate of the cross, and was situated in the parish of Llanynis, a little to the westward of Builth. The only remain of the mansion now to be seen consists of a beautiful Saxon cross, placed in the wall of another house in the neighbourhood. Idem, Vol. II. p. 280.

\* This must be a mistake; Sir William Vaughan of Porthaml was the first Sheriff; the inscription only states that Mr. Lloyd was the first Sheriff "that ever dwelte in this lordship."

the sufferers it is stated that "the fire raged for five hours, and, from the boisterousness of the wind, consumed the dwelling houses of forty-one substantial families, with all their corn, furniture, effects, and merchandizes, to the great impoverishment of the adjacent country, and the decay of trade; it being a very considerable market town, and having no market kept within ten miles of it; the damage sustained by this fire, as ascertained by the oaths, as well of the sufferers as of the architects and tradesmen of different descriptions, amounted to 10,780*l.* besides 2000*l.* sustained by persons of ability, who did not apply for relief."\*

At the eastern end of the town, on a small eminence above the river, is the site of Builth Castle, once a fortress of some strength and importance. The undemolished remains of the walls, which appear to have been of great thickness, are very inconsiderable, consisting of only a small portion on the northern side. Some of the trenches and earthen works may yet be traced, as well as the site of the keep, an artificial mound, about twenty yards in diameter. The castle had two entrances, one on the southern side communicating with the country, and one on the north that led to the bridge over the Wye, which at this period most probably stood directly opposite, though since rebuilt higher up the stream.

The name of this fortress frequently occurs in the annals of South Wales; but its history is notwithstanding involved in much obscurity. Neither the name of the founder, nor the date of its construction, has been ascertained. The adjacent territory was held at the time of the Norman invasion of the county, by Cadwgan ap Elystan Glodrydd, the last of the Brecknockshire chiefs whom Bernard Newmarch reduced to subjection. After his overthrow, it is not improbable that the victor established a post here, and erected a castle, conformably to his practice in other situations, to secure his conquest. "The first notice taken of it is in the records of the

Exchequer,

\* Quoted by Mr. Jones, Hist. of Breck. Vol. II. p. 285.



Exchequer, 25 and 26 Edward the First, *roll 49 a*, whereby we find an allowance was made to John Giffard, keeper of the castle of Builth, to which he was appointed in the tenth year of this reign, the rate and amount of which is thereby settled, from whence it may be inferred that upon the attainder of the first William de Breos, the crown retained the possession of this fortress, and did not restore it with the other possessions of this family; for in the 17th of Edward the Second it appears still to have formed a parcel of the royal demesnes. From a document in this reign we learn that the castle and curtilage adjoining were valued at twelve pence per annum, forty acres of arable land at only three pence per acre, and ten acres of meadow, at twelve pence per acre; that the ferry over the Wye at Builth produced four shillings a year; that the value of a cow in 1324 was half a mark, or 6s. 8d. Soon afterwards, either by a grant, or upon the marriage of Roger Mortimer, earl of Wigmore, with Maud, daughter of the third William de Breos, it followed the fortunes of that family, was forfeited on the attainder of the last earl of March, and continued with the crown until the time of Charles the First, after which it passed with the manor, though some property adjacent belongs to Mrs. Harley, and to purchasers from that family.\* It is not known to whom the demolition of the castle is to be ascribed.

Camden,† quoting Ptolemy as his authority, states Builth to have been the ancient *Bulleum Silurum* of that geographer; but this seems to be a supposition perfectly gratuitous. Not to say that there is no reason to believe this district to have ever formed a part of Siluria, there is not a shadow of evidence for assigning so early an origin to the town. Its present name, which dreaming etymologists might trace to Bulleum, is of easy explication, and was, as already observed, conveyed to it at a late period from the surrounding country. As the towns adjacent

\* Jones's Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 289.

† Gough's Camden, Vol. III. p. 97.

adjacent to the castles of the Norman invaders in this county, arose in almost every instance subsequently to the erection of the latter, it may safely be assumed that here also the houses of the vassals were built after the lord had established himself securely in his fortress.

Builth is distinguished in the history of the principality as the last retreat of the gallant but unfortunate Llewelyn ap Gryffydd, the last of its native princes who held the regal power. The circumstances attending his final struggle for the independence of his country, and his death, so interesting to every Welshman, will be noticed hereafter when we come to speak of Aberedwy, a village in Radnorshire, about four miles below Builth, on the borders of the Wye, where he had a house. Tradition states that when, at the crisis of his fortune, he applied to the garrison at this castle for shelter, they refused him admittance, whence the inhabitants have to this day borne the reproachful title of *Bradwyr Buallt*, or the traitors of Builth. The scene of his death is placed on the banks of the river Irvon, a short distance to the westward of the town, where a place called, *Cefn y bedd*, the grave ridge or bank, over which a house has since been erected, is thought to indicate the spot.\*

The river Irvon empties its waters into the Wye a little above Builth; a short excursion up the vale, through which it winds its course, must conclude our survey of this district.

To the right, on entering the vale, but on the northern shore of the Whefri river, which here joins the Irvon, stands the mansion of RHOSFERIG, formerly the property of Elystan Glodrydd, prince of Ferregs. The old house has disappeared, and

\* "About a mile westward of this town runs a small brook, called Nant yr Arian, or Money Brook; from a tradition that when the plague raged in Builth, and the country people, who supplied the place with provisions, put them down here, and were paid for them by money dropped into the water to prevent the spread of the infection." Jones's Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 290.

and the present edifice has little to recommend it to notice, except its situation, which is peculiarly delightful.

The late proprietor, John Lloyd, Esq. who was "the last lineal descendant of the eldest line of Elystan," was accidentally drowned in crossing the river near his own house.

PARC AR IRVON was another family seat in this neighbourhood, but is now converted into a farm house.

On a lofty precipitous bank of the river Irvon, a short distance above its fall into the Wye, occurs a mound of earth, where there appears to have been once a military fortress, called CASTELL CAER BERIS, but of which only the name remains. Nor is there any trace in the history of the country of this Peris, from whom it received its designation.

Higher up the vale, in the parish of Llanlleonvel, on the northern side of the river, stands the mansion of

#### GARTH,

formerly the seat of a branch of the Gwynne family, but at present occupied by a respectable English farmer. Of this house was Marmaduke Gwynne, who was a judge on the North Wales circuit in the reign of Queen Anne. Little is known of his history beyond his appointment to this station. The following inscription, on a stone tablet in the church of Llanlleonvel, commemorates his honours and his virtues; though it has been insinuated that the latter were rather more problematical than his eulogist would have been willing to admit.

" P. M.

" Marmaduci Gwyn de Garth in Com. Brecon, Armigeri et juris consulti qui propter incorruptam fidem raramq (qua fuit) in legibus explicandis dignam Annæ Magnæ Britannæ, &c. Reginæ videbatur qui constitueretur judex qua dignitate ita usus fuit ut dum extiterit sceleris vindex justissimus non oblitus fuit miserorum patrocinii post multum tandem res magnas pro republica plurimum desideratur obiit anno ætatis septuagesimo,  
Christi

Christi millesimo septingentesimo decimo secundo. Re familiari ea prudentia qua fuit aucta donata Marmaduco Gwynne (filio maximo natu Hoelli Gwynne de Brynyoye, in Com. predict. Armigero) cujus impensis gratitudinis ergo conditum fuit hoc monumentum.”

On proceeding into the parish of Llangammarch,

### CAERAU

will claim our first attention. This house was long the seat of an opulent family of the name of Lloyd: but the chief object of curiosity here is an artificial hillock, about six yards in height, and eighty yards in circumference, which has communicated its name\* to the mansion. As the vicinal Roman road from Caermarthen to Chester passed this way, a small tower of observation, or *arx speculatoria*, may probably have been erected on this spot. But Mr. Charles Powell of Castle Madoc in this County, who examined the place very minutely, states, in a letter to Mr. Strange, referred to in the communication of the latter gentleman to the Society of Antiquaries,† that he could not trace here the least appearance of a Roman work, and on this account pronounces the remains to have been of British origin. Unimportant, however, as are the vestiges to be seen at this place, some have not scrupled to raise it to the dignity of a Roman station, and to fix here the Bulleum Silurum of Ptolemy; but it is hardly necessary to say that this opinion has nothing but unfounded conjecture for its support.

The other mansions in this parish need not detain us: but the small farm house of LLWYNCADWGAN may be entitled to insertion, as having been the paternal inheritance, in the reign of Elizabeth, of the ancestor of the noble house of Cadogan.‡

Llangammarch

\* Caerau is the plural of Caer, a fortress or entrenchment.

† Archæology, Vol. I. p. 303.

‡ Jones's Brecknock, II. 269.

Llangammarch has given birth to some men who have obtained a place in the annals of literature and religion. In the number of these we may first notice the brothers Thomas and James Howell, the sons of Thomas Howell, who was curate of this parish from 1576 to 1631, and afterwards held the living of Abernant and Cynvilgais in Caermarthen-shire.\* Thomas Howell was born about the year 1588, as he is stated to have been sixteen years of age in 1604, when he was entered a student at Jesus College, Oxford. He afterwards became a fellow of that society; and having taken his degree of A. M. was admitted into orders. He preached for some time in the neighbourhood of Oxford, after which he was appointed one of the chaplains in ordinary to Charles the First, and presented to the rectories of West Horseley, in the county of Surrey, and St. Stephen's, Walbrook, London: in 1636 he took his degree of Doctor in Divinity,† and was appointed a canon of Windsor. On the breaking out of the troubles in this reign he was deprived of his livings; but the king, espousing his cause, nominated him in July 1644, to the vacant bishopric of Bristol, for which dignity he was consecrated at Oxford by Usher, the learned primate of Ireland, and other bishops. At Bristol, however, it seems he was not allowed to enjoy his elevation in peace. It is stated by Walker,‡ on the authority of private information, that the presbyterian party uncased the  
roof

\* Jones's Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 270.

† From the following passage in one of the letters addressed to him by his brother James we have a curious view of the kind of entertainment afforded on occasion of keeping an Act at this period. "I have sent you here enclosed warrants for four brace of bucks, and a stag, the last procured of the king, towards keeping your act. I have sent you also a warrant for a brace of bucks out of Whaldon Chase; besides, you shall receive by this carrier a great wicker hamper with two geouls of sturgeon, six barrels of pickled oysters, three barrels of Bologna olives, and some other Spanish commodities." Howell's Fam. Letters, Sect. 1. Let. 16.

‡ Sufferings of the Clergy, Part II. page 3.

roof of his palace of the lead, and left him "exposed to the weather by day and night," so that it "rained freely on his lady, who was then in childbed." This author observes, that they afterwards converted his palace into a malthouse, and adds, that it was intended to erect a furnace for brewing in the place of the altar, at the east end of the choir of the cathedral. The insults and outrages to which he was thus exposed are thought to have hastened his death, which took place in the year 1646. He was buried in the cathedral, near the entrance into the choir, where his only monument is a plain stone laid over the grave with the single word *Expergiscar*. He appears to have been a man of amiable temper, and to have been held in much esteem in his diocese. The city of Bristol testified its respect for his memory by providing for the education of his children, of whom he left eleven. Mrs. Catherine Philips, the well-known Orinda, adopted his son Charles Howell; another son, Griffith, was celebrated as a Herald, and a third, George Howell, is mentioned as a fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford, where he took his degree of A. M. in 1662. He settled near Chichester, and left a family.\* Nothing farther is known of Dr. Howell's descendants.

James the younger brother of Dr. Thomas Howell, distinguished by the variety and multiplicity of his literary labours, and the eccentricity of his character, was born in 1594. He received the rudiments of his classical education at the free-school in Hereford, under what he styles "a learned but lashing master." From hence he removed to Oxford, and was admitted a student of Jesus College in the year 1610, at which time his brother was a fellow of that house. He pursued his studies here with great application and success, and in December 1613 commenced bachelor of arts. But his circumstances not admitting of his longer stay in the university, he left it without taking another degree, and went to London, where,

through

\* Biograph. Brit.

through the interest of Sir Robert Mansel, he was appointed steward to a glass-house in Broad-street, of which his patron was one of the principal proprietors. This company finding it necessary, with a view to the improvement of the concern, to send an agent abroad to procure certain materials, and to engage foreign artizans, Mr. Howell was fixed upon for this purpose; and a licence was obtained for him to travel for three years, on the continent, but he was prohibited from going to St. Omer's and Rome. He quitted England in March 1619, and visited several of the chief towns in Holland, Flanders, France, Spain, and Italy. During his journey he improved to the utmost the advantages of his situation, in collecting a large fund of knowledge, and in acquiring an unprecedented acquaintance with the modern languages of Europe. Notwithstanding the time he devoted to his own studies and pursuits, he acquitted himself with great diligence and judgment in the execution of his commission, having made some advantageous bargains for Barilla, at Alicant, and procured some able workmen from Venice, where the manufacture of glass was at that time carried to the highest perfection. He returned to London in 1621, and was soon after made a fellow of Jesus College, on the foundation of Sir Elbule Thelwall. His situation at the glass-house not offering to him now any very flattering prospects, he determined to relinquish it, and endeavour to gratify the taste he had acquired for foreign travel. He accordingly engaged himself, after having failed of success in two preceding negotiations, to attend Mr. Richard Altham, the son of Baron Altham, who was about to make the tour of France. In this situation he passed the year 1622 in that country. On his return he was deputed by the English government as their agent to the Court of Spain, to attempt the recovery of an English ship richly freighted, which had been seized by the Spanish viceroy at Sardinia, on the pretence of engaging in a contraband trade. He had succeeded in bringing the affair, on which three ambassadors had been before employed, nearly

to a favourable conclusion, when the Prince of Wales, afterwards Charles the First, arrived at Madrid. His presence suspended the proceedings, and the whole business was subsequently marred by the rupture of the negotiations for the projected marriage between the Prince and the Infanta. Mr Howell returned towards the latter end of 1624, disappointed at the unfavourable result of his embassy, and unprovided with the means of his future support. He now became a suitor for office, and after some unsuccessful applications obtained the situation of Secretary to Lord Scrope, afterwards Earl of Sunderland, who had been appointed Lord President of the North. The duties of his office bringing him into Yorkshire, he was voluntarily chosen by the borough of Richmond, during his residence in that county, to be one of its representatives in the Parliament of 1627. Lord Scrope dying shortly after, Mr. Howell, in 1632, accompanied the Earl of Leicester, as his secretary, in an embassy to the Court of Denmark, where he displayed his oratorical talents in several Latin speeches, delivered before the king and some German Princes. On his return to England, he received intelligence of the death of his father, an event which seems to have deeply affected him,\* and to have produced a very unfavourable influence

\* This calamity was announced to him by Dr. Field, then bishop of St. David's: Mr. Howell, in reply to his lordship's letter, writes with a degree of feeling and filial affection, highly creditable to his sensibility and character. We cannot deny ourselves the gratification of inserting the following extract:—

“ Truly, my lord, it is the heaviest news that ever was sent me. But when I recollect myself, and consider the fairness and maturity of his age, and that it was rather a gentle dissolution than a death, when I contemplate that infinite advantage he hath got by this change and transmigration, it much lightens the weight of my grief; for if ever human soul entered heaven, surely he is there; such was his constant piety to God, his rare indulgence to his children, his charity to his neighbours, and his candour in reconciling differences; such was the gentleness of his disposition, his unwea-



ence on his future fortunes. Being for some years destitute of employment, excepting an unimportant mission to Orleans, and reduced to a very precarious subsistence, he resolved, as an almost last effort, to go to Ireland, and apply to Lord Wentworth, afterwards Earl of Strafford, who was then residing at Dublin as deputy. He met a favourable reception from his lordship, who gave him the reversion of a place as one of the clerks of the Council, and in the mean time employed him on some other business; but this nobleman's subsequent troubles ruined Howell's hopes in this quarter. Disappointed thus in every other plan, he now turned his thoughts to literature. His first work was called *Dordona Grove, or the Vocal Forest*, which appeared in 1639, and passed through several editions. His next production was a *New Years' Day Poem, the Vote*, in which he was lavish of his compliments to the king. This recommended him to the royal favour, and procured for him the office of Clerk of the Council. This situation he held for three years, at the expiration of which he was thrown out of it, by the turbulent contentions of the time. Being in London, on official business, in 1643, he was arrested and sent to the Fleet Prison, and all his papers were seized and secured. On examination, however, they were found to contain nothing of a criminal nature; and it is thought, with much probability, that the assigned cause of his arrest, which, from his own account of the transaction, appears to have been executed under no legal authority, was a mere pretence, and that in reality it was the act of his creditors, originating in his pecuniary embarrassments. He remained in confinement till some time after the king's death. To support himself during this period, he turned author by profession, and continued to obtain a tolerable livelihood, but he found he had a delicate part to act in relation to the political contests of the day. He seems at first to have

M

thought

ried course in actions of virtue, that I wished my soul no other felicity when she hath shaken off these rags of flesh, than to ascend to his, and to enjoy the same bliss."—Howell's Fam. Letters, Ed. 1754, p. 245.

thought it prudent not to side directly with either party, but by his endeavours to preserve this neutrality, he rendered himself suspected by both. When, however, Cromwell assumed the supreme authority, under the title of Protector, Howell condescended to become his eulogist, and addressed to him a courtly panegyric on the occasion. Yet, strange as it may appear, it was one of the first acts of the reign of Charles the Second, after the restoration, to create for him a new situation, that of Historiographer Royal, with a salary of two hundred pounds a year. His new appointment did not suspend his literary labours, which he continued with unremitting diligence to the time of his death, which took place in November 1666. He was buried in the Temple church, where a monument was raised to his memory, bearing the following inscription: "Jacobus Howell Cambro-Britannus, Regius Historiographus, (in Anglia primus) qui post varias perigrinationes tandem naturæ cursum peregit satur annorum et famæ, domi forisque, huc usque erraticus, hic fixus 1666." \*His writings are exceedingly numerous. The work at present most known is his Familiar Letters,

\* The last clause of this inscription was furnished by Howell himself. He writes in one of his letters, that being very ill he had turned his thoughts to the kind of will he should leave; then, after enumerating some items as to his acquirements, and mental peculiarities, which, with much humour, he bequeaths to such persons as he thought most needed them,—he concludes as follows:—

"This little sackful of bones I thought to bequeath to Westminster Abbey, to be interred in the cloyster, within the south side of the garden, close to the wall, where I would have desired Sir H. F. (my dear friend,) to have enlaid a small piece of black marble, and caused this motto to have been insculped on it—Hucusque Peregrinus hic domi; or this, which I would have left to his choice, Hucusque Erraticus, hic fixus."—Howell's Fam. Lett. p. 338. He wrote another epitaph in a style somewhat similar for Dr. Byfield, the inventor of the *Sal Volatile Oleosum*, who possessed an eccentricity of genius not unlike his own. *Hic jacet Dr. Byfield, diu volatilis, tandem fixus.*

Letters, or *Epistolæ Ho-Elianæ*. These appear to be partly genuine, and partly fictitious; and to have been thrown together into their present form, to exhibit a sketch of his own life and travels. They contain much amusing matter, but are defiled by a large share of coarse wit, and loose ribaldry.\*

Theophilus Evans, the last name we have to notice here, has already been mentioned in the memoir of his grandson, Mr. Theophilus Jones. He was born in 1694, of respectable parents, ordained deacon in 1718, and priest in 1719. In 1738 he was presented to the vicarage of Llangammarch, and in the following year to the living of St. David's, Brecknock, both which he held till 1763, when he resigned the former to his son-in-law, Mr. Hugh Jones, the father of the historian of Brecknockshire. His chief literary production is a duodecimo volume in the Welsh language intituled *Drych y Prif Oesoedd*, or a Mirror of Ancient Times. It purports to be a compendious sketch of the History of the Britons from the dispersion of Babel to the extinction of the line of British Princes. This work was first published in 1739. An enlarged edition was printed twenty-four years after, with a Latin dedication to Dr. Claget, bishop of St. David's, at that time our author's diocesan, and it has been lately reprinted at Merthyr Tydvil in Glamorganshire. This little volume has been much read, and is still greatly admired in the principality. Mr. Evans published also an exposition of the Lord's Prayer in a course of Sermons in the Welsh language, under the title of *Pwyll i Pader*, &c. This appeared in 1739, and was his first production. And in 1752 he published a History of the Modern Enthusiasm, which was reprinted in 1759. This work comprised a severe attack against all classes of non-conformists from the established church. Notwithstanding the apparent bitterness of this philippic, Mr. Jones observes that the author, "had perhaps as much of the milk of human

M 2

kindness,

\* Biograph. Brit. Wood's *Athenæ Oxon.* Howell's *Famil. Letters*, *passim*.

kindness, as any man who ever lived :” and he adds, “ Of the value of money he knew little; books were his only treasures, and employed the greater part of that time in which he was not engaged in the duties of his holy function; and in this character he was remarkably eminent.”\*

The mineral springs in the adjoining parish of Llanwrtyd have already been noticed.† A short distance higher up the vale stands the ancient mansion of

### DINAS,

long the seat of a family of the name of Lloyd. The house is very pleasantly situated on an elevated spot, near which there is a lofty mound of earth, probably once occupied as a military post, and may have transferred its name to the present dwelling-house.

### LLWYNMADOCK,

the last mansion house we shall have to notice in this district, stands to the eastward of Dinas, in the parish of Llanvihangel Abergwessin. It is now the seat of a descendant of a younger branch of the family of Elystan Glodrydd, David Thomas, Esq.

At the northern extremity of the county, in the parish of Llanwrthwl, are some large stones placed irregularly in the ground, which have given to the plain on which they stand the designation of Rhos saith Maen, or the Seven-stone Common. They probably commemorate some great battle fought on the spot, a place in the neighbourhood being called Rhos y beddau, or the common of the graves.‡

The

\* Jones's Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 275, et seq.

† See page 67.

‡ Jones's Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 235.

The only remaining object of curiosity in these parts is :

### LLANAFAN VAWR,

or the church of St. Avan. The pedigree of this saint is not satisfactorily ascertained. The church-yard contains a stone with the following inscription to his memory, carved in ancient characters: "Hic Jacet Sanctus Avanus, Episcopus." This place is signalized by Giraldus on account of a remarkable miracle performed here in the reign of Henry the First;—"the lord of the castle of Radnor, in the adjoining territory of Buelt, had entered the church of St. Avan, and without sufficient caution or reverence had passed the night there with his hounds. Arising early in the morning, according to the custom of hunters, he found his hounds mad, and himself struck blind. After a long, dark, and tedious existence, he was conveyed to Jerusalem, happily taking care that his inward sight should not in a similar manner be extinguished; and there being accoutred, and led to the field of battle on horseback, he made a spirited attack upon the enemies of the faith, and being mortally wounded closed his life with honour."\*

This parish is assigned as the birth-place of a Welsh Poet named Mab y Clochyddyn, or the Sexton's son, (said to have been the same with Macclaf ap Llywarch,) who is stated in the Welsh Archæology to have flourished A. D. 1330—1370. This valuable collection contains one poem of his writing addressed to Gwenhwyvar, the daughter of Madoc, and the wife of Howel ap Tudor ap Gryffudd.†

Having thus glanced at the chief objects of interest in these parts, we may now bend our course towards Brecknock, along the direct road from Builth. The first part of the journey we have to toil up a steep ascent, that brings us to the barren sum-

\* Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. I. p. 4.

† Myvyrian Archæology, Vol. I. p. 51a.

mit of the Eppynt hills, over which our route continues for several miles, till we begin our descent into the vale of Honddu. This uninteresting road offers nothing to detain the traveller till he arrives at

### CASTLE MADOC,

or, more correctly, Castell Madoc, a family mansion, long the residence of the Powells, but now the property of Mr. Hugh Price. The present house was built in the year 1588, by Mr. Thomas Powell, on the site of a castellated mansion of uncertain date. Near the house stands an artificial mound of earth of considerable elevation, which was probably surmounted at one period by a keep or prison.

Mr. Owen\* states that William Powell, of Castell Madoc, was a poet, and flourished between A. D. 1580 and 1620. He gives us, however, no list of his writings, which appear to be little known. Mr. Charles Powell, the last male representative of this house, whose name has already been mentioned in connection with some antiquities in this county, which he examined at the request of Mr. Strange,† “was a man of more than common talents, improved by an intercourse and correspondence with several of the learned of his day, and by great reading and much experience during the progress of a long life.”‡ He died at an advanced age in the year 1796, leaving one daughter, Catherine Powell, who, dying unmarried, bequeathed the estate to the Rev. Hugh Price, rector of Retten-den, and of Little Ilford in Essex. On the death of Mr. Price, in 1803, the property devolved to his son Mr. Hugh Price.

On a hill in this neighbourhood, above Alltarnog, are some remains of a British intrenchment, which are conjectured to have

\* Cambrian Biog. sub. verb.

† Archæology, I. 303.

‡ Jones's Breck. Vol. II. p. 178.

have been occupied by Madoc ap Maernach previously to the erection of Castle Madoc house.\*

The little church of

### I.LANDEVAILLOG,

which is beautifully situated by the road side, on the banks of the Honddu, at the distance of two miles from Brecknock, offers two relics of antiquity to detain us for a short period. The first is a stone, now used as the threshold of the door into the church, bearing the letters CATVC, rudely carved upon it. Nothing is known of this Cattwg in connection with the place; and it is probable that this memorial of him was removed here from its original station. The other is a monumental stone, at present lying on the ground near the steeple, bearing an inscription, a representation of a human figure, and some other rude sculpture. Mr. Strange † has given a minute description of this remain, accompanied by an engraving, which has been subsequently copied by Mr. Gough, in his edition of Camden. The stone is nearly eight feet in length, about fifteen inches wide, and four inches thick. The characters which compose the inscription are not known, and may, therefore, be Danish, British, Saxon, or any thing that the ingenuity of the antiquary may suggest. Tradition assigns it to the grave of Brochwel Yscythrog, but Mr. Jones supposes that it rather marks the place of sepulture of Rhain, or Drem Dremrhudd, one of the sons of Brychan. ‡

On the opposite bank of the river, in an elevated situation, stands the church of Garthbrengy, which offers, however, nothing to attract the notice of the antiquary. But,

\* Jones, ubi supra, p. 186.

† Archæology, Vol. I. p. 36.

‡ Hist. of Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 174.

## PEYTYN GWYN,

in this parish, though at present a place of no importance, derives some historical celebrity, from having been the early residence, if not the birthplace, of Sir David Gam. He was the son of Llewelyn ap Howel Vaughan, and, according to the Welsh mode, his name would have been Dafydd ap Llewelyn; but having a cast in his eye, he received the nickname of Dafydd gam, or Squinting David, which he afterwards bore, and transmitted to his descendants.\* In the political contests of his time he embarked as the zealous partizan of the house of Lancaster, to which he remained a firm friend to the close of his life. The measures he pursued, however, to advance the interests of his patrons, were not, in every instance, dictated by principles of honour; and the first recorded act of his public life has fixed an indelible stain on his character. Owen Glyndwr, the celebrated chieftain of North Wales, and the friend of the deposed and murdered Richard, was at this time (A. D. 1402,) engaged in active hostilities against the English King, Henry the fourth. He had convened the estates of Wales at Machynlleth, in Montgomeryshire, to obtain their acknowledgement of the right which he claimed to the principality. David Gam, among others, appeared at this meeting, but with intentions very different from those of the rest of the assembly. It was soon found that he had embraced this opportunity of coming into the presence of Owen, to act the assassin, and put the most effectual stop to his proceedings by taking away his life. On the discovery of his treacherous intentions, he was secured and committed to prison, and would immediately have suffered the merited penalty of his offence, had not some of Owen's most

zealous

\* The family name was subsequently changed to Gams, Games, and James.



zealous partizans interfered, and obtained his pardon, under a promise that he would thenceforth attach himself to their cause. He was kept in confinement, however, till the year 1412, when he was released in consequence of a commission from the king, addressed to his father and others, directing them to treat for his ransom, and on a renewed promise that he would not in future take any part against Owen.\*

After he had obtained his liberty, he paid little attention to the conditions of his release; for, immediately on his return to his own country, he took every opportunity to attack and annoy all who appeared to favour his adversary's cause. Enraged at this base conduct, Owen led a powerful force into Brecknockshire, laid waste the estates of David Gam, and burnt his own house to the ground. David was not at this time at home; and it is related that while his house was burning, or after it had been consumed, Owen jocosely addressed one of his tenants in the following impromptu:

“ O' weli di wr coch cam  
Yn ymofyn y gyrrigwen,  
Dywed ei bod hi dau y lan  
A nod y glo ar ei phen.

“ If thou seest a red haired squinting man, looking for his sheep, tell him that it is under the hill with the mark of the fire on its head.”

About

\* During his imprisonment, the following Englyn was made upon him:

“ Dafydd Gam dryglam dreigl, iti yn wan frwydr;  
Fradwr Rissiat Brenin,  
Llwyr y rhoes *Diawl* (hawn hwyl fin  
Y fath ystad) *ei fys ith dyn.*

The following translation is given by Mr. Wynne, (*Hist. of Wales*, p. 321.)  
“ David Gam, thou wilt be a wanderer, and an ill end will come to thee. Thou wilt be weak in battle, thou traitor to King Richard; so eagerly vexatious in thy station, that the *devil wholly entered thy heart.*”

About this period David Gam was obliged to quit the principality, in consequence of having killed his relation Richard Fawr, lord of Slwch, in a quarrel in the High Street of Brecknock: and henceforth we find no mention of his name in connection with this county.

His next appearance is on a more public and honourable field. Having raised a considerable force among his own tenantry, he embarked in the year 1415, with Henry the fifth, in his expedition to France, and signalised himself by his valour and prowess, on the memorable day of Agincourt. As the French army was approaching, king Henry sent him to reconnoitre its movements, and ascertain its strength. On his return, having found it to amount to nearly double the numerical force of the English, he is said to have reported, that "there were enough to be killed, enough to run away, and enough to be taken prisoners," a reply which has led Sir Walter Raleigh to class him with Mago and Hannibal. During the engagement, he fully maintained the bravery of spirit which his answer had previously indicated, and at last gallantly fell in a successful effort to rescue his sovereign from a situation of imminent danger. In this exploit he was attended by his son-in-law Roger Vaughan, of Bredwardine in Herefordshire, and Watkin Llwyd of Marchogtir, near Trecastle in Brecknockshire, who both of them shared his fate. After they had been mortally wounded, and while they were at the point of death, the king, as the only personal remuneration in his power to make them, knighted his three defenders on the field of battle.

Recrossing the vale, and pursuing the road towards Brecknock, we observe, at a short distance to the westward,

#### PENNORE HOUSE,

an elegant modern mansion and the seat of the Rev. Thomas Watkins, the representative of an ancient and highly respectable

ble family. The situation of this house is in many respects very eligible and well chosen, commanding on every side prospects of great extent and varied beauty. In the library is a fine picture by Correggio, of Christ bearing his cross.

A little farther to the westward stands the neat mansion of Mrs. Chabert, the widow of the late Lieut. Col. Chabert, of the 108th Regt. foot.

Proceeding from this house towards Brecknock, the only object that claims our attention, is the village of

### BATTLE,

chiefly remarkable, from having been the scene of the contest which decided the fate of Brecknockshire, and completed the triumph of the Norman invaders. The antiquary will, however, look in vain here for any memorials of this important transaction. The chapel was probably erected by the Normans, and attached to the priory of St. John's at Brecknock, and called Battle from the abbey of that name in Sussex, of which the latter was a cell.

Having thus completed our circuit of the eastern and northern parts of the county, we must now direct our course to the west and southwest district. Our road from the town of Brecknock conducts through the suburb of St. David's, and is the great thoroughfare into Glamorganshire and Caermarthenshire. At the little river Tarrell, a short distance beyond the church of Llanvaes, it divides into two main branches; we shall first of all pursue that which inclines to the southward, which again divides into three minor branches, leading severally to Merthyr Tydvil, and Cardiff, by the vale of Taf, to Neath by the valley of the same name, and to Swansea by the vale of Tawe.

The first of these roads offers but few objects of antiquarian or topographical interest. Mr. Gough, in his additions to Camden,\* mentions a stone said to have been found in this neighbourhood,

\* Edit. 1806, Vol. III. p. 103.

neighbourhood, and first noticed by Llwyd, in his communications to Bishop Gibson, bearing an inscription not very easily to be decyphered. Mr. Llwyd read it—*In nomine Dei Summi Tilus or Teilaw*, and supposed it to have commemorated the celebrated Welsh saint, Teilaw, to whom several churches in the principality are dedicated: but Mr. Gough judges, that it is much more probably read “*In no Dn̄i Summi filia*, a religious memorial of one Sumi or Sunni, whose father’s name is lost or overlooked.” If, however, the inscription given in Mr. Gough’s own plate be correctly copied, this interpretation cannot be admitted, for the last letters are evidently *ilus*, which renders it probable, that Mr. Llwyd’s reading is the more correct. This stone is not at present to be found.

In a wall by the side of the Merthyr road, near the twelfth mile stone from Brecknock, and forming the corner of a gateway into a field, is another stone, bearing the following inscription, in very legible and perfect characters:

TIR .... VS CATIRI.

The letters between the *Tir* and *us* are obliterated. There can be no doubt that the latter words were *filius Catiri*. This stone, according to the information given to the present writer on the spot, once stood in an adjoining field, whence it was removed to its present situation, when the wall in which it is placed was built.

A few miles lower down the romantic valley through which the greater Taf here winds its course, and to the right of the road, lies an old family mansion, the only one in the parish, called Carawen, from Carw-waun, or Buck’s Park. It has been for many years the hospitable residence of a respectable family of the name of Morgan.

COED Y CYMMER,

is an irregular and scattered, but populous village, situated

at the extremity of the county, and within two miles of Merthyr Tydvil. It owes its erection to the establishment of the extensive iron works at the latter place. The name was evidently transferred to the village from the spot whereon it was built, although it cannot be deemed very accurately descriptive of its modern appearance. Coed y Cymmer means literally "the wood at the junction,"—that is, of the two rivers, the greater and less Taf, which unite just below the village: but the wood is no longer seen, the land in the neighbourhood consisting of a bleak common, strewed with immense numbers of large pebble stones, and without as much as a shrub to diversify the prospect and relieve the eye.

The road to Neath diverges to the right a few miles from Brecknock. It conducts over a wild and uninteresting tract of country, until it begins to descend into the vale of Neath, when the scenery gradually improves, and as we approach the neighbourhood of Pontneathvaughan, becomes exceedingly interesting. Near the summit of the hill, where the descent commences, there stands, in an upright position in the ground, an immense stone, which forms a conspicuous object on the common. It measures about twelve feet in height, by about ten feet in breadth, and is called *Maen Llia*, or Llia's Stone. The Roman road already mentioned, \* as passing this way from Neath to Caerbannau near Brecknock, may be seen at the distance of a few yards from this spot, in a tolerably perfect state.

On entering the inclosed country, we arrive at the little village of

#### YSTRADFELLTE,

which gives name to the parish. It consists of a collection of miserable cottages, with a small church in a wretched state of repair. The only remain of antiquity the place affords is an artificial

\* See above, p. 9, where this stone is erroneously stated to be only nine feet high.

artificial mound of earth, which is close to the village, and may have formed a station of observation to the Romans while in this country. The neighbourhood, however, abounds with attractions for the tourist and topographer, who will find in the wonders with which nature has crowded this district ample compensation for the paucity of its works of art. To begin the examination of these, of which only the principal can be enumerated in this survey, we must follow the course of the river Mellte from the village. A walk of about half a mile will bring us to the mouth of a remarkable cavern, called

### PORTH OGOR,

or the mouth of the cave, which the river enters, and through which it pursues its subterranean course for eight or nine hundred yards. When the water is low the cavern may easily be entered, and, with the aid of torches, explored to a considerable distance. The entrance is about twenty feet in height, by about forty-five in width; but the interior spreads into a large apartment, the roof whereof is ornamented with stalactytes, and calcareous concretions, which, when light is introduced, have a pleasing effect amidst the gloomy horrors of the surrounding scene.

In the course of its passage through the cavern, the river is precipitated from a considerable height into a deep pool, and the roaring of its waters in this dark abyss adds not a little to the awe which the place inspires.

The chief obstacles to the examination of the interior are large masses of broken rocks, that every where impede the way. Owing to these it has never been wholly explored, and the consequent uncertainty with respect to its actual extent has given full scope to the imaginations of the neighbouring inhabitants, who have ascribed to it, in one direction, a length of several miles.

Beyond

Beyond this Stygian scene, after the river has emerged into daylight, there occur two cascades of peculiar grandeur. To be seen with advantage, they should be approached from below. A fine view of the first, or lowest, is commanded from a small promontory near the junction of the Hepste river with the Mellte on the eastern side of the valley. "At this point," says Mr. Warner, whose lively description we shall borrow, "a grand scene burst upon us. The stunning noise of falling water had already prepared us for the sight of a stupendous cataract; but imagination, with all her magical powers, could not delineate a picture so sublime as the one now before us. Looking up the Felddta (Mellte) river, we saw a series of connected waterfalls, forming one whole, of inconceivable grandeur. The flood, enlarged to an uncommon degree by a deluge of rain, and pent up within a channel too narrow for its increased bulk, tore over the rocks, and rushed from ledge to ledge, with a fury that produced a sensation on the nervous system, as if the whole atmosphere around were agitated, and the solid foundation of the rock were shaken under our feet. The rage of the torrent was such as completely to divest it, during its descent, of the appearance of water; all was vapour, and foam, and wild confusion.

"Ascending the hill to our right, we lost sight of this overpowering scene, and pursued a rural footway, which conducted us through woods and inclosures, to another magnificent cascade, but of a character perfectly different. The whole bed of the river is here separated in an oblique direction, the lower division of it experiencing a sudden perpendicular depression of nearly forty feet; down this descent tumbles a vast body of water, into a bed of enormous rocks, presenting to us, from the point where we viewed it, a superficies of eighty or ninety feet broad, and half as many in depth."\*

The river Hepste, which joins the Mellte from the eastward,  
just

\* Second Walk in Wales, p. 126, et seq.

just below the first noticed of these cascades, presents another of this class of objects of remarkable beauty. This is called the

### CIL HEPSTE WATER FALL.

A short distance above the confluence of the two streams, in a deep and almost inaccessible valley, this river is precipitated with great force in one wide and unbroken sheet, from a level rock nearly fifty feet in height, into a deep stone bason, which, from the constant agitation of its waters, exhibits the appearance of an immense boiling cauldron. The most remarkable circumstance belonging to this fall is, that the only path from one side of the valley to the other, lies behind the cataract, and between it and the rock. Just above the level of the pool a step or natural ledge of about three feet in width, which constitutes the road, runs across the channel, and connects the opposite banks. Over this, the water throws itself in a curvilinear direction, presenting a natural roof capable of affording to the traveller a temporary shelter from the rain.\*

Proceeding to the southward, we soon reach the little river Sychryd, which runs parallel to the Hepste, and forms here the boundary between the counties of Brecknock and Glamorgan. The point of land formed by the Sychryd, and the united rivers Mellte and Hepste, called

### CRAIG Y DDINAS,

constitutes a striking feature in the scenery of this neighbourhood. It is a bold precipitous limestone rock of considerable elevation. Before the present turnpike, which rises from the vale of Neath farther to the southward, was made, the high road

\* Mr. Warner states, that he and his companions were sheltered in a shower beneath this canopy.



road from Neath to Merthyr Tydvil passed this way, and led directly up the steepest part of the rock, through a natural chasm or pass in the summit. It hardly need be observed that it was wholly impracticable for carriages. The present parish road, leading to Penderyn, or Pen y daren, church, which lies a little to the eastward, is cut out of the side of the precipice, overlooking the vale of Mellte, having a parapet wall on the outside, as a necessary protection to the traveller.

At the foot of the hill the river Mellte is crossed by a rude stone bridge, whence a narrow road conducts to

### PONTNEATH VAUGHAN,

or Pont Nedd fychan. This village lies at the distance of a mile farther down the vale, and is situated partly in Brecknockshire, and partly in Glamorganshire, the two counties being here divided by the little river Nedd, which passes through the place. It has nothing to recommend it to notice, beyond its vicinity to so many objects of interest to the admirers of nature, a circumstance which has imparted to it some degree of celebrity in the journal of every Welsh tourist, who has taken this route. We shall, therefore, hasten to leave it, in order to visit the only remaining natural curiosity, that our limits will allow us to describe. This is a bold cataract on the river Pyrddin, a stream that descends into this vale from the westward, forming for some distance the boundaries of the county of Brecknock, and uniting with the Nedd above Pontneath Vaughan. The common name of the fall is,

### SCWD EINON GAM,

or Ysgwd Eion Gam, lame Eion's waterfall, not Eion's *crooked* waterfall, as Mr. Warner whimsically translates it. On descending from the adjacent meadows into the secluded

vale in which it is situated : “ a black precipice presents itself, scooped by nature into an hollow, forming the segment of a circle,” or rather, exhibiting the appearance of a dark and lofty amphitheatre. “ The right side of the chasm, looking up it, is fringed and adorned with curious and beautiful trees, such as the mountain ash, willow, &c. whilst the left presents a face of rude and naked rock. In the centre is seen the river, which, after tearing through a gloomy narrow glen, throws itself from an elevation of seventy or eighty feet, in one grand unbroken sheet of water. The beauty of the scene is heightened by one little accidental circumstance—an oak, as if planted purposely for decoration, throws its waving head over the stream at the very point whence it is precipitated down the face of the rock, and adds much to the picturesque effect.”\*

The road to Swansea, which branches off to the right, from the Pontneath Vaughan turnpike, at the distance of about six miles from Brecknock, is merely a parish way, impracticable for carriages. About six miles from the point of separation, it begins to descend into a most sequestered and romantic region, little known to travellers, at the upper extremity of the vale of Tawe, where the river of that name, which joins the sea at Swansea, takes its rise.

In Welsh this spot is called by the descriptive appellation of *Blaenau Cwm Tawe*, or the extremities of the vale of Tawe. The parish, however, in which it is situated is denominated

#### YSTRADGYNLAIS,

\* Warner's Second Walk, p. 110. As there are in this neighbourhood so great a number of objects worthy the inspection of the traveller, it may be proper to observe, that the best plan for him to pursue, will be to take up his quarters at Pontneath Vaughan, where he may easily procure a guide to accompany him to them all. Without this assistance, he will probably miss some of the most interesting.

## YSTRADGYNLAIS,

the vale of Gynlais, or Gynllys, from a prince of Gwent so called, who married Gwladis, one of the daughters of Brychan, and, Mr. Jones conjectures, received this district as her marriage portion.\* The church is a small edifice, pleasantly situated near the banks of the river : it is surrounded by a few scattered houses, forming a village, to which it transfers its name. The principal part of the early population of this neighbourhood appears to have consisted of fugitives from the more frequented districts of Brecknockshire, on the other side of the mountain, who sought an asylum here from the oppressions of the Norman invaders, after the county had submitted to the arms of Bernard Newmarch.

The chief family mansion in this vale, within the limits of Brecknockshire, and the only one at present occupied by the proprietor, is

## YNISKEDWIN,

situated on a small plain near the confluence of the rivers Tawe and Twrch ; the name is derived from *Ynis*, an island, and *Edwin*, or *Odin*, a British chieftain, who over-ran South Wales, and communicated his name to several places, that indicate the line of his march. Yniskedwin has long been the property of a branch of the Aubrey family, descended from the Aubreys of Abercynrig in this county ; it is at present possessed by the Rev. Fleming Gough, a descendant of this family in the female line, he having inherited it from his elder brother Richard Gough Aubrey, Esq. who died in 1808, without issue.

\* Hist. of Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 650.

## ABERCRAF

was once another family seat in this parish, but has long since been converted into a farm house. It was formerly the residence of the Gwyns, who traced their descent from Jestyn ap Gwrgan, lord of Glamorgan. Its last proprietor was Matthew Gwyn, Esq. of Neath, in Glamorganshire, on whose death it devolved to his younger brother William Gwyn, Esq. of the same place.

The Swansea canal, as before observed, penetrates about four miles into the Brecknockshire part of this vale. Since the opening of this communication with the sea, the aspect and character of this immediate vicinity have greatly changed. The stillness of rural life, which within the last twenty years reigned over the whole district, has been succeeded by the bustle of mining, manufacturing, and commercial activity. Numerous collieries have been opened in every direction; iron ore has been raised to a great extent, and smelted at the furnace of Yniskedwin, which stands at a short distance from the mansion of that name; and the produce of the country, both in its raw and manufactured state, conveyed in considerable quantities by the canal to Swansea, for home use and for exportation. The consequence of this change of things has been an increase of population, and the deterioration of manners, which forms the bane of all manufacturing districts.

The hills to the eastward of this vale contain some British remains, consisting of several Carneddau, and a few encampments on a small scale; to the westward, on the borders of the parish of Ystradfellte, the Roman road, the only known vestige of that people in the neighbourhood, pervades the ridge of hills, which separates this vale from that of Neath, for a considerable distance.

Among the natural curiosities, the first to be noticed is a waterfall of singular beauty called

## SCWD YR HEN RHYD,

on the river Llech, which joins the Tawe from the eastward some distance above the village of Ystradgynlais. "This little mountain stream," observes Mr. Jones, who is the first writer that has described this interesting spot, "which sometimes swells into a considerable river, and is then only seen to advantage, runs over a bed of rocks, without a tree on its banks, until it crosses the road from Ystradfellte to Glynllech, and the vale of Ystradgynlais: after passing a few yards westward it is lost at once; and the traveller only catches a peep at the summits of a woody glen sweeping round towards the Tawe. Struck with this appearance when I first rode this way, and knowing nothing at the time of this great natural curiosity, and alighting from my horse, I followed the river, and was astonished, and at the same time enraptured, with the grandeur of the scene. The stream first throws itself into foam, about three or four yards upon a ledge of rocks interrupting its descent; after which it falls in one unbroken sheet of water, upwards of ninety feet perpendicularly: it then runs concealed by trees and the banks, which are nearly precipitous, and entirely clothed with underwood, in a semicircular direction to the Tawe, into which it falls."\*

In ascending the vale of Ystradgynlais, the mountains, in some places, as they approach the river, terminate in steep precipices, exhibiting the appearance of a natural wall. In one of these, on the eastern side, "is a hermitage, which, though not large enough for a banqueting room, is more commodious than that of St. Illtyd at Llangammarch.† It is erroneously called here Eglwys Cradoc, Cradoc's Church: this was the cell in which it is supposed Gunleus, prince of Glewissig, died in the arms of his son Cattwc or Cadicus. The son gave the name to the cave, as the father did to the valley.

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This

\* Jones's Brecknock, II. p. 659.

† See above, p. 92.

This hermitage is chiefly natural, but it seems to have been in some measure enlarged, by the industrious but rude efforts of human labour. It is about six feet high, flat at top, and three or four yards square. If this was the saint's summer residence only, his taste cannot be impeached; if he remained there during the winter, his condition must have been truly deplorable."\*

The last district we have to survey, lies on the line of the high road, from Brecknock to Caermarthen, and in the beautiful vale of Usk. Returning to the division of the roads at the little river Tarrell, whence we before diverged to the southward, and pursuing the upper branch along the banks of the Usk, at the distance of two miles from Brecknock we arrive at the interesting little village of

#### LLANSPYDDYD.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Cattwc, is a neat and commodious edifice, standing close to the turnpike road, and surrounded with aged yew-trees. It has been the burying place of several families of some distinction in the county; but none of the names are of sufficient public notoriety to obtain a place in this sketch, unless we except that of Aulach, or his son Brychian, one of whom is supposed to be commemorated by a stone in the churchyard.

Nearly opposite to Llanspyddydyd, the river Yskir empties itself into the Usk. At the junction of these streams stands

#### ABERESCIR,

or Aberyskir, formerly the seat of the metropolis of the county, and also of the Roman station of Caerbannau, already described. † The family mansion of Aberescir Court, was formerly

\* Jones ubi supra, Vol. II. p. 653.

† See above page 3.

ly the residence of a family of the name of Surdwal, now unknown to the county: the house is at present occupied by a farmer.

The mansion house of

### ABERBRAN

stands a short distance higher up the vale. The proprietors, who have long borne the name of Williams, trace their descent from the Bullen family: and subsequently from that of Sir David Gam. In the life of Sir Rice ap Thomas, printed in the first volume of the Cambrian Register,\* from an old manuscript, an anecdote is related of one Richard Games of this house, which we shall here transcribe. Sir Rice marching along this road towards England, with his followers, in aid of the earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry the seventh, whom he had accompanied the greater part of his way from Milford Haven, met Richard Games at Brecknock. "This Richard," the narrative proceeds to say, "was a very valiant gentleman, and soe pleasant a companion withall, that, (as the report goes) he could do nothing butt in jest, save onely fight; *that* he ever did in earnest: which earnestness of his cost him one of his leggs in the end. Notwithstanding, there was noe man more forward to goe on the present service, then himselfe; a thing Rice ap Thomas would noe way heare of, allthough the said Games was his neere kinsman, and intimate friend, and one in whose merrie and facete conversation, as always free from offence, he tooke much delight. This Richard Games began to take in ill part, as thinking himself slighted therein, and therefore desired to know a reason of his repulse, to which Rice ap Thomas made answeare, that it was not for anie doubt he had of his valour and courage (of which he had alreadie given to the world sufficient testimonie) that he desired to leave him behind, butt because he would spare him, in respect he was

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grown

\* P. 105.

grown lame and defective in one of his leggs. I am, therefore, replied Games, the fitter for your companie, for if I be not deceived, said he, the service you are upon, requires, as well men who will abide by it, as such who can run away. Say you soe, couzin, said Rice ap Thomas, why then I see you and I must never parte, for such as you are who will abide by it, are the men to whom we must trust: whereupon, Richard Games incontinently made himself readie to goe along, being well provided aforehand, both of horse and arnes, to encounter with all dangers.”

On a small hill above Aberbran house, there are some inconsiderable remains of a British encampment, which have acquired for the place the descriptive appellation of the *Gaer*; and in the same neighbourhood once stood a castellated mansion called *Castell Eionon Sais*, from a chieftain of considerable celebrity in the annals of this county. As no vestige of the building remains, the site is not clearly ascertained, but it is supposed to have been in a field, called from that circumstance, the Castle field, near Bettws chapel. Eionon called *Sais*, or the Englishman, from his long residence in England, served in the French wars under Edward the third, and the Black Prince, and bore a part in the battles of Cressy and Poitiers. In these expeditions he is said to have accumulated immense wealth, with which he returned to his native country, and which he soon afterwards increased by marrying a rich heiress out of Glamorganshire. He was esteemed one of the largest land proprietors in the county, having purchased nearly the whole of the present hundred of Devynock,\* and became the founder of several of the most opulent families in this quarter.

The next mansion that occurs in our progress up the vale, is

## PENPONT

\* Jones's Brecknock, Vol. I. p. 160.



## PENPONT HOUSE,

the seat of Penry Williams, Esq. who is of the same family with the Williams of Aberbran.

“ Penpont lies at the distance of five miles from Brecknock, and its approach is distinguished by that singular access of beauty which can only adorn those mountainous tracts into which the rivers first descend from their sources. After passing the village of Llanspyddyd, we pursued for some time a new formed road, beautifully winding on a precipice above the river, and buried in the recesses of a thick wood, till we emerged into a country differently featured at least, if not superior to any we had yet visited. The Usk, now participating in the nature of a mountain torrent, rushed with rapidity over several ledges of rock, and divided a valley narrower than that of Brecknock, while the opposite hill, which, pressing upon the river, seemed to turn it from its course, appeared finely clumped, and ornamented with the groves of the park of Penpont. Beneath their spreading woods and lawns the respectable mansion of the place, spacious and irregular, covered a gentle elevation above the river, and, fronting the vale, appeared to command all its beauties, as far as the mountains beyond Brecknock, interspersed with various others within its own creation. Behind, the woods and houses of Abercamlais seemed almost to fill the vale, which, growing wilder and more contracted towards the west, extended in sight to the mountains of Trecastle, in which the Usk finds its source. Penpont has the happy effect of uniting the somewhat formal magnificence of the ancient style of gardening, with the easy disposition of modern improvement, which was most judiciously introduced by its late worthy possessor, who, removing all obstructions towards the vale, confined the walls and clipped hedges within a narrow compass, and allowing one great avenue to intersect the park, clumped the rest, and ~~bordered in~~ immediate

intermediate lawns with great taste and elegance. The ornamented tract of ground surrounding a little chapel, with its adjoining cemetery, is not the least observable object at Penpont, and every stranger must be struck with the chaste propriety, and decorous simplicity, with which this sacred inclosure is adorned.”\*

### ABERCAMLAIS,

mentioned in the above extract, and named from its situation at the confluence of the little river Camlais with the Usk, is the seat of another branch, in the eldest line, of the family of Aberbran and Penpont. The proprietors of this house have through several generations been clergymen, and it has been justly remarked, by an intelligent traveller† through this county, that the place is “well adapted to the philosophic and dignified, but hospitable retirement of a clerical life.”

A little beyond Abercamlais, a road branches off to the left, which leads to the little village of

### DEVYNOCK,

and thence to Blaenau Cwm Tawe and Ystradgynlais. The etymology of Devynock is not certainly known, but Mr. Jones conjectures, with much probability, that the name is derived from Dyfnawg or Dyfnog, in allusion to the *deep vallies*, which pervade the neighbourhood.‡ The village exhibits a very neat appearance, and the church is a structure of considerable respectability, compared with most of the edifices of this class in the county. It contains, however, no monuments of any antiquity or general interest.

Sir

\* Skrine's Tour through Wales, in Pinkerton's Voyages and Travels, Vol. II. p. 537, et seq.

† Dr. Malkin.

‡ Hist. of Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 676.

Sir John Davy, of Aldermanbury in London, who died about the year 1624, devised a sum of money for the erection of a school, and the maintenance of a Master at this place, for teaching the elementary branches of English education. This institution has continued to the present time.

On a hill, at some distance to the westward, and nearly adjoining the road from Ystradgynlais to Trecastle, there is a circle of large stones, of the kind usually denominated druidical, having a stone of larger dimensions standing upright near the periphery. These are called *Cerig duon*, or the black stones.

### RHYD Y BRIW CASTLE,

sometimes called Devynock Castle, stands a short way below the village of Devynock, occupying a small eminence at the confluence of the Senni with the Usk, and on the western bank of the former river. The building appears from the ruins, never to have been of any great extent, or strength, and was probably designed rather for the purposes of a prison, than for defence.

Returning from this excursion to the turnpike road, and crossing the Usk at Rhyd y briw bridge, we have on the right the mansion house of

### LLWYNCYNTEFN,

most delightfully situated on an elevated knoll which overlooks the river, and commands a prospect of great extent, and romantic beauty. This was for many generations the seat of the respectable family of the Penrys, who traced their descent to Elystan Glodrydd, prince of Ferregs. Mr. Hugh Penry, the last of the race in this line, dying unmarried in 1799, bequeathed the property to the Rev. John Williams of Abercamlais, the present proprietor.

## TRECASTLE,

at the distance of eleven miles from Brecknock, is an indifferent village, comprising only about forty houses. It was formerly considered as a part of the little town of Llywel, to which it then probably adjoined, but from which it is now distant about half a mile, and is still reckoned a ward of the borough of Brecknock. The house now converted into an Inn was anciently the family mansion of the Gwyns of this place, who appear to have lived here in great splendour. Tradition affirms that "the whole of the wet meadows between Trecastle and Llywel were converted into a fish pond, or, as it might with propriety be termed, a lake, whereon the family were rowed on Sundays and holidays, to the church at Llywel, in a magnificent pleasure boat."\*

From the name Tre-castell, or Castle-town, it would seem that there once stood here, a mural fortress of some description. Nothing is, however, known of its history; an artificial mound at the eastern extremity of the village may possibly indicate its site.

The village of

## LLYWEL

may merit notice in this place, as deriving some consequence from giving name to the parish, and also from its having been anciently a township, and still constituting a part or ward of the borough of Brecknock. In other respects it has nothing to recommend it to attention.

Some years ago a stone was discovered on Trecastle mountain, near a little public house called the Heath Cock, bearing an inscription, and supposed to have been a Roman miliary. Mr. Strange has given a representation of it in the Archæolo-

\* Jones's Brecknock, Vol. II. p. 671.

gy,\* but has made no attempt to decypher the incscription. Mr. Gough, in his additions to Camden,† says “ it is to be read,” Imperatori Domino nostro, Marco Cassiano Latino Postumo Pio Felici Aug. But much of this must be conjecture, as the letters in Mr. Strange’s plate, which is the first representation that was made of it, are many of them extremely rude and wholly illegible. This stone was removed to Llandilo Fawr, in Caermarthenshire, where, in a cottage near Lord Dinevor’s park, it was lately seen by Sir Richard Hoare, who remarks, that “ it had suffered so much from decay, that he could only decypher the words IMP. and CASSIANO.”‡ The chief importance attached to this remain is, that it has been thought to indicate the direction of the Via Julia Montana, from the Gaer to the vale of Towy, which does not seem clearly determined; but it cannot be admitted as decisive evidence on this disputed point.

\* Vol. IV. p. 7.

† Vol. III. p. 100.

‡ Giraldus, Vol. I. p. cl.

END OF BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

## CAERMARTHESHIRE.

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IN the ancient divisions of Wales the territory now comprehended within the limits of Caermarthenshire was placed by Ptolomy, whose authority has been followed by Camden and Horseley, in the country of the *Deinetæ* (*Δημηταί*) the Dyfed of British writers. The exact boundaries of Demetia are not at present known, nor were they perhaps at any time clearly defined; but the Egyptian geographer includes in the number of its chief cities *Maridunum* (*Μαριδύνον*) called by Antoninus *Muridunum*, which is by common consent identified with the town of Caermarthen.

A considerable diversity of opinion has obtained among antiquaries respecting the etymology of the modern name *Caer-fyrddyn*. It has been usual to derive it from *Caer Ferddin*, the city of *Merddin* or *Merlin*, the far famed British prophet; but *Humphrey Llwyd* justly observes, that "it was so called and knowne longe before the birth of that very well learned man. Neither did the citie take name from him, but he of that, whereat he was borne."\* It has been referred, with much more reason, to *Caer Mur Din*, a fortified city surrounded by a wall, which will better agree with the *Muridunum* of Antonine, and corresponds with the description of *Giraldus*.†

No particulars have been transmitted to modern times of the  
history

\* *Breviarie of Britayne*, fol. 79.

† *Urbs Antiqua, Coctilibus muris*, *Cam. Descrip.*

history of this district antecedently to the subjugation of South Wales to the Roman arms. It has been already observed\* that this conquest is most probably to be ascribed to Julius Frontinus, whose name and achievements have been perpetuated in the principality, by the two great roads that bear his name. The first of these, called from its course along the sea coast, *Via Julia Maritima*,† after passing through Cardiff and Neath, is generally supposed to have entered Caermarthenshire at Loughor: which has been regarded as the *Leucarum* of the *Itineraries*: hence it proceeded to the station of *Muridunum*; but its exact course within this county has not been ascertained, as no vestige of it has yet been discovered. It probably, however, entered Caermarthen in the direction of the present turnpike road, the little village at the end of the causeway being still called *Pen y Sarn*.

The *Via Julia Montana*, or *Superior*, has been satisfactorily traced

\* See above p. 6.

† The following is the account given by Richard of Cirencester (*Iter xi*) of this road:

Ab Aquis per viam Juliam Menapiam usque, sic:	Corrected numbers.	Sites of the Stations.
Ad Abonam m. p. . . . .	vi vi	From Bath by the Julian way to St. David's.
Ad Sabrinam . . . . .	vi viiii	
Unde Trajectu intras in Brit- taniam Secundan	} ii iii	Sea Mills.
Et Stationum Trajectum. . . . .		Severn side.
Venta Silurum . . . . .	viii viiii	Caerwent.
Isca Coloniam . . . . .	viii viiii	Caerleon.
Unde fuit Aaron Martyr.		
Tibia Amne . . . . .	viii xv	} Banks of the Taaf, possibly Caireu, or Cardiff.
Bovio . . . . .	xx xx	
Nido . . . . .	xv xx	In Evenny Park.
Leucaro . . . . .	xv v	Near Neath.
(Muridunum Omitt. xx.)	xx	Perhaps Lwghor.
Ad Vigessimam . . . . .	xx xx	Caermarthen.
Ad Menapiam . . . . .	xviii xviii	Castell Flemish.
Ab hac urbe per m. p. xxx Navi- gas in Hyberniam		Near St. Davids."

Vide The Description of Britain, translated from Richard of Cirencester, &c. London, 1809, p. 144.

traced to the station of *Caer Bannau* near *Brecknock*, and from some indications of a road observed near *Rhyd y Briw*, there can be no doubt of its having continued so far in nearly a direct line, along the vale of *Usk*; but its farther direction rests at present on conjecture. From the names of some places on that line, together with its being the nearest course, it has been thought to have kept to the left of *Trecastle*, and the turnpike road, to have entered *Caermarthenshire*, as observed above,\* at *Tal y Sarn*, in the parish of *Myddfê*, and proceeded thence by *Llangadog* to *Llandilo fawr*. But others have judged, that it crossed the *Usk* at *Rhyd y Briw*, and proceeded by *Trecastle* to *Landoverly*. This is the opinion which has been adopted by *Sir Richard Hoare*, who, in his introduction to his translation of *Giraldus*, has examined the subject with great minuteness and ability. It is apprehended, however, that both hypotheses may be admitted as true, by supposing two roads to have existed. The first road formed was probably designed to connect the main stations of *Caerbanau* and *Maridunum*, and would be likely to take the shortest course, which would be that by *Talsarn* to *Llangadog*. At a subsequent period, when the Roman occupation of the country became more general, and other stations were formed in various quarters, a new branch may be supposed to have been constructed, to communicate with the station at *Llandoverly*, and with the other roads which met there, hereafter to be mentioned. From *Llandoverly*, it would be taken down the vale, to join the other, or main line, near *Llangadog*. It has been conjectured that a Roman camp may have existed in this neighbourhood, but no traces of such a work have as yet been discovered. A short distance to the eastward of the town, there is an artificial mound of earth, similar to those frequently found near the course of Roman roads, and which may have been the site of an *arx speculatoria*, or watch tower; and it is

not

\* See page 8.



not improbable that the Julian way passed in that direction, though the cultivated state of the lands renders it impossible now to trace its course. The circumstance last mentioned has also rendered fruitless every attempt to ascertain its farther direction to Maridunum, where it met the Via Julia Maritima.

Sir Richard Hoare states, that "at a place called Llwyn y ffortun, or the Grove of Fortune, a pot containing a great variety of fine Roman coins was found, amongst which he remarked those of Domitian, Probus, Aurelian, Constantine, Constantius, and Carausius."\*

The two roads having united at Caermarthen proceeded westward towards Menevia, or St. David's. It has usually been thought to have taken nearly the course of the present turnpike, till it approached St. Clears, then to have ascended the vale of Whitland, and to have passed by the site of the monastery of that name into Pembrokeshire. This is the line in which it has been described on some maps. But new light has been lately thrown on this subject, by Mr. Fenton, in his learned and entertaining work, intituled an Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire. In the course of his researches for this publication, he was fortunate enough to discover what may safely be pronounced the long sought station Ad Vicessimum of Richard of Cirencester. Its site, which will be hereafter described, stands near the middle of the county, in the parish of Ambleston, and is called by the natives Castell Flemish, from being supposed a work of the Flemish colony who settled in this country.†

As this station lies considerably more to the northward than the track which former antiquaries had marked out for the Julian way, there can now remain no doubt that the road took a more northerly course in the preceding part of its progress from Caermarthen. The probability is, that it quitted the direction of the present turnpike a short way below the latter

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place,

\* Hoare's Giral. Vol. I. Introduction, p. cli.

† Fenton's Pembrokeshire, p. 333.

place, and followed nearly the course of the present parish road towards Llanboidy, which will conduct it almost in a straight line to Ambleton and St. David's. Though no Roman works have been found along this line to give strength to this conjecture, there are some circumstances which may fairly be considered as rendering it more than probable.

Camden states, that in his time some country people found at Kilmaenllwyd, in the parish of Llanboidy, and immediately on this line, a pot containing a great number of Roman coins of base silver, from the time of Commodus to the fifth tribuneship of Gordian the third, or A. D. 243. Near the same spot, "at a place called Bronyscawen, two shepherd boys, in the year 1692, found at the entrance of a spacious camp, called the Gaer, 200 Roman silver coins, buried just under the surface of the ground, in two very rude round leaden boxes, weighing about 5lb. with a round hole of the size of a shilling. They were some of the most ancient Roman coins found in this island, and of about thirty seen by Mr. Llwyd, the latest were of Domitian's fifteenth consulate, A. D. 91. The camp where these coins were found was of an oval form, and about three hundred paces in circumference. The rampart at the entrance near three yards high, but in general much lower. At the entrance, which is about four yards wide, the ends of the rampart are not directly opposite, but one is continued farther out than the other, so as to render the passage oblique. On each side of the camp is a tumulus, one small and near it, the other larger, and three hundred yards distant; both hollow at top."\*

Notwithstanding the discovery of the coins might claim for it a Roman origin, the form of this camp, and its situation, clearly indicate it to have been of British construction.

Besides these main communications with England by Glamorganshire and Brecknockshire, some vicinal or cross roads have

\* Gough's Camden, ubi supra, Vol. III. p. 136, 140. A catalogue of some of the coins is inserted from Mr. Llwyd's communication to Bp. Gibson.

have been traced through parts of this county. Of two of these Sir Richard Hoare gives the following interesting and satisfactory account:—"From the city of Loventium \* there are evident remains of a road leading to Muridunum or Caermarthen; which were shewn to me at Lampeter, near the bridge, in the banks of the river, and in some meadows adjoining, steering its course on the northern side of the Tivy, towards Pen carreg. On our enquiring of a peasant, whom we saw standing in a field by the road side, if he knew any thing of the Sarn Helen? "Yes," replied he, "I stand upon it now, and I but lately dug up the stones with which it was paved." It is visible at intervals as far as the New Inn; between which place and Caermarthen, I could see no appearance of it, but its direction to that place is certain.

"From Loventium, there was another road leading to the station of Llanvair ar y bryn, near Llandovery, which I also endeavoured to trace. Continuing along the vale of Tivy, as far as the village of Llanvair, I there ascended the mountain, where, from the ruggedness of the pavement, and its bearings, I soon discovered my friend *Helen*. On exchanging this rough tract for a smooth turf, the ridge of the causeway became more visible, and in one part nearly perfect. On reaching the base of a high mountain, it necessarily deviated from its usual straight line, and turned off to the right; and here, on this distinguished summit, I saw one of those tumuli, so often placed by the Romans on similar heights, to mark the course of these roads. I observed also on the sides of the road numerous excavations that had furnished materials for the construction of the causeway. From these mountains we descended towards Llanycrwys church, which we left a little to the right, keeping, I think, as nearly as possible, on the track of the old road, which we afterwards distinguished in two places, near the little  
O 2 river

\* The reader will observe, that our author fixes this long sought station, or Roman city, at Llanio-issa, about seven miles above Lampeter, in Cardiganshire, where very considerable Roman remains have been discovered.

river Twrch in the valley, and where the natives knew it by the old name of *Sarn Helen*. From this place we passed by Caio, where there were some extensive mines, and probably worked by the Romans; but their history seems as little known as the farther progress of the causeway towards Llandovery.\*

The mines above noticed are mentioned by Camden.

In this vicinity, and within the parish of Cynvil Gaio, were discovered in the year 1762, 3000 medals, comprising some of Gallienus, Salonina, and several of the thirty tyrants: the largest were those of Carausius and Allectus. They were all of copper, and of trifling value.† Mention is made in Gibson's Camden, of two stones found at a place called Pant y Polion, in this parish, bearing inscriptions. One of them he reads as follows:—*Servator fidei, Patriæ semper amator, hic Paulinus jacit, cultor pientissimus æqui*. Of the other he gives no interpretation.

The last Roman road to be noticed here proceeds from Llanvair ar y bryn, near Llandovery, in a north-easterly direction, along the vale of the Brân, whence it continues its course through the upper part of the hundred of Builth, as already mentioned,‡ to the station on the Ython in Radnorshire, forming probably the communication with Chester.

From the number of roads which meet at Llanvair, it must have been a station of some importance, though some have not scrupled to question its existence. Sir Richard Hoare has, however, put this point completely at rest. "At Llanvair ar y bryn, or St. Mary's church on the hill," writes this intelligent antiquary, "we have another undoubted station, hitherto  
little

\* Hoare's Girald. Vol. I. Intro. p. clxviii.

† Mr. Harris, Archæology, Vol. II. p. 18. Mr. Harris unaccountably places Cynvil Gaio, four miles from Caermarthen; the actual distance cannot be much less than thirty miles.

‡ See above p. 9.

little known, but which I had the opportunity of fully ascertaining, not only from the remains of its earthen works, but from the bricks and pottery, which were scattered about its precincts. Coins, antique lamps, and bricks, such as the Romans used for their *sudatoria*, or baths, have been frequently found there; and a peasant, on asking him the name of the spot, called it *Tre Coch*, or the Red City, a title most assuredly derived from its former construction of *Brick*. The situation of this station is truly pleasing, and such as the Romans generally selected for their stations; on a gentle eminence, commanding three beautiful vallies, watered on the south west by the river Towy, and on the north-east by the Brân.”\*

Such are the chief works which the Romans have left behind them in this county. Of their history while here nothing is known, as their own writers, to whom alone we can look, have recorded none of their transactions in this remote district, during their occupation of it. For a considerable period after their departure, the historian looks equally in vain for materials to elucidate the state of the country and the condition of its inhabitants. It has been already observed above,† that when the Britons found themselves freed from the Roman domination, they divided their country into several small principalities, sometimes denominated kingdoms, each subjected to the government of its own prince or regulus. The names of these states, included within the boundaries of South Wales, have been transmitted to us, but their precise limits have not been defined, nor were they perhaps ever accurately settled.

The principality, within which was included the greater part of the county now under consideration, was denominated Ceredigion, or Cardigan, whose limits were anciently much more extensive than the territory that now bears the name. The deeds of its petty sovereigns, however, and, with the exception of two or three, their very names, for a considerable interval, have been buried in oblivion; and we are brought down through a lapse of

\* Hoare's Girald. Vol. I. p. cl.

† Page 12.

about four hundred years, after the departure of the Romans, before the æra of its real or authenticated history, can be said to commence. About the middle of the ninth century, Rhodri Mawr, or Roderick the Great, prince of Gwynedd, had united the whole of Wales into one kingdom, subject to his own sovereign authority; but on his demise, which took place in the year 876, he divided his territory into three principalities, assigning one to each of his three sons. To Merfyn, he allotted the kingdom of Powis, to Anarawd, Gwynedd, which comprehended nearly the whole of the present North Wales, and to Cadell, Ceredigion\*, or South Wales, including the counties of Brecknock, Caermarthen, Cardigan, Glamorgan, Monmouth, and Pembroke. The seat of government for South Wales was fixed by Roderick at Dinevor, in the vale of Towy, where he had erected a palace.

It was probably Roderick's intention, in this partition of his kingdom, to guard against any future contests for power between his sons, whom he thus erected into distinct sovereigns, independent of each other, except that the prince of Aberffraw, or North Wales, was to hold a nominal precedence. The plan, however, not only wholly failed of its object, as it related to his own sons, but in its ultimate consequences led to evils the most disastrous to the country. While the principality remained united under one sovereign, its collective power was sufficiently respectable to afford it security against any foreign attack, and to overawe the ambitious spirit of any pretender to the crown, who might feel disposed to prosecute his claims. But by its division into petty states, its situation in both these respects became very different. Its general strength was dissipated, and opposed a feebler barrier to the assaults of external enemies; while the separate interests, which were thus created, led to perpetual jealousies and contests between the states themselves, and gave encouragement and opportunity to a great number of adventurers to attempt, under various pretensions,

\* Brut y Tywyrogon, Myvyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 481.

tentions, and sometimes with success, to obtain the sovereignty for themselves.

The fatal error of this measure was first displayed in the conduct of Roderick's own son Cadell, who, the year after he had entered on his new government, invaded the territories of his brother Merfyn, and took forcible possession of his kingdom of Powis. Cadell, however, became also in his turn the object of attack; for his brother Anarawd, king of North Wales, (A. D. 892,) led a powerful force, augmented by some English auxiliaries, into the counties of Cardigan, Pembroke, and Caermarthen,\* committing dreadful devastations, by burning the houses and destroying the corn.

Cadell died in the year 907,† and was succeeded in his government of South Wales and Powis, by his eldest son Hywel, distinguished in Welsh history under the title of Hywel Dda, or Hywel the good. On the death of Eidwal Foel, the son of Anarawd, in the year 940, Hywel added the kingdom of Aber-

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\* Brut y Towyfogion, Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 433. The words of this chronicle are:—"Oed Crist 892, y daeth Narawd Brenin Gwynedd i ddiffieithiaw Ceredigiawn, sef cyfoeth Cadell ei frawd, ac a losges yr holl dai ar ydau yn Nysfed ac Ystrad Tywi yn greulawn iawn." In Llwyd's translation (Powell's Wales) *Ystradgwy*, is inserted instead of *Ystrad Tywi*, which has led Mr. Warrington into the mistake of supposing, that the vale of the Wye was here intended: the words of this author are—"he laid waste the country of Cardigan, and the vale also which borders upon the Wye in Radnorshire"—Hist. of Wales, Vol. I. p. 232. There is frequently much difficulty in ascertaining the position of places mentioned in the Welsh chronicles; but a local knowledge of the country would have prevented this mistake, as the vale of Towy lay much more in the way of Anarawd, after a predatory excursion into Pembrokeshire, than the vale of Wye, which is distant at least fifty miles from the latter country.

† This is the date most commonly assigned to his death; but the chronicle, Brut y Tywysogion, places it in A. D. 900. Mr. Owen, (Cam. Biog.) has, in different places, followed both these dates. Under Cadell, he fixes it in A. D. 900, but under Hywel, in A. D. 907.

ffraw to his other dominions, and became sovereign of all Wales.

The reign of Hywel forms a new æra in the history of the principality. Great disorders and inconveniences had been long felt to arise from the undefined nature of the existing laws, and their inadequacy to meet the changes which had been introduced by the progress of society; and Hywel, like a wise sovereign, justly considered, that the greatest benefit he could confer on his country would be to form a regular written code, suited to the altered habits and circumstances of the times. Accordingly, he made his arrangements to carry this work into execution, in the manner that appeared most likely to effect his patriotic object. His proceedings in this important business are thus detailed by Caradoc of Llancarvan.\*

“In the year of Christ 926, Hywel the Good, son of Cadell, king of all Wales, went to Rome, accompanied by three bishops, viz. Martin, bishop of Menevia (St. David’s), Mordaf, bishop of Bangor, and Marchlwys, bishop of Teilaw, (Llandaf), the latter of whom was attended by Blegwryd, the brother of Morgan, king of Glamorgan, and archdeacon (Pencyfeistedd) of Llandaf. The objects of their journey were to consult with wise men, on the manner of improving the laws of Wales, to inform themselves of the laws of other countries and states, and ascertain the laws by which the Roman emperors governed Britain, during the period of their sovereignty. Having satisfied themselves on these points, and obtained the advice of the wise men, they returned to Wales; when Hywel summoned all the heads of tribes, and “their family representatives,” (teisbanteuluoedd) and all the wise and learned among the clergy and laity, to hold an extraordinary council at the White House upon Taf,† in Dyfed. After an examination of

\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 485.

† Whitland near St. Clears, Caermarthenshire, one of the residences of Hywel;



of what had been collected from every country and state, the laws of Dyfnwal Moelmud\* were found to excel every other : therefore these, through the erudition and learned labours of Blegwryd, were digested into a code, and submitted to the judgment of the council, in order to be explained, improved, and amplified. After they had been confirmed by the judgment and solemn decision of the assembly, their legal obligation was established over the whole of Wales. After this Hywel made a second journey to Rome, to have the opinion of the wise men of that city, and to be assured that the laws were agreeable to the laws of God, and the constitutions of the countries and states of Christendom. On his return to Wales, he submitted his laws to the judgment of the hundreds and commots, and to the nation at large. Henceforth their authority was established in every Welsh lordship, and in the court of every lord, and of every tribe ; no impediment was found in the way of their introduction, and no other laws were admitted in any royal

wel ; but not the abbey of that name which stood in the vicinity. The White house here spoken of was a hunting seat of Hywel's constructed of white withlies, from which it took its name.

\* Mr. Owen, in his *Cambrian Biography*, gives the following account of this legislator :—" Dyfnwal Moelmud, the celebrated legislator of the ancient Britons, is supposed to have lived about 400 years before Christ. It was he who first combined the laws, maxims, and customs, into a regular code, founded upon a national constitution, traced out by Prydain the son of Aedd ; and which code was revised and altered, in order to meet the exigencies arising from the progress of the feudal system, by Hywel the Good, king of Wales. Dyfnwal is recorded in a triad with Brân and Prydain, as the three combiners of monarchy in Britain ; so that by their institutions, the various tribes of the island were brought to acknowledge one sovereign authority, under certain circumstances of general welfare. In another triad, Dyfnwal, Hu, and Tydain, are denominated the three prime artificers, on account of their having reduced the various privileges and customs into a national system. Another triad, names Dyfnwal, Prydain, and Hywel, as the three good princes of Britain, for improving and extending the laws, customs, privileges, and uses, of the Cymry, so that all might obtain justice and protection.

royal or lord's court in Wales. It was on account of the excellence of his laws that he was called Hywel the *Good*."

As the laws of Hywel continued in force throughout the principality till the partial subjugation of Wales by Edward the first, and were retained in some districts till its final union with England, in the reign of Henry the eighth, it may be proper to give here some account of them. They have been pronounced by Mr. Barrington to be the most regular of any ancient code known; and they possess considerable interest from the picture they exhibit of the ideas and manners of the age.\*

The laws may be classed under three heads. The first relates to the king and the royal household; the second pertains to the civil administration, and the third comprises the criminal code.

The rights and privileges which they secured to the monarch were numerous and extensive. He was invested with legislative functions, but the laws he might make possessed no constitutional authority, till they had been ratified by his subjects at a public convention of the states. He was empowered to preside at the trial of all causes, that affected the rights and possessions of the crown; and allowed in certain cases to decide according to tradition, rather than the written law. Though in many cases extensive, the king's authority was not, however, absolute. If it appeared that, in any instance, he or his deputy had acted in violation of the law, to the injury of any of his subjects, the party complaining might refer his case to

\* A translation of these laws into Latin, with explanatory notes, was made by Dr. Wotton, with the assistance of the Rev. Moses Williams, a clergyman of Cardiganshire. This work was published in one large volume folio, in the year 1730; four years after the death of the learned translator, under the following title, "Cyfreithieu Hywel Dda ac eraill; seu Leges Wallicæ Ecclesiasticæ et civiles Hoeli Boni et Aliorum Walliæ principum, quas ex variis codicibus manuscriptis eruit, &c." The third volume of the *Myfyrian Archæology* contains a complete copy of these laws, in Welsh, printed from a MS. of the twelfth century, belonging to the Welsh charity school in London.

to a jury of fifty land proprietors, who were sworn to do him justice, and who, if the damage were proved to their satisfaction, ordered suitable reparation to be made.

The king was considered as the proprietor of the soil, and all the landed possessions of his subjects were held under him on conditions of service, which were extremely various, and also in consideration of pecuniary fines, and contributions to the public revenues; on the neglect or non-performance of these stipulations, the lands, with their appurtenances, escheated to the crown. He was also held entitled to all property not lawfully claimed by any other person; to all treasures found within his dominions; and to the property of deceased bishops.

The Queen was allowed several important privileges, and her right of patronage was very extensive. She was entitled to a third of the tribute received by the king from his subjects, whether paid in money, cattle, or land.

The heir apparent, who might be the son, brother, nephew, or cousin, of the reigning monarch, had his place assigned him near the king's person: he was allowed a seat at the royal table, with the right of being served by the king's attendants.

The royal household comprised a great number of officers, whose duties and privileges are distinctly enumerated. The following are among the principal:--the Governor of the palace; the domestic chaplain, who acted also as the royal secretary; the steward, who had charge of all the inferior servants, and was entitled, as one of the perquisites of his place, to the skins of all animals, from an ox to an eel; that were killed for the use of the royal kitchen; the falconer, an officer held in high respect, the king, if present, being obliged to hold his horse while he took the hunted bird, and his stirrup while he mounted; the judge of the palace, who, for what reason is not stated, took for his pillow at night the cushion on which the king had been seated during the day; to him belonged the *tongues* of all the animals slaughtered for the royal kitchen;

the master of the horse, who received the king's discarded saddles, spurs, &c. ; the chamberlain, who claimed the king's old *blankets*, (for sheets were not then an article of bed furniture,) and wearing apparel ; the domestic bard, who was entitled to rank next to the chief bard of Wales ; the crier (*Gosdegwr*), whose business was to command silence, and to prevent the company being too noisy in the royal presence ; the master of the hounds ; the Mead brewer ;\* the family physician ; the cook ; and the candle bearer, who carried the taper before the king when he retired to rest.

The Queen's establishment comprised the steward, the chaplain, who was entitled to the penitential robes worn by her majesty during lent ; the master of the horse ; chamberlain, waiting woman, door keeper, cook, and candle-bearer.

The personal offences against the king, recognized by these laws, are comprehended under three heads, viz. to violate his protection, to whomsoever granted ; to murder his ambassador or representative, when engaged on his service ; and to commit adultery with his consort. And the personal offences against the Queen are, to violate her protection, to strike her, and to take any thing forcibly from her hands.

The terms, during which the courts, both metropolitan and provincial, sat for the administration of justice, were divided into two ; the first extended from November to February, and the second from May to August ; being so arranged as to interfere

\* Mead, or Methglin, is a favourite Welsh beverage, made from honey, and may be called the wine of the country. Bees appear to have been held in considerable estimation by the Welsh in these times, and the value of different swarms and hives is minutely regulated by Hywel's laws. The importance attached to them probably arose from the demand created for honey, by the general use of mead ; but another reason is given in these laws, to which probably the English reader is a stranger :—" Bees derive their noble descent from Paradise : when, owing to man's transgression, they were thence expelled, God gave them his blessing ;—*on this account mass cannot be properly sung without their waz.*" Wotton's *Leges Wallicæ*, p. 254.

terfere as little as possible with the occupations of husbandry, during the sowing season and harvest. The judges who presided at these courts were chosen to their offices with great caution, and with a strict attention to their age, knowledge, experience, and other essential qualifications. They were allowed to receive money, or other equivalent property, from both the parties in every cause that came before them. These presents are not, however, to be considered as bribes, but rather as fees, the amount being in every case specified and fixed by the laws.

In most cases the testimony of two witnesses was required to substantiate any allegation or fact. There was, however, one remarkable singularity in some of the judicial proceedings under this code, as to evidence. In some instances, and those commonly of offences of a private nature, where the thing was impossible, the party complaining was obliged to produce the testimony of fifty witnesses to substantiate the charge, and the party accused required to produce an equal number, to disprove the fact on oath, before he could be held acquitted.\*

The law of Gavelkind forms a prominent feature in this code; and its pernicious consequences, when rigidly followed, as it was in Wales until the introduction of the English law at the time of the union, are every where to be seen in the present circumstances of the descendants of some of the most opulent and powerful of the ancient families of the principality. The laws of Hywel ordain, that all the sons should share equally the property of the father; and it is humanely provided, that no crime of the parent shall in any case prejudice or invalidate the right of his children to his property after his death.

The laws that relate to women, which are numerous, exhibit a melancholy picture of the low and degraded rank they held

\* Si vir denegaverit se rem cum fœmina habuisse, purgabit se juramento L virorum, et fœmina juramento totidem mulierum.

held at this period in the public estimation. They are in general extremely coarse, and in several cases so very indelicate as necessarily to preclude the insertion in this place of their particular stipulations.\*

In the criminal department of this code, a remarkable and distinguishing feature is the provision for commuting every offence, even those of the most public and atrocious kinds, by pecuniary fines, or their equivalents in cattle or other property; and the rules by which the amount and value of these were adjusted are in many instances exceedingly curious and amusing. Thus it is gravely provided, that either of the offences against the king above specified, shall be commuted by a gold cup, with a cover *as broad as the king's face*, and as thick as the nail (ewin) of a ploughman, who had followed his occupation nine years; a gold rod of the length of the king's person, and as thick as his little finger; a hundred cows for every cantred possessed by the offender, and a white bull with red ears, with every hundred cows; but if the cows should be of a dark colour, the bull was also to be of the same kind.† The fine for treason against the queen was rated at one-third of the estimated amount of that imposed for offences against the king.

In order the more accurately to proportion the penalty to the crime, great pains are taken to ascertain and settle the value of the animals which might be given in payment. The value of a cat is appreciated as follows:—from its birth till it opens its eyes, one penny; from this period until it is able to kill mice, two pence; and four pence ever afterwards. A house dog was rated at four pence, but a herdsman's dog, if he led the cattle in the morning to their pasture, and conducted them

\* There were three cases in which, by these laws, a husband was empowered to inflict personal chastisement on his wife:—If she spoke reproachfully of his beard, committed any heavy offence against him, or were detected in unbecoming familiarities with another man.

† Wotton, *Leges Wallicæ*, p. 199.

them home at night, was estimated at the price of the best animal in the herd.

Injuries done to domestic animals were punished in the same manner as other offences, and rated according to their value: in some instances the animals themselves were also liable to punishment. If any one found geese trespassing in his cornfield, he was authorized to kill them with a stick of such a length as would reach from his elbow to the end of his little finger, and of any thickness he pleased; and if he caught them in his barn, damaging his corn, the law allowed him to press their necks against the floor with a split stick, until they died. If a hen were caught trespassing in hemp ground, she might be detained till she had laid an egg, or if a cock, he might be punished by the loss of one of his spurs.\*

The sketch above given will furnish some idea of the nature and character of this celebrated code: they who wish for farther information must be referred to Dr. Wotton's work, which will amply repay the curious reader the labour of perusal.

Hywel Dda died in the year 948, after a long and peaceable reign, in which he had carefully studied the best interests of his country, and secured the respect and confidence of his subjects. He left four sons, Owen, Rhun, Roderick, and Edwin, who, relinquishing the kingdom of North Wales to Ieaf and Iago, the sons of Eidwal Foel, partitioned among them the principalities or lordships of South Wales, and Powis. In this division the government of Dinevor fell to Owen. This arrangement did not, however, satisfy the princes of North Wales. On their restoration to their father's kingdom, which had been unjustly usurped and kept from them by Hywel, they asserted their right to the government of the whole principality, and prepared to prosecute their claim by the sword. Having raised a considerable force, they invaded Cardigan-shire; and, after a sanguinary engagement, defeated the sons of Hywel, on the hills of Carno or Carnau. The victors, after  
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\* Wotton ut supra, p. 294, et seq.

this success, proceeded into Pembrokeshire, committing dreadful ravages along the whole line of their march. This incursion took place in the year 949. In the year following, encouraged by their former good fortune, the princes of North Wales marched a second time into Pembrokeshire; but on this occasion they were opposed with great spirit by Owen, who obliged them to retire with so much precipitancy, that a great part of their army was drowned in the Tivy in their endeavours to escape.

Owen and his brothers resolved now to prosecute offensive operations; and having collected all the troops they could command, entered North Wales, and proceeded as far as the river Conway. Here Ievaf and Iago gave them battle. The contest was long and obstinately maintained on both sides; and as no advantage appeared to be gained by either, the two armies separated by mutual consent. The following year, however, the princes of North Wales entered Cardiganshire, but were repulsed with great loss by Owen and his brothers. These disastrous contests terminated ultimately in favour of Ievaf and Iago, who established their power over the whole of Wales; and held the kingdom of Dinevor under their dominion for several years.

Owen being now driven from his own government turned his attentions in another direction: in the year 958 he invaded the territories of Morgan Mawr, or Morgan the Great, king of Glamorgan, and took forcible possession of the district of Ewyas, in the vale of Usk, which he claimed as his right. This affair is stated in the Welsh chronicle to have been referred to the decision of the Saxon monarch Edgar, who having first submitted it to the consideration of a council of his nobility, gave his award in favour of the king of Glamorgan, and forbade the farther encroachments of Owen, on pain of excommunication.\*

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\* Brut y Tywysogion Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 490. In page



The two princes of North Wales having quarrelled, Owen seems to have seized the opportunity to regain possession of his kingdom, for he is stated to have met Edgar A. D. 966, at Caerleon, to enter into stipulations for the payment of the tribute which the laws of his father assigned to the king of England.\* Eionon also, the son of Owen, availed himself of these distractions to invade Gower, which, under pretence of opposing the Irish and the Danes, he twice devastated. The Saxons, under Alfred earl of Mercia, entered Wales, and laid waste the countries of Brecknock and Gwent. Eionon, on this occasion, joined his forces to those of Hywel, the reigning prince of North Wales, and marched to oppose the common enemy, whom, after a sanguinary conflict, he put to flight with great loss. Notwithstanding the important service he had thus rendered to the men of Gwent, by the expulsion of their invaders, he was shortly after treacherously murdered by some of their chieftains. This prince is spoken of as a person of high promise, and a leader of great judgment and personal bravery. He was succeeded in the command of his father's forces by Meredith, his youngest brother.

The kingdom of North Wales had now descended to Cadwallon, the son of Ievaf. His reign, however, proved of short continuance, for Meredith, in the year 985, collected all his forces, invaded his territories, and having slain Cadwallon himself in battle, in a short time subjugated the whole, and seated himself on the vacant throne.

On the death of his father, A.D. 987, Meredith possessed himself of the government of South Wales also, to the exclusion of the rightful heirs, Edwyn and Tewdwr, the sons of his eldest brother Eionon. In the course of this year, the Danes entered the Severn and St. George's channel, and committed great de-

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vastation

612 of the same volume, another account is given on the authority of the *Liber Landavensis*, which attributes the invasion to Hywel Dda. But this prince had been dead ten years before Edgar began his reign.

\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 492.

vastation along the coast, burning in Glamorganshire the churches of Llan Illtyd, Llandaf, and others of the principal religious edifices; and on the western coast, St. David's, Llanbadern, Llandydoch, and Llanrhystyd. The destructive ravages of these barbarians on the lands, and among the corn and cattle, were so extensive as to cause a general famine, which proved very fatal to the inhabitants.\* On this occasion Meredith found it necessary to purchase the retreat of the invaders, by the payment of a tribute, which was called the tribute of the Black army.

Meredith had scarcely freed himself from these foreign enemies, when he found himself called upon to defend his dominions against a domestic foe. Edwin, the eldest son of his brother Einon, considering himself wrongfully dispossessed of the principality of South Wales, having raised an army and obtained considerable succours from the Saxons and Danes, entered the county of Cardigan, and advanced with little apparent opposition through Pembrokeshire, and along the coast to Kidwelly and Gower. But a reconciliation was speedily effected between him and his uncle, which put an end to their hostilities. Immediately after this event, they united their forces, and proceeded to attack the territories of Ithel, prince of Glamorgan, which they ravaged without mercy. But Hywel, the brother of Ithel, indignant at the depredations they had every where committed, suddenly raised the country in their rear, and having assembled an immense multitude, who had armed themselves with the first missile weapons that offered, fell upon the two princes, as they were returning, at a place called Cors Einon, in the parish of Llangyfelach, routed their forces with great slaughter, and recovered the plunder which they were carrying away.†

The frequent invasions of the Danes, and the restless spirit of his neighbours, rendered impatient by his own overbearing injustice and tyranny, so fully employed Meredith and his forces

\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 499.

† *Ib.*

forces in South Wales, that he was under the necessity of leaving his northern kingdom wholly unprotected. His subjects in that quarter finding themselves thus deserted, determined, in their own defence, to transfer the government to other hands, and accordingly invited to the throne Eidwal, the son of Meirig, to whom of right it belonged. Meredith, on being informed of this revolution, immediately assembled his troops, and made an unsuccessful attempt to dispossess his rival. The two armies met at a place called Llangwm, where, after a severe engagement, Meredith sustained a complete defeat. His nephew, Tewdwr Mawr, the son of his brother Einon, is said to have fallen in this battle.\* Eidwal, however, lived but a short time to enjoy his triumph, being killed the succeeding year in an engagement with the Danes. Meredith also died about the same time, leaving his harrassed subjects to enjoy a short interval of comparative peace and tranquillity.

Meredith had issue only one daughter, who had been married to Llewelyn ab Sitsyllt, lord of Essyllt in Powis, when he was no more than fourteen years of age. On the death of his father-in-law, Llewelyn, partly in his own right, and partly in right of his wife, laid claim to the sovereignty of the whole of Wales; but being yet in his minority, found himself unable to reduce it to his authority. The kingdom of North Wales was disputed by two competitors, Conan the son of Hywel, and Aedan son of Blegorad, of whom the latter, after having slain his rival in battle, succeeded. Availing himself of the minority of Llewelyn, he determined to add South Wales to his northern kingdom, and accomplished his object (A. D. 1000) without much difficulty. But in the year 1015, Llewelyn, being now of full age, planned his measures to punish his usurpation, and recover his wife's inheritance. Having collected his forces, he gave Aedan battle, routed his army, and slew himself and his four nephews on the field. By this signal event Llewelyn found himself master not only of his

\* Myfyrian Archæol. Vol. II. p. 500.

kingdom of Dinevor, but also of North Wales, and united under his dominion all that he had formerly claimed.\*

Llewelyn is distinguished among the few of the Welsh princes, in this age of turbulence, who cultivated the arts of peace, and applied themselves to the equitable administration of the laws. During his reign the country was allowed to remain in a state of almost uninterrupted tranquillity, and became in consequence rich and prosperous to an almost unprecedented degree. Two circumstances only occurred in this interval to disturb the public peace. In the year 1020, an adventurer from Scotland, calling himself Run, and giving out that he was the son of prince Meredith, made his appearance in South Wales, and prevailed upon some of the most powerful chieftains in that district, who were disaffected to Llewelyn, to espouse his cause. In a short period he found himself at the head of a force of sufficient respectability to take the field. Llewelyn, who was at this time absent in North Wales, hearing of his proceedings, hastened to the South, attended by his troops. Run had posted himself at Abergwili, near Caermarthen, where he resolved to hazard an engagement. Having, with an appearance of great courage and resolution, exhorted his men to stand firm to their duty, he privately withdrew to watch the event. Llewelyn, on the contrary, boldly headed his forces, and as the occasion seemed to demand his presence, was seen continually in the thickest of the battle. The contest was long, and on both sides maintained with great obstinacy; but victory at last declared for Llewelyn, who pursued his advantage with so much vigour and celerity, that Run, notwithstanding all his efforts to escape, was overtaken and slain.

In the following year, Hywel and Meredith, the sons of Edwin, accompanied by Eulaff or Aulaff, and a large army of Irish and Scots, landed in South Wales, with the view of obtaining

\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 503.

taining the principality for themselves. After pillaging the church of St. David's, they advanced as far as Caermarthen, where they were met by Llewelyn and his brother Conan, who gave them battle, and put them to flight. This engagement proved, however, fatal to Llewelyn himself, who fell through the treachery of Madoc Min, bishop of Bangor.\*

Llewelyn left issue one son, named Gruffyd, who at the time of his father's death was a minor, and therefore incapable of succeeding him in his government. Iago, the son of Eidwal, availing himself of this circumstance, took possession of the principality of North Wales; but Hywel and Meredith, after basely procuring the death of Llewelyn, found the tide of popular prejudice to set so strongly against them, that they were compelled to abandon their design for the present, and allow the kingdom of Dinevor to be usurped by Rhydderch, the son of Jestyn, lord of Glamorgan. They were little disposed, however, to rest quietly under their disappointment. Having again (A. D. 1031) engaged in their service a powerful body of Irish Scots, they landed a second time in South Wales. Their progress was on this occasion ineffectually opposed by Rhydderch, who, in a general engagement which ensued, lost both his kingdom and his life.

The two princes, who had now obtained the object of their ambition, did not, however, long enjoy undisturbed the fruit of their victory; for the sons of Conan ab Sitsyllt took up arms, to avenge the murder of their uncle Llewelyn. They succeeded in compassing the death of Meredith, but failed to dispossess Hywel of the kingdom.

Gruffydd, the son of Llewelyn ap Sitsyllt, remained no indifferent spectator of these contests; and, being no longer disqualified by age, determined to assert his claims to his father's dominions. As soon as he had given intimation of his design, the people crowded from all quarters to his standard, and he saw himself

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placed

\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 504. Owen (Cambrian Biography) sub verb. Llewelyn.

placed in a short period, in a situation to take the field against Iago, the reigning prince of North Wales, whom he defeated and slew in the first engagement. Having succeeded in this enterprise, he marched his forces into South Wales, and compelled the states to acknowledge him as their lawful sovereign. Hywel, who had been obliged to withdraw from the country, made several ineffectual attempts to replace himself on his throne. On one occasion, he calculated so confidently on victory, that he took his wife with him to the field of battle, to be the witness of his triumph; but she had soon cause to bewail his temerity, for he was completely defeated by the forces of Gruffydd, while she was herself taken prisoner by the victor, who tarnished his laurels by compelling her to become his concubine.\* This conduct is animadverted upon with just severity in the Welsh chronicles, as a blot upon his reputation, and as the only act of his life which drew upon him the displeasure of the wise and good.

Hywel, undismayed by his repeated defeats, continued to appear in the field whenever circumstances seemed at all favourable to his operations. His auxiliaries on these occasions were the Danes, who enriched themselves with the pillage of the country. His last attempt is placed in the year 1043, when Gruffydd discovering his intentions before he was quite prepared for action, anticipated his plans, and forced him to fight to disadvantage. The action was maintained with great obstinacy on the part of Hywel, who was, however, at last defeated and slain.†

After

\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 508. Wynne's Wales, p. 85.

† This battle is placed by the Welsh chronicle, *Brut y Tywysogion*, (*Myfyrian Arch.* II. 518,) at Abertwyi. Llwyd's translation of Caradoc (*Powell's Wales*) which has been followed by Wynne and Warrington, says, "the spring of the river Towy." This certainly cannot be correct. Abertywi would rather be its junction with the sea, than its source; but there is no place on this part of the coast so called at present. May it not be a mistake for Abertawe—Swansea; or Abertivy—Cardigan?

After the death of Hywel, the sovereignty of South Wales was claimed by Rhydderch and Rhys, the sons of Rhydderch ab Iestyn, who raised a powerful army in Glamorgan to support their pretensions. Gruffydd marched to oppose them with his usual celerity, and gave them battle. But the contest was so equally maintained by both the armies, that neither seemed disposed to give way. Night at last put an end to this sanguinary conflict, and the leaders on either side, not choosing to renew it, withdrew their respective forces.

A short time after this event some of the partizans of Caradoc, the son of Rhydderch, came from Gwent and Glamorgan to Caermarthenshire, (Ytrad Tywi,) and leaguig there with some of Gruffydd's discontented subjects, attacked the possessions of his friends, and put several of them to death. Gruffydd upon this led an army to the southward, and punished his rebellious subjects, by devastating their estates in Dyfed, Ystrad Tywi, and Gower.\*

In the year 1056, Rhys, the brother of Gruffydd, led an army into Glamorgan and Gwent, and did great damage to the country; but the inhabitants rising in their own defence drove him towards the marches, and having taken him prisoner, they cut off his head† and sent it to the English monarch Edward, who was then at Gloucester.

Gruffydd's chief attention at this time was directed against the English on the northern borders of his kingdom, whom he greatly harrassed, and defeated and routed in several general engagements; but these transactions having no immediate connection with South Wales, the details are omitted here. The last event we have to notice proved fatal to Gruffydd himself. Caradoc, the son of Rhydderch ab Iestyn, having raised a large army in Gwent and Glamorgan, prevailed on Harold, the son of Earl Godwin, to join him with a powerful force

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\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 513, 14.

† In the original it stands, "ai fyrhau o ben," shortened him of his head, Myfyrian Arch. II. 514.

from England, Gruffydd, on the first intelligence of their movements, marched with all the troops he could collect to South Wales, and gave them battle. His confederated opponents had, however, too effectually arranged their plans; for in the heat of the engagement he was slain, through the treachery of Madoc Min, bishop of Bangor, the assassin of his father. Gruffydd may be ranked among the most illustrious of the Welsh princes, and his reign forms, perhaps, the most brilliant period in the history of the principality.\*

Caradoc,

\* Powell traces the royal house of Stnart to this prince. "About this time," writes this author, "Makbeth king of Scotland, caused a nobleman of his, named Bancho, to be cruellie murdered, wherevpon Fleance, the son of the said Bancho, escaping the hands of Makbeth, fled to Gruffyth ap Llewelyn prince of Wales, where being ioifullie received, and entertained courteouslie, he grew into such fauor with the said prince, that he thought nothing too good for him. But in processe of time Fleance forgetting the curtesie to him shewed, fell in love with the princes daughter, and gat hir with child. Which thing the prince tooke in so ill part, that he in a rage caused Fleance to be kild, holding his daughter in most vile estate of seruitude, for so suffering hir selfe to be defloured by a stranger. At length she was deliuered of a sonne, which was named Walter, who in a few yeares proued a man of great courage and valiancie, in whome from his childhood appeared a certeine noblenes of mind, readie to attempt anie great enterprise. This Walter on a time fell out with one of his companions, who in that heat of contention obiected vnto him, that he was but a bastard, begotten in vnlawfull bed. Which reproch so greued Walter, that he fell upon the other, and slew him; wherevpon fearing the punishment of the law, he fled into Scotland, where he fell into the companie of those Englishmen, which were come thither with Queene Margaret, the sister of Edgar Edeling, amongst whom he shewed himself so discreet and sober in all his demeanor, that he was highly esteemed of all men; and so attaining to higher reputation and credit, was afterwards employed in the affaires of the common wealth, and at length made Lord Steward of Scotland, receiuing the kings reuenues of the whole realme. Of the which office he and his posteritie retained that sirname of Steward euer after, from whom descended the most noble kings of Scotland, of the familie of Stewards, besides manie other Dukes, Marquesses, Earles, and Barones, of great fame and renowne." Powell's Hist. of Wales, Edit. 1811, p. 73.



Caradoc, in bringing to his assistance Harold and the English forces, had calculated on obtaining for himself the principality of South Wales, in case he succeeded in the destruction of Gruffydd; but after the death of that prince, the English leader, having private objects to answer, banished him from the country, and on condition of receiving a certain lordship in Herefordshire, consigned the sovereignty to Meredith ab Owen, who has been thought to be descended from Hywel Dda.\* But Caradoc, a few years subsequently (A. D. 1069,) profiting by the important change which had taken place in England by the death of Harold, and the elevation of William the conqueror to the throne, engaged in his cause a considerable body of Norman soldiers, with whom he marched into South Wales. He was met near the eastern borders of Glamorganshire by Meredith, who, after a sanguinary conflict, was defeated and slain. Caradoc died the following year from a complaint occasioned by a wound he had received in battle. He was succeeded in his government by his son Rhydderth.

This period is remarkable in Welsh history, as that in which the Normans began their depredations upon the country, and laid the foundation of that system of plunder and conquest, which in a few years rendered them masters of its most valuable possessions. Previously to the death of Caradoc, they had made a descent on the western coast, and ravaged the countries of Cardigan and Pembroke. On this occasion Caradoc marched against them with great celerity, forced them to take to their ships, and abandon their booty. They repeated their visit three years afterwards, (A. D. 1071) but with like ill success, being again defeated with great loss by Rhydderch.

In the year 1072 Rhys ab Owain, the grandson of Hywel Dda by his youngest son Edwin, who had for some time lain concealed in the Isle of Man, suddenly appeared in South Wales, to dispute the sovereignty of the principality. Hav-

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\* Wynne's Wales, p. 96.

ing raised a considerable body of troops in Brecknockshire and Caermarthenshire, he directed his steps to the north, and encountering the forces of Bleddin ab Cynfyn, the reigning prince, totally defeated them, Bleddin himself being treacherously slain during the engagement. Rhys now turned towards South Wales, but sent messengers before him to assure Rhydderch that he came with no hostile designs. Rhydderch gave him a friendly meeting, at which, to avoid devastating the country by war, it was agreed that they should share between them the sovereignty of South Wales, and that the survivor should succeed to the government of the whole. This arrangement was little satisfactory to Rhydderch's family, and in the end proved his own destruction; for his cousin, Meirchiawn ap Rhydderch, was so enraged at the measure, particularly at the settlement of the succession on Rhys, to the exclusion of Rhydderch's own heirs, that he shortly after put him to death, and left Rhys ab Owain to enjoy the honours, which had excited his displeasure.

In the course of the same year (A. D. 1074) Goronw and Llewelyn, two chieftains from North Wales, assisted by a large force from Glamorganshire, marched against Rhys ab Owain, to avenge the death of their grandfather Bleddin ab Cynfyn. In the engagement which ensued Rhys was defeated, and his overthrow would probably have been complete, had not his opponents been obliged, immediately after the battle, to lead back their forces in great haste to defend their own possessions against Gruffydd ab Conan, who, with an army from Ireland, had at this time made a descent on Anglesea.

Having succeeded in this object, they renewed their hostilities against Rhys. They were met by him on their march to the southward, at a place called Pwllgwttic, where an obstinate engagement was fought. Rhys was again defeated, and being closely pursued, was taken prisoner, and afterwards put to death.

In the year 1077, Rhys ab Tewdwr,\* who had been obliged to seek an asylum in Armorica in consequence of the princes of Glamorgan having usurped the principality of Dinevor, made his appearance in South Wales, with the view of reinstating himself in his inheritance. So great was his reputation at this time for wisdom and prudence, that his pretensions were readily admitted, and the chieftains, or nobility of the country, consented without hesitation to his assumption of the government. His claims were the more easily recognized from the general hatred which prevailed against Jestyn ab Gwrgan, prince of Glamorgan, who at this time held the sovereignty.

Rhys had scarcely secured himself on this throne, when he was called to assist another prince, who like himself had been unjustly deprived of his lawful inheritance.

Gruffydd ab Conan, who laid claim to North Wales, landed in Pembrokeshire, A. D. 1080, with a large force composed of Irish Scots; and being joined by Rhys, the confederated armies marched against Trehaern, the ruling prince of Gwynedd. A battle was fought on the hills of Carno or Carnau, in Cardiganshire, in which, after an immense slaughter on both sides, Trehaern was slain and his army completely routed. Rhys afterwards invaded the territories of Jestyn ab Gwrgan, and sacked his castles of Dennis Powis, Llanillyd, and Dindryfan; but he had no sooner withdrawn his troops than Jestyn retaliated by ravaging Caermarthenshire, (Ystrad Tywi,) and Brecknockshire, whence he carried away a large booty.

This year † William the conqueror marched an army into  
South

\* Tewdwr, commonly called Tewdwr Mawr, was one of the sons of Eion ab Owain, and great grandson of Hywel Dda.

† Matthew Paris places this event in the year 1079; his words are—*Rex Anglorum Willielmus in Walliam duxit exercitum copiosum et eam sibi subjugarit, et a regulis illius ditionis, homagia et fidelitates accepit.* The Welsh chronicle only mentions his pilgrimage to St. David's.

South Wales; but the Welsh princes evincing no disposition to oppose him with their forces, he abstained from all hostilities, and satisfied himself with receiving their feudal homage. He, therefore, changed the character of his visit, and proceeded on a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. David's, where he made some rich offerings to propitiate the saint.

In the year 1087, the sons of Bleddin ab Cynfyn raised a formidable insurrection in South Wales, against Rhys ab Tewdwr, with the view of depriving him of the sovereignty. Rhys, finding their forces too numerous and powerful to be withstood, thought it prudent to retire to Ireland. Having here obtained from his brother-in-law, the king of Dublin, a large body of Irish troops, he returned to South Wales, where he was soon joined by his friends, who flocked to his standard. Bleddin's sons, aware that delay would only serve to give their adversary opportunity to increase his strength, hastened to give him battle. The armies met at a place called Llechryd, and a sanguinary engagement ensued, in which the sons of Bleddin were totally defeated, and two of them slain on the field.\*

Rhys,

\* The scene of this battle has been generally thought to lie in Radnorshire, where, in the parish of Disserseth, near the Wye, there is a place known by this name; and the historian of Brecknockshire,<sup>a</sup> has appeared to impart some weight to this conjecture, by referring the etymology of the name to Llech-Riryd, or Riryd's stone, from a stone that might have been raised there in memory of Riryd, one of Bleddin's sons who fell on the occasion. But the accuracy of this opinion may admit of question. This place, which lies a few miles above Builth, is very remote from the Irish channel; and if we suppose with Mr. Jones, in order to support this hypothesis, that Rhys landed at Aberystwyth, he had a distance of nearly sixty miles, over a wild and almost impassable country, to convey his troops to the scene of action. Besides, on this line of march he would be at the extremity of his own principality, and in the most inconvenient situation to receive the assistance of his subjects.

<sup>a</sup> Jones's Brecknock, Vol. I. p. 84.

Rhys, after this decisive victory, dismissed his auxiliaries with suitable rewards, and took quiet possession of his government. The turbulent spirit of his nobles allowed him, however, but a short interval of repose. Cadifor ab Collwyn, lord of Dyfed, dying about this time, his two sons, Llewelyn and Einon, and his brother Einon ab Collwyn, prevailed on Gruffydd ab Meredith, another nobleman of that country, to join them in a rebellion against him, which, though unsuccessful in its immediate object, led ultimately to the most important and disastrous results.

Having united their forces, the insurgents proceeded towards Ilandydoch, or St. Dogmael's, near Cardigan, where Rhys at that time resided, hoping probably to find him unprepared for resistance. But in this they were disappointed, for he immediately gave them battle, and after a severe engagement (brwydr dost) completely defeated them. The sons of Cadifor were both slain on the field, and Gruffydd ab Meredith was taken after the engagement, and beheaded as a traitor. Einon ab Collwyn, the sole surviving leader in this affair, fled to Jestyn ab Gwrgan, lord of Glamorgan, who was also at enmity with prince Rhys. Einon had, it seems, formerly served under William the Conqueror in France, and during this period had contracted an intimacy with the Norman knights, who composed the strength of the royal army. Jestyn, being apprised of this circumstance, and thinking he might turn it to his advantage, entered into a negotiation with Einon to engage some of those knights in his service, to assist him

subjects. The present writer is disposed to think that the engagement was fought at Llechlryd in Cardiganshire, which lies near the Tivy, a few miles above the town of Cardigan. As it would probably be Rhys's object to take the shortest route to the seat of government at Dinevor or Caermarthen, he would be likely to land towards the lower part of Cardiganshire; and in this case Llechlryd would lie in his way. This route would also conduct through the midst of his own territories, and afford his partizans every facility to join him with their forces.

him in his war against Rhys, promising, in case he succeeded, to reward him with the hand of his daughter, and the lordship of Meisgyn for her dower. Under this stipulation Einon departed for London, and easily prevailed on Robert Fitzhamon to come into Wales, and to bring with him such other knights as he might choose to engage under his command. On the arrival of these foreign auxiliaries in Glamorganshire, Jestyn took the field, and commenced active hostilities.

Rhys, on the earliest intimation of his movements, assembled his forces and marched to oppose his progress. The two armies met on Hirwain Wrgan, an extensive common at the foot of a high mountain, about two miles to the northward of the present village of Aberdare in Glamorganshire, and near the borders of Brecknockshire. A most sanguinary conflict followed, in which the unfortunate prince of Dinevor was defeated with the loss of nearly the whole of his troops, himself narrowly escaping with his life. The Welsh chronicle states, that he fled from the field of battle to Glyn Rhodnau, a sequestered valley some miles to the southward, where he was taken by Jestyn and beheaded. It appears, however, more probable, from a variety of circumstances that cannot be detailed in this sketch,\* that he retreated after the engagement to Caerbannau near Brecknock, then the metropolis of the county, and the residence of his brother-in-law Bleddin ab Maenarch, and that he lost his life shortly after in assisting his equally unfortunate relation, against Bernard Newmarch, and the Norman robbers under his command.†

In the slaughter which followed the defeat, Goronwy the son of Rhys ab Tewdwr was slain; and Conan, his natural son, having escaped with some of his troops, was drowned in his flight towards Caermarthen, in the lake of Cremlyn, now an extensive morass, between Briton ferry and Swansea.‡ Rhys left

\* They have been ably considered by Mr. Jones in his History of Brecknockshire, Vol. I. p. 87.

† See above page 19.

‡ Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 523, et seq.

left two other sons, Gruffydd and Hywel, who were at this time in their infancy.

With Rhys ap Tewdwr the kingdom of Dinevor may be said to have fallen, for it never regained under his successors the rank and consequence it had before possessed. To this change a variety of circumstances contributed, among which may be enumerated the turbulent disposition of the Welsh nobility, and the spirit of insubordination which their frequent contests with the sovereign and with one another had spread among all ranks of the people. But at this period another cause operated to increase the difficulties of the Welsh princes, and to undermine their power. The Norman princes who had just possessed themselves of the English throne, viewed these petty sovereignties with great jealousy, as calculated in various ways to annoy them in their newly acquired dominion, and from their first arrival seem to have determined their extirpation. To prepare the way for the final accomplishment of their purpose, they encouraged the defection of the Welsh chiefs who had territorial dependencies, and fomented the discontents, from whatever cause arising, which they saw any where evinced against the native rulers. But the circumstance of which they chiefly availed themselves, and that ultimately effected the subjugation of the country, was the difficulty they found to satisfy the expectations and demands of the military adventurers who had attended them from Normandy, and to whom they were indebted for their success. The principal estates in England had already been conferred on the chief favourites of the court, but the unrequited claimants were still numerous and importunate. To silence some of these, permission was granted to them by the king to invade the territories of the Welsh, with an understanding that they should be allowed to hold as their own property, subject only to the feudal seigniority of the English monarch, whatever lands they might be able to acquire by conquest. In consequence of this arrangement, the principality was immediately infested in every quarter

ter by hords of these licensed banditti, and the history of this period is chiefly occupied with the details of their depredations. Their expeditions were attended with various success; but notwithstanding the spirited opposition they generally encountered, they gradually secured their footing, and strengthened their hold, on the borders and on the coasts; and in a short time, not to advert to districts that do not come properly within the notice of this work, they reduced the territorial dependencies of the kingdom of Dinevor within the limits of the present counties of Cardigan and Caermarthen.

The disastrous overthrow of Rhys ab Tewdwr at the battle of Hirwain, and the subsequent death of himself and his eldest sons, left the country in a most unsettled and disorderly state, without a government and without a head. In this situation of affairs, about A. D. 1092, Cadwgan ab Bleddin, the prince of Powis, a man of bold and enterprising spirit, assumed the sovereignty of South Wales. His reign consisted of an almost uninterrupted series of contests, either with the Norman lords who were encroaching on his territories, or with the English monarch himself, which, particularly as they have little relation to the county more immediately under our consideration, it would answer little purpose to narrate at large. Gruffydd ab Conan held at this time the principality of North Wales, and united with Cadwgan in the defence of the country against their common enemies, from whose depredations they were equally sufferers, and had the same evil consequences to apprehend. In this desultory warfare they did not always confine themselves to defensive operations. On one occasion, the Normans, having made an inroad into North Wales, were unexpectedly attacked by Cadwgan at the forest of Yspis, and put to flight with great slaughter. Cadwgan being immediately after joined by Gruffydd, the two princes entered the marches, and ravaged Cheshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire, and the adjacent country with dreadful devastation.\*

William

\* *Mysyrian Archæology*, Vol. II. p. 529.



liam Rufus, who was absent in Normandy at the time of this invasion, hastened on his return to avenge the cause of his injured subjects, and for this purpose led in person a powerful armament into Montgomeryshire. But the Welsh chieftains, having carefully guarded the passes, so greatly annoyed his forces in every attempt to advance, and occasioned him so heavy a loss of men, while their own troops remained in perfect security, that he found it necessary to abandon the enterprise, and to retire in disgrace to his capital. Some time after, he undertook another expedition into North Wales, which terminated in a manner equally disastrous to his troops, and equally humiliating to his own pride. In the course of this year, however, Gruffydd and Cadwgan, while they were triumphing in their success, suddenly found themselves assailed by a force which they were unable to resist. Some of their discontented subjects sent a private invitation to Hugh (called by the Welsh historians Hugh Goch, or Red Hugh) earl of Chester, to come into North Wales, and promising to assist him against their own sovereigns. He accordingly led a large force into the country, and being joined by Owen ab Edwyn, a man high in the confidence of Gruffydd, whose treachery was not suspected before the event, obliged the two princes to withdraw to Ireland. Having, however, hired a large body of Irish mercenaries they returned the year following, and reinstated themselves in their respective governments.

William Rufus had now been succeeded in England by Henry the first, who seemed disposed to adopt in its whole extent the policy which his predecessors had followed in respect to the Welsh. Cadwgan had for some time contrived to keep upon amicable terms with this monarch, and would probably have remained at peace had not the misconduct of his son drawn upon him Henry's high displeasure. Cadwgan, in this interval of repose, gave a splendid festival at his castle of Aberteivi (Cardigan) where he entertained his guests, who

consisted of the chief nobility and other principal personages of the surrounding country, with the minstrelsy and songs of the most celebrated bards, whom he had assembled from different parts of the principality for the occasion. At this entertainment Owen, the son of Cadwgan, who resided in Powis, and was here in the number of his father's guests, heard the beauty of Nest, the wife of Gerald de Windsor, governor of Pembroke castle, praised in such high terms of commendation, that his curiosity was strongly excited to see her. To gratify this wish, he took an early opportunity, under pretence of relationship,\* to pay her a visit. At this interview, finding her charms greatly to surpass every description, he became deeply enamoured, and instantly determined to make himself master of her person. Having engaged in his service some young men of kindred sentiments and character, he returned the same evening to Pembroke. He entered the castle unobserved, and after planting a guard over the chamber in which Gerald and his wife lay, set fire to the building. Gerald, in the confusion and alarm which ensued, would have rushed out among the incendiaries, but Nest, suspecting some treachery, prevailed upon him to make his escape in another direction. Her husband's retreat being secured, she returned to her chamber, which was shortly after forcibly entered by Owen, who now seized his prize, and carried her away to Powis, taking with her at the same time two sons which she had borne to Gerald, and a son and daughter of his by a concubine.†

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\* Nest was the daughter of Rhys ab Tewdwr, whose wife was first cousin to Cadwgan. It does not appear that the virtue of this lady was quite inflexible. She had borne one if not two sons to Henry the first, previously to her marriage with Gerald. Girald. Itin. Lib. II. cap. 7.

† Such is the account given of this unprincipled transaction in the Welsh chronicle, *Brut y Saeson* (*Myfyrian Archæology*, Vol. II. p. 539,) which agrees with the copy of Caradoc translated by Llwyd, and followed by Wynne and Warrington. But another M. S. *Brut y Tywysogion*, differs in some points. According to this copy Nest was present at Cadwgan's entertainment, where Owen is said to have been smitten by her charms.

As soon as Cadwgan was informed of this outrage, he hastened to Powis, and endeavoured to prevail on Owen to restore Nest to her husband, but all he could effect was to procure the release of the children. King Henry, highly incensed at the injury done to his vassal, sent a message to Owen, commanding him instantly to liberate his prisoner, but he was deaf equally to threats and intreaties. Henry, upon this, applied to the nobles of Powis to take up the cause, and urged them to avenge the insult, not only by the destruction of Owen himself, but also by attacking the possessions of Cadwgan, who, he conceived, might easily have chastised the delinquency and insolence of his son.

Cadwgan and Owen, finding the whole country in arms against them, resolved to avoid the storm by retreating to Ireland, and leaving their territories for the present to the mercy of their enemies. The following year, however, Cadwgan returned to Wales, and having satisfied the king that he had no concern in the guilt of his son, was permitted to make his peace, and restored to his possessions.

Owen, after a short interval, followed his father from Ireland, and made several attempts to remove the king's displeasure, but all his applications proving ineffectual, he engaged in a desultory warfare against the English lords. These proceedings drew once more upon Cadwgan, the resentment of Henry. He sent for him to London, to answer for the conduct of his son, and notwithstanding every plea he could urge in his justification, forfeited his estates, and detained him as a state prisoner. Henry finding afterwards, that the presence of the Welsh prince was necessary in Wales, to allay the commotions which had been everywhere excited by various competitors for the sovereignty, made a virtue of necessity, and restored him once more to his honours and possessions. Scarcely had Cadwgan reduced the country to order, and brought his unruly subjects under the control of the laws, when a plot was laid against his life by

his nephew Madoc ab Rhyrid, who (A. D. 1110) became himself his assassin.

The unsettled and divided state of the country at the time of Cadwgan's death, enabled king Henry to possess himself of the sovereignty of South Wales, which he retained in his own hands for some years, to the exclusion of various competitors. About A. D. 1113, Gruffydd ab Rhys, the eldest surviving son of Rhys ab Tewdwr, who during his minority had resided in Ireland, made his appearance in South Wales, and was encouraged by Gerald de Windsor, of Pembroke, who, as already stated, was married to his sister Nest, to assert his claim to the principality. Henry was soon apprised of his intentions, and determined by some prompt and decisive step to frustrate his designs, before he could mature them for execution. Gruffydd, fearing under these circumstances to trust himself among the king's vassals, fled to North Wales, and sought an asylum in the palace of Gruffydd ab Conan, by whom he was hospitably received. Here he was shortly after joined by his younger brother Hywel, who had made his escape from Montgomery castle, where he had been long confined.

The king being informed of the young princes' retreat, sent a flattering message to Gruffydd ab Conan, to invite him to London, where he entertained him for some time with great magnificence, treating him with the most honourable distinction, and loading him with rich presents of gold and jewels. When he perceived that he had sufficiently wrought upon his vanity and his avarice, he acquainted him fully with his wishes, and succeeded in extorting from him a promise to deliver up to him Gruffydd ab Rhys and his brother, in violation of every right of hospitality. Gruffydd ab Conan, in a fit of inebriety, betrayed his secret in the hearing of a relation of Gerald de Windsor: the information was immediately transmitted to Nest at Pembroke, who without delay dispatched a messenger to apprise her brothers of their danger. The young

princes, being thus made acquainted with the baseness of their host, quitted his palace, and took sanctuary in the church of Aberdaron. Gruffydd ab Conan, on his return, sent an armed force in pursuit of them, with peremptory orders to seize them without respect to the protection of the church. This conduct was warmly resisted by the ecclesiastics at Aberdaron, who were resolute in maintaining their rights. The two princes availed themselves of the delay occasioned by this dispute, and escaped by water to South Wales.

Gruffydd ab Rhys reached Caermarthenshire (Ystrad Tywi) in safety. He now saw that he had no alternative, but to erect his standard at once, and to prosecute his claims by open warfare. As soon as his intentions were declared, his cause was eagerly espoused by his countrymen, and he found himself, in a very short interval, in a state to engage in active hostilities, at the head of a large and resolute body of warriors. He commenced his operations by an expedition into Gower, but failing in his attack on the castle of Swansea, (Abertawe) he set fire to the suburbs, and, having ravaged the adjacent country, returned to Ystrad Tywi with a large booty. He afterwards attempted successively the castles of Llandovery and Caermarthen, but found them too strongly fortified to be taken. In the following year, he marched again towards Gower, and in his way took the castle of Kidwelly from William de Londres.

The reputation which Gruffydd acquired by these incursions, determined the conduct of some of the principal nobility of his principality, who had at first remained inactive spectators of his proceedings. Those who had before wavered now joined him with their followers; and the important accession of strength, which he thus obtained, enabled him to carry on his operations on an extensive scale, and to recover a very large portion of his father's possessions. King Henry, perceiving that his affairs in South Wales began to wear a very serious aspect, applied to his Norman and Flemish vassals, whom he

knew to be deeply interested in maintaining his authority, and to such Welsh adventurers as had something to hope from his favour, to unite their forces against Gruffydd. The confederacy being formed, the castle of Caermarthen, which was yet in the king's hands, was committed to the charge of Owen ab Caradoc. Gruffydd, fully aware of the advantage derived by his enemies, from the possession of so strong a fortress in the heart of his dominions, directed his first efforts to its reduction. Having previously informed himself of the state of the place, he conducted his troops towards it with great secrecy, and appeared at the walls, before any thing was known of his approach. He ordered his men to begin the assault with loud shoutings, as if they had already succeeded. Owen hearing the noise, hastened to the spot whence it proceeded, and supposing himself to be attended by his men, rushed upon the assailants, by whom he was instantly surrounded and put to death.

After this enterprize, Gruffydd led his forces into Cardigan-shire, where he attacked with success the castles of several of the Norman lords, and devastated their estates. But his triumphs were interrupted by the disastrous failure of an attempt on the castle of Aberystwyth. This fortress belonged at this time to Gilbert Earl of Clare, and was defended by Ralph his lieutenant. Ralph being apprised of Gruffydd's approach, sent privately to Ystrad Meirig, another of the Earl's castles, for reinforcements, which entered Aberystwyth by night, unknown to Gruffydd. The following day the Welsh prince, not apprehending much opposition, conducted his men without order to the elevated ground on the other side of the river, which was here crossed by a bridge. The governor, as the day was drawing to a close, finding no indications of an attack, and perceiving the disorder of the besieging army, sent out some of his men towards the bridge to skirmish, and endeavour to entice some of Gruffydd's troops over, while he planted a body of cavalry in ambuscade, to cut off their retreat. The manœuvre

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answered

answered to his wishes. "The Welshmen," says their own historian, "approached neare to the bridge and skirmished with them, and suddenlie issued foorth one horseman, and would have passed the bridge, but his horse was wounded with a pike, and began to faile, and as he returned to the footemen he fell of his horse, and the Welshmen pursued him over the bridge. When the Englishmen sawe that they fled towards the castell, and the Welshmen folowed to the hill top, and suddenlie the ambush of horsemen that laid under the hill, thrust betwixt them that had passed over and the bridge, and they that fled turned backe with more strength, and so the Welshmen were compassed on either side, and the bridge so kept that no rescue could come to them, where they were slain for the most part all, being all naked men. Then the rest seeing the great number of the men armed, which they looked not for, turned backe, and departed the countrie."\*

King Henry, finding that Gruffydd was thus master of the country, (for he could regard the late defeat at Aberystwyth as only a partial advantage, not worth consideration) sent to North Wales to Owen ab Cadwgan and Llywarth ab Trehaern, and engaged them, by liberal promises, to march their forces to South Wales to the assistance of his vassals. They accordingly entered the vale of Tywi, breathing destruction, and threatening to spare neither age nor sex from the sword. When Gerald de Windsor heard of Owen's approach, he resolved to avail himself of the circumstance to avenge the affront he had formerly received from him, by the violation of his wife.† A favourable opportunity for this purpose soon

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offered

\* Powell's Wales, 4to. Edit. 1811, p. 133. Compare also, for the preceding narrative, the two chronicles *Brut y Saeson*, and *Brut y Tywysogion*, *Myfyrian Archaeology*, Vol. II. p. 542 et seq. There is some discrepancy in these accounts, but the variations are not material.

† As the chronicles inform us, that Nest sent from Pembroke to apprise her brothers of their danger, in the court of Gruffydd ab Conan, it would appear

offered, after his arrival in the vale of Tywi. Having received information from some country people, whom Owen had been plundering, that the object of his resentment was within a short distance, attended only by a small force, he instantly hastened forward with his men, in pursuit of him. Owen, conceiving him to be friendly to the king's cause, was deaf to the advice of his friends to avoid him by flight; but finding himself saluted by a volley of arrows, he commanded his followers, though greatly inferior in number, to draw on the assailants. The contest was of short continuance; at the first onset, Owen was struck by an arrow to the heart, and thus closed a life of licentiousness and treachery, which had rendered his name universally odious in the principality.

This event terminated the expedition; for Llywarch observing that the king's vassals, on whose co-operation they depended, were not to be trusted, withdrew his forces into North Wales.\* Some other expeditions on a smaller scale, are mentioned to have been undertaken at a subsequent period, but they all terminated in confirming, rather than weakening the power of Gruffydd. At length, wearied out by these ineffectual attempts to subdue him, Henry (A. D. 1121) concluded a peace with the Welsh prince, ceding to him a large portion of the ancient kingdom of Dinevor as his domain.† But it is apparent

appear that she had been restored to her husband, though no notice is taken of the time when this event took place. The account given above of Gerald's inducement to embark in this expedition is taken from the chronicle *Brut y Tywysogion* (*Myfyrian Archæol.* II. 547). The other chronicle, *Brut y Saeson*, which agrees in this particular with the copy translated by Llwyd, states that he began his march with the view of joining the king's allies, and that the idea of attacking Owen suggested itself at a later period, when a favourable opportunity offered of doing it with success. *Myfyr. Archæol.* II. p. 551.

\* *Myfyrian Archæol.* Vol. II. p. 547 & 551. The chronicle *Brut y Saeson*, compared with *Brut y Tywysogion*.

† These possessions are thus enumerated in *Brut y Tywysogion*:—"Ystrad Tywi, Cantref Penwedie, in Cardigan, the Cantreds of Caerwedros, Cantref Bychan, Caethinawc, Caeau, Mysfennydd, and others." *Myfyrian Archæol.* Vol. II. p. 553.



parent that this peace was on the part of the English monarch, an act of necessity not of choice or favour.

Affairs continued in this state until A. D. 1130, when king Henry, on the complaints of the Norman lords, commanded Gruffydd to be again attacked, and dispossessed of his territories and government. Gruffydd, on the first shew of hostility, sent to enquire the cause of the rupture, but failing to obtain an answer, he prepared for a vigorous defence. He assembled all his own troops, and called in to his aid Hywel ab Meredith, a chieftain of Brecknock, who joined him with a large force. He appears on this occasion to have conducted himself with great moderation, and to have acted purely on the defensive. As soon as he had succeeded in driving the Norman and Flemish invaders from his territories, which he ordered his men to effect with as little waste of human blood as possible, he dispatched some of his principal nobility to the king, under the safe conduct of the bishop of St. David's, to ascertain the particulars of his offence, but the English monarch declined to satisfy him. The embassy had, however, the effect of terminating the war.

On the accession of Stephen to the English throne, (A. D. 1135,) he sent Gruffydd a peremptory summons, to attend him without delay in London, to answer some complaints which had been preferred against him. But Gruffydd, tired of such vague accusations, treated the order with contempt, and took prompt measures to chastise the foreign settlers, who had thus repeatedly endeavoured to involve him with the English court. He was speedily joined by several chieftains from North Wales, and other lordships of South Wales, who were equally inveterate against these common enemies. The confederated armies commenced their operations in Cardiganshire, which they over-ran with dreadful devastation from one extremity to the other, taking and demolishing all the castles held by the Norman lords, and defeating their forces with great slaughter, in every engagement. The victors then pursued their desolating

ting march through Pembrokeshire, and having subdued the whole of the country, proceeded towards Glamorganshire, whither many of the fugitives had fled for protection. The Normans rallied the remains of their forces near Neath, where they were attacked by the sons of Caradoc ab Jestyn, and after a sanguinary conflict, in which upwards of three thousand are said to have fallen by the sword, were completely routed. The few that escaped sought an asylum in the castles of Gower.

After this series of triumphs, which had proved nearly fatal to the English settlers, Gruffydd appointed a grand festival to be held at his palace in Ystrad Tywi, to which he invited all the princes and nobles of Wales and the Marches, who were disposed to contribute by their presence and friendship to the splendour and harmony of the scene. For the entertainment of his guests, he assembled the sages of the country, whom he appointed to hold disputations; and brought together the chief bards and musicians of every district, to display their skill by vocal and instrumental exhibitions. To these were added scenic representations, feats of skill and athletic exercises of every kind and variety known in that age. This festival continued for forty days, after which the guests were honourably dismissed, and those who had contributed to their amusement, liberally rewarded, agreeably to their respective deserts.\*

This interval of relaxation being over, Gruffydd applied himself with diligence to the most important affairs of state. Assisted by a council of wise and learned men, whom he had convened for the purpose, he revised the existing laws, and established some new regulations for the government of the country; appointing a court to be held in every cantref, and a subordinate court in every commot, for the greater accommodation of the people, and the more expeditious dispatch of public business. Having concluded these arrangements,

(A. D.

\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 558.

(A. D. 1136) he died, universally lamented by his subjects, and leaving behind him the character of being one of the bravest, wisest, most merciful, beneficent, and just of princes.\*

Gruffydd left issue several sons, of whom Rhys, the eldest, succeeded to the sovereignty. The earlier part of this reign is involved in considerable obscurity, and marked by few events of public interest or importance. One of the first recorded transactions, is an expedition undertaken by Owen Gwynedd, who, on the death of his father Gruffydd ab Conan, had just obtained the principality of North Wales, against the Normans and Flemmings in Cardiganshire and the neighbouring counties. In this inroad he is stated to have demolished the castles of Ystrad Meirig, and Pont Ystyffian, and also to have taken and destroyed the castle and town of Caermarthen. A similar incursion was made a few years afterwards, (A. D. 1144) by Owen's sons.

King Stephen being so fully occupied in maintaining himself on the throne, found little leisure to attend to the affairs of his vassals in Wales. Notwithstanding the severe injuries and losses they had recently sustained, he was obliged to leave their cause unavenged, and to conclude a peace with the Welsh chieftains. But the English settlers do not appear to have considered themselves precluded by this peace from the recovery of their possessions, when they found themselves in a condition to expel their enemies. This may account for the fortresses above named, which had a short time before been taken by the Welsh chieftains, being again in the hands of their Norman proprietors. We find the Earl of Clare A. D. 1145, in possession of the castle of Caermarthen, which he is stated that year to have repaired, and the chief exertions of Rhys and his brothers at this period, were directed against the attempts of these lords to reinstate themselves. This year Rhys and his brother Cadell recovered the castles of Caermarthen, Dinevor, and Llanstyffan, all in the vale of Tywi.

Llanstyffan

\* *Myfyrian Archæology*, Vol. II. p. 538.

Llanstyffan was, however, immediately after beset by a large force of Normans, English, and Flemmings. The defence was entrusted to Rhys's brother, Meredith ab Gruffydd, a commander of great prudence and courage. He suffered the assailants to pursue their measures with little molestation, till they had completed their preparations for taking the place by escalade. The ladders had already been fixed; but when they were fully manned and the troops had ascended nearly to the summit, Meredith, by the aid of some machines he had contrived for the purpose, overturned them all, and obliged the commanders to raise the siege.

The castle of Caermarthen, was committed by Rhys to the custody of Cadell, who repaired and strengthened the works. From this fortress he made repeated incursions into the territories of the Norman settlers in the neighbourhood, devastating particularly the lands of Kidwelly and Gower. He afterwards joined his forces to those of his brother Meredith, and led a powerful expedition into Cardiganshire, where he over-ran the possessions of Hywel ap Owen in the district Is-aeron, and took the castles of Llanrhystyd and Ystrad Meirig. Having placed garrisons in these fortresses, they returned to Ystrad Tywi, loaded with a rich booty.

The year following (A. D. 1150) Cadell, while on a hunting party in Pembrokeshire, was way laid and attacked by a body of English from Tenby. His attendants, being unarmed, were immediately dispersed; but though left thus alone he faced his assailants with great resolution, killed several of them in the encounter, and put the rest to flight. He received, however, a severe wound, which for a long period disabled him for active service. His brothers Rhys and Meredith applied themselves instantly to avenge this outrage. They marched their forces into Gower, and took and demolished the castle of Aberllychwr. Shortly after, they proceeded against Tenby, and coming upon the place by surprise took the castle by escalade, and put the garrison to the sword.

About

About this time Rhys repaired and nearly rebuilt the castle of Dinevor, which he rendered much stronger than it had been before. Having thus fortified his own residence, and being elated by his late successes, he began to concert a plan for the entire expulsion of the foreign settlers from every part of the principality. To aid him in this undertaking, he sent to solicit the co-operation of his cousin Morgan ab Caradoc ab Jestyn, of Glamorgan, and Madoc ab Meredith, prince of Powis; but both these chieftains declining to join him he relinquished his design. Incensed at his refusal, Rhys invaded the territories of Madoc, and laid waste the district of Cyfeliawc. Madoc, in return, led a powerful force into Glamorgan, devastated the lands of Morgan, and took and destroyed his castle of Aberafon. Morgan himself and his followers were obliged to take sanctuary in the churches and monasteries,\* and to place themselves under the protection of William prince of Glamorgan.

Stephen had now been succeeded on the English throne by Henry the second, who proved himself a formidable enemy to the interests of Wales. The Welsh princes soon became sensible of the consequences they had to apprehend from his power, and sought to avert them by a general peace. In this measure, however, Rhys refused to join. The king being informed that he was still prosecuting hostilities against his Welsh vassals, sent him an invitation to attend him in London, threatening at the same time, in case of his non-compliance, to attack his territory with the whole of his force. Rhys thought it prudent to attend to this summons. Terms of accommodation were soon arranged. Henry agreed to concede to the Welsh prince, Cantref Mawr in which his castle of Dinevor was situated, with some other lordships at that time in his possession, and to deliver up to him several castles which he was to hold as securities for the ratification of the treaty. For these Rhys did homage, and leaving two of his sons at the English

\* Brut y Tywysogion, Myfyrian Archæol. Vol. II. p. 567.

lish court as hostages, he returned to Wales. On his arrival in the principality, he soon discovered that he had only been trifled with by the English king. The territory which he had been promised was withheld from him, excepting a few detached lordships, surrounded by the property of his enemies, and which were therefore easily assailable in case of a rupture; and the commanders of the fortresses, probably acting under secret instructions from Henry, refused to give them up.

About this time also, Gilbert, earl of Clare, came into Cardiganshire, with the king's sanction, to attempt the recovery of the estates which had been taken from him during the late reign. After he had regained Ystrad Meirig, and some other places in this county, he proceeded into Caermarthenshire and attacked the possessions of Rhys. The Welsh prince, perceiving now the imposition that had been practised upon him, and seeing the danger which menaced his sovereignty, preferred a formal complaint against the proceedings of the king's vassals. His remonstrance, however, procuring only an evasive answer from the English monarch, he determined to right himself by the sword. He accordingly attacked and destroyed several of the castles which were held by the English, and rendered himself master of the territories, which, in violation of his agreement, had been kept from him. While he was besieging the castle of Caermarthen, Henry dispatched against him a powerful army under the command of the Earl of Bristol and the Earl of Clare, which was farther augmented by the forces of the prince of North Wales, under Hywel and Conan, the sons of Owen Gwynedd, who on this occasion condescended to act as the ally of the king of England. Rhys did not think it prudent to wait their arrival; but withdrawing his men to the mountains of Cefn Rhester, left the country to its fate. The confederated army finding no enemy, encamped for a short time in the vale of Tywi, and then withdrew to North Wales.\*

On

\* Myfyrian Archæol, Vol. II. p. 568, 569.

On the return of Henry from Normandy, A. D. 1163, being informed that Rhys had during his absence, continued to molest his vassals, he led an army into South Wales, and advanced as far as Pencadair in Caermarthenshire; but previously to the commencement of hostilities, some of the nobility of Brecknockshire interfering, matters were adjusted between them, and Rhys, on condition of retaining certain districts, gave hostages for his future submission.\* The king delivered the hostages, who were two of Rhys's nephews, into the custody of the Earl of Gloucester, who, probably to revenge some private insult, had them put to death. This act of treachery roused the resentment of the Welsh prince, who instantly flew to arms, and proceeded against the possessions of the Earl of Gloucester in Cardiganshire. He took and demolished the castle of Aber-rheidol, and his other fortresses in that quarter; then marching to the southward took Cardigan castle, and entering Pembrokeshire, devastated the lands of the Normans and Flemmings in that county.†

Rhys,

\* Giraldus gives the following account of some transactions of this period, connected with this invasion;—"Not far to the north of Caermardyn, namely at Pencadair, that is, the head of the chair, when Rhys the son of Gruffydd was, more by stratagem than force, compelled to surrender, and *was carried away into England*, King Henry the second dispatched a soldier, born in Bretagne, on whose wisdom and fidelity he could rely, under the conduct of Guaidanus, dean of Cantref Mawr, to explore the situation of Dinevor castle, and the strength of the country. The priest being desired to take the soldier by the easiest and best road to the castle, led him purposely aside by the most difficult and inaccessible paths, and wherever they passed through woods, the priest, to the general surprise of all present, fed upon grass, asserting, that in times of need the inhabitants of that country were accustomed to live upon herbs and roots. The soldier returning to the king, and relating what had happened, affirmed that the country was uninhabitable, vile, and inaccessible, and only affording food to a beastly nation, living like brutes. At length the king released Rhys, having first bound him to fealty by solemn oaths, and delivery of hostages." Itin. Lib. I. cap. 10. Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. I. p. 175.

† Myfyrian Archæology, (Brut y Tywysogion) Vol. II. p. 569

Rhys, having returned in triumph from this expedition, and more than ever incensed against the English, endeavoured to instil some of his own spirit into the breasts of the other Welsh princes. He succeeded in bringing over to his views Owen Gwynedd, the prince of North Wales, and the chieftains of Powis, and by the union of their forces established a most formidable confederacy against the English monarch. Henry lost no time in proceeding against them, and having assembled all the forces he could bring together, entered North Wales with confident expectations of a speedy triumph. The Welsh chieftains, however, profiting by the nature of the country, confined their operations to a desultory warfare in the straits and passes of the mountains, where the heavy armed troops of Henry could not cope with them; and by thus harassing and destroying his men, with perfect impunity to themselves, at length compelled him to retire in disgrace. Henry, on this humiliating occasion, had recourse to a measure of retaliation, which displayed a savage ferocity of nature most dishonourable to his character and station. Mortified by the failure of his expedition, he wreaked his vengeance on Cynwrig and Meredith, the sons of Rhys ab Gruffydd, and Rhys and Cadwallon, the sons of Owen Gwynedd, who had been given to him some time before as hostages, by pulling out their eyes. Three hundred other Welshmen, prisoners of war, are said to have undergone the same barbarous treatment.\*

Henry, the year following, repaired again to the Welsh frontier, and made formidable preparations for invading the country by sea and land; but finding that the Welsh princes were in  
great

\* Brut y Tywysogion, Mysyrian Archæol. Vol. II. p. 570. Holinshed, on the authority of Roger Hoveden, writes:—"he did *justice* on the sonnes of Rice or Rees, and also on the sonnes and daughters of other noble men that were his complices, verie rigorouslie: causing the eies of the yong striplings to be pecked out of their heads, and their noses to be cut off or slit; and the eares of the yong gentlewomen to be stuffed." Holinshed's Chronicles, 4to. Edit. 1807, Vol. II. p. 125, sub Ann. 1165.



great strength, and fired with resentment at his late conduct towards their sons and countrymen, he stopped at Chester, and suddenly abandoned his enterprise. Rhys then led his army back into South Wales, and proceeded to attack the possessions of the English settlers in the counties of Cardigan and Pembroke, whence, after taking and destroying the castles of Cardigan and Cilgerran, he returned to Dinevor loaded with the spoils of his enemies.

With this expedition the hostilities of Rhys against the English monarch appear to have terminated, and his subsequent proceedings exhibit him in the character of a mere dependant on the crown of England. When Henry, a few years subsequently, (A. D. 1172) was on his way to Ireland, Rhys went to meet him at Cardiff, without arms or attendants, and offered him whatever assistance or accommodation his principality could afford. This courteous behaviour greatly pleased the king, who in return confirmed to him the possession of all his territories. Rhys voluntarily engaged to furnish the English monarch, if necessary, with four hundred fat cattle for the supply of his army, together with a large number of horses for his cavalry; and offered besides to deliver fourteen additional hostages, as a guarantee for his future fidelity. All, however, that the king appears to have accepted were thirty six horses. He deferred receiving the hostages till his return from Ireland, and as a proof of his confidence in the sincerity of the Welsh prince, restored to him his son Hywel, who had been for some time his hostage in England.

The unfortunate issue of this expedition is well known. An epidemic disorder which broke out in the English army, obliged Henry to return without undertaking any military operations. On his arrival in South Wales he was again met by Rhys at Talacharn, now usually called Laugharne, in Caermarthenshire, where he did him homage for his territories.

Some time after this, when Henry was about to quit the

kingdom on an expedition into France, he appointed Rhys Chief Justice of South Wales.\*

During the remainder of this reign there are few circumstances, connected with the public conduct of Rhys, entitled to notice. The events which have been related of this period refer chiefly to a rebellion concerted against him by his sons, whom, however, after some disasters, he subdued. On the accession of Richard the first (A. D. 1189) he once more appears on the public theatre, as the enemy of England. His defection is said to have been occasioned by the refusal of Richard to meet him personally at Oxford, when he was on his way to London, as Henry had done on a former occasion. This circumstance, which he regarded as an indignity offered to him; inflamed his anger, and caused his immediate return to Wales.†

On his arrival in the principality, he mustered his forces, and laid siege to the castle of Caermarthen, which he took and demolished. He then proceeded towards the Marches, and after taking the castles of Clun and Radnor, and Payne's castle in Elvel, he returned in triumph to Dinevor. This was his last exploit. He died in the year 1196, and was buried at the abbey of Ystrad Fflur, in Cardiganshire.‡

Rhys,

\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 575.

† Warrington's Wales, Vol. II. p. 4.

‡ Id. p. 5. The monk of Chester (Higden. Polychron. lib. vii. cap. 31.) has inserted a singular panegyric on this prince, which has been thus translated by Grafton (Chronicle sub Ann. 1196). "O blesse of battaile, chylde of chivalrie, defence of countrie, worship of armes, arme of strength, hand of largenesse, eye of reason, brightnesse of honestie, bearing in breast, Hectors prowesse, Achilles sharpnesse, Nestors sobernesse, Tydeus hardinesse, Sampsons strength, Hectors worthynesse, Eurialus swiftnesse, Vlixes fayre speech, Salomons wisdom, Ajax hardinesse. O clothing of naked, the hungries meate, fulfilling the request of all that desyred. O eloquence, felow in service, honest of deede, and sober in worde. Glad of semblaunt and loue in face, goodlye to euerye man, and rightfull to all, the noble diademe and bewtie of Wales is now falen, that is Ryce is dead. All Wales groneth, Ryce is dead, the  
name

Rhys, by his submission to Henry, which probably it was out of his power to avoid, lost his rank and authority as an independent sovereign, and became, like the other nobility of the country, a mere feudal vassal to the English crown. During the latter part of his life, even the title of Tywysog, or Prince, was denied to him; that of Arglwydd or Lord was substituted in its stead, and transmitted to his descendants.

Gruffydd ab Rhys, succeeded to the lordship of South Wales, together with the territories held by his father at the time of his death. His brother Maelgwn, however, assisted by Gwenwynwyn the son of Owen Cyveilioc, lord of Powis, attacked him by surprise, soon after he had entered on his inheritance, in his castle of Aberystwyth, and took him prisoner. Maelgwn then proceeded against some of his other fortresses, and rendered himself master of the whole county of Cardigan.\*

The year following, A. D. 1198, Gruffydd was released from his confinement by the English lords, to whose custody he had been delivered by Gwenwynwyn. Being strongly supported by his friends he advanced into Cardiganshire, and recovered all his possessions there, excepting the castles of Cardigan and Ystrad Meirig. In consequence of the interference of some of their mutual friends, to attempt the reconciliation of the two brothers, Maelgwn entered into a solemn engagement to deliver up the castle of Cardigan, on condition of receiving from Gruffydd hostages for the security of his

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name is not lost but deferred. The blisse of Wales passeth, Ryce is dead. The enemie is here, for Ryce is not here. Now Wales helpeth not it selfe. Ryce is dead and taken away. But his noble fame is not deade, for it is always newe in the worlde wyde. If a man aske what is the ende? It is ashes and dust: here is he hid, but his is vnhilled, for fame dureth euermore and suffreth not the noble duke to be hid from speche. His prowesse passed his manners, his wisdom passed his prowesse, his eloquence exceeded his wisdom, and his good counsailes passed his eloquence."

\* Powell's Wales, ubi supra, p. 181.

own person. When, however, the hostages arrived, instead of fulfilling his promise, Maelgwn sent them away prisoners to Gwenwynwyn, and fortified the castle for himself. He afterwards, A. D. 1199, took the castle of Dynherth, which belonged to Gruffydd, and put the garrison to the sword: but Gruffydd about the same time obtained possession of the important fortress of Cilgerran. When Maelgwn perceived that his brother was thus increasing his strength in the neighbourhood, and apprehending that he could not much longer resist his power, he sold the castle of Cardigan to the Normans, to prevent its falling into his hands. On the death of his brother Meredith, who was treacherously slain at Carnwyllion, A. D. 1201, Gruffydd seized upon his estates, and his castle of Llandovery. This is the last recorded act of his life: he died A. D. 1202, and was buried in the abbey of Ystrad Fflur.

Gruffydd was succeeded by his son Rhys, whose mother was Maud, the daughter of William de Breos of Brecknock. Rhys is stated to have taken the castle of Llandovery, A. D. 1204, which, it seems, on his father's decease, had fallen into the hands of his uncle Maelgwn. He afterwards took and fortified Llangadoc castle. But he was not allowed to retain these fortresses long, for his uncle, assisted by his ally Gwenwynwyn, brought a powerful force against them, and obliged him to abandon his conquests. Maelgwn having withdrawn his troops into Cardiganshire, Rhys repossessed himself of these places, and shortly after took the castle of Dinevor, the royal residence of his ancestors. About the same time, however, he sustained some reverses in another quarter, the castle of Cilgerran being taken by the earl of Pembroke.

Llewelyn ab Iorwerth, the reigning prince of North Wales, having, A. D. 1208, seized upon the territories of Gwenwynwyn, who was then a prisoner in England, marched an army into South Wales, with the view of chastising his associate. Maelgwn, not considering himself in circumstances to withstand such an overwhelming force, destroyed his castles, and with-

drew. Llewelyn made, therefore, an easy conquest of his possessions. He rebuilt the castle of Aberystwyth, which he garrisoned with his own troops, and retained in his own hands: but the cantref of Penwedic, and the lands lying between the rivers Dyvi and Aeron, he gave to Rhys ab Gruffydd and his brother Owen.

Shortly after these events Rhys Vychan, or Rhys Grug, the brother of Maelgwn, who had hitherto been on friendly terms with his nephews, turned his arms against them, and took the castle of Llangadoc:—but as soon as they were apprised of the circumstance, they marched against it with all their forces, destroyed the garrison, and rased the fortress to the ground. Rhys Vychan, after this defeat, fearing the power of Llewelyn, who had espoused the cause of the young lords, went to England, and obtained a supply of troops from King John, who gladly availed himself of the opportunity to annoy the Welsh prince. Aided by these reinforcements he invested the castle of Llandovery, which the garrison, having no prospect of succour, delivered up to him on condition of being allowed to depart with their arms and property. The same policy was afterwards adopted by Maelgwn, who, on making his submission to the English monarch, was allowed a large body of English troops, to assist him in the recovery of his estates. With these forces, he marched into Cardiganshire, and encamped at Cilcennyn, in the cantref of Penwedic. While he lay here, his nephews Rhys and Owen, who were not in sufficient strength to meet him openly in the field, came privately into the neighbourhood with a chosen band of three hundred men. In the dead of night, they entered the camp unobserved; and, falling on their enemies with great fury, put many to the sword, and compelled the rest to seek their safety in flight. Maelgwn himself escaped among the fugitives.\*

When king John A. D. 1212, by the success of his arms, obliged Llewelyn ab Iorwerth, and other chieftains of the

\* Powell's Wales, ubi supra, p. 190.

country, to do him homage, Rhys and his brother Owen refused to submit. Upon which the English monarch ordered Foulke Viscount Cardiff, at that time warden of the Marches, to unite his forces with those of Maelgwn and Rhys Vychan, to compel their obedience. The young lords being wholly unprepared to cope with such a force, sued for peace, and applied for a safe conduct to go to London. Here they were graciously received by the king, who, on their doing homage, and relinquishing the district between the Dyvi and Aeron, allowed them to retain their other possessions. The English commander on this occasion strengthened the works of the castle of Aberystwyth, and garrisoned it with the king's troops.

After the departure of Foulke, Maelgwn and Rhys Vychan, disappointed probably by the favourable terms granted to their nephews, threw off their allegiance to the English monarch, and took and dismantled Aberystwyth castle. This gave Rhys and Owen an opportunity of retaliating on their uncles the ills they had suffered from them; for, under pretence of supporting the authority of king John, they immediately invaded Maelgwn's territories, and loaded themselves with the spoils.

Notwithstanding their occasional success in these predatory incursions, it appears that both these young lords were about this time, deprived by their uncles of nearly the whole of their estates. In this situation of affairs they laid their case before king John, imploring his assistance for the recovery of their property. The English monarch, who was incensed against the uncles for their defection, more probably than for their conduct towards their nephews, readily listened to their complaints. He ordered Viscount Foulke to demand from Rhys Vychan, the castle of Llandovery, with the territories pertaining to it, for the use of young Rhys and his brother; and, in case of his refusal, instructed him to dispossess him of the whole of Ystrad Tywi. Rhys Vychan having declared his determination not to give up the least portion of his territory, the English commander attended by the two brothers, with

with all the forces they could collect, marched towards Dinevor. Being met on their way by Rhys Vychan, a battle ensued, in which this turbulent chieftain was defeated with considerable loss. After this repulse he retreated towards Dinevor, and reinforced the garrison: he then burnt the town of Llandeilo fawr to the ground, and afterwards retired to the most inaccessible parts of the neighbouring country. Foulke and the young lords immediately invested the castle, and assaulted it with so much vigour, that the garrison capitulated the next day, on condition of being allowed to depart with their arms. The remainder of the district yielded without resistance.

Rhys Vychan removed his family to Aberystwyth, and placed them under the care of his brother Maelgwn: he was himself shortly after taken at Caermarthen, and committed to the king's prison, but was soon liberated on giving hostages for his good conduct. The castle of Llandovery yielded to the arms of young Rhys, after the departure of Foulke.

A reconciliation having taken place between Rhys ab Gruffydd and his uncle Maelgwn, they united their forces and marched into Pembrokeshire, and conquered the greater part of the country. Maelgwn and Owen ab Gruffydd went afterwards to North Wales, and did homage to Llewelyn ab Iorweth. During this time Rhys ab Gruffydd employed himself in annoying the vassals of the English monarch. He proceeded first of all against the castle of Kidwelly, of which he soon possessed himself. He then advanced into Glamorganshire, where he succeeded in taking all the castles of Gower, besides several others, including the strong fortress of Senghennith.

The same year, Llewelyn ab Iorweth led a large army into South Wales, to attack the territories of the English vassals. In the course of this expedition, in which he was assisted by the forces of Rhys ab Gruffydd, his brother Owen, and their two uncles, he obtained possession of the castle of Caermarthen, which he rased to the ground. He afterwards took the castles of Llanystyffan, St. Clears, Talacharn, Emlyn, Cilgerran,

and Cardigan. After a short interval of relaxation, he came again into Cardiganshire, in his character of Lord paramount of the principality, to adjust a dispute between Rhys ab Gruffydd, and his brother Owen, and their two uncles Maelgwn and Rhys Vychan, respecting a division of the conquered territory, which he settled to their mutual satisfaction.\*

On his return to North Wales, he received information that Reginald de Breos, his son in law, had deserted his interest, and joined the English monarch, Henry the third.† The young Rhys and his brother, on this occasion, attacked Reginald's possessions in Builth, where they were shortly joined by Llewelyn himself. From hence they passed into Glamorganshire, where Reginald and the Welsh prince were reconciled, as related above: they then continued their march towards Pembrokeshire, with the view of attacking the Flemings. But after crossing the Cleddau river, a peace was concluded through the interference of the Bishop of St. David's, on condition that the Flemings should pay a thousand marks towards the expenses of the expedition, and that the country should submit to Llewelyn as its sovereign lord. The Welsh prince now planted strong garrisons in the castles of Caermarthen and Cardigan. He is also stated to have given Rhys Gruffydd permission about this time to do homage to the English king, for some of his lands.‡

Not long after this (A. D. 1220,) the Flemings withdrew  
from

\* In this division, Llewelyn assigned to Maelgwn, three cantrefs in Dyved—viz. Gwarthaf, Penllwynoc, Cemaes, and Emlyn, with the castle of Cilgerran: to young Rhys, two cantrefs in Ystrad Tywi, viz. Hiruryn and Mallaen, and Maenor Myddfê, with the castle of Llandovery; and two cantrefs in Cardigan, Gwynionydd and Mabwyneon; to Owen, the castles of Cardigan, (Aberteivi) and Nant Arian (Silver Dale) with three cantrefs in Cardigan: and to Rhys Vychan Dinevor castle, cantref Mawr and cantref Bychan (except Hiruryn and Myddfê,) with the cwmwds of Carwyllion and Kidwelly. Powell's Wales, ubi supra, p. 197.

† See above, p. 31.

‡ Powell's Wales, ubi supra, p. 200.



from their allegiance to Llewelyn, and took the castle of Cardigan. This brought him again into South Wales, when he recovered that fortress and rased it to the ground ; after which he overran the greater part of Pembrokeshire, laying every thing waste with fire and sword.

Rhys Gruffydd, finding that Llewelyn purposed withholding from him the castle of Cardigan, which in the late division of the principality had been allotted to his share, deserted him about this time, and went over to William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke. Llewelyn resented his conduct on this occasion by seizing his castle of Aberystwyth, and the territories annexed to it : but king Henry interfering, on the complaint of Rhys, their differences were amicably adjusted. Rhys died in the course of the same year, and was buried in the abbey of Ystrad Fflur. His possessions were divided between his brother Owen and his uncle Maelgwn.

William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, being absent in Ireland, carrying on a war on behalf of the king of England, Llewelyn marched into South Wales and took two of his castles, the garrisons of which he put to the sword, and replaced with his own troops. On the earl's return, (A. D. 1233) he retaliated on the possessions and subjects of Llewelyn, and took the castles of Cardigan and Caermarthen. His proceedings being reported to the Welsh prince, he dispatched his son Gruffydd into Caermarthenshire to oppose his progress. Gruffydd being arrived at Kidwelly, intended to have taken up his quarters there, but learning that a plot had been concerted by the inhabitants, to betray him to the Earl of Pembroke, he set fire to the town, and advanced towards Caermarthen, where the Earl was then stationed. The Earl of Pembroke crossed the river Tywi, to meet him, and gave him battle. The engagement was obstinately maintained on both sides, and was only terminated by the darkness of the night, which obliged both the commanders to withdraw their forces. No advantage was claimed by either party, nor did they deem  
it

it proper to renew the combat on the following day. The Earl kept his troops at Caermarthen, and Gruffydd encamped his forces at some distance on the other side of the river. In this state of inactivity he remained for some days, until his provisions beginning to fail, he withdrew to North Wales, and the Earl retired to Cilgerran castle.

In the year 1226, Rhys, the son of Rhys Vychan, having made his father prisoner, obtained from him, as the price of his liberation, the castle of Llandovery.

Maelgwn ab Rhys, died A. D. 1230, and was buried in Ystrad Fflur abbey : his possessions descended to his son Maelgwn. This young chieftain, as soon as he had entered on his inheritance, marched against Cardigan, and burnt the town; but finding his own forces unequal to the assault of the castle, which was strongly fortified, he sent for his cousin Owen, and some of Llewelyn's officers, to assist him in his enterprise. With this accession of strength, he destroyed the bridge over the Teivy; and, after a short siege, made himself master of the castle.

A. D. 1233, Richard Marshall, earl of Pembroke, upon a quarrel with king Henry, came into Wales, and being joined by Owen ab Gruffydd, Maelgwn and Rhys Vyehan, committed great devastations in Pembrokeshire and elsewhere. During this contest, he laid siege to the castle of Caermarthen, which successfully resisted his assaults for three months, when succours arriving by sea to its relief, the Earl found himself under the necessity of abandoning the attempt.

About this time died at Llandeilo fawr, Rhys Vychan, the son of prince Rhys. His death was soon followed by that of his nephew Owen ab Gruffydd. They were both buried in the family cemetery at Ystrad Fflur.\* Owen was succeeded in his

\* Powell's Wales, p. 208, states that Rhys Vychan was buried at St. David's "besides his father;"—this is an error, for his father was interred at the abbey of Strata Florida, which he had founded. See Warrington's Wales, Vol. II. p. 5, with the authorities there referred to.

his possessions by his son Meredith, while those of Rhys Vychan descended partly to his son Meredith and partly to his other son Rhys, who is also named Rhys Vychan in the Welsh annals.

With the exception of the recovery of Cardigan castle, by Gilbert Marshall Earl of Pembroke, which took place A. D. 1240, on the death of Llewelyn ab Iorweth, nothing is related of either of these young lords for some years. On the death of David ab Llewelyn, prince of North Wales, king Henry sent Nicholas de Myles to Caermarthen, with a commission for Meredith ab Rhys Vychan, and Meredith ab Owen, to assist him in dispossessing Maelgwn Vychan, the son of Maelgwn ab Rhys, of his territories. Maelgwn, being unable to withstand such a force, retired to North Wales.

Some years subsequently, A. D. 1254, Rhys Vychan obtained possession of the castle of Carreg Cennen, which his mother, out of her great dislike to him, had placed in the hands of some of the English settlers.

Prince Edward, afterwards Edward the first of England, had recently possessed himself of some of the estates of the Welsh nobility in Cardiganshire. The sufferers having complained of their losses to Llewelyn ab Gruffydd, who had just succeeded to the principality of North Wales, he marched into South Wales, and having recovered the lands, gave the principal part of them to Meredith ab Owen. He also took Builth from Rhys Vychan, and gave it to his brother Meredith ab Rhys. The other lands he divided among those chieftains who had suffered from Edward's invasion, reserving none to himself.

Rhys Vychan, being thus spoiled of his possessions, obtained from king Henry a powerful force, to aid him to recover such parts of his territories as were then held by his brother Meredith. With these auxiliaries, commanded by Stephen Bacon, he came by sea to Caermarthen, and marched against Dinevor castle, which he immediately besieged. Llewelyn

sent

sent a large force to the relief of the place. Meredith ab Owen and Meredith ab Rhys, who commanded the Welsh troops, being thus reinforced, gave the English army battle. The engagement which ensued is stated to have been one of the most sanguinary ever fought in the principality. The English army was totally routed, with the loss of about two thousand men. Llewelyn's troops afterwards proceeded towards Pembrokeshire, destroying in their way the castle of Llanstyffan, whither, it is probable, they had pursued the English fugitives.

In the year 1258, the Welsh nobility held a convention, at which they bound themselves by oath, to stand firm to each other to maintain the common cause of their country against the English. But Meredith ab Rhys shortly after deserted this confederacy, and joined the party of the English king.

During a truce which existed at this time between king Henry and Llewelyn, prince Edward sent Meredith, in company with Patrick de Canton, the king's lieutenant, to Caermarthen to negotiate a peace. Llewelyn, on the other hand, appointed commissioners to meet them at Emlyn,\* and in the number sent his own brother David. Patrick, while they were on their journey, learning that his own followers were more numerous than those of the Welsh deputies, laid a plan for their destruction, and attacked them with great violence while they were wholly unsuspecting of hostilities, and unprepared for defence. Several of their men were slain, and the chieftains themselves escaped with great difficulty. David immediately raised the country, and overtaking Patrick on his return, slew both himself and the greater part of his attendants.

A. D. 1268, died Meredith ab Owen, who had been an active and a powerful supporter of the interests of his country. He left issue one son, named Gruffydd.

Edward the first, soon after his accession, being now seriously

\* Now Newcastle Emlyn in this county.

riously bent on the final conquest of the principality, raised for this purpose two powerful armies, one to act under his personal command against North Wales, and another to act against South Wales, under the command of Payen de Chaworth. Payen proceeded to attack and lay waste the territories of several of the Welsh chieftains, who despairing of assistance from Llewelyn, whom king Edward kept fully occupied, made their submission to the English monarch, and delivered into the hands of his lieutenant the castle of Dinevor. Among the chieftains who on this occasion deserted the cause of Llewelyn, was Rhys ab Meredith,\* who at this time held Dinevor. In consequence of the success of the English army in South Wales, Llewelyn found it necessary to sue for peace, and the terms which Edward exacted from him, sufficiently evince the very low state to which his power was now reduced.† Previously to his return from this expedition, Edward rebuilt the castle of Aberystwyth, in order to secure the advantages he had gained by this treaty. But the oppression of the king's officers in the country becoming intolerable, the inhabitants revolted, and assembling in great force took from them several of their fortresses. At this time, Rhys the son of Maelgwn, and Gruffydd the son of Meredith, brother of Rhys ab Meredith mentioned above, who had headed the insurgents, took the castle of Aberystwyth.

These disturbances, with some other subsequent events, led to a renewal of the war‡ between Edward and Llewelyn. The  
archbishop

\* He was the grandson of Rhys Vychan or Rhys Grug, and the great grandson of Prince Rhys ab Gruffydd.

† Powell's Wales, ut supra, p. 240, et seq.

‡ During the negotiations which took place between the archbishop and the Welsh chieftains on the occasion, they laid before him, in justification of their conduct, their complaints against the resident officers and partizans of the English king. The following is the complaint preferred by Rhys Vychan of Ystrad Tywi :

1. " After

archbishop of Canterbury endeavoured to prevent the rupture, and to bring the differences between the two princes to an amicable termination, but he found both parties equally averse to concession; and finished his labours by the excommunication of Llewelyn and his adherents.

The negotiations having failed, Edward marched at the head of a powerful army towards North Wales. At the same time the Earl of Gloucester, and Sir Edward Mortimer, had under their command a large force in South Wales. These noblemen were met near Llandeilo fawr by the Welsh army, which they completely defeated. Llewelyn himself was at this time in Cardiganshire, ravaging the possessions of the king's friends, and particularly of Meredith ab Rhys, who had some time before deserted his standard. Llewelyn, on his return towards North Wales, took the road towards Builth, where he had engaged to meet some of his friends in that country, to concert measures for their future conduct. Here he

1. "After that the said Rees, gave the king his castell of Dyneuowr, si-  
thence the last peace, the said Rees then being in the tent of the lord Payne  
de Gadersey, at the same time there were slaine sixe gentlemen of the said  
Reeses men, for whom they neuer had amends, which was to him great  
greefe and losse.

2. Item. John Gifford claimed the said Reeses inheritance of Hiruryn, and  
the said Rees requested the lawe of the countie of Caermardhen, in the which  
countie the ancestors of the said Rees were wont to haue lawe; when they  
were of the peace of the Englishmen, and vnder their regiment; but the  
said Rees could haue no lawe, but lost all his lands. They would haue had  
him to answer in the countie of Hereford, where none of his ancestors euer  
answered. Further, in the lands of the said Rees were such enormities com-  
mitted, which doo most apperteine to the state ecclesiasticall: that is to saie  
in the church of St. David, which they call Lhangadoc, they made stables,  
and plaid the harlots, and tooke awate all the goods of the said church, and  
burning all the houses, wounded the preest of the said church before the  
high altar, and left him there as dead.

3. Item. In the same countie they spoiled and burnt the churches of Dyn-  
gad, Lhantredaff, and other churches in other parts: they spoiled their chali-  
"es, bookes, and all other ornaments and goods." Powell's Wales, p. 257.

he was beset by a body of English troops, and while separated from his own men, was overtaken unarmed and put to death. This event left Edward complete master of the principality ; for the attempt made by David, Llewelyn's brother, to maintain the cause, was soon crushed, and himself taken prisoner and executed as a traitor.

Edward, after he had thus accomplished his favourite object, by the entire subjugation of the country, proceeded to provide for its future government. The laws which were formed for this purpose are contained in the celebrated statute of Rhuddlan (12 Edward I).\* The districts which were under the jurisdiction of the Lords Marchers, and in which they held *jura regalia*, were allowed by this act to remain without any alteration ; but the territories which had latterly pertained more immediately to the princes of the house of Dinevor, and were now in the possession of the crown, were erected into the present two counties of Caermarthen and Cardigan.

By this statute there were established in Wales a court of Chancery, for determining cases in equity, with a chancellor to preside, under the authority of the king ; a court of Great Sessions, which was to be either provincial or itinerant, as the case might require, with a justice attached to it ; and a court of Exchequer, for the regulation of the revenue, and the trial of causes connected with this branch of the public service : this court was under the jurisdiction of a chamberlain, appointed by the chancellor. There were two of each of these officers appointed for the whole of the principality, to preside severally in North and South Wales. Those appointed for the latter province were to reside at Caermarthen. The counties thus created were placed under the same regulations as those of England, and were to be governed in all cases in a similar manner, and by the same laws and forms.†

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\* This statute is printed at large in the Appendix to Wotton's *Leges Wal. lize*.

† Owen's *British Remains*, p. 16, et seq.

The affairs of the principality being thus finally arranged, the country remained in a peaceable state for some years. While, however, king Edward was absent in France, Rhys ab Meredith, who had materially aided him in his subjugation of South Wales, and whom he had knighted for his services, revolted from his new allegiance. Robert di Tibetot, the justiciary of South Wales, and Alan Plucknet, the king's Steward in the principality, had summoned him, with the other Welsh nobles, to the Welsh courts. Rhys refused to obey; and as legal measures were resorted to by the king's officers to compel his attendance, he flew to arms, took the castles of Llandovery and Dinevor, and burnt several towns. The king, being informed of these proceedings, wrote to Rhys, desiring him to abstain from farther hostilities, and promising on his return to adjust all differences to his satisfaction. The earl of Cornwall was, however, at the same time ordered to proceed to Wales with the troops under his command, to enforce the king's request, if necessary, by the sword. Cornwall advanced into Caermarthenshire, and by his superior force obliged Rhys, who would listen to no accommodation, to retire from the open country. The English commander then proceeded against his castles, which he took and destroyed. In the attack upon one of these, Druslwyn, in the vale of Tywi, a serious accident befel the besieging army. The lord Stafford, William de Monchency, and several other officers, who were inspecting a mine which their own workmen were carrying under a part of the works, were killed by the fall of one of the walls.

In consequence of the approach of winter, the Earl of Cornwall was obliged to suspend his operations, and to grant his adversary a truce. As soon as Rhys found that the English commander had departed the country, he again took the field, and laid siege to the castle of Emlyn. But Robert de Tibetot suddenly raising a large force to oppose him, he found it necessary to take shelter in Ireland. After remaining here



three years, he once more made his appearance in South Wales. Having collected all the troops he could engage in his service, which consisted almost entirely of raw recruits, he marched against the English justiciary. A fierce and sanguinary engagement ensued, in which Rhys was defeated with the loss of four thousand of his followers. Rhys was himself taken prisoner, and shortly after executed as a traitor at York. His possessions were bestowed on Robert de Tibetot, in reward of his services.\*

Edward, having now completed his conquest, thought it right that the inhabitants of the principality should contribute like his other subjects to the support of the public burdens. But the Welsh, still smarting with the recent loss of their independence, revolted at the first attempt to subject them to taxation. Besides other insurrections in different parts of the principality, Maelgwn Vychan headed a strong party in Cardiganshire, which overran and plundered both that county and Pembrokeshire. He was, however, soon taken and executed at Chester.

The only instances of consequence, of public opposition to the authority of the English king, that occurred after this period in South Wales, are those which were excited by the spirited revolt of the celebrated Owen Glyndwr; but few particulars are recorded that claim to be mentioned here. The most important circumstance was the landing of a French force of 12000 men in the interest of Owen in Milford Haven, which marched to Caermarthen, and took the castle. Owen, however, shortly after sustained a serious loss in the defection of the nobility of Ystrad Tywi, who returned to their allegiance to the king of England.

These attempts to recover some portion of their lost liberties, and particularly the more formidable rebellion, as it has been called, of Owen Glyndwr, exposed the Welsh to the vindictive displeasure of the English court, and led to the

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enactment,

\* Warrington's Wales, Vol. II. p. 325, et seq.

enactment, in the reigns of Henry the fourth, and Henry the sixth, of several most severe and oppressive laws. The rigour of these statutes was afterwards considerably mitigated in the reign of Henry the seventh, who, in return for the assistance he had derived from them, in his war against Richard the third, granted his Welsh subjects several privileges.

The laws that had been passed thus far, in relation to the principality, had reference but in very few instances to those districts which were under the authority and government of the Lords Marchers. The absolute power originally vested in these lords, had been continued to them without diminution; and it was exercised generally in so arbitrary and oppressive a manner, that the interference of the crown became at length necessary, to restrain its licentiousness. The first act passed for this purpose contained the following passage, which will explain the nature of the evils it was intended to remedy. "Whereas many robberies, murders, and other evil practices, have been daily committed in the county palatine of Chester, and Flintshire in Wales, and also in Anglesea, Caernarvon, Merionydd, Cardigan, Caermarthen, Pembroke, and Glamorgan; because justice is not administered there in such form as in other places of this realm: for the remedy of this, it is enacted, that the lord Chancellor of England, or keeper of the Great Seal, shall nominate and appoint justices of peace, justices of the quorum, and justices of the gaol delivery in the said counties, and that they shall have like power and authority as those of England."\*

Another statute to the following effect was passed a few years afterwards, which took away altogether from the lords Marchers the juridical authority with which they had been invested. "Whereas by the gifts of the kings of England, many of the most ancient prerogatives and authorities of justice, appertaining to the imperial crown of this realm, have been severed and taken from the same; it is enacted, that

\* Warrington's Wales, Vol. II. p. 349.

that no person shall have power and authority to pardon or to remit treasons, murders, manslaughters, or any felonies, or their accessories in any part of England, Wales, or the Marches of the same: that likewise no person shall make justices of Oyer, justices of assize, justices of peace, or justices of gaol delivery; but they shall in future be made only by the king's letters patent: and that all original writs, judicial writs, and all manner of indictments for treason, felony, and trespass, and all manner of process, shall be only made in the king's name; and that all offences committed against the peace, shall be considered as an offence committed against the king, and not against the peace of any other person."\*

These several enactments, limiting the power of the lords marchers, were well concerted preludes to the important measure which succeeded;--the complete union of Wales with England. The proceeding immediately introductory to this step was a petition to the king from the inhabitants of the principality, a document drawn up with great ability, and supposed to have been suggested and written by Sir John Price, of the priory Brecknock,† who was a member of the court of the Marches. This petition exhibits a comprehensive sketch of Welsh history, briefly describes the existing situation of the country, and the inconveniences arising from the want of uniformity in the laws by which it was governed, and prays that the petitioners might be "received and adopted into the same laws and privileges, which the king's other subjects enjoyed." The act of Parliament which passed in consequence of this application,‡ was in substance as follows:—"As the dominion; principality, and country, of Wales is a member and part of the temporal crown of this realm, whereof therefore the king is head and ruler; yet as it hath divers rights, usages, laws, and customs, very different to the laws and customs of this realm; and because the language of that country

\* Warrington's Wales, Vol. II. p. 351.

† See above, p. 101.

‡ 34 Henry VIII.

is different from that which is spoken here, and that many rude people hereupon have made distinction and diversity betwixt his highness's other subjects and them, to the causing of much discord and sedition; his highness therefore, out of his love and favour to his subjects in Wales, and for reducing them to his laws, doth, by advice and consent of his Parliament, ordain and enact, that Wales shall be united and incorporated henceforth to and with his realm of England; and that his subjects in Wales shall enjoy and inherit all singular freedoms, liberties, rights, privileges, and laws, which his highness's subjects elsewhere enjoy and inherit. And therefore that inheritances shall descend after the manner of England, without division or partition, and not after any tenure or form of Welsh laws or customs. And for as much as there are divers Lordships Marchers within the said country or dominion in Wales, being no parcel of any other shires, where the laws and due correction is used and had, and that in them and the counties adjoining manifold murders, robberies, felonies, and the like, have been done, contrary to all law and justice, because the offenders, making their refuge from one Lordship Marcher to another, were continued without punishment and correction: therefore it is enacted that the said Lordships Marchers shall be united, annexed, and joined, to divers shires specified in the said act."\* This act was immediately put in force; the parts of the principality which had not already been so divided were erected into shires, within their present boundaries, and the English laws, with the same forms of administration, introduced into each of the counties.

The history of Caermarthenshire, from this time, merges in that of the kingdom at large; excepting, perhaps, some occasional local incidents, which will be noticed hereafter in their proper places.

**BOUNDARIES, EXTENT, &c.** Caermarthenshire is bounded on the north by Cardiganshire, on the west by Pembroke-shire,

\* Warrington's Wales, Vol. II. p. 362.

shire, on the south by the Bristol channel, and on the east by Glamorganshire and Brecknockshire. Its form is irregular, but approaches to that of a parallelogram, extending about fifty miles in length, by about twenty-five in width. According to Mr. Cary's estimate, its superficial contents may be reckoned at 512000 acres.\* The modern divisions comprehend the following hundreds:—Carnwallon, Cathinog, Cayo, Derllys, Elvet, Iskennen, Kidwelly, and Perfedd.†

The number of parishes in this county has been variously estimated. The list given in the population returns comprises in the whole 76; but in this there are some omissions. The catalogue contained in the Myfyrian Archæology, with the Editor's‡ correction, enumerates 85; but the actual number

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\* Communications to the Board of Agriculture, Vol. VI. p. 228.

† The Myfyrian Archæology (Vol. II. p. 606, et seq.) contains an account of the divisions of Wales at the time of Llewelyn ab Gruffydd, the last of its native princes. Of the divisions of Caermarthenshire, there are two statements, which are as follow;—

1	2
Cantrev Finiog.	Cantrev Bychan.
Cwmwd Hirvryn.	Cwmwd Hirvryn.
——— Pervedd.	——— Pervedd.
——— Is Cennen.	——— Is Cennen.
Cantrev y Geiniog, or Eginog.	Cantrev Eginawg.
Cwmwd Gwyr.	Cwmwd Cydweli.
——— Cydweli.	——— Carn y Williawn.
——— Carnwyllon.	——— Gwyr.
Cantrev Bychan.	Cantrev Mawr.
Cwmwd Mallaen.	Cwmwd Mallaen.
——— Caeo.	——— Caeau.
——— Macnor Deilo.	——— Maenawr Deilaw.
Cantrev Mawr.	
Cwmwd Cethiniog.	——— Cetheiniawg.
——— Mab Elwy.	——— Mab Elwy.
——— Mab Uchtryd.	——— Mab Utryd.
——— Widigada.	——— Widigada.

‡ Mr. Edward Williams, under his Bardic signature Iolo Morganwg, or Edward of Glamorgan. Myfyrian Archæol. Vol. II. p. 262.

may be more correctly stated at seventy eight ; besides which there are about twelve chapelries. The county contains eight market towns, and returns two members to Parliament, one for the shire and one for the borough of Caermarthen.

**POPULATION.** The population is stated by the Parliamentary returns to have amounted in 1801 to 67,317 individuals : by the returns of 1811 the number is rated at 77,217 ; to which the county militia, which may be estimated in round numbers at 600 persons, must be added, making the total of the inhabitants at the time of the last census 77,817.

**RIVERS.** In approaching Caermarthenshire from the eastward, the first stream that occurs is Lloughor, which for some distance divides this county from Glamorganshire. This river rises\* in the parish of Llandeilo fawr, near the eastern extremity of the Black mountain, and at its source emerges into daylight from its subterranean reservoir in a large and copious stream. A short distance below the aperture from which it issues, it throws itself over a ledge of rocks, about eighteen feet in perpendicular height, and forms a fine cascade. The substratum is here a limestone rock, and exhibits the features so common in similar circumstances, of extensive caverns, stored with petrifications and stalactites.

After a course of a few miles in nearly a southerly direction, the Lloughor receives from the north east the Aman, † which, though considerably the larger river, loses its own name on its junction with the other. These united streams, after being augmented by some smaller rivulets, discharge themselves into Caermarthen bay by a wide estuary called the Bury river, which is navigable for small vessels as high as the town of Lloughor.

The next river to the eastward is Gwendraeth Fawr, or the

\* It has been supposed, that this river derives part of its waters, by a subterranean passage, from the lake near the Fan, about ten miles distant, and that it owes its name to this circumstance, Lloughor, or more properly Lluchwr, being an abbreviation of Lluch-ddwr, Lake-water.

the greater Gwendraeth, which has its source in a lake at the upper extremity of Mynydd mawr, and joins the sea below Kidwelly. Gwendraeth fach, or the less, after passing through the town of Kidwelly, unites its waters with Gwendraeth fawr, and enters the sea by the same estuary.

But the principal river of this county, and one of the noblest in South Wales, is the Tywi, or Towy. This interesting stream is correctly stated by Leland, to rise at a short distance from Llyn Teivi,\* and derives its first waters from an extensive morass, in the alpine valley of Berwin in the county of Cardigan.† This wild and inhospitable region has seldom been ex-

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plored

\* Towe risith a iiii myles by south from Llinntiue, in a marisch ground, and hath no llin at its hedd, and by estimation rennith a xxii miles or he cum to Llanamdeuery. He first rennith sumwhat by south, and then a greate way by west, and at the last turneth again towards south. Itin. Vol. V. p. 79.

† Old Drayton thus celebrates this river with its tributary streams ;

When Gwendra with such grace deliberately doth glide,  
As Tovy doth entice : who setteth out prepared  
At all points like a prince, attended with a guard :  
Of which, as by her name, the neer'st to her of kin,  
Is Toothy, tripping downe from Verwin's rushie lin,  
Though Rescob running out, with Pescouer to meet  
Those rills that forest loues ; and doth so kindly greet,  
As to intreat their stay shee gladly would prevaile.  
Then Tranant nicelie treads vpon the watry traile ;  
The liuelie skipping Brane, along with Gwethrick goes ;  
In Tovies wandring bankes themselves that scarcely lose,  
But Muñuy with Cledaugh, and Sawthy, soone resort,  
Which at Llangaddock grace their soueraignes watry court.

\* \* \* \* \*

Now Tovy toward her fall (Llangaddock ouer-gon)  
Here Dulas forward driues ; and Cothy comming on  
The traine to ouer-take, the neerest way doth cast  
Ere shee Carmarden get ; where Gwilly making hast  
Bright Tovy entertaines at that most famous towne  
Which her great Prophet bred, who Wales doth so renoune.

Polychronicon.—Song 5,

plored by travellers, but it abounds with romantic beauties that would amply repay the lover of nature the trouble of a visit. The Tywi, at a short distance from its source, is joined by the lesser Tywi, or Tywi Vychan, which issues from the same bog. "The course of the river is south easterly as far as its junction with the Tywi Vychan at Moel Rescob, where it turns to the southward, and rushing over its rugged bed for some miles, now glides almost imperceptibly along; then bounding over the rocks, receives the waters of innumerable rills and brooks, descending from the clefts in the hills on either side, with an occasional solitary cottage seated upon the banks. Hitherto this celebrated river may be crossed on foot in many places, till a picturesque bridge formed of a single plank and hand rail, thrown from rock to rock, presents itself, and affords some relief from the sameness of the bare hills and broken craigs, by which its channel is confined. The river is now still more obstructed by rocks, and the track on its eastern bank becomes precipitous and difficult. The country continues equally dreary and desolate, till, upon turning the point of a rock, a scene bursts upon the sight with the effect of electricity, so sudden, so instant is the transition from savage wildness to a view romantic in the highest degree. A farmhouse, called Vanog, is situated on the western bank of the river, enveloped in wood, crowned by a majestic rocky hill; the mountain on the opposite side, almost perpendicular, is covered with trees of various kinds. The river, raging over the rocks, roars through its gloomy bed in some places near a hundred feet below the surface, but entirely concealed by the profound depth of its channel, and the luxuriance of the foliage upon its banks, with hills folding over hills in the distance; and this contrast, produced by the advance of one single yard, after having traversed a dreary waste for several preceding miles, may easily be conceived capable of producing an effect that no one, unless totally insensible to the beauties of nature, can pass without admiration.

"Leaving



“ Leaving the farmhouse, Vanog, on the right, the track crosses the Camdwr, a few yards above a waterfall of considerable height, which meets the Tywi, as it again emerges from its Acherontic pass. The scenery from this point of junction, looking up, is highly gratifying; presenting the woods of Vanog on either side, with the river foaming down the rocks as it escapes from its dismal passage, and the whole crowned by rugged mountain forms towering in the distance. From hence the vale, now near a quarter of a mile in breadth, is chiefly occupied by meadow land, till the mountains again approximating, shut in the channel of the river, which sweeping to the westward round Cerrig Tywi, approaches Ystrad Ffin.\* The perpendicular form of its banks here compels the road to quit the margin of the river for the first time; and, by a circuitous route of about a mile, to approach Ystrad Ffin; the first view of which, with its extraordinary scenery, is not inferior to any thing upon this remarkable river. From this point the Tywi is concealed by the conical hills, which rear their heads in the middle of the vale of Ystrad Ffin, surrounded by mountains of great height and magnitude. Indeed the scenery about Ystrad Ffin partakes more of the sublime than that of any other part of this incomparable river, possessing every necessary material, as wood, mountain, rock, water, most admirably arranged. Ystrad Ffin, now a considerable farm, was formerly the residence of a family of consequence. Opposite to the house a conical hill, called Cerrig Tywi, composed of a schistose rock, and nearly covered with timber, rises to the height of five or six hundred feet; from the summit of which is a grand panoramic view of this extraordinary region; mountain upon mountain, with their respective vales, are seen in succession, and the Tywi, winding round its base, rushes with impetuous fury, under an alpine bridge, into the embrace of the Dethia,† where its rage seems suddenly appeased,

\* Literally, the boundary vale.

† The Toothy of Drayton, Speed, and other writers.

peased, and it silently glides on beneath the lofty banks. About half way up, on the western side of this hill, is situated the celebrated cave of Thomas the son of Catherine,\* a noted robber, who, according to the tradition of the country, sallying from this retreat, committed his depredations, and returned to his concealment, where it would be nearly impossible to follow or discover him."

"The river Pyscottwr rises in the mountains to the westward, and in its course falls into the Dethia, about a mile west of Cerrig Tywi: the latter river takes its origin from Llyn Berwin, north of the source of the Pyscottwr. The most considerable stream with which the preceding part of the Tywi has been augmented is the Camdwr, flowing from the same range of mountains, and emptying itself into the Tywi, a little below Vanog.

"From hence, the Tywi rolls between stupendous mountains to Pen y Garreg; and, about a mile farther on the eastern bank,

\* This "noted robber," as he is here denominated, rivals, among the Welsh, under the name of Twm Sion Cati, the fame of his celebrated brother, by profession, in England, Robin Hood. It is related of him, that he became enamoured of the fair heiress of Ystrad Ffin, on whose territories he had chosen his wild and dreary residence. But the lady did not seem disposed to favour his addresses. During one of his visits, while he was urging his suit in the true Spanish fashion, on the outside of the house, the lady, who was standing within at the window, chanced, probably in the ardour of her speech, to put her arm so far out, as to enable him to lay hold of it. The lover, now rendered desperate by her unkindness, promptly availing himself of his advantage, swore, that unless she would pledge him her *heart*, he would cut off her *hand*, and carry that away to soothe him under his disappointment. There was no delaying; the circumstances of the case were imperative; and Mr. Twm Sion Cati obtained her solemn promise to reward his passion with *both*. The history does not inform us whether or no she afterwards redeemed her pledge.

The hero of this story must not be confounded with another person known in the principality by the same name—Mr. Thomas Jones of Tregaron, a celebrated Welsh antiquary and poet, who flourished about A. D. 1590—1630, who was usually called Twm Sion Cati.

bank, stands a good house, called Nant y Mwyn, belonging to Lord Cawdor, and inhabited by the manager of his lordship's extensive lead-mines, which are within a short distance of the house." "Nearly opposite to Nant y Mwyn, a picturesque foot bridge, leading to Pwll Pradog, crosses the Tywi. The vale now exhibits abundant marks of cultivation and increasing population; and the river, continuing to ripple over its pebbly bottom for about a mile, takes a fine sweep to the westward; then resumes its deep and rocky channel, adorned with a profusion of wood overhanging its banks, and enlivened by the verdure of extensive meadows on either side, but more particularly on the eastern; which, together with the lofty rock, Craig y Mwyn, in the distance, affords a scene highly worthy of notice."\*

As the adjacent country assumes now a less romantic character, the beauties of the river exhibit different, but not less interesting, features. The air of wildness and impetuosity, which marked its passage through its native hills, gradually softens as it advances into the more level vale, through which it afterwards winds its course; and changes imperceptibly into an aspect of greater grandeur and majesty, which astonishes less, but perhaps pleases more. On the approach towards Llandovery, the mountains recede on either side, and leave in the interval a fertile valley of considerable width. This space does not, however, in any part exhibit a dead insipid flat: the surface is continually varied by gentle undulations, sometimes rising into elevated woody knolls; while the occasional approximation of the inclosing ranges, and their irregular forms, impart

\* The preceding extracts, which exhibit a spirited sketch of this extraordinary, but almost unknown district, are taken from a work recently published, which possesses great general merit, but is of peculiar value and interest to every Welshman. It is intitled "The principal Rivers of Wales Illustrated, by John George Wood, F. S. A." and comprises Etched Views executed wholly by this ingenious artist himself, of the most interesting scenery on these streams, with descriptive and explanatory letter-press.

part a beauty to the outline, and a diversity and effect to the lights and shadows of the whole landscape, which never cease to enchant the beholder. In this delightful scene the river itself forms no obtrusive object. It is no where seen for any considerable distance in an unbroken line. At intervals, which the eye always approves, it disappears; and it bursts again on the view just where its silver bosom can add most grace to the charms which its presence creates.

The vale of Tywi derives no inconsiderable accession to its picturesque beauty from the hand of man. The towns and villages which afford residence to its numerous population, the loftier mansions of its more wealthy inhabitants, and the ruined castles of its ancient lords, among which are particularly conspicuous Dinevor and Dryslwyn, rising from the steep shores of the river, and at intervals the rugged Carreg Cennen, which, by its rough contour and frowning attitude, seems to rival the wildness of its original masters,—give animation to the whole, and an interest not limited to present times.

The river Brân, after receiving the waters of the Gwydderig at Llandovery, unites with the Tywi from the eastward a short distance below that town.

The other tributary streams on this side are the Sawddwy which proceeds from a lake in the Black mountain, and, after a short but singularly romantic course, joins the Tywi a little below Llangadoc; and the Cennen, which it receives nearly opposite to Llandeilo fawr: from the west it receives the Cothi, a considerable river, having its source near the north eastern limits of the county; and the Gwili, whose confluence with the Tywi, just above Caermarthen, gives name to the village and parish of Abergwili.

Thus far the general course of this noble river is from north east to south west, with a regular curve towards the south east. After passing Caermarthen it proceeds, a few occasional meanders excepted, nearly due south, and discharges itself into the Bristol channel in Caermarthen Bay. The tide rises perceptibly

bly to the distance of about a mile above Caermarthen, measuring along the channel of the river, and affords water for the conveyance of ships of about three hundred tons burden, to the town quay.

The Tywi is much celebrated for its fish: its salmon is highly esteemed; the same may be observed of its Sewin, a delicate fish, supposed to be confined to a few of the rivers of South Wales. It resembles the salmon in shape and colour, but never equals it in size.\*

The last rivers to be noticed in this enumeration are the Corwen and the Taf, which unite at the village of St. Clears, and discharge their waters into the bay of Caermarthen at Laugharne. The tide flows for some distance up these streams, and rises to a sufficient height to admit small vessels as far as St. Clears, whence considerable quantities of corn and other produce of the country are exported annually.

LAKES. This county does not present any objects of great extent or remarkable interest, to be described under this head; but it contains, nevertheless, some lakes on a smaller scale not undeserving of notice. We shall begin our enumeration with one which lies so wholly out of the track of any public road, as to have escaped the observation of almost every tourist who has pretended to explore and delineate the natural beauties of the country. It is called Llyn Tegwyn, but is occasionally known by the name of Pwll yr Escob, or the Bishop's pool, and there is a traditionary legend connected with the latter appellation, which, however, does not seem to be now preserved or understood. This piece of water is situated at the northern extremity, and on the highest

\* "The Sewin is not seen in any river running in this country from east to west, but in all those flowing in a contrary direction, as the Teivi, the Towy, in Caermarthenshire and Cardiganshire, and the Neath, the Avon, Ogmore, (in Glamorganshire,) and other rivers. I leave this circumstance to the natural philosopher to account for; the fact is as I have stated." Jones's Brecknock, Vol. I. p. 16.

est elevation, of Mynydd Mawr, or the Great mountain, an extensive and bleak common, lying a few miles to the westward of Llandybie, over which, at some distance from the lake, is carried the turnpike road leading from that village to Caermarthen. It is nearly of a circular form, and spreads over a surface which may be estimated at about half a mile in diameter. The shores being flat, and wholly destitute of trees, cannot boast of much picturesque beauty; but the hand of art might, with little trouble, render this a very delightful spot.\* The lake itself offers some attractions to the sportsman, being plentifully stored with fish, amongst which may be specified remarkably fine perch. The ground on the northern side of this pool, which declines towards the vale of Tywi, exhibits a remarkably rugged appearance, the evident indication of some great convulsion. The first view would lead the observer to attribute its abrupt and broken hillocks to volcanic fires, but no substances have been found in the neighbourhood to justify such a conjecture. The principal substratum, for a considerable distance, consists of blue limestone rock. The greater Gwendraeth, as before observed, has its earliest source in this reservoir.

Another lake of the most limpid water occurs on the Black mountain, near the borders of Brecknockshire, at the foot of the almost perpendicular declivity of the Caermarthen-shire Fan or Beacon. Its form is nearly that of a parallelogram, extending about a mile in its greatest length. The surrounding scenery is indescribably romantic, the awful grandeur

\* An act of Parliament has been lately obtained for inclosing Mynydd Mawr: as this lake lies contiguous to the estates of Sir William Paxton, of Middleton Hall, it is to be hoped, that, in the distribution of the several allotments to the tenants of the common, this may fall to the share of that gentleman, who has on all occasions shewn himself forward to promote whatever could conduce to the ornamental, as well as the more substantial, improvement of the country. In his hands it would, doubtless, exhibit in a short time a very different scene from what it does at present.

grandeur of the precipitous rocks, which overhang the lake, rendering it peculiarly striking. A popular tradition has prevailed in the neighbourhood, that this pool was unfathomable; but a party of gentlemen, in the summer of 1812, took the trouble of sounding it with proper lines, when they accurately ascertained its greatest depth to be sixteen fathoms. Notwithstanding its situation is so elevated, that the snow remains undissolved on its shores during seven months in the year, this lake abounds with trout of a very superior quality, and with eels of an extraordinary size, affording to the angler an inexhaustible source of diversion. The Sawddwy river has its source here, and is constantly fed with a copious stream from this reservoir. The river Lloughor has also been thought to derive some of its waters from hence.

The other lakes which claim attention are situated at the foot of a considerable hill, not far from Edwinsford, the seat of Sir James Hamblin Williams, Bart. on the banks of the river Cothy, and close to the ruins of the abbey of Talley. They are two in number, but the strait by which they communicate is of such small extent, that they appear as one continued sheet of water.

**MOUNTAINS.** This county may justly be denominated hilly, but its upland grounds seldom reach a sufficient elevation to claim for it the character of mountainous. On the north a broken chain, connected, with only occasional unimportant interruptions, with Plinlimmon in Cardiganshire, skirts the borders of the county from Brecknockshire to the sea, forming, during the greater part of this distance, one side of the vale of Teivy. It presents, however, few points too elevated or bleak for cultivation. On the eastward the county is shut in by the long chain called the Black mountain, which stretches into Monmouthshire. The highest ground in Caermarthenshire is probably to be found here, on a conspicuous summit, called Y Fan or Ban Sir Gaer, the Caermarthenshire beacon, on the northern side of which the river Usk has its source. The

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height

height of this peak\* has been estimated at about 2600 feet above the level of the sea. Further to the southward, and on the borders of Glamorganshire, lies Bettws mountain, forming part of another chain, which diverges from the Black mountain range at the upper end of the vale of Tawe, and after running for some distance nearly parallel with these hills, stretches along the eastern shore of the Amman and Lloughor nearly to the sea. The highest summits of Bettws mountain, distinguished by another name, are, however, in Glamorganshire, and will be particularly noticed in the description of that county.

Caermarthenshire contains several other detached mountains of considerable elevation, but they exhibit no feature of sufficient prominence to entitle them to distinct notice in this general sketch.

**SOIL, AGRICULTURE, &c.** In a country like this, consisting of a constant succession of hill and dale, no one general or prevalent quality can be expected to characterize the soil, nor any one system of husbandry be supposed to be universally applicable. The lands in the vallies consist, for the greater part, of a light brown or red mould, which yields readily to the plough, and is found to produce good crops of barley and  
oats.

\* This interesting eminence in Caermarthenshire is separated by a deep and narrow chasm from another, very similar in its appearance, but of rather superior altitude, in Brecknockshire. Both these summits bear the same name, and are usually classed together under the plural denomination of Bannau Sir Gaer, or the Caermarthenshire beacons, to distinguish them from the hills near Brecknock, which are called Bannau Brecheiniog, or the Brecknockshire beacons. The lake on the declivity of the hill, which lies within the county of Caermarthen, has already been noticed. The neighbouring peak in Brecknockshire has also its lake, which rather exceeds the other in extent, but is remarkably different and greatly inferior in other respects. Its waters exhibit a dark and forbidding aspect, and it would seem that their quality is in unison with their appearance, as they contain no fish. The latter hill has been ascertained to lie exactly ten miles from the village of Tre-castle. Both these towering summits form picturesque objects from the turnpike road which conducts from Landoverly to Brecknock.



oats. Wheat also, though the country is stated by Camden, and those who have chosen to follow his authority rather than consult their own eyes, to be unfavourable to its growth, is now cultivated with great success in several places in the lowlands. The vales of Tywi, Llangyndeirn, and Llandybie, together with the neighbourhood of St. Clears, may be particularly mentioned in the number of those districts, wherein it is grown to most advantage. The soil in some places, particularly on the higher grounds, contains a large proportion of a cold blue or yellow clay, which is found very unfriendly to vegetation; while in others the surface for some depth consists of a dark brown peat or turbary, on a clay bottom, which is occasionally ploughed, and yields a light and precarious crop. The latter soil is, however, more commonly allowed to remain under pasture, or mowed for the small hay which it affords for the winter sustenance of the horned cattle.

Much of the variety that distinguishes the soil arises from the difference in the substrata whereon it rests; the lands which cover the limestone being generally more fertile than those which lie over the coal and other minerals of the country.

The Caermarthenshire farmers may be allowed the merit, such as it is, of ranking among the best in Wales. They participate, however, liberally in the general prejudice on the subject of white crops, and cannot be prevailed upon to spare and recruit their lands by the alternation of green crops. It seems to be their invariable maxim, that they should exact corn from the ground till it will no longer repay the expenses of cultivation: it is then left idle, sometimes for two or three years, to acquire what renovation the atmosphere may afford it, and in the mean time to bring forth whatever weeds its exhausted powers may yet be capable of nourishing. This remark, however, applies principally to the occupiers of small tenements in the more hilly districts. A more liberal and judicious system is gradually gaining ground in more favourable situations, and among larger capitalists; and it is to be hoped

that its superior advantages will in time render it universal. Some of the chief improvements in the agriculture of this county were introduced some years ago by Mr. Mansell Philipps, on his estates at Coedgain, on the mail road from Swansea, and within about four miles of Caermarthen. Having taken the farms into his own hands, he had the hedge rows altered and improved, the grounds drained, and the whole prepared for an appropriate and advantageous system of cultivation, at his personal expense. The tenements were afterwards let to some intelligent farmers from Norfolk, who introduced the most approved methods of cultivation pursued in that county, as far as they were applicable to the soil. Their plans opened the eyes of some of their neighbours, and their example was in several instances followed, at least in some degree; by the native farmers.

Several other landed proprietors have also interested themselves in a similar way; and traces of improvement in every department of rural economy may be now perceived in almost every part of the county. The name of Dr. Stevenson must not be omitted in this connection. His farm on the shores of the Teivy evinces his intelligence and judgment as an agriculturist.

In general, the agricultural implements in use in this county are of an improved construction. The heavy plough has been almost universally thrown aside, and supplanted by one of lighter weight, and more eligible form; and the common plough team has for many years consisted of two oxen and two leading horses, yoked in pairs. Carts are everywhere employed on the farms, and waggons have been introduced on some of the larger estates, in the more level and fertile districts. The usual team for the former consists of three horses, one in the shaft, the other two abreast, which are usually driven in hand, being guided by a single line fastened to the bridle of the near leader, and the driver standing on the shaft with his back against the cart tub.

Lime is the prevalent manure, which is fetched in some cases from

from a considerable distance, and consequently at a great expense of carriage. This valuable article is furnished in the largest quantities by the quarries at the western extremity of the Black mountains, in the parishes of Llandeilo fawr and Llandybie, and by the range of hills of the same material which pervades the greater part of the parish of Llangydeirn. A judicious system of soiling and littering is already adopted on some estates, and the practice is becoming more general. Straw yards for this purpose are now no unfrequent appendages to the farm buildings of the country. The practice of folding has long been pursued on the upland farms, particularly on the uninclosed lands which are cultivated for corn on the western side of the county. It has of late been extending in other parts, but has not yet become very general.

It is not easy, without an actual survey, to estimate the proportion between the arable lands, and those devoted to hay or pasture. If the commons be kept out of the calculation, it is probable the difference in the quantity of either would not be found great. Considerable progress has been made, of late years, in the inclosure and cultivation of the wastes, and several Bills are at this time in progress, to facilitate this important and salutary measure. A very large extent of country must, however, after all, be left to its fleecy tenants, who alone are capable of rendering it beneficial to the community.

The native sheep of this county are small, and of a degenerate breed; but a very laudable attention has lately been paid to its improvement, by the introduction of the Southdown sheep, which are found to answer here extremely well, and to adapt themselves readily to the soil and climate. Excepting in the more mountainous districts, the horses and horned cattle are of a middling size; and on some of the richer lands in the vales, beasts of the largest breed are occasionally reared. The horses used for agricultural purposes are in general compact and bony, and successful exertions have been made to produce a handsome breed for the saddle.

In such a country no general scale can be laid down for regulating the value of lands. The differences in the soil, and in the local advantages of situation, are so numerous and great, that the rents must necessarily be very various. Some of the lands in the vales, particularly on the borders of the Tywi, let at very high prices. In the neighbourhood of Caermarthen, the meadows by the river side, which are occasionally overflowed by the land floods, are let at the rate of from six to ten pounds per acre. But the upland farms let in many cases for a few shillings per acre. The lands in other situations rent at every possible variety between these extremes.

The landlords have no uniform system in the letting of their estates. Leases for short terms of years are common, but the greater proprietors usually grant leases for lives, in order to acquire an influence in the return of the county representative.

**MINERALOGY.** This county may boast of considerable mineral treasures. Mention has already been made\* of Mr. Martin's ingenious hypothesis respecting the mineral bason, within which all the limestone, coal, and iron ore, in South Wales are found to lie. The northern limestone edge of this bason is seen in this county for a short distance on the sea coast below Laugharne. Here, in proceeding to the eastward, it disappears in the sea. It emerges on the other side of Caermarthen bay, near Kidwelly, and taking a north easterly direction passes through the parish of Llangyndeyrn, and by the lake on the Great Mountain to the village of Llandybie. From hence it proceeds over the Black mountain, towards the confines of Brecknockshire, in a course gently inclining to the south. The southern boundary nowhere appears in this county. The line just described comprises, in a tract of no great width, all the limestone which Caermarthenshire contains; and from some part of it the farmers in this county, as before observed, are supplied with this valuable material for manure. In the  
parish

\* See above, p. 59.

parish of Llangyndeirn, are several marble quarries in this stratum, where blocks of considerable size are occasionally raised. The marble is of a dark blue colour slightly variegated with white veins, and bears an excellent polish. It is wrought principally into chimney pieces, which are exported to Bristol. It furnishes also tombstones for all the neighbouring country.

The space intervening between the inner edge of this limestone boundary and the southern limits of the county is occupied to a great depth by various strata of coal, with occasional veins of iron ore. Coking coal of an excellent quality is found in the neighbourhood of Llanelly,\* which is worked to a considerable extent for home consumption and exportation. But all the veins to the northward consist of stone coal, of different degrees of goodness; this constitutes the principal fuel of the country. The culm, or small of this coal, is, for this purpose, mixed with clay till it acquires the consistence of mortar, and is then formed into balls, of moderate size, which are piled in the grate, and when ignited emit a strong heat. The combustion of the stone coal is remarkably perfect, approaching in this respect, according to the opinion of some geologists, the nearest to the diamond of any carbonic substance.

Hitherto iron ore has been principally raised near Llanelly, where there have been extensive iron works established for many years. Of late, however, attempts have been made to raise some on the Great Mountain, and a rail road was constructed to convey it to the furnaces at Llanelly; but the reverses which the

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iron

\* "Petrifications, or impressions of fossil plants, in coal slate, are occasionally discovered in the veins that overlay the coal in this neighbourhood. I have also some in sandstone from this place, one in particular, a large fragment of the gigantic stem of some unknown kind of vegetable, eleven inches in circumference, and bearing a singular reticulated surface, with a deep longitudinal sulcus on one side. This spot affords, likewise, a peculiar kind of *Anthropomorphi*, impressed on dark slate." Donovan's Excursions in South Wales, Vol. II. p. 154.

iron trade has experienced in the course of this war have occasioned these mines to be deserted for the present.

The lead mines in this county have already been incidentally mentioned. They are the property of Lord Cawdor, and are situated in a district called Rhandir yr Abbad, about six miles above Llandovery, in the vale of Tywi. At present they employ about two hundred men. The ore is conveyed by a long and laborious land carriage to Llanelly, where it is smelted at some works lately erected for the purpose.

There are in the parish of Cynwil Gaeo, some extensive excavations, which are thought to have been mines worked by the Romans, who certainly had a settlement in the neighbourhood. But nothing is known of their history, nor is there any account of any mineral having been dug here in modern times. Mr. Gough, in his additions to Camden, intimates a conjecture that they might have been copper mines. But there is at present no evidence of the existence of this mineral in Caermarthenshire.

**MINERAL SPRINGS.** Several springs, possessing medicinal virtues, exist in different parts of the county, but the beneficial effects, and the same of most of them, have hitherto been confined to their own immediate vicinity. Near Briw Nant, the residence of the Rev. Mr. Lloyd, in the parish of Cynwyl Gaeo, are two very strongly impregnated sulphureous springs of long celebrity; there is also in the same parish, near Pumpsant, a chalybeate spring, to which many cures have been ascribed. In the parish of Cynwyl Elved there is a chalybeate water called the spring of Ffosana. This has recently been analyzed; but its component parts have not yet been made public. Some other springs have lately been discovered, among which may be named one in the parish of Penboyr, and a chalybeate at Job's Well, near the town of Caermarthen. None of the springs above named afford accommodations for visitors; they cannot, therefore, be much frequented by strangers from a distance.

But

But the mineral waters, at present in most repute in this county, are situated near the village of Llanarthne, about seven miles above Caermarthen, in the interesting vale of Tywi, and within the precincts of Middleton Hall Park. This spring has been analysed by Mr. Accum, and examined by Drs. Saunders and Babington, who have pronounced it to be a chalybeate in every respect similar to the Tunbridge waters, except that it holds in solution a larger proportion of iron, and is therefore more powerful. Sir William Paxton, with a laudable attention to the accommodation of the public, has erected here warm and cold baths, with every suitable convenience for valetudinarian visitors. To guard against the evils likely to result from the indiscriminate use of the waters, he has also caused to be drawn up and printed, both in the English and Welsh languages, some brief and plain instructions for the direction of those who may be disposed to try them: to this little tract, a list is added of the disorders for which they are recommended by the Physicians above named, as well as of the complaints in which they would be likely to prove prejudicial.\* These springs are already much frequented, and will no doubt be much more resorted to, when their sanative virtues become more known, and have received the sanction of longer experience. The situation, in one of the most beautiful parts of the vale of Tywi, and within a convenient distance of the town of Caermarthen, holds out many attractions to strangers.

**MANUFACTURES and COMMERCE.** Caermarthenshire maintains no very high rank as a manufacturing or commercial county. In the former branch it is almost wholly confined to

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\* They are recommended, generally, for Scrofulous complaints, for Scurvy and other cutaneous diseases, for Hypochondria, Epilepsy, Paralytic affections, Consumption, weakness of the digestive organs, and other disorders attended with prostration of strength. Their use is forbidden in all Inflammatory disorders, acute Rheumatism, Dropsy, when the strength of the patient is much reduced, and fixed Gout.

the manufacture of its own mineral productions, of which iron forms the chief and most important article. The principal iron works are at Llanelly, where a very extensive concern has been carried on for several years by Messrs. Raby and Company. This establishment, in common with all others of a similar description, has suffered from the war, and is at present almost wholly suspended. There is another iron foundery, upon a tolerably large scale, at Kidwelly. There are at this place, besides, some tin mills, which at one time produced considerable quantities of this material. A tin manufactory, now the property of Messrs. Morris and Company, has likewise been long conducted on a large scale at Caermarthen. Nearly adjoining these works Lord Cawdor had once a smelting house, where the lead ore from his mines, at the upper end of this vale, was fused and prepared for exportation. Of late this process has been performed at Llanelly, that situation being found more eligible, on account of its vicinity to the coal mines. This circumstance has also led to the establishment of a copper work in that neighbourhood.

A large proportion of the commerce of the county arises from the exportation of the articles produced at these manufactories, which are shipped at Llanelly, Kidwelly, and Caermarthen, for the English market. An extensive coasting trade, which is rapidly on the increase, is also carried on from the two former ports, and more especially from Llanelly, in coals, both of the coking kind, and stone; and considerable quantities of corn and butter are conveyed to Bristol and other parts of England, from Caermarthen and St. Clears. It may admit of question, however, whether the amount of the articles thus exported equal that of the goods of various descriptions which are brought into the county for the supply of the shops.

This county possesses considerable facilities for the advantageous application of commercial industry. Two mail coaches from London, one by way of Gloucester and Brecknock, and the other by Bristol and Swansea, arrive every morning at



Caermarthen, whence one proceeds for Milford with the bags and passengers. Another coach comes in from Milford every afternoon, which is received by the two mails that had arrived in the fore part of the day, affording the passengers the opportunity of proceeding eastward, along either of the two great roads of communication with England. A stage waggon arrives here once a week from London by way of Gloucester, loaded with shop goods and other merchandize for the traders of the place. The river Tywi, besides, admits the passage of ships of as large a size as can be profitably employed in the coasting trade, to the town. The harbour of Llanelly has been found susceptible of great improvement, which it is rapidly receiving, and promises in a short time to rival any on this coast. The port of Kidwelly is, also, under the direction of able engineers, fast improving, and will probably, at no distant period, equal its former reputation.

There are no canals in this county, excepting one of inconsiderable length at Kidwelly, the private property of an individual, constructed for the purpose of conveying coal from the pits to the shipping in the harbour. Some others are, however, projected; and in the number of these one from Llanelly along the vales of Lloughor, Llandybie, and Tywi, to Llandovery. Several rail roads have been made in different parts, to connect the mines in the interior with the coast.

Caermarthenshire is intersected in almost every direction by good turnpike-roads. The number of these has been greatly increased within the last twenty years, and their condition very materially improved. The most valuable addition that has been made to them within this period is an excellent road leading from Llandeilo fawr to Caermarthen, along the eastern side of the river Tywi, for which the public are principally indebted to Sir William Paxton. Some very important improvements are at this time in progress, in respect to other roads of communication. An act of Parliament, lately obtained for enclosing the extensive common of Mynydd Mawr, empowers

empowers the commissioners to dispose of a certain proportion of it to raise a fund for public purposes. This is to be applied to the construction of some branches of roads, to facilitate principally the communication between Swansea and Caermarthen. The direction in which it is in contemplation to conduct the new lines through this county to Pont ar Ddulais, will avoid all the worst hills that at present offer such serious impediments to carriages of every description, and remove the unpleasantness which every traveller must hitherto have felt in journeying over this distance. It is purposed to add a branch to communicate with Llandeilo fawr, so as to facilitate the intercourse between that place also and Swansea.\*

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\* It may be permitted the present writer, before he quits this subject, to suggest, that a new road is much called for to open an easier communication between Llandeilo fawr, and the adjacent parts of this county, and the town of Neath in Glamorganshire. That portion of the present road which extends from Amman bridge, above the village of Cross Inn, to Rhyd y Fro Bridge on the other side of the mountains, a distance of about seven miles, has so many long and steep ascents, that it is almost impracticable for carriages, and exceedingly toilsome for horses. The difficulties which it presents have caused it to be almost wholly abandoned by travellers, who have preferred the very circuitous route down the vale of Lloughor, and through Llangyfelach; and the consequence has been that the repairs have been neglected until it is in some parts hardly passable at all. A plan was once projected by Sir Herbert Mackworth to avoid these hills altogether, by taking the road from Amman bridge up the vale, on the eastern side of the river, as far as the moor called Cygyrwaun; then to skirt the bottom of the hill to the right, and descend the valley called Cwm y gors, to join the present turnpike at Rhyd y Fro, whence there is already a good road to Neath. Nothing could have been more judiciously conceived than this plan; and it presents no obstacles to its execution besides those of a pecuniary nature. The whole of this road might be formed without a single ascent along which a post chaise might not travel, with great ease to the horses, at the rate of six or seven miles an hour. An act of Parliament was procured, and is still in force, for the construction of that part of the line which lies within the county of Glamorgan. If the Caermarthenshire gentry, who are now so honourably employed in prosecuting schemes for its improvement, would but take the business up, there can be no doubt but that it might be accomplished. The advantages that would result to both counties would be very great.

In proceeding to the topographical survey of this county, its local situation will enable us to commence our tour at the point which terminated our journey through Brecknockshire, and to pursue, with a few occasional deviations, the high road leading to Milford Haven. In this route our first halting place will be the little town of

### LLANDOVERY,

situated on the banks of the river Bran. The Welsh name of this place is Llan ym Ddyfri, or Llan ym Ddyfroedd, the church among the waters; supposed to be derived from the situation of the parish church, Llandingad, which is built on a flat promontory, between the united streams of the Bran and Gwydderig, and the river Tywi, and a little way above their confluence. The town has nothing to recommend it in point of exterior appearance. It consists of a few straggling streets generally extremely dirty, and the houses are for the most part small and mean erections. The market is held on Saturday, and is well attended, being resorted to by the farmers for a considerable distance round. It has besides six fairs in the course of the year, which are kept on the Wednesday after the 17th of January, Wednesday after Easter week, Whitsun Tuesday, July 31st, Wednesday after 10th of the October, and the 26th November.

Llandovery was at one period a contributory borough to Caermarthen, but it no longer shares the privileges of that place. It still retains, however, its civic officers, having its bailiff, whose appointment is annual, its aldermen, recorder, town clerk, serjeant at mace, &c. but these posts have at present little, if any, authority attached to them. The quarter or petty sessions are held here in turn by the magistrates of the district.

It has been already observed above,\* that there was a Roman

\* See page 196.

man station at Llanfair ar y Bryn, a church which derives its name from its situation on the summit of an elevated knoll, at the distance of about half a mile from Llandovery. But it is not likely that the present town can boast so early an origin.\* Like most of the Welsh towns that have castles in their vicinity, its rise is probably to be ascribed to the erection of those fortresses, either to accommodate the retainers of the proprietors, or on account of the security afforded by such situations to the harassed inhabitants of the country in turbulent times. The castle was situated on a rocky eminence, of moderate elevation, on the western bank of the Bran river. It seems never to have been a building of great extent. The present remains consist of a part of the keep, the site of the outer ward, and the trenches which surrounded the works. Its early history is not known, but it was probably erected by some of the Norman robbers who invaded parts of this country soon after the conquest, and fastened on the estates of the native proprietors wherever their power could prevail against them. The first mention of it is about the year 1113, in the reign of Henry the first, when it was in the hands of Richard de Pons. The few particulars which occur subsequently in Welsh history have already been noticed. After the subjugation of the country by Edward the first, it escheated to the English crown. Its final destruction is attributed to Oliver Cromwell.

Llandovery had the honour of giving birth to a man, whose writings have obtained an almost unexampled degree of popularity in his native country. This person was the Rev. Rees Prichard, vicar of Llandingad, but better known by the name of "the Vicar of Llandovery." According to Wood,† he was admitted a student of Jesus College Oxford, in 1597, when he was about 18 years of age. In 1602 he was ordained priest at Witham in

\* Leland describes it as in his time "a poore market, much standing by re-pears;"—"hath but one streate, and that poorley builded of thatchid houses." Itin. Vol. V. p. 73.

† Athenæ Oxon.

in Essex. He commenced Bachelor of Arts in June in the same year. In the month of August following, he was inducted vicar of Llandingad, to which he was presented by the bishop of St. David's. In November 1613 he was instituted rector of Llanedy, in the same county, in the gift of the crown. He received a dispensation from the archbishop to hold this living, and qualified by becoming chaplain to the earl of Essex. In 1614, he was made a prebendary of the Collegiate church at Brecknock; and in the year 1626, on the resignation of the Rev. Richard Baylie, he was appointed chancellor of St. David's: on which occasion, by the advice of his diocesan, Dr. Laud, he took another degree in Arts. He died in the year 1644, and was buried in the church of St. Dingad. There is, however, no monument to indicate the spot, or to commemorate his virtues. He left a legacy of twenty pounds per annum in lands, for the maintenance of a free school in his native town: but through the misconduct of some, and the neglect of others, his benevolent purpose was frustrated shortly after his decease, and the property allowed to revert to his descendants \*

Mr. Prichard translated several small religious tracts into the Welsh language, and wrote some observations on the 39 articles; but the work which has spread his fame, and acquired for him a veneration bordering on idolatry, among his countrymen, is intituled "Canwyll y Cymry,"—"The Welshman's Candle,

\* It is related of Mr. Prichard, that while a young man he was much addicted to drinking, and he is said to have been cured of this habit by an accidental circumstance, which some have not scrupled to consider miraculous. In his visits to the public house, he was usually followed by a goat. On one occasion, he prevailed on his companion to participate in his enjoyments, and to drink ale till it became inebriated. This one fit of intoxication more than satisfied the goat. It could never afterwards be prevailed upon to repeat the experiment. This incident, though trifling, led the master to reflect on his own condition, and induced a resolution to abstain from thenceforth from his old practice.

Candle, or the Works of the Rev. Mr. Rees Prichard, sometime Vicar of Llandovery." The title, however, by which it is more generally known, is "Llyfr y Ficer," or the Vicar's Book. This publication forms one moderate sized octavo volume, and comprises one hundred and seventy original poems of different lengths, on a great variety of religious topics. The author was rather inclined, in his religious creed, to the opinions of the reformer of Geneva; but the subjects of these compositions are chiefly of a practical nature; and the few which may be properly termed doctrinal are treated by him with a direct attention to their practical influence. The poetical merit of these pieces claims no very high rank for the author among the bards of his native country. The versification is composed of a jingling doggrel rhyme, with no attempt at polish, and with frequent deviations from the legitimate Welsh metre. Wood denominates them "pious carols," an appellation, perhaps, the most descriptive that could be applied to them. They are written with great ease and fluency, and with a plainness and simplicity of language which renders them perfectly intelligible to the most uncultivated understandings. This forms their great excellence; and to these circumstances, in their composition, must chiefly be attributed that fascination which they are known to possess, which has imprinted them on the memory of so many of the peasantry of the country, and rendered "the Vicar's Book" the companion of the Bible in almost every Welsh cottage.\*

The name of Llandovery is connected in the modern annals of this county with a tragical event of a singular description, which, from the powerful sensation it produced at the time, throughout the principality, may merit notice in this place. A respectable tradesman of this town, of the name of William Williams, had been for some time on bad terms with Mr. Powell,

\* A translation of this work into "English Verse," or more properly English *Rhyme*, was published in octavo in the year 1771, by the Rev. William Evans, Vicar of Lawhaden in Pembrokeshire.

Powell, of Glanareth, a house situated between this place and Llandeilo. The cause of this enmity has been ascribed to a criminal connection between Williams and Mr. Powell's lady, who lived at this time separate from her husband. Mr. Powell, it seems, kept so strict a watch over their conduct, that the lovers were prevented from continuing their intrigues. Williams on this account, finding no other means to gratify his passion, determined to remove the obstacle by the murder of the husband. To execute this diabolical plan he engaged in his service no less than eleven accomplices, whom, from their characters, he deemed fit instruments for his purpose. Several meetings were held to concert the measures that were to be pursued, and some intimations got abroad of the design that was in agitation; but, though the rumours reached Mr. Powell's ears, sufficient was not developed to induce him to take any extraordinary precautions for his safety. At length, the whole business being finally arranged, the conspirators assembled at a public house, kept by one Leech, in the town of Llandovery, on Sunday the 7th January 1770: from hence they proceeded, the ensuing night, to the house of one of the party, which lay at no great distance from Mr. Powell's residence. Here they remained over the following day; but at night sallied forth to their work, armed with swords and pistols, and some of them disguised in smock frocks, with their faces blackened. On their arrival at Mr. Powell's, they knocked at the door, which was opened by a female servant. Williams himself, with three of his companions, entered, four remained in the court, and four in the hall or passage. Mr. Powell was seated in his parlour with two or three friends, when the assassins made their appearance. Williams instantly aimed a blow at him with his sword; but Mr. Powell, being a strong man, seized him by the throat and threw him on the ground. Williams then called to his companions for assistance, when one of them ran Mr. Powell through the body, and the others falling upon him,

soon

soon put an end to his existence. The persons who were in the parlour at the time, being unarmed, escaped in the confusion, and the servants were confined to the kitchen by the threats of those who were keeping watch, and who continued firing their pistols to intimidate them.

Having effected their purpose, which was accomplished in the interval of a few minutes, the assassins retired to their several homes, where for some days they remained as if nothing had happened. The intelligence of the murder having, however, spread through the country, some of the neighbouring gentlemen took the affair up, and instituted a diligent enquiry into the circumstances of the case. The ground being at the time covered with snow, some of the parties had been already traced; and none of them having attempted to escape, the whole, with the exception of Williams himself, who absconded before the alarm had become general, were in a short time secured. They were removed to Hereford, and tried at the ensuing assizes before Sir Joseph Yates. Two were admitted to turn king's evidence, and nine put to the bar. Of these, three, on account of some favourable circumstances appearing on their behalf, were discharged: the other six were found guilty, and received sentence of death; two to be afterwards hung in chains, and four to be delivered to the surgeons for dissection.\*

The

\* The following were the persons taken up;—William Wat Evan, William Spiggot, who were sentenced to be hung in chains; Charles David Morgan, David Llewelyn, William Morris, David Morgan, sentenced to be dissected. John Spiggot and William Thomas, recommended to mercy and discharged, and William, the son of Charles David Morgan, a lad of seventeen, acquitted on account of his age. One of the witnesses on this memorable trial, who was a servant in Mr. Powell's house at the time of the murder, lived some years subsequently, in the same capacity, in the family of the present writer.

The only intelligence ever heard of Williams, after this event, was that contained in the following paragraph, which appeared in the public prints

in



The neighbourhood of Llandovery is enlivened by several gentlemen's seats. After ascending the romantic vale of the Brân a few miles, on the road to Builth, we are brought to

### GLANBRAN,

the ancient and hospitable mansion of the Gwynnes, a branch of the numerous family of that name in Brecknockshire. It is at present occupied by Sackville Gwynne, Esq. who commands one of the regiments of the county local militia.

On the west, half a mile from Llandovery, the river Tywi\* is crossed by a handsome stone bridge of one arch, eighty-three feet in the chord, built by William Edwards, the ingenious self-taught architect of Pont y Prydd in Glamorganshire. About a mile above the bridge, in a pleasant situation on the banks of the Tywi, stands

### HENLLYS,

the seat of Colonel Williams, formerly in the service of the East India company. The grounds occupy the shores of the river on either side, which are connected by a foot bridge raised upon two projecting rocks, and of a construction that harmonizes with the wild and romantic character of the scene.

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in October 1770, and is inserted in Mr. Wyndham's Tour through Wales ;—  
 “ When the French prisoners passed through Alton, a few weeks since, the Glamorganshire militia were ordered as a guard over them, for the night they remained in that town. The next morning it was discovered, on the prisoners being mustered, that one was missing ; though the prisoner missing went by another name, he was found to be the noted Williams, who was the principal in the murder of Mr. Powell, some years ago in Caermarthenshire. Scouts were sent out all over the country to retake him, but without effect. He was taken prisoner as a common sailor in a French privateer.”

\* It is a common mistake of tourists, to describe Llandovery as situated on the Tywi, instead of the Brân ; the former river does not approach the town within less a distance than half a mile.

Lower down the vale, near the turnpike road to Llandeilo fawr, is another gentleman's seat called *Llwyn Howell*, at present occupied by Edward Jones, Esq. Continuing our journey along this road, a ride of a few miles brings us to

### ABERMARLAIS,

an elegant modern mansion, delightfully situated near the banks of the Tywi. This house was built a few years ago by the present proprietor, Admiral Foley, who has considerably distinguished himself in the service of his country.\* Abermarlais may boast no small degree of historical celebrity, as having been formerly the residence of one of the most eminent characters which the principality has produced. The present edifice was constructed from the ruins of another, of ancient date, which once formed the princely mansion of Sir Rhys ab Thomas, the lineal ancestor of the present noble family of Dinevor. Leland briefly describes this house in the following words:—"In Marleis Parke is a welle favorid stone Place motid, new mendid and augmented bi Sir Rhese ap Thomas. Ther now dwellithe Thomas ap Jonys an Esquier."†

Abermarlais came into the family of Sir Rhys ab Thomas, by the marriage of his father Thomas ab Gruffydd, with Elizabeth the daughter and heiress of Sir John Gruffydd of this place. Gruffydd ab Nicholas, Sir Rhys's grandfather, though never possessed of this property, may merit some notice here in connection with his illustrious descendant. He was a person of great power and influence in these parts in the reign of Henry the sixth, possessing a large fortune, and being allied by marriage with some of the principal families both in North and

\* While a Post Captain, "he led the fleet to action at the battle of the Nile; he commanded the *Britannia*, in Lord St. Vincent's gallant action; Lord Nelson shifted his flag on board his ship at the battle of Copenhagen." Carlisle.

† Itiner. Vol. V. fol. 73.

and South Wales. His biographer describes him as a man of "hott, firie, and cholerrick spiritt; one whose counsells weare all *in turbido*, and therefore naturallie fitlie composed and framed for the times:" and also as "verie wise, and infinitelie subtile and craftie, ambitiouise beyond measure, of a busie stirring braine, which made manie to conjecture, that some greate matter hanged over his head." His hasty spirit, and violence of temper, frequently involved him with his powerful neighbours. He drew upon himself the enmity of Richard, Duke of York, by withholding from him a piece of land in the marches in Herefordshire, having peremptorily refused to obey the summons of the sheriffs to answer for his conduct. On another occasion he quarrelled, with more justice perhaps, with Jasper Earl of Pembroke, who had used his interest with the king to supersede him in the command of the castle of Cilgerran, which Gruffydd had held for some time under the crown. He was besides at enmity with the Duke of Buckingham, owing probably to some disputes about their territories, which in some places lay contiguous.

Gruffydd had such a deep-rooted antipathy to the English generally, that he could not be prevailed upon at first to declare in favour of either of the two great parties, which at that time divided the nation. His tenants and dependents being fully aware of this disposition, and satisfied that their conduct would not be displeasing to him, seized every opportunity to invade and pillage the lands of the English lords on the Marches. These depredations being continued, complaints were at last formally lodged in the king's courts, and Lord Whitney, with others, was sent into the principality to investigate the affair. Gruffydd being apprised of their approach towards Caermarthenshire, went to meet the commissioners a short distance beyond Llandovery, himself meanly habited, and accompanied by only four or five attendants, "raggedlie attired," and as badly mounted; leaving his retinue in his rear ready to come to his assistance in case of need. On meet-

ing the commissioners, he made himself known to them, and respectfully tendered his services to conduct them towards Caermarthen, which was the place of their destination. The commissioners were not a little pleased to have him thus, as they apprehended, in their power ; but, from the meanness of his own dress, and the shabby appearance of his companions, they could scarcely believe that he was indeed the formidable Gruffydd ab Nicholas, of whom they had heard so much, and were not without fears that they had encountered banditti, whose object was plunder.

The salutations finished, the party moved forward towards Abermarlais. Here Gruffydd was received with every demonstration of respect by his son Thomas, who was waiting his arrival attended by a troop of one hundred horsemen handsomely mounted. The commissioners were again staggered ; for though now convinced that they had found the very person they sought, the appearance of so formidable an armed force made them apprehend hostilities, or at least induced them to think, that Gruffydd would not quietly submit to any decision they might make against him.

After refreshing themselves at Abermarlais, the commissioners, attended by Gruffydd and his son Thomas, with his retinue, proceeded to Newton, where Gruffydd was met by his son Owen, with a chosen troop of two hundred horsemen under arms. The commissioners were respectfully conducted into the house, and hospitably entertained by their new host. Owen ab Gruffydd, by his address, contrived, during the interval they rested at Newton, to draw from his guests sufficient to assure himself, that his father was the great object of their journey, a circumstance of which it seems they were not before aware. It was determined, however, by Gruffydd and his sons, to conceal their knowledge of this fact, and to wait a favourable opportunity to turn the secret to their advantage.

As the party, thus augmented, drew near to Caermarthen,

they were met by Gruffydd's eldest son Thomas,\* at Abergwili, with a retinue of five hundred "tall men," on foot, well armed and accoutred. Accompanied by this splendid body-guard, the commissioners at length reached the lodgings provided for them at Caermarthen. Gruffydd ab Nicholas now left them, but requested his sons to continue in attendance till after they had supped, to see that nothing was omitted that was necessary to their accommodation.

Lord Whitney, on the departure of Gruffydd, sent for the mayor and sheriffs of the town; and, after shewing them his commission, demanded their assistance to arrest him; which it was agreed should be done the next morning. Owen ab Gruffydd, observing that Lord Whitney had heedlessly put the commission into the sleeve of his cloak, after he had shewn it to the mayor, took care during supper to ply his guests plentifully with liquor, and, having succeeded in inebriating them, possessed himself unobserved and without difficulty of the important document.

In the morning the commissioners, attended by the mayor and sheriffs, went to the shire hall, where they summoned Gruffydd to attend. Gruffydd readily complied, and on his arrival was arrested by the officer of the court. He made no shew of resistance; but, with an assumed air of great respect, requested that the proceedings against him might be conducted according to the due forms of law, and that the commission under which he was attached might be publicly read, alledging that he could not otherwise consider himself bound to submit.

Lord Whitney readily assented; whereupon he put his hand into his cloak-sleeve, and for the first time discovered his loss. Enquiry being made of his companions and attendants, and no tidings being obtained of the commission, "Gruffydd ab Nicholas startes up in a furie, clapping his hat on his head, and looking about upon his sonnes and friendes;—what, says he, have

\* He had two sons of the same name, distinguished as Thomas the Elder, and Thomas the Younger.

we cozeners and cheaters come hither, to abuse the kinge's majesty's power and to disquiet his true harted subjects? then turning about to the commissioners, he rappes out a greate oath, and sayes, ere the next day were at an end, he would hang them up all for traytours and impostors, and soe commaunds handes to be layd on them, and to carry them to prison. The commissioners fearing he would be as good as his word, fell to entreate for pardon, and to desire they might eyther returne, or send to court for a true certificate of this their employment: but nothing would serve the turne, unlesse the Lord Whitney would be bound by oath, to putt on Gruffydd ab Nicholas's blew coate, and weare his cognizance, and soe goe up to the king, to acknowledge his owne offences, and to justify the sayd Gruffyth's proceedings; which (to preserve himself from danger) he willinglie undertooke, and accordingly performed."

What was afterwards done in this affair is not stated; but it is probable, that from the distractions of the times, the king might have thought it prudent not to rouse the hostility of so powerful a subject by any farther proceedings. Not long after however, owing to some depredations committed in the marches, which he was known to have countenanced, Gruffydd, together with one Phillip ab Howell, was found guilty of felony, on an indictment preferred against him in the county of Salop. This at once determined him to break with the court; and, as his first measure, he made his peace with the Duke of York, who gladly accepted his offer of assistance.

The Duke of York being shortly after defeated and slaine at the battle of Wakefield, Gruffydd joined the forces of his son the Earl of March at Gloucester, with eight hundred chosen men well armed and provided. Hence the army proceeded for Mortimer Cross, where they were met by the Lancastrian forces, under the command of the Earl of Pembroke. In the course of the engagement which ensued, Gruffydd received a mortal wound, and only lived long enough to be informed

formed by his son Owen, that victory had declared in their favour.

Gruffydd ab Nicholas was succeeded in his possessions by his eldest son Thomas ab Gruffydd, who is described as a man of very different character from his father; being distinguished as one of the most accomplished gentlemen of his age, and universally admired for the amiable mildness of his disposition and carriage.

His insuperable aversion to the civil contest in which the country was at that time engaged induced him to go abroad, to avoid involving himself with either party. He chose for his retreat on this occasion the court of the Duke of Burgundy, in whose service he enrolled himself. An indiscreet attachment, however, which he here formed with the daughter of the Duke's brother, obliged him to hasten his return to his native country.

Thomas ab Gruffydd was greatly noted as a duel-fighter. In these combats he always engaged on horseback, with his lance and sword, according to the custom of the times. After his return from Burgundy he had several encounters of this kind, particularly with Henry ab Gwilym, of Court Henry in the vale of Tywi, who repeatedly challenged him, and was as repeatedly vanquished. A disagreement with William, the first Earl of Pembroke, brought upon him another adversary, whose adventures are attended with some humorous circumstances. The Earl's quarrel was taken up by one Turberville, who is characterized as "a notable Swash-buckler, one that would fight on anie slight occasion, nott much heeding the cause." Turberville sent his defiance to Thomas ab Gruffydd, with a message that if he did not accept his challenge, "he would ferret him out of his cunnie berrie, the castle of Abermarlais." Thomas returned him a jocose answer, requesting him, if he had a desire to be killed, to choose some other person to undertake the office of executioner. "This scornful returne soe much incens'd and provok'd the insufferable pride

and haughtie stomach of Turberville, that forthwith, in a headlong furie, he hyes him to Abermarlais, and comming in at the gate, the first man he sawe was Thomas ab Gruffydd himself, sitting by the gate in a gray frocke gowne, whom he tooke for the porter, demanding of him weather Thomas ap Gruffydd weare within or no? Sir, said Thomas ap Gruffydd, he is not far off, and if you would ought with him, lett me reeeave your commands. Then prethee fellowe, sayd he, (twirling his mustachoes and sparkling out furie and fier from his eyes) tell him here is one Turberville would speake with him. Thomas ap Gruffydd, hearing his name, and observing his deportment, had much adoe to hold from laughing outright, yet containing himself, he said he would acquaint his master, and soe going into his parlour, presentlie sendes two or three of his servants to call him in. Turberville noe sooner sawe Thomas ap Gruffydd, but without anie apologie made for his mistaking, he tells him of his unmannerlinesse, and that he was come thither to correct him for his sawsinesse towardes soe greate a person as the Earle of Pembroeke. In good time sir, said Thomas ap Gruffydd; but I pray, said he, is nott my Lord of courage sufficient to undergoe that office of correction, without the help of others? Yes, certainlie; but you too meane a copesmate for one of his place and dignitie, he hath left to my chastisement, said Turberville. Well then, said Thomas ap Gruffydd (though I might justlie except against my tutor) where is't your pleasure to have me to schoole? Nay, where thou wilt or dar'st, said Turberville: a harsh compliment, said Thomas ap Gruffydd; I am not ignorant, said he, as I am defendant, that both time, place, and weapons, are in my choice; but speaking in the person of a school boy, (for noe higher account you seem to make of me) I weene 'tis nott the fashion for schollers to appoint, where their masters shall correct them." After this parley, Thomas fixed on Herefordshire for the scene of combat. Here the champions met according to appointment,



appointment, when Thomas ab Gruffydd broke his adversary's back.

His next encounter was in Merionethshire, with one David Gough, whom he killed. Having afterwards thrown himself on the ground, without his armour, to take some rest, he was treacherously run through the body by a person who is supposed to have been an attendant of his adversary. He was buried in the abbey of Bardsey in Caernarvonshire.

Thomas ab Gruffydd was twice married. His first wife was Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir John Gruffydd of Abermarlais, who brought him that property, and his second, Elizabeth the daughter of Francis, brother to the Duke of Burgundy, by both of whom he left issue.\*

Thomas ab Gruffydd's two elder sons, Morgan and David, became, immediately on the father's decease, warm partizans on opposite sides in the contest between the houses of York and Lancaster. When Jasper, Earl of Pembroke, after the overthrow of Queen Margaret at the battle of Tewkesbury, retired to Pembroke accompanied by his nephew, Henry the Earl of Richmond, Morgan ab Thomas, who had espoused the York party, invested the castle, in order to prevent their escape out of the country. Upon this, David ab Thomas hastily collected together about 2000 men, armed with whatever missile weapons they could procure; and, falling on the besieging army by surprize, obliged them to retire, and gave the Earl and his young charge an opportunity to escape to Tenby, whence they immediately sailed for Brittany. This is all we hear of the public exploits of these brothers. The account which is chiefly followed in this sketch only states farther, that, in consequence of their engaging in the civil war, they both came to an untimely end.†

Morgan

\* From the latter marriage is descended Thomas Johnes, Esq. of Hafod, from the former, through Sir Rhys ab Thomas, Lord Dinevor.

† David ab Thomas, was nicknamed *Davidd Cefil Gotta*, or "David with the

Morgan and David ab Thomas being dead, the property descended to the next son, Rhys ab Thomas, who afterwards proved himself so worthy of the inheritance.\* When Thomas ab Gruffydd went abroad, young Rhys accompanied him to the court of Burgundy, where he was greatly noticed, and in a short time appointed to a post of honour in the Duke's household. This, however, he held but for a short time, for his father being obliged to withdraw from Burgundy, young Rhys relinquished his situation, and returned with him to Wales.

One of Rhys's first acts, after he had come into possession of his estates, was to put an end to the feuds which had so long subsisted between the family of Court Henry and his own, by a marriage alliance with Eva, the daughter and heiress of Henry

the cropped-tailed horse," a title which he received from the following ludicrous circumstance. A neighbour of his had a young horse, of which David, who was it seems an excellent judge, had so high an opinion that he gave for him twenty-four cows, with pasture for them for one year, which, being considered a most extravagant price, exposed him to the ridicule of his acquaintance. As soon as he had completed his purchase, he cut off the horse's ears, slit his nostrils, and cropped his tail, after which he branded the skin all over with a hot iron, impressing it with numberless hideous and fantastic forms. Some time subsequently, an opportunity was afforded him of shewing his enemies, who had greatly amused themselves with his singular whim, of what metal his cropped horse was composed. Being apprised of a journey he was about to undertake, a party of them broke down a bridge, over which he had to pass, and there waylaid him. Being beset and closely pursued as he approached the river, and perceiving his danger, he clapped spurs to his steed, and leaped across the stream to the opposite bank, and then turned round and tauntingly derided his pursuers for riding such cows, on which they dared not follow him. This is related as a most extraordinary feat, and a poet of the time calls it "Naid ar March na neidir mwy," "a leap on horseback, which never will be leaped again."

\* Judicial astrology was at this time in some repute. Thomas ab Gruffydd, it seems, consulted the wise men on the nativity of his son Rhys, and received as favourable an answer, as the wishes of a fond father could have desired. Rhys himself also, on coming into possession of his estates, chose, as one of the first of his confidential associates, "a profound astrologer and notable prophet," as he is denominated, whose name was Robin of the Dale.

ry ab Gwilym of that house. By this politic measure, he added to his possessions a property not much inferior to his original patrimony, and became one of the most opulent subjects in the realm. His establishment and his hospitality were in every respect suitable to his immense wealth, and displayed the magnificence of a prince, rather than of a private gentleman: and he acquired unbounded popularity, and by degrees very formidable power, by instituting games and amusements of various kinds, on different parts of his estates in Caermarthenshire and Pembrokeshire; by converting some of his commons into race courses, and making presents of horses to those who displayed most skill and merit; and by training the young men to the use of all kinds of arms, under the guise of sham fights and military spectacles. He had nineteen hundred tenants bound by their leases to attend him on horseback at the shortest call; and it has been thought that he could at a very short notice have brought into the field five thousand horsemen well disciplined, mounted, and armed.\*

After the defection of the Duke of Buckingham from Richard the third, and when the Lancastrian party was concerting a marriage between the Lady Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Edward the fourth, who was the next heir of the York house, and the Earl of Richmond, in order to raise the latter to the throne, Rhys ab Thomas was looked to as a person of great consequence to be brought over to the cause. It was necessary that the Earl of Richmond should come to England; but there appeared no possibility of his landing anywhere, at least without exposing himself to imminent peril, except at Milford Haven; and here Rhys was so completely

master,

\* A poet of those days, alluding to his vast possessions and power, wrote the following couplet, for which, as tending to impeach his loyalty, Rhys had him arraigned.

Y Brenin biau'r ynys  
Ond sy o ran i Syr Rys.

The king owns the Island, excepting what pertains to Sir Rhys.

master, that nothing could be done without his concurrence. The first step that was thought adviseable to be taken to obtain his friendship, was to effect a reconciliation between him and the Duke of Buckingham,\* the enmity between the families having been perpetuated from the time of Gruffydd ab Nicholas. The person employed on this delicate mission was Dr. Lewis, at that time physician to the countess of Richmond, but who, at a former period, had been private tutor to Rhys ab Thomas, and still enjoyed his friendship. Dr. Lewis found Rhys at Abermarlais, preparing for an inroad into Brecknockshire; and, having conducted his negotiation with great address, succeeded in obtaining his consent to make up his differences with the Duke. Accordingly, both the parties having been brought to the same disposition, Rhys and Buckingham met by appointment at Trecastle,† where they agreed to bury all past animosities in oblivion. It was not yet known how Rhys stood affected towards the great opposing interests in the state, and he was on this account an object of some anxiety to both.

Richard being apprised by his emissaries, that something was secretly plotting by the Duke of Buckingham and the friends of the Earl of Richmond, demanded explicit assurances and hostages from those whom he thought at all doubtful, and whose defection he most feared. Among others, commissioners were sent to Rhys ab Thomas at Caermarthen, to administer to him the oath of fidelity, and to require his only son Gruffydd,

\* Just about this period, Buckingham had sent Rhys a message to say, that unless he gave him satisfaction for some injury of which he complained, he would come shortly and cudgel him out of his castle of Caermarthen. Rhys, with great coolness, answered the messenger, that the roads being hilly and rough, his highness might spare himself the trouble of the journey, for that it was his intention to wait upon him shortly at Brecknock, to receive his commands. By this reply he intimated his purpose of attacking him on his own territories.

† This interview is said by some writers to have taken place at Abermarlais; but this account is much more probable, Trecastle being a midway station, where both parties might meet upon equal terms.

Gruffydd, then about five years of age, as a surety for the due performance of his engagements. Rhys took the oath without hesitation, but wrote a letter to the king praying to be excused from parting with his son, on account of his tender age. In this letter he also expresses some concern, that his loyalty should have been at all doubted, and intimates in plain terms, that, in some cases, the declaration of such suspicions on the part of princes, might "read to some of fickle minds and unstable thoughts, evil lessons against themselves." He makes, however, the following "voluntary protestation," for himself;—"whoever, ill affected to the state, shall dare to land in those partes of Wales, where I have anie employments under your majestie, must resolve with himself to make his entrance and irruption over my bellie."\*

How this letter was received is not stated : it probably satisfied Richard at the time, for he made no farther application to Rhys for his son, but sent him some instructions as to his future conduct in the commands he held. Rhys, however, did not feel quite easy. Knowing Richard's suspicions and sanguinary character, he was not without apprehension that his language might be interpreted to his prejudice, and that he might, in consequence, become an object of the tyrant's hatred and persecution.

At this juncture, his friends and counsellors the Abbot of Talley and the Bishop of St. David's, both warm in the interest of the Earl of Richmond, declared openly to him how they stood

\* This letter was drawn up by the Abbot of Talley, a zealous partizan of the house of Lancaster. It is a very able composition; filled with such expressions of loyalty as were likely to satisfy Richard, but at the same time couched in such equivocal terms, as might leave Rhys at liberty to break with the king, with what he might deem a safe conscience, should he afterwards see cause. It is probable that Rhys was perfectly sincere in his assurances of fidelity, but his friend, the Abbot, was at that time concerting measures to win him over to the other side, and therefore had other meaning in his language.

stood affected, and urged him to withdraw himself at once from the service of a man who held him in perpetual fear, and whose character he could not but detest. The conversation at this interview exhibits a most curious specimen of casuistical reasoning on the part of the pious churchmen, to silence Rhys's scruples as to his oath and the declarations of loyalty contained in his letter. They succeeded, however, in shaking his resolution, and in a short time afterwards he gave them his explicit assurances of support.

After the disastrous result of the Duke of Buckingham's hasty and ill advised expedition\* was known, Rhys and his friends held a consultation to concert their future measures, when it was determined to make every necessary preparation to receive the Earl of Richmond at Milford Haven. Accordingly, when it was announced that the French fleet was in sight, Rhys, who was then at his castle of Carew, advanced with a noble band of chosen followers, well mounted and armed, to meet the Earl of Richmond at Dale, where it was agreed he should land. On the Earl's coming ashore, it is stated that Rhys, in order to make good his word to the king, laid himself on his back on the ground that the Earl might pass over him.†

Richmond, who was attended by a small French force, ill disciplined and badly provided, was highly gratified and encouraged by the number and martial appearance of the troops which Rhys ab Thomas and his other friends had brought to his support. His resolution was at once fixed to take the field, and he dispatched orders to his partizans in other quarters to join him with their forces at Shrewsbury, which he appointed for the place of rendezvous. Every thing being arranged for their departure, the little army was put in motion, and

\* See above, p. 42.

† A popular tradition in the neighbourhood asserts, that instead of lying on the ground, Rhys satisfied his conscience by remaining under a small bridge, while the Earl of Richmond passed over.

and formed into two divisions, one, under the command of the Earl himself, to march through Cardiganshire, and the other to pass through Caermarthen under the conduct of Rhys ab Thomas, who was to collect his followers on the line of his march. Rhys now commanded the fire to be lighted on the beacons as a signal to his friends through the country that the Earl of Richmond was landed, and that they were forthwith to join him. The whole country was immediately under arms. At every stage, as he advanced, numbers flocked to his standard; so that by the time he reached Brecknock his followers had swelled to an incredible multitude, all anxious to evince their devotion to him, and to share his fortunes. Rhys now found it necessary to muster his forces, in order not to hazard the critical cause in which he had embarked by leading to action an indiscriminate crowd, who, however great their zeal might be, were ill fitted to encounter the disciplined troops of his wary adversary. He first of all formed a select body of two thousand horsemen, composed of the flower of his attendants; after which he formed a corps of infantry, consisting of five hundred men, which he entrusted to the command of his younger brothers David and John. These he appointed to remain in the principality for the protection of his estates, and the security of the persons and property of those who had declared themselves for the Earl of Richmond. The remainder of the people he dismissed with proper acknowledgments for their readiness to serve him. Having concluded these judicious arrangements, Rhys proceeded for Shrewsbury, where he joined the Earl of Richmond.

Affairs had been conducted in South Wales with so much secrecy and expedition, that Richard was hardly apprised of the measures planned against him before he learnt that Richmond was at Shrewsbury, attended by Rhys ab Thomas, and a powerful body of friends, ready to give him battle. He lost not a moment to prepare himself for the contest, but hastily collecting his forces together marched to meet him. The two armies encountered at Bosworth, where a hard and sanguinary

conflict ensued. In the heat of the battle, Richard made a bold effort to attack Richmond personally in the midst of his guards. Being strongly supported, and having overthrown Sir William Brandon, the Earl's standardbearer, the situation of Richmond became highly critical. Rhys ab Thomas, perceiving the state of the contest, sent to inform Sir William Stanley of the Earl's danger, and to implore his instant aid. Stanley, who had thus far kept aloof, instantly advanced, and being joined by Rhys, the two commanders bore down on the king's troops with irresistible impetuosity, and put them to the rout. The Welsh tradition asserts, that Rhys ab Thomas slew King Richard in this encounter, fighting with him hand to hand. But whatever foundation there may be for this story, the conduct of Rhys on this memorable day was so distinguished, that Richmond ascribed to it the issue of the battle, and ever after, in testimony of his gratitude, applied to the Welsh hero the title of father Rhys. The spoils of King Richard's tent were shared between Rhys and Sir William Stanley, the Earl's father-in-law. Then, after the latter had placed the crown on Richmond's head, and the army had saluted him king Henry the seventh, as the first act of his reign, he conferred on Rhys ab Thomas the honour of knighthood. These, however, were only the beginning of Sir Rhys's honours. As soon as the king had leisure to attend to civil affairs, he appointed him of the number of his council; after which he was invested governor of all Wales, made constable and lieutenant of Brecknock, chamberlain of South Wales, in the counties of Cardigan and Caermarthen, and senechal of the lordship of Builth. Loaded with these marks of the king's gratitude and friendship, Sir Rhys was now sent to South Wales to heal the disorders which had arisen from the distracted state of the supreme government, and to restore the authority of the laws; a task which he appears to have executed with great judgment and success.

Sir Rhys's next appearance on the public theatre was during the attempt of Lambert Simnel to impose himself on the country



try as the young Duke of York. Simnel had brought to the field a considerable force of Irish recruits, and encamped at Stoke. Henry, wishing to crush the plot in its infancy, marched against him with the utmost expedition. As Sir Rhys had not time to call up his Welsh followers, the king gave him a troop of English horse. The eager valour of our hero had nearly cost him his life in this engagement: for being imperceptibly drawn forward from his men, in an encounter with one of the Irish commanders, he was suddenly beset by several of the enemy, and only escaped destruction by the timely succour of the Earl of Shrewsbury. Henry, hearing of his narrow escape, addressed him jocularly.—"How now, father Rhys, how likest thou of the entertainment here? Whether is better, eating leeks in Wales, or shamrock among the Irish?"—"Both certainly but coarse fare," replied Rhys; "yet either would seem a feast with such a companion," pointing to the earl who had rescued him.

When King Henry fitted out an expedition to act against the French king, Sir Rhys is named among the leaders who joined him with their forces, and is honourably mentioned by Lord Bacon\* as "much noted for the brave troops that he brought out of Wales." After besieging Boulogne for nearly a year, a peace was concluded between the two countries, and the English army returned home. Presents were on this occasion made by the French monarch to several of Henry's counsellors. Sir Rhys was offered an annual pension of 200 marks, which he indignantly spurned; requesting the messenger to inform his master "that if he intended to relieve his wants, he had sent him too little, and if to corrupt his mind, or stagger his fidelity, his kingdom would not be enough."

Sir Rhys was again, after a short interval, called to the field to assist his sovereign against that extraordinary pretender Perkin Warbeck. This impostor, supported by the French and

X

Scottish

\* See Hist. of the Reign of Henry the Seventh.

Scottish courts, and aided by a force from Ireland and Cornwall, advanced as far as Blackheath on his way to the metropolis. While he lay encamped here, Henry marched against him and gave him battle, and after a severe and protracted engagement defeated him with the loss of 2000 of his followers. Sir Rhys had in this affair a body of 1500 horse under his command, and greatly distinguished himself by his conduct. He had two horses killed under him during the battle ; then mounting a favourite charger called " Ceffil Llwyd y Bacey," " or Grey fetter locks," which he reserved for great emergencies, he rushed in among the enemy's ranks, and took the Lord Audley prisoner. For this gallant action he was rewarded with that nobleman's estates, and created a Knight Banneret on the field. Perkin Warbeck having escaped, and again collected a few followers in the west of England, Sir Rhys was sent with 500 horse in pursuit of him, but only succeeded in inducing his partizans to desert him, Perkin himself eluding him by a rapid flight.

The country being now peaceably settled, Sir Rhys again returned to his civil government of Wales, and acquitted himself much to his own honour and to the advantage of the community. He was shortly after summoned to London, and installed a Knight of the Order of the Garter ; on which occasion he received the lordship of Narberth, that he might be able to maintain his new dignity with the greater splendour. It is stated that an offer was made to him at this time of either the earldom of Essex, or of Pembroke, both which, however, he declined, alledging that knighthood was the greatest honour that could be conferred on a soldier.

The year following Sir Rhys gave a most brilliant and princely fête at Carew Castle in honour of St. George ; not being able to attend the anniversary festival of the order then held in London.\* This is the last we hear of him in the reign of Henry the seventh. On the accession of Henry the eighth, he

\* See under Carew Castle, Pembrokeshire.

he appears to have been continued in all his offices, and was appointed besides to the post of King's Justiciary of South Wales. He was soon, however, called from his civil employments to attend his royal master on an expedition into France.\* Here he commanded the light horse at the siege of Therouenne and Tournay, and acquitted himself with so much honour that on his return he was invested with the office of Seneschal and Chancellor of the Manors of Haverford West and Ross in Pembrokeshire, with reversion to his son Sir Gruffydd ab Rhys. His son also, who was present in this expedition, and had been created a Knight of the Bath on the marriage of Arthur, Prince of Wales, was appointed to an honourable office in South Wales.

From this time Sir Rhys appears to have withdrawn from court, and to have resided wholly at Carew Castle, where he passed the closing years of his long and active life in a dignified retirement. He continued to the last to indulge his fondness for military exercises, and used to divert himself occasionally with reviews and sham fights, in which he was commonly joined by some of his veteran companions in arms. He died in the year 1527, at the age of seventy-six, and was buried in the priory at Caermarthen. Sir Gruffydd ab Rhys seems to have died during the lifetime of his father, for it is stated that Sir Rhys's estates devolved on his grandson Rhys ab Gruffydd. He was twice married. His first wife, as before observed, was Eva, the daughter and co-heiress of Henry ab Gwilym of Court Henry, by whom he had issue one son, Sir Gruffydd ab Rhys, whose birth the mother survived but a short time. He afterwards married Jennet, daughter of Thomas Matthews, Esq. of Glamorganshire, who brought him no children.

X 2

Sir

\*Ocland, in his *Prælia*, enumerates the four principal commanders in this expedition as follows:—

—— Talbotus belliger, audax

Poiningus, Ricæus Thomas flos Cambro Britannum,

Et Somersetus.

Sir Rhys left a numerous illegitimate progeny, some of whom connected themselves by marriage with families of the first respectability in the principality.\*

On the death of Sir Rhys ab Thomas, Abermarlais passed, with his other property, to his grandson, Rhys ab Gruffydd, who was attainted of high treason in the reign of Henry the eighth, This estate, having by that event escheated to the crown, was granted to Sir Thomas Johnes; one of whose descendants conveyed it by marriage to Sir Francis Cornwallis of Suffolk. His son, Francis Cornwallis, dying without male issue, the property devolved on his daughters, among whose descendants it was divided in the year 1793. Abermarlais house and demesne fell to the late Viscount Hawarden of Ireland, from whom it was purchased by the present proprietor.

In descending the vale of Tywi from Llandovery, on the eastern side of the river, there occur a few very respectable gentlemen's seats. In the number may be specified *Kilgwyn*, at present occupied by J. J. Holford, Esq. and *Glanseven*, the residence of E. P. Lloyd, Esq. the descendant of an ancient family of this district. Lower down the vale, at the distance of six miles from Llandovery, stands the town of

### LLANGADOC,

beautifully situated near the romantic river Sawthwy, and just above its confluence with the Tywi. There is a market here on Thursday, and fairs are held on the 12th of March, the last Thursday in May, July the 9th, the first Thursday after the eleventh of September, the second Thursday after the 10th of October, and the second Thursday after the eleventh of December.

\* The preceding sketches of Sir Rhys ab Thomas and his family are chiefly drawn from an old MS. account written in the reign of James the first, and printed in the Cambrian Register, 1795, (Vol. I. p. 49, &c.) This document is exceedingly curious and valuable.

ember. By the Parliamentary returns of 1811 the number of houses in this parish was stated at 378, with a population of 1964 individuals. The exterior appearance of this place is very respectable, several of the tradesmen's houses, and others, being good erections. The church is an old and substantial edifice, and derives some celebrity from a projected scheme of Dr. Thomas Beck,\* to erect it into a collegiate church in honour of St. Maurice and his companions, and St. Thomas the Martyr. It was intended that the establishment should consist of a Precentor and twenty-one canons or prebendaries, (of whom seven were to be priests, seven deacons, and seven subdeacons,) and five clerks.† The death of the prelate put an end to the design. Llangadoc seems to have been at one time a place of greater consequence than it is at present. Within the town, and in the vicinity, are to be seen the ruins of several houses, which, from their size and architecture, appear evidently to have been tenanted by persons of some consequence. But the strongest evidence of its early importance is derived from the repeated mention of its castle in the Welsh annals, and the frequency with which the occupation of it was contested. Of this structure, however, no vestige now remains, unless the mound of earth on the banks of the Sawddwy, which has already been mentioned,‡ be considered as indicating its site. This is called by the natives "Castell Priddlyd," literally the earthy castle, a name of spurious growth, from which nothing satisfactory can be inferred. After the conquest of the country by Edward the first, and the final dispersion of the family of Dinevor, to whom this fortress had pertained, it was probably neglected, and allowed to sink into decay and ruin.

To the south eastward of Llangadoc is a hill, forming the extremity of the Black Mountain range in this direction, called Tri Chrug, or the Three Hillocks, from three large heaps of

X 3

stones,

\* See above, page 105.

† Tanner's Notitia Monast. p. 702.

‡ See above, page 192.

stones, or *carneddau*, which are raised on its summit, and form conspicuous objects from a great distance. These probably mark the burial place of some chiefs, or perhaps indicate the graves of many warriors who may have fallen in some unrecorded battle fought on this spot. Near them are some remains of an old encampment, consisting of a circular inclosure of considerable extent, once defended by a rude fence of uncemented stones.

The eastern bank of the Tywi between Llangadoc and Llandeilo fawr is studded with several gentlemen's seats. The first is *Dan yr Allt*, the residence of Thomas Stepney, Esq. below which we may notice *Manarabon*, the seat of Colonel McClary, and *Greenhill*, in the occupation of Colonel Pugh. The direct turnpike road to Llandeilo runs on the western side of the vale; but, as the remaining portion of it offers no object of particular interest to engage our attention, we shall take our departure once more from Llandovery, and make an excursion to the westward, which will bring us to the former place by a more circuitous route.

After crossing the Tywi, a road conducts directly forwards towards Cardiganshire, which we shall pursue. At the distance of about seven miles from Llandovery occurs *Dol y Cothy*, the seat of John Johnes, Esq. pleasantly situated near the river from which it derives its name. The parish of

### CYNWIL GAEO,

in which this mansion is placed, has already been stated to contain some remains of Roman works. At a place called *Maes Llan Wrthwl* a great battle is said to have been fought between the Romans and Britons, at which the Roman commander fell, whose monumental stone is noticed above.\* This relic forms at present the threshold of the door of a gentleman's

\* See page 196.

gentleman's house! The neighbourhood contains several tumuli, and Roman bricks frequently occur in turning the soil. Tradition assigns this as the seat of a Roman city, which the inhabitants call "Tre Goch yn Neheubarth," the Red City of the South. Probably, however, the only town that ever existed here comprised merely the houses that were occupied by the persons engaged in the extensive mines which the Romans wrought in this parish. There are still to be seen the remains of an aqueduct constructed with immense labour to convey the waters of the Cothy to the excavations, to wash away the dross from the ore.

The coins that were discovered here in the year 1762 are mentioned above.\* Many Roman ornaments have since been dug up. Not long ago the servants of Mr. Johnes, of Dol y Cothy, ploughed up a golden Torques, bearing a curiously wrought figure of a serpent. A similar relic was found shortly after, with the figure of a dolphin. But the greatest curiosity in this gentleman's cabinet is an amethyst, with a very valuable antique of Diana, found in the upper surface of a coarse common pebble, dug out of a pit among some gravel which was raised for the repair of the road.†

A little beyond Dol y Cothy the road from Llandovery to Lampeter is joined on the left by another from Llandeilo, into which we shall now turn. After directing our steps to the south eastward, the first object of interest that presents itself, is

#### EDWINSFORD,

in Welsh Rhyd Odin, the seat of Sir James Hamlyn Williams, Bart: It is situated on the right of the road on the eastern bank of the Cothy, which is here a very beautiful stream; and the house is approached by a lofty avenue of

X 4

trees.

\* Page 196.

† Carlisle's Topographical Dictionary of Wales, article "Cynwyl Gaeo."

trees. Both the mansion and the grounds exhibit an appearance of ancient magnificence. The present occupier lately represented the county in Parliament.

Proceeding towards Llandeilo, at the distance of about a mile from Edwinsford Park, two lakes on our right will apprise us of our approach towards the

### ABBEY OF TALLEY.

This house stood at some distance from the turnpike road, and was pleasantly situated at the eastern extremity of the lower lake, looking towards the vales of Tywi and Cothy, and having a bold mountain immediately behind. The present parish church was constructed some years ago out of the ruins, but there are still considerable remains of the old building. This abbey was founded by Rhys ab Gruffydd, the last *prince* of South Wales, for Premonstratensian Monks, and made subject to the Abbey of Welbeck in Nottinghamshire,\* which was the chief of the order in England. It was at one time very richly endowed, and the abbot was esteemed a person of great weight in the principality. At the Dissolution it had eight canons, and its endowments were valued at 136l. 9s. 7d. a year, according to Dugdale, but according to Speed at 153l. 1s. 4d. Its possessions were conferred on the family of Abermarlais. The name is derived from the situation of the house, Talley being an abbreviation of Tal y Llychau, † the head of the Lakes. Near Talley, on an eminence commanding a part of the vale of Tywi, stands

### TALIARIS,

the seat of Lord Robert Seymour, the present representative of the county in Parliament. The grounds are well wooded, but  
the

\* Tanner's Notitia Monast. p. 702.

† *Tal*, the head or front, *Llychau*, the plural of *Lluch*, an old Welsh term for a lake.



the situation, upon the whole, must be ranked among the least pleasing of the gentlemen's residences in Caermarthenshire. This house, was once the seat of a branch of the Gwyn family.

A few miles farther, our road joins the turnpike from Llandovery, and conducts us to

### LLANDEILO FAWR.

This is one of the principal market towns in the county, though it is stated in the Parliamentary returns for 1811 to contain only 184 houses, with a population of 776 souls. The streets are very irregularly laid out and ill built, but some good houses occasionally occur among the mean erections of which they are chiefly composed. Nothing, however, can exceed the beauty of the situation. The town occupies an elevated spot on the western bank of the Towy, commanding a delightful prospect of the vale in both directions, with a fine view to the eastward of the hilly region which divides this county from Glamorganshire. The river is crossed here by a substantial stone bridge of modern erection, but built with a shameful disregard to public convenience. Owing to a miserable parsimony it has been made so narrow that a carriage cannot be passed upon it, either on foot or on horseback, without some danger.

Considerable attention has been paid of late years to the general improvement of this place. The access to the bridge has been widened, and its steepness much reduced; and the wretched hovels which used to line its sides have been removed, one side being thrown open to the river, and the other built with comfortable houses. A communication has also been opened with the other end of the town in a direct line through the churchyard, instead of the old way along its eastern wall, which was so steep as to be almost impracticable for carriages.

The market, which is plentifully supplied and well attended, is held on Saturday; and the fairs are kept February 20th,

Palm Monday, May 5th and 12th, June 21st, August 23d, November 12th, and the Monday preceding Christmas Day in each year. The petty sessions for the district are held here in the month of July.

The church, which is a low building, containing two aisles, stands near the middle of the town. It is dedicated to St. Teilo,\* from whom the parish and the town itself derive their name.

Within a short distance of Llandeilo, on a bold precipitous eminence, overlooking the Tywi, stands the castle of

### DINEVOR,

or Dinas-fawr, celebrated as the habitation of the native princes, and forming, with its adjacent scenery, one of the most attractive objects in the principality. The present remains of this fortress are not very considerable. They comprise an open area or court, about thirty-five yards in length by about thirty in width,

\* According to Owen, (*Camb. Biog. Verb. Teilo*.) this much celebrated saint was the son of Enlleu ab Hydwn Dwn ab Ceredig ab Cunedda Wledig, and flourished in the latter part of the fifth and the beginning of the sixth centuries. With the aid of Dyvrig, or Dubricius, the first bishop of Llandaf, he established a college at that place, which was called after his name Bangor Deilo. This was afterwards erected into a bishopric under the title of Esgobaeth Teilo. Cressy states that many miracles were wrought by this saint in his life time, and after his death. He recites, however, but one, which he gives on the authority of Bishop Godwin. "After he was dead, the inhabitants of three severall places contended earnestly which of them should enjoy his body: those of Pennalum where his ancestours had been buried; those of Lanteilo-vaur, where he died, and those of Landaff, among whom he had been bishop. When, therefore, no agreement could be made amongst them, there appeared presently three bodies so like to one another, that three eggs could not more perfectly resemble. So each of those people took one of them, and by that means the controversy ended." Bishop Godwin adds, for the honour of his own church, "that by frequent miracles at his tomb, it appeared that the inhabitants of Landaff possessed the true body." *Cressy's Church Hist. Lib. XI. cap. 13.*

width, which was enclosed by high walls of great thickness. There appear to have been originally strong towers at each of the angles : two of these yet remain, a square one on the north east, and a large round tower immediately over a tremendous precipice on the south east. An apartment in the latter used to be kept in order for the reception of visitors, until a few years ago it was destroyed by an accidental fire.

The first castle on this spot was built by Roderic the Great, and bequeathed by him to his son Cadell, as the future residence of the princes of South Wales. It is impossible to say to whom the present edifice is to be ascribed, the place having been on several occasions demolished, either wholly or in part, and afterwards rebuilt or repaired. The successors of Cadell removed the seat of government to Caermarthen, where it was continued for several years, until the progress of the English arms, and the settlement of the Anglo-Norman invaders along the coast, obliged them to return again to Dinevor. This was one of the last places held by the descendants of Roderic.

Newton house, the present mansion of Lord Dinevor, is situated at some distance from the castle, in a secluded part of the grounds. It is a plain square building, with a small turret surmounting each angle.

The park comprises a considerable extent of ground, and exhibits perhaps a richer display of picturesque beauties than any spot of equal size in the kingdom. The surface of the upper part is diversified by gentle undulations, and has been planted with great judgment and taste. While the abrupt hill which rises from the meadows on the shores of the Tywi is clothed with a rich profusion of trees, whose majestic forms, and venerable age, harmonize with the ancient and ruined towers they envelop. The grounds are seen to great advantage from Golden Grove Park on the opposite side of the river ; but there is no one view of them, particularly if it include the ruins  
 “ bosomed

“bosomed high in tufted trees,” that is not inexpressibly beautiful.\*

Lord Dinevor is descended in a direct line from Urien,† the prince, or king, as he is sometimes denominated, of a small principality called the kingdom of Reged, which comprised the district between the rivers Neath in Glamorganshire, and the Tywi in Caermarthenshire, including the Cantreds of Kidwelly, Carnwyllion, Gower, &c. The descent is rightly traced in

\* Dyer, in his pleasing poem of Grongar Hill, has thus slightly sketched these scenes ;—

“ Gaudy as the opening dawn,  
Lies a long and level lawn,  
On which a dark hill, steep and high,  
Holds, and charms the wandering eye !  
Deep are his feet in Towy’s flood,  
His sides are clothed with waving wood,  
And ancient towers crown his brow,  
That cast an awful look below :  
Whose ragged walls the ivy creeps,  
And with her arms from falling keeps ;—  
’Tis now the raven’s bleak abode ;  
’Tis now th’ apartment of the toad ;  
And there the fox securely feeds ;  
And there the poisonous adder breeds,  
Concealed in ruins, moss, and weeds ;  
While ever and anon there fall  
Huge heaps of hoary mouldered wall.  
Yet time has seen, that lifts the low,  
And level lays the lofty brow,  
Has seen this broken pile complete,  
Big with the vanity of state ;—  
But transient is the smile of fate.”

† See also the pedigree of Mr. Johnes of Havod, given in Dr. Meyrick’s History of Cardiganshire, p. 352, and a manuscript pedigree in the British Museum. Harl. MSS. 2300.

in Collins's Peerage,\* only with the usual mutilations of the Welsh names. Little has been narrated of the history and exploits of this race till the time of Gruffydd ab Nicholas, who has already been noticed in the account of Abermarlais.

The Dinevor estates were given by Henry the seventh to Sir Rhys ab Thomas, and descended with his other possessions to his grandson Rhys ab Gruffyd, from whom, through an act of the most cruel injustice, they again reverted to the crown, in the reign of Henry the eighth. Rhys's ancestors had been in the habit of occasionally adding Ab Urien, or Fitz Urien, to their names, in conformity to the general Welsh practice, in order to shew their descent. This designation, after being disused for some time, was again adopted, probably in a vain frolic, by young Rhys. The circumstance being reported to the king, and being associated with the immense possessions and unbounded popularity of the family, was construed into a design to assert the independence of the principality, and to dis sever it from the English government. It was also supposed, without the shadow of proof, that this was part of a concerted plan to depose King Henry, and bring to the English throne James the fifth of Scotland. To increase the absurdity of the whole business, the plot was said to be founded on an old prophecy, that James of Scotland with the bloody hand, and the Raven, which was Rhys's crest, should conquer England. On such frivolous grounds

was

\* It has been a common mistake to suppose that the present family is descended from Rhys ab Tewdwr, and the ancient princes of this house; and it is not a little surprising that so eminent an antiquary as the present bishop of St. David's should have been led into this error. In a tract recently published by his lordship, ("Johannis Sulgeni Versus Hexametri in laudem patris," &c.) which he has dedicated to Lord Dinevor, speaking of Archbishop Sulgen, he writes:—"who was contemporary with your lordship's celebrated ancestor Rhys ap Tewdwr." The fact is that there does not appear to have ever been the least connection between the families.

was this young chieftain, himself one of the first commoners in the realm, and connected by marriage with the family of Howard, arraigned for high treason, found guilty, and beheaded.\*

On the accession of Queen Mary, his son, Gruffydd ab Rhys, had his blood restored, and received back part of the estates; and Charles the first relinquished to Sir Henry Rice all that were at that time of them in the hands of the crown. The estates thus restored to the family were valued at about three hundred pounds a year; these constitute their present Welsh territories, and are all that remain to them of the princely possessions of their ancestors.

The house of Dinevor has always held considerable influence in the county, and has in several instances furnished its parliamentary representatives. George Rice, who died in 1779, married in 1756 Lady Cecil Talbot, only child of William, Earl Talbot. This nobleman was afterwards created Baron Dinevor, with remainder to his daughter, who, on his death in 1782, became Baroness Dinevor. On the death of her mother in 1787, she took the name and arms of De Cardonel, which are still borne by the family. Her ladyship died on the 14th of March 1793, and was succeeded by her eldest son George Talbot Rice, the present Baron Dinevor.†

Giraldus mentions a spring near Dinevor, "which, like the tide, ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours." A spring of this kind still exists, and continues to exhibit the same phenomenon. There is, however, no reason to suppose that it has any connection with the tides, or that its ebbings and flowings are simultaneous with those of the ocean. It is called *Nant y Rheibio*, or the "bewitched brook;" those appearances being ascribed to witchcraft, which an acquaintance with the principles

\* He was executed on Tower Hill, December 4th, 1531, little more than three years after the death of Sir Rhys ab Thomas. Holinshed, Sub. An. 531. See the charges against him, with answers to them, in the Cambrian Register, Vol. II. p. 270.

† Collins's Peerage, by Sir E. Brydges, Vol. VII. p. 54, et seq.

ples of hydrostatics would have shewn to be perfectly natural.

In levelling some ground a few years ago in the churchyard of Llandyfeisant, in which parish this well is situated, the foundations of some Roman walls were discovered; and it was ascertained that the north west corner of the church is placed on part of a Roman edifice. It has been hence conjectured that the church was built on the ruins of a Roman temple. A pot of Roman silver coins was dug up lately at a short distance from the church, some of which are now in the possession of the Rev. Thomas Beynon, the present incumbent.\*

Before we proceed along our main route towards Caermarthen, a short excursion must be taken to the eastward. Soon after crossing the river we pass on our left *Tregib*, the seat of John W. Hughes, Esq. About four miles from Llandeilo in this direction, and about a mile to the northward of the turnpike-road, stand the romantic ruins of

### CARREG CENNEN CASTLE.

This singular fortress is seated on a lofty insulated rock about three hundred feet in perpendicular height above the river Cennen, which flows at its base, and is wholly inaccessible except one side, which affords a difficult approach. The buildings occupy the whole summit of the precipice, and cover altogether about an acre of ground. The castle court, in the interior, is a parallelogram of about thirty yards in length by about twenty-five yards in breadth. At the eastern end of this area are the remains of several apartments. On the north stand two square towers commanding the entrance. There is also a large round tower at the north west angle, and an octagonal one on the north east. The south side is occupied by a range  
of

\* Mr. Beynon's communication to Mr. Carlisle, Topographical Dict. of Wales, article Llan-Dyfeisant.

of smaller apartments, which probably formed the offices of the castle.

The principal entrance is at the north east angle. There appears to have been another, by a strong covered way which led along the margin of the precipice to a gate on the south side. One of the most remarkable circumstances connected with this fortress is the well, which is supposed to have furnished water to the garrison when in a state of siege, or at least seems to have been designed for that important purpose. A narrow arched passage on the northern edge of the precipice conducts on the outside with an easy descent, to an aperture in the rock. From this entrance, the descent is continued on the inside along an excavated passage, occasionally lighted by small holes cut through the rock at unequal intervals. The dimensions of this subterraneous way are very various, the height being in some places ten feet, in others not more than four, while the breadth varies from three feet to twelve: and its whole length may be estimated at 150 feet. The lower part is for some distance totally dark. The only water procured here, after all this extraordinary labour, consists of a small quantity that drips into a bason excavated in the rock four feet above the ground, or floor, and capable of holding about two gallons.

Of the history of this castle very little is known. The only mention of it that occurs in the Welsh annals is the circumstance noticed by Caradoc, of its being taken by Rhys Vychan from the English, to whom, out of her dislike of him, his mother had delivered it. The time of its erection rests at present on conjecture. It has been assigned by some to the reign of Henry the first but a manuscript in the British Museum\* ascribes the building of it to Urien, Lord of Is Cenen, who was a knight of Arthur's round table. Its architecture bespeaks for it an early origin, and there can be little doubt of its being of British construction. Previously to the invention of artillery, this  
must

\* Harl. MSS. 2300.



must have formed, when sufficiently garrisoned and provisioned, an impregnable hold. The country to the north and north-east, is wild and uninteresting, but on the south and west is fertile and well cultivated. The situation of this castle is in one respect very remarkable. It is almost surrounded by hills of considerable elevation, but commands a prospect of prodigious extent, along the wide vallies which intervene. From this spot may be seen a long reach of the finest part of the vale of Tywi, on the right; directly in front the vale of Llangydeirn, with the ocean in the distance; and towards the left, the vale of Llandybie, with a considerable portion of the vale of Lloughor, beyond it. The castle itself constitutes a striking object in the landscape from a great number of situations, but the finest view of it is from the south and west, and the most picturesque approach from the Llandybie road.

Some Roman coins of the time of Domitian are said to have been lately discovered in this neighbourhood; and a stone hatchet, resembling a chissel in form, was dug up here some time ago: this is evidently a relic of very early antiquity.

A short distance to the eastward, on the margin of the Black mountain, at a place called Llanduvaen, are some natural baths, once greatly resorted to by the natives for the cure of paralytic affections; but their reputation is now in a great degree lost.

Leland has noticed some remarkable excavations in the ground near this place. "Ther be a great numbar of pitts made with hand large lyke a bowle at the heade, and narrow in the botom, ovar growen in the swart with fine grase, and be scaterid here and there about the quartars, where the heade of Kennen river is that cummythe by Caire Kennen. And some of these will receyve a hunderith men, sum 2 hundrethe."\*

It is difficult to determine, for what purpose these excavations could have been originally made, as it is not likely that they are the remains of mining shafts. The Hon. Mr. Daines Barrington, in a paper in the *Archæologia* of the Antiquarian

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Society,

\* Itin. Vol. VIII. fol. 106.

Society,\* relating to some pits of a similar description in Berkshire, conjectures, with much probability, that they were dug by the Aborigines of the island for the purpose of habitations.

About a mile to the southward of Carreg Cennen castle is a farm house, called “Cwrt bryn y Beirdd,” the site having been formerly a bardic residence. Derwydd, another old mansion near this spot, now tenanted by a respectable farmer, affords a farther indication of the presence of the bards or druids in this vicinity.

The village of

### LLANDYBIE

is situated on the turnpike road about two miles farther to the eastward, and about five miles from Llandeilo. The church is a plain structure, † with a lofty square steeple; and there is a good inn here, much frequented in the shooting season. The neighbourhood contains some respectable old mansions. To the right, on the road towards Caermarthen, occurs *Blainau*, the residence of Miss Davies; lower down, in the most fertile part of the vale of Llandybïe, enveloped in wood, stands *Aberlash*, once the habitation of a family of the name of Evans, and beyond, the stately mansion of *Dyffryn*, the seat of ——— Lewis, Esq. Nearly opposite to this house, on the left, at the foot of the Black mountain, lies *Glynhir*, the seat of W. Dubaison, Esq. This place is occasionally visited by travellers on account of some beautiful waterfalls in the grounds.

Returning now to Llandeilo, and pursuing the vale towards Caermarthen, our first attention will be claimed by

GOLDEN

\* Vol. VII. p. 239.

† This church is dedicated to Saint Tybie, one of the holy progeny of Brychan. Tradition reports, that she was slain near this spot by some Pagan invaders, and buried here.

## GOLDEN GROVE,

late the seat of John Vaughan, Esq. deceased, a descendant of the first Earl of Carberry,\* but at present the property of Lord Cawdor. The house† is an indifferent building, and is badly situated in the low grounds on the east-

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ern

\* “ Oliver Cromwell, in his way to besiege Pembroke castle, came suddenly across the country with a troop of horse, to Golden Grove, with an intent to seize the person of Richard Earl of Carberry, who was a royalist. The Earl having fortunately had notice of his approach, retired to a sequestered farm house amongst the hills ; and the protector, after having dined at Golden Grove, with the Countess of Carberry, in the afternoon pursued his march to Pembroke.” Carlisle ubi supra, art. Llanfihangel aber Bythych.

The following account of this nobleman is printed in the Cambrian Register, (Vol. I. p. 164,) from an old MS. document. “ Richard Vaughan, Earl of Carbery, a person of great parts and civilities, about the year 1643 and 1644, was general over the said counties, (Caermarthen, Pembroke, and Cardigan,) by commission from his late majesty, of blessed memory, Charles the first, and though in number of soldiers, far exceeding his adversaries, yet without any resistance made by him, some attributing it to a suspected natural cowardice, others to a design to be overcome ; however, shortly after enobled with the titles of Baron Emlyn, and Lord of Caermarthyn, the king's party being mastered, he alone of all the king's party in that country, escaped sequestration, freed from composition by both houses of Parliament, by reason of the correspondence he kept with the then Earle of Essex, and many great services done by him to the Parliament, during his generalship, which was then evidenced to the Parliament by Sir John Muricke, and by certificate from severall of the Parliaments then generalls in his lordship's behalf. When Oliver Cromwell snatched the government of this nation, this active lord gained his acquaintance and favour, insomuch that Cromwell sent from the parkes he then possessed near London, severall staggs unto him to furnish his park at Golden Grove, in Wales. In a word, a fit person for the highest publike employment, if integrity and courage were not suspected to be often faylinge in him.”

† At Golden Grove is a beautiful drinking horn, richly mounted on a silver stand, which was presented by the Earl of Richmond to one of his hosts in Cardiganshire, during his march through that county. It was afterwards given to Richard Earl of Carberry.

ern side of the river Tywi, having the luxuriant woods of Dinevor Park immediately in front. The groves, from which the name was probably derived, no longer appear. The extensive park which rises to the summit of a commanding hill behind the house, is almost wholly destitute of wood. It is capable of every improvement by plantation; and from what has already been begun on part of the grounds, it may be hoped that a few years will impart to it something of its ancient appearance, and give characteristic propriety and truth to its designation.

Golden Grove cannot be quitted, without some notice of a man who has, in his works, raised a monument to himself that will probably transmit his name to the remotest posterity;—this is Dr. Jeremy Taylor, who died bishop of Downe and Connor. Dr. Taylor was not indeed a Welshman; but Wales may boast of having given birth to the writings on which his high and merited reputation chiefly rests. He was born at Cambridge, and at the age of thirteen was admitted a student of Gonville and Caius College, where he remained long enough to take his second degree in arts. Through the interest of Archbishop Laud, he obtained a fellowship in All Souls' College Oxford. This prelate appointed him his chaplain, and gave him the rectory of Uppingham in Rutlandshire, where he afterwards married and fixed his residence. Being appointed chaplain in ordinary to king Charles the first, he took his degree of Doctor in Divinity in November 1642. On the breaking out of the disturbances in this reign, his living being sequestered, he sought an asylum in Wales, and was kindly received at Golden Grove by Richard Vaughan, Earl of Carberry. In this family he officiated as chaplain, occasionally exercising his ministry in the neighbourhood also, and at the same time employed himself in keeping school, for the better maintenance of his family. A painful domestic calamity, the death, in the interval of a few months, of three of his sons, rendered his situation here insupportable to his feelings; and he therefore removed to London, where  
he

he was soon noticed by Edward Lord Conway, who took him with him to Ireland. After the restoration of Charles the second, in consideration of his attachment to the royal cause, as well as of his splendid talents and acquirements, he was elected to the vacant see of Downe and Connor, which he held to the time of his death, in the year 1667.

The works which he composed during his residence at Golden Grove, several of which are dedicated to his noble patron, are too numerous to be recited here at length. The chief were, "Golden Grove, or a Manual of daily Prayers, &c." "Discourse on the Liberty of Propheying," which may be called his masterpiece: "The Great Exemplar of a Holy Life, or a History of the Life and Death of the Holy Jesus." "Twenty-five Sermons Preached at Golden Grove." "Twenty-seven sermons Preached at Golden Grove." "Rule and Exercise of Holy Living." "Measures and offices of Friendship," a letter addressed to Mrs. Catherine Philipps, the celebrated Orinda. He wrote besides a "New and Easy Institution of Grammar," for the use of his school. His successor in the see of Downe and Connor, Dr. Rust, sums up his character in these words: "This great prelate, had the good humour of a gentleman, the eloquence of an orator, the fancy of a poet, the acuteness of a schoolman, the profoundness of a philosopher, the wisdom of a chancellor, the sagacity of a prophet, the reason of an angel, the piety of a saint. He had devotion enough for a cloister, learning enough for an university, and wit enough for a college of virtuosi. And had his parts and endowments been parcelled out among his poor clergy that he left behind him, it would, perhaps, have made one of the best dioceses in the world."

Not far from Golden Grove is a British encampment on a small scale, but in a good state of preservation.

Below Golden Grove, but on the other side of the river, stands

## ABERGLASNEY,

at present the seat of Thomas Philipps, Esq. but anciently the residence of the Dyer family, and the birth-place of the author of "Grongar Hill."

John Dyer was born in the year 1700, and was the second son of Robert Dyer, Esq. of this house, a solicitor of great eminence. After receiving the elementary part of his education in the country, he was removed to Westminster school, then under the superintendence of Dr. Friend. From this seminary he returned to the principality, with the view of engaging in his father's profession; but the study of the law not according with his taste, and his father dying soon after his return home, he declined it altogether.

Having occasionally amused himself with his pencil, he now resolved to turn painter by profession, and became a pupil of Mr. Richardson, an artist high in reputation in Lincoln's Inn Fields. After passing some time under the tuition of this gentleman, he became an itinerant painter in South Wales, and the adjacent counties. About this time, A. D. 1726, he wrote his "Grongar Hill,"\* which was printed in a volume of miscellanies, published under the auspices of Savage.

Some years subsequently he went to Italy, with a view to his improvement in his profession, and during his residence there formed the plan of his "Ruins of Rome," a poem which

\* This poem was first written and published as an irregular ode. The following is a specimen of it in its original form.

Fancy, Nymph that loves to lie  
 On the lonely eminence,  
 Darting notice through the eye,  
 Forming thought and feasting sense.  
 Thou that must lend imagination wings,  
 And stamp distinction on all worldly things;  
 Come, and with thy various hues,  
 Paint and adorn thy sister muse.

which he published on his return in 1740. His health declining, and his attachment to books increasing, he quitted the easel, and entered the church. About this time he married Miss Ensor, sister of Mr. Strong Ensor of Warwickshire, "whose grandmother," he states, "was a Shakespeare, descended from a brother of every body's Shakespeare." His advancement in his new calling was slow. His first living was Colthorp in Leicestershire, valued at 80*l.* a year. This he held from 1741 to 1751, when he removed to Belchford, a small living of 75*l.* per annum, near Coningsby in Lincolnshire, given him by Lord Chancellor Hardwicke. Sir John Heathcote afterwards presented him to Coningsby worth 120*l.* a year; to which Lord Hardwicke added the living of Kirkley, valued at 110*l.* a year. "The Fleece," his largest and most elaborate production, was published in 1757. Dr. Johnson relates, that "Doddsley the bookseller was one day mentioning this poem to a critical visitor, with more expectation of success, than the other could admit. In the conversation the author's age was asked; and being represented as advanced in life, 'he will,' said the critic 'be buried in woollen.'" This prediction, as to the ill success of the poem, was too fully justified by the event.

Akenside had so high an opinion of it, that he is stated to have said, "he would regulate his opinion of the reigning taste, by the fate of Dyer's 'Fleece;'" for if that were ill received, he should not any longer think it reasonable to expect fame from excellence."

This was Dyer's last production: he died soon after its publication, July 24, 1758, in the 58th year of his age. Besides the poems already specified, he wrote a few shorter pieces, which are now to be found in all the editions of his works.

Dr. Johnson is very sparing of his praise of Dyer, but his criticism on "Grongar Hill" is just. This he calls "the happiest of his productions: it is not, indeed, very accurately written, but the scenes which it displays are so pleasing, the images which they raise are so welcome to the mind, and the

reflections of the writer, so consonant to the general sense or experience of mankind, that when it is once read it will be read again." Dr. Anderson, in his life of Dyer, gives a higher estimate of his general merit as a poet, and ranks him in descriptive poetry with Thomson and Pope. But he bestows more sterling praise on him, by his summary of his private character, which he states, "was very amiable and respectable : he was beloved by his friends for the gentleness and sweetness of his disposition."

### GRONGAR HILL,

which has derived a kind of poetical immortality from Dyer's muse, is an abrupt eminence, not far from the river Tywi. On the summit are some vestiges of a Roman encampment, consisting of a rectangular intrenched area, 150 yards in length by 100 yards in width. From the remains of other intrenchments by which these are surrounded, it may be inferred that this was once deemed a place of great importance, and occupied at different periods, as a military station, both by the Romans and the native Britons. The exterior works are nearly circular, and are, therefore, probably of British construction. From this circumstance the place was denominated Crwn-Gae, or Cron-Gaer, the circular inclosure or fortification; whence the transition was easy to its present appellation.\*

From its situation, just below a bold turn in the vale, Grongar Hill commands a prospect of almost unequalled variety and beauty.

\* Leland gives the following account of this remain, as it stood in his time :—" Ther is within halfe a myle of Drislan Castel on Tewe, on a hyll betwixt the highe waye to Cairmarden, and the rype of Tewe, a mighty campe of men of Warre, with 4 or 5 diches, and an area in the middle. It is of some caullyd *Rounghay*, that is to say, the *Round hegge*, and of some caullid *Arcair gather*." Itin. Vol. VIII. fol. 106.

There is no difficulty in translating *Rounghay*, into *Grun-gae*; but it will puzzle the Welsh antiquary to decypher *Arcair gather*.



beauty. Looking towards the river, the luxuriant groves of Dinevor, with its ruined towers, present themselves in venerable majesty on the left ; while the valley spreads in front, and exhibits a scene which baffles all description. In this view, the waters of the Tywi are displayed with the happiest effect, and the ruins of Dryslwyn castle, upon an insulated eminence in the middle of the vale, compose an object of peculiar interest in the landscape.\* Of late, a new and pleasing circumstance has been added by Sir William Paxton, by the erection of a lofty tower on a conspicuous summit in Middleton Hall grounds.

At a short distance from Aberglasney, near the turnpike road, stands

## COURT

\* Dyer, in his "Country Walk," sketches with a light and pleasing pencil, the prospect from this spot, including his native dwelling :

" Up Grongar hill, I labour now  
 And catch at last his bushy brow.  
 Oh, how fresh, how pure the air,  
 Let me breathe a little here.  
 Where am I, Nature? I descry  
 Thy magazine before me lie!  
 Temples—and towns—and towers—and woods!  
 And lakes—and vales—and fields—and floods!  
 Crowding before me,—edged around  
 With naked wilds and barren ground.  
 See, below, the pleasant dome,  
 The poet's pride, the poet's home,  
 Which the sun-beams shine upon,  
 To the even from the dawn;  
 See her woods, where echo talks,  
 Her gardens trim, her terras walks,  
 Her wildernesses, fragrant brakes,  
 Her gloomy bowers, and shining lakes.  
 Keep, ye Gods, this humble seat,  
 For ever pleasant, private, neat.

## COURT HENRY,

a mansion of some antiquity and note. Henry ab Gwilym, from whom it deriv'd its name, has already been mentioned, as the inveterate enemy of Thomas ab Gruffydd, Sir Rhys ab Thomas's father, with whom he fought several duels. Sir Rhys ab Thomas extinguished the feud, by marrying Henry's daughter and heiress, by which union he became possessed of the ample estates of this house. Court Henry was afterwards, for a long period, the residence of a family of the name of Herbert, and is now the property of Mr. Dyer, a descendant of the poet's brother. There are some other respectable gentlemen's seats in this neighbourhood, among which may be named *Berllan Dywyll*, situated between Aberglasney and the river Tywi, *Pen y lan*, the seat of — Davies, Esq. which lies a little to the northward, and *Pant glás*, the seat of — Jones, Esq. above Court Henry, in the vale of Cothy. But the most striking object in this vicinity is

## DRYSLWYN CASTLE.

This ancient fortress occupies the summit of a considerable hill, which rises like an island in the middle of a wide opening in the vale of Tywi, and overhangs the western shore of the river. It seems to have spread, at one time, over a large extent of ground; but the present ruins are not considerable, comprising only some fragments of the walls, and a part of one of the towers. The origin of this castle is not known, and the historical notices relating to it in the Welsh annals are very few. It was probably constructed by some of the princes of Dinevor, with a view to the security of their adjacent possessions, and was one of the last of their numerous fortresses which their descendants were permitted to retain. On the overthrow of Rhys Vychan it fell, with his other property, into

the hands of Robert de Tibetot, the king's justiciary. It afterwards passed to other officers of the English crown, till the more settled state of the country rendered it unnecessary to preserve it for the purpose of a fortress.

Leland, and subsequent antiquaries, following the sound, have derived the name from *Dyrys-llyn*,\* an intricate bush or thicket: but the true etymology is more probably to be sought in *Traws-lyn*, literally "Cross-lake Castle," a designation which might have been given to it from its situation; being surrounded with low meadow ground, which must have been frequently overflowed by the land floods, so as to exhibit the appearance of a lake, with an island in the midst, standing across the course of the stream.

Passing over now to the eastern side of the river, we soon arrive at the pleasant village of *Llan Arthne*, near which stands

### MIDDLETON HALL,

the seat of Sir William Paxton, who has represented successively both the borough of Caermarthen and the county, in Parliament. This is perhaps the most splendid mansion in South Wales, and the interior arrangements and decorations display an elegance and taste which comport with its exterior magnificence. The house was built for the present occupier by Mr. Cockerell the architect, and first inhabited about ten years ago. It is situated on a gentle elevation in the midst of a pleasant vale, that branches off to the eastward from the Tywi, and forms the only opening of the kind in the chain of hills, on this side of the river, between Llandeilo and the sea. Besides the advantages it derives from the beauties which surround it,

Middleton

\* "For Dryslin Castel, upon Tewi, on the same rype that Dineuer is Drist-loyn. *Dris*, inexplicabilis, *lloyn*, a busch."

"Dryslan (as I lernid) is as moch as to say as a place ful of Difficulte and Encombrance to passe thorough." Itin. Vol. V, fol. 22, and 74.

Middleton Hall is eligibly placed in respect to the public roads, being within a mile and a half of each of the two great communications between Milford and London.

Sir William Paxton has paid great attention to the improvement of the grounds, which are ornamented by numerous and flourishing plantations. The tower lately erected here, after an elegant design by Mr. Cockerell, is entitled to particular mention. It is situated at the northern extremity of the park, on an eminence that immediately overlooks the vale of Tywi, and commands a prospect of prodigious extent. The exterior form of the building is triangular, to the height of two stories; where the walls terminate in an embattled parapet; and at each of the angles is a circular tower, forming the interior into a hexagon. These towers are continued several feet above the first parapet. The upper story is hexagonal both within and without, and rises majestically from the triangular part of the structure, communicating an interesting and picturesque effect to the whole. On the ground floor are three spacious arches, one in each front, which admit the passage of carriages. The next story is a lofty and sumptuous banquetting room; and the upper story is taken up by a large apartment, designed for a prospect room, whence the surrounding country may be viewed in every direction, to the greatest advantage. Upon the summit of the building is a flat roof, which is also accessible to visitors. The tower is dedicated to the memory of Lord Nelson; and the upper apartment, when completed, will contain some appropriate devices. One of the windows is to be composed entirely of painted glass: the centre pane will consist of a portrait of the hero; another pane underneath will exhibit the cockpit scene, presenting him in his last moments; and another above, will comprise the emblematical representation of his ascent to immortality: the subjects are taken from Messrs. Clarke and M'Arthur's splendid history of his life, and executed by Mr. Grey. The following inscription, from the classic pen of a noble Lord,

is also to be placed on a marble tablet, over each of the grand entrances, on the exterior of the building :—

DUCI INVICTO  
 VICE-COMITI NELSON,  
 OB RES  
 AD NILI OSTIA, AD HAFNIÆ ARCES,  
 AD GADITANAS ORAS,  
 PRÆCLARISSIME GESTAS;  
 OB IMPERIUM MARIS  
 SUIS UBIQUE VINDICATUM;  
 OB MORTEM  
 QUAM NON SUÆ GLORIÆ  
 PATRIÆ VERO EUROPEÆQUE  
 INTEMPESTIVAM  
 VICTOR OBIIT,  
 HANC ÆDEM  
 TANTÆ VIRTUTIS NON IMMÉMOR  
 POSUIT  
 GUILIELMUS PAXTON ANNO.\*—

In digging the foundations for this erection, the workmen discovered the fragment of an ancient war instrument, resembling the head of a spear or javelin, and about nine inches in length; it is made of a mixed metal containing a large proportion of copper or brass. The æra to which it is to be ascribed, is as yet undetermined; but from the state in which it was

\* To the invincible commander, Viscount Nelson, in commemoration of deeds most brilliantly achieved at the mouths of the Nile, before the walls of Copenhagen, and on the shores of Spain; of the empire everywhere maintained by him over the seas; and of the death which, in the fulness of his own glory, though untimely for his country and for Europe, conquering, he died; this tower was erected by William Paxton, A. D. —

Mr. William Owen Pugh has furnished the following Welsh translation of this inscription.—Coffa yr arwr diorthrech—y Llyngesydd Nelson—am orchestion clodforusaf,—wrth aberodd Nîl, wrth gaerau Copeuhagen—am morlanau Yspaen—am honi gorfaint y morodd—ar bob rhyw droion;—ac am ei angeu,—er gogoniant ei wlad ei hun—ac Europa hefyd,—er mai anhrydlawn,—à fu yn orfoleddas;—yr hon adeiliad—i arddangaws y cyfryw ddewredd,—à seilies—Gwilym Paxton, B. A.—

was found, it had evidently lain in the ground during some centuries.

The present mansion of Middleton Hall, is built near an old family residence bearing the same name, but now converted into a farmhouse. The Middletons of this place were descendants of David, one of the brothers of Sir Hugh, Middleton, who settled here. They were of considerable respectability in the county, and connected themselves by marriage with the Rices of Newton, the Vaughans of Golden Grove, the Gwyns of Taliaris, and the Barlows of Pembrokeshire.\* The family has long been extinct in the male line.

The Mineral Spring in Middleton Hall Park has already been noticed.† There being nothing farther to detain us here,

\* Pedigree in the British Museum, Harleian MSS. No. 2300.

† Since the account of this spring, inserted above, page 279, was printed, farther information has been received, which will enable us to correct an error or two, into which we were inadvertently led by misinterpreting a verbal communication. The baths which are there mentioned prove to be but one bath, which may, however, be used warm or cold, as it is furnished with the necessary conveniences for heating the water. This bath is situated within the wall of Middleton Hall park, and is designed merely for the use of the family. The water is, however, conveyed from the spring in stone pipes to the outside of the wall, where there is a house for the accommodation of visitors, and where baths may easily be constructed, should the influx of valetudinarians be such as to call for them. Dr. Babington's name should have been mentioned in connection with the Tunbridge waters alone. The following particulars are extracted from the published account of the Middleton Hall water.

“ Analysis of one Gallon of the Mineral Water, at Middleton Hall, near Llanarthney.

#### GASEOUS CONTENTS.

	<i>Cubic Inches.</i>
Carbonic acid gas .....	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Atmospheric air .....	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<hr/>
Total cubic inches	21
	<hr/> <hr/>

SOLID

here, we shall pursue our route towards Caermarthen. The nearest and best way conducts from the village of Llanarthne, on the eastern side of the Tywi to Caermarthen bridge,--a road which forms one of the latest improvements in this neighbourhood; but as there are some objects of interest on the other side of the vale, that will claim our attention, we shall pass over by the bridge below Llanarthne, and join the old road from Llandeilo.

The

SOLID CONTENTS.

	<i>Grains.</i>
Carbonate of lime.....	4 $\frac{2}{4}$
Carbonate of iron.....	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Muriate of soda.....	6
Muriate of lime.....	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sulphate of lime.....	2
Total grains	21 $\frac{1}{4}$

Dr. Saunders says, it is a strong chalybeate water, possessing the same medical properties as that of Tunbridge, of which he treats fully in his book on mineral waters, after stating Dr. Babington's analysis, which is as follows :

TUNBRIDGE WATER.

GASEOUS CONTENTS.

	<i>Cubic Inches.</i>
Carbonic acid gas.....	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Azotic gas.....	4
Atmospheric air.....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Solid cubic inches	16

SOLID CONTENTS.

	<i>Grains.</i>
Oxyd of iron.....	1
Muriate of soda.....	$\frac{1}{2}$
Muriate of magnesia.....	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Selenite.....	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total grains	5

The most remarkable place that offers itself to our notice on this route is

### MERLIN'S GROVE.

There is a neat family residence so called, belonging to Mrs. Williams, in a sequestered spot, to the right of a small village, about three miles from Caermarthen; but beyond this house, and rising abruptly from the turnpike road, is a thick grove, to which the name properly pertains.\* This is assigned, by the tradition of the neighbourhood, as the prophet's usual residence. At the upper extremity of the wood, in the corner of a field belonging to Merlin's Grove farm, a spot is shewn for the supposed place of his interment, and a natural aperture in a rock, towards the middle of the wood, is stated to have been the scene of his incantations.† This cavern would at present afford him but a scanty and uncomfortable dwelling.

The

\* Called in Welsh Galt Fyrddyn.

† If this tradition be well founded, this is the spot which Spencer has described with so many circumstances of horror:—

Forthwith themselves (a) disguising both in strange  
 And base attyre, that none might them bewray,  
 To Maridunum, that is now by change  
 Of name Cayr-Merdin cald, they took their way;  
 There the wise Merlia whylome wont, they say,  
 To make his wonne, low underneath the ground,  
 In a deep delve, far from the view of day,  
 That of no living wight he mote be found,  
 Whenso he counseld, with his sprights encompass round.

And if thou ever happen that same way  
 To traveill, go to see that dreadful place;  
 It is a hideous hollow cave (they say)  
 Under a rock that lies a little space

From

(a) Glauce and Britomart.



The village of

ABERGWILI

is situated at the distance of one mile from Caermarthen, but merits attention only for its church, and the palace of the

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bishop

From the swift Barry, tombling downe apace  
 Emongst the woody hilles of Dyneuowre ;  
 But dare thou not, I charge, in any cace  
 To enter into that same balefull bowre,  
 For feare the cruel feendes should thee unwares devoure.

But standing high aloft, low lay thine eare,  
 And there such ghastly noyse of yron chaines  
 And brasen caudrons thou shalt rombling heare,  
 Which thousand sprightes, with long enduring paines,  
 Doe tosse, that it will stonn thy feeble braines ;  
 And often times, great grones and grievous stownds,  
 When too huge toile and labour them constraines ;  
 And often times loud strokes, and ringing soundes,  
 From under that deepe rocke most horribly rebowndes.

The cause, some say is this ; a litle whyle  
 Before that Merlin dyde, he did intend  
 A brasen wall in compass to compile  
 About Cairmardin, and did it commend  
 Unto these sprightes to bring to perfect end ;  
 During which worke, the Lady of the Lake  
 Whom long he lov'd, for him in hast did send,  
 Who thereby forst his workemen to forsake,  
 Them bownd till his retourne their labour not to slake.

In the mean time, through that false ladies traine  
 He was surprisd, and buried under beare,  
 Ne ever to his worke returnd againe ;  
 Nath'lesse those feendes may not their work forbear,  
 So greatly his commandement they feare,  
 But there doe toyle and traveile day and night,  
 Untill the brasen wall they up doe reare ;  
 For Merlin had in magick more insight,  
 Than ever him before or after living wight.

bishop of St. David's, which stands near it. The church is a plain edifice, divided in the interior by a range of pointed arches, supported by thick octagonal pillars. There is a monumental stone on the outside, at the eastern end, commemorative of Dr. Adam Ottley, who died bishop of this diocess, October the fourth 1723, in the seventieth year of his age.

Dr. Beck, bishop of St. David's, made this church collegiate A. D. 1287, for twenty-two prebendaries, four priests, four choristers, and two clerks, to the honour of St. Maurice. But it is doubtful whether he ever completed his design. His first project, as we have seen, was to form this institution at Llangadoc: he afterwards, for reasons now unknown,\* changed his purpose, and fixed upon this place. His death is supposed, however, to have suspended the scheme till it was resumed by Bishop Gower, who, in the year 1334, made some new regulations, and ordained that in addition to the former establishment, it should contain a precentor, chancellor, and treasurer. Henry the eighth removed this college to Brecknock, as already observed.† Its endowments were valued 26 Hen. VIII. at 42*l.* per annum.‡

The palace at Abergwili is now the only episcopal residence belonging to the diocess. It had at one time suffered greatly from neglect: it was first rendered habitable after the civil wars,

\* Leland states that "the collegiate church of ——— was translated to Abergwili for viciating of a maide, the canons being killed or fleeing for it." Itin. Vol. V. fol. 23. The blank in the above passage, should be supplied with "Llangadoc," but the reason here assigned for the removal is probably a calumny.

† See above, p. 105. The foundation charter of the Brecknock college, under which the college at Abergwili was removed, begins in the following words:—*Cùm Collegium de Abergilly in loco inidoneo existit, ubi nulla occasio hospitalitatis aliis per viros dicti collegii administrandæ datur ad commodum et utilitatem subditorum nostrorum in locis dicto collegio adjacentibus ad grave dampnum dictorum ligiorum nostrorum, &c.* Willis's Hist. of Abbies, Vol. II. p. 304.

‡ Tanner's Notitia Monast. p. 702.

wars, by Bishop Ottley, about the year 1715; and about twelve years ago was thoroughly repaired and modernized by Lord George Murray. This amiable prelate at the same time improved the grounds, and gave to the whole place an appearance of elegance and comfort. The house is situated in the low meadows on the banks of the Tywi, and therefore commands but few of the surrounding beauties; but this loss is partly compensated by a very remarkable bend in the river, just in front, where this noble stream, after touching the margin of the lawn, returns for a considerable distance up the vale, before it resumes its course towards the sea, and constitutes a very agreeable object from the palace.

From Abergwili, a short and pleasant ride conducts to the ancient town of

### CAERMARTHEN,

the metropolis of the shire, and at one period the metropolitan city of the kingdom of South Wales. This place is very beautifully situated on the western bank of the Tywi, which, previously to its arrival here, has been swelled by its numerous tributary streams into a most majestic river. The ground occupied by the town is in some parts of considerable elevation, a circumstance which imparts to it a striking appearance when viewed from a distance, and gives it a commanding prospect of some of the finest parts of the scenery of this delightful vale.

Some tourists have remarked, that the interior of the place does not realise the expectations excited by the distant view. But this must greatly depend on the imagination of the party. He who is visionary enough to look for nothing but regular streets and houses of uniform architecture in a large town, which furnishes habitations for persons of all ranks in society, will no doubt be disappointed when he enters Caermarthen. But the sober traveller will find much to please him in the general aspect of the buildings. All the principal streets contain a large proportion of good houses, several of which are

occupied by persons not engaged in business, and the others by very respectable tradesmen.

The principal public edifice is the Guild-hall, situated in the middle of the town. It is a large and handsome modern building, raised upon pillars, and having a covered market underneath. The entrance was formerly from a narrow passage behind, which formed a very inconvenient access; but of late a grand staircase has been made in the front, which is highly ornamental to the structure.

The county gaol, which occupies a part of the site of the castle, is also entitled to commendation, as a substantial well-constructed building. Its architecture is peculiarly appropriate; and the interior arrangements are as little objectionable as those of any similar edifices, built on the well intended, but injudicious, plan of the philanthropic Howard.

About twelve years ago, an excellent market-place was built by the corporation, which with great propriety they placed out of the town, in a situation where it was likely not to interfere with the public convenience.

The streets, which are numerous, have been laid out on no regular plan. Their direction was probably determined originally by circumstances over which the builders had no controul. The first that were formed would of course be regulated by the convenience of the lords of the place, and the position they might choose for their fortress, and works of defence: while those which were formed at a later period would be made to communicate with the others along the most commodious line. The slightest view of the town will shew this to have been the case, as the main streets are known to have led to the principal entrances of the castle. The objection which lies against the streets of most old towns, may be made against some of those of Caermarthen, that they are inconveniently narrow. From the many improvements, however, that have lately been made here, this evil has been in a great measure obviated. But it still exists in a very serious degree in the  
 1 middle

middle of the town, where a part of the principal thoroughfare, besides being very steep, is exceedingly narrow; and from the situation of the town hall at the bottom of the hill, no beneficial alteration is to be expected.

The communication with the country on the eastward is formed by a substantial stone bridge of several arches over the Tywi. At the upper end of the town, there is a beautiful public walk called the Parade, which overlooks a fine reach of the river, and commands an extensive view of the vale.

The actual length of the town, in a direct line from north east to southwest, may be estimated at about three fourths of a mile, and its width in the transverse direction at half a mile. It was formerly surrounded by a high wall, with fortified gates at the different entrances, some of which were standing a few years ago.\*

Caermarthen was badly supplied with water, till the Corporation, with great liberality, adopted a plan proposed to them by Sir William Paxton, during his mayoralty in the year 1803, to furnish the inhabitants with this important article, from

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some

\* It appears from the ichnography in Speed's map, which is dated 1610, that this wall, on the side next the river, was carried from the eastern angle of the castle, along the brow of the hill behind Spilman's Street, as far as the road which now leads towards the parade: here it turned towards the west, and crossing the end of King's Street, descended to the bottom of the hill on that side of the town: thence it took a direction nearly parallel with King's Street, towards the river, passing the lower end of St. Mary's Street, by the dark gate; and turning again at right angles before it reached the water, passed along the high ground at the end of Key Street to the western angle of the castle. The gates in this wall marked in the plan, are placed one at the upper end of Spilman's Street; another at the upper end of King's Street, and a third at the bottom of St. Mary's Street, where the name is still retained. Besides these, there was another gate at the lower end of a lane that no longer exists, which led from the south end of King's Street, in a westerly direction, to the back of the town. An inner inclosure was formed by a wall which led along this lane, from the northern angle of the castle at the end of King's Street, where there was another gate communicating with the present fish market.

some excellent springs in the neighbourhood. Iron pipes were accordingly laid in various directions, which convey it in large and sufficient quantities to every part of the town.

In the Parliamentary returns for 1801, the population of this place was stated to comprise in all 5548 souls; but in the census for 1811, it is estimated at 7275. The great difference in these statements is not to be ascribed to such a rapid increase of population in the intervening period, but to the unavoidable inaccuracy of the first account. The object of the census not being understood, and an idea having obtained among the common people, that it was to be followed by some kind of poll tax, the persons who were employed to take the numbers were in many instances deceived by false returns. It is impossible, therefore, to say what the actual increase was in this interval, but it could not have been very considerable.\*

There are here no manufactories of consequence. In the vicinity are some iron and tin works, belonging to Messrs. Morris and Company, which are on a tolerably extensive scale, and would in more auspicious times furnish employment for a considerable number of hands. The smelting works belonging to Lord Cawdor, have been superseded by the establishment of others at Llanelly. No other manufactures have been for a long period carried on here, if we except perhaps a small establishment for the fabrication of coarse hats. But notwithstanding its deficiency in this important respect, it must be considered on the whole as a very flourishing place. It supplies the neighbouring country with shop goods of various descriptions, to a very large annual amount, and carries on an extensive export trade in corn, butter, &c. to Bristol, and

\* The following is a summary of the returns for the borough of Caermarthen in 1811;—1189 houses; of which 50 were uninhabited, the others occupied by 1763 families; 10 houses building; inhabitants, 214 families chiefly employed in agriculture; 1489 families chiefly employed in Trade &c. 60 families not included in the preceding classes; comprising 3121 males, and 4154 females; in all 7275 souls.

and other English ports.\* There are few provincial towns in the kingdom of its size, that exhibit, in the classes of merchants and shopkeepers, so large a proportion of respectable and opulent individuals. Vessels of about three hundred tons burden are admitted to the town, and a very handsome and substantial quay has been lately built, for the accommodation of the merchants and ship owners. Other commercial facilities, including a stage waggon weekly to Gloucester, and communicating thence with London and other parts of England, and three mail coaches which arrive every day, two from England and one from Milford; have already been mentioned. The inns are numerous, and some of them very good. The Ivy Bush may be ranked as one of the best in the principality. The house was formerly a gentleman's residence, and stands in one of the most delightful situations in the town.

A very respectable weekly Newspaper, has been published here for some years, which is at present under the able conduct of Mr. Richard Philipps.

Caermarthen is a borough town, and sends one member to Parliament. Several of its privileges are very ancient and of unknown origin. Some, no doubt, it derived from the Welsh princes, while it formed the seat of government for the kingdom of South Wales. At a subsequent period, being constituted the metropolis of the possessions of the English crown in this country, it would be likely, with the confirmation of its ancient immunities, to receive some important additions, resulting from the altered state of public affairs. Its first incorporation is probably to be ascribed to Edward the first. We

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have

\* It were an endless labour to point out all the mistakes which our summer tourists have inserted in their accounts of this country; but it is impossible to suppress a smile at the statement of a very intelligent and pleasing writer, that Caermarthen exports, "prodigious quantities" of stone coal. Warner's Second Walk, p. 356. Little did this gentleman know, that the inhabitants themselves are scantily furnished with this fuel for their own use from a distance of about 10 miles, (Mynydd Mawr) whence the greater part of it is brought in small panniers on horsebacks.

have already seen\* that as early as the reign of Henry the sixth, it had its mayor and sheriffs, who possessed a jurisdiction separate from that of the county, for these officers were employed by Lord Whitney, to arrest Gruffydd ab Nicholas. The first charter that appears to be recorded, was granted by Henry the eighth subsequently to the union, and bears date the 17th of May in the 38th year of his reign. By this instrument it was ordained that the body corporate should consist of the mayor, burgesses, and commonality of the borough; and the burgesses were to elect annually two officers under the name of bailiffs, to assist in the administration. James the first, by a deed dated the 14th June in the second year of his reign, confirmed this charter, and ordained besides that the borough should form a distinct county, under the title of the County of the Borough of Caermarthen, providing, in consequence of this alteration, that instead of bailiffs the burgesses should every year choose two sheriffs.

This charter continued in force, till the fourth year of the present reign. Difficulties having then occurred respecting some of its provisions, attended with disputes and expensive litigations, the inhabitants petitioned for a new charter, and succeeded in obtaining that under which they are now incorporated. This instrument bears date the 27th July, 1764. It provides that the Burgesses shall annually choose out of their number, a competent person to execute the office of Mayor; † and

\* See above, p. 291.

† The charter appoints Albert Davids, Esq. to be the first mayor, and the following gentlemen to be the first Burgesses, in the new corporation;—Sir Thomas Stepney, Bart. George Rice, Howel Gwynne, Richard Vaughan, Robert Bankes Hodgkinson, Gruffydd Phillips, Gwynn Davies, Charles Phillips, James Phillips, Owen Brigstock, John Johnes, David Edwards, Edward Parry, George Bevan, John Lewis, Robert Morgan, Esquires. Capt. William Richard Wilson, Rev. William Powell, D. D. Rev. Thomas Williams, John Rogers, Gruffydd Havard, and John Howells; Messrs. Alexander Scurlock, Thomas Morris, Francis Morgan, John Harris, Charles Williams, William Bonville, George Oakley, George Evans, William Bowen, George James,



and elect twenty others as Common Council men, to assist the chief magistrate in the discharge of his civic duties. The other officers comprise two Sheriffs, who are charged with the same duties, and invested with the same authority, as county Sheriffs: a Recorder, Town Clerk, and Sword Bearer, "who freely and with impunity may bear or carry the sword before the Mayor of the said Borough, for the time being, as in our city of London is used and accustomed,"--and two Serjeants at Mace. The Sheriffs are to be chosen annually with the mayor; the other officers are appointed for life, but are removeable at the pleasure of the corporation. The Mayor and Sheriffs must be residents within the borough, under a penalty of one hundred pounds; but, in case of sickness, or unavoidable absence, the Mayor may appoint one of the Common Council to act as his deputy: a fine of one hundred pounds is also imposed upon persons who decline accepting either of these offices, after being regularly chosen to them. The burgesses are further authorized to elect annually six "Peers," who, during the period of their appointment, are empowered to act as Justices of the Peace within the borough, where the county magistrates have no jurisdiction.

The qualification of a Burgess under this charter, is either seven years servitude to a resident freeman; a life estate within the borough of four pounds annual value, held for three years previously to the application for admission, or of the same amount held at the time of such application, if possessed by inheritance, or marriage. Such inhabitants are also eligible as have for the three years immediately preceding their application, rented lands or houses within the borough to the annual value of ten pounds.

The required qualification for the Mayor, Recorder, and Peers, is a freehold estate of the value of seventy-five pounds per annum; or a leasehold estate of not less than thirty years,  
of

James, John Williams, John Lewis Watkin, John Lewis, John Philips and Gruffydd Evan.

of the annual value of one hundred pounds, or a *bona fide* personal estate of two thousand pounds.

The Mayor and Common Council cannot do any corporate act, unless a majority of their number be present: and in case, upon any disputed question, the number of votes on each side should be equal, the mayor is allowed a second or casting vote. No extraordinary meeting of the Mayor and Common Council can be lawfully held, without a previous notice of seven days; and a notice of three days must be given before every meeting of the Common Hall.

The mayor is by this charter invested with the office of Clerk of the market, and Coroner, within the borough; and holds also the office of King's Admiral on the river Tywi, from Caermarthen bridge to the sea. The burgesses are exempted from serving on any juries, except within the borough, and in the trial of causes which relate to it; and they are freed from the payment of tolls, and local duties of every description, throughout the kingdom.\*

The corporation is allowed to hold a court of View of Frank and Pledge, and a Sessions of the Peace, twice in the year, at which the Town Clerk is authorized to act as Clerk of the Peace, Clerk of Assize and Prothonotary. But all felonies are to be tried before the king's judges at a Great Sessions to be holden twice in the year for the borough.

The charter allows three markets to be holden in every week, viz. on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday: at present that held on Saturday is the only one numerously attended by the farmers. The fairs specified are four in the year, which are held on the 10th of July, the 9th of September, the 10th of October, and the 14th of November.†

The

\* A similar privilege is conferred by other charters, but its legality is more than doubted.

† This charter was entrusted to the Hon. Gwyn Rice, the member for the county, to be delivered to Albert Davids, Esq. who is named in it as the first mayor. The sixth of August 1764, having been fixed upon by Mr. Rice for this purpose, the inhabitants of Caermarthen went out in procession, with

The revenues of the borough are very considerable, arising partly from the tolls of the markets, but principally from the lands held by the corporation. They are chargeable with the yearly payment of 30*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* for ever to the crown.

Caermarthen contains but one parish.

### THE CHURCH,

which is dedicated to St. Peter, stands near the north-eastern extremity of the town. It is a large plain edifice, consisting at present of two aisles, and a chancel, with a lofty square tower at the western end. It was formerly cruciform; but becoming too small for the accommodation of the inhabitants, the south wall was removed with a view to its enlargement, and an additional aisle made on that side. The interior was a few years ago thoroughly repaired and new seated, and exhibits at this time a peculiarly neat appearance, which is greatly improved by a handsome fine toned organ at the western end. The antiquary will find here a few ancient monuments not wholly undeserving his notice. The most remarkable is one of Sir Rhys ab Thomas and his lady, on the north side of the chancel. This is of considerable size, measuring 11 feet 10 inches in length, by 6 feet 3 inches in breadth, and 6 feet in height, and is of the altar form. The top is occupied by two recumbent figures, designed to represent the distinguished personages whom it commemorates. The male figure is clothed in a suit of plate armour, and bears the insignia of knighthood, and of the order of the garter. At the head, resting upon a lion's skin, is placed the shield, emblazoned with a chevron [sable] between three crows proper, the arms borne by Sir

Rhys.

great parade, with bands of music, and colours flying. They were met at the town end of Abergwili bridge by Mr. Rice, who there gave the charter to Mr. Albert Davids. On their return a court was held to swear in the new Mayor, Burgesses, and the other officers of the corporation. About 1500 gentlemen and tradesmen afterwards dined together, off an ox which had been presented by Mr. Rice, and roasted whole; and the evening was spent in great rejoicings.

Rhys. At the feet is a lion couchant. The female figure is attired in the costume of the time, and had once a dove at the feet. There are no traces remaining of the inscription; and the figures, with their ornaments, have suffered greatly from the perishing nature of the stone, and probably from former neglect. The whole is at present fenced round by a railing of wood. Sir Rhys ab Thomas and his lady were buried in the adjacent priory, where this monument was originally erected; but on the dissolution of that house, it was removed to its present situation.

Nearly opposite to this, stands another monument, bearing a most grotesque figure of a female in the act of kneeling, and underneath a singular inscription, of which the following is a fac simile :

Kinde Reader Vnderneath this Tombe doth lye  
 A choice Elixar of Mortalitie  
 By carefull prouidence Greate Wealth did store  
 For her Relations and the Poore  
 In Essex borne But spent her gainfull Dayes  
 In Terracoed to her Etrnall prayse  
 Where by her loanes in spit<sup>A</sup> of Aduerse fates  
 She did preserue Mens persons and Estates,  
 A Greate Exemplar to our Nation  
 Her to imitate in life and Action,  
 Would you then know who was this good Woman  
 Twas virtuous ANNE the Lady VAUGHAN.

SHE DIE.<sup>D</sup> AVGVST THE 15 ANN<sup>O</sup> 1672

BEING AGED 84 YEARES.

Sir Richard Steele was buried in this church in the cemetery of the Scurlocks, with whom he had been connected by marriage. The family monument is on the south side, but Steele's name does not appear on it. Caermarthen has been reproached with Gothic indifference to literary eminence, for not having raised a monument to his memory; but the omission is to be attribut-

ed to his own dying request, and not to any improper neglect on the part of the inhabitants.\*

Caermarthen contains several places of worship belonging to different classes of Dissenters from the established church; among which, the principal are a Presbyterian chapel in Lamas Street, a Baptist meeting house in Priory Street, and a Westleyan chapel on the northern side of the town.

The Presbyterians have here a very respectable collegiate institution for the education of young men for the ministry, supported by a public fund in the metropolis. The visitors are a deputation from the trustees, who hold their examinations every three years. Dr. Abraham Rees, the learned editor of the *New Cyclopædia*, has for a long period been one of the visitors; and has discharged the duties of that office with great impartiality. The establishment consists of two tutors, and twelve divinity students. The situation of classical tutor is at present vacant, but the divinity chair is filled by the Rev. David Peter, the minister of the Presbyterian chapel, who has the general superintendence of the institution. Candidates, before their admission, are required to be well grounded in the Latin and Greek languages. The course of study extends to four years, and includes critical lectures on the Greek and Hebrew Scriptures, Metaphysics, Divinity and Ecclesiastical History, Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, and other subjects usually comprehended in a collegiate education. Among the deceased tutors of this institution may be found the names of some gentlemen of extensive literary acquirements, three of whom are remembered in this town with great respect,—the Rev. Samuel Thomas, Dr. Jenkins, and the Rev. Robert Gentleman.

At one period, young men were educated at this college, on a separate foundation, for the ministry in the established church; and some most respectable individuals among the present clergy of the diocese, might be named in the number.

A part

\* Donovan's Excursions, Vol. II. p. 179.

A part of the library, which contains a good collection of books, was given to it at that time by the Rev. Mr. Jones, a clergyman of the church of England, who was a native of the principality, but resided in Hertfordshire.

There is a grammar school connected with this institution, which is not, however, endowed, but is the private concern of Mr. Peter.

Young men who do not find it convenient to go to the universities, are educated for the ministry in the established church at an excellent grammar school in this town, originally endowed by Dr. Owen, bishop of St. David's. This is one of the schools licensed for this purpose in South Wales. It was for many years under the able direction of the present vicar of St. Peter's, who, with a praise-worthy attention to the destination of his pupils, introduced the study of Hebrew, and published himself, for their assistance, a compendious grammar and Lexicon of that language, which are highly creditable to his learning and taste. This seminary is at present under the care of the Rev. Mr. Price, and maintains its respectability.

Among the old religious establishments of this place, we may first notice

#### THE PRIORY,

situated at some distance to the north eastward of the church, in a part which formerly constituted a township of itself, under the denomination of Old Caermarthen.\* According to the ichnography which accompanies Speed's map, the house stood in a large quadrangular court, which was entered on the north by an arched gateway from the street, now called Priory Street; part of this gateway still remains, and also a portion of one of the wings of the building.

Neither the date nor the founder of this establishment is known,

\* This township, which had pertained to the Priory, was united to *New* Caermarthen by the charter of the fourth of the present king.

known, but it existed before the year 1148, as bishop Bernard, who was a benefactor to it, died about that time. It was dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, and founded for six black canons. At the Dissolution its endowments were valued at 174*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* or 164*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* clear, and were granted 35 Hen. VIII. to Richard Andrews and Nicolas Temple.\* The last prior was Gruffydd William.

At the other end of the town, on the south side of Lammas Street, stood a house of GREY FRIARS, which was founded as a cell to the monastery of St. Augustin at Bristol. In Speed's Valuation its endowments are estimated at 174*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* per annum; but he probably meant this sum for the Priory revenues, which he does not name: it is accordingly referred to that establishment by Bishop Tanner in his Notitia. This house was granted 34 Henry VIII. to Thomas Lloyd, and 5 Edward VI. to Sir Thomas Gresham.†

In the centre of the town, behind the Guild Hall, there stood at one time a church or chapel, dedicated to ST. MARY; of which, some vestiges may yet be traced in the houses that have been erected on its site. It has not been used for religious purposes, since the dissolution of the monasteries.‡

### THE CASTLE

forms the only remaining ancient structure to be noticed in this account. The portions of the building at this time undemolished are very inconsiderable, and convey but an inadequate idea of the ancient magnificence and strength of the edifice. The situation is in every respect excellent,—on the brow of a lofty hill rising abruptly from the river, and capable of being, without much difficulty, rendered impregnable on every side. At the time of Speed's Survey it appears to have been

\* Tanner's Notitia Monast. p. 702.

† Idem. p. 703.

‡ The Rev. Mr. Barker's communication to Mr. Carlisle's Topograph. Dict. of Wales. Art. Caermarthen.

been in a very perfect state. His ichnography represents the ground plan as nearly square, extending in one direction from the brow of the hill overlooking the bridge to the front of the present gaol, and in the other, from the back of the houses at the Market Cross, to the road leading from the river towards Spilman's Street. This area was inclosed on three sides, the south-west, south-east, and north-east, by lofty walls, fortified in the middle by semicircular bastions, and defended at the southern angle by a strong square tower, and at the western and eastern angles, by round towers of similar strength. The north western front, which faced the present fish market, contained the grand entrance, which was protected by an advanced gateway. The citadel and all the principal buildings were in the northern angle.

During the civil wars in the reign of Charles the first, this fortress was taken by the Parliament forces under general Langhorne. It was probably dismantled shortly afterwards, and allowed to go into decay and ruin. A part of the citadel was, however, for some time used for the purpose of a common gaol, until it was superseded about twenty years ago by the present edifice.

This castle, as we have already seen, is frequently mentioned in the Welsh annals; but nothing appears to be known as to the period of its first erection. In the contests between the Welsh chieftains, while struggling among themselves for the government of the district, and in the wars with the English sovereigns and the Anglo-Norman invaders, it frequently changed proprietors, and suffered greatly from the sieges it sustained. It is impossible to say, therefore, how far the plan given by Speed may have corresponded with the original construction of the place. The nature of the ground would, however, lead us to suppose that its form and extent must always have been nearly the same.

Having briefly glanced at these comparatively modern objects of curiosity, it is time to ascend to the more ancient state  
and



and reputation of Caermarthen. Antiquaries are now agreed in fixing here the Roman city of Maridunum, or Muridunum. From the junction at this point of the two grand branches of the Julian way, which communicated with England, and the other roads leading to the Roman establishments in Pembroke-shire and Cardiganshire, there can be little doubt but that a camp was formed here, as early as the time of Julius Frontinus, about A. D. 70, which soon became the most important station in South Wales. The site of the original, or great camp, an intimate local knowledge of the ground will leave us no hesitation in fixing on the spot occupied, at a subsequent period, by the castle and its out works. The situation is such as all analogy would lead us to conclude a Roman general would choose for such a purpose, and the form, still marked by the vestiges of earth and stone works, affords almost irrefragable evidence in confirmation of this supposition.\* It may be observed farther, that remains of a causeway have of late years been frequently met with, running in a line from the priory towards the castle, which was probably the direction in which the Via Julia Montana entered.

There are still visible, in a field on the northern side of the town, called the Bulrack, (Bulwark) the remains of a Roman camp, of which the Prætorium, or general's station, is plainly to be distinguished by the superior elevation of the ground. Traces of a causeway leading to this camp, in a direction nearly parallel with the Priory Street, have likewise been discovered. The situation of this encampment clearly points it out to have been a Campus Æstivus, occupied by the

2 A

military

\* May not the Roman city which subsequently arose here, have spread over the high ground now occupied by Spilman's Street and King's Street, with the intervening houses, and have been circumscribed in part by the line on which the town wall was afterwards built? The boundaries might have corresponded on the two sides facing the south east and north east, but the ancient inclosure would probably run along the northern side of King's Street, instead of extending to the low ground behind it.

military during the summer months, when they had no immediate apprehension of an enemy.

Several other vestiges of the Roman occupation of this place have of late years been brought to light. The Rev. W. H. Barker, the present very respectable and learned vicar of St. Peter's, has in his possession two Roman altars, in a very perfect state. One has a depressed patella for the oblation, on the upper surface; the other is a cube measuring 18 inches each way, having the following inscription on one of the sides.

BONO

RP

NATO

Some coins of the lower empire have also occasionally been met with.

Giraldus states, that Roman bricks were observable in the walls of the town in his time. There is no account of the discovery of any at a later period; it may therefore probably be conjectured, that he was misled by the reddish hue of the stones, with which they were constructed.

Caermarthen has acquired no small degree of note in literary history, from being the reputed birth-place of the celebrated magician and prophet

#### MERLIN.

So much of fable has been transmitted to us in connection with the name of this distinguished personage, that it has now become impossible to determine what portion of the facts related of him, which do not imply supernatural agency, are to be considered as matter of real history. Nennius, the earliest writer who mentions him, calls him Ambrosius, and states that the account he gave of himself, when brought before Vortigern, was, that his mother was a nun, and his father a Roman officer, by whom she had been seduced. The British writers call

call him "Merddin, Bardd Emrys Wledig," and sometimes more briefly "Merddin Emrys." This designation Mr. Owen\* adopts, styling him "the bard of Ambrosius." Humphrey Llwyd,† and other writers, state that he acquired the name of Merddin from the place of his birth. He flourished about the middle of the fifth century, and is ranked with Merddin Wylt,‡ (or Merlin the wild) and Taliesin, as one of the three principal Christian bards of Britain. His poetical celebrity probably gained for him the reputation of prophetic inspiration; while his fame as a magician, may reasonably be attributed to his attainments in mathematical knowledge, and the superiority of his learning in a dark and ignorant age. The construction of that stupendous remain of antiquity, Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain, sometimes called the work of Emrys, has been ascribed to him, but certainly upon very insufficient authority.

As the name of Merlin is so intimately connected with this town and neighbourhood, and indeed with British history generally,

2 A 2

generally,

\* Camb. Biog. Verb. Merddin.

† Breviarie of Britayne, fol. 79.

‡ This Merddin was the son of Morvryn, and was born at Caerwerthevin, near the forest of Celyddon or Dunkell in Scotland. He was greatly celebrated as a poet, and flourished from about A. D. 530 to 560. He is said to have been present at the battle of Camlan, A. D. 542, in the train of Arthur, and to have slain in the engagement his own nephew, the son of his sister Gwenddydd. This accident so deeply affected him that he became subject to periodical madness, which drove him into the woods, and obtained for him the name of Merddin Wylt, or Merlin the Wild. During his lucid intervals he wrote several poetical pieces, some of which are yet extant, and inserted in the Myvyrian Archaeology, (Vol. I. p. 132, et seq.) One of the longest has been given by Mr. Edward Jones, with an English literal version, in his Relicks of the Welsh Bards, (Vol. I. p. 24). A curious life of him was written in verse by Geoffrey of Monmouth, which is epitomised in the Introduction to Ellis's Specimens of Metrical Romances, Vol. I. p. 76. This author, however, with some others, confounds this Merlin with his illustrious predecessor. See also Owen's Camb. Biog. Art. Merddin. and Jones's Relicks of the Bards, Vol. I. p. 23.

nerally, our readers may not be displeas'd with a brief sketch of his memoirs, as they are set forth in some of our early romances.

Vortigern having usurped the British throne, and being harass'd by some of the disaffected chieftains, from whose influence and power he had reason to apprehend danger, resolv'd to erect for his security a fortress of great and impregnable strength. He chose for this purpose an eligible situation on *Salisbury Plain*, where he assembled fifteen thousand masons and carpenters, who were to expedite the work as much as possible. The site was marked out, deep trenches were dug for the foundation, and the walls, which were of prodigious thickness, rais'd considerably above the ground on the first day. When, on the following morning, the workmen return'd to their labour, they found, to their astonishment, that the walls were so entirely demolish'd, that their situation could be trac'd only by the scatter'd fragments, and by the unused materials. This day was devoted with great assiduity to repair the damage of the preceding night. The morning, however, renew'd their disappointment and vexation, by exhibiting the second destruction of their work. The undertaking being in a similar manner repeatedly interrupted, Vortigern was induc'd to submit the affair to the consideration of his astrologers; who, after due deliberation, report'd, that the work would never stand until it should be sprinkled with the blood of a boy then living, who had been born without the intervention of a human father. Upon this information, Vortigern instantly dispatch'd messengers in all directions to search for this extraordinary and important personage.

At the time of these transactions, there liv'd in *England* a rich man, who was happy in the possession of an affectionate wife, a dutiful son, and three chaste and amiable daughters. A certain dæmon, who was ever on the alert to molest mankind, view'd his felicity, it seems, with a malignant eye, and determin'd to exert himself to destroy it; and the sequel will show,

show, that he was but too successful in planning his measures. Within a very short interval he compassed the death of the father, mother, and son. These calamitous events following each other so rapidly excited the attention of a holy hermit in the neighbourhood, of the name of Blaise, who, shrewdly suspecting their diabolical cause, determined to take the three orphan and defenceless sisters under his sacred charge. The devil did not, however, feel disconcerted by this circumstance. The story informs us, that there existed at this time a law, which ordained that every unmarried woman who became pregnant should be buried alive, or be obliged to submit to indiscriminate prostitution ; and of this ordinance the fiend resolved to avail himself for the accomplishment of his design. He soon found means, by the assistance of her nurse, to seduce the eldest sister, who in consequence became the victim of the law. The second sister also fell, but saved her life by submitting to the disgraceful alternative that remained to her. The hermit finding himself foiled in these two instances, became seriously alarmed for the safety of his remaining charge. He carefully instructed her as to her deportment, directing her to close her door and windows, to say her prayers, and cross herself every night before she went to sleep. Unfortunately, however, his fair ward suffered herself, one inauspicious day, to be enticed to a public alehouse. On her return, a little overcome by the liquor of which she had too freely partaken, she was assaulted by her abandoned sister, and some other females of kindred character, and thrown into such agitation, that when she reached her apartment, she sank to sleep without observing one of the precautions of her anxious protector. Her arch enemy, whose vigilance was unremitting, quickly availed himself of her neglect, and accomplished his purpose.

In the morning the damsel repaired to the hermit, and revealed to him the whole extent of her misfortune and danger. The pious man, deeming it vain to waste his time in lamentations over her frailty, began now to consider how he might

save her from the fatal consequences of her indiscretion. When her pregnancy was publicly noticed, and the officer was about to pass the fatal sentence, from which all her protestations of innocence could not save her, Blaise interfered, and by intimating that some mystery might be concealed in the affair, which time might bring to light, obtained a respite of two years. It was ordered that during this interval the fair culprit should be confined in a high tower, with no other companion besides a midwife; and that she should be furnished with provisions by means of a long rope and a basket.

Blaise having calculated with great exactness the time of her delivery, waited the event at the foot of the tower. As soon as the child was born, he ordered it to be lowered down to him in the basket: which being done accordingly, he instantly conveyed it to the font and baptized it by the name of Merlin; and by this act secured it from the future evil influence of its diabolical progenitor. The appearance of the infant, whose satanic parentage was indicated by a thick covering of black hair, greatly shocked the midwife, who could not refrain from audible reproaches both of himself and his father for exposing the mother to so cruel a fate. Scarcely, however, had she concluded her exclamation, when Merlin addressed her in reply, in no very polite terms; but he made amends for his want of courtesy by assuring her of the safety of his mother. It may naturally be supposed that his auditor's surprise at a speech from so young and singular a personage, was hardly exceeded by the satisfaction the information it communicated was calculated to afford.

When the two years had expired, the lady was summoned to appear in court, with her infant son. As soon as sentence had been pronounced, Merlin, to the no small astonishment of the company, stood up in his mother's defence, alledging, in extenuation of her crime, that she had been overcome by a seducer whom she was unable to resist. He proceeded to state that "he was the son of a devil of great power, though fortunately

tunately rescued by an expeditious baptism from the vicious dispositions of his paternal relations; that he could prove his præternatural descent by revealing all things past, present, or future." Accordingly, he goes on to demonstrate his prophetic gifts, by shewing the incensed justice, on irrefragable evidence, that he had not much more to boast than himself on the score of legitimacy. Merlin's mother was now discharged, and at her son's request immediately took the veil.\*

While Merlin, shortly after this, was playing with some other children in the street; one of his little associates having quarrelled with him, made the following very ill-natured speech:—

Thou black shrew ! thou go us fro !  
 Thou art a foul thing gotten amiss !  
 No man wot who thy father is !  
 But some devil thee begot, I ween,  
 To don us both treyghe † and tene. ‡

2 A 4

Vortigern's

\* According to other accounts, Merlin's mother was the daughter of the king of Demetia. She had taken the veil at a convent in Caermarthen, where she suffered herself to be seduced by an incubus or evil spirit, who appeared to her under the form of a very beautiful young man, and became the father of our prophet. Vortigern, finding himself hard pressed in England, retreated into North Wales, where he purposed intrenching himself in an impregnable fortress, the site of which is supposed to have been Dinas Emrys. At this time he sent to seek for Merlin, whose præternatural origin had been intimated by his magicians. The sequel is much the same as related in the Romance. He was afterwards sent to Ireland to bring over the great Stones, called the Giant's dance, which then stood on the hill of Kildare, but had been originally brought from Africa. These he erected on Salisbury Plain, in commemoration of the British chiefs, who had been treacherously slaughtered there by Hengist. Nennius, in Gale's *Scriptores Angl.* Vol. I. p. 109. Geoffrey of Monmouth, Tanner's *Bib. Brit.* sub. verb. Merlin. Selden's notes to Drayton's *Polyolbion*, Song 5. *Prophetia Anglicana*, Merlini, &c. Francofurtæ, 1605. "Life of Merlin surnamed Ambrosius, his prophecies and Predictions," &c. 1641, reprinted 1813.

† Treason.

‡ Mischief

Vortigern's messengers passing at this time, and overhearing this extraordinary address, advanced with great joy, congratulating themselves that they had at last found the object of their almost hopeless search. As they were proceeding to seize him, Merlin approached them smiling, briefly told them the object of their mission, and charged Vortigern's wise men with being a parcel of blockheads, who knew not what they said, as all the blood in his veins could contribute nothing to the stability of the walls of the castle.

After some farther parley, the young wizard was conveyed to court, where he was received with great demonstrations of respect. Vortigern, on the following morning, led him to the site of his projected fortress, and questioned him as to the cause of this extraordinary failure. Merlin replied, that the circumstances, with being perverse, were certainly very wonderful: he then related "that immediately below the soil, were two deep pools of water; below the water two huge stones, and below the stones two enormous serpents, the one white as snow, the other red as fire; that they slept during the day, but regularly quarrelled every night, and by their efforts to destroy each other, occasioned an earthquake which was fatal to his intended edifice." To ascertain the truth of this statement, Vortigern commanded his fifteen thousand artificers to excavate the ground, when every thing was found to correspond to Merlin's description. The serpents, soon after they were exposed to view, began a most tremendous encounter, which drove all the spectators from the spot, except the young wizard, who kept urging the combat by clapping his hands and shouting aloud. In the end the red serpent was vanquished and destroyed; and the white immediately after disappeared.

Merlin having given this proof of his præternatural knowledge, became the principal adviser of Vortigern; and the castle was, under his directions, finished without farther obstruction. The battle of the serpents had excited the speculations



tions of the courtiers, and Merlin was strongly importuned to state whether some mystery were not indicated by it? As he foresaw the consequences likely to result from an explanation, he stipulated to have hostages for his personal safety before he would make any reply. The conditions being granted, he informed Vortigern, that the red vanquished serpent represented himself, who had ascended the throne by the murder of his predecessor; and that the white serpent, which had two heads, was emblematical of Ambrosius and Uther, the brothers of the late monarch, who would shortly return from their exile, and recover their lawful inheritance.

This speech, we may suppose, was not very agreeable to Vortigern: Merlin, therefore, thought it best to consult his safety by an immediate flight. On withdrawing from court he retired to the hermitage of his old protector Blaise, where he amused himself by narrating his adventures, and composing his book of prophecies. Shortly after his departure, Vortigern, as he had predicted, was assailed by the young princes, who had landed a powerful force from Britany. The usurper being deserted by his troops, retired to his new castle on *Salisbury plain*, which was shortly after set on fire by the besieging army, and himself and his family were consumed in the flames.

Merlin now joined the new sovereign, Uther Pendragon, whom he first of all assisted in defeating the troops of Hengist, the ally of Vortigern, who still kept the field; after which he aided him by his counsel in other important affairs, and secured him an easy victory over all his adversaries. Uther, moreover, "instituted the Round Table under Merlin's special guidance, intended to assemble the best knights in the world: high birth, great strength, activity and skill, fearless valour, and firm fidelity to their suzerain, were indispensably requisite for an admission into this order. They were bound by oath to assist each other at the hazard of their own lives; to attempt singly the most perilous adventures; to lead, when necessary, a life of monastic solitude; to fly to arms at the first summons;

and never to retire from battle till they had defeated the enemy, unless when night intervened, and separated the combatants."

Merlin having thus contributed to Uther's success, condescended to apply his magical power to a less worthy purpose. Uther had proclaimed a grand national festival to celebrate his victories, which was attended by the chief nobility of his kingdom. Among others there were present Gorlois duke of Cornwall, and his beautiful wife Igera. Uther became passionately enamoured of his fair guest, and did not rest, all other expedients failing, until Merlin had enabled him to gratify his passion by transforming him into the likeness of her husband. Igera became by this stratagem the mother of Arthur, the celebrated king of the Britons. Gorlois dying shortly after this act of treachery, Uther married the widow, whom he never undeceived.

On the death of Uther, Merlin, as in duty bound, supported the pretensions of the young Arthur to his father's throne. The undertaking proved, however, no easy labour: for the mystery in which his birth was involved to all but Merlin, occasioned a formidable opposition to his claims, on the part of some of the chieftains of the country. In the wars which ensued Arthur was assisted both by the counsel of Merlin, and by his personal services in the field; and was on several occasions indebted to his magical powers for the success of his arms. While engaged in a military capacity, Merlin carried to the field a standard, which, while it spread terror among his adversaries' ranks, was viewed with no small measure of surprise by his friends:

" Opon the top stode a dragoun,  
Swithe griselich\* with a little croun;  
Fast him beheld alle in the toun!  
For the mouthe he hadde grinninge,

And

\* Grisly.

And the tonge out-platting ;\*  
 That out kest sparkes of fer,†  
 Into the skies thot flown cler.  
 This dragoun hadde a longe taile,  
 That was wither-hooked‡ sans faile.”

The Romance details with great minuteness the subsequent exploits of our magician, which are too numerous to be transcribed. Our readers must be satisfied with learning, that they were of essential benefit to Arthur, and were the chief means of maintaining him in the sovereign authority. The concluding part of this curious document§ is lost; we are, therefore, obliged to have recourse to other sources for an account of the latter days, and final disappearance of Merlin. In an old prose Romance by Malory, intituled, *Morte Arthur, or the Life and Death of King Arthur*;|| it is stated, that he had become enamoured, in the court of Uther, of a fair fay, called the Lady of the Lake, who, though she kept upon good terms with him, turned a deaf ear to his suit; being, it seems, rather fearful of him on account of his diabolical parentage. His attentions becoming at length extremely tiresome to her, she determined to embrace the first favourable opportunity, to rid herself of his importunities, and the following soon offered. As they were travelling together, Merlin shewed her a rock which he stated to contain a great wonder, wrought by magic. The lady, without any apparent evil intentions, prevailed upon him to enter, and then instantly intombed him alive, by closing the rock by enchantment.¶

But

\* Lolling out. † Fire. ‡ Wickedly hooked—barbed.

§ The whole of the foregoing particulars, are abridged from the spirited and comprehensive abstract of the old Metrical Romance of Merlin, given by Mr. George Ellis, in his very entertaining work, intituled “*Specimens of Early English Metrical Romances.*” Vol. I. p. 205, et seq.

|| Printed by Caxton, 1485.

¶ The same story is related by other writers, with some trifling variation in the circumstances, and is alluded to in the passage already quoted from Spencer,

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But the British writers state, that he constructed a curious house of glass, in which he went to sea accompanied by the nine cylveirdd bards. As the voyagers were never heard of more, their departure was classed with those of Gavran and Madoc, under the designation of the three disappearances from the isle of Britain.\*

Dr. LEWIS BAYLY, Bishop of Bangor, in the reign of James the first, may be named among the eminent natives of Caermarthen in a later age. He was educated at Oxford, but at what college is not known; it being only stated, that he was admitted a member of Exeter college in 1611, to be reader of the sentences. He was at this time minister of Evesham in Worcestershire, chaplain to Prince Henry, and rector of St. Matthew's, Friday Street, London. In 1613 he took both degrees in divinity, and being distinguished as a preacher, was appointed one of the chaplains to James the first, who gave him the see of Bangor on the death of Dr. H. Rowland, in 1616. On the 15th July 1621, he was committed to the Fleet prison, for some unspecified offence, whence, however, he was soon liberated. He died early in the year 1632, and was buried in the cathedral church of Bangor. He is principally known as the author of a work of great popularity, intituled "The Practice of Piety, directing a Christian how to walk that he may please God." It has passed through an almost unprecedented number of editions, and has been translated into the  
French

The scene is here laid in Cornwall, Ariosto places it in France, but Drayton refers it to his cave in Merlin's Grove :—

—Walking with his fay, her to the rock he brought  
In which he oft before, his necromancies wrought;  
And going in thereat his magic to have shown,  
She stopt the cavern's mouth with an enchanted stone;  
Whose cunning strongly crost, amaz'd while he did stand,  
She captive him convey'd into the fairy land.

Polyolbion, Song 4.

\* Camb. Biog. Art. Merddin.

French and Welsh languages. Wood states, that this publication comprises the substance of several sermons preached by Dr. Bayly, while he was minister of Evesham, but Lewis du Moulin, a French writer, in his *Patronus Bonæ Fidei*, asserts that it was composed by a Puritan minister, of whose widow Dr. Bayly purchased the manuscript, which he afterwards published as his own. There is every reason to believe, however, that this charge is a mere ill-natured calumny, for which there is not the shadow of evidence. Dr. Bayly left four sons. John Bayly, the second, was born at Hereford in 1595, and admitted a student at Exeter college in 1611. After taking his second degree in arts, he received orders from his father, who gave him some church preferment. He was afterwards appointed one of the king's chaplains, and guardian of Christ Hospital at Ruthen, Denbighshire. On this occasion he took the degree of Doctor in Divinity. He was the author of the *Angel Guardian*, a collection of sermons, published in 1630.

Thomas Bayly, the youngest son, was educated at Cambridge, and having taken his first degree in Arts, was presented by Charles the first A. D. 1638, to the sub-deanery of Wells. In 1644, he retired with other ministers to Oxford, where he took his degree of Doctor in Divinity. Two years afterwards he was with the Marquis of Worcester in Ragland castle, and is supposed to have drawn up the articles under which the place surrendered to the Parliament forces. Dr. Bayly after this travelled abroad, but returned on the king's death, and published a work intituled "Certamen Religiosum, or a Conference between King Charles I. and Henry late Marquis of Worcester, concerning Religion, in Ragland Castle, 1646." This conference was, however, thought to have had no real foundation. Dr. Bayly was the author of several other pieces. His literary life is chiefly remarkable for his conversion to the Roman Catholic religion, which he maintained in  
several

several of his works. In the latter part of his life he went to Italy, where he is said to have died in great penury.\*

Sir Richard Steele passed a few of the latter years of his life at Caermarthen. His retirement was occasioned by his pecuniary difficulties, and his wish to diminish his expenses in order to be able to satisfy the claims of his creditors. He appears to have removed here from Hereford in the summer of 1724; he died at his own house, situated in King's Street, † on the first of September 1729, and was buried in St. Peter's church on the fourth of the same month.

It has been frequently stated, that his play of the "Conscious Lovers," was written during his residence here. But this popular drama was brought out at Drury Lane Theatre, in November 1722, soon after the author had been restored to his situation of governor of the company of that house, and when the duties of his office obliged him to reside in the metropolis. He began, however, another comedy after he had retired into Wales, which he called "The School of Action." The unfinished fragment, as it remained at his death, has been published by Mr. Nichols in the first volume of Steele's Epistolary Correspondence.

In the year 1727, Steele was attacked by a paralytic disorder, which affected his mental faculties, and disabled him for all literary labour. It is stated of him that, in this unhappy condition, "he retained his cheerful sweetness of temper to the last; and would often be carried out in a summer's evening, where the country lads and lasses were assembled at their rural sports, and with his pencil give an order on his agent, the mercer, for a new gown to the best dancer. ‡

He became connected with this county by marrying, for his second wife, Mary, the daughter of Jonathan Scurlock,  
Esq.

\* Biographia Britannica.

† This house was afterwards the Ivy Bush Inn, which was removed thence to Spilman's Street.

‡ Steele's Epistolary Correspondence, Vol. II. p. 650, note.

Esq. of Ty Gwyn,\* in the parish of Llangynyr. "It does not appear that Steele's marriage with Miss Scurlock added much to his happiness. She loved money, and had the usual companion of that vice, a coldness of affection, as a woman and a wife. Yet his attachment to her, appears to have been ardent and uniform; in 'The Theatre,' No. 12, he laments the loss of her, as the best woman that ever man had; and adds, that she frequently lamented and pined at his neglect of himself."

"Their correspondence throws considerable light on her character; if she is to be blamed for a narrow, teasing, and suspicious temper, it is no less evident that her temper was occasionally soured, by the distresses in which her husband's imprudence involved him; and she may be excused if the prospect of want rendered her parsimonious, and unfriendly to the schemes and projects by which he had often deceived himself as well as her."†

By

\* Ty Gwyn (the White House) lies on the eastern bank of the Tywi, nearly opposite to Caermarthen. It is now occupied by a respectable farmer.

† Mr. Alexander Chalmers's *Memoir of Steele*, prefixed to his edition of the *British Essayists*, Vol. I. p. xlix. In connection with the character here given of Mrs. Steele, we cannot forbear transcribing an anecdote which reflects great credit both on her husband and herself. "Soon after Steele's marriage with Miss Scurlock, he desired, if she was not engaged, she would accompany him on a visit he intended making in the afternoon. The carriage was ordered; and, without acquainting his wife to whom the visit was designed, they drove to a boarding school in the environs of London, where they alighted; and presently a young lady made her appearance, to whom Steele shewed the greatest fondness, insomuch that his wife asked him, if the child was his? On his acknowledging that she was; then, said the lady, I beg she may be mine too. She was accordingly taken home, and treated as their own; but by order of the mistress of the family, she was called Miss Ousley." Steele's *Epistolary Correspondence*, Vol. II. p. 672, note. This child was a natural daughter of Steele's by a relation of Tonson, the bookseller. She married a Mr. Aynston, a respectable man of some property, who resided near Hereford, and was concerned in a glove manufactory there.

The

By this marriage Steele had three children, Elizabeth, born March 26, 1700; and two sons, Richard born May 25, 1710, and Eugene born March 4, 1712, who both died young. Elizabeth was married in May 1732, to the Hon. John Trevor, one of the Welsh Judges, who was afterwards created Baron Trevor of Bromham. She had issue one daughter who was named Diana, remarkable for her personal beauty, but unhappily an idiot.

There are several roads, branching in different directions from Caermarthen, which will require notice before we proceed along the main route towards Pembrokeshire. The first we shall pursue is that which leads to Swansea, through Llanddarog, which turns short to the left after crossing Caermarthen bridge. On the left of this road, about half a mile from the town, stands the church of

#### LLANGYNYR,

chiefly remarkable on account of its situation, on the summit of a hill which commands one of the finest prospects in South Wales. The principal view from this spot is of the vale of Tywi, looking up the river. The whole of the valley lies open to the eye of the spectator, with all its interesting objects, while the prospect is bounded by a bold amphitheatre of hills, whose towering summits gradually disappear in the clouds.

The only gentlemen's seats on this road are *Coedgain*, at the distance of four miles from Caermarthen, the property of Mansell Philipps, Esq. but at present occupied by a farmer. *Llwyd-coed* near the village of Llanon, the residence of Mrs. Thomas

The match was, however, very unsuitable to the young lady, who had received the best education, and was highly accomplished. A very friendly intercourse was long continued between herself and her only child, and Steele's daughter by Miss Scurlock, afterwards Lady Trevor. Idem.



Thomas, and *Forest Hall*, by Pont ar ddulais, the seat of Mrs. Davies, but not tenanted since the decease of her late husband, Arthur Davies, Esq. At the distance of about seven miles from Caermarthen, from the high ground near the village of Llanddarog, *Middleton Hall* is seen on the left.

Another road to Swansea runs to the right of this, through the parish of Llangydeirn, and joins it near Llanon, but it presents few objects of topographical interest. A third road, which lies still farther to the southward, will, however, detain us for a short time, as it will conduct us, at the distance of nine miles from Caermarthen, to

### KIDWELLY,

or Cydweli, a place of some antiquity and note. The town stands on both sides of the lesser Gwendraeth, which is here crossed by a handsome stone bridge. It is divided into two townships, distinguished by the appellations New and Old: the former stands on the eastern bank of the river, and the latter, on the western. Old Kidwelly was at one time surrounded by a wall, which had three gates, over one of which, in Leland's time, were the ruins of a Town Hall, with a prison underneath. Part of one of the gates is yet standing. This township has, however, decayed, in consequence of the situation of the new town being found more convenient.

This place had formerly to boast of a flourishing trade, but the navigation of the river having been obstructed by a sand bank, its commerce has for many years been inconsiderable. It is now, however, likely to recover some of its ancient importance. Able engineers are employed upon a scheme for the improvement of the port, with every prospect of success. The neighbourhood is rich in coals and iron ore, and some iron and tin manufactories have been long carried on here.

Kidwelly was incorporated in the reign of Henry the sixth, and is governed by a Mayor, twelve Aldermen, twelve Com-

mon Council men, a Clerk of the Peace, Town Clerk, two Bailiffs, two Serjeants at Mace, and four Constables. The Mayor, while in office, is a Justice of the Peace and Justice of the Quorum, and holds a court once a fortnight. "The Balives of the same Towne, are all the yere of their Balliwicks, within the same towne Justices of the Peace, and do receive the town rents, and all ameracements appertyninge to the same libertie. All felons, goods, and escheats whatsoever do belonge to the Maior, Balives, and Burgesses. The Balives of the same towne, by force of their charter, have and maie take custome for any commoditie or marchandize commynge from any partes beyonde the seas to the same towne, and for custom of any wares outwardes, and also have by force of their charter, a seale, with authoritie to make warrants under their seale. No Baker, Brewer, or other artificer whatsoever, can dwell, or occupie any of their saide trades, within the towne or commotts, without special licence of the Maior and Balives. Within their charter is speciallie set downe, that no manner of person or persons whatsoever shall be Maior or Balives within the saide towne, unlesse he be a meare English man."\*

By the charter the markets are to be held on Tuesday and Friday in every week; and the fairs are appointed for the 24th of May, the first of August, and the 29th of October.

According to the Parliamentary returns, the population of this place, including the suburbs, in 1801 amounted to 1388, and in 1811 to 1441 souls.

The parish church stands in New Kidwelly: it is a plain structure containing only one aisle, and two ruined transepts, with a tower at the western end, surmounted by a handsome spire 165 feet in height. Over the entrance is a figure of the Virgin Mary, to whom the church is dedicated; the only ancient remain in the interior is a sepulchral effigy of a priest, with

\* State of the Town of Kidwillie in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, &c. Harl. MSS. 5204. Also Leland's Collect. (8vo. 1770.) Vol. II. p. 679.

with an illegible inscription. On the same side of the river once stood a Priory, founded about the year 1130 by Roger bishop of Salisbury, for Benedictine monks, subject to the abbey of Sherborne in Dorsetshire. At the Dissolution its endowments were valued at 38*l.* yielding a clear annual revenue of 29*l.* 10*s.*\*

But the chief object of attraction at Kidwelly is the CASTLE, which occupies a bold rocky eminence, on the western side of Gwendraeth fychan. The external appearance of this edifice is grand and imposing, and the remains are in a more perfect state, than those of any similar structure in the principality. The ground plan is nearly square. At each of the angles is a strong round tower, and the walls which form the inclosure are farther defended by other towers of smaller dimensions. Several of the apartments are entire, with their arched roofs unimpaired; and some of the staircases are yet in a tolerable condition. The principal entrance was from the west, where a magnificent gateway, between two lofty round towers, is still standing in good preservation.

The early history of this fortress is involved in some uncertainty. According to one copy of the Chronicle of Caradoc, the first castle erected here was built by William de Londres, one of the Norman knights who assisted Robert Fitzhammon, in the conquest of Glamorgan, and who in the year 1094, led a powerful force into Gower, Kidwelly and Ystrad Tywi, and established himself in this place.† Twenty years afterwards, (A. D. 1114) this castle was taken by Gruffydd ab Rhys, who invaded the territories of the Norman lord, and enriched himself with a valuable booty.‡ He does not, however, appear to have retained possession of the place, for we are informed, that a few years subsequently, while he was absent in North Wales soliciting assistance, his wife Gwenlluan, attended by

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her

\* Tanner's Notitia Monast. p. 701.

† Brut y Tywysogion, Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 588.

‡ Idem, p. 546.

her two sons, led in person a body of troops into this neighbourhood, where she was defeated and taken prisoner by Maurice de Londres, the great grandson of William de Londres, named above, who then possessed this lordship. After the engagement this heroine, with several of her followers, was put to death.\* But it is stated, that in the year 1190, Rhys ab Gruffydd, after winning the castles of Abercorran, (Laugharne) St. Clear's, and Llanstuffan, made the castle of Kidwelly handsomer and stronger than any of his other fortresses.† What alterations or improvements it afterwards received, if any were made to it, are not recorded.

The grand-daughter of Maurice de Londres, to whom this property devolved, married Henry Earl of Lancaster, and thus conveyed all the Welsh possessions of the family to that house. Kidwelly has remained ever since under the jurisdiction of the Duchy of Lancaster. It was given by Henry the seventh to Sir Rhys ab Thomas : on the attainder of his grandson Rhys ab Gruffydd, it came into the possession of the Golden Grove family, and on the death of the late John Vaughan, Esq. became the property of his devisee Lord Cawdor.

Six miles beyond Kidwelly, stands the town of

### LLANELLY,

situated on the Bury Creek, the æstuary of the Lloughor river. It is of small extent, and very irregularly built, but contains a considerable population in proportion to its size. It has two markets in the week, which are held on Thursday and Saturday. The fairs are held on Holy Thursday, and on the 30th of September. The church is an irregular edifice, and is remarkable for having two steeples, one terminated by an embattled

\* Giraldus Itin. Camb. Lib. I. cap. 9. The field where this battle is supposed to have been fought, is still called Maes Gwenlluan—Gwenlluan's field.

† Brut y Tywysogion ut supra, p. 580.

battled parapet, the other by a spire. Near the church stands an old deserted seat of the Stepney family, which is now let out in apartments to the poor.

Llanelly is one of the most thriving places in South Wales. The neighbouring country abounds in coal of the best quality, and also in iron ore; and the land proprietors are engaged with great spirit, in improving the access from the sea. The shipments have in consequence been lately rapidly on the increase. There are here extensive iron works, belonging to Messrs. Raby and Company; but at present they are in a state of inactivity. Lord Cawdor has lately erected some lead works in the neighbourhood, for smelting the ore raised from his mines in the upper part of the vale of Tywi; and there are also some copper works near the water side. Within these few years, rail roads have been constructed in various directions into the interior, to bring its mineral treasures to this place for the use of the works and for exportation.

On a small promontory on the Bury river, below Llanelly, called *Machynis*, is an old seat of the Stepney's. This spot was formerly insulated, and is supposed to have been the place where St. Piro built a monastery about the year 513. He constituted himself the first abbot, and was succeeded by the elder Sampson, a disciple of St. Illtud.\*

At a short distance from Llanelly, on the left of the road leading to Pont ar ddulais, a large house of rather a singular construction has been lately erected, in a well wooded park facing the river Lloughor. It is called *Llangrannach House*, and is the property of the Earl of Warwick.

Having now reached the borders of the county on this side, we shall return to Caermarthen, to explore some other districts.

\* Tanner's Notitia Monast. p. 701. Cressy's Church Hist. p. 252. Tanner calls the island *Bachannis*—quasi Bach-ynis—little island. Mach-ynis, the common name of it, is probably a corruption of *Mynach Ynis*, Monk island.

Descending the river, two gentlemen's seats occur within a mile and a half of the town, on the right bank; *Rhyd y Gors House*, the residence of David Edwards, Esq. and *Ystrad* the seat of John Jones, Esq. Lower down the vale on the other side of the river lies *Iscoed*, the mansion of Sir William Mansell, Bart. Nearly opposite to this house, on a rocky and commanding eminence, overlooking the entrance of the Tywi, stands the castle of

### LLANSTUFFAN.

The ruins of this ancient fortress spread over a considerable extent of ground, and there are indications of earthen works, by which the walls appear to have been surrounded. It was at one time a place of great strength, and successfully sustained several formidable sieges, which have already been cursorily mentioned. The date of its first erection is not known.

The village of Llanstuffan, which is situated at the foot of the hill, near the river, presents a very neat and cheerful appearance. It has lately become a place of resort for sea bathing. The village of Ferry side, on the opposite shore, is also much visited for the same purpose.

On the northern side of Caermarthen, a road leads towards Lampeter in Cardiganshire, which will require our next notice. After crossing the river Gwili, at the distance of a mile from Caermarthen, we have on the right *Castell Piggyn*, the seat of Captain Bloom, and on the left, in a secluded and pleasant situation, *Cwmgwili*, the mansion of J. G. Philipps, Esq. who has represented the borough of Caermarthen in several Parliaments.

A few miles farther, on quitting the low lands, we reach *Pencadair*, where Rhys ab Gruffydd made his peace with Henry the second, as related above.\*

On the left of this road, in the parish of Ilanfihangel at Ararth,

\* See page 239.

Ararth, near the banks of the Teivi, are several tumuli, and in the church yard there is a Roman monumental stone bearing the following inscription "Hic jacet Ulcacinus filius Senomacili." Higher up the vale, in the adjoining parish of Llanllwny, stands a considerable tumulus called y Castell, or the Castle. Some remains of a nunnery occur in the same neighbourhood, on a farm called *Maes Nonny*, or the Nun's field; there are also some remains of a Priory, named by the inhabitants, Yr ben Briordy, near the church.\*

The next road to be pursued is that which leads from Caermarthen to Cardigan by Newcastle Emlyn. About three miles from Caermarthen in this direction, in the parish of Newchurch, or Eglwys Newydd, is a large barrow or tumulus, and not far from it an upright rude pillar with the following inscription nearly obliterated "Severini filii Severi."

About four miles farther on, in the parish of Cynwyl Elved, there is a very large cromlech. It is placed near the summit of a lofty mountain, from which the Bristol channel may be seen when the atmosphere is clear. The principal stone, which is of prodigious weight, is supported by four upright stones, and is surrounded by several others placed perpendicularly in the ground, at irregular distances. Near it stands a very considerable tumulus or barrow. There is in this parish a very remarkable earthen work, consisting of an embankment about eighteen feet in height, which extends in length, nearly a mile and a half. It is called the Line. The tradition of the country attributes it to the Earl of Richmond, who is supposed to have raised it while on his way to Shrewsbury: but this opinion rests on no evidence; nor is it easy to conceive that in passing through a friendly country, he should have interrupted his march to erect a work, of which it is difficult to assign the use.

On the left of Cynwyl Elved, in the parish of Trelech ar Bettws, is a large barrow, consisting of a cairn, or heap of

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stones,

\* Carlisle's Topograph. Dict. Art. Llanllwny.

stones, with a thin covering of earth, called "Crug y Dyrn." The circumference at the base is about seventy yards, and its perpendicular height about sixty yards. It rises with an easy slope, and is hollow for some depth from the summit. When it was first examined, there lay at the bottom of this cavity a large flat stone of an oval form, about three yards in its longest diameter, and twelve inches thick. On removing this covering a Cist faen, or stone chest, about four feet and a half in length, by about three feet in breadth, was discovered underneath. Some bones were found both within and on the outside of this chest, but they seemed to have been the bones of some animals, which had been conveyed there by dogs or beasts of prey.

In the parish of Penboyr, which lies to the right of our road, in the vale of Teivi, are several tumuli. Near the church are some vestiges of a small Roman encampment, part of which has been taken into the church yard. A pot of Roman coins was some years ago found on a farm called Bron Rhufain, in this parish. Some traces of a Roman causeway have also been discovered here, a circumstance which renders it probable that the Roman road from St. David's to Lampeter and Llanio Issa, passed this way.

After descending from the mountains we soon arrive at

#### NEWCASTLE-EMLYN,

a small market town, delightfully situated on the shores of the Teivi. Some of the houses are in Cardiganshire, on the northern side of the river, which is here crossed by a good stone bridge; but the principal part of the town lies in Caermarthenshire. The market is held on Friday, and the fairs on the 22d of June, the 18th July, September the 29th, the second Thursday after the 10th of October, and the 22nd of November.

The ancient name of this place was Dinas Emlin, or the city of Emlin, derived, Mr. Llwyd conjectures, in his communications



tions to Gibson's edition of Camden, from Emilianus, some Roman settler in this county. It was called New Castle from the circumstance of the fortress being rebuilt by Sir Rhys ab Thomas, who made it one of his residences. On the attainder of Rhys ab Gruffydd, Sir Rhys's grandson, this property was given by the crown to the Vaughans of Golden Grove, of which house Richard Vaughan was created, 19th of Charles the first, Earl of Carberry in Ireland and Baron Emlyn.

“What gives to this spot a degree of interest so peculiarly its own, is the sportive course of the river at this place, with the appearance of the castle, equally picturesque in its situation, and in the disposition of its fragments. The Teivi enters the valley from the north east, and flows in a straight line till it arrives nearly underneath the castle; it then takes a sudden turn; and, instead of winding immediately about the foot of the hill, darts back again for a considerable way, in a course parallel with its first channel, and close by it. It then sweeps round majestically in front, having a long and very beautiful meadow between it and the castle, and comes down again on the opposite side, with features of a different character. Here its bed becomes impeded by rocks, through which it furrows a deep, tortuous, and noisy course, and rolls with much impetuosity under the venerable bridge.”

“The decayed grandeur of the fortress, standing on an eminence in the centre of the scene, greatly heightens the effect of the whole.”

“In the year 1215, Llewelyn ab Iorwerth won the original castle, which in the following year he resigned, dividing the principality of South Wales equitably between its rival princes. The present structure was garrisoned for the royalists, in the civil wars of King Charles and the commonwealth. The greater part of the building has entirely disappeared; but it has fallen away in such a manner, as to leave what remains the more picturesque. The approach from the town is particularly fine. The arched gateway, about fourteen feet high, support-

ed by two octagon towers, exhibits the romantic character of the country beyond, to singular advantage. This fragment stands alone, in front of the river, and has an air of uncommon lightness, from whatever point it is viewed.”\*

A few miles below Newcastle Emlyn, near the village of Cenarth, is a beautiful Salmon leap. The whole of the river which is here of considerable width, throws itself in one unbroken sheet from a height of about twelve feet, over a ledge of rocks that runs across its channel. The salmon, when they ascend the river to deposit their spawn, are obliged to leap this barrier against the stream, which they frequently find a difficult and dangerous labour, many being severely bruised and injured in the attempt.

We shall now for the last time return to Caermarthen, and thence pursue our route to the westward. On this road, the first object to arrest our attention is

#### ST. CLEAR'S,

a long straggling village which lies at the distance of nine miles from Caermarthen. It is situated on a moderately elevated promontory formed by the rivers Taf and Cathgenny. Near the confluence of these streams once stood a castle, which is frequently mentioned in the Welsh annals. None of the building is at present to be seen, but an artificial mound of earth indicates its site. In the middle of the village are some remains of an alien Priory, which was founded before 1291, as a cell to St. Martin de Campis in Paris. The establishment consisted of a Prior and two cluniac monks. It was given by Henry the sixth to All Soul's College, Oxford.

A considerable coasting trade is carried on from this place, large quantities of corn, butter, and other produce, being annually exported to several English markets.

After crossing the river Taf at St. Clear's, a road branches to the left, which conducts to the town of

LAUGHARNE,

\* Malkin's Scenery, &c. of South Wales, 4to. p. 404.

## LAUGHARNE,

or Talacharn. This place is situated at the end of a large bay, near the confluence of the river Corwen or Corran, and the Taf, and at their junction with the sea. From its position it has at different times been variously designated. Its present names are corruptions of Tal y llychau, the head of the lakes, the bay on which it stands exhibiting at high water the appearance of an inland sea. But in the Welsh annals it is frequently called Aber Corran.

The town is of small extent, but contains a large proportion of very respectable houses, and its general aspect is very neat and prepossessing. In the returns for 1801, the population was stated to comprise 1016 individuals, but in the census of 1811, the number is rated at 1561. It still retains, at least nominally, its corporate dignity; being governed by a Portrieve. Its other officers consist of a Recorder, Aldermen, whose number is not limited, two Common Attornies, and four Constables, besides the Burgesses. This little corporation holds some lands in the neighbourhood, which were given for the use of the burgesses in the reign of King John, by Sir Guido de Brian, who then held the lordship. The town was probably first incorporated in his time: his purple mantle, richly embroidered with gold, is carefully preserved in the church.

There are here the remains of a fine castle, which are in high preservation. This building stands within the pleasure grounds of Major Starke, the present possessor. This gentleman has, however, partially injured the grandeur of the effect which the ruins are calculated to produce, by laying out the interior court into a garden, and planting even the floors of the towers with evergreen shrubs.

The date of the first erection of this structure is not ascertained, but the probability is that it was built by some of the Anglo-Norinan settlers, who invaded this coast soon after the conquest

conquest of England by William the first. It is frequently mentioned in the Welsh annals, as having been taken by the native princes in their wars with the English, and with one another. During the civil contest in the reign of Charles the first it is said to have been taken by General William Laugharne.

Laugharne was the birth place of Dr. Josiah Tucker, dean of Gloucester, a man of no small celebrity in the literary annals of his time. He was born at this place in the year 1712. His father, who was a farmer, having inherited a small estate in Cardiganshire, sent Josiah to Ruthin school. Here he soon distinguished himself by his proficiency, and obtained an exhibition in Jesus College, Oxford, whither he proceeded "with his bundle at the end of his stick." He took orders in the year 1735, and settled on a curacy in Gloucestershire. In 1737 he removed to Bristol, and became a minor canon of the cathedral. He was shortly afterwards appointed chaplain to the Bishop, who procured for him the first vacant prebendal stall. In addition to this preferment, he held also the rectory of St. Stephen's in this city, of which he had before been curate.

He first raised himself to public notice, as a literary character, by the publication of his letters in favour of the celebrated bill for the naturalization of the Jews, which exposed him to great odium, and caused him to be burnt in effigy at Bristol. He appears to have appeased the resentment of his fellow citizens, by the publication of a pamphlet on the Turkey trade, in which he argued against the policy of encouraging chartered companies. This tract came out in 1753. In consequence of the service he rendered to Lord Clare, afterwards Earl Nugent, in his election for Bristol, that nobleman procured for him the deanery of Gloucester. On this occasion he proceeded in divinity and took his Doctor's degree. Dr. Tucker wrote about this time a Treatise on Commerce, which he composed for the use of his present majesty, at the request of his tutor Dr. Hayter, who was afterwards Bishop of London. This work was never published. His subsequent writings were very

very numerous, but they related chiefly to passing events, and therefore possess little present interest. In 1772 he published *An Apology for the Church of England*, occasioned by the exertions which were then making by some eminent members of the establishment, to obtain a reform of the Articles. About the same period he addressed a letter to Dr. Kippis, in reply to that gentleman's vindication of the Protestant Dissenting ministers, who had applied to the legislature for some modification of the act of toleration, and an exemption from the subscription, which that act required from them to some of the 39 Articles. He afterwards wrote some pieces on the American war, which exposed him to the resentment of Mr. Burke. He published in 1777 a *View of the difficulties of the Trinitarian, Arian, and Socinian Systems*, with seventeen sermons. During the alarm of invasion, about 1780, he exposed the difficulties of the attempt, in several well written papers under the signature of Cassandra. His next work, which appeared in 1781, was a *Treatise on Civil Government*, in opposition to the theory of Locke. This was ably answered by Dr. Towers. Dr. Tucker published several other pieces of inferior note. He died 1799, at an advanced age.

He was twice married. His first connection proved a source of great unhappiness to him. His second marriage, which was to the daughter of the Rev. Mr. Crow, of Ross, took place when he was declining into the vale of years. On this occasion, in order to anticipate the jokes of his friends, the dean wrote the following *jeu d'esprit* :—

When Israel's sons, emerged from sin,  
 Brought Turtle Doves and Pigeons in,  
 They hoped to be forgiven :  
 Our Dean, his penitence to shew,  
 In humbler form, hath chose a Crow,  
 To pave his way to heaven.

Dr. Tucker is deservedly praised for great liberality of spirit and goodness of heart. That premature and extraordinary genius, John Henderson, who died in 1788, in the 31st year of his age, was indebted to him for the means of prosecuting his studies at Oxford, where he took his first degree in arts.

In 1790 he made application to the Chancellor to be permitted to resign the living of St. Stephen's, Bristol, in favour of his worthy curate, Mr. Greville. As the Chancellor would not allow the transfer, Dr. Tucker obtained a petition from the parishioners in Mr. Greville's favour, which was signed by Dissenters as well as others. By this step the dean succeeded in his benevolent object.

At a short distance to the westward of Laugharne are the remains of *Broadway house*, the seat of Sir John Powell, one of the Judges of the Court of King's Bench, who presided at the memorable trial of the seven bishops in the reign of James the second. The part he took on this occasion against the Court caused his dismissal from his situation. He died in 1696, at the age of 63, and was buried in the church at Laugharne, where there is a monument erected to his memory: the inscription states: "Strenuus ecclesiæ defensor fuerit, Testes ii Septem Apostolici Præsules, quos, ob Christi fidem fortiter vindicatam, ab ipsius Tribunal accitos intrepidus absolvit."

Ascending the vale of the Taf, at the distance of five miles from St. Clear's, to the right of the old turnpike road leading from that place to Narberth, once stood the celebrated abbey of

### WHITLAND,

called by Welsh writers Ty gwyn ar Daf, or the White House on the Taf. It was situated in a sequestered valley, and sheltered by majestic groves of wood. The present remains are inconsiderable, but are sufficient to mark the site. This house

is stated by Powell\* to have been the first religious establishment of the kind founded in Wales after the destruction of the famous monastery of Bangor, which was called Bangor y Ty Gwyn. He evidently mistakes, however, in fixing the date of its erection in 1146, as Caradoc, in the Welsh Chronicle, expressly states, that the abbot of this house was entrusted by Cadwalader, the brother of Owen Gwynedd, with the defence of the castle of Cynfael in this year. The foundation has been ascribed by some writers to Rhys ab Tewdwr, while others have assigned it to Bernard, bishop of St. David's, who held the diocese from 1115 to 1147. Leland adopts the former opinion,† but Wharton, in his *Anglia Sacra*, inclines to the latter.‡ It was dedicated to St Mary, and held eight monks. At the Dissolution its endowments were valued according to Dugdale at 135*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* yearly revenue, and according to Speed at 153*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* They were granted 36 Henry 1711 to Henry Audely, and John Cordel.§

Near this house stood the famous Ty Gwyn, or White House, of Hywel Dda, already mentioned above, as the place where he assembled the wise men of his dominions to compile the code of laws which bears his name. As this was a slight erection, designed merely for a hunting seat, it were vain to look for any vestiges of the building in the present day.

In the parish of Henllan Amgoed, which lies to the northward of Whitland, and in a field belonging to Parkeu, near a place called Cefn Farchen, is a stone bearing an inscription in rude characters, which is given as follows in the additions to Camden: || (*Sepulchrum seu Memorix*) “Caii Menvendani filii Barcuni.”

The

\* *Historie of Cambria*. Edit. 1811, p. 184. † *Collect*, Vol. I. p. 165.

‡ His words are:—Anno 1143 ducti sunt monachi ordinis Cisterciensis qui modo sunt apud Albam Landam, in West Walliam, per Bernardum Episcopum. *Anglia Sacra*, Vol. II. p. 649.

§ Tanner's *Notitia Monast.* p. 701.

|| Gough's *Camden*, Vol. III. p. 141.

The ancient encampment at Kilymaenllwyd, in the adjoining parish of Llanbeudy, or Llanboidy, has already been noticed.\* Near the same spot is a large druidical circle, about twenty yards in diameter, called Buarth Arthur, and sometimes Meini Gwyr. The stones are placed upright in the ground at irregular distances from each other, but in general at intervals of from three to six feet, and they vary in their height from three to six feet. The entrance is along an avenue formed by smaller stones of a similar description, placed parallel to each other. Opposite to this avenue, at the distance of about three hundred yards, are three other larger stones.

Another remain of a similar character exists in this neighbourhood, called Gwael y Fil ast, or Bwrdd Arthur, Arthur's Table. This is a large cromlech, consisting of a rough flat stone, ten yards in circumference, and about three feet thick, which is supported by four others, about three feet high, placed perpendicularly in the ground. †

See above, page 194. † Gough's Camden, ut supra, Vol. III. p. 144. † the son of Gwynedd, a chieftain of North Wales, who distinguished himself by his services in expelling the Danes from thence about the middle of the fifth century, and received the province then called Tyne Coch, or the Red Valley, as his reward. To what extent the province reached of which he thus became possessor, and to what it now bears the name, cannot now be ascertained; but in after times the lordship or principality of Geredigion comprehended, as already observed, \* besides the present county of Cardigan a great portion of Carmarthen-shire.

**END OF CAERMARTHENSHIRE.**

History is silent as to the exploits of the Roman arms in this country. But several vestiges of the works of that people exist to prove their occupation of it. In the parish of Llano, about seven miles above Lampeter in the Vale of Ebor, very extensive remains of Roman buildings have been discovered, which



## CARDIGANSHIRE.

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**T**HE district now comprehended within this county formed anciently a province of the country of the Demetæ. By Latin writers it is called Ceretica; but by the Welsh, Ceredigion, or Caredigion. The latter appellation has been variously derived: some refer its etymology to Caradoc or Caracticus, the celebrated Welsh commander, who is thought to have held this territory under his dominion; others to Caredig ab Maelgwn Gwynedd; but its real derivation is from Caredig the son of Cunedda, a chieftain of North Wales, who distinguished himself by his services in expelling the Irish-Scots from thence about the middle of the fifth century, and received this province, then called Tyno Coch, or the Red Valley, as his reward. To what extent the province reached of which he thus became possessed, and to which he transferred his own name, cannot now be ascertained; but in after times the lordship or principality of Ceredigion comprehended, as already observed, \* besides the present county of Cardigan, a great portion of Caermarthen-shire.

History is silent as to the exploits of the Roman arms in this county, but several vestiges of the works of that people exist to prove their occupation of it. In the parish of Llanio, about seven miles above Lampeter in the Vale of Teivi, very extensive remains of Roman buildings have been discovered, which

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indicate

indicate the existence here at one time of a Roman city, and modern antiquaries are disposed to consider this as the Loventinum of Ptolemy, which he places in the country of the Demetæ. Whether or not this conjecture be well founded, it appears certain that Llanio formed a very important station. The ground, for a considerable extent, is strewed with fragments of brick, and earthen utensils; and on one spot, called Cae'r Castell, the Castle field, have been traced foundation walls of a building 150 feet in length by 72 feet in breadth. Coins, also, have occasionally been dug up here. Mr. Llwyd, in his communications to Gibson's Camden, mentions two inscribed stones which were shown him at this place; these are still preserved: one bearing the following inscription, O' ARTI' M' ENNIUS PRIMUS. which Mr. Llwyd reads "Caii Artii manibus [or memoriæ] Ennius Primus," is built up in the wall of a cottage, and placed near the door: the other, which is inscribed O VERIONI, is built in the outside wall of the chimney of the farm house. Sir Richard Hoare discovered before the threshold of this house another stone bearing the following letters:—CoH. II, A. . . GFVP, which he interprets:—"Cohors secunda (legionis) Augustæ fecit quinque passus.\* It hence appears that a cohort of the second legion of Augustus was stationed here, and built a portion of the walls of the city.

The great western Roman road, Via Occidentalis, which passed through this place, appears to have communicated with all the principal stations in South Wales. On the south, it seems now ascertained that it proceeded in a direct line to Menapia, at the western extremity of Pembrokeshire. It has been traced below Lampeter, running parallel with the course of the river, which it crossed probably near Pencarreg, as it is again seen on the Caermarthenshire side of the vale near the present turnpike road. A branch, which has already been mentioned, diverged

\* Hoare's Giralduſ, Vol. I. Intr. p. ciii. Engravings of theſe ſtones have been given by Dr. Meyrick in his Hiſtory of Cardiganshire.

diverged hence towards Caermarthen by Pencadair; but the main road continued its course along the vale through the parishes of Llanllwyn and Penboyre, in the latter of which some pieces of it yet remain entire; and entering Pembrokeshire in the upper part of the parish of Llanvyrnach preceded towards Cwm Cerwyn hill, the highest summit of the Presselly mountains. The remains of this road which lie within the county of Pembroke, and which are considerable, are called *Via Flandrica*, from being erroneously supposed the work of the Flemish settlers. That intelligent and laborious antiquary, Richard Fenton, Esq. to whose researches the public are greatly indebted, has carefully explored its track in this county as far as the borders of Caermarthenshire,\* and has clearly ascertained that it points immediately towards Llanio, in the line above described.

Besides the branch which led to Caermarthen, another diverged towards Llandovery: this crossed the Teivi above Lampeter, at the village of Llanvair, and is seen ascending the mountain on the south of the river, in the parish of Cellan. Its farther course has been stated above.†

From Llanio, the road proceeded in a direct line towards the station of Penallt near Machynlleth. Traces of it have been discovered on a farm called Brenau in the parish of Llanfihangel y Creuddyn, and on another farm called Llwyn rhingyll in the parish of Llanbadern fawr. These roads all bear the general name of *Sarn Helen*. There were in this county several other smaller roads of communication. "Many of these are to be discovered in the parish of Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, leading from one mine to another, and probably to that part of *Sarn Helen* which passes through this parish in its way to Penallt. One of them runs from a mountain called *Pen Sarn ddu* towards the west; and indeed wherever the word *Sarn* occurs, we may find traces of a Roman road. *Talsarn* in the parish of Trevilian, and *Pen Sarn* near Ystrad Meyrick, received

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their

\* Historical Tour in Pembrokeshire, p. 481, et aliis locis.

† See page 195.

their names from this circumstance, as does Sarnau in the parish of Penbryn.\*

The history of this county for several centuries after the evacuation of the Island by the Romans, when the different principalities into which the nation was divided fell under the government of native chiefs or reguli, is involved in much obscurity. The first king, as he is called, of this district, is said to have been Caredig, son of Cunedda, from whom it derived its present designation. Of his immediate successors the names alone have been preserved; they were Ussa and Seirwell. After these followed Brothen, the son of Helig ab Glanog. He founded a church in Meirion towards the close of the sixth century, and acquired the honour of saintship. The successors of Brothen were Arnothen, Artholes, Clydawg, Sitsyllt, Arthen, who died A. D. 804, Dyfnwal, Meirig, and Gwgan, who was accidentally drowned A. D. 870. Gwgan had a daughter named Angharad, who was married to Rhodri Mawr, or Roderick the Great, who on the death of his father-in-law succeeded, in right of his wife, to the kingdom of Cardigan, to which was at this time annexed the whole of South Wales.

In the division which Roderick afterwards made of his dominions among his sons, Cardigan was allotted to Cadell, and became a part of the kingdom of Dinevor. From this time its history is identified with that of the neighbouring county of Caermarthen; and all the most material events pertaining to it, which could be brought under review in this work, have already been detailed. Such additional circumstances as have relation to particular places will be noticed in the course of the topographical survey.

**BOUNDARIES, EXTENT, &c.** Cardiganshire is bounded on the north by Merionethshire, on the north-east by Montgomeryshire, on the east by Radnorshire and Brecknockshire, on the south by Caermarthenshire, on the south-west by Pembrokeshire, and on the west along its whole extent by St. George's Channel.

\* Meyrick's Hist. of Cardiganshire, Introd. p. xii.

Channel. Its length from north-east to south-west may be estimated at about fifty miles, and its mean breadth at above twenty miles. Its circumference has been stated at one hundred miles. According to Mr. Cary's account its superficial contents comprise in all 377,600 acres.\*

This county is at present divided into five hundreds,† viz. Genau'r Glyn, Ilar, Moyddyn, Pennarth, and Troed yr aur, which contain 61 parishes, and several chapelries. It has four market towns, Aberystwyth, Tregarron, Lampeter, and Cardigan; to which Newcastle Einlyn is sometimes added, from being partly situated in this shire: but it is properly a Caermarthenshire town. Cardiganshire returns two members to Parliament, one for the county, and one for the borough of Cardigan.

POPULATION. In 1801 the population of this county was  
2 C 3 stated

\* Communications to the Board of Agriculture, Vol. VI. p. 228.

† The divisions of this county in the time of Llewelyn ab Gruffydd were as under:

Cantref Gwarthaf.	Cantref Mabwyniawn.
Cwmwd Genau y Glyn.	Cwmwd Mesenydd.
_____ Pe. fedd.	_____ Anliutawg.
_____ Creuddyn.	_____ Penmardd.
	Cantref Caer Wedros.
	Cwmwd Wenionydd.
	_____ Iscoed. (a)

Cardiganshire was subsequently divided into four cantrefis, with the following subdivisions:

Cantref Penwedig.	Cantref y Castell.
Cwmwd Genau'r Glyn.	Cwmwd Mabwynion.
_____ Perfedd.	_____ Caerwedros.
_____ Creuddyn.	Cantref Syrwen.
Cantref Canol.	Cwmwd Weinionydd.
Cwmwd Mevenydd.	_____ Iscoed.
_____ Anhunog.	
_____ Penarth.	

(a) Myfyrian Archaeology, Vol. II. p. 262. In this document 62 parishes are enumerated.

stated to comprise 42,956 souls. The number returned in 1811 was 50,260; to which may be added 500 for the county militia then absent, making in the whole 50,760 individuals.

**RIVERS.** The principal river of Cardiganshire is the Teivi, which rises from a lake, called Llyn Teivi, situated near the highest summit of the mountainous region on the north eastern side of the county. At its first passage from the lake its channel does not exceed three feet in width, and gives little indication of the grandeur which it is shortly after to display. The earlier part of its course is over a rocky bed, which is confined by no banks till it approaches the site of the ruined abbey of Ystrad Fflur. In the interval between this place and Tregarron it receives a considerable accession of waters from several smaller streams, among which may be enumerated the Meyrig, Marchnant, and Camddwr. Below Tregarron it is joined from the eastward by the Berwin, a romantic mountain stream which rises at the distance of five miles from its aber, from a small lake of the same name. Before it reaches Lampeter, it receives from the same side the Brefi and Clywydog; the principal rivers that afterwards fall into it from the westward are the Croyddyn, Crannell, Clettwr, Cerdyn, and the Cerry. Another small rivulet joins it at the town of Cardigan: after which it flows in a majestic stream into St. George's Channel. After it has passed Lampeter the Teivi improves greatly in its appearance, and the scenery on its banks becomes very beautiful and interesting. The views about Llanddyssil, Newcastle Emlyn, Llechryd, and Cilgerran, may be particularly mentioned, as equalling any river scenery of the same character in the principality. The tide flows as far as Llechryd Bridge, to which place the river is navigable for barges, \* and ships of about 200 tons burden ascend as high as Cardigan Bridge.

The

\* It has been asserted by some writers that the Teivi is navigable as far as Lampeter, and this singular error has found its way into some maps. The

The salmon of the Teivi is esteemed peculiarly fine. Large quantities are dried every year, and exported to London and other English markets. Giraldus, in his account of this river,\* states that it was, in his time, inhabited by the beaver. This curious animal is now unknown in this county. Its total disappearance from the island, has led many to suppose that this author must have been misinformed, and that the animal which was taken to be the beaver was the otter. But the beaver is particularly specified in the laws of Hywel Dda under the descriptive term *Llostlydan*, or broad tail, and is expressly distinguished from the otter, which is called *Dyfrigi*, or water dog: for in this code the skin of the latter is valued at eight-pence only, while that of the former is rated at one hundred and twenty pence.†

The fishermen on this, and some of the other rivers of Wales, use a boat of a singular construction, called in Welsh *Corwg*,  
 2 C 4 and

ledge of rocks which form the Cennarth falls, are a sufficient obstruction, were there no other impediment.

\* His words are; "Habet et aliud fluvius iste sua specialitate notabile; inter universos namque Cambriæ seu etiam Loegriæ fluvios, solus hic Castores habet. In Albania quippe, ut fertur, fluvio similiter unico habentur, sed rari." Itin. Lib. II. Cap. 3.

† The following is Mr. Pennant's description of the beaver. "It has a black nose; and the upper jaw is larger and broader than the lower. It has long white whiskers; the irrides are hazel; and the ears are small, erect, and conic. In the upper jaw are six cutting teeth, in the lower, four. The grinders are broad, adapted for breaking and comminuting crustaceous animals and shell fish. The skin is thick; the hair which is thick and long, is excessively black and glossy; and beneath it there is a soft down. The colour sometimes varies to silvery. The legs are thick and short; the toes are covered with hair, and joined by a web. The hind feet are exactly like those of a seal, and have a membrane skirting the outside of the exterior, like that of a goose. The length from head to tail is usually about three feet; but there have been instances of some being a foot longer. The tail, which is thirteen inches and a half long, is flat, fullest of hair in the middle, and sharp pointed."

and anglicized Coracle, which is probably co-eval with the earliest population of the island.\* The form of this vessel is nearly oval, flattened at one end like the keel of a common boat: its length is usually from five to six feet, and its breadth about four feet. The frame is formed of split rods, which are plaited like basket work: these are afterwards covered on the outside with a raw hide, or more commonly with strong coarse flannel, which is rendered water tight by a thick coating of pitch and tar. A narrow board is fastened across the middle; when on the water this forms the fisherman's seat, whence, with his paddle, he directs his bark at pleasure. They are not adapted to carry more than one person conveniently. When proceeding to their work or returning, the men fasten these vessels on their backs by means of a leathern strap attached to the seat, which they pass round their bodies. Their appearance when thus equipped has been aptly compared to that of a large tortoise walking on its hind legs. Their usual weight may be about forty or fifty pounds; but according to an old Welsh adage,† it was thought necessary that they should form as heavy a load as the individual could carry before they would bear him on the water.

The other rivers that flow into St. George's Channel shall be noticed in the order of their occurrence, proceeding in a northerly direction from the mouth of the Teivi.

The Aeron is the first that offers itself to our attention. This river has its source in a small lake called Llyn Aedwen in the parish of Llanrhystyd. Its course is nearly due south, till it reaches

\* Cæsar found them among the Britons at the time of his invasion, and afterwards, in his war against Pompey, adopted them on an emergency to convey his troops across the Segre, after his bridges had been carried away by the floods. "Imperat Militibus Cæsar, ut Naves saciant cujus generis eum superioribus annis usus Britannia docuerat, Carinæ primum ac Statumina ex levi materia fiebant: reliquum corpus navium viminibus contextum coriis iniegebatur." Bell. Civ. Lib. I.

† Llwyth gwr ei gorwg. His coracle should be a man's load.



reaches Llangeitho, after which it passes in a curvilinear direction by Tal Sarn and Tyglyn to Aberaeron, where it discharges itself into the sea. The country through which it flows is for the greater part fertile and well cultivated.

The Arth issues from a small lake called Llyn-fach, in the upper part of the hundred of Penarth, which takes its name from that river. Its general course is due west, and it enters the sea at Aberarth.

The Gwyre rises near Llanfihangel Lledrad, and runs in a south westerly direction towards Llanrhystyd, where it joins the sea.

The Ystwyth has its source near the north-eastern extremity of the county, on the borders of Montgomeryshire. In descending from the hills, it rushes in an impetuous torrent through a deep precipitous gulph for a distance of several miles; after which it finds a more level bed in the Havod grounds, through which it flows with less rapid speed, imparting and receiving unspeakable interest in this enchanting scene. Its farther course is less romantic, but still boasts many picturesque beauties to gratify the admirer of nature. It discharges its waters into the Irish Channel a short distance below Aberystwyth, which hence derives its name.\*

The

\* Leland gives the following account of this river:—

“Ustwith risith owt of a marish grounde caullid Blaine Ustwith iii miles from Llangibike on Wy. It is in Come-Ustwith, and so rennith good vi miles through Come Ustwith, and a vi or vii mo miles. to Aberustwith.”

“About the midle of this Wstwith botom that I ridde yn, being as I gesse a iii miles in lenght, I saw on the right hand on a hille side Clothmoyne [Clawdd y Mwyn] wher hath bene great digging for leade, the melting wherof hath destroyed the wooddes that sumtime grew plentifully therabout. I hard a marvelous tale of a crow fedd by a digger there, that tooke away his feeder's purse, and wille the digger followid the crow for his purs, the residew of his felows were oppressid in the pitte with the ruin. So leving Ustwith botom, and taking up a hy hille I cam a mile of to a place wher I saw a great grene place in a botom, owt of the wich worish plot Ustwich

doth

The Rheidol, another interesting stream, derives its first waters from a small lake, called Llyn Rheidol, situated on the western side of the Plinlimmon mountains, and at a short distance from the sources of the Severn and the Wye. The early part of its course is distinguished by no remarkable feature; but as it descends into the vallies, and approaches towards Yspytty C'en Vaen, it assumes a most picturesque and romantic character. Its bed here lies along the rocky bottom of a deep precipitous gulph, whose sides are generally covered with thick brush wood, and occasionally with groves of oak: sometimes it is thrown with prodigious velocity in foaming torrents from a great height into vast natural basons, which exhibit the appearance of immense boiling cauldrons. Immediately below the Hafod Arms it receives from the eastward, the smaller river Mynach, which, passing through the deep cleft in the rocks under the Devil's Bridge, rushes towards the Rheidol over a succession of precipices, and an almost unbroken cataract. These united streams, after their junction, pursue a westerly course, till they have passed Llanbadern fawr, beyond which place they turn to the southward, and bathing the walls of Aberystwyth, mix their waters with the Ystwyth, as it enters the sea.

The Clarach and the Leri are the next rivers of any size to the northward of the Rheidol, after which occurs the Dyvi, which forms the boundary of the county on this side, and separates it from Merionethshire; but this river belongs properly to North Wales.

On the eastward are some streams which will require enumeration, as having their source in this county. The first of these is the Elan, which rises near the summit of the mountains a little to the southward of Cwmystwyth, and pursuing an easterly course, enters Radnorshire, and empties itself into the

doth rise, and within a flit shot of that I saw an other like plot, out of the wich spring a litle riveret cumming to Wy, that ranne a good mile bengath in a bottom." Itin. Vol. V. fol. 79.

the Wye a few miles below Rhaiadr. Farther to the southward occurs the Claerwen, which issues from a lake called Llyn Rhuddon fach. This river forms, for a few miles, the boundary between this county and Brecknockshire; it then receives the Claer ddu, a smaller stream, which joins it from the southward, and afterwards enters the latter county.\*

The Tywi, which rises in this county, has already been described, with its tributary streams, the Dothy and Pyscottwr.

**LAKES.** Cardiganshire contains a great number of lakes, but none of them are of large extent. The chief of them lie near the summit of the chain of hills which divide this county from Radnorshire, and in the vicinity of Ystradflur.

“ On this eminence is found a cluster of lakes, six in number, of which Llyn Teivi is the principal. Its circumference may probably be about a mile and a half; it is said not to have been fathomed, and is encircled by a high and perpendicular ridge, which at once feeds and confines its everlasting waters. I understand that this circumstance, with its depth, had led some late visitors to conjecture, that it must have been a crater; but the stones, with which the margins of all those lakes abound, and none so much as Llyn Teivi, bear at present no volcanic appearance. The other lakes being higher, there is no prospect here, except in the direction of Ystradflur; and that, though extensive, has little beauty. The rocks and  
stones

\* “ The first river beside Tyue that I passed over was Clardue, that is to say Blak clare, no greate streame but cumming thorough craggges. In the farther side of hit I saw ii veri poore cotagis for somer dayres for catel, and hard by were ii hilletes, thorough the wich Clarduy passith, wher they fable that a gigant striding was wont to wasch his hondes, and that Arture killed hym. The dwellers say also that the gigant was buried thereby, and shew the place. Glarduy risith about half a mile from that place in a marishe, and rennyng ii Walsch milys in al goith into Clarwen. Clarwen risith in a valley not far from Llinynigin Velen, that is a good mile from Cargnaullinn. After that Clarwen hath received Clarduy, he rennith iii miles or he cum into Alen river, far bigger river then other of them of the Clars.” Leland's Itin. Vol. V. fol. 76.

stones, with which the soil is encumbered, without any relief of wood or kindly vegetation, render the aspect of the mountain itself uncouth and repulsive. The distant hills on this side, have no very striking character; and the flat which intervenes is so low, and undulates so little, as to be indistinct. The Teivi issues out from the lake by so small an outlet, as scarcely to accredit its relationship to the noble river, to which, in my summer excursion, I was first introduced at Cardigan."

"On leaving Llyn Teivi a walk of a few minutes will bring you to the summit of the mountain, and at once in view of four more lakes, each within a few yards of the other. The largest cannot be much less in circumference than Llyn Teivi, and is much less formal in its shape, being narrow in the middle. The smallest is circular, occupying the highest ground, and in appearance much like a crater. Its circumference is about three quarters of a mile. These likewise, as I understood from my guide, have not been fathomed. Their effect is much heightened by the strong degree of agitation to which they are subjected by their exposure; and the scene, though totally desolate, is very grand. This is the highest ground in Cardiganshire; and the prospect is most extensive; but the cluster of mountains, on the most elevated of which you are placed, reaches so far as entirely to obscure the vales between the near and distant hills; so that all is wild and rugged, with Plinlimmon and Cadair Idris, rearing their lofty heads in the north. They are not so distant but that the contrast of their characters may be sufficiently observed. The prospect on the southwest extends to the high grounds about Cardigan distinctly, and beyond them to the sea, undecidedly, as in a mist. The sixth lake is some little way off, and there is a seventh, between Pentre Rhydfendiged and Castell Eion, called Llyn Vathey Cringlas. The only fish in these pools are trout and eels. They are much frequented by wild fowl. Llyn Vathey

Cringlas is a mile in circumference, of a beautiful oblong form, where the town of Tregaron is said formerly to have stood.\*

To this account, we shall subjoin the enumeration given by Leland, of the lakes which occur on these hills, including several not noticed by Dr. Malkin. Leland travelled over this country in the reign of Henry the eighth.

“Thens [from Ystradflur] I went a good half mile by Tive vale, and a mile and a half up the craggi and stoni mountaines to Llin Tive, and ii miles beyound hit to Cregnaulin. If I had goone from thens a mile of, to a hy hille, I might have sene Penlinmon, then distant v miles. The hilles betwyxt Llinne Tyue and Cragnauglin were not in sight so stony as the hilles betwixt Stratfler and Llyn Tyue.” “Llin Tyue is in cumpace a iiii quarters of a mile. It is fedde fro hyer places with a litle brokét, and issueth out again by a smaulle gut. There is in it veri good Trouttes and Elys, and noe other fisch.

“From Clarduy to Cragnaulin is a good mile by est, and standing by a stone on the top of this hille, I saw v poolis by south west, whereof the biggest is Llim Heligna, shorter Lignante, having no other fisch but trouttes and elys. One side of the poole, that is the south side, hath trouttes as redde as salmon. The west side hath white, likewise as bath Llin Tyue. This pool is sene to be fedde with no brooke, and hath a brooke issuing out of hym of his owne name, and cummith into Tyue on the west side of Tyue, half a mille above Stratfler.

“Llinuher, i. *longus lacus*, for it is iiii quarters of a mile in length, having no great bredthe nor issue of brok out of hit, but plentiful of trouttes and elys.

“Llin Gorlan hath no issue, but berith elys and trouttes.

“Llin gronn hath an issue, and semid to me hard yoinid to Llin Gorlan.

“Llin Veryddlon Vaur, having trouttes and elys, but no broke cumling into hit or going owi.

“Llinduy,

“Llinduy,

\* Malkin's Scenery, &c. of South Wales, 4to. p. 384.

“ Llunduy, i. e. *lacus niger*, even under the botom of the hille side, having trouttes and elys, but no broke cumming into hit or going oute.

“ Llynynigin Velin, that is a mile from the stone by south west. Ynigin is to say a quaking more. Velen is yellow of the color of the mosse and corrupt grasse about hit.

“ Of al thes pooles none stonidith in so rocky and stony soile as Tyue doth, that hath also withyn him many stones. The ground al about Tyue, and a great mile of toward Stradfler is horrible with the sight of bare stones, as Cregeryri [Snowdon] be.

“ Llinllanabedar within half a mile of Llanbeder having trouttes and elys.

“ Llynrydde, ii miles from Stradfler, having trouttes and elys; out of whom goith a little issue or broket.

“ Llyny cregnant a bigge poole very ful of trouttes and elys. It is from Stradfler a iii by west toward Llandeuary.

“ Llin duy, i. *lacus niger*, very deape and ful of trouttes and elys. It is iii miles by south from Stradfler toward Builth lordshippe.

“ Llyn y gorres, not ii miles from Llunduy. Gorse in Walsch, a Myer in Englisch. It hath trouttes and elys.

“ Llynngynon apou a hy montaine iiii miles from Strateflure by south-west, having trouttes and elys, and a litle issue owt of hit, and goith into the broket that cummith owt of Llin Helignant.

“ Llin creg Cloydon v miles or vi from Stratfler toward Poysland. It hath an issue that goith into Elan or Alan Water, that goith into Wy. Llin Winge is almost yoinid to Llinncreg Lloydon, but it hath no issue.”\*

There are besides these several small lakes scattered over the high lands in different parts of this county, some of which have been incidentally mentioned as the sources of particular rivers. Mr. Johnes has lately discovered a considerable pool of water  
on

\* Leland's Itin. Vol. V. fol. 76, et seq.

on his own estate, at no great distance from Hafod. It is situated near the summit of a hill; and he has it in contemplation to convert it into a decoy for wild fowl, for which purpose it seems well adapted.

**MOUNTAINS.** The northern districts of this county are very mountainous, and detached hills of considerable elevation occur in other parts. The towering summit which bears the name of Plinlimmon stands in Montgomeryshire, but a large proportion of the lofty hills which compose its base spread into Cardiganshire, and branch out into several extensive chains. The first stretches towards Caermarthenshire, and bounds the vale of the Teivi on the east through nearly the whole of its course. On the west a branch shoots between the Dyvi and the Rheidol; a third stretches between the Rheidol and the Ystwyth; another having the Ystwyth on the north-west and the Teivi on the east, takes a south-westerly direction, and terminates at the river Aeron on the south-east: and a fifth runs in nearly a parallel direction with the last on the western side of the Teivi towards Cardigan. The land along the sea coast, except where the vallies open into the interior, is generally of considerable elevation. The county no where presents a level tract of any great extent. The vale of Aeron is the most distinguished in this respect; which spreads in the neighbourhood of Ystrad to a tolerable width, and contains some rich and well cultivated farms.

The Cardiganshire mountains are universally destitute of wood, and exhibit a bleak and dreary prospect, whencesoever they are viewed. They are capable, however, of every improvement in this respect, under judicious management. Philips, long ago, hazarded this opinion in relation even to the inhospitable heights of Plinlimmon itself:—

————— Ev'n on the clifly height  
Of Penmaenmawr, and that cloud-piercing hill,  
Plinlimmon, from afar the traveller kens  
Astonished, how the goats their shrubby browse

Gnaw pendent; nor untrembling canst thou see,  
 How from a scraggy rock, whose prominence  
 Half overshades the ocean, hardy men,  
 Fearless of rending winds, and dashing waves,  
 Cut Samphire, to excite the squeamish gust  
 Of pampered luxury. Then let thy ground  
 Not lie unlaboured; if the richest stem  
 Refuse to thrive, yet who would doubt to plant  
 Somewhat, that may to human use redound,  
 And penury, the worst of ills, remove?  
 There are, who, fondly studious of increase,  
 Rich foreign mold on their ill-natured land  
 Induce laborious, and with fattening muck  
 Besmear the roots: in vain! the nursling grove  
 Seems fair awhile, cherished with foster earth:  
 But when the alien compost is exhaust,  
 Its native poverty again prevails.\*

The flourishing state of the plantations, which Mr. Johnes has been extending, for the last thirty years, over some of the most unpromising parts of his estate, and on some of the most elevated and exposed eminences on this side of Plinlimmon, sufficiently evinces, that were the same spirit to actuate the other land proprietors of mountainous districts, these hitherto barren wastes might be converted into rich and productive forests. The tree which Mr. Johnes has chosen for these bleak situations is the larch fir, which, especially if planted young, readily accommodates itself to the climate and the soil. Mr. Johnes has besides converted large tracts of these hills into farms, and given an air of comfort and cheerfulness to some of the most dreary spots, by the erection of neat and commodious farm houses and cottages, which will in a few years be effectually sheltered by the groves that are now everywhere rising around them.

These mountains are composed for the most part of argillaceous schistus, and slate. In some parts slate and shale lie in  
 alternate



alternate strata, each stratum being about four inches in thickness. The shale resembles the slate, but is very brittle, and falls to pieces as soon as the lamina are separated. The inclination of the strata is very various and irregular. Large veins of a white spar, called hungry spar rider, which is very hard and glossy, frequently occurs among the other strata.

**SOIL, AGRICULTURE, &c.** The soil in this county is exceedingly various, as might be expected from the great inequalities of its surface. Most of the higher grounds are composed of a light loam, occasionally intermixed with sandy and varying in depth from a few inches to a foot. In some of the vallies, especially in the lower districts of the county, the soil consists of a brown mould, in some places of considerable depth, and yielding, with little expense of manure, good crops of grass; but in other situations it is formed of a stiff retentive clay, very unfavourable for agricultural purposes. There are also extensive tracts of turbarry or peat, which supply the inhabitants with a large proportion of their fuel.

The most common crops of this county are Wheat, Barley, and Black Oats. The wheat grown in the vale of Ystwyth is perhaps the best in the island, seldom weighing less than 64 pounds per Winchester bushel, and it has occasionally weighed 67 pounds in Aberystwyth market. Rye is grown on some farms in the more hilly districts, and Buck-wheat has been partially cultivated. The prevailing practice of the Cardiganshire farmers, in respect to the succession of crops, is of the very worst kind. The reader will be able to form some judgment on this head from the following extract, from the Report which was drawn up for the Board of Agriculture in the year 1794:

And if wheat is the first crop, it is preceded by a fallow; when the wheat is good, they are sometimes (but not often) tempted to take a second. Then two or three crops of barley, and as many of oats, until it scarcely returns the seed grown; but with the last crop, clover seed, if any thing, is sown. The returns are such as might be expected from such treatment,

without any other manure than what was originally laid upon the ground for the wheat. When they do not fallow for wheat, they begin in the summer to carry lime, and lay it in small heaps upon a ley field: in autumn they carry dung, and spread it over the field with the lime, and thus incorporated, the field is ploughed, and in that state remains till the spring of the year. It is then harrowed, and if the soil is light, the seed is sown under furrow: if the soil is strong, an additional ploughing is given, but it is never cross ploughed. To the barley wheat in the following year succeeds; then barley, sometimes intermixed with a crop of grey peas, which is again followed by barley as long as it is tolerable, and oats until they are intolerable; still finishing with clover and ryegrass if any seed is sown."

"The few who cultivate turnips, find an ample reward in an improved stock, and a crop of barley in broad cast of four and five quarters an acre. Some sow clover with the first crop, and wheat the following year; then a leguminous crop, succeeded by barley with artificial grasses: others sow barley after turnips, then peas, vetches or potatoes, and barley with clover."\*

Mr. Johnes, in a valuable little work which he printed some years ago, for the use of his own tenants, writing upon this subject remarks;—"Upon the proper rotation of crops, depends the well-being of the farmer. This doctrine I am very anxious to imprint in your minds, for in this country the course of crops is most miserably neglected; or rather, there is only one continuation of oats until the ground is completely exhausted. There is scarce an idea of a meliorating green crop, or a proper fallow, between the crops of grain."†

After stating his determination to put an end to this destructive system, by rewards or otherwise, this gentleman recommends the following as a good course, to be varied, however, according to the difference of the soils:—Turnips, drilled.

Barley,

\* Agricultural Report, 1794, p. 10.

† A Cardiganshire Landlord's Advice to his Tenants. Bristol, 1800: p. 54.

Barley, with red clover ; clover ; second crop ploughed in, in the autumn ; wheat ; peas, manured ; oats, turnips. In consequence of the example and spirited exertions of Mr. Johnes, and a few other landed proprietors and farmers, an improved system of cultivation has been adopted in several parts of the county ; but much yet remains to be done before the pernicious customs which have hitherto so generally prevailed, are wholly exploded.

Lime is the chief manure at present employed in this county : on account, however, of the great distance from which it is conveyed, it becomes an expensive article to the farmer. The quantity usually applied to the land, has, in consequence of this circumstance, been considerably too small ; being generally from 50 to 150 bushels to an acre, whereas two hundred, in the opinion of Mr. Johnes, whose judgment in this case is founded on his own experience, is the least quantity that can be employed with any prospect of advantage. The quality of the soil will indeed occasion some difference in this respect. On peat grounds, Mr. Johnes pronounces, that it is scarcely possible to put on too much\*

The common mode of applying this valuable manure in this county, has been justly reprobated. It has been usual to scatter it in small heaps over the ground, and to leave it in this state through the summer. The consequence is that it becomes clotted by the rains, so that it cannot afterwards be equally spread over the soil, and the principal part of its virtue is besides lost by the evaporation of the salts. Marl has been found in the lower district of this county, and has been advantageously employed as a substitute for lime. Straw yards, with proper conveniences for littering, are as yet found but on few farms. The quantity of animal manure is therefore necessarily small, and little care being taken to promote and regulate the fermentation of the mass that is any where collected, it seldom possesses, when carried to the field, the

nutritive qualities which distinguish this species of manure, in any degree of activity and force. In some parts of the county bordering on the coast, sea-weed has been used as a manure for arable land, with singular advantage. Mr. Johnes recommends its more general use to those farmers, whose local situations enable them to obtain it without much difficulty or expense of carriage. Peat ashes is another manure, to which Mr. Johnes calls the attention of his tenants. "Those of you," he writes, "who are situated near any peat bogs, I would strongly advise the using peat ashes, that have been kept very dry, (for if they have been wetted before laid on the ground, they are of no value as a top dressing,) for all your crops; but especially for corn. I shall suppose the land previously has been put in good condition, otherwise a top dressing is but of little worth; and as I know this from experience to be but too true, I wish you would imprint this on your memories."\* "Paring and burning," he adds, "is another favourite manure among you, which, except in some few cases, I detest, not so much from the hurtful practice in itself, as for the still worse management afterwards of the ground. The Earl of Dundonald says, that you destroy by this mode nineteen twentieths of the land. I am sure, by the quantity of scourging crops that are generally taken afterwards, without any dung being laid on the ground, nor any meliorating crop to intervene, Lord Dundonald might with justice have added the other single part."† Folding has been long practised, partially, in some of the hilly districts; but too little attention has been hitherto paid to the management of the sheep, and to the growth of green food for them, to enable the farmer to carry it on to any considerable extent or great advantage.

The irrigation of grass lands, notwithstanding the obvious benefits arising from the practice, and the facilities afforded for it in almost every part of this county, has been attempted only

\* Advice, &c. page, 16.

† Idem. p. 18.

only on a few farms. The success which has followed the experiments of those who have tried the system, will, however, it is to be hoped, open the eyes of their neighbours, and induce them to consult their own interest by following the example that has been so laudably set before them. Mr. Johnes's tract contains many very judicious observations and directions on this subject, which are well worthy the consideration of the Cardiganshire farmer, for whose more immediate use they were compiled.

One crying defect everywhere observable in this county is the want of proper drains, to carry off the superabundant moisture from the soil. A large proportion of land well adapted for agricultural purposes, remains on this account in an unproductive state.

The agricultural impliments in general use here, are of the very worst construction. This remark applies in an especial manner to the plough. Mr. Johnes however, whose name is associated with almost every agricultural improvement which this county has received for many years, has been at great pains to remedy this important defect. With this view he procured from England a variety of ploughs of the most approved construction, which he tried on his own estates, and exhibited to the inspection of all who felt disposed to examine them. Those which were deemed most eligible, as best adapted to the nature of the country, he had afterwards made by his own carpenter, whom he enabled to furnish the neighbouring farmers with them at the original prices. The plough which Mr. Johnes has himself adopted, and recommends to his tenants, is the Rotheram, improved by Mr. Small of Rosebank.

The Harrows are also very ill-constructed. Some exceptions must, however, be made, as several of the larger farmers have of late introduced some of the most approved kinds. The carts are in general small, and drawn either by two oxen and two horses yoked in pairs, or by three horses. Waggon, which are ill-adapted to this hilly

country, are happily but little known, and the introduction of them at all, cannot be too strongly reprobated. The scythe and cradle are commonly used for reaping Barley and Oats, which are afterwards readily bound in sheafs: the hook is used for wheat; the sickle is not known here.

No accurate estimate can be formed, of the relative proportion of arable and meadow lands in this county. Most, if not all the farms, contain some of each kind, there being no tenement of any extent devoted exclusively to grazing.

In the lower parts of the county, considerable progress has been made in inclosing the commons, and the lands which were before cultivated in their open state. The more elevated and mountainous nature of the upper district will, after all, render it necessary to leave extensive tracts in their native wildness to the sheep and small cattle, whose hardy constitutions enable them to surmount all the disadvantages of the climate and the soil. In constructing the fences in this county, particularly in the vicinity of the mountains, it has been found extremely difficult to render them sufficiently firm to oppose the passage of the sheep, which are here very impatient of controul, and acquire, from their roaming habits, an activity approaching to that of the stag.

The quantity of wood in this county is lamentably small. Several of the principal landed proprietors have, however, of late years, been actively employed in remedying this defect by planting. In this honourable employment Mr. Johnes has acquired very just pre-eminence, and left every competitor at an infinite distance behind him. Some incidental notice has already been taken of his improvements in this branch of rural economy; they will be more particularly stated below in the account of Hafod.

The horned cattle are chiefly of the black kind, probably of the same breed with those of Pembrokeshire. The farmers are so strongly prepossessed in their favour, that no arguments can prevail upon them to substitute

any

any other kind in their stead, although many weighty objections lie against them, particularly as respects the dairy. Mr. Johnes has on his own farm, tried several successful experiments, towards introducing a more productive breed. It may be mentioned here as a singular fact that, notwithstanding the very elevated situation of his lands, the Dutch cattle have been found to answer the best of any. The native sheep are small, the hind-quarter seldom weighing above seven or eight pounds. They have lately been much improved by crossings with the Sussex south-down, the Leicester and Dorset breeds. In the higher districts they are shorn but once in the year, generally in June: in the lower country they are shorn in May and October. The average weight of the fleece may be estimated at two pounds. The wool is of a coarse staple, and is mostly manufactured in the county for home use. The horses of Cardiganshire are small, seldom exceeding fourteen hands in height, but they are strong and hardy. The farmers have of late turned their attention to the improvement of the breed, both for draught and for the saddle.

The prices at which lands let, it may well be supposed, are very various. Except in the vicinity of the principal towns, it seldom rises above 15s. an acre, while the lowest prices can hardly be estimated by the admeasurement of the farms.

The farm buildings throughout this county, with very few exceptions, and those mostly of modern erection, are of a miserable description. The dwelling house is generally a wretched hovel, divided into two apartments on the ground floor, with sometimes two or three small chambers above stairs, or on a loft which is accessible only by a ladder; and the whole is so blackened by the peat smoke, and by filth, as to be hardly tenantable for human beings. The stables, beast houses, and barns, are in unison with the principal buildings, and equally as ill-suited for their several purposes.

The cottages of the labourers, and other poorer inhabitants, which are mostly constructed of mud, exhibit an exterior as-

pect of squalid wretchedness, which is in many instances but too faithfully indicative of the poverty and disease that dwell within. It was impossible that this crying evil could long escape the searching and benevolent eye of improvement, which has of late been opened in this county. Accordingly where new cottages have been erected, suitable attention has been paid to the comfort and health of the tenants. Of this numerous examples may be seen on the Hafod estates, and on some other properties. The farm houses of recent erection are also on an improved construction, and the out-houses generally are built with more regard to the important uses for which they are intended. It is pleasing to observe, that the farmers begin now to consider a straw yard as a necessary appendage to their other buildings.

In the year 1784, a Society was instituted in this county for the purpose of promoting agricultural improvement, and encouraging a spirit of industry and emulation among the smaller farmers and cottagers. Its labours have been of great advantage in these respects, though not so highly so as might have been expected from the judicious nature of its plan. Such institutions however, though their beneficial operation may be slow, must in the course of time be followed by extensive and salutary effects in ameliorating the condition of a country.

**MINERALOGY.** Cardiganshire has long been greatly celebrated for its mineral treasures, and the history of its mines comprehends many interesting circumstances. During a long period subsequent to the conquest, the property of all mines was claimed by the reigning monarch, and no private individual could dig for ore, even on his own estates, without especial leave from the crown. In the reign of Henry the sixth, a lease was granted to the Duke of Bedford, of all the gold and silver mines within the kingdom, and of all other minerals in which those metals were contained; and Henry the seventh, soon after his accession to the throne, appointed the Duke of Bedford, and some other persons of rank and eminence,



eminence, Governors of the Royal Mines in England and Wales.

The English at this period, seem to have been but very imperfectly acquainted with the art of mining, and recourse was in consequence had to workmen from the continent. Henry the sixth, in the year 1452, brought over three master miners with several assistants, but little is known of the history of their operations. In the reign of Elizabeth, Thomas Thurland and Daniel Houghsetter, two Germans experienced in the art of mining, were invited into England by the Queen and Council, and being naturalized, obtained a licence under the Queen's letters patent, for themselves and their heirs for ever, to search for mines of gold, silver, copper, and quicksilver, in the royalties of several counties in England and the principality of Wales. The profits they were to appropriate to their own use, excepting the tenth of all gold, silver, and quicksilver ore, which was reserved by the crown, as was also the pre-emption of refined gold and silver at a lower rate than the current price of those metals. Soon afterwards the Queen made other grants to Cornelius Devosse, and to William Humphrey, and Christopher Shutz, which included all mineral substances, except alum and coperas, and extended to every part of the kingdom not already leased out.

These several patentees, in order to create an adequate capital for prosecuting their extensive undertakings, divided a certain portion of their rights into shares, which they sold to opulent and enterprising individuals. They were afterwards, about the year 1568, conjointly with these new proprietors, incorporated under the designation of "The Governors, Assistants, and Commonality, of the Mines Royal." William, Earl of Pembroke, was appointed the first Governor, and the first Court of Assistants comprised several of the nobility, some leading citizens, and most of the foreigners to whom the grants had been originally made.

The spirit of enterprise which was awakened by these judicious

dicious measures, soon led to the discovery of mineral veins in several parts of the kingdom; but the company, not willing to undertake at their own risk, the charge of working the whole, even of those which afforded the most flattering prospect of success, came to the resolution to farm out their rights, in certain cases, to private individuals, who might be disposed to try the experiment on their own account. One of the first of those grants was made to Mr. afterwards Sir Hugh Middleton, who leased of the company the principal lead and silver mine in Cardiganshire at the annual rent of four hundred pounds.

Sir Hugh Middleton was the sixth son of Richard Middleton, of Denbigh. Having failed in an attempt to discover coal in his native neighbourhood, he went to London, and entered into business as a goldsmith: in a few years he realized a handsome fortune, which he embarked in his mining concern. This undertaking was managed by him with so much judgment and success, that he drew from one mine, which yielded about one hundred ounces of silver from every ton of lead, a clear profit of two thousand pounds a month. This princely revenue, which might in a few years have rendered him one of the most opulent individuals in the realm, he expended in the great and patriotic undertaking of supplying the city of London with water, by the New River from Ware to Islington. On the completion of this work he received the honour of knighthood, and afterwards was created a baronet, by James the first. The fortune which should have maintained him with appropriate splendour in his new dignity, was however exhausted; and after having conferred so inestimable a benefit on the metropolis, he was obliged to seek a livelihood for himself by engaging in the business of a surveyor and engineer. He died in 1631.

Sir Hugh Middleton was succeeded in the Cardiganshire mines by Mr. Bushel and Sir Francis Godolphin. Sir Francis dying within a short interval, the concern devolved wholly to

Mr. Bushel himself. Mr. Bushel having obtained some very important privileges from Charles the first, was enabled to render the concern more productive, than it had been in the most auspicious times of his great predecessor. Instead of sending his bullion to London to be coined, which Sir Hugh Middleton had been obliged to do at a heavy expense, he was allowed to coin on the spot, and for this purpose erected a mint at Aberystwyth.\* He obtained also a grant of the island of Lundy, in the Bristol channel, as a depot for the produce of his mines, till opportunities offered to convey it to the places of its ultimate destination.

Favoured by these singular advantages, Mr. Bushel accumulated a rapid fortune ; and on the breaking out of the Civil Wars, about twelve years after his entrance on this concern, he made a munificent return to his royal benefactor by clothing the whole of his army, and furnishing him with a loan of forty thousand pounds. He afterwards, in aid of the royal cause, raised a regiment among his own miners, which he maintained to the end of the contest at his own charge. At the conclusion of the war Mr. Bushel abandoned the concern, and embarked his property in the Mendip mines. From this period these works seem to have declined, and to have sunk into neglect.

While these celebrated mines were thus losing their importance, others of equal or superior value were discovered, in the year 1690, on the Gogerthan estate, the property of Sir Carbery Price. The ore reached nearly to the surface of the ground, and was so abundant, and so rich in quality, as to acquire for the spot the name of the Welsh Potosi. These mines were at first worked by Sir Carbery Price himself, but on his death, leaving no issue, they fell to Sir Humphrey Mackworth, who purchased Sir Carbery Price's interest for fifteen thousand pounds, and carried on the undertaking with  
the

\* These coins bore the Ostrich plume of the Prince of Wales.

the most brilliant success.\* At this time the ore was smelted partly on the spot, and partly at Neath in Glamorganshire, where Sir Humphrey Mackworth had erected extensive buildings for the purpose. This was done to lessen as much as possible the expense of coal, the vessels which conveyed that necessary article from Neath to Cardiganshire, taking back with them ore, to be smelted at the former place in the neighbourhood of the Pits.†

Some unpleasant disputes having arisen in the year 1709, between the partners in this concern, its prosperity began to decline, and it never afterwards recovered. In the year 1750, Mr. Lewis Morris, the celebrated Welsh antiquary, was appointed agent and superintendant of the King's mines in the principality. Under his direction the works in this county resumed some part of their former activity. He stated it as his opinion, that with an adequate capital for carrying them on he could draw from them a clear annual profit of 12,000*l*.

The late Sir Thomas Bousal of Fronfraith, for several years worked a mine in Cwmystwyth, belonging to Mr. Powell of Nanteos, and from nothing, realized a fortune of about 40,000*l*.

The mines now in work in Cardiganshire are numerous, but none of them are conducted on a large scale. The following may be regarded as the principal.

*Silver Mines.* Cwmsynlog claims priority of notice from its connection with the name of Sir Hugh Middleton, who acquired from it the funds which he expended on the New River. Every ton of the ore raised here, yields thirteen hundred weight of lead, and every ton of lead forty ounces of silver. Two-thirds of the whole is quartz. Darren-fawr produces silver, lead ore, and quartz, in nearly the same proportions, only thirty-five ounces of silver are, however, obtained from a ton  
of

\* Malkin's Scenery, &c. of South Wales, 4to. p. 305, et seq.

† Familiar Discourse or Dialogue concerning the mine adventure, p. 124.

of the lead. Goginan affords the same materials, in the proportion of four parts of quartz to one part of lead ore, a ton of which produces thirty-five ounces of silver. This work has been lately discontinued. Llanfair yields silver, lead ore, quartz and spar, with a little copper. A ton of ore produces twelve hundred and a half weight of lead, and a ton of lead affords one hundred ounces of silver. This is an old mine, and is considered at this time, the richest in Cardiganshire.

*Copper Mines.* The only copper mine at present in work, is that of Ynys Cynvelin, which yields lead ore, copper and quartz in the proportion of one part of lead for every ten parts of quartz, and one hundredth part of copper.

*Lead Mines.* Escair-hir consists of lead ore, hard spar and quartz, one tenth of lead ore, one tenth of spar, and the rest quartz. Allt y Crib yields lead ore with only a small proportion of quartz. Llewernog, where there are two works. These are of recent erection, the mines produce lead ore, quartz and black jack, or zink ore, one part of lead to four of quartz. Ystym tuwen, yielding one part lead ore, and three of quartz, with a small proportion of spar. Hên fwlc'h produces one part of lead ore, and eight parts of quartz. Moel goch yields one part of lead ore and six of quartz. Pen y banc produces one part of lead ore and five of quartz, with a small proportion of zink ore. Nant y Crier yields black jack or zink ore, and quartz, with about one fifteenth part of lead ore. Gelli Irin, discovered about fifteen years ago. It yields lead ore and quartz, in the proportion of one part of the former and four of the latter. Rhiw yr Agos, yields one-third black-jack, one twentieth of lead ore, and the rest quartz. Bron goch produces one sixth lead ore, one eighth black jack, and the rest quartz. Llwyn-wnwch produces the same materials in nearly the same proportions. Groginion yields lead ore and quartz, one-third of the former. Log y lâr produces one sixth part lead ore, and the rest quartz. Escar y Mwyn formerly yielded one-third lead ore, but now gives but one tenth, and the

rest quartz. This mine was discovered by some poor workmen in the time of Lewis Morris, about the year 1750. He granted a lease of it for one year to three of them, who in that time cleared by their speculation 1500*l.* each. The late Lord Lisburne claimed it, but government sent down a party of Scots Greys under the command of the Custos Rotulorum, the late Thomas Johnes, Esq. who took possession of it for the crown. The Duke of Newcastle while minister granted a lease of it to the late Earl of Powis's father. This lease has been long expired, and it is now worked on sufferance.

Cwm Ystwyth produces one fifth lead ore, the rest quartz. For many years this mine yielded a clear profit of one thousand pounds a year to Sir Thomas Bonsal. Nant y Meirch consists of black jack and quartz, one fourth being black jack. This mineral is a flux for brass, and being mixed with copper, makes hard brass.\* Several mines of inferior consequence might be enumerated, as well as others which have been discontinued, but the nature of this work will not allow of such minute details. It cannot be doubted, but that there are other sources of mineral wealth in this county, not yet explored, but which the enterprise of future times will bring to light.

**MANUFACTURES and COMMERCE.** With the exception of the coarse stockings and flannels, which are chiefly used within the county, Cardiganshire has at present little to boast in the way of manufactures. At one period Sir Benjamin Hammet, and after his decease his sons, carried on some extensive tin works in the neighbourhood of Llechryd, but these are now wholly abandoned, and the buildings are pulled down and the materials sold.

The commerce of this county is also very unimportant; nor does there appear an immediate prospect of any material increase of this source of domestic wealth. The chief article which it offers for exportation is undoubtedly the lead produced

\* Meyrick's Hist. of Cardiganshire, Introduction, p. ccxxxiv.

duced by the mines in the upper district, which, however, in the present languid state of all the mining concerns, amounts altogether to no considerable sum. The other principal exports, consist of wheat, oats, and butter, which, together with the lead, are transmitted to the Bristol market.

The facilities for commercial enterprise, afforded by this county, have of late years been greatly multiplying and improving. Cardigan and Aberystwyth have convenient ports for vessels of small burden, which are best adapted for the coasting trade: and other places on the coast bid fair, in a short period, to rival them in the number and tonnage of their shipping.

The roads by which the county is intersected are in general good, and the communications between the different towns, which were till lately attended with considerable difficulty, have been greatly facilitated and improved. Fresh alterations are projected, and some are in progress, which, when completed, will contribute materially to the public convenience, and prove of essential service to the county at large. A mail coach ran at one time from Ludlow to Aberystwyth. But from the attention of the Postmasters General, a daily mail to and from Aberystwyth to the metropolis, &c. having been established, this coach was dropped.

A coach runs twice a week in the summer, to and from Shrewsbury, to Aberystwyth; and once a week in the winter. And a coach runs twice a week during the summer from the Devil's Bridge to Salop.

Two waggons bring goods weekly, from Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth, by the Devil's Bridge.

In proceeding to the topographical survey of Cardiganshire, we shall enter the county from the north-east, along the road leading from Rhayadr to Aberystwyth, which forms the most direct route for visitors from England. A few miles beyond Rhayadr, a long and steep ascent conducts the traveller from the vale of the Wye, to the summit of a lofty hill, near the

spot where the three counties of Radnor, Montgomery, and Cardigan join, and where he enters on a country singularly wild and dreary. Here he loses all traces of cultivation, and beholds before him nothing but one wide waste, presenting scarcely a living animal or inanimate object to break the dull uniformity of the scene.

Before entering Cardiganshire the road descends from this summit, into a mountain valley, where the traveller is suddenly surprised and gratified at finding himself most unexpectedly on the margin of a considerable stream, flowing in a direction contrary to that he is pursuing. This is the Elan, a river which rises in a bog farther on, and after a romantic course through a valley that here branches off to the left, joins the Wye a few miles below Rhayadr. The road is carried along the northern bank of this stream nearly to its source, which marks the most elevated point, on this route, of the great ridge by which the waters of the Severn and the Bristol Channel are divided from those of the Irish sea. A short distance beyond the spot where the Elan, now a mere brook, disappears, the traveller arrives at one of the eastern branches of the Ystwyth, which rises a few miles to the north, and flows to the westward through a narrow channel. The road begins here gradually to descend, and is soon carried over the main stream of the Ystwyth, by a stone bridge built by Mr. Baldwin of Bath in 1783, at the expense of Mr. Jones. This elegant structure presents a singular contrast to the rugged wildness of the surrounding scenery, but the effect is pleasing.

The Ystwyth pursues hence a most romantic and impetuous course on the left, rushing in foaming cataracts over successive precipices, and filling the narrow vale with the roaring of its waters. On the right lie the celebrated lead mines of Cwm Ystwyth, which, with the dingy hovels of the miners, first indicate our approach towards the habitations of man. A little way beyond the lead mines, the eye, now fatigued by  
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the perpetual recurrence of naked crags, and the desolation of uncultivated wastes, is agreeably relieved by a small hill immediately in front, crowned by a flourishing plantation; and nearly at the same spot, a sudden turn in the road opens to the traveller a prospect of indescribable beauty and interest. Directly before him, the vale of Ystwyth, gradually widening, yet still retaining all its romantic features, and enriched by the vast plantations of the Hafod estate, bursts upon the view like a scene of the most delightful enchantment. A small village placed in this commanding situation, probably built for the accommodation of the miners of the adjacent district, is called Pentre Brunant, and derives its name from the brook that flows by it. It affords a public house, dignified by recent tourists with the title of Pentre Brunant Inn, where persons desirous of exploring the interesting objects which abound in the neighbourhood, if they are not too squeamish as to the articles of beds and provisions, may be furnished with temporary board and lodging.

It is probable however, that travellers who are not in the exclusive pursuit of scientific objects, will hasten forward to the grand scene of attraction immediately before them, and of which they have already had a partial glimpse. This is

### HAFOD,

or Havod-Uchtryd, the justly celebrated seat of Thomas Johnes, Esq. lord lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the county of Cardigan, and its present representative in Parliament. The entrance into the grounds is on the left of the turnpike, at no great distance from Pentre Brunant, and is marked by a neat lodge and gateway.\* The carriage road winds hence to the right, partly through groves of young trees, and partly through a forest of majestic oak; and nothing is seen of the house till a turn round a projecting rock, at the extremity of the wood,

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brings

\* A new approach is now making from this village, on the southern bank above the river, which will be very romantic and beautiful.

brings it full in view. This approach is very happily contrived ; and the effect produced by the sudden appearance of a rich lawn, terminated by an elegant and majestic mansion, in the midst of some of the wildest and most dreary scenery of nature, is truly magical.

The first occupation of Hafod, as a place of residence, is traced to a branch of the Herbert family, who, having embarked in some mining adventures in the neighbourhood, built a house here in the reign of Queen Elizabeth ; and the name, which means a summer habitation, was given to the place probably from the circumstance of its being at that period scarcely accessible at any other season of the year, on account of the nature and condition of the roads. William Herbert, Esq. the last male representative of this house, died in 1704, leaving a daughter, Jane Herbert, who marrying Thomas Johnes, Esq. of Llanvair Clydige, near Lampeter in this county, a lineal ancestor of the present occupier, conveyed the estate into this family. They do not appear, however, to have transferred their residence here altogether, as we find the houses at one time tenanted by a Mr. Paynter. But in the year 1783, the property having come into the possession of Colonel Johnes, he determined upon making this his principal abode ; and immediately projected and commenced those magnificent schemes of ornamental and substantial improvement, of which he saw the spot to be susceptible, and which have enrolled his name in the first rank of the benefactors of his country.

The old house was pulled down, and replaced by an elegant structure built by Mr. Baldwyn, the architect, of Bath. This was a light and airy edifice, in the Gothic style, with pointed windows and pinnacles. The rooms were none of them very large, but sufficiently capacious for all the purposes of real comfort, and for the most liberal and elegant hospitality, in so retired a situation. Mr. Johnes added a library, which consisted of an octagonal apartment, lighted from the dome above, and surrounded on the inside by a gallery, supported  
by

by pillars of variegated marble, which afforded access to the books lodged in the upper compartments. One of the sides was occupied by a pair of folding doors, pannelled with plate glass, which opened into a conservatory one hundred and sixty feet in length, stored with a variety of valuable exotics. Adjoining this library stood at one time the staircase, which was afterwards removed, and the area converted into an anti-library. It was arranged in the form of a chapel, and the windows were enriched by some fine specimens of painted glass. The large window contained a most finished portrait of a Cardinal, kneeling to his tutelar saint, conjectured to have been copied from one of Holbein's portraits. In these two rooms were deposited that noble collection of books and manuscripts, which Mr. Johnes had, at an immense expense, brought together, and which were in his hands rendered doubly valuable, from the freedom of access that he allowed to all who had occasion to explore them for the literary treasures they were known to contain.

The rooms that were thrown open to the inspection of strangers, consisted of these libraries, a music room, summer and winter dining rooms, and a drawing room; all enriched by many valuable productions of art, including a considerable number of paintings by the most celebrated masters. The drawing room was completely furnished with the finest Gobelin tapestry, and was the only apartment that aspired to any splendour of decoration. The other apartments, which were inaccessible to accidental visitors, were furnished with equal taste, and comprised many valuable ornaments, and interesting objects of curiosity.\*

Such was Hafod in the beginning of 1807. Early in the morning of Friday, the thirteenth of March, in that year, however, this mansion, with nearly the whole of its contents,

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became

\* Dr. Malkin's work contains a minute account of the interior of Hafod House, as it stood before the fire, which may now be referred to as interesting matter of historical record.

became a prey to the flames. The fire was first discovered by Mrs. Johnes, who immediately gave the alarm to the rest of the inmates. After she had collected them all together, to be assured of their safety, she directed her next attention to the library, hoping to save some of its choicest treasures, before the devouring element could reach so far. The fire, however, spread so rapidly and furiously, that she was able to effect but little. With the assistance of a Gentleman then on a visit at the house, the contents of four of the bookcases on the floor were preserved, and a few books besides, which Mrs. Johnes with great resolution removed from the gallery. The plate, several of the pictures, and some other valuables, were also rescued. But all the manuscripts, including Sir John Seabright's Collection, in the Welsh language, and some splendid illuminated manuscripts of Froissart, the principal part of the printed books, amounting to several thousand volumes, and comprising a complete Don Quixotte's library, with other works of equal rarity, which cannot be replaced; some magnificent French mirrors; nearly the whole of the furniture, all the linen, musical instruments, and the wine; were destroyed, together with the whole interior of the building. The conflagration lasted only three hours, but raging unchecked, the fire-engine on the premises being useless, on account of the water being frozen at the time, it spread with rapidity, and devoured as it spread. Happily, through Mrs. Johnes's great fortitude and presence of mind, no lives were lost. Mr. Johnes was himself in London, attending his duty in Parliament, and did not arrive to witness the desolation, till the eighteenth of the month, when his family had removed for a temporary asylum to the inn at the Devil's Bridge.

The origin of the fire has never been satisfactorily ascertained; but it is supposed to have broken out in one of the servants' chambers. It is impossible to estimate with any approach to accuracy, the extent of the pecuniary loss occasioned by this calamity; but it has been stated at 70,000*l.* of which sum

£6,500*l.* was recovered from the insurance offices, the Imperial and British, which behaved in the handsomest manner. The pecuniary loss, heavy as that must be esteemed, was however, in a comparative view, but the smaller part of the evil, to a person of Mr. Johnes's character and taste. Much more painful to his mind must have been the consideration of the destruction of the fruit of so many years' labour and research, during which he had concentrated in his favourite residence, a literary treasure which no wealth can replace. His misfortune he bore with almost unparalleled fortitude; every feeling being absorbed by gratitude to Heaven, for the providential deliverance of those, in whose welfare his own happiness was wrapped up.

"With that enthusiasm which led him to devote his life and fortune to the creation of a paradise out of a wilderness," Mr. Johnes determined "still to inhabit his Eden, in spite of the flaming minister."\* Another mansion has, in consequence, arisen from the ashes of the former. The exterior of the present house is nearly the same as that of its predecessor, the greater part of the walls having been preserved; but several alterations have been made in the interior arrangements. The apartments now shewn to casual visitors, comprise the principal octagon library, which has been much improved by the removal of the gallery and pillars; this still opens to the Conservatory, which escaped the flames;—a circular anti-library, opening into the former; another library, consisting of a large parallelogramatical room, communicating with the latter; a spacious dining room, and a drawing room.

Another choice collection of books is rapidly forming here. The foundation of this was laid by the Pesaro library, which Mr. Johnes had purchased in Italy, and was on its way to Hafod at the time of the fire. It comprises many very valuable books, in the Spanish, French, and particularly the Italian language, rare editions of the classics, and almost all the productions from the Aldine press.

\* Account of the fire at Hafod. Athenæum, April, 1807. The annexed view is of the present house, and was taken in the summer of 1813.

The principal paintings and other works of art, which were saved from the general wreck, are disposed in these apartments. The octagon library contains busts of Mrs. and Miss Johnes, by Banks, a bust of Mr. Johnes by Chauntrey, and one of the late Duke of Bedford by Nollkens. Over the fireplace is a very curious ancient picture, the subject Elijah fed by Ravens. The style evidently marks an early period of the art; and it has been variously ascribed to several of the old masters—to Cimabue, Giotto, and John Van Eyck. Some parts of the picture display considerable elegance of design, and freedom of pencil. The name of the prophet is inscribed on it in ancient Greek characters,—a circumstance which has led some to suppose it the work of one of the Greek artists, who settled at Florence in the thirteenth century. This picture once belonged to the abbey of Talley in Caermarthen-shire, and at the dissolution was given by the superior of that house to one of Mr. Johnes's ancestors, probably of Abermarlais, in whose family it has remained ever since.\* This library is ornamented by eight pictures from Monstralet, by Stothard, to imitate bassi-relievi. Both the doors have columns of Mona marble.

The long library contains an exquisite piece of sculpture by Banks, representing Thetis dipping Achilles in the river Styx. The figures are admirably executed, and the whole design is well imagined and classical.

Opposite the door leading from the long library to the dining-room, is a fine painting by Rubens, of Decius Mus receiving the benediction of the Pontifex Maximus, when he devoted himself for the safety of his country.

The New Library contains portraits of Mr. Johnes of Llanfair,

\* There was formerly a letter in the family addressed by the Abbot to Mr. Johnes when he sent him the picture. The late Mr. Johnes of Dol-y-Cothi, remembered to have seen it, but it is now lost. We have already seen above that the abbot of Talley was on very intimate terms with Sir Rhys ab Thomas, which probably occasioned this handsome gift.

fair, by Sir G. Knueller; of Robert Liston, Esq. by Wickstead; of Richard Gorges, Esq. of Eye in Herefordshire, and of Viganoni; a fine copy of Guido's Cupid Sleeping; a Flemish Landscape; two Landscapes by Both and Berghem; a View of the Bridge of St. Maurienne in Savoy, by Deane; a fine picture by Salvator Rosa, of a ruined alchymist.

In the drawing room, over the chimney-piece, is Hogarth's celebrated picture of Southwark fair; at one end is a picture of the Descent from the Cross by Wandyke, and under it a fine *Ecce Homo* by Muralez; two Landscapes by Claude, in one of which he has given a view of the arch at Ancona; and two miniatures from the celebrated Missal, which once belonged to the Duc de Beauvilliers: at the other end is the masterpiece of Canaletti, a procession of the Doge of Venice; underneath are two pictures by Hodges of Montavai Bay in Otaheite, and of Fayal, one of the Azores islands, and a portrait of Lord Chancellor Thurlow by Gardener. On one side is the assumption of the Virgin by Bernardo Lonino, a pupil of Leonardo da Vinci; this was an altar-piece at Lugano: on the other side is a Holy Family by Rubens, and underneath are some beautiful miniatures painted by the late Miss Johnes.

In the Hall, which is paved with *Mona* marble, is a Grecian statute of Bacchus, of the heroic size, which was formerly at Pain's Hill; and six pictures from Froissart by Stothard to imitate Bassi relievi.

The whole furniture of these apartments is in a style of elegant simplicity. Some of the marble chimney pieces, which are enriched with sculptured devices, touched by a masterly hand, were brought from Fonthill; as were also three magnificent French mirrors in the long library; having been purchased at Mr. Beckford's sale.

Mrs. Johnes established a school at Hafod several years ago, for the gratuitous education of poor girls, who are taught to read and spin. Fine table cloths used by the family were at one time made from this home manufactured thread; and

Mr. Johnes transmitted to the Agricultural Society, samples of woollen cloth made from the yarn produced by this little establishment. In the grounds was also a printing house, which is now shut up. From this office issued Mr. Johnes's translation of Froissart's and Monstrelet's Chronicles, Joinville and Le Brocquiere's Memoirs, and some other smaller works.

All, however, that has been done in relation to Hafod house, its contents and establishments, sinks almost to insignificance, when compared with the plans of agricultural improvement which Mr. Johnes has been unremittingly pursuing upon this estate, and which have wholly changed the aspect of the surrounding country. The lands in the immediate vicinity of the house have been brought into the highest state of cultivation, and are as productive as the nature of the soil renders it probable they are capable of being made. The condition in which Mr. Johnes found them in 1783, may be judged of by the fact, that the whole demesne afforded grass and hay for no more than two cows: in a few years afterwards the very same land maintained eighty. "The general system of farming is pursued with spirit and judgment, and the dairy may be said to have been brought to perfection, by collecting the different breeds of Milch cows, and comparing their merits. The long established prejudice, that varieties of cheese cannot be produced on the same land, is completely refuted by the experience of this dairy, which produces Parmesan, Stilton, Gloucester, Cheshire, and every other kind, so excellent in quality, and so exact in the imitation of shape and flavour, as to deceive the most accurate eye or palate. The crops of wheat, barley, rye, and potatoes, have been abundantly flourishing in favourable seasons, where it has been considered as madness to attempt their growth. Some even of the very high and exposed grounds, have been brought into cultivation, and bid fair in the course of time, to repay the labour and expense.

"The number of labourers employed on the farm, is very great, and their comfortable cottages, interspersed among the  
woods,



woods, with the houses of the bailiff and gardener; aspiring even to elegance, convey more the idea of a flourishing colony than of a Gentleman's private residence."\*

The plantations on this estate have already, more than once, been referred to, they form a very important feature in the improvements which have been prosecuted here with so much spirit. Mr. Johnes has found the Larch-fir, to answer the best of any tree in the more hilly and exposed parts of his grounds, and has in consequence made it the principal object of his attention. He has not, however, acted on any exclusive system, but, as the soil and situation varied, has intermixed with them almost every other species of forest trees. The following statement is given by Dr. Malkin, from information which the present writer knows to be correct. "From June 1796 to June 1797, four hundred thousand larches were planted, and very few of the plants failed. Besides these, in the same year, two hundred and fifty thousand other trees were planted, of which fifty thousand were alders, and the rest elm, beech, birch, ash, and mountain ash. They all thrived well, but the beech flourished more than any, except the larch. About ten thousand were planted to the acre. From October 1797, to October 1798, ten thousand oaks were planted from one to two feet high; and from October 1798 to April 1799, fifty-five acres were set with acorns. In the same space of time in which the plantations of oaks were going forwards, twenty-five thousand ash-trees were planted, of which not more than five hundred died; and about four hundred thousand larch trees. The larches were all two years old seedlings, and were always planted on the upper parts of hills. The larches planted at the height of from eighteen inches to two feet, in the year 1796, were from ten to thirteen feet high in 1802. The medium growth has been from twenty inches to two feet each year; but the shoots of one very favourable season, were from two feet and a half to three feet,

and

\* Malkin's South Wales, p. 363. et seq.

and in some instances three feet eight inches. The whole number of trees planted on the estate, from October 1795 to April 1801, amounted to two millions and sixty-five thousand, of which one million two hundred thousand were larches; without including the land sown with acorns.\*

Since this period, the plantations have been extended on the same scale and with equal spirit; from one to two hundred thousand trees being planted every year.

While the proprietor of Hafod has been thus devoting his time and fortune to schemes of substantial improvement, of which remote posterity are likely to reap the benefit, he has been no less attentive to what may be considered as decorative and ornamental. In most cases he has, indeed, kept both objects in view, and successfully laboured to render them mutually subservient to each other. The wild beauties which nature has crowded into this enchanting scene, have been enriched, and heightened in their effect, by the well directed efforts of the hand of art; while the creations of the latter are seen, in many instances, to owe to the former their chief attractions, so far as respects their picturesque circumstances. It is impossible to describe this assemblage of wonders, in language that shall convey to the reader any thing like an adequate conception of their variety and grandeur. To be justly and properly appreciated they must be seen, and must also be minutely explored and examined in detail.†

The tour of these grounds is usually commenced by crossing the Ystwyth from the lawn, a little way to the eastward of the house, over a wooden bridge of singular construction. On reaching

\* Malkin's South Wales, 4to. p. 361, et seq.

† The best descriptions of the Hafod grounds are comprised in Mr. Cumberland's "Attempt to describe Hafod, 8vo." in Dr. Malkin's Account of South Wales; and in a "Tour to Hafod," by Dr. Smith, President of the Linnæan Society. The last is a splendid and elegant work, illustrated by several views of the most interesting objects, drawn by John Smith, and imitated in coloured engravings by Stadler.

reaching the opposite shore, the walk branches in two directions; one path leads to the hill which rises in front of the house, the other conducts to a sequestered and romantic valley, through which a small stream flows from the southward over a rocky and precipitous bed into the Ystwyth. Soon after entering this glen, the loud roar of falling waters announces our approach towards a cataract of no ordinary magnitude. This fall, which is anticipated with lively interest, is not however seen from the walk even when the proximity of the noise assures us that it is near at hand; being concealed behind a lofty projecting rock. Formerly the only view that could be obtained of it, was from a spot of difficult access on the other side of the stream, that commanded the recess into which the water is precipitated; but Mr. Johnes had a winding passage cut through the rock, on the right, which brings the spectator suddenly in front of the fall, about the middle of its descent, where it is beheld to the highest advantage. At some periods, when the brook is swoln by floods from the mountain, the water rushes in a foaming torrent through this cavern, and descending the steps which lead to it from the walk, forms a new cascade of great beauty. Nothing could have been more happily contrived, than the whole that has been done here by the hand of art.

From this fall, a path conducts on the other side of the brook towards the Ystwyth, which is crossed here by a stone bridge, that formerly marked the upper boundary of the walks in this direction. But a new path has lately been carried higher up the river, which is in many places cut through shelving precipices that overhang the stream. Along the whole extent of this romantic walk, the bed of the Ystwyth lies over a mass of dark blue rock: the channel is occasionally so contracted as hardly to admit the passage of the water; in other parts it is interrupted and broken by ledges and precipices, which produce a succession of cataracts endless in their variety, and of almost unrivalled wildness. At the extremity

tremity of this path, an elevated chain bridge over the Ystwyth forms a communication with another walk, which descends in a parallel direction on the opposite bank.\* This bridge commands a fine view of the river, which at some distance above is thrown over an uneven ledge of rocks into a considerable bason that it has hollowed out for itself: the prospect up the vale is terminated by the village of Pentre Brunant, and the heights in its rear.

Returning down the river on the northern side, a path on the right winds into a narrow valley, which affords another of those fine cascades that abound in these grounds. This is called the Piran cascade, from the little mountain stream which flows through the glen. In dry seasons, when the water is scanty, it is divided into two parts: the upper portion, after forcing its passage over some massive fragments of rock, terminates about midway down the descent in a large natural bason, which at such times forms a very convenient bath; but when the brook has been swoln by rains, the water flows over the margin of  
this

\* "The botanist will find many parts of this New Walk worth his attention, though I do not remember to have met with more than one very extraordinary or unique production. This was on a shady dripping rock to the right, perhaps about the middle of the walk, along the brink of the river. The whole watery face of this rock, which is nearly perpendicular, was covered with a dark, red, tough, gelatinous substance like soaked leather, which easily came off in patches, several inches broad, and most resembled some sort of *Fucus* or *Ulva*. In drying it shrinks much, adheres slightly to paper, and is rather brittle, but preserves its dark reddish brown, or greenish colour. It comes very near Lightfoot's *Ulva Montana*, of which I have specimens from its finder, the Rev. Dr. Burgess, but does not grow on the ground among grass, nor does it consist of many erect leaves, but of one uniform flat leaf or crust, closely pressed to the rock. I perceive no particular taste or smell in the plant when moistened.

"Near the same spot grows the elegant *Equisetum Sylvaticum*. English Botany t 1874, perhaps the most beautiful of its genus, and which I do not recollect ever to have gathered anywhere else." Dr. Smith's Tour to Hafod, p. 15.

this excavation, and rushes with great velocity and grandeur over broken precipices to the more level channel beneath.

A steep path leads hence towards the church, which is situate on the left higher up in the woods, and will be noticed hereafter.

Retracing our steps towards the Ystwyth, and pursuing its course along the path we had left ; on entering one of the wildest spots in the wood, we are brought unexpectedly to " a creation of fairy gaiety," which derives increased beauty and effect from its contrast with every thing immediately around. A piece of ground of about two acres in extent, gently declining to the southward, has been laid out here with exquisite taste into a flower garden, enriched with a great variety of rare shrubs, and exhibiting one of the most agreeable pictures of the kind that the eye can contemplate.

The direct path towards the house from this delightful retreat continues some way farther down the river, until it reaches the lawn. Through the whole course of this walk, striking views are presented of the Ystwyth in both directions, with the ever varying scenery on either side ; and convenient seats have been placed in eligible situations, whence they may be beheld with the greatest advantage.

Another path winds up a steep ascent on the right, and conducts to the summit of a bold rocky eminence, where, embosomed in woods, lies another flower garden, " so carefully sheltered, and judiciously disposed, as to realise a paradise in a wilderness." This being assigned to her who formed the hope of Hafod, was always held sacred ground, and opened only to friends who were admitted to the family circle. The lovely flower which imparted to it its highest grace and interest having, in the bloom of life, been transplanted to another soil,\* the spot so intimately associated with the cherished remembrance

\* This amiable and highly accomplished young lady, Miss Mariamne Jones, the only daughter and presumptive heiress of Thomas Jones Esq. died July 4th, 1811, in the 27th year of her age.

membrance of her name, has become doubly sacred, and is therefore still closed to all casual visitors.

In a commanding situation, on the brow of this hill, is an obelisk commemorative of the late Duke of Bedford, bearing the following inscription: "To the memory of the Most Noble Francis, late Duke of Bedford, this obelisk is erected by Thomas Johnes, as a testimony of the sincerity with which he, in common with every friend of the improvement of the country, laments the loss of the most judicious and munificent promoter of the National Agriculture."

Besides the walks enumerated above, and which, from their vicinity to the mansion, are the most frequented by visitors, there are several others, branching in various directions through the woods, and extending altogether probably to a length of eight or ten miles. All the walks have been most judiciously laid out. A striking excellence in the arrangement of them consists in their always terminating in some point or object that leaves the mind delighted and satisfied. In some instances they conduct to a fine waterfall, in others to a well chosen station for viewing the beauties of the surrounding country; and in all lead through scenes which cannot fail to gratify the lover of nature.

We shall here transcribe from Dr. Smith's splendid work on Hafod, his account of one of the most magnificent scenes which this vicinity has to boast. This lies to the westward of the Hafod grounds, in the vale of Ystwyth.

"From the south-west front of the house, the road leads through the lower lodge, scarcely a mile, to the stone bridge called Pont Rhyd-y-Groes, consisting of an elevated arch across the main river, over which is the road to Lampeter. This bridge makes a good object from many parts of the grounds, especially when strongly illuminated, terminating the vale in a very advantageous manner. Instead of crossing the bridge, we proceed up a steep stony watery lane for a considerable way, till it opens upon a sloping green on the left, at the bot-

tom of which, at a short distance, is a wooden bridge over a small brook. This is the first striking object in the walk. As we stand on this little bridge, which is built without any parapet, we look down through the branches of trees upon a grand shooting fall of the brook, lost in the gulph immediately below. A descent across a little green meadow to the left, winds down to the lower banks of the brook, and presents this fall in front. Here the dark rocky semi-circular bason, overshadowed with trees, forms a bold back ground to the cascade. The banks on both sides are broken and irregular, just enough wooded to combine this beautiful picture with the surrounding country.

We return across the bridge to the lane, which is soon traversed by a small brook to be crossed only by means of large stepping-stones; but such trifling difficulties must not deter the investigator of Welsh scenery. The larger brook, which makes the cascade just described, is soon after to be crossed in the same manner, and the path leads to a cottage on the opposite hill. Here the Hafod valley presents itself in so new an aspect, that we did not at first recognize it. Its rich meadowy bottom, with the river meandering through it in zig-zag lines, contrasted with the precipitous brown hills, and dark woods around, might seem another Tempe, as yet untrod by human footstep. No cattle even appeared to disturb the complete retirement. Neither the house nor other buildings were visible. The two noble sycamores alone served to ascertain the relative position of the objects. The rising meadow of Tyloge, besprinkled with trees, and backed with the lofty swelling hills about Pentre, (Brunant) closed the distant view.

“ A little farther on, we entered a wood of young oaks on the left, and found a path, leading towards the river Ystwyth's banks. This path indeed was intricate, and slightly traced through the tangled bushes and thickets; but we had been directed to keep as near the river as possible, that none of its beauties might escape us. We soon looked down upon it from

a great

a great height, and observed it flowing majestically between vast perpendicular rocks, not unlike those of St. Vincent at Bristol. A high cascade on the opposite bank then came in view, and presently after the rocky channel became more confined, and the course of the river more turbulent. Almost every step presented the stream, the rocks, or the beautifully wooded banks, under a new aspect; and as we scrambled over the shelving precipices, and clung to the trees that served at once to secure our steps, and to conceal the dangers of our situation, we scarcely felt any fatigue or difficulty. But now the path became absolutely impracticable within sight of the river, and led us into the thicker part of the wood, as if to display with more effect, the scene that awaited us, at the majestic Maen Arthur, or Arthur's Stone. This is a vast perpendicular rock, white with lichens, its chasms occupied with overhanging shrubs, and its base completely concealed by woods descending to the brink of the river, at a great depth below. Such is the noble foreground of the landscape I would now attempt to describe. But words are totally insufficient to express all the varied effect of the river, broken by projecting cliffs, the craggy valley, the overshadowing trees, the rich amphitheatre of woody hills in the more distant prospect, and the towering mountains that bound the whole. This is a complete composition, a picture which surely no critic would presume to correct. No object obtrudes itself that is not strictly in harmony with the whole, not even a cottage or shepherd's hut, for these scenes are sacred to perfect solitude.

“I attempted to find a shelf-like path along the face of Maen Arthur, but it soon terminated in a precipice, and I looked through the surrounding bushes, perpendicularly down on the tufted woods below. We found a less treacherous path round the mossy summit of this rock, which led us through a thicket of young oaks down to a road, and a totally unexpected cottage, with its little garden of potatoes. Near this spot a noble reach of the river came in view, but it seemed so extensive,



sive, we began to despair of the promised foot-bridge, which was to be the extent of our walk, and lead us towards home. Resolved, however, not to lose sight of the river, which became more and more interesting at every step, we struck again into the wood. A narrow and scarcely perceptible path, led to the finest water-scene we had yet met with. Here the river, after forming several falls just above, whirls its waters round in a number of grand black pools, scooped out of its rocky bed, to a vast depth, and even now, when by no means full, it made a tremendous roaring. In the opposite bank, a beautiful brook, overshadowed with trees, came down in numberless silvery cascades to empty itself into the Ystwyth, and formed a fine contrast to the dark whirlpools of the river.

“ Still proceeding onward, we soon found ourselves on the brink of a rocky precipice, and looked down, through the bushes, on the river below, till another pretty cascade, in the opposite bank, came in view, and soon afterwards a narrow steep descent brought us at once to the long expected bridge, which had hitherto been completely concealed by the surrounding woods. It consists of three old pine trees thrown from rock to rock at a considerable height above the water, and the perilous passage is but slightly guarded on each side by a rail as rude as the bridge. Here as we stood embowered in shade, contemplating the dark rocks below, and the river roaring between them, the cascades near the black rocky pools, above described, were more illuminated than any other part, and appeared under a new aspect. We had a similar view down the river, which is soon lost among the rocks and woods, that overshadow its course. This truly alpine bridge was the extent of our walk.”\*

\* Dr. Smith's Tour to Hafod, p. 17, et seq.

## EGLWYS NEWYDD,

or New Church, stands within the precincts of the Hafod grounds, on an elevated bank to the right of the carriage road by which the house is approached from the Devil's Bridge. The situation is extremely beautiful, commanding a delightful view of the surrounding country; and the church itself forms a very picturesque object in the landscape, from whatever point it is beheld.

The first church erected on this spot was built in the year 1620 by the Herberts of Hafod, for the convenience of the family, and also for the accommodation of the miners of this vale. This structure having fallen into decay, Mr. Johnes, about the year 1803, caused it to be pulled down, and at his own expense raised the present elegant edifice in its stead. The design was furnished by Mr. Wyatt the architect, and is highly creditable to his taste. The church is in the form of a cross, having a square tower at one end.

The south-west transept is occupied by the family pew of the Hafod family; the opposite transept contains the pulpit, reading desk, and the clerk's seat. In the middle of the church, on a raised platform, stands the font: this is an octangular bason, supported by a small pillar of the same form. The whole is made of artificial stone: on one side of the bason are the Johnes's arms; the other sides are ornamented with roses; and the sides of the pillar bear eight figures, designed to represent the cardinal virtues. Over the altar is a fine painting by Fuseli; the subject, Christ and the two Disciples at Emmaus; but this is shortly to be removed, and to be placed on one side of the pulpit; another picture, to correspond with it, is to be placed on the other side. The windows are lancet-form; that on the south-west consists entirely of painted glass of very admirable execution, which formerly ornamented one of the Dutch churches, and was removed to this country

during the French revolution. The subjects are taken from the New Testament.

Several of the Herberts of Hafod lie buried in this church, to some of whom monumental tablets have been raised. The last member of this house deposited here, was Miss Johnes, the only child of the present proprietor; and whose lamented death has been already mentioned. A marble monument is preparing by Mr. Chauntrey, from a most elegant design, to be erected here to her memory, which will contain sculptured portraits of herself, and her mourning parents, as large as life. It will occupy the place now filled by Fuseli's picture; and will bear the following inscription, from the classic pen of a friend well qualified to appreciate the merits of his subject:—

When at the holy altar's foot is given  
 The blushing maiden to the enamoured youth  
 Whose long tried honour, constancy, and truth,  
 Yield the fair promise of an earthly heaven,  
 Though to far distant friends and country led,  
 Fond parents triumph 'mid the tears they shed.  
 Shall we then grieve, that a celestial spouse  
 Hath borne this virgin treasure from our sight,  
 To share the glories of the eternal light,  
 The end of all our prayers and all our vows?  
 We should rejoice—but cannot as we ought—  
 Great God! Forgive the involuntary fault.\* M.

Eglwys Newydd was formerly considered a chapel of ease, dependant on the parish church of Llanfihangel y Creuddyn, but it forms now a parish of itself. The living is in the gift of Mr. Johnes, and the clergyman's income is derived partly from the tythes, and partly from a rate upon the lands, estimated according to the old survey. An attempt was made about the year 1760, to procure for this living the benefit of Queen Anne's bounty, which appears to have failed from the representation of the character of the parishioners, which had

\* Collections from the Greek Anthology, 8vo. 1813, page 395.

been recently transmitted to the office by Mr. Stokes, the incumbent minister. This divine, who probably found it easier labour to complain, than to discharge his ministerial functions, and exert himself to correct the evils he so eloquently describes, states in his letter, "that Morgan Herbert, of Hafod, by his example and influence, had brought his neighbours to a sense of their duty to God and the laws; but that, since the death of that gentleman, they were become dangerous banditti, and a disgrace to human nature: that they laid open the chapel, and turned it into a receptacle for riotous meetings, and all kinds of debauchery; insomuch that it is in vain, and dangerous, for a minister to perform divine service."\* The present state of the neighbourhood will sufficiently evince, that nothing was needed but becoming pains on the part of individuals, who, like the above honourably distinguished Morgan Herbert, possessed influence, and had the disposition so benevolently to apply it, to correct all the evils which Mr. Stokes enumerates. For the thirty years that the present proprietor has held these estates, he has been unremittingly engaged, with the assistance of his amiable consort, in ameliorating the condition, and improving the morals, not only of his own tenants, but generally of the peasantry and labouring classes of the neighbourhood; and he has the inexpressible satisfaction of witnessing the happy effects of his exertions, in the peaceable demeanour, the gratitude, and esteem, of the whole surrounding population.

A short distance to the northward of the church, we regain the turnpike road at the gate by which we had entered the Hafod grounds; and turning to the left, a ride of about three miles brings us to the

#### DEVIL'S BRIDGE,

where we are presented with another astonishing assemblage  
of

\* Meyrick's Cardigan, p. 361.

of romantic scenery. This place derives its name from a stone bridge thrown across a deep cleft in the rocks, at the bottom of which flows the river Mynach. This is supposed to have been the work of the monks of Ystradflur, or Strata-florida, abbey, but being of very early and unknown date, and considered probably for the time a wonderful effort of scientific skill, it has been ascribed by popular tradition to the personage whose name it bears, but who ought perhaps to be little suspected of a performance of such great public utility. The Welsh, however, in their vernacular language, give it the descriptive appellation of Pont ar Fynach, or the bridge over the Mynach.\* The original structure having been placed so deep in the glen, as to render the access on either side exceedingly steep and inconvenient, another bridge, of wider span, was in the year 1753 built immediately over it. The former was allowed to remain, and yet exists, presenting with its more modern companion a remarkable feature in the views of this singular spot. It is in contemplation to improve the upper bridge by raising and widening it.

The most interesting objects of curiosity, however, that here claim the attention of the traveller, are the two vallies which unite a little way below the bridge, and the romantic streams which pervade them. The first to be noticed is that of the Mynach.

After crossing the bridge, a steep path on the right, hardly to be descended without the aid of a rope fastened to some tree above, leads to the bottom of the fissure, where the river rushes along a confined and broken channel in the rocks with great impetuosity. The entire depth of this pass, from the

2 F 3

upper

\* Mr. Warner (First Walk, p. 73) says it is also called Pont-ar-Diawl; the translation of which would be, not "the bridge of the devil," as he renders it, but the bridge over the devil. Mynach signifies literally a monk; so that it is probable the river itself derived its present name from some circumstance, connected with the religious establishment of the neighbourhood.

upper arch, has been estimated at one hundred and fourteen feet; but this depth is greatly increased to the eye by the proximity of the cliffs, and the thick and almost impervious foliage of the trees, which line the rocks on both sides of the valley. The best view of the bridge is from this side, whence alone both arches can be seen with advantage.\*

The falls of the Mynach are at some distance lower down the vale, and may be seen, but under very different aspects, from either side of the glen. To reach these we must ascend to the bridge, and recrossing it pursue the course of the stream along an intricate path through the wood, until we again arrive nearly at the bed of the river. The first fall occurs about fifty or sixty yards below the bridge. The river is here still confined to a narrow channel by lofty precipitous banks, and, from the deep inclination of its bed, is thrown with great violence over a rock about twenty feet in height, into a black pool beneath. Scarcely has the water been forced from this foaming receptacle, when it is projected from another precipice of not less than sixty feet into a similar reservoir: from this it hurries to a third fall of twenty feet; and shortly after, is precipitated in an unbroken cataract full one hundred feet in perpendicular height.

The grandeur of these falls, rushing among obstructing rocks, foaming in the deep rocky basins which they have formed for themselves by the incessant percussion of ages, and filling the narrow valley with a cloud of spray, cannot be adequately estimated or conceived without a detailed examination, in which each of them is viewed separately and alone from every point at which it is accessible.

In the rocks adjacent to these falls, on this side, is a cave,  
said

\* The accompanying delineation, in which the ingenious artist has been peculiarly happy, was taken from a station on this side. It has been usual to represent the great falls of the Mynach in the same view as the bridge, and as flowing immediately under it: but from no point can they be seen together.

said to have been the retreat of three robbers, two brothers and their sister, one of whom is reported to have been buried on the lower arch of the Devil's Bridge. But the excavation is so small, and affords so little shelter against the inclemency of the weather, that it can hardly be thought to have been used at any time as a human residence. Passing once more over the bridge to the other side of the valley, a path on the left conducts to a projecting rock, whence, looking up, a fine view is obtained of the whole of the falls together. From this point they appear like one continued cataract, and have a very striking effect.

Just below this rocky promontory, the Mynach empties its waters into the Rheidol, a larger, and equally romantic stream, which flows through similar scenery from the northward. This river is reached with some difficulty by a path on the right, but the labour of the approach is forgotten in the contemplation of the grandeur of the object it presents the moment we place our feet on its rocky bed.

Immediately above, it rushes in a vast unbroken volume, from a precipice of prodigious height, and forms a cataract of great sublimity. The water is received into a spacious natural bason, scooped out of the hard and solid rock, and is there agitated by the violence of the torrent, like a vast boiling cauldron. When the state of the river admits of a near view, this fall exhibits some singular features which greatly add to its beauty. The water which flows in the middle of the channel is projected straight forward over the precipice; but a large portion flowing on each side, is interrupted just above the fall by projecting rocks, and thrown with great force in two bodies in an oblique direction across, so as to pass each other about midway, and to present the appearance of enfold-  
ing the whole. On the left too, above the precipice, a small mountain torrent falls from a considerable height, into the main channel, and from one point of view seems to form a part of the great cascade. It must be observed, however, that all

these falls vary greatly in their appearances, according to the greater or less quantity of water in the rivers at the time they are viewed.

The falls above enumerated comprise the whole generally shewn to strangers, who place their curiosity under the direction of the guides of the place. But those who would visit all that is entitled to attention, must trust to themselves, and explore the vallies in every direction, wherever they can find or make a path. By adopting this plan, and forcing a way through the entangled brushwood on the eastern side of this vale, they will find, at an inconsiderable distance above the great fall of the Rheidol, last described, another not much, if at all, its inferior in beauty. From the point whence it was first seen by the present writer, the effect was peculiarly striking. In front the valley, which is here exceedingly deep, is closed by an abrupt hill, at the foot of which the river emerges in a state of great agitation from beneath an immense mass of rock, in the middle of the channel, as if boiling out of the earth; it afterwards flows gently for a short distance along a smooth level bed, till it approaches the edge of a deep precipice. Another mass of rock here occupies the mid-channel, and dividing the stream, forms it into two noble cataracts.

There are several smaller falls higher up. Indeed, the whole bed of this river for some miles in both directions, abounds with them, and furnishes a constant succession of admirable studies for the pencil. Below the junction of the Mynach and the Rheidol, the wildness of the scenery gradually softens; the vale widens, and the river pursues a more tranquil course towards Aberystwyth, where it enters the sea.

Just above the Devil's Bridge, Mr. Johnes has erected a commodious inn, which he has designated the Hafod Arms. Here travellers may be furnished with every necessary accommodation, while they are exploring the wonders of the neighbourhood. The house is situated between the road and the valley, and the back windows command a full view of the



great fall of the Rheidol in the gulph below; but its apparent magnitude is greatly diminished by the distance. Mr. Johnes has it in contemplation to remove the present house, and to replace it by another on the opposite side of the road; and to convert the ground it now occupies into a wide terrace, overlooking the vast abyss beneath. This would unquestionably be a great improvement to the place, and would render the situation one of the most interesting in the principality.

The road over the Devil's Bridge from the Hafod Arms leads to Llanidleos, in Montgomeryshire, and other parts of North Wales. On the left, at the distance of about two miles, stands a small church, with a few wretched hovels adjacent to it, called

#### YSPYTTY CE'N-FAEN.

From the name, Yspytty, which is an evident corruption of *hospitium*, it is ascertained to have been one of the numerous places of shelter and accommodation, erected and maintained by the monks of Ystrad-fflur in this wild country, at a period when it contained hardly any other human habitation.\* The miserable ale-house of this little village continued to form the only place of entertainment for travellers in the neighbourhood, till the Hafod Arms was erected.

In the church-yard are four large stones placed upright in the ground, and forming the periphery of the quadrant of a circle. The largest is eleven feet in height, and nearly six feet in breadth. They appear to have been a part of a great circle of the kind usually denominated druidical, within which it appears the present church was built. It has been conjectured that the name of the place, Cefn-y-faen, the "stone ridge,"† might have been derived from this ancient erection; but

\* There is another of these hospitia, called Yspytty Ystradmeirig, two miles from Hafod, on the road to Tregaron.

† Literally, the Ridge of the Stone or rock.

but its derivation is more probably to be sought in the rocky bank immediately behind the church, composing one of the lofty shores of the Rheidol.

A footpath leading across the church-yard, conducts to one of the most profound and romantic parts of the valley of the Rheidol. The river is here confined to a narrow channel of great depth, by two projecting rocks. Over this stupendous achievement, a foot-bridge of the rudest kind, consisting of little more than a plank or beam of wood, with only a slight hand rail for defence, has been thrown from rock to rock, and forms as picturesque and interesting an object, as any in this astonishing district.\* The Welsh name of this bridge is *Pompren-y-ffeiriad*; in English the Parson's bridge.

From the Hafod Arms the road from Rhayadr is continued along a ridge of hills overlooking the vale of Rheidol, to Aberystwyth. At the distance of about seven miles it is crossed by a road which leads on the left to Tregaron and Lampeter, and on the right to Machynlleth. Near this spot, on the right, stands

### CASTLE HILL,

a small family mansion, belonging to a gentleman of the name of Williams. It is designated from the mound near which it is built, which was the site of an ancient fort. This house was occupied by Mr. Johnes's family during the rebuilding of Hafod.

On

\* Dr. Malkin relates that " Mr. Charles Long, late of the Treasury, undertook to leap over this deep-worn bed of many waters, and cleared it in perfect safety." *South Wales*, p. 370. However we may admire the courage and agility displayed in this undertaking, we may be allowed to question the discretion which allowed of its being made. To us it appears, that the honours to be reaped by success, were dearly purchased by the evident risk of the destruction that must have been the certain consequence of failure.

On the northern branch, on the opposite side of the Rheidol, occurs

### FRONFRAITH,

the seat of the late Sir Thomas Bonsal, whose family still occupy the house.

### ABERYSTWYTH

is entered from the eastward by a stone bridge of nine arches, thrown across the Rheidol. This town is pleasantly situated on an elevated bank, having the Rheidol on one side, and on the other the Bay of Cardigan in the Irish channel. It is the most populous place in this county; and having of late become a fashionable resort for sea-bathing, the houses are rapidly multiplying. According to the Parliamentary returns for 1811, the number of houses was stated at 477, besides 26 building; the population was stated at 2264 individuals, comprising 939 males, and 1325 females. The general aspect of the houses is respectable; and the new erections, which are of stone, aspire to considerable neatness and occasionally to elegance. A handsome Town Hall stands in the principal street; underneath is a covered market. There are here two good inns; and the lodging houses are numerous and convenient. The bathing is reckoned good, and considerable pains have been taken to add to the accommodation of visitors by the formation of pleasant walks in the outskirts, particularly on the site of the castle, which commands an extensive sea view. The church stands near the castle: it is a perpetual curacy in the gift of the vicar of Llanbadarn-fawr, in which parish the township is included.

Aberystwyth is a contributory borough to Cardigan. It was first incorporated by Edward the first, and is governed by a Mayor, Recorder, and Common Council. Its privileges and immunities were confirmed and enlarged by several charters, but they are at present very limited, and ill defined. The  
markets

markets are held on Mondays and Saturdays. The first Monday in November, and the first Monday in May, are the regular times fixed, by an ancient custom common to other parts of Wales, for hireing servants. These days are called in Welsh *Dyddllun y Cyflogau*, or *Marchnad Ammodau*, Hireing Monday, or Market.

There is here no manufacture entitled to notice; but a considerable coasting trade is carried on with Liverpool, Bristol, and other parts of England. The chief exports consist of lead from the mines, corn, butter, and oak bark; besides which the herring fishery of this place was once of some importance. The harbour is not very commodious, but is capable of great improvement, both as to capacity and depth. At present it admits, during spring tides, of ships of about two hundred tons burthen. The number of ships belonging to the port is stated by Dr. Meyrick at 210, the tonnage 8120; and the number of seamen employed in the trade 762.\*

From the ancient charters granted to this place, it appears to have been originally called *Llanbadarn-gaerog*, or the walled *Llanbadarn*, being probably considered a dependency on the neighbouring ecclesiastical metropolis of that name: at what period it acquired its present name does not seem clearly ascertained; but it is proved from deeds of that date to have been called *Aberystwyth* as early as the reign of Elizabeth. It is, however, somewhat singular how it ever came to be so designated; for it is situated on the banks of the *Rheidol*, and at a considerable distance from the spot where that river, uniting its waters with the *Ystwyth*, discharges itself with it into the sea. Fragments of the walls by which it was once surrounded are yet to be seen; and the sites of the gates may be ascertained by the names of some of the streets, which have been called after them.

The castle occupies the summit of a rock which projects into the sea a short way beyond the other parts of the coast, adjacent

\* *Hist. of Cardigan*, p. 413.

adjacent to the town. At the period of its first erection, before fire arms were introduced into military warfare, it must have been a place of great strength and consequence, both as a defence against invasion by sea, and as commanding the important pass of the Rheidol. The original ground plan appears to have been an irregular pentagon: the building extended over a considerable space, and was rendered almost impregnable against the weapons of the times by its strong double walls. The present ruins are inconsiderable, but derive from their fantastic forms and situation a very picturesque and romantic appearance.

This castle, like most of the other early fortresses in the principality, owed its erection to the difficulty experienced by the English monarchs, after the conquest, in satisfying the Norman barons who had aided their success. Gilbert Strongbow, the son of Richard Earl of Clare, having obtained the permission of Henry the first to rob Cadwgan ab Bleddyn of all the lands he could wrest from him by superior force, invaded Cardiganshire with an army of marauders, and subdued it without much difficulty. Having thus obtained possession of the country, his next care was to erect fortresses for the defence of his conquests, and in the number of these was the castle of Aberystwyth, which was built in the year 1109. The chief historical events relating to it subsequently, have already been detailed as much at length as the nature of this work admitted. The present edifice was built by Edward the first, after his subjugation of the principality. It has undergone since several vicissitudes, having been more than once taken by Owen Glyndwr, and afterwards recovered by the English. In the 35th. Henry the Eighth, it was granted to William Herbert, who was appointed Commander of the castle and town. During the civil wars in the reign of Charles the first, it was garrisoned by the king's forces, but soon surrendered to the Parliament.

The site and ruins are now the property of Mr. Jones of Hafod,

Hafod, who has leased them to Mr. Probert, the Steward of Lord Powis, who has formed part of the remains into a whimsical building, which, whatever might be its use, is highly offensive to the eye of taste. It has been already stated above, that Mr. Bushel, during the prosperity of his mineral concerns in this neighbourhood, established here, under licence from the crown, a mint for coining his silver to defray the current charges of his works.

Before we proceed to the survey of the southern districts of this county, a short excursion to the northward will conduct us to some objects not undeserving the notice of the topographer.

On quitting Aberystwyth in this direction, at the distance of a mile on the right, stands the church and ancient city of

#### LLANBADARN-FAWR,

pleasantly situated on the banks of the Rheidol. This place takes its name from Padarn, or Paternus, a saint of considerable celebrity in British church history. Cressy, who follows Archbishop Usher and Capgrave, gives the following account of this personage: "The sanctity of S. Dubricius and S. David &c. drew into Brittany (Britain) from foreign parts also Saint Paternus, a devout young man, in the year of grace 516, together with 847 monks, which accompanied him. These fixed themselves in a place called *Mauritania*;\* and there S. Patern built a church and monastery, in which he placed the monks under an Oeconomus, a provost and a deane."

"The monastery planted there by S. Paternus, seems to have sent abroad many colonies of religious men into the province,

\* Cressy conjectures, with much probability, that this name, which marks no spot at present known, is founded on the Welsh adjective *Mawr*, Great, which was attached to the name of this saint, who was called Padarn Mawr, the Great Paternus. Its meaning not being understood by the historian, (Capgrave) it was taken to designate a country, which was Latinized Mauritania.

province, for we read in Capgrave, that S. Paternus built monasteries and churches through all the region called Ceretica, now Cardiganshire. As for the church here called Mauritania, it was also an episcopal see, in which S. Paternus himself first sate."

"After one and twenty years spent by S. Paternus in governing the see erected by himself, and from him named Paternensis, he was by Prince Caradoc recalled into his own native countrey of Lesser Brittany, where he was made bishop of Vannes, having left his successour in his former bishoprick, one named Kinoc."\*

The name of the bishop of Llanbadarn occurs at a Synod held in Worcestershire, in the year 603; and the church is stated to have lost its episcopal privileges, which were annexed to St. David's, through the turbulent conduct of the inhabitants, who killed their bishop. The date of this event is not recorded; neither is the name of the prelate mentioned, but Llwyd conjectures that he was the Idnerth to whom there is a monumental inscription at Llandewi Brefi.

Gilbert Strongbow gave the endowments of this house, in the year 1111, to the church of St. Peter's at Gloucester; but it appears that the establishment was not then dissolved, as the death of "John archpriest of Llanbadarn, for his godly life counted amongst the saints;" is mentioned in the Welsh chronicle under the year 1136; and the death of Sullien ab Rythmarch,

"a man

\* Cressy's Church Hist. lib. xi. cap. 9. Owen, (Camb. Biog. sub. Verb.) says, "Padarn, [was] the son of Pedredin ab Emyr Llydaw, and the cousin of Cadvan, with whom he came into Britain, and was first of all in the college of Illyd, where he was dignified a Bishop. He removed from thence and founded a congregation in Caredigion, at a place thence called Llanbadarn Vawr, consisting of 120 members, where he had the title of Archbishop. He was one of the most distinguished of the saints of Britain; and several churches are dedicated to him. He was ranked with Dewi and Teilo, under the appellation of the three blessed visitors: for they went about preaching the faith to all degrees of people, not only without reward, but also alleviating the distresses of the poor, as far as their means extended."

“ a man of great knowledge, one of the college of Llanbadarn,” is mentioned in the same document under the year 1143. So late as the time of Giraldus, A. D. 1188, it appears also to have had its ecclesiastical officers, although much irregularity had been admitted in their appointment. Of this circumstance the zealous archdeacon speaks with great indignation. “ It is remarkable,” he observes, “ that this church, like many others in Wales and Ireland, has a lay abbot ; for a bad custom has prevailed among the clergy, of appointing the most powerful people of the parish stewards, or rather patrons of their churches ; who in process of time, from a desire of gain, have usurped the whole right, appropriating to their own use the possession of all the lands ; leaving only to the clergy the altars with their tenths and oblations, and assigning even these to their sons and relations in the church.

“ Such defenders, or rather destroyers, of the church, have caused themselves to be called abbots, and presumed to attribute to themselves a title, as well as estates, to which they have no just claim. In this state we found the church of Llanpadarn, without a head. A certain old man, waxen old in iniquity (whose name was Eden Oen, son of Gwaithwood) being abbot, and his sons officiating at the altar.”\* The endowments of this church were in after times appropriated to the abbey of Vale Royal, in Cheshire.†

The edifice is cruciform, having a heavy square tower at one end. The architecture is of the early Gothic style. The date of its erection is not known, but it is supposed to have been built soon after the conquest, from the plain pointed arch which characterizes the architecture. The interior consists of a nave, chancel, and two transepts. It contains several monuments raised in commemoration of some of the principal inhabitants of the parish, particularly of the houses of Gogerthan and Nant-eos.

A flat

\* Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 63, et seq.

† Tanner's Notitia, p. 706.



A flat stone in the chancel marks the burying place of Lewis Morris, the Welsh antiquary. Although not a native of this county, his long residence here may claim for him some notice in these pages. He was born on the first of March 1702, and was the youngest son of Morris Pritchard Morris, a cooper and corn dealer who lived at Pen-tref Eirianell, in Anglesey. His father's circumstances did not allow of his giving his children any advantages of education, beyond what was afforded by the village school; yet, through their personal application and talents, they all attained to respectable ranks in life. Lewis Morris was instructed in the business of a land Surveyor, but he does not appear to have engaged in the profession to any extent. It procured for him, however, a commission from the Admiralty in 1737, to take a hydrographical survey of the coast of Wales, "a small part of which," he observes, "was published in 1748." He was about the same period appointed surveyor of the crown lands in Wales, to which the office of agent and superintendant of the king's mines in the principality was afterwards annexed. During the time he held these situations, he composed an historical description of the mineralogy of the district under his management, which however was never printed. In a letter addressed to Mr. Pegge, dated February 11, 1761,\* he writes of himself;—"What little stock of knowledge I have attained to, was in a manner by dint of nature: my education, as to language, was not regular, and my masters were chiefly sycamore and ash trees, or at best a kind of wooden masters. What progress I made that way is much impaired for want of practice, and corresponding with men of letters. Public affairs, as an officer of revenue, have taken up the most valuable part of my time, so that I am myself surprised that I have kept any thing in my memory. I am now in no public business, except superintendant of the king's mines without a salary; and falling out with some of our leading men, I have retired into a

\* Cambrian Register, Vol. I. p. 267, et seq.

little villa of my own, where my garden, orchard, and farm, some small mine works, take a good part of my time, and a knowledge in physic and surgery, which brings me the visits of the poor; botany having been my favourite study, is now of use to *them*. Natural philosophy and mathematics have taken up much of my attention from my childhood; and I have a tolerable collection of fossils, shells, &c. from most parts of the world, and a valuable collection of instruments and apparatus on that head. Models and engines also have taken up a part of my thoughts. In this branch of mechanics, I have made some improvements, beyond what has been published on that subject in Britain or France. My knowledge in coins is but slender, and my collection very small, and not worth talking of; this part of the world affording but few. I have some inscriptions found upon stones, that are curious, as also some British weapons. My collection of books is not large, and they are chiefly natural history, mathematics, and antiquities of Britain."

From the nature and multiplicity of his engagements, it is apparent that Mr. Morris could not have devoted much time to the steady pursuit of literary objects, and yet his acquirements as a critic and antiquary, particularly in what related to the British language and history, were of the first rank. The fruits of his labours and research he was not, however, able to bring before the public. They exist principally in loose unarranged collections of notes, &c. and in the few of his letters to literary men which are preserved among his papers.\*

He had besides made considerable progress in an elaborate and learned work, which he intituled, "Celtic Remains, or the Ancient Celtic Empire described, in the English Tongue; being a Biographical, Critical, Historical, Etymological, Chronological, and Geographical Collection of Celtic materials, towards a British History in Ancient Times." The manuscript was

\* Some of these have been given to the public in the *Cambrian Register*, Vol. I. p. 332, et seq.

was put into the hands of the Rev. Walter Davies, Rector of Manafon in Montgomeryshire, with a view to publication; but it has never been printed.

Mr. Morris, was considered an able poet in his native language: several specimens of his talents in this way are printed in a collection, intituled "Diddanwch Teuluaidd." His chief excellence is said to have lain in satire and humour. He was also a good performer on several musical instruments: and a patron of musical and poetic genius. It was he who first taught the celebrated blind Parry to strike the harp, and trained him to that excellence by which he afterwards delighted his auditors: and it was the same fostering care that brought before the world the muse of Goronwy Owen, "one of the first Welsh poets of modern times."

In the latter part of his life, he suffered severely from a complication of painful disorders, which terminated his existence on the eleventh of April 1765, in the sixty-third year of his age. He had been twice married; his first wife was Elizabeth Griffiths, heiress of Ty Wr dyn near Holyhead, by whom he had three children. He married for his second wife Ann Lloyd, heiress of Penbryn, in Cardiganshire, the estate on which he passed his last years. By this lady he had issue nine children.\* His valuable collections of Welsh manuscripts &c. are deposited in the library of the Welsh Charity School, Gray's Inn Lane, London.

Among the antiquities of Llanbadarn, may be noticed two ancient stone crosses, ornamented with some rude carvings, and emblematical devices. In the middle of the village is a large upright stone. Part of it has been broken off, in consequence of a bonfire having been made upon it.

#### PLAS CRUG,

the site of an ancient British palace, or intrenchment, occupies the summit of a small hill in a wide marsh adjacent to Llanbadarn.

\* Cambrian Biography, Vol. II. p. 231, et seq.

darn. It was frequently garrisoned by the British troops in their warfare against their Norman and Saxon invaders.

On an eminence, a little to the northward of Aberystwyth, stands

#### PENGLAIS,

the seat of Rodwick Richards, Esq. The house is pleasantly situated, commanding a fine view of the sea and of the country to the southward, as far as the lower extremity of Cardigan Bay.

On the right of the road to Machynlleth, about four miles from Aberystwyth, lies

#### GOGERTHAN,

occupying an elevated situation in a forest of fir. This was the property of the ancient family of the Pryses. From John Pugh Pryse, who was member for Cardiganshire, it descended to Lewis Pryse of Woodstock in Oxfordshire; whose son succeeded to it for a short time, after his father's decease. He died unmarried in 1776, when the estates came to his sister Margaret Pryse, who married Edward Loveden, Esq. of Buscot Park Berkshire; from whom it descended to his son, the present possessor, Pryse Loveden Pryse, Esq. In a manuscript written about the year 1661, intituled "a true Character of the deparment for these eighteen years last passed, of the principal gentry within the counties of Caermarthen, Pembroke, and Cardigan, &c." the following character is given of one of the Pryses of this house: "Sir Richard Pryse, a young gentleman not of full age, in the tyme that the discovery of principles was most dangerous, and it is conceived he hath not as yet any that he is too much obliged unto. He ranne through severall publique offices under all the governments that have been from 1652 to this tyme, but probably more by the direction of his father-in-law, Mr. Bulstrode Whitelocke, than by his own desires."\*

Gogertan

\* Cambrian Register, Vol. I. p. 165.

Gogerthan was the birth-place of Ieuan ab Rhydderch ab Jeuan Llwyd, a poet of considerable emience, who flourished between A. D. 1410 and 1440,\* and who at that time owned this estate. He was educated at Oxford. Some smaller pieces of his composition are yet extant, among which is an English ode, curious from its orthography, as marking the pronunciation of the language at that period.

On the left of the turnpike road, near the sea,

### CASTELL GWALTER,

or Walter's Castle, occupies the summit of a lofty hill, near the church of Llanfihangel-genau'r-glyn. This fortress was erected by Walter Espec, one of the Norman invaders of this county, who had obtained some territories in this district. In consequence of his pious donations to the church, the monkish historians of the time have been liberal in their praises, both of his character and person.† He founded the abbey of Kirkham in Yorkshire in the year 1122, the abbey of Rievale in 1131, and that of Warden in the county of Bedford in 1136. He took the cowl in the monastery of Rievale, where he ended his days in the year 1158. His daughter Adelina married Peter, Lord Roos, a lineal ancestor of the Duke of Rutland.

2 G 3

On

\* Owen Camb. Biog. sub. verb.

† Leland, (Collectanea, Vol. II. fol. 313,) has preserved a part of one of these documents. "Adfuit et Walterus Espec, vir senex, et plenus dierum, acer ingenio, in consiliis prudens, in pace modestus, in bello providus, amicitiam sociis, fidem semper regibus servans. Erat ei statura ingens, membra omnia tantæ magnitudinis, ut modum excederent, et tantæ proceritatis congruerent. Capilli nigri, barba prolixa, frons patens et libera, oculi grandes et perspicaces, facies amplissima, tractitia tamen, vox tubæ similis facundiam, quæ ei facilis erat, quadam soni majestate componens. Erat præterea nobilis carne, sed Christiana pietate nobilior nempe cum liberis careret heredibus, licet ei strenui nepotes non deessent, de optimis tamen quibusque possessionibus suis Christum fecit heredem." Then follows an account of his religious foundations.

On a mountain in this parish, called Pen Sarn ddu, not far from the high road, is an ancient remain of some celebrity, called gwely Taliesin, the bed or grave of Taliesin, being assigned by popular tradition as the burial place of the bard of that name. It is obvious, however, that it must be referred to a remoter origin, as the slightest examination will shew it to be one of the sepulchres usually ascribed to the druidical period. What is called the bed, consists of a rude stone chest, formed by five upright stones, with another of larger dimensions for a cover or lid; which measured about six feet in length, by upwards of three feet in breadth. This chest was placed in the centre of an artificial mound of earth, which was surrounded by two concentric circles of stones, the larger about thirty feet, and the smaller twenty-seven feet in diameter. When opened several years ago, it was found to contain a human skull, all that remained of the body, once, probably, greatly distinguished, which it had been formed to inclose. Some other remains referable to the same æra exist in this parish, but none of them are of much importance.

“At a farm in this parish, called Llwyn-glas, belonging to Mr. John Hughes, is preserved one of those singular pieces of antiquity, called Cyllyll hirion, or very long knives. It is fourteen inches and a half in length, from the tip of the handle to the point of the blade. The handle is horn, ornamented with brass, and of a peculiar construction, being excavated at top, as a resting place, and support for the thumb, which is placed over it, when held in the hand like a dagger, for the greater force of the plunge. The blade is ornamented with gold inlaid.”\*

“About the year 1759, some labourers belonging to the Gogerthan estate, digging turf in Gors-fochno, turned up a tanned leather quarter boqt. It was quite perfect, and made to lace up in front. It was pointed at the toe, gradually diminishing, the sole and upper leather so united as to appear all

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\* Meyrick's Cardigan. p. 433.

one piece of leather. It was of an enormous length, and after quitting that distance to which the toe would reach, curved upwards towards the middle of the leg, nearly the length of two feet. Mr. Morgan, the agent for the Gogerthan estate, presented it to John Pugh Pryse, Esq. who carried it out of the country.”\*

### GLANFRAED,

an old mansion near the river Leri, is entitled to notice from being the reputed birth-place of the celebrated antiquary Edward Llwyd, author of the *Archæologia Britannica*, and other learned works. His father was Edward Llwyd, Esq. of Llan Vorda near Oswestry in Shropshire, who was, it seems, a man of extravagant habits and dissolute morals. A marriage contract had been agreed upon between him and Bridget, the second daughter of Mr. Price of Glanfraed, but the embarrassed state of his finances prevented its completion. His difficulties were, however, discovered too late to save the reputation of the lady, for she proved with child by him of the subject of this memoir. This circumstance has thrown some obscurity on the early history of Mr. Llwyd, as to the place and time of his birth, and also his early education. He is supposed to have been born in 1660, and having entered at Jesus College, Oxford, October 31, 1682, he matriculated there on the 17th of November in the same year. In 1684 he was appointed under keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, which had just been presented to the university. This situation he retained till 1690, when the office of head keeper becoming vacant by the death of his friend and patron Dr. Platt, he was chosen to succeed him. The knowledge of natural history which he had already acquired, and which he afterwards embodied in his *Lythophylacium Britannicum*, eminently qualified him for this charge.

\* Meyrick's *Cardigan*, p. 435.

charge. He could not, however, rest satisfied in his present attainments; and aware that the information contained in books was small, compared with what was to be found in the treasury of nature, he determined upon travelling, to enlarge his acquaintance with this branch of science by personal research and examination. He directed his first attention to his native country, which he visited in 1693. During this journey he employed himself in collecting the materials, which he communicated to Bishop Gibson for his edition of Camden. He appears about this time to have projected a voyage to America, which however he never performed. His private resources being insufficient to meet the expenses of his travels, a subscription was entered into by some opulent friends to enable him to prosecute his plans. Aided by this fund he again made the tour of Wales, whence he returned to Oxford with a large accession of fossils, and other curiosities, which were deposited at the Museum, but which he was never able to digest and arrange. In 1698 he once more travelled through South Wales, in the pursuit of the same object.

He this year finished his *Lithophylacium Britannicum*. The University having, contrary to his expectations, declined to print the work, he was indebted for its publication to the munificence of a few individuals, among whom were Lord Chancellor Somers, Sir Isaac Newton, and Sir Hans Sloane, who undertook to defray the expenses. As the press was not superintended by the author, and the work was printed under the direction of a gentleman who had not access to the original specimens, the impression, which consisted of only one hundred and twenty copies, was very inaccurate. A second edition, with the author's corrections, was announced from the University press in 1709, but Mr. Llwyd's death is supposed to have prevented its appearance.

The next great work in which he engaged, was his *Archæologia Britannica*, in which he purposed to give "some account additional to what has been hitherto published, of the languages,



guages, histories, and customs, of the original inhabitants of Great Britain; from collections and observations in travels through Wales, Cornwall, Bas Bretagne, Ireland, and Scotland." His travels with a direct view to this great undertaking appear to have commenced in 1699, when he visited North Wales, and Scotland. In 1700 he went to Ireland, and thence passed into Cornwall, to acquaint himself with the ancient language of that district. From this county he went into Lower Brittany, to search after Armorican antiquities; but his labours were soon suspended by his being seized as a spy. He was sent a prisoner to Brest, and all his papers were taken from him. He was released, however, after a short confinement, and returned to Oxford in the spring of 1701. The five following years he devoted principally to the study and digest of the materials which he had been at so much pains to collect, and in 1707, the first part of his design was completed and given to the world. This volume contains 1. A Comparative Etymology, or Remarks on the Alteration of Languages. 2. A Latin Celtic Dictionary, or a Vocabulary of the Original Languages of Britain and Ireland. 3. An Armoric Grammar. 4. An Armoric English Vocabulary. 5. Some Welsh Words omitted in Dr. Davies's Dictionary. 6. A Cornish Grammar. 7. A Catalogue of British MSS. 8. An Essay towards a British Etymologicon. 9. A brief Introduction to the Irish or Ancient Scottish Language. 10. An Irish-English Dictionary.

Mr. William Baxter addressed a letter to Sir Hans Sloane, while Secretary to the Royal Society, inserted in No. 311 of the Philosophical Transactions, and afterwards attached to the Archæology, with a commendatory criticism on this performance. It is unquestionably a work of prodigious labour, and of great utility in the study of British antiquities; but neither the judgment of the author, nor his acquaintance with the languages he undertook to elucidate, was equal to the successful accomplishment of the task. The second volume never appeared. He left considerable collections of documents which

he

he had designed for it, but they were in too undigested and confused a state to be of any service to a subsequent Editor.

In July 1702, he was created M. A. by the Convocation at Oxford in consequence of a letter from the chancellor, the duke of Ormond, his absence during his travels having prevented his proceeding regularly for his degree. In the spring of 1709 he was elected Esquire-bedell of the University; an office, however, he held but a short time, as he died in the month of June in the same year. He was buried in St. Michael's church, Oxford, in what is called the Welsh aisle.\*

Besides the two works above noticed, Mr. Llwyd wrote several smaller pieces, and a number of papers in the Philosophical Transactions on subjects of natural history. He had also made a large collection of British manuscripts, some of which he had intended to publish. The following account of them is given by the Editors of the Myvyrian Archæology of Wales, in the introduction to their first volume: † “After he had struggled with insurmountable difficulties for many years, he brought together upwards of a hundred and eighty volumes of old writings, many of them of great value: he had been  
promised

\* Owen's British Remains, p. 230, et seq. from a MS. in the Ashmolean Museum. Llwyd's Archæology, Brit. passim. The following character of Mr. Llwyd and his great work is from the pen of Mr. Lewis Morris, than whom no man was better qualified to give any opinion on such subjects:

“Mr. Edward Llwyd was inferior to no man in Britain in natural history, and had a prodigious knack in languages. His knowledge in Welsh poetry was none at all: for I have by me some attempts of his that way, which shew he was not born a poet, no more than Cicero. This hindered him from making any additions out of the poets; for he had but a poor taste of their excellencies, nor of the force of the proofs from them peculiarly [particularly]; but his Arch. Brit. is a valuable treasure of the Celtic language, and would have been more so if he had not had so many irons in the fire. His additions to Dr. Davies's Dictionary, which T. Richard's has swallowed by wholesale, are by no means authentic; for it is plain to me the authors, Pryse, Salisbury, Vaughan, &c. had not put their last hand to that paper.”  
Cambrian Register, Vol. I. p. 370.

promised admittance to some of the first libraries for ancient manuscripts in Wales, but when it became known what services he intended to Welsh literature, his friends forsook him and withdrew from him the patronage which they had once promised him : books in, or of use to the Welsh language were not to be encouraged." " He died not far advanced in years, and left his valuable and numerous collection to Sir John Seabright ; in whose library they remained for almost a whole century ; inaccessible to any one that could make a proper use of them : and it was feared they were lost for ever, but very fortunately, as many of the books as were not scattered about and lost, lately became the property of Thomas Johnes, Esq. of Hafod, and are lodged in his superb and immensely valuable library. This very patriotic gentleman, with that generosity which actuates him on every other occasion, has put these manuscripts into the hands of the editors of the present publication."

Mr. Edward Williams, one of the editors, spent a considerable interval at Hafod, in examining this collection, and making such collations, extracts, and transcripts, as were thought of importance towards promoting the patriotic design of the publication for which they were intended. Fortunate it was for the world, that they were at that time examined by so competent a judge of their merits, and that the disinterested spirit of the worthy proprietor gave every facility towards laying open their contents to the public eye—for it will be learned with regret, that since the preface from which the above extract is taken, was written, the whole of this invaluable treasure of ancient British records, was consumed in the fire which levelled Hafod with the ground.

Having now finished the survey of the upper part of the county, it is time to direct our attention to the southward. In proceeding from Aberystwyth to Cardigan, there are three routes which may be taken, each of them presenting some objects of topographical interest : the first is along the sea coast ;

the second is on the same line, as far as the village of Llanrhystyd, where the road branches off on the left to Lampeter, and continues thence along the vale of the Teivi, by Newcastle Emlyn. These are the more direct communications, which are usually pursued by travellers. The third, which is more circuitous, ascends the vale of Ystwyth some way, and then turning to the right, passes by Tregaron, and joins the other road at Lampeter. We shall in the first place pursue the last in this enumeration.

On the left, a few miles from Aberystwyth, stands

#### NANT-EOS,

the seat of William Edward Powell, Esq. The house is a neat substantial building, but badly situated, being placed upon a low flat meadow, surrounded on almost every side by lofty hills. It contains a few good Flemish pictures, and several family portraits. The original proprietors of this place were of the name of Jones, one of whom, an heiress, married A. D. 1735, William Powell, Esq. son of Sir Thomas Powell, Knt. one of the Judges of the King's Bench, a lineal ancestor of the present owner. In a manuscript, already quoted, the following character is drawn of Colonel John Jones of this house, who took an active part in the disturbances in this county, during the civil wars in the reign of Charles the first:—"John Jones, one that appeared in the first publique differences for monarchy, and much suffered by reason thereof; yet in 1647, he assisted the reducing of Aberystwyth, a garrison then holden for the king, it was thought on a personall injury offered him; his principles being without question stedfastly fixed for monarchy, and the true heir thereof; for he was constantly imprisoned, on all securing, payd a deep fine in Goldsmith's Hall, decimated and grievously sequestered, declyned, though sometimes tendered publique offices whatsoever; the constant  
 . . . . . object

object of the phanatique hatred; but one of mean parts, only wise in that he is partly sensible of the meanness of them.”\*

Before we quit the parish of Llanbadarn-fawr, within which Nant-Eos is situated, it will be proper to introduce some account of a celebrated Welsh bard born within its precincts, though the exact spot cannot now be ascertained. This was Dafydd ab Gwilym, whose native place is called Bro-Gynin. The date of his birth is fixed about the year 1340, and he is supposed to have died about 1400. His parents were nearly allied to some of the principal families in South Wales, but his own origin does not appear to have been very honourably distinguished. His mother, proving pregnant before marriage, was expelled from her home by her relations; upon which she was united to her lover. During this rupture with the family she and her husband, together probably with their infant son, sought an asylum in the hospitable mansion of her relation Ifor Hael, or Ifor the generous, Lord of Tredegar, in Monmouthshire, from whose nephew the Morgans of that house are descended. Upon a reconciliation being effected, Dafydd was placed under the tuition of his uncle Llewelyn ab Gwilym, a man of talents and learning, and well qualified for his office. Little is known of the youthful history of our bard; but it appears that some of his earlier productions gave offence to his parents, and obliged him to seek once more the protection of Ifor; who on this occasion appointed him his steward, and invested him with the office of tutor to his daughter. The intercourse which this situation required with his fair charge, gave rise to a mutual passion, on the discovery of which by her father, the lady was sent to a nunnery in Anglesey. Thither she was followed by her lover, who, in the hope of gaining admittance to her, hired himself as a servant to the abbot of an adjacent monastery.

Being foiled, however, in all his plans, he again returned to the house of his patron, who treated him with unabated kind-

ness.

\* Cambrian Register, Vol. I. p. 160.

ness. During his residence here he was elected to the chair as Chief Bard of Glamorgan. He is stated to have had several poetical contests with other bards of his time, in which he always came off victorious. It is related of one of his competitors, Rhys Meigan, that he was so affected by one of Dafydd's satires against him, that immediately after he had heard it repeated aloud by the author, he fell down and expired. Dafydd ab Gwilym's fine person, rendered him a great favourite with the fair sex, and if all the tales related of him be true, his amours were not a little licentious. On one occasion he made an appointment with each of his mistresses, to meet him at the same hour under a particular tree, to which none of them was a stranger. In order to witness the event of this congress he hid himself in the branches, where he could observe and hear all that passed. The damsels came, and were not a little surprised and vexed to discover the trick, of which they had been made the dupes. They immediately determined on revenge, and agreed to put the poet to death, the first opportunity that offered. But the bard contrived by some extempore couplets,\* which he pronounced from his hiding place, to fire them with jealousy, and to excite them to vent their rage on one another. During the confusion that ensued, he was enabled to retreat in safety.

Dafydd ab Gwilym became enamoured of Morfudd, the daughter of Madog Lawgam, of Anglesey, to whom he was united in a manner not uncommon, it seems, in those days, by a bard under a tree. This ceremony not being considered valid by the lady's friends, who were averse to the connection, they contrived to take her away, and marry her to a wealthy deformed old man, a second hunchback, called Cynfrig Cynin. Her former lover, however, continued his attentions, and at length

\* Y buttain wen fain fwynaf—O honoch,  
I honno maddeuaf,  
Tan frig pren, a heulwen haf  
Teg anterth, t'rawed gyntaf!

length eloped with her. This affair caused him to be thrown into prison, where he must have remained, on account of his inability to pay the fine which had been imposed upon him, had it not been for the generosity of the men of Glamorgan, who out of esteem for his talents purchased his liberation. On the death of Ifor and his family, among whom he had passed the largest portion of his time, Dafydd retired to his paternal home at Bro Gynin, where he composed some small pieces, descriptive of his feelings, which are admirable for their sweetness and pathos.\* He was buried at Ystrad-flur abbey. The poems of Dafydd ab Gwilym are chiefly of the amatory kind, and are generally addressed to some of his mistresses. Hence he has been called the Welsh Ovid, a character to which the style of his compositions, equally with their subjects, gave him a just claim. A collection of his poems was published in 1789 in one large volume duodecimo, by Mr. Owen Jones, and Mr. William Owen, the latter of whom has prefixed a Memoir and a Critical Dissertation on his Genius and Style, from which most of the preceding facts have been taken.†

Some

\* The following are translations of parts of two of them :

“ From dewy lawns I’ll pluck the rose,  
 With every fragrant flow’r that blows ;  
 The earliest primrose of the spring  
 To Ifor’s honoured grave I’ll bring—  
 This humble rite shall oft be paid,  
 To deck the spot where he is laid,  
 To shew how much for him I mourn,  
 How much I weep o’er Ifor’s urn.”

“ Ifor is gone ! my friend most dear,  
 And Nest, sweet soother of my care ;  
 Morfudd, my soul’s delight, is fled—  
 All moulder in their clay cold bed !  
 And I, oppressed with woe, remain  
 Victim to age, and ling’ring pain.”

† Barddoniaeth Dafydd ab Gwilym, o gynhoed Owen Jones and William Owen. Llundain, 1789.

Some distance beyond Nanteos, and on the same side of the road, lies

### CROSSWOOD,

in Welsh Traws-coed, one of the seats of the Earl of Lisburne, but at present the residence of his brother, the Hon. Colonel Vaughan, member for the borough of Cardigan. The park, which is extensive, is upon the whole eligibly situated near the banks of the Ystwyth. It is well stocked with trees, but the plantations were not judiciously arranged, as to picturesque effect. The house is an old building, and by no means a convenient one. It is placed in perhaps the worst situation in the grounds. The present occupier has done much to improve the farm, and ranks among the first agriculturists of the county.

The Vaughans of Crosswood trace their pedigree to Collwyn, a chieftain who lived towards the latter end of the eighth century, and whose possessions lay in a part of Denbighshire. He was the head of one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales.\* The present family are immediately descended from Sir John Vaughan, who was Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in the reign of Charles the II. His grandson, John Vaughan, Esq. was created a Baron and Viscount by King William in 1695, with the titles of Viscount Lisburne, Lord Vaughan, Baron of Fethers in Ireland. Wilmot, the fourth Viscount, was raised to the dignity of an Earl in 1770, and was succeeded in the earldom in January 1800, by his son of the same name, who now holds the title. Colonel Vaughan, his brother by another marriage, is heir presumptive.

Of Chief Justice Vaughan, the following account is given in a manuscript quoted above. "John Vaughan, one that will upon fitts, talk loud for monarchy; but scrupulous to wet his  
finger

\* Camb. Biog. sub. verb.



finger to advance it. He served Burgess for Cardigan, in the long Parliament; but quitted it upon Strafford's tryal, named by his majesty one of the commissioners to attend the treaty in the Isle of Wight; but refused it, personally advysed Cromwell to put the crown on his owne head, purchased Mevenith, one of his late Majesty's manors, within the county of Cardigan, personally assisted in the taking of Aberystwyth, a garrison then kept for his late majesty. These services kept him from sequestration:—bore offices in the late several governments. He is of good parts, but putts too high a value on them, insolently proud and matchlessly pernicious; by lending 800*l.* to Colonel Philip Jones, and other favourites of the late tymes, procured the command of the county he liveth in, to continue on his friends and dependants to this day.”\*

In the church-yard of Llanfihangel Lledrod, situated at some distance from Crosswood, on the other side of the Ystwyth, are deposited, without stone or epitaph, the remains of the Rev. Evan Evans, the author of “Specimens of the Poetry of the ancient Welsh Bards,” &c. and equally distinguished for his genius as a poet, and his knowledge of the British language and antiquities. He was born at Cynhafdref in this parish, about the year 1730; and received the first part of his education at the Grammar School of Ystrad Meirig, then under the care of the celebrated Mr. Richards. Hence he removed to Jesus College Oxford, towards the beginning of 1751. He afterwards took orders, and served successively several churches in the capacity of curate, but was never fortunate enough to hold a living of his own. His disappointment in his profession preyed considerably on his mind, and led him to seek an oblivion to his vexation in excesses which impaired his health and greatly limited his usefulness. He devoted considerable attention in early life to the study of his native language, in which he composed several poetical pieces. Some of these, as appears from a correspondence inserted in the Cambrian Register,† were submitted to the criticism, and re-

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ceived

\* Cambrian Register, Vol. I. p. 166.

† Vol. I. p. 323, et seq.

ceived the corrections of Mr. Lewis Morris, who speaks highly of Mr. Evans's talents and promise of future excellence.\* His chief literary productions are the "Specimens," above mentioned, which were published in 4to. in 1764. In these he has given a literal prose version of the writings of some of the earlier Welsh bards. He has subjoined to this volume a Latin tract of considerable merit, both as to its matter and style, intitled "De Bardis dissertatio, in qua nonnulla quæ ad eorum antiquitatem

\* Evans was an enthusiastic admirer of the old bards, and always entertained a high esteem for the characters of their patrons. Dafydd ab Gwilym was one of his favourite authors, and in such high veneration did he hold the memory of his protector and friend, Ifor Hael, that he undertook a pilgrimage on foot, with a long stick in his hand, from Cardiganshire to Basaleg in Monmouthshire, to visit the ruins of his palace. The view of its desolate condition awakened within him the *Awen*, or poetical inspiration, which gave birth to the following exquisite stanzas. It is impossible to do justice to them in a translation, but we shall subjoin a version by the author.

"Englynion i Lys Ifor Hael.

Llys Ifor Hael, gwael yw'r gwedd	yn garnau
Mewn gwerni mae'n gorwedd,	
Drain ag ysgall mall a'i medd,	
Mieri lle bu mawredd.	

Yno nid oes awenydd	Beirddion
Na byrddau llawenydd ;	
Nag aur yn ei magwrydd,	
Na mael, na gwr hael a'i rhydd.	

I Davydd gelfydd ei gân,	oer ofid
Roi Ifor mewn graian ;	
Mwy echrys fod ei lys lân	
Yn lleoedd i'r 'dyllhuan.	

Er bri Arglwyddi byrr-glod,	eu mawredd
A'u muriau sy'n darfod ;—	
Lle rhyfedd i falchedd fod	
Yw teiau ar y tywod.	

antiquitatem et munus respiciunt, et ad præcipuos qui in Cambria floruerunt, breviter discutuntur." For the copy-right of this volume, he is said to have received from Dodsley thirty pounds. He wrote also an English poem, intituled "The Love of our Country," a great number of short poems in Welsh, some of which are inserted in the Diddanwch Teuluaidd; and a translation into Welsh of two volumes of Sermons, selected out of Tillotson and other eminent divines. A great part of his life was spent in collecting and transcribing ancient Welsh manuscripts. "He was admitted to the collection of the late Sir Roger Mostyn, which preserves a very great number of ancient manuscripts, of great value: he likewise copied the works of the oldest bards, from a very large vellum manuscript, called the Red Book, in the library of Jesus College, Oxford, which contains, besides this valuable volume, some

2 H 2

other

Amidst its alders Ivor's Palace lies,  
 In piles of ruins, to my wandering eyes,  
 The bramble there and prickly thistle reign,  
 And cursed thorns assert their wide domain.

No longer Bards inspir'd thy tables grace,  
 Nor hospitable deeds adorn the place;  
 No more the generous owner gives his gold  
 To modest merit, as to Bards of old.

In plaintive verse his Ivor Gwilym moans,  
 His patron lost, the pensive Poet groans;—  
 What greater grief that Ivor's lofty hall  
 Should now with schrieching owls rehearse its fall.

Attend ye great and hear the solemn sound,  
 How short your greatness this proclaims around;  
 Strange that such pride should fill the human breast,  
 Yon ruinous walls the vanity attest.

BARDUS.

Sic transit gloria mundi.

other ancient Welsh manuscripts. He thence also copied several valuable historical tracts of the 12th century. He, besides what has been mentioned, explored every corner of Wales, in quest of manuscripts, and met with considerable success; but the necessary encouragement, which was solicited towards putting a part of what he had thus collected, to press, was withheld from him." "He spent the last years of his life in want; but a little before his death, the late Paul Panton, Esq. of Anglesea, settled on him an annuity sufficient to secure to him the necessaries of life; and Mr. Evans in return for Mr. Panton's beneficence, left him his collection of manuscripts. Some of these are ancient, but the greater number are transcripts from the Wynnestay and Hengwrt Books, being upwards of eighty volumes in the whole."\*

Mr. Evans died in 1789, in the fifty-eighth year of his age. His tall person procured for him the surname of Prydydd Hir, or the tall poet, by which he was generally known among his countrymen.†

The old mansion of *Efos y Bleiddiaid* in this parish, is now occupied as a farm house. It belongs to the ancient family of the Lloyds, of Mabus in this county. In the churchyard of the adjoining parish of Llanwnws, is an ancient monumental stone. It stands about four feet out of the ground; its form is semi-cylindrical, the flat side measures one foot near the ground, and increases to one foot three inches towards the top: it bears a cross and an inscription, nearly obliterated, which Dr. Meyrick reads as follows:—"Quicumque explicaverit hoc nomen ..... fixit hunc crucem pro anima Hiroidis filius Caro----." It is supposed by the inhabitants to commemorate a chief of the name of Caradoc, who is reported by tradition

to

\* Editors' preface to the *Myvyrian Archæology*, Vol. I. p. xiii.

† Another *Jewan*, or *Evan Brydydd Hir*, flourished between A. D. 1440, and 1470.

to have been drowned in a pool in the neighbourhood, thence called Pwll Caradoc, or Carodoc's Pool.\*

The next object of attention on this road is

### YSTRAD-MEIRIG.

Of the castle, which is frequently mentioned in the Welsh annals, the present remains are very inconsiderable, consisting of only a part of the keep. It was built by Gilbert Earl of Clare, and was probably intended for a kind of outpost to his castle of Aberystwyth, to defend the pass through these mountains. It shared the fate of the other fortresses in this county, being several times taken by the contending parties in the wars of the British with their Anglo-Norman invaders, and with each other. Maelgwn, who possessed it in 1207, being threatened by Prince Llewelyn, and fearing his inability to resist an attack, demolished the building. From the ashes which have been found among the ruins, it has been conjectured, that it must have been destroyed by fire. The site is at present the property of John Lloyd, Esq. of Mabus.

In the village, is an excellent Grammar School, endowed for the gratuitous education of thirty-two poor boys, natives of this county, in the Latin language. Another endowment granted for a similar school, for forty poor boys, in the adjoining parish of Llanfihangel Lledrod, has been incorporated with it. This has formed for many years one of the best classical schools in the principality, and still maintains its reputation under its present able master, the Rev. John Williams. It is one of the schools licensed for the education of young men for the ministry in the Church of England. The School Room is a neat building of modern erection in the

\* Hist. of Cardigan, p. 304.

Gothic Style. There is annexed to it a library of some extent, containing a good collection of books in various languages.

The founder of this establishment was Edward Richards, a native of this parish. The time of his birth is not ascertained, but is assigned by tradition to March 1714. His father was a tailor, and kept the village public house. He had an elder brother, Abraham Richards, who, after completing his education, which he received partly at the College School, Hereford, and partly at Caermarthen, established a school at his native place, which he held in the church. In this seminary Edward Richards received the first elements of his classical knowledge; but being a wayward genius, and indisposed to study, made little progress under his brother's tuition. From this listless state he was, however, roused by the death of his brother, who was killed by a fall over a precipice in Maen Arthur woods. This painful occurrence led him seriously to reflect on his situation; and perceiving the valuable time he had lost, he resolved to set earnestly to work, to make up for his past negligence by future diligence and application. He went first to the Caermarthen School, then under the care of the Rev. Mr. Maddox; whence he removed to the house of the Rev. Mr. Pugh of Porth y giddo, in the parish of Llanarth, under whose private tuition he greatly improved, particularly in the knowledge of the Greek language. Finding the neighbouring families favourably disposed towards him, he afterwards, but in what year is unascertained, re-opened the School at Ystrad Meirig, which soon rose in reputation, and drew numerous scholars from remote districts. While he was thus prosperously advancing in his profession, he took a step which is probably unprecedented in such a case. He broke up his school, and dismissed his pupils, with the open declaration that his own attainments did not qualify him to do justice to their education, and that before he again taught others, it was necessary that

he should instruct himself. The two following years he devoted to the study of the Greek and Latin languages. For this purpose he used to resort to the church at four o'clock in the morning, both Winter and Summer, and there generally spent the day with no other associate than his books, except during one part of the time, when he was accompanied by his former pupil, the Rev. Evan Evans. At the termination of this period he again opened his school, which rapidly filled with pupils from every part of Wales. The reputation he had acquired, obtained for him about this time the appointment of Master to the endowed School of Llanfihangel Lledrod, which had been recently established. During the latter part of his life he was much afflicted by a painful disorder, the stone or gravel. He died on the fourth of March 1777. Some time previously to his decease he had made provisions for the permanent endowment of the school at Ystrad Meirig, which he confirmed by his will, executed on the 28th of February 1777.

Mr. Richards had from early life displayed considerable talents for poetical composition. There are extant, however, only a few smaller pieces of his composition, which are in the form of pastoral dialogues, and are justly admired for the correctness and exquisite harmony of the versification.\*

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About

\* Two of Mr. Richards's Ecloges, with some other pieces, were reprinted some time ago in a small pamphlet, intituled "Er Eos," or the Nightingale. To this publication was prefixed a short but excellent criticism on his genius and style, from the pen of the Rev. David Davis, of Castle Howell in this county; whose classical attainments, poetical talents, and skill in the Welsh language, eminently qualified him to appreciate his merits. The following is an abridged translation of the original.

"Mr. Richards's intimate acquaintance with the Greek and Roman poets, imparted to his style an uncommon degree of purity and clearness, of strength and freedom. His pastorals are written after the model of Theocritus and Virgil, and are the most polished compositions in the Welsh tongue.

About three miles to the south-eastward of Ystrad Meirig, once stood the celebrated abbey of

### YSTRAD FFLUR,

or Strata Florida, of which some inconsiderable fragments yet remain to point out the ground it occupied. "Strateflure," says Leland, "is set round about with Montanes not far distant, except on the west parte, wher diffirin Tiue is. Many hilles therabout hath bene well woddid, as evidently by old rotes apperith, but now in them is almost no woode. The causes be these; first the wood cut down was never copisid, and this hath beene a great cause of destruction of wood through Wales. Secondly, after cutting down of wooddys the gottys hath so bytten the young spring that it never grew but lyke shrubbes. Thirddely, men for the nonys destroyed the great woddis that thei shuld not harborow theves. The chirch of Strateflere is larg, side ilid and crosse ilid. By is a large cloyster. The fratri and infirmitori be now mere ruines. The Cæmiteri wherein the cunteri about doth buri is veri large, and meanely waullid with stone. In it be xxxix great hue trees. The base court or camp afore the abbay is very fair and large."\*

If

tongue. The language is always chaste and appropriate; the words are well chosen, and judiciously placed; like a wali constructed throughout of hewn stone, each is made to occupy its proper station, and could not be removed or changed without injury to the building. The component parts of the metre are always strictly preserved without in any case injuring the sense; and the poems are altogether so smooth and flowing, that they cannot fail to delight every reader who has knowledge to understand, and taste to relish the beauties of Welsh poetry. There is not a bard in Wales, who may not derive instruction and improvement from the study and imitation of the writings of Edward Richards.

\* Itin. Vol. V. fol. 75, 76.



If allowance be made for the wildness of the adjacent country, the situation of this abbey may be said to have been well chosen. On three sides it is surrounded by an amphitheatre of lofty hills, while on the other the vale of the Teivi spreads before it, and displays a tolerable degree of fertility. The buildings were at one time of considerable extent, and architectural magnificence, but at present the only portion remaining entire is a beautiful arched gateway, which is usually called Saxon, but resembles in its ornaments no other ancient specimen in the kingdom.\* From this door, which formed the western entrance, and from some fragments of freestone, which composed parts of windows, and also from a view by Buck of the window in the north transept which was standing in his time, it appears that the circular arch was used here generally. "The walls had glazed tiles affixed to them, in the style of the paintings we meet with in old missals, marked with quatrefoils; and these are frequently dug up, as are the tiles of the pavement, which consisted of intersecting circles, &c. Painted glass has also been found; indeed it seems that no expense was spared to render this a most magnificent building. Freestones are dug up which were ornamental, having circles touching one another carved on them."† There is an old building just by, now used as a barn, called *Yr hen fonachlog*, or the Old Monastery. This is thought to have formed part of the original edifice, which escaped the fire in the time of Edward the first.

The present churchyard comprises only about two acres of ground; but the ancient cemetery, which was inclosed by a rude wall, and contained, according to Leland, thirty-nine yew trees, is reported to have extended to one hundred and twenty. Leaden coffins have frequently been dug up here.

Leland states, that this monastery was founded by Rhys ab Tudor

\* See the Vignette to this Volume.

† Meyrick's Cardigan, p. 266.

Tudor ;\* but he probably mistook the name for that of Rhys ab Gruffydd, who, as appears from some official documents yet extant, granted a charter for the purpose in the year 1164.† The endowments bestowed upon it by this deed, were afterwards confirmed by the sons of Rhys ab Gruffydd, before their army in the church of St. Bridget, at Rhaiadr, and subsequently by King Henry the Second. In the wars which took place between the English monarchs and the Welsh princes, this house repeatedly suffered great damage ; and in the time of Edward the first it was accidentally burnt to the ground, the flames having

\* Rhesus, filius Theodori princeps Sudwalliæ primus fundator. Collect. Vol. I. p. 45.

† Ego Resus Sudwalliæ proprietarius Princeps, venerabile monasterium vocabulo Stratflur ædificare cœpi, et ædificatum dilexi, et fovi ; ejus res auxi, et possessiones, in quantum suffragante Domino valui, ampliavi ; terram campestem, et agriculturam, et montuosam, ad animalium pasturam, de votâ mente, ad remedium animæ prædecessorum et successorum meorum quantum sibi congruebat indulgens, et omnem quidem donationem quam eidem monasterio antea contuli, anno iterum ab incarnatione Domini 1184 præsentis scripti memoria stabilivi." Dugdale Monast. Ang. Vol. I. p. 893. Notwithstanding, however, the language of this document, it has been thought that Leland is correct in his assertion. Mr. Jones expressly states (Hist. of Brecon. Vol. I. p. 90, Note) that "Bleddin ap Maenarch was buried at Ystrad-flur, or Strata Florida abbey, in Cardiganshire, which was built by his brother-in-law Rhys ap Tewdwr and endowed in 1164 by Rhys ap Griffith, who styles himself the founder in his charter preserved in the Monasticon." Mr. Jones does not give his authority, which would have been satisfactory in so disputed a case. There is nothing unusual certainly in the circumstance of Rhys ab Gruffydd calling himself the *founder*, though he might only have re-erected the building, and enlarged and confirmed its endowments. But there is a passage in the Welsh Chronicle, "Brut y Saeson," (Myvyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 571,) under the year 1164, which seems to fix the foundation at that time. The words of the original are, "Yn y vlywydn honno y daeth govent gyntaf Ystrad-flur." "In that year arrived the first monks of Ystrad flur." I take govent, (*radice convent*) to be the same as Cwtaint, which Dr. Davis renders *Monachi, conventus monasticorum*,

having probably reached it from the neighbouring woods, which had been set on fire. Edward the first gave permission to the abbot to rebuild it, and granted the sum of seventy-eight pounds towards the expenses.\* From this time it continued to flourish, till the dissolution in the reign of Henry the eighth. Its annual revenues were then estimated at 118*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* according to Dugdale, or 122*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* according to Speed's valuations.†

The monks of this house were of the Cistercian order, not Cluniacs as asserted by Camden. The last abbot was Richard Talley, who after the surrender was allowed a pension of forty pounds per annum. The endowments of this abbey were very ample, comprehending a vast tract of the surrounding country, besides distant possessions; and its establishments were on a corresponding scale. The numerous *Yspyttys*, which occur in this county, were hospitia, or places of shelter and entertainment for strangers and travellers, when other houses of accommodation were unknown. To most of these oratories or chapels were annexed, which exist at this day. It had besides several other cells or smaller establishments dependant upon it. In a dark a turbulent age it became the asylum of learned men, and the depository of the public records of the nation, an honour which it shared with the abbey of Conway. Gutyn Owain, "one of the most distinguished poets of the fifteenth century," and equally celebrated as a herald and historian, made this his principal residence; and here

\* *Sciatis quod dedimus licenciam dilectis nobis in Christo Abbati et conventui de Strata florida, quod ipsi in loco illo in quo abbatia sua de Strata florida (nuper in guerra Walliæ anno regni nostri vicesimo tertio, contra voluntatem nostram combusta) prius sita fuit, abbaciam suam de novo construere et reedificare, ac morari possent ibidem, Deo in perpetuum seruituri. Ita tamen quod bosci et viæ circa locum prædictum, propter pericula quæ per boscos illos, et viarum illarum discrimina futuris temporibus poterunt evenire vitanda, per ordinationem justiciarii nostri West Walliæ prosternantur, et etiam emendentur."*

† Tanner's Notitia, p. 706.

here he probably compiled the Genealogical Collections, and the Sketch of British History, which bear his name, and are yet preserved; here also the Chronicle of Caradoc of Llan-carvan,\* the most authentic account of the public transactions in Wales during the period it comprehends, was deposited for security.

Ystrad-fflur became celebrated as the burying place of the Welsh princes and nobility. The Welsh Chronicles have recorded the names of some who were deposited here; in the number are the following:

Cadell the son of Gruffydd ab Rhys, and the brother of Prince Rhys ab Gruffydd; he was honourably interred in the year 1176.

Hywel ab Jevan Lord of Arustly, who was buried in 1184.

Owen ab Rhys, buried in 1190.

Prince Rhys ab Gruffydd, buried in 1196.

Gruffydd, son of Prince Rhys, a distinguished Chieftain, who was interred with great splendour in 1202.

Hywel, another son of Prince Rhys; who was first deprived of his sight, and then treacherously assassinated; buried in 1204.

Mallt,

\* "Caradoc of Llan-carvan collected the successions and actes of the Brytish Princes after Cadwalader, to the yeare of Christ 1156.<sup>a</sup> Of the which collections there were severall copies afterward kept in either of the Abbies of Conwey and Stratffur, which were yearelie augmented as things fell out, and conferred together ordinarilie euerie third yeare, when the Beirdh which did belong to those two abbies went from the one to the other in the time of their clera, wherein were contained besides, such notable occurrences hapuing within the ile of Brytaine, as they then thought worthie the writing: which order of registering and noting continued in those Abbies vntill the year 1270, which was a little before the death of the last Llewelyn who was slaine at Buelht." Powel's Preface to the Historie of Cambria, p. 1.

<sup>a</sup> A copy printed in the Welsh Archæology comes down to 1196.

Mallt, or Maud de Breos, the widow of Gruffydd ab Rhys, buried by the side of her husband in a Monk's cowl, 1209.

Isabel, daughter of Richard Clare, Earl of Hereford, and wife of William Gam, lord of Gower, buried in 1210.

Young Rhys, son of Gruffydd ab Rhys, buried in 1221.

Maelgwn son of Prince Rhys, buried in 1230.

Owen, son of Gruffydd ab Rhys, buried in 1235.

Some years ago two of the abbey seals were found in the adjacent lands. One was circular, about the size of a crown piece, and bore the abbey arms; the other was an ellipse, with a representation of the Madona and child. The former was sold by the boy who discovered it to an itinerant Jew. Two coins have also been dug up here: the one a Flemish the other a Venetian of Aloysius Mocenicus, who was doge in the year 1560. These coins are described in the Gentleman's Magazine, Vol. xxii, page 401.

Near the Abbey is an old mansion, which was built by John Stedman, Esq. of Staffordshire. William Powell, of Nant-eos Esq. married the heiress, and brought the property into that family, who are its present owners.

Proceeding to the southward from Ystrad-fflur, a short ride will conduct us to

### TREGARON,

or Caron's town, at present an indifferent village, with little to recommend it to the attention of the traveller. It is situated on the river Berwin, which joins the Teivi a little lower down. It has a market every Tuesday, and a fair for the sale of shop-goods and cattle is held here once in the year, and continues for three days, the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth of March. This place was once incorporated, and had the privilege of voting in the election of the member for the borough of Cardigan; but on account of some corrupt practices on one occasion,

occasion, it was declared by the House of Commons to have forfeited its charter. The church is a respectable structure, pleasantly situated on a gentle eminence. Some ancient monumental stones, bearing crosses, and inscriptions too much obliterated to be decyphered, were found here some time ago. They are conjectured to be the workmanship of the sixth century.\*

A little to the eastward of the town once stood a house called in Welsh *Porth-y-ffynnon*, or *Fountain Gate*, where was born Thomas Jones, better known in his neighbourhood by the name of *Twm Sion Catti*. He is said to have been the natural son of Sir John Wynne of Gwydyr.† He flourished between 1590 and 1630 and acquired considerable reputation as a Welsh antiquary and poet. But his fame in the principality is founded chiefly upon a character of a very different nature, and upon pursuits which might be supposed wholly at variance with the cultivation of letters.

The traditionary history of the county represents him as a robber of consummate address, who managed, for a considerable period, to prey upon his neighbours with complete impunity. By marrying the heiress of Ystrad-ffin, in the vale of Tywi, he acquired a large fortune, which gave him sufficient consequence in Caermarthenshire to procure his appointment to the shrievaltry for that county. His title was now changed from *Twm Sion Catti o Borth-y-ffynnon*, to *Thomas Jones, Esquire, of Fountain Gate*.‡

In

\* Meyrick's Cardigan, p. 252.

† Idem. p. 247.

‡ From the stories which are related of the tricks and exploits of the robber *Twm Sion Catti*, there is great difficulty in believing that the same person could ever afterwards have held the creditable rank in literary and civil life which the proprietor of *Fountain Gate* is known to have maintained. On this account the present writer, in a former part of this volume (p. 266.) ventured to state that the persons must have been different. Upon farther enquiry, however, he does not find that his opinion was well founded, there being many circumstances which indicate that they must have been the same.

the

In the parish of Tregaron, a little way to the north-westward of the village, is an intrenchment of considerable extent, forming the greater segment of a circle. It is rendered almost impregnable by its situation in an impassable morass. The name given to it is *Castell Fleming*, from being considered the work of some Flemish invaders : it is most likely, however, of British construction. This parish contains, besides, several of the sepulchral heaps of stones denominated *Carneddau*, and also a singular bank of earth, extending for several miles in an east and west direction; this is called “*Cwys Ychain Banawg*,” “the furrow of the Bannog Oxen;” fabulous tradition ascribing it to that animal, whose strength was supposed equal to any labour.\* Dr. Meyrick, with great probability, considers  
it

the principal of which is the marriage attributed to both with the heiress of *Ystrad-ffin*. The following lines communicated by a friend since the note above referred to was written, will convey some idea of the impression associated with the name of our hero in his native neighbourhood.

Yn ystrad-ffin y leni  
Mae'r llefain mawr a gweiddi,  
A'r cerrig mân yn toddi 'n blwm  
Rag ofn Twm Sion Catti.

In Ystrad-ffin a doleful sound  
Pervades the trembling hills around;  
The very rocks with terror melt,  
Such fear of Twm Sion Catti's felt.

IOLLO MORGANWIG.

\* “*Ychain Banawg*, the large-horned oxen, were some kind of animals formerly in Wales; probably either the moose, the elk, or bison, probably the latter. These gave rise to many stories, which are current over all Wales; and there is hardly a lake but is asserted in the neighbourhood to be the one out of which the *Ychain-banawg* drew the *Avanc*, another terrible animal under the name of beaver.” “*Cainc yr Ychain Banawg*, is a strong piece of music, still known to a few, intended as an imitation of the lowing and rattling of the chains of the *Ychain banawg* in drawing the *Avanc* out of the lakes.” Owen's Welsh Dict. Sub verb. “*Banawg*.”

it as the remain of an old British road, of which many similar fragments are to be traced in different parts of the principality.

Descending the vale along the road towards Lampeter, a little way below Tregaron is an artificial mound, called "tomen Llanio." As it lies adjacent to the course of the great Roman road to the station of Penallt, it may be supposed to have formed the site of an *Arx Speculatoria*. Further on, at Llanio Issaf, are the remains of a Roman city, supposed to have been *Loventium*, already described.\* There being nothing to detain us here, beyond what has been noticed, we may cross the Teivi to examine

### LLANDDEWI-BREFI,

a place of some notoriety in the ecclesiastical topography of Wales:† In the year 519 a noted Synod was held here for the purpose of suppressing the Pelagian heresy, which had at this time re-appeared in the principality, and was rapidly gaining over new converts. "Many exhortations and sermons were made by severall persons in the public audience to confute the

\* See page, 386. Llanio is there by mistake called a Parish; it is only a hamlet, or *parcel*, of Tregaron Parish.

† Leland (*Itin.* Vol. V. fol. 75,) says it was "caullid Breui bycause it stondith on Breuybrooke;" but the popular legend of the neighbourhood assigns another origin to the name. It states that during the erection of the church two oxen were employed to draw stones towards the building: having at one time been over laden, one of them died in the effort to drag the load up a small hill which lay in the way. The other, on the loss of his companion, bellowed nine times, when the hill opened, and a way was made for him on level ground, along which he drew the whole load alone without difficulty. This miracle is commemorated in the following triplet;

Llanddewi Brevi Braith  
Lle brevodd yr ych naw gwaith  
Hyd nes holltodd craig y Voelallt.



the said heresy. But the people were so deeply and incurably poisoned generally therewith, that no reasons or persuasions could reduce them to the right path of Catholick Faith.\* In this dilemma it was agreed to send for St. David, who, after repeated applications and earnest entreaty, was at length prevailed upon to join the convocation. "When all the fathers assembled enjoined S. David to preach, he commanded a child which attended him, and had lately been restored to life by him, to spread a napkin under his feet: and standing upon it, he began to expound the Gospell and the law to the auditory. All the while that his oration continued, a snow-white dove descending from heaven sate upon his shoulders: and moreover the earth on which he stood rais'd itself under him till it became a hill, from whence his voyce, like a trumpet, was clearly heard and understood by all, both near and far off. On the top of which hill, a church was afterwards built which remains to this day." †

The church, which is dedicated to St. David, is built, as here

2 I

stated,

\* Giraldus in Vita, St. David.—apud Cressy, Lib. xi. cap. 11.

† Ibidem. The reader not versed in ecclesiastical history, may perhaps be curious to know what were the tenets of this "damnable" heresy, that for ages convulsed the whole of Christendom, and to promote the extirpation of which so signal a miracle was wrought. Cressy, Church History, book viii. chap. 24, gives the following account of them from Sigebertus: "In Brittany, saith he, Pelagius endeavoured to defile the church of Christ with his execrable doctrines; teaching that man may be saved by his merits without grace; that every one is directed by his own naturall free will to the attaining of justice; that infants are born without original sin, being as innocent as Adam was before his transgression; that they are baptized not to the end that they should be free from sin, but that they may by adoption be admitted into the kingdom of God; and though they were not baptised, yet they should enjoy an eternall and happy life, though excluded from the kingdom of God."

The author of this heresy was a British monk, who lived towards the middle of the fourteenth century, and whose real offence consisted in his strenuous opposition to the establishment of spiritual tyranny. His real name was Morgan, which, having reference to the sea, he converted, when he began his travels, into Πηλαγίος, or Pelagius, as having a more learned sound.

stated, on a small hill, but whether it be a natural eminence, or the miraculously raised pulpit of the Saint, the reader will, it is presumed, have no difficulty in deciding for himself. It is a large Gothic structure, with a massive square tower at one end, supported by four Gothic arches. It was originally cruciform, but the north transept has been for some time in ruins. In other respects the edifice has suffered considerable dilapidations; but the present Bishop of St. David's, who is the lord of the manor, is intent upon repairing it, and restoring to it some portion of its ancient grandeur. Llwyd, in his communications to Gibson's Camden, mentions an old monumental stone which he discovered here, and which is still to be seen. It bears the following inscription in ancient characters :

Hic jacet Idnert filius I....  
 Qui occisus fuit propter P....  
 Sancti.....

Supplying the first blank with *aobi*, the second with *redam*, and the third with *Davidi*, he reads it :—Hic jacet Idnert filius Jacobi, qui occisus fuit propter predam. Sancti Davidi.\* Another stone described by the same writer also exists, but the inscription is too much defaced to be made out. It stands in the church-yard, near the western end of the church; it is about eight feet in height, and nearly a foot square. The natives give it the name of St. David's Staff, which they say he used when preaching against the Pelagians. There are a few other monumental remains of a similar kind near the same spot, with crosses and inscriptions, but the letters are illegible. "The Sexton shewed him a rarity called *Matkorn yr ych bannog*, or *Matkorn ych Dewi*, which he said had been preserved there ever since the time of St. David, adding the fable of the oxen called *Ychen bannog*, which drew away a monstrous beaver dead. If this *Matkorn* is not the interior part of an Ox's horn, as the name imports, it very much resembles it,  
 and

\* Gough's Camden, Vol. III. p. 156.

and is so heavy that it seems absolutely petrified. It is full of large cells, or holes, and the circumference at the root is about seventeen inches."\*

This curiosity is still preserved in the church, but the size is much less than here represented, being at present no more than a foot in length. Probably a part of it may have been broken off, and lost.

Dr. Thomas Beck, Bishop of the diocese, founded here in 1187, a collegiate establishment for a precentor and twelve prebendaries, in honor of St. David, but recommended it to the patronage of Edward the Confessor. At the Dissolution, 26 Henry the eighth, it was valued at 40*l.* or 38*l.* 11*s.* clear of deductions.† In the time of the commonwealth, the manor was purchased by John Jones, Esq. of Llanfair, for 186*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* but at the restoration it reverted to the Bishop of St. David's.

It appears from Browne Willis that David Roberts, David ab Llu, and Thomas Edwards, vicars choral, subscribed to the supremacy August 4th, 1534; and that in 1553 there remained in charge three pensions; to Thomas Desham 6*l.* to Reginald Williams 8*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* and 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* to Morgan Jenkins, incumbent of the late college.

Ieland describing this place observes, "Llandewi-breui is but a simple or poore village. I passid over a litle broke into hit. It is set among montaines on every side but by west, wher is the valley of Tiue. Tiue river is about half a mile of."‡ The present village is perhaps still more poor and miserable in its appearance, consisting of a collection of wretched hovels, scarcely fit for the habitation of human beings one degree removed from the savage state. The hills which inclose it on the north and east are of the most bleak and desolate character, but on the west the shores of the Teivi, which here exhibit

\* Gough's Camden, Vol. III. p. 156.

† Tanner's Notitia, p. 707.

‡ Itin. Vol. V. p. 74.

some share of cultivation and fertility, impart to it an air  
 ther less forbidding.

Llanddewi-brefi must not be quitted without some notice of a scheme now in contemplation, to raise it to a rank of no small importance in the principality. The present learned diocesan, Dr. Burgess, who, since his elevation to the see, has displayed a laudable zeal for the interests of that church of which he is appointed one of the guardians and rulers, has proposed to establish at this place a collegiate institution, for "the education of young men, intended for the ministry of the Church of England." The Welsh clergy may, as a body, justly vie with their brethren in England for respectability of character, and attention and assiduity in the laborious duties of their calling: but no one at all acquainted with the country can be unapprised that many of them are, comparatively speaking, exceedingly ignorant. This circumstance reflects no personal discredit upon them: it is to be attributed to the disadvantages of their professional education, which, in a very large proportion of cases, has extended but a little way, if at all, beyond the acquisition of that portion of Latin and Greek, which they could learn at the licensed schools, and was required to qualify them to pass their examination;—"the distance of the diocese," and the same remark applies to Wales generally, "from the Universities, and the poverty of the greater part of its Benefices, placing an University education out of the reach of most candidates for orders."\* It is the object of the proposed institution to apply the best practicable remedy to this evil, by providing in the heart of Wales, a seminary which shall combine the essential advantages of a collegiate course of instruction, with the requisite regard to economy, and to the present pecuniary means, and the future destination of the students. To such an establishment, while conducted on liberal principles, every friend

\* Report of the Committee of the Society for promoting Religious knowledge, in the diocese of St. David's.

friend of sound learning and rational religion must wish well. Eventually, it cannot fail to raise the respectability of the clergy themselves, and to extend and perpetuate their usefulness among those whom they are appointed to teach.

“ In the Seminary of Llanddewi-Brefi it is intended to have distinct courses of Lectures :

1. On Theology and Christian Morals.
2. On Languages ; Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.
3. On Elocution, and the study of the Welsh language.
4. On Church History, and Church establishments ; with special reference to the Church of England.
5. On the Duties of the Clerical profession ; and the existing laws relative to the church.”

The principal “ regulations proposed for the establishment and government of the College at Llanddewi-Brefi,” are the following :—

“ The College to be called St. David’s College.

“ The College to be founded for the sole and exclusive purpose, of educating for the ministry of the Church of England, young men, natives of the principality, whose circumstances preclude them from the advantage of an University education.

“ The College to consist of a Principal, two Lecturers, two Preceptors, (one of reading and one of composition) a *Teacher of Psalmody*, and thirty scholars.

“ The Principal and Lecturers, to be natives of the Principality ; to be well versed in Theology, in Church History, and Ecclesiastical Law ; to be learned in Hebrew, Greek, Latin, English, and Welsh ; and to be conversant in the study and practice of Elocution. The first Principal to be a master of arts of one of the Universities of the United kingdom. In future appointments of the Principal, the Lecturers (if of five years standing as Lecturers) to have the preference of other candidates, *cæteris paribus*.”

“ Scholars not eligible before the completion of their eighteenth year, nor without their having obtained a Premium at an Easter examination, in one of the licensed Grammar Schools of the Diocese, nor without a certificate from their master of good behaviour, and regular attendance at School for the last four years previous to their being candidates, and of the books which they have read. They must, in order to be candidates, be grammatically acquainted with Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

“ Four years to be the duration of a Scholarship.

“ The Bishop of the Diocese for the time being, to be Visitor of the College.”\*

Below

\* Report, &c. ut supra. A detailed examination of the plan and regulations of the proposed institution, would be foreign from the nature of the present work. But a friendly disposition towards its primary object, the learned education of the teachers of Religion, induces us to offer a few observations on two or three points. The first respects the *situation* which has been selected for the establishment. The assigned reasons for this choice are 1. “ That the parish of Llanddewi-Brefi is a part of a manor belonging to the Bishop of St. David’s, who is willing to grant to the Society ground enough for the necessary building, gardens, &c. 2. Its seclusion from populous society. 3. Its vicinity to some of the Bishop’s best patronage, which might serve as rewards to the ability and diligence of the masters. 4. Its spacious church, which is large enough to accommodate a numerous society, 5. Its convenience for stone, fuel, &c. and 6. Its healthy situation.” Of these reasons the last three cannot be said to apply exclusively to Llanddewi-Brefi, and the fifth hardly at all: for no place in Wales is much worse situated for fuel, the inhabitants depending entirely for this important article on the peat or turf which they raise in the neighbourhood. The first and third, ought not to weigh in the case, as they are very unimportant considerations when put in competition with the substantial improvement of the pupils. Provision should be made for the adequate remuneration of the professors, while they hold their offices, wholly exclusive of any dependence on Episcopal patronage; which may be apt in some instances to degenerate into a servility incompatible with the proper discharge of their functions. The second, so far from being an advantage, strikes us as a very strong objection

Below Llanddewi-Brefi, on the eastern bank of the Teivi, are the ruins of an ancient and magnificent mansion, called, from the parish in which it was situated,

### PLAS LLANFAIR Y CLYDOGE.

or Plas Llanfair y Clewedogau. It was long the residence of the ancestors of Mr. Johnes of Hafod, whose father Thomas

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Johnes,

jection to the place. That seclusion from the world may be a very proper and necessary requisite in the education of monks and ascetics, we are not disposed to deny ; but we are at a loss to conceive in what way it can be beneficial in training men to fill one of the most important stations in society, and to qualify them for teaching others, how to discharge the great duties of social life. In a seminary designed to educate men for the Christian ministry, every precaution possible should no doubt be taken to guard them against the contagion of vice, and at the same time to keep them from habits of dissipation, which may obstruct the prosecution of their studies ; but these objects may surely be effected, as far at least as depends on the constitution and managers of a college, without burying them in the midst of impassable deserts. Under proper regulations, such intercourse with society as a Welsh town affords, will contribute very materially to enlarge the ideas and improve the manners of nine-tenths of the students who are likely to be received into this institution. This is abundantly proved by the experience of one at least of the licensed schools, where the candidates for orders have of late years been educated.

The second point relates to the estimated expense of the proposed building. It has struck us with some astonishment, that no less a sum than TEN THOUSAND POUNDS, should be deemed necessary for *building* merely, in the heart of Cardiganshire, on a spot where labour is exceedingly cheap, and the materials admitted to be easily procurable, apartments for one Master, three Lecturers, and thirty Students !! Surely the estimate must have been made for the meridian of London !

We shall only add our friendly remonstrance against a clause in the regulations, which we lament to see, as it appears unworthy of the present age : " No Scholars will be admissible at Llanddewi Brefi, who have not passed at least the last four years at one of the licensed Grammar Schools of the Diocese." It was indeed worthy of a HORSLEY to institute such a system

of

Johnes, Esq. inhabited it to the time of his marriage. Formerly it pertained to a family of the name of Lloyd, one of whom, who lived during the civil commotions in the reign of Charles the first, is thus spoken of by an anonymous writer of that age. "Sir Walter Lloyd, a gentleman and a scholar, elegant in his tongue and pen, nobly just in his deportment, naturally fit to manage the affayres of his country, which he did before these times with much honour and integrity. He served knight for his county in the Parliament; but quitted that service on the Earl of Strafford's death; was Commissioner of array, paid a deep composition in Goldsmith's Hall, contents himself within the walls of his house."\*

On this estate, which is now the property of J. Beadnel,  
Esq.

of exclusion, and to wound even the members of his own church, if with the same blow he could give a mortal stab to the Dissenting teacher: but with his mouldering ashes this unchristian spirit should have been entombed for ever! Let it be admitted that the safety of the established church requires that no pupil of a dissenting master, be his genius and attainments ever so pre-eminent (and it must not be forgotten that some of the brightest ornaments among the clergy, were educated in Dissenting schools) should be eligible for ordination, or permitted to enjoy the advantages of this college; is it not the height of injustice to extend the same prohibition to the scholars of the established Clergy?

Many a clergyman, especially in Wales, looks for the chief means of supporting his family to a Classical School; but in what a situation is he placed by this law? The very object for which most young men in the principality, are classically educated, is effectually removed beyond the attainment of his pupils. Virtually, his school is proscribed, and himself driven to seek some other livelihood less congenial with his habits and acquirements. Let it be hoped that this narrow regulation, which has probably been proposed without sufficient reflection on its tendency and consequences, be supplanted by one more consonant with the liberal design of the institution. *NON UNDE SED QUOD*, ought to be the motto inscribed over its portal; the learning and character of the candidate, not the seminary wherein they were acquired and formed, ought to constitute the sole qualifications for admittance.

\* Cambrian Register, Vol. I. p. 165.



Esq. are some valuable lead and silver mines, but at present inundated, and on that account inaccessible.

The adjoining parish of

### CELLAN

is entitled to some attention from the remains of antiquity, both British and Roman, which it contains. The Roman road leading from the great station at Llanio to Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn, near Llandovery, is seen here ascending from the shores of the Teivi, to the mountains which bound the county. Near the little river Ffrwd is a large stone, called Llech Cynon, or Cynon's Stone : it occupies the summit of a small tumulus, or barrow, and probably marks the burial place of some British Chief. On a mountain, to the northward, are several other ancient sepulchres, or Cist-faens, one of which is called *Bedd-y-forwyn*, or the Maiden's grave. Dr. Meyrick had them all opened, and they appeared to be all alike. Their form was oblong ; they were composed of four stones and were inclosed in the centre of a small tumulus of earth and stones.

“ After clearing away the rubbish, a stratum of gravel appeared, next that a thin layer of sand, and under that burnt ashes of bones and wood, lying on a bed of clay which had been laid on the rock : the depth of each was about three feet.”\*

The mountains in this parish contain a great number of Carneddau, or sepulchral heaps of stones, besides some single stones of great magnitude, all of which at one period were placed in an upright position. Of the latter, one called Byrfaen, measuring fifteen feet in length, by about four feet in thickness, lies at present on the ground : another denominated *Hir-faen-gwyddog*, or the lofty conspicuous stone, still maintains its original upright posture. It stands sixteen feet above  
the

\* Meyrick's Cardigan, p. 214.

the ground, and is about three feet thick. This was noticed by Llwyd, in his communications to Bishop Gibson, who states that it marked at that time the boundary of the two counties of Cardigan and Caermarthen.\*

In the same neighbourhood, is a third stone of similar magnitude, called *Maen y Prenfol*, and also *Maen penfol gwalt gwyn*. This stone was reported to Mr. Llwyd under the first designation, whence he concluded, for he did not see it, that it must be a Cist-faen, Prenfol in North Wales signifying a chest: the other name may be translated *bald pate, white hair*, and was probably given to the stone on account of the grey appearance it would exhibit at a distance. It measures sixteen feet in length, and formed a conspicuous object if ever it stood in an upright position: but from some other stones which lie adjacent to it, there is reason to suppose that it once formed the lid of a large Cromlech.

Some remains of military works are also found on these hills; they consist of a few British encampments, but none of them are on an extensive scale.

The parish of Cellan was the native place of the celebrated Welsh antiquary, the Rev. Moses Williams. He was born on the 2nd of March 1685, and was the son of the Rev. Samuel Williams, vicar of Llandyfriog in this county. The elementary part of his classical education he received at the Caermarthen grammar-school, whence he removed to Oxford, and matriculated at University College May 31, 1705. Here he took his first degree in arts in 1708; he was afterwards incorporated in the same degree at Cambridge, and proceeded master of arts in that university in 1718. He was ordained deacon by Dr. Trommel, bishop of Norwich; a priest by Dr. Ottery, bishop of St. Davids. Dr. Ottery presented him to the living of Llanwenog in this county, in 1715; and in 1717 he was inducted to the vicarage of Devynock in Brecknockshire, where in 1718 he married Margaret Davies of that parish. In

1724

\* Gough's Camden, Vol. III. p. 169.

1724 he exchanged this living for the rectory of Chelton Trinity, and the vicarage of St. Mary's, Bridgewater, Somersetshire. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1732. His chief reputation as a Welsh Scholar and Antiquary rests on the valuable assistance he gave Dr. Wotton in preparing for publication his edition of the laws of Hywel Dda, the glossary to which, a very able and learned performance, if not wholly, was principally compiled by Mr. Williams. His co-operation in this great undertaking is acknowledged in the title page, and properly noticed in the preface by Dr. Clarke, who ushered the book into the world.\* Mr. Williams's other works comprise various theological treatises, now little known. He also drew up a manuscript catalogue of the books in the Bodleian Library at Oxford; and a manuscript life of himself, which is deposited in that library. His books and manuscripts he bequeathed to Lord Macclesfield.

Descending the vale of Teivi on the western side of the river, the first object of attention below the Roman city at Llanio is

### DERI ORMOND,

or Deri Wormwood, the seat of John Jones Esq. The present house is of modern erection, and being placed in an elevated situation, commands a fine view of the vale, and the adjacent country. On an eminence which lies between this house and the Teivi is an ancient entrenchment of considerable extent. It is called Castell Goedref, and gives name to the tenement on what it is situated.

Further on, near the junction of the little river Dulais with  
the

\* It was published in 1730, after Dr. Wotton's death, in one large volume in folio, under the following title: *Cyfreithyeu Hywel Dda ac eraill; seu leges Wallicæ Ecclesiasticæ et Civiles Hoeli Boni, et aliorum Walliæ principum, quas ex variis codicibus manuscriptis eruit. Interpretatione Latinâ, notis et Glossario illustravit Gwilielmus Wottonus S. T. P. adjuvante Mose Gulielmo A. M. R. S. Soc. qui et appendicem adjecit.*

the Teivi, once stood a mansion of some note in this county, called

### MILLFIELD,

or Maes-y-felin, inhabited by one of the numerous families of the Lloyds of this county. Sir Francis Lloyd of this house, who lived during the civil wars in the reign of Charles the first, is described as “a lover of monarchy, which drew him from the long parliament about 1643 : he paid a fine at Goldsmiths’ Hall ; seemed to love his private use above the publique affayres of his country.” \*

A favourite son of Rees Prichard the celebrated vicar of Llandovery, lost his life at this house in a dishonourable love affair ; whereupon the father denounced the mansion in a curse, which is confidently believed by many of the neighbours to have had the malignant effect the words seem to imprecate, as they ascribe to this circumstance the ruin of the place and the dispersion of the family.

The curse of God on *Maes-y-felin* fall,  
And every stone in its detested wall.

There being nothing farther to detain us in this quarter, we may proceed in the next place to

### LAMPETER.

The proper orthography of the name is Llanbedr, from its church, which is dedicated to St. Peter : it is also called Llanbedr-pont-Stuffan, from the bridge over the Teivi at the distance of about half a mile, which is stated to have been originally built by a person of the name of Steven at his own charge. †

This

\* Cambrian Register, Vol. I. p. 165.

† Lampeter bridge lies on the parish of Pencarreg county of Caermarthen, and on the county of Cardigan, for repairs, &c.

This is a small straggling town, consisting for the most part of very indifferent cottages: it is however pleasantly situated on the western shore of the Teivi, and boasts a tolerable inn, which has lately become a posting house. It is a contributory borough to Cardigan, and is governed by a Portrieve. The market is held on Saturday, and it has nine fairs in the year, which are kept on the 11th January, Wednesday in Whitsun-week; 10th July; first Saturday in August O S; 27th August; the first Saturday in September O S; 26th September; 13th of October; and the first Saturday in November O S. The quarter-sessions are held here annually on the second Wednesday in October.

There are some indications of this having been a place of larger extent and greater consequence, at some distant period, than it is at present. "Gwyr Llambedr," or the men of Lampeter, are occasionally mentioned with epithets of distinction in the Welsh annals. Tradition also records that there was once another church on the south-west side of the town, dedicated to St. Thomas. It is supposed to have stood on a spot called at this day "Mynwent Twmas," or Thomas's Church-yard, where fragments of leaden coffins have occasionally been discovered. The street leading to this place is called St. Thomas's street. There is a house in the town called the Priory, in the ground attached to which are some remains of walls, and an aged yew-tree. This establishment is not noticed by Tanner: it was probably on a small scale, and attached as a cell to the monastery of Ystrad-flur.

The mansion of the Lords of Lampeter occupied a delightful eminence at some distance to the westward of the town. They are supposed to have lived here in great splendour; and a track is pointed out, along which, tradition states, a paved way led from the house to the western door of St. Peter's.

The church, which stands in a pleasant situation, on an eminence that commands an extensive view of the vale in both directions, is a plain substantial building, with a square tower

at one end. It is a very ancient building. The interior comprises a nave, a south aisle, and chancel: the aisle is divided from the nave by a range of pointed arches. It had once a rood-loft, some remains of which yet exist. It contains some old sepulchral monuments, principally of the Lloyds of Millfield.

A little to the northward of the church is an artificial mound of earth, which probably marks the site of an ancient fortress; but the castle so often mentioned in the Welsh Chronicles under the name of Castell Ystuffan, or Stephen's Castle, stood on the outskirts of the town, in a meadow on the right of the road leading to Aberystwyth. The ground it occupied is indicated by a lofty moated tumulus, and the traces of a quadrangular court. A subterraneous chamber was discovered here some time ago, which was called "Seler-y-brenin," or the king's cellar. It was entered by some stone steps, which were removed by the owner of the land, for the sake of the materials.

Near the town are several other remains of early date. A large druidical circle seems to have existed at one time on a hill called Alltgoch. There are here several large flat stones, but they are all fallen, and now lie on the ground. The same eminence contains a British entrenchment of some extent; and there are some others in different parts of the parish, besides a small Roman camp near the Dulais River. The Roman road from Llanio to Menevia passed this way, and is to be seen near the Teivi.

Lampeter was honoured with a visit from Archbishop Baldwin and his zealous companion the Archdeacon Giraldus in their expedition. The crusade was preached here by both these distinguished champions, and also by John the abbot of Albadomus or Whitland, and by Sisillus the abbot of Ystrad-ffur, who hence conducted the reverend travellers to his house.\*

A short

\* The description which Giraldus gives of the appearance and dress of a young Welsh prince who joined them here, as their escort, exhibits a curious picture

A short distance beyond Lampeter, in a rich meadow on the left of the road, a few scattered stones, which are rapidly disappearing, mark the site of the splendid mansion of

### PETERWELL.

The first house erected on this spot was built by David Evans, Esq. of Llechwed Deri in this county, an agent of Oliver Cromwell and the Parliament, who was supposed to have enriched himself by the spoils of the churches and proscribed families. The late mansion was begun by his grandson Daniel Evans, who had married Mary, the daughter of Morgan Herbert, Esq. of Hafod Uchtryd; but he died in 1696 before it was completed. His daughter afterwards conveyed the estate by marriage to Walter Lloyd, Esq. of Foel-allt, the father of Sir Herbert Lloyd,† John Adams, Esq. of Whitland, Sir Herbert's nephew, afterwards

picture of the royal costume of the times. "On the following morning we were met near the side of a wood by Cynric son of Rhys, accompanied by a body of light armed youths. This young man was of a fair complexion, with curled hair; tall and handsome; according to the custom of his country, with a thin cloak and inner garment; his legs and feet, regardless of thorns and thistles, were left bare: a man not adorned by art but nature; bearing in his presence an innate, not an acquired, dignity of manners." Hoare's Giraldus Vol. II. p. 62.

\* "Mr. Herbert Lloyd of Peterwell, while canvassing for a seat in Parliament for the borough of Cardigan, in 1760 or 1761, was deputed to present an address of congratulation from the corporation to George III., on his accession to the throne; and, on the occasion was created a baronet, and had the honour of kissing the king's hand; which produced the following stanzas from the pen of the Rev. Mr. Lloyd of Allt yr Odyn, a gentleman in the opposite interest.

A would-be member brought of late,  
From borough little known,  
In an address of early date  
His incense to the throne.

†

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afterwards inherited the property, but having dissipated his fortune, it was sold to Albany Wallis, Esq.

This gentleman sold this and all his other estates to Mr. Johnes of Hafod, who did not complete the purchase. He afterwards left them to Major General Bayley Wallis, who sold

Soon tidings came where Tivy flows,  
Through tyrant harassed land,  
That Lloyd to envied honours rose,  
And kissed the royal hand.

O had our gracious sovereign's touch  
But cur'd him of his evil,  
I'd own St. George ne'er boasted such  
A triumph o'er the devil.

"A few years after, the baronet, to reward the poet for his wit, recommended him to Dr. Sq—re, then bishop of St. David's, to fill the living of Llanarth, a very valuable benefice; which produced the following extempore lines from another pen;

Hail, thrifty bard! well hast thou sung,  
And well thy end attained;  
The vulture knight, by satire stung,  
The muse hath wisely chain'd.

Chain'd is the muse.—suppress the thought,  
The knight misunderstand;  
The streams that once preferment brought,  
Must be again pursued.

Proceed, vile wasp, and scribble on,  
To greater things aspire;  
Scoundrels ere now, have mitres won;  
For instance Dr. Sq—re.

"Dr. S. was accounted a man of consummate duplicity, constantly attending the levies of opposite parties, which induced another poet of the principality to say he was "Janus-like;" the perusal of which poem is said to have broken the prelate's heart." Meyrick's Cardigan, p. 209, et seq.



sold the Welsh Estates to R. Hart Davies, Esq. of Bristol, the present owner.

Thomas Evans of this house, the son of the Protector's agent, is thus characterized in an old manuscript:—" Thomas Evans, passionately violent in any thing, first a covenanter, then an eager advocate for the negative oath, afterwards most impetuous against a single person, especially the family of his now majestic, an active captain of horse, and his son David of foote, under the late committee of safety, passing an oath upon others for their fidelity to the said committee, endeavouring to incite men about the beginning of April last, to take arms against General Monke; impatient without an office, and tyrannical in it.\*

Beyond Peterwell, near the church of Llanwnnen, on the banks of the little river Cranell, is an artificial mound of earth moated round the base, called *Castell Du*, or the black castle. Nothing is known of its history: it was probably once occupied by a small fort to defend the passage of the river.

On a farm in this vicinity, called *Cefn-Llewtref*, some curious silver coins were dug up a few years ago. They were of a triangular form, with a hole in the middle, and an inscription. Having been given to children for play-things they were irrecoverably lost before they could be examined.†

Near the road which branches off on the left towards Llan-y-byddar in Caermarthenshire is

### ILLANVAUGHAN,

the seat of the late John Thomas Esq. rear-admiral of the red, one of the deputy lieutenants, and a justice of the peace for the county. The site was formerly occupied by a small chapel, whence the Welsh name of Llan-fychan, afterwards rendered Llanvaughan, is derived. The present mansion was built

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about

\* Cambrian Register, Vol. I. p. 166.

† Meyrick's Cardigan, p. 196.

about 1786 by the late owner: it is an elegant structure of moderate size, surrounded by some agreeable pleasure grounds judiciously planted. Admiral Thomas was descended from the Lloyds of Castle Howell, and changed his name in compliance with the will of a relation.

In the kitchen garden is an ancient monumental stone, which was dug out of the ruins of the old chapel at this place. It is about nine feet in height out of the earth, and about a foot wide; and bears an inscription in rude characters which Dr. Meyrick gives as follows: "Trenacatus ic jacet filius Maglagni." \*

Near the river Teivi, in this parish (Llanwenog) are two circular tumuli, which appear to have been formerly covered by small forts. A large barrow in this neighbourhood, called Crug yŷ Udon, on being opened some time ago was found to contain an earthen glazed coffin having bones in it, placed in an upright position,

In a field not far from the church there was till lately a singular bank of earth, resembling a human body lying down, with the arms stretched out; the head was wanting. It extended six yards in length, and was four feet high. It bore the name of "Carn Philip Gwyddy," the carn or barrow of Philip the Irishman. "The tradition of the place is that Philip lived in the tower of Llanwenog church, and used to commit depredations in the neighbourhood. That once being pursued he leaped from the church tower, and breaking his leg in consequence was taken, and put to death, and here buried." †

On a farm in this parish called Ty-cam is a square entrenchment. The field was formerly denominated *Ūac'r Faes*, or the field of battle. This might have been the scene of an engagement, mentioned in the Welsh annals, between Hywel ab *Jeuaf* and Einon ab Owain ab Hywel Dda, said to have been fought in Llanwenog. ‡

At

\* Hist. of Cardigan, p. 192.

† Meyrick's Cardigan p. 489. ‡ Myvyrian Archæol. Vol. II. p. 497.

At some distance on the left of the road, on a delightful eminence overlooking the river Teivi, and commanding an extensive prospect of the vale, stands

### HIGH MEAD,

the seat of Herbert Evans, Esq. a major in the Caermarthenshire Militia.

Pursuing the main road towards Cardigan, at the distance of about ten miles from Lampeter we reach a comfortable inn of modern erection, called the Allt yr Odyn Arms, whence an excursion or two must be made before we proceed. A road which diverges to the left, and forms the direct communication from these parts with Caermarthen, leads at a short distance to

### ALLT YR ODYN,

the seat of David Lloyd Esq. The mansion does not aspire to magnificence, or to much splendour of decoration; but is well adapted for every purpose of comfort, and of elegant hospitality. Its situation is in many respects well chosen, being built on the side of a hill, having a rich sloping lawn in front terminated by the river Cletwr, which the proprietor has contrived, with much taste, to render highly ornamental to his grounds. The adjacent scenery has been greatly improved by numerous plantations, which Mr. Lloyd has spread over a considerable extent of land, and disposed with great judgment. In this branch of improvement he has indeed honourably distinguished himself in the county. The Allt-yr-Odyn Library may be mentioned here, as containing some curious ancient Welsh manuscripts, chiefly valuable however as genealogical documents. The worthy proprietor has always, with a laudable liberality, thrown them open to the inspection of such persons as wished to peruse them, and were likely to benefit either

themselves or the public by an examination of their contents.

Mr. Lloyd is descended from a branch of the family of Castle Howell, being the eighth in descent from Rhys Lloyd the second son of David ab Llewelyn Lloyd of that house.

David Lloyd of Allt yr Odyn warmly attached himself to the cause of Charles the first during his contest with the parliament, and was in consequence obliged to compound for his estates, as appears by the following curious official document.

“20 Decemb. 1648. By the Commissioners by Ordonnance of Parliament for South Wales, &c.” “By vertue of an ordonnance of parliament unto us directed, bearing date the nineteenth of June, one thousand six hundred and forty-eight. The Commissioners have noted and declared David Lloyd of Allt yr Odyn, in the county of Cardigan, a delinquent, for his acting in the last insurrection in South Wales against the parliament, and therefore his real and personal estate is sequestered, and his personal estate is inventoried and apprized according to the said ordonnance, and a record thereof before us. Which said personal estate Evan Lloyd, son of the said David Lloyd, appearing before us, desyred to compound for, whereupon it is ordered, that for and in consideration of the summe of *seventeen pounds*, to be paid to the treasurer for the time being, to the use of the parliament, in manner and form following, that is, five pounds present, six pounds on or before the five and twentieth day of March next following, and six pounds more on or before Midsummer next ensuing. The said Evan Lloyd &c. shall . . . . personall estate mentioned in the said inventory, and hereby compounded for. And noe other goods or chattels not therein sett downe, expressed and apprized. And it is farther ordered that the said Evan Lloyd, observing this composition, shall not be disturbed in the possession of the said goods by any of our officers for sequestration, or other servants, according to the ordonnance of parliament in that case provided.

Tutorat per R. Rowlandson  
Cler. Commiss<sup>n</sup>.

John Matthews  
Tho. Frowle  
Humphrey Eower

Received of the above written David Lloyd of Allt yr Odin, in the county of Cardigan, for the first payment of his composition for his actynge in the last insurrection, the sum of five Pounds. I say received the day aforesaid———5L.

by me Jacob Hoctinge, Treasurer.

*On the back is written.*

How long is it necessary to keep in David Lloyd  
acquittance. Shew this of the Deed Sequestered Anno 1638  
sealed by—&c. without possession. for disloyaltye.” \*

On a hill near Allt yr Odyn are some ruins of an ancient fortress—but history is silent as to its name and proprietor.

At some distance to the westward of the Allt-yr-Odyn Arms, lies

### CASTLE HOWELL,

or more properly, Castell Hywel. It forms at present a part of the Allt yr Odyn estate, and has for several years been occupied as a farm house. One of the manuscripts in Mr. Lloyd's possession contains the following particulars relating to this place.

“Kadivor ap Dinawol, a man of great valour and conduct, having taken the castle of Cardigan from the earl of Clare and the Flemings, by Scalado, was honoured by his prince, who was also his first cousin (viz. the great Lord Rhys, Prince of South Wales) for that service with these arms, (viz.) sa. a spear's head, imbrued inter three scaling ladders arg. on a chief gu. a castle triple-towered, of the second. He was also rewarded with divers territories, and entitled Lord of Castle Hy-

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wel,

\* Meyrick's Cardigan, appendix, p. 551 et seq.

wel, Pantotrimon, and Gilvachwen, in the parish of Llandyssil, in the county of Cardigan; he married Catherine, daughter of the said Lord Rhys."\*

Gwylim Lloyd of Castle Hywel, the sixth in descent from Cadivor, is supposed to have been the founder of the first mansion on this property. He lived in the reign of Edward the second, and was the first of the family who had a surname. Dafydd ab Llewelyn Lloyd of this house, and the fifth in descent from the above named Gwylim, was the first knight for the shire after the Act of Union in the reign of Henry the eighth.

Near the river Cletwr, a short distance from the house, is a moated tumulus, which indicates the site of the castle from which this place derived its name. It was originally designated Humphrey's Castle, and is so called in the Welsh Chronicles, having been probably built by some Norman adventurer of that name. In the year 1150, Hywel, Owen Gwynedd's son, strengthened this fortress, and called it after his own name.†

The passage of the river Cletwr, below the Allt yr Odyn arms is called Rhyd Owain, or Owens-ford; a name which it is thought to have acquired from having been crossed at this spot by Owen Gwynedd in one of his invasions of South Wales. A barrow close by is denominated Tommen Rhyd Owain, where it is probable the dead were deposited after some engagement fought here.

On ascending the hill above Rhyd Owain, a road on the left conducts to the village of

#### LLANDYSSIL,

which is most romantically placed on the rocky shores of the Teivi. The church is a plain but respectable structure, and forms, from its situation, a striking object in the landscape. It is dedicated, as its name imports, to St. Tyssul, a personage of some note in Welsh Ecclesiastical

\* Meyrick's Cardigan p. 149.

† Idem. p. 150 on the authority of an ancient MS.

siastical history, who flourished in the early part of the sixth century. The interior is divided into a nave, chancel, and two side aisles; the latter are separated from the nave by square pillars supporting pointed arches. There was formerly a rood-loft, but it has long been removed. On the north side of the nave is an elegant marble monument, bearing the following inscription:

To the Memory  
of his beloved wife Eliza  
(who died June 3rd 1805, aged 36 years)  
Daughter of Herbert Evans, Esq.  
of Highmead in this county,  
David Lloyd, Esq. of Alltyrodin  
Erected this monument.

Learn from her life the virtues that commend  
The child, the wife, the parent, and the friend.  
Learn from her death, that Heaven's decrees ordain  
To beauty and to youth a short lived reign.  
Then soar like her, releas'd from worldly cares,  
To bliss that God for purest souls prepares.

“These lines were composed by Dr. Stevenson, late of Dôllan in the county of Caermarthen, out of affection and regard for Mrs. Lloyd.”

The style by which foot passengers enter the churchyard is formed of a fragment of an ancient monumental stone, on which are still remaining part of an inscription, but in so imperfect a state as to be wholly unintelligible. The letters are the following, which are ranged in three lines VELVOR — HILIM — BRCHO.

On a hill, at a short distance from the church, are some remains of an old castle, consisting of a moated tumulus and some fragments of wall. It was denominated Castell Gwynionydd, but is now called Castell Coed-fon. The lordship of Gwynionydd is stated to have been once of great extent. At a place called Cil-y-graig, in this parish, is another artificial mound of earth,

which marks the site of a castle called in the Welsh annals Castell Aber-eiun, which is said to have been erected by Maelgwn in the year 1205.

This parish contains, besides, some other ancient remains, particularly several Carneddau, or sepulchral heaps of stones. Four of these stand nearly together, and in one of them, on being opened some years ago, were found three earthen jars containing the ashes of burnt human bodies.\*

\* Mr. Silvanus Jones, a respectable and intelligent farmer in this parish, is possessed of an old Welsh manuscript, which purports to be a chronicle of two sanguinary engagements fought within its precincts. There are many circumstances which tend to invalidate its authority as an historical document. Not to advert to some obvious anachronisms in respect to the persons whose names and exploits it records, the language and orthography, as Dr. Meyrick has justly observed, shew it to have been written in the sixteenth century, or about five hundred years subsequently to the events it narrates. It may be added, in confirmation of this conjecture, that Pembrokeshire is here called "Sir Benfro," a name which was not given to that county, till the time of Henry the eighth, after the act of union, when Wales was divided into shires. The document, however, is not without interest as a literary curiosity; and we shall give here a translation of the original, which Dr. Meyrick has inserted in his work. (Hist. of Cardigan p. 143, et seq.)

"A chronicle of the battle which happened in the parish of Llandyssil, in the county of Cardigan or Cardiganshire on the fifth of April A. D. 1131.

"It was called the county of Cardigan because Maelgwn Gwynedd gave it for an inheritance to his son Caredig; but at the time of this war it was under the dominion of South Wales: and Davydd ab Owain prince of North Wales, and Llewelyn ab Iorwerth, prince of South Wales, severally laid claim to it, and became greatly incensed against each other. But the men of the vale of Clwyd in North Wales, and the men of Ystradtywy in South Wales advised them to come to terms of accommodation. Llewelyn ab Iorwerth, prince of South Wales, and Davydd ab Owain, prince of North Wales, agreed to meet at Aberystwyth. And Llewelyn ab Iorwerth, prince of South Wales went up, accompanied by thirty horsemen from Ystradtywy, thirty horsemen from Pembrokeshire, and thirty from the county of Cardigan. They remained here two days, but failed to agree upon terms of peace, and therefore determined upon war. They settled to meet in arms at a place called Bange Ffoes Dhu in the parish of Llanarth, in Cardiganshire. And Davydd came to the spot, but Llewelyn, prince of South Wales, halted



The scenery on the shores of the Teivi below Llandyssil is remarkably beautiful. On a lofty hill on a bold reach of the river stands the church of *Bangor*, chiefly remarkable from its situation

on the road at a place called Blaengefel: here he raised an intrenchment which is called *Caer gefel* to this day. The prince of North Wales, with the aid of guides came hither to meet him, with five thousand infantry and one thousand horsemen. The prince of South Wales, on the other hand, had six thousand infantry, and five hundred cavalry. And Dafydd came down over the hills of *Dwyfion*, and Llewelyn from *Caergefel* on the fifth of April A.D. 1131. The engagement lasted from eight o'clock in the morning until the evening, and dreadfully did they fight during this interval. And Dafydd ab Owain Gwynedd fled, after losing four thousand infantry and five hundred cavalry: and all his horses were of a light grey or silver colour. And Llewelyn lifted his banner and blew his trumpet in triumph, and returned to *Caergefel* after losing six hundred infantry and two hundred and fifty of his cavalry. He buried the slain at his own charge below the road, opposite *Creigau'r Ddwyfion*, where the marks appear at this day. And in a short time he returned home from *Caergefel* to *Llandydoch* (St. Dogmael's) in triumph with the arms and spoils, and there feasted his men for nine days. Although Llewelyn lost only 600 infantry and 250 horsemen, yet nearly one half of the survivors were wounded, for he was very near losing the battle."

The second chronicle is as follows.

"A true chronicle relating to the battle on the side of *Coed-y-foel*, in the parish of *Llandissil*, in the county of *Cardigan*, A. D. 1250.

"The men in *Bangor-fawr* in North Wales came in great anger to South Wales, because *Dafydd ab Cadifor* had refused to assist them against the English who were harassing them on the side of *Flintshire*; the men of *Bangor* passed *Rhyd Owain* at day break, on the eighth of March 1250, and advanced as far as *Odyn Cansyniaid* now called *Odyn Gossoniaid*, and they dismounted their cavalry and left their horses behind. And they encountered *Dafydd ab Cadifor* in the upper end of *Pant-y-Groyw*, with all possible enmity. And they met also one *Eion*; with between six and seven thousand infantry and six hundred cavalry which he had obtained from *Rhys ab Owain* of *Ystrad Tywy*, by whom he was supported. And *Dafydd ab Cadifor* and *Eion* had dug a deep trench for their defence, by the side of the road leading to *Llandissil*, near the bottom of *Coed-y-foel* and had formed a camp on the top of *Coed-y-foel* for the security of their treasure.".....  
Cætera desunt.

situation. Near it is a moated tumulus called *Castell Pistog*, or *Pistog's Castle*, which the tradition of the neighbourhood assigns for the site of the mansion of a family of this name, who were formerly the proprietors of the lordship in which it is situated. The only modern mansion entitled to notice here is *BLAEN DYFFRYN*, the residence of W. Williams, Esq. one of the coroners for the county.

The late captain Lloyd R. N. who died a few years ago, divided his estates, after his brother's death, between the late admiral Brathwaite and family, and the late Thomas Lloyd, Esq. of Coedmore near Cardigan.

Lower down the vale, near Henllan church, are some of the finest cascades on the Teivi, called *Ffrydiau Henllan*, or the Henllan falls.

A little way farther on we reach *New Castle Emlyn*, which, being situated in the county of Caermarthen,\* has been already noticed. The houses on the Cardiganshire side, form a little township which is called

#### ATPAR.

It had once the privilege of being a contributory borough to Cardigan, but was deprived of it by the house of commons on account of some corrupt practices during one election. Above Atpar is a very pretty cottage belonging to William Brigstocke, Esq. commanding a fine view. There are several other gentlemen's seats in this neighbourhood. The first, to the westward, is

#### CILGWYN,

the seat of the late admiral Brathwaite. John Lloyd of this house

\* Near New Castle Emlyn, in Caermarthenshire, are some mansions which ought to have been noticed in their proper places under that county, among these may be mentioned *Llysnewydd*, the seat of William Lewis, Esq. and *Dolhaidd* the seat of Colonel Lewis Lloyd, both delightfully situated near the shores of the Teivi.

house rendered himself obnoxious to the parliament in the reign of Charles the first, and was obliged to expiate his offence by compounding for his estates. He is thus spoken of in a manuscript quoted above: "John Lloyd, a royalist of an even temper, quitted all offices in 1643, compounded for his delinquency, liveth a retired hospitable life, neither ambitious, nor a contemner of those publique employments that his fortune and capacity do deserve."\*

Higher up, on a delightful woody eminence, stands

### BRONWYDD,

commanding a prospect of great extent and beauty. It is at present the residence of Thomas Lloyd, Esq. who lately succeeded to the property on the death of his father Colonel Thomas Lloyd.

At some distance to the northward may be mentioned *Pen-y-Baili*, the seat of William Davies, Esq. *Gernos* the seat of Llewelyn Parry, Esq. *Gwernant*, the residence of John Lloyd Williams, Esq. and *Troed-yr-Aur*, the seat of the Rev. Thomas Bowen. Below New Castle Emlyn, on the left of the road, stands

### STRADMORE VALE,

at present occupied by Robert Taylor, Esq. formerly of the East India company's service. This elegant mansion, as may be perceived from the annexed view, is most eligibly situated, in a rich bottom on the banks of the Teivi, and backed by a luxuriant forest of oak. It was built by James Green, Esq. the brother in-law of Colonel Brigstocke of Blaen Pant; but finished by the late owner R. W. Leslie, Esq.

Next occurs

PEN-

\* Cambrian Register, Vol. I. p. 107.

## PEN-Y-WENALLT,

the seat of John Griffiths, Esq. This was the birth place of the Rev. Theophilus Evans, afterwards of Llangamarch in Brecknockshire, who has been already noticed under that county.\* His grandfather Evan Griffith Evans of this house, in the reign of Charles the first, was a royalist; he bore arms against the Parliament, and was nick named "Captain Tory."

Farther on is the mansion of

## BLAEN PANT,

The residence of Colonel Owen Brigstocke. The original proprietors of this place were of the name of Jenkins; it came into the present family, by the marriage of William Brigstocke Esq. of Llechdenny, in Caermarthenshire, with the heiress. William Brigstocke dying without issue, the estate devolved on his brother Owen Brigstocke Esq. who married the daughter of Sir Thomas Brown, great great uncle of Colonel Brigstocke. Owen Brigstocke was attached to literary pursuits, and formed here a valuable library which is still preserved. During the minority of Colonel Brigstocke's father, the house was tenanted by Dr. James Philips, whose correspondence with Dr. Pegge and Mr. Lewis Morris is given in the first volume of the Cambrian Register.

A little to the northward his *Noyadd fawr*, the property of Mrs. Gwynne. Near this house there were in Mr. Llwyd's time some large stones called *Meini hirion*, which had once probably formed part of a circle. They have now disappeared.

The next mansion, on the bank of the river, is

## LLWYN DYRIS,

Which stands near the site of an ancient castellated dwelling  
of

\* See above page 163.

of unknown date. The present house was built by the Rev. Thomas Griffith the late owner, and is now the property of his son Thomas Griffith, Esq. It is pleasantly situated on a gentle eminence, commanding a fine view of the vale of the Teivi.

Not far from the house is a large artificial mound, or barrow; and in a field on the same tenement is an old British circular entrenchment, call the *gaer*. Some other ancient remains exist in the same vicinity, but none of them are of sufficient importance to require separate specification.

The village of

### LLECHRHYD

has at present little to recommend it to notice beyond an ancient ivy mantled bridge over the Teivi. The extensive tin works, once carried on in this neighbourhood by the late Sir Benjamin Hammett, and afterwards by his sons, have, as already stated, been discontinued, and the buildings demolished. There is here an old dissenting meeting house, which is stated to have been built by Major Wade, an officer in Cromwell's army.

Beyond Llechrhyd the ancient house of

### COEDMORE,

or more correctly, Coed-mawr, will claim our next attention. The name literally implies, the great wood, and was probably given to the place from the rich and extensive forest in which it is built. The mansion occupies a lofty site, overlooking the river, and having the bold ruins of Cilgeran castle nearly in front. The property formerly pertained to the Clermont family.

The baronage of Coed-mawr was conferred by Edward III. on Sir Robert Langley, constable of Aberystwyth castle, and lieutenant of the county of Cardigan. From this family it was transferred by exchange to that of the Mortimers, descendants

of Ralph Lord Mortimer, who came to England with the conqueror. Llewelyn Mortimer, the first of the name who held this estate, married Angharad, daughter of Meredydd ab Rhys, prince of Cardigan. It is stated in a manuscript pedigree, that John the Sixth in descent from Llewelyn Mortimer, baron of Coedmawr, resided at Castell Cefel in Coedmawr, where Sir Predyr ab Evrog, one of king Arthur's knights, had formerly lived.\*

Elizabeth, the daughter of this John Mortimer, is reproached for the looseness of her deportment: she had an illegitimate daughter named Jane by Sir Rhys ab Thomas, and afterwards bore a son to Griffith Vaughan of Corsygedol, while he was governor of Cilgeran castle. This son was called Tudor, and from him descended Dr. Theodore Price, formerly principal of Hart Hall, Oxford.†

Rowland, the second in descent from John Mortimer, exchanged this property with Sir John Lewis his brother-in-law, for Castell Llwyd in Laugharne, Caermarthenshire. It passed subsequently into the hands of the Lloyd family, by the marriage of Thomas Lloyd, Esq. the great great grandfather of the present proprietor, with Jane, the daughter of Colonel James Lewis, who had obtained it by inheritance. This Colonel Lewis lived in the reign of Charles I. and is thus noticed among some other public characters, in South Wales, during that period. "James Lewis is a person of an inoffensive facile constitution, forced from a royalist to act as Colonel for King and Parliament, seldom out of publique offices, though averse to undertake any, loved more for doing no wrong, than for doing of any good. Sola socordia innocens."‡

#### LLANGOEDMORE PLACE

is the last gentleman's residence that occurs on this route before we reach the town of Cardigan, from which it is distant about two miles. The situation is peculiarly delightful, commanding

\* Meyrick's Cardigan, p. 124.

† Cambrian Register, Vol. I. p. 144. ‡ Idem Vol. I. p. 166.

winding a charming view of the river, and forming itself an agreeable object in the landscape. This house was built by John Lloyd Esq. of Plymouth; it now belongs to the Rev. B. Mil-lingchamp, who has fixed his residence here.

The parish of Llangoidmore contains several ancient remains of antiquarian interest. Some of these were noticed by Llwyd in his communications to Bishop Gibson for his edition of Camden. The first he mentions stood in a field called Cantllewas, or Cantllefarfaes; it was an immense rude stone, eight or nine yards in circumference, and about half a yard in thickness, reclining with one side on the ground and the other raised, and supported by an upright stone about three feet in height. This, which was originally, in all probability, a cromlech, was designated by the inhabitants *Llech yr Ast*, or the Bitch's stone.

Near this was another ancient monument, of the same description, but of smaller dimensions; and also five cist-faens without the lids, about two feet in length, and formed as usual of rude flat stones placed upright in the ground. The same field contained a circular area, about four yards in diameter, formed of the same kind of stones, but most of them were fallen.

In the neighbourhood were nineteen stones lying in confusion on the ground, which had probably at one time formed a circle similar to the last. These were called *Meini Cyfriol*, or numerical stones, from a vulgar notion, common to many other similar remains, that it was impossible to count them accurately. A wake used to be held annually near these stones. Mr. Llwyd states his opinion that only two of them appeared to have stood upright.

This respectable antiquary mentions another remain, which, like some of the former, has since disappeared. This was called *Llech-y-Gawress*, or the Giantess's stone. He describes it as a vast stone placed on four other large ones about five or six feet high. Besides these five there were two others pitched on end, but too low to bear any of the weight. Two small ones

and a large one lay on the ground, at each end of this monument; and at some distance from it, another rude stone which probably pertained to it. This immense cromlech stood on a gentle eminence in a plain open field.\*

Near a farm in this parish, called Treforgan, by the side of a cataract, is an object of curiosity called *St. Cynllo's cave*. Some holes in the rock are said to have been formed by his horse's feet, and by his own knees, from his constant habit of praying on this spot.†

About two miles above Cardigan, is a hill called *Crûg-mawr*, or the large tumulus, which is mentioned by Giraldus. "On this spot," says he, "Griffydh, son of Rhys at Theodor, soon after the death of King Henry I. by a furious onset gained a signal victory against the English army, which, by the murder of the illustrious Richard de Clare near Abergavenny, had lost its leader and chief. A tumulus is to be seen on the summit of the aforesaid hill, and the inhabitants affirm, that it will adapt itself to persons of all stature; and that if any armour is left there entire in the evening, it will be found, according to vulgar tradition, broken to pieces in the morning."‡

Having

\* Gough's Camden, Vol. III. p. 159.

† Meyrick's Cardigan, p. 118.

‡ Hoare's Giraldus, Vol II. p. 51. "Crug-Mawr still retains its ancient name, and agrees exactly with the position given to it by Giraldus: on its summit is a tumulus, and some appearance of an entrenchment. The signal victory of the Welsh alluded to by Giraldus, happened in the year 1135, soon after the death of King Henry I. and the cruel murder of Richard de Clare, and his son Gilbert, near Abergavenny, by Morgan ab Owen of Caerleon. The political changes occasioned by the death of the king, and the unsettled situation of his successor Stephen, were not overlooked by the Welsh princes, who were ever ready to seize each favourable opportunity of distressing their neighbours, or aggrandizing their own territories. Their turbulent spirit began to vent itself in the murder of Richard de Clare, whilst on his journey from his estates in Monmouthshire, to those in Cardiganshire. Shortlie after Cadwalader, and Owen Gwyneth the sons of Gruffydh ab Conan (in whom remained the hope of all Wales, for they were gentle and liberal)



Having now completed our journey along this route, before we enter the town of Cardigan, we shall once more take our departure from Aberystwyth, and pursue the road which follows the direction of the sea coast;\* making such occasional digressions as will enable us to bring under consideration all the objects that shall appear entitled to notice.

After crossing Aberystwyth bridge the road turns to the right, leaving on the left, first, the road towards the Devil's Bridge, and afterwards that which leads towards Tregaron by Crosswood, which we have already explored. The river Ystwyth is crossed by a romantic bridge, from which there is

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a fine

liberall to all men, terrible and cruell to their enemies, meeke and humble to their friends, the succour and defence of widows, fatherlesse, and all that were in necessitie, and as they passed all others in good and laudable vertues, so they were paragons of strength, beautie, and well proportionat bodies) gathered a great power against the Normans and Flemings, who entering Cardigan, wan, destroyed, and burned the whole countrie, and returned home with much honor. Afterward, towards the end of the same year, they returned again with 6000 footmen and 2000 horsemen, well armed, and to them came Gruffyth ap Rees, and Howel ap Meredyth of Brecknocke, and his sonnes, and Madoc ap Ednerth, who subdued the whole countrie to Aberteivi, placing againe the old inhabitants, and chasing awaie the strangers. Against them came Stephen, Constable of Aberteivi, Robert Fitzmartin, the sons of Gerald, and William Fitz-John, with all the power of the Normans, Flemings, and Englishmen, that were in Wales or the Marches. Now after a cruell and blodie fight, the strangers, after their accustomed use, put all their hope in their forts, and forsooke the field, and the Welshmen folowed hard, that besides 3000 that were slaine, a great number were drowned, and taken and caried awae captives." Idem. p. 60. Compared with Powell's *Cambria*, Edit. 1811, p. 138, sub. Ann. 1135. and the *Welsh Chronicles*, *Brut y Saeson*, and *Brut y Tywysogion*, *Myfyrian Archæology*, Vol. II. p. 556, and 557.

\* The turnpike road from Aberystwyth to Cardigan, has been of late diverted to avoid the hills, and in other respects greatly improved; but the want of a good inn between these places is attended with much inconvenience to travellers, as there is no comfortable resting place between Cardigan and Aberystwyth, a distance of forty miles. Nothing can exceed the beautiful sea view between Aberairon, and Llanrhysted.

a fine view up the vale. There are here some remains of an ancient fortress, called

### LLANYCHAIARN CASTLE,

respecting which little is known besides the name.

A short distance higher up the vale, on the southern bank of the Ystwyth, stands the mansion of

### ABERLLOLWYN,

long the residence of a family of the name of Lloyd. It is at present the property of John Bowen, Esq. by marriage with Miss Hughes of *Morfa*; he was the late Collector of Cardigan.

In a bog in this neighbourhood, called Gors-y-rhudd, some peasants discovered, in cutting turf, a curious ancient shield. It is of a circular form, and measures above two feet in diameter; is made of brass, ornamented with concentric circles inscribed at the distance of an inch from each other, and having small knobs between them. It is quite flat except at the centre, where a small part is convex to admit the hand on the other side, by which it appears to have been held. Probably it was originally lined with hides: it is at present very thin and light. Dr. Meyrick has given a print of this singular remain.\*

### CARROG,

is an ancient Gentleman's residence on the left of the road, a few miles beyond Llanlychaiarn, formerly inhabited by a respectable family of the name of Jenkins. It belongs at present to — Richards, Esq.

Not far from this house, in a field adjoining the turnpike road,

\* Hist. of Cardigan, p. 338.

road, on the western side, are two large stones standing upright in the ground. They are about ten feet in height, and about five feet thick. From the appearance of the adjacent ground for some distance, it is evident that these form but the part of some ancient monument, probably of a large circle : no other corresponding stones are, however, now to be seen here.

A little farther on stood formerly the castellated mansion of

### MOEL-IFOR,

the ancient seat of the Gwyn family. In the reign of Elizabeth, when Evan Gwyn was High Sheriff for the county of Cardigan, he pulled it down, and erected a handsome mansion on the other side of the valley, which was long inhabited by the Gwyns, who had large estates in Montgomeryshire, as well as in Cardiganshire. The heiress of this house having married Richard Philipps, Esq. of Dolhaidd in Caermarthen-shire, where the family chiefly resided, this respectable, and venerable residence became neglected, and was about thirty years ago converted into a farm-house. It is now, with the estate, the property of Doctor Davies of Caermarthen, who married the grand-daughter of the last Gwyn of Moel-Ifor, and now the only representative of that ancient family, being the only surviving daughter and heiress of Erasmus Saunders, Esq. of Pentre in the county of Pembroke, by Jane the daughter of Richard Philipps, Esq. of Dolhaidd and Bridget Gwyn of Moel-Ivor.

The Gwyns of Moel-Ifor are very ancient, being directly descended from Tydwal Gloff, son of Roderick the Great, called Gloff from a wound he received in the knee, in the battle of Conway called *Dial Rhodri*, in the year 878.

The estate of Lanina in this county, was at one time part of the Moel-Ifor possessions, of which the family were treacherously deprived by a false will, the legality of it was disputed in the

reign of Charles the II. but the cause was lost by bribery, and desertion of their own attorney, who in Cromwell's time had been his agent in this part of the country.

At the distance of nine miles from Aberystwyth, on the banks of the little river Gwyre, and near its junction with the sea, stands the village of

### LLANRHYSTYD.

The church is a picturesque object, situated on an elevated bank above the village. It is dedicated to St. Rhystyd, who, according to Owen, was the son of Hywel Fychan ab Emyr Llydaw, and lived in the former part of the sixth century. He was one of the religious men who accompanied Cadfan to Britain, with his brothers Christiolus and Sulien, and was for some time bishop of Caerleon.\*

The village comprises only a few indifferent cottages. It is thought to have been at one time the seat of a monastic institution. Leland observes,—“Ther hath bene great building at Llanrustyd, a mile lower on the se banke than Llansanfride in Cardiganshire, and sum suppose that ther hath bene a nunnery,”† and Tanner mentions it on this authority:—but there are at present no traces of any buildings to indicate the site of such an establishment. There is, however, in the parish a farm house called *Mynachty*, the Welsh name for a monastery, where a religious house may once have stood.

Llanrhystyd castle is supposed to be the same with Dinerth castle, which is frequently mentioned in the Welsh annals, but its site is not ascertained. It was destroyed in the year 1135 by Owain Gwynedd and his brother, aided by Hywel ab Meredydd and Rhys ab Madog ab Ednerth. It was taken in 1150 by Cadell, Meredydd, and Rhys ab Gruffydd, who in revenge for the heavy loss they had sustained of their best troops in  
the

\* Camb. Biog. sub. verb. *Rhystyd*.

† Itin. Vol. V. fol. 79.

the siege, put the garrison to the sword. It afterwards formed part of the possessions of Roger Earl of Clare, who strengthened the works in 1158. In 1199 it was taken by Maelgwn ab Rhys, who in 1204, to prevent its falling into the hands of Llewelyn ab Jorwerth, rased it to the ground. Probably it ceased from this time to be considered a place of any consequence, and was therefore never re-edified.

Llanrhystyd was invaded by the Danes in 988, during a marauding expedition along this coast, where they committed great devastation, and obliged prince Meredydd to purchase their departure at a heavy expense.

Near the village stands

#### YSTRAD TEILO.

at present occupied by a tennant, but the property of Mr. Lloyd, of Mabus.

From Llanrhystyd a road turns off to the eastward, which leads to Cardigan, through Lampeter. At a short distance on the left is

#### MABUS,

the seat of John Lloyd, Esq. It is pleasantly situated, overlooking the little valley of the Gwyre. Mr. Lloyd is also the owner of Dale castle, near the entrance of Milford Haven, which he obtained by marrying the heiress, Elinor, daughter of John Allen, Esq. of that place.

About six miles from Llanrhystyd, the road passes over a lofty mountain called Mynydd Tri-chrug, or *three hills*, from three tumuli or barrows, which lie near the summit. Descending from this elevation it passes the little village of

#### TREFILAN,

situated at the foot of the mountain in the vale of Aeron. Near

the road, on the left, a lofty tumulus indicates the site of Trefilan Castle, which was begun by Maelgwn ab Rhys and finished by his son Maelgwn Fychan, about A. D. 1233.

### TALSARN,

is a small village nearly adjoining, entitled to notice only on account of its name (the end of the causeway) as seeming to point out the existence here at one time, of a branch of some Roman road.

Close by is

### LLANLLYR,

where there was once a religious establishment. "Llan-lleyr a nunnery of White nunnes in Cardiganshire upon the brook of Ayron. It was a celle of Stratflur, and stode from x miles in the hy-way to Caerdigan. The village hard by is caullid Talesarne Green."\* At the dissolution its endowments were valued at 57*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* and were granted 7 Edward VI. to William Sakevyle and John Dudley.† It afterwards passed into the hands of one of the Lloyds of Castle Howell. It is now the property of Mr. Lewis, of Llysnewydd in Caermarthen-shire.

The remainder of this road to Lampeter presenting no object to claim particular attention, we shall return to Llan-rhystyd. Proceeding towards Cardigan, the first place we arrive at is

### LLANSANTFFRAID,

a poor village with a respectable church, placed in a delightful situation near the sea coast. "Ther is a chirch caullid Llansanfride vii miles from Aberustwith upper to Cairdigan on the se side, and ther hath bene great building. But wither  
this

\* Leland's Itin. Vol. V. fol. 13.

† Tanner's Notitia, p. 706.

this was the abbay of Llanfride of wich mention is made in the booke de donatione Ecclesie S. Davidis, or no, I cannot telle."\*

The village of

### ABERARTH,

or Llanddewi- Aberarth, which lies a few miles farther on, at the junction of the river Arth with the sea, is one of the neatest and best built in Cardiganshire. At some distance above the village in the vale of the Arth, but in the adjoining parish of Llanbadarn-fach, lies

### MYNACHTY,

late the seat of A. T. Gwynne, Esq. From its name, which implies a monastery, a small establishment, probably a cell to Ystrad-ffur, is supposed to have once stood here. In the grounds belonging to this house are some small tumuli, placed close together, and called *Hen Gastell*, where Dr. Meyrick is disposed to fix the site of Dinerth Castle, placed by others at Llanrhystyd.

A little way beyond Aberarth, stands the little town and port of

### ABERAERON.

It is much frequented by small coasting vessels, which convey the corn, and other produce of the district, to the English markets. The harbour of Aberaeron has lately been much improved by the erecting of a pier, at the expense of the Rev. Alban Thomas Jones Gwynne of Tyglyn, who at his own charge obtained an act of Parliament for this purpose. It has been of great use to the shipping, and there is a prospect of this becoming a considerable harbour. There has also been a

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market

\* Leland's Itin. Vol. V. fol. 79.

market established here, which promises to be a great convenience to this part of the country.\*

Near the town are some remains of an ancient fortress called Castell Cadwgan, thought to have been erected by king Cadwgan about the year 1148.

From Aberaeron a road ascends the vale which joins the turnpike from Llanrhystyd to Lampeter, at the distance of about four miles from the latter place. On account of its avoiding the hills this route is now generally preferred to the other, by travellers from Aberystwyth to Cardigan who wish to enter the vale of Teivi at Lampeter. In ascending the vale of the Aeron, the first object of topographical interest that presents itself is

#### LLANERCHAYRON HOUSE,

which lies at some distance on the left. This is an elegant modern mansion beautifully situated near the river, in the midst of well wooded grounds. It was formerly the residence of the Parry family, a branch of the Parrys of Noyadd Trefawr, but belongs at present to Colonel Lewis. There is a small park appertaining to this estate, a little higher up, at a place called Cilieu Aeron.

On the other side of the vale stands

#### TYGLYN,

or Tyglyn Issaf, to distinguish it from another estate of the same name. This is now the seat of the Rev. Alban Thomas Jones Gwynne, a descendant of Alban Thomas, Esq. of Newcastle castle

\* It is to be lamented that the herring fishery is not more encouraged on this coast, as the Irish sea produces abundance of this fish. If an establishment were formed for curing herrings, it would be the means of employing a number of poor, and be productive of great profit to this part of the coast.



castle Emlyn. "In the early part of his life, the father of Alban Thomas, Esq. who was a M. D. practised physic in London, under the auspices of the celebrated Sir Hans Sloane, and was a very intimate acquaintance and friend of Mr. Moses Williams, a man eminent in the literary world. Poor Moses, it seems, had the misfortune to fall in love with a fine lady in London, and being a very backward man on such occasions, applied to his friend, the young physician, to break the ice for him with the lady, as Moses knew he visited the family. After some reluctance, the young physician undertook the business. But on conversing about the subject with the lady, he found she would have nothing to say to Moses Williams, and being a good deal urged by this love's ambassador in behalf of his friend, she at last dropped a hint, that had he applied on his own account, perhaps the answer might have been a different one. Mr. Thomas took his leave and retired. On relating the circumstance to his friend, the chivalric spirit of Moses insisted on Alban's addressing the lady on his own account. The young physician pleaded his youth, and insufficiency of establishment, to think of marriage, and several other excuses, but all in vain. Moses insisted on his friend making proposals to her on his own account, as a proof that he had not done a foolish thing, in aspiring himself to the honour of her hand. Alban was favourably listened to, and the lady had but one objection, which was that she must marry a *gentleman* entitled to bear arms, &c. Mr. Thomas had not calculated for this, and was at first puzzled how to answer the fair one's objections. He had left the country young, without having attended to pedigree. However, on writing to his father, a grave divine and poet, the Rev. Alban Thomas of Rhos, in the parish of Blaenporth, who traced the Thomas's in a direct line from the lords of Towyn to himself. His answer to his son was accompanied with the arms in due form, and with a long emblazoned genealogical tree. No obstacle now remaining, the marriage ensued, which produced much happiness,

until the death of the lady and her child After which Mr. Thomas married Miss Jones of Tyglyn, mother of the present possessor, and took the name of Jones. His son, on the bequest of Mynachty, added that of Gwynne.”\*

Beyond Tyglyn, on the same side of the river, stands

#### PLAS CILCENNYN,

once the seat of a family of the name of Vaughan, but at present tenanted by a farmer. Henry Vaughan of this house, who lived in the reign of Charles the first, is thus characterized in an old manuscript;— “ Harry Vaughan, any thing for money, a proselyte, and favorite to all the changes of times, a sheriff of his late Majesty, afterwards for Cromwell, justice of peace under each, tyrant in power, mischievous by deceit; his motto, ‘ qui nescit dissimulare nescit vivere.’”†

Higher up the vale, on the other side of the Aeron, close to the turnpike road stands

#### YSTRAD HOUSE.

This is a plain but neat edifice, aspiring neither to magnificence nor elegance. It was for some time the residence of the Davies's of Llwydsiac, who having become extinct in the male line, it would have devolved on Counsellor Touchett, who had married the sister of the last owner, had he lived. By the death of Mr. Touchett it will after Mrs. Davies's death, become the property of his son, at present a minor.

*Llwydsiac*, the ancient mansion of the estate lay at the distance of a mile to the eastward. It was formerly the residence of one of the numerous families of the name of Lloyd, and became the property of John Davies, Esq. then of Llanvaughan by marriage with the heiress. The old house has been pulled down, and a neat farm house erected near the site. The estate

\* Meyrick's Cardigan. p. 295.

† Cambrian Register, Vol. I. p. 166.

tate is held on lease by Mr. David Jenkin Rees, who has introduced here the most approved English system of agriculture, and, by his successful adoption of it, entitled himself to the praise of being one of the best practical farmers in the principality.

In the parish of Ystrad is an ancient entrenchment called Cribyn Clottas; and in a field called Maes Mynach, is an old monumental stone, ornamented with runic knots, but bearing no inscription.

#### GREEN GROVE,

is another family mansion of great respectability in this beautiful vale. It is at present the property of John Vaughan, Esq. of Tyllwyd near Cardigan.

About two miles beyond Aberaeron stands the mansion of

#### WERN NEWYDD.

the property of Colonel David Edward Lewis Lloyd of Dolhaidd in Caermarthenshire. The Earl of Richmond, on his way from Milford to Bosworth field, was entertained one night at this house by Einon ab Dafydd Llwyd.

At some distance on the other side of the road is

#### NOYADD LLANARTH,

at present the seat of Colonel Brookes, but formerly of a family of the name of Griffiths, from whom, on the female side, Colonel Brookes is descended.

Four miles from Aberaeron lies the little village of

#### LLANARTH.

The church is a handsome building, and occupies a pleasant eminence on the western side of the river Llethy. In the

churchyard is an ancient monumental stone, bearing a large cross, and the remains of an inscription nearly obliterated. The only letters at present legible are . . . NRI . . . C

Near the sea shore, at the lower extremity of this vale, stands

### LLANINA HOUSE,

the seat of Edward Warren Jones, Esq. the descendant of an ancient family in this county.

The little port of

### NEW QUAY.

lies a little farther to the westward. The harbour is capable of great improvement, opening immediately into the Irish sea. If a pier were erected, vessels sailing up or down the Irish channel, might be safely protected here from storms. The harbour is a capacious bason, and might in a national view become of importance, as there is no safe anchorage for the larger shipping between Milford and Liverpool. Some years ago it was in contemplation to establish at this place a packet to Ireland, by which from thirty to forty miles of travelling would be saved, in the distance from London to Milford. This plan was abandoned, but it is to be hoped, it may again at some future time be attempted, as this is, much the nearest communication to the west of Ireland from the metropolis.

Near the southern extremity of the parish of Llanarth, is a large intrenchment called CASTELL MOEDDYN; and another on a farm called Pen-foel, which is designated *Pen-y-gaer*. *Castell Mabwynion* was also situated in this parish, but its site is not ascertained.

Beyond New Quay, on the other side of the promontory,

### LLANDYSSILIO-GOGO

occupies a conspicuous situation on the sea coast. Gogo, or  
more

more properly Gogofau, signifies caves, and the name was applied to the parish, from the excavations in the rocks by the sea side.

Not far from the church stands the ancient mansion of

### LLWYN DAFYDD,

where the Earl of Richmond was hospitably entertained by Dafydd ab Ieuan, the first night after his entrance into Cardiganshire. An elegant drinking horn presented by the Earl to his host is still preserved at Golden Grove in Caermarthenshire. The daughter of Dafydd ab Ieuan surrendered her charms to his noble guest, and became thus the mother of the Parrys or Ab Harrys of this house, who multiplied into several branches, and connected themselves with some of the principal families of the county.

Another seat in this parish is

### CWM CYNNON,

the property of Llewelyn Parry, Esq. of Gernos, a descendant of Dafydd ab Ieuan of Llwyn Dafydd.

On a farm called *Cillieu*, or "the retreats," in this neighbourhood is a very remarkable remain, consisting of a large circular inclosure about 68 yards in diameter. It is divided into three compartments. The area is inclosed by a mound of loose stones, whence it has acquired the name of *Y Garn Wen* or the white heap. The whole is surrounded by a low rampart constructed in like manner of the same materials. Near it is a large piece of ground, of about three acres, which appears to have been at one time inclosed by an earthen rampart.

In the neighbourhood of Llwyn Dafydd is an ancient fortress called Castell Llwyn Dafydd, and also Castell Caerwedros. It forms a circle of about two hundred feet in diameter,  
and

and is fortified by two deep ditches, with embankments of correspondent height. These military remains evidently mark the site of a British station of great consequence.

The next gentleman's seat on this road is

### WERVILBROOK,

or Fynnawn Werfil, the residence of the Rev. Lewis Turnor. The house was built by the Rev. David Turnor, the brother of the present owner. The farm of Wervilbrook, which is extensive, is one of the best cultivated in the county.

In the year 1802, a labourer employed in removing a heap of stones in a field on a farm called Tyll-coed, belonging to this estate, discovered underneath eleven urns of baked earth, which contained ashes; with these was a small earthen vessel of about the size of half a pint: the bottom was globular, and it had three small holes close together on one side. On being touched all these vessels, except one, went to peices. There are in the neighbourhood some other carneddau, or sepulchral heaps, of a similar kind, which have not been examined.

On the right of Wervilbrook is

### PIGEON'S FORD,

in Welch called Rhyd Clymenog, the residence of George Price, Esq. an old seat of a branch of the Parry family, descended from the fair daughter of Dafydd ab Ieuan, and the Earl of Richmond.

### CWM-OWEN.

or Owen's vale, is another ancient residence in this neighbourhood. It formerly pertained to a family of the name of Lewis, who conveyed it to the Saunderses of Pertre in Pembrokeshire. It is now the property of Dr. Davies of Caermarthen,

then, who holds it in right of his wife, the only surviving daughter and heiress of Erasmus Saunders, Esq. A rich vein of copper is supposed to exist on this estate.

On the sea coast, occupying the highest spot in this district, stands the church of

### LLANGRANOG.

At the village below there is a port for small craft, and the place is occasionally visited in the summer for the purpose of sea bathing. The rock above the harbour exhibits the appearance of a large chair, called *yr Eisteddfa*, or the seat. It has been thought to derive its name from having been a place of meeting for the bards. Or another summit in the vicinity is a large tumulus, resembling an inverted pan: whence the place has been called *Pen Moel Badell*.

The adjoining parish of

### PENBRYN

contains a large number of antiquities, chiefly military, which are to be ascribed to a British origin. On the right of the road, some way beyond the little village of New Inn, is a very extensive British encampment called *Castell Nadolig*. It is surrounded by three ditches and embankments. The area is now intersected by fences, and the circumvallation is in consequence much broken. Near this entrenchment is a large tumulus. A paved road led from this spot to the northward; it was about ten feet wide, and formed of large stones. Some remains of it were visible about twenty years ago. At the distance of about half a mile from this camp, towards the southwest, is another of similar extent and strength, called *Castell Pwntan*.

The names of several places and objects in this vicinity shew it to have been the seat of many military adventures and sanguinary

guinary conflicts. Among these may be mentioned *Maes Glás*, or *Maes Galanas*, the field of slaughter—*Pwll Glás*, the pit of slaughter, and *Clôs Glás*, the field or enclosure of slaughter: to which may be added *Fynnon Waedog*, or the bloody well, and *Llech yr Ochain*, the stone of lamentation.

In a field near the church of Penbryn is a stone with an ancient inscription, which was seen by Mr. Llwyd, and described by him in his communications to Bishop Gibson. Mr. Llwyd read it, “*Cor Balenci jacit Ordous*,” which he interprets, “the heart of Valencus of North Wales lies here.” It is to be observed, however, that he expresses himself by no means satisfied with this conjecture. This monument stood at first in a heap of stones. On the removal of these, a few years ago, they were found to cover an urn which contained ashes. Some silver coins were also discovered there at the same time.\* Mr. Llwyd states that a gold coin was found in this parish weighing about a guinea, which was then in the possession of John Williams, Esq. Aber Nantbychan. It is described as resembling some coins found at Carnbre in Cornwall. Mr. Llwyd infers from this that the Britons had gold and silver coins of their own, before the Roman Conquest. For as such of these coins as want inscriptions, are always a little hollow on one side, and have also characters different from the Roman, he infers that the art of coining was not learnt of that people; in that case we should have rather met with Roman letters such as we find from some coins of Cassivilaun (Caswallawn) and Cunobelin (Cynfelyn) they used after the Conquest.†

This parish contains several *Carneddau*, some of which on being examined have been found to contain urns and ashes.

A part of the shore in this parish, which is reckoned the finest on the coast for bathing, is called *Traeth saith*, a name which antiquaries have failed satisfactorily to explain. The  
most

\* Gough's Camden, Vol III. p. 160.

† Ibidem.



most probable conjecture is, that it is derived from an old Irish term signifying *shallow*, in which case its translation would be "Shallow shore," which answers very well to the place. Saith is, however, commonly taken for the Welsh numeral seven, and the name rendered "Seven shore," which is supposed by the tradition of the country to have been derived from seven daughters of a certain king who had been sent to sea without sails or oars, and thrown a-shore on this spot.

On the right of *Castell Nadolig*, stands

### LLANBORTH,

anciently the seat of Rhys ab Rhydderch, Lord of Tywyn. The estate, in default of an heir, escheated to Sir Herbert Lloyd of Peterwell, the lord of the manor. It was the property of Colonel Baily Wallis, who sold it to R. Hart Davies Esq.

### ABERNANT BYCHAN

is another ancient seat, formerly the residence of the Lewises: it is now the property of Loveden Loveden Esq. of Buscot Park Berkshire, who inherited it with the Gogerthan estate.

Near the village of

### BLAENPORTH,

on an elevated site, called Blaen Porth Gwythau, is an old encampment, which bears the usual descriptive name of Gaer. On a tumulus adjoining it was a mural fortress of great strength, which is thought to have been built by Gilbert Earl of Clare. It was taken by assault after an obstinate siege, by Gruffydd ab Rhys in the year 1116, and afterwards demolished. There are two other ancient encampments in this neighbourhood; one of smaller dimensions close by, called *Caer Sonydd*, and another, which appears to have been of great strength, called *Castell Tydur*, or Tudor's castle, on the sea coast.

## ABERPORTH,

is a little fishing town, pleasantly situated in a small cove at the entrance of the river which flows by Blaen porth. The craft belonging to this port are chiefly employed in bringing limestones from Pembrokeshire and other parts, which are burnt here, to supply the neighbourhood with lime for manure, and other purposes.

## TY-LLWYD,

in the parish of Blaenporth, is the seat of John Lloyd Esq. of Green Grove, in the vale of Aeron.

The little village of

## TREMAEN,

is thought to have derived its name, which signifies "the town of the stone," from the large stone called *Llech yr Ast*, and the other monuments of a similar character, which Mr. Llwyd describes as existing in his time near this spot, in the adjoining parish of Llandgoedmawr. A ford in this parish is called *Rhydwenwferch*, and conjectured to have been so designated in consequence of the water having been poisoned by a young woman, with the view of destroying a party of hostile invaders.

Near the western extremity of the county, on the estuary of the Teivi, stands the church of

## FERWIG.

In this parish is a farm called Nant y Flymion (or Fflymion), which takes its name from the Flemings having landed on the shore near a small brook just by. The desperate resistance they met with is confirmed by a large heap on this farm near

the sea, composed of the bones of the invaders, which frequently appear, as the wind disperses the sand in which they are buried. This mound of sand is very near Mount Church, and the tradition is, that the Flemings having landed on a small beach called Traeth y Mwent, were met by the natives, when a bloody battle ensued, on the first Sunday after New Year's day, which, from that circumstance, was called the "Red Sunday," in Welsh "sul coch." This appellation was given no doubt, in consequence of the blood shed on that day.

"The neighbourhood were accustomed to meet on that Sunday, till within a few years ago, when wrestling, kicking, and football, usually took place. This meeting, as was too often the case on such occasions, frequently ended in quarrels and bloodshed. It appears to have been an anniversary commemorating a victory : as the recollection of a defeat would hardly be revived."\*

The town of

### CARDIGAN,

the metropolis of the county, called in Welsh Aberteivi, is pleasantly situated on a gentle eminence on the northern shore of the river Teivi, a few miles above its junction with the sea. Its appearance from the high grounds in the neighbourhood, is upon the whole prepossessing; nor will its interior aspect, when entered, notwithstanding the great number of small and indifferent houses to be found in all the streets, altogether disappoint the traveller whose expectations have not been too extravagantly excited. It contains several good private dwelling houses occupied by respectable and opulent families.

The Town Hall, where the assizes for the county are held twice in the year, is a handsome modern edifice, built in the

2 M 2

year

\* Meyrick's Cardigan, p. 171.

year 1764. In the year 1793, a new county gaol was erected here by Mr. Nash the architect; it is in all respects a very excellent structure, well adapted for its purpose. Among the other public buildings, may be noticed a free Grammar school, endowed by Lady Lætitia Cornwallis of Abermarlais in Caermarthenshire; she married for her second husband John Morgan Esq. of this town.

A handsome stone bridge of seven arches thrown across the Teivi, forms a convenient communication with Pembrokeshire. Cardigan is divided into two principal streets; one of considerable width leading in nearly a direct line from the bridge into the country, towards Tremaen, &c. the other ascending parallel with the river, in the direction of Llechryd, and Lampeter. By the population returns for the year 1801, the number of inhabitants at that time was stated to be 1911; but in 1811 it was estimated by the same official authority at 2129 individuals.

There is here no manufactory for the employment of the poor; but a considerable coasting trade is carried on with several parts of England and Ireland. The registered number of ships belonging to the port is 292, their tonnage 10,097, employing 929 seamen. In spring tides there is a depth of twenty two feet water over Cardigan bar; but the ships employed here are mostly small, the largest being 232 tons.\* The market is held on Saturday, and there are fairs here on the 13th of February, the 5th of April, the 8th of September, and the 19th of December in each year.

Cardigan is a borough town, and in conjunction with the contributory boroughs of Aberystwyth and Lampeter, sends one member to Parliament. It was first incorporated by Edward I.; its privileges were admitted and confirmed in several charters granted by subsequent monarchs, till they were finally settled by the charter under which the corporation now acts, which was enrolled on the 18th of September, in the 34th of Henry

\* Meyrick's Cardigan, p. 93.

Henry VIII. By this deed it is provided that the town shall be governed by a mayor, two bailiffs, and a coroner, to be annually chosen by the burgesses on the Monday following the feast of St. Michael.

The CHURCH is a venerable substantial building, with a handsome square tower at the western end. The interior consists of a spacious nave, with an elegant chancel of considerably older date than the body of the church. It contains no monuments of consequence.

Near the eastern end of the church stood the PRIORY. This appears to have been but a small establishment, dependant on the abbey of Chertsey in Surry. Leland observes: "Ther is a priory in Cairdigan toune, but in hit was but a ii religiose menne, blak monkes. It stonidith, and is a celle onto Chertesey."\* Its revenues were rated at the dissolution at 32*l.* per annum, but only 13*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* clear; they were granted, with the other endowments of the parent institution, 29 Henry VIII. to Bisham abbey, and the 31st of the same reign to William Cavendish.† An elegant modern mansion at present occupies the site of this house.‡

The Priory has acquired some distinction from having been

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the

\* Iten, Vol. V. fol. 13.

† Tanner's Notitia, p. 706.

‡ By the proceedings in chancery in Lloyd and Johnes, it appears that in 1744 Thomas Pryse, Esq. being possessed of the Gogerthan and Priory estates, devised the same by will to trustees for a long term of years, upon trust, to sell for payment of debts, and subject thereto, to his son John Pugh Pryse for life, and afterwards entailed them strictly upon his issue. Thomas Pryse died in June 1745, leaving John Pugh Pryse an infant, his only child, and leaving a widow, who afterwards married Mr. John Lloyd. John Pugh Pryse died a bachelor in 1774, and after his death, the priory estate was sold for the residue of the term of seven hundred years to Thomas Johnes, Esq. the father of the present Mr. Johnes (of Hafod,) by whom the estate came into this family." Meyrick's Cardigan, p. 103. Mr. Johnes disposed of the estate some years ago to the late Marquis of Lansdown, but as the Marquis did not complete his purchase, it was sold to Richard Hart Davies, Esq. the present owner.

the residence of Mrs. Catharine Philips, the celebrated Orinda. This lady was the daughter of John Fowler, Esq. a merchant in London: she was born in that city in 1631, and was married to James Philips, Esq. of the Priory about 1647. She was the writer of several poems, which were collected into a volume, and published in more than one edition. She wrote also a volume of "Letters from Orinda to Poliarchus;" under the latter name was meant her early friend and patron Sir Charles Cotterel, under whom she studied the Italian language. Having occasion to reside some time in Ireland on her husband's affairs, which were considerably embarrassed, and which she greatly exerted herself to retrieve, she brought out on the Dublin stage, a Translation of Corneille's Pompey, in which she had been assisted by the Earl of Dorset, and Waller. The prologue was written by the Earl of Roscommon. On her return to England she went to London, where she was taken ill of the small pox, and died in the month of June 1664. Her talents were held in high estimation by contemporary wits. Cowley wrote an elegiac poem on the occasion of her death. She was also celebrated by the Earl of Roscommon in an imitation of the twenty second ode of the first book of Horace; and Dr. King, in his Art of Love, written forty years after her decease, places her in his catalogue of elegant female writers. Mrs. Philips had, it seems, so great a reluctance to appear in print, that a surreptitious edition of her poems is said to have occasioned her a severe fit of illness. She left one daughter, who married Lewis Wogan, Esq. of Bolston, in Pembroke-shire.

James Philips, the husband of Orinda, is thus mentioned in a manuscript already cited: "James Philips, one that had the fortune to be in with all tymes, yet thrived by none, an argument that covetousness (the root of all evil) was not the motive for him to undertake employments; his genius is to undertake publique affayres, regarding some tymes more the employment, than the authority from whom he received the  
same

same. He hath done much good, and is ill rewarded by those he deserved most of."\*

CARDIGAN CASTLE occupied a commanding, though not a very elevated, situation close to the river; above the present bridge. The existing remains are not considerable, consisting chiefly of the wall on the river side, and a portion of two towers by which this part was protected. Its original extent may be traced without much difficulty. It does not appear to have covered at any time a very large space of ground, but was evidently a place of great strength. In Speed's map (A. D. 1610) there is an Ichnography of the town of Cardigan, including a plan of the castle. From this it appears to have comprised a quadrangular area inclosed by a lofty wall, defended by four or five, (for it is not clear which) square towers, with a large round tower in the inside. As the present towers on the walls are round, the delineation by Speed was in this respect, probably, erroneous. In this print the town wall is also laid down. It extended, on the eastern side, from the castle nearly due north to the upper end of the Broad street; it then took a westerly direction as far as the brook, which it followed till it reached the Teivi: here it turned to the eastward, and joined the castle wall just below the bridge. The north-east angle was defended by a tower.†

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History

\* Cambrian Register, Vol. I. p. 167.

† Speed's account of Cardigan is as follows: "Gilbert de Clare fortified Cardigan, the shire towne, with a wall and strong castle, whose aged lineaments doe to this day shew the industrie both of nature and art: for the towne is seated on a steepe banke, her south side guarded with the deep river Tivy, and passable no way but by a bridge under the castle. The walles take the advantage of the rising rockes, and circulate the towne even round about. The castle is higher built upon a rocke, both spacious and fair, had not stormes impaired her beauty, and time left her carcasse a very anatomic. The walles range as thou seest, and are indifferent for repaire, having three wayes for entrance, and containe in compasse sixe hundred and fourescore pases; whose position for Latitude is set in the degree 52 .. 33 minutes from the

History is silent as to the time when this castle was first erected, but the date may with much probability be fixed about the year 1092, when the Roman lords were let loose on the principality, and began to fortify themselves in the possessions they had wrested from the native proprietors.\* In 1093 Cadogan ab Bleddyn, having expelled the invaders, obtained possession of this fortress and retained it for several years. Here he gave, in 1107, the splendid festival of which an account is inserted above.† A similar entertainment was given here in the year 1177 by prince Rhys.

The principal events and vicissitudes relating to this place, previously to the conquest of Wales by Edward the first, when Cardiganshire was erected into a county, have already been briefly noticed in the historical Introduction to Caermarthen-shire, and cannot be farther enlarged upon. Its subsequent history, as far as relates to military events, embraces but one circumstance of consequence, which belongs to the reign of Charles the first. During the civil wars of this period it was garrisoned for the king, and sustained a regular seige, but at last surrendered to the Parliament forces under General Langhorne. From the following official report of this event, it will be seen that it was not won without a severe struggle,

“A Letter sent to the Right Honourable the Earl of Warwick, from Captain Richard Swanley,

Right Honourable,

Since my last of the 20th November by  
 Captain Green of the Dogger boat, Major General Langhorne  
 keeping

the north pole, and for longitude from the west point by Mercator in the degree 15 and 10 minutes.” Speed’s Cardiganshire p. 113.

\* The Welsh chronicle, under the year 1092, after noticing the erection of the castle of Llanddunwyd and some others by the Anglo-Normans, states, “At the same time also other Frenchmen seized the best lands in Dyfed and Cardigan, and built there castles and cities.” Myvyrian Archaeology Vol. II. p. 528.

† See page 225.



keeping the field with such forces, as the indigency of the county gave a possibility of subsistence. Pretending for Caermarthen, lying still, working by double policy, to draw the hearts of the inhabitants of Cardiganshire to the State, and the force of Caermarthen with their adherents into the said town for their defence, and the indemnity of their adjacent garrisons, opportunely rise and advanced him his quarters to the town of Cardigan, where the country formerly invited made a party to complete the design in agitation (and the town faced the distance) willingly surrendered and complied. The castle being a considerable place ably manned, having the ordnance of the Convent frigate, there shipwrecked, most obstinately held out, until a semi-culverine of brass belonging to the Leopard, was mounted and played three days upon them, forcing a breach which was gallantly entered and made good by our party, and the castle stormed, wherein were 100 commanders and soldiers with their arms and good plunder, not forgetting the Convent's ordnance, returned by Divine Providence, and works of mercy in a commander, adding honour to acts of chivalry—invited the General to give the Steward life, who contemned quarter. The town and castle reduced and the country in the major part as conceived well affected.

Our army are advancing toward Newcastle, the enemy's next garrison, which as conceived will be slighted or acquitted by the enemy, and that country be brought to a right understanding of their duties, and parliamentary, just, and honourable proceedings. To God be rendered the due praises of his mercies."\*

The

\* "A Letter from Capt. Richard Swanley to the Right Honourable the Earl of Warwick, being a full relation of the taking of the town and castle of Cardigan in Wales, by Major General Langhorne, with above 100 commanders and common soldiers, and all the arms and ammunition therein, &c." Published by authority, London; printed for John Thomas 1645.

Mr. Carlisle, (Topograph. Dict. of Wales) writes, that Cardigan "was taken

The ground is now the property of John Bowen, Esq. who has erected an elegant mansion on the site of the Keep, the dungeons of which he has converted into cellars.

taken by Charles Gerrard during the rebellion in the reign of Charles the first."—If this statement be correct the place must have been before in the hands of the parliamentarians, for Gerard commanded the royal forces, as may be seen by the following extract from a publication of the day.

"April 23 (1645) Major General Langhorne lying at the siege of Newcastle Emblin in Caermarthenshire, was totally defeated by his majesty's forces commanded by Colonel (now Lord) Gerard, who killed 200 of his men on the place, took near 500 prisoners, with all their arms, ordnance, and baggage, with the loss only of about 26 men on his majesty's part, and some hurt." *Mercurius Rusticus Sub. An. 1645.*

General Langhorne's subsequent progress proves this advantage over him to have been but temporary. It is uncertain whether Gerard commanded personally in the defence of Cardigan; if he did, the bravery of his conduct shews him to have been worthy of his charge.

END OF CARDIGANSHIRE.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.

## GLAMORGANSHIRE.

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**T**HE district at present constituting the county of Glamorgan, formed anciently a part of the province of Siluria, which, in the opinion of most antiquaries, comprehended also the whole of Monmouthshire, with portions of the counties of Hereford and Gloucester. The British name which the Roman writers thus naturalized into their own language was Syllwg, or Essyllwg, a term interpreted by an ingenious and able Welsh linguist and critic, to signify literally “beautiful aspect, comely, sightly;” or, in other words, if his etymology be admitted, a fair and agreeable region; a denomination to which the country is, unquestionably, fully entitled.\* The same

\* See a letter from Edward Williams, the Welsh Bard, to the Rev. David Williams, author of the History of Monmouthshire, and inserted in the appendix to that work, page 13. As every thing relating to the history and antiquities of the principality coming from his pen is deserving of attention, an extract from this letter, bearing upon our immediate subject, shall be subjoined. The communication is stated to be taken from a MS. history of the Bards which the author had it then in contemplation to publish.

“The jurisdiction of Cadair Morganwg (chair of Glamorgan) extended over the present Glamorgan, Gwent, or Monmouthshire, Ewas (Ewyas in Herefordshire,) Erging, and Ystrad Yŷr (the two last now in Brecknockshire;) these countries, says Llewelyn Sion, were anciently known by the name of Gwent first, and after that of Essyllwg, (Siluria) and included the forest of Dean.

“This country seems to have been known by these two names at the time of  
the

same territory was likewise occasionally called Gwent, a term which, as far as it is capable of rational explanation, has been considered

the Roman invasion, for Caerwent was known to the Romans by the name of Venta Siluroim, herein joining together the two ancient names. Isca Silurium (Caer Leon) retains the word Essyllwyr, (Silures) by which the inhabitants of Essyllwg were called. Llewelyn Sion says that Gwent is the oldest name: whether he grounds this on some rational tradition known to him, or from documents in the library of Ragland Castle, I know not, probably from the last; this library contained the most valuable collection of ancient Welsh MSS. that ever existed; it was collected by William Herbert earl of Pembroke, the great patron of Welsh literature; and it was burnt by Oliver Cromwell. Llewelyn Sion had access to this library, whence he collected most of what he has advanced in his treatise on Ancient British Bardism."

"Essyllwg is derived from Syllt (whence Syllu) view, aspect, look, &c. adding the intensive prepositive E, and the termination wg, which is very common in Welsh names of places, as in Morganwg, Helygwg, &c. the meaning of it is country, place, or thing, (res); thus Essyllwg signifies beautiful aspect, comely, sightly, &c. and is synonymous, or nearly so, with Gwent," [from Gwen, fair]. "Gwent, as Llewelyn Sion justly observes, included all Glamorganshire formerly, as well as the above mentioned parts of Hereford and Breconshires, and the ancient divisions of Gwent were, Gwent uch-goed, Gwent is-goed, both in Monmouthshire entirely; Gwent llwg (Fenny Gwent) mostly in Monmouthshire, a part of it extending to the river Taf in Glamorgan; Blaeneu Gwent, partly now in Glamorgan and partly in Monmouthshire, the last part only retaining the name: it contained all the mountainous parts of Glamorgan and Monmouth; and lastly, Gorwennydd i. e. the utter Gwent, or uttermost of the Gwents."

"Gorwennydd contained all Glamorgan westward of Gwentllwg: the name Gorwennydd, as that of a deanery of Llandaff, is still retained, but is not otherwise in common use; it is called in English corruptly, Groneath, upper and lower, and these two parts were divided formerly, and I believe [are] at present, by the river Gwenni, or Y Wenni, or the river of the Gwents. Llyswennydd, vulgo Llysyfronydd, is the name of a parish and large village in lower Gorwennydd deanery; in upper Gorwennydd there is a place (manerial house anciently, and I believe, a manor) called Penllwyn Gwent, that is the chief wood or forest of Gwent. All these Gwents, i. e. 1. Gwent uch-goed, 2. Gwent is-goed, 3. Gwent llwg, 4. Blaeneu gwent, and 4. Gorwennydd

considered to be nearly synonymous with *Essyllwg*. *Gwent* has been pronounced the more ancient appellation.

The modern designation *Morganwg*, *Gwlad-Morgan*, or *Glamorgan*, is traced to a descendant of the great *Caractacus*, of the name of *Morgan*, who, sometimes after the departure of the Romans,

wennydd, include, according to the ancient limits, the whole of the present *Glamorgan* and *Monmouthshires*.

“By *Gwent* the writers of the present [eighteenth] century, (as did those of the last also) mean *Monmouthshire*; and the writers of the three or four last centuries mean only *Glamorgan* (or, at farthest, including only the *Monmouthshire* parts of the ancient *Gwentllwg* and *Blaencu Gwent*;) by *Essyllwg*, *Tir Essyllt*, *Bro Essyllt*, and *Gwlad Essyllt*, all strictly synonymous.”

“When the Romans quitted the island, leaving the government thereof to the inhabitants; those who were descended from the ancient princes of the several petty kingdoms, into which Britain was anciently divided, began to parcel out the island among themselves. Amongst these *Morgan*, descended from the famous *Caractacus* (*Caradoc ap Brân*) obtained the sovereignty of *Siluria*, or *Gwent*, (in the old acceptation); this country he called after his own name, *Morganwg* (that is the country of *Morgan*): it also was, and still is very often called, *Gwlad Vorgan*, or *Gwlad-Morgan*; whence corruptly the English *Glamorgan*. It contained all the ancient *Gwent* or *Essyllwg*, except *Garth Fathrin*, now *Breconshire*, which fell to the lot of *Brychan*, a petty prince, from whom it was called *Brycheiniog*, and corruptly *Brecknock*.

“Thus we find that *Gwent*, *Essyllwg*, and *Morganwg*, in their ancient acceptations, mean one and the same country; so that whenever we find in our old MSS. something mentioned as in, or of, *Morganwg*, *Gwent*, &c. we cannot often ascertain to which of these countries, in the modern acceptations, they belong, and we frequently find that what is said anciently of *Morganwg*, belongs to *Monmouthshire* at present, and what is said of, or as in *Gwent* must be understood of the present *Glamorgan*.

“In the vulgar acceptation, that part of *Monmouthshire*, westward of the *Usk*, or *Gwentllwg*, is often considered as of *Glamorgan*, by those of the eastern parts of the country; thus they commonly mention *Maesaleg*, *Llan-eirwg* &c. as *yn Morganwg* (in *Glamorgan*.)

“When *Robert Fitzhamon* and his Normans dispossessed *Jestyn ap Gwr-*

mans, held this district under his dominion.\* From this time the three names were used indiscriminately, until the arrival of the Normans under Fitzhamon, and their occupation of the possessions of Jestyn ab Gwrgan, when Morganwg became restricted to the tract which was bounded by the river Usk on the east, and by the Nedd on the west. The present limits were fixed by the Act of Union 27th Henry VIII. when the principality was divided into shires, preparatory to the introduction of the English laws and judicature.

The early history of this district is intimately connected with that of Britain at large; for its sovereigns were held in high respect, and on repeated occasions called to the command of the confederated armies of the island, when it became necessary, for mutual defence, to unite against foreign invaders. From the want of written records, however, the succession of its princes, and their exploits, during several centuries, are involved in considerable obscurity. The Welsh genealogies have preserved the little information that tradition supplied; but these documents, important as they are in many respects on account of the historical materials they afford, furnish but uncertain

gan, prince of Glamorgan, of his country; the appellation of Morganwg became limited to the country that lies between the river Usk and Neath: this included all Gwentllwg and Blaeneu Gwent. This extent or limit of Glamorgan continued till the time of Henry VIII. when the present division of the counties of Wales took place: but as I observed above, Gwentllwg is by many still considered as of Glamorgan; as the western part of modern Morganwg, Gwyr, or Gower, is considered as in Sir Gaer (Caermarthenshire) the vulgar acceptation still retaining the ancient limits and definitions."

\* The etymology of Morgan has been variously given by different writers. Richards derives it from two Irish words, *Mor*, quasi *mawr*, great, and *Ceann* or *Keann*, *Wallice*, *pen*, head, and he renders *Ceannmor*, *penfras*, or thick head. Others have supposed it to be composed of *Mor*, the sea, and *Geni*, to be born, which would be "Sea-born," a term which might be applied to a man, or to a country on the sea coast; Mr. Owen derives it from *Mor*, sea, and *Cant*, an edge or brink, which is certainly characteristic of the situation of this county.

certain lights antecedently to the period of the Roman invasion, when the æra of real history may be said to commence.

According to a manuscript in the British Museum \* which once belonged to Mr. Hugh Thomas the Brecknockshire Herald, the succession of the princes of Siluria is thus given:—"Galbean—Anny ab Albean—Tirvad—Dyngad—Graydiol—Gereint—Meirion—Arthan—Ceidio Bywyr mwyn—Cerihir Llwyngwyn—Paran—Llyr Llediaith, or Lising Llyr King of Gomery about the time of Julius Cæsar's first invading this kingdom, and perhaps as a confederate of Caswalon ap Bely, engaged in the war against him, as may be gathered from a speech of Caradoc his grandson to his souldiers, in which he had the misfortune to be taken prisoner—being called one of the three noble prisoners of the Island of Britain in the triads."

Then follow Bran ap Llyr and Caradoc or Caractacus. Bran holds a distinguished rank in British history. According to these documents he was taken prisoner, with his son's family, and conveyed to Rome. After remaining there seven years, they availed themselves of the Emperor's indulgence, and returned to their native country. Having during their stay in Italy been converted to Christianity, they brought over their new religion with them, and were the means of first introducing it into Britain. Bran was on this account called Fendiheid, or Blessed. His death is supposed to have taken place about A. D. 80. Both Bran and Caractacus resided at Dindryfan, in Glamorganshire, now called Dunraven, the seat of Thomas Windham, Esq. the member for the county.

Publius Ostorius Scapula succeeded to the command of the Roman forces in Britain, A. D. 50. Previously to his arrival, his predecessor Plautius had subdued several of the nations which occupied the eastern districts of the country, and pushed his conquests as far as the Severn. The first business of Ostorius therefore, was to secure the advantages already obtained: after which he directed his operations against the  
Silures,

Silures, who had thus far spurned all overtures for their submission, and for nine years successfully withstood the Roman arms. The forces of the nation were at this period under the command of the celebrated Caractacus, or Caradoc ab Brân, whose personal bravery, and consummate skill as a military leader, gave great influence to his councils, and inspired his followers with the most resolute courage. In order to strengthen his army, he removed the seat of war to the country of the Ordovices, or North Wales, where he collected all whom he found bent upon resistance to the Roman power, and determined to hazard a general engagement. The situation chosen by the British chief for his camp was selected with great judgment, being rendered almost impregnable by nature, and greatly strengthened by art.

The Roman commander occupied a gentle eminence at some distance; and in the valley which intervened, flowed a river whose fords were of unknown depth.\*

In this situation of affairs, the leaders of the confederated British nations were seen actively employed in exhorting and animating the courage of their respective soldiers. Caractacus, especially, was seen flying along the ranks, and exclaiming, that this very day, this battle, would bring them freedom, or fix them in eternal slavery; and called to their recollection the names of their ancestors, who had driven away Julius Cæsar; by whose valour they had been delivered from the Roman axe, and from tribute, and their wives and daughters saved from violation. While he thus spoke, loud shouts burst from the multitude, and all bound themselves by an oath, to yield to nothing but death.

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\* " Many different situations have been ascribed to this scene of action, between Caractacus and Ostorius; but none rest on such strong grounds of probability, as the stations of *Brandon Camp*, and *Coxall Knoll*. The first of these is situated a little to the west of the great Roman road, leading from *Magna*, or *Kenchester*, to *Uriconium* or *Wroxeter*, and between *Wigmore* and *Lentwardine*." Hoare's *Giraldus*, Vol. I. Intro p. cii.



This eagerness of the British troops, joined to the difficulties opposed to him by the river in front, the rampart on the opposite shore, and the steep ascent in its rear, all well manned and defended, filled the Roman commander with dismay. But the soldiers urged him to the assault, exclaiming that all things were to be subdued by courage; and the præfects and tribunes inflamed the ardour of the troops by similar language. Ostorius having carefully inspected the ground, and ascertained what places were impenetrable, and what might be forced, led forth his army, and without difficulty forded the river. As the troops approached the rampart, and the contest was kept up by missile weapons, several of them were killed, and many more wounded; but after they had formed the testudo or military shell, and thrown down the rude wall that opposed them, so as to place the combatants on equal ground, the Britons gave way, and retreated to the summit of the hill. Thither they were pursued by the assailants, who after a short struggle gained a complete and decisive victory. The wife and daughter of Caractacus were taken prisoners, and his brothers surrendered at discretion. Having himself effected his escape, he sought an asylum in the court of Cartismundua, Queen of the Brigantes, called in British history Aregwedl, who, as all things prove adverse to the unfortunate, loaded him with chains and delivered him up to his conquerors.

The fame of the British commander had spread over all the adjacent countries, and penetrated Italy itself, where all were anxious to behold the man, who, for nine successive years, had bidden defiance to the Roman arms. Even at Rome, the name of Caractacus was held in respect; and the emperor, while he sought to enhance his own glory by the conquest, shed new lustre on his vanquished foe. He summoned the people to behold a spectacle worthy their admiration. The Prætorian guards were drawn up under arms in the field before the camp. The followers of the British chief led the procession, with the military harness and golden collars, which he had taken in

his wars with his neighbours : then advanced his brothers, his wife and daughter ; and himself closed the train. The other captives, filled with apprehension, descended to abject supplications ; but Caractacus, seeking mercy neither by words nor by looks of dejection, approached the tribunal, and thus addressed the Emperor. “ If my moderation\* in prosperity had equalled my noble birth and exalted station, I might have appeared in this city in the character of a friend, rather than a captive. Neither would you have disdained to enter into amicable terms with a prince descended from such illustrious ancestors, and holding so many nations under his command. At present, my lot is to me as humiliating, as it is to you glorious. I possessed horses, men, arms, wealth :—where is the wonder if I was unwilling to part with them? You are seeking to subdue all nations to your dominion ; but does it follow that they will voluntarily yield to your sceptre? If I had instantly submitted, neither my fall nor your glory had been known to fame. If you doom me to death, my fate will be buried in oblivion ; but if you spare my life I shall remain an eternal monument of your clemency.” At the conclusion of this animated address Claudius ordered the British Chief, his wife, daughters, and brothers, to be set at liberty.†

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\* By *moderatio*, Tacitus no doubt meant *management*, or caution and address, in improving prosperity in arms, to the want of which, in hazarding the engagement with Ostorius, he seems to make him attribute his fall.

† The classical reader need not be told that the whole of the above account of the British chieftain, is in substance a translation of the masterly narrative of Tacitus. The entire passage rivals, for strength and beauty, anything to be found in the pages of that nervous and polished writer. The subject is peculiarly interesting to every Silurian ; and it may be forgiven the partialities of the present writer, he trusts, if he cannot deny his feelings the gratification of inserting the original here, at length. After speaking of the proceedings of Ostorius in subduing some other tribes, the historian proceeds ;—“ *Silurum gens, non atrocitate, non clementia mutabatur, quin bellum exerceret, castrisque legionum premia foret. Id quo promptius veniret*

The fall of Caractacus decided the fate of this district; for although the Roman troops were occasionally greatly annoyed,

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niret, Colonia Camelodunum valida veteranorum manu deducitur in agros captivos, subsidium adversus rebellēs, et imbuendis sociis ad officia legum. Itum inde in Siluras, super propriam ferociam, Caractaci viribus confisos, quem multa ambigua, multa prospera extulerant, ut cæteros Britannorum imperatores præmineret. Sed astu, tum locorum fraude prior, vi militum inferior, transfert bellum in Ordovicas, additisque qui pacem nostram metuebant, novissimum casum experitur; sumpto ad prælium loco, ut aditus, abscessus, cuncta nobis importuna, et suis in melius essent. Tunc montibus arduis, et si qua clementer accedi poterant, in modum valli saxa præstruit; et præfluebat aninis vado incerto, catervaque majorum pro munimentis constitierant.

Ad hoc gentium ductores circumire, hortari, firmare animos, minuendo metu, acendenda spe, alesque belli incitamentis. Enimvero Caractacus huc illuc volitans, illum diem, illam aciem testabatur, aut recipendæ libertatis aut servitutis æternæ initium fore. Vocabatque nomina majorum, qui dictatorem Cæsarem pepulissent: quorum virtute vacui a securibus et tributis, intemerata conjugum liberorum corpõra retinerent. Hæc atque talia dicente, adstrepere vulgus, gentili quisque religione obstringi, non telis, non vulneribus cessuros.

Obstupescit ea alacritas ducem Romanum; simul objectus annis, additum vallum, imminetia juga, nihil nisi atrox, et propuguatoribus frequens, terrebatur. Sed miles prælium poscere, cuncta virtute expugnabilia, clamitare: præfectique ac tribuni paria differentes, ardorem exercitus incendebant. Tum Ostorius circumspectis quæ impenetrabilia, quæque pervia, ducit infensos, annemque haud difficulter evadit. Ubi ventum ad aggerem, dum missilibus certabatur, plus vulnerum in nos et pleræque cædes oriebantur. Posteaquam facta testudine, rudes et informes saxorum compages distractæ, parque cominus acies; decedere Barbari in juga montium. Sed eo quoque irrupere ferentarius gravisque miles, illi telis assultantes; hi conferto gradu, turbatis contra Britannorum ordinibus, apud quos nulla loricarum galearumve tegmina: et si auxiliariis resisterent, gladiis ac pilis legionariorum; si huc verterent; spatibus et hastis auxiliarum sternebantur. Clara ea victoria fuit, captaque uxore et filia Caractaci, fratres quoque in deditionem accepti. Ipse (ut ferme intuta sunt adversa) cum fidem Cartismanduæ reginæ Brigantum petivisset, vincens ac victoribus tradidus est, nono post anno quam bellum in Britannia captum. Unde fama ejus evecta insulas, et proximas provincias

by the desultory attacks of the natives, whose spirit was yet unsubdued, they met with little organised and steady opposition. From this period their own historians seem to have deemed their proceedings undeserving commemoration; and their farther progress, and occupation of the country, is to be learnt from their works alone.

The Silures, with the rest of the Britons, having at length been compelled to yield to the veteran legions of Rome, rendered almost invincible by their superior equipments and discipline, Julius Frontinus, who reaped the honour of their final conquest, employed himself in establishing military posts throughout the country; these he connected by various roads of communication, some of which have already been noticed, but the principal was that which pervaded this county in an east and west direction, and called after his own name Julia Strata. The entire course of this military way has not been satisfactorily ascertained; and from the change which the face of the country has undergone in consequence of the progress of

provincias pervagata, per Italiam quoque celebrabatur; arebantque visere, quis ille tot per annos, opes nostras sprevisset. Ne Romæ quidem ignobile Caractaci nomen erat. Et Cæsar dum suum decus extollit addidit gloriam victo. Vocatus quippe ut ad insigne spectaculum populus. Stetere in armis prætoriarum cohortes, campo qui castra præjacet. Tunc incedentibus regiis clientelis phaleræ torquesque, quæque externis bellis quæsierat, traducta; mox fratres, et conjux et filia; postremo ipse ostentatus. Ceterorum preces degeneres fuere, ex metu. At non Caractacus aut vultu demisso, aut verbis misericordiam requirens, ubi tribunali astitit, in hunc modum locutus est. Si quanta nobilitas et fortuna mihi fuit, tanta rerum prosperarum moderatio fuisset, amicus potius in hanc urbem, quam captus venissem; neque dedignatus esses claris majoribus ortum, pluribus gentibus imperantem fœdere pacis accipere. Præsens sors mea ut mihi informis, sic tibi magna est. Habui equos, viros, arma, opes; quid mirum si hæc invitatus amisi? Nam si vos omnibus imperitare vultis, sequitur ut omnes servitutem accipiant? Si statim deditus traderer, neque mea fortuna, neque tua gloria inclarisset. Et supplicium mei oblivio sequeretur; at si incolumem servaveris, æternum exemplar clementiæ ero."—*Annales, Lib. xii.*

of agricultural improvement, and the general inclosure of the farms, no hope can now be entertained of tracing it with certainty. Occasional fragments, however, which have escaped the ravages of time, may yet indicate its probable line; while the vestiges of camps, and other remains of Roman fabric, may point out some at least of the stations which are named in the Itineraries.

Caerleon, in Monmouthshire, is admitted to have been the site of *Isca Silurum*, or *Isca Legionum*, a name which it derived from having been the head quarters of the second legion of Augustus. The *Via Julia* must therefore, in all probability, have passed that way. Traces of it having been observed in the parish of Rumney, at the western extremity of Monmouthshire, on the left of the turnpike road, and running parallel with it, there can be little doubt but that it entered Glamorganshire near the site of the present bridge over the Rumney river. The first station to be looked for in this county is the *Tibia Amnis* of Antoninus. The situation of this has not been fully determined; but it has been supposed to have stood on the bank of the river Taf, at or near Cardiff, or Caerdiff, the first syllable of which name seems to indicate the seat of a military fortress. No Roman remains have been discovered here of consequence sufficient to confirm this conjecture. There is, however, an undoubted Roman camp about three miles to the westward of this town, at the little village of Caerau, or the fortifications, which derives its name from the adjacent military works; and from the great extent of this camp, it might perhaps put in a just claim to be considered as the *Tibia Amnis* of the Itineraries. It is situated at a short distance to the southward of the turnpike road leading to Cowbridge, and occupies the entire summit of a gentle eminence, comprising an area of about twelve acres. Its form is that usually chosen by the Roman engineers, a parallelogram, a little rounded at the angles. The intrenchments have been exceedingly lofty and of great strength. The southern ramp-

part was single, and contained a steep narrow entrance. On the north, and also on the west, where the porta decumana may yet be traced, it was defended by a double fosse, while on the north-east it was additionally fortified by a third. At the east end stood the Prætorium, or general's tent. It was of a circular form, guarded by a steep rampart, and communicating with the camp by a narrow passage. This is still in complete preservation. The parish church stands within the area of this camp, as does also a farm house. No coins or other Roman relics are known to have been found here.

Three miles to the westward of Caerau, near the village of St. Nicholas, and in a field on the north side of the turnpike road, called Cae'r Gaer, is a small encampment with a single vallum. This is situated on high ground, commanding a most delightful and extensive prospect. If this was not an æstiva, it might have been used as a post of observation, for which its site is admirably adapted. Some Roman remains of a different description were discovered about sixty years ago, a few miles to the northward of this place. They consisted of a large bed of iron cinders, which, by subsequent experiments in a modern furnace, were found to have been but very imperfectly smelted. Underneath the heap the workmen dug up a coin of Antoninus Pius, and an earthen jar embossed with greyhounds, hares, &c. which was broken to pieces.\* At Cowbridge, the Pontuobice of Dr. Gale, some Roman coins have occasionally been discovered. Mr. Harris† had one in middle brass in his possession, inscribed CÆSAR TRAIANUS, the reverse PONT MAX---SIII, the exergue BRITANNI.

About two miles from Cowbridge, in a field by the road on the south side, and close to the common called the Golden Mile, is a square camp, but of small-dimensions, near which is a tumulus: there are also some vestiges of another small encampment on the other side of the Golden Mile. From the

\* Archæology, Vol. II. p. 44.

† Ibidem.

the line occupied by these forts, it would appear that the great Julia Strata kept nearly the course of the present turnpike.

But the great object of antiquarian search in this part of the country, is the station of Bovium, which, in the eleventh Iter of Richard of Cirencester, is placed next after Tibia Amnis, and at the distance of twenty *millia passuum*. Mr. Harris, in the paper already quoted, is disposed to place it at Lantwit Major, or Llan Illtyd fawr, a village three miles due south from Cowbridge. The chief reason he assigns for this conjecture, that Lantwit seems the skeleton of some large old town, is by no means satisfactory; as the existing ruins and indications of former importance, are otherwise better accounted for, as will be seen hereafter when the place comes regularly under our notice. A more reasonable opinion appears to be, that it stood at or near the present village of Boverton, situated at the distance of a mile to the south-east. The name may be considered as giving great countenance to this supposition, while the Roman remains which have been found in its vicinity, afford collateral evidence of some weight. Several Roman coins have at different times been discovered in the adjacent lands. In the year 1798 some servants belonging to Mr. Davis, a farmer near St. Athan, a few miles to the eastward of Boverton, while employed in removing some earth dug up a considerable number of silver coins in excellent preservation. At the distance of about two miles from this village, on a bold eminence on the sea coast, overlooking the entrance of the river, are the remains of a Roman encampment. It is of no great extent, but is rendered almost impregnable by its situation. The place is called the Castle ditches. There are vestiges of another small camp at the distance of about two miles from this spot; also on the sea coast.

The station of Bovium was sometimes denominated *Bovium ad latus*, which Mr. Strange\* interprets *ad latus maris*—"from its vicinity to the sea." But if Boverton be admitted to be

the Bovium of the Itineraries, and if the great Roman road passed to the northward through Cowbridge, as seems most probable, why may we not read it *ad latus stratae viae*, on account of its having been placed out, or on one side, of the main thoroughfare, contrary to the usual practice in such cases?

Whether or not, however, Boverton may claim the honour assigned to it, there can be no doubt but that the Romans had settlements in this vicinity, and that a road passed this way from the station of Caerau towards Mr. Turberville's park on the hill above Ewenny, where it united with the Cowbridge road. Between Boverton and this place, on this line, are several tumuli or barrows, such as are frequently observed near Roman causeways. In Mr. Turberville's park is a small square camp, evidently of Roman construction, which some have conjectured to have formed the station of Bovium.\* This situation would indeed seem to answer best to the assigned distance from Tibia Amnis, if the latter must be placed at Cardiff; but the appearance of the ground must satisfy the most cursory observer, that this could never have been regarded as a post of any great importance.

From Ewenny the Julia Strata ascended in nearly a direct line to the Newton downs, where some vestiges of it are to be seen, running parallel with the turnpike road on the left: hence it appears to have proceeded by Kenfig to Neath, where antiquaries are disposed to fix the station of Nidus. Between Kenfig and Margam is an inscribed stone, removed from its original situation. It is about five feet in height, and one in diameter, and bears the following words POMPEIUS CARANTORIUS.† On the summit of a hill to the northward, called Margam

\* See above, p. 191, Note.

† The Welsh are not willing to cede this ancient relic to the Romans. They maintain that the true reading is PUMP. BUS. CARANTORIUS. which they interpret, "The five fingers of a friend slew us;"—asserting that it was designed as a monument to some person of rank, slain near the spot.



gam mountain, is another stone, which appears to have been sepulchral, bearing a Latin inscription, which has been read as follows : *Bodovicus hic jacet filius Catotis, Irni pronepos, eternali in Domau.\**

No vestiges of Roman military works have been discovered at or near Neath, to determine the precise situation of *Nidus*. If a camp existed here it might have occupied the site of the present castle, which seems sufficiently well adapted for the purpose. But after a very careful examination of the ground now covered by the town, with the advantage of an intimate local acquaintance with the spot, we are disposed to place it on the site of the present churchyard, including the houses on each of the sides. The town is situated on low ground near the eastern shore of the river Neath. The churchyard is a rectangular area, of considerable extent, a little elevated, particularly on the westward, above the adjacent soil, and if the houses were removed, would exhibit the usual appearance of a Roman encampment. The vallum and fosse would have occupied the site covered by the houses which bound this area, along the whole range of which the ground on the churchyard side is more elevated than that of the streets, which run in a parallel direction. We give this, however, only as a conjecture, rather to direct the inquiries of future antiquaries, than with the vain hope of setting the question at rest.

From *Nidus*, the *Julia Strata* proceeded to *Leucarum*, which is the last station we have to look for on this road. This is placed in the *Itineraries* fifteen *millia passuum* from *Nidus*, and antiquaries have been disposed, from the sound of the respective names, to place it at *Llwchwr* a small town on the eastern borders of the river so called. So far as relates to the distance the conjecture seems to be entitled to attention. It derives also additional probability from some vestiges of Roman works in the neighbourhood, consisting of two small encampments

\* Both these stones are noticed in the additions to Camden.

ments situated on a common about three miles to the eastward of the town. Some Roman coins have likewise been discovered in the vicinity. But at Llwchwr itself there are no vestiges to be traced at present of sufficient importance, and of a character sufficiently decided, to claim for it so high a distinction. There can, however, be no doubt but that Leucarum stood somewhere in this neighbourhood, as the remains of the Strata Julia still visible on the mountains in Caermarthenshire, on the opposite side of the Llwchwr river, point in this direction.\*

Having

\* Similarity of names is frequently a hazardous criterion for determining the identity of places. In the case immediately under consideration, it may fairly be questioned whether it have not led antiquaries, who have satisfied themselves with the mere sound, into a mistake. A previous enquiry on this subject is, whether the modern name of this town, or of the river from which it is derived, was known antecedently to the Roman occupation of the country? Llwchwr has usually been derived from *Llwch-ddwr*-Lake water—a designation supposed to have been given to this stream in consequence of its being thought to proceed from a lake in the Black mountains. But it may fairly be presumed that the river had its name long before it was suspected (for it is not yet satisfactorily ascertained,) that its *visible* source communicated, by a subterraneous passage of several miles, with a pool of water buried among almost inaccessible mountains. It appears much more likely that its etymology is to be sought in *Llwch-wyr*, “The lake of Gower,” a name which might with propriety have been applied to its wide estuary, now called Bury River, which, from the projection of Whitford Point, exhibits the appearance of an inland sea. If this etymology be admitted, it will then remain to be determined, at what period and on what account the name of Gower, or Gwyr, was given to this tract of country? If previously to the establishment of the station Leucarum, then the analogy of the names may be received as evidence in favour of the opinion generally entertained. On this point, I confess, I have failed to obtain satisfaction. Nothing determinate can be inferred from its being designated by this name in the history of some occurrences, contained in some ancient Welsh documents; for these records were composed many years after the departure of the Romans; and the writers would designate every place by the name it bore at the time they wrote; and I know at present of no source of information likely to furnish a solution of the question.

Having followed the Strata Julia Maritima to the confines of this county, it remains to notice a few vicinal or cross roads, which branched from it, and formed communications with other stations to the northward. The first has already been mentioned above,\* as branching from Cardiff towards the Gaer near Brecknock, and known by the name of Sarn Hir. Its exact course to Caerphilly has not been traced; but beyond this place it may be seen running in a northerly direction towards Pont yr Ystrad on the river Rumney. It proceeds hence along a lofty ridge, lying between the rivers Rumney, and Sirhowy, and near Bedwelli in Monmouthshire, till it enters Brecknockshire at Bryn Oer. Caerphilly has been conjectured to be the *Bulleum Siturum* of Ptolemy; but the supposition rests on no decisive evidence. No Roman remains have been discovered here to indicate the seat of a station; and if Cardiff be judged to

In seeking for some other probable site of Leucarum in this neighbourhood, the name of PEN-LLE'R-GAER, the seat of John Llewelyn, Esq. seems deserving of some attention. It may be translated "the camp summit;" there appears, however, no vestige of military works on the upper part of the grounds. Farther I had not an opportunity of examining; but my intelligent and esteemed friend, William Davies, Esq. of Cringell, near Neath, who has long been engaged on a history of this county, for which no man possesses higher qualifications, informed me, that he had minutely examined the lower and more retired parts, and had discovered fragments of ancient walls in a thick wood on the banks of a small stream.

The situation he deemed well adapted for a Roman camp, but he had not been able to satisfy himself sufficiently in respect to the character of the ruins, to risk an opinion. Mr. Davies does not, however, think it improbable that on farther investigation this may prove to be the site of a Roman station. The situation of this camp, if such it be, suggests the idea that the present name of the estate is a corruption from "Pen-llwyn-y-gaer," or "the summit of the camp grove." In which case some meaning will be given to *Leucarum*, by seeking for its etymology in *Lucus*. May not the station have been called *Campus*, or *Statio Lucorum*?—Penllergaer house lies on the direct road from Neath to Loughor, at the distance of about ten miles from the former place.

\* See page 8.

to be the Tibia Annis, it is not probable that a post of any great consequence could have been established so near it as Caerphilly, which is only about six miles distant. The next road that occurs is the Sarn Helen, also noticed above (page 3) as forming the communication between Neath and Caer Bannau. Nothing material can be added to the account already given: Very considerable portions of this causeway remain entire, and nearly the whole of its course may be traced, from the marshes above Neath till it enters Brecknockshire at Ton y Fildra.

These are the only roads in this county hitherto described as of Roman origin. But another road remains to be noticed which has hitherto escaped the observation of every writer on this county, and until very lately seems to have been wholly unknown, except to the inhabitants of the immediate neighbourhood. The present writer, though intimately acquainted with the adjacent country from childhood, first learnt its existence by exploring the district with a view to this work in the year 1811, when he accidentally met with it. The immediate object of his pursuit at the time was an old encampment, which he found on the most elevated point of a lofty mountain, called *Mynydd y Gwair*,\* lying about ten miles to the northward of Swansea. This spot is called *Pen-Cae-Clawdd*, which may be translated the "earthen entrenchment summit," a name which is descriptive of the place. The camp occupies the entire brow of the hill, which is nearly semicircular, and exceedingly steep on the north, east, and west. Along the upper edge of this declivity, are the remains of a prodigious trench about twenty feet in depth, running along its whole length for a distance of about three quarters of a mile, and forming an almost insurmountable barrier on these sides. On the south, which is level ground, the extremities of this fosse appear to have been connected by an earthen rampart, of which there are yet some remains. From the centre of this immense enclosure a road

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\* Quære if not originally Mynydd-y-Gaer?

is carried to the southward, which for the first half mile runs in a straight line; it then turns a little to the westward, and continues in a less direct course along the side of the mountain. It is in the most perfect state, and overgrown with grass. It is not raised, as Roman causeways generally were, but is on the same level as the adjacent ground, only a little elevated in the middle to allow of the water running off. The width, which is very uniform, is about twenty paces. It was traced for about a mile to the southward along the common, but circumstances did not allow of its being pursued farther in that direction. Considerable pains were taken to discover its egress from the camp towards the north, but without success. It terminates abruptly, as before observed, towards the middle of the area. It probably descended the hill obliquely on the the eastern side, along the present course of the turnpike road, as no traces could be discovered of it in any other part of the declivity. From the little brook, which washes the bottom of this steep, the ridge of the mountain again rises gradually towards the north, over which the turnpike road, leading from Swansea to Llandeilo fawr in Caermarthenshire, runs evidently on the old causeway in a straight line for about two miles, till it approaches the brow of another declivity similar to the former, but not quite so steep. This is called *Pen tref-Castell*, which may be interpreted "the castle summit." This name it derives from a small fort of very singular construction that once stood here, the site and ruins of which are still to be seen. The ground it occupied consists of an oval area whose longest diameter may be about one hundred yards, and the shortest diameter about fifty. It was originally encompassed by a very deep ditch, which is yet entire, except in one part, where it has been partially filled. Near the middle, a transverse ditch is cut almost across, so as to separate the two ends, allowing only a narrow pass of communication on one side. At the southern extremity, which is the most elevated, is a small square platform a little raised, resembling the Prætorium of a Roman camp. From the

number of stones which could be discovered in parts of the circumference, without the aid of pickaxes, it appears to have been surrounded by a wall, and must have been a very strong place, before the use of fire arms. At the bottom of this declivity, the counties of Glamorgan and Caermarthen, are divided by a small brook, and at this spot the turnpike road from Neath to Llandeilo, joins the Swansea road, from the eastward. In tracing the old causeway from hence, it was easy to perceive that the turnpike was again carried over it for about a mile and a half farther, in a northwesterly direction, till it reached the brow of the northern extremity of the mountain, which is here called, from the parish in which it stands, Bettws mountain. The turnpike road now turns suddenly to the left, and proceeds someway along the brow of the hill, before it begins to descend into the vale: but the course of the old road was continued straight forward down the declivity, where a portion of it, covered with grass, and exactly corresponding to the part first discovered at Pen-cae-clawdd, was seen and followed for four hundred yards, as far as the mountain wall. The enclosed ground beneath consists of peat meadow, and here all traces were lost. The trench which had been cut for the passage of the water by the side of the wall, afforded an opportunity of observing the construction of the road, which was here cut right across. The sides at this section were formed of large pebbles, and the intervening space was filled by small stones and coarse gravel.

The very elevated and exposed situation of the whole of this ground, and the inclemency of the weather, the rain falling fast the whole time, rendered it impossible to explore these remains more minutely, and necessarily confined the examination that was made to a hasty and superficial view. The present writer must therefore leave it to future antiquaries to determine, whether these remains are to be ascribed to a British or a Roman origin. The camp or entrenchment at Pen-cae-clawdd, has certainly nothing of the appearance of Roman work, but is similar both as to its site and circumvallation to

many British encampments. The neighbouring fort at Pen-tref castell could have been used only as a post of observation, its size being too small to have allowed of its containing more than a moderate guard. From this spot a fine view is commanded of the upper part of the vale of Llandybie, with the rugged Careg-Cennen rearing its majestic head in the distance: and Pen-cae-clawdd commands a most extensive and delightful prospect towards Swansea, and Lloughor, having the Bristol channel and the Devonshire hills in the horizon.

If a Roman origin may be assigned to any of these works, we are disposed to think it must be to the road alone. Its direction south points towards the station of Leucarum, whether we place it at Penllergaer or at Lloughor; while on the north it appears to incline towards the station of Llanfair-ar-y-bryn, by Llandovery. On the other hand, if it be of British construction it may have formed the communication between the coast and the interior of the country, in the direction of the great British works on *Tri chrug* mountain above Llangadog.

After the establishment of the Roman domination a period of considerable obscurity follows, during which little more is transmitted to us than the names of the native princes or reguli, whom the conquerors allowed to hold a kind of nominal authority; and respecting these, and the order of their succession, some difference exist in the documents wherein they are recorded. The first mentioned is Cyllin the son of Caradoc; commonly denominated Cyllin the saint, who is thought to have embraced Christianity at Rome during his residence there with his father. He lived towards the latter part of the first century. Cyllin was succeeded by Owen his son. This prince removed his residence to the neighbourhood of Cowbridge, where the name is still preserved in Ystrad Owen. The site of his dwelling is supposed to be indicated by a tumulus in a field adjoining the churchyard. Gorig Vawr Vilwr is the next on record. In some manuscripts he is called Meirchion *Vawd*-Vilwr, or Meirchion the *thumb* warrior, an appellation applied to him in con-

sequence

sequence of his refusing to fight with any other weapon than his bare fist and thumb-knuckle. The names that next occur are Gwairi (according to others Gorwg,) Gorddyfwn, Einydd, (some MSS. say Gwrthyl) Garwth (according to some Einydd,) Arthmael,\* To Arthmael succeeded his son Gwrgan, surnamed Vrych, or freckled, from being marked by the small pox. Then follow Meirchion the son of Gwrgan Frych—Meuric—Cairiryw, Meuric—Oric.

As there are no dates given with these names, there is considerable difficulty in adjusting the chronology of their reigns. Edric must however have succeeded to the government in the beginning of the fifth century, as he married a daughter of Cynfarth ab Meirchion, whose wife was a daughter of Brychan. It must then have been about this period that the Romans finally withdrew their forces from Britain, and left this district, with their other territories, to the rule of the native princes. This important occurrence is placed in the year 440, though Maximus had prepared the way for it fifty years before by carrying away the flower of the British youth.

On the death of Edric the government devolved to his son Meuric, who married Vonun daughter of Caredig, lord or king of Cardigan. From this marriage proceeded his successor Cadifor, who was followed by Urban or Hurben—Cynaw—Teithfalch—Teudoric or Tewdric. Tewdric flourished towards the middle of the fifth century, and is reported to have erected the first church at Llandaff. Being of a religious turn of mind he resigned the government into the hands of his son Meuric, and withdrew to a hermitage. In consequence however of the irruptions of the Saxons, whom he had repeatedly vanquished in battle

\* “ Arthmael ab Garwth, the only known propagator of the male race of this family, to the care and greatness of which family we owe the account of this pedigree, though perhaps there might have been several other noble branches, yet not continuing so long in one place their pedigrees came to be buried in oblivion.” Harl. MSS. 4181 p. 69.



battle, he was called from his retirement to resume the command of the British forces. He defeated the invaders in a sanguinary engagement near Tintern, in which however he received himself a mortal wound. Finding his end approaching, he charged his son to bury him at the place where he should happen to die, and to erect a church on the spot. He expired shortly after in the immediate neighbourhood, where he was accordingly interred, and a church was built there, called after his name Merthyr Tewdric, or St. Tewdric the Martyr, since corrupted into Mertheirn.\* Tewdric had been married to the daughter of Maelor, lord of Llys Tal-y-bont near Cardiff.

Meurig ab Tewdric is represented by the manuscript which is here principally followed as having, by the indulgence of his passions, "as heinously offended God as his father had zealously served him." The proof of this is drawn from the proceedings of a synod held at Llandaff about the year 460, while Oudoceus was bishop of that see, at which he was excommunicated for the "perfidious murder of Cynetw." His dominions were lain under an interdict for two years, after which he was allowed to make his peace with the church by the customary mode of encreasing its endowments by grants of land. Notwithstanding however these ecclesiastical censures and penalties he is mentioned with great respect by some authorities, on account of his valour and wisdom. †

Meurig was succeeded by his son Arthur, who is now regarded by Welsh antiquaries as the identical hero of that name whose exploits hold so conspicuous a rank in British history. The following rational account of this chief is given by Mr. Owen in his *Cambrian Biography*.

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\* Godwin's catalogue of English bishops under Llandaff.

† Meuryg, son of Tewdric, was so noted a man for his valour and wisdom that "enw mawr yw enw Meuryg," i. e. "the name of Meuryg is a great name," became a proverbial saying among his countrymen. See a note communicated by Mr. Edward Williams, *History of Monmouthshire*, appendix, page 66.

“ That there was a prince of this name, or who had such an appellation given him on account of his great exploits, as Nennius represents, and who often led the Britons to battle against the Saxons, in the commencement of the sixth century, there ought not to be any doubt; for he is mentioned by Llywarch, Merddin, and Taliesin, poets who were his contemporaries, and he is also often recorded in the Triads, which are documents of undoubted credit; but neither by the poets, nor in the Triads is he in any wise exalted above other princes, who held similar stations in the country.

“ About the year 517 Arthur was elected by the states of Britain to exercise sovereign authority, as other princes had been in dangerous times; and he obtained that pre-eminence in consequence of superior abilities and bravery; having been from about 510 till then only a chieftain of the Silurian Britons, being the son of Meirig ab Tewdrig, and the twentieth in descent from Brân ab Llyr.

“ He continued a successful opposer of the growing power of the Saxons, until a fatal dissention took place between him and Medrod, a radical evil among the Britons, which about the year 540 broke out into a civil war, and Medrod joined his power with the Saxons; and ultimately the two parties joined issue in the battle of Camlan A. D. 542, which proved fatal to the leaders on both sides, and ultimately accelerated the ruin of the Britons.”

Arthur was succeeded in the government of his Silurian province by his son Morgan, called also Morcant. In the existing paucity of materials for illustrating the history of these times, we shall be excused for inserting the following account of this prince transcribed from an ancient manuscript.\*

“Morgan Mwynfawr was king of Glamorgan, a wise, and a  
generous,

\* Formerly in the possession of Mr. Thomas Truman of Pant lliwydd, or Dyer's Vale near Cowbridge. The transcript was made by Mr. Edward Williams, and is inserted in Williams's History of Monmouthshire, appendix, page 66.

generous, a humane, a gentle, and a merciful prince : he made good laws, and was so beloved by his subjects, that no one would leave him, or stay at home behind him whenever he went to war. He made a law that all men who had lawsuits and quarrels should, before they would try them by the laws of the land, refer the matter to twelve pious and merciful men, and the king to be the director. This law was called the Apostolic law ; because the king and his twelve elders acted in the manner of Christ and his apostles, that is, by mercy and gentleness. By this law every man was deprived of the privilege of saying a word on any public occasion, or of being believed, whatever he said, if he had dared to use any man, whether friend or foe, in any manner ill, by abusing with weapon, hand, word, or by any other act, until a full year was expired after his public recantation ; and this also on condition that he had behaved well to all during that year. It was from him the county was called Glamorgan ; and the gentleness which his good law produced in the country was called the gentleness of Glamorgan, (*Mwynder Morganwg*) and became a proverb all over Wales. He had his palace at Margam, and erected a bishopric there, which lasted five successions, and was then united to Llandaff. He was very wild of nature, and hasty in his youth, but repented of his wickedness, and became the best king that ever was."

Arthur had held his court at Caerleon ; but the Saxons, after his death, making frequent irruptions into the district, his son and successor removed the seat of government for security farther to the westward, residing occasionally in the neighbourhood of Cardiff, and sometimes at Margam. This circumstance led, as intimated in the above extract, to the establishment of the present designation of the county. The part into which he removed was called after him *Gwlad Morgan*, while that which he had quitted retained the name of *Gwent*. Over this he appointed one of his sons to rule in the capacity of lieutenant or viceroy, under his authority.

According to Mr. Hugh Thomas's manuscript, Morgan was succeeded by his son Ernydd, or Einydd. But another manuscript\* places before him an elder brother of the name of Ithel, of whom, however, nothing remarkable is related. Einydd is represented as a good king, and a liberal benefactor to the church. Einydd was followed by Rhys, who is stated to be his nephew, the son of Ithel. The succession in Mr. Thomas's MS. then enumerates Meirig the son of Rhys—Brochwell—Edwin Frych—Arthfael—Rhys†—Hywel—Owen. But the Coychurch manuscript, after Rhys son of Ithel, enumerates his successors in the following order, Howel son of Rhys—Arthfael,—Meurig,—Brochwell,—Gwryth,—Arthfael,—Rhys,—Howel,—Owen. It is of little consequence in a brief sketch like this, to attempt the adjustment of these differences, as no historical facts of importance are connected with any of the names.

Owen was succeeded by his son Morgan, known also by the several names of Morgan Hen, Morgan Mawr, and Morgan Mwynfawr,‡ or Morgan courteous, the second. His birth is placed in the year 872, and his death in 1001, having lived to the great age of 129 years. It is stated in some manuscripts, that he married the daughter of Roderick the Great, king of Wales; but when it is considered that Roderick died in the  
year

\* Genealogies at Coychurch, quoted in Williams's Hist. of Monmouthshire, p. 105.

† " Rhys son of Arthfael, built many castles and ships, and obliged every one that had lands in the vale (*of Glamorgan*) to sow corn in half of it; and every one that had land in the mountains, to sow corn in a quarter of it; and that all land that was neither corn, nor grazed by cattle, should be forfeited to the king, except it was wood and forest, according to the limits of the law. This law caused such a great plenty of corn and cattle in Glamorgan, that it became to be called the lady of all countries, so fruitful was it then reckoned." Truman MS. Williams's Monmouthshire, ut supra, Appendix, p. 68.

‡ In Mr. Hugh Thomas's manuscript, he is styled Morgan Min-fawr, or Great-lips.

year 877 only five years posterior to Morgan's birth, after a reign of thirty-four years, those accounts seem more entitled to credit which make this princess the wife of his father.

During this reign the country was greatly infested by marauding parties of Saxons and Danes, who plundered the inhabitants, and did great damage to the churches and other religious edifices. The chief military exploits of Morgan were directed against these enemies, whom he repeatedly vanquished. The other military operations of this reign were mostly directed against the princes of the house of Dinevor; the principal of these have already been detailed.\*

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During

\* See above, p. 208, et seq. It may not be amiss to introduce here some farther account of one transaction, which, as affecting the authority of some early manuscript documents, seems to merit a fuller discussion.

It has been stated above, (a) on the authority of a copy of Caradoc's Chronicle in the Myfyrian Archæology, that Owen the son of Hywel Dda invaded the territories of Morgan Mawr, and seized the district of Ewyas in the vale of Usk. This district had long been in dispute between the princes of Dinevor and those of Glamorgan, each claiming it as a part of their dominion. Caradoc states that the affair was referred to the decision of the Saxon monarch Edgar, who gave judgment in favour of Morgan, confirming the lands to him as a portion of his principality, and within the diocese of Landaff. The account given by Wynne, (b) is to the same effect. But it is to be remarked that this statement differs from that which is given by all the authorities that notice the transaction; which indeed were probably derived from the same source, the official document in the cathedral of Landaff. According to these, the seizure is represented as having been made not by Owen, but by Hywel Dda himself, against whom Edgar is said to have pronounced his award. The Liber Landavensis, (Cwita Cyfarwydd Forganwg) states as follows;—"When Edgar was king of England, and Hywel Dda, the son of Cadell, was prince of South Wales, Morgan Hen held all Morganwg in peaceable possession, until Hywel Dda endeavoured forcibly to dispossess him of Ystrad Yw and Ewyas. When Edgar heard this, he summoned Hywel Dda, Morgan Hen and his son Owen to attend him at his palace in London. Having enquired into the merits of their dispute, it was determin-

ed

(a) Page, 208.

(b) Hist. of Wales, p. 52

During the reign of Morgan Hen a question arose, whether the tribute of the petty princes of South Wales should be paid to the king of North Wales, or to the king of England, as lord paramount; but it was decided by the appearance of Edgar at Carleon, with an armed force, who bound the princes to the payment of it to the English crown.\* This event is placed in the year 962.

As Morgan advanced in years he resigned the government,  
to

ed by the just judgment of his court, that Hywel Dda had wrongfully deprived Morgan Hen and Owen his son of Ystrad-yw and Ewvas; and it was therefore awarded that Hywel Dda should give them up for ever. After this king Edgar granted and gave to Owen the son of Morgan Hen Ystrad Yw and Ewvas, within the bishoprick of Landaff, and confirmed it by deeds to him and to his heirs for ever, witnessed by all the archbishops, bishops, earls, and barons, of England and Wales, a curse being denounced against all who should deprive the parish of Teilo (bishopric of Landaff,) and the lordship of Glamorgan of these lauds, and a blessing invoked on all who preserved them to their right owner for ever. The award which Edgar thus made is preserved in the chapterhouse of Landaff." (a)

On the above statement it may be observed, that there is on the face of it a glaring anachronism. Hywel Dda died A. D. 948, and Edgar did not ascend the English throne till A. D. 957, at which time he was only sixteen years of age. In Mr. Hugh Thomas's manuscript this difficulty is obviated by an assertion that the award was not made by *Edgar*, but *Edward the elder*; and the mistake is thus accounted for.

The writers of both the documents, it is stated (Cwta Cyfarwydd and the "old Book of Landaff,") "the writers pronouncing the king Edward's name *Edwar*, without the *d*, have, according to the Welsh custom, varied the *w* into *g*, as usual in that language, and so wrote his name Edgar." If this solution of the difficulty which has thrown discredit upon the whole story, be admitted, the account given in the Cwta Cyfarwydd may be received as correct. If it be deemed insufficient, the statement of Caradoc may be received, which has no internal evidence to impeach its veracity. At all events there is no adequate reason for rejecting the whole as a fabrication. See Jones's Brecknock, Vol. I. p. 8,

\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 492.

(a) Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 612. In Spelman's Concilia, Vol. I. p. 414, is a Latin extract from the Codex Landavensis to the same effect.

to his sons, but at what period is not clearly ascertained. Whether different districts were allotted to them severally, or whether each ruled over the whole in succession, does not appear from the documents that are extant. In the Welsh chronicles and pedigrees, Owen and Ithel, the sons of Morgan,\* are expressly mentioned as the *reguli* of the country, during the life time of the father. Ithel was surnamed *Ddu*, or black, from the colour of his hair and beard. He lived occasionally at Ystrad Owen, and had a summer residence at a place called Ton Ithel Ddu, a few miles above Bridgend.

On the death of Ithel, A. D. 994, the principality devolved to his son Gwrgan, who is described as an enlightened and peaceable prince. He was esteemed a good poet, and made some laws for the regulation of the bards. He gave a large common, in the northern part of the county, to his subjects, for the pasture of cattle and sheep, and also for the growth of corn. This has been called after his own name, *Hirwain Wrgan*, or Gwrgan's long meadow. Gwrgan died in the year 1030. Caradoc of Lancarvan states, that he had previously to his death associated with him in the government his uncle Hywel, the third son of Morgan mawr, to whom he left the principality, to the exclusion of his own son Jestyn, whose profligacy had rendered him an object of universal detestation. Hywel held the government till his decease A. D. 1043, when he was succeeded by Jestyn ab Gwrgan.

Jestyn ab Gwrgan married Denis the daughter of Bleddyn ab Cynfyn prince of Powis, upon which his father gave him the district called Tref Essyllt, where he built a castle which he denominated in honour of his wife, Denis Powis. On the death of this lady, Jestyn solicited the hand of Ardden, the daughter of Robert ab Seissyllt. But Robert having refused his consent, on account of Jestyn's age and character, he watched his opportunity and violated her person. This out-

\* Some accounts state Owen to have been the son of Morgan, and Ithel the son of Owen.

rage, which, it seems, was not singular in its kind, embroiled him in a serious contest with the afflicted father.

We are now brought to the transactions which led to the termination of the British kingdom of Glamorgan. The introduction of the Norman troops into this country, under Robert Fitzhamon, has already been noticed above.\* The disastrous overthrow of Rhys ab Tewdwr on Hirwain common, having rendered their farther services unnecessary, Jestyn rewarded them conformably to his engagements, and they proceeded towards the coast with the view of embarking for England. Immediately on their departure, Einon ab Collwyn, by whom they had been brought to Jestyn's aid, claimed the hand of his daughter and the dower, which had been promised him for his services. But Jestyn, now thinking himself secure, ridiculed his pretensions, and tauntingly replied that he would do better for his daughter than bestow her on the betrayer of his country. Stung by this unexpected refusal, and burning for revenge, Einon instantly hastened in quest of the Norman commander, and after stating the treacherous conduct of Jestyn, represented to him how easy an undertaking it would be to obtain possession of the country for himself and his followers. This hint was not lost upon Fitzhamon, who immediately assembled his knights, and began to retrace his steps. He was shortly joined by some of the native chieftains, who, exasperated by the tyranny and unprincipled conduct of Jestyn, became willing instruments in the subjugation of their country to a foreigner adventurer. Jestyn was wholly unprepared to encounter this formidable confederacy. He hastily collected what forces were at hand, and awaited his adversaries on a common in the neighbourhood of Cardiff, where, after a short engagement, his army was totally defeated, and himself obliged to seek safety in flight. He first of all crossed the Severn and proceeded to Glastonbury; whence he removed to  
Bath,

\* Page 221.



Bath, and finally to the monastery of Llangenys in Monmouthshire, where he died.

The overthrow of Jestyn left the country wholly at the mercy of Fitzhamon, who now considered it his lawful possession, by right of conquest; and he proceeded accordingly to portion it out among his companions. The names of the knights who accompanied him, and the territories assigned to each, are thus stated in an old document, intituled "The winning of the lordship of Glamorgan out of the Welshmen's hauds," drawn up by Sir Edward Stradling of St. Donat's and inserted in Powell's Cambria.\*

"In primis, to William de Londres, the said Robert Fitzhamon gaue the castell and manour of Ogmor, being four knight's fees; now parcell of the possessions of the dutchie of Lancaster.

"Item, to Sir Richard Greenfield, he gaue the castell and lordship of Neth, now parcell of the possessions of the Right honourable the Earl of Pembroke.

"Item. to Sir Paine Turberuile he gaue the lordship of Coyty, now parcell of the possessions of M. John Gamage, Esq.

"Item. to Sir Robert S. Quintine, he gaue the castell and lordship of Lhan Blethyan, now parcell of the possessions of S. William Herbert of Swansey knight.

"Item. to Sir Richard Syward he gaue the castell and lordship of Talauan, now parcell of the possessions of Anthonie Maunsell, Esq.

Item. to Sir Gilbert Humfreuile, he gaue the castell and manour of Penmarke, bring three knight's fees; now parcell of the possessions of the Right honourable saint John of Bledso.

"Item. to Sir Reginald de Sully he gaue the castell and manor of Sully, so since called after his name, being two knight's

\* There is a manuscript of this valuable little tract in the British Museum, which agrees very nearly with the printed copy. The variations are unimportant. Harl. MSS. 6108.

knight's fees ; now divided betwixt the earl of Pembroke, and the Lord S. John of Bledso.

“ Item. to Sir Roger Berkrolles, he gaue the manour of East Orchard, being one knights fee, now parcell of the possessions of S. William Herbert of Swansea.

“ Item. to Sir Peter le Soore, he gaue the parcell and manour of Peterton, so now called after his name, being one knight's fee ; now parcell of the possessions of the Earl of Pembroke.

“ Item. to Sir John Fleming he gaue the castell and manour of S. George, being one knight's fee ; and holden of his posteritie the Flemings to this daie.

“ Item. to Sir John S. John, he gaue the castell and manour of Fonmon, or Fennon, being one knight's fee : and now parcel of the possessions of the Lord S. John of Bledso.

“ Item. to Sir William le Esterling *alias* Stradling, he gaue the castell and manour of S. Donats, or S. Denwit, being one knight's fee ; now parcell of the possessions of Sir Edward Stradling knight, that now is.”\*

Having thus provided for the Norman commanders, by dividing among them the greater portion of the most fertile districts of the country, he proceeded to make some provision for the British chieftains who had aided him in his conquest, and for the descendants of the vanquished and exiled sovereign. Eion ab Collwyn, with the hand of Nest, the daughter of Jestyn, received, according to Caradoc, the lordship of Meisgyn, which had been formerly promised to him for her dower ; to which was now added the lordship of Senghenydd. Caradoc the son of Jestyn obtained Aberafon, together with the district included between the rivers Afon and Nedd, as a royal lordship. Hywel ab Jestyn received Llantryddy ; and Rhys, another son of the dethroned regulus, obtained the lordship of Soflen, comprehending the territory included between the rivers Nedd and Tawe. To Robert ab Seissyllt, who had joined Fitzhamon to revenge the injury he had received from Jestyn,

\* Powell's Cambria, Edit. 1811, p. 93.

tyn, by the violation of his daughter, was granted the lordship of Maes Essyllt.\*

“ The castells of Cardyff and Kenfigg, with the three market townes of Cardyff, Kenfigg and Cowbrige, and the Sherfee, being the body of the lordship of Glamorgan, and all the demeanes of the same, with the rest of the members, to wit, Miskyn, Glynrothney, Tyr Iarl, and Boviarton, *alias* Lantwit: and the chiefe seignorie of the whole, the said Robert Fitzhamon kept to himselfe. And in the said Lordship of Boviarton he had a large graunge or house of husbandrie, with lands to the same belonging, that served him for the prouision of corne to his house. He dwelt himself most in the said castell or towne of Cardyff, being a faire hauen towne. And bicause he would haue the aforesaid twelve knights and their heires giue attendance upon him euerie countie daie (which was alwaies kept by the Sherife in the vtter ward of the said castell on the mondaie monethlie) he gave euerie one of them a lodging within the said vtter ward, the which their heires, or those that purchased the same of their heires, do enjoie at this daie.

“ Also the morrow after the countie daie, being the tuesdaie, the lord his chancellor sate alwaies in the chancerie there, for the determining of matters of conscience in strife, happening as well in the saide Sherfee as in the members: the which daie also, the said knights vsed to giue attendance vpon the Lord: and the Wednesdaie eurie man drew homeward, and then began the courts of the members to be kept in order, one after another.” †

Robert

\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 526, compared with Powell's Cambria, ut supra.

† Powell's Cambria, p. 95. The following description of the lordship of Glamorgan, is given in the document which Powell has inserted in his work. It is to be observed however, that the distances here given are far short of the reality.

“ The said lordship in length from Rynny bridge on the east side, to Pwll Conan

Robert Fitzhamon was the son of Hamon Dentatus, lord of Torigny and Granville in Normandy. He was nearly related to

Conan on the west side, is 27 miles. The breadth thereof, from the haven of Aberthaw *alias* Aberdaon, on the south side, to the confines of Brecknockshire, above Morleys castell, is 22 miles.

“ The same lordship, being a lordship Marcher, or a lordship roiall, and holder of no other lordship, the lords euer sithence the winning of the same, owing their obedience onlie to the crowne, haue vsed therein *Jura regalia*; that is, the triall of all actions, as well reall as personall, with ples of the crowne, and authoritie to pardon all offences treason onelie excepted.

“ There were xj lordships, to wit, Senghennyth, Myskyn, Ruthin, Llanblethian, Tir Iarll, Glyn Rothney, Aruan, Neth, Coyty, Talauan, and Lhantuit *alias* Bouiarton, that were members of the said lordship of Glamorgan. In euerie of the members were the like *Jura regalia* vsed in all things, saying that if anie wrong iudgement were giuen in anie of the courts of the said members, it should be reversed by a writ of false iudgement in the countie court of Glamorgan, as superior court to the same members. Also all matters of conscience happening in debate in anie of the said members, should be heard and determined in the chancerie of Glamorgan, before the chancellor thereof.

“ The body of the said Lordship of Glamorgan, was (before the alteration of the laws of Wales) a countie of itselfe: wherein the lord had two castels and three market townes, to wit the castell and towne of Kynfigs *alias* Kefnffigen, in the west part thereof, and Cowbridge towne, *alias* Pont vaen, in the middest. And the towne and castell of Cardyff or Caer Dhydh in the east part, in which castell of Cardyff the Lord did most inhabit: and therein he had his chancerie and exchequer, and a faire court house, wherein the countie court was monthlie kept on the Mondaie for all the snters of the sherfee, that is, of the bodie of the said lordship itselfe, without the said members.

“ Within the said Sherfee, or bodie of the said Lordship, were 18 castels, and 36 knights fees and an halfe, that held of the said lordship of Glamorgan by knight's service, besides a great number of freeholders.

“ In eight of the said members were ten castels, and foure borough townes.

“ The annuall reuenewes of the said lordship, with the members, was one thousand markes, whereof was allowed in fees 400 markes; of the which members aforesaid, maister John Gamage, Esquier occupieth one at this daie,  
descended

to William the Conqueror, and had accompanied that monarch in his invasion of England. He was raised to the Earldom of Gloucester, and under William the second held the office of lord of the privy chamber.

After he had allotted their several portions to his knights, Fitzhamon proceeded to abrogate the ancient laws and customs of the country, and to introduce in their stead the feudal system, which had already been established in England. In this undertaking, however, he experienced very unexpected opposition. The native land holders, many of whom still retained their estates, could ill brook the servitude by which the feudal tenures bound them to the lord, and they embraced the earliest opportunity to emancipate themselves from so galling a yoke. In the year 1094, while the Norman settlers were invading Gower, and pushing their conquest towards the west, the people united in great force, took several of their castles, and put the garrisons to the sword. At the head of this insurrection was Payne Turberville of Coety, one of Fitzhamon's retainers: he had married Assar the heiress of Meurig ab Gruffydd ab Jestyn, and having obtained by this union a large accession to his estates, was desirous of holding them by an independent or free tenure. Turberville led the insurgents towards Cardiff, where he besieged Fitzhamon in his castle. Fitzhamon finding himself so unexpectedly beset by a force which he was not prepared to resist, thought it prudent to enter into terms, and

descended unto him from the Turberniles his ancestors, that is to wit, the lordship of Coytie: and the heir of John Basset enioieth an other, to wit, the lordship of Talauan, by purchase from king Edward the sixth. The other nine members, with foure of the foresaid knights fees, and all the castels, market townes, and borough townes, with the demeanes of the same; and all the lands that were in the Lords hands, parcell of the said lordship, and members, the Earle of Pentroke hath purchased. So that there remaineth now to the seignorie of the said lordship of Glamorgan (being in the Queenes Maiesties hands) but the moitie onlie of the manour of Dynas powys, of the value of xxvj pounds by the yeare."

and to avert the storm by restoring to the people their ancient rights and customs.\*

The success of this insurrection encouraged the Welsh to make another attempt a few years subsequently to expel their invaders. The Normans being defeated by them in a fixed battle, found it necessary to send to England for reinforcements. Being joined by the Earl of Arundel, and other commanders, they now in their turn became the assailants. The Welsh made a feint of retreating, and drew their enemies into the interior, where the hilly nature of the country would give them the advantage over the heavy armed troops that opposed them. Here they suddenly formed, and turning round on their pursuers defeated them near Gelly Gaer with prodigious slaughter. The few that escaped took refuge in their fortresses.†

This desultory warfare, however, though it secured for the inhabitants of this district some immunities, which the Norman settlers found it necessary, for their own safety, to concede, obtained for them few permanent advantages of much consequence.

The succours which Fitzhamon and his successors were able to procure on every emergency, gave them at length a complete ascendancy over the country, and enabled them to reduce it to subjection.

In the disputes respecting the English crown between Henry the first and his elder brother Robert, Duke of Normandy, Henry found in Fitzhamon a warm and steady friend, to whose custody, at Cardiff, he committed his brother after he had become his prisoner.

Fitzhamon died A. D. 1107, in consequence of a wound he had received from a spear at the siege of Falaise, in Normandy, and was buried in the abbey of Tewksbury, which he had founded.

He left issue four daughters. Two embraced a religious life;  
Amice

\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 528.

† Idem. p. 530.

Amice married the Earl of Brittany : his estates and honours devolved on his other daughter Mabel or Mabili, whom Henry the first bestowed in marriage on Robert, his natural son by Nest, the daughter of Rhys ab Tewdwr, who thus became, in right of his wife, Earl of Gloucester and lord of Glamorgan.

On coming into possession of this lordship, Robert attempted to enforce the feudal laws, which his predecessor had failed to impose on the native land holders. This again roused the spirit of the Welsh. Ifor ab Cadifor, called also Ifor Bach, or the little, a resolute chieftain who resided among the hills to the northward of Cardiff, led the insurgents towards that fortress, which he took by storm, making prisoners of the Earl and his lady. A negotiation having been entered into for their release, at the mediation of the English monarch, Ifor refused to liberate them till he had obtained a promise, which he made the king guarantee by oath, that the Welsh of Glamorgan should remain unmolested in the enjoyment of their ancient usages.\*

Robert, after this surprise in his castle, lost no time in improving the works. He accordingly walled in the town, and surrounded the whole with a deep ditch, communicating with the river both above and below.

This nobleman, in the subsequent periods of his life, bore a conspicuous part in the civil wars between Stephen and the Empress Matilda. On the accession of that monarch he had joined with the other English lords in swearing fealty to him, deeming it best to dissemble until some more favourable opportunity should offer for asserting the claims of his sister to the English throne. This occurred shortly after, when the nobility, disappointed in their expectations from the new sovereign, began openly to manifest their discontent. In these complaints

\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 540. Giraldus (Itin Lib. I. cap. 6.) states this event to have taken place in the time of Earl William, the son and successor of Robert. Caradoc's account is, however, most likely to be correct.

complaints the Earl of Gloucester took the lead; and as soon as he found he had created a considerable party, he wrote to apprise the Empress of the measures he was pursuing, and came to an open rupture with the king by addressing to him an abusive letter, charging him with the violation of his oath. Stephen immediately confiscated his estates, and razed those of his castles of which he was able to obtain possession; and, by the vigour and decision of his conduct, defeated for the present the designs of his enemies.

Soon afterwards, however, the king's quarrel with the clergy having excited a general commotion throughout the nation, the Earl of Gloucester, auguring favourably of the occasion, brought his sister over to Arundel castle; whence, being closely pressed by Stephen, she removed successively to Bristol and Gloucester. This journey gave her an opportunity of conversing with some of her principal partizans, and of bringing over several to her cause. From Gloucester the Earl conveyed her to Wallingford, where they were shortly after besieged by the king. The Earl, however, contrived to escape to Worcester, and the Empress to Lincoln. Here she was again besieged by Stephen, who compelled the garrison to capitulate; but while the articles were preparing, the object of his pursuit made her escape. As he was retiring from Lincoln, thus disappointed, he was informed that the Earl of Chester, who was married to the Earl of Gloucester's daughter, had just arrived there, with his wife and brother. Anxious to secure these noble personages he instantly returned, and closely invested the castle, whither the Earl had fled for security. The Earl of Chester escaped to his father in law, to inform him of the danger of his daughter. The Earl of Gloucester assembled all the forces he could collect, and by a rapid march came upon the king unawares. An obstinate engagement ensued, in which victory declared for the Earl. The king's forces were wholly routed, and he was himself taken prisoner fighting almost alone.

Though



Though this event placed the King in the Empress's hands, it did not seat her on the throne. The bishop of Winchester taking part against her, and having collected a powerful force, besieged her in Winchester castle. Finding the place could not long hold out, it was determined by her commanders to withdraw from it by cutting their way through the besieging army. In this bold undertaking, the bravery of the Earl of Gloucester secured the escape of Matilda, with nearly the whole of her attendants; but owing to his continuing too long in the post of danger, and remaining to the last to bring up the rear in a narrow defile, he was taken prisoner. Attempts were now made to draw him from his sister's cause, which he had so strenuously and ably supported, but in vain. At length Matilda, anxious to testify her gratitude to him for his fidelity, consented to purchase his freedom by the liberation of Stephen.

From this period the efforts of the Earl of Gloucester were of little avail, and the cause of his sister gradually declined. He remained firm to her interest, however, to the last, and secured her final retreat to Normandy. He died of a fever at Gloucester, October 31, 1147, and was buried at Bristol, in the monastery of St. James, which he had founded. He is said to have also founded the abbey of Margam, and to have built the castles of Bristol and Cardiff. The latter, however, he probably only enlarged or strengthened.

The Earl of Gloucester left four sons, of whom William, the eldest, succeeded him in his titles and possessions. Nothing remarkable is recorded of this nobleman, except that he was a liberal benefactor to the church, a character which in those times was sure to obtain for him honourable mention. He founded the abbey of Keynsham, between Bristol and Bath, in honour of his son, and granted to the abbey of Neath all the wrecks which stranded on its territories.\* This Earl married Hawise the daughter of the Earl of Leicester, by whom he had issue, Robert, who died in the lifetime of the father,

\* Dugdale's Baron, Vol. I. p. 536.

Mabell, who married the Earl of Evereux in Normandy, Amice who married Richard de Clare, Earl of Hereford, and Isabell. He died A. D. 1173, and was interred in the abbey of Keynsham.

In consequence of the demise of his son, this Earl constituted Prince John, a younger son of Henry the second, his heir to his titles and honours. Henry retained the earldom of Gloucester, and the lordship of Glamorgan, in his own hands for some years, after which, on the marriage of John to Isabell the youngest daughter of Earl William, he conferred them, together with all the other honours, on that prince, who held them during the reign of his brother, Richard the first. On his accession to the throne, John, having no children by his wife, obtained a divorce. She afterwards married successively Geoffrey, Earl of Essex, and Hubert de Burgh. John retained in his own hands the castle of Bristol, but gave the other estates, together with the earldom of Gloucester, to the Earl of Essex, as his wife's dower.

On the death of Isabell, the family possessions and titles fell to Almaric, the son of her eldest sister Mabell. He died young and without issue; and the whole of the estates and honours passed to Richard Earl of Clare, who had married the other sister. Gilbert de Clare, the son of Richard, united in his own person the Earldoms of Hereford and Gloucester, to the latter of which was appended the lordship of Glamorgan. This nobleman took an active part against King John in the proceedings of the barons, to whom the English nation is indebted for the great charter of its liberties. After the death of the king he continued to side with prince Lewis of France, who had come to England at the solicitation of the barons, and under a promise of being raised to the throne. He was present at the battle of Lincoln, and was taken prisoner by William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, who commanded on the part of King Henry the third. After Lewis had returned to France, and Henry was left in undisturbed possession of the throne,

Gilbert

Gilbert was liberated, and included in the general amnesty. His name frequently occurs in subsequent parts of this reign, as bearing arms for the king. He died in Brittany, A. D. 1230.\* He married Isabell, daughter of the celebrated William Marshal Earl of Pembroke, by whom he left issue three sons and three daughters, and was succeeded by his eldest son Richard de Clare.

Richard, being in his minority at the time of his father's death, was placed under the guardianship of Hubert de Burgh, the Justiciary of England. This charge was, however, afterwards transferred to his maternal uncle, the Earl of Pembroke, who, by the payment of five hundred marks to the crown, obtained the custody of the honour of Glamorgan.†

In the year 1240, he took the cross, and went to the Holy Land, notwithstanding he had been prohibited by the pope. Four years subsequently we find him engaged in hostilities against the Welsh, who had attacked his possessions in Glamorganshire. In 1246 he took an active part in opposing the oppressive measures of the court, and was one of the peers who signed the letter that was addressed to the pope on the occasion, in which the barons threatened to take the remedy into their own hands, if their complaints were not speedily redressed.

In 1255, the King of Scotland and his queen, who was the sister of Henry the third, being confined by the Scots nobles in the castle of Edinburgh, the Earl of Gloucester, accompanied by John Mansel, the king's Secretary, was sent to attempt their deliverance. The Earl having with great address deceived the guards, gained admittance into the castle, immediately opened the gates to his attendants, who were in waiting, and thus without bloodshed effected his object.‡

When King Henry meditated an attack upon North Wales in 1257, the Earl of Gloucester was sent to his Welsh lordships,

2 P 2

and

\* Leland's Itinerary, Vol. VI. p. 85.

† Dugdale's Baron. Vol. I. p. 211. ‡ Matt. Paris, sub. Anno. 1255.

and invested with the command of all the forces in Glamorgan and other parts of South Wales. About this time he narrowly escaped being killed by poison, which had been treacherously administered to himself and his brother by his chief counsellor, Walter de Scotenay. His brother died, but the Earl recovered with the loss of his hair and nails.

On the conclusion of the peace with the French king, he was sent, with some other peers, by the king and the barons of England, on an embassy to France, to convey to the Parliament of that country Henry's resignation of Normandy.

In the subsequent disputes between Henry the third and the barons, the Earl of Gloucester took a leading part against the crown. He did not live, however, to see them concluded. He died in July 1262 at Esmerfield in Kent, and was buried in the choir at Tewksbury. His tomb was ornamented by his wife with gold, silver, and precious stones, and was inscribed with the following epitaph:—"Hic pudor Hippoliti, Paradis gena, sensus Ulissis, Eneæ pietas, Hectoris ira, jacet."\*

Earl Richard first married clandestinely, the daughter of his guardian Hubert de Burgh; but this union displeasing the king, who had other views, he was divorced from her. He married afterwards Maud, the daughter of the Earl of Lincoln, a measure which greatly incensed the barons against the king, who was the author of the match.†

On the death of Richard, his son Gilbert de Clare, commonly called the Red, succeeded to his titles and possessions, and did homage the year after for his castles of Cardiff, Newburg, and Lantrissent.‡ His first public act was to associate with the  
party

\* Dugdale's Baron. Vol. I. p. 213.

† Anno D. 1260 and 45 Henrici [tertii] Judæus apud Tweekesbyri in die Sabbati incidit in latinam, nec permisit se inde extrahi propter reverentiam Sabbati. Sed Richardus de Clare, comes Glocestriæ, propter reverent, die dominicæ, non permisit eum proxime die extrahi, mortuus est. Leland's Collect. Vol. I. fol. 288.

‡ Dugdale's Baron, Vol. I. p. 213.

party his father had espoused, which was headed by the Earl of Leicester. He was one of the framers of the celebrated Oxford ordinances, called *Provisiones Oxoniæ*, by which the barons sought to limit the powers of the crown.

In the civil war which ensued, he was among the commanders at the battle of Northampton. The forces of the barons being defeated in this engagement, he hastened to London, and after obtaining an accession of troops from the citizens, marched with the Earl of Leicester towards Lewes in Sussex, whither the royal army, commanded by the king in person, had retired. He was here knighted by the Earl of Leicester, and in the sanguinary conflict which followed, in which the king and his son Prince Edward were made prisoners, was entrusted with the command of one of the divisions of the army. Becoming jealous of the proceedings of the Earl of Leicester, who, having the king in his power, ruled the country at pleasure in his name, he afterwards formed a party against him. He contrived by a stratagem to release Prince Edward, whom, as well as his father, the Earl of Leicester had carried with him to Hereford. This circumstance enabled the Earl of Gloucester to draw over to his party so large a force as to put him in a condition to take the field. The two armies met at Evesham, where the Earl of Leicester was defeated and slain, and the king delivered from his captivity. After the Earl of Gloucester had procured prince Edward's escape from Hereford, he had made him swear to observe the regulations formerly tendered to the king by the barons, as the condition on which alone he would aid him to effect his father's liberation. Edward, however, imitating the fickle conduct of his father, when he had gained his object refused to fulfil his agreement. This incensed the Earl of Gloucester, who instantly flew to arms, and availing himself of the absence of the king and his army, who were besieging some discontented barons in the isle of Ely, he marched to London, and obtained possession of the tower. Here, however, the affair ended, and a reconcilia-

tion having been effected between him and the king, he attached himself warmly to the interest of the crown.

Prince Edward being in Palestine at the time of his father's death, the Earl of Gloucester, with other lords, met in the Temple, and proclaimed him king; and on his arrival in England received him with distinguished honours. In the tenth year of this reign, A. D. 1283, he commanded an army in South Wales, and overthrew the forces of Prince Llewelyn with great slaughter, near Llandeilo-fawr in Caermarthenshire. His dispute with Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, has already been related above.\* He died at Monmouth Castle in December 1295, and was buried at Tewksbury.† While very young he had been married to Alice de March, daughter of Guy Earl of Angoleme, from whom he obtained a divorce.‡ 13 Edward the first, to enable him to marry Joan the king's daughter, called from the place of her birth Joan of Acres. On this occasion he delivered up to the king all his castles and manors, which were again restored to him on his marriage.

Most of the Earl's estates having been settled on his wife, she had possession of them after his death. She married, without the king's consent, Ralph de Monthermer, who in her right assumed the title of Earl of Gloucester.‡

Gilbert de Clare left issue by Joan of Acres one son, Gilbert, and three daughters. Gilbert, at the time of his father's decease, was in his minority, being only five years of age. He bore also the title of Earl of Gloucester, and had livery of his lands on satisfaction being given to the king for the time he was under age. In the third Edward the second he was appointed guardian of the realm during the king's absence in the Scottish wars. In the subsequent disputes between the king and barons on the subject of Piers de Gaveston, who had been created Earl of Cornwall, the Earl of Gloucester became the mediator between them, and effected a reconciliation. He was  
captain

\* See page 34.

† Leland's Itin. Vol. VI. fol. 86.

‡ Dugdale's Baronage, Vol. I. p. 215.

captain of the van guard of King Edward's army in Scotland, and fell in the battle of Bannockburn, A. D. 1314, in the twenty-third year of his age. His body was sent to the king at Berwick, without ransom, and was conveyed to Tewksbury for interment.\*

2 P 4

This

\* " In the year 1315, the Earl of Hereford, and all the lords of the marches, raised their followers, and William de Montacute was sent by the king with a body of forces, to suppress a formidable rebellion, excited in Glamorganshire by one Llewelyn Bren (so Walsingham calls him) who had surprised the governor, and taken the castle of Caerphili. This person (whom I do not find noticed by any Welsh writer) is said by Carte to have held a lucrative employment under the late Earl of Gloucester, but having been deprived of it by Payne de Turberville, who acted under the crown upon the Earl's death, he was incensed thereby to the commission of this violence. Without entirely rejecting the account given by this respectable historian, whose accuracy, when he treats of the affairs of Wales, exceeds that of any other English author that has preceded him, other causes may be assigned for this insurrection. Llewelyn Bren, as has been just observed, is not known in the Welsh annals; but pedigrees still preserved in the principality inform us, that he was grandson to Ifor, lord of Saughenydd, of which district Caerphili was the manorial castle. Ifor being dispossessed of this fortress, and the greatest part of his property, which descended to him from a long line of ancestry, by the Normans under Fitzhamon, left behind him, no doubt, some memorials of his right, and documents for its recovery at a fit opportunity. From the conqueror of Glamorganshire, the castle of Caerphili and manor of Saughenydd came to Gilbert Earl of Clare by marriage. On failure of the male issue of this nobleman, it descended to his daughter Eleanor, who married the younger Spencer, and after his death, William Zouch of Mortimer, who in her right laid claim to it during the minority of her son by the first husband, and afterwards laid siege to it in 1329.

" During these contentions, it should seem that Llewelyn Bren thought he might assert his claim with success; and in support of it he brought, it is said, ten thousand men into the field, with whose assistance he assailed the castle, and gained possession of it. To oppose him, the English monarch sent John Giffard, lord of Broullys, who had been appointed Custos of the lands of Gilbert late Earl of Clare in Glamorganshire. He was directed to proceed under the command of Humphrey de Bohun earl of Hereford, the general of the forces on this expedition. Of the battles which were fought, and the events

This nobleman leaving no issue, the family honours and estates fell to his sisters. Elenor, the eldest, married Hugh D'Espencer, the younger, who in her right became possessed of the Earldom of Gloucester, to which the Welsh honours were annexed. The conspicuous part acted by this nobleman on the political theatre of his time, renders it impracticable to give here any thing more than a brief sketch of those incidents of his life which bear relation to the country under our consideration.

In the 10th Edward II. he did homage for the property of the late Earl of Gloucester, to which he had succeeded, and had livery, among the rest, of the Welsh honours and estates. He was at the same time constituted governor of the castles of Dinevor and Dryslwyn in Caermarthenshire. Scarcely had he settled his arrangements respecting his new inheritance, when he became ambitious of adding to it the adjacent territory of  
Gower.

events that ensued in this campaign, little is known ; but it is clear that this rebellion was soon suppressed ; and that the Welsh chieftain and his two sons, Gruffydd and Jevan, were taken prisoners, and committed to the tower of London, where they remained in June 1317, when the king commanded his treasurer and chamberlain to pay John de Crumbwell, constable of that fortress, three pence a day for the support of them in future, as well as the arrears then due to him.

“ The result of this short-lived, though perhaps formidable, rising, was unusually favourable to the Welsh inhabitants, who obtained a considerable alleviation of some of the old foedal services, by which they were bound to their lords, as well as an addition of several privileges before enjoyed by them, and which were granted in hopes to secure their future peaceable demeanour. Amongst others, the fines usually paid the lord by his tenants for the marriage of their daughters, called *Amobr* or *Guobr Merch*, were moderated ; freeholders were allowed to put a son into holy orders, if they had more than one, without the king's licence ; and to dispose of their lands for three years to any of their countrymen of their own condition, except to monks and religious bodies. These, together with the previous indulgences by the Earl of Gloucester, which were very great, rendered the inhabitants of Glamorganshire easy and contented.” Jones's Brecknock, Vol. I. p. 149, et seq.



Gower. His violent proceedings, with the view of accomplishing this object, which threw the whole country into a flame, are thus related by a respectable modern writer. "William de Breos, the then lord of Gower, was a dissolute and expensive man, of ruined fortune, who had carried on a kind of swindling transaction in the sale of these estates. In the first place, he had agreed to sell them to the Earl of Hereford, then to the two Mortimers, who were ignorant of any former agreement, and lastly to Hugh D'Espencer, who had this advantage over his competitors, that he purchased with the king's licence, and was supported by royal authority. But there was yet another claimant: John de Mowbray, who had married De Breos's daughter, insisted upon her right to the inheritance. Thus far Walsingham: but Mr. Carte, inclining to the monk of Malmsbury, whose relation he says accords more nearly with the original deeds noticed by Sir William Dugdale, assumes it differently. According to him, William de Breos had two daughters; the eldest, Aliva, wife to John de Mowbray the younger; Jane married to James de Bohun of Midherst; for whom the estate of Bambre lay very convenient, as that of Gower did for Mowbray. William therefore, by a special deed, granted the honour and land of Gower to John de Mowbray and Aliva, to the heirs of their bodies lawfully to be begotten, with remainder to Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, and his heirs. In virtue of this grant Mowbray entered upon the land without any licence from the king, of whom it was held in capite; and this served young D'Espencer (who wanted to get into his hands a tract of country adjoining to his own) as a pretence to sue him, in order to procure a sentence adjudging it to be forfeited. John and the Earl of Hereford, both interested in the settlement, alledged that the entry was made according to the customs of the marches, and insisted upon their rights. As these were questions implicating every tenure there, the lords marchers were unanimous in resisting an enquiry. They loudly complained against the rapacity of D'Espencer,

D'Espencer, which seemed to threaten all their possessions; and conscious that they had no other remedy than force, they in open arms demanded of the king, that he should be either banished the realm, or imprisoned and brought to trial. In this confederacy the names of De Bohun, Mortimer, Audley, Damory, Mowbray, Berkley, Tyes or Seys, Giffard, and Talbot, were the most distinguished. Finding that their menaces were disregarded, they proceeded to violence, and committed terrible devastation upon D'Espencer's property in Glamorganshire, killing and imprisoning his servants, burning, defacing, and destroying his castles, and carrying off the effects found therein to a very great value; and they afterwards made such havoc in his manors, in the western counties, that twenty thousand pounds would have been insufficient to repair the damages.

“The insurgents then entered into a strict league with the Earl of Lancaster, and thus became sufficiently powerful to enforce a sentence of banishment against the obnoxious favourites.”\*

The D'Espencers, father and son, were at this time abroad, but the destruction of this powerful confederacy, by the overthrow of the army of the Earl of Lancaster, who was himself taken and put to death, enabled them to return, and resume their stations in the King's councils. It is impossible to read without astonishment the enumeration given by Sir William Dugdale,† of the property and honours conferred on the young D'Espencer, by the lavish bounty of the crown. In addition to his other possessions, he now procured the manors of Swansea, Oystermouth, Pennarth, Loughor in Gower, together with the castles pertaining to them; which, however, he exchanged with Elizabeth, wife of John de Burgh, for the castles and manors of Usk, Tregrug, Caerleon, and Lyswry in Monmouthshire. His influence with the king was attended with some advantage to the towns in his different lordships, which obtained through his

\* Jones's Brecknock, Vol. I. p. 151.

† Baronage, Vol. I. p. 392, et seq.

his intercession several immunities. In the number of the places thus benefited by new charters may be named Usk, Caerleon, Newport, Cowbridge, Neath, and Kenfig.

In the midst of this prosperity, the Queen and young Prince Edward, who had been obliged to retire to Flanders through the machinations of the D'Espencers, finding how universally their conduct had irritated the nation, determined upon seizing the opportunity to effect their ruin. She accordingly landed at Harwich, attended by several powerful lords, and immediately marched for Bristol, where the king and both the D'Espencers then were. On her arrival at that city the inhabitants received her with every demonstration of respect, and having secured the person of the elder D'Espencer, delivered him over to her. She lost no time in avenging the insults she had received from his family, and had him instantly beheaded as a traitor. The king and the younger D'Espencer, who had witnessed this execution from the castle, perceiving their situation to be desperate, made their escape in a small vessel, purposing to retire to the island of Lundy. But the winds proving adverse, they were forced, after keeping the sea for eleven days, to make the Welsh coast, and shut themselves up in Neath abbey. D'Espencer, not deeming himself secure in this asylum, removed secretly to Caerphili castle; where he was soon besieged by the Queen's forces. The garrison was compelled to surrender, but D'Espencer contrived to make his escape. This respite proved, however, of short continuance. Having again joined the king, they were both taken soon after near Lantrissant in Glamorganshire, and conveyed to the Queen at Hereford. The King was sent prisoner to Berkley castle; but D'Espencer, after being treated with every indignity, was executed with such barbarous aggravations of cruelty as would have disgraced a nation of the fiercest savages. This execution took place at Hereford in the latter end of the year 1326.

Eleanor, the wife of the younger D'Espencer, together with  
her

her children, was kept a prisoner in the Tower of London during the remainder of this reign. On her liberation, 2nd Edward the third, she married William de la Zouch of Mortimer. She died A. D. 1337.

Hugh, her eldest son, was received into favour by the new sovereign, Edward the third, and took an active and leading part in his wars both in Scotland and in France. His conduct having ingratiated him with the king he obtained, but at what time does not appear, a considerable proportion of his father's possessions, which had escheated to the crown. In the 17th Edward the third he is styled lord of Glamorgan, and at his death, which took place six years subsequently, he was seized of several of the manors and castles, probably the whole, which had pertained to his father in Glamorganshire. He married Elizabeth daughter of William de Montacute Earl of Salisbury, and widow of Giles de Baddlesmere :\* she was afterwards married to Guy de Brien, and had for her dower, among other of her late husbands possessions in this county, the castle, town, and manor of Neath, the hamlets of Cil y Bebill and Britton, the whole territory of Neath on both sides of the river, the castle, lordship, and town, of Kenfig, the castle and manor of Llanblethian, and the castle, manor, and town of Talavan.†

The last Hugh D'Espencer, dying without issue, was succeeded in his honours and possessions by his next brother Edward, of whom nothing remarkable is related. He married Anne daughter of Lord Ferrers, by whom he had four sons, on the eldest of whom, named after his father, the inheritance devolved.

This Edward D'Espencer being only six years of age at the time of his father's death, was placed under the guardianship of Bartholomew de Burghersh, the king's chamberlain. In the 30th Edward the third he accompanied the Black Prince to France, and was present at the battle of Poitiers. He seems to have ranked high as a military character. The greater part of

\* Dugdale's Baronage, Vol. I. p. 395.

† Ibidem.

of his life was passed in the French wars, in which he was occasionally entrusted with important commands; and is styled by Froissart a great baron and a good knight. He died at Cardiff castle in the year 1365, and was buried at Tewksbury, leaving one son, Thomas D'Espencer, and four daughters, by his wife, Elizabeth the daughter of his guardian above named.

Thomas D'Espencer being left in his minority, was committed to the wardship of Edmund Earl of Cambridge, with a view to his marrying his daughter, to whom he was afterwards united. He is styled Lord of Glamorgan, and becoming a favourite at court was created Earl of Gloucester, the earldom having before reverted to the crown. In order to possess himself of the forfeited portions of his great grand father Hugh D'Espencer's estates, he presented a petition to Parliament, by which he succeeded in obtaining a revocation of the judgment of exile.\*

In return for the king's favours, he entered into his measures against the proceedings of the house of Lancaster, and was concerned in the seizure and murder of Thomas of Woodstock; Duke of Gloucester. Shortly after he deserted his party, and assisted in the deposition of his benefactor, Richard the second. This change, however, procured him no advantage; for on the accession of Henry the fourth, he was deprived of all his honours and estates, and being taken at Bristol, was there behead-  
ed

\* This petition exhibits a singular view of the immense possessions and opulence of that haughty and avaricious baron. He is said to have owned at the time of his banishment, "no less than fifty nine lordships in sundry counties, twenty-eight thousand sheep, one thousand oxen and steers, one thousand and two hundred kine, with their calves, forty mares with their colts of two years, one hundred and sixty draught horses, two thousand hogs, three thousand bullocks, forty tons of wine, six hundred bacons, four score carcasses of Martinmass beef, six hundred mutttons in his larder, ten tuns of cider; armor, plate, jewels, and ready money better then ten thousand pounds, thirty six sacks of wool, and a library of books." Dugdale's Baron. Vol. I. p. 396.

ed by the rabble. After his death he was declared a traitor, and his estates confiscated.

A commission was issued to examine into his castles and lordships in Glamorgan, which had escheated to the crown, but which were afterwards granted to his widow for her life. He left issue a son and two daughters. His son died in his minority, and one of his daughters died during her childhood at Cardiff. His other daughter, Isabell, to whom the possessions of the family devolved on the death of her brother, married Richard Beauchamp, Lord Abergavenny, afterwards created Earl of Worcester. On the death of this nobleman she married, by a special dispensation from the Pope, Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick.

This nobleman was distinguished as one of the most renowned knights of the age. He made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and during his travels visited most of the courts of Europe, and signalized himself on several occasions, at tournaments and feats of arms. He died at Rouen in Normandy in the month of April 1439, leaving by his second wife Isabell, besides issue by a former marriage, a son and daughter, Henry and Anne.

Henry succeeded to the honours and possessions of the family. In the 22 Henry VI. he was created premier Earl of England, and as a badge of distinction was allowed to wear a golden coronet in the royal presence. He was shortly after raised to the dukedom, with precedence of rank next to the Duke of Norfolk. This grant highly offended the Duke of Buckingham, who had before held this honour; and to avoid serious consequences, the king found it necessary to compromise the affair, by allowing them both the same privilege, only to be exercised by them in alternate years. Henry died A. D. 1445, in the twenty-second year of his age, leaving issue Anne, who was born at Cardiff February 1439, who succeeded him in his estates, and held the title of Countess of Warwick. She died in her minority; whereupon the family honours were transferred

transferred to her aunt, Anne, sister of the late Duke of Warwick. She was at this time married to Richard Nevill, Earl of Salisbury, who was shortly after created Earl of Warwick.

In the latter part of the reign of Henry the sixth this Earl appears as an active partizan of the Duke of York, and led the vanguard of his army at the battle of Northampton, in which the king was taken prisoner. At a subsequent period, however, he sided with the Lancastrian party, and was slain at the battle of Barnet 1471, fighting against king Edward the fourth. He was buried at Bisham abbey in Berkshire.\* He left issue two daughters, Isabell, married to George Duke of Clarence, brother of King Edward the fourth, and Anne, first married to Edward prince of Wales, son of Henry the sixth, who was stabbed at the battle of Tewksbury, and afterwards to the supposed murderer of her husband, Richard Duke of Gloucester, raised to the throne by the title of Richard the third.

After the death of the Earl of Warwick, the countess was severely persecuted by the ruling party, and all her estates were confiscated by authority of Parliament, and conferred upon her daughters, the Welsh possessions falling to the share of the Duke of Gloucester. The daughters dying, Henry the seventh, in the third year of his reign, restored to the countess, by act of Parliament, the whole of the estates which had pertained to the Earl her husband. But it seems this act of generosity had a remote view to his personal benefit, for in the same year, probably in consequence of a previous understanding, she made over the whole of them to the king. The lordship

\* This Earl was celebrated for his great hospitality, of which some curious particulars are related. "When he came to London, hee held such an house, that six oxen were eaten at a breakefast, and every tavern was full of his meate, for who that had any acquaintance in that house, hee should have had as much sodden and rost, as he might carry vpon a long dagger." Stowe's Chronicle, sub. anno, 1468.

ship of Glamorgan is enumerated in the Feoffment among the other possessions thus conveyed to the crown.

In the succeeding reign an end was put to the independent authority of the Lords Marchers, and the territory of Glamorgan, as well as the other districts which had been under their government, was erected into a separate county, and placed under the rule of the English laws. Henry the eighth gave the lordship to Jasper Duke of Bedford, but as he died without issue, it again reverted to the crown. In the reign of Elizabeth the greater part of the manors and subordinate lordships were sold to opulent individuals, and the remainder in subsequent reigns shared the same fate, the paramount lordship itself being converted into a lord lieutenancy, similar in all respects to that of the English counties. This honour is at present vested in the Marquis of Bute, who holds the castle of Cardiff, with several of the lordships formerly possessed by Robert Fitzhamon and his successors.

BOUNDARIES, EXTENT, &c. The county of Glamorgan is bounded on the north by Brecknockshire, and part of Caermarthenshire, on the west by Caermarthenshire, on the east by Monmouthshire, and on the south by the Bristol channel. Its form is extremely irregular, its greatest length being about fifty miles, and varying in width from about twenty eight miles to seven. The superficial contents are estimated by Mr. Cary at 422,400 acres.\* The modern divisions† comprehend the following hundreds:—Caerphili, Cibwr, Miskin, Cowbridge, Dinas Powis, Ogmōre, Newcastle, Neath, Llangyfelach, and Swansea;

\* Communications to the Board of Agriculture, Vol. VI. p. 228.

† The divisions of *Morganwg*, as they stood in the time of Llewelyn ab Gruffydd are given as under in the *Myfyrian Archæology*, Vol. II. p. 612, on the authority of an ancient manuscript. It is to be remarked that some of the commots here enumerated are now included in Monmouthshire, while Gower, which is not named, has since been taken from Caermarthenshire, and added to this county.



Swansea ; which comprise 128 parishes. It contains one city—Landaff, and nine market towns, viz. Cardiff, Caerphili, Merthyr Tydvil, Cowbridge, Llantrissent, Bridgend, Aberafon, Neath, and Swansea. The county sends one member to Parliament ; and the town of Cardiff, with its contributory boroughs, returns another.

POPULATION.—The population of Glamorganshire was stated in the Parliamentary returns for 1801 to comprise in all 71,525 persons ; but the returns of 1811 estimate them at 85,067, comprehending 41,365 males, and 43,702 females. To these the county militia must be added, which, with the attendants, may be stated at 1000, making the total amount 86,067 souls.

RIVERS.—The river Rumney\* forms the eastern boundary  
2 Q of

Cantrev Gorvnyydd.	Cantrev Gwaunllwg
Cwmwd rhwng Nedd a Thawy	Cwmwd Cibwr
——— Tir yr Hwndrwd	——— yr Haidd
——— Rhwng Nedd ac Avyn	——— y dref Bervedd.
——— Y Coetty	——— Edelygion
——— Tir yr Iarl	——— Eithav
——— Maenawr Glynogwr	——— Y Mynydd.
Cantrev Penychen.	Cantref Iscoed Gwent.
Cwmwd Meisgyn	Cwmwd Iscoed
——— Glyn Rhoddni	——— Lle Mynydd
——— Tal y van	Cantref Gwent Uch Coed.
——— Rhuthyn	Cwmwd Trev Grug
Cantrev Breiniawl	——— Uch Coed.
Cwmwd Is Caeth	
——— Uch Caeth	

The enumeration of the parishes in this document is very defective, and has been rectified by Mr. Edward Williams, the Welsh bard, who states the number to be as given above.

\* Drayton gives the following enumeration of the rivers which flow either wholly, or in part, through this county ;—

“ That Remny when she saw these gallant nymphs of Gwent,  
On this appointed match, were all so hotlie bent,  
Where shee of ancient time had parted, as a mound,  
The Monumethian fields, and Glamorganean ground,

of Glamorganshire, and divides this county from Monmouthshire, to which it properly belongs.

The first Glamorganshire river, strictly speaking, in entering the county from the eastward, is the Tâf. This romantic stream rises, as already observed,\* in the Brecknockshire hills, from two sources, forming at first two streams, distinguished according to their relative sizes by the appellations of the greater and less Tâf. These rivulets unite their waters just below the village of Coed-y-Cymmer, on their entrance into Glamorganshire, at the distance of about two miles above Merthyr Tydvil, through which the river pursues its course. Near the Quaker's yard, about twelve miles below Merthyr, the Tâf receives the Bangoed Taf, a mountain stream which flows into it from the eastward. Lower down it is joined from the westward by the Cynon, which rises in the parish of Penderin in Brecknockshire; and at the distance of a few miles it is farther increased from the same side by the united waters of the two Rhonddas. Hence it pursues its course in nearly a southerly direction by the ancient city of Landaff; and afterwards by Cardiff, towards the æstuary of the Severn, which it enters in the small bay of Penarth, at the distance of a few miles from the latter place. In dry weather the Tâf does not contain much water, it is however, a handsome stream, and

when

Intreats the Taffe along, as gray as any glasse ;  
 With whom cleere Cunno comes, a lustie Cambrian lasse ;  
 Then Elwy, and with her Ewenny holds her way,  
 And Ogmor, that would yet be there as soon as they,  
 By Avon called in ; when nimble Neath anon,  
 (To all the neighbouring nymphs for her rare beauties known,  
 Besides her double head, to helpe her streame that hath  
 Her handmaids, Melta sweet, cleere Hepsey, and Tragarth)  
 From Brecknock forth doth breake ; then Dulas and Cledaugh,  
 By Morgany doe drive her through her watry saugh ;  
 With Tawy, taking part t'assist the Cambrian power ;  
 Then Liu and Logor, given to strengthen them by Gower."

Polyolbion Song, IV.

when swoln by the land floods from the mountains which rise from its shores, rolls over its rocky bed in an impetuous and destructive torrent. It is navigable for small craft as far as Cardiff, which is the extent to which the tide water ascends.

The next river that occurs on this route is the Ely, which rises among the hills to the northward of Llantrissant. As it descends into the more level country it approaches the Tâf, in the direction of Landaff, and after passing the village of St. Fagans, enters the Severn at Penarth.

To the Ely succeeds the Daw, or Dawon, which passes through the town of Cowbridge, and at its junction with the sea forms the little harbour of Aberddaw, or Aberddawon.

A few miles beyond Cowbridge the Ewenny river flows near the ancient monastery of the same name; a little below which it unites with the Ogmor.\* This is a larger stream that pursues nearly a parallel course from the mountains to the northward, and passes through the town of Bridgend. Soon after it receives the waters of the Ewenny, it enters the Bristol channel by a wide æstuary.

At the distance of six miles we meet the Afon, called in the dialect of the country *Afan*, which flows into the Bristol channel near the village of Aberavon. It is navigable for a short way, and admits ships of small burden which are employed by the proprietors of some copper works in the neighbourhood.

The Nedd, or Neath, which next occurs, has its sources in Brecknockshire, in the romantic region to the northward of Pont-neath-vaughan. The several streams that furnish its first waters unite near this village, after which the main stream assumes the name it afterwards bears. Its course lies through one of the most picturesque and interesting vallies in South Wales. It receives no river of any consequence till

2 Q 2

the

\* Ogmor, qu. *Eogmor*, salmon water—from *Eog* a salmon, and *mor* water. See Llwyd's *Etymology of Rivers, &c.* at the end of Baxter's *Glossarium Antiquitatum Britannicarum*.

the Dulas enters from the west, about three miles above the town of Neath. Another small stream pays its tribute to it below the town from the same side: shortly after which it passes Briton Ferry, the delightful summer residence of Lord Jersey, late the property of Lord Vernon, and enters the sea in Swansea bay. This river is navigable for ships of about two hundred tons as high as Neath Bridge. But the chief shipping place at present is at Briton Ferry, where the canal terminates, and where convenient wharfs have been constructed for exporting the mineral produce and manufactures of the country.

The sources and the early course of the Tawe, have already been noticed in the account of Brecknockshire.\* It enters Glamorganshire a little below Ystradgunlais, where it receives the waters of the impetuous Twrch from the westward. Farther on it is augmented from the same side by the upper Clydach, and at the distance of about three miles below, by the lower Clydach, both of them small but very romantic streams. The Tawe discharges its waters into the bay of Swansea, whence the town derives its Welsh name of Abertawe. This river admits ships of considerable burden for about two miles above its entrance, and small sloops for a mile higher up to Morristown, where the tide water is impeded by a wear constructed for the use of some iron works on the eastern shore.

This is the last stream entitled to notice within this county. The Loughor has been described in the account of Caermarthenshire, to which it properly pertains.

LAKES.—There is but one piece of water in Glamorganshire entitled to this appellation, which is Kenfig Pool, situated near the ancient borough of that name, between Margam park and the sea. It is of small extent, and lies near the sea shore in the midst of sand. Popular tradition states the spot to have been the site of a city swallowed up by an earthquake, an idea common to every similar piece of water in the principality.

MOUNTAINS.

\* See above, p. 46.

**MOUNTAINS.**—Glamorganshire is throughout entitled to the appellation of a hilly country, the neighbourhood of Cardiff presenting the only level tract of any extent; and on the north the land swells into mountains of considerable elevation. Some of these are detached eminences, but for the most part they extend in chains of various lengths, which take a southerly course, and are separated by the deep and broken vallies, through which the principal rivers wind their course. The loftiest summits are those of the mountain above Ystrad-dafodog, nearly due north from Bridgend; and Mynydd-y-Gwair to the northward of Swansea.

**SOIL, AGRICULTURE, &c.** The soil of a large proportion of the hills is composed of a black peat, varied in the dryer situations by a brown gravelly earth. In the vallies it improves into a brown fertile loam adapted to all the purposes of agriculture, and yielding good crops of corn and grass. In the southern district of the county, comprehending the tract which reaches from the lower extremity of the mountainous region to the sea, and denominated “the vale of Glamorgan,” the soil is a fine loam, improved in its fertility by a substratum of limestone. As it approaches the shore it changes into a rich clay.

The usual crops grown in this county are Wheat, Barley, and Oats. The cultivation of Buckwheat has of late years been partially introduced. Most of the small farmers in the interior, and more mountainous parts, pursue the destructive practice of successive white crops, which are continued as long as the ground will yield any return above the seed: but in the lower lands, a more enlightened system has long prevailed, and is daily extending. In the rotation of crops no particular system is followed, each farmer pursuing that which best suits his own views and convenience. The most general green crops are Beans, Turnips, Vetches, and Pease. On one estate in the vale Mangell Worzell has been cultivated on a considerable scale, and with great advantage. Fallows are very common, but are

less used than formerly. Wheat is usually sown about October, Oats early in March, and Barley in April. The harvest commences in August, and continues in the upper districts to a very late period of the year.

A large proportion of the mountainous country is uninclosed, and is used for the pasture of cattle and sheep. The tenants of the neighbouring farms possess the right of common to most of these, without any limitation as to the stock they may send to them. These wastes are computed to comprise about 12,000 acres. Most of them admit of great improvement, and might be converted into profitable farms.

The artificial grasses mostly grown in this county are clover, trefoil, and rye grass. Sainfoin has been tried with great success on some farms, and lucern is getting into use.

The farms in this county are in very few instances appropriated exclusively to the dairy. In most cases nearly an equal proportion is devoted to arable purposes. It is to be observed, however, that grazing is prosecuted on too large a scale for the real advantage of the district, the quantity of corn usually raised being considerably short of the demand for home consumption.

The agricultural implements in common use, admit of great improvement. This remark applies particularly to the plough, which is generally a heavy and cumbrous instrument, requiring great force to draw it through the soil, which after all it turns but imperfectly. On many estates, however, this evil has been rectified by the substitution of a plough of the most approved construction. The other implements are gradually undergoing a similar reformation, through the spirited example of a few individuals, who have introduced into the county those of the best kinds for every purpose of tillage. Carts are general, where the nature of the country admits their use. The common team consists of two horses. Waggons are employed on a few farms, but, except for the conveyance of the produce

to the markets, their introduction cannot be too much depreciated.

On the larger farms, horses are frequently employed in tillage, but the most common teams are oxen, yoked in pairs, and sometimes led by a pair of horses. The prevailing error of the Glamorganshire farmers, like that of most other counties, is a waste of power in their ploughs, &c. It is by no means rare to see six oxen, sometimes six oxen and two horses, employed to plough a light stubble, or fallow, which might be performed with the utmost ease by less than half the number.

The chief manure of the county is lime, which is procured in most parts at a cheap and easy rate. Too little attention has yet been paid to the raising of farm yard manure, even on the best farms. Marl is found in the vale of Glamorgan, and used on the estates which lie adjacent to the pits. Paring and burning is very extensively practised, the farmers, especially of the interior, not been yet made sensible of its pernicious effects, when indiscriminately pursued.

Irrigation is much less practised than might be expected from the natural facilities afforded by the country. It might no doubt be carried on upon a much larger scale, and with singular advantage. But the streams of this county are so valuable and in such great request, from the number of works every where created by the mineral treasures it affords, that formidable and in some cases insuperable obstacles are thrown in the way of their being diverted.

The horned cattle of Glamorganshire are regarded as of a very excellent kind. They are of a middling size, handsome in their make, and of a fine brown colour, occasionally presenting black and other varieties. Their milk is rich, and yielded in large quantities; and they readily fatten. This description applies principally to the lower grounds:—in the hilly parts the breed is smaller, and more hardy. The horses are of various kinds. In general they are handsome, strong, and active, and well calculated for draught or for the saddle.

Great attention has been paid for several years to the improvement of the native breed for both purposes. The sheep may vie both as to form and quality with the best English breeds, and afford wool of excellent texture.

The farm buildings throughout this county are very good and commodious. They consist of substantial stone erections sometimes covered with straw thatch, and sometimes with the stone tiles of the country. The cottages are constructed in a similar way. The general practice of whitewashing these buildings, together with all the walls which lie adjacent to the houses, gives to the whole an air of neatness, and produces a pleasing effect.\*

Several

\* "It has, from very remote antiquity, been the custom in Glamorgan to whitewash the houses, not only the insides, but the outsides also; and even the barns, stables, walls of yards, gardens, &c. In a very ancient poem, by some attributed to Aneurin, who lived about the year 550, we have the following passage;

"Gnawd ym Morganwg ddiwg ddyinion,  
A Gwragedd mewn mawredd a muriau gwynion."

"In Glamorgan the people are courteous and gentle,  
Married women are honoured, and the walls are white."

Dafydd ab Gwilym, a bard that flourished about 1350, says of Glamorgan,

"E gâr Bardd y wlâd hardd honn,  
A'i gwinoedd a'i thai gwynion."

"The bard loves this beautiful country, its wines, and its white houses."

And in another place, invoking the sun, he says,

"Tesog fore, gwnâ'r llé'n llonn,  
Ag annerch y tai gwynion."

"Thou sun of the bright morning, beam joyfulness around,  
And salute the white houses of Glamorgan."

Deio ab Jean Du, a bard that wrote about 1450, says,

"Morganwg



Several parts of Glamorganshire are well wooded ; but the progress of its manufactures has of late years created a large consumption, and caused considerable havoc in particular districts. Hitherto, too little attention has been paid to the only effectual methods of counteracting the consequences of such a constant demand, by the preservation of the woodlands, and the formation of new plantations.

It may well be supposed that in a country varying so greatly in the quality of its soils, and in the relative advantages of situation, a wide diversity must exist in the value of the lands. A like variety prevails in respect to the size of the farms, and the amount of the lettings. Some of the mountain farms are large, but the land being of a very inferior quality the rents are low. The rents vary from five pounds to five hundred pounds a year : the number of estate that let for more than two hundred pounds is very small : the most common rents are under fifty pounds. Many of the farms are held on rack rent, but a large proportion are let on leases of seven, fourteen, and twenty one years, and, on the greater properties, on leases of lives.

Several years ago an Agricultural Society was instituted in this county, which is still continued, and is productive of great advantage, by exciting and encouraging a spirit of general improvement among the principal farmers and landed proprietors.

**MINERALOGY.** The mineral treasures of this county are very various, and of the first importance. A general account of

“Morganwg muriau gwynion.”

“Glamorgan of the white walls.”

But it would be endless to quote all the bards who have noticed this custom, which still continues.

Mr. Strutt, from Diodorus Siculus says, that the Britons whitewashed their houses with chalk (Chronicle of England, p. 254). From hence it appears that the Welsh of Glamorgan still retain a very ancient British custom.” Poems by Edward Williams, 1794. Vol. I. p. 17, Note.

of them has already been given above,\* from Mr. Martin's ingenious paper inserted in the Philosophical Transactions; but it will be proper to insert here a more particular specification of some of the substances.

We shall first notice the lime stone, which composes the bason within which Mr. Martin states all the other minerals of this district to be contained. The inner edge of this bason on the north does not reach so far to the southward as the borders of this county, but the inner edge of the southern portion enters near Risca on the river Rumney, and takes the direction of Castell Coch, Llantrissant, and Newton down, till it is lost in the sea below Margam. It appears afterwards at the Mumbles near Swansea; and, crossing Gower, enters Caermarthen bay near the mouth of the Bury river.

All the limestone found in Glamorganshire lies to the southward of this line, in the tract extending east and west from Castell Coch to Swansea Bay near Margam, and north and south from Llantrissant to the sea, and in the lower portion of the promontory of Gower. With the exception of the inner part of the bay of Swansea, it constitutes the southern boundary of the county throughout its whole extent. It varies considerably in its qualities, and is found to contain other mineral substances in a greater or less proportion. The western part of this bed, extending from Gower nearly as far as Dunraven, is of a close texture, and of a dark grey colour inclining to blue or purple. It burns perfectly white, and is found well adapted for building and for manure. In Gower it is sufficiently hard to bear a bright polish, and is manufactured at Swansea into handsome chimney pieces. It contains small veins, as well as occasional detached masses, of lead ore, besides Manganese, and Hæmatic iron ore. It is plentifully interspersed with marine productions of several kinds, including cockles, muscles, &c. The next variety extends from Dunraven to Penarth, below Cardiff. This is of a dark blue colour,

\* See page 60.

lour, and has obtained the name of blue lyas. When burnt it assumes a yellowish tinge. The lime made from this stone is reckoned by Mr. Smeaton to form, with a due proportion of washed sand, the strongest known cement for buildings erected in water, or exposed to moisture. His opinion was the result of repeated experiments while engaged in the stupendous undertaking of erecting the Edystone lighthouse. A stratum of limestone very nearly resembling this in quality is found on the opposite coast near Watchet. The chief marine substances found in this are the oyster, the muscle, and nautilus. Near Dunraven, where these two species of limestone terminate, a third intervenes of a light grey colour, containing a considerable proportion of silex. The lime produced by this is greatly inferior to that of the other species. Within these strata, nearly bordering on the coal, is a fourth kind of a reddish hue, in a less compact state, the shells which are found in it being so imperfectly incorporated with the mass as to admit of easy separation with the hand. Besides these calcareous strata, a chalky substance occurs in small quantities on some parts of the coast between Newton and Aberthaw.

Near the promontory of Penarth gypsum is found both in veins and detached masses, among the other strata. It is generally contained in a hard clay or marl.

The calcareous rocks along the coast present a great number of majestic caverns, ornamented with stalactites, and crystalized spars of great beauty. They give birth also to several intermitting springs, which have long been objects of wonder to the inhabitants.\*

Glamorganshire is rich in iron ore. It occurs in the largest quantities and of the best quality on the northern side of the county, in the line extending from the neighbourhood of Merthyr-Tydvil towards the upper part of the vale of Tawe.

Coal

\* A particular account of the limestone strata in this county, was given by an intelligent writer in the *Cambrian Visitor*, a monthly periodical work, published at Swansea in 1813.

Coal forms, however, the staple commodity of this county. Little can be added respecting this material, to what is stated above on Mr. Martin's authority.\* From this writer it appears that the coal in the southern part of the county differs materially in quality from that on the north. The former is of the coking kind, resembling the Newcastle coal, and containing a large proportion of bituminous matter: the latter burns slowly, without swelling, but when ignited emits a very intense heat. The combustion is remarkably complete, and attended with scarcely any smoke, a circumstance which adapts it for many purposes for which the other coal could not be employed. This, from its appearance while burning, is called stone coal. The small is denominated culm, and is chiefly used for burning lime. The strata of stone coal within this county rise to the north, while those of the coking coal rise to the south.†

MINERAL SPRINGS. Greatly as this county abounds in mineral wealth, it contains no springs of much celebrity for their medicinal virtues. The few that have been tried for their supposed medical properties have never been analysed, nor have the cures effected by them, drawn to them any considerable share of public attention. The only spring that seems entitled to notice here is, Taf Well (*Fynnon Târ*) which lies near that river a few miles above Cardiff, on the road to Merthyr Tydvil. The water is tepid, and has been successfully applied to the cure of rheumatic complaints.

#### MANUFACTURES

\* See page 61.

† The following is the state of the mineral strata in the neighbourhood of Merthyr Tydvil.—the whole of the coal lies in a depth of about four hundred and forty feet beneath the surface of the ground, which is here composed of argillaceous strata, with occasional veins of hard rock. The quantity of coal in this space is about fifty-two feet in thickness, the veins varying in thickness from twelve inches to nine feet. The iron stone lies under the coal in a space of about one hundred and eight feet; it is separated by argillaceous earth and stone into eighteen different veins, about seventy inches in thickness. This ore when smelted yields iron at the rate of about thirty per cent.

MANUFACTURES AND COMMERCE. Under these heads Glamorganshire holds a pre-eminence above every other county in Wales; an advantage for which it is indebted to its mineral treasures, its maritime situation, and numerous ports. Its chief manufacture is that of iron, which is made in large quantities in several parts of the county. The most extensive works are at Merthyr Tydvil, where there are at present four establishments on a large scale, viz. Pendarren, having three blast furnaces; Dowlais, having four blast furnaces; Plymouth, having also four blast furnaces, and Cyfartha, having six blast furnaces. The last works are the property of Messrs. Crawshay and Company. It seldom happens that all the furnaces at any of the works are in blast at the same time, one at least being usually extinguished, and under repair. One furnace will commonly yield about fifty tons of iron in a week; and instances have occurred in which, from some favourable circumstances, a single furnace has produced a hundred tons in that interval. The furnaces at the Cyfartha works are blown by means of a fine steam engine of fifty horse power, constructed by Bolton and Watt, and also by an overshot water wheel of fifty feet in diameter, which equals the steam engine in power. This wheel was formed by Mr. Watkin George, at that time a mechanic employed about the works, but since deservedly rewarded for his talents. It consumes twenty-five tons of water a minute.

The Cyfartha works produce annually about eleven thousand tons of pig iron, and twelve thousand tons of bar iron, which require about eighteen thousand tons of the former. The excess of pig iron above what is produced by these works, wanted for the manufacture of bar iron, is brought from the Rumney works in Monmouthshire, which belong to the same proprietors. The number of men employed by this establishment is usually from fifteen hundred to two thousand, making with their wives and children at least five thousand persons.

The

The monthly payment to these amounts to about six thousand pounds.

Near the village of Aberdare, six miles to the south-westward of Merthyr Tydvil, are two iron manufactories of late erection. They are situated in the vicinity of Hirwain common, at no great distance from the Hirwain works in Brecknockshire already mentioned.\* The largest of these is Abernant, which has four blast furnaces: it is the property of Messrs. Tappenden and Company. The other, called the Llwedcoed works, stands higher up the vale: it has three blast furnaces, and belongs to Messrs. Scales.†

Other

\* See above, page 72.

† The following sketch of the process of manufacturing iron is drawn up by a friend, who has long been engaged in the direction of an iron work of the first magnitude in the principality:—

Iron stone previous to being used in the furnace undergoes a process called calcining, which is performed in kilns, similar to those used for burning lime, in order that the sulphur, and other foreign principles which are combined with the ore, may be discharged. The coal is likewise coked, on a principle nearly similar to that of making charcoal. The limestone is generally used in the state it comes from the rock. The loss in weight sustained in the calcining of iron stone, is from 26 to 30 per cwt. that of coal from 45 to 50. When these materials are brought into the state abovementioned they are fit for use in the furnace: the inside of this building is circular, tapering like a cone, and from 40 to 50 feet high. After the furnace is thoroughly heated and dried, it is filled with coke and set on fire at the bottom: when the fire has made its way through this body of coke, a quantity of calcined mine with limestone is put on the coke; a small quantity of coke is then taken from the bottom of the furnace, which causes it to sink at the top, and the space is filled up with fresh coke, with the addition of mine and limestone. This process is continued till such time as the furnace becomes one continued stratum of coke, iron stone, and limestone. When this is the case, the bottom part is shut up, except a hole for the introduction of a blow pipe, and another for the cinder to flow off. The blast is now applied, and continues blowing from 18 to 20 hours, by which time a quantity of iron collects in the hearth; when full it is let off into moulds, and the

Other parts of the county contain iron forges and founderies, where the pig iron produced by these and other smelting works, are manufactured into bar iron, or re-melted and cast into various articles for machinery and other purposes. The principal of these works, after those of Merthyr, lie in the vales of Neath, and Swansea, which furnish in abundance the necessary ingredient of coking coal.

Tin plate manufactories are numerous in this county, but the war has occasioned very considerable diminution in the demand for this article, and consequently in the quantity produced, for several years past.

There are extensive tin works at Merlin Gruffydd on the Taf above Landaff, belonging to Messrs. Reynolds and Company: the other establishments are those of Messrs. Miers and Company, which are three in number, viz. one at Aberavon, another at Ynis-y-gerwn, a few miles above Neath, and a third at Ynis-pen-llwch, about eight miles from Swansea. Of the latter the Ynis-y-gerwn works alone are at present in a state of activity. The tin used in this manufacture is brought from Cornwall.

The next manufacture in point of importance is that of copper.

the furnace is kept filled with the materials as before. This is the first stage of iron making, and the material thus produced is called pig iron.

Second Process.—The pig iron is taken to a place called a finery, where a strong blast is used. Here the pig is melted with coke in a low fire, and when brought to a very fluid state is let off into moulds—this is called finer's metal.

Third Process.—The metal, which is very brittle, is broken into small pieces, and thrown into an air furnace, by the workmen called a puddling furnace; here it is exposed to a violent heat until it melts; the men now keep stirring it about, and expose it to a current of air—by which process it loses its brittleness, and becomes malleable. When they judge it sufficiently worked they divide the mass into balls of from 80 to 100 lb. and either run it through heavy iron rollers, or beat it with a large hammer, three tons weight: it is again heated, and drawn through iron rollers. This is the last process, and the iron thus produced is called Merchant Bars.

per. The ore is conveyed to this county from Cornwall, North Wales, and Ireland, for the convenience of coal; and there are smelting works on an extensive scale in the neighbourhoods of Aberavon, Neath, and Swansea. Near Swansea especially, they are very numerous on both sides of the river, and by, destroying the vegetation, give an aspect of desolation to a considerable tract of the adjacent country.

There is at Swansea an extensive manufactory of earthen ware, which was conducted for many years with great ability and success by Mr. Haynes. It is now the property of Messrs. Dilwyn and Company. The ware produced here is justly admired both for the excellence of its quality, and its beauty. Large quantities are exported annually to several parts of England. A manufactory of a similar kind has lately been established in the parish of Eglwysilian, among the mountains to the northward of Cardiff, which bids fair to reward the enterprize of the proprietors.

A woollen manufactory was established some years since at Bridgend. It is not on a large scale, nor has it been very productive. At present it is chiefly employed in making Welsh shawls. This article, for which the demand has of late been very considerable, is also made in other parts of the county, particularly at Caerphili. Coarse cloth is manufactured in small quantities at some private establishments, by individuals who themselves carry it to the fairs and markets for sale. A considerable quantity of flannel, which forms the chief clothing of the peasantry, is made throughout the whole of the country. The wool is generally carded and spun at the cottages and smaller farm houses, and woven by the village weavers of the neighbourhood. Of late, however, the home labour in the manufacture of this article has been greatly diminished, by the introduction into the county of machinery for carding, spinning, and weaving.

The only other manufacture of this county entitled to notice

†

here,



here, is that of soap, for which some works have been recently erected in the neighbourhood of Swansea.

The mineral treasures of this county, and its numerous manufactories, have communicated to it great commercial activity and importance. The chief article of produce which it has furnished for exportation is coal, of which large quantities have for many years been shipped annually from the ports of Neath and Swansea. Its manufactures, especially those of iron, have of late supplied an important addition to its trade. Its present commercial consequence has, however, been derived from its canals, which have led to the establishment of new manufactories in the heart of the country, and furnished means for transporting to its harbours the produce of the interior. The first canal formed here was that from Cardiff to Merthyr Tydvil, which was commenced in the year 1791, and finished in 1798. Its entire length is about twenty-six miles: it has forty locks in that distance, and the elevation at the head is about five hundred and seventy-feet above the level of high water at Cardiff. Its general depth is five feet, which affords water for the navigation of barges of twenty-five tons burden. From Cardiff it has been continued on a larger scale to the entrance of the river Taf near Penarth, with which it communicates by a large lock. This part admits of ships of two hundred tons to the town quays, built on its banks. A branch has lately been cut from this canal, to communicate with the works in the neighbourhood of Aberdare.

To avoid interruption in the transportation of the produce of the Merthyr works in dry seasons, when the canal is scantily supplied with water, a rail road has been lately constructed at the upper end for the distance of about eight miles, where the streams are most affected by drought, along which the iron, &c. is conveyed in waggons constructed for the purpose. It was once intended to continue this rail road the whole length of the canal.

A canal was begun at Neath in 1791, which was carried up the vale nearly to the confines of the county. It was afterwards

extended south to Briton Ferry, where a convenient shipping place has been built for loading the vessels with the coal, and other articles of exportation furnished by the neighbourhood. The length of this canal is thirteen miles, and it has sixteen locks. From the upper extremity, a rail road has been formed to communicate with the iron works of Hirwain and Aberdare.

Soon after the Neath canal was constructed, another was made along the vale of the Tawe from Swansea, up to the Brecknockshire hills above Ystrad-gunlais. The length of this is sixteen miles, the depth about five feet, affording water for barges of about twenty-five tons burden. Numerous rail roads communicate with this canal in various places, along which are brought to convenient wharfs, the produce of the mines, lime quarries, &c. which lie adjacent to it, to be conveyed for exportation to Swansea, or to the neighbouring works, &c. for home consumption.

Near Swansea are two other small canals which are the private property of individuals. One extends from the village of Foxhole above Swansea, on the eastern side of the river, to the collieries of Gwernllwynwhith, near Lansamlet; the other is cut through Crymlin Marsh, between Swansea and Britton-ferry, terminating at a shipping wharf nearly opposite the latter place, on the western bank of the Neath river.

It was at one time in contemplation to extend the Swansea canal as far as the Mumbles; but the scheme was abandoned for a rail road, which has been formed along the sea shore.

This county is intersected by a great number of good roads, which afford easy and convenient communications between the different towns and villages. The high road to Milford runs through its whole extent in an east and west direction, from Rumney bridge to Pontarddulais, on the river Loughor. A mail coach to and from the metropolis passes this way daily; and two other coaches, one from Gloucester, the other from Bristol, proceed as far as Swansea on alternate days. Stage waggons are unknown in the county, its numerous ports superseding their use, and affording every necessary facility for supplying

supplying the principal towns with merchandize of every description from England. The chief places for conducting this trade, proceeding from the eastward, are Cardiff, Newton, Neath, and Swansea, whence there is a regular water communication with Bristol.

On entering Glamorganshire from the eastward, the first place that claims our notice in the topographical survey is

### CARDIFF,

which lies at the distance of about three miles from Rumney bridge. It is situated in the midst of an extensive flat country on the eastern shore of the river Taf. The present name is derived from *Caer-Taf*, or *Caer-Daf*, the fortress on the Taf: but the etymology of the modern Welsh appellation, *Caerdydd*, is not so easily determined. It is thought to have been derived from *Caer-Didi*, possibly after Aulus Didius, the Roman general, who is supposed to have erected a fort here previously to the arrival of Julius Frontinus.

Cardiff, though not the first town in point of extent and population, is regarded as the metropolis of the county. Its general appearance is neat and prepossessing; the streets being laid out with tolerable regularity, and containing a large proportion of good houses. The town hall, a respectable modern erection, stands in the middle of one of the principal thoroughfares; and near it is the county gaol, built upon Mr. Howard's plan. Since the completion of the canal to Merthyr, the town has received great improvements by the erection of several handsome houses, for the accommodation of the proprietors and agents of the principal concerns in the neighbourhood. Neat and commodious buildings on a smaller scale have also been erected here for the workmen employed about the wharfs, &c. among which may be mentioned some on a particularly judicious plan, raised by Mr. Bird of this place.

The river Taf is crossed by a handsome stone bridge of three arches, with two smaller arches, one at each end, for the

passage of the flood waters, when they overflow the banks. This was built by Mr. Parry in the year 1796, and was the third raised by him on the same spot, the two former having been swept away by tremendous floods before they were completed. The old bridge was situated higher up the river, opposite the castle. The situation of the present structure is much more eligible, and the new entrance which it has caused to be made into the town, may be ranked among the chief improvements which the place has of late years received.

The population of Cardiff was stated, by the Parliamentary returns, to have comprised in 1801, 1870 individuals. The number in the returns for 1811 is given at 2457, including 1084 males, and 1373 females.

The only manufactory established here is one of iron hoops. The trade of the place is, however, very considerable, in consequence of the numerous collieries up the vale, and the iron and tin works of Merthyr, Melin Gruffydd &c. the produce of which are conveyed here by the canal for exportation, and which create a large import trade from Bristol, &c. in shop goods, to supply the population of the interior.

The new cut to the town quays on the canal admits ships of 200 tons, to take in the whole of their cargo: ships of 300 tons occasionally take in part of their loading at these wharfs, and complete their cargoes by means of barges, after they have entered the river at the sea lock. There are regular passage boats for the conveyance of merchandize, &c. twice every week between this place and Bristol. Besides which, the coaches that pass through daily from the same place, and every other day from Gloucester; afford other important commercial facilities. The mail coach for Milford arrives here from Bristol every evening about eight o'clock, and the mail for the metropolis passes through generally about six o'clock in the morning. The inns are numerous, but the two principal are the Cardiff Arms and the Angel, both of which may rank among the best in the principality.

Cardiff is a borough town, and, in conjunction with the contributory boroughs of Cowbridge, Llantrissant, Kenfyg, Aberavon, Neath, Swansea, and Loughor, sends one member to Parliament. The Marquis of Bute is the present patron. The corporation consists of two bailiffs, who are the returning officers, a Steward, constable of the castle, twelve aldermen, from whom the bailiffs are annually chosen, twelve capital burgesses, and a town clerk. The County Assizes are held here, and also the epiphany Quarter Sessions. The markets are on Wednesday and Saturday, and the fairs are held on the 29th June, 19th September, and the 30th November.

The town was once surrounded by a wall, in which were five gates, one communicating with the old shipping place, on the river, and the others with the principal roads into the country. None of the town gates are at present standing; but considerable portions of the wall, with a watch tower, are preserved on the eastern side, where the ditch has been cleared out, and used for the bed of the canal.

Cardiff contains two parishes, St. Mary's and St. John's. The church of St. Mary stood near the river, at the south west extremity of the town, and was carried away by the great inundation of 1607, which did prodigious damage on the low grounds adjacent to the coast. Speed has inserted it in his ichnography, from which it appears to have been a large cruciform building, with a lofty square tower.

The CHURCH OF ST. JOHN, stands near the middle of the town in a street of the same name. It is a plain Norman structure, supposed to have been erected in the thirteenth century. The architecture offers little worthy of observation, except the arch of the west door, which is rich and handsome. The tower, which is of more modern date than the body of the church, is a lofty square building of great beauty, surmounted at the corners by open pinnacles or lanterns, greatly admired for their elegance, and exquisite workmanship. They have lately been repaired in a manner highly creditable to the artist.

The interior of the church contains no objects of antiquarian interest, except a sepulchral monument of black and white marble raised to Sir William and Sir John Herbert.

In the suburbs, on the north-east side of the town, are considerable ruins of a monastery of Grey Friars,\* which was subject to Bristol; and on the north-west, near the old bridge, are some traces of a house of Black Friars. Tanner mentions two other religious establishments at this place, but no vestiges of the buildings are at present visible.

The CASTLE forms still an interesting object, and preserves much of its ancient grandeur. The western front, with its bold octagonal tower, has a remarkably fine appearance from the road in approaching the town on that side. The original architecture is here preserved from modern innovations, and carries the imagination back to the proudest æra of feudal times. The interior of this part has, however, undergone great changes, having been repaired and modernized some years ago for the residence of Lord Mountstuart, Lord Bute's eldest son. The accidental death of that young nobleman suspended the work, and the apartments still continue in the unfinished state in which they were left at that time. During these proceedings the original windows in the eastern front were destroyed, and large sash windows, as represented in the annexed drawing, substituted in their stead. This alteration was adapted no doubt  
to

\* "In the year 1404, the fourth of the reign of King Henry, Owen Glyndwr burnt the southern part of Wales, and besieged the town and castle of Cardiff. The inhabitants sent to the king to supplicate assistance; but he neither came himself nor sent to their relief. Owen took the town, and burnt the whole except one street, in which the friars minors resided, which, with the convent, he spared, on account of the love he bare them. He afterwards took the castle and destroyed it, carrying away a large quantity of treasure, which he found deposited there. When the friars minors besought him to return them their books and chalices, which they had lodged in the castle, he replied, "wherefore did you place your goods in the castle? If you had kept them in your convent, they would have been safe." Leland's Collect. Vol. I. fol. 389.

to add to the comfort of the house, but much cannot be said for the taste which dictated it. The incongruity must offend the eye of the most superficial observer.

The rooms contain several good portraits of the Windsor family, the ancestors of Lady Bute, and some other pictures by eminent artists, among whom may be enumerated Kneller, Vandyke, Dahl, and Romney.

On an elevated circular mound, within the castle inclosure, stand the ruins of the keep, whence are commanded extensive and delightful views of the adjacent country. The ditch which formerly surrounded this building has been filled up, and the whole of the ground laid down into a fine level lawn, which presents a remarkable contrast to the ruined buildings. The rampart within the external wall of this inclosure has been planted with shrubs, and on the summit a terrace walk extends the whole length, affording an agreeable prospect of the town and neighbourhood. Adjoining the gate by which the court is entered from the town are the ruins of what is called the black tower, which tradition assigns as the prison of the unfortunate Robert Curtoise, Duke of Normandy, the son of William the Conqueror, who was confined by order of his brother William the second. He died here in the year 1133, after an imprisonment of thirty-six years.

The date of the original fortress erected here does not seem clearly determined. When the lords of the district removed the seat of government to this neighbourhood, it is natural to suppose that they would construct a building of some strength for their residence, to protect them against the sudden attacks to which they were perpetually exposed. The first mention of Cardiff castle occurs in the Truman manuscript, under Morgan Hen, who began his reign in the early part of the tenth century. The document states:—"this Morgan was the first that built the castle of Cardiff, and the town, where an old town had been before built by Didi Gawr, a Roman conqueror [conjectured by Mr. Edward Williams, to have been Aulus

Didius] which town had been destroyed by the Saxons.”\* This would lead us to place here the station of Tibia Amnis. Caradoc of Lancarvan, under the year 1080, after narrating an inroad of the troops of Rhys ab Tewdwr into Glamorganshire, in which they spoiled some of Jestyn ab Gwrgan’s castles, and stating the retaliation of Jestyn by an incursion into Caermarthenshire and Brecknockshire, adds;—“ after this he (Jestyn) employed himself in the building of Cardiff, where he erected a strong castle.” This must have been the fortress which Robert Fitzhamon found here, when he obtained possession of the lordship. What alterations or improvements he made, are not recorded: it is, however, related that in consequence of the successful attack of Ifor, when he took Earl Robert and his lady prisoners, that nobleman, who was Fitzhamon’s immediate successor, strengthened the works, and surrounded the whole with a wall. The restless spirit of the Welsh obliging the Norman lords to provide in the best manner in their power for their defence and security, it is highly probable that the castle which Jestyn erected was within no great distance of time supplanted by another, in all respects better adapted to resist the assaults of their enemies; and it is likely that the present remains are vestiges of the latter more extensive and sumptuous erections.

The only historical event of any importance connected with this place, subsequently to the union of Wales with England in the reign of Henry the eighth, is the siege it sustained in the time of Charles the first. It was garrisoned for the king, but was betrayed into the hands of Cromwell by one of the royalists, who is said to have led his troops into the castle through a subterraneous passage which communicated with the country.†

On

\* Williams’s Monmouthshire, Appendix. p. 69.

† Leland gives the following account of Cardiff as it stood in his time:—

“ The town of Cairtaphe is the principale of al Glamorganshire, is well vauilid,



On quitting Cardiff a variety of routes offer themselves to our choice: but in order to complete the survey of this end of the county, before we proceed to the westward, it will be advisable to make an excursion up the vale of the Taf, which will present many objects both of topographical and antiquarian interest.

After crossing the bridge, and following the main turnpike for a short distance, a road diverges to the right, which conducts to the ancient city of

### LANDAFF,

waulld, and is by estimation a mile in cumpace. In the waulle be 5 gates. First Portllongey, in English the ship gate, flat south. Then Porte doure, in English the water gate, by southe weste. Then Port Miskin by north west, so caullid bycause it ledith the way into the lordship of Miskin. Then Porte Singhenith flat north, so caullid bycause that menne passe by it into Singhenith. Then Porte Crokerton flat est, so caullid of the suburbe that joynith hard to it. The castelle is in the north-west side of the town waulle, and is a great thing and a strong, but now in sum ruine. Ther be 2 gates to entre the castelle, whereof the biggest is caullid Sherehaul gate, the other is caullid the Eschecker gate. There is by Shirhaul gate a great large tour, caullid white tour; wherin is now the kinges armary. The dungeon tour is large and fair. The castelle toward the town by est and south is plaine, but it is diked by northe, and by west it is defendid by Taphe river. There be certain places in the castelle linitid to every one of the 13 peres or knights that cam with Haymo Erle of Glocester in King William Couquerors dayes and wan Glamorgane cuntery; and eche of these be bound to the castelle garde. Ther be 2 paroches chirchis in the towne, wherof the principale lying sumwhat by est is one, the other of our lady is by southe on the water side. There is a chapelle beside in Shoemaker Streat of S. Perine, and a nother hard within Meskin gate side. Ther was a late a goodly mansion in the town caullid Place Newith. The biggest suburbe of the town is caullid Crokerton, and ther was a house of Gray Freres. There is a nother suburbe but lesse without Portllongy. The black freres house was withowte Meskin gate; and beside this is litle building there." Itin. Vol. IV. fol. 72. Giraldus relates, that Henry the second, on his return from Ireland, heard mass in the chapel of St. Piran, at Cardiff. Itin. Lib. I. cap. 6.

## LANDAFF,

or Llandâf. The place derives its name from the situation of the church on the banks of the river Tâf. Though the seat of a bishop's see it is at present a miserable village of mean cottages, with the exception of a few gentlemen's houses, which are thinly scattered among the other buildings. Its only traders are a few small shopkeepers, who retail some articles of the most common necessity : it depends for its chief supply on Cardiff, from which it is distant only two miles. It has no market, but two fairs are holden here annually, on the 9th of February, and on Whitmonday, which are well supplied with cattle. The chief purchasers are the drovers from England.

But the great object of attraction here is the CATHEDRAL, whose venerable ruins are deserving of the minute study of the architect, and the antiquary. The architecture of the ancient building is partly Saxon ; with an occasional mixture of Norman ; but the more prevailing style is that usually denominated Gothic. The western front is remarkably handsome, and ornamented with lancet windows of various sizes, most admirably arranged, and executed with great skill. Immediately over the principal entrance in this end, and underneath the arch, on a tablet projecting in the centre, is the figure of a bishop with one hand moderately raised, and the other holding the pastoral staff. This is supposed to have been intended to represent one of the earlier bishops of the see, probably St. Dubricius, or St. Teilo. Above, over the upper range of windows, and near the summit of the building, is another carved figure in a sitting posture, holding a book in one hand. The whole is surmounted by an ancient cross. On the north side is a very rich Saxon doorway : and on the south is another less ornamented. At the western end were formerly two magnificent square towers, of which that at the north-west angle alone remains. This was built by Jaspas Duke of Bedford in 1485. It is in

good preservation, except the pinnacles, which were damaged by a storm in 1703. Two sides of this tower rest on the walls of the church, but the other sides are raised on two light arches, which spring from a single pillar.

On entering the building, some elegant Gothic arches occur on the right and left, which separated the nave from two side aisles. The entire length of the body of the church is 300 feet, and the breadth 80. At the east end is a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary: and on the south side stands the chapter house. This is a square apartment; having in the centre a pillar from which several Gothic arches diverge in different directions, supporting the roof.

The ancient structure having fallen into decay, a new edifice was raised about the year 1751, within the old walls. This may perhaps claim the merit of being commodious for the purposes of public worship: but nothing can be more incongruous than its architecture, placed where it is. The style is Grecian; and it is impossible, on the first view, to avoid the impression of its being a heathen temple built, as if in scorn, in the midst of the venerable remains of a Christian church. This incongruity is carried into the interior of the building, where the altar is placed beneath a Grecian portico.

Landaff has been the burial place of several persons of distinction, who have resided in the neighbourhood, and some of the sepulchral monuments remain, though in a dilapidated state, and removed from their original situations. Browne Willis has given a particular specification of these as they formerly stood; and Sir Richard Hoare has minutely marked their present positions by figures on a ground plan of the church. Near the upper end of the north aisle is the sculptured figure of a female shrouded in a loose robe, the face and the part of the body which is displayed, exhibiting a striking representation of a delicate frame, emaciated by sickness. Beyond are two alabaster monuments to some of the Matthews family, formerly of considerable distinction at this place. At

the

the eastern extremity of the south aisle is an alabaster monument, with the sculptured figure of a lady, in a long robe reaching to her feet. Behind are the figures of two monks holding an escutcheon, on which probably were once emblazoned the arms of the person whom it commemorates. This is supposed to have been the lady of John Lord Audley, who had extensive possessions in these parts in the reign of Henry the fourth.

Near the cathedral are some remains of the ancient castellated mansion of the bishop, consisting of a large gateway, and part of the external wall. The destruction of this building, together with the principal portion of the church, is attributed to Owen Glyndwr.

The present chapter of Landaf consists of the bishop, who has the decanal stall, an archdeacon, treasurer, chancellor, precentor, and nine prebendaries. The see comprehends the principal part of Glamorganshire, and the whole of Monmouthshire, except seven parishes. Its revenues are valued in the King's books at 154*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* but are computed to be worth annually 1600*l.*

The early history of this see is involved in considerable uncertainty. Its first foundation has been assigned to so remote a date as the year 180, but upon insufficient evidence. An old Welsh manuscript states, that the first church at Landaff was built by Tewdric ab Teithfalch, commonly called St. Tewdric the Martyr, who was the grandfather of the celebrated Arthur, and reigned over this district towards the end of the fifth, or the beginning of the sixth century. This account seems best to accord with what may be regarded as the authentic history of the see. According to this the first bishop was Dubricius, called in Welsh Dyfrig *Beneurog*, or Dubricius the *golden headed*, who was consecrated bishop of Landaff in the beginning of the sixth century, by Germanus, bishop of Auxere, and Lupus, bishop of Troyes. He was a native of Pembrokeshire, and distinguished himself by his zeal against  
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the Pelagian heresy. After he had presided a short period at Landaff, he was advanced to the archbishopric of Caerleon, and was succeeded in the former see by St. Teilo. Some account has been given of this celebrated saint under Llandeilo fawr in Caermarthenshire.

St. Teilo was followed by Oudoceus, in whose time Meurig, king of Glamorgan, was excommunicated, as already stated. The next in succession, according to Godwin, are

4. Ubilwinus.

5. Aidan: this prelate is stated by Caradoc to have been killed A. D. 720, by the Saxons, who this year committed great ravages in South Wales.\*

6. Elgistil. 7. Lunapejus. 8. Cormegern. 9. Argwistil. 10. Gurvan. 11. Guodloin. 12. Edilbin. 13. Grecielus. 14. Berthygwn. 15. Trychan. 16. Elvogus. 17. Catgwaret. 18. Carenbir. 19. Nobis. 20. Gulfridus. 21. Nudd. 22. Cimeliauc.

23. Libian, who died in the year 929.

24. Marchliuth, or Marchlwys: he was bishop of this see in the time of Hywel Dda, and was one of the deputies sent to Rome for the purpose of arranging the laws which that monarch afterwards established. This event is placed in the year 926. If this date be correct the death of Libian, his predecessor, must have taken place earlier than stated by Godwin. The chancellor of the diocese at this time was Blygwryd ab Owen, the brother of Morgan, king of Glamorgan.†

25. Pater, or Paternus, who died in 961.

26. Gucan or Gogwan (probably Gwrgan) who is stated by  
Godwin

\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 472. This chronicle mentions Cyfelach, who was killed A. D. 754, as "Bishop of Glamorgan." He is not inserted in Godwin's catalogue.

† Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 485. According to this authority, Marchlwys is said to have died A. D. 943. But Godwin relates some events which happened in the time of this bishop, which he says took place in the year 955.

Godwin to have been consecrated by Dunstan, A. D. 982. From Caradoc of Lancarvan it appears that during the intervening period, Roderick, the son of Morgan Hen, king of Glamorgan, was bishop of the diocese. He was raised to the see against the wishes of the Pope, who issued an angry bull, forbidding any marrying in the diocese without his special licence. The order was, however, disregarded by the priests, who were compelled by the people to perform the ceremony without the sanction of the pontiff.

27. Bledri, consecrated in 993, and died A. D. 1022. He is celebrated as the first scholar of his time, and on that account obtained the name of Bledri the wise. He instituted parish schools in all the churches of the diocese, where the people were directed to be instructed by the priests.\*

28. Joseph, consecrated, according to Godwin, October 1, 1022. He died on his way to Rome 1046. This prelate, imitating the enlightened conduct of his predecessor, gave every encouragement to the parish schools, and ordered the clergy to teach the people gratuitously to read the scriptures. He made, besides, some strict regulations for the better observance of Sunday, and church holidays. During his episcopacy Rhydderch ab Jestyn granted many privileges to the church, and confirmed to it all its former possessions, of which a list is inserted in Godwin.

29. Herewald, consecrated 1059, and died March 6, 1103, aged 100 years, after presiding 44 years over the see.

30. Urban, consecrated August 10, 1108. On coming to the see Urban found the church in a most dilapidated condition, having been frequently spoiled by the Saxon and other invaders, who had infested the coast, and also by the Normans in their contests with the natives. The revenues, likewise, had suffered greatly from the unsettled state of the country, and the negligence of those to whose care they had been entrusted. On representing the state of affairs to Pope Calixtus the second

\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 505.

cond, at the Council of Rheims, A. D. 1119, he procured from him letters to the king, the archbishop of Canterbury, and the clergy and principal persons in his own diocese, exhorting them to afford him their assistance towards undertaking the necessary repairs. Having raised a large sum of money he pulled down the old church, which, it seems, was only twenty-eight feet in length, fifteen feet wide, and twenty feet high; and on the fourteenth of April 1120, began the structure whose venerable ruins yet remain. After he had completed this edifice,\* he erected houses for the residence of himself the canons, and other members of the establishment. He next applied himself to recover some of the possessions of his church, which had been seized by the bishops of St. David's and Hereford, and attached to their respective sees. This obliged him to undertake a journey to Rome, during which he died, A. D. 1133. He is spoken of by Caradoc in high terms of commendation.†

31. Uchtryd: consecrated 1139, the see, previously to his elevation, having remained vacant six years. He died A. D. 1148.

32. Galfrid: he was the nephew of Uchtryd, and presided over a college at Landaff, and acted also as domestic chaplain to William Earl of Gloucester. He was only appointed to the see, for he died before he could enter on his charge. The time of his death is fixed A. D. 1153, by Godwin, and in 1152 by the Welsh chronicle.‡

33. Nicolas ab Gwrgant: he died A. D. 1183. He is praised for his attachment to the Welsh, and his attention to the instruction of his people.

34. William

\* The original church had been dedicated to St. Peter, but the new structure was dedicated to its first three bishops, St. Dubricius, St. Teilo, and St. Oudoceus. The name of St. Teilo is however alone applied to it by historians, being called *Eglwys Teilo, Plwyf Teilo*, &c. The church and parish, or bishoprick, of St. Teilo.

† Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 556.

‡ Idem. p. 566.

34. William de Salso Marisco, or Saltmarsh : he was bishop of the diocese at the time archbishop Baldwin and Giraldus visited Landaff, and is called by the archdeacon a discreet and good man.

35. Henry, prior of Abergavenny. This prelate attended the coronation of King John, A. D. 1199, and died in November 1218.

36. William, prior of Gold Cliff. Died January 1223.

37. Elias de Radnor ; died May 1240.

38. William de Burgh, chaplain to king Henry the third ; consecrated 1244, died 1253. The see appears to have been vacant four years previously to his elevation.

39. John de la Ware, abbot of Margam. Died June 1259.

40. William de Radnor. Died January 1265.

41. William de Breos, prebendary of Landaff. Died March 1287, and lies buried at the north-east end of the cathedral. After his demise the see remained vacant nine years.

42. John of Monmouth, consecrated 1296, and died 1323. He was buried in St. Mary's chapel, and there was in bishop Godwin's time a French inscription over his grave partially obliterated.

43. John of Eaglescliff. He had been bishop of Connor in Ireland, and was translated to this see, A. D. 1323, and died 1346. He was buried at Cardiff in the church of the Friars Preachers, to which order he belonged.

44. John Paschall, a carmelite of Ipswich, in Suffolk. He was raised to the see in 1347, and died 1361. Previously to his elevation John Coventry, archdeacon of Landaff had been regularly chosen to the bishoprick, but the election was set aside by the Pope.

45. Roger Cradock, translated from Waterford, in Ireland, in 1362, and died 1382.

46. Thomas Rushook, consecrated A. D. 1383, and translated to Chichester in 1385.

47. William of Bottlesham, bishop of Bethlehem, translated



ed to Landaff in 1385, and thence removed to Rochester 1389, where he died A. D. 1399.

48. Edmund Bromfield, a monk of Bury St. Edmund's. He was raised to the see A. D. 1389, and died at Landaff, 1391.

49. Tydeman of Winchcomb, translated to Worcester A. D. 1395.

50. Andrew Barrett.

51. John Burghill, raised to the see A. D. 1397, and translated to Lichfield the year following.

52. Thomas Peverell, translated from Ossory in Ireland A. D. 1399, and removed to Worcester 1407.

53. John de la Zouch, consecrated A. D. 1408. Bishop Godwin conjectures that this prelate built the outer gate of the bishop's palace at Mathern, if not the whole of the edifice, which in Godwin's time was the only residence the bishop of Landaff possessed in his diocese.

54. John Wells, consecrated A. D. 1423, died 1440.

55. Nicolas Ashby, prior of Westminster, consecrated 1441.

56. John Hunden, prior of King's Langley, consecrated 1458.

57. John Smith, consecrated A. D. 1465, on the resignation of his predecessor, John Hunden, and died 1478.

58. John Marshall, consecrated 1478: he held the see about eighteen years, and was succeeded by

59. John Ingleby, prior of Shene. The date neither of his elevation nor of his decease is known, but he held the see in June 1497, and October 1499.

60. Miles Saley, abbot of Eynsham. He was bishop A. D. 1504, and died A. D. 1516.

61. George de Athequa, a Spaniard, chaplain to Catherine Queen of Henry the eighth, consecrated A. D. 1516.

62. Robert Holgate, prior of Wotton, consecrated A. D. 1537. He was translated to York.

63. Anthony Kitchen, or. Dunstan, abbot of Eynsham, consecrated A. D. 1545, and died at Mathern in 1563. This pre-

late is stated to have impoverished the revenues of the see by "lavish and unreasonable grants." After his decease the bishoprick remained vacant three years, when

64. Hugh Jones was elevated to it A. D. 1566. He died A. D. 1574. He was "the first Welshman," says Godwin, "that was bishop of this church in almost 300 years."

65. William Blethyn, archdeacon of Brecknock, and prebendary of York, consecrated A. D. 1575, died October 1590.

66. Gervase Babington, prebendary of Hereford, consecrated A. D. 1591, translated to Exeter 1594, and afterwards removed to Worcester.

67. William Morgan, consecrated 1595, removed to St. Asaph, 1601.\*

68. Francis

\* This learned prelate is honourably distinguished as the first translator of the scriptures of the Old Testament into the Welsh language. "In the year 1562, or rather 1563, it was enacted by Parliament, 'that the Bible, consisting of the New Testament and the Old, together with the book of Common Prayer, and the administration of the Sacraments, should be translated into the British or Welsh tongue; should be viewed, perused, and allowed by the bishops of St. Asaph, Bangor, St. David, Landaff, and Hereford: should be printed and used in the churches by the first of March in the year 1566, under a penalty, in case of failure, of forty pounds to be levied on each of the above bishops.'"

"One year after the time fixed by Parliament, the New Testament, translated into the British tongue, was printed in a handsome quarto of 399 leaves, in black letter, as it is called; disposed and divided, as to books and chapters, like our present Testament, with arguments and contents to each book and to each chapter; with explanations of difficult words in the margin, but no references to parallel passages, as indeed there could not be, for there is no distinction of verses, except in some books towards the latter end; which is the more remarkable, as English editions of the bible, before this time, have in general that distinction.

"Of this version the book of Revelation was translated by T. H. C. M. perhaps Thomas Huett, Chantor or Præcentor of Menew, that is St. David. The second epistle to Timothy, the epistle to the Hebrews, the epistle of St. James, and both the epistles of St. Peter, were translated by D. R. D. M.

68. Francis Godwin, "subdean of Exeter, and sonne unto Th. Godwin sometimes bishop of Bathe and Wels, born at Havington  
2 S 2

D. M. that is Dr. Richard Davis, Menevensis, or bishop of St. David. All the rest of this translation was the work of W. S. that is William Salesbury, very eminent in his day, and amongst his own nation, for his great industry, learning, and piety.

"This Testament was printed in London, in the year 1567, by Henry Denham, at the costs and charges of Humphrey Toy. To it is prefixed a calendar, and an English dedication To the most virtuous and noble prince Elizabeth, &c. by the principal translator; and a long epistle in Welsh to his countrymen, by the bishop of St. David. From these two pieces and the title page we understand, that this version was made from the Greek collated with the Latin: that it was made with fidelity and diligence; and that Salesbury had the oversight of the whole, especially of the publication, 'by the appointment,' as he says, 'of our most vigilant pastours the bishops of Wales.'"

"The next person concerned in doing his country and the church this signal service, was William Morgan D. D. vicar of Llan Rhaiadr in Denbighshire, promoted in 1595 to the see of Landaff, translated to St. Asaph in 1601, and in 1604 to a better place. This gentleman, for the first time since the reformation, translated, at least had the principal hand in translating, the whole Old Testament, and also the Apocrypha, into Welsh. He likewise revised and corrected the former version of the New Testament, and had them well and handsomely printed together, by Christopher and Robert Barker, in the *ever memorable year of 1588.*" "It is printed in folio and on black letter; it contains the Old Testament, the Apocrypha, and the New Testament; it has contents prefixed to each chapter; it is distinguished into verses throughout: it has some marginal references; has prefixed to it a Latin dedication to Queen Elizabeth; has a calendar; one or two tables besides; and like the preceding testament, it is numbered not by pages but by leaves, which amount to 555.

How Morgan came to undertake this business doth not appear. He doth not seem to have been employed in it by authority. He doth not seem to have been nominated by the bishops, commissioners for this affair. It should rather seem, that he engaged in it spontaneously, or influenced only by the usefulness and necessity of the work, and by the wishes and prayers of the good people of the land. This may be inferred, I presume, from the preface or dedication to his Bible. He is quite silent as to any order or in-

vington in Northamptonshire, and brought up a student in Christchurch in Oxford, collected and writ this catalogue [catalogue of the bishops of England, &c.] the year 1600, which now this year 1614 he hath augmented, and was cons. unto the church of Landaff Nov. 22, 1601, by the gracious appointment

junction upon him for this purpose; he says nothing of his being appointed by the bishops his superiors, as Salesbury does in his dedication to the Queen.

“ It doth not appear when, that is in what year, he undertook and set about this translation. We have no reason to think that he began soon after the enacting of Queen Elizabeth’s statute; or that he set out with the translators of the New Testament. It is probable, that he had done nothing about it, till a long while after the publication of their version. He had not done much, if any thing, in it before Whitgift was made archbishop of Canterbury. This I infer from the above dedication. He would have sunk, he says, under his difficulties and discouragements; he would have thrown up and relinquished the whole; or he would have brought to the press, and published only the five books of Moses;—had it not been for the archbishop’s support and encouragement. This is not the language of a person retained and employed by men in power. It is the language of one who had engaged himself freely, and who had it in his own option to persevere or not. And it shows too, that he had not done much before 1583, when Whitgift was promoted to Lambeth.

“ Neither doth it fully appear, what assistance or associates he had in this work. It may seem an undertaking too laborious and tedious for one man. Three persons were employed in translating the New Testament, though some parts of that had been translated before; I mean the Epistles and Gospels, printed in Edward the sixth’s reign, which very probably were incorporated into the first edition of the Testament, and perhaps may be the part of it undistinguished by verses. The Old Testament has the Apocrypha connected with it; by itself it is a much larger book; and the original language of it is less generally understood. The translation of it must be a work of more time and difficulty. It is probable therefore, that Morgan was only a principal in this business, to whom others should be added as associates and assistants. But who these assistants were may not be fully known; and it is still less known what they did.” See *An Historical Account of the British or Welsh versions and editions of the Bible* by Thomas Llewelyn, LLD. The great value and scarcity of this tract, will excuse the length of the preceding extract.

pointment of Q. Elizabeth, in the fourth yeare of whose reigne he was borne."\* Bishop Godwin was translated from Landaff to Hereford, and was succeeded in 1618 by

69. George Carleton, who was translated to Chichester.

70. Theophilus Field, rector of Cotton, Suffolk. He was translated to St. David's A. D. 1627.

71. William Murray, translated to Landaff from Kilfenora, in Ireland, in 1628.

72. Morgan Owen, promoted A. D. 1639.

During the period when episcopacy was abolished, that is for sixteen years, the see remained vacant. The first prelate after this time was

73. Hugh Llwyd, archdeacon of St. David's, who was elevated to the see A. D. 1660.

74. Francis Davies, archdeacon of Landaff, consecrated 1667.

75. William Lloyd, prebendary of St. Paul's, consecrated 1675, afterwards translated to Peterborough.

76. William Bean, vicar of Adderbury, in Oxfordshire, raised to the see A. D. 1679.

77. John Tyler, Dean of Hereford, consecrated A. D. 1706.

78. Robert Clavering, canon of Christ church, Oxford, promoted A. D. 1724; translated to Peterborough.

79. John Harris, prebendary of Canterbury, consecrated A. D. 1729.

80. Matthias Mawson, master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge; he was promoted A. D. 1738, and afterwards translated to Chichester.

81. John Gilbert, dean of Exeter, consecrated A. D. 1740. Translated to Salisbury.

82. Edward Cresset, dean of Hereford, promoted A. D. 1748.

83. Richard Newcome, canon of Windsor, promoted 1754; translated to St. Asaph.

\* Godwin's Catalogue, &c. 1615, p. 534.

84. John Ewer, canon of Windsor, promoted 1761; translated to Bangor.

85. Jonathan Shipley, dean of Winchester, consecrated 1768. Translated to St. Asaph.

86. Shute Barrington, canon of St. Paul's, promoted A. D. 1769. Translated to Salisbury, afterwards to Durham, over which see he at present presides.

87. Richard Watson, Regius professor of divinity in the University of Cambridge. He was promoted to this see A. D. 1782, and still lives the brightest ornament of the English hierarchy, being equally distinguished by the extent and profundity of his erudition, and by the Christian liberality of his spirit.

On the eastern side of the Taf, nearly opposite to Landaff, stands GABALVA, the seat of Sir Robert Lynch Blosse, Bart.

The river Taf is crossed above Landaff by a venerable stone bridge; a short distance beyond which lie the tin works of *Merlin Gruffydd*. The road here branches to the right, and joins the Cardiff and Merthyr turnpike. After pursuing this to the northward for about two miles through a level country, the hills on both sides approach the river, and present a bold and striking front. About half way up the ascent on the right, in a commanding and almost inaccessible situation, in the midst of a thick forest, stand the ruins of

### CASTELL COCH,

or the Red Castle, so denominated from the colour of the stone with which it is built. The structure does not seem to have been at any time of great extent; but the strength of the walls, and its position, having in front a steep precipice, and in the rear a wide and deep fosse, excavated out of the solid rock, must have rendered it impregnable against all attacks, before the invention of fire arms. It is placed on the south-west projection

jection of the hill, so as to command the pass into two vallies. This was a British fortress, and was occupied after the Norman invasion by Ifor Bach, who from this retreat carried on his hostilities against the new settlers. The prospect from this spot is inexpressibly delightful, embracing the whole of the rich country to the southward, having the wide æstuary of the Severn with its islands in the distance, and bounded by the coast of Somerset and Devon.

From this place, a rough parish road on the right conducts to the town of

### CAERPHILI,

which lies at the distance of about three miles to the north east. This place is at present of small extent, containing no regular street, but formed of straggling houses disposed agreeably to the caprice or the convenience of the proprietors. The greater proportion consists of indifferent cottages; but among these are interspersed some very respectable erections, occupied by substantial tradesmen and manufacturers. It boasts also of one very comfortable inn. The market is holden on Thursday; and the fairs annually on the fifth of April, Trinity Thursday, the nineteenth of July, the twenty-fifth of August, the ninth of October, and the sixteenth of November. There are indications of the town having at some period occupied a considerably larger space than it does at present, the foundations of buildings being occasionally discovered in the adjacent fields. A few years ago it had sunk into an insignificant village, of no consideration in the county, except as related to the objects of antiquarian interest it afforded. Of late, however, it has been gradually rising into importance in consequence of the establishment of some works, for the manufacture of woollen goods, particularly of blankets and Welsh shawls.

But the great attraction which Caerphili holds out to the tra-

veller is its CASTLE, the magnificent ruins of which surpass every thing of the kind, probably, in the kingdom. It is scarcely possible to convey, in a written description, any thing like an adequate idea of the prodigious extent and grandeur of what yet remains of this noble structure.

Leland describes the place as “ sette emonge Marisches.”\* This is not strictly correct, at least as relates to the present times. The castle occupies a station moderately elevated, near the middle of a level tract, hemmed in on the north and south by lofty hills, but stretching on the east and west into a valley of some extent, terminated on one side by the Romney, on the other by the Taf. The adjacent grounds, even where they are lowest, are not marshy, there being everywhere a sufficient fall to allow of their being effectually drained; and on two sides the land rises abruptly, and presents a gravelly or rocky soil.

On entering the castle inclosure by the barbican, from the eastward, a long range of buildings which formed the barracks of the garrison, stretch on the right, under the boundary wall. Immediately in front are two large towers, in a dilapidated condition, which formed the grand gateway, or approach on this side. Within this entrance were a moat and drawbridge, the former of which yet remains, partially filled by fragments of the walls. This drawbridge communicated with a large court. On the opposite side of this area is another gateway, having several apertures for portcullises: this leads to the principal court, which comprehends a space of about seventy yards in length by about forty in width. On the south side of this court is the great hall of the castle, a magnificent apartment seventy feet long, thirty feet in breadth, and seventeen feet high, which is entered by an arched door about eight feet high, near the eastern end.† In the middle of the north side of this apartment is a large fire place, displaying considerable

\* Itin. Vol. IV. fol. 57.

† See the annexed drawing.



derable architectural elegance; and on each side of it are two grand windows, with pointed arches, ornamented with double rows of tripple-leaved knobs, with a small fruit in the centre. These windows are at present open to the ground, but it is probable they did not originally descend lower than within three feet of the floor. On the side walls are several clusters of round pilasters, three in each cluster, about four feet in length, and placed at equidistant spaces. The bottoms, which are about twelve feet above the floor, are terminated by three carved heads, one to each pilaster. On the south side are six grooves about nine feet high and ten inches wide. These are supposed to have contained wooden upright beams, for the support of the roof or ceiling of the apartment, which was probably vaulted. At the east end are two arched doors leading to two smaller apartments; and between them is a large arched window. On the south is a steep arched entrance, descending towards the moat. This room, in its original state, must have been exceedingly sumptuous and elegant.

Adjoining this apartment, on the west, is another corresponding with it in width, but only about thirteen feet long; and communicating with it is a second still shorter, which seems to have formed merely a passage to the principal staircases of the interior.

There is on this side of the castle a grand Gothic archway, with the remains of the situation of a draw bridge, which formed an entrance from the westward.

Near the south east angle of the central or main buildings, is a round tower of no great height, called the *Mint*; and close by it stands the leaning tower, which forms so conspicuous a feature of this castle. This consists of about one half or semi-circumference of a round tower, which was ruptured from top to bottom, one portion being probably demolished, while the other was forced into its present position. The fragment now remaining is nearly eighty feet in height, and leans between ten and eleven feet

feet out of the perpendicular.\* As it projects beyond its centre of gravity, it is supported by the strength of the cement, and its firm hold in the ground. Various conjectures have been formed to account for its been thrown into its present situation. The most probable statement seems to be that given by Dr. Malkin, who observes that there was under this tower a furnace for melting iron, which, in the time of the younger D'Espencer, was thrown in its fluid state on the besiegers, when the castle was invested by the Queen's troops, in the reign of Edward the second; that as soon as the Queen's forces gained possession of it, they let out the burning mass, and throwing water upon it, created such a power of steam as produced a dreadful explosion, and ruptured the tower.†

From the mint is a passage into a long gallery in the wall of the inner inclosure, which afforded communications with all the

\* This building has frequently been compared to the celebrated leaning tower of Pisa, and considered by some, *who never saw the latter*, to be the more curious object of the two. The resemblance holds, however, but in one respect, that both are inclined considerably beyond the perpendicular. What remains at Caerphili consists of only a portion, or the southern semi-circumference, of the original structure, presenting merely the shattered fragment of a wall; while the tower at Pisa is entire, and is in every respect a most magnificent edifice. It rises to the height of 180 feet, and is divided into eight stories, each floor having on the exterior an elegant colonade of marble pillars on a platform about three feet in width. In the upper apartment are hung the bells of the cathedral, which stands at a short distance to the eastward. The tower leans to the northward, about twelve feet beyond the perpendicular; but the diameter at the summit exceeding this measure, it is obvious that a line drawn from the top on the opposite side, at right angles with the base, would fall within the circumference at the bottom. It was erected in the twelfth century by William d'Alman. Some have imagined that it was originally built in a leaning position, but the present writer, after a minute examination of it in the year 1802, has no hesitation in saying that it bears every appearance of having been at first upright, and seems to have been brought to its present state by the failure of the foundation.

† Scenery, &c. of South Wales, 4to. p. 157.

the chambers, and is yet in a very entire state. The whole of the building here described, together with a large space of open ground, was surrounded by a lofty wall of immense thickness, strengthened by buttresses, and protected by square towers, which communicated with each other by means of an embattled gallery. Beyond this wall were outworks of great extent, consisting of earthen moats and bastions, probably raised for defence after the invention of gunpowder. The principal of these lie on the north, north-east and north-west. The garrison was furnished with water from a copious stream, which runs through the middle of the inclosure.

The early history of this castle is involved in considerable uncertainty, neither the date of its foundation, nor the person by whom it was first raised, being ascertained by indisputable evidence. Much of the difficulty attending this point, however, arises from the different names by which the place has been called at different periods, being mentioned in Welsh history as the castle of *Senghenydd*, the name by which the hundred is still known, till the reign of Henry the third, when it is first noticed under its present denomination. The Roman origin that has been claimed for it, which seems to have been suggested by the word *Caer*, is scarcely entitled to serious refutation, as it rests on no evidence besides vague conjecture. It appears from one copy of Caradoc of Lancarvan, that the site was originally occupied by a monastery founded by Cenydd, a saint who lived towards the middle of the sixth century. His words are: "In the year 831 the Saxons of Mercia came unexpectedly in the night, and burnt the monastery of Senghenydd, which stood on a spot where there is now a castle."\*

Rhys Vychan is said to have marched to Senghenydd in 1215, with the view of attacking the castle, but the garrison frustrated his proceedings by withdrawing and burning the town. The castle pertained, probably, at this time to Reginald

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\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 477.

de Breos, Lord of Brecknock. Two years afterwards, A. D. 1217, we find it in the possession of Llewelyn ab Iorwerth, prince of North Wales; for on being reconciled to his son-in-law, Reginald de Breos, who had deserted his alliance, he restored to him the castle of Senghenydd, and Reginald committed it to the custody of Rhys Vychan. Shortly after, in consequence of hostile proceedings on the part of some of the neighbouring lords Marchers, Rhys rased this castle, together with the others he had in his custody in the adjacent district. It was re-edified in 1220 by John de Breos, with the consent of prince Llewelyn. In 1270, Llewelyn ab Gruffydd is said to have taken the castle of Caerphili, which is the first time it is spoken of under this name.

Whether Llewelyn retained possession of the place is uncertain; but it is probable that on his death, which happened shortly after, it reverted to its former proprietor. About this period it fell, by purchase, into the hands of Gilbert Earl of Clare, who then held the lordship of Glamorgan. His widow, Joan of Acres, marrying after his death, Ralph de Mortimer, conveyed this castle, by a deed of settlement, to him and his heirs. Hugh D'Espencer the younger, a few years subsequently, on coming into possession of the lordship of Glamorgan, seized on Caerphili castle, together with all the rest of Mortimer's estates. This act of injustice roused the spirit of the country, and a powerful army was sent by the barons to aid Mortimer to regain his territories. The strength of the castle, however, which had been fortified by additional works, enabled D'Espencer to retain it for the present. But Mortimer's forces being increased shortly after by some troops sent by the Queen, a breach was made, and the place taken by capitulation.

The relations which are given respecting the quantity of live stock, provisions, &c. found within the walls, notwithstanding the extent of the inclosure, are scarcely to be credited. There are said to have been taken here two thousand fat

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oxen,

oxen, twelve thousand cows, twenty-five thousand calves, thirty thousand fat sheep, six hundred draught horses, two thousand fat hogs, besides two hundred beeves, six hundred sheep and one thousand hogs, salted; two hundred tons of French wine, forty tons of cyder and home made wines; and a sufficient quantity of wheat to furnish bread for two thousand men during four years. The round tower, of which the leaning fragment remains, was filled with salt, which was destroyed by the explosion that has been already noticed.

The castle after this was allowed to go with the lordship of Glamorgan; but the chief residence of the lords being at Cardiff, it is probable that the injuries which the works sustained during this siege were never repaired. Owen Glyndwr, in his memorable invasion of this country in the year 1400, took it, and garrisoned it for some time. Subsequently to this period little notice of it occurs in the affairs of the principality.

Mr. Daines Barrington, in an elaborate paper on the Welsh castles, printed in the *Archæology of the Antiquarian Society*,\* maintains that this castle was built by Edward the first; but the reasons he adduces for this opinion are very inclusive, and in fact amount to no more than vague conjectures, that are invalidated by many circumstances, which it were easy to specify. Sir Richard Hoare,† on the contrary, considers it to have been the work of one of the Clare family after they had obtained possession of the lordship of Glamorgan; and this very respectable antiquary intimates his opinion that the Senghenydd castle of the Welsh chronicles was Castell Coch, or the Red Castle already noticed. The passage quoted above from Caradoc, who was himself a Glamorganshire man, seems, however, to identify Senghenydd castle with Caerphili. The probability is, that the first Norman settlers, lords of Glamorgan, enlarged and strengthened the edifice which had previously stood on this site, and gradually raised it to that splendour and magnificence which yet excite our wonder and admiration

\* Vol. I. p. 230.

† Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 571.

miration in the contemplation of the ruins. It is obvious on inspection that even the principal buildings of the interior were erected at different periods, a remark which applies particularly to the two grand entrances, the gates on the east being the work of a different age from that on the western side. They might have deemed it necessary to maintain a strong post in this situation to overawe the native chiefs of the neighbourhood.

In some Welsh manuscripts it is called the Blue Castle, probably to distinguish it from the Red Castle, in the same district. The etymology of its present name has not been satisfactorily explained. Mr. Edward Llwyd pronounces it to be derived from *Caer-Vol*, or in the genitive case *Caer-Vyli*, which he interprets, the King's-town, or Kingston.

Mr. Llwyd, in his communications to Bishop Gibson, mentions some coins found at Caerphili, which were shewn to him. But they were evidently of late date, *Ave Maria* forming part of the inscription on one of them. The same antiquary notices a large upright stone which stood on Gelli-gaer hill, to the northward of Caerphili, bearing an inscription in rude characters which he read *Tefroit*, or *Deffroit*. This was placed in the entrance of a singular earthen inclosure, and was probably monumental.\* Near the same spot were some tumuli or barrows, which on being opened were found to contain urns, with burnt bones.

Near Caerphili on the northwest is **ENERGLIN**, or **GENEU'R GLYN**, the seat of John Goodrich, Esq. pleasantly situated on rising ground amid flourishing plantations, and commanding a fine view of the majestic ruins of Caerphili.

To the eastward of Caerphili, near the borders of the county, lies **CEFN MABLE**, an ancient seat of the Kemes family. During the civil wars in the reign of Charles the first, Sir Nicholas Kemes of this house raised a troop of one thousand men at his own charge, in support of the royal cause. After the  
battle

\* See Gough's Camden, Vol. III. p. 127.

battle of St. Fagan's, in which the royal forces were defeated, Sir Nicholas and his followers retired to Chepstow castle, which he gallantly defended for three weeks. The place being stormed by Colonel Pride, he is reported to have been put to death with an aggravation of cruelty which too often disgraced the proceedings of the times.

A little way above Cefn Mable stands RUFERRAH, a mansion belonging to the Morgans of Tredegar. The house was built by Inigo Jones, but a fire having consumed the interior, the external walls are all that can now be ascribed to that architect. The situation is elevated, with fine views to the southward of the rich country lying between it and the Severn, and of the hills of Somerset and Devon.

The direct road from Caerphili to Merthyr leads nearly due north over the Eglwysilian common, and enters the vale of the Tâf at the Quaker's Yard. Another road, which joins the turnpike from Cardiff at the distance of two or three miles, is carried due east: we shall pursue this route in order to notice in our way one of the most remarkable and interesting objects in the principality. We refer to

### PONT-Y-PRYDD,

usually called in English, New Bridge.\* The appearance of this elegant structure, which stretches over the bed of the Tâf, and rises from its steep banks like a rainbow, is exceedingly beautiful and picturesque from every point of view,† in which

\* The name is written by travellers sometimes Pont y Prydd, sometimes Pont y Pridd, the first of which might be rendered "the Bridge of Beauty," the last "the Bridge of Earth;" neither of them, however, making good sense in Welsh. The original designation was *Pont y tu pridd*, or *the bridge of the earthen house*, so called in the neighbourhood from a mud hut which stood near it.

† See the annexed representation.

it can be seen. It consists of a single arch one hundred and forty-feet in the chord, and thirty-five feet in height above the level of the river at low water, and forms the section of a circle of one hundred and seventy-five feet in diameter. The following additional particulars are given by the builder himself, in a letter addressed to Mr. Hanbury of Pont y Pool, in Monmouthshire, dated February the 18th 1760, which accompanied a plan and elevation of the bridge, now among Mr. Smeaton's papers in the possession of Sir Joseph Banks:—  
 “the thickness of the arch is two feet six inches; the breadth is fifteen feet: as to the quality of the stone, they are hard, strong, and very solid, and from two inches to nine, but most generally from three to six inches thick.”

The bridge, on account of the high ground on each side, is not visible from the turnpike road, and many travellers have in consequence passed it by unawares, and been disappointed of the pleasure of beholding it. In ascending the vale it is approached by a road which turns abruptly to the left over the canal, a short distance above the Bridgewater Arms, a comfortable inn about midway between Cardiff and Merthyr.

The architect of this bridge, which formed at the time, with very few exceptions, the largest arch in the world,\* was William Edwards, a self-taught genius, who never received the least assistance or instruction in his craft from a master. He was born in the year 1719, and was the youngest son of a farmer who resided in the parish of Eglwysilian, not far from this spot. At the age of fifteen he occasionally employed himself in repairing the stone fences of the farm, which consisted of dry or uncemented walls; a labour which he was observed to execute with great neatness and expedition. He afterwards devoted a portion of his time to execute jobs in the same way  
 for

\* The Rialto bridge at Venice was considered at this time as one of the largest arches in the world; but its chord was no more than 98 feet. Montfaucon, however, mentions a Roman bridge at Auvergne, in France, whose chord is 208 feet. Antiq. Tom. 10. Part. 2. cap. 5.



for the neighbours. He had as yet never seen any regular masons at work; the first he beheld, were some who had been brought to erect a shed for shoing horses at a smith's shop in the neighbourhood. Edwards was struck with the neatness with which they formed the pillars and the other parts of the building, and took frequent opportunities to observe them while they were at work. He perceived that with no other tool than the common masons' hammer, they were able to dress the stones sufficiently for their purpose; and this led him to discover that one cause of the inferiority of his own work in this respect was, that his hammer was not steeled. He lost no time in supplying this deficiency, and soon witnessed the advantage of the improvement in the more finished appearance of his walls. He now conceived himself qualified for undertaking work of a better description, and began by erecting a little workshop for a neighbour. His success in this instance procured for him an engagement to build a mill in his own parish, and it was during the progress of this undertaking that he acquired his first knowledge of the principles of an arch.

His rising reputation in his profession, and his high character for integrity and punctuality, recommended him to the attention of the county, when it was in contemplation to erect a bridge over the Taf on the site of the present structure. Edwards obtained the contract, began the work in the year 1746, and completed his undertaking in a manner that gave universal satisfaction to his employers. This bridge consisted of three arches: it was formed of hewn stone, well dressed and jointed, and displayed considerable elegance of design. Soon after it was finished, a heavy storm of rain increased all the mountain streams above, and swelled the Taf into a tremendous torrent. With the waters were brought down pieces of timber, brushwood, weeds, and other matters, which, being obstructed by the arches, soon formed against them an immense dam that raised the water to a great height on the upper

side. The weight of this vast body overpowered the resistance offered by pillars, and swept the whole away.

Edwards's contract obliging him to maintain the bridge for a certain period, he was now reduced to the necessity of resuming his labour. In order to guard against the inconvenience which he had found to result from obstructing the channel of the river, he determined to form his second bridge of one arch. Its dimensions were precisely the same as those of the present edifice. He had proceeded so far with this bridge that the arch was finished, and the centre removed; and there remained nothing to be done but building the parapets, when to his great mortification the weight of the abutments forced the key stones out of their places, and reduced the whole to ruins. This took place in the year 1751.

It was not Edwards's character to despond. He once more set to work, and erected his centre pieces on the same spot; and in order to relieve the arch of the pressure from its haunches, which his experience had shewn to be too great for the span, he placed at each end three cylindrical holes, gradually diminishing in size as they approached the summit. According to Edwards's own plan already adverted to, the diameter of the lowest of these was nine feet, of the middle six feet, and of the uppermost four feet. This contrivance completely answered its design; the bridge was finished without farther impediment, and remains to this day a monument of the talents and perseverance of the artist. His reputation as a bridge builder was now established, and he was employed to erect a great number of other bridges in this and the neighbouring counties.

Edwards enjoyed few advantages of literary education in early youth. His acquirements were for some time confined to his native language. He first learnt to read English at the age of twenty or twenty one, from a blind instructor, at whose house he lodged, while employed in building a forge at Cardiff. Previously to this he had acquired a little knowledge of Arithmetic.

metic. With this scanty stock of elementary materials he applied himself with great diligence and success in his own improvement, and soon acquired a respectable share of general information. Being of a serious turn of mind, and a dissenter by religious profession, he began, when about thirty years of age, to officiate among his neighbours, and was ordained in the usual form by the ministers of the independent denomination, residing in this district, among whom he afterwards preached, when his regular professional duties afforded him leisure. To these seemingly incompatible callings he added the business of a farmer, having continued through life to occupy a small tenement to the cultivation of which he attended personally. He died in the year 1789, universally respected among his acquaintance, and was buried in the churchyard of his native parish. He left two daughters and four sons, three of whom followed his business, and have greatly distinguished themselves by their skill in bridge building.

With the exception of a few occasional falls on the Taf, which would furnish pleasing subjects for the pencil, the ride up this romantic vale presents no object of particular interest till, at the distance of about twelve miles, we reach the town of

### MERTHYR TYDVIL,

distinguished for its numerous and extensive iron works.

This place derives its name from Tydfil, or Tudfil, one of the daughters of Brychan, the regulus of Garthmadrin, and the wife of Cyngen ab Cadell. Her father, in the latter part of his life, had, it seems, retired with some of his family to this neighbourhood. Here they were attacked by a marauding party of Pagan Saxons, who slew Brychan, her brother Rhun Dremrudd, and herself. A church was afterwards erected near the scene of this slaughter, and called after her Merthyr Tydvil, or Tydvil the Martyr.

The modern importance of Merthyr is derived, however, from its manufactories. The history of the earlier establishments in this neighbourhood is little known; but that there existed several upon a smaller scale, long anterior to the erection of any of the present works, is clearly proved by the heaps of scoria, and other remains, which are found by ploughing the lands at a considerable distance from them. From the tradition still preserved here, and the indications of old buildings which are occasionally met with, it may be collected, that the ore was melted in small blumaries, which were blown into by means of leathern bellows. As these works were easily constructed, it is probable that they existed in considerable numbers, and were the usual appendage of the smith's forge.

This simple apparatus was succeeded by furnaces of larger size, though much smaller than any at present in use. These, like their predecessors, were blown by means of bellows, which were put in motion by a water wheel, and it is thought that water was applied to this purpose here earlier than in any of the English works of a similar kind. A furnace of this construction stood about a hundred and fifty years ago on the spot now occupied by the Plymouth works. Another was situated about three miles lower down the vale, where part of the ruins yet remain, together with some of the bank which formed the water reservoir.

In these works it appears that charcoal was used, the art of coking mineral coal not having probably been discovered, and the tradition handed down among the inhabitants of the district is, that the woods which covered the common of Cœd-y-Cymmer, and from which it received its name, were cut down, among others, for the supply of this indispensable material.

Notwithstanding, however, this early attention to the iron mines of the neighbourhood, they remained of comparatively little importance till about the middle of the last century, when they excited the notice of Mr. Anthony Bacon, formerly member of Parliament for Aylesbury in Buckingham-

shire. This gentleman having obtained a lease for the term of ninety-nine years of the iron ore and coal contained in a tract of country extending about eight miles in one direction, and four miles in another, erected a smelting furnace at Cyfarthfa. A few years subsequently he built a forge for the purpose of converting the pig into bar iron. But the difficulty of communicating with other parts of the country, from the want of roads, must at this time have confined the produce of these works within narrow limits, and rendered the profits very inconsiderable.

Early in the American war, however, Mr. Bacon obtained a contract from the crown to supply the different arsenals with canon. On this occasion he erected proper founderies for casting the metal, with the necessary machinery for boring the guns. At the same time a new turnpike road was constructed down the vale as far as Cardiff, a distance of about twenty-five miles, along which the canons were conveyed in waggons to the shipping wharf at the latter place.

About this time, works for smelting and forging iron were erected at Dowlais, at Pendarren, in the same valley, and also at Plymouth. At the close of the American war, Mr. Bacon relinquished his contract with the Board of Ordnance, which was transferred to the Caron Company in Scotland. Having realized a large fortune, he disposed of his interest in his mines and manufactories, for a term of years, to different individuals, at an enormous profit. The Dowlais works fell into the hands of Messrs. Lewis and Tate, the Pendarren into those of Mr. Homfray; the Plymouth were taken by Mr. Hill; but the Cyfarthfa, the most extensive of the whole, were disposed of to Mr. Richard Crawshay, then an iron merchant in London. All these establishments being in the hands of enterprising men, rapidly advanced in importance; those at Cyfarthfa especially, under the management of Mr. Crawshay, who had the command of a large capital, adequate to all his purposes, soon came to rank among the first in every respect in the British dominions.

nions. Some particulars relating to these works have already been detailed.\* The number of blast furnaces pertaining to each of the others has also been stated. From this a tolerably correct estimate may be formed of their relative produce, when in a state of activity, compared with that of the Cyfarthfa works, as every blast furnace produces on an average nearly the same quantity of metal, and gives employment to the same complement of men in the subsequent operations.

It may be well supposed that the increase of these manufactories has tended to enhance the value of the adjacent estates. The advance has not been in the same ratio in every case, but some general idea may be formed of the improvement which has taken place in this respect, from the following facts:—one farm in the neighbourhood, which at the time of the erection of the first furnace, about A. D. 1755, let for the annual rent of two pounds ten shillings, is now rented for fifty pounds; and another, which at the same period let for five pounds, has been advanced to one hundred pounds. Another consequence of the prosperity of these works has been the raising of Merthyr, from an insignificant and obscure village, to be the first town, in point of extent and population, in the principality. The number of inhabitants was estimated in 1801 at 7705, but in 1811 the returns state them at 11,104 individuals. The disparity in these numbers is not to be ascribed to such an enormous increase during this interval, but to the extreme and probably unavoidable inaccuracy of the former returns.

Nothing can be more irregular, or more offensive to the eye, probably nothing more injurious to the health of the inhabitants, than the arrangement of the streets and houses. Indeed it is scarcely correct to say that there is in the place what can properly merit the name of a street. The houses were originally erected in the situation which best suited the convenience of the proprietor of the ground, without any regard to plan, or to the situations of other similar buildings.

As

\* See above, p. 605.

As the increasing population called for new erections, the same method was successively followed, until the present collection of houses arose, spreading over an immense extent of ground in every possible direction, communicating with each other for the greater part by narrow lanes and avenues, which are generally choked with filth. The evils attending this practice seem of late to have excited some attention; and individuals have been endeavouring in recent erections to introduce something like a plan in the position of the houses, and a new street or two are now forming of very respectable dwellings.

A considerable trade is carried on here in provisions, and manufactured shop goods of every description, for the supply of the numerous inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood. Many of the shops are on a large scale, and some of the tradesmen rank high for their opulence, and respectability of character.

Merthyr has two markets in the week, which are holden every Wednesday and Friday. On a neighbouring hill to the eastward, at a place called *Y Waun*, or the meadow, fairs are held annually on the 13th of May, Trinity Monday, the third of September, and the second of December. These are numerously attended. The letters are brought here daily from the principal post office at Cardiff; by a man on horseback, who returns again in the evenings with the letters for England, &c.

The canal from hence to Cardiff has already been noticed. It has been of essential advantage to the prosperity of the place.

Merthyr has but one church, which, as before observed, is dedicated to St. Tydvil. The building proving to small to accommodate the increasing population, it was pulled down some years ago, and a neat edifice on a larger scale built in its stead.

Enveloped as this place is perpetually in smoke, and stunned

by the constant din of the forges, the neighbourhood cannot be supposed adapted to furnish any gentlemen's houses, besides those which pertain to the proprietors of the works, whose first consideration would be convenience. Pendarren house, the mansion of Mr. Homfray, is in fact the only one that aspires to elegance of structure and pleasantness of situation. The house which was occupied by Mr. Crawshay, is placed in the midst of the works, and close to the principal forge, the hammers of which are continually in action. The other proprietors, and managers of the several establishments, have in like manner placed their residence in the situations best adapted for the supervision of their concerns.

About three miles to the north-eastward of Merthyr, near the lesser Taf, and adjoining the old mountain road from Cardiff to Brecknock, are the ruins of

#### MORLAIS CASTLE.

Leland, speaking of this edifice, says :—" Morlays Castelle standith in a good valley for corn and grasse, and is on the ripe of Morelais brooke. This castelle is in ruine, and longith to the king."\* This account, so far as respects the situation, is incorrect. Instead of being " in a good valley," it is placed nearly on the highest point of a lofty hill, surrounded by a desolate tract of country, yielding only a poor and scanty herbage for a few sheep and small cattle.

The edifice forms a picturesque object in the landscape, and is well placed for defence. On the north and west it is protected by the precipitous sides of the hill, at the bottom of which flows the lesser Taf, and is guarded on the other sides by a wide ditch of great depth, excavated out of the solid rock. On the outside of this trench are the remains of walls which appear to have been designed as outworks to resist the  
first

\* Itin. Vol. IV. fol. 57.



first approaches of an enemy. The interior area is of a pentagonal form, but of no great extent; so that the building could at no time have been very large. The present remains are in a most ruinous state, and it is not without great difficulty that they can be so far explored as to furnish some idea of the original form, &c. of the place. A narrow passage, now nearly choked up by fragments of the walls, leads into a circular room, which appears to have been the principal apartment of the castle. It is about thirty feet in diameter. The roof was supported by a pillar in the middle: and in the sides were twelve arches, once occupied by doors or windows. This room is nearly buried by the ruins, and in a short time will probably be wholly inaccessible.

Morlais castle was built by Gilbert Earl of Gloucester as a border fortress for the protection of his estates in this vicinity, which were perpetually invaded by the tenants of the lords of Brecknock, whose territories adjoined. In consequence of the limits of the several properties not being exactly defined, the erection of it gave rise to serious contentions between the Earl of Gloucester and Humphrey de Bohun, of which some notice has already been taken.\*

A steep road which leads nearly due west from Merthyr over a lofty ridge, conducts, at the distance of about four miles, to the village of

### ABERDARE,

which is pleasantly situated in a sheltered valley, on the banks of the rivers Dare or Dâr, and Cynon. The church, which is dependent on the vicarage of Llantrissant, is chiefly remarkable for the rustic simplicity of its architecture,† and affords a characteristic example of the edifices of this class in the hilly districts of the country.

This

\* See page, 54.

† See the annexed drawing.

This village is gradually losing its rural character, and assuming the appearance and manners of its neighbour Merthyr Tydvil. Two large iron works have been lately erected in its vicinity, at Abernant and Llwydcoed, which have drawn here a numerous alien population, and occasioned the multiplication of houses in every direction. Its traffic has in consequence been greatly increased. It has, however, no regular market, but there are fairs held here annually on the 19th of April, Whit Monday, and the 14th of November.

A canal for the conveyance of the produce of the works, has been constructed along the vale of the Cynon, which communicates with the Merthyr and Cardiff canal above Pont y Prydd. Rail roads have also been formed in the opposite direction, which join the Neath canal at its head, below Pont Neath Vaughan.

Aberdare lays some claim to literary fame among the Welsh. It had the honour of giving birth to Jeuan ddu ab Dafydd ab Owain, an eminent poet who flourished from about A. D. 1440 to 1480. He was a gentleman of large property, and a munificent patron of the bards.

Here also was born the Reverend Edward Evan, whom Mr. Owen\* characterises as an “ eminent philosopher or poet; one of the few who, being initiated into the bardic mysteries, have helped to preserve the institution to the present time. He died on the 21st of June 1798, being the day fixed for him to meet the other bards of the chair of Glamorgan.”

It may be permitted to the hereditary partialities of the present writer to add in this connection another name, yet venerated by the inhabitants of this district—the Reverend Owen Rees, his own paternal grandfather, and the immediate predecessor of Mr. Edward Evan in his pastoral office. He was not indeed a native of this place, but he passed here the principal part of his life, discharging his ministerial functions in a manner equally honourable to himself, and advantageous to the people

\* Cambrian Biography.

people of his charge. He wrote but little, and that consisted chiefly of small religious tracts, and a few short pieces in verse, in the Welsh language.

The neighbourhood of Aberdare derives some celebrity in Welsh history from having been the scene of the sanguinary engagement between Rhys ab Tewdwr, and Jestyn ab Gwrgan, in which the latter was aided by the forces under Fitzhamon. Hirwain Common, on which the battle is said to have been fought, commences about a mile to the northward of the village.

The names of several places in this vicinity indicate the presence of armies and military works; among these may be mentioned *Y Gadlys*, or the camp, a tenement bordering on the river Cynon, where there are some remains of earthen entrenchments.

In order to reach Cardiff from this place we shall take a course to the westward of the vale of the Tâf, which will lead us by Llantrissant, and some other places that will require notice. The first part of this route lies over an Alpino country of almost unrivalled wildness, presenting scarcely a human habitation to diversify or enliven the scene.

At the distance of about eight miles from Aberdare, the road descends into the vale of the Rhondda, and crosses that river near its junction with the Tâf, a short distance below Pont y Prydd. This valley possesses many attractions for the tourist. The river, which forks above into two streams, is exceedingly interesting throughout the whole of its course to its several sources, presenting many beautiful cascades, with much romantic scenery along its banks. The neighbourhood of *YSTRAD-DYFODOG*, in the hilly country through which it passes, is peculiarly striking, but from the difficulty of access to it, the roads being scarcely practicable even for horses, it has been rarely visited by strangers.

After crossing the Rhondda, the road rises out of the valley in a direction nearly due south. At the distance of about two miles on the right, stands the mansion of *CASTELLA*, or more correctly

rectly *Castellau*, the neat residence of Edmund Treharne, Esq. which forms a very pleasing object in the landscape. The name imports a fortified place, but nothing is known of its history. It might probably have formed an outpost to the castle of Llantrissant.

The town of

### LLANTRISSENT,

or Llantrisant, occupies one of the finest situations in South Wales, being placed on the brow of a lofty hill which overlooks an extensive range of the most beautiful and fertile parts of the vale of Glamorgan. The place has however little else to recommend it to attention. It contains a few respectable private dwellings; but the generality of the houses are very indifferent.

The town hall and market place are neat modern erections, built at the charge of the late Lord Bute. The church is a large Norman edifice, and from being dedicated to three saints gave name to the town. This is one of the contributory boroughs which share the privilege of returning the member for Cardiff, and is governed by a portrieve. The market is held on Friday, and its fairs annually on the first of May, the first of August, and the eighteenth of October.

The remains of the castle are inconsiderable, but will be visited with pleasure on account of the delightful prospects which the site commands.\*

In

\* Llantrissant castelle, longging to the king as principal house of Miskin, lyith half a mile from the est ripe of Lay (Ely), and half a mile beneath the place wher Michidd brooke cummith into Lay. The castelle stonidith on the toppe of a hille, and ys in ruine. It hath beene a fair castel, and had 2 wardes, and the inner dikid, having among other toures one great and high caullid Giguran [*Cigfran*, Raven] and at this castelle is the prison for Miskin and Glin Rodeney.

“ There

In this parish was born Sir Llewelyn, or Leolinus, Jenkins. His father was a small freeholder, whose name was Jenkin Llewelyn, and the son, according to a practice still common among the peasantry of this country, took for his surname his father's Christian name. Llewelyn received the rudiments of his classical education at Cowbridge, whence, in the year 1641, he removed to Jesus College, Oxford. In the civil wars which broke out shortly after, he espoused the royal cause, and was in consequence obliged to quit the University, and return to his native county. Here he was befriended by Sir John Aubrey of Llantryddid, the great patron of the persecuted royalists, who employed him in the capacity of tutor to his son. The troubles continuing, and preventing his return to the University, he quitted the kingdom, and spent three years in travelling on the continent. On the restoration he went to Oxford, and was elected a fellow of Jesus College; and shortly after succeeded Dr. Mansel as principal.

During the Dutch war his profound knowledge of civil and maritime law procured for him the appointment of assistant Judge in the Admiralty court, and on the death of Dr. Exton, his associate, was made sole Judge. In the year 1668, the Archbishop of Canterbury, at the desire of Charles the second, appointed him to the vacant situation of Judge of the prerogative court of Canterbury. On the death of Henrietta, the widow of Charles the first, in 1669, he was sent to France, as one of the commissioners to settle her affairs and recover her property, which was claimed by Lewis the fourteenth. He discharged his trust in this affair so much to Charles's satisfaction

“ There were 2 fair parkes by south of Lantrissent now onpalid and without deere. There is now Yren made in one of these parkes namid Glog.

“ There is a place 2 miles from Lantrissent by south est caullid Crege castelle on the top of an hille, wher sum tokens of buildinges yet remayne.

“ Ther hath beene sum auncient place at Galthe Caurde a mile by south from Lantrissent.” Leland's Itin. Vol. IV. fol. 60.

tion that he conferred upon him the honour of knighthood. He was afterwards one of the commissioners appointed to treat with the Scotch deputies respecting an union of the two countries. In 1671 he was returned to Parliament by the borough of Hythe in Kent. In 1673 he was sent ambassador to the congress at Cologne to negotiate a peace; and on the failure of the negotiation went in the same capacity to Nemiguen, and succeeded in concluding a treaty. Soon after his return he was chosen one of the representatives for the University of Oxford.

In the year 1680 he was admitted a privy counsellor, and made Secretary of state, a situation which he held for four years. The decline of his health having obliged him to resign his office, he retired to Hammersmith; but being re-elected to serve in Parliament for the University of Oxford, he was again, on the accession of James the second, sworn of the privy council. He died 1685, and was buried at Oxford in Jesus College chapel, where there is a Latin epitaph from the pen of Dr. Fell, at that time Bishop of Oxford and dean of Christchurch. As he had never been married, he bequeathed the bulk of his fortune to Jesus College; and hence he has been called its second founder. The remainder he gave to charitable uses, and part of it as an endowment to the Cowbridge school. Sir Llewelyn Jenkins affords a striking example of a person born of humble parents, rising, by the aid of his own genius and talents, to great wealth, and to the highest honours of the state. He left behind him a high character for learning in his profession, and for great integrity in the whole of his public conduct, having passed through all the high offices he was called to fill with an unsullied reputation.

Proceeding along the turnpike road from Llantrissant towards Landaff, a short distance from the former place, on the right, are some ruins of an ancient religious edifice, said to have been a monastery dedicated to St. Cawrdaf, son of Caradoc Fraichfras.

At the distance of about three miles, on the same side, and occupying a pleasant situation on the bank of the Ely, stands MISKIN, the seat of — White, Esq. Further on, on the left, stands PARK, the residence of — Price, Esq. near which are the iron works of *Pentyrch*. On approaching Landaff, a road branching off on the right leads to the village of

### ST. FAGAN'S,

placed on a site gently elevated above the river Ely. There are here some remains of a castellated mansion, part of which is now tenanted by a farmer. The church is a plain respectable edifice dedicated to the saint whose name it bears. St. Fagan came to Britain from Rome in company with Dyfan, Elfau, and Medwy, about A. D. 180, having been sent by Pope Eleutherius at the solicitation of Lleurwg, to preach Christianity to the inhabitants.\*

St. Fagan's is celebrated in the history of this county for a sanguinary engagement fought in its vicinity during the protectorate of Oliver Cromwell. After the termination of the first civil war an order had been issued for disbanding the Parliamentary forces in the principality. But some of the commanders, among whom were Colonel Poyer, Colonel Powell, Major General Stradling of St. Donat's, and Major General Laughorne, who had now deserted the Parliament, contrived, under various pretences, to retain a considerable number of troops under arms, which, as circumstances admitted, they increased by the addition of fresh recruits favourable to the Royal cause. These forces assuming rather a formidable aspect,

\* Owen, Camb. Biog. sub. verb.

“ Didst thou hear the saying of Fagan,  
When he had produced his argument :  
Where God is silent, it is not wise to speak.”

Englynion y Clywed,

pect, Colonel Horton was sent into the principality with a small army, to intimidate the leaders, and enforce the order for disbanding the original levies. The Welsh commanders, however, feeling confident in their strength, having now collected about eight thousand men, marched to meet him towards St. Fagan's. Cromwell was himself at this time on his way to Glamorganshire, and had sent forward from Gloucester three or four thousand men, to reinforce Colonel Horton. It became therefore the policy of the Welsh commanders to engage Colonel Horton before these troops could join him. Accordingly, on the morning of the eighth of May 1648, the Welsh forces marched towards St. Fagan's, where Colonel Horton had stationed his army. At the first onset, the English troops fell back, but they soon returned to the charge, and drove their assailants from the ground they had just occupied. The battle now became general, and was obstinately maintained for about two hours, when the Welsh forces were completely defeated and put to the rout, though nearly three times the number of their enemies. They consisted however, for the greater part, of raw undisciplined troops, while Colonel Horton's army was made up of hardy veterans.

So great was the slaughter which followed this defeat, that the Welsh army was nearly annihilated. The battle is said to have given sixty-five widows to the parish of St. Fagan's alone, and upwards of seven hundred to the county of Glamorgan. During the next harvest, so great was the scarcity of labourers, that the corn was reaped and the hay mown by the women.\*

This

\* Note to Edward Williams's Poems, Vol. II. p. 57. This writer had conversed with some persons who remembered the battle, and who assured him that the river Ely was reddened with human blood. Mr. Williams is, however, mistaken when he asserts that the reinforcement sent by Cromwell joined during the engagement. From the official papers published at the time it appears, that they did not march from Gloucester till the ninth of May, the day after the battle, having been reviewed near that city on the preceding



This victory was deemed of so much importance by the Parliament, that a day of public thanksgiving was appointed in consequence of it.

2 U

From

ing day by Cromwell himself. As these documents are now scarce we shall insert here the official reports of this engagement, drawn up by the two commanders, Colonels Horton and Okey.

“ To the Right Honourable the Earl of Manchester, Speaker of the House of Peers, *pro tempore*.

My Lord,

God hath this day rewarded our wearisome marches with a full and glorious victory over an enemy who hath used much subtilty and diligence to engage the kingdome in a new war ; they had increased to a great number by the addition of divers disbanded men from England, and a generall conjunction of most able bodied inhabitants of the counties of Pembroke, Carmarthen, and Cardigan, and many of Glamorgan. This day about nine of the clocke it pleased God that wee engaged with them at a place called Saint Fagons, three miles distant from Cardiffe, and for neare two hours had a very hot dispute, but at length by God's mercy they were put to a totall rout, many slaine upon the place, and about three thousand prisoners, great store of armes, and ammunition, and many colours. The enemy accounted themselves eight thousand horse and foot, which makes the mercy more remarkable.

“ My Lord, the Almighty was pleased greatly to strengthen both our officers and souldiers, in the discharge of their duties with much resolution, and cheerfulness, but with one heart they desire, that the honour of this worke may bee wholly given to God. This account I held myself bound to present your lordship with, to be communicated to the Right Honourable the House of Peers.

My Lord,

Your most humble and faithful Servant,

THO. HORTON.

In the Field near S. Fagon's,

8 May, 1648.

Taken prisoners by Colonell Horton.

Major Gen. John Stradling.

Laughorns Quartermaster Gen.

Laughorns

From St. Fagan's we may direct our course to the westward. A road leading from the village across the Ely river, joins

Laughorns Commissary Gen.

12 Gentlemen that were to have had commissions attend at the head quarters.

Collonell Harris.

Col. Phillip Samage (Gammage) of Newcastle.

Col. Rich. Grime.

Col. Howel Gamis.

Severall other Collonels, that had not received their commissions.

Lieut. Col. Wogan of Pembrook.

Lieut. Col. Lewis of Redla.

Lieut. Col. Hodsikin of the Forest.

Major Philipps.

Major Dawkins.

Major Stedman.

Major Christopher Matthews of St. Anall.

Capt. Matthew.

Capt. Will. Batton.

Capt. Rich. Cradock.

Besides divers others, whose names are not yet brought in (viz.)

80 Collonels, Lieutenant Colonels, Majors, Captaines, and Lieutenants.

70 Inferiour officers.

Doctor Lloyd.

Several other malignant men.

Mr. Marmaduke Lloyd, Sir Marmaduke Lloyd's son.

Mr. Hugh Lloyd.

Mr. James Walcot,

Sir Walter Lloyd

Mr. George Anderson.

Mr. Roger Gamis.

Mr. Walter Powel.

Mr. Edward Gamis.

Mr. Roger Williams.

Mr. Deavoreux Grafton.

250 Gentlemen and Reformado officers.

2600 Common Souldiers.

4000 Clubmen dispersed to their severall habitations.

350 Arms broken and whole.

50 Coullours and Standards.

joins the great western turnpike, about four miles from Cardiff. A short distance farther on a steep winding ascent  
 2 U 2 leads

360 Horse.

All their ammunition bagge and baggage.

Slain of the Welsh.

Lieut. Col. Thomas Laughorne.

Lieut. Col. Howel.

Major Bussey.

Major Evan Thomas.

Major Smith.

Captain Turbervill a papist.

Cap. Powel of Lantrade.

40 officers more.

150 Common Souldiers.

Gen. Laughorn wounded and fled.

Col. Powel fled with 100 horse.

Col. Poyer keeps Pembroke Castle with 100 men."

See "A List of the Prisoners taken and those that were slain by  
 Colonell Horton in South Wales," &c. &c. London 1648, 4to.

The same pamphlet contains a proclamation for a fast to be held on Wednesday the 17th of May, on account of this victory.

The following more detailed account of the action is given by Colonel Okey who was associated with Colonel Horton in the command, and is printed in a pamphlet intituled, "A True and particular Relation of the late Victory obtained by Colonel Horton and Colonel Okey against the Welsh forces under Major General Laughorne, expressed in a letter from Colonel Okey to a friend of his in London." London, 1648, 4to.

" Sir,

Hitherto, till this day I could not give you a good accompt of our Welsh expeditions, we have had so many obstructions, through unseasonable weather, rugged wayes, want of necessaries, and other inconveniences, that we may well say these things;—*Except the Lord had been with us, they had swallowed us up quick.* But besides this we had attending on us a numerous armie before us, and behind us a great party. Wee divers wayes sought an opportunity to fight with them, which till this instant wee could never doe, they before taking alwayes the advantage of their Welsh wayes hills, and rivers.

This

leads to the elevated common of St. Lythan, presenting one of the most extensive, rich, and varied prospects in South Wales.

Immediately

This posture they continued in till divers of our souldiers were wearied out, and both foot and horse so far spent, as the enemie himself knew his great advantage over us: and out of that consideration, having mightily increased his armie, and wee through all these inconveniences somewhat decreased ours, hee upon the eighth of this instant about 8 of the clocke in the forenoone proffered us the battle. Wee seeing his number, and he being upon us before we were well aware of him, quitted our present station, which was at Saint Fagons, the enemie drew into the place of our guards: but wee being very loth to retreat, upon a little hill neare Saint Fagons, made good our ground, drew up our armie, faced the enemy, a for-lorne hope of horse and dragoons were drawne up under the command of Lieutenant Godfrey; and another for-lorne hope of foote, under the command of a lieutenant of foote. Next them marched 160 fire-locks under the command of Captaine Garland. In the right wing marched Colonel Okey with three troops of horse and three troopes of dragoones. In the body marched Colonel Horton Commander in Chiefe. In the left flanke marched the horse under the command of Major Barton, with some dragoones. The body being thns drawne up our for-lorne hope of horse advanced and fell immediately into a ground where 500 of the enemies foote with some horse lined the hedges. Lientenant Godfrey with a forlorne hope of horse immediately charged them, routed them, and killed some of them. Colonel Okey upon this taking the advantage of the enemies running, commanded presently Captaine Garland with the fire locks, Captain Mercer with a commanded party of dragoones, and some horse to second the for-lorne hope. These falling on into another ground where the enemie was a lining the hedges, drove them from hedge to hedge, and pursued them.

“ The enemie in this retreat having so many reserves of foote at every hedge, hee makes a stay with a new party. Still Colonel Okey commanded the party both of firelocks, dragoones and horse to advance; the enemie having a numerous armie of foote, still ever and anon sends fresh reserves; but at the end he was beate by this party of foote and horse to a water, and from thence over a river, where againe hee made good his ground. There the dispute lasted a long while, till our body of horse and foot advanced, where the horse with the foote making way, and charging with the foot upon their musqueteers, through the goodnesse of God after an hours dispute they were put to the rout. Wee pursued, tooke divers prisoners, the number as yet

Immediately after passing the common, occurs COEDRHWGLAN, the seat of Llewelyn Treharne, Esq. This is a large brick edifice, and would be deemed a handsome building in any other situation; but here, its red colour has a very disagreeable effect to the eye, contrasted with the whitened cottages of the neighbourhood.

At the little village of St. Nicholas, which offers no object of interest to detain the traveller, a road on the left conducts to

### DYFFRIN HOUSE.

This is an ancient mansion formerly belonging to the Price family,

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yet unknowne, and the quality; wee heare of some men of quality both killed and taken; this for present in briefe. Wee can give you an accompt that there were farre more prisoners taken than the number of our armie was; so that we can well say, *God hath done great things for us*, in mightily stirring up the spirits of officers and souldiers so as courageously each one in his place in this businesse doing his part. Wee can truly say that this was the hand of God, wee being but a handfull in comparison to their great armie, which might have been a sufficient motive to have caused us to have refused to fight; yet the consideration of the great disadvantage the retreat would have been to us in our future proceedings, these were motives notwithstanding all the former difficulties, to induce us to fight, where through the Lord we had an answerable success; in which let the glory be given to God, and not to man. Our victory being an absolute rout of them, with very little losse to ourselves, some few by-men we had killed; the smallness of the number causing great admiration both to us and the enemy; divers of the enemy were killed forty to one, and about 2500 taken. The chiefe of them that we can heare of was Major-Generall Stradling, but none of our party either killed or wounded. Captaine Nicholets and Cornet Okey were both shot through their hats, but free from any other hurt: there have been a few men of my troope killed, and some hurt, but not many. For which and all other mercies I desire God may have the glory; by the next post you shall heare more. This being done in haste in the field; in the mean time I refer you to Captaine Mercer, who can fully resolve you. No more for present; I take my leave and remain,

Your Servant to Command,

John Okey.

From the field by St. Fagans

this 8 of May 1648.

family. It is at present the property of the Hon. William Booth Grey, who married the heiress.

In a field on the right of the road leading towards the house, is a very remarkable cromlech, the largest monument of this class probably in the kingdom. It consists of a rectangular oblong apartment about seventeen feet in length, by thirteen feet in width, and six feet in height at one end, but several inches lower at the other. The sides and ends are composed of large flat stones placed upright in the ground, and the roof is formed of one large stone twenty four feet in length, and varying in width from seventeen to ten feet. The opening to this apartment is on the south, but the interior is rendered almost inaccessible by prodigious heaps of stones which have been collected round it on the exterior. There are in the same field two large stones of the same kind as those used in this rude erection, one of them placed as a style. They appear to have been originally raised from a quarry in the adjoining field.

Below Dyffryn house on the south east is another monument of this description, but of smaller dimensions, the covering stone not being more than fourteen feet in length by twelve feet in width. This is called *Llech-y-flast*, a name common to these monuments in various parts of the principality, but of unknown origin. Literally it means, *the stone of the greyhound bitch*; and it has been conjectured that it was derived from the circumstance of the early Christians evincing their contempt for these vestiges of Pagan worship, by converting them into kennels for their dogs, and to other mean uses.

Returning to St. Nicholas, and resuming the route to the westward, at a short distance on the right occurs COTTEREL, the neat mansion of Mr. Lascelles, pleasantly situated in a handsome park, and commanding a great variety of beautiful prospects.

Farther on, about a mile beyond the little village of *Bonvilston*, on the left stands

## LLANTRYDDYD,

the ancient seat of Sir John Aubrey, Bart. The house, which is very spacious, appears to have been built at different periods, part of it having been erected probably in the time of Queen Elizabeth, while the principal portion is supposed to be as old as the reign of Henry the sixth. The park is of considerable extent, and richly wooded. It is surrounded by a lofty wall, which extends a little way by the road side. The mansion is not seen from the road.

The Aubreys of this place were zealous partizans of the Royal cause during the contest between Charles the first and the Parliament, and their house was opened as an asylum for those who suffered on account of their hostility to the republican party.

About two miles beyond Llantryddydd park, and twelve from Cardiff, lies the town of

## COWBRIDGE,

called in Welsh *Pont-faen*, the stone bridge, corruptly for *Pont-y-fôn*, of which the English name is an accurate translation. This place consists of one broad street of considerable length, in the middle of which stand the Town Hall and market house. According to the Welsh chronicle it was walled round in the year 1091 by Robert St. Quintin, one of Fitzhamon's knights. In Leland's time it had three gates, one at each end of the main thoroughfare, and one on the south, which is yet standing. It is one of the contributory boroughs to Cardiff, and has a voice in the return of its representative to Parliament. The corporation consists of two bailiffs, twelve aldermen, and twelve capital burgesses. The market is held on Tuesday, and there are fairs here annually on the 20th of March, the 4th of May, the 24th of June, the 29th September,

ber, and the 30th of November. There is here a very excellent Grammar School, which owes a considerable part of its endowment to Sir Llewelyn Jenkins, of whom some account has been given above. Two fellowships, two schollarships, and an exhibition, at Jesus College Oxford, are appropriated exclusively to young men educated at this seminary.

Before we proceed to the westward our attention will be claimed by several objects of topographical and antiquarian interest in this neighbourhood, which lie out of the road we have thus far pursued.

About three miles to the northward of Cowbridge is YSTRAD OWEN, which derives its name from Owen ab Cyllin prince of Glamorgan, who made this one of the places of his residence.\* A large tumulus in a field adjoining the churchyard is supposed to indicate the site of his mansion. Ystrad Owen is celebrated in the literary history of this county on account of an annual assembly of Bards, which met here under the auspices of the proprietors of Hensol. It is stated, however, that these assemblies were not admitted by the order generally to be held according to the most ancient forms and customs. The last which met at this place was held on the 28th of May 1720.

Just beyond Ystrad Owen stands ASHALL, the seat of Colonel Richard Aubrey, the brother of Sir John Aubrey of Llantryddy. The house, which is a commodious and elegant edifice, stands on a gentle elevation in the midst of ornamented grounds which display to the highest advantage the taste of the proprietor.

On the other side of Ystrad Owen are some remains of the castle of TALAVAN, or *Tal-y-faen*. This fortress formed part of the spoils wrested from the natives of this county by the Norman invaders, and in the division made by Fitzhamon fell to the share of Sir Richard de Seward.

At some distance to the eastward stands the ancient mansion  
of

\* See above, p. 569.



of HENSOL, the seat of Samuel Richardson, Esq. This was originally the property of a family of the name of Jenkins, one of whom, David Jenkins, held the office of Welsh Judge in the reign of Charles the first, and suffered considerable persecution for his adherence to the cause of his royal master. He died in the year 1664. His grandson, Richard Jenkins, of this house, who died in 1721, was a warm admirer of Welsh poetry and music, and was himself deemed a good performer on the harp. In this gentleman the male line of the family became extinct. His niece, Miss Matthews, married Lord Chancellor Talbot, who by this union became possessed of the estate, and was created Baron Hensol. He died in Lincoln's Inn Fields 1737, and was succeeded by his second son William. This nobleman added two wings to the mansion. He was created Earl Talbot in 1761, and in 1780 Baron Dinevor, with remainder to his daughter, who married one of the Rices of Dinevor in Caermarthenshire, and transferred the title to that family. Mr. Richardson obtained the property by purchase from Lord Talbot. The estate has received the highest improvement under his management, and the farm may be reckoned one of the best cultivated in this county.

On the right, at the distance of a few miles, and near the banks of the river Ely, are the villages of *Peterston super Ely* and *St. George's*. Some remains of castles are to be found at each, but they are little known to historic fame, except as the residence of some of Fitzhamon's knights, and their descendants.

From Cardiff another route to the westward may be pursued nearer the sea coast. The first object of attention on this road is the village of LLANDOUGH, which is pleasantly situated on a gentle eminence, near the river Ely, commanding extensive views of the adjacent country. The church is dedicated to St. Dochdwy, who accompanied Cadfan into Wales in the early part of the sixth century. Tanner, on the authority of Capgrave, states that Cungarus, who was also called Docuinus,

came into this province from Somersetshire, and built a monastery for twelve monks or canons, which was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and endowed by Paulentus king of Glamorgan.\* It has been conjectured that this Docuinus was no other than St. Dochdwy, and that Llandough may be regarded as the seat of the monastery. There are, however, no vestiges of old buildings to strengthen this supposition. The churchyard contains an ancient inscribed stone, which seems to have formed a part of a cross.

To the southward of Llandough stands COGAN, an old Gothic mansion, formerly the residence of the Herberts, ancestors of the Earls of Pembroke. William Herbert, Esq. of this place was sheriff for the county in 1552. The house, which now belongs to the Marquis of Bute, is in a very dilapidated condition. It is tenanted by a farmer, who has converted the great hall into a barn.

At MICHAELSTON-LE-PIT, two miles to the westward of Llandough, is an elegant villa belonging to Mr. Rous. About two miles to the southward from this place are the ruins of DINAS POWYS, or *Denis Powis*, castle, originally built by Jestyn ab Gwrgan, and called after his wife. The present remains are very inconsiderable, occupying an eminence on the side of a small brook.

To the westward of Michaelston-le-Pit, near the little village of Wenvoe, are the ruins of WRINCHSTONE CASTLE, probably the same as *Greneston* castle mentioned by Leland, who describes it as in his time "al in ruine saving one high tower." †

WENVOE CASTLE, is an elegant and spacious castellated mansion, the seat of Robert Jenner, Esq. It was built by Mr. Birt, the maternal grandfather of the present possessor. The name is derived from a more ancient edifice which before occupied the ground. "Al the buildings of this Wenuo standing on a little hille is downe saving one toure, and broken waules.

\* Notitia, p. 711. Cressy Lib. xxi. Cap. 13. † Itin. Vol. IV. fol. 61.

waules. It longgid to the Maleinfantes, wherof in remembrance was one that was first husband to Mr. Herbertes mother of Swansey. The king hath it now, Dr. Carne farmeth it of the king."\*

At SULLY formerly stood the castle of Sir Robert de Sully, one of Fitzhamon's knights, to whom this part of the country was allotted, and from whom the place received its designation. There is a little island, also called after him, at a short distance off the shore.

A few miles to the westward lies

### BARRY ISLAND.

"The passage into it at ful se is a flite shot over, as much as the Tamise is above the bridge. At low water ther is a broken causey to go over, or els over the shalow stremelet of Barrey brooke on the sandes. The isle is about a mile in cumpace and hath very good corne, grasse and sum wood. The ferme of it worth a *xl.* a yeare. Ther ys no dwelling in the isle, but ther is in the midle of it a fair little chapel of S. Barrock, wher much pilgrimage was used."†

The superficial contents of this island are estimated at three hundred acres, which let for eighty pounds a year. Since Leland's time a house has been erected here for the residence of a farmer, which in the summer is converted into a boarding house for the reception of sea bathers. The name is thought to have been derived from St. Baruch, a hermit who, according to Cressey, died here in the year 700. The family of Giraldus de Barri, who were once the lords of it, are said to have hence taken their title.‡

On

\* Leland's Itin. Vol. IV. fol. 61.

† Ibidem.

‡ "It is remarkable that in a rock near the entrance of the island there is a small cavity, to which if the ear is applied, a noise is heard like that of smiths

On the main land, opposite the western extremity of the island, lies the village of Barry, and near it are the ruins of the castle.\*

A few miles north-westward of Barry are the ruins of PEN-MARK CASTLE, near the village of the same name. It pertained originally to Sir Gilbert Humphreville, one of Fitzhamon's followers.

### LLANCARVAN,

in this neighbourhood, was once the seat of a monastery, said to have been built by Cadoc, the son of Gwynlliw : the name was Latinized into *Carbani Vallis*, and the abbot of this house is enumerated in the list of the ecclesiastics who composed the council at Landaff, at which Meurig, King of Glamorgan, was excommunicated.†

This Cadoc was usually styled *Catwg Ddoeth*, or Cadoc the Wise, and flourished in the earlier part of the sixth century. In the Triads he is joined with Deinol of Bangor in Arvon, and Madoc Morfryn in Llan Iltud, under the denomination of the three holy bachelors of Britain. "He was also called one of the three protectors of innocence : his protection was through

smiths at work, the blowing of bellows, strokes of hammers, grinding of tools, and roaring of furnaces ; and it might easily be imagined that such noises, which are continued at the ebb and flow of the tides, were occasioned by the influx of the sea under the cavities of the rocks." Giraldus Itin. Hoare's translation, Vol. I. p. 124. "Towards the southern part of the island, on a spot called Nell's point, is a fine well, to which great numbers of women resort on Holy Thursday, and having washed their eyes at the spring, each drops a pin into it. The landlord of the boarding-house told me, that on cleaning out the well he took out a pint full of these votive offerings." Sir Richard Hoare's additions. Idem. p. 133.

\* "The castelle stondith on a little hil, and most of it is in ruine. Master S. John of Bedfordshir is lord of it. Maurice S. John, uncle to Syr John S. John was owner of it." Leland's Itin. Vol. IV. fol. 61.

† See above page 561.

through the church law, Blas by the common law, Pedrogyl by the law of arms. He was the first of whom there is any account, that collected the British proverbs together."\*

Llancarvan is distinguished as the birth place of Caradoc, the Welsh annalist. Nothing certain is known of the time either of his birth or decease, but he flourished towards the middle of the twelfth century. He compiled, in the form of a chronicle, a history of the principality from the abdication of Cadwaladyr A. D. 686 to his own time. Copies of this work were carefully preserved in the two great abbies of Ystradflur and Conway, and a great number of transcripts appear to have been made, some perhaps for other similar establishments, and some for private individuals. There are still extant a considerable number of copies, but it is remarkable that they all vary as to the dialect and phraseology in which they are written, and also as to the date of their termination, although they agree substantially in the facts they record. Some of the copies conclude the history in 1156, which year is on that account assigned for the time of the author's death, but one copy extends as low as 1196. It has been conjectured with much probability, that the difference in the language is to be attributed to the transcribers, who might have been natives of different districts, and accommodated the phraseology of the author to their own dialect. The variations in the closing period of the narrative may also be accounted for, by supposing that the persons who made the later transcripts added to the original an account of the transactions which had occurred subsequently to Caradoc's time.

A copy of this work was translated into English in the reign of Elizabeth by Humphrey Llwyd, which was published A. D. 1585, by Dr. David Powel with additions, and a continuation down to his own time, from other authorities both Welsh and English. The materials thus brought together were afterwards thrown into a continued narrative by Wynne; but the value of

\* Owen, Camb. Biog. sub. verb.

of this work is greatly injured by the entire omission of references to authorities. Four different copies of the original manuscripts are printed in the *Welsh Archæology*.\* Part of another manuscript differing from all these was printed in the year 1770 in a Welsh magazine, intituled “*Eurgrawn Cymraeg*.” It is to be lamented that the discontinuance of this work from the want of encouragement prevented the publication of the remainder.†

TREF WALTER, or WALTERSTON, in this parish, was the residence of Walter de Mapes, a writer of some note towards the middle of the twelfth century. He was archdeacon of Oxford, and officiated as chaplain to Henry the first. His father, Blondel de Mapes, came into this county in the train of Robert Fitzhamon, and received as his share of the public plunder, the estates of Gwenydd ab Seisyllt lord of Lllancarvan. He afterwards married Fflur, the only surviving child of Gwenydd, by whom he had two sons, Hubert and Walter. In consequence of the death of Hubert, Walter inherited the property. He built the present church of Lllancarvan, which is a large substantial edifice; and also the village of Walterston, with a mansion for himself. By an act of unusual generosity, he restored a considerable portion of the adjacent lands to the native proprietors. His literary labours comprise a translation of the British chronicle into Latin, and a Welsh version of Geoffrey of Monmouth’s fabulous paraphrase of the same work. He wrote, besides, a treatise on agriculture in the  
Welsh

\* See *Myfyrian Archæology*, Vol. II. in the preface to which the respectable editors, Mr. Edward Williams, and Mr. William Owen, have given some account of the manuscripts of this valuable work.

† This magazine, the first attempt of the kind in the British language, was projected and conducted at his own charge by the father of the present writer, the late Rev. Josiah Rees of Gelligron, in this county, whose extensive acquaintance with general literature, and critical knowledge of his native tongue, if the partiality of filial gratitude and esteem may be admitted to pronounce a judgment in such a case, eminently qualified him for the undertaking.

Welsh language, of which several manuscript copies are yet extant.\*

At a short distance from Llancarvan, in a southerly direction, stands

### FONMON CASTLE,

the magnificent mansion of Robert Jones, Esq. In the division made by Fitzhamon this castle fell to the share of Sir John St. John of Bledso, in whose descendants it remained till the time of Charles the first, when it was transferred to Col. John Jones, the ancestor of the present proprietor, and an active supporter of the republican party. He was one of the persons who signed the warrant for the king's execution, and on the restoration suffered in his turn on the scaffold. There is in this house a portrait of Oliver Cromwell which is reckoned the finest extant.

A little to the westward of Fonmon the river Daw pursues a southerly course towards the sea, which it enters at the harbour of *Aberddaw*, celebrated for its limestone. In ascending the river, on the left occurs GILESTON, so called from a mansion which once stood here, belonging to a family of the name of Giles: Beyond is the village of St. ATHAN, near which stand the venerable ruins of the castle built by Sir Roger Berkrolles, one of Fitzhamon's knights, to whom this property, then called East Orchard, was assigned.

FLEMINGSTON, usually called *Flimston*, is a pleasant village situated higher up the vale. It derives its name from the Flemings of St. George's in this county, the descendants of Sir John Fleming, a knight in Fitzhamon's train. Some remains of their castellated residence are still to be seen. The next object of interest in this neighbourhood is

BEWPER

\* Owen. Camb. Biog. sub. verb. See also the preface to the second volume of the Myfyrian Archæology, p. vi.

## BEWPER CASTLE,

one of the most ancient residences in the county. The name is a corruption of *Beaupré*, "Fair meadow," which is an exact translation of the original Welsh appellation *Maes Essyllt*. The present house, which is occupied by a farmer, is a large Gothic building, but the porch is an elegant Grecian structure, consisting of three stories, the lower of the Doric, the second of the Ionic, and the upper of the Corinthian order of architecture, the columns, capitals, &c. being finished with great taste. This was the work of a native architect, of the name of Richard Twrch, who is considered to have been the first, or one of the earliest introducers of Grecian architecture into this country. The ornamental stonework of the chapel is by the same hand, and bears the date of 1586.\*

## Maes

\* "A family bearing a surname of the same import with Hog in English, (Twrch) had hereditarily for many generations, possessed and worked some freestone quarries near the mouth of the Ogmore river. Two brothers of this family, Richard and William, worked those quarries about the time of Edward the sixth and queen Elizabeth. They were young men, and, unfortunately, each of them became enamoured of the same young woman. This occasioned mutual jealousies between them, which at last ended in a virulent and inexplicable quarrel, so that they both solemnly swore never to speak the one to the other. They however continued to work at the quarry as usual; and whenever one of them wanted the assistance of the other to lift or move a large stone, or for any other of those purposes which occasionally occurred in the progress of their business, he beckoned or made some sign. The misunderstanding went on thus for some time; but the young woman having been informed of the situation in which things stood between the brothers, vowed on her part never to admit either of their addresses. This resolution, and the unnatural terms on which he lived with his brother, threw Richard into a deep melancholy. Soon afterwards he left the country, and went no one knew whither. For a long period he was not heard of, but after the lapse of twenty or thirty years, he returned to Glamorganshire, having been in London, Paris, several parts of Italy, and probably over a considerable



Maes Essyllt was anciently the favourite residence of the Sitsyllt family, from whom are descended the noble houses of Cecil, Earls of Exeter and Salisbury. Llewelyn ab Sitsyllt, who inherited the principality of South Wales in right of his wife, frequently held his court at this place. The property continued in this family till it was purchased from them by Sir Philipp Basset, lord of St. Hilary, and lord Chief Justice of England in the reign of King John.

The last Congress, or Gorsedd, of the *regular* Bards was held at Bewper in the year 1681, under the patronage of Sir Richard Basset.

Beyond Bewper, on the western bank of the Daw, stands the little village of LLANDOUGH. There was anciently a castle here, of which some ruins still remain. It was followed by a stately castellated mansion, for some time the residence of Thomas Mansell Talbot, Esq. and now of John Price, Esq.

Llandough is connected in Welsh literature with the name of John Walters, who was the rector of the parish, and died in 1797. He was master of Cowbridge School, and compiled a Dictionary of the Welsh language in English and Welsh, the English being placed first. The work forms one large quarto volume, and has great merit, being in many respects highly creditable to his erudition and talents. He was also the au-

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thor

considerable portion of the continent, working at his trade of a stone-cutter or freestone mason. In the course of his travels he had assiduously applied himself to the study of architecture and sculpture in their various branches, in each of which arts he acquired a very considerable proficiency. On his return he found that his brother had left the family quarry, and had discovered the freestone quarries of Bridgend, where he had settled. Richard therefore entered upon the old quarries, and worked at them. The superior manner in which he executed his work attracted the notice of the gentry who resided in this part of Glamorganshire; and Richard Basset of this place (Bewper) employed him to do the ornamental parts of the stone work belonging to his chapel at the castle, the frontispiece of which he executed with his own freestone in the Ionic order." Malkin's *South Wales*, p. 119.

on the authority of Mr. Edward Williams of Flemingston.

thor of a Dissertation on the Welsh language, and of some single sermons.

LLANBLEIDDIAN CASTLE, a little higher up the river, and within half a mile of Cowbridge, is seated in a commanding situation above the western bank of the river. The present remains are not very considerable. After the conquest of Glamorgan the castle and lordship of Llanbleiddian were assigned to Sir Robert S. Quintin, who strengthened, and otherwise improved the structure he found here. The present walls are a part of the Norman erections.

Llanbleiddian church is a large and ancient edifice ; and contains some fragments of monuments originally commemorative of the owners of the castle, and other families of distinction in the neighbourhood. It is the mother church of Cowbridge.

Nearly due south of Llanbleiddian lies LLANMIHANGEL, a seat belonging to the Wyndham family, but now occupied by John Franklin, Esq. and a few miles farther in the same direction, the village of BOVERTON, where antiquaries are now disposed to place the *Bovium* of the Itineraries. But the most interesting place in this neighbourhood is

#### LANTWIT MAJOR,

or LLAN ILLTYD-FAWR, the church of St. Illtyd, called Major to distinguish it from other churches in the principality dedicated to the same saint, Illtyd, sometimes called *Illtyd farchog*, or Iltudus the knight, was the son of Bicanus by the sister of Emyr Llydaw, and was associated with Germanus and Lupus in their mission to Britain to suppress the Pelagian heresy. Previously to this time there existed a collegiate institution at Caer Wrgorn, the name by which this place was then called. This was denominated *Côr* or *Bangor* Tewdws, the college or congregation of Theodosius, the original foundation of it being ascribed to one of the emperors of that name. On the arrival  
of

of St. Germanus he found that this seminary had been destroyed two years before by some Irish invaders, who had carried away Patrick, the superior. He immediately re-established the institution and placed it under the direction of Illyd, by whose name it was thenceforth called. The date of the new foundation is fixed by ecclesiastical historians in the beginning of the fifth century, about the year 448. This college soon obtained, under its new superior, the highest degree of reputation, and became celebrated over Europe as the most eminent of the age for the learning and piety of its members and scholars. Illyd is reported to have lived to a very advanced age, and to have continued at the head of the institution for ninety years. In the number of his scholars are ranked Gildas, Aneurin, and their brothers to the number of twenty four, all of them bards of distinguished celebrity: Talhaiarn and Taliesin, two other eminent members of the same order; St. Teilo, the successor of Dubricius in the see of Landaff; and St. David, archbishop of Caerleon, and afterwards of Menevia, or St. David's in Pembrokeshire: St. Leonorius, a bishop and confessor; Samson archbishop of Dol; St. Magliore, the relation and successor of Samson; Macutius or Maclovius, the first bishop of St. Malo; Paul Aurelian, bishop of St. Pol de Leon, Daniel Aurelian, consecrated by Dubricius bishop of Bangor, where he instituted another college, and Paulinus, who formed a similar establishment at Whitland in Caermarthenshire.

Llan Illyd, in common with the other religious foundations in the neighbourhood, suffered severely on several successive occasions from the Saxons and the Danes, who made predatory incursions into the country; and also sometimes from the Welsh themselves during their domestic contests. Having been destroyed at the time of the Norman conquest, Robert Earl of Gloucester, the successor of Fitzhamon, re-established it in 1111, but probably on a reduced scale. In this state it appears to have remained till the reformation, when its re-

venues were seized by the crown, and part of them disposed of to private individuals. In the *Liber Landavensis*, an ancient manuscript history of the bishops of this see, and of the principals of the religious houses of the province, there is a catalogue of the successors of Iltyd, together with specifications of numerous grants made by pious individuals to the institution.

The town of Lantwit is at present of inconsiderable size, comprising a population of about seven hundred individuals; but it exhibits numerous vestiges of its ancient extent and consequence. Several streets and lanes, some of them still containing entire houses, may be traced by foundations and ruined buildings; and are still known by their ancient names. Its former populousness is also indicated by its spacious church and cemetery, the latter of which, from the number of human bones dug up in the adjacent fields and gardens, appears to have been of very large extent.

The town hall is yet standing, and the Gaol has been but lately demolished. From the name of *Gallows way*, given to a road leading from the town, which is thought to have led to a place of execution; it may be inferred that cases of life and death were, even at a late period, tried at this court. The town is said to have lost its corporate privileges in the reign of Henry the seventh.

The ruins of the College House are situated in a garden adjoining the churchyard on the north: and those of the monastery, with the halls, and other buildings, are to be seen in a field on the northwest of the church, called the Hill head.

In the church and churchyard are a great number of inscribed monuments of ancient date, which are stated to have been removed hither from a place called "the Great House," where another church is supposed to have stood. Among the most remarkable of these is one, commemorative of St. Iltyd. This is a flat stone, and appears to have been originally the shaft of a cross. On two of the sides are inscriptions in rude characters, which have been decyphered, and are read as follows—

lows—

lows—on one side. “ Samson posuit hanc crucem pro anima (anima) ejus”—on the other “ Crux Iltudi.” “ Samson redis.” “ Samson egisar.” In the old church is a curious monumental stone in the form of an ancient coffin, having a hole in the cover near the head: it is ornamented with fretwork, and bears an inscription in Saxon characters, which has been read as follows:—“ Ne petra calcetur, que subjacet ista tuetur.” Near it is another stone bearing the figure of a man in a religious habit, with an inscription which has hitherto baffled the ingenuity of the antiquary. In the vestry is a large stone bearing a gigantic human figure habited in the costume of the fifteenth century, with the following inscription—“ PKINS. † RICHARD HOPKINS.” Who this Richard Hopkins was is not known, for even tradition is silent as to his claims to so stupendous a monument. The inscription is usually read *Prince Richard Hopkins*, but erroneously; as the first letters are obviously a part of the name *Hopkins*, the other portion having probably been obliterated. By the church porch is a large monumental stone, placed there by Edward Williams the Welsh bard, who has himself drawn up the following account of the circumstances attending its discovery, and removal to its present position.

“ In the summer of 1789, I dug out of the ground in Lantwit church yard, a large monumental stone: it has been the shaft of a cross, and its history affords a remarkable instance of the fidelity of popular tradition. About fifty years ago, a very old man, whose name was Richard Punter, was living at Lanmaes, juxta Lantwit. He, though only a shoemaker, was a more intelligent person than most of his own class: he had read history more than many, was something of an antiquary, and had stored his memory with a number of interesting popular traditions. I was then about twelve or fourteen years of age,—like him fond of history and antiquities. He one day shewed me a spot on the east side of the porch of the old church at Lantwit, where, he said, a large monumental stone lay buried in the ground, with an inscription on it to the

memory of two kings. The tradition of the accident which occasioned its inhumation he gave as follows:—

“ Long ago, before the memory of the oldest person that he ever knew (and he was then about eighty) for their knowledge of the fact was only traditional, there was a young man at Lantwit, commonly called *Will the Giant*. At the age of seventeen, he was seven feet seven inches high, but, as is usually the case in premature and preternatural growth, he fell into a decline, of which, at that age, he died. He had expressed a wish to be buried near the monumental stone which stood by the porch: his wishes were complied with; and the grave was dug, necessarily much larger and longer than graves usually are, so that one end of it extended to the foot of the stone, that was fixed in the ground. Just as the corpse had been laid in, the stone gave way, and fell into the grave, nearly filling it up; some had very narrow escapes with their lives; but as the stone was so large as not to be easily removed, it was left there, and covered over with earth.

“ After I had heard this account, I had a great desire to dig for this stone, and many times endeavoured to engage the attention and assistance of several persons; but my idea was always treated with ridicule. In the year 1789, being at work in Lantwit church, and being one day unable to go on with what I had in hand, for want of assistance, (for it was then the height of the corn harvest, and not a man was to be found whose time and hands were unoccupied,) I employed a great part of one afternoon in digging in search of this stone, and having discovered it, I cleared away all the earth about it. Evening brought the farmers and their workmen home, and Mr. Christopher Wilkins, and the late Mr. David Jones, (two very respectable gentlemen farmers) on seeing this stone, ordered their men to assist me. We with great difficulty got it out of the ground, and on it we found the following inscription:—“ *In Nomine Di Summi incipit crux salvatoris quæ pre-*  
paravit

paravit Samsonia pati pro anima sua et pro anima Juthahelo Rex et art mali tegam.”

“ It lay on the ground, where it had been risen out of the grave, till August 1793, when I procured assistance to erect it on the east side of the porch, where it now stands. It must have been buried in the ground before the continuator of Camden copied the inscriptions on Iltudus, &c. otherwise he would certainly have copied this also, and the stones placed by Thomas Morgan before the church door, as well as the inscriptions on the stones in the old church, also placed there by Thomas Morgan.”\*

Quitting Lantwit, the next object that claims our attention is

### ST. DONAT'S CASTLE,

situated on the sea coast, at the distance of a few miles to the westward. The present remains are very considerable, and in better preservation than any other of the ancient castles of this county. The park stood on the west, and the garden lay on the south, between the castle wall and the sea, towards which it descended in terraces. The castle and manor of St. Donat's were given by Fitzhamon to Sir William le Esterling or Stradling, one of his knights, who probably built this magnificent structure. The property continued in this family without interruption for about seven hundred years, when, owing to the failure of issue, it fell to the Mansels of

2 X 4

Margam

\* The above extract is taken from the *Cambrian Visitor* published in 1813, the editor of which had inserted it from a manuscript account of Lantwit, drawn up by Mr. Edward Williams, and lent to him for the purpose. It is much to be lamented that this ingenious antiquary does not himself publish to the world a part of that vast and valuable fund of information, relating to the history and topography of the principality, which he has collected with so much labour and research.

Margam, into which family the last of the Stradlings had married.\*

Within the park, on the west of the castle, stands a picturesque quadrangular tower. It is placed on an elevated site, and commands a view of great extent, particularly of the Bristol channel. This building is reported by the tradition of the neighbourhood to have been designed for a watch tower, for observing distressed vessels in stormy weather, in order to secure their cargoes for the lord in the event of their being driven on shore. The coast near this place consists of bold precipices of calcareous rocks, presenting some deep excavations, and abounding in marine petrifications. Mr. Donoyan found here the fossil fragments of the vertebræ, pieces of the ribs, maxilla bones, and teeth of a large animal of the lizard genus, which he states could, when living, have been scarcely less than twelve or fifteen feet in length.†

Near St. Donat's are some remains of MARCROSS CASTLE. In the vicinity are the ruins of a religious house, which, from the size of the offices, barns, &c. appears to have been of great

\* In St. Donat's church are several monuments of the Stradlings: the following two are the last. "To the sacred memory of Edward Stradling of St. Donat's castle in Glamorganshire, Esq. The eldest son of Sir Edward Stradling, Bart. by Elizabeth the daughter of Sir Edward Mansel of Margam in the same county, Bart. He was born the 30th of March 1699, and departed this life in the fear of God the 3rd day of October 1726, aged 27, to the unspeakable griefe of his parents and all that knew him, being a most accomplished gentleman in all respects."

"Here lies Sir Thomas Stradling the second Bart. of England, and last of the name; he was the second son of Sir Edward Stradling, Bart. by Elizabeth daughter of Sir Edward Mansel of Margam, Bart. and younger brother to Edward Stradling, Esq. deposited within this tomb. He died at Mompel-lier the 27th of September 1738, N. S. and was buried here the 19th of March following. By his death the title and family, after its continuance here near 700 years, became extinct. *Ætatis Suæ 28.*"

† Descriptive Excursions through South Wales, Vol. I. p. 365.



great extent. This was probably connected originally with the college of St. Illtyd.

Several other ancient remains exist in this neighbourhood; and among others a cromlech, called by the natives the old church, from a tradition that religious worship was at one period performed at it.

At the distance of a few miles from Marcross, in a north-westerly direction, on a rocky promontory on the sea shore, stands

### DUNRAVEN,

the seat of Thomas Wyndham, Esq. the present representative of the county in Parliament. The situation is in many respects beautiful and romantic, commanding several very fine sea views, and surrounded on all sides by rocky scenery of great grandeur. It does not however seem well adapted for a permanent residence, the adjacent country being almost wholly destitute of trees, and exceedingly bleak in the winter season.

The mansion is an elegant and spacious structure in the Gothic style, built by the present proprietor. It is raised on the site of an older edifice, of which a description has been given by Grose, in whose time it was standing. Dunraven, which in Welsh history is called *Dindryfan*, is probably the oldest residence in Wales. It is satisfactorily ascertained that Caractac, the celebrated Caractacus of British and Roman history, resided here, as did also his father Brân ab Llyr. There is yet remaining a lofty embankment on the land side of the house, which appears to have extended across the peninsula, and formed a formidable barrier in that direction, while the cliffs rendered the place impregnable on the sea side. This fortification must be considered to be as old as the time of Caractacus, if not more ancient. After the capture of the British hero, Dindryfan ceased to be the principal seat of the reguli of this district, but the lords of Glamorgan continued to reside here occasionally

occasionally until the conquest of Glamorgan in the time of Jestyn ab Gwrgan.

In the partition of the country by Robert Fitzhamon, this estate fell to the share of William de Londres, who afterwards gave "the castle and manor of Dunraven" to his butler, in reward of his services in defending his castles against the attacks of the Welsh. This gentleman being knighted on this occasion was styled Sir Arnold Butler. From the Butlers, after several generations, it was conveyed to the Vaughans by the marriage of Walter Vaughan with the heiress, the sister of the last of the Butlers. It was held by the Vaughans for a considerable interval, after which it was transferred to the Wyndham family by the marriage of an ancestor of the present proprietor, with the heiress of the estate.\*

In the cliffs on the shore near Dunraven are very large and curious excavations formed by the percussion of the sea. One  
of

\* The account given by Grose of this transfer of the property to the Wyndham family, is somewhat different, but rests on the doubtful authority of traditional history. "According to tradition, the last proprietor of that family (the Vaughans) used to set up lights along the shore, and make use of other devices to mislead seamen, in order that they might be wrecked on his manor. This wicked practice, as the popular story goes, did not escape its punishment in this world, three of his sons being drowned in one day, by the following accidents. Within sight of the house is a large rock, called the Swiscar, dry only at low water, but at other times covered by the sea. To this rock two of his sons went in a boat, in order to divert themselves; but in landing, they not taking sufficient care to fasten their boat, on the rising of the tide it was carried away and they left to all the horrors of their fate, which was inevitable, as the family had no other boat, nor was there any one in the neighbourhood. Their distress was descried from the house, which was filled with confusion and sorrow, insomuch that an infant that was just able to walk, being left alone fell into a vessel of whey, and was drowned almost the same instant as his two brothers. This was universally looked on as a judgement for the iniquitous actions above mentioned; and it is added that Mr. Vaughan was so struck with the misfortune, that he never after could endure the house, but sold it to a Mr. Wyndham, ancestor of the present proprietor." Grose's Antiq. 2nd Edit. Vol. VII. p. 80.

of a very remarkable appearance extends parallel with the coast, and resembles a colonade whose pillars have not received their last polish. Another penetrates the rocks to a great distance, and is called the wind hole from some apertures in the ground, through which, in certain states of the tide, the air is forced up in a current of considerable strength.\*

Having finished this part of the coast, we must now return to Cowbridge in order to pursue our route along the great western road. On leaving Cowbridge, at a short distance on the right

### PENLLINE CASTLE

offers itself to our attention. This ancient edifice occupied the summit of an abrupt hill of considerable elevation, whence the surrounding country to a great extent is seen with peculiar advantage; while the place itself forms a remarkable object in the landscape from every spot whence it may be beheld. The date of the original structure is not known, but the construction of the walls bespeaks for it a very early origin. The present remains are of no great extent. In Leland's time this property was in the hands of a branch of the Turberville family. It was afterwards transferred to the Stradlings of St. Donat's, with whose estates it went to Lord Mansel of Margam. The late Lady Vernon, Lord Mansel's daughter, bequeathed it to Miss Gwinnette, who has erected on the site of a part of the original building, an elegant mansion in the castellated style.†

At

\* About the year 1768 Mr. Edward Williams, the Welsh bard, found in one of these caverns, several swallows in a torpid state, "clinging in clusters to each other by their bills. On being removed to a warm room they revived, but notwithstanding every care that could be taken of them, they died in the course of a few days. Williams's Poems, Vol. I. p. 208, note.

† Penlline, from its elevated situation, is thought to afford certain prognos-  
tics

At the little village of CORNTOWN, about five miles from Cowbridge, is a large mansion, or, more properly a *collection of houses*, huddled together in utter contempt of all order and taste, forming the residence of General Jones of the East India company's service. The situation is beautiful, and deserving of a better fate than to be deformed by such a mass of architectural incongruities.

Below Corntown, in a meadow bordering the river Ewenny, stand the ancient and venerable remains of

### EWENNY PRIORY.

The original foundation of this establishment is ascribed by Leland, whose authority is followed by Tanner, to John de Londres; but it is to be remarked that no such name is contained in the pedigree of this family drawn up by Sir Edward Stradling of St. Donat's, and inserted in Powell's Cambria. From an old monument in the church it appears that it was the pious work of Moris, or Maurice de Londres the fourth in descent from William de Londres, who received this lordship as his portion from Fitzhamon. The church is a plain and very substantial Norman edifice, consisting of a nave, one aisle, two transepts and a choir, with a square tower rising in the

ties of the weather; hence the following proverbial lines current in Glamorganshire:

Pan glywer y môr yn crochlefain yn flin,  
A'r cwmwl yn dew am ben castell Penllin,  
Os gwir yr hen ddihareb, mae cawad o wlaw,  
Yn magu 'n yr wybren, a'i syrthiad gerllaw.

When the hoarse waves of Severn are screaming aloud,  
And Penlline's lofty castle's involved in a cloud,  
If true the old proverb, a shower of rain  
Is brooding above; and will soon drench the plain.

Edward William's Poems, Vol. I. p. 116.

the centre. It contains some ancient monuments worthy the attention of the antiquary. In the south transept is one in the altar form, which has usually been ascribed to Paganus de Turberville, but which is now known to commemorate some other knight, probably a friend of the family; it bears the following inscription:

SIRE ROGER DE REMI. GIST ISCI.  
DE DEU SON ALME EIT MERCI, A. M.

In the choir, near the north wall, is another, which is thus inscribed:

ICI GIST MORICE DE LUNDRES LE FUNDUR  
DEU LI RENDE SUN LEBUR. A. M.

Besides these are some monuments to the Carnes and Turbervilles, who have successively held this property.

There are still to be seen here some fragments of a curious and elegant pavement, which appears at one period to have covered the whole of the floor, and to have been constructed at the time of the erection of the church. It is formed of glazed earthen tiles, about ten inches square, which bear various devices of arms and emblematical figures, methodically arranged in compartments. The figures are of a yellowish tinge, on a red or blue ground.

The old mansion house adjoining the church, has lately been thoroughly repaired by the present proprietor R. Turberville, Esq. and converted into a comfortable residence.

The original establishment at this priory is said to have comprised only three monks, who were of the Benedictine order. Writers differ so materially with respect to its revenues, that no probable estimate can be formed of their amount. They were first given to St. Peter's at Gloucester, and as part of the possessions of that house were at the dissolution granted to Sir Edward Carne, an eminent civilian in the reign of Henry the eighth,

eighth, in whose family the property remained for some time, when it was transferred to the Turbervilles of Coety.

On the same side of the river Ewenny, lower down the stream, at its junction with the Ogmor, stand the remains of OGMORE CASTLE. "Ogor Castelle standith on the est ripe of Ogor, and ys meatly welle maintainid. It longgid ons to Lounder, now to the king."\* This castle, with the lordship of the same name, was assigned by Robert Fitzhamon to William de Londres, a female descendant of whom married the Earl of Lancaster, who was raised to the dukedom, and conveyed the estates to that house, by which means they afterwards merged in the crown.

On the western side of the Ogmor river, nearly opposite the castle, stands CANTLESTON, the seat of John Franklin, Esq. and at a short distance higher up MERTHYR MAWR, a spacious and elegant modern edifice built by the present proprietor, Sir John Nichols. There was at Merthyr Mawr an old family seat, which once pertained to the Stradlings.

At the western end of Ewenny bridge a road branches off on the right, from the main turnpike, which, at the distance of about a mile, conducts to the town of

### BRIDGEND.

This place is very pleasantly situated on the Ogmor, occupying the ground on both sides of that river, which are connected by a stone bridge. It contains a large proportion of good houses, which are occupied by families of great respectability, and may boast of better society than perhaps any town of its size in the principality. A woollen manufactory was established here some years ago, but it did not realize the expectations of the original projectors. It is, however, still maintained, and produces annually considerable quantities of flannel

\*. Leland's Itin. Vol. IV. fol. 66.

flannel and Welsh shawls. An excellent market is held here every Saturday, and fairs annually on Ascension Thursday, and the 17th of November.

Bridgend is divided into two townships, called *Oldcastle*, and *Newcastle*, the former occupying the eastern, the latter the western side of the river. Old Castle derives its name from an ancient fortress which stood near the chapel, at its eastern extremity, and which appears to have been dependent on the neighbouring castle of Coety. The present tythe barn is built on part of the ruins. Newcastle is so called from a fortress, probably of later date, some remains of which yet exist, occupying a commanding situation on a precipitous hill above the church. Little is known of the history of either of these erections.

As a native of Bridgend who has distinguished himself in the literary and philosophical world, Mr. George Cadogan Morgan is entitled to some notice in this place. He was born in the year 1754 of most respectable parents, his father being a surgeon and apothecary of considerable eminence in the town, and his mother a sister of Dr. Richard Price, the justly celebrated philanthropist and philosopher. Mr. Morgan was sent at an early age to the Grammar School at Cowbridge, and being designed for holy orders was thence removed to Oxford. His stay at this University was, however, but short, for becoming dissatisfied with several of the doctrines maintained in the thirty-nine articles, he felt compelled to relinquish all thoughts of engaging as a minister of the church of England.

It was not his wish, however to abandon the clerical profession, and that he might exercise it in a manner more congenial with his present sentiments, he entered as a student at the Dissenting Academy at Hoxton, then under the superintendance of Drs. Savage, Kippis, and Rees. On the completion of his course in the year 1776, he settled at Norwich as one of the ministers of the Presbyterian congregation in that city. During his residence here he married Miss Ann Hurry,

Hurry, daughter of William Hurry, Esq. of Yarmouth, to which place he afterwards removed in the year 1785, having accepted an invitation to become one of the ministers of the Presbyterian congregation. In the beginning of the year 1787, he settled at Hackney as the colleague of his uncle, Dr. Price, who was at that time pastor of the society assembling at the Gravel Pit chapel. Mr. Morgan's chief inducement to this removal was the society of his uncle, whose principles and pursuits were in an eminent degree congenial with his own.

Soon after his settlement at Hackney, a new academical institution was established there by the Dissenters; and Dr. Price was chosen to the office of mathematical professor. He accepted the situation, however, on condition of having Mr. Morgan associated with him in the performance of its duties, as he found them too arduous for his advanced age. Mr. Morgan held, besides, the situation of classical tutor, to which was afterwards added, much against his wishes, the office of lecturer on Natural Philosophy. In 1792 he relinquished all his appointments, and withdrew from the institution, which in the course of a few years was broken up.

Mr. Morgan had since his first settlement in life appropriated a part of his time to the education of a select number of pupils at his own house. Some he continued to instruct in this way during the time he was connected with the Hackney college: on the resignation of his employments at that institution he withdrew from all public labours, and retired to Southgate, about eight miles from London, where he devoted his time to the care of a few domestic pupils, and the instruction of his own children. Here he died after a short illness in November 1798, sincerely regretted by a large circle of relations and friends. He left a widow, one daughter, and seven sons to deplore his loss.

About the year 1794 Mr. Morgan published in two volumes 12mo. some Lectures on Electricity, which had formed a part  
of



of the course he had delivered at the college on Natural Philosophy. In these he controverts some of the opinions of Dr. Franklin, particularly on the subject of conductors intended to secure buildings from the effects of lightning. For Dr. Franklin he always expressed the highest esteem, but in philosophical enquiries his mind was too bold and independent to admit of any bias from authority. In 1796 he printed for the use of his private pupils, in a small duodecimo volume, the outline of a larger work which he designed to publish on the subject of education. This is an admirable little tract, adapted to direct both the tutor and scholar to the best method of collecting ideas, and disposing and arranging them for future use. It is accompanied by a table, or chart of thought, where the different subjects, with their logical and scientific classifications, are seen at one view. The title prefixed to the work is, "Directions for the use of a Scientific Table, in the collection and application of knowledge." In the year 1785, Mr. Morgan communicated to the Royal Society a valuable paper, which he intituled "Observations and Experiments on the Light of bodies in a state of Combustion." This appeared in the 75th volume of the Philosophical Transactions. He had begun to write a life of Dr. Price, an undertaking for which he was eminently qualified, but the public have cause to regret that, at the time of his death, the manuscript was not in a state of sufficient forwardness for publication.

Mr. Morgan was a man of no ordinary attainments and talents : his capacious mind grasped the whole circle of science ; and his clearness of apprehension, and indefatigable industry, enabled him to make a considerable proficiency in all the most important branches of knowledge. As a writer he was distinguished rather by the vigour and clearness, than by the elegance of his style. His language was always flowing and eloquent, and seldom failed to convey his ideas and feelings in all their force to the minds and hearts of his readers. He was an ardent friend of liberty, and contemplated the first period of

the French revolution with the warmest enthusiasm. He was at Paris on the memorable occasion of the destruction of the Bastille : and the letters which he wrote to his uncle, narrating the events of that momentous evening, are known to have stirred the gall of Burke, who gave vent to his feelings in the lowest abuse of Dr. Price. In private life he was amiable and affectionate, readily engaging the confidence and friendship of all with whom he conversed ; and his premature death was felt as a severe calamity, not by his family alone, but by every individual who was honoured with his acquaintance, and knew how to appreciate his worth.\*

The name of Dr. Price is so associated with Bridgend, from his near relationship to several of the principal families of the town, that our notice of him may, without impropriety, be introduced in this place. He was born in the month of February, 1723, at Tynton, a detached house, situated at the distance of a few miles from hence, in a northerly direction. His father was a non-conformist minister, and designing him for the same profession, sent him to receive the first rudiments of his classical education to a grammar-school at Neath. He was removed hence in 1735, and placed under the private tuition of the Rev. Samuel Jones, of Pentwyn, in Caermarthenshire, an eminent dissenting divine. With Mr. Jones he remained till 1739, when he was sent to a dissenting academy at Talgarth, in Brecknockshire, then under the direction of the Rev. Vavasor Griffiths. Both his parents dying shortly after, and his father, in consequence of his departure from those strict Calvinistic sentiments which he had himself maintained, having in his will cut him off from the property he might naturally have expected, he was taken under the protection of his uncle, the Rev. Samuel Price, the colleague of Dr. Isaac Watts, by whom he was removed to London, and placed in an academy, of which the learned Mr.

Eame

\* An eloquent obituary of Mr. Morgan appeared in the Monthly Magazine for November 1798.

Eames was at that time the principal tutor. In this seminary he pursued his studies with great diligence and success, and laid the foundation of his future eminence. Moral philosophy and divinity engaged a large share of his attention : but the mathematical sciences formed his favourite pursuit ; and, from his assiduous cultivation of these, he probably acquired that habit of close and consequential thinking and reasoning for which he was afterwards so distinguished. He early habituated himself to analyze the works he had read, and to form such compendious abstracts of the principal of them as were calculated to render him fully master of their contents, and to give them a firm hold on his memory. He past four years at this seminary, the term allotted for the usual course of studies ; after which, wishing to devote a longer period to qualify himself for the public duties of his profession, he engaged himself in the capacity of domestic chaplain to Mr. Streatfield, of Stoke Newington. During part of the time he held this situation he officiated occasionally at the Old Jewry meeting-house, as the assistant of Dr. Samuel Chandler. He continued with Mr. Streatfield till the decease of that gentleman, including an interval of about thirteen years. In the year 1757, he married Miss Sarah Blundell, a lady of Leicestershire. In the following year he accepted the office of pastor of the dissenting congregation of Newington-Green ; and, in 1763, was appointed afternoon preacher to the Congregation of Poor Jewry-street, London, a situation which he held till 1770 ; when, being chosen morning minister of the Gravel Pit Congregation at Hackney, he transferred his afternoon services to Newington-Green, where he resided. On the death of Mrs. Price, in 1786, he removed to Hackney, and dissolved his connection with the other society. During the latter part of his life he had at times suffered considerably from a painful disorder of the bladder, which, in February, 1791, attacked him with great violence. He sustained his sufferings with exemplary fortitude and patience, till at length they became too painful for the reduced state

of his strength, and terminated his existence on the 19th of April, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. The esteem in which he had been deservedly held through life, was marked by the respect shewn to his memory at his interment. His body was followed to the burying-ground in Bunhill-Fields, by a large train of mourning friends, among whom were several distinguished public characters.

The literary labours of Dr. Price were very numerous, and embraced a great variety of important topics. Our limits will allow us to do little more than give the titles, with the date of their publication. His first work was, "A Review of the principal Questions and difficulties in Morals, particularly those relating to the original of our ideas of virtue, its nature, foundation, reference to the Deity, obligation, subject matter, and sanctions:" this appeared in octavo, 1758. It was aimed against the system which had been supported by Hutcheson, and may be regarded as the ablest defence ever composed of the principles adopted by the author. A new edition was published in 1787, with some alterations, and a dissertation on the being and attributes of God, as supported by arguments *a priori*. In 1767 he published, in one volume, octavo, his "Four Dissertations, on Providence, on Prayer, on the reasons for expecting that virtuous men shall meet after death in a state of happiness, and on the importance of Christianity, the nature of historical evidence and miracles." This masterly work has passed through several editions. His next publication relates to a very different subject, and serves to display the varied erudition of the author: the title is, "Observations on Reversionary Payments, or Schemes for providing Annuities for Widows; or the method of calculating Assurances on Lives, &c. &c." This work he enlarged in a subsequent edition into two volumes. Since his decease it has been re-published by his surviving nephew, William Morgan, Esq. who has prefixed to it a general introduction, and enhanced its value by notes, additional tables, &c. founded on his own researches into these curious and diffi-

cult subjects. In 1772 Dr. Price published a kind of Supplement to this work, under the title of "An Appeal to the Public on the subject of the National Debt," which passed through three editions in less than two years. Dr. Price was an ardent philanthropist; and regarded with peculiar interest whatever seemed adapted to promote the amelioration of the condition of mankind. This led him to take an active part in the discussions excited in this country on the first rupture with the American colonies. His first publication on this subject was intitled "Observations on the Nature of Civil Liberty, the Principles of Government, and the Justice and Policy of the War with America." This appeared in 1776; and the Corporation of London did themselves the honour of publicly testifying their approbation of the sound principles maintained by the author, by presenting him with the freedom of the city in a gold box. The work had a very rapid sale, but exposed the enlightened and amiable author to the scurrilous abuse of the opposite party. The misrepresentations that were made of his principles induced him to publish, in 1778, "Additional Observations on the Nature and Value of Civil Liberty, &c." with which he gave a General Introduction and a Supplement to the whole. In 1778 he engaged in an amicable controversy with Dr. Priestley on the subjects of Materialism, and Philosophical Necessity. The correspondence which passed on this occasion is equally honourable to both parties, not only for the acuteness with which the arguments for the opposite hypotheses were maintained, but, above all, for the temper with which the controversy was conducted to the end. The papers were published in one volume octavo, under the title of "A Free Discussion of the Doctrines of Materialism and Philosophical Necessity, in a Correspondence between Dr. Price and Dr. Priestley," &c. In 1779 Mr. William Morgan published his "Doctrine of Annuities and Assurances on Lives and Survivorship, stated and explained." Dr. Price prefixed to this able work an Introduction, addressed to the Society for Equitable

Assurance on Lives, &c. which had profited by his former publication on Reversionary Payments, and also by his private advice. The benefits which that society had derived from his assistance, induced them to submit their concerns to his examination, and the result was the adoption of an improved method of estimating the property of the institution. In 1780 he published an Account of the Progress from the Revolution, and the present State of Population in England and Wales. This had been originally subjoined to the Introduction to Mr. Morgan's work, but was now augmented by "An Appendix, containing Remarks on the Account of the Population, Trade, and Resources of the Kingdom, in Mr. Eden's Letter to Lord Carlisle." His next publication appeared in 1783. It was intitled, "The State of the Public Debt and Finances at the signing of the Preliminary Articles of Peace in January, 1783, with a Plan for raising Money by Public Loans, &c." to which a Postscript was added the following year. This pamphlet contained the outlines of a scheme which the author had prepared, at the request of the Earl of Shelburne, for paying off the national debt, but which that nobleman was prevented from bringing forward by his removal from office. When at a subsequent period Mr. Pitt was about to bring in a bill to provide for the payment of the national debt, he applied to Dr. Price for his advice. The doctor furnished him with three plans, one of which he adopted, and brought forward in the House of Commons as *his own*, without even dropping the slightest hint of his obligations to its real author.

Dr. Price printed, in 1784, "Observations on the importance of the American Revolution, and the means of making it useful to the World." Nearly the whole impression of the pamphlet was sent to America; but, in 1783, it was published in England, at the earnest solicitation of the author's friends. In 1786 he published a Volume of Sermons on the Christian Doctrine, in which he maintains what is called the low Arian scheme against the Calvinists and the Unitarians. To these were added some practical discourses of the highest excellence,

which create a regret that he did not commit to the press more compositions of this class.\* Besides these works he published several single sermons. Of these, the only one we shall mention is that on the Love of our Country, delivered on the fourth of November, 1789, at the meeting-house in the Old Jewry to the Society for commemorating the Revolution in Great Britain, &c. The liberal principles maintained in this admirable discourse, in which the author displays himself as the warm and able advocate of civil and religious liberty; and takes occasion to speak in feeling terms of the prospect of general amelioration held out to Europe by the French revolution, which then presented an auspicious dawn, roused against him a whole host of adversaries, among whom appeared in the foremost rank Edmund Burke, who eagerly seized every occasion to vent against him his illiberal and envenomed abuse. These libels the Doctor disdained to notice farther than to vindicate his conduct on one particular occasion, in a preface to a new edition of his Discourse in 1790.

The well-earned reputation of Dr. Price procured for him honourable marks of distinction from several public bodies. The freedom of the City of London has already been noticed. In 1769 the University of Aberdeen conferred upon him the degree of doctor in divinity. About the year 1763 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society, whose Transactions he had frequently enriched by valuable communications. In 1783 Yale College in Connecticut presented him with a diploma of doctor of laws; and some time afterwards he was chosen a member of the Philosophical Societies of Philadelphia and Boston.

It is scarcely necessary to add here, that his great talents and estimable character acquired for him the first distinction in the religious body to which he more immediately belonged. He was for many years one of the managers of Dr. Daniel

\* The religious public will learn with pleasure that Mr. Morgan has it in contemplation to publish a volume of Dr. Price's practical Sermons.

Williams's estates, the most important trust pertaining to the London Dissenters of the Presbyterian denomination. When the London Dissenting Ministers were applying to Parliament for an enlargement of their toleration, in the interval from 1772 to 1779, he took a leading part in all the proceedings, but at last divided against the majority of his brethren, because their views did not comprehend such enlarged ideas of religious freedom as he had himself imbibed.

Our limits will not allow us to expatiate on the various estimable qualities of Dr. Price's character. It was in every respect marked by so much that was good and amiable, that no man could know him without loving him. He had in consequence a large circle of real *friends*, and in the number might be named some of the most distinguished public men of his time. We shall only add that a faithful and pleasing portrait of him is drawn by Mrs. Chapone, in her *Miscellanies*, in the person of *Simplicius*.\*

Taking now our leave of Bridgend, our attention is next claimed by

### COITY CASTLE,

situated at the distance of a mile to the north-eastward of that place. The ruins are among the most extensive and magnificent of any in South Wales, and are second in this respect to Caerphili alone. The present walls are probably the remains of the edifice built by Sir Payne Turberville,† to whom this lordship was assigned in Fitzhamon's division of the county. From the Turberville's it passed to Sir Richard Berkrolles; and from him descended to Sir William Gamage, who held it in  
Leland's

\* See an excellent memoir of Dr. Price in the *Biographical Dictionary* by Dr. Aikin and the Rev. Thomas Morgan, a work rich in biographical information.

† On opening a grave in the chancel of Coity church for the interment of the late rector, Dr. Richards, a vault was discovered containing the bodies of Sir Payne Turburville and his lady. From the inscription it appeared that the knight was to remain in purgatory forty days!



Leland's time.\* Sir Robert Sydney, who was raised to the earldom of Leicester by James I. married Barbara, the daughter of John Gamage, Esq. of this place, and obtained with her the castle, and other estates of the family.† The castle is at present the property of Thomas Wyndham, Esq. the member for the county.

In this parish was born Dafydd Hopkin, a poet who was admitted to the Gorsedd of Glamorgan in 1700, and presided in 1730.

In the churchyard at *Coychurch*, which lies at the distance of a mile to the eastward of Bridgend, is an ancient stone monument, that appears to have formed part of a cross, and resembles in its ornaments &c. those at Lantwit Major. The only part of the inscription now legible consists of the words *Samson*, and *Sam. eg.* The church is dedicated to St. Crallo, from whom the place is called *Llangrallo*. This saint is described as the nephew of St. Iltyd, and is said to have come to this country with St. Germanus. Hence it is conjectured that the Samson who raised this monument was the person whose name occurs on the stone in Lantwit Major, which is thought to commemorate St. Iltyd.‡

To the northward of Bridgend, on the Ogmere and its tributary

\* The castel of Coete standith on a playn grounde a mile by norhest from Penbont, (Bridgend) a good market town standing on Ogor. Coete castelle is also half a mile from the west ripe of Wenny, and a mile from the est ripe of Ogor. This castelle is maintainid, and some say that it longgid ons to Payne, caullid for his ruffeling there *Diable*. Now Gamage is lord of it, and it is his principal house." Leland's Itin. Vol. IV. fol. 71.

† Grose states that there is at Penshurst Castle in Kent a large ancient picture on wood of Lady Barbara, in the costume of the times, surrounded by her eleven children, with their names, &c. written under them. In Penshurst park, also, between a piece of water called Longcup Well, and the lawn in the front of the house, is a clump of old trees, which are said to represent Barbara Gamage and her children, and still called Gamage's Bower. Antiquities. Vol. VII. second edit. p. 77.

‡ Cambrian Visitor, p. 520, on the authority of Mr. Edward Williams.

butary streams, are several very respectable gentlemen's houses. Among the principal may be mentioned COURT COLMAN, the seat of William Rees, Esq. NEW HOUSE an ancient seat of the Price family, now the residence of Morgan Smith, Esq. COETRECHEN, the seat of Popkin Trehaern, Esq. and higher up among the mountains PANT-UN-AWEL, the seat of — Jenkins, Esq.

On a hill above Newhouse is a very spacious British encampment, one of the largest remains of the kind in South Wales, and in a good state of preservation.

The road from Bridgend towards the west leads, at the distance of a mile, through the village of LALESTON. This place derives its name from Lalys, a foreign architect, who is said to have been brought into Glamorganshire from the east by Richard de Granville, who had been on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Lalys was first employed by his patron to build the abbey of Neath. He afterwards erected several other religious houses, and some castles in the principality. His residence was for some time at this place which hence took its name, but he afterwards removed to London, having been appointed architect to Henry the first.

On the right of Laleston is a neat mansion, the residence of T. Bennet, Esq.

Shortly after joining the main turnpike beyond Laleston, a road turns to the left that conducts to the village of TYTHEGSTONE, near which is the seat of Henry Knight, Esq. There is on this estate a small Cromlech, in a ruinous condition. Farther on we reach the little town of NEWTON NOTTAGE. It has a port whence ships of small burthen carry on a coasting trade with Bristol and other parts of England. The shore is very commodious for bathing; and there is a house here for the reception of company, which belongs to the landlord of the Pyle Inn, there being no inn in the place. At the distance of a few miles from Newton, stands the ancient borough of

## KENFIG,

or *Cenfig*, from *Cefn-y-figen*, the “ridge, or elevated ground, above the bog.” The town is at present of small extent, with a population of about 250 individuals; and the remains of the castle are very inconsiderable, consisting of part of one of the towers which rises to the height of about fifteen feet out of the sand. This is one of the contributory boroughs joined with Cardiff in the return of the member for that place. The corporation consists of the Constable of the castle, the Portrieve, Aldermen, and Recorder. The resident or *indwelling* burghesses are fifty-six in number, and out of these the portrieve and recorder are chosen annually: there are besides seventy-six non-resident or *outdwelling* burghesses, who share the other privileges of the borough. A new town hall has been lately erected here at an expense of four hundred pounds. Kenfig was anciently a place of considerable importance in the county, being one of the principal residences of the lords of the district. On the overthrow of Jestyn ab Gwrgan it fell into the hands of Robert Fitzhamon, who in his subsequent division of the conquered territories retained it to his own share. The ruin of the place, and the present desolate condition of the adjacent lands, which for a great extent are covered with sand, are ascribed to a tremendous inundation of the sea during a violent storm on this coast in the middle of the sixteenth century.

Kenfig pool, a lake of about a mile and a half in circumference, lies near the town, and has already been noticed.

To the right of Kenfig, on the main road, lies the little village of PYLE, where there is an excellent inn built some years ago by Mr. Talbot. On the approach it has the appearance of an elegant gentleman's residence.

Two miles beyond Pyle, on the right, once stood the magnificent abbey of

## MARGAM.

The history of this celebrated house is involved in considerable obscurity. The *Annales de Margan*, inserted by Gale in his collection of ancient chronicles, ascribes its first establishment to Robert Earl of Gloucester, and places this event in 1147, the year of his death.\* Camden, on the other hand, attributes the foundation to William, the successor of Robert. There is reason, however, to doubt the correctness of both these statements, and to transfer the honour to a British lord, whose name has been preserved and perpetuated in that of the institution itself. It has been seen above† that in the division of the territories of Glamorgan after the conquest, the lordship of Aberavon was conferred on Caradoc, the son of Jestyn ab Gwrgan, who immediately fixed his residence there. Caradoc, according to the Welsh pedigrees, had a son named Morgan, called Morgan Arglwydd, or the Lord Morgan of Avon; he was contemporary with both Robert and William‡ Earls of Gloucester; and the probability is, that the abbey of Margam, or Margan, which lay on his estates, and was so denominated from himself, was founded by him. This conjecture may be considered as deriving great weight from the circumstance that the descendants of this lord for several generations were  
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\* *Scriptores Rerum Angli. Vol. II. p. 1. &c.* 1147. Fundata est Abbatia nostra quæ dicitur Margan; et eodem anno comes Gloucestris Robertus qui eam fundavit apud Bristol obiit pridie Kal. Novembris."

† See p. 570.

‡ This appears from the following passage in Giraldus; "A greyhound belonging to the aforesaid Owen (the brother of Morgan) large, beautiful, and curiously spotted with a variety of colours, received seven wounds from arrows and lances, in the defence of his master, and on his part did much injury to the enemy and assassins. When his wounds were healed, he was sent to King Henry the second, by William Earl of Gloucester, in testimony of so great and extraordinary a deed. Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. I. p. 136.

its most liberal benefactors ; but what tends principally to confirm it is a declaration of Mr. Edward Llwyd, who states that he had seen the *original* charter of the foundation granted by Morgan ab Caradoc.\*

The

\* In Mr. Hugh Thomas's manuscript in the British Museum, already referred to (Harl. MSS. 4181, p. 66), in the pedigree of Jestyn ab Gwrgan, under Morgan ab Caradoc, is the following passage ;—he “ founded the famous abbey of his name called the abbey of Morgan, now Margam, as Mr. Edward Llwyd wrote me word from Oxford, November the 24th, 1707. His words are ‘ You will herewith receive a translation of a charter granted by Thomas lord of Avon in Glamorganshire, who was lineally descended from Jestyn ap Gwrgent, lord of Glamorgan at the Norman conquest of that country : for I find that Morgan ab Kradoc whome he names first was his grandson. *I have seen that same Morgan ab Kradoc's originall charter with nine witnesses all very antique British names ;* who were probably the chiefest men of that part of the country. Camden tells us that abbey was founded by William de Clare Earle of Gloucester ; but the annals of the abbey say Robert Earle of Gloucester. However this Morgan ab Cradoc gave its denomination ; and perhaps the Norman conquerors called a confirming of British foundations of religious houses, their owne foundations, and the Monks being afterwards commonly Normans might be very willing to have it so represented.”

The translation above noticed is given in the manuscript, and is as follows :

“ A translation of the charter granted by Thomas de Aven within mentioned to the abby of Margan.

“ To all Christian people to whose knowledge this present writing shall come, Thomas de Aven, the son of Sir John de Aven, kt. lord of Avene, wisheth eternal happiness. Be it knowne unto you that I have for the salvation of my soul, and for the souls of my father and mother, and of all my ancestors and successors, Granted released, and entirely quitted claim for myselfe and heirs and assignes for ever to God and the church of St. Mary of Margan, and the monks serving God therein, as a free and perpetual alms, all the title I have had or might any way have to three acres and a halfe of medow land, with its appurtenances in the marsh of Aven, which I have had from the lady Margaret de Aven in her free and legal widowhood, in exchange for five acres of medow in the same marsh of Aven, by the advice and consent of the aforesaid Sir John de Aven my father. Which

three

The Annales de Margan, which is a general chronicle comprehending the interval between 1066 and 1232, contains only a few

three acres and halfe of medow begin at the high way eastward, and reach westward to John Danys medow and to his arrable land in Claud Sannon northward, and southward to a medow of the house of Margan call'd Smith's mead. The said three acres and a halfe to have and to hold as a free and perpetual alms; in such a manner that neither I the said Thomas de Aven, and my heirs and assigns, nor any one in our name can ever require or claim any right or title to the said three acres and a halfe of medow, but are by this present writing perpetually excluded. And furthermore I the said Thomas de Aven, and my heirs and assigns shall for ever defend warrant and maintain the said three acres and halfe of medow with the appurtenances thereunto belonging against all men. Moreover I the said Thomas de Aven having after a diligent view thereof consider'd the noble and magnificent structure of the walls continually made in the said monastery have granted and by these presents confirm'd unto the said monks all donations, grants, confirmations, and sales whatsoever which they enjoy by the bounty of all my predecessors and their vassals. Namely, whatever they have by the gift of Morgan ap Cradoc as well in Rhos Onlyn as in the marsh and moor of Aven; in lands, meadows, herbage, pastures, and in all the woods and appurtenances thereof, according to the tenour of the charters of the said Morgan. Also whatever they have by the gift of Leisan and Owen the sons of the same Morgan; and all they have by the gift of Morgan Cam and his heirs; also all they enjoy by the bounty of Morgan Vaghan and Sir Leisan the sons of the said Morgan Cam. Likewise whatever they have by the gift of Sir John de Aven my father, as well in Rhos Onlyn as in the marsh of Aven. All these donations, grants, confirmations, and sales, by all my ancestors and their vassals in which manner so ever made over to the said monks, I bestow, grant, and confirm, and by this present writing ratify in my owne name and also for my heirs and assigns; in such a manner that they are to have and enjoy for ever all that is above specified, in as free and as quiet a possession as any other alms whatever may be held and enjoy'd. Grantin never the less and confirming to the said monks for my selfe and heirs and assigns for ever all the hurdles or rods they shall have occasion for on all the lands of my lordship towards fishing in their water of Aven, without any let or hindrance; and also that they have free ingress and egress over all my lands as well in the summer as winter for their carriages from Rossonlyn to their abby, without giving them any let or molestation

a few incidental particulars respecting the abbey itself. They relate that William the first abbot, died in 1153; and that he was succeeded by Andrew who died 1155. They also state that in 1187, the altar of the Holy Trinity in the abbey church was consecrated in November by William (de Salso Marisco) bishop of Landaff. When king John in 1210, extorted a forced levy from the Cistercian monasteries, the abbey of Margam was exempted on account of the hospitable treatment he had received here, on his journey to Ireland. Besides these, the only notices they afford are confined to the enumeration of a few of the subsequent abbots.

At the dissolution the revenues of this house were valued, according to Dugdale at 18*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* or according to Speed at 188*l.* 14*s.* They were sold at two successive periods for 142*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* and 222*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* to Sir Rice Mansel, *knt.* whose descendant was raised to the peerage by Queen Anne. Thomas Lord Mansel died in 1743, and was succeeded by his uncle Christopher; who dying unmarried in 1744, was succeeded by his younger brother Bussy. Bussy died in 1750 without male issue; the title in consequence became extinct, and the estate devolved on his two daughters, one of whom married Mr. Talbot of Lacock in Wiltsnire, and conveyed to him this part of the property, which still continues in his descendants.

The existing remains of this ancient house convey but an inadequate idea of its former extent and grandeur. Excepting some fragments of walls, and the traces of parts of the foundation, the shell of the Chapter house alone is left standing. This curious and elegant building was seen, several years ago,  
by

tation on that account at any time whatsoever. In testimony of all which premises I have thought fit to affix my seal to this present writing, dated the tenth of February, one thousand three hundred forty nine."

A copy of the above, with some variation in the orthography, is given in Stevens's Supplement to Dugdale's Monasticon, Vol. II. p. 53. Stevens states that he "found it translated into English among the collections of the late Mr. Hugh Thomas, without mentioning whence he had it."

by the present writer in a tolerably perfect state : but having then made no memoranda, he cannot undertake to describe it from recollection. He thinks it preferable to transcribe the account of it given by Mr. Wyndham in his Tour through Wales.\*

“ The chapter house is an elegant Gothic building, of a date subsequent to that of the church ; its vaulted stone roof is perfect, and supported by a clustered column, rising from the centre of the room. The plan of this Chapter house is an exact circle,† fifty feet in diameter ; the just proportion of the windows, and the delicate ribs of the arches, which all rise from the centre column, and the walls, gradually diverging to their respective points above, must please the eye of every spectator ; and what is uncommon in light Gothic edifices, the external elevation is as simple and uniform, as the internal perspective, there being no projecting buttresses to disturb or obstruct the beauty.” “ On the 17th of January 1799 this interesting building (from neglect) became a ruin ! The stones which were inarched in the compartments between the elliptic branching ribs of the dome, by the percolation of the rain first fell ; two of the ribs soon followed ; this producing an unequal bearing on the centre column, after some months, forced out the third stone from its base, when the whole roof instantly collapsed and left the side walls, presenting only the spring of the arches, and the lamentable reflection of its departed beauty.”‡

The parish church, as it now stands, is a part of the old abbey church, comprising the western end, separated at the transepts. It is a fine specimen of pure Norman architecture. The circular arches of the nave, which rest on pilasters, are lofty ;

\* Second edition 1781, folio, p. 34. This account is accompanied by an engraving from a painting by Grimm.

† This is an error, the form being a duodecagon.

‡ Dr. Hunt's communication to Mr. Carlisle. Topograph. Dict. of Wales, art. Margam.



lofty; the windows are small, the tops formed of circular arches, and the western front is considerably ornamental. This building, through neglect, was rapidly falling into decay, but fortunately escaped the fate of the Chapter-house. The late Mr. Talbot caused it to be completely repaired, under the direction of competent persons, so that it now presents one of the most interesting objects of this class in the principality.

In the church are several mural monuments commemorative of different members of the Mansell family. During the progress of the late repairs some others of more ancient date were brought to light. One of these consists of a flat stone six feet in length and one foot eight inches wide. It is inscribed on lengthways, on two sides, with the following couple of Latin lines, with AMEN, inserted across: the letters are of early date:—

Constans et certus jacet hic Ryewallis opertus,  
Abbas Robertus cujus Deus esto misertus.

This Robert was probably an abbot of the house removed here from the abbey of Ryevale in Yorkshire.

There is here on a brass tablet a long Latin epitaph, said to have been composed by Bishop Atterbury, on the death of a favourite huntsman of one of the Mansells, who was interred here towards the commencement of the last century. It is too long to be inserted in this place. A translation has been given in the Antiquarian Repertory.

The old mansion house of Margam, the seat of the Mansells, was raised on a part of the foundations of the ancient religious edifice. The family preferring another residence at Penrice in Gower, it was suffered to fall into decay, and in 1780 was demolished. The park, which is very extensive, well wooded, and abundantly supplied with deer, is still preserved in its original state; and considerable attention is paid to the pleasure gardens, and ornamental parts of the grounds. In the midst

of these stands an elegant doric edifice, built by the late Mr. Talbot in 1787 for a green house, or conservatory, for the reception of a large collection of orange trees, the finest probably of the kind in Great Britain. It is three hundred and twenty seven feet in length by eighty-one feet in width. At each end a square room has been parted off, in which are deposited some curious cork models of remarkable buildings in Italy, and several fine statues and other antiques of exquisite workmanship.

In the summer the orange trees, which are one hundred and ten in number, are removed to the lawn, and exhibit a very rich and luxuriant grove, several of the trees being eighteen feet in height, and remarkably handsome. It is stated by tradition that they were originally designed as a present from the king of Spain or Portugal to Queen Elizabeth, but that the vessel stranding on the Margam estates, they became the property of the lord.

In the neighbourhood of the abbey are several very interesting antique fragments. There is in the village a curious stone cross, about eight feet high, richly carved and ornamented with fret-work. By the road side, and forming the foot bridge over the brook that issues out of the park near the old entrance, are two other relics of the same kind, the crosses being circumscribed by a circle. These stones bear traces of inscriptions, but so much obliterated by time and the feet of the passengers, as to be wholly illegible.

At a short distance to the southward of this spot is a respectable farm-house, called *Eglwys Nynydd*, or the Nuns' Church. This was probably a nunnery dependant on the Margam establishment. In a field on the left of the road, beyond Margam, stands a neat house, called TY'N-Y-CAEAU, at present occupied by the Rev. Dr. Hunt. About a mile farther is the village of TAE-BACH, where there are some copper works on a large scale, in which the ore is smelted, and the metal afterwards rolled into plates. The houses are principally occupied by persons

persons employed about the works. The name of the village, which means literally *small houses*, is taken from a long row of workmen's cottages ranged along the side of the precipitous hill above, and which form a remarkable object in the view from the sea and the opposite shore of Swansea Bay.

Soon after quitting this dingy village, a handsome bridge of one arch, built by the architect of Pont-y-Prydd, conducts to the town of

### ABERAVON,

situated on the western margin of the river from which it derives its name. This place is at present very small, containing only a few indifferent houses, and has little to recommend it on the score of external appearance. It boasts, however, its corporate privileges, being governed by a portreeve, who is annually elected by the burgesses, and sharing with Cardiff, among its contributory boroughs, the honour of returning a member to Parliament. It has a weekly market for the accommodation of the manufactories in the neighbourhood; and a fair annually on the 30th of April. Scarcely any vestiges of the castle remain.\*

After passing Aberavon the country improves in interest, and the woody ascent on the right, together with the lower grounds, is occasionally enlivened by some neat houses occupied by respectable and opulent families. The principal of these, which presents itself directly in front of the road, is BAGLAN HALL, the seat of Griffith Llewelyn, Esq. It formed at one time the residence of the Rev. William Thomas, the friend of the poet Mason, who used to pass here considerable

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considerable

\* Mr. Harris, in a paper in the *Archæologia*, Vol. II. p. 15, mentions a ridiculous belief of the people of this place, that every Christmas day, and on that day alone, a large salmon presents himself in the river, and allows himself to be caught and handled by any one who chooses; but that it is considered an act of impiety to detain it.

siderable portions of his time. Soon after leaving Baglan, some elegant cottages, placed among the rocks, and commanding delightful prospects of Swansea Bay, apprise us of our approach towards the fairy region of

### BRITON FERRY,

where nature and art seem to act as rivals, but where in truth they are co-operating to spread before the eyes of the observer, scenes of the most bewitching enchantment. Nothing can exceed, on an equal scale, the variety and beauty of the landscape presented by this delightful spot. The ground is broken into knolls of gentle elevation, in some places clothed with rich herbage, in others covered with luxuriant forests of oak, which occasionally spring out of the rocky precipices, that defend them from the sea, and stretch their roots into the water that flows underneath. The mansion house is placed in a very favourable situation for commanding the most pleasing parts of the woodland scenery, in conjunction with the fine water views afforded by the river, especially when the channel is filled by the tide. The pleasure grounds adjacent to it, which were laid out under the direction of the present lady Vernon, are disposed with great taste, and the plantations of ever greens, consisting of myrtles, arbutes, &c. admirably harmonize with the natural productions of the place. The house is a plain neat edifice ; built with a view rather to comfort than to splendour of appearance. It contains a few good pictures, principally portraits. In other respects it offers little worthy of observation.

This property formed anciently a part of the immense possessions of the Mansells of this county. The late Lord Vernon married for his first wife, the last heiress of that name, with whom he received the Briton Ferry estate. This lady dying without issue bequeathed it, after the death of her husband,

band, to the Hon. Villers Mansell, the second son of the late Lord Jersey, who on this account took the family name. Soon after the decease of Lord Vernon, Mr. Villers Mansell died abroad, and the property has in consequence fallen to his elder brother, the present Earl of Jersey.

Briton Ferry church yard is separated from the lawn in front of the house only by a wall, and is a picturesque, and in many respects a very interesting object. It has been celebrated by the poet Mason in some stanzas worthy of the friend and associate of Gray. These are printed by Dr. Malkin in his account of this place, but are too long to be inserted here, and do not admit of curtailment.

This place derives its English name from a ferry which has been established here from time immemorial, communicating with a road along the shore towards Swansea. The Welsh name is Llansawyl.

Resuming the turnpike road, and pursuing our route to the westward, at the distance of a mile we pass EAGLE'S BUSH, the seat of Herbert Evans, Esq. situated on an elevated spot, and commanding delightful views of the surrounding country, and of the Bristol channel. A mile farther brings us to the ancient town of

## NEATH,

now generally admitted to be the Nidum of the Itineraries. This place is pleasantly situated on the eastern side of the river of the same name, from which it is distant about four or five hundred yards, a navigable canal passing through the intervening ground. According to the Parliamentary returns for 1811, it then contained 580 houses, occupied by 588 families, and comprising a population of 2740 souls.

A considerable number of the houses are very respectable erections, inhabited by substantial tradesmen and merchants, or opulent individuals unconnected with business. The principal

principal public building is the town hall, which stands in the middle of the market place, and has a covered market underneath. The church, is a large and handsome structure, divided in the interior into two aisles by a range of pillars which support the arches of the roof, having a chancel at one end, and at the other a substantial square tower surmounted by an embattled parapet.

Neath is a borough town, sharing with Cardiff, &c. the honour of returning a member to Parliament. The corporation comprises a portrieve, twelve aldermen, a recorder, and other subordinate officers. The Quarter Sessions are holden here annually on Tuesday and Wednesday after the translation of Thomas a Becket. The petty sessions for the hundred of Neath are also held here. Besides which it has a court of Common Pleas every month, before the portrieve and the constable of the castle, and a court leet in the month of May and at Michaelmas. The markets are on Wednesday and Saturday, and the fairs annually on Trinity Thursday, July the 31st, and the 12th of September.

There is here no manufactory entitled to notice. Formerly there were some copper works on a large scale at Melin Crythan, a mile to the eastward of the town, furnished with coal from the mines on the Gnoll estate; but these are now discontinued, and the collieries have long lain in a state of inactivity. While the Cardiganshire lead mines were in their most productive state, works were established here by Sir Humphrey Mackworth for smelting the ore, the pigs being afterwards sent to Bristol and other places. The mineral treasures of the adjacent country still create a considerable trade here, which has been greatly facilitated and extended by the construction of a navigable canal from the upper part of the vale to a shipping place at Briton Ferry, and communicating with the iron works near Aberdare. The river is navigable as high as the town quays for ships of two hundred tons burden.

The only vestiges of antiquity which this place has now to

boast

boast are the remains of its castle, comprising part of the walls, and one of the gateways, which has a massive round tower on each side. This structure does not however appear to have been at any time of great extent or strength. Its erection is ascribed to Richard de Granville, to whom, after the conquest, the lordship of Neath was allotted.

The country in the vicinity of Neath may be ranked among the most beautiful and interesting districts of South Wales, and is enlivened by several gentlemen's seats. In the number of these the foremost rank must be assigned to

### GNOLI, CASTLE,

the ancient seat of the Mackworths, and at present the residence of — Grant, Esq. The house rises with baronial pomp and grandeur on the brow of a hill, overlooking the town and adjacent country, and has a very striking appearance from every point whence it is beheld. The grounds have been laid out with a judicious regard to the bold features of the surrounding scenery. They are indebted for most of their ornamental, as well as other improvements, to the judgment and taste of Sir Herbert Mackworth.

On the death of Sir Herbert, the estate fell to his elder son Sir Robert Mackworth, who married Miss Miers, the only daughter of — Miers, Esq. of this place. Sir Robert dying without issue bequeathed the whole of the property to his widow, to the exclusion of his younger brother, the Rev. Digby Mackworth, who inherited the title. Lady Mackworth afterwards married Capel Hanbury Leigh, Esq. of Pontypool, and transferred the estates to that Gentleman, who has since disposed of them, the house and demesne being sold to Mr. Grant, the present possessor.

A little to the eastward of the Gnoll stands CRINGELL, the residence of William Davies, Esq. to whose name the present

writer trusts, may soon be added, “author of a History of the County of Glamorgan.” This work has been long in preparation, and from the known qualifications of the writer cannot fail to prove a valuable addition to our topographical literature.

The vale of Neath has been celebrated by every tourist for its picturesque beauties; nor is there any danger of awakening by description expectations that are likely to be disappointed by the actual view. The high road up the vale lies on the western side of the river, which is crossed at the town of Neath by a handsome stone bridge. At the distance of one mile is the village of CADOXTON, or *Llangattwg*, where there are two gentlemen’s seats, the first on the left belonging to . . . Walker, Esq. the other farther on, on the right, belonging to John Miers, Esq. The church is a large plain structure, with a lofty square tower at the western end. It is chiefly remarkable for containing a monument of the dead of an unusual kind, which is nothing less than the entire history of the family of Williams of Dyffryn in this parish, traced for several generations through all the collateral branches of descent. It is engraved on several sheets of copper, and concludes with Philip Williams, Esq. who died on the 6th of November, 1717.\*

Mr. Llwyd, in his communications to Bishop Gibson for his edition of Camden, mentions an inscribed stone which he observed in this parish at a place called *Panwen Byrddyn*, about five miles from the village. It was known in the neighbourhood by the name of *Maen dau lygad yr ych*. The inscription he read *Marci* (or *Memoriæ*) *Caritini filii Berici* (or *Bericii*). Near this stone were two small entrenchments in a circular form,

\* It is too long for insertion in this place. Mr. Evans, in his tour through South Wales, has given it at length, and it occupies four pages of his work. His transcript has however several inaccuracies in the orthography of the old Welsh names.



form, whence the stone seems to have received its designation.\*

At the little village of *Aberdulais*, a mile beyond Cadoxton, is a remarkably fine water fall : there is another some miles higher up, on the other side of the vale near some iron works, called *Melin Court*. Both these cataracts are on a grand scale, and well worthy the attention of the tourist. *YNIS-Y-GERWN*, on the right, a little beyond *Aberdulais*, is an old seat of John Llewelyn, Esq. of *Penllergaer*, at present tenanted by his agent. Farther on, about eight miles from *Neath*, stands *RHEOLA*, a neat modern mansion belonging to John Edwards, Esq. of *Bloomsbury Square*, London ; and at the distance of about two miles beyond it, occurs the ancient house of *ABERPERGWYM*, the seat of William Williams, Esq. This is the last gentleman's residence in ascending the vale. *Pont-neath-vaughan*, with its romantic scenery, two miles higher up, has already been noticed in the account of *Brecknockshire*, in which county the principal part of it is situated.

Between *Neath* and *Cadoxton* a road branches to the northward, which leads towards *Landeilo-fawr* in *Caermarthenshire*. At some distance on the left, at the foot of a lofty precipitous mountain, stands *DYFFRYN HOUSE*, the family seat of the Williamses, whose pedigree we have noticed in the account of *Cadoxton church*. The family having become extinct in the male line, the property has fallen to two female descendants who are, or were very lately, in their minority. The house has been for some time occupied by a tenant.

About four miles from *Neath*, a road on the right conducts to the old mansion of *KILYBEBILL*, the seat of John Herbert Lloyd, Esq. It was for a long period the property of a branch of the Herbert family, the last of whom, an heiress, conveyed it by marriage to *Jenkin Turberville*, Esq. of *Ewenny*, who made it his principal residence. At her death *Mrs. Turberville* bequeathed the estate by will to the present worthy owner.

\* Gough's *Camden*, Vol. III. p. 152.

owner. The house, which had fallen considerably into decay, has undergone a thorough repair, and now forms a very comfortable habitation. The name, which is also that of the Parish, means literally "the retreat of the tents." On the mountain to the eastward of the house, are several ancient remains, usually denominated druidical, but they are on a small scale.

About two miles beyond the turning to Kilybebill house, the road crosses the river Tawe over a bridge of one arch, called *Pont ar Dawe*, built by the architect of Pont y prydd. The abutments are solid; the chord is eighty feet, and the arch is lofty and singularly beautiful, more pleasing to the eye, perhaps, than even Pont y prydd itself.

On the right of the road, one mile from the bridge, stood the ancient mansion of GELLIGRON. The last of the resident owners, whose name was Thomas, left two daughters, joint heiresses; one of whom married .... Matthews, Esq. of *Nydfurwch* in the parish of Llangyfelach, the other married Griffith Price, Esq. of Penllergaer, in the same parish, and conveyed to him this part of the property. Mr. Price dying without issue left the Gelligron estate during her life to his second wife, since married to Colonel Wall of Tewkesbury park, Gloucestershire, with reversion to the Popkins of Goetrehen. Mrs. Wall is the present proprietor, but the reversion has been purchased by the author's brother, Mr. Owen Rees of Paternoster Row, London. The house, after the marriage of the heiress, lay for several years unoccupied, till it was rented by the author's father, the late Rev. Josiah Rees, who about fifteen years ago pulled down the old mansion, which had become ruinous, and built in its stead the present cottage.

One side of the deep valley in which Gelligron is situated is formed by Gellionnen mountain, on which Mr. Llwyd saw the monumental stone described by him in his additions to Camden. It was originally about five feet high, two feet wide, and three or four inches thick. The upper part was rounded like a wheel, and ornamented with fretwork. Below was a  
rude

rade sculpture of a man's head, and lower down a square piece of curious fretwork, about eighteen inches diameter. Beneath appeared two small feet of the rudest sculpture, in size greatly disproportioned to the face.\* It stood originally in a small heap of stones on the common, whence it was removed with the view of being converted into a gate pillar, of the kind used by the farmers in this part of the country. In the attempt to adapt it to this purpose the rounded head broke off, which rendered it too short: in this state it was seen by Mr. Llwyd. It was afterwards carried to a Dissenting meeting house just by, where it was long used as a horse-block. In the year 1800, when the meeting house was rebuilt, it was placed in an upright position on the outer face of the eastern pine end, where it now remains. These particulars are given in order to rectify a mistake of Mr. Salisbury Brereton, who, in his tour through South Wales,† states that this monument had been removed, and identifies it with the stone that stands between Kenfig and Margam, which has been mentioned above.

On another mountain, a little to the northward, is a circle of about twenty yards in diameter, formed of rude flat stones of various sizes, placed upright in the ground, and having a *Cist-faen* of about five feet in length, in the centre. This ancient monument is called *Carn-llechert*, and gives name to the mountain on which it stands. Mr. Llwyd saw it in his journey through this country, and described it in his additions to Camden.‡ Indeed, as it lay close by the old road over these hills, which he must have pursued, it could scarcely have escaped his notice. But there is another monument of the same class, of more curious construction, on a mountain about two miles to the eastward, called *Mynydd y Gwryd*, which Mr. Llwyd did not see, and was only accidentally discovered by the present writer. It consists of three concentric circles of flat stones, placed like those at  
Carn

\* Gough's Camden, Vol. III. p. 132. † Archæology, Vol. III. p. 215.

‡ Gough's Camden, ubi supra, p. 132.

Carn-llechart, and of about the same size. The diameter of the largest circle is about twenty yards. The inner circles are separated from this and each other by a space of about five feet. In the centre is a *Cist-faen*, vulgarly called the altar, which is quite perfect. Several of the upright stones have been removed, and the areas between the circles have been nearly filled up by large pebbles collected from the adjacent common.

In *Cwm Clydach*, a valley on the western side of Gellionnen mountain, is the old family residence of CAETHYLYD, which pertained to a branch of the Awbreys of Abercynrig and Palleg in Brecknockshire, descended from Sir Reginald Awbrey, who came into Wales with Bernard Newmarch. In process of time the family names were changed, according to Welsh custom, from Morgan Awbrey to Jenkin Morgan, David Jenkin, &c. till the surname finally fixed in Morgan. The last of this name was Anne Morgan, who inherited the estate, and conveyed it by marriage to Arthur Davies, Esq. of Llandovery, in Caermarthenshire. On his death it fell to his second son the late Rhys Davies, Esq. of Swansea, who bequeathed it to his daughter, since married to — Perrot, Esq. Colonel of one of the Oxfordshire regiments of militia, who is the present possessor. Since the marriage of Anne Morgan, the house has been tenanted by a farmer.

Returning from this excursion, the first object that claims our notice, after resuming our route to the westward, is

### NEATH ABBEY,

situated in the low grounds bordering on the river, at the distance of a mile from the town of Neath. A very considerable portion of this once splendid edifice is yet standing, as may be seen by the annexed view; but the dusky tinge which has been communicated to the ruins, by the smoke of the neighbouring copper works, has greatly injured its picturesque beauty.

ty. The walls of the Priory house are nearly entire, but the abbey church exhibits at present little more than a heap of ruins. The great western window fell down within these few years, and a large part of the side walls have since shared its fate. The church appears to have been paved with glazed earthen tiles, very richly ornamented fragments of which are occasionally discovered. There is still standing, in a tolerable state of preservation, a long room with a double vaulted ceiling, supported by diagonal arches which rise from the side walls, and from a row of round columns extending along the middle of the apartment through its whole length: the construction of this building is singular and curious. Various uses have been assigned to it, but there can be little doubt of its having been the chapter house of the abbey. No adequate idea can be formed from the present remains of the original extent and magnificence of this edifice. Foundations of buildings are to be traced in the adjacent grounds for a considerable distance, and some of the houses still standing in the village above, were evidently at one time connected with the main building. Only a few years ago several arches, forming probably the grand entrance into the abbey court, were standing here, and stretched across the present turnpike road.

The founder of this abbey was Richard de Grenville, Granvil, or Grainville, for the name is variously written. He was the younger brother of Robert Fitzhamon, whom he assisted in the conquest of Glamorgan, and received as his share of the booty the lordship of Neath. It appears from a copy of Caradoc's chronicle inserted in the *Myfyrian Archæology*,\* that about the year 1111, he returned to this country after having visited the Holy Sepulchre, and brought with him from Judea, an eminent architect of the name of Lalys, already mentioned above, whom he employed to build this house. He afterwards endowed it with a large portion of his estates in the neighbourhood,

\* *Brut y Tywysogion*, Vol. II, p. 541.

neighbourhood, restoring the remainder to the native proprietors.

From the original charter it appears that Richard Grainville and Constance his wife, for the safety of the souls of Robert Earl of Gloucester, Mawd his wife, and William his son, gave their chapel in the castle of Neath, and its endowments, together with a large tract of territory, to the abbot and convent of Savigny near Lyons in France, under a stipulation that they should establish here a monastery of Grey friars. Notwithstanding, however, this grant, it does not appear that this house was ever under the jurisdiction of any foreign establishment. The monks, at what period is uncertain, changed their order and became Cistercians, or White friars. The original endowments of this abbey must have been very considerable; and these were afterwards increased by valuable additions made by various individuals. Roger Earl of Warwick, in the reign of King Stephen, gave to it some lands and fisheries in Gower, within which territory it is situated; besides which it held the manor of Exford in Somersetshire.

At the Dissolution the establishment comprised eight monks, and its revenues were valued, according to Dugdale, at 132*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* or according to Speed 150*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* They were granted 33 Henry the eighth to Sir Richard Williams, alias Cromwell, in exchange.\* The estates now pertain to Lord Dinevor.

The first abbot of this house is stated by the *Annales de Margan* to have been Richard, who died in 1145. The last, according to Browne Willis was John Lleison. In the *Annales de Margan* it is related that Morgan ab Owen burnt the monastery of Neath, destroying four hundred sheep, killing four of the servants, and one of the monks, and severely wounding another. It has already been mentioned that Edward the second and the younger D'Espenser took refuge in this abbey after their flight from Bristol.

Near the abbey, on the other side of the turnpike road, is the

\* Tanner's *Notitia*, p. 714.

the neat mansion of COURT HERBERT, the residence of Edward Hawkins, Esq. In the field before the house, and near the road side, is the effigy of an abbot, lying on the ground. The figure is well executed, and holds in its hands the model of a church. It was probably designed to commemorate some benefactor to the abbey.

Besides the copper works, which have already been incidentally mentioned, there is in the Abbey village a large iron foundry, belonging to Messrs. Fox, and Co. Mr. Price, a partner in these works, who resides on the spot, has lately taken some laudable measures to preserve the abbey walls from wanton dilapidation, and to improve the grounds adjacent to them by plantations, and other ornamental works.

Beyond Neath abbey, at some distance on the right, in an elevated and commanding situation stands DRUMMEU HOUSE, the residence of — Hawkins, Esq. The views from this spot are very extensive and delightful, comprehending a great part of the two vallies of Neath and Tawe, with the Bristol channel, backed by the hills of Somerset and Devon in front. Farther on, on the brow of the same hill, stands GLANBRAN, the seat of — Jones, Esq.

On *Drummeu Mountain*, which rises behind these mansions, are some Druidical monuments, consisting of the remains of a *Cist faen*, about five feet in length and four in width, and a large stone fixed upright in the ground. This being placed on the highest ridge of the hill forms a conspicuous object from many parts of the surrounding country.

Four miles from Neath, on the right of the turnpike road, stands GWERNLLWYNWHITH, the seat of Henry Smith, Esq. of Draper's Hall London. The late Charles Smith, Esq. of this place, who died since this work was commenced, was the proprietor of very extensive collieries in this neighbourhood, most of which are now held by his brother, in trust for the children.

A short distance above Gwernllwynwhith BIRCHGROVE, the family

family seat of ---- Morgan, Esq. occupies a very pleasant situation.

Five miles from Neath the river Tawe is crossed by an elegant stone bridge of one arch, ninety feet in the chord, with two cylindrical holes in the abutments. This is the work of the architect of Pont y prydd, and is in his best style. It is called from a handsome tree of that kind growing at one end of it, *Wych-tree Bridge*.

Immediately in front of the road at this place, at the distance of about a mile and a half, stands CLASMONT, the seat of Sir John Morris, Bart. The situation is elevated, and commands a fine view to the eastward, while the house itself, with the ornamental grounds in front, forms a striking object in the landscape.

At Wych-tree bridge, the road to Swansea turns abruptly to the left in the direction of the river, and leads through MORRISTON. This is a large straggling village, built for the accommodation of the persons employed in the numerous collieries, copperworks, &c. in the neighbourhood. The houses for the poorer class of the population are of a very excellent and commodious construction, and are ranged in straight lines, with a view to regularity of plan in the streets in case their number should in time be sufficiently increased to form a town. There are here several very respectable edifices, occupied by agents belonging to the works, and others. An elegant chapel of ease was erected here about twenty years ago. This place derives its name from Sir John Morris, who held most of the collieries which supply the numerous copper works that have been established here with fuel.

Two miles beyond Morriston, we enter the town of

## SWANSEA,

which, from its population and commercial importance, is entitled



titled to be ranked as the metropolis of the county, if not of the principality of Wales.

The Welsh name of this place is ABERTAWE, derived from its situation on a point of land near the junction of the Tawe river with the sea. The etymology of its English appellation is not so easily ascertained. There seems no sufficient reason to suppose it derived from the bay being at any time distinguished for the number of its swans: the more probable conjecture, therefore, is, that it was originally written *Swinsea*, or *Sweinsey*, as intimated by Camden, from the porpoises which abound in the Bristol channel.

The situation of the town is in many respects very eligible, lying on the western side of the river Tawe, which is here navigable for ships of large burden, and having extensive quays with every necessary accommodation for shipping and unloading the cargoes. It extends in length about a mile and a half, or two miles, if we include the suburb of Greenhill; the greatest width does not exceed half a mile. The streets are numerous, and contain a large proportion of well built houses, occupied by opulent individuals, among whom are many professional men of eminence, merchants, and substantial tradesmen. In the returns of 1801, the number of houses is stated at 1339, and the population at 6831 individuals. In 1811, the entire number of houses occupied and unoccupied was 1695, and the population amounted to 8196, including 3704 males, and 4492 females. The population in the summer season, from the great influx of strangers, who resort here for the purpose of sea bathing, must, however, be much more considerable. This circumstance has led to the erection of a great number of lodging houses, which are in general very handsome, and many of them adapted for the reception of families of the first distinction. The principal of these are at *Mount Pleasant*, a beautiful situation gently elevated above the town, on the western side, commanding a charming prospect of the bay; and on the burrows, a level spot by the sea side: the houses

here, on account of their being near the water, are more convenient for bathers.

The Town Hall is a spacious and handsome modern edifice, built on a part of the castle inclosure in the middle of the town.

A few years ago a very commodious Theatre was erected in one of the principal streets, which, during the bathing season, is well attended. It was built by Tontine shares of ten pounds each, the survivor of the holders to become the sole proprietor.

Some public rooms have lately been erected on the burrows, from funds raised by a similar scheme, the corporation having granted a lease of the ground for a term of ninety nine years. It must be remarked that these rooms do more credit to the public spirit of the place, than to the taste of the architect, or of the persons who were employed to design or choose the plan on which they have been constructed. They form, in truth, as inelegant and mishapen a pile of buildings as can well be imagined.

The principal manufactories at Swansea are the potteries, of which there are at present two establishments on a large scale. The ware, which comprises almost every article in this department produced by the Staffordshire works, is of prime quality, and large quantities are annually shipped for the English markets. A soap manufactory has also been established within these few years by the river side, a short distance above the town, which bids fair to reward the enterprise of the proprietors.

The commerce of Swansea is very considerable. The numerous population of the town itself, with the important addition of the persons employed in the collieries, iron and copper works, and other manufacturing establishments in the neighbourhood, cause a large demand for manufactured shop goods, and articles of consumption, which are imported from Bristol and other English towns; while the mineral treasures

supplied by the hills in the interior, create an export trade of great extent. The chief article of produce furnished for exportation is coal, particularly of the kinds called stone coal and culm, brought down by the canal, which conveys them to shipping quays by the river side. Some idea may be formed of the shipping trade of Swansea, and of its rapid increase of late years, by the following comparative statement, taken from the Customhouse Books. The number of vessels entered out in

1768	was	694	Tonnage	30,631
1790	—	1697	—	74,926
1800	—	2590	—	154,264
1810	—	2717	—	171,672

The corporation have been laudably exerting themselves for many years in improving the harbour, and they must in justice be exonerated from all blame if it have not yet been rendered as commodious as was originally proposed. In the year 1791 they obtained an act of Parliament, to enable them to raise the necessary funds; and since this period, prodigious sums have been expended in clearing and deepening the bed of the river, and removing some obstacles at its entrance from the sea. Two large and handsome piers have also been run out, one from the eastern, the other from the western side, to confine the channel, and afford shelter for large ships which might be loaded here without proceeding to the town quays. It must, however, strike the most cursory observer, conversant in such matters, that both these piers have been laid down without due attention to the direction of the currents in the bay. The consequence is now seriously felt by the ships, from the heavy swell in the outer harbour when the sea is at all agitated, which renders the moorings against the walls exceedingly unsafe. A remedy is now (1814) attempting for

this evil by a short cross pier, which is forming within the harbour.

The mail coach from London to Milford passes through this place every morning about six o'clock, and from Milford to London every evening about six. Two other coaches run from hence to Bristol and Gloucester on alternate days. The Mackworth Arms Inn is one of the best in the principality.

Swansea is a corporate town, and shares the privileges of Cardiff, as a contributory borough, in the return of the member for that place. The corporation consists of a Portrieve, twelve Aldermen, two Common Attornies, or Chamberlains, Town Clerk, and two Serjeants at Mace. By its charter it is empowered to hold two markets in every week; it has, however, in fact, only one, which is held on Saturday, and is one of the best attended of any in the principality. Some handsome shambles have been built within the castle precincts, but they are little used. The old market house, which is a mere roof supported by pillars, is in the middle of the town; it is covered with the lead stripped off one of the chapels at St. David's. The fairs are held on the second Saturday in May, the second of July, the fifteenth of August, and the eighth of October.

The Michaelmas quarter Sessions for the county are held here, as are also the courts leet and courts baron of the Duke of Beaufort for the lordship of Gower.

There is at Swansea a Free School endowed in 1684 by Dr. Hugh Gore, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore. The corporation have added 20*l.* a year to the endowment, which makes the income altogether about 60*l.* per annum. The mastership is in the presentation of Lord Jersey, as the holder of the Briton Ferry estate. Swansea has rivalled the zeal of the rest of the kingdom in providing for the education of the poor, by the establishment of Lancasterian and other schools, which cannot fail to be eminently beneficial in their effects on the morals of the rising generation among the lower orders.

The whole of the town of Swansea is comprised in one parish. The Church, which is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is a handsome modern edifice, containing a middle aisle, and two side aisles separated from it by two rows of pillars, with a large square tower at one end. The entire length of the building is seventy-two feet, and the width fifty-four feet. The old church fell down in the year 1739; some fragments of the walls still remain.

In the church are some old monuments which were contained in the former edifice. One, of the altar kind, richly decorated, but now much mutilated and defaced, commemorates Sir Matthew Cradock and his lady, whose effigies are recumbent upon it. As far as the inscription is legible, it may be read as follows:—Here lieth Sir Mathie Cradock knight, some time deputie unto the Right Honourable Charles Grie of Worcester . . . in the countie of Glamorgan . . . Mor . . . chancellor of the same, Steward of Gower, and Kilvey, and my Ladie Katerine his wife.” In the chancel is a curious brass tablet to the memory of Sir Hugh Johns, with the figures of himself, his wife, five sons and four daughters engraved upon it.

The inscription is as follows:—“ Pray for the sowle of Sir Hugh Johnys, knight, and Dame Mawde his wife, whych Sir Hugh was made knight at the holy sepulchre of our lord Jhu Crist in the city of Jerusalem the xiiii day of August the yere of oure lord Gode MCCCCXLI and the said Sir Hugh had contynuyd in the waris ther’ long tyme byfore the space of fyve yers that is to say ageynst the Turkis and Sarsyns in the plies of Troy Grece and Turkie, under John yt time emproure of Constantyneople, and after that was knight Marshall of Ffraunce under John Duke of Som’set by the space of Ffyve yere, and in likewyse aftyr that was knight Marshall of England under the good John Duke of Norfolke, which John made unto hym the mano’ of Landymo’, to hym and to his heyr’ for ev’more upon whose soules Jhu have Mercy.”

Near the upper extremity of the town is another small

church dedicated to St. John, having formerly been a chapel belonging to the knights of Jerusalem. The parish to which it now pertains lies without the town boundaries.

There are here several other places of worship, belonging to various denominations of Dissenters from the established church. The Presbyterian meeting house is one of the oldest in South Wales.

Henry Gower, bishop of the see, founded a hospital here in 1332, which he dedicated to St. David. It was valued at the Dissolution, at 20*l.* per annum.\*

The CASTLE, were it not so buried by the houses which are built up against it on every side, would still present a bold and picturesque appearance. It is situated on an elevated spot in the middle of the town. The principal portion that remains entire is a lofty circular tower, from the summit of which a fine view is commanded of the circumjacent country and of the bay.

On the eastern side of the tower a large part of the original building is standing, which is surmounted by an elegant parapet, with arched openings. This is in the style of the parapets at the Bishop's Palace at St. David's, and Lamphey Court in Pembrokeshire, built by Bishop Gower, and may safely be ascribed to that prelate, who at one time held this castle.† The apartments which are yet habitable are converted into a poor house, and a gaol, principally used for the confinement of debtors.

According to Caradoc of Llancarvan,‡ this castle was built in the year 1099 by Henry Beaumont, Earl of Warwick, who, acting upon the system of the other Norman freebooters of the age, made war upon the sons of Caradoc ab Jestyn, who then

\* Tanner's Notitia, p. 714.

† "Henricus Gower, Episcopus Menevensis, ædificavit castellum in Swanseye in solo patrimonii sui." Leland's Collect. Vol. I. p. 323.

‡ Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 533.

then held the district of Gower. in order to enrich himself by the spoils he might be able to wrest from the n. In order to secure his plunder he erected fortresses at Swansea, Loughor, Llanrhydian, and Penrice. Swansea Castle must, however, have been much enlarged and strengthened at subsequent periods.

After the subjugation of Gower Henry Beaumont brought over a colony of English settlers from Somersetshire, to whom he gave a large proportion of the lands. Their descendants yet remain here separated by their language and manners from the native population, with whom, like the Flemings in Pembrokeshire, they scarcely ever intermarry. Swansea Castle belongs at present to the Duke of Beaufort, who holds the lordship of Gower.

The ancient mansion of the lords of Gower stood near the castle in a large quadrangular court, and was entered from the street by a grand archway, over which were the arms of the Herberts, carved in stone. This was taken down several years ago, but since the present writer has known Swansea, and a street has been opened through the court and part of the buildings, which now forms the communication between Castle Bailey Street and Goat Street.

The appearance of Swansea, both from the bay and from the high grounds in the neighbourhood, is striking and picturesque, and the general aspect of the interior is much superior to that of most Welsh towns. The situation is healthy, and the beach remarkably commodious for bathing. For the accommodation of invalids, warm and cold salt water baths have been made on the burrows, and also near the pottery by the river side.

The vicinity affords a great number of agreeable walks and rides, while the bay, which may be regarded as one of the finest in Europe, furnishes the means of abundant gratification to those who prefer aquatic excursions. It is to be regretted, however, that the corporation, for some unaccountable reason, have deprived the inhabitants and visitors of one of the plea-

santest promenades belonging to the place, by inclosing the burrows with a lofty wall. In the midst of the improvements which they have of late been prosecuting with so much spirit, this ill-judged measure has, we confess, greatly surprised us.

A respectable weekly newspaper has for several years been published here under the direction of Mr. Jenkins. Swansea has also to boast of a public library, which promises in time to become a great acquisition to the place.

This town, or its vicinity, is now considered by Welsh antiquaries as the birth place of the poet Gower. Leland mentions as a report, that he was a native of Yorkshire, and a member of the ancient family of the Gowers of Stitenham in that county. But in the first edition of his "Confessio Amantis," printed by Caxton, he is expressly stated to have been a native of Wales. He was in all probability of the family of Gruffydd Gwyr, or Gruffydd of Gower, a chieftain of great note in this district towards the close of the twelfth century, and the founder of several respectable houses. John Gower was the contemporary, and in the earlier part of his life the friend, of Chaucer, but their friendship was interrupted by their interfering political partialities; Chaucer attaching himself to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and Gower to Thomas of Woodstock, both uncles of Richard the second. Gower appears to have been designed for the profession of the law, having studied for some time as a member of the Society of the Middle Temple. There is, however, no evidence of his having practised at the bar. He is known principally in English literary history as a poet, and shares with Chaucer the honour of first attempting the improvement of English verse. The work on which his reputation in this respect is grounded is the "Confessio Amantis," finished about the year 1393. It was first printed by Caxton in 1493 in a small folio volume.\* It was reprinted by Berthelette

\* This edition is very scarce, and in the "Bibliomania" of the present day, is estimated to be worth from three to four hundred pounds!



lette in 1532; subsequent editions appeared in 1544, and 1554, and in Chalmers's British Poets in 1810. His other larger works are "Speculum Meditantis," written in French verse, in commendation of the chastity of the marriage bed; and "Vox Clamantis," a kind of Chronicle of the rebellion raised against Richard II. There is a manuscript collection of small poems by our author in the library of Trinity College Cambridge, and another, deemed of superior merit, in the library of the Marquis of Stafford. Gower lived in affluent circumstances, and contributed very largely to the rebuilding of the church of St. Mary Overry, Southwark. He died at an advanced age in 1402, and was buried in this church, where his monument still remains.

In Swansea was also born in October 1673, the celebrated Richard Nash. His father was a partner in a glass manufactory, and his mother a niece of Colonel Poyer, who defended Pembroke Castle against Cromwell, and was afterwards shot for deserting the Parliament. Young Nash received the elementary part of his education at the Caermarthen School, then under the direction of Mr. Maddocks, whence he removed to Jesus College Oxford, with the view of studying the law. His stay at College was, however, but short, being obliged to quit it on account of some irregularities of conduct. He next purchased a commission in the army, but soon growing weary of a military life, sold out and entered himself a student in the temple. His gaiety and easy manners soon gained him many acquaintances in fashionable life, and proved the means of his introduction to Bath, where he afterwards ruled with so much applause as the *arbiter elegantiarum*. At this time Captain Webster acted as master of the ceremonies, but that gentleman dying in 1710, Mr. Nash, who had before assisted him, succeeded by universal consent to the situation. On his first arrival there, Bath was comparatively a place of little consequence, possessing few attractions or accommodations for fashionable visitors; but through Mr. Nash's exertions, particularly

cularly after the building of the pump room, it began to rise rapidly in public estimation, and gradually received the improvements which rendered it, even before Mr. Nash's death, one of the handsomest and most agreeable towns in the kingdom. Mr. Nash's symbol of distinction was a white hat. He died on the 3rd of February 1761, in the eighty-seventh year of his age, and was buried in the abbey church with distinguished honours.

The promontory of Gower lying to the westward of Swansea, contains a great number of gentlemen's residences, and the remains of some edifices of ancient date. In the immediate neighbourhood of Swansea may be enumerated **HEATHFIELD LODGE**, the seat of the late Sir Gabriel Powell. **ST. HELEN'S**, the seat of John Jones, Esq. **MARINO**, the property of Edward King, Esq. **SKETTY LODGE**, the occasional residence of R. M. Philipps, Esq. **WOODLANDS**, the seat of General Ward, and **NORTON LODGE**, the residence of . . . . Hemming, Esq. All these houses are pleasantly situated in Swansea Bay, and command very delightful views.

About five miles from Swansea stands **OYSTERMOUTH CASTLE**, a bold and majestic ruin, occupying a gentle eminence in an angle of the Bay. The grand gateway is still nearly perfect, and other parts of the building are in good preservation. The first erection of this edifice is ascribed to Henry Beaumont: it is now the property of the Duke of Beaufort. The village of Oystermouth is pleasantly situated on the sea shore within the Mumble point, a bold rocky projection which runs some distance into the sea. An excellent light house has been built at the extremity, which has been essentially serviceable to the navigation of the Bristol channel. The shore is here formed of lime stone rock of great elevation; and so continues to the westward, with occasional openings or bays which present some very grand and beautiful scenery.

At a short distance from Oystermouth are some remains of

PENNARTH

PENNARTH CASTLE, supposed to have been another of the Earl of Warwick's fortresses, though it appears to have had an earlier origin.

Beyond occur the ruins of PENRICE CASTLE, near which is the more modern villa that bears the name, and formed the seat of the late R. M. Talbot, Esq. Penrice Castle is enumerated among the fortresses raised by the Earl of Warwick. The name, which means Rhys's head, was given to it in consequence of Rhys, the son of Caradoc ab Jestyn, having been slain near the spot in defending the territories of his family against the unjust usurpation of the Norman freebooter. The present mansion was built by Anthony Keck, and is a commodious and elegant residence. It contains several fine pictures, and other works of art. The grounds are laid out with great taste, and ornamented with some artificial pieces of water. This property came to the Mansels of Margam by the marriage of Sir Hugh Mansel with Isabel the sister and heiress of Sir John Penrice.

On *Cefn Bryn*, a mountain which rises a little to the northward of Penrice, is an immense Cromlech, called *Arthur's Stone*, noticed by Llwyd in his communications to Gibson's Camden. The supporting stones are six in number and about four feet high. The covering stone does not equal in length those near Dyffryn, already described, but is much thicker. It is of the Millstone kind, and prodigiously heavy. Large portions have at different times been broken off, but the remaining piece is supposed to weigh about twenty tons.

STOUTHALL, at the foot of this mountain, is the elegant seat of John Lucas, Esq. who has displayed great taste in the disposition of the pleasure grounds and gardens. In the latter he has excavated a cave of prodigious depth, calculated to be sufficiently capacious to contain two thousand men. Several antiquities, supposed to be of Roman origin, have been occasionally discovered in this neighbourhood.

The remains of OXWICH CASTLE stand on the shore of Oxwich

wich Bay, a little below Penrice. This was originally a castellated mansion, said to have been built by Sir Rice Mansel towards the middle of the sixteenth century. The habitable part is now converted into a farm house.

The promontory of Gower is terminated by *Wormshead*, a rocky point so called from its imagined resemblance to a worm crawling with its head erect. From the noises produced by the waves in the caverns at this place, it has been thought to be the spot intended by Giraldus when he attributes these phenomena to Barry.

A little to the northward of Wormshead, at LLANGENNYDD, was once a priory founded by Roger Earl of Warwick in the reign of King Stephen, and annexed to the abbey of St. Taurinus at Evreux in Normandy. It was seized as an alien priory, and granted by Henry the sixth in 1441 to All Souls College, Oxford, which still retains the patronage of the living.

On Llanmadoc hill, above Llangennydd, are some remains of a small Roman encampment, which probably formed a post of observation connected with the station of Leucarum.

Proceeding along the northern side of Gower we pass on the right GELLYHIR, a seat of the late Sir Gabriel Powell, and a few miles farther reach the town of

## LOUGHOR,

in Welsh *Câs-Llwchwr*, pleasantly situated on the eastern bank of the river from which it derives its name. This place is at present of small extent, but holds the rank and privileges of a borough, having a voice in the return of the member for Cardiff. The corporation consists of a Portrieve, twelve Aldermen, an *ale-taster*, and two Serjeants at Mace. There was formerly here a square castle of which the shell remains, occupying an artificial mount near the river, and fortified by a double

double trench. The erection of it is ascribed to Henry Beaumont, Earl of Warwick. Loughor has been commonly regarded as the Leucarum of the Itineraries. Roman coins have occasionally been discovered here: and there are still the vestiges of two small Roman encampments a little to the eastward of the town. There is a road this way from Swansea to Caermarthen by Llanely and Kidwelly. The river is fordable at low water: at other times it is crossed by a ferry boat maintained at the expense of the lord of the manor.

The present high road to Milford proceeds from Swansea in a north-westerly direction. At the distance of five miles, on the right, stands PENLLERGAER, the seat of John Llewelyn, Esq. It was formerly the property of Gryffith Price, Esq. barrister at law, and for many years king's attorney on the Oxford circuit. At his death Mr. Price bequeathed it to the present possessor. From the name of the place, and some other circumstances, it has been intimated above\* that the Roman station of Leucarum is probably to be sought here.

A little to the northward of Penllergaer lies BRYNWHILACH, the property of — Reynolds, Esq. the author of several popular dramatic pieces. At the distance of about six miles from Swansea occurs PENDERI, the seat of the late Thomas Morgan, Esq.

This is the last object of attention on this side of the county, which, three miles farther on, is terminated by the river Loughor, here crossed by a stone bridge, called *Pont-ar-Ddulais*.

\* Page 555.

END OF GLAMORGANSHIRE.

PEMBROKESHIRE.

## PEMBROKESHIRE.

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IN the ancient division of Wales, the territory now included within the boundary of Pembrokeshire, constituted a part of the province of Dyfed or Dimetia, which, according to Camden,\* comprised also the counties of Caermarthen and Cardigan, to which Mr. Theophilus Jones† adds the county of Brecknock. In process of time, however, the limits of Dyfed, which do not appear to have been ever very precisely defined, were gradually reduced in their extent, until the district so denominated became nearly identical with the present county of Pembroke, which by Welsh writers is frequently called by this name. The etymology of Demetæ is referred by Camden to *Deheu Meath, the plain to the south*; but Mr. Llwyd justly objects to this derivation, that there is no such word as *Meath* in the Welsh language for a champaign country, and intimates with great probability, that the Romans made the name Dimetæ out of Dyfed. The British name Dyfed may be considered as an abbreviation of *Deheufod* or *Deâufod*, “the southern country,” or “the country on the right,” answering to *Deheubarth*, the common designation of South Wales.‡

The real etymology of the name of the county has not yet been satisfactorily determined. It may serve to throw some light on this subject to bear in mind, that Pembroke was originally the designation of a district of the county, nearly corresponding

\* Gough's Camden, Vol. III. p. 135.

† Jones's Brecknock, Vol. I. p. 4.

‡ Ibidem.

responding with the present hundred of Castle Martin, comprising the promontory lying between Milford Haven on the north, and the Bristol channel on the south.\*

The name was afterwards transferred to the town and fortress built here by Anulph de Montgomery, in the reign of Henry I. and thence given to the county itself.

Giraldus derives the name from the situation of the town, "on a rocky eminence extending with two branches of Milford Haven;" Pembroch, as he writes the word, signifying, according to him, *caput maritum*, or the head of the æstuary. But this etymology can be admitted only in reference to the town and castle, and is wholly inapplicable to the province to which the appellation was first given. The same objection lies against the conjecture of Mr. Lewis of Manarawan, which Mr. Fenton seems disposed to admit, namely, "that the real name in Welsh was Pembroch, that is, the head of the foam, the tide of the æstuary at this place, from being ingulphed and straitened, bringing along with it a collection of white froth or foam on its surface."† Mr. George Owen, whose etymology Mr. Fenton is controverting, derives the name from the fertility of the soil, Pembro, or Penfro, as it is called in Welsh, from the two British words *Pen* and *bro*, being interpreted to signify the chief vale.‡ This is ingenious but not satisfactory. The British term *Bro*, besides designating a vale, is commonly used for a region or district; and *Pen*, which literally means a head, and is frequently used for the end or extremity of any thing, being prefixed, the compound word may be translated head-land, or promontory, which is correctly descriptive of the

\* "The province of Pembroch, adjoins the southern part of the territory of Ros, and is separated from it by an arm of the sea." Giraldus (Hoare's translation) Vol. I. p. 199.

† Fenton's *Pembroke*, p. 361 note.

‡ Account of Pembrokeshire, printed in the *Cambrian Register*, Vol. II. p. 62.

the territory to which the name was originally appropriated.\*

Nothing is known of the history of this district antecedently to the subjugation of South Wales by the Romans; nor are there extant any memorials of the occupation of the county by that people, besides the works they have left behind them to commemorate their presence. It has already been mentioned above that the great Via Julia, after uniting its two main branches at Caermarthen, or Maridunum, took the direction of this county.† The first station to be sought for beyond Caermarthen, according to the Itineraries, is *Ad Vigesium*, the site of which had baffled the researches of antiquaries, until Mr. Fenton had the "good fortune," in the year 1805, satisfactorily to ascertain it from personal examination.

The camp lies within the county of Pembroke, at the distance of about a mile to the north-east of the church of Ambleston, almost in a direct line between Caermarthen and St. David's, and about twenty miles from the former of those places. "This station by its shape, the square agger with rounded angles, notwithstanding the tillage of ages it has undergone, faint yet distinct, the appearance of Roman brick and cement on its surface, though in pasture, and the course of the road that runs through it, corresponding with other portions of the Via Julia we had traced, was acknowledged by my judicious fellow traveller Sir Richard Hoare, who had, from every concurrent circumstance, no doubt but that this was the place referred to in the Itinerary of the Monk of Cirencester. It is almost a perfect square, its sides measuring about two hundred and sixty feet each. It lies east-south-east by west-north-west. A carpenter living near, who said he had seen a stucco floor opened there, brought a pickaxe, and in a few minutes dug up several fragments of bricks, said he remembered to have seen some round,

\* See Ower's Dictionary under Bro and Penvro, the latter of which he renders Head-land region.

† See p. 193.



round, and others evidently constructed for conveying water. He mentioned, likewise, his having seen a large flag, that had been found near, with some inscription on it, perhaps a millitary. The present mountain road, which, for some miles, by the bearings, seems to have taken the same course as that used by the Romans, passes through the middle of the station; and a little farther on in its progress has entailed a name on a farm it intersects, called to this day Streetland. The popular name of the spot the station occupies is *Castle Flemish*, given it probably for the same reason as may be assigned for miscalling the other more northerly converging, Roman-road, the *Via Flandrica*, or *Flemish-way*, from that people, who were first planted in this county to gall and annoy the Welsh.\*

A little to the westward of this station, near the village of Ford, are the remains of a small camp, the form of which indicates it to have been of Roman construction. It was probably a *Campus Æstivus* † In the same neighbourhood were discovered, in the year 1806, some remains of a Roman bath, once attached, no doubt, to the villa of some Roman officer stationed in this district. "A labourer employed in casting an old hedge, found a great number of bricks, proved afterwards, from their peculiar form and ornament, to be Roman, and stones, which, on examination, seemed to have been in contact with fire. This induced him to dig deeper, when he came to a pit of an oblong square, lined on each side with stone and mortar, about eight feet long, and near six feet high: from each of the side walls there were two flues springing up to the surface of the ground, elevated to about forty-five degrees. The mouths of the flues were one foot four inches wide, and three feet from the bottom of the pit, but four inches wider at the surface of the ground, and worked round with fluted Roman brick of about one inch and one eighth of an inch thick. There was a

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\* Fenton's Pembrokeshire, p. 333.

† This camp was first discovered by Mr. John Fenton, the son of the historian of Pembrokeshire.

great quantity of ashes turned up, appearing to be of culm and wood.”\*

From Castle Flemish, which may now be pronounced the *Ad Vigesium* of Richard of Cirencester, the Roman-road has been traced, by occasional fragments, in a line nearly north-west, pursuing its course towards Menapia, the last station in this direction, “unde est trajectus in Hiberniam.” The exact position of this Roman city has not yet been satisfactorily ascertained. Mr. Fenton, while preparing for his history of the county, made a diligent search after it; but, though peculiarly well qualified for such a scrutiny, from his intelligence and ardour in pursuits of this nature, joined to his intimate local knowledge of the country, his labours were not rewarded by the discovery of any remains that could be considered as certainly indicating the site of the station. It is evident that it must have been placed on the coast, and the encroachments of the sea, or the accumulation of sand on the adjacent land, may account for its disappearance. Mr. Fenton is inclined to consider Porthmawr, or the sandy burrows in its vicinity, as holding out the best claims to be regarded as the seat of the ancient Menapia.†

The other Roman road passing through this county, connecting the station at Llanio, in Cardiganshire, with Menapia, and called the Flemish-way, has already been incidentally mentioned.‡ It enters Pembrokeshire from Caermarthenshire in the upper part of the parish of Llanvynnach, and proceeding in nearly a direct line towards St. David's, unites with the great Via Julia near that place. Its course may be clearly traced in several places along this line, particularly on Cwm Cerwyn mountain, where it is distinctly marked by a  
range

\* Fenton's Pembrokeshire, p. 331.

† In this opinion Mr. Fenton is joined by Sir Richard Hoare, an authority of no common weight in such matters, who accompanied him in his examination of this place. Fenton's Pembroke, p. 117.

‡ See above, p. 387.

range of tumuli. Large portions have, however, been overgrown by turbary or peat.

Some traces of a paved way have been discovered near the Newgall sands, which have been supposed to be fragments of a Roman road stretching in the direction of the coasts from Menapia to Dale, near the entrance of Milford-Haven.\*

For a considerable period subsequently to the departure of the Romans, the history of this district is involved in great obscurity. It may be reasonably conjectured, that, like other parts of the principality, it was partitioned out among several leaders, called lords, or princes, and sometimes kings, who held their territories by independent tenures. There is room to doubt whether the whole of the country was at any time subject to the authority of a single master, till the princes of Dinevor, and sometimes those of North Wales, claimed a kind of nominal sovereignty over it. In the Welsh annals, indeed, there occur occasionally the names of kings of Dyfed; but, from any thing that appears to the contrary in the existing documents, they can only be considered as the petty monarchs of portions of the country then included under that designation. It would answer little purpose to trace here the succession of those lords whose pedigrees have been preserved by the Welsh heralds, which seldom furnish any thing more than a list of names, now unconnected with any memorable historical event. An exception may however be made in respect to two of those pedigrees, which are entitled to some notice from presenting us with the descent of two families distinguished by the great extent of their possessions, and by the respectability of their descendants in the present generation resident in the county of Pembroke. The first of these relates to the family of Gwynfardd Dyfed, who was contemporary with Hywel Dda. He had a house in the neighbourhood of Whitland, in which the royal legislator assembled the wise men whom he had

\* Fenton, *ubi supra*, p. 143.

selected for the revision of the laws of his kingdom. In this pedigree occurs the name of Pwyll Pendefig, celebrated in Welsh popular romance, being one of the heroes of those curious tales intituled Mabinogion, in which he is stated to have had his palace near Narberth. The other pedigree is that of the family of Morien Glâs. A copy of this document, which exhibits the most illustrious line of the princes or lords of Dyfed, is among the manuscripts in the British Museum, and was transcribed from a manuscript of Mr. William Salsbury, once in the possession of Mr. Edward Llwyd.\* The exact period in which Morien Glâs flourished is not known; but he is supposed to have been a descendant of the great Caradog, or Caractacus. The line of his successors is thus traced:—

1. Botang ap Morien.
2. Morgwyn.
3. Moraeth.
4. Mornnyvet.
5. Mernyth.
6. Kyndeyrn, by some genealogists confounded with Kyndeyrn Vendiged, the son of Vortigern.
7. Yweri, or Owen Vras.
8. Kyfyn, or Triffin Varvauc.
9. Kylchef.
10. Kynan.
11. Llywry.
12. Beli.
13. Dan, or Daniel, called by some heralds Pedr, or Peter.
14. Job.
15. Achonet, or Arthevad.
16. Kynan.
17. Elgan Wnyl hwch, or Gwevys Vlwch.
18. Rhydherch.
19. Gwyn, king of Devet.
20. Kolhwin, called also Collwyn. This prince had two sisters, Angharad and Gwenlleian, the former married to Gwrgan ap Ithel, king of Glamorgan, and the latter to Tewdwr Mawr, prince of South Wales.
21. Cadifor fawr, or Cadivor the great, king of Dyfed, and called, from the place of his residence, lord of Blaencych. He married the daughter and sole heiress of Llywarch Llawn fawr, one of the lords of Dyfed, by whom he left issue five sons, Llewelyn, Eionon, Bledri, Treharne, and Cadifor. Cadifor the great died, according to the Welsh Chronicle, about the year 1088, and was buried in the priory of Caermarthen. Two years after his decease, his sons, Llewelyn and Eionon, with their uncle, Eionon ab Collwyn, engaged in hostilities against Rhys ab Tewdwr,

\* Harl. MSS. 4181.

dwr, as already related.\* The two brothers were slain in the engagement, which was fought near St. Dogmael's; but the uncle fled to Glamorgan to Jestyn ab Gwrgan; and after the subjugation of that country by Robert Fitzhamon, obtained the hand of Jestyn's daughter, and the lordship of Senghennyth. Bledri, the next son, having taken no part in the insurrection, was allowed to remain in the quiet possession of the lordship of Cilsant, where some of his descendants yet remain.†

This country was among the first to suffer from the depredations of that horde of military adventurers, who were turned loose upon the kingdom by the Norman conqueror after he had seated himself on the British throne. It appears from the Welsh Chronicle, that as early as the year 1069,‡ a band of them landed on the coast of Pembrokeshire, and succeeded in laying waste the lands adjacent to the shore before they were driven back to their ships by the natives. Another party followed two years afterwards, but, like their predecessors, failed to obtain a permanent settlement. The next attempt, however, proved more successful. Martin de Turribus, or de Tours, a Norman knight, whose services under the Conqueror had been rewarded by a grant of territories on the coast of Devonshire adjoining the Bristol channel, being desirous of aggrandizing his possessions, fitted out an expedition destined to act against such parts of the principality as he should find least prepared for opposition. After rounding the extremity of the county, he finally resolved on landing his troops at Fishguard, which he effected with little difficulty; and having probably taken

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\* See page 221.

† Bledri married Klydwen, daughter and coheir of Griffith ap Kedrich ap Gwarthfoyd, lord of Gwynfay, in Caermarthenshire, by whom he had issue Rhys ap Bledri, who succeeded him in the lordship of Cilsant. His descendant, Sir Thomas Philips, of Cilsant, married Jane, daughter and coheir of Henry Donne, of Picton, from which union is descended the present noble proprietor of that estate, Lord Milford.

‡ Myfyrian Archaeology, Vol. II. p. 518.

the country by surprize, made an easy conquest of the adjacent lordship of Cemaes. This district he immediately erected into a lordship marcher, and adopted for his principal residence. The conquest of Cemaes took place during the minority of Gruffydd, the son of Rhys ab Tewdwr, to whom the district belonged; and the possession of it was subsequently secured to the family of its new master, by the marriage of William, Martin's son, with the daughter of Rhys ab Gruffydd, usually distinguished by the title of the lord Rhys.

This enterprize appears to have been undertaken under a general understanding that the English sovereign would countenance, as far as his power might extend, every robbery committed on the inhabitants of Wales. But the next invasion of this county took place under the direct sanction of the reigning monarch, William the Second. He granted permission to certain individuals to hold the territories they might wrest from the Welsh by knights' service under himself, and accordingly they severally did homage for them by anticipation. In the number of these persons was Arnulph, a younger son of Roger Montgomery, Earl of Arundel and Salop, who did homage for Dyvet, which he was licensed to subdue whenever, and in any way, he might please. After Arnulph had obtained a footing in the country, he erected, for the security of his conquest, the fortress of Pembroke, of which he appointed his lieutenant, Gerald de Windsor, governor. How far his actual conquests extended does not appear; nor is it quite clear that he held them with such ample powers as were usually granted to the lords Marchers. He is styled, in one instance, Earl of Pembroke, in Powell's History of Wales; but evidently through mistake. On the accession of Henry the First, Arnulph joined in a rebellion against that monarch, which led to his voluntary banishment, and to the forfeiture of his estates. Henry, on this occasion, committed the government of Pembroke to Saer, a Norman knight, but afterwards transferred the office to Gerald de Windsor, who had married his late concubine, Nest, daughter of Rhys

†

Rhys ab Tewdwr. This connection, though at first probably formed at the instigation of Henry himself, proved to him, in the end, a source of great anxiety. Gruffydd ap Rhys, when he arrived in Wales with the view of asserting his claim to the principality, found in his brother-in-law a protector and friend; a circumstance which led the English monarch to view his lieutenant with extreme jealousy, and to circumscribe his power in every way he could, consistently with the necessary regard to the security of his possessions in the country.

One of the most remarkable circumstances connected with the history of Pembrokeshire during this period, is the settlement of a colony of Flemings among the native population. The memorials of this transaction are very scanty, and afford few details for the information of the historian. It appears that about the year 1106, during a tremendous storm on the coast of Flanders, the sand-hills and embankments were in many places carried away, and the sea forced over a large tract of the country. The losses and distress occasioned by this calamity led a large body of the inhabitants to seek an asylum in England. They were first admitted into some of the northern counties; but their conduct soon rendering them hateful, they were removed into Pembrokeshire, and placed in the district of Roos. How long they remained here is not known; but Caradoc of Lancarvan states, that after a few years they disappeared.\* Some time afterwards, (A. D. 1113) according to this author, a second inundation forced another body of Flemings into England. King Henry being at this time pressed for men to oppose the rising power of Gruffydd ab Rhys in South Wales, and being a little suspicious probably of the fidelity of Gerald de Windsor, sent this colony also into Pembrokeshire, with orders to his commanders there to provide them with habitations and the means of subsistence, on condition that they would consider themselves as the subjects

\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 277.

of the English monarch, and act under his commanders in his Welsh wars. On these terms they had assigned to them the district which had before been given to their countrymen; and in order to bind them the more closely to the English interests, the politic Henry is said to have placed some English settlers among them to teach them their language, and habituate them to English customs\*.

At this period, the part of Pembrokeshire held by the Anglo-Normans seems to have been regarded as the property of the Crown, the commander for the time acting merely under a delegated authority, and being amenable for his administration to the reigning sovereign: but in the beginning of Stephen's reign, A. D. 1138, Gilbert de Clare, surnamed Strongbow, who had rendered himself master of the greater part of Cardiganshire, was created Earl of Pembroke, and invested with all the powers of a lord marcher over the country from which he derived his new title. Gilbert was succeeded in the palatinate by his son Richard Strongbow. This Earl passed the greater part of his life in Ireland, and effected the conquest of some important places, including Dublin and Waterford, which he relinquished to the English Crown. In return he was appointed governor and chief justice of that country. He married Eva, the daughter of Dermot, king of Leinster. His death is assigned to the year 1176.

Richard Strongbow left issue one daughter, Isabel, who was in her infancy at the time of her father's decease, and remained a ward of the Crown fourteen years. Richard the First, on coming to the throne, gave her in marriage to William Marshal, so called from his office of Lord Marshal, who thus obtained the Earldom of Pembroke. This nobleman being abroad with King Richard at the time of his death, was sent to England by King John to preserve the tranquillity of the realm till his own arrival. From this monarch he obtained the castle

of

\* Myfyrjan Archaeology, Vol. II. p. 545.



of Haverford, and the governorship of the castles of Carmarthen, Cardigan, and Gower. In the war of the barons, which followed shortly after, he took part with the king, and adhered faithfully to his interest to the close of his reign. We next find him warmly espousing the cause of the young prince, Henry, whom he presented to an assembly of the barons, which he had convened for the purpose, declaring "Behold your king." By his great power and influence he effectually suppressed the rebellion which had been raised in favour of Prince Lewis, the son of the King of France, and brought over most of the leaders, including his own son, to the party of the young sovereign. Towards the close of his life he became a liberal benefactor to the church. He died in 1219, and was buried in the Temple church, London. \*

This earl left issue five sons, viz. William, Richard, Gilbert, Walter, and Anselme, and five daughters. William, the eldest son, first succeeded to his father's titles and honours. This nobleman took an active and leading part against the crown with the barons in the reign of King John, and was one of the twenty-five commissioners who were entrusted with the custody of the city of London. Having at his father's solicitation returned to his allegiance under Henry the Third, he was employed by that monarch to command his forces in Ireland, where he passed a considerable portion of his time. During his absence his Welsh possessions were invaded by Llewelyn ab Jorwerth, who took his castles of Cardigan and Cilgeran, which, however, he regained immediately after his return, having first completely routed the Welsh prince in a fixed battle. He married Elenor, the sister of King Henry, by whom he had no issue. He died in 1231, and was buried near his father, in the Temple. On the death of William Marshal the earldom devolved to his brother Richard, who was at this time abroad. The king, under pretence that he had leagued with his enemies in France, refused to admit him to the ho-

nours

\* Dugdale's Baron. Vol. I. p. 609.

nours of his family, whereupon he fled to Ireland. Having here raised a powerful party of adherents, he returned to Pembroke, and took forcible possession of his Welsh estates. He was after this reconciled to the king, but breaking with him again on occasion of the admission of his Poictovin favourites into the first offices about the court, he once more sought refuge in Ireland, where he was treacherously slain, A. D. 1234. He held the earldom only three years, and was buried in the oratory of the Friars Minors at Kilkenny, where a monument was erected to his memory. His untimely and violent death is said to have deeply affected the king. He is called by Matthew Paris *Militiæ flos temporum modernorum*.

Earl Richard was succeeded by his brother Gilbert, who, having been received into the king's favour, did homage for his inheritance. He obtained a grant of the towns and castles of Caermarthen and Cardigan, which had been seized by the Crown, and held also the honour of Glamorgan during the minority of the young Earl of Clare. Being at a tournament at Ware, in Hertfordshire, 1241, and riding an Italian horse to which he had not been used, he was thrown from his seat, and dragged by the animal till he was so bruised that he expired in the course of the ensuing night. He was buried in the Temple.

Gilbert dying without issue the inheritance devolved on his brother Walter, who was admitted to all the honours of his predecessors. He died at Goodrich Castle, A. D. 1246. He was succeeded by his brother Anselme, who died at Strigul, after holding the earldom only a few days, leaving no issue. \*

On

\* The decease of these five young men without issue is attributed by the monkish historians of the time to a judgment of Heaven drawn upon them through the impiety of their father, who, it seems, during his wars in Ireland, had seized on two manors belonging to the Bishop of Fernes, who had punished him by excommunication: on the Earl's death the bishop came to London to claim a restitution of his lands, urging the king to use his authority

On the death of Anselme, the inheritance fell to his eldest sister, Maud, who had married first Hugh Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, and afterwards John de Warren, Earl of Surrey. The office of Marshal, which pertained to her as her brother's heir, she bestowed on her son Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, with the king's consent. Maud died, A. D. 1248. Joan, the second daughter of William Marshal, married Warren de Mouchensi; and after the death of her sister Maud, whom she succeeded in the inheritance, conveyed to him most of the possessions of her family. Warren de Mouchensi died in 1255, leaving issue by this marriage a son and daughter, William and Joan. William succeeded to his father's English estates: he was killed at the siege of Dryslwyn Castle, in Caermarthen-shire, in 1289. Joan, his sister, married William de Valence, half brother to Henry the Third, who created him Earl of Pembroke. In what year this event took place seems uncertain. The first time he is called by this title, according to Dugdale,\* is in the account of the battle of Lewes, in 1264, when he deserted the king, and fled to France. As there appears no previous mention of the title subsequently to the time of Anselme's death, it is probable that it lay dormant in the crown, the successive heirs of the family being allowed to enjoy the estates.

William de Valence was succeeded in the Earldom of Pembroke

city in his favour, in order that the Earl's soul might have the benefit of absolution. The following is given as the speech of the prelate over the Earl's grave in the presence of the king, who had desired him to pronounce his absolution: "Oh William, who liest here buried, and shackled with the fetters of excommunication: if those lands which thou most injuriously didst take from my church be restored, with full satisfaction, either by the king, or any of thy kindred or friends; I then absolve thee; otherwise I ratify that sentence, to the end that being wrapped up in thy sins thou mayest remain condemned in hell!" The king is said to have been displeased with this *Christian* address. Dugdale's *Baron*. Vol. II. p. 607.

\* *Baronage*, Vol. I. p. 775.

broke by Adomer, or Aymer, his youngest son, who had survived his two elder brothers. This nobleman acted a conspicuous part in the reigns of Edward the First and Edward the Second, both in the council and in the field. He was murdered in 1323, while attending Queen Isabel into France. Leaving no issue the family honours and estates devolved on Lawrence Hastings, the grandson of his sister Isabel, who had married John Hastings. Lawrence, at the time of Aymer's decease, was in his minority, but on coming of age in 1339, was declared by the king, Earl of Pembroke, in right of his descent. He died in 1349, leaving issue one son, John, who succeeded him in the earldom. But as he was only one year old at the time of his father's death, the custody of the castle of Pembroke, with the estates annexed, was granted during his minority to Agnes, the widow of Lawrence Hastings, and afterwards to her jointly with her second husband, John de Haketut.

John Hastings was actively engaged in the French wars in the reign of Edward the Third, and received the appointment of lieutenant of Aquitane. Being at Rochelle with a fleet in which he had just arrived from England to enter on his command, he was attacked by a Spanish fleet of superior force, which burnt his ships, and took himself, with many others, prisoners. He was confined in Spain for the space of four years, when he was liberated through the interposition of Bertrand Clekin, constable of France. While at Paris, on his return, he was seized with an illness, supposed to have been occasioned by poison, which soon ended in his death. He left one son, John, who succeeded him, but being then in his infancy, the Earldom of Pembroke was given in charge to his relation William de Beauchamp. John Hastings, though at the time only five years old, claimed his right to carry the great golden spurs at the coronation of Richard the Second. The right was admitted, but the service was performed for him by the Earl of March, whose daughter he afterwards married.

married. He was accidentally killed in a tournament at Woodstock, in 1390, at the age of fourteen.

After the death of this young nobleman the honours of the family were claimed by Reginald, Lord Grey of Ruthin, who held himself to be the next heir, as lineally descended from Elizabeth, the sister of John Hastings, the great great grandfather of the last Earl. The king, however, retained the Earldom for almost eight years, and then conferred it on Isabel, his queen, the government of it being committed to Thomas Perry, Earl of Worcester. On the deposition of Richard the Second, Henry the Fourth seized upon the Earldom, and granted it to his brother John, Duke of Bedford. This nobleman, dying without issue, was succeeded by his brother Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester. The Earldom was next given to William de la Pole, Earl and afterwards Duke of Suffolk. Reverting again to the Crown, on the death of this nobleman, it was given by Henry the Sixth to his half brother Jasper Tudor, who held it during the remainder of King Henry's reign. On the accession of Edward the Fourth, Jasper Tudor having quitted the country under a charge of treason, William Herbert, Lord of Ragland, was created Earl of Pembroke, in reward of his services in the cause of his royal master.

This lord being beheaded at Banbury, in 1469, was succeeded by his son William Herbert, who afterwards resigned the Earldom to the king, who wished to confer it on his son, Prince Edward. Previously to this, however, on the liberation of Henry the Sixth, Jasper Tudor was for a short period reinstated. But the defeat of the Lancastrians at Barnet, and the recapture of Henry, obliged this nobleman once more to leave his honours in other hands. Jasper, after the overthrow of his party, retired to Pembroke Castle, where the young Earl of Richmond and his mother were then stationed. Here he was immediately besieged by Morgan Thomas, a brother of Sir Rhys ab Thomas, and an adherent of the House of York, who would in all probability have made him prisoner,

had

had not David, another brother of Sir Rhys, who had espoused the Lancastrian cause, come to his assistance, and secretly conveyed him, the young Henry, and the Countess of Richmond to Tenby, whence they embarked for France.

After the death of King Edward the Earldom was held by Richard the Third ; but on the accession of Henry the Seventh, it reverted once more to Jasper Tudor, who held it during the remainder of his life. Henry then granted the Earldom to his son Prince Henry, Duke of York, from whom, on the death of Prince Arthur, it reverted to the king, who kept it till his death. Henry the Eighth, on coming to the throne, retained it in his own hands, and created Anne Bullen, Marchioness of Pembroke.

The district having by the act of union in this reign been formed into a county, subject to the jurisdiction of the English laws, all the privileges of the palatinate were of course abolished. From this time the Earldom of Pembroke became a mere title of honour, and the history of the county merges in that of the kingdom at large. The first Earl of Pembroke created after this alteration was William Herbert, Lord Steward in the reign of Edward the Sixth, in whose descendants the honour still remains.

**BOUNDARIES, EXTENT. &c.** Pembrokeshire is bounded on the east by Caermarthenshire, on the north-east by Cardiganshire, on the north and west by the Irish sea, and on the south by the Bristol Channel. Its form is extremely irregular, in consequence of its numerous bays on the coast, and the incroachment of Caermarthenshire on the east. Its greatest length north and south may be estimated at about thirty miles, its greatest width in the latitude of St. David's at thirty-three miles ; and its smallest diameter from Egermond to St. Bride's Bay at 13 miles. The superficial contents, according to Mr. Cary's Survey, comprise 345,600 acres,\* but are stated by Mr. Hassal at 335,600 acres : the difference arises probably from a clerical error in the latter account, the former being the computed estimate.

\* Communications to the Board of Agriculture, Vol. VI. p. 228.

mate. The county, as at present divided, includes seven hundreds \*, viz. Castle Martin, Roos, Dewisland, Dungleddy, Narberth, Kemmes, and Kilgerran, in which are contained one Cathedral, and 145 parishes, besides numerous chapelries. It has one city, St. David's, the seat of its Cathedral, and seven market towns, viz. Pembroke, Haverfordwest, Milford, Tenby, Narberth, Fishgard, and Newport. The county returns one member to Parliament, and the boroughs of Pembroke, Tenby, and Wiston return another.

**POPULATION.** The population of this county was stated in the official returns for 1811, at 60,615, individuals, including 27,543 males, and 33,162 females. To this number may be added 500 for the county militia, absent at the time of taking the census, which will make the total amount 61,115 persons.

**RIVERS.**—In the enumeration of the rivers of this county, the first notice will be claimed by the eastern and western *Cleddaus*, whose united waters form the celebrated Haven of Milford, called in Welsh, from this circumstance, *Aberdaugleddau*. The eastern Cleddau, which, during some parts of its course,

\* The divisions of Dyfed in the time of Llewelyn ab Gruffydd are given as under. It is to be observed that parts of the country here enumerated now belong to Caermarthenshire.

Cantref Emlyn.	Cantref Penvro.
— Cwmwd Uch Cuch	— Cwmwd Coet Raff
— Is Cuch	— Maenor Birr
— Cantref Dyfed.	— Penvro.
— Cwmwd Elvod	— Cantref Pebidiawg.
— Derllys	— Cwmwd Pencaer
— Penryn	— Mynyw.
— Estyrlwyv	— Cantref Rhos.
— Talachara	— Cwmwd Hawlfordd
— Amgoed	— Castell Gwalechmau.
— Peliniawg	
— y Velvre	

course, forms the boundary between the counties of Pembroke and Caermarthen, rises near a place called Blaen-y-gors, in Manachlogddu, "and running west receaveth into it a rill from the north, called Kiwgill, rising at Bwlch Ungwr, and passing farther receaveth from by est a rill that riseth above Capell Cawey, called Bray, and is in that place a lanskar between Penbroke and Caermarthen sheeres; from thence the sayd Clethau runneth as a lanskar between the sayd sheeres and Monachlogddu church, where it receaveth the ryver of Clydach from the north, springing out of Cwm Cerwyn-hill, and from thence continueth lanskar between both sheeres, and cometh to Llangolman, where it receaveth from the north a rill called Llony, and running between the parishes of Llandissilio and Llan-y-Keven, still parteth both sheeres untill a rill running from Rhyd-y-Milwr fall into it, which at that place parteth both the sheeres; and then cometh Penbroke over the ryver againe at Llandissilio, which continuing his course receaveth into it the river Breynan ddu, whose spring is from Carn-yr-Avar, and runneth west of Lloydarthe; and further down, at Tregundeg, it receaveth Breynan-Wen, whose spring is in Blacknocke Moore, and runneth betweene the parishes of Maenclochog and Moate, by Merlan, and then the said river Clethau passing by Egermont, leaving it in Carmarthenshire, receaveth a rill called Crynwg, which there parteth Penbroke and Carmarthensheeres again. Penbroke againe stretching itself over the same, and beneath Egermont receaveth into it the river Syvynney, being well neere as big as itselfe, which cometh by Longridge from Walton. Clethau running forward under Llawhaden Bridge receaveth from the est the river Marlais, coming from Longfoord, and before it cometh to Careston Bridge, it receaveth into it a rill called Gloyn, running throw Narberth Forest; and from thence it runneth by Talche Wood to Slebeche, and between Picton and Mynweare, at Rose Castell Point, meeteth with the other Cleddau, that cometh from Harford,



Harford, (Haverfordwest) and there joyning where Aberdaugleddau beginneth." \*

The western Cleddau, called also Cleddau-Wen, " riseth at Llygad Cleddau, which in English is called Cleddau's eye, in the parish of Llanfair Nant-y-gof, and goeth by Gelli'r-moch, where it parteth the lordship of Kemes and Dewisland, and there falleth into a great moore called Lanstinan Moore, passing by Lanstinan church to Lanstinan-bridge, where a little beneath it receaveth in a rill from the north that riseth short of Trebrithen, in the parish of Manarnawan, and soe holding on her course westward a little above Llwyngwaran Bridge, it receaveth from the est the Kylleth, which riseth above Trecoon, and Carn Dio Moore, and running together under Llwyngwaran Bridge, before it cometh to Pont Melin Moris, it receaveth the Marlais, that riseth neere Castell Kynles, and passeth by Castell Moris, and soe to Perskely; and then under Stone Hall, in St. Lawrence Parish, on to Wolfe's Castell, where from the est it receaveth a nameless river that cometh from Pontehardston; from whence it turneth towards Trewgarne, but first receaveth in a rill from Brimeston, which parteth the hundred of Dewysland from Rowse; and soe running between both Trewgarnes, yt there receaveth from the est a forked rill that riseth neere Ambleston, from whenceforward it continueth the lansker between the hundreds of Rowse and Daugleddau; and so continuing westward beneath Rubaxton, it receaveth a forked brooke from the est, the one branch whereof riseth in New Town Moore, the other cometh from Poiston; from thence it runneth forward towards Haverfordwest, but before it cometh to Elliot's Hill, receaveth the brook that passeth under Pelcam Bridge and Camros, and a little lower receaveth another rill that cometh from Lamston, and soe passeth to Prendergast, and under Haverford Bridge, beneath which it receaveth another ryver at Carllod, which ri-

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seth

\* From a MS. of Mr. George Owen. Cambrian Register, Vol II p 117, et seq.

seth neere Walton Bridge, and then beneath Haroldston it receaveth a brook from the west, which riseth in the moore east of Hareston West Beacon, and runneth by St. Margrett's Chapel, and soe to Denant, and on under the Mawdliens and Hareston Bridge, discharging itselfe into the sayd Cleddau; where Cleddau being now turned salt continueth on bending somewhat south-east, runneth between Hookewood and Boulston, and soe with joy meeteth her other sister of like name, and lovingly joyneth to make the fair haven of Mylford; the both thus wedded, become a salt sea of a mile broade, and sixteen myles longer before they forsake their native country, for whose good they send furth many faier branches on either side serving divers townes, villages, and gentlemen's houses, with easie transporting and cariage of necessaries, and commodious fishings; and at the Dale turneth right south, making a goodly porte or entrance of two miles brode; and then by the course of nature yeald themselves to the sea, the ending of all ryvers, where, not forgetting the naturall love of native country, twice every day returne, as it were, with a loving care to see and salute their antient offspring, and not soe content with daily travell, every fortnight force themselves to presse farther up, making a greater tyde, which we for difference of the other calle spring tydes."\*

Such is the account of the two Cleddaus, and their noble Æstuary, given by a native writer. Little needs be added to this minute and circumstantial description. Though Milford Haven forms an object of great interest regarding merely its picturesque attractions, its vast expanse of water, and the delightful scenery that in many parts ornaments its shores, yet it has excited most attention, perhaps, from the purposes of more substantial utility, which, in a national point of view, it has been thought adapted to answer. It is justly deemed the finest harbour in the kingdom, being sufficiently capacious and well sheltered to hold all the navy of England in perfect security; but

\* Mr. Owen's MS. Camb. Register ut supra, p. 114.

but objections have been raised against it as a naval station from the position and form of its entrance from the sea, which, in the opinion of some naval men, are such as to render it impracticable for ships to sail outwards in certain states of the wind. Its importance to the shipping interests, and consequently to the commerce of the country, is, however, daily rising in the public estimation. Several plans have at various times been projected for improving and multiplying its conveniences; and some are now in the course of execution, that are likely to enhance its value, and render its shores a scene of great commercial activity.

Proceeding along the coast to the northward from Milford Haven, the first stream to be noticed is the little river of *Newgall*, which falls into the sea at the Newgall Sands in St. Bride's Bay, and forms during the latter portion of its course the boundary between the hundreds of Roos and Dewisland. A short distance beyond occurs the *Solva*, forming the port and harbour of the little town of the same name. The next river is the Alan, which is only a small brook, but derives some importance in the topography of the county from holding on its shores the ancient cathedral of St. David's. No other stream entitled to notice presents itself on this coast beyond the Alan till we reach the river *Gwayn*, which rises in the mountain of Percelly, and after a romantic course, enters the sea at Fishguard. The *Nevern*, a few miles further, is the last river which empties into the Irish Channel. It rises in the Vrenny vawr mountains, and after a course of about ten miles joins the sea at Newport. On the north-eastern side of the county the river *Cuck*, rising in the same chain of hills, takes a northerly direction, and after forming for some distance the boundary between Caermarthenshire and Pembrokeshire, falls into the Teivi a little below Cennarth.

**MOUNTAINS.** The face of the country throughout nearly the whole of Pembrokeshire is greatly diversified by alternate hills and dales, but none of the hills are of any considerable elevation

tion, or aspire to the rank of mountains, except a range on the northern side of the county, extending eight or ten miles in a direction nearly due east and west. The general name of this chain is Percelly, but it has several summits bearing distinct denominations. The first is near the western extremity; and called by a descriptive appellation *Moel-Eryr*; the next elevation, is *Cwn Cerwyn* hill. This is the highest land in Pembrokeshire, and is seen from a great distance on every side. The last, or easternmost summit is *Vrenny Vawr*, which also forms a conspicuous object in the landscape. This county exhibits in some parts, more particularly in the district of Roos, remarkable masses of rock, which when viewed from a distance have the appearance of ruined castles, or other large buildings. They are probably the skeletons of hills, from which the soil has been washed away by the rains of successive centuries.

**SOIL, AGRICULTURE, &c.** The more prevailing soils in this county may be classed under three or four kinds: first, a strong red loam, generally from six to fourteen inches in depth, having a substratum of red argillaceous rock called *Rabb*; secondly, a dark grey loam from six to twelve inches in depth, upon a blue and brown rock. The greater part of the face of the county is composed of this earth. In some places it contains a vast number of small porous stones, which, in consequence of their imbibing the salts wafted from the sea by the western winds, are deemed highly favourable to vegetation: thirdly, a light spongy peat, usually on a clay bottom. In its natural state this soil is very unproductive, but is found capable of great improvement from lime manure. Besides these varieties there is on the southern side of the county, principally in the hundred of *Castle Martin*, a rich loam of considerable depth, on a substratum of limestone rock, deemed peculiarly well adapted for the growth of corn.

The grains most commonly raised here are wheat, barley, and oats: and rye is cultivated in some parts. In respect to the

succession of crops, the majority of farmers pursue the pernicious system of their forefathers, by taking from the ground, after their wheat, barley and oats, till the land is completely exhausted, and does not return the value of the seed. As sufficient attention has not yet been given to green crops, the best system is far from being so advantageous as it might be rendered. Turnips are cultivated on some of the best farms, and pease more generally, but not with great success. The following is a common course among some of the best farmers; wheat in a summer fallow, barley, pease, barley or oats, with clover or rye grass.

Lime constitutes an important article of manure over the greater part of the county, but more particularly on the south, where it abounds. In the hundred of Dewisland shelly sea sand is commonly used, and with great advantage, for barley crops. The quantity of yard muck raised here is comparatively small, the convenience of a farm-yard being little known. Paring and burning is practised but very partially, and that chiefly in the peat districts, where it is likely to do least harm.

Irrigation, though many situations are highly favourable for it, is little thought of. Draining has received more attention, and extensive tracts of land have, by the judicious use of it, been restored to the farmer, and rendered highly productive.

Little can be said, except in the way of reprobation, of the agricultural implements in common use. Mr. Hassal, in his Agricultural Report of this County, speaking of the plough, observes, that "perhaps a more awkward unmeaning tool is not to be found in any civilized country. It is not calculated to cut a furrow, but to tear it open by main force. The share is like a large wedge: the coulter comes before the point of the share sometimes, and sometimes it stands above it. The earth board is a thing never thought of, but a stick (a hedge stake or any thing) is fastened from the right side of the heel of the share, and extends to the hind part of the plough. This is in-

tended to turn the furrow, which it sometimes performs, and sometimes not: so that a field ploughed with this machine looks as if a drove of swine had been moiling it."\* Such is the plough yet used by most of the farmers of this county. Some agriculturists have, however, adopted one of a better construction, and it is to be hoped their example will be followed by others. The harrows are of a very indifferent kind, but are gradually improving. Carts are employed all over the county. They are generally drawn by two oxen yoked abreast, with a long pole to answer the purpose of a shaft, preceded by a pair of horses, also abreast.

The farms are of a mixed kind, corn being raised on them all, and a portion of each being allotted for the dairy and the rearing of stock. The waste lands of the county have been estimated at 22,220 acres, of which 14,220 acres have been deemed convertible to agricultural purposes, and 8000 acres incapable of cultivation. These wastes are at present used as sheep walks, or as pasture lands for young cattle. A large proportion is common land to which certain farmers have a right, of undefined limits, of sending their stock to feed. These commons, also, in several places furnish the inhabitants of the adjacent parts with the principal portion of their fuel, which is formed of peat.

The spirit of inclosing has shewn itself in some parts of this county. Lord Kensington has been active in his assistance towards inclosing Llanvyrnach mountain, by which much bad and unproductive land will be reclaimed, small villages in time built, the population increased, and the poor benefitted.

The inclosing system is evidently spreading in many parts of the principality; its utility may, however, be doubted if it be indiscriminately pursued. The expense of obtaining the requisite acts of Parliament is a serious national evil, and ought to be speedily corrected by the legislature. We have been informed, that in a neighbouring county, an Attorney's Bill for  
obtaining

\* Hassal's Report, p. 18.

obtaining an enclosure act, amounted to the enormous sum of from twelve to fifteen hundred pounds! It is to be hoped that so beneficial a plan of improving the country will be well considered, and that proper checks will be established to prevent its being converted into a system of jobbing and extortion.

The quantity of wood in this county is not considerable; it is most abundant on the shores of the upper part of Milford Haven in the neighbourhood of Slebech, and Picton Castle. It is much to be regretted that so little attention is paid to planting by the great landed proprietors. Some experiments have indeed been made, but have failed from not having been conducted with judgment, and a proper regard to local circumstances.

The black cattle of Pembrokeshire, are of a superior breed, and in great request for the English market, where they obtain a ready sale. The horses used for agricultural purposes are of middling size, strong and active. The saddle horses are remarkably good, great attention having been paid for many years to the improvement of the breed by the introduction of some of the best kinds from England.

The farm buildings are generally of a very ordinary kind, and commonly placed in the very worst situations. On some estates, however, where it has become necessary to rebuild, they have been erected on an improved plan.

A large proportion of the farms are let from year to year. Several proprietors grant leases, which are usually for three lives, and the rent estimated by the annual value, the system of fines being unknown in the county, except where church lands are concerned.

The size of the farms varies greatly, generally from fifty acres to five hundred; the average extent has been stated at two hundred acres.

**MINERALOGY.** The mineral treasures hitherto discovered in this county are not distinguished either for their variety or their importance. At a place called Mynwear on the eastern shore

of Milford Haven, nearly opposite Slebech, a fanciful etymology assigned to the name, which was converted into Mwyn Aur, or the Gold Mine, led some speculators to search for that metal, but without success. Attempts have also been made to procure silver, on a small promontory in St. Bride's Bay, in the parish of St. Elwys, but the result of the experiment is unknown. It may be inferred, however, from the abandonment of the undertaking, that it did not answer the expectation of the adventurers. The first persons who embarked in the speculation were John Voyle, Esq. the owner of the estate, and his son-in-law, Sir Thomas Cannon, who, in the reign of Elizabeth, agreed to purchase from the Crown a lease of the mines; and to share the risk or profits of the adventure. Some trials have been since made on this spot, which terminated in disappointment and loss.

On the banks of the Tave, in the parish of Llanvyrnach, are some lead mines which have been worked to considerable advantage. The operations, probably from defects in the plan of management, have been for some time discontinued. The ore is reported to be of superior quality.

The chief articles, however, in the subterraneous wealth of Pembrokeshire are its limestone and coal, but these are confined to a district of no great extent, on the southern side of the county. The limestone is of an excellent quality both for building purposes and manure; but the coal, which is of the stone kind, is inferior to that of the same species raised in the counties of Caermarthen and Glamorgan. The South Wales mineral basin terminates here, and becoming shallower as it approaches the extremity the strata are raised nearer the surface, and their quality is impaired.

**MINERAL WATERS.** At Treruffydd, near the sea coast, a few miles to the northward of Newport, is a chalybeate spring of some repute. It has been supposed to be strongly impregnated with alum, and a plan was once in contemplation to extract that



that substance from the water, but was never carried into execution.

**MANUFACTURES AND COMMERCE.** There are at present in this county no manufactories entitled to particular notice. Some years ago Sir Benjamin Hammet had tin works on the Teivi, near Llechryd, which he conducted for a considerable period with great activity, but, it is apprehended, not with much profit. Soon after Sir Benjamin's death his son had the buildings dismantled, and the establishment was wholly broken up. The original founders of these works were Messrs. Daniels and Halliday, who about fifty years ago, attracted by the ample supply of water afforded by the situation, erected some forges here. They appear to have soon grown weary of the concern, which was disposed of after a short trial to other adventurers, and passed rapidly through several successive hands before it was purchased by Sir Benjamin Hammet.

A cotton mill was erected some time since near Haverfordwest, which was relinquished as an unprofitable speculation. It was once in contemplation to erect a linen manufactory in this county on an extensive scale, but the plan was abandoned, probably on account of insuperable obstacles to its accomplishments.

In a district affording so few native productions, or manufactured articles, for exportation, commerce must necessarily be in a low and crippled state. With all the advantages arising from its noble Haven, Pembrokeshire has hitherto acquired but a very limited measure of commercial importance. Various attempts have been made by enterprising individuals to remedy this defect, but altogether without success. A Newfoundland fishery was once projected, to be conducted from Milford Haven; and it was lately in contemplation to establish a company at Milford, for carrying on a whale fishery in the South Sea. Some American gentlemen of great respectability purchased property and took up their residence here with the view of embarking in this concern. Thus far, however, we believe

believe little has been done towards prosecuting their scheme, and the problematical nature of its advantages, may, after so long a delay, frustrate its execution.

A little coasting trade is carried on from the ports with the English markets, chiefly for the exportation of coal and the supplying of the shopkeepers with merchandize. The mail for Ireland arrives at Milford from London every evening about six o'clock, and the coach returns for the metropolis early in the morning.

The turnpike roads in this county have been justly complained of as ranking among the very worst in the principality. The mail coach road to Milford has lately, through the interference of the General Post Office, been greatly improved; and the road leading to Tenby from Narberth is now very good. It is in contemplation to make a new turnpike road from Fishguard in a direct line to Caermarthen, which will greatly benefit the county, by facilitating the communication between those places, which is at present very bad and circuitous. The bye roads are greatly neglected. Lord Cawdor has laudably exerted himself to have them improved, by presenting several at the Quarter Sessions. It is greatly to be wished that the other resident landed proprietors would lend their assistance in their respective neighbourhoods to promote an object of such general, as well as local advantage.

Proceeding now to our topographical survey along the high road leading from Caermarthen to Milford, we enter Pembrokeshire at the village of Tavernspite, and after advancing about six miles reach the town of

### NARBERTH,

pleasantly situated on a gentle eminence in a narrow vale. This place is of small extent, with a population of about eighteen hundred persons, and the interior appearance disappoints the expectations

expectations excited by the distant view as it is approached. It derives some consequence, however, from its situation on the great western road, along which the mail coach passes every day in both directions. The market is held on Thursday; and the fairs annually on the 21st of March, 4th of June, 5th of July, 10th of August, 26th of September, and the 11th of December. The privilege of holding the market and fairs was obtained in the fourth of James the Second, by Sir John Barlow, who was authorized to receive the tolls and customs.

There once stood here a castle of considerable extent and strength, of which some very interesting and picturesque fragments yet remain.

On the settlement of Arnulph de Montgomery and his Anglo-Norman followers in this county, the district of Narberth was allotted to Stephen Perrott as his share of the spoils. What buildings he might have raised here for the defence of his possessions, is not known: the construction of the present castle is ascribed to his grandson, Sir Andrew Perrott, who garrisoned it with a body of the Flemings then recently settled in the country, and placed his vassals in new habitations within the protection of the walls. In the reign of Edward the Third this property was in the hands of the Earl of March. On the attainder of this nobleman it fell to the crown, but was afterwards restored to the family. The Duke of York, to whom it fell, as the heir of the last Earl of March, granted it to the Bishop of St. David's and Gruffydd Nicholas, the grandfather of Sir Rhys ab Thomas. It again reverted to the crown, and was given by Henry the Eighth to Sir Rhys ab Thomas, in reward of his services on behalf of Henry the Seventh. On the attainder of Rhys Gruffydd, the grandson of Sir Rhys ab Thomas, it was once more transferred to the crown. It now forms a part of the Slebech estates.

About a mile to the eastward of Narberth, a road turns off on the left which leads through the ancient village of *Templeton*, to the town of

## TENBY.

“Tinbigh town,” says Leland,\* “stondith on a main rokke, but not veri hy, and the severn se so gulfeth in about hit, that at the ful se almost the thirde part of the toun is inclosid with water. The toun is strongely waullid, and welle gatid, everi gate having his portecolis *ex solido ferro*. But that gate that ledith to Cairmardin ward is most semeliest, as circulid without with an embatelid but open rofid towr, after the fascion of the east gate of Penbroke. Without this gate is a preti suburbe. In the middes of the town is a faire paroche chirch. The toun itselfe lakkith fresch water, wherfore *utuntur importata*.”  
 “Ther is a sinus and a peere made for shyppes. The towne is very welthe by marchaundyce: but yt is not very bygge having but one paroche chyrche. One thinge is to be marveled at. There is no welle yn the towne, as yt is saide, wherby they be forced to fech theyr water at S. John’s without the towne.” †

Such is the description of this place given in the reign of Henry the Eighth by the Antiquary-Royal of England.

The first thing that must strike every stranger on his approach towards Tenby, from whatever quarter he may be coming, is the singular beauty of the situation. The town occupies a rocky promontory of considerable elevation, stretching over the sands in a southerly direction, and at high water, as intimated by Leland, enclosed by the sea on every side, except the north, where a narrow istmus communicates with the country.

This promontory curves gently towards the east, forming a small bay on that side which has been converted into a commodious well-sheltered harbour, skirted on the land side by a bold amphitheatre

\* Itin. Vol. V. fol. 75.

† Idem. 26.

theatre of rocks and houses. The present extent of Tenby is not considerable, the number of houses being estimated in the returns of 1811 at 265, and the population at 1176 persons, including 474 males, and 702 females. It is apparent, however, from the number of ruined buildings and foundations to be seen in the outskirts, that it must at one period have spread over a larger space than it now occupies, and contained a much more numerous population.

The town was once surrounded by a strong and lofty wall, which in some places is yet nearly entire. On the south side it ran in almost a direct line eastward as far as the large gate at the south east angle, where it turned to the southward, and wound with the rocky margin of the land towards the castle inclosure, at the southern extremity. The north wall commenced at the water gate leading to the pier, and after proceeding a short way near the margin of the sand, ascended over the rocks to the left, and crossed the main street near the White Lion Inn, where the gate stood which Leland describes as leading "to Cairmardin ward." The principal improvements of these walls are ascribed to Queen Elizabeth, in whose time Tenby was a flourishing place.

The streets are in general good, though, on account of the nature of the ground, in some instances inconveniently narrow and steep. They contain a large proportion of very respectable houses, tenanted by substantial tradesmen and merchants, or by persons of independent fortune. Some of them are in the bathing season converted into lodging houses and hotels, and afford suitable accommodations for families of the first distinction.

Leland mentions an inconvenience which was long felt here, the want of water. No effectual remedy was applied to this serious evil till lately. Sir William Paxton, having acquired an interest in the place by the purchase of some property, had the adjacent country examined by a competent person to ascertain the practicability

practicability of forming adequate reservoirs and conveying the water in pipes from the springs in the neighbourhood into the town. An unexpensive plan having been suggested to him, he immediately recommended it to the corporation, offering to guarantee the execution of it at the estimated sum. The offer was accepted, the undertaking ably completed, and the town furnished at a trifling charge with an exhaustless supply of this necessary article.

Tenby is one of the contributory boroughs joined with Pembroke in the return of the Parliamentary representative for that place. It is governed by a mayor; besides whom the corporation consist of aldermen and common councilmen, a chamberlain, town clerk, two sheriffs, or bailiffs, two sergeants at mace, and twelve constables. The town is divided into two districts, which are denominated the *in* liberties, and the *out* liberties. The former division is subject to the jurisdiction of the mayor and magistrates of the borough, the latter falls under the jurisdiction of the magistrates of the county.

This place seems to have derived its earliest importance from its fisheries, whence its Welsh name of *Dynbych y Pyscod*. When the country fell under the power of the Anglo-Norman invaders, and more especially after this district became inhabited by the Flemish settlers, its local advantages for commercial objects of greater extent and consequence were seen and appreciated. The harbour received such improvements as it seemed to require for the security and convenience of the shipping, and the population of the town and neighbourhood was engaged in a woollen manufactory on an extensive scale, to furnish an article of traffic with other parts. It was, no doubt, the commercial spirit thus awakened, and which promised the most extensive advantages to the lords of the country, that procured for the inhabitants the numerous privileges and immunities they received under successive governments. The first charter on record, as far as appears, is that granted by

William

William Marshal, the first Earl of Pembroke of that name.\* Other charters, containing confirmations of former grants, with many additional privileges, were subsequently given by William de Valence, his son Aymer de Valence, Lawrence Hastings, King Edward the Fourth, and Richard the Third. There seems to have been no new charter granted by Henry the Seventh, but in return for some services rendered him here while making his escape to France, he gave Mr. Griffith White, a merchant of eminence, and at the time mayor of the town, a lease of all the crown lands about Tenby. Subsequently to the Act of Union in the reign of Henry the Eighth, new charters were granted by Edward the Sixth, Queen Elizabeth, and Charles the First, whose cause was warmly espoused by the inhabitants. From circumstances which it is now, perhaps, impossible satisfactorily to develop, the commercial importance of Tenby has sunk greatly below its former rank. Its manufactories have disappeared, and its chief trade at present is created by the coal raised in the neighbourhood, which is here shipped off for other parts of the coast, and for the English markets.

The consequence, however, which Tenby has lost in this respect seems likely to be fully compensated by its rapidly advancing reputation and popularity as a bathing place. It possesses many natural attractions for those whom health or pleasure invites to the sea shore to pass the summer months. Among these the romantic beauties of the situation, with the many delightful rides afforded by the neighbourhood, may well be mentioned: but its more substantial recommendations are its excellent beach, pure and transparent sea water, and its many conveniences for valetudinarian visitors. Some of its principal advantages are indeed of recent date. Among these the foremost rank must be assigned to the splendid baths lately erected here by Sir William Paxton, from the designs of his able architect Mr. Cockerell. This building is eligibly situated under the  
Castle

\* Fenton's Pembrokeshire, p. 461.

Castle Hill on the outside of the harbour, commanding on one side a full view of the shipping, and on the other an extensive sweep of the sea. The interior is admirably contrived to afford every facility for bathing when the state of the weather renders access to the sea impracticable; the baths constructed for this purpose are supplied by immense reservoirs, which are filled with fresh water every tide. The pleasure baths are two in number, one for ladies, the other for gentlemen, which have convenient dressing rooms attached to them: there are also four smaller cold baths for single persons. In addition to these, warm and vapour baths are provided for visitors of a different class, to which dressing rooms are annexed, with conveniences for heating the air to any degree of warmth that may be necessary for the comfort or health of the patient. The house is likewise provided with lodging rooms for valitudinarians to whom it may be inconvenient to be removed to a distance. Connected with the baths is a large lounging room for the company, where any refreshments may be procured, and the access to the house has been rendered easy and pleasant by the formation of an excellent carriage road.

Sir William Paxton became lately the owner of the property on which these erections are built by purchase, and Tenby may well consider him the greatest benefactor it has witnessed for many ages: the valuable accommodations he has thus, at so great an expense, provided for the public cannot fail to act as powerful incitements to draw visitors to the place, and enrich the inhabitants.

Since Tenby has become so fashionable a summer resort, a coach has been established to run during the season three times a week, to meet the mail at Cold Blow near Narberth, for the conveyance of passengers and parcels.

There is here but one church, which is situated in the middle of the town. The building is of considerable size, comprising a nave and two side aisles, and extending one hundred and forty-five feet in length. At the west end is a large square tower surmounted



surmounted by a lofty spire, rising both together to the height of about one hundred and fifty feet, and forming a striking feature in the view of the town. The architecture of this ancient pile offers nothing particularly entitled to notice, excepting an arched doorway at the west end, which is constructed in a very curious and singular style. The interior is enriched by several ancient monuments, some of them of exquisite workmanship. The most remarkable is that which commemorates some members of the family of the Whites, for several generations the most enterprising and wealthy merchants of this place.

The ancient religious establishments of Tenby comprised a hospital or free chapel of St. John the Baptist, with a stipend of nine pounds three shillings and two-pence for the officiating priest; a convent of Carmelite friars, founded by John de Swynemore in the year 1399, and called St. Mary's College; and in the suburbs a hospital or Lazar house, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen.

The remains of the castle are yet considerable, though mostly in a very dilapidated state. The only portions now standing that at all indicate its former strength are a bastion and square tower: the rest of the buildings exhibit rather the air of a splendid mansion than of a military fortress. On the north are the ruins of a large hall about one hundred feet in length, by twenty in width; and near the grand entrance gate is another apartment eighty feet long and thirty feet wide. Attached to these rooms are several others of smaller dimensions, which might have been used as offices, and barracks for the soldiers. The situation of this fortress was admirably formed for defence: it occupied the extreme point of the promontory, and was secured by inaccessible rocks on every side except that facing the town, which was strengthened by the hand of art.

It is not likely that so favourable a position for a military post could have been long overlooked by the native chiefs,

when it became necessary for them to secure themselves against attack in their private feuds; but it is probable that the foundations of the present erection were laid by the Anglo-Norman settlers after they had rendered themselves masters of the country. In their wars with the Welsh princes this castle became a frequent object of attack. About the year 1151 it was taken by Meredydd and Rhys, the sons of Gruffydd ab Rhys, who put the garrison to the sword, in consequence of their having sheltered some inhabitants of Tenby, who had the year before attacked and wounded Cadell their brother, while on a hunting excursion in the neighbourhood.\* About the year 1186 it was invested by Maelgwn the son of Rhys ab Gruffydd, who brought against it an overwhelming force, with which he took the place, and demolished the works.† It has been doubted whether after this the fortifications were ever restored to their former strength.

Immediately to seaward of Tenby are some insulated rocks, of wild and romantic appearance, which exhibit curious excavations. Some of them are accessible on foot at low water; this is the case with the island of St. Catherine, off the Castle Point, which in one direction has been perforated quite through by the repeated action of the tides.‡ The principal of these islands is CALDEY, situated about two miles from the main land. It is about a mile in length, and half a mile wide, and is estimated to comprise rather more than six hundred acres of surface, of which about one-third is under cultivation. George Owen, speaking of this spot, says, it "is very fertile, and yeeldeth plenty of corne; all their plowes goe with horses, for oxen the inhabitants dare not keepe, fearing the purveyors of the pirattes,

as

\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 564-5.

† Idem. p. 579.

‡ See the annexed view. The view of Tenby, which is from the pencil of another ingenious artist, was taken from the high ground above the town, on the road from Narberth. On the left is seen the Castle Hill, with Sir William Paxton's Baths on the inner side adjoining the harbour. In the distance on the right appears the Island of Caldey.

as they themselves told me, whoe often make them provisions there, by their own commission, and most commonly to the good contentment of the inhabitants, when considerable thieves arrive there. The island is of eight or ten houshoulds, and some parte of the demaynes annexed to the ruins of the priory the lord keepeth in his hands.\*

There was a priory at Caldey, founded, it is supposed, by Robert the son of Martin de Turribus as a cell to the Abbey of St. Dogmael's, to which establishment the island had been given by his mother. At the Dissolution its annual revenues were valued at 5l. 10s. 11d. The tower of the priory church, surmounted by a stone spire, is yet standing, and many of the conventual buildings have been converted into offices, and attached to a handsome modern edifice, the seat of the present proprietor. The Welsh name of Caldey is *Ynis Pyr*, the island of Pyr. What the real etymology of Pyr is, has not yet been satisfactorily determined.

Near the coast to the eastward of Tenby are several respectable gentlemen's residences, some of them of ancient date. Among them may be enumerated *Cilgetty*, formerly inhabited by the Canon family; *Hen Castle*, or more properly *Hen Gastell*, the Old Castle, now the property of Thomas Stokes, Esq.; *Merrixton*, the seat of Charles Swan, Esq.; *Bonville Court*, an ancient mansion of the Bonvilles; and *Eare Wear*, now called *Amroth Castle*, formerly the residence of the Elliots, now of Captain Ackland; and on the road from Narberth may be mentioned *Begelty Hall*, the seat of James Child, Esq.

Leaving Tenby, our next excursion must be taken in the direction of Pembroke. This ride, which is about ten miles in length, may be pronounced one of the most delightful afforded by the county. The road lies nearly all the way along the ridge of a hill, having a fertile valley on the right studded with villages, churches, and ruined castles; in front detached pieces

of Milford Haven glittering among the woods which line its shores ; and on the left a wide expanse of sea, broken in one instance by the Island of Lundy. Several old mansions occur on this route, the history of which is little known. It has been conjectured that some of them might have formed the country residence of some of the more wealthy merchants and manufacturers of Tenby during its more flourishing days. *Treflyne*, more properly Trellyn, which formed the head quarters of the Earl of Carberry during the civil wars in the time of Charles the First, was once the seat of an ancient Welsh family. On the right near the little village of St. Florence is *Ivy Tower*, late the residence of William Williams, Esq. a gentleman distinguished by his literary acquirements, who died since the present work was commenced. A little way farther on the left a narrow lane conducts to the ancient castle of

#### MANORBEER,

the seat of the Barri family, and the birth-place of Giraldus de Barri, to whom we are indebted for the earliest topographical account of this country. Giraldus thus describes his native place as it stood in his time. "The castle called Maenor Pyrr, that is the mansion of Pyrrus, who also possessed the island of Caldey, which the Welsh call Inys Pyrr, or the island of Pyrrus, is distant about three miles from Penbroch. It is excellently well defended by turrets and bulwarks, and is situated on the summit of a hill extending on the western side towards the sea-port, having on the northern and southern sides a fine fish pond under its walls, as conspicuous for its grand appearance, as for the depth of its waters, and a beautiful orchard on the same side, enclosed on one part by a vineyard, and on the other by a wood, remarkable for the projection of its rocks, and the height of its hazel trees. On the right hand of the promontory, between the castle and the church, near the site of a very large lake and mill, a rivulet of never failing  
water

water flows through a valley, rendered sandy by the violence of the winds. Towards the west, the Severn sea, bending its course to Ireland, enters a hollow bay at some distance from the castle; and the southern rocks, if extended a little farther towards the north, would render it a most excellent harbour for shipping. From this point of sight, you will see almost all the ships from Great Britain, which the east wind drives upon the Irish coast, daringly brave the inconstant waves and raging sea. This country is well supplied with corn, sea-fish, and imported wines; and what is preferable to every other advantage, from its vicinity to Ireland, is tempered by a salubrious air. Demetia, therefore, with its seven cantreds, is the most beautiful, as well as the most powerful district of Wales; Penbroch, the finest province of Demetia; and the place I have just described, the most delightful part of Penbroch. It is evident, therefore, that Maenor Pirr is the pleasantest spot in Wales; and the author may be pardoned for having thus extolled his native soil, his genial territory, with a profusion of praise and admiration."\*

Granting our author every allowance he claims for his partiality to this spot, which led him to extol it as the finest in Wales, we may receive his description as circumstantially correct. Its lakes, fish-ponds, and vineyards have indeed disappeared, but the valley and the rivulet remain, together with some traces of the artificial decorations of the place, formed for the accommodation or pleasure of the noble proprietors. The existing remains of the castle are extensive, and in tolerable preservation, compared with the other dilapidated erections of the same class in this country. In its original state this must have been a large and noble edifice, but seems to have been rather a splendid castellated mansion, than a fortress constructed for defence. The buildings are enclosed by a lofty embattled wall, with no other aperture besides a few narrow openings, designed probably for the discharge of missile weapons.

pons. The windows of the apartments appropriated for the residence of the family look into a court in the interior, which was entered by a grand gateway strongly fortified and protected.

On a hill situated at a short distance from the castle stands the church, which is entitled to notice only as containing a sepulchral monument of one of the Barri family in good preservation.

The name of this place has puzzled the conjectural ingenuity of many antiquaries. Giraldus, as we have seen, calls it *Maenor Pyrr*, which he translates, on what ground it is difficult to conceive, *the mansion of Pyrrus*. Who this Pyrrus was we are not told, nor is it explained by what rule *Maenor* came to signify a *mansion*. Sir Richard Hoare, in his annotations on his author, suggests a very probable explanation. *Maenor* is the Welsh for a manor, and this very respectable antiquary conceives *Pyrr* to be nothing more than the plural of the British word *Por*, a lord; thus resolving the name into "the manor of the lords." Mr. Fenton, the historian of Pembrokeshire, is however somewhat disposed to adopt the etymology of Giraldus, excepting no doubt his mistranslation of *Maenor*. In the pedigrees of Gwynfardd Dyfed, his descent is derived from *Pyr y Dwyrain*, *Pyrr*, or *Pyrrhus* of the east, who is represented as a lord of Dyfed, and who Mr. Fenton supposes might have possessed this territory, with the neighbouring Island of Caldey.

It does not seem satisfactorily ascertained by whom this castle was built; it is probable however it owed its erection to one of the Norman lords who came to this country in the train of Arnulph de Montgomery of the name of Barri. William de Barri connected himself with the princes of the house of Dinevor, by marrying Angharad, the grand-daughter of Rhys ab Tewdwr by his daughter Nest. The estate remained in this family till the reign of Henry the Fourth, when it was granted by the crown to John de Windsor. It is now the property of Lord Milford.

Sylvester Giraldus de Barri, surnamed Cambrensis, was born at Manorbeer about the year 1146. He was the fourth son of William de Barri mentioned above, and on his mother's side was descended from Rhys ab Tewdwr, she being the grand-daughter of that prince. The partiality which at an early period of life he was observed to evince for literary pursuits and religious habits, induced his father to make suitable provisions for his education. In consequence however of the unsettled and tumultuous state of the country, which engaged the whole attention of his family, he made little progress in his studies, until his uncle, David Fitzgerald, then bishop of St. David's, removed him to his house, and undertook the care of his tuition. Though he was at first rather slow in learning, he was soon enabled, by diligent application, to which he was stimulated by a sense of shame, to surpass his fellow students. After he had made some proficiency, he went to Paris, with the view of finishing his education. During his residence in that city, which lasted three years, he engaged himself in delivering lectures on rhetoric and the Belles Lettres, which procured him great esteem and reputation in the university. He returned to England about the year 1172, when he took orders, and obtained some preferments in the church.

As soon as Giraldus had entered on his new profession, he set himself seriously to work to reform some abuses which he observed to have crept into the affairs of the church in the diocese of St. David's. Having laid a statement of the existing evils before the archbishop of Canterbury, that prelate appointed him his legate in Wales, with full powers to act as circumstances might seem to require. It appears that through the neglect of the proper officers, the church dues, including the tythes of wool and cheese, had been generally withheld: the legate's first attention was directed to enforce these payments, and the spirit and resolution with which he executed his commission may be learnt from the following anecdote. "Amongst those who resisted the demands of the clergy, was

one William Karquit, governor of the province of Pembroke, who being jealous of the newly acquired office of Giraldus, took away forcibly from the priory at Pembroke, eight yoke of oxen, and drove them to his own castle. Three times he was requested to restore them, and as often refused; at last, being threatened with excommunication, he replied. ‘The legate may, indeed, be proud and malicious, but I think him not bold enough to excommunicate the Constable of the King, in his own castle.’ He was then informed that on hearing the bells of the monastery sound three times, he might rest assured that the sentence of excommunication had been passed. When the messenger returned, the monks and clergy were summoned together; the legate, in the most solemn manner, passed sentence of excommunication, and the bells, as is usual on similar occasions, confirmed it by their peals.”

Our legate next applied himself to the delicate task of reforming the morals of the clergy, which he found in great need of correction. Several priests had violated the rules of their order by marrying; these he peremptorily ordered to dismiss their wives, whom he stigmatized as their concubines. At this time the archdeacon of Brecknock, who was far advanced in years, was living publicly with his mistress. Giraldus endeavoured by mild remonstrances to prevail upon him to put her away; but failing by this method to gain his object, he deprived him of his ecclesiastical dignities and benefices, which he delivered up to the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Bishop of St. David’s afterwards, at the recommendation of the Archbishop, conferred the archdeaconry, and the other preferments, on Giraldus himself, in reward of his zeal, provision being made out of the revenues for the support of his predecessor during life.

Soon after he had been invested with his new dignities, he was called upon, in a very remarkable instance, to support the rights of his archdeaconry, and the jurisdiction of the see of St. David’s. The proceedings in this case exhibit a curious picture



picture of the manners of the age. The parish of Keri in Montgomeryshire had long been considered as within the diocese of St. David's; but Adam, bishop of St. Asaph, now claimed it as belonging to his see, and was proceeding to assert his right, by going in person to dedicate the church. As soon as the Archdeacon was apprised of this circumstance, though just returned to his residence near Brecknock from a fatiguing excursion, he resolved to hasten instantly to the spot, and anticipate the bishop's design. "On the Saturday he dispatched messengers to two princes of that country, Einon Clyd and Cadwallon, requesting them to send some trusty men of their families, provided with horses and arms, to assist him (if necessity required,) in asserting the rights of the church of St. David's, as the bishop of St. Asaph was reported to be attended by a strong body of men from Powis. On coming to Keri early on Sunday morning he found that two of the clergy and partizans of the bishop, had concealed the keys of the church: these being at length found, the archdeacon entered the church, and, having ordered the bells to be rung, as a token of possession, he celebrated mass with great solemnity. In the mean time messengers arrived from the bishop, ordering preparations to be made for the dedication of the church. Mass being concluded, the Archdeacon sent some of his clergy, attended by the dean of the province, to inform the bishop 'That if he came to Keri as a neighbour and a friend he would receive him with every mark of hospitality; but if otherwise he desired him not to proceed.' The bishop returned for answer, 'That he was coming in his professional capacity as bishop of the diocese, to perform his duty in the dedication of the church.' The Archdeacon and his clergy met the bishop at the entrance of the churchyard, where a long dispute arose about the matter in question, and each asserted their respective rights to the church of Keri. To enforce his claims the more, the bishop dismounted from his horse, placed his mitre on his head, and taking up his pastoral staff, walked with his attendants

dants towards the church. The Archdeacon proceeded to meet him, accompanied by his clergy, dressed in their surplices and sacerdotal robes, who with lighted tapers, and up-raised crucifix, came forth from the church in processional form: at length each began to excommunicate the other; but the Archdeacon having ordered the bells to be rung three times, as the usual confirmation of the sentence, the bishop and his train mounted their horses, and made a precipitate retreat, followed by a great mob, and pelted with clots of earth and stones."

After the decease of his uncle, David Fitzgerald, the chapter of St. David's elected Giraldus to be his successor in that see. King Henry, however, refused to ratify their choice, not deeming it prudent to raise to that dignity a man of such talents and influence, who was so nearly related to the native princes of the country. Finding the King to be immoveable in his opposition, the Archdeacon and the canons forbore to press their claims, and consented to the election of Peter de Leia, prior of the monastery of Wenloch in Shropshire.

After this repulse, Giraldus went a second time to Paris, to resume his favourite study of the Belles Lettres. It is not a little amusing to observe the complacency with which he recounts the honours he now acquired in the schools, by his public exercises, which he represents as being attended by crowds of auditors, and heard with unmixed approbation and the warmest praise. After a protracted residence here he once more returned to the principality, where he found the affairs of the church in the utmost disorder. The new bishop, Peter de Leia, having by some offensive conduct rendered himself obnoxious to the people of his diocese, had been obliged to retire to England. Giraldus, at the recommendation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, undertook to superintend the affairs of the church for him, and executed his trust with his usual ability and spirit.

About this time he was invited to court by King Henry, who  
 . appointed

appointed him one of his chaplains, and made him liberal promises of farther preferments, which, however, he never fulfilled. Shortly after, A. D. 1185, King Henry committed to his care the education of his son John. With this young prince he went to Ireland in the capacity of secretary, and discharged the duties of that office so much to his satisfaction that he offered him successively the Bishoprics of Fernes and Leighelin, and on his refusal of each of them separately, proposed to consolidate them into one, if that would induce him to accept them. Giraldus, however, declined this liberal proposal, alleging that he did not think he could by his acceptance of this dignity, contribute to the improvement of the church of Ireland. He afterwards refused the archbishopric of Cashel.

During his stay in this country he employed himself with great diligence in collecting materials for the two works he had then in contemplation, the "Topography," and the "History of Ireland." The former of these productions, after he had completed it, he recited in public before the University of Oxford, for three successive days.

Baldwin, archbishop of Canterbury, having been appointed, during the rage of the Crusading mania of this period, to preach the holy cause among the Welsh, he was accompanied on his mission by our Archdeacon, whose eloquence, if we may credit his own report, produced effects not short of miraculous in gaining over recruits. The progress of our spiritual sergeants is detailed by Giraldus in his celebrated Itinerary through Wales.

This journey was undertaken in 1187. Two years afterwards, Giraldus accompanied king Henry in his expedition to France, but on the death of that monarch was dispatched to England by Earl Richard, afterwards king Richard the First, with letters to his Justiciary. On the departure of King Richard for Palestine, Giraldus was joined with William de Longchamp, Bishop of Ely, in the Regency of the kingdom. During the time he held this office, he refused the bishopricks

of Bangor and Landaff, alledging as his reason, that he was unwilling to accept any dignity that would necessarily draw his attention from his studies. His real motive, however, as he confesses himself, was the hope of succeeding to the bishopric of St. David's, which was likely to be soon vacant.\*

Taking disgust at his repeated disappointments at court, Giraldus resolved to seek retirement, and devote himself to his literary pursuits. With this view he removed to Lincoln, where he remained six years studying divinity under William de Monte, chancellor of that diocese. During this interval, (A. D. 1199) the death of Peter de Leia created a vacancy in the see of St. David's. The chapter, being ordered by the Archbishop of Canterbury to choose a successor, nominated four persons, placing Giraldus at the head of their list. The Archbishop refused to ratify the election, but the Canons insisted upon their right to appoint the bishop. The dispute to which this election gave rise proved long and vexatious. Giraldus finding himself defeated by the Archbishop and the English court, carried his cause to Rome, which city he visited three times. But here, though at first he had obtained a favourable hearing, the gold of his adversaries turned the scale against him, and the Pope passed a definitive sentence, annulling the election. As soon as he found himself thus defeated, he returned to England, and wearied by the persecution he had for so many years endured, while prosecuting his claims, was prevailed upon to give his consent to the election of his rival. He almost immediately afterwards resigned his preferments

\* Giraldus's conduct in refusing so many bishoprics, in the expectation of obtaining St. David's, did not escape observation at the time. He relates a story of a deranged priest, who used to make it the subject of his jests, by feigning the following conversation with the Archdeacon on the subject. "Master Giraldus, will you accept the bishopric of Guiseford?" "No." "Will you accept the bishopric of Ossory?" "No." "The bishopric of Leighe-lin?" "No." "The Archbishopric of Cashel?" "No." "But do you choose the bishopric of St. David's?" then replying with a loud and clamorous voice "Yes!" he burst into a fit of laughter."

preferments in the church in favour of his nephew Philip de Barri. Having thus released himself from all public duties he retired into Wales, where he passed the last seventeen years of his life in literary pursuits, revising his former productions, and composing new works. He died at St. David's at the age of seventy-four, and was buried in the cathedral, where his monument yet remains.

The writings of Giraldus are extremely numerous, and are most of them still extant, scattered in various public and private collections. His Itinerary was published in Latin by Dr. Powell, who added some valuable explanatory notes. It has been lately reprinted in Quarto by Sir Richard Hoare. This intelligent antiquary has also favoured the British public with an elegant English version of this curious and interesting journal, enriched by annotations and additions, illustrative of the topography and history of the places mentioned in the Itinerary, which are highly creditable to his research. He has also called in the aid of his pencil, to furnish delineations of remarkable scenes and objects of antiquarian interest, noticed in the course of the work. To the Itinerary, Sir Richard has added a Translation of the Description of Wales; and has prefixed to the whole an excellent memoir of the author, founded indeed principally on Giraldus's account of himself, of which the preceding sketch is little more than an abridgment. At the end of the Life is inserted a catalogue of Giraldus's writings, with the names of the collections wherein they are severally deposited.

After quitting Maenorbeer, and regaining the road towards Pembroke, at a short distance on the right, our attention is claimed by the picturesque ruins of

#### LANFEY COURT,

or more correctly *Llanffydd*, formerly one of the princely residences of the bishops of St. David's. The portions of the building

building yet remaining are considerable, and convey a tolerably just idea of the splendour in which its ecclesiastical proprietors lived, while the ample revenues of the see were entire. On the south the grand entrance gateway is still standing: within are the remains of a square tower with an open arched parapet of the same kind as those of Swansea castle and the bishop's palace at St. David's. Several of the apartments are also in tolerable preservation, as respects the walls: two of these are of very large dimensions. The eastern window of the chapel is the only one that is now entire: it is an object of some architectural interest, and still displays very elegant tracery.

Lanfey was during a long period a favourite residence of the bishops of St. David's. It is not known by whom the original structure was built, but it may be perceived, from the present remains, that it must have received material improvements from successive proprietors, before it attained its last degree of magnificence. Some of the principal additions appear to have been made by bishop Gower: the elegant open parapet, which is so characteristic of his style, forming a remarkable feature of the building.

In the reign of Henry the VIII. the manor of Lanfey, together with the mansion, was alienated by bishop Barlow to the king, who granted them to Richard Devereux Viscount Hereford, afterwards created Earl of Essex. Some time after the attainder of the Earl of Essex in the reign of Elizabeth, the property was purchased by Sir Hugh Owen of Orierton, to which estate it is at present attached.

Before we advance farther in this direction, and enter the town of Pembroke, it will be advisable to return to Narberth, in order to descend the eastern Cleddau and Milford Haven, as far as this point; we shall by this means finish the upper part of this district before we enter on the promontory of Castle Martin.

In following the eastern Cleddau from Canaston Bridge,

where it is crossed by the great western road, the first object of attention is

### SLEBECH HALL,

the elegant mansion of N. Philipps, Esq. pleasantly situated on its western shore. The present house is of modern date, having been built by the late John Symmons, Esq. of Llanstinan, in this county, who had come into possession of the property by marrying the heiress. On the decease of his lady without issue, Mr. Symmons sold the estate to William Knox, Esq. from whom it was purchased by the present proprietor. But though Slebech Hall is of recent origin, the site is of ancient celebrity, having been occupied as the seat of a Commandery of the knights of St. John of Jerusalem. The precise date of the first foundation of this religious establishment at Slebech has not been satisfactorily ascertained. It appears, however, to have been nearly coeval with the introduction of the order into England, which is assigned to the year 1100 : for David Fitzgerald, bishop of St. David's, who was raised to that dignity in 1148, in a deed still extant, confirms the grant of some churches in his diocese to the society, which had been made previously to his elevation. Tanner, in his *Notitia*, ascribes the foundation to "Wizo, and Walter his son, who gave lands here to the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, for the recovery of the Holy Land." But all that can be inferred from the documents on which he grounded his opinion, is, that this Wiz or Wiss, was an early benefactor to the institution. There is extant a deed, in which several donations to it are confirmed by some bishops of this see, wherein the grants and donors are specified, but in which the name of Wiz does not occur the first in the order of enumeration.\*

This establishment appears to have acquired a high degree of

\* Fenton's *Pembrokeshire*, p. 299, and Appendix, No. 18.

of reputation at an early period: it was most liberally endowed from time to time by all the great land-holders of this part of the principality, who seem to have vied with each other in their zeal to enrich its possessions, and multiply its privileges. At the time of the Dissolution, its entire annual revenues were estimated at 211l. 9s. 11d. or 184l. 10s. 11d. clear of all charges. The possessions of the house were at this time sold to Roger and Thomas Barlow for the sum of two hundred and five pounds six shillings. John Barlow, the great grandson of Rôger, who held the property in the time of Charles the first, having taken an active part in support of that monarch, the estates were confiscated and given to Major General Laugharne, one of the commanders of the Parliamentary army in South Wales; but on his defection were conferred on Colonel Horton, and the officers of his brigade. The last representative of the Barlow family conveyed the property by marriage, as before stated, to John Symmons, Esq.

The church which belonged to the House is still standing. It is a very respectable building, and contains some ancient monuments.

A little above Slebech, on the opposite side of the river, on or near a spot now occupied by the ruins of a large mansion called New House, the old maps place *Red Castle*, but nothing is known of the nature or history of this fortress, or whatever it might have been.

Below Slebech on the western side of the Cleddau, and not far from the junction of the two streams of that name, stands

#### PICTON CASTLE,

the residence of Lord Milford. The greater part of this noble edifice retains its original form and character, having, by peculiar good fortune, passed with comparatively little injury through the hands of its successive proprietors to the present time.



time. The ground plan occupies an oblong area, of nearly uniform breadth, but having three large projecting bastions on each side, which, while they contributed essentially to the military strength of the building, furnished an important addition to its interior convenience and splendor. At the east end, between two bastions similar to the others, but of smaller dimensions, was placed the grand entrance gate, with its portcullis. This has now lost its military character, having, without injury to its appearance, been transformed into an elegant modern doorway. The moat which surrounded the castle has in this part been filled up, and the drawbridge has given way to a raised terracé, guarded on each side by a handsome open parapet. At the western end the present noble proprietor has made some additions, which, though they do not strictly comport with the architecture of the original edifice, are very material as respects its adaptation to the uses of a modern residence; and are highly creditable to the liberal spirit of hospitality by which his lordship seeks to emulate the most distinguished of his ancestors.

The foundation of this house is ascribed to William de Picton, one of the followers of Arnulph de Montgomery. It has from the first been occupied by families of the first rank and consequence in the county, among whom may be mentioned a branch of the Wogans of Wiston. On failure of male issue, the property fell to Jane the daughter of Sir Henry Donne, who by marriage conveyed it to Sir Thomas Philipps of Cilsant, a lineal descendant of Cadivor the Great, lord of Dyfed, and the ancestor of Lord Milford. In the time of the Civil wars between Charles the first and the Parliament, this place was garrisoned for the king by Sir Richard Philipps, and made a gallant defence against the Parliamentary forces, to whom, however, it at last surrendered. The grounds about Picton Castle are on a very magnificent scale, and laid out with a proper regard to the baronial dignity of the mansion. They are very richly wooded; and have every advantage of water

scenery from their position near the confluence of two handsome streams, which spread before them into the noble haven of Milford.

There are in the grounds some remains of an ancient fortification, or encampment, called *Castle Lake*. It appears to have been once a place of considerable strength, but its history is unknown.

A little below Picton Castle, on the opposite shore, stands *Landshipping*, where there are quays for shipping the coals raised in the neighbourhood. There once stood here a mansion, belonging to Sir William Owen, of which some ruins still remain. Farther down the stream occur the ruins of another ancient seat, called *Coed Gantlais*, once occupied by a family of the name of Percival, now extinct. Nearly opposite, on the western shore of Milford Haven, stands BENTON CASTLE, probably erected by some of the Norman or Flemish settlers as a border fortress for the protection of their estates. The building seems never to have been of great extent, the principal portion having probably consisted of the existing round tower, which terminates in an octagon.

The next object of attention on this route is LAWRENNY HALL the seat of Hugh Barlow, Esq. many years the representative in Parliament for the borough of Pembroke. The house is very pleasantly situated on a point of land, having Milford Haven on the west, and on the south a wide creek branching from it in a north easterly direction, towards Creswell. On the opposite point of land, at the entrance of this creek, stood the ancient castellated mansion of UPTON, once the residence of the Malefants family. The present house is the property of the Rev. Mr. Evans, who obtained the estate by marriage with one of the heiresses of the late owner. In the chapel are some monuments, commemorative of the former occupiers of this place.

At Upton the creek divides into two branches: we shall first ascend the northern branch a short distance to visit on the  
right

right CRESSELLY, the seat of John Allen, Esq. This house stands on an elevated site close to the turnpike road leading from Narberth to Pembroke, and commands a fine view of Milford Haven. At the head of the southern branch stands

### CAREW CASTLE,

magnificent even in ruins. This noble edifice is built on a point of land, of very inconsiderable elevation, surrounded on three sides by water. It has been conjectured with much probability,\* that this spot might anciently have contained some British fortifications, which acquired for it the descriptive name of *Caerau*, afterwards by a very easy mutation converted into *Carew*.

Antiquaries have been divided in opinion with respect to the age to which the foundation of this castle is to be assigned; but the slightest examination of the present remains must satisfy every competent judge in such matters, that its erection was not the work of any single period. Parts of the building may be ascribed to the sixteenth century, to the reign of Henry the Seventh or of his successor; but other portions evince an earlier origin, and some may safely be referred to the time of the first occupation of this district by the Norman settlers under Arnulph de Montgomery.

“ One portion of the ancient fabric, perhaps coeval with its first erection, remains still in a tolerable state of preservation; this comprises part of the north west, and north east walls, contiguous to the fine airy range of buildings, that presents a front altogether different from the rest of the edifice, and which is certainly the most modern of the whole.

“ Within the walls on the north-west side, is the ruin of a noble suite of antique buildings, to which the principal ascent

3 E 2

from

\* Fenton's Pembrokeshire, p. 240.

from the Court Yard was by a flight of steps leading to a lofty portal that is still standing, but the steps are nearly destroyed. An easier access is afforded through the dilapidated wall below. A more august picture than the romantic interior of this ruin presents is not often seen. Here disorder reigns supreme: every circumstance assimilates with the indication of decay, in this portion of the venerable edifice, now tottering on the verge of dissolution. This wing has contained on the upper floor an apartment of vast extent, a sort of Banquet Room to all appearance, that brought immediately to mind the grand hall of Conway Castle. The latter is indeed constructed upon a more majestic scale, notwithstanding which there are attendant features in the present, that render it, in my mind, more picturesque. The roof, like that of 'Conway's Mighty Hall,' has been borne on arches, the buttresses of which are yet affixed against the wall, but the lofty covering they supported has long since fallen in, and now lies buried beneath the widely spreading herbage below. In the wreck occasioned by the overwhelming fall of ruins from above, the subterraneous caverns in the bottom were rudely broken into, the disclosure of whose gloomy recesses, the abode of darkness, improves, in a surprising manner, the solemnity of the picture. Even thus in ruins, all tokens of its past magnificence are not effaced: enough remains to inspire an involuntary thrill of awe, while in this hallowed solitude, and in fixed astonishment, the imagination traces the momentous changes it has undergone within the space of three centuries, for scarcely have three centuries expired since Carew Castle shone in all the pride and glory of baronial splendour."

"In the suite of apartments on the opposite side of the Court Yard, another style of architecture prevails. Over the fire place, in one of the rooms seen through the windows of a contiguous part of the ruin, in winding up a staircase, is a handsome ornamented fire place, bearing in the centre the arms of Lancaster. The battlements above, to which those

steps conduct, are pierced with lancets for the discharge of arrows.

“Descending again into the Court Yard, we proceed at the north-east end into the more modern wing of the building. This elegant addition is built up against the outside of the old building, which it conceals effectually from without. The external front of a circular tower, to which the new apartments were attached, with great part of the curtain wall, is visible within. The style of this additional wing determines the æra of it in a satisfactory manner. Only the shell remains, from which it appears the building was divided into two stories, independent of the offices on the ground floor. All the windows were large and square, with intermediate frame work of fine free-stone, dividing them into rectangular compartments. Its external front is farther ornamented with semi-circular projections, or bows of windows of vast size. The first story appears to have been magnificently fitted up: there is in particular, a single column, the remains of one side of the fire place, modelled after the form of a Corinthian pillar.”\*

The Carew estate is said to have formed originally one of the royal demesnes belonging to the princes of South Wales, and to have been given to Gerald de Windsor on his marriage with Nest, the daughter of Rhys ab Tewdwr, as a part of his wife’s dower. It may be doubted, however, whether the grant was made by the Welsh prince himself, as asserted by Grose. At this time the Norman invaders, under Arnulph de Montgomery, had possessed themselves of the whole of this

3 E 3

district,

\* Donovan’s Excursions through South Wales, Vol. II. p. 238, et seq. This passage has been transcribed on account of its descriptive accuracy. The view here given, so highly creditable to the pencil of the artist, will assist the reader to understand it. It presents the north east front of the building; that which Mr. Donovan justly pronounces the oldest part, is entered by a square aperture to the right of the figure. A portion of the more modern front, the most beautiful architectural remain of the kind perhaps in the principality, is seen on the right,

district, and had begun to fortify themselves in their conquests, so that the estates were no longer at Rhys's disposal. As Nest had been the concubine of Henry the first, and the match had no doubt been effected at the instigation of that monarch, the more probable supposition seems to be that the dower was also assigned by him, when on the banishment of Arnulph he appointed Gerald to be his lieutenant in this country. Gerald de Windsor had issue by this marriage three sons, William, Maurice, and David. David Fitzgerald was bishop of St. David's from 1149 to 1176, and has already been mentioned as the near relative of Giraldus Cambrensis. Maurice Fitzgerald, the second son, accompanied Richard Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, to Ireland, and became the founder of the numerous families of Geraldts and Fitzgeralds in that country.

William succeeded to his mother's inheritance on the death of his father, and was the first who bore the name of Carew. His son Odo afterwards enjoyed it, and increased his possessions and influence by marrying the daughter of Richard Fitz-Tancred, a man of great power in Pembrokeshire. The castle and the annexed estates remained in the family during several generations, till they were mortgaged to Sir Rhys ab Thomas by Sir Edmond Carew, who was in want of money to equip himself for a foreign expedition. Leland states that the castle was "repairid or magnificently buildid by Sir Rhese ap Thomas."\* The whole building was probably greatly improved by this opulent knight, and there seems no just reason to deprive him of the honour of having added to it the sumptuous suite of apartments which compose the northern front. They have indeed been ascribed to a later proprietor, Sir John Perrot, who obtained the estate from the crown after the attainder of Rhys Gruffydd, the grandson of Sir Rhys ab Thomas, in the reign of Henry the VIII. but his claim seems to rest on no satisfactory or even probable grounds.

After being for some time out of the family, the estates were  
purchased

\* Itin. Vol. V. fol. 74.

purchased by Sir John Carew, a descendant of Sir Edmond, to whom they were granted in fee by Charles the first. From Sir John they descended to his great grandson Thomas Carew, who died in the year 1766, leaving issue two daughters, to whom, as joint heiresses, the property devolved. One of the daughters died unmarried, upon which the other, who had married James Bernard, Esq. Barister of the Middle Temple, obtained possession of the whole, including the barony, manor, and castle of Carew. Mrs. Barnard died in 1805 leaving a life interest in the estate to her husband. After his decease it passes to another branch of the family, Mary Warrington, the granddaughter of John Carew, brother of Thomas Carew mentioned above, whose issue are to bear the name and arms of Carew.

Some mention has already been incidentally made of a grand fête given at Carew Castle in honour of St. George, by Sir Rhys ab Thomas, who was prevented by age, and other causes, from attending the festival given at the time in London.\* As this forms so remarkable an incident in the history of the place, and as the spectacle altogether is to be regarded as the most magnificent that was ever perhaps exhibited by a private individual at his own charge, some account of it may well be admitted here. The details shall be given in a compressed form from a circumstantial narrative published from an old manuscript, in the Cambrian Register.†

Sir Rhys having announced his intention to hold a solemn just and tournament, with other marshal exercises, the gentry of the different counties of the principality, to the number of five or six hundred, exclusively of their attendants, assembled at Carew, where every necessary preparation had been made for their accommodation and entertainment. "Tentes and pavillions were pitched in the parke, neere to the castle, where they quartered all the time, everie man according to his qualitie, the place being furnished aforehand with all sortes

\* See above, page 506.

† Vol. I. p. 124, et seq.

of provisions for that purpose. This festival and time of jollitie continued the space of five days. On St. George's eve's eve, which was the first day of their meeting, Sir Rhys tooke a view of all the companie, chusing out five hundred of the tallest and ablest among them; those he divided into five troopes, a hundred to each troope, over whom he appointed Captains. The next day, being the eve, these five Captaines drewe forth their forces into the field, exercising them in all pointes, as if they had bid suddenlie to go upon some notable piece of service. The third day, St. George his day, earlie in the morning the drummes beat up, and trumpets sounded, everie man with the summons betaking him to his charge; first the Captaines ledd forth their companies, in a militarie array, well armed at all pointes; then followed Sir Rhys himself upon a goodlie courser, having two pages and a herald on horseback before him richly cladd, after whom the rest of the gentlemen followed, being all bravelie mounted, and soe in a silent and grave march they passed on to the bishop's palace at Lamphay, a mile or thereabouts distant from Carewe Castle. At their coming thither they bid good morrowe to the bishopp in the language of souldiers, with arquebusses, musketts, and calivers, and then dividing themselves they made a lane for Sir Rhys to pass onward to the gate. Upon his approach the bishop's subsidiarie came out at the wicket demanding what he was, why in arms, and the cause of his coming thither. To which Sir Rhys made answer, that he was one of St. George's knights, who ever shewed himself a trustie patron of Marchialists, and therefore he held it most suitable to his profession, especially on the verie day dedicated to the honour of that renowned saint, to appear in harness and military equipage. Notwithstanding he willed the messenger to assure the bishop that he was a man of peace, for he came to pray for the rest and peace of St. George's soul, in which exercise he desired the bishop would be pleased to come with him." The messenger having returned with this answer, Sir Rhys and his attendants

rode



rode up into the bishop's park, where a tent had been provided for him. "There he alighted and forthwith enrobed himself in St. George his livery. After some repose he walked on foote downe to the palace, having a trumpeter before him and a herald of armes, two pages carrying his train, and the choicest of the gentlemen to be his associates. Sir Rhys drawing neere to the palace, he caused his trumpet to sound, thereby to give notice of his approach, and then the gates were opened; the bishop, having with him the abbot of Talley, and the prior of Carmarthen, all with rich copes, stood there to give him entrance." Having paraded round the court the company proceeded to the chapel, where the bishop read divine service. "All religious forms observed and ended, Sir Rhys tooke the bishop, abbot, and prior, along with him to dinner, and soe back again he goes to Carewe. Sir Rhys having reserved a greate companie of the better sorte for his guests (the rest of the visitors being provided for) he leads them to the castle with drummes, trumpets, and other warlike musick. Over the gate was hung up a goodlie faire table wherein was represented the species and pourtraiture of St. George and St. David embracing one another. In the first court two hundred talesmen were arranged all in blewe coates, who made them a lane into another lesse court in which the images, scutcheons, and coat armours, of certaine of Sir Rhys's ancestors stood, and soe they passed into the great hall, which hall was a goodlie spaciously roome, richlie hanged with cloath of Arras and tapistry. At the upper end, under a plain cloath of state of crimson velvet, was provided a cross table for the king: on each side, downe the length of the hall, two other tables, the one for Sir Rhys alone, the other for the rest of the gentlemen. Here everie man stood bare as in the king's presence. Within a while after the trumpetts sounded, and the herald called for the king's service; whereupon all the gentlemen went presentlie downe to waite upon the sewer, who was Sir Gruffith Rhys, Sir Rhy's son. When the king's  
meate

meate was brought to the table, the bishop stood on the right side of the chair, and Sir Rhys on the left, and all the while the meate was a laying downe, the cornetts, hautbois, and other wind instruments, were not silent. After the table was served and all sett, the bishop made his humble obeysance to the king's chaire and then descended to say grace, which donn he returned againe to his former station. The king's service being finished Sir Rhys went to his own table, taking onlie the bishöp along with him, whom he placed at the upper end, at a messe all alone, and himselfe at some distance sate downe at another. All the gentlemen there present were pleased for Sir Rhys's more honour to stand by and give him the looking on, untill the first course was served. Then Sir Griffith Rhys the King's sewer, his two fellow officers, and the rest by the name of waiters went to the king's reversion. The fare they had you will easilie believe was good, being provided as for the king. By that time these conviviall merriments were ended the day was well nigh spent, soe that they could fall to noe disports for the rest of the afternoone."

Before the company separated for the night Sir William Herbert stepped forth, and challenged all comers four to four at justs and tournaments on the following morning. The challenge was instantly accepted, and Sir Rhys appointed to sit as judge. "The next morning, by sound of trumpet, Sir Rhys was summoned to play the judges parte, which accordinglie he did. He had on that day a faire gilt armour; two pages well provided on horseback before him, with a herauld and two trumpeters, himself mounted on a goodlie steed, richly barbed and trapped, with foure footmen, two on each side, attending him. Two hundred tall men in blew coates, some before and some behind him. In this manner he went into the parke, where a tilt was made ready for the purpose. Sir Rhys perceiving all things well ordered, he presently tooke him to the judgment seate, his servants standing round about him, everie one having a halbert in his hand, and a good baskett-hilt sword

sword at his side. When the time served, the trumpetts sounded, and then the appellat came in sight: after these the inceptors, or enterprisers, followed the noe less brave defendants or propugnators. These gallant gentlemen, in good order, ridd twice or thrice about the tilt, and as they passed along, they by their pages presented their shields to the judge, which done both parties severed and took their stand, the one at one end the other at the other end of the tilt. Then the trumpetts sounded: whereupon the two first combatants putt their launces into their restes, and soe ran each their six courses. In like sorte followed the rest, who charged the one the other with equal ardour. Noe sooner had they made an end with their speares but they fall to Turney with their swords all at once, which was a most delightful spectacle to the standers by. Having performed their devoirs both with sword and speare they mutuallie embrace each other, and soe hand in hand they went to the judge to receave a definitive sentence of their activities. Thus the employments and exercises of the morning ended."

"At Supper Sir Griffith Rhys, in the presence of his father, made challenge to Sir William Herbert, foure to foure, at the ring next morning, for a supper which the losers should pay at Carmarthen for theyre farewell at parting. The next morning Sir Rhys having taken his seate, the trumpetts were commanded to sound, to which these rivall knights obeyed, running each of them their six courses. In the end Sir Rhys gave sentence against his sonn, a thing agreed upon before hand betweene him and his father, however the cause went, that soe he maught shewe his friendes the towne of Carmarthen, before they went away, and what entertainment that place was able to afford.

"After dinner, (in which the same order was observed as before) Sir Rhys leads his noble guests into the parke a hunting, where they killed divers bucks, all which was bestowed among them towards the furnishing out their festival meeting

at Carmarthen. To supper then they come, after which they had a comedie acted by some of Sir Rhys his owne servants, with which these magesticall sights and triumphs were concluded. This meeting was for some years after called by the name of St. George his pilgrimage to St. David's, where one thing is note-worthie, that for the space of five days among a thousand people (for soe manie at least were thought to be assembled together at that time) there was not one quarrell, crosse word, or unkind looke that happened between them."

In the village of Carew close to the road side stands an ancient cross, very richly ornamented with carved work, and bearing an inscription, partly obliterated, in a character which has not yet been decyphered. This monument is formed of a single stone, fourteen feet high, three feet wide at the bottom, and about one foot in thickness.

The church is a spacious building comprising a nave, two side aisles, a chancel and transept, with a large square tower at one end. It contains several antique monuments raised to the memory of the possessors of the castle, their families, and others. The rectoral house, which is a large and ancient building, standing near the church on the other side of the road, is approached by a handsome arched gateway.

At the distance of about five miles from Carew, in a south-westerly direction, stands the ancient town of

### PEMBROKE,

the metropolis of the shire. The situation is in many respects eligible and pleasant, lying in a rich country, on the shores of a navigable creek of Milford Haven, called Down Pool, which dividing here into two branches partially insulates the place. The town is formed of one long street running nearly due east and west, with a short cross street leading to the north gate. It was once surrounded by a lofty wall, in which were three  
gates,

gates; one at each end of the main street, and one on the north, which alone remains; besides which it had a postern on the south. A very considerable portion of the north wall is yet standing in good preservation: it is of great strength, and flanked with several bastions of very solid mason work.

Pembroke contained in 1811, according to the Parliamentary returns 501 houses, with a population of 2415 persons, comprising 1076 males and 1345 females. It is a borough town, having separate jurisdiction, and in conjunction with Tenby and Wiston, returns one member to Parliament. The mayor is the returning officer; besides whom the corporation consists of a council, two bailiffs, and sergeants at mace, and about 1500 burgesses. The Petty Sessions for the hundred are held here. The markets are on Wednesday and Saturday, and the fairs annually on the 14th of May, Trinity Monday, St. Peter's Day O. S. and the 25th of September.

Pembroke boasts no manufactory, and notwithstanding it possesses many local advantages for trade, its commercial importance is at this time extremely insignificant. It is perhaps the dullest town in South Wales, and the effect of this on the public accommodations of the place is sensibly felt by all casual visitors, who look in vain in the metropolis of the county, for comfortable bed and board for a night.

There are here two churches, St. Michael's near the eastern extremity of the town, and St. Mary's in the vicinity of the northern gate. They are both of them ancient structures, but are distinguished by no peculiarity or excellence of architecture; nor do they contain any monuments entitled to notice here. In the suburb of Monkton, to the westward of Pembroke, stands the church of St. Nicholas, the oldest religious edifice, probably, belonging to the place. Arnulph de Montgomery in 1078 gave this church with twenty carucates of land to the abbey of St. Martin at Sayes in Normandy, with a view to the erection of a Benedictine Priory here, which was shortly after established as a cell of that house. William and

Walter Marshal, Earls of Pembroke, made some additions to its endowments. It was seized as an alien priory by Edward the Third during his wars in France, but was afterwards restored by Henry the Fourth. Having been once more seized by the crown, it was bestowed 19th Henry the Sixth on Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, who gave it as a cell to the Abbey of St. Alban's. At the Dissolution it was valued according to Speed at 113l. 2s. 6d. or 57l. 9s. 3d. according to Dugdale, and granted to John Vaughan and Catherine his wife.\*

Pembroke Castle, even in its present dilapidated state, is a most magnificent pile of building. It occupies an elevated rocky point of land at the west end of the town, where its walls and towers rise majestically from the shores of the two branches into which the creek is divided by this promontory. The view from the water is inexpressibly grand, and is not surpassed by any of a similar description in the kingdom. Leland thus describes this edifice as he saw it in the reign of Henry the Eighth. "The Castel standith hard by the waul on a hard rokke, and is veri larg and strong, being doble warded. In the utter ward I saw the chaumbre wher King Henri the VII. was borne, in knowledge wherof a chymmeney is now made with the armes and badges of King Henri the VII. In the botom of the great stronge rownd tower in the inner ward is a marvelous vault caullid the *Hogan*. The toppe of this round towr is gatherid with a rofe of stone almost *in conum*, the top wherof is keverid with a flat mille stone."† The outer ward, of which our author speaks, was entered from the town by a grand gateway yet standing, constructed of prodigious strength, and defended by two round towers, one on each side. This building contained some elegant apartments, appropriated to the residence of the noble proprietors, and if Leland's authority is to be credited, in one of these was born King Henry the Seventh. In the inner ward stands the keep, a circular tower of great height,

\* Tanner's Notitia, p. 719.

† Itin. Vol. V. fol. 74.

height, elegant proportions, and extraordinary strength. The height has been estimated at seventy-five feet. The interior diameter is about twenty-four feet, and the walls from fourteen to seventeen feet in thickness. It seems to have been originally divided into four or five stories, each story gradually diminishing in size, the diameter of the building having been regularly lessened in order to bring the summit into a cone or arched roof of stone. The apartments in the middle stories appear to have been finished in a style of great elegance, and were probably occupied by the proprietors as their ordinary residence. There is on the north of this tower a long range of apartments, which seem of more recent erection, or to have been modernized by the later owners of the place. A staircase leading from this part of the castle communicates with the "marvelous vault cauld the Hogan" of which Leland speaks. This is a large cavern in the rock, opening upon the water and extending a great way under the buildings. Its length is computed at about seventy-seven feet, and the width at about fifty-seven feet. The roof, particularly towards the centre, is very lofty. The entrance has been partially walled up, and formed into a spacious doorway. The name of this cavern has frequently exercised the conjectural ingenuity of the antiquarian. It is commonly called the *Wogan*, but sometimes, as may be seen in the above extract from Leland, it is written *Hogan*. From the latter word the Welsh antiquary will have no difficulty in referring the etymology to *Ogof*, or *Ogov*, the British term for a cave. No mistake is more common among printers than the substitution of the letter *n* for *u*; it constantly occurs in the spelling of the Welsh names in Leland's Itinerary. *Hogan* was then probably written at first *Hogau*, *u* being put for *v*, which is a very natural corruption of *Ogov*. The uses of this great cave or natural vault, are not known. It is said to have once contained a spring which supplied the garrison with water.

There are some circumstances connected with the early history of this castle which are attended with difficulties that do

not at this time perhaps admit of a satisfactory solution. Giraldus states that "Arnulph de Montgomery, in the reign of *king Henry the first*, erected here a slender fortress with stakes and turf, which, on returning to England, he consigned to the care of Giraldus de Windesore his constable and lieutenant general."<sup>\*</sup> Henry the first did not ascend the throne till the month of August 1100; whereas Caradoc of Lancarvan, a contemporary authority, makes express mention of Pembroke castle on two occasions prior to that time, the first in 1092, and the second in 1094; and the incidents he narrates in connection with the place clearly evince that there must have been here, not a fortress of stakes and turf merely, but a military erection of a more substantial kind, and of great strength. Arnulph de Montgomery did homage for Dyved to William the second in the year 1092, and obtained almost immediate possession of the district around Pembroke. Here he constructed without loss of time a place of defence which would enable him to maintain his ground in his new acquisitions, against the hostile attacks of the natives; and so well did his architect perform his task that the building proved impregnable to a formidable force brought against it in the course of that year by Cadwgan ab Bleddyn. Two years afterwards it was again assailed by the same chieftain, who experienced a second disappointment. The next mention we find of this fortress is in the year 1105, when it is stated that "Gerald rebuilt Pembroke Castle in a place called Kengarth Vychan; whither he conveyed all his goods, his wife and sons; and he inclosed it with a ditch and pallisades, in which he put a gate with a lock upon it."<sup>†</sup> The insertion of *Pembroke* castle in  
 this

\* Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. I. p. 199.

† Welsh Archæology, Vol. II. p. 539. In a Welsh copy of Caradoc in the possession of the present writer, which appears to have been originally transcribed from the MS. that Humphrey Llwyd translated, this transaction is somewhat differently stated, and the account varies a little from Mr.



this account has been attributed by some to an error of the historian; and it has been conjectured that the fortress here referred to was *Carew Castle*, which, it is probable, Gerald built about this period, after his marriage with Nest. This opinion certainly rests on plausible grounds, but at the same time derives no support from direct historical evidence. Caradoc of Lancarvan flourished towards the middle of this century, not many years after the event, and all the known copies of his work agree in calling the new erection *Pembroke Castle*. The fortress built by Arnulph de Montgomery must, it is obvious, have been raised in great haste: and although it might have been sufficiently strong to resist the raw levies brought against it by Cadwgan ab Bleddyn, Gerald might have apprehended that neither the situation nor the works were such as would enable it to hold out against a regular siege by disciplined and determined troops, such as he saw the native chieftains were organizing with a view to the expulsion of the Norman settlers. This might have led him to seek a more eligible situation, and erect a fortress of greater strength. The name of the spot he is said to have chosen, seems to identify it with the present site of *Pembroke castle*, but cannot be properly considered as descriptive of that of *Carew*. It is called *Congarth*, or *Kengarth Vychan*, evidently a corruption of *Cefngarth Vychan*. The British term *Garth* is applied to a precipitous hill, *Cefn-garth*, is the ridge of the hill, and *Cefngarth Vychan* may be translated "the ridge of the small precipitous hill." There seems, therefore, upon the whole, no sufficient reason for rejecting Caradoc's account; which indeed is apparently corroborated by the first circumstance related of the place by the same authority after Gerald's settlement in his new habitation. The transaction here

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referred

Llwyd's rendering. "About this time" (i. e. A. D. 1108) Gerald Steward built *Pembroke castle* in a place called *Congarth Vechan*; and removed there his wife and children, and valuable effects; and he fortified it with a ditch and wall." *Eirgrawn Cymraeg* (*Welsh Magazine*) 1770. *Brut y Teyrn* region, p. 102.

referred to is the surprise of the castle the following year by Owen the son of Cadwgan, when he carried away the governor's wife, of whom he had become enamoured.\*

Pembroke castle was a place of great strength as late as the Civil Wars in the seventeenth century, and held out for a considerable time against the forces of the Parliament. Major General Laugharne, on his first defection from the Parliament, had, in conjunction with Colonels Powell and Poyer, seized on this fortress, and made it his head quarters, and the rendezvous for the assembling of his partizans. Here, after his overthrow at the battle of St. Fagans,† he retired with his friends, but was quickly followed by Cromwell, who, on the 21st of May 1648, arrived under the walls, and commenced his operations for the reduction of the place. Notwithstanding, however, the vigour with which he prosecuted the siege, the garrison, though reduced to great extremities for want of food, defended themselves with great firmness, till Cromwell found means to destroy their mills, and to cut off their supply of water. All farther resistance appearing fruitless, they surrendered at discretion. Laugharne, Powell, and Poyer, were afterwards tried for high treason and found guilty. When sentence of death had been passed upon them, Cromwell consented that only one of them should be executed, and sent orders that they should themselves determine by lot, which of them should die. The fatal paper was left blank, on the other two was written "Life given by God." They were drawn by a child, conformably to an agreement between the prisoners, and the lot fell on Poyer, who was shot in Covent Garden on the 25th of April 1649.

The promontory of castle Martin may be entered by two roads from the town of Pembroke. Pursuing that which leads nearly due west through the suburb of Monkton, a short ride will conduct to

ORIELTON,

\* See above, p. 225-6.

† Ibid. p. 665.

## ORIELTON,

the seat of Sir John Lord Owen, Bart. the present representative of the county in Parliament. The name is supposed to have been derived from the founder of the house, probably one of the Norman free booters in the train of Arnulph de Montgomery. In the reign of Henry the Secoud, however, the property pertained to a family of the name of Wyrriott. In the reign of Elizabeth it was held by a female descendant of that family, Elizabeth Wyrriott, who conveyed it by marriage to Sir Hugh Owen, Knight, of the house of Bodeon in the Isle of Anglesea. The first baronet was created in 1641, and the late Sir Hugh Owen, his lineal descendant, was the Sixth.\* Sir Hugh Owen died young and without issue, and bequeathed the estate to his relation John Lord, Esq. who took the name of Owen, and has since been created a baronet.

Near Orielton is a common called Dry Burrows, containing a great number of tumuli or barrows, having probably been the seat of a sanguinary conflict, which has escaped the notice of the historian.

Beyond Orielton, on the shore of Milford Haven, were formerly several mansions, occupied by families of high respectability. They are now either in ruins, or converted into farm houses. Among the principal may be mentioned *Castleton*, *Henllan*, *Bangeston*, and *Jestington*, or *Iseston*.

The little village of NANGLE, is pleasantly situated in a bay of Milford Haven. It appears to have once contained some very respectable dwellings, and is thought to have had a monastic establishment, but of what kind is not known. On Nangle Point, at the entrance of Milford Haven, stand the fragments of a building of singular construction, called the Blockhouse. Neither its original design, nor the date of its erection, is known. It was probably intended as a fort for the protection

protection of the passage, and has been commonly assigned to the reign of Elizabeth or of Henry the Eighth. The mason work seems however to evince a much earlier origin, and some have not scrupled to ascribe it to the Romans. There is a similar erection on the opposite point, near Dale.

Another road leading from Pembroke in nearly a southerly direction, conducts, at the distance of a few miles, to

### STACKPOOL COURT,

the splendid mansion of Lord Cawdor. The house stands on the precipitous margin of a narrow valley, which has been converted into an artificial lake. Along the whole of the front next the water a wide terrace walk has been formed, the other side, which contains the entrance, looks into some elegant pleasure grounds. The general aspect of the building is grand and imposing; and the interior is arranged in a style adapted to the rank and splendid hospitality of the noble proprietor.

The present house was built by Sir Alexander Campbell of Cawdor castle in North Britain, who became possessed of the property by marrying the heiress, a lady of the name of Lort. It occupies the site of an ancient house of the castellated kind, which was found strong enough in the Civil Wars to withstand the battering of cannon. The first proprietor of this mansion whose name is known was Sir Elidur, or Leonard de Stackpool, who was contemporary with Giraldus, and of whom there is a monumental effigy in the little church of Cheriton in this neighbourhood.

Beyond Stackpool Court, in a westerly direction, stands a large modern house, the residence of Mr. Mirehouse. There are also in this vicinity some ancient mansions once occupied by families of distinction in this part of the county. Their consequence is however now lost, and the mansions themselves have in some instances almost wholly disappeared.

The

The coast from Stackpool head westwards towards Nangle point is highly romantic, presenting some rocky scenery of great sublimity, interspersed with natural caverns of vast extent, and in some instances of singular interest and curiosity.

One of the most remarkable of these is called *Bosherton Meer*. It presents on the surface of the ground only a small aperture, which gradually widens below until it spreads into an extensive vault. In stormy weather, when the sea beats with violence against the rocks, the noise emitted from this aperture is tremendous; and occasionally immense columns of spray are forced through it to an immense height. The ebbing of so strong a current of air has been found in some instances very dangerous, drawing in with it into the acherontic gulph whatever animals chanced to stand near the margin.

A little to the eastward of Bosherton Meer a rude flight of steps cut out of the rock leads to the CHAPEL or HERMITAGE of ST. GOVAN, most romantically situated among the precipices on the sea coast, and to which Sir Richard Hoare recommends all travellers into Pembrokeshire to make a pilgrimage. The chappel is placed across the passage, and is a rude and ancient structure about twenty feet in length by twelve feet in width, having at the east end an altar comports with the character of the edifice, formed of a coarse stone slab supported by a stone wall. On one side an arched door-way opens to a cell hollowed out of the limestone rock, and shaped in the form of a human body, as if originally designed for the reception of the saint. Under the chapel is a well of great celebrity, which shares with the chapel the superstitious veneration of the people of the neighbourhood.

The promontory of Castle Martin contains a few scattered monuments of the kind usually called Druidical, among which are the fragments of a middling size Cromlech. On the sea shore are a great number of earthen military works, some of them of considerable strength, which were no doubt raised by the Danish' pirates, and other maritime depredators, who for

so many years infested this coast. They were probably designed merely for temporary purposes, to guard their plunder, or cover their embarkation after they had pillaged the adjacent country.

On the road leading from Pembroke towards Haverfordwest, and between the town and the main channel of Milford Haven stands the mansion of BUSH, pleasantly embosomed in a grove on an eminence. It is the residence of John Meyrick, Esq. *Lanion*, another seat of this family, but now in ruins, lies a little way farther, on the same side of the road.

Having now concluded our tour through this district, we shall once more return to Narbeth, and thence proceed in the direction of the main road towards Haverfordwest. After crossing the eastern Cleddau over Canaston Bridge, a road turns to the right, which leads to RIDGEWAY, a handsome modern mansion, late the residence of J. H. Foley, Esq. deceased. At a short distance from this place stands

### LAWHADEN CASTLE,

or more properly Llan Hauaden, once a principal residence of the bishops of St. David's, whence they derive their baronial title to a seat in the house of Peers. The situation is very commanding, on the brow of a steep hill overlooking the Cleddau. This edifice, if we may judge from the extent of ground marked out by the existing ruins and foundations of walls, must at one time have been extremely spacious and magnificent. The principal portions now standing consist of the grand entrance gateway, which was protected by two large circular bastions, and an octagon tower of great height.

It is not known by whom this castle was built. Bishop Becke is thought to have been one of the principal contributors to its grandeur. It received considerable improvements and embellishments from some other prelates, among whom  
 may

may be named bishops Houghton and Vaughan. Bishop Barlow led the way to the ruin of the place by stripping the lead from the roofs, at the time he committed the same act of pillage at the palace of St. David's. Since this time the whole of the building, from being neglected, has gradually fallen into decay; and in a few years probably no vestige of it will remain.

Bishop Becke founded an hospitium here in 1287. The ruins of the house may yet be seen.

In the village is a handsome mansion, the residence of William Skryme, Esq.

Above Lawhaden, on the banks of the Cleddau, stands the mansion of **TAL Y BONT**, at present the property of John Meares, Esq. **COLBY**, to the westward of Lawhaden, was formerly the seat of one of the Barlows of Slebech, whose heiress conveyed the estate, with other valuable property in this county, by marriage to Sir William Hamilton, who bequeathed them to his nephew the Right Hon. Charles Greville. Colby house has been demolished, and the site is now occupied by a farmer's residence.

At a short distance from Colby we enter

### WISTON,

or Wiztown, one of the contributory boroughs joined with Tenby and Pembroke in the return of the parliamentary representative for the latter place. This is now an inconsiderable village, but retains its corporate honours, being governed by a Mayor, who embodies all the corporate dignities in himself. There is a fair held here on the eighth of November.

This place is principally distinguished in the topography of the county on account of its castle, long the princely residence of a family of the name of Wogan, lineally descended from Gwgan the son of Bleddyn ab Maenarch, regulus or lord of Brecknock. The Welsh name is Castell Gwys, probably

corrupted from *Wiz*: *Gwgan ab Bleddyn* obtained the property by marrying the daughter and heiress of *Sir Philip Gwys*, the grandson of the Norman settler. Frequent mention is made of this fortress in the Welsh annals, and from the manner in which it is spoken of, it may be inferred that it was once of great extent and strength. The present remains are inconsiderable, comprising only a part of the keep. The more modern mansion was built contiguous to the ancient edifice, and includes probably parts of the walls. It holds out no remarkable attraction to detain the traveller.

On the failure of the family of *Wogan* the estate, including the borough, was purchased by *Lord Cawdor*.

Near *Wiston* are two gentlemen's seats, *PENTY PARK*, and *HAYTHROG*, belonging to branches of the *Philippses* of *Picton*. There is nothing more on this side to detain us; we may therefore enter

### HAVERFORD WEST,

On many accounts entitled to be considered as the modern metropolis of the county. The situation of this town is such as to render its appearance, when approached by the *Narberth* road, very pleasing and picturesque. It is built on the steep declivity of a hill, with the houses rising in a striking manner above each other in succession to the summit; while the castle, placed upon a conspicuous eminence above the river, communicates to the whole an air of much grandeur. The interior is however in many respects inconvenient and disagreeable.

The streets are in general very narrow and crooked, and some of them, including the main thoroughfare, so exceedingly steep that they cannot be traversed on horseback or in carriages without some danger. A great portion of these disadvantages arises from the nature of the ground, but they are capable in several instances of being greatly lessened or wholly removed; and something has already been done in this re-



spect towards the improvement of the place. There are here a considerable number of good houses, occupied by substantial tradesmen and merchants, opulent professional men, and families of fortune. The principal public building is the Guild hall, a modern erection, situated in the upper part of the town.

Haverfordwest ranks among the largest of the towns of South Wales. It spreads over a considerable extent of ground, and contained in 1811, 652 houses occupied and unoccupied, with a population of 3093 persons, comprising 1257 males and 1836 females.

By the act of Union (27 Henry the Eighth) it is constituted a county of itself, with corporate privileges, and the right, which it still retains, of returning a member to represent it in Parliament.\*

The charter under which the corporation now exists was granted in the seventh year of the reign of James the first, which provides for the appointment of a mayor, twenty four common councilmen, two sheriffs or bailiffs, two sergeants at mace, with other inferior officers. The mayor is invested with the offices of admiral, coroner, escheator, and clerk of the market within the liberties of the borough. The markets are held on Tuesday and Saturday, and the fairs annually on the 12th of April, the 12th of May, the 12th of June, the 18th of July, the 4th and 24th of September, and the 18th of October. There is here no manufacture entitled to notice, and the commerce of the place is inconsiderable, being created chiefly by the demands of the surrounding country for English manufactured goods, and other articles of merchandize furnished by the shopkeepers.

The river Cleddau, the western stream of that name, on which the town is built, is navigable as high as the bridge for ships

\* By an oversight this circumstance was omitted to be noticed above (p. 751,) in connection with the mention of the members for the county, and for the united boroughs of Tenby, &c.

ships of small burden, and convenient quays have been constructed for the accommodation of the trade. Other commercial facilities are afforded by the situation of the town on the great western road, having the London mail coach passing through it every day in each direction. But these advantages have not hitherto given rise to much commercial enterprize.

Haverfordwest comprises three parishes, St. Mary's, St. Thomas's, and St. Martin's. St. Mary's church stands in the upper part of the town. It is a large and rather venerable building, consisting of a nave, a chancel, and a side aisle on the north, separated from the nave by a range of pointed arches resting on clustered pillars. The nave and chancel are ceiled with oak divided into small square compartments, those in the former being highly ornamented with carved devices of knots, foliage, &c. At the entrance into the chancel are some ancient oak stalls, probably designed originally for the incorporated companies of the town. Within the chancel are some respectable monuments. The chief belong to the Philippses of Picton: but none of them are of ancient date. St. Thomas's church is placed on the most elevated ground within the town precincts. It possesses no remarkable attraction to recommend it to attention. St. Martin's stands in the vicinity of the castle, towards the middle of the town, and is considered the oldest building of the whole. The interior comprises a long nave and chancel, and a side aisle on the south. With the exception of one old monument of a priest, it offers little to detain the antiquary.

There was formerly within the town, and situated in the present Bridge Street, a house of Black friars, which at the Dissolution was sold to Roger and Thomas Barlow. A little below the town, in a meadow on the banks on the river, are the remains of a PRIORY, founded and endowed by Robert de Hwlffordd, the first lord of Haverfordwest, for Black Canons of the order of St. Augustine, and dedicated to St. Mary, and St. Thomas the martyr. At the Dissolution 26 Henry the eighth, its annual revenues

revenues were valued according to Dugdale at 1331. 11s. 1d. or according to Speed at 1351. 6s. 1d. This also was sold to Roger and Thomas Barlow, who were large purchasers of church property at this period. This house appears to have been of great extent, as may be seen by the ruins and foundations of walls yet to be seen. The church was a large cruciform building, one hundred and sixty feet in length from east to west, with transepts measuring about ninety feet. The tower rose in the middle, and was supported by four pointed arches. The windows were lanced-form, and seem to have been very handsome.

The CASTLE, as before observed, occupied a commanding eminence above the river, and must, when perfect, have been a large and magnificent structure. The keep is the only portion that now remains entire, and it is itself a noble pile of building. It has lately been converted into a county gaol. From the castle a strong embattled wall once surrounded the town, in which were four gates communicating with the principal thoroughfares. Three of these were standing a few years ago, but have now disappeared.

The foundation of the castle is ascribed to Gilbert de Clare the first Earl of Pembroke. He consigned the command of it to Richard Fitz Tancred, to whom he gave at the same time the seignory of Haverfordwest. Robert, the son of Richard Fitz Tancred, was the first lord of Haverfordwest, and is sometimes called Robert de Hwlfförd, from the Welsh name of the place. He is regarded as the founder of the Priory. From this time the lordship has been held by families of distinction, and sometimes by the British monarchs.

On the northern side of the river lies the suburb of *Prendergast*, where there are the remains of an ancient mansion formerly inhabited by a family of that name. Maurice de Prendergast was the last of the family who held the property. He accompanied Earl Strongbow into Ireland, where he took up his abode. The property afterwards fell to the Stepneys

neys by the marriage of Alban Stepney, registrar to the Bishop of St. David's, to the daughter and coheir of Thomas Catherne, Esq. of this place. The Stepneys transferring their residence to Caermarthenshire, the mansion was deserted, and allowed to fall into decay.

Below Haverfordwest, at the distance of about a mile and a half, stands *Haroldston*, another ancient seat, once occupied by a family of the first distinction in this county. The founder of this house was named Harold. Alice the daughter and heiress of Sir Richard Harold conveyed it by marriage to the Perrott family, of which was Sir John Perrott, lord deputy of Ireland in the reign of Elizabeth. The house is now in a dilapidated state.

Farther down the river, and before it unites with the eastern stream of the same name, there occur some other objects of topographical interest. The first is *Fern Hill*, the seat of H. Matthias, Esq. pleasantly situated in the midst of some modern plantations. Beyond, on the northern bank of the river, stands *Bullston*, the elegant mansion of Colonel Ackland. This is a modern house erected by the present proprietor, but there are in the grounds the remains of an ancient mansion of great extent, formerly inhabited by a branch of the Wogan family of Wiston. The grounds are beautifully situated on the banks of the river, and are richly wooded. In a field not far from the house are several barrows: one of these was opened by Mr. Fenton, who found it to contain a rude cist, in which were some half calcined bones mixed with charcoal.\*

The village of *Langwm*, lower down on the other side of the river, much celebrated for its oysters, may be visited on account of its church, which contains some ancient monuments, one in particular, a knight of the De la Roche family, well entitled to the notice of the antiquary. There is here besides a nitch for holding holy water, of a singular and elegant construction.†

Resuming

\* Fenton's Pembrokeshire, p. 237.

† Idem. p. 240.

Resuming now our route along the great western road towards Milford, a steep descent from Haverfordwest brings us to Marlan's, or Mawdlen's bridge, near which are some remains of an ancient building where a small religious establishment is thought to have once existed, from which the present name of the place was derived. A few miles farther, near the road, occurs *Johnston*, the property of Lord Kensington, and long the seat of his lordship's father. This neighbourhood contains some other gentlemen's seats; but none of them offer any attractions to detain the traveller. We may therefore proceed without farther interruption to the town of

### MILFORD,

which is distant eight miles from Haverfordwest. This place is of very recent origin: and the rapidity with which it has grown to its present extent, and the neatness, not to say elegance, with which its buildings have been constructed, are circumstances that must render it highly interesting to every visitor. The site formed part of the possessions of the late Sir William Hamilton, who bequeathed the estate to his nephew the Right Hon. Charles Greville: and to the judgment and patriotic spirit of this gentleman, Milford is indebted for its creation. The act of Parliament upon which the town was built, and which secured to it its present privileges, was passed in the year 1790.

After having determined the situation, which is most eligibly chosen in one of the finest parts of the haven, Mr. Greville proceeded to form the ground plan of the streets. The principal of these were marked out in parallel lines, running nearly due east and west, and in the direction of the shore, having short streets of communication intersecting them at right angles. The lower street was to be formed of one row of houses fronting the water. A considerable portion of this  
has

has already been built. The houses are remarkably good, many of them calculated for the residence of opulent families. At the western extremity stands the Hotel, a large and commodious pile of building, containing every accommodation which can be desired in a house of public entertainment in a place of such great resort. It comprises one of the best establishments of the kind in the principality. This street contains another very respectable inn much frequented by travellers. Two of the streets running parallel with this, rising above it on the side of the hill, are rapidly forming, each of them containing already a great number of houses, which have in general been tenanted as soon as built.

The church occupies a very commanding situation near the haven, at the eastern extremity of the lowest street. It consists of a nave, channel, and two side aisles. The windows are ornamented with painted glass, bearing the arms of Hamilton, Barlow, and Greville. At the west end is a lofty tower, which forms a very conspicuous object from the water in sailing up the haven. This edifice was consecrated on the 14th of October, 1808.\*

The Custom House is placed at the lower end of the town in a convenient situation by the water side. It is a plain edifice, well adapted to its destined purposes. This establishment is independent of that at Pembroke, which used to include this part of the haven.

The Dock Yards form an important feature of this place. They are situated on the shore immediately in front of the town. Two frigates and a seventy-four have already been built

\* In the church is a curious vase of red Porphyry, brought from Egypt. It is rumoured that this was placed here by Lady H— with the view of being converted into a baptismal font: but the pious prelate, who then held the see, refusing to consecrate it to that use, dreading no doubt that its former application to heathen rites might contaminate the element it would have to contain, and vitiate the holy ordinance, it was found necessary to supply its place by a vase from the purer marble of Derbyshire.

built here under the direction of Mr. Louis Barallier: but it seems doubtful whether the admiralty will deem the establishment of sufficient importance to be maintained. Its discontinuance would be a serious injury to the rising prosperity of the town.

Milford has a market which is held on Tuesday and Saturday in every week. Its trade is by no means considerable. Attempts have been made by some enterprising individuals to establish a southern whale fishery, but the speculation has not thus far, we believe, been very productive. There are several packets stationed here, under excellent regulations, for conveying the mails and passengers to Waterford. The London mail coach arrives here every evening, and returns early the following morning; and the mails for Ireland are forwarded with every possible dispatch.

Milford is bounded on the west by a creek or inlet called Priory pill, on the opposite shore of which stands the village of Haking, sometimes called Old Milford. It was lately in contemplation to form this creek into a wet dock by deepening the channel, and erecting a dam, with proper gates, at the entrance. The plan has, however, been abandoned. Between Haking and Hubberston has been erected a handsome observatory, which is under the superintendance of the Astronomer Royal of Greenwich.

At the upper end of Hubberston creek are some remains of an ancient religious house called PILL PRIORY: they consist of only a portion of the church, which appears to have been a cruciform building. The foundation of this establishment is ascribed to Adam de Rupe, or de la Roche, who was a man of extensive possessions in this country towards the end of the twelfth century. At the Dissolution its revenues were granted to Sir Thomas Jones of Haroldston. It now forms a part of the possessions of Mr. Greville.

In proceeding to the westward in the direction of the Haven, a few gentlemen's seats will claim our notice. The first is *Butter Hill* the neat residence of Mr. Roch. Further on

is *Orlondon*, the seat of J. P. Laugharne, Esq. At some distance to the northward of these mansions lies *Walwyn's Castle*, called in Welsh *Castell Gwalchmai*, where tradition asserts the body of Gwalchmai, a chieftain of gigantic stature, was discovered in the time of William the Conqueror. Nothing is known of the history of this place. There are here at present no vestiges of buildings, nor any indications of erections of any kind excepting an artificial mound of earth, which may have been surmounted by a small fortress, or may have been applied to any other use military or civil which the antiquary may be pleased to assign to it.

At Orlondon a road turns to the southward which leads to the little village of DALE, pleasantly situated on a small bay near the mouth of Milford Haven. It is at present chiefly remarkable for an ancient castellated mansion of the same name, now the property of John Lloyd, Esq. of Mabus in Cardiganshire, who obtained the estate by marrying the heiress. Near this place the Earl of Richmond, afterwards king Henry the seventh, landed, previous to his march towards Bosworth field, and here he was met by his zealous and powerful partizan, Sir Rhysab Thomas.

Nearly due north from Dale, on the shore of St. Bride's Bay, near the village of the same name, stand the remains of the ancient mansion of ST. BRIDE'S. The ruins shew this to have been a very spacious building, calculated for the residence of a family of consequence. At a short distance from it stands *Hill*, the elegant seat of Charles Philipps, Esq. a branch of the family of Cilsant, who obtained this estate by marriage with an heiress, and abandoned the older edifice for the present, which was raised in its stead.

A little way off the promontory here formed by Milford Haven on one side, and St. Bride's Bay on the other, are two considerable islands, STOKHAM and SKOMAR, and beyond them, at some distance, another of smaller extent, called Gresholm. Skomar lies nearest the main land. The surface is converted

into



into a farm, consisting partly of arable and partly of pasture land. It is plentifully stocked with rabbits, two thousand couples of which are said to be killed yearly. It is the property of Charles Philipps, Esq. of St. Bride's Hill. Stockham is distant from the continent about five miles. This island comprises about two hundred acres of land, and like the other is farmed, and yields good crops of grass and corn. It abounds with rabbits; an attempt was made to rear deer upon it, but though they fattened well, they diminished in size. This is now the property of John Lloyd, Esq. of Dale.

It will now be necessary to retrace our steps to Haverfordwest, in order to make from thence a few excursions to explore the northern district of the county. Taking first the direct road towards Cardigan; at the village of Rudbaxton, about four miles from Haverfordwest, we may diverge a little way to the right to examine an ancient British encampment stationed on the summit of a steep conical hill. The area is of a circular form, having a single ditch of great depth, and a lofty mound of earth. This is sometimes called the *Rath*, and in the old maps, *St. Leonard's Castle*. *Farthings Hook*, farther on, is an ancient seat of the Vaughans of Trecoon in this county. Beyond occurs *Castell Henry*, or more correctly *Castell Hendref*, a large tumulus which probably was at one time crowned by a small fortress. At some distance to the right are the mansions of *Moat*, an ancient seat of the Scourfields, and *Temple Druid*, so called from a large cromlech which once stood near the house.

The road, after passing Castell Hendref, enters the mountains, we shall therefore quit it for the present, and take our departure from Haverford West along the road leading towards Fishguard, which for some distance ascends the vale of the western Cleddau. Almost immediately after quitting Prendergast we pass *Withy Bush* the seat of John Phelps, Esq. Beyond, on the right, stands *Poyston*, the property of General Sir Thomas Picton, occupied by some of the female members of his family.

*Flether Hill*, in this vicinity, was formerly the residence of the Hayward family, at one time of considerable consequence in these parts. The house is in ruins: the estate belongs to Sir Watkin Lewis, who obtained it in right of his wife.

A little way farther on occurs *Trefgarn*, once a gentleman's residence, but now converted into a farm house. It is noticed here on account of its name, which is also that of the village in the neighbourhood, which signifies literally the town of the Rocks, and is derived from those extraordinary masses of stone, that are scattered over the adjacent common, presenting at a distance the appearance of large ruined buildings. Beyond lies the village of *Ford*, remarkable from its vicinity to some very interesting Roman remains, including the long sought station *Ad Vigesium* of Richard of Cirencester.\*

As we proceed from *Ford*, there are on the right some ancient earthworks entitled to notice, particularly a spacious circular encampment, on a farm called *Smurton* or *Summerton*, near the village of *Little New Castle*, and a circular entrenchment called *Castell Coning*, near the village of *St. Dogmael's*.

At some distance on the left, lies the little church of *St. Edyrn*. The grass in the churchyard is reputed to possess the valuable property of curing the hydrophobia. Both men and cattle, after being bitten, use it internally, and it is stated to have been administered with success in cases wherein the existence of the disease was clearly ascertained. There is a small aperture in the chancel wall where those who use the grass deposit their voluntary contributions, which are the perquisite of the parish clerk.

Further on, in the vale through which the little river *Cyllell*, or the knife, takes its course, stands *Lanstinan*, an ancient seat of the Symmonses, but deserted and falling into decay. Higher up the vale stands *Trecoon*, an ancient seat of the Vaughans, now the property of J. F. Barham, Esq.

Returning for the last time to *Haverfordwest*, we must

\* See above, p. 736.

in the next place bend our steps towards St. David's, and thence take the route along the coast towards Cardigan and Cilgeran. The first object on this road that merits attention is

### ROCHE CASTLE.

This edifice derives its name, the Castle of the Rock, from its singular situation, being built on the rough and broken summit of one of those stone mountains which so frequently occur in this part of the country. From its elevated site in the midst of an open country, it forms a very conspicuous object in the landscape, and commands a very extensive and varied prospect both of the interior and of St. Bride's Bay. It is by no means a spacious building, consisting only of a single tower of irregular form; divided into three stories, each story containing one large apartment, with others of a smaller dimension on one side, where the front is semicircular. From the large fire places, and ornamented stonework still to be seen in the interior, it is apparent that it was used as a regular residence. It must also have been well calculated for defence when in a perfect state, from the thickness of its walls, and its almost impregnable situation. As it is placed near the extremity of the district of Roos, there can be little doubt that it was originally constructed as a border fortress by some of the Norman or Fleming settlers; but the name of the founder is not certainly known. Popular tradition has assigned as the cause of its erection, a warning prediction addressed to the proprietor of the soil, intimating that his death would be occasioned by the bite of a viper. To guard against such an accident he built this edifice, in which he shut himself up; but it seems he could not avert his predestined doom. The reptile was introduced in a bundle of faggots, and in an evil hour inflicted the fatal wound. It needs not be observed that such a story, which is related of other buildings, whose origin the populace

find it difficult to account for,\* is to be regarded in no other light than as a gossip's tale.

One of the earliest, if not the first, possessor of this castle was Adam de Rupe, or de la Roche, who probably derived his surname from the place. As the possessions of the family of de la Roche, which were very extensive and valuable, fell between coheiresses in the reign of Henry the sixth, it has been supposed† that the castle ceased to be inhabited at this period. It was garrisoned for king Charles in the first Civil War, and sustained a vigorous siege under the command of Captain Francis Edwards of Summerhill. It is now the property of Rhys Stokes, Esq. who resides at *Kyffern*, an elegant mansion in the neighbourhood.

Shortly after leaving Roche Castle the road descends to Newgall sands in St. Bride's Bay, whence it ascends, after crossing the little river of Newgall, which divides the hundreds of Roos and Dewisland, towards the ancient mansion of Newgall, or New Vill.

A little beyond is *Punch*, or *Poyntz Castle*, *Castrum Pontii*, an artificial mound of earth, which once probably held an *arx speculatoria*. A short ride brings us to the little town of

### SOLVA,

beautifully situated in a deep valley pervaded by the river of the same name. Most of the houses are of modern erection, and have a neat appearance. They lie principally on the western side of the vale, forming one street in the direction of the river, but scattered without plan or order on the steep acclivity above. Solva is a sea port, and carries on a small commercial intercourse with the adjacent parts of the coast, chiefly with Milford. Its rapid increase in size, of late years, is a sure evidence of its prosperity.

Beyond

\* This is the case with "Cook's Folly," a singular building on the margin of the rocks above, the Avon a few miles below Bristol.

† Fenton's Pembrokeshire, p. 147.

Beyond Solva, on the left, stands *Llanwnwas* the seat of Joseph Harries, Esq. Excepting some druidical remains, consisting for the most part of single upright stones, which are scattered in great numbers over this district, there is now nothing to detain us from entering the ancient and celebrated city of

### ST. DAVID'S.

Such is the situation of this place, that in approaching it from the eastward, none of the buildings are to be seen at any distance; and while the traveller, calculating his progress by the mile stones he has passed, is anxiously looking for the object of his search, he finds himself unexpectedly in the midst of the principal street. As, however, he has on either side of him only a broken row of miserable cottages, with here and there indeed a structure of more respectable appearance, he would scarcely suspect that he had reached his destination, were he not presented in front with a glimpse of the top of the cathedral tower, rising from the narrow and concealed valley in which that venerable edifice is situated. Whoever visits St. David's, with such expectations as the ideas usually associated with the title of a city are calculated to excite, will be sure to experience a most grievous disappointment; for no collection of houses aspiring to the rank of a town can exhibit a more wretched and sickening appearance. Notwithstanding, however, its present squallid aspect, it bears many marks indicative of its former consequence. The names of several streets and lanes are still preserved, and the line of some of them may be distinctly traced by the ruins of the houses, and foundations of walls. The modern city, without the cathedral precincts, is principally composed of the High Street, which is of considerable width. In an open space near its western extremity stands an ancient cross, around which the market was held while it lasted: but the decreasing population, and the poverty of the place, long ago caused this to be discontinued. Fairs are, however, still held here

annually on the 12th of March, the 5th of August, and the 11th of December. The want of an inn has been generally complained of by travellers; the present writer can say that in this respect some improvement has certainly been made. When he made his pilgrimage here in the autumn of 1811, with a view to the present work, he found a neat and comfortable house of entertainment, newly established, upon a small scale indeed, but provided with the valuable appendage of good stabling.

The ground occupied by the cathedral, the houses of the resident ecclesiastics, with the cemetery, gardens, &c. was inclosed by a lofty wall of nearly a mile in circuit, and was entered by four strong and handsome gateways. The names by which these were severally designated are still preserved. That on the north was called *Porth Bunning*, Bunning's gate, that on the south *Porth Patrick*, Patrick's gate, that on the east *Porth y Twr*, the Tower gate, and that on the west *Porth Gwyn*, or the White gate.

The east gate stands at the bottom of the High Street, and corresponds with its Welsh name, being placed between two large towers. One of these is an octagon rising to the height of about sixty feet. The interior is divided into stories, the apartments of which were formerly used for holding the consistory court of the diocese. The other tower, which is of a different form, is thought to have been appropriated to the corporation of the town. Over the gateway are some apartments which connect the two towers above. From this spot a delightful view is commanded of nearly the whole of the cathedral precincts, with the interesting remains of the noble edifices by which they were once graced. The principal buildings that present themselves in this prospect are the Cathedral, St. Mary's College, and the Bishop's Palace.

The CATHEDRAL is a large Gothic structure of venerable appearance, built in the form of a cross, and having a lofty square tower, surmounted by handsome pinnacles at each corner.

ner, rising from the middle, at the intersection of the north and south transepts. The common entrance is through a porch on the south side, but the principal entrance is by a grand door-way in the west end, called the Bishop's door, which is used only on occasions of ceremony. There is another door-way, of Saxon architecture, on the north side, at the west end of the cloisters. The interior comprises a nave, and two side aisles, the choir, and chancel. The nave is divided from the side aisles by a row of handsome columns, alternately round and octagon, five in number, with corresponding pilasters at each end, supporting six elegant arches of ornamental Saxon architecture. Over these is a range of smaller Saxon pillars supporting other arches of less dimensions, reaching to the roof. The ceiling of the nave is of Irish oak. It is divided into square compartments, and is justly admired for the elegance of its workmanship. It is, however, evidently in a state of decay. The entire length of this part of the church is one hundred and twenty-four feet; the width of the nave between the pillars is thirty-two feet; and of the side aisles eighteen feet.

At the upper end of the nave a flight of steps conduct to the choir, which is entered by an arched passage under the rood loft. The screen is of irregular Gothic architecture, and is extremely beautiful. The choir is placed immediately under the tower, which is supported by four large arches, three of them Gothic, and one Saxon, but all of them springing from Saxon pillars. The west and south arches are now walled up.

The organ, instead of being as usual placed on the rood loft under the western arch, is placed under the northern. The bishop's throne is near the upper end of the choir on the right hand side, and is of exquisite workmanship. The stalls, which are twenty-eight in number, are placed on the north, west, and south, sides. The floor is formed of small square tiles of variegated colours, very beautifully arranged. The chancel is separated from the choir by a low screen. On the

north side is the shrine of St. David, having four recesses in which the votaries deposited their offerings.

The north transept was occupied by St. Andrew's chapel, and the south by the Chanter's chapel. Behind the stalls in St. Andrew's chapel, is a dark room, supposed to have been originally a penitentiary: in the wall are small holes designed probably to enable the culprits to hear the voices of the officiating priests. Adjoining it on the east is the old chapter-house, over which is the public school room. On the north and south sides of the chancel were formerly side aisles, which are now roofless, and in a ruinous condition.

Beyond the chancel, to the eastward, is the elegant chapel of bishop Vaughan, built by that prelate in the time of Henry the eighth, and exhibiting an exquisite specimen of the florid Gothic of that period. Adjoining this structure, and forming the extreme eastern end of the cathedral buildings, is St. Mary's chapel, divested of its roof, and rapidly falling into ruins.

The cathedral is enriched by a considerable number of ancient monuments, several of them curious in their kind as specimens of art, and rendered interesting by the celebrity of the persons they commemorate. In the body of the church, under the fifth arch of the nave, counting from the westward, is a monument erected to the memory of bishop Morgan, which had for a considerable period been concealed by the pews: some of the sculptured appendages are remarkably beautiful, particularly a representation of the resurrection in *basso relieve* at the east end. Under the rood loft, beneath a handsome groined canopy, lie three effigies, two on the right, and one on the left of the entrance into the choir. Those next the door have been assigned to different persons, but it has not been satisfactorily ascertained whom they were really meant to commemorate. The farthest on the right, which is distinguished by a mitre, was designed for bishop Gower. Before the abolition of episcopacy during the commotions in the mid-



able of the seventeenth century this tomb was inclosed on two sides by a brass palisade, to which was attached a plate bearing the following inscription:—"Hic jacet Henricus Gower structor palatii, et hujus ecclesiæ Menevensis episcopus, qui obiit 7. Cal. Maii A. D. 1347. Cujus animæ propitiatur Deus, requiem et lucem sempiternam concedendo." In the area of the chancel, facing the entrance from the choir, is an altar tomb raised to the memory of Edmund Tudor, Earl of Richmond, the eldest son of Owen Tudor by Catherine, the Queen of Henry the Fifth, and the father of king Henry the Seventh. He was first buried in the monastery of Grey friars at Caermarthen, but on the dissolution of that house his remains were removed to this place for interment. On the tomb when first erected lay his effigy in brass; at the corners were brazen escutcheons; and round the rim was a brass plate bearing the following inscription: "Under this marble stone here enclosed rest the bones of that noble lord, Edmund Earl of Richmond, father and brother\* to kings, who departed out of this world in the year 1456, the first day of November; on whose soul almighty Jesu have mercy.† These brazen ornaments were removed by the fanatic Parliamentarians, at the time they pilaged the church of other decorations of a similar kind.

On the right of this monument are the effigies of bishops  
Jorwerth

\* He was the half brother of Henry the Sixth.

† The following Latin inscription was also placed on the monument:

"Heu! regum genitor, et frater, splendidus heros

Omnis quo micuit regia virtus, obit.

Herculeus comes ille tuus, Richmondia, Duxque

Conditur Edmundus his quoque marmoribus.

Qui regni clypeus, comitum flos, malleus hostis,

Vitæ dexteritas, pacis amator erat.

Hic meditare vians te semper vivere posse?

Non morieris homo? nonne miselle vides

Cæsar quem tremeret armis, nec vinceret Hector

Ipsa devictum morte ruisse virum?

Cede metrum precibus: det regnum conditor almus

Ejus spiritui lucida regna poli.

Jorwerth and Anselm, the latter having the following inscription round the head :

PETRA, PRECOR, DIC SIC:  
ANSELMUS EPISCOPUS EST HIC.

A little higher up, on the same side, is the monument of Rhys ab Gruffydd, prince of South Wales, usually called the Lord Rhys, who died A. D. 1196. His effigy in armour, with the vizor raised, is recumbent, the head resting on a lion; there is also a lion at the feet, and a lion rampant on the breast plate. The sword is suspended on the left side from a remarkably rich belt. Opposite to this monument, on the north side of the chancel, is another greatly resembling it, which is assigned to Rhys Grug, the son of Rhys ab Gruffydd. Beyond, near the north-east angle of the chancel, is the monument of Thomas Lloyd, treasurer of St. David's, in the reign of James the first.

The north aisle of the chancel contains several ancient monuments, but in consequence of neglect, and their exposure to the weather, they have sustained considerable injury, and some of them are completely destroyed. The same observation applies to the south aisle of the chancel. Here, on the north side, is a tomb which has been usually assigned to Giraldus. The fact, however, is not clearly ascertained, and it bears no inscription to aid the investigation of the antiquary. There is also a monument in this aisle to Sylvester the physician, thus inscribed:—

SYLVESTER MEDICUS JACET HIC, EJUSQUE RUINA  
MONSTRAT QUOD MORTI NON OBSISTIT MEDECINA.

Bishop Vaughan was buried in the chapel which bears his name, and which, even in its present ruined state, remains a splendid monument of his taste. On the floor was once a marble stone, inlaid with a brass tablet bearing the following inscription :

PRÆSUL

PRÆSUL MENEVIÆ EDWARDUS VAUGHAN HIC JACET ET LUX  
 ECCLESIÆ ET PATRIÆ FAUTOR, HONORQUE DECUS.  
 QUINQUE TALENTA HABUIT DOMINI ET DOCTÉ ET SAPIENTER  
 ET BENE TRACTAVIT FUDIT ET AUXIT EA.  
 ERGO DEUS DIC PONTIFICI HUIC, BONE ET EUGE, FIDELIS  
 SERVE! INTRA IN DOMINI GAUDIA SUMMA TUI.

In St. Mary's chapel, on the right, under a rich Gothic canopy, is the tomb of its founder, bishop Martin : and nearly opposite, a monument which has been usually assigned\* to bishop Houghton. Some fragments of monuments are also to be seen in the chapels in the north and south transepts, but, like several others, they are in too ruinous a state to demand enumeration in this place.

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, the next building to be noticed, is situated contiguous to the cathedral on the north side. The only portion now standing is the chapel, which is sixty-nine feet in length, and about twenty four feet in width. The side walls are forty five feet in height. In each of these were three coined windows twenty-four feet high and nine feet broad. At the east end was a window of a similar kind, but of larger dimensions. It is stated that these were originally ornamented with painted glass. At the west end is a square tower seventy feet high. The chapel is built over a vaulted apartment of the same dimensions, which was converted into a charnel house. This wears at present a most gloomy appearance. A small stream of water runs through it from the eastward. The original entrance to the college was on the north side by a handsome gateway, of which no vestiges now remain. The houses belonging to the establishment occupied the ground on the north and west, on both sides of the little river Alan, which washes the western end of the chapel.

This collegiate institution was founded in the year 1365, by John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, Blanch his wife, and

Adara

\* Mr. Fenton thinks, erroneously.

Adam Houghton, at that time bishop of the diocese. It was endowed by bishop Houghton alone, for a master, and seven priests or fellows; and was dedicated to St. Mary, as its name imports. At the dissolution of religious houses in the reign of Henry the eighth, its neat annual revenues were valued at 106l. 3s. 6d. It was surrendered to king Edward the Sixth, and now belongs to John Edwards, Esq. of Sealyham in this county, as lessee of the crown.

The BISHOP'S PALACE, a most magnificent pile of building, is situated to the south-west of the cathedral, on the opposite shore of the river Alan. It seems to have formed originally a complete quadrangle, inclosing an area or court of one hundred and twenty feet square; but only two of the sides, those fronting the south-east and south-west, remain. The principal entrance was by a grand gateway on the north-east, now in ruins, near which stood the porter's lodge. The bishop's apartments occupied the south-east side. The hall, which is sixty-seven feet long by twenty-five feet in width, was entered from the court by an elegant porch. At the north-end was a large drawing room, and beyond this a chapel. At the south end of the hall stood the kitchen, which was thirty-six feet in length by twenty-eight feet in width. In the middle stood a low pillar, from which sprang four groins, which were gradually formed into chimnies. This curious work is now a heap of ruins. The south-west side is occupied by a noble apartment called King John's Hall, but for what reason so denominated is not known, as the building was not erected till many years after the death of that monarch. This room is ninety-six feet in length, and thirty-three feet wide. The light was admitted by lofty windows on each side, and by a circular window in the east end of very singular and curious workmanship. This hall was entered from the court by an elegant porch, with an arched doorway, placed immediately opposite the grand gateway. Above are two recesses containing statues of Edward the third and his Queen, now in a very dis-  
figured

figured state. At the north-west corner stands the chapel, which is entered from the hall, and also from the court by a staircase and porch. The offices were probably comprised in the north-west side of the court, of which there are, however, no traces to be seen. The parts of the building that yet remain are in a very ruinous condition. A small portion of one end of the bishop's apartments has been covered by a temporary roof, and is inhabited by some poor people, whose wretched appearance heightens the picture of desolation which the place exhibits.

This truly magnificent structure owed its erection to bishop Gower, who was elevated to the see of St. David's in the year 1328, and is a noble monument of his taste and liberality. A great part of its external beauty is derived from the open Gothic parapet which distinguishes this prelate's buildings. The specimen here exhibited surpasses however in lightness and elegance those of Swansea castle, and the palace of Lanfey.

The cemetery, which is very spacious, lies on the south side of the cathedral. Near the west end stands a building, fitted up a few years ago for a Chapter-house and audit room, which by its fantastic architecture derogates from the dignity of its venerable neighbours, and obstructs one of the finest views of the church. The houses of the resident clergy are situated within the precincts: they are very respectable edifices, and that belonging to the archdeacon of Brecknock is of ancient date.

The early history of the see of St. David's is involved in great obscurity; and from the fabulous legends which have been so lavishly incorporated with the life of its founder, it is extremely difficult to obtain a single ray of light to conduct us through the gloom. Ecclesiastical writers seem generally agreed that Dubricius, whose death is placed by Godwin in the year 522, resigned the archbishopric of Caerleon to David, who with the consent of Arthur, the reigning prince of Gwent, sometimes called his nephew, removed the see to Mynyw, or

Menevia, his native place. The date of this translation is not satisfactorily determined, but some authorities place it in 577. Some of the biographers of St. David state, that previously to his being raised to the mitre, he had built a monastery here, in a place called the valley of roses, where he afterwards fixed the seat of his metropolitan church; but other accounts relate that the original monastic institution was established by St. Patrick, who on being removed to Ireland left it to the charge of St. David.

After David, there were twenty-five archbishops of this see, the last of whom was Samson, who was raised to that dignity A. D. 910. During his archiepiscopacy, a contagious and pestilential disease broke out in South Wales, which induced him to quit the country, with a large body of his clergy, and to settle at Dole in Normandy. Having taken with him the pall,\* which he had worn at Menevia, the see from this time lost its archiepiscopal dignity. In the interval extending from St. David to Samson this church had under its authority seven suffragan bishoprics, viz. Hereford, Worcester, Bangor, St. Asaph, Landaff, Llanbadarn, and Marmgarn. This metropolitan jurisdiction, notwithstanding the loss of its pall, it continued to hold till the beginning of the twelfth century, when bishop Bernard, at the command king Henry I. resigned the rights of his diocese to the see of Canterbury.

Nothing

\* Cressy, in his account of the "Form, Originall, Dignity, and Privileges of the Archiepiscopal Pall," observes that it "was at first truly a mantle or upper vesture, as the word imports, worn by emperours, and by Constantine as an honour permitted to the Pope, and by him communicated to the other patriarchs. And in this form it continues in the eastern parts; whereas at Rome and in the west, this title is given to a small portion or appendix to the first pallium; being, according to the description given of it by Pope Innocent the Third, a certain wreath, as it were the collar of an order, of about three fingers breadth, encompassing the neck; from which descend two labells, before and behind; on the circle are inwoven four purple crosses, and on each labell one; and it is fastened to the upper garment with three golden pinns." Cressy, Lib. xxxv. cap. 15.

Nothing is known of the form or extent of the original cathedral church, which was dedicated to St. Andrew. In consequence of the repeated spoliations of the Saxon and Danish pirates who infested this coast it had been so greatly injured, that Peter de Leia, who was raised to the see in 1176, found it necessary to pull it down, and construct a new edifice in its stead, which was dedicated to St. Andrew and St. David. About thirty years afterwards, in the time of Bishop Jorwerth, or Gervais, the tower, owing probably to some defect in the foundation, fell down; and during the episcopacy of Anselm, his immediate successor, a large portion of the new church was demolished by an earthquake. Thomas Becke, who was raised to the see in 1280, is mentioned as the next contributor to the improvement of the church buildings, as well as to that of the diocese in general. To him succeeded bishop Martin, who built the chapel of St. Mary's, at the east end of the cathedral.

But the greatest benefactor of the see in this respect was bishop Gower, who succeeded Martin in 1328. Proofs of his munificence and taste may be seen at Swansea Castle and Lanfey palace; but his great work was the episcopal palace at St. David's, the design of which, it has been justly observed, was "worthy of a crowned instead of a mitred head."\* To this prelate we are also indebted for some of the chief decorations of the interior of the cathedral, particularly the rood loft, one of the most exquisite specimens of the architecture of that period. Bishop Houghton, who obtained the mitre in 1361, was one of the founders of St. Mary's college; its endowments were entirely his own gift. Bishop Vaughan will close the honourable catalogue of the prelates who distinguished themselves by their services in this way. His chapel, situated between the cathedral and St. Mary's chapel, has already been mentioned with approbation. He held the see from 1509 to 1522.

The period we have now passed over, notwithstanding some instances of alienations and neglect which might be adduced

\* Fenton's Pembrokeshire, p. 93.

adduced to the contrary, may be regarded, upon the whole, as one of progressive improvement in respect to the possessions and the ecclesiastical edifices of the see. During this interval St. David's acquired the highest celebrity; and the shrine of the founder was resorted to by the greatest monarchs of the age. In the list of these royal visitors are to be included the names of William the Conqueror, who made his pilgrimage in 1079, king Henry the second,\* who honoured bishop David Fitzgerald with his company in 1171, and king Edward the first and Eleanor his Queen, who made their pilgrimage in 1284, when bishop Becke held the see. The pilgrims of inferior

\* Giraldus states, that in his time the river Alan, which runs through the cathedral precincts, was crossed by a beautiful piece of marble, called Lechlavar, polished by the feet of passengers, ten feet in length, six in breadth, and one in thickness. The name, which signifies literally the speaking stone, (from *Llech*, a flat stone, and the adjective *llavar*, speaking) was founded on an ancient tradition that once when a corpse was passing over it for interment, it broke forth into speech, and by the effort cracked in the middle.

“ Henry the Second, on his return from Ireland, is said to have passed over this stone, before he entered the church. Proceeding towards the shrine of Saint David, habited like a pilgrim, and leaning on a staff, he met at the white gate a procession of the canons, coming forth to receive him with due honour and reverence. As the procession moved along, a Welsh woman threw herself at the king's feet, and made a complaint against the bishop of the place, which was explained to the king by an interpreter; the woman, immediate attention not being paid to her petition, with violent gesticulation, and a loud and impertinent voice, exclaimed repeatedly, ‘Vindicate us this day, Lechlavar! revenge us and the nation in this man.’ Alluding to a vulgar fiction and proverb of Merliu, That a king of England, and conqueror of Ireland, should be wounded in that country by a man with a red hand, and die upon lechlavar on his return through Menevia. The king, who had heard the prophecy, approaching the stone, stopped for a short time at the foot of it, and looking earnestly at it, boldly passed over; then turning round, and looking towards the stone, thus indignantly inveighed against the prophet, ‘Who will hereafter give credit to the lying Merlin?’ A person standing by, and observing what had passed, in order to vindicate the injury done to the prophet, replied with a loud voice, ‘Thou art not that King by whom Ireland is to be conquered, or of whom Merlin prophesied!’”

Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 7, et seq.



ferior rank who resorted here were innumerable, and their offerings served greatly to enrich the ecclesiastics; who spared no pains to enhance the merit of the penance by which the poor votaries thus soothed their consciences and emptied their pockets.\*

After bishop Vaughan's death no attempts appear to have been made to add to the splendour of the diocese. During the time of Rawlins, his immediate successor, things seem to have remained stationary: but bishop Barlow, who followed him in 1536, commenced a system of dilapidation and impoverishment, whose effects are yet visible in the reduced revenues of the see, and in the ruinous condition of some of its finest edifices. This prelate had a great desire to remove the see to Caermarthen; and that he might furnish himself with reasons to lay before the king in order to obtain his consent to this measure, he alienated the church lands, and stripped the lead

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from

\* Pope Calixtus, by whom David was canonized, had, it seems, raised this place to a rank second only to the pontifical city itself, in the meritorious efficacy of the pilgrimages made to it, having declared that two visits to St. David's were equal to one to Rome. This indulgence is preserved in the following lines:

Meneviam p̄te bis, Romam adire si vis  
 Æqua m̄rcestibi, redditur hic et ibi;  
 Roma semel quantum dat bis Menevia tantum.

This is expressed in a Welsh couplet;

“ Dôs i Rufain unwaith, ag i Fynyw ddwywaith,  
 A'r un elw cryno a gai di yma ac yno;

which Mr. Edward Williams, the Welsh bard, has thus humourously paraphrased;

Would haughty Popes your senses bubble,  
 And once to Rome your steps entice;  
 'Tis quite as well, and saves some trouble,  
 Go visit old Saint Toffy twice.

from the castle of Lawhaden, and the palace at St. David's.\* By these proceedings he was able to urge the impossibility of residing on the spot, as well as the impracticability of repairing and upholding such extensive buildings. These splendid mansions, after being thus laid open to the injuries of the weather, were allowed to fall into regular decay, nothing effectual having been attempted to preserve them from ruin. The next act of spoliation committed upon the cathedral buildings was the unroofing of St. Mary's chapel, and the side aisles of the chancel. This was the work of the fanatics in the seventeenth century. It is probable that previously to this period the surrender of St. Mary's college to the crown had led the way to the neglect, and the consequent dilapidation of that beautiful structure, together with the contiguous houses of the priests. It does not enter into our plan to detail the minor injuries which the cathedral itself has subsequently received, and which have brought the cloisters and some other parts into their present ruinous condition.

It were unjust to charge the whole of bishop Barlow's successors indiscriminately with acting upon his destructive system. Some of them no doubt felt properly zealous for the honour of the diocese, and applied themselves to check the ruin which their revenues did not perhaps enable them altogether to prevent. But it would have afforded us sincere pleasure to record more exertions of this laudable kind than seem to have been made. In consequence of the foundation of the north wall of the church giving way it was found necessary to support it on the outside by strong abutments of mason work; and the plan, though it detracts greatly from the architectural

\* It has been stated as one motive of Barlow's unprincipled conduct in this nefarious business that he wished to improve the fortunes of his five daughters. This might possibly have been the case; but it is evident from his letter to Secretary Cromwell, in which he petitioned the crown for the removal of the see, that he wished for some plea for non-residence in the episcopal palaces of Pembrokeshire. †

tectural beauty of the building, appears to have answered its original purpose. The west front of the cathedral having also become ruinous, it was some years ago, by order of bishop Horsley, taken down and rebuilt under the direction of Mr. Nash the architect. It would be hard perhaps to make that prelate, or the chapter of St. David's for the time being, responsible for the execution of the work; but in truth it cuts a most contemptible figure by the venerable and exquisite specimens of architectural skill and taste to which it is attached. The more recent improvements which the cathedral has received shall be detailed from the very scanty catalogue of the present diocesan, who, since his elevation, has been actively and honourably engaged in promoting the repairs of the churches of his bishopric. "The nave has been very lately entirely new flagged, and new *pewed*; the beauty of the front of the rood loft (that only remaining monument, so perfect of its kind) has been greatly improved by restoring a part that had been concealed by boards; and some curious fragments of antiquity, discovered in removing the old pavement of the nave, are carefully preserved!"\*

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\* "Bishops and Benefactors of St. David's vindicated from the misrepresentations of a recent publication, in a charge delivered to the chapter of St. David's at his primary visitation of the cathedral church on the 30th of July 1811, by the Right Rev. Thomas Burgess, D. D. &c. bishop of St. David's," 4to. Carmarthen 1812.

In this tract, the learned prelate divides the history of the church of St. David's into three periods; "the first from its foundation in the sixth century to the abdication of the metropolitan authority in the twelfth; the second, from the commencement of its suffragan state to the beginning of the reformation in the sixteenth century, and the third from that time to the present. The first portion of this history was a period of *holy austerity* and *venerable poverty*; the second, was the period of establishment and endowment; and the third (as far as concerns the *external condition* of the see) has been a period of declension and dilapidation," p. 5. "If we were to distinguish each of the three periods by its *appropriate character*, we might denominate them periods of *sanctity*, *liberality*, and *learning*," p. 4. We have

“ The jurisdiction of the bishops of St. David’s over Dewisland, or the honour of Pebidiawg, involved more than the minor

have no fault to find with these divisions, which seem proper enough :—but we cannot congratulate his lordship on the characteristic distinctions which he applies to them. We demur to the position, that austerity and voluntary poverty are marks of *sanctity* ; for we can trace no natural connection between herb diet, or hair-cloth shirts, and pious dispositions and virtuous conduct. Nor do we apprehend that his lordship is prepared to maintain that sanctity may not consist with liberality or learning ; or that either of these qualities necessarily excludes the other. From the zeal he has manifested to vindicate the reputation of the bishops who held the see during those periods, it cannot be thought that he designed to pass so heavy a censure upon so large a number of the most truly eminent among them, as his words, strictly interpreted, would convey.

This publication strikes us, we must confess, as one of the most extraordinary that has for a long period come under our notice ; who can read it and not exclaim—*Tantæne animis cœlestibus iræ !* The right-reverend author has taken deadly umbrage at the manner in which Mr. Fenton, in his Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire, has treated some of his predecessors ; and he enters upon an elaborate *Review* of that work, literally *ex Cathedra*, in order to guard his clergy against the pernicious effects of its “ calumnies,” “ unjust aspersions” and “ iniquitous charges.” The tourist, with a most unaccountable ignorance of ecclesiastical history, had, some how or other, harboured the conceit, that bishops had sometimes panted for a removal from a poorer to a richer see ; and with a most culpable inacquaintance with the annals of St. David’s in particular, had had the temerity to assert, that some of its prelates had “ accepted the bishopric only as an earnest of higher preferment, and had *panted* for translation !” This *unfounded calumny* the right reverend author repels with great *spirit*. Speaking of bishop Bernard, one of the prelates accused of panting for translation, his lordship writes—“ His patience must have been *long exercised*, for he was 32 years bishop of St. David’s.” (p. 10.) And again, “ From bishop Houghton’s death to that of bishop Rawlins, elapsed nearly a century and a half : and in that interval there were *eighteen bishops*, of whom *thirteen died bishops of St. David’s*, one resigned the see after eighteen years possession of it, and only four in the long space of 147 years were translated to other sees. Of those who died in this see *several enjoyed all the influence of government and high office*, and therefore could not want either *claim or opportunity of translation.*” “ The long continuance of the bishops in this see during the period

nor regality of a Lordship Marcher, as by many of their ordinances, still extant, appears, nor was it little short of regal over all their diocese.

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“ Within

of which we are speaking (A. D. 1115—1536) certainly shewed no want of attachment to their duties, *nor impatience to leave them.*” p. 11, et seq. “ From 1536 to 1710 there was a succession of seventeen bishops, of whom six only were translated to other sees in the course of 174 years. *Here is no appearance of impatience for translation.*” p. 17. His lordship seems afterwards (p. 30) to admit that since 1710 the translations have been more frequent than they were in the preceding ages.

From the above passages we see the irresistible reasonings with which the poor tourist’s “ iniquitous charges” are *disproved*. Put into a few words his lordship’s argument will amount to this ;—The bishops of St. David’s held the see severally during a long period, some of them upwards of thirty years—*therefore*, they did not “ pant for translation.” We will illustrate this logic by an example. Dr. Richard Watson has now held the see of Landaff thirty-two years—Ergo—he has not panted for translation. It must, therefore, henceforth be deemed an “ unfounded calumny” to insinuate that he had any view to a removal to higher preferment, when in the year 1798 he wrote a pamphlet, in defence of the Income tax, &c. in which he pathetically hints, for the information of Mr. Pitt, that he had “ a breeding wife and six children ;” and for animadverting upon which one of the first scholars and best men of his time (the late Gilbert Wakefield) was for two years immured in a prison in a distant county, remote from his family and friends !—

Our limits will not admit of our examining his lordship’s tract in detail. If Mr. Fenton deems the work worthy of an answer, the learning and ability he has displayed in his valuable and interesting tour(a) prove him to be fully competent to the task. We must, however, as friends to literature, take leave to protest against his lordship’s extraordinary attempt (p. 26) to prejudice Mr. Fenton in the public opinion in relation to an undertaking upon which he has, it seems, already bestowed much and expensive labour—a new and revised edition of Browne Willis’s Survey of St. David’s. His lordship has no right, we presume, to judge a work that has not been published; or by a dash of his pen to rob any man of the recompense to which he has a fair claim in return for honest industry. The *hint* thrown out (p. 26) that Mr. Fenton is not a  
fit

(a) “ I the more regret the necessity, which the defects of the Historical Tour have imposed upon me, of *vindicating the memory of my predecessors*; because *in other respects* I have been much amused and interested in the perusal of the work.” Bishop of St. David’s Charge *ubi supra*, p. 41.

“ Within the city they settled the price of labour, grain, and butcher’s meat, the assize of bread and beer, and the time and place of market, reserving a preference to themselves and every member of the church, and in their instruments call the inhabitants of Dewisland their subjects, who are restrained from going out of the jurisdiction to reap in harvest time, if they could find employ in it at the just hire. Such of their subjects as presumed to infringe, or rashly violate their statutes, were to be punished by pecuniary penalties and imprisonments, according to their deserts and the nature of the offence. No victuals could be sold before the third hour of the day, nor on the way before that hour, on pain of forfeiting the thing itself.

“ The mayor of St. David’s seemed to be perfectly ministerial, acting in subordination to the bishops, whose statutes and mandates he had only to enforce, his court being kept in the building that formed the south east wing of the tower or principal gateway leading from the town to the close, yet opening only to the town.

“ The bishop’s seneschal, or Steward, was generally some man of note and fortune in the country; an office, I presume, of so much trust and emolument that great interest was made to fill it.

“ Within fit person to be admitted to the use of manuscript papers, is surely unworthy an enlightened member of a learned university, who, instead of placing obstacles in the way of literary research, ought to be found among the first to afford every facility in his power to such laudable pursuits. The intimation of *incapacity* in consequence of a typographical error, appears with rather an ill grace in a *pamphlet* which is preceded by a list of *errata*, containing a correction of blunders equally gross, and in one article of which very errata an important mistake in a date has been admitted. All who are conversant with the process of printing know full well, that such mistakes will happen after the most careful attention to accuracy, and without any impeachment of the learning or diligence of the superintendant of the press.—Here we shall quit the controversy, leaving it to be settled by the parties themselves:—

Nun nostrum inter vos tantas componere lites.

“ Within his jurisdiction the bishop had several inferior courts, but from the process of those there was appeal to the supreme court of Lawhaden, where all suits of great moment were determined.

“ The rights and privileges of their sanctuary were very extensive and much respected.

“ In war the presence of the bishop was almost necessary, for by their military tenure they were bound to attend, and their progress on such occasions was marked with the most solemn state; for on the first day of their march the burgesses of St. David's were to escort them with the relics and shrine of St. David, so far as to admit of their returning that night.

“ They were bound to garrison and protect the city and suburbs. In some cases they had power of life and death, for the inhabitants of the village of Porth-llysky, by their tenure, were to take charge of malefactors in the bishop's prison, and to bring them to Lawhaden and Maurice Castle; and if convicted, to conduct them to the gallows with the sound of the horn, and there hang them.”\*

The diocese of St. David's comprehends at present the counties of Pembroke, Caermarthen, Brecknock, and Radnor, with the exception of five parishes of the last: together with parts of the counties of Monmouth, Hereford, Montgomery, and Glamorgan. It has four archdeaconries, viz. Brecknock, Caermarthen, Cardigan, and St. David's. In the king's books the see is valued at 457*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* $\frac{1}{4}$ . and is computed to be worth annually† one thousand four hundred pounds. There belong to the cathedral a bishop, a precentor, with the power of a dean, a chancellor, a treasurer, four archdeacons, nineteen prebendaries, eight vicars choral, four choristers, and other inferior officers.

The chapter consists of the precentor, the treasurer, the chancellor, and three canons, elected from the archdeaconries

\* Fenton's Pembrokeshire, p. 110, et seq.

† Reatson's Political Index, Article St. David's.

and prebendaries. The lower chapter is a corporate body, holding lands within its own jurisdiction, and granting leases under its own seal, without being subject to the interference of the other dignitaries.

Having now gone cursorily over the history of the metropolitan city of St. David's, and its venerable ecclesiastical edifices, we shall next present a brief sketch of the prelates who have held the see from its foundation to the present time, as far as the existing documents will enable us to ascertain their succession. Our catalogue must commence with the name of St. David himself.

The fame of this celebrated personage having been so great throughout Christendom, we might naturally expect that the materials for the history of his life would be abundant, and of easy access. But when from the mass which tradition has handed down to us, we throw aside the monkish legends that are related of his birth, actions, character, and death, the facts that remain will be found exceedingly few, and by no means of established authenticity. He is stated to have been the son of Sandde ab Cedig ab Ceredig ab Cunedda, a prince of Ceredigion, or Cardigan, by Non the daughter of Gynyr of Caer Gawch in Pembrokeshire. Other authorities call the lady Melaria,\* but all agree that she was a nun, who became a mother by the forcible violation of her chastity. The period of his birth is assigned to the middle of the fifth century. Cressy† places it in the year 462, but the author of his life in the great work of the Jesuits, *Acta Sanctorum*, in a learned dissertation on the subject, assigns it to the year 445;‡ while others fix it still later than either of these dates. After receiving the first rudiments of his education at old Menapia, where he imbibed a taste for literature, and determined upon embracing a religious

\* Some pedigrees make Melaria, (who was one of the daughters of Brychan), the wife of Cedig or Ceredig, and therefore the mother of Sandde, and the grandmother of David.

† History of Brittany, Lib. X. Cap. 8. ‡ *Acta Sanctorum*, Martii Tom. I. p. 39.



gious life, he removed to the Isle of Wight to avail himself of the instructions of Paulinus, a disciple of St. Germanus, who at that time presided over a public school for the education of persons designed for the clerical office. Here he remained ten years prosecuting his studies with great ardour and success. At the expiration of this term he returned to his native country, and having fixed his residence in a secluded place called *Vallis Rosina*, the vale of Roses, he laid there the foundation of a monastic institution, which in the course of time raised the favoured spot to the dignity of an archiepiscopal metropolis. David brought together here a considerable body of scholars, some of whom; as Teilo, Aidan, Madoc, Padarn, or Paternus, and Kynedd, became afterwards greatly celebrated for their sanctity. The rules which he laid down for the observance of his followers were exceedingly strict. Every member was bound to labour daily with his hands for the common benefit of the monastery. They were forbidden to receive all gifts or possessions offered by *unjust* men, and to cherish a hatred of riches. "They never conversed together by talking but when necessity required, but each performed the labour enjoined him, joining thereto prayer or holy meditations on divine things; and having finished their country work they returned to their monastery, where they spent the remainder of the day till the evening in reading or writing. In the evening, at the sounding of a bell, they all left their work, and immediately repaired to the church, where they remained till the stars appeared, and then went all together to their refection, eating sparingly and not to satiety. Their food was bread with roots or herbs seasoned with salt, and their thirst they quenched with a mixture of water and milk. Supper being ended, they continued about three hours in watchings, prayers, and genuflexions. As long as they were in the church, it was not permitted to any to slumber, or sneeze, or cast forth spittle. After this they went to rest, and at cock crowing they rose, and continued at prayer till day appeared. All their inward

sensations and thoughts they discovered to their superior, and from him they demanded permission in all things, even when they were urged to the necessities of nature.\* Their clothing was skins of beasts."

In the year 519, according to Usher, a Synod was convened at Llandewi Brefi in Cardiganshire, for the purpose of checking the Pelagian heresy, which at this time had reappeared in the kingdom. To this assembly David, after repeated entreaties, repaired; and with such zeal and success did he preach against the obnoxious doctrines,† that he was by the unanimous voice of all present appointed archbishop of Caerleon, in the room of Dubricius, who, on account of his age and infirmities, wished to resign. He is said, however, to have consented to his elevation, only on condition of being permitted to remove the see to Menevia. Some years subsequently David convoked another assembly of all the clergy of Wales, but for what specific purpose is not now known. Here, the acts and decrees of the Synod of Brefi were confirmed, and some new acts passed for the regulation of the doctrine and the discipline of the churches. This convocation is called the Synod of Victory. The decrees of these two Synods were committed to writing by St. David himself, and deposited in the archives of his own cathedral; and having been approved by the court of Rome were for many ages received by the Welsh churches as their rule and directory in all ecclesiastical matters. These ancient documents were in after times destroyed by the barbarian invaders, who repeatedly pillaged the church, and too often wantonly burnt what they found it useless to remove.

The time of St. David's death, and the age at which he died, are as undetermined as the period of his birth. Giraldus and John of Tinmouth state that he died in the year 609 at the  
great

\* *Patrisque licentiam etiam ad naturæ secreta requirebant. Acta Sanctorum ubi supra, p. 46.*

† See above, page 480.

great age of one hundred and forty-seven. Pits places his death in 544, but assigns to him the same incredible length of years. The author of his life in the *Acta Sanctorum* agrees with this statement as to the time of his death, but makes him only ninety-seven years old; and he suggests that the difference on this point may probably be accounted for by supposing that the dates having been originally written LXXXXVII or CXXXXVII, the first numeral L, was mistaken for, C. Usher also concurs in placing his death in 544, but makes his age only eighty-two. He was canonized by Calixtus the second, who held the papal see from A. D. 1119 to 1124 \*

Giraldus thus sums up his character: *Cunctis autem pater David, tanquam in speculâ positus eminentissimâ, vitæ speculum erat et exemplar. Instruebat subditos verbo, instruebat*  
et

\* *Acta Sanctorum ubi supra, p. 39.*

There is in the British Museum (Cotton MSS. Titus D. xxii) a very curious manuscript life of David in the Welsh language. It is without date, but the character in which it is written proves its claim to considerable antiquity. The first page begins—"Yna y treithyr o ach Dewi ac o dalym oi vuched." The narrative comprises most of the miraculous incidents usually found in the memoirs of the saint. For the gratification of the Welsh antiquary we shall insert a short extract, which relates the miraculous effect of his preaching at Llandewi Brefi, as detailed above, p. 480. "Odyna y kerdawd Dewi ygyt a chennadeu y seint llyt y lle yr oedynt yny aros. A phan doeth dd' yno ykyvodes yr holl seint yny erbin pan y gwelsant ef yn dyvot, a chyfarch gwell idaw, a syrthyaw ar dal eu glynneu ar erchi idaw pregethu gan drychafel o honaw y ben bryn uchel, y lle y buassei pregeth gynno hynny. Ac esgussaw a wnaeth ef ar dalym o amser wrth'nt wy, a dywedut na veidei ef ac na allei wneuthur yr hyn ydoedynt wy yny erchi idaw. Eissyoës ef a gymerth vendith y kyffredin ac a vuydhaod udu't. Agwrthot a oruc ef esgynnw y ben y bryn, a dywedut na mynnei ef le i sevyll onyt ar y llawr gwastat. A dechreu pregethu o dyno a oruc Dewi o gyfretth Grist ar eve'gyl, a hynny megys llef corn eglur." "A phan yttwet Dewi ar warthaf y llawr gwastat a dywetpwy't uhot yn pregethu y kyvodes y llawr hwnnw megis mynyd uchel dan y draet ef. A phawb or gynnulleitva honno an edrych ar hynny, yr llyn yssyd etto yn vryn uchel yn anlwe gan bawb."

et exemplo; efficacissimus ore prædicator, sed opere major. Erat enim audientibus doctrina, religiosis forma, egentibus vita, orphanis munimen, viduis fulcimen, pupillis pater, monachis regula, sæcularibus via; omnibus omnia factus, ut omnia lucrifaceret Deo.

He was to all a mirror and a pattern of life; he taught both by precept and example: was an excellent preacher in words, but more excellent in works. He was a doctrine to those who heard him, a model to the religious, life to the needy, defence to orphans, support to widows, a father to the fatherless, a rule to monks, a directory to men of the world; being made all things to all men that he might win all to God.

“ In the Triads Dewi, Padarn, and Teilo are denominated the three holy visitors of Britain; because they went about preaching the Christian faith to all, without accepting any kind of reward; but on the contrary expending their patrimonies in administering to the necessities of the poor. In the same records, Dewi is called the primate of the Welsh church, under the eldership of Maelgwn and the sovereignty of Arthur, at the same time that Bedwini held similar functions in Cornwall, and Cyndeyrn in Scotland. He is also ranked with Teilo and Catwg, as the three canonized saints of Britain. In consequence of the romances of the middle ages, which created the seven champions of Christendom, St. David was dignified with the title of the Patron Saint of Wales; but this rank, however, is hardly known among the people of the principality, being a title diffused among them from England in modern times.”\*

The

\* Owen's Camb. Biog. sub verb. *Dewi*. We have been given to understand that it was appointed a few years ago *by authority*, that a sermon should be preached annually in the diocese, on the first day of March, to commemorate the “holy austerity” and other virtues of the saint. We have not learnt whether it was at the same time ordered that the following collect, from the ancient church of Sarum, should form a part of the service:

“ O God,

The existing catalogues of the archbishops who succeeded St. David, differ from each other in respect to some of the names. There are two lists which we shall subjoin, one drawn up by Giraldus, the other inserted by Godwin on the authority of an ancient document belonging to the church of St. David's :

## GIRALDUS

“ O God, who by an angell didst foretell the nativity of thy blessed confessor Saint David, thirty years before he was born ; grant unto us, wee beseech thee, that celebrating his memory, we may by his intercession attain to ioyes everlasting.”

Various attempts have been made to account for the custom of wearing leeks on St. David's day,—a custom, however, it is worthy of remark, that is hardly known in the principality. Mr. Owen is disposed to think that it originated from the custom of *Cymhorthu*, or the neighbourly aid practised among farmers. He states that in some districts of South Wales all the neighbours of a small farmer, without means, appoint a day when they all attend to plough his land, or do him other service, and that at such times each individual carries with him his portion of leeks to be used in making the pottage for the company. Of this custom, however, we confess we never heard in South Wales. Some have asserted that the practice took its rise in consequence of a victory obtained by Cadwallo over the Saxons, on the first of March 640, when the Welsh, to distinguish themselves, wore leeks in their hats. To this Shakespeare seems to allude when he makes Fluellin say, “ the Welshmen did good service in a garden where leeks did grow.” But a writer in the Gentleman's Magazine, (Vol. 57, page 131,) traces it to a more ancient source. “ Scholars,” he observes, “ know that the leek, *ωρεσον* of the Greeks by a corrupt transposition of *Pares-on*, and *Porrum* of the Latins, corrupted from *Pur-orus*, was an Egyptian Deity, and consequently the Britons, a colony of *Egyptians*, were worshippers of *Leeks!*”

Good old Drayton, (*Polyolbion*, Song 4) ascribes it to the “ holy austerity” of St. David, whose retreat he places in the Vale of Ewyas, on the borders of Monmouthshire and Brecknockshire ;—

That reverent British Saint in zealous ages past,  
To contemplation liv'd ; and did so truly fast,  
As he did onelie drink what crystall Hodney yields,  
And fed upon the leeks he gathered in the fields,  
In memorie of whom, in the revolving year  
The Welshmen on his day that sacred herbe doe wear.

## GIRALDUS.

1. David
2. Cēnauc
3. Eliud, or Teilaus
4. Ceneu
5. Morwal
6. Haerunen
7. Elwaed
8. Gurnuen
9. Lendivrod
10. Gorwysc
11. Gogan
12. Cledauc
13. Anian
14. Elvoed
15. Ethelmen
16. Elanc
17. Malscoed
18. Sadermen
19. Catellus
20. Sulhaithnai
21. Nonis
22. Etwal
23. Asser
24. Arthvael
25. Sampson

## GODWIN.

1. David
2. Eliud
3. Theliasus
4. Kenea
5. Morvael
6. Haernurier
7. Elvaeth
8. Gurnel
9. Lendywyth
10. Gorwist
11. Gorgan
12. Cledaucke
13. Eynaen
14. Eludgeth
15. Eldunen
16. Elvaoth
17. Maelschwyth
18. Madenew
19. Catulus
20. Sulvai
21. Namis
22. Sathveneï
23. Doithwall
24. Asser
25. Athvael
26. Sampson

It may be remarked on the above lists, that the greater number of the names correspond, though given in a different orthography. It is also to be observed that Giraldus, agreeing in this with some ancient authorities, makes Eliud and Teilaw to be the same person. In the *Acta Sanctorum*\* the immediate successor of St. David is said to have been Ismael, a disciple

\* *Mart. Tom. I. p. 41.*

a disciple of Dubricius, who was consecrated by Teilo. Teilo succeeded Dubricius in the see of Landaff; the insertion of his name therefore among the archbishops of St. David's seems to be a mistake. There are but few names in these catalogues to which dates can be affixed with any measure of certainty. St. David's elevation to the see is placed in 577; that of Lendivord, the ninth in the list, by some authorities in 719; but Godwin places him in 810, when St. David's was burnt by the West Saxons. Dr. Burgess assigns to Elvaed the year 755, and seems to agree with Clarke (*Prefatio ad Leges Hoeli Dda*, edit. a Wotton) in regarding him as the person mentioned in the Welsh Chronicles, as archbishop of North Wales. But this supposition cannot be reconciled with the language of Caradoc of Lancarvan, in a copy of his chronicle (*Brut y Tywysogion*) printed in the *Myfyrian Archæology*, who clearly distinguishes between him and the Archbishop of St. David's. His words are:—"In the year 809 died Elvid, archbishop of North Wales (archescob Gwynedd); and there was an eclipse of the sun; and there were great disputes among the clergy respecting Easter, for the bishops of Landaff and St. David's (Mynyw) would not submit to the archbishop of North Wales (Archescob Gwynedd) where they were themselves Archbishops in their own right."\*

The Welsh Chronicle notices the death of a bishop of St. David's in the year 840, but mentions no name. This must have been Sulharthnai or Sylvai, who was succeeded by Nonis, or Novis, raised to the see in 841; according to the *Annales Menevensis*, this prelate died in 873.

This account, however, can hardly be reconciled to the statement of Caradoc respecting the death of Einon, or Annan, the thirteenth in the catalogue, which he places in the year 871†. Caradoc mentions Hubert Sais, or Hubert the Englishman,

\* *Myfyrian Archæology*, Vol. II. p. 474 b.

† *Idem*. p. 489.

Englishman, as the successor of Einon, but this name does not occur in any other authority. Asser held the see A. D. 909, though some place his death in 906. He is commonly regarded as the uncle of the bishop of Sherburne of the same name. Sampson is said to have been raised to the see in 910. With this prelate, as related above, the archiepiscopal dignity of the see ceased; its metropolitan authority continued, however, under his successors, whose names next occur.

26. Ruelin, or Ruelinus. 27. Rodherch, or Roderic. A prelate of this name is stated in the Welsh Chronicle to have died in 961. If the same person be meant, he is misplaced here. 28. Elguni. 29. Lunverd, or Llywarch. 30. Nergu, or Vergu. 31. Sulhider, or Silhidw, or Hubert, who died in 942. According to the Welsh Chronicle\* Martin held this diocese in 926, when Hywel Dda assembled the wise men of his kingdom for the purpose of revising the laws; but his name does not occur elsewhere. 32. Eneuris, or Everus, who died in 944. In the *Annales Menevensis* this prelate is called Luvert, and in the copy of Caradoc in the *Myfyrian Archæology*,† before quoted, the name of Lambert occurs at this period, who is said to have died in 942.

33. Morgeneu, or Urgeneu.‡ According to Giraldus this was the first bishop of St. David's, who ate flesh. As a judgment upon him for this sinful indulgence he was put to death by pirates. "He appeared to a certain bishop in Ireland on the night of his death, shewing his wounds and saying, Because I ate meat I am made meat.§" His death is assigned, in the *Annales Menevensis*, to the year 1000, but in one copy of the Welsh Chronicle to 998, and in another to 976.

34. Nathan. 35. Ievan. 36. Argustel. 37. Morgenneth,

or

\* *Myfyrian Archæology*, Vol. II. p. 485.

† P. 688.

‡ Between Luvert and Morgeneu, the *Annales Menevensis* insert two names Morcleis, who died 945, and Eneuris, who died in 946.

§ *Quia Carnes comedi, Caro factus sum.* Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 3.



or Morgynnydd. He died, according to Caradoc, in 1023. 38. Eryvn or Hernwn, who died in 1038 or 1039. 39. Tramerin or Camerin, who died 1055, "having long governed the diocese of Hereford under Ethelstan the bishop, who was blind thirteen years before his death." 40. Joseph, who died 1061. 41. Bleitherd or Bleuddyd, who died 1070.

42. Sulghein, Sulgen, or Sulien. He resigned the bishopric in 1076, and was succeeded by Abraham; but this prelate dying in 1079, the see was once more reluctantly accepted by Sulien, who was deemed peculiarly qualified, by his wisdom and experience, to preside over it in such troublesome times. He resigned again in 1080, the year in which William the Conqueror made his pilgrimage to the shrine of St. David's. He died in 1080, in the eightieth year of his age, and the nineteenth of his bishopric, leaving behind him the character of being one of the wisest and most excellent of the British prelates.\*

43. Abraham, who died, as above stated, in 1079.

44. Rythmarch, who succeeded Sulgen his father in 1080. He died 1098 or 1099, in the forty-third year of his age. He was called Rythmarch the wise. Caradoc says of him that the preceding ages did not produce his equal, nor was it to be expected that succeeding times would see his like again. He is said to have had no advantages of education besides what he derived from his father. After receiving suitable honours in his own country, and the highest applause from surrounding nations, the English, French, and other countries beyond sea, he died universally lamented.† In another copy this author states that, excepting his father, there was no one to be compared with him

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for

\* The public are indebted to the present bishop of St. David's for the publication of a life of this prelate written by his son, John Sulgen, in Latin hexameters, which narrowly escaped the flames that consumed part of the Cotton library in 1731. The original is among the Cotton manuscripts in the British Museum.

† Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 451.

for learning, wisdom, and piety. With the death of Rythmarch the education of scholars ceased at St. David's.\*

45. Wilfrid, called in the Welsh Chronicles Gwilfrid, succeeded to the see on the death of Rythmarch. In two copies of Caradoc (*Brut y Saeson*, and *Brut y Tywysogion*, *Myfyrian Archæology*, Vol. II. p. 522) he is said to have received the bishopric on the resignation of Sulien in 1080, or 1083, but the latter of these afterwards notices the death of Rythmarch in 1098, as bishop of St. David's. Wilfrid, according to the *Annales Menevensis*, died in 1116; but this event must be placed a year earlier, as his successor was raised to the see in 1115: The date 1112 given in the Welsh Chronicle is evidently a mistake.

With Wilfrid the list closes of the bishops of St. David's who possessed metropolitan authority. The first prelate who stands as a suffragan bishop, having relinquished the rights of the see in this respect, was

46. Bernard, a Norman by birth, who was chaplain to king Henry the first, and chancellor to the queen.† Contrary to the usual practice of the Welsh church, he was appointed to the see by the king, and consecrated by the archbishop of Canterbury July 12, 1115. He died in 1147, and was succeeded by

47. David Fitzgerald, the uncle of Giraldus Cambrensis. He died in 1176. On the demise of David, Giraldus was chosen

\* *Myfyrian Archæology*, Vol. II. p. 533. "Ryemarch wrote the life of St. David, before he was canonized by the Pope. This life is so full of exaggeration and fabulous superstition, that there can be little doubt that it was interpolated in the succeeding century, after David's admission to the Roman calendar, and in a period remarkable for legendary fiction." Note by the bishop of St. David's in the *Life of Sulgen* above noticed, p. 14.

† Those who wish to be more minutely informed respecting the character of this prelate may consult Mr. Fenton's *Historical Tour*, and Sir Richard Hoare's *Giraldus*; and also the bishop of St. David's charge above noticed, wherein some accusations brought against him in the two former works are repelled at some length.

chosen bishop by the chapter, but the king refusing to ratify the election, the see was given to

48. Peter de Leia, a Benedictine monk, and prior of Wenlock. The cathedral church, which had suffered greatly from the Danish pirates, was rebuilt during his bishopric. He died in 1099, according to the *Annales Menevensis*. On the occurrence of the vacancy created by the death of Peter de Leia, the chapter again elected Giraldus to be their bishop.\* But the election, after a long and vexatious contest, was annulled by the Pope. In consequence of this

49. Geoffrey de Henelaw, prior of Lantoni, was raised to the see in 1203, through the interest of Hubert, archbishop of Canterbury.

50. Jorwerth, or Edward, called also Gervais, consecrated in 1214, and died, according to the *Annales Menevensis*, in 1229. He was succeeded by

51. Anselm, who was raised to the see in 1230.

52. Thomas Wallensis, archdeacon of Lincoln, consecrated in 1248.

53. Richard de Carreu, or Caerau, called also de Carron. From the name it may be inferred that he was one of the Carew family. He was raised to the see in 1256.

54. Thomas Becke, consecrated in 1280. He was a great benefactor to the see, having founded two colleges, one at Abergwili, afterwards removed to Brecknock, and another at Llandewi Brevi. He held the bishopric thirteen years.

55. David Martin, raised to the see, A. D. 1293.

56. Henry Gower. He was a native of Gower in Glamorganshire, was educated at Merton College Oxford, and made bishop of St. David's in 1328. His splendid additions to the episcopal buildings have been already noticed. He died in 1347.

57. John Thoresby, consecrated in 1347. He was Chan-

\* See above, p. 780.

cellor of England. He was translated to Worcester in 1349, and again to York in 1352.

58. Reginald Brian, raised to the see in 1349, and translated to Worcester on the removal of Thoresby in 1352.

59. Thomas Falstof, consecrated 1353, died in 1361.

60. Adam Houghton, the founder of St. Mary's College at St. David's, elevated to the see in 1361. He was some time Chancellor of England, and died in 1389.

61. John Gilbert, translated to this see from Hereford in 1389. He died in 1397.

62. Guy de Mona, Keeper of the Privy Seal, consecrated in 1397. He held the office of Treasurer of England under Richard the second and Henry the fourth, and died in 1407.

63. Henry Chickley, consecrated by the Pope at Sienna in 1408: translated to Canterbury in 1414.

64. John Ketterick, archdeacon of Surrey, consecrated 1414, and the following year translated to Lichfield and Coventry, whence he was removed to Exeter.

65. Stephen Patrington, Doctor in Divinity, and provincial of the Carmelites, consecrated in 1415. He was at the council of Constance, where the Pope, in 1417, translated him to Chichester.

66. Benedict Nichols, translated from Bangor by the Pope in 1418. This prelate acquired dishonorable celebrity in the early period of the reformation, from being one of the bishops who assisted the archbishop of Canterbury in the condemnation of Sir John Oldcastle, Lord Cobham, for heresy.\*

67. Thomas Rodburne, raised to the see in 1421. He was a man of great learning: in 1402 he held the office of Proctor in the University of Oxford, and was Chancellor in 1420. Godwin states that the king, Henry the Sixth, made an unsuccessful attempt to translate him to Ely.

68. William

\* This pious and excellent man was after his conviction suspended from a gallows in chains, and burnt to death.

68. William Linwood, consecrated A. D. 1442. In the earlier part of his public life, he was employed as ambassador to the courts of Spain and Portugal. He was afterwards successively chancellor to the archbishop of Canterbury, and Keeper of the Privy Seal. His Provincial Constitutions form the chief of his literary productions. He died in 1446, and was buried at St. Stephen's, Westminster.

69. John Langton, chancellor of the University of Cambridge, consecrated in 1447, and died within fifteen days afterwards.

70. John Delabere, Dean of Wells, consecrated A. D. 1447.

71. Robert Tully, raised to the see in 1460, and died in 1482.

72. Richard Martin, consecrated July 1482.

73. Thomas Langton, consecrated 1483; translated in 1485 to Winchester.

74. Hugh Pavy, archdeacon of Wilts, raised to the see in 1485.

75. John Morgan, Dean of Windsor, consecrated in 1496, died at the Priory Caermarthen in 1505, and was buried in the church of St. David's.

76. Robert Sherbourn, Dean of St. Paul's consecrated in 1505, and translated to Chichester in November in the same year.

77. Edward Vaughan, Treasurer and Prebendary of St. Paul's, consecrated July 22, 1509. He built the elegant chapel to the eastward of the chancel of St. David's cathedral, wherein he lies buried.

78. Richard Rawlins, Prebendary of St. Pauls, consecrated April 26, 1523.

79. William Barlow, translated hither from St. Asaph in April 1536, and distinguished in the annals of St. David's by his unprincipled conduct in the destruction of the finest of its episcopal palaces, and the alienation of the church es-

tates.\* He was translated to Bath and Wells, and thence to Chichester.

80. Robert Ferrar, raised to the see in 1548. He was a native of Yorkshire, and had been chaplain to archbishop Cranmer. He suffered some persecution in the time of Edward the Sixth, but after the accession of Queen Mary was involved in greater troubles on account of his principles. Adhering firmly to the reformation, notwithstanding every attempt to induce him to read his recantation, he was deprived of his bishopric, condemned as a heretic, and burnt to death in the market place of Caermarthen, on the 30th of March 1555. Several of the articles exhibited against him are trifling in the highest degree. His firmness under his persecutions are highly honorable to his character.

81. Henry Morgan, principal of St. Edward's Hall, Oxford. He was raised to the see the first year of Queen Mary, on the deprivation of Ferrar, upon whom he pronounced sentence of death. On the accession of Elizabeth he was in his turn deprived, and succeeded in 1559 by

82. Thomas Young, chancellor of St. David's, who was translated to York.

83. Richard Davies, removed hither from St. Asaph in 1561. The share which this learned prelate had in the translation of the scriptures into the Welsh language, has already been noticed, in connection with one of his associates in the honorable undertaking, Dr. Morgan, bishop of Landaff.† He died at Abergwili in 1581.

84. Marmaduke

\* It is somewhat amusing to observe the ascending gradation of the Bishop of St. David's epithets, when he is animadverting, in his charge before adverted to, on Barlow's removal of the lead roofs from the palaces of St. David's and Lawhaden. He begins p. 13, with calling it a "*blameable appropriation*," as if afraid to shock tender minds by too suddenly pronouncing harsher sentence on episcopal delinquency; farther on, p. 16, he calls it a mean "*wholly unjustifiable*," to obtain the removal of the see; and immediately after denounces it as a "*rapacious proceeding*."

† See above, p. 626.

84. Marmaduke Middleton, translated hither from Waterford in 1582. He was deprived in 1592 for publishing a forged will.

85. Anthony Rudd, dean of Gloucester, consecrated in 1594, the see having been vacant two years. He died, according to Wood, on the 7th of March 1614.

86. Richard Milbourne, dean of Rochester, consecrated in 1615, translated to Carlisle in 1621.

87. William Laud, dean of Gloucester, consecrated in 1621, translated to Bath and Wells.

88. Theophilus Field, translated hither from Landaff, and removed to Hereford.

89. Roger Manwaring, dean of Worcester, consecrated in 1635. He was chaplain to king Charles the first, and in this capacity preached before that monarch at Whitehall two sermons intituled Religion and Allegiance, for the extraordinary high tory sentiments\* maintained in which, sentiments that "equally disgraced him when he uttered, as they did the monarch who heard and approved them," he was arraigned before the House of Lords by the Commons. Being convicted, he was sentenced to pay a fine of one thousand pounds, to make his submission in writing, to be suspended three years from his ministry, and disabled from holding any ecclesiastical dignity

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dignity

\* He is said to have maintained, "That the king is not bound to observe the laws of the realm concerning the subjects' rights and liberties, but that his royal will and command in imposing loans and taxes, without common consent in Parliament, doth oblige the subject's conscience upon pain of eternal damnation. That those who refused to pay this loan offended against the law of God, and the king's supreme authority, and became guilty of impiety, disloyalty, and rebellion. And that the authority of Parliament is not necessary for raising aids and subsidies: and that the slow proceedings of such great assemblies were not fitted for the state's urgent necessities, but would rather produce sundry impediments to the just designs of princes." Rushworth's Collections, Vol. I. p. 423. Somewhat in this spirit was Dr. Horsley's famous declaration, "The PEOPLE have nothing to do with the Laws but to OBEY them!"

dignity or secular office. His sermons were also ordered to be publicly burnt. In about a month afterwards, Charles, in the face of this proceeding, and as if to make a public avowal of the principles maintained by his chaplain, granted him a pardon; and as a compensation for his sufferings, gave him the living of Stamford Rivers in Essex, made him dean of Worcester, and ultimately elevated him to the see of St. David's. He was however soon deprived of his temporalities by the Puritans, who nevertheless allowed him a part of the estate for his maintenance.

After the abolition of episcopacy in 1645, the see remained vacant fifteen years, till the restoration in 1660, when

90. William Lucy was raised to the bishopric. He was sixty-eight years of age at the time of his consecration, and held the see about seventeen years.

91. William Thomas, dean of Worcester, consecrated in 1677, and translated to Worcester.

92. Lawrence Womack, archdeacon of Suffolk, consecrated in 1683.

93. John Lloyd, principal of Jesus College, Oxford, consecrated in 1686, but held the see only a few months.

94. Thomas Watson, consecrated in 1687. He was a native of Yorkshire, and obtained the see in consequence of having recommended himself to the favour of James the Second by his tory principles. To this monarch he continued a warm friend after his abdication, until his endeavours to support his cause attracted the notice of government, who directed a suit to be instituted against him for simony and other crimes.\* After four years litigation judgment was given against him, and he was deprived of his bishopric in 1699.

95. George Bull, archdeacon of Landaff, consecrated in  
1705,

\* Bishop Watson was charged with circulating a libel couched in these words—*Oh misera Ecclesia Anglicana cujus rex est Batavus, et republicanus, et cujus archiepiscopus est hereticus!*



1705, the see having remained vacant five years and eight months after the deprivation of his predecessor.

96. Philip Bisse, consecrated in 1710, and translated to Hereford.

97. Adam Ottley, archdeacon of Salop, and prebendary of Hereford, consecrated in 1712,

98. Richard Smallbrook, treasurer of Landaff, elevated to the see in 1723, and translated to Coventry and Lichfield in 1731.

99. Elias Sydall, dean of Canterbury, consecrated in 1731, and translated the same year to Gloucester.

100. Nicholas Claggett, dean of Rochester, consecrated in 1731, and translated to Exeter.

101. Edward Willes, dean of Lincoln, elevated to the see in 1742, and translated to Bath and Wells.

102. Richard Trevor, canon of Windsor, consecrated in 1744, and translated to Durham.

103. Anthony Ellis, prebendary of Gloucester, consecrated in 1753.

104. Samuel Squire, dean of Gloucester, consecrated in 1761.

105. Robert Lowth, prebendary of Durham, elevated to the see in 1766. This learned and amiable prelate is known chiefly as an author by his *First Institutes of English Grammar*, his "*Prælectiones*" on Hebrew Poetry, and his elegant version of Isaiah. He was translated to Oxford, the year of his consecration, and thence to London; he died in 1787.

106. Charles Moss, archdeacon of Colchester, consecrated in 1766, and translated to Bath and Wells.

107. James York, dean of Lincoln, consecrated A. D. 1774, and translated to Gloucester.

108. John Warren, archdeacon of Worcester, consecrated 1779, and translated to Bangor.

109. Edward Smallwell, raised to the see in 1783.

110. Samuel Horsley, prebendary of Gloucester, &c. &c.  
raised

raised to the see in 1788. He was a man of great learning, and early distinguished himself by his acquaintance with the mathematical sciences. The philosophical world are indebted to him for a complete edition of the works of Sir Isaac Newton, which he published in 1785 in five volumes Quarto. His principal publication on Biblical subjects was a translation of Hosea. In 1782 he commenced a controversy with Dr. Priestley, with the view of disproving some statements made by that learned and acute writer in his History of the Corruptions of Christianity, then recently published. This correspondence was continued for several years, and with respect to the main facts to which the discussions related, terminated in the complete triumph of Dr. Priestley over his antagonist.\* Dr. Horsley

\* It is proper to observe here, that some of Dr. Horsley's friends are by no means disposed to admit this conclusion. As the subject has been lately revived, we shall enumerate the principal publications to which it has given birth. The first reference should of course be had to the original tracts published in the controversy, which ought to be perused in the order in which they appeared. Dr. Horsley's have been lately republished by his son, the Rev. Heneage Horsley, and a new edition of Dr. Priestley's, with notes by Mr. Belsham, is announced as in the press. The reader may also consult a "Review of the Controversy," given by Mr. Belsham in his "Calm Inquiry into the Scripture doctrine concerning the person of Christ," London 1811. "The Claims of Dr. Priestley in the Controversy with Dr. Horsley restated and vindicated by Thomas Belsham," London 1814. Something bearing on these discussions may likewise be found in a pamphlet published by the present bishop of St. David's, intituled "A Brief Memorial on the Repeal of so much of the Statutes 9 and 10 William III. as relates to persons denying the doctrine of the Holy Trinity." &c. To which a masterly reply has been made by Mr. Belsham in an Appendix to a "Discourse delivered before the Unitarian Society," March 31, 1814. On the progress of Intellectual, Moral, and Religious improvement during the present reign. See also an "Address to persons calling themselves Unitarians" by bishop Burgess, inserted in the Gentleman's Magazine for June 1814, and the reply to it by Mr. Belsham in the same publication for the month following. These two letters have been republished in the Monthly Repository for October 1814.

ley was translated to Rochester in 1793, and thence to St. Asaph in 1802. He died Oct. 4, 1806, in the 73rd year of his age.

111. William Stuart, canon of Christchurch, Oxford, and brother of the Marquis of Bute. He was elevated to the see in 1793, and translated to the archbishopric of Armagh.

112. George Murray, brother of the Duke of Athol, consecrated in 1800. This amiable prelate held the see only three years. During this short period his mild and benevolent character had rendered him universally beloved in his diocese, where his memory is yet sincerely revered.

113. Thomas Burgess, prebendary of Durham, raised to the see in 1803.

St. David's, or its immediate vicinity, has been the birth place of some men entitled to notice in connection with the prelates who have held the see; we shall, however, mention but two. *ASSER*, commonly designated *Asserius Menevensis*, is generally considered as having been born here.

He

Dr. Horsley, though zealously attached to the church of England, and as hostile to Protestant dissenters as any one of his successors in the see of St. David's, did not view the Roman Catholics with the unfriendly spirit that some of them have displayed. In a circular letter addressed to his clergy in May 1793, on the subject of the French refugees, for whom he directs them to make public collections in their churches, he thus expresses himself:—"You will in a suitable discourse from the pulpit, endeavour to stir up the affections of your people, by every argument which our holy Religion furnishes, to alacrity and godly emulation in ministering, upon this occasion, to the relief of the forlorn, afflicted, famished strangers, thrown by the storm of persecution into our arms. You will remind them that the persons for whom we, in the name of God, implore their aid, however they may differ from us upon certain points of doctrine, discipline, and external rites, are nevertheless our Brethren—Members of Christ—Children of God—Heirs of the promises; adhering indeed to the communion of the church of Rome, in which they have been educated, but more endeared to us by the example they exhibit of patient suffering for conscience sake, than estranged by what we deem their errors and corruptions. More near and dear to us in truth by far than some who affecting to be called our protestant Brethren, have no other title to the name of Protestant than a Jew or Pagan."

He was a monk of this house, and nearly related to Nonis, or Novis, the archbishop. The fame of his great learning and abilities having reached England, Alfred, the reigning monarch, about the year 880, invited him to court, and being pleased with his manners appointed him to a situation about his person, and made him his companion and preceptor. From his royal patron he received two or three monasteries, and last of all the bishopric of Sherburne,\* where he is said by some authorities to have died in the year 910 : but it seems probable from other accounts that he had resigned this preferment some years previously to his death, in order to be able to devote more of his time to his occupations at court. Alfred is supposed to have been incited to the restoration of the University of Oxford principally by the advice of Asser. The only work that can with certainty be ascribed to him is a life of Alfred, "De vita et rebus gestis Alfredi." Some have thought that this Asser and the bishop of St. David's of the name were the same person, but this is by no means satisfactorily proved. The note in the Biographia Britannica on this point is deserving of very little attention. The writer finding the name of Asser mentioned in connection with that of archbishop Nonis, fancies that while the latter held the see the former was *parson* of St. Dewi's parish ; not knowing that in the Welsh annals St. Dewi's parish (Plwyf Dewi) always means the diocese. The two Assers were probably relatives, and the archbishop is usually regarded as the uncle of the monk.

John Eregina, sometimes called John Patrick Eregina, and sometimes John Scotus, is claimed by the Welsh as a native of St. David's, though this claim is disputed by the Irish and the Scotch, who severally put in their pretensions to him as their

\* "O fortunatum juxta ac cordatum principem," says Leland, in noticing this promotion "qui potuit et voluit hujusmodi sortis hominem evangelico operi præficere! O fortunatiorem pontificem, qui contigit sub tam pio principe sancto fungi officio! Quid multis moror? Erat elegans episcopus dignissimus qui elegantem regem patronum haberet."

their countryman. He was born in the beginning of the ninth century, and after having completed his education travelled into Greece, where he acquired an intimate acquaintance with the Greek and other eastern languages. On his return he visited Paris and resided a considerable time at the court of Charles the Bald, who admitted him to very familiar intimacy. During his stay here he wrote some books on school divinity which gave umbrage to the Pope,\* who sent to require his attendance at Rome; a visit which, however, he very *prudently* declined. The time and place of his death, are not certainly known; but it is thought he died about 874. Some of his biographers assert that in the latter part of his life he was sent for by Alfred, and was instrumental with Asser in restoring the University of Oxford; but this account seems unsubstantiated by sufficient evidence, and is probably founded on mistake. He was a man of great learning; his works are however too deeply imbued with the mystical divinity of the age to be consulted with much advantage in the present times.

The neighbourhood of St. David's contains numerous remains of small oratories or chapels, the frequent resort of pilgrims in ancient times. The principal now to be seen are St. Justinian and St. Non's chapels, both situated on the sea coast.

The

\* The work which offended his holiness was a discourse on the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in the consecrated water. He was engaged in some other controversies about this period. The first related to the question, Whether any part of the Eucharist was evacuated by stool?— and another to the equally important enquiry, Whether Christ was born of the Virgin Mary *aperta Vulva*? Some had maintained that this could not have been the case without doing injury to her perpetual virginity, and therefore held that Christ came into the world *per vulvam clausam*, as he came into the apartment where his disciples were without opening the door. On the first question our author and some others asserted the affirmative, and on this account were denominated *Stercorists*: and in respect to the second, he held that the notion of the *vulva clausa*, was a dangerous heresy, for it would follow from it that Christ was not born, but issued: *non est nasci, sed erumpi*.

The former is stated to have been the work of Bishop Vaughan; and is a very interesting ruin. The latter is remarkable only as having been dedicated to the mother of St. David. Religious remains of earlier date of the kind called Druidical occur here at almost every step, but offer no particular claims to attention, being generally very rude, and on a small scale.

The Rocks called the Bishop and his clerks form interesting objects in the view on the sea coast from St. David's head. Ramsey island is the largest in this quarter, being about three miles in length, by one mile in width.

The direct road leading from St. David's to Fishguard, towards which place we are next to direct our course, is extremely uninteresting, and presents not a single object that requires notice. There is however another route lying nearer the coast that will furnish the antiquary with a few remains, both of the religious and military kind. The former consist of *Cromlechs* and *Meini hirion*, which occur in unusual numbers in this district; the latter comprise a few forts or earthworks, the rude constructions of an early age. At Long house near the village of Trefine is a cromlech in a good state of preservation: the covering stone is about eighteen feet in length, and was supported originally by six upright stones, only four of which are now in contact with it. Further on, at Treslanog, in the midst of other relics of the same description, is a Cromlech fourteen feet in length, and about eight feet in width. Several of this class of monuments are again met with near Trehowel, at a place called *Tref Cilhwch*, supposed to have formed the site of an ancient British town. In connection with these ancient remains may be mentioned some sepulchral tumuli which occur on this route. One of the most remarkable is at Tref Ednyfed, a little beyond Lanrian, which was opened by Mr. Fenton. It was found to contain a Cistvaen, or rude sarcophagus, four feet and a half long, by two feet four inches wide, in which nothing was discovered besides some fine dry mould. Among the earth and stones com-

posing the barrow was found a stone hatchet, with a hole in it to admit a handle, but of too small dimensions for any military use.\*

Near this place is a military earthwork called *Castell Hafod*, which Mr. Fenton is disposed to consider a *Castrum Æstivum* of the Romans; a conjecture which the name seems to justify. It is situated near the course of the Roman road leading from *Loventium* to *Menapia*. On an elevated rock called *Garn sawr*, is an ancient British encampment, comprising a large area, inclosed by lofty ramparts of loose stones.

The principal gentlemen's residences on this road are *Crug-glás* the seat of — Harries, Esq. and *Manerawan*, formerly the seat of John Lewis, Esq. a Welsh antiquary of considerable eminence, to whom bishop Gibson acknowledges his obligation for some valuable communications relating to this county for his edition of Camden.

The town of

### FISHGUARD

is most romantically situated on a small bay of St. George's channel. It is divided into two parts, which form in fact two distinct towns, one being built on the brow of the hill, the other at a considerable depth below near the edge of the water, on the æstuary of the little river *Gwayn*, which forms its port and harbour. The appearance of the place is very unprepossessing; the houses are generally of a very mean description and ill constructed, and the streets formed with so total a disregard to symmetry and plan that they are not only highly offensive to the eye, but seriously inconvenient, being in some places scarcely practicable for carriages of any description. The road leading from the upper to the lower town is however an object of some interest, being cut in a winding direction

direction along the edge of a precipitous hill, and affording a fine view of the bay and harbour. The church is a small dirty building without any spire or steeple. The population is considerable, being estimated at nearly two thousand persons. This influx of inhabitants has been created by the advantages of the port for the fishing trade, particularly in herrings, which furnishes the major part of them with the means of subsistence. Of late years it has had the advantage of a weekly market, which is held on Thursday: it has besides four fairs annually, which are held on the fifth of February, Easter Monday, Whitmonday, and on the seventeenth of November.

Fishguard is capable of great improvements, and might be made one of the best harbours on this coast. The bay extends about three miles east and west, and nearly two miles north and south, with an average depth of water of from thirty to seventy feet. The harbour is capacious, and of easy access, besides being well sheltered from every quarter. The trade at present carried on here is of very limited extent, and confined to articles of the first necessity.

The neighbourhood contains some curious remains of antiquity indicative of an early settlement, comprising foundations of buildings and sepulchral tumuli in which have been discovered urns and other articles of very early and unknown date. Mr. John Fenton, a very intelligent young antiquary, the son of the historian of Pembrokeshire, has drawn up an interesting account of these relics, which is inserted in his father's work.\* It is too long to be transcribed, and does not admit of abridgment.

On the banks of the Gwayn, in a secluded and romantic spot, a short distance from the lower town of Fishguard, and embosomed in a grove of wood, stands the neat mansion of Richard Fenton, Esq. of the Middle Temple, barrister at law, and author of "An Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire."

In

\* P. 577, et seq.



In this valley tradition fixes the birth place of Dyfrig, or St. Dubricius, the first bishop of Landaff.

The neighbourhood of Fishguard has derived some celebrity in modern times from the landing of a French force here under General Tate. This event occurred on the 20th of February 1797, on Goodwick beach, a few miles to the southward of the town. The troops being left by the ships which had conveyed them hither, and becoming disorderly, soon surrendered to such force as the urgency of the moment could bring together. It would appear, from the smallness of their number, that nothing serious was meditated; and there is some reason to believe that the men were criminals of the lowest description, whom the French government took this method to discharge from their prisons.

Proceeding along the coast from Fishguard, our next halting place is the town of

### NEWPORT,

situated near the entrance of the river Nevern, and called in Welsh *Trefdraeth*, from a sand beach which stretches from the port. At present this is a very inconsiderable place, exhibiting every mark of poverty in the appearance both of the buildings and of the inhabitants; but it presents many vestiges of former prosperity and importance. The castle is an interesting ruin, rising in baronial majesty above the town. It was entered by a grand gateway placed between two bastions on the north side. The ground occupied by the buildings formed nearly a square of about fifty yards in diameter. The whole was surrounded by a deep moat.

This was the baronial seat of the lord of Cemaes, who here held his courts. The town derived from this circumstance all its former consequence. It had its corporate privileges, and was governed by a mayor, aldermen, recorder, bailiffs, and other

other inferior officers. Having been nearly depopulated about the middle of the sixteenth century by a pestilential disorder, its market was for some time discontinued. It has been lately revived, and is held on Friday.

There are in this neighbourhood a great number of Druidical remains. The principal is a very remarkable Cromlech standing near *Pentre Evan*. The incumbent stone is eighteen feet long, and nine feet wide, and is supported by three upright stones, rising at one end to the height of eight feet, and at the other to seven, and exhibiting altogether a very singular and interesting appearance. This is deemed one of the largest monuments of this class in the kingdom: the covering stone is not however so large as those near Dyffrin in Glamorganshire already described. There is another very fine Cromlech between Newport and the sea called *Llech y dry-bed*.

*HENLLYS*, in this neighbourhood, which has now given way to a farm house, was formerly the manor house of the lords of Cemaes, after Newport castle had been abandoned as a residence. Connected with this place is the name of George Owen the herald, and also the antiquary of the same name, whose manuscript account of Pembrokeshire has frequently been adverted to in the course of this work.

Beyond Newport, pleasantly situated on the northern shore of the river Nevern, stands *Llwyn gwarr*, the seat of ——— Bowen, Esq. The castle of Newport forms a fine object in the view from this house.

Farther on, lies the village of Nevern, pleasantly situated on a branch of the river of the same name. This was anciently a borough town, but lost its consequence on the creation of Newport. The church is a venerable pile of building, and is one of the largest in the county. In the churchyard is a very curious British cross, noticed in Camden, richly decorated with knots and fretwork, not unlike the cross near Carew. The

stone

stone is thirteen feet high, two feet broad, and eighteen inches thick.

On the hill above the church are some remains of a fortress, once of great strength, called Llanhyfer castle. Powell, in his Annotations on Giraldus, erroneously confounds this castle with Newport, its more modern neighbour.

Near this place is *Treluffan*, or Toad-Town, so named probably from a circumstance mentioned by Giraldus, as having occurred in his time:—"A young man, native of this country, during a severe illness suffered as violent a persecution from toads, as if the reptiles of the whole province had come to him by agreement: and though destroyed by his nurses and friends, they increased again on all sides in infinite numbers, like hydras' heads; his attendants being wearied out, he was drawn up, in a kind of bag, into a high tree stripped of its leaves and shred; nor was he there secure from his venomous enemies, for they crept up the tree in great numbers, and consumed him even to the very bones."\*

On a chimney-piece here, is the figure of a toad sculptured in marble, said to have been brought from Italy, and designed perhaps to commemorate this singular event, or traditionary report.

The last place to be noticed on this route, between Newport and Cardigan, is

### ST. DOGMAEL'S,

which presents some interesting fragments of its ancient abbey. The original foundation of this house is ascribed to Martin de Tours, the conqueror and first lord of Cemaes of the Norman line. But his son Robert Martin, in the reign of Henry the first, was its chief benefactor, its principal endowments being his gift. At the Dissolution its annual revenues were valued at

\* Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 56.

96*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* in the whole, or 87*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* clear, and were granted 35 Henry the Eighth to John Bradshaw.\* The situation is extremely beautiful, overlooking the town of Cardigan and the river Teivi with its noble æstuary. Part of the northern transept remains. The refectory, a large room with a vaulted roof, is now converted into a barn. The Welsh name of this place is Llandydoch, and it occurs frequently in the Welsh annals, some of the Welsh princes having had a seat here.

Near St. Dogmael's is a modern mansion, called *Plâs Newydd*, built by Sir Watkin Lewis.

Having now completed our tour of the coast, our next excursion must be up the channel of the Teivi, to visit the majestic ruins of

### CILGERAN CASTLE.

“The first reach of the river is through the meadows, with the castle, the church, and the priory (of Cardigan) on the left. If you look downwards you have the ancient bridge, and the well planted banks beyond it seen through the arches; if upwards, a plentifully irrigated flat, with a bolder scenery of rocks and hanging woods at the extremity. These, on the approach, are attended with all that effect which such objects derive from an aquatic view. The second reach improves in beauty, and is altogether different from the obstreperous character of the Welsh rivers in general. The rocks rise abruptly from the shores, and to a considerable height; but so well clothed with wood, that their points are only now and then visible, breaking the continuity of the foliage, without infringing on the sylvan composure of the scene. The bend of the river fades from the eye each way, and leaves the gently gliding bark, as if in the centre of an unruffled lake. The groves rise on every side, sometimes receding, and sometimes overhanging

\* Tanners Notitia, p. 718.

hanging the stream. On winding round to the third and finest reach, the circumstances do not change, but receive a heightening to their effect by two new features. The hanging woods on the left draw back from the river's edge just far enough to make room for a very narrow strip of green meadow, undulating under the eye, in no formal or tediously protracted line; while the rich scenery on the right is grandly terminated by the overtopping towers of Cilgeran. These, however, after the first glimpse, are wrested from the view by the intervening cliffs, and excite a feeling of regret, that so classical an ornament should be so partially conceded to the spot; when, on clearing an angular position, the lofty ruin, with the commanding rock on which it is placed, stands at once close upon the view, alters the face of the scene, and calls up fresh ideas. In the centre of this extensive range, where wood is involved with wood, and hills melt continuously into each other, an insulated rock, uncovered but with a partial carpeting of moss, rises from the brink abruptly, with its castellated honours on its brow, that vibrate in reflection on the surface of the water. Nothing can be more striking than this contrast of natural circumstances; nothing more consonant with them than their artificial accompaniment, mellowed and improved by time and decay, but still lording it over the peaceful scene it overlooks."\*

The chief remains of this celebrated fortress consist of two round towers of large proportions, and great strength; there are also fragments of several massive bastions, connected by curtain walls, the direction of which is regulated by the form of the rock on which the castle stands. The inner ward is of large extent, and parts of it are in tolerable preservation. The prevalence of the circular arch bespeaks the Norman origin of the edifice.

\* Malkin's Scenery, &c. of South Wales, 4to. p. 456. The view here given of this castle is that described by Dr. Malkin, as it appears from the water in ascending the river.

History is silent respecting the first construction of this place. It has been generally supposed that Gilbert Strongbow, on his conquest of Dyfed about the year 1109, raised a fortress here for the defence of his newly acquired possessions. In after times, it experienced all the vicissitudes of similar edifices in this country, being frequently taken and retaken by contending chieftains, and dismantled or fortified, as best suited the views of its masters. It seems to have been always considered a military post of great importance.

The adjoining village of Cilgeran appears to have shared in the decay of its castle; it is now of inconsiderable size, and chiefly composed of the squallid huts of the fishermen who gain their livelihood on the Teivi. It had formerly, however, its corporate privileges, the shadow of which it still claims, having its nominal Portrieve, Aldermen, and Burgesses. The market, which used to be held on Thursday, has been discontinued, but it has still its fairs, which are held annually on the 22nd of August, St. Lawrence's day, and the twelfth of November.

A little way above Cilgeran stands CASTLE MAELGWN, late the seat of the Hammet family. The house is a neat modern edifice, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Teivi. Sir Benjamin Hammet expended large sums on this place in improving the mansion and altering the grounds, which are laid out with great taste.

PENTRE, the ancient family residence of the Saunderses, is situated some way higher up in a pleasant rural spot, embosomed in trees, and within a mile of the river Teivi.

Its gardens and walks are in the old style, and greatly admired. The grounds are pretty, surrounded with woods and thriving plantations: the views from them are commanding and extensive, embracing part of the beautiful vale of Teivi, the town of Cardigan, and the Irish sea in the distance.

A new mansion is now erecting on the site of the old by  
Dr.

Dr. Davies, the present proprietor, who married the only surviving heiress of this house, the second daughter of the late Erasmus Saunders, Esq. the other sisters died unmarried. Dr. Davies is making considerable improvements, and planting on a large scale on his estates in this neighbourhood.

The Saunders family are of great antiquity, having come to England with William the Conqueror. The original name was Saundres or Sandres; they settled in Surrey, and had considerable grants of land and manors in that county, made them by the Crown.

Sir Leonard de Saunderstead, or Sanderstead, had the manor of Sanderstead given him, with other great possessions in Surrey, where they resided for many centuries; but, in time, they were lost or forfeited, when the family took the name of Saunders only. The first Saunders (Erasmus) who settled in Wales, married the heiress of the Barrett family of Pendyne, and Gellysweek, who had large estates in Caermarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, and Glamorganshire, some of the manors in the last county are now possessed by the Duke of Beaufort, and Mr. Talbot of Margam.

This family has been distinguished for its eminent divines and profound lawyers. Dr. Erasmus Saunders, Rector of Morton in the Marsh, in the county of Gloucester, and other livings, was of this house. He wrote Short Illustrations of the Bible, and an excellent little tract on the Duties of Families; but both publications are now scarce. He was a most pious and excellent man. His son, Dr. Erasmus Saunders, was Canon of Windsor, and Rector of St. Martin's in the Fields London, and had he lived, was to have succeeded to the first vacant Bishopric. They were both educated at Merton College, Oxford, and were men of deep learning, and great abilities. In the law also some of the Saunders' family have distinguished themselves, and sat on the English bench about two centuries ago.

FYNONEU is another seat in this parish, erected by its present possessor John Colby, Esq. It is an elegant building of Mr. Nash's, and commands rural and romantic views. Mr. Colby is industrious in his improvements. He inherits this place and the estate of Fynoneu from his late uncle, Captain Stephen Colby of the Navy, who purchased it of the Morgans of Blaenybylan, having formed part of their large family possessions.

On the other side of the valley nearly opposite Fynoneu stands the deserted and ruinous mansion of *Blaenybylan*, or *Llanybylan*, as it is called in the ancient pedigrees, now a farm house, but formerly the seat of wit, genius, and talents. This place is of great antiquity, and at one period its possessions were of prodigious extent, but time and the fluctuation of property have changed its owners. The family of Morgan of Blaenybylan is as ancient as any in the county of Pembroke.

The celebrated Morris Morgan was born in this house. He wrote a defence of the character of Falstaff, a very ingenious Essay, and several political tracts of great celebrity in their time. He was under Secretary to Lord Shelburne, the present Marquis of Lansdown's father, when Secretary of State, and possessed much of his confidence. Mr. Morris Morgan having for many years of his life absented himself from the country, and residing chiefly in London, sold the greatest part of his family inheritance; a circumstance which sometime afterwards, on a visit to his native place, he deplored with great sorrow. This family, by marriage, was connected with the Wogans and Warrens of Pembrokeshire, and the Bradshaws of St. Dogmael. The President Bradshaw, who tried Charles the First, was of this family, but none of the name now remain in this part of the county.

The name of Morgan of Blaen y bylan became extinct by the death of Morris Morgan, but the representatives of this  
ancient



ancient house, are the Saunderses of Pentre, and the Williamses of Trefach in this county ; the late Mr. Morris Morgan's two aunts, his father's sisters, having married into these families, Susannah Morgan, the eldest sister, married David Saunders, Esq. of Pentre, and the youngest, Elizabeth, W. Williams, Esq. of Trefach.

END OF PEMBROKESHIRE.

RADNORSHIRE,

## RADNORSHIRE.

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THE country included within the present boundaries of Radnorshire, formed anciently a part of the district of Ferlex or Ferregs, which extended from the Severn to the Wye. The etymology of its modern English name seems not to be known; nor is the derivation of its Welsh name, *Maeshyved*, or *Maes-Hyved*, satisfactorily determined. The most probable supposition, however, is, that it was so called from *Hyfaidd*, one of the sons of Caradoc Fraichfras, regulus of Brecknock, who previously to his appearance in Wales had possessed himself of Ferregs, and is said to have formed this portion of it into a lordship for his son.

That this country was known to the Romans is sufficiently ascertained by the remains of that people which are still to be seen here. Old Radnor has been usually considered by antiquaries as the site of a Roman station, and Camden conjectures that it was the *Magnis* of Antoninus. But its Roman origin is now discredited, and *Magnis* has been very properly transferred to Kenchester. There is, however, an undoubted Roman station on a farm called *Cwm*, on the western bank of the river Ithon, at the distance of about two miles, to the north-westward, from Llandrindod Wells. It is known in the neighbourhood by the name of *Castell Collen*, possibly from the accidental circumstance of a hazel tree (in Welsh *Collen*,) growing within the inclosure. The form of the camp is a perfect square, each side measuring about four hundred and thirty feet, and including an area of about four acres. It appears to have been originally surrounded by a thick stone wall, the  
massive

massive foundations of which may yet be traced. The upper part of the walls is now overgrown with briars and brushwood. On the exterior was a deep foss about twelve feet wide. At a short distance from this encampment vestiges of other military works and buildings, may be perceived, though now buried under the earth.\* Mr. Strange is disposed to consider this as the Magnis of Antoninus,† but on insufficient grounds.

The vicinal Roman roads from Caermarthen, by Llandoverly, and from the Gaer near Brecknock, to Chester, appear to have united at this station. Another branch, passing through the middle of Radnorshire, is also thought to have connected this post with Kenchester; but this opinion rests on no good evidence, no traces of such a road having hitherto been discovered.

This district, having never formed a separate principality of itself, fell, after the departure of the Romans, under the dominion of the different chieftains who rendered themselves masters of the adjacent countries; and its general history, on this account, merges in that of the principality at large, or of the neighbouring counties of Brecknock, Hereford and Montgomery. The two principal occurrences on record relating to it, are the conquest of it by Caradoc Frachfras, already noticed, and its subsequent subjugation, in the beginning of the tenth century, by Elystan Glodrydd, who fixed his residence here, and the last of whose descendants in the male line was the late Mr. Lloyd of Rhos Ferregs in the county of Brecknock. After the Conquest, it became the prey of the Norman adventurers who obtained a settlement in the counties of Hereford and Brecknock, but principally of the Mortimer family, and afterwards of that of De Breos, who at one period held large possessions here.

BOUNDARIES, EXTENT, &c. Radnorshire is bounded on the  
north

\* *Archæology of the Society of Antiquaries*, Vol. I. p. 304.

† *Idem*. Vol. IV. p. 4.

north by Montgomeryshire, on the east by Shropshire and Herefordshire, on the north-west by Cardiganshire, and on the south-west and south by Brecknockshire. Its form approaches that of an irregular triangle, extending in its greatest length north and south about twenty-four miles, and about thirty miles east and west, comprising in superficial contents, according to Mr. Cary's estimate, 249,600 acres,\* but according to Mr. Clarke's statement, in his agricultural survey of the county, and whose estimate has been adopted below, 326,400 acres, or about 510 square miles. The modern divisions are into the hundreds of Radnor, Rhayader, Knighton, Keven Lleece (Cefn-llys) Colwyn and Paine's Castle,† containing four market towns, viz. Rhayadergwy, Knighton, Presteigne, and New Radnor. The county returns one member to Parliament, and New Radnor, with its contributory boroughs, sends another.

**POPULATION.** In the Parliamentary returns for 1811, the population of this county was estimated at 20,900, comprising 10124 males, and 10776 females : to which must be added the county militia, which, with its followers, may be estimated at 150, making in all 21,050 persons.

#### RIVERS.

\* Communications to the Board of Agriculture, Vol. VI. p. 228.

† In the division of Wales among his three sons by Rhodrick the Great, this country was included in the kingdom of Powis ; and its divisions in the time of Llewelyn ab Gruffydd are given as follows ; but it is to be observed that in these divisions were included small portions of the present counties of Montgomery and Brecknock.

Rhwng Gwy a Havren.

Cantrev Maelienydd.	Cantrev y Clawdd
— Cwmwd Ceri	— Cwmwd Teveidiat
— Swydd Grev	— Swyddinogion
— Rhiwlallt	— Pennallt.
— Glyn Ieithon.	— Cantrev Buellt.
— Cantrev Elvael.	— Cwmwd Swydd y Van
— Cwmwd Uch Mynydd	— Swydd Drevlys
— Is Mynydd	— Is Irwon.
— Llech Ddyvnog.	

**RIVERS.** The principal river of this county is the Wye. This celebrated stream has its source near the summit of Plinlimmon mountain, in Montgomeryshire, and taking a southerly direction enters Radnorshire near a place called *Savan y Coed*. A little way below Rhayader, after receiving the Elan from the westward, it becomes the boundary between this county and Brecknockshire, and so continues till it enters Herefordshire, a few miles below the Hay, with the exception of a short portion of its course at Glasbury, where Radnorshire occupies a small tract on its southern bank. The Wye is a very beautiful and interesting river along the whole of its progress through this county, presenting a great variety of enchanting scenes, and admirable studies for the pencil.

The first tributary stream entitled to notice, that empties its waters into the Wye, is the Elan, named above, itself affording many attractions for the lovers of romantic scenery. Some miles farther on, it is joined by the Ithon from the north eastward. This river rises near the northern extremity of Radnorshire, and before its junction with the Wye acquires so large an accession of waters that it may almost dispute with the latter the honour of its name. The next river belonging to this county that pays its tribute to the Wye is the romantic Edwy, which unites its waters with it about four miles below Builth; and the last the Machwy, or *Bachwy*, which joins it from the same side a few miles farther on. The other rivers of this county are the Aro, or *Arw*, a small stream which takes the direction of Kington: the Somergil, which passes New Radnor, the Lug, which enters Herefordshire below Presteigne, and the Teme, which runs through Knighton, and separates Radnorshire from Shropshire.

**LAKES.** Although this county has no lake of large extent, it contains several smaller pieces of water, which are not destitute of interest. One of the largest is *Llyn Llanbychllyn*, in the neighbourhood of Paine's Castle; *Hendwall* pool, on the right of the road leading from Kington to New Radnor, covers

an area of about six acres, and is highly ornamental to the adjacent grounds. Beyond Llanfihangel Nant Melon, on the summit of a hill, and close to the turnpike road leading to Builth, is *Llyn Llanillin*, presenting a sheet of water of about a mile in circumference, and abounding with fish. The depth is considerable, and the situation of the lake, placed near the precipitous margin of a lofty mountain, is extremely interesting. Within a few miles of Rhayader, on the left of the road, lies *Llyn Gwyn*, a piece of water of considerable size; and beyond Rhayader, near the road leading towards Aberystwyth, is a small lake of great beauty, the most picturesque and interesting within the county.

**MOUNTAINS.** Radnorshire may justly be denominated a hilly country, but presents no mountains of any great elevation. The highest ground is in the northern district of the county, on the borders of Montgomeryshire, where the lofty Plinlimmon stretches out a part of its elevated base.

**SOIL, AGRICULTURE.** The soil of this county, as may well be imagined from the great inequalities of its surface, is exceedingly various. In the upper part of the vale of the Wye, it is composed of a dark grey loam, partaking of the colour of the hills, from whence it has been washed down. Lower down, after passing Builth, it changes into a dark brown colour, approaching to red. This is the soil which pervades the greater part of the hundred of Paine's castle; it is favourable to vegetation, and well adapted for agricultural purposes. In the vale of Radnor, the land is of a dark grey colour, and is in general very rich and fertile. On the south it derives the advantage of a substratum of excellent lime stone. Towards the middle of the county, with the exception of occasional portions near the banks of the small rivers, the soil is composed of a weak spungy clay, which is found extremely unproductive.

The grains cultivated here are Wheat, Barley, Rye, and Oats; and the most common green crop are Pease. The rotation

tion of crops pursued by the best farmers in the lower districts of the county, is, for the first year wheat after fallow, second year pease, third year barley, with clover; the clover is allowed to lie for one or two years, and then ploughed up for Michaelmas wheat. Another rotation, after wheat for the first year, in a fallow, takes barley for the second year, pease for the third, and for the fourth oats with clover. The usual practice in the hilly district is to set rye or barley the first year, then oats successively for five or six years, till the land fails to return the value of the seed. Afterwards it is left idle for several years to recruit.

The most general manure is dung from the farm yard, but little pains are taken to increase the quantity by a judicious system of littering in a straw yard. Lime is used with great advantage on the south east side of the county; and the highest benefits would result from the general application of it could it be procured at a less expense. Irrigation is very partially resorted to for the improvement of the grass lands. The county generally is not favourably circumstanced for the practice, but it might be advantageously employed on a much larger scale than it is at present.

The wet soils have of late years, in some districts, been greatly improved by draining; and it is to be hoped the practice will become more general.

The common agricultural impliments are of the very worst construction; some improvements are however making, particularly as respects the ploughs. The usual ploughing, as well as cart team, is composed of two oxen and two horses.

Most of the farms of this county are of a mixed kind, being divided into nearly equal portions of arable and grazing land. The latter is chiefly applied to the use of the dairy, as the young cattle are reared on the extensive wastes which occupy so large a proportion of the surface of Radnorshire. The land under tillage has been estimated by Mr. Clarke at 86,000 acres, and the meadow, pastures and woods at 40,000 acres.

The common mountain and waste lands have been stated at 200,000 acres, of which 50,000 acres are considered well adapted for farming purposes, if inclosed; and the remaining 150,000 acres, are deemed excellent sheep walks, and much of it fit for the growth of timber. Since this estimate was drawn up considerable progress has been made in inclosing the commons, and the landed proprietors are still laudably exerting themselves to forward this beneficial system.

The breed of neat cattle is considered superior to that of most of the mountainous districts of South Wales, and weigh from ten to twenty stone, of twelve pounds, a quarter. They are generally of a red colour. The sheep are small, weighing from seven to thirteen pounds a quarter; but when fattened on the hills, the mutton is excellent. The horses are of a middling size: they are strong and hardy, but not handsome.

Radnorshire was anciently distinguished by its extensive woods and forests, but these, with the exception of some occasional coppices of no very large extent, have disappeared. Very little attention is paid to the preservation of the woodlands. Some of the landed proprietors are however applying themselves to remedy this evil, and the traveller is presented occasionally with the view of a flourishing young plantation. The following official document will serve to shew the state of that immense tract of country, called the Great Forest of Radnor, in the reign of Elizabeth:

“ Inquisition indented and taken before Robert Davies, James Price, and Edward Price, Esqrs. the 3rd Day of October, in the 6th Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the Grace of God, &c. A. D. 1564, by Virtue of the Queen’s Majesty’s Commission, to them addressed for the Survey of the Forest of Radnor, hereunto annexed by the corporal oaths of

Stephen Nowell,

Clement Donne,

David ap Rees ap Owen,

Arthur James

ap Evan Williams,

ap Watkin,

David



David David,  
 ap Howell Rees,  
 ap Meredith,  
 ap Stephen Meredith,  
 ap Owen Lewis,  
 ap Evan John,

Evan Rees,  
 Howell Evan,  
 ap Rees Howell,  
 ap Evan,  
 ap Philips.

“ Who upon their oaths do say and present that the said Forest of Radnor doth extend to the number of Three Thousand acres of all sorts and kinds of Land or thereabouts: unto two Thousand of waste Heath; wild Fogge Moorish Ground eight Hundred acres of Land, Roots and Bushes of small Hazzles and Thorns utterly destroyed, by reason the same have been hewn and cut by Inhabitants dwelling thereabouts always out of season, and at the spring time eaten and consumed by wild beasts and goats. Two Hundred acres thereof lying in sandy places of the said Forest is somewhat more bateful than the rest are, whereon sheep and cattle most commonly depasture.

“ And do say and present that the yearly Rent of the said Forest is now 19*l*. paid and answered by the Tenants Commoners thereunto, to one Stephen Vaughan yet under Forrester to Gibes who hath the said Forest in Farn or otherwise in Bargain from William Abbott, Esq.

“ And further the said Jury do say and present that the said small Hazzles and Thorns cannot be valued at any certain Price, for that the same will not serve in manner for no purpose, for being clean and utterly destroyed as aforesaid, and by means thereof none of the Tenants or Inhabitants thereabouts will give any sum of money for the same.

“ And the said Jury do say and present that the said Forest is moored and bounded in manner and form ensuing, viz. a Place there called Black Pool Napa Brook coming down Stalbaig unto a Place called Quarrell Rees ap David and from a little or Ditch near the same quarrell stretching over the wild Fogge Moor unto a place called Cross Lloyd unto a cer-

tain Place called Esarneegerite a long a common way there leading to Brilgeclog Tharhudded, and from thence to a Brook or water called Cwmcolley, and so round about the Hill to a certain place called *Tomon* Castle, and from the same *Tomon* Castle round about the Hill called Mound, parcel of the said Forest, unto a certain place called the                      and so to a place called *Llwyburyfyn*, and from thence along the crest of the Hill above and over the Nanty to a Place called *Clyelange* and down from the said *Rigalwayer* unto a *Cwm* or water leading to the same black Pool first named.

“ And the said Jury doth find and present, that the sd. Forest containing in length about two miles, viz. from a certain Place called *Mces melane*, unto the sd. Place before mentioned called *Esarneegerite*, and doth contain in Breadth a mile and half, or thereabouts, viz. from the sd. Place called *Quarrell Rees ap David* to the upper part of *Stalbage*.

“ Likewise the sd. Jury doth present that ye sd. Abbott hath ye same Forest to him given for and during his natural Life without our late Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8th by his Letters Patent, and that *Stephen Vaughan, Gent.* is now Farmer of the sd. Forest, under ye sd. Abbott and under Farmer, as afsd.

“ And ye sd. Jury doth also say and present that ye said 19*l.* or thereabouts growing out of ye sd. Forest yearly is paid and answered by ye Inhabits and the Queen’s Highness’ Tenants of the several parishes of *New Radnor, Old Radnor, Cascob, Bleatherugh, Llanvihangel Rydithon, Llandegly, Llanvihangel nant Melan* and other Places, who have and have had common of Pasture there time out of mind in the sd. Forest for all manner of their cattle yearly for Winter and Summer, paying unto the Forester or Farmer of the Forest rateably in manner and form following, viz. 2*d.* for every ox, cow, or other Beast, and for every horse, mare, or colt, or other kind of cattle; and 3*d.* for every score of Sheep or Goats: if the tenants or owners of the sd. sheep or cattle could so agree with

ye sd. Forrester or Farmer of ye sd. Forest ; and in case the same Tenant could not so agree with the sd. Forrester or Farmer under the Rate before mentioned then the utermost *Clench Comodogeth* was that ye sd. Farmer could let or tax the said 2*d.* for every Beast and Cattle, and 3*d.* for every score of sheep and Goats.

“ And finally the sd. Jury doth say and present that the sd. Forest is worth yearly to be let out to Farm 19*l.* and not above, and for that the Farmer thereof shall be driven to go from Parish to Parish yearly to make his Book for the same Comodogeth, and having the same against Pools.

“ In Witness whereof to this Inquisition indented the sd. Commrs. and we the sd. Jury have put our Hands and Seals the Day and Year first above written pr. our

Robert Davis,

And Edward Price, &c.\*

**MINERALOGY.** The mineral treasures of this county are hitherto little known. On the south east there is a valuable stratum of lime stone, which produces lime of excellent quality both for manure and for building purposes ; but it is rendered expensive to the purchaser in consequence of the coal for burning it being brought from a considerable distance. The Argillaceous hills on the north may probably resemble their Cardiganshire neighbours in mineral wealth, but they remain for future times to explore. A lead mine has been opened by Mr. Grove on his estates in Cwm Elan, and some lead and copper ore have been discovered in the neighbourhood of Llandrindod wells.

3 L 2

MINERAL

\* The author is indebted for the above curious instrument to the kindness of a Gentleman whom he has not the honour of knowing personally, and whose name therefore he does not feel himself at liberty to mention. He has printed it as he received it, without attempting the hopeless task of restoring the names which are so strangely disfigured.

MINERAL WATERS. The medicinal springs at *Llandrindod* in this county have for many years been held in great repute, and are much resorted to in the summer by valetudinarian visitors. The waters are of three kinds, and are each of them highly efficacious in the cure of several disorders. The first is a saline purgative water, resembling in quality the water of Cheltenham and Leamington. The next is a sulphur water, resembling the celebrated spring at Llanwrtyd, but is not quite so strongly impregnated. It is found eminently useful in the cure of Scorbutic complaints, and other cutaneous disorders. The third is a chalybeate, strongly impregnated with salts, and acts as a powerful tonic. The first two springs are very near each other, and within a short distance of the lodging house which has been fitted up here for the accommodation of strangers. The last is situated at the distance of about half a mile from the others, in a little rocky valley on the common. Dr. Linden published a treatise on these wells in 1756, with ample directions for the use of the waters. This work has now, however, become obsolete; and a scientific treatise on their qualities and uses, founded on accurate analysis, is much wanted. When the present writer visited the Wells in 1806, the late Dr. Parr of Caermarthenshire, who was then there, had such a work in preparation; but it is apprehended, that his death, which took place shortly after, prevented its completion.

Mineral springs are found in other parts of the county. No analysis seems to have been made of the waters of any of them, but from general description it may be inferred that they resemble in quality those of Llandrindod. The springs of Llandegla, about two miles south-eastward from Pen y bont, have lately attracted some notice, and bid fair to become a fashionable resort. The village of Pen y bont has also its sulphureous waters, and there is a chalybeate spring on a common in the neighbourhood. The other springs which have excited attention, are in the parishes of Llan Anno, Llanbarn

darn Fynydd, and Llan bister. The medicinal properties of these remain to be discovered.

**MANUFACTURES AND COMMERCE.** Radnorshire has little entitled to notice under these heads. Its only manufactures are the stockings, flannel, and coarse woollen cloths which the peasantry make for their own use. Its inland situation, and its distance from any great mart, joined to the paucity of its productions for exportation, present serious obstacles to commercial enterprize.

The public roads are in general bad; but some attention has been lately paid to their improvement. The inhabitants are indebted to Colonel Johnes of Hafod, who formerly represented the borough of Radnor in Parliament, for establishing a post through this county, which passes in each direction, to and from Aberystwyth, three times a week. And during the summer, a stage coach travels this road towards the same place,—an accommodation which the county owes to the public spirit of the same patriotic individual.

In order to proceed with our topographical survey with some degree of regularity, we shall begin at the north-eastern border of the county, and direct our first attention to the town of

### KNIGHTON.

This place is situated in a pleasant valley, on the southern bank of the river Teme, and surrounded by hills. It is composed of several steep streets, and contains some very respectable houses, in the number of which may be mentioned the mansion of Richard Price, Esq. the member for the borough of New Radnor, and also the house of George Green, Esq. Knighton is one of the contributory boroughs joined with New Radnor in the return of the Parliamentary representative for the latter place. The burgesses share among them the

annual rent produced by the market tolls. The borough is governed by a Bailiff, who is appointed at a Court Leet by the Steward of the Cantref of Maelienydd; an office at present held by the Earl of Oxford, under a lease from the crown.

In the Census for 1811, the population of this place is stated at 952 individuals.

The market is on Thursday, and the fairs are held annually on the Saturday preceding the second Monday in March, the 17th of May, the 2nd of October, and the ninth of November. The petty Sessions for the hundred of Knighton are held here.

There was formerly a Castle here occupying a commanding site above the town. No vestiges of the walls are now to be traced.

Leland, writing of this place, observes, "Knightton, in Walche caullid Trebucllo (*Tref y Clawdd*) is a praty towne astar the Walsche buildinge. The river Teme goith on the side of the towne, and, as I remembar, I saw a ryver on the othar side."\*

*Tref y Clawdd*, or "the town on the dyke," the Welsh name of Knighton, is derived from its situation on the celebrated earthen rampart, which Offa raised as a line of partition and defence between the kingdom of Mercia and the dominions of the Welsh princes.† The general course of this stupendous but useless work, is tolerably ascertained, but its original

\* Itin. Vol. VII. fol. 27.

† " — Offa, when he saw his countries go to wrack,  
From bick'ring with his folk, to keep the Britons back,  
Cast up that mighty mound, of eighty miles in length,  
Athwart from sea to sea, which of the Mercian strength  
A witness though it stand, and Offa's name does bear,  
Our courage was the cause why first he cut it there :  
As that most dreadful day at Gavelford can tell,  
Where under eithers sword so many thousands fell,  
With intermixed blood, that neither knew their own ;  
Nor which went Victor thence, until this day is known."

DRAYTON.

original commencement at neither end has yet been discovered. Mr. Peimant has carefully explored what vestiges of it are visible in North Wales. In Radnorshire it is first seen near Knighton, whence it takes nearly a southern direction, and is easily traced through the parishes of Norton, Whitton, and Discoed, near Beggars Bush. Here it inclines to the south east, and enters Herefordshire at the village of Knill. Berva's Bank, a steep hill on the borders of the county near this place, is almost surrounded by the dyke, which is extremely deep, and about fifty feet in width. On this hill are some other entrenchments, which warrant the inference that it formed one of the strong posts by which this rampart was defended.

Beyond Knighton, on the left, is *Dol y Felin*, late the seat of John Pritchard Esq. deceased.

About two miles above Knighton, on the banks of the Teme, lies the little borough of CNWCLAS, which shares the privilege of Radnor in the return of its representative to Parliament. It had formerly its castle which was built by Ralph Mortimer, about the year 1242. This place derives some consequence from having given birth to the celebrated Vavasor Powel, whose name is intimately connected with the history of the civil and religious feuds, which agitated the country in the middle of the seventeenth century, and more particularly with the history of the Welsh nonconformists. His father, Mr. Richard Powel, was a person of much respectability, descended from an ancient family, who had resided at Cnwclas upwards of a century; and his mother was of the ancient family of the Vavasors in Yorkshire, a branch of which had it seems removed into Wales. Mr. Vavasor Powel was born in the year 1617; after receiving a liberal education in his native country, he removed to Jesus College, Oxford, where he finished his studies. At what time he took orders is not known, but it must have been before 1640, about which time he officiated as curate to his uncle, the Rev. Erasmus Powel. In early life, and even after

he had entered into orders, Vavasor was a very thoughtless and dissipated character, so much so as to be called by his companions *dux omnium malorum*; and the first serious impression he received, and that which laid the foundation of his future principles and conduct, was produced by an accidental reproof of Mr. Walter Cradock, a Puritan divine, who found him in his clerical robes, countenancing some idle persons who were amusing themselves on the Sunday. Immediately after this change had been wrought in his mind, he joined himself to the Puritan party, and began to preach with great zeal in different parts of Radnorshire. His proceedings having given great umbrage to the magistracy of the county, and exposed him to frequent persecution, he removed to London, and settled for some time at Dartford in Kent. This took place in 1642. In 1646, he returned to the principality, carrying with him an honourable testimonial from the synod of ministers, from whom the preachers received their licence to officiate. After a residence of three years in Wales, during which time he zealously laboured in his vocation, he again went to London, and in December 1649, preached before the Lord Mayor. In the month of February following, the act passed "for the better propagating of the preaching of the Gospel in Wales, and for the ejecting of scandalous ministers, &c." Being appointed one of the Commissioners in this oppressive instrument, which doomed, as experience evinced, to indiscriminate suffering, the worthless and the good; he once more returned to Wales, and actively engaged in putting the law into execution, ejecting the incumbent clergy, and supplying their places with puritanical preachers, composed almost without exception of uneducated men from the humblest walks of life. The conduct of Mr. Powel and his associates in these difficult circumstances is very differently appreciated by his friends and his enemies. That the Commissioners were in many instances guilty of great injustice and oppression, cannot be denied, the facts being too clearly proved against them;



them; but that they are chargeable with all the violence and malignity, together with the avarice and selfishness of which they are liberally accused by Walker, and other writers on his side, must not be too easily credited. They had an arduous task to execute, and an impartial posterity should learn to discriminate, where the blindness of party feeling was unable to distinguish. Mr. Powel's conduct in these proceedings has been loudly reprobated; but evidence is wanting to shew that he ever acted from any but conscientious motives, which he regarded as imperative. He ought to be allowed the merit of sincerity in his religious principles; and great as were his talents he could not escape the influence of the fanatical spirit of the age.

Mr. Powel returned to England in 1653, and being in London at the time Cromwell was proclaimed Protector, took an early opportunity to protest against his elevation. This gave great offence to the ruling powers, and caused his arrest, but he was dismissed after a detention of a few days. On visiting Wales the next year he again declared his opposition to the measure, and obtained the signature of some hundreds of persons, to a remonstrance which he drew up on the occasion. This paper caused his arrest, and rendered him ever after an object of Cromwell's suspicion.

After the restoration Mr. Powel was marked as one of the first victims of the royal party. Continuing still to preach as usual through the country, he was frequently exposed to insult, and committed to prison. At last, having been put in confinement in Glamorganshire, for preaching at Merthyr Tydvil, he was removed to London in October 1669, by a writ of Habeas corpus, in order to take his trial in the court of Common Pleas. He was the next day committed to the Fleet prison, where he died of a dysentery and flux on the 27th of October 1670, in the 53rd year of his age, after a confinement of eleven months.\*

At

\* See "The Life and Death of Mr. Vavasor Powel," printed 1671.

At the distance of seven miles to the south-westward of Knighton, and on the eastern border of the county, lies the town of

### PRESTEIGNE,

in Welsh called Llan Andras, or St. Andrew, to whom the parish church is dedicated. This place is very pleasantly situated in a fertile district, near the little river Lug, or *Llugwy*, which here enters Herefordshire. It ranks at present as the metropolis of the county, and is beyond comparison the handsomest and best built of its towns. The houses are many of them very respectable edifices, and the whole exterior of the place has an air of great neatness. The principal public building is the Town Hall, where the assizes for the county are now held, having been removed here from Rhayader and Radnor, for the convenience of the Judges, and the gentlemen of the bar. The church is a very handsome structure, and is surrounded by a cemetery of great extent, through which are some public walks. There are here several handsome private dwelling houses occupied by families of fortune, or opulent professional men. The population is stated in the returns for 1811 at 1114 individuals.

Presteigne is a borough by prescription, and is governed by a bailiff, who is appointed by the Earl of Oxford, as steward of the Cantref of Maelienydd. It had formerly a voice in the election of the Parliamentary representative for New Radnor. The market is held on Saturday, and is much frequented by the farmers of the surrounding districts both of Radnorshire and Herefordshire. The privilege of holding a market was obtained by Martin Bishop of St. David's, who was a great benefactor

There is also an excellent memoir of him from the pen of the Rev William Richards of Lynn in Norfolk, inserted in the Universal Theological Magazine for 1805.

benefactor to the town. The fairs are held annually on the 9th of May, 20th of June and the 11th of December.

There is here a well endowed free school, for the use of the inhabitants of the township, founded by John Beddowes, an opulent clothier at Presteigne in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Adjoining the town, on the north, is a circular hill of moderate elevation, called the *Warden*, which is ornamented with walks and plantations, laid out with great taste, and forming a most agreeable appendage to the place. The flat summit is occasionally the seat of great festivities. From the name, as well as from the appearance of this knoll, it might be supposed to have once held a fort, or a military building of some description, but after a minute examination of the ground, we were unable to trace any vestiges of walls.

At Presteigne was born Richard Lucas, a gentleman who acquired considerable reputation as a divine in the latter part of the seventeenth century. He entered a student at Jesus College, Oxford, in 1664, at which time he was sixteen years of age. After proceeding in both degrees in arts, he took orders. His first appointment was to the mastership of the Free Grammar School at Abergavenny; but being shortly after presented to the vicarage of St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, he removed to London. His great popularity as a preacher obtained for him the lectureship of St. Olave's, in the borough of Southwark, where he succeeded Dr. John Meriton in October, 1683. His only publications were some single sermons, which, being composed probably on subjects of local or temporary interest, have ceased to be known. Towards the latter part of his life he became totally blind. Previously to this painful suspension of his public labours, he had taken the degree of Doctor in Divinity.

At a short distance from Presteigne is a place called the *King's Turning*, supposed to be so named from king Charles the First having passed that way. This conjecture is founded

on the following entry in the old parish Register—" In the time of Oliver Cromwell, Nicholas Taylor, Esq. lived at the Lower Heath in this parish ; and when king Charles the First fled before Oliver Cromwell, then in the neighbourhood of Hereford, he dined and slept at the Union Inn in Leominster, the first day, and the next two nights he slept at Mr. Taylor's (a short distance from the King's Turning;) from thence he rode over the hills to Newtown, and so on to Chester."

About a mile from Presteigne, on the right of the road to Knighton, stands *Boultibrook*, the seat of Sir Harford Jones. Near Beggar's Bush, on the left of the road leading from Presteigne to New Radnor, stands *Evenjobb*, the seat of Mrs. Harley, the mother of the Earl of Oxford ; and on the right, *Grove Hall*, the seat of Dr. Jenkins. Further on at *Kinnerton*, is the ancient and respectable mansion of Thomas Stephens, Esq.

We shall here quit this route, in order to proceed to New Radnor along the main turnpike road, leading from Kington to Rhayader. The first object of interest in this direction is *Stanmore Rock*, a precipitous hill by the road side, with its broken crags threatening the traveller as he winds along its base beneath. On the summit, which is extremely difficult of access, are found a great number of beautiful wild flowers, peculiar to the spot. From some cause, not now to be discovered, this place has been called the Devil's Garden.

A little farther, on the left of the road, lies the town of

### OLD RADNOR,

called also *Pen y Graig*, or *Pen y Crûg*, the summit of the rock, or the summit of the hill, from its situation on a rocky eminence. The present village consists of a few straggling cottages ; but the church is a large and venerable edifice ; comprising a nave, two side aisles, and a chancel, and hav-  
ing

ing a lofty square tower at one end; from its elevated site it forms a very striking object in the landscape. In the interior are several handsome monuments of modern date, raised to some of the family of the Lewises of Harpton. It is also ornamented with a screen of rich and curious workmanship, which extends entirely across the nave and the aisles.

There are at present no remains of the Castle to be seen. There can be no difficulty, as Sir Richard Hoare suggests, in identifying it with the *Cruker* castle of Giraldus, this name being an easy corruption of *Crug*, or *Craig*.

The claims of this place to a Roman origin, have been noticed above, and appear wholly destitute of foundation.

A few miles to the south-westward of Old Radnor lies the church of GLASCWM, celebrated in legendary story on account of a circumstance which has been recorded by Giraldus. "In the church of Glascwm," observes this writer, "is a portable Bell, endowed with great virtues, called Bangu,\* and said to have belonged to St. David. A certain woman secretly conveyed this bell to her husband, (who was confined in the castle of Raidergwy near Warthrenion, which Rhys, son of Gruffydh, had lately built) for the purpose of his deliverance. The keeper of the castle not only refused to liberate him for this consideration, but seized and detained the bell; and in the same night, by divine vengeance, the whole town, except the wall on which the bell hung, was consumed by fire."

At

\* "This was a hand bell kept in all the Welsh churches during the times of popery, which the clerk or sexton took to the house of the deceased on the day of the funeral: when the procession began, a psalm was sung; the bellman then sounded his bell in a solemn manner for some time, till another psalm was concluded; and he again sounded it at intervals, till the funeral arrived at the church. The bangu was at this period deemed sacred, which accounts for the superstitious attributes given it by Giraldus. This ancient custom prevailed till lately at Caerleon; a bell of the same kind being carried about the streets, and sounded just before the interment of a corpse, and some old people now living remember this ceremony to have prevailed in many other places." Hoare's *Giraldus*, Vol. 1. pp. 52 and 22.

At the village of *Walton*, near Old Radnor, is a handsome modern house, the residence of Richard Urwick, Esq. Beyond, on the left, stands the ancient mansion of *Harpton Court*, the seat of Thomas Frankland Lewis, Esq. ; and farther on, at some distance on the right, *Downton Hall*, the seat of Percival Lewis, Esq.

Seven miles from Kington we enter

### NEW RADNOR,

formerly the metropolis of the shire. At present this is a poor and miserable village, composed principally of thatched cottages, with scarcely a house of more respectable appearance, and holding a population of 380 persons. Leland, speaking of it in his time, observes: "New Radnor towne hathe be metly well wallyd, and in the walle appere the ruines of iiii gates. There is an olde churche stondyng now as a chapell by the castle. Not very farre thens is the new parochie churche buildyd by one William Bachefeld and Flory his wife. Ther goith by the towne, as I remember, a broket cawlyd somergil. The buildyng of the towne in some parte meatly good, in most parte but rude, many Howsys beinge thakyd. The castle is in ruine, but that a pece of the gate was a late amendyd. The towne was defacyd in Henry the fourthe dayes by Owen Glindowr."\*

From the ichnography of the town given in Speed's map, dated 1610, it appears to have comprised at that time three streets running in a parallel direction east and west; and four other streets intersecting them at right angles, the easternmost of which was at the upper end divided into two by what is called an island of houses. Besides these, there were four shorter streets, or lanes leading from the upper street, towards the castle and the church. The names of some of the streets,

as

\* Itinerary Vol. VII. fol. 27.

as High Street, Broad Street, and Water Street, are still retained, and the streets themselves may be traced without much difficulty among the gardens, although some of them are dwindled into mere footpaths. The public buildings are the Town Hall, which has the appearance of a barn; and the Prison, which are both of them situated in Broad Street. The decline of New Radnor has been ascribed to the tranquillity and settled state of the times, rendering a fortified border town unnecessary; to its proximity to Kington and Presteigne, both of them more convenient marts for the farmers of Herefordshire; and to its cold situation, near the hills.

By the act of union, 26 Henry the Eighth, New Radnor is constituted the shire town, and the county or shire court is appointed to be holden here and at Rhayadergwy *alternis vicibus*: but by a subsequent statute, 35, 36 Henry the eighth, this court is ordered to be holden alternately at New Radnor and Presteigne, and never at Rhayader. For reasons, however, already stated, the assizes were removed altogether to Presteigne. The sheriff's county courts for the recovery of debts under forty shillings, are still held here, alternately with the latter place.

New Radnor still retains its corporate privileges. The corporation consists of a Bailiff, twenty-five capital Burgesses, two Aldermen, a Recorder, Coroner, Town Clerk, Sergeants at Mace, &c. The bailiff and aldermen are elected annually out of the capital burgesses, and while in office are justices of the peace within the jurisdiction of the borough: the bailiff retains his commission as justice for one year after he goes out of office. There are besides three other justices of the peace appointed annually out of the capital burgesses, to assist the bailiff and aldermen. The borough of Radnor, wherein the magistrates of the corporation supersede the authority of the county justices, includes the neighbourhood of the town for the distance of four or five miles in every direction. The Bailiff's Courts and Petty Sessions are holden every Monday: at these  
the

the Bailiff, Aldermen, and Town Clerk preside, and determine all suits where the damages amount to less than forty shillings. The Quarter Sessions for the borough are holden on Monday in the second week after Epiphany, at Easter, on the 7th of July, and at Michaelmas.

The Parliamentary representative for New Radnor is chosen by the burgesses, jointly with the contributory boroughs of Knighton, Rhayader, Cefn Lllys, and Cnwclas ; the bailiff being the returning officer. The number of the burgesses of this place is estimated at three hundred, and the whole number of voters in all the boroughs at from twelve to fourteen hundred. The qualification for a burgess of New Radnor is a *bona fide* residence within the jurisdiction at the time of his election ; and a capital burgess becoming non-resident forfeits his privilege.

There was a weekly market held here formerly every Tuesday ; but not being sufficiently attended it was discontinued about a century ago ; and all subsequent attempts to restore it have been unsuccessful. The fairs are holden annually on the Tuesday before Holy Thursday, Tuesday after Trinity Sunday, the 14th of August, and the 28th and 29th of October. An annual Wake is holden here on the third Sunday in the month of August.

The church is a respectable edifice, situated on the side of the hill which rises above the town on the north. It consists of a nave, a south aisle, and chancel, extending altogether 114 feet in length, by 33 feet in width ; with a large square tower at the west end. This is at present covered with tiles, as represented in the accompanying view ; but from Speed's representation, above referred to, it was originally surrounded by an embattled parapet, and had a small turret rising above it at the south west angle. Leland ascribes this edifice to William Bacheffield and Flory his wife ; but of the history of this pious pair nothing is now known. The old church, which this laborious antiquary mentions as standing in his time near



the castle has disappeared. Parts of the present building seem to have been constructed on the foundations of an earlier edifice.

The castle occupied a commanding eminence above the north-east angle of the town. Some vestiges of the walls are yet to be seen. In the year 1773 some labourers digging on the site discovered six or seven small Gothic arches of good masonry, which appear to have supported the main buildings. Some ancient instruments were at the same time found among the rubbish. The outward intrenchments are still in good preservation. The outer ward, or *Baili Glás*, the Green Court, retains its original form, and is distinct from the inner inclosure of the keep. This fortress was originally of great strength, and was considered an important post as commanding the pass from the open country into the mountainous district. The ground plan was nearly square. At the north-east and north-west angles were massive square towers; another tower of the same kind stood at the south-west angle, and defended the entrance, which lay close to it in the south wall. Further to the eastward were two round towers of smaller dimensions than the others.

The town was once surrounded by a strong and lofty wall, with a deep moat on the outside. Its course may yet be distinctly traced by the ruins of the foundations, and the exterior ditch, which in some places on the west and south is only partially filled.

The destruction of the fortifications of New Radnor, including its castle and walls, is ascribed to Owen Glyndwr; "and the voice is there," says Leland, "that after he wonne the castel, he tooke a iiii score men that had the garde of the castel, and causid them to be beheddid on the brinke of the castel yarde, and that sins a certen bloodeworth growith ther wher the bloode was shedde."\* The town is reported to have sustained irreparable injury at the same period.

New Radnor was honoured with the presence of the crusaders, archbishop Baldwin, and Giraldus, and was the first Welsh town at which they preached the cross. They were accompanied on their journey thus far by Ranulph de Glanvill, the justiciary of England, and were here met by Rhys ab Gruffydd, the reigning prince of South Wales, and some other chieftains of the principality. The Itinerary of Giraldus commences at this place.

About two miles to the westward of New Radnor, in a narrow defile among the hills on the right, is a waterfall of some celebrity, called rather quaintly "*Water-break-its-neck.*" The depth of the cataract is about seventy feet; but its picturesque effect is much diminished by the nakedness of the adjacent grounds.

Proceeding towards Rhayader, about three miles from Radnor, we reach *Llanfihangel Nant Melon*, or *Nant Melin*, which presents a neater exterior than most of the villages of this county. The adjacent lands, to a considerable extent, belong to Mr. Davies of Surrey Square, London, who is pursuing here an enlightened system of improvement. His plantations are in a thriving state, and becoming highly ornamental to the neighbourhood.

A little beyond *Llanfihangel Nant Melon*, the road to *Builth* diverges on the left. It presents little to interest the traveller till it approaches the vale of the *Wye*, which we shall explore in a future route. The lake on the mountain to the left, has already been mentioned.

Ten miles from New Radnor, on the banks of the river *Ithon*, occurs the village of *Pen y bont*, at present the posting stage between *Kington* and *Rhayader*. There is a very respectable Inn here built by the late Mr. John Price of this place, who about the same time erected an excellent mansion for himself, now occupied by his son-in-law Mr. Severn. There is another good house here, the residence of *Middleton Jones, Esq.* Mr. Price, above named, began life as a small shop-

shop-keeper in this village, and contrived by industry and good management to accumulate a fortune of about one hundred thousand pounds. A large proportion of his profits were derived from a Bank, which he established here and proved a very lucrative concern. He died in 1798, and bequeathed the bulk of his property to Mrs. Severn, then only eight years of age.

There is a post office here; and a stage coach passes this way in the summer twice every week, for Aberystwyth.

In the parish of Llanddewi Ystrad Ennau, about two miles above Pen y bont in the vale of Ithon, are the remains of an ancient British encampment called the *Gaer*. The form is oval, and it is defended on the exterior by two deep parallel intrenchments. It occupies an eminence above the river, on which side it is inaccessible. On the opposite side of the vale is a large tumulus or barrow called *Bedd Ygre*, or *Ygre's Grave*: probably the burial place of some British warrior, whose deeds are lost to fame.

About two miles from this spot once stood *Castell Cymaron*, the only remaining vestige of which to indicate its site is the moat by which it was surrounded. Its erection has been ascribed to some of the earlier Norman settlers in this country. Being a border fortress, and probably of no great strength, the possession of it was frequently and successfully contested by the Welsh and Norman chieftains. In 1142 it passed to Hugh Earl of Chester when he became lord of Maelienydd. It afterwards in 1360 became the property of the Mortimers, who held it for ages.\*

Near the upper extremity of the vale of Ithon are some remains of *Dynbot*, or *Tynbot Castle*, of which mention is made by Camden and Leland. The site may be easily traced by the ruins of the foundations. This was no doubt built for a border fortress, and nothing is known of its history except that it was destroyed by Llewelyn ab Gruffydd in 1260.

\* Carlisle's Topograph. Dict. of Wales, article *Llanddewi Ystrad Ennau*.

At a short distance from Pen y bont, near the road to Rhayader, is

### CEFN LLYS,

literally the *Palace ridge*, or *hill*, one of the contributory boroughs to New Radnor. This place gives its name to one of the hundreds of the county. There are here some vestiges of a castle, which occupied an elevated and commanding situation on the banks of the river Ithon, by which it is nearly surrounded. It is sometimes called *Castell Glyn Ithon*. Leland and Camden mention it as in their time demolished. This fortress was erected by Ralph Mortimer, about the year 1242.

The next river on this route is the Clowedoc, a tributary stream of the Ithon. A few miles up the vale through which it winds its course are the ruins of

### CWM HIR ABBEY,

the only monastic establishment that appears to have been founded within the county of Radnor. "Comehere, an abbay of white monkes, stondith betwixt ii great hilles in Melennith in a botom wher rennith a litle brooke. It is a vii miles from Knighton. The first foundation was made by Cadwathelan ap Madok for LX monkes. No chirch in Wales is seene of such length as the fundation of walles ther begon doth shew; but the third part of this worke was never finischid. Al the howse was spoiled and defacid be Owen Glindour."\*

The situation of this abbey is exceedingly delightful and romantic, being placed in a fertile valley, and surrounded by mountains of considerable elevation and grandeur. On the side of the hill rising on the north was the park, which still retains

\* Leland's Itin. Vol. V. fol. 13.

retains its name, together with some vestiges of the fence by which it was once surrounded. It is said to have been nine miles in circumference, and plentifully stocked with deer.

Little is known of the history of this establishment. Leland, as we have seen, ascribes the foundation to Cadwathelan, or more correctly, Cadwallon ab Madoc; and the Monasticon assigns to it the date of 1143. Cadwallon was about this period the lord of the province of Maelienydd, in which it is situated.

The monastery was dedicated to St. Mary, and valued at the Dissolution at 28*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* in the whole, or 24*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* clear. It was originally endowed for sixty monks, of the Cistercian order, but contained no more than three when the establishment was broken up; and was granted, 37 Henry the Eighth, to Walter Henley and John Williams. In after times it became the property of Sir Hans Fowler, who resided in this neighbourhood, and died in 1771; and from him it descended to Thomas Hodges Fowler, who is the present owner, or held it very lately.

Nothing remains of the edifice except some of the foundations of the walls, which in a few places rise a little above the surface of the ground. From these there appears to have been one continuous building of two hundred and fifty-five feet in length by seventy-three feet in width. Of this space the church probably occupied a considerable portion; the remainder might have formed part of the abbey house. Vestiges of other buildings are to be seen contiguous to this; but the course of the foundations has not been sufficiently traced to determine their form or extent.

Of the style of the architecture it is now impossible to form any judgment, not a fragment of the ornamental parts of the structure having been left behind for the guidance of the antiquary. From an inscription still preserved in Llanidloes church, we find that some of the columns and arches of the

abbey were removed there and applied to the repairs of that edifice in 1542.

Other fragments may be seen in Cwm-hir chapel, which was founded in 1680 by Sir William Fowler. The mansion house of the Fowlers,\* in the vicinity, appears to have been partly built with the materials of the abbey.

Cwm-hir is six miles north-east from Rhayader, and fifteen miles west from Knighton.

After resuming our route, there is nothing to detain the traveller's attention, except *Lhwyn-y-Barried* house, the seat of ——— Evans, Esq. pleasantly situated on the left of the road, till he enters the town of

### RHAYADER,

or *Rhayadergwy*. The name, literally translated, signifies “the cataract of the Wye,” or in transatlantic phraseology, “the *falls* of the Wye;” and is derived from the situation of the place near the descent of that river over a ledge of rocks. Formerly the fall was considerable, but on the building of the present bridge in 1780, the channel was cleared of its principal obstructions, and a freer passage opened for the water, so that its characteristic feature has been almost entirely destroyed.

The town is of small extent, comprising four streets, or two long streets, which intersect each other at right angles. Near the point of junction stands the Town Hall, with the covered market underneath.† This edifice was built by subscription in 1762.

\* The following distich will shew the estimation in which this family were held in their neighbourhood;

There's neither park nor deer, in Radnorshire,  
Or a man worth five hundred a year,  
Except Sir William Fowler of Abbey Cwmlhir.

† See the annexed View.

1762. The population is stated in the Census of 1811 at 446 persons. There is a small manufactory of coarse cloth established here. In the summer the stage coach for Aberystwyth passes this way twice every week. Rhayader boasts its corporate dignities, being governed by a bailiff, who is annually chosen at a court leet, and having a voice in the election of the Parliamentary representative of New Radnor. The burgesses are elected by the town jury at a Court Leet. The market is held on Wednesday, and the fairs annually on the 6th and 27th of August, the 26th of September, the 14th of October, and the 3rd of December. It has besides three great markets in May.

The Great Sessions were appointed by the Act of Union to be held here alternately with New Radnor, but were by a subsequent act in the same reign removed to Presteigne. The Goal occupied the site on which the Presbyterian meeting-house is built.

Rhayader derived anciently its chief importance from its castle, of which no vestige remains excepting the fosse, which was excavated out of the solid rock. It was very eligibly situated on a precipitous point of land, which projects into the channel of the river on the north of the town. According to Caradoc of Lancarvan,\* this fortress was built about 1178 by Rhys ab Gruffydd, prince of South Wales, in order to check the depredations of the Norman freebooters, who had obtained a footing in this country. It is occasionally mentioned at subsequent periods in the Welsh annals, having frequently changed masters, until at last it was wholly demolished.

Rhayader church is a very respectable modern edifice, consisting of a nave and chancel. These were rebuilt in 1733, and the tower in 1783. It is stated that there was a religious house of Dominican friars here, which stood near the bridge, and which shared the fate of similar establishments in the time of Henry the Eighth. If, however, there be any foundation for

\* Myfyrian Archæology, Vol. II. p. 678.

this tradition, it is probable that the establishment was nothing more than an hospitium or cell subservient to the abbey of Strata Florida.

There are in the neighbourhood of this place several tumuli, or barrows, some of them composed entirely of stones, and called by the descriptive name of *Carneddau*. The largest is in the parish of Cwm y dau ddwr, which is designated *Tommen St. Efraid*, or the tumulus of St. Bridget, being assigned by popular tradition as the burial place of that saint, to whom the parish church is dedicated.

The ancient name of the district in which Rhayader is situated, was *Gwrthryniön*, sometimes called *Warthrenion*. The tradition of the country derives this designation from the celebrated British sovereign Vortigern, whose Welsh name is written *Gwrtheyrn*: and it is asserted that on his overthrow he retreated to the wilds of this neighbourhood, where he built the castle, in which he afterwards perished in the fire that destroyed the fortress itself. This opinion rests however on no shadow of historical evidence, and the etymology must be regarded as altogether fanciful. We shall insert here the observation of Sir Richard Hoare, in speaking of this province, but without pledging ourselves to the accuracy of the etymology he has assigned to the word.

“ Warthrenion may more properly be called Gwrthryniön; it was anciently one of the three comots of Arwstli, a cantref of Merioneth, though since by statute 27 Henry VIII. attached to the then newly erected counties of Radnor and Montgomery: Gwrthryniön is in the former county, and derives its name, according to the British historian Nennius,\* from a supposed

\* “ Iste Guorthynir filius Guorthigerni in synodo habita apud Guartheriaun, postquam nefandum rex, ob incestum quem cum filiâ commiserat, a facie Germani et clericorum Britannicæ in fugam iret, patris nequitie consentire noluit; sed rediens ad Sanctum Germanum, ad pedes ejus cecidit veniam postulans, atque pro illatâ a patre suo et sorore sancto Germano calumniâ,



posed allotment of this district to Saint Germanus by king Vortimer, as a reproach to his father Vortigern, for having calumniated the holy prelate, quasi *Gwarth uniawn*, the just reproach; but this derivation is very justly treated by Archbishop Usher, as fabulous. We may perhaps with greater probability look to local circumstances for an etymology. The cantred of Arwystli, as before observed, was divided into three comots, i. e. *Cwmmwd uch coed*, the comot above the wood; *Cwmmwd iscoed*, the comot below the wood; and *Cwmmwd Gwrthryinion*, from *gwrth*, a very common prefix in Welsh composition, implying against, opposite, by, or close to, and *rhyinion* the plural of *rbyn*, a mountain, hill, or promontory, signifying that it was the mountainous district of the Cantref.\*

According to Giraldus, this province was not a little distinguished in his days by miraculous events. We shall subjoin one specimen for the edification of our readers. "In Warthenion, and in the church of St. Germanus, there is a staff of St. Cyric, covered on all sides with gold and silver, and resembling in its upper part the form of a cross: its efficacy has been proved in many cases, but particularly in the removal of glandular and strenuous swellings, insomuch that all persons afflicted with these complaints, on a devout application to the staff, with the oblation of one penny, are restored to health. But it happened *in these our days*, that a strenuous patient on presenting one halfpenny to the staff, the humour subsided only in the middle; but when the oblation was completed by the other halfpenny, an entire cure was accomplished. Another person also coming to the staff with the promise of a penny,

penny,

terram ipsam in qua predictus episcopus opprobrium tale sustinuit, in aeternum suam fieri sanxivit. Unde et in memoriam sancti Germani Guarennaun nomen accepit, quod Latine sonat calumnia justè retorta; quoniam cum episcopum vituperare putaverat, semet ipsam vituperatio afflicta." *Nennius Hist. Brit.* p. 127.

\* Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 26.

penny, was cured; but not fulfilling his engagement on the day appointed, he relapsed into his former disorder; in order however to obtain pardon for his offence, he tripled the offering by presenting three-pence, and thus obtained a complete cure."

"The church of St. Germanus is now known by the name of St. Herman, and is situated three or four miles from Rhayader in Radnorshire, on the right hand of the road from thence to Llanidloes; it is a small and simple structure, placed on a little eminence in a dreary plain surrounded by mountains.

"Several churches in Wales have been dedicated to St. Cyrig, who was a stranger, celebrated for his learning and holy life, and came into Wales in the seventh century. We are informed by a letter published in the Cambrian Register, 1796, p. 491, that this saint was a foreigner, who, having landed at Aberystwyth, rested upon the top of a high mountain, which still bears the name of Eisteddfa Guric, or Curig's seat, from whence, looking around him, he perceived a fertile valley, in the retirement of which he determined to build a church. Mr. Morris then quotes some Welsh verses from a bard of the fifteenth century, (Lewis Glyncothi) in which the impositions of the mendicant friars upon the peasantry, selling them little images of saints as charms, and receiving in return cheese, bacon, wool, corn, &c. are humourously exposed :

Un o honynt a ddygai  
 Gurig lwyd dan gwr ei glôg;  
 Gwas arall a ddwg Seirioel  
 A naw o gaws, yn ei goel.

"One of them did convey the blessed Curig under the skirt of his cloak, another youth conveyed Seirioel, and nine cheeses in his bosom." Thus it appears that not only the miraculous staff, but even the saint himself, was held in requisition to furnish provisions for the convent.\*

*Noyadd*

\* Sir Richard Hoare's Giraldus, with the translator's annotations, Vol. I. pp. 5, 20, and 21.

*Noyadd* is a respectable mansion near Rhayader, the seat of Hugh Powell Evans, Esq. The only other gentleman's residence to be noticed in this neighbourhood is *Cwm Elan*, the seat of Thomas Grove, Esq. This house is situated, as its name imports, in the romantic vale of Elan. The present proprietor is a native of Wiltshire, who fixed his residence on this secluded spot in consequence of having purchased about ten thousand acres of the circumjacent land, with the lordship of the *Grange*. His improvements have been conducted on a very enlightened system, and a most extensive scale; and the happy results are now to be seen in the appearance of luxuriant fertility, where a few years ago all was a barren waste. Mr. Grove has lately opened a lead mine on his estate, but with what success the enterprise has been pursued we have not had the means of ascertaining.

In this parish (*Cwm y dau ddwr*) there is a farm called *Coed y Mynach*, or Monks' wood; and some have been led to believe, from the name, that a monastery once existed here. The probability, however, is, that if ever there was a religious establishment at this place, it was only an hospitium belonging to the abbey of Strata Florida, which might have had some lands in this neighbourhood. There is an ancient road leading towards that abbey still to be traced over the hills.

Having now gone over all the most remarkable objects in the northern district and middle of the county, we shall in the next place descend the Wye as far as its entrance into Herefordshire, and by this route complete our Survey.

With the exception of the wild and romantic scenes which this valley presents at every step,\* there is no object of interest to detain the traveller till he arrives within two miles of Builth, where there are some inconsiderable remains of a fortress, surrounded by a moat. It appears never to have been of much consequence, and its history is wholly unknown.

On

\* The beauties of this vale are seen to most advantage in ascending from Builth to Rhayader.

On an eminence, on the left of the road, opposite to Builth, commanding delightful views of the Wye for some distance in both directions, stands *Wellfield House*, a neat modern mansion built by David Thomas, Esq. now occupied by Major Thomas. The grounds are ornamented by some flourishing young plantations. About half a mile from Builth bridge, in the meadows near the banks of the Wye, stands *Llanelwedd Hall*, an ancient seat of the Gwynnes, now the residence of M. H. T. Gwynne, Esq.

Just beyond Llanelwedd church a road diverges on the left towards Llandrindod Wells, which are distant about five miles. On this road occurs *Pen y Cerig*, one of the oldest gentlemen's seats in this neighbourhood, now occupied by Thomas Thomas, Esq. Mr. Clarke, in his Agricultural Survey of Radnorshire, states, but on what evidence he does not inform us, that the keelson of the Royal George grew on this estate.

Soon after passing Llanelwedd church we quit the turnpike road, which takes a north-eastern direction towards New Radnor, and follow a parish way, impracticable for carriages, along the banks of the river.

About four miles below Builth we reach the romantic and interesting village of

### ABEREDWY,

which takes its name from its situation near the confluence of the little river Edwy with the Wye. This is one of the most enchanting spots in the principality. Nothing can exceed in grandeur and picturesque beauty the scenery by which it is surrounded in every direction. The Edwy descends for a considerable distance through a deep valley; but for about half a mile before it joins the Wye its channel is confined on either side by a lofty wall of rock, in some places broken into crags which overhang the abyss, and threaten the daring intruder

who may venture beneath to view with the greater advantage the sublime prospect they offer to his contemplation. The village is small and dirty, but the church forms a pleasing object in the landscape, crowning the lofty bank of the river on the western side. Close to the churchyard is a large tumulus, which was surmounted probably at one time by a small fort.

Near the village, in the angle formed by the Wye on the south and the Edwy on the east, are some remains of *Aber Edwy Castle*. They are at present inconsiderable: nor do they warrant the inference that this was at any time a place of great strength. What, however, it wants in point of grandeur, is amply compensated to the Welsh antiquary by the interest it must excite from having been the favourite residence and the last retreat of Llewelyn ab Gruffydd, the last native prince of Wales who wore the ensigns of royalty. The march of Llewelyn for this place and his death have already been noticed above.\* The circumstances related of him after his arrival here, and the course he took to elude the pursuit of his enemies, are stated in so confused a manner by all the historians who have pretended to detail them, that it is wholly impossible to understand their accounts, or to reconcile them to the local position of places. Mr. Theophilus Jones, the historian of Brecknockshire, whose intimate local knowledge of the country peculiarly qualified him for the task, has taken considerable pains to reduce the different statements into some kind of order; and as far as we have been able to examine the ground, we think his labours have been crowned with success. At least, we may say that he has furnished us with a consistent narrative, which any one who knows the neighbourhood will readily understand. For the information of those who may not have access to his work, we shall present our readers with an abridgment of his account.

The object of Llewelyn's journey to Aberedwy was to enter into consultation with some of the chief persons of the district.

\* See page 254; and also 154.

trict, whom he was anxious to engage in his service against the English sovereign, whose forces were then invading the principality in different quarters. On his arrival, however, he found himself fatally disappointed; for instead of meeting friends, he perceived himself nearly surrounded by the forces of his enemy. Edmund Mortimer and John Giffard, having had intimation of his road, marched to meet him with a large body of troops from Herefordshire. Considering from the numbers of the enemy, that resistance would be vain, Llewelyn withdrew with his men to Builth; and as the ground was covered with snow, he is said to have had his horse's shoes reversed in order to deceive his pursuers. This is the tradition still preserved at the place, which adds that the smith, whose name was Madoc goch min mawr, Red-haired wide-mouthed Madoc, betrayed the secret to the English commanders. Llewelyn succeeded in passing the bridge at Builth and breaking it down before the arrival of his pursuers.

Having thus missed their prey the English party returned down the river, and crossed eight miles below at a ferry known to some of them, and called Caban Twm bach, or Little Tom's ferry boat. It is supposed that the garrison of Builth, overawed by the presence of so large an English force in the neighbourhood, refused to treat with the Welsh prince; and that he, in consequence, immediately proceeded to the westward with the view of returning to North Wales, or of gaining Caermarthenshire. He ascended the vale of Irvon on the southern side for about three miles, and crossed the river above Llanynis, over a bridge called *Pont y Coed*, or the bridge of the wood. Having reached the opposite bank, he stationed the few troops who had accompanied him on the northern side of the river, where the ground was peculiarly favourable for defending the passage. On the arrival of the English forces, they made a fruitless attempt to gain the bridge; but a knight of the party, Sir Elias Walwyn (a descendant of Sir Philip Walwyn of Hay) discovered a ford at some distance, where  
a detachment

a detachment crossed the river. These coming unexpectedly on the rear of the Welsh troops routed them without difficulty. Llewelyn himself, either in the flight, or while watching the movements of the main body, who were still on the other side of the river, was attacked unarmed in a small dell about two hundred yards below the scene of action, from him called Cwm Llewelyn, or Llewelyn's dingle, by one Adam Francton, who plunged a spear into his body. Francton took no farther notice of his victim, but joined in the pursuit of the enemy. On his return, probably with the view of plundering the slain, he discovered that the person whom he had wounded (for he was still alive) was the prince of Wales; and on stripping him, a letter in cypher and his privy seal were found concealed about him. Francton, overjoyed at perceiving whom he had in his power, immediately cut off his head, and sent it to the king of England. The body was dragged to a little distance and buried in a place still known by the name of *Cefn y bedd*, or *Cefnbedd Llewelyn*, the ridge of Llewelyn's grave, near the banks of the Irvon.

“Those who have attentively read the history of Llewelyn (of whatever country they may be) will I trust lament the fate, and sigh while they contemplate the fall, of the last and greatest of the Welsh princes. His grandfather, Llewelyn ab Jorwerth, had courage and considerable talents, but he was savage in manners, variable in politics, fickle in his attachments, and brutal in his revenge. During the greatest part of his life he had a mere driveller to oppose; but the last Llewelyn had to contend with an Alexander (Edward I.) supported by superior numbers and revenues; in short, he had all the virtues of his ancestor with scarcely any of his vices; he had infinitely more difficulties to encounter; and when he was favoured with the smiles of fortune, he owed them entirely to his own merit and exertions.”\*

A few

\* Jones's Brecknockshire, Vol. I. p. 159, et seq.

A few miles above Aber Edwy, on a lofty eminence commanding the vale, once stood

### COLWYN CASTLE,

of which scarcely a vestige now remains. This is sometimes called Maud's castle in Colwyn, a name which it is supposed to have derived from Maud de St. Waleri, the wife of William de Breos, who at one time was the owner of the place. This fortress was most probably constructed by some of the Norman settlers for the security of the possessions they had wrested from the native proprietors in this district; but the name of the founder is not certainly known. One copy of Caradoc of Lancarvan in the *Myfyrian Archæology*\* states, that in 1143 Ranulph Earl of Chester, laid waste and subdued Maelienydd, and made the castles of Elfael (Paine's Castle) and Colunwy (Colwyn.) But two other copies inserted in the same volume, recording the same transaction, state that these fortresses were only repaired at this period.† In *Powel's History of Wales*, under 1142, the circumstances are thus mentioned. "About the same time Hugh Earl of Chester fortified his castle of Cymaron, and wan Melienyth to himself, and likewise the castell of *Chen* was fortified by a lord Normane, and all Eluel brought to their subiection."‡

Camden says of this fortress that it was very famous, and belonged to Robert de Todeney, a man of considerable rank in the reign of Edward the second. Having been destroyed by the Welsh, it was rebuilt of stone in a handsome manner by Henry the third in 1231.§

Proceeding

\* Vol. II. p. 560, Brut y Tywysogion.

† Brut y Saeson, Vol. II. p. 561, and Brut y Tywysogion Vol. II. p. 424. In both these copies this invasion is ascribed to Hugh the son of Randalph.

‡ *Powel's Hist. Cambria*, Edit. 1811, p. 144.

§ *Gough's Camden*, Vol. III. p. 91.



Proceeding down the Wye, the next object to attract attention is the *Screen*,\* a neat house in a pleasant situation. This was the family estate of Mrs. Harris of Trevecca; and descended to her daughters. Beyond we enter the vale of the *Matchwy*, or more properly *Bach-wy*, the little Wye. As circumstances did not admit of our exploring this romantic spot personally, we shall insert here Dr. Malkin's animated description:—

“ There are few scenes perhaps more uncommon than the dingle of the Matchway (Bachwy). It lies much out of the convenient beat, for those who make regular stages; but I would advise every curious traveller to see it, though I will promise him any thing except pleasure from the sight.— The first effort is to climb a mossy hill, almost perpendicular, without either tree or rocky protuberance, to relieve the eye, or assist and secure the footing. As the habitable borders of the Wye become evanescent, the whole scene assumes an aspect of dreary grandeur. It approaches nearer to what may be denominated savage, than any thing that I have seen of its kind; and well accords with the stories current, of the horrors transacted in its recesses. For a time, some scanty brushwood communicates a degree of ornament to the dingle; but even that fails, and the naked, perpendicular sides inspire ideas of real danger, as well as of imaginary dread. After having traversed the slippery ridge for some time, it becomes necessary to descend, in order to command a point of view, in which are concentrated all the rudely-shaped eccentricities of nature, with all the mysterious gloom of vulgar and traditional ascription. The descent is much more difficult than at the Devil's Bridge; as there is nothing to break its too great rapidity, but here and there a stump, some fibres of roots, or a previous footstep, indenting the smooth surface. The dingle is here apparently terminated by a tremendous rock, rising athwart the stream, on the top of which are the foundations of

\* By mistake this place is stated above (p. 193) to be in Brecknockshire

some very ancient and rude structure. I have not been able to trace any authentic account of its history; for it is not mentioned by any of our professed antiquarians, ancient or modern; nor have the peculiarities of its situation fallen in with the route of any lighter tourist. We have, therefore, no resource, but to extract sense and probability, if we can, from the ignorant and marvellous relations of the common people, who delight in imposing on strangers a tenfold share of those local fictions, by which at once their own credulity is fed, and the importance of their long departed forefathers, in the evanescent history of an absorbed kingdom, is collaterally amplified. Even its vernacular appellation is lost. It is now only known as the castle of the Black Rock, which is rather a description than a name.\* The story is, that one of their very ancient princes had a castle here, where he kept his prisoners; and that he gratified the magnanimous propensities of his nature, by hurling them, in rotation, from the top of the rock into the dark pool below. If such really was the spirit of his recreation or revenge, his choice of a theatre, on which to act the ferocious scene, must at least be conceded to have been appropriate and happy. Were it not treason against nature, we might suppose her to have acted in concert with his wishes: no shelving declination from the perpendicular, no shrubby growth of the slenderest twigs, branching from the river side of the dwarfishly fructified rock, interferes with the dreadful certainty, that the victim, who might have survived the violence of his first projection, must reach the alternate death awaiting him, in the watery gulph, to which he precipitately tends. But after all, is it true? The spot seems admirably adapted to the purpose described, and it is difficult to assign any other. It is surrounded by higher ridges, which command it. Scarcely within the verge of military operations, and certainly

\* It is sometimes called *Castell yr Anglwydd*, and *Domini Castra*—the lord's Castle, a name which has also been communicated to the rock on which it stood. B.

tainly not of a complexion harmonizing with the pompous resort of political establishment, it stands insulated, and as it were ready made, for the perpetration of any gloomy suggestions, engendered by the solitary devices of a tyrannical and gloomy temperament.

“ After having descended from the loftier sides of the dingle, and examined these terrific foundations, which spread a deeper tint of moral gloom over the natural darkness of the picture, the bed of the river is approached with considerable difficulty, by a second descent, and forded in front of the black rock, by stepping on the more elevated stones that incumber the uneven channel. Here a narrow ledge, on the brink of a deeply worn pool, conducts you, bending double under a mass of overhanging rock, to a singular fall of the Matchway (Bachwy), which projects itself angularly from behind the castle, as it finds its way from the upper valley to the lower. The fall is considerable; probably about thirty feet. Its position and circumstances are eminently grand, though all its features are of a revolting cast. The rocks on each side of the fissure so nearly close in upon each other, that in the brightest weather the light is nearly excluded from the bason, formed by the attrition of the water; while the sunbeams are playing on the upper part of the cascade, it is so placed, that the lower is scarcely, if at all, visited by the enlivening influence of the day, associated, as it is accustomed to be in our minds, with a train of cheerful ideas. The deficiency of rock in general throughout this scene, and the substitution of dark and crumbling soil, serve only to increase the effect of its collected strength in this place. But a prospect, rude and unchastised, in an atmosphere damp with spray, and unmedicated by a free and elastic current, renders it desirable to quit the object of our curiosity soon, though we have laboured hard to approach it at all. The sharp angle of the black rock prevents the cataract from being fully seen,

and its interest is heightened by the circumstance. On returning by the northern side of the river, the sides of the dingle appear magnificently lofty and abrupt, but nearly barren. The ascent is at first extremely difficult, but the difficulty is sooner surmounted than on the other side.”\*

Lower down the Wye, delightfully situated on the northern bank of the river, stands the little village of *Boughrood*, or *Bach-rhyd*. There are here some remains of an ancient castle, consisting of a part of the walls and the moat. No memorials are preserved of its history. It is at present the property of Francis Fawkes, Esq. Beyond lies *Maeslough*, the residence of Walter Wilkin's, Esq. the member for the county of Radnor. The house is a structure of respectable appearance; and the position of the grounds is extremely beautiful, occupying a gentle ascent on the northern shore of the Wye.

Nearly due north, and at the distance of a few miles from Maeslough, lies the little village or township of

#### PAINÉ'S CASTLE.

A market was formerly held here; and it has still its fairs annually on the 12th of May, the 22nd of September and the 15th of December.

Little remains of the castle, besides some fragments of the foundations, by which its site and probable extent may be traced. Its early history is involved in the same obscurity with that of its neighbour of Colwyn, and indeed of many other similar erections in this county. Camden states, but we presume merely on conjecture, that it derived its name from Paganus or Paine a “Norman who built it.” In the Welsh annals it is called indiscriminately *Elvael Castle*, and *Paine's Castle*

Castle in Elvel. It doubtless owed its erection to some Norman intruder ; and passed through several Norman families who held estates in this country. At one period it formed a part of the ample possessions of the house of De Breos, and shared the fate of their other property in being transferred to other hands by the crown.

END OF RADNORSHIRE.



A  
LIST

OF THE PRINCIPAL

BOOKS, MANUSCRIPTS, PRINTS, MAPS, &c.

*Illustrative of the History, Topography, Antiquities, and Biography, of*

*SOUTH WALES.*

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**MR.** Gough observes that “very little pains have been taken by natives or neighbours to illustrate the history and antiquities of Wales.” Since, however, this remark was written very considerable exertions have been made to bring to light those valuable sources of information contained in manuscripts in the Welsh language, which had for ages lain buried in the libraries or individuals or of public bodies. Several of these have now been given to the public in print in the *Myfyrian Archæology*;\* and the learned editors have prefixed to this publication an ingenious and satisfactory account of the existing collections of documents of this class to which the future historian and antiquary may have recourse.

In forming a catalogue of the works that may be consulted relative to the country which it is the more immediate object of the present volume to describe, it is obvious, that, in order to keep within moderate limits, it will be necessary to omit the titles of many which notice it incidentally, and to confine our attention chiefly to such as profess to illustrate, either partially or generally, its history, and antiquities. Our list may be classed under three heads—1. Books relating to Wales generally; 2. Books relating to South Wales; 3. Books relating to the several counties of South Wales separately.

WALES IN GENERAL.

A considerable portion of the early history of this country is connected with its ecclesiastical concerns, and therefore illustrated by the memoirs which are extant of the Saints and Martyrs whose names are still preserved in the churches that have been dedicated to them. Recourse may therefore be had to the writers on Church History and the early Martyrologists. Among others the following may be consulted.

\* See *Myfyrian Archæology*, Vol. I. Introduction. pp. ix, &c.

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“Bonedd Saint Ynis Brydain,” (Lives of British Saints) printed in the *Myfyrian Archæology*, Vol. II. p. 23, et seq.

“Hanes Crefydd yn Nghymru; or the History of Religion in Wales; from the arrival of the Cymry in Britain to the present times, by the Rev. David Peter, Theological Tutor of the Presbyterian College at Caermarthen.” Welsh, 8vo. Caermarthen 1810.

“Acta Sanctorum.” This is the great work of the Jesuits, wherein, among a number of legendary fables, much valuable historical and biographical matter is brought together. The lives are arranged in the order in which the several Saints stand in the Roman calendar.

“Nova Legenda Angliæ,” usually called Capgrave’s Lives of the Saints, printed by Wynkin de Worde, A. D. 1516.

“Britannia Sancta, in two parts 4to. printed by Thomas Meighan,” 1745.

“Lives of the Saints, Fathers, Martyrs, &c. by Butler,” 12 Vols. 8vo. Dublin.

“Church History of Brittany. By R. F. S. Cressy,” fol. 1668. This is in many respects a curious and valuable work.

“Vitæ Sanctorum Wallensium, numero xvi.” Cotton MSS. Brit. Museum, Vesp. A. xiv. 12. b.

“Calendarium, in quo Sancti Wallici præcipue memorantur.”—Cotton. MSS. Vesp. A. xiv. 1.

The Pedigrees of several British Saints. Harl. MSS. Brit. Museum, 2289.

“Fragmentum Vitæ Sti. Davidis Menevensis Archiepiscopi.” Harl. MSS. 310.

“Giraldi Cambrensis de vita Davidis Menevensis Episcopi Historia.” Harl. MSS. 624.

Many particulars of information relative to the history of the principality may be found in the old English Historians, Matthew of Westminster, Matthew Paris, William of Malmsbury, Henry Huntingdon, Nennius, Bede, Ranulph’s *Polichronicon*, &c. though the reader may be apprised that he must wade through a cumbrous mass of uninteresting detail to get at them. Of the more modern historians Carte paid most attention to the affairs of Wales; his MSS. in the Bodleian Library, (L. L. L. L.) contain some valuable papers relating to the principality.

“Celtic Researches on the origin, traditions, and language, of the ancient Britons, &c.” by Edward Davies. 8vo. Lond. 1804.

The history of the principality is materially illustrated by the Pedigrees of Welsh families, of which there exist a great number in private and public collections. These are many of them important historical documents. The following are the principal deposited in the British Museum.

“The History of Welsh Heroes by threes or Triads, in Welsh and English, &c.” Harl. MSS. 4181.



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This volume contains a great number of curious and valuable documents collected by Mr. Hugh Thomas, including the descents of the reguli of Brecknock and Glamorgan, the lords of Dyfed, and the pedigrees of several private families branching from these royal stems. Great use seems to have been made of this MS. by Mr. Theophilus Jones in his History of Brecknockshire.

Mr. Hugh Thomas projected "A Genealogical History of the Ancient and Present Nobility and Gentry of Wales, &c." The Collections he made for this work are among the Harleian papers, and contained in numbers 6823, 6831, and 6870.

Descents of some Welsh families, &c. Harl. MSS. 1979.

A Collection of Welsh descents, including the names of the conquerors of Glamorgan and Brecknockshires. Harl. MSS. 1997.

A Collection of the Pedigrees of Welsh families; written by Mr. Hugh Thomas. Harl. MSS. 2288.

A Collection of Welsh Pedegrees written by Mr. Hugh Thomas. Harl. MSS. 2291.

A large Collection of Welsh Pedigrees. Harl. MSS. 2299.

"The ancient descent of ..... and worthy Gentlemen springing from Wales, and now sundry of them great housend of honor of Worship in England." Harl. MSS. 1143.

Another Copy, but not so old or complete. No. 1370. This volume (1370) contains some other Welsh pedigrees.

Arms of the founders of Welsh families. Harl. MSS. 1386. See also No. 1441.

Arms, &c. of Welsh families. Harl. MSS. 1933.

The Arms, &c. of the old founders of Welsh families, beginning with Brutus. Harl. MSS. 1946.

The Arms of divers old Welsh families. Harl. MSS. 1961.

The Arms and descents of several Welsh families. Harl. MSS. 1970.

Descents, &c. of divers Welsh families. Harl. MSS. 1976, 1977, 1978, 1995, 6102, 6122, 1412.

"Descent of the British King's and Princes from Brutus to Rhese Gryg, who died A. D. 1233." Harl. MSS. 1949.

A Collection of Welsh Pedegrees, Harl. MSS. 1935.

Descents of many of the Nobility and Gentry who have resided or possessed lands in Pembrokeshire, Caermarthenshire, Glamorgan here, Brecknockshire, Cardiganshire, &c. Harl. MSS. 1975.

Descents of many Welsh families, including those of the fifteen tribes of North Wales. Harl. MSS. 1969.

Pedigrees and Arms of Welsh Families. Harl. MSS. 1933.

Pedigrees of some Welsh families. Harl. MSS. 2414.

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Welsh Pedigrees, &c. Harl. MSS. 3538.

Various Welsh Pedigrees, &c. Harl. MSS. 4031.

Arms of Welsh families. Harl. MSS. 4291.

Genealogies of Welsh families. Harl. MSS. 5058.

Various Welsh Pedigrees. Harl. MSS. 6153.

Pedigrees of some Welsh families, including the Mansells of Margam. Harl. MSS. 2218.

Pedigrees of some Welsh families—including that of Ideo Wyllt Lord of Llywel drawn up by Thomas Jones of Fountain gate: to which the following note (probably by Lord Oxford) is appended. "I have heard that this Jones of Fountayne gate was in his time a notable forger of Welsh pedigrees." See also 2012 and 1500.

Vincent's Wales in the Heralds office, marked 135, 136 amongst his Books, 2 Vols folio, contains chiefly pedigrees intermixed with miscellaneous anecdotes relating to the principality.

The "Myfyrian Archæology of Wales, collected out of ancient Manuscripts," 3 Vols. 8vo. London 1801 and 1807. The first volume contains the remaining compositions of ancient Welsh poetry from the earliest times to the beginning of the fourteenth century. The second contains Historical Triads, Lives of the Saints—Chronicles of British kings anterior to Cadwaladyr, Chronicles of the Welsh Princes, composed by Caradoc of Lancarvan, History of Gruffydd ab Cynan, and Lists of the ancient divisions of Wales into Cantrevs, Comots, and Parishes. The third volume comprises some Ethical pieces, ancient Welsh Music, and a copy of the Laws of Hywel Dda.

In connection with this valuable collection may be mentioned, "Vindication of the Ancient British Poems by Sharon Turner," 8vo. 1804.

"Brut y Tywysogion, or the Chronicle of the Princes," a copy of Caradoc of Lancarvan printed from a MS. in the Welsh Magazine "Eurgrawn Cymraeg," under the direction of the late Rev. Josiah Rees of Gelligron in Glamorganshire. A. D. 1770. Very scarce.

"The Chronicle of the Kings of Great Britain, translated from the Welsh copy attributed to Tysilio; collated with several other copies, and illustrated with copious notes; to which are added original dissertations on the following subjects—viz.—On the History and Epistle attributed to Gildas, on the authority of the Brut; on the primary population of Britain; on the laws of Dyfnwal Moelmyd; and on the ancient British church. By Peter Roberts, M. A. London," 1811, 4to.

"The Historie of Cambria now called Wales, &c. written in the Brytish above two hundred yeares past. Translated into English by H. Lhoyd, Gentleman. Corrected, augmented, and continued out of Records and best approved authors by David Powel, D. D." London 1584. Reprinted 1811.

"The

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“The History of Wales, by William Wynn,” 8vo. 1697, reprinted in 1702 and 1774.

“The History of Wales, by the Rev. W. Warrington,” 2 Vols. 8vo. 3rd Edit. 1791. This is a very valuable work.

“History of Great Britain from the first inhabitants thereof till the death of Cadwalader, last king of the Britains, &c. By John Lewis, Esq. Barister at Law,” folio 1759.

“History of Great Britain from Noah’s Flood to Cadwallader; by John Lewys of Llynwene, Esq. 1611.” Harl. MSS. 4872.

“A short History of Wales from the year 668 to 936. Epitaphs in several Churches in Wales. Welsh Genealogies.” Harl. MSS. 3325. This little Volume was “bequeathed to my lord Oxford by Mr. Hugh Thomas.”

“Historiæ Britannicæ Defensio, Auctore Johannæ Price,” 4to. London, 1753.

“Britannicæ historiæ defensio, per Johannem Prisceum. In epistola at Brianum Tuke, Esq.” Cotton. MSS. Titus F. iii. 167.

“Cambria Triumphans; or Britain in its perfect lustre, shewing the origin and antiquity of that illustrious Nation, the succession of their Kings and Princes from the first to K. Charles of happy-memory, &c. By Percy Enderbie, Gent,” London, fol. 1661. reprinted, 1812.

“History of British Kings, chiefly Arthur.” Cotton. MSS. Titus F. iii. 214.

“Nomina regum Britannicæ, et episcoporum Landavensium, cum variis recordationibus.” Gallice. Cotton. MSS. Vitel C x 92.

“The history of the principality of Wales in three parts: 1. A brief account of the ancient Kings and Princes of Britain and Wales, till the final extinguishing of the Royal British line. 2. Remarks upon the lives of all the princes of Wales of the Royal families of England, from king Edward I. to Charles II. 3. Remarkable observations on the most memorable persons and places in Wales, and of many considerable transactions and passages that have happened therein for many hundred years, &c. by Robert Burton,” 12mo. 1730. The first edition was printed in 1695 with only the initials of the name.

“A true (though a short) account of the ancient Britons, in respect to their descent, qualities, settlement, country, language, learning, and religion; with the effigies of Llewelyn ab Gruffydd, the last Prince of Wales of the British Blood. By J. L. a Cambro Briton.” London, 1716, 4to.

“The History of Manchester in four books by the Rev. Mr. Whitaker,” 2 Vols. 4to.

“The Genuine History of the Britons asserted against Mr. Macpherson. By the Rev. Mr. Whitaker, author of the History of Manchester.” London 1773, 8vo.

“British Antiquities revived; or a friendly contest touching the sovereignty of the three Princes of Wales in ancient times, managed with

with certain arguments, whereunto answers are applied by Robert Vaughan, Esq. To which is added the pedigree of the Right Hon. the Earl of Carberry, Lord President of Wales, with a short account of the Five Royal Tribes of Cambria, by the same Author." Oxford, 1662, 4to.

"The royal tribes of Wales." by P. Yorke, Esq. 4to. 1799.

"Owen's History of the Ancient Britons," 8vo. 1743.

"An Essay on the primitive inhabitants of Great Britain and Ireland, &c. by General Charles Vallancey, LL. D." Dublin, 1807, 8vo.

"Archæologia Britannica; giving some account additional to what has been hitherto published of the language, histories, and customs, of the original inhabitants of Great Britain, &c. By Edward Lhuyd, M. A." Oxford, fol. 1707.

"Guellielmus Baxteri. Glossarum Antiq. Britan" 8vo. 1733.

"Heroic Elegies of Llywarch Hân, translated by William Owen, F. S. A." 8vo. 1792. There is much curious matter in the preface to this volume.

"The Cambrian Biography: or historical Notices of celebrated Men among the ancient Britons. By William Owen F. S. A." 8vo. 1803.

"Jones's Musical Relics of the Welsh Bards," 2 Vols. folio.

"Specimens of the Poems of the ancient Welsh Bards, to which is subjoined, De Bardis dissertatio, in qua nonnulla quæ ad eorum antiquitatem et munus respiciunt, et ad præcipuos qui in Cambria flourerunt, breviter discutiuntur. By the Rev. Evan Evans," 4to. 1764.

"Barddoniaeth Dafydd ab Gwilym, or the Poetical writings of Dafydd ab Gwilym. Collected by Owen Jones and William Owen." With an English Life prefixed, interspersed with some historical information. 12mo. Lond. 1789.

"An Historical Account of the Ancient and Modern State of the Principality of Wales, &c. by Sir John Doddridge, Knt." London, 8vo. 1714. See also Cotton MSS. Brit. Museum Vitel C x. 220. Harl. MSS. 305, 1980, and 2159.

"Leges Walliæ, or the Laws of Hywel Dda, translated into Latin by Dr. Henry Wotton," folio, 1730.

"The Laws of Hoel Dha," in Welsh. Harl. MSS. 4353.

"Practica Walliæ; or the proceedings in the Great Sessions of Wales: containing the method and practice of an Attorney there, from an original to the execution. Whereunto is added, the old Statute of Wales at large; and an abridgment of all the Statutes uniting Wales to England, with tables of the fees, and the matters therein contained. By Rice Vaughan, late of Gray's Inn, Esq." London, 1672, 12mo.

"British Remains, or a Collection of Antiquities relating to the Britons: comprehending 1. A concise History of the Lord's Marchers,

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ets, their origin, power, and conquests in Wales. 2. The arms of the ancient Nobility and Gentry of North Wales. 3. A Letter of Dr. Lloyd, Bishop of St. Asaph's concerning Jeffrey of Monmouth's History. 4. An Account of the discovery of America by the Welsh more than 300 years before the voyage of Columbus. 5. A celebrated poem of Taliesin, translated into Sapphic verse. To which are also added Memoirs of Edward Llwyd, antiquary, &c. By the Rev. N. Owen, Junr. A. M." London, 8vo. 1777.

"The case of their Majesty's Subjects in the principality of Wales, in respect of the Court held there before the present Council in the Marches of Wales, with their grievances, and reasons for taking away the said Court." London, 1689, a folio sheet.

"An Answer to a paper intituled, 'The Grievances of his Majesty's Subjects residing within the principality of Wales, in respect of the Court of the Council of the Marches of Wales, with the particular conveniences of that Court.'" London 1689, folio.

"Instructions given by her Majesty (Q. Elizabeth) to Sir Henry Sidney, Knt. Lorde President of her Majesties counsell within her Grace's dominions and principality of Wales and the Marches of the same, and to all hereafter mentioned and appointed to be of her said Councelle to be observed by the said Councillors, &c." A. D. 1574. Harl. MSS. 168.

"A Description of the dominion of Wales : " (i. e. chiefly as to the rise, authority, and government of the Lords Marchers, the Marches of Wales, &c. Harl. MSS. 141.

"A Dialogue of the present Government of Wales," A. D. 1594. Harl. MSS, 141.

"The state of the Cause concerninge the Lord President and counsell in the Marches of Wales." Harl. MSS. 141.

"Instructions respecting the principality and Marches of Wales," dated 1667. Harl. MSS. 6666.

"Copy of Instructions given by the kings Majesty to his highness's council within his Majesty's dominions and principality of Wales and Marches of the same, 4to. Jac. 1." Harl. MSS. 6690.

"A Treatise of Lordshipps Marchers in Wales. Shewing how, why, and when, they were suppressed, &c." Harl. MSS. 1220.

"A Catalogue of the Presidents of the Council of Wales, from 14 Ed. IV. to 44 Eliz." Cotton. MSS. Vitel. C i. 255. This Volume contains a great number of papers relating to the Marches of Wales. Others will be found in Titus B viii.

"Grant of King Henry VIII. for fees to be allowed to the Lord President and Counsell of the Marches of Wales." Harl. MSS. 368.

"Chronological List of the Names of the Lords Presidents of the Counsell of the Marches from the 68 Edw. IV." Harl. MSS. 368.

Judge Hales left among his MSS. to Lincoln's Inn a History of the Marches of Wales collected by him in folio.

"Commentariol"

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“*Commentarioli Britannicæ descriptionis fragmentum, auctore Humfredo Lhwyd, &c.*” 12mo. 1572.

“The Breviary of Britayne, as this most noble and renowned iland was of auncient time devided into three kingdomes, England, Scotland, and Wales. Contaynyng a learned discourse of the variable state and alteration thereof, under divers, as well natural, as forren princes and conquerors. Together with the geographical description of the same, such as nether by elder nor later writers, the like hath been set fourth before. Written in Latin by Humfrey Lhwyd, &c. and lately Englished by Thomas Twyne, Gentleman,” London 1573, 12mo.

“A chronicle of Wales from the time of King Cadwaller to Lewellin son of Griffith ab Lewellin, the last of the British Blood who had the government of Wales, that is to the year 1293, written by Humphrey Lloyd and dated at London, July 17, 1559.” Cotton. MSS. Cal. A. vi. 1.

*Ejusdem Fragmentum, ex Chronico Wallico ab ipso Wallicé scripto.* Cotton. MSS. Cal. A. vi. 217.

“A description of Cambria, now called Wales, drawne first by Sir John Prise, Knt. and afterwards augmented and made perfect by Humfrey Lhoyd, Gentleman”—Prefixed to Powel’s History of Cambria.

“*Cantredæ Walliæ.*” Cotton. MSS. Domit viii. 119.

“*Notula quando Cantredæ sive Centuriæ Walliæ primo inceperint.*” Cotton. MSS. Domit. viii. 124 b.

“*Extenta terrarum Ecclesiæ, Leges et Consuetudines Walliæ.*” Harl. MSS. 4776.

“*Extenta reddituum Servitiorum, &c. in Cambria; cui autem tribuendi non aperte liquet.*” Cotton. MSS. Vitel C. x. 100.

“A Topographical Dictionary of the dominion of Wales, &c. by Nicholas Carlisle, Fellow and Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, London,” 4to. 1811. This work contains a great deal of original local information communicated to the very respectable and learned Editor by Clergymen and others in the principality.

“*Camden’s Britannia,*” folio—Gough’s Edition—Description of the Welsh Counties.

“*Grose’s Antiquities of Wales,*” folio.

“*Horsley’s Britannia Romana.*”

“A Description of Britain, translated from Richard of Cirencester,” &c. 8vo. Lond. 1809.

The last two works may be consulted for the Roman remains in the principality, more particularly for the Roman stations and roads.

“*Drayton’s Polyolbion,*” with Selden’s Notes, folio.

“The Worthynes of Wales, wherein are more than 1000 things rehearsed, set out in Prose and Verse, and enterlarded with many wonders, &c. by Thomas Churchyard,” 4to. 1587. Reprinted under the following title.

“The

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

“The Worthynes of Wales, a Poem. A true note of the Auncient castles, famous monuments, goodly rivers, faire bridges, fine townes, and courteous people, that I have seen in the noble cuntry of Wales, and now set forth by Thomas Churchard.” 8vo. London, 1776.

“Versus Rhythmici de Wallia. Cotton. MSS. Titus A. xix. 101.”

“Part of a letter from Mr. Edward Lhuyd to Dr. William Nicholson about the signification of the British names of Waters, Rivers, Mountains, Citties, Towns, Castles, and Villages.” Harl. MSS. 2289.

“A calendar of Articles relating to Wales contained in the Registrum bullarum, kept by the Chamberlain of the treasury in Westminster.” Cotton MSS. Vitel C. x. 20.

“An order of Council against fortifying Castles in Wales,” Westm. Aug. 17, 1460. Cotton MSS. Vesp. C. xiv. 446, b.

“Orders of Council for Wales.” Harl. MSS. 4293.

“Giraldus Cambrensis Itinerarium Cambriæ, et Cambriæ descriptio,” 12mo. 1585. Reprinted by Camden in folio in 1602. Reprinted with several additions in 4to. by Müller, 1806. This splendid edition has Powel’s Notes, and was edited by Sir Richard Colt Hoare, Bart.

“The Itinerary of Archbishop Baldwin through Wales A. D. 1188, by Giraldus de Barri; translated into English, and illustrated with Views, Annotations, and a Life of Giraldus, by Sir Richard Colt Hoare, Bart. F. R. S. F. S. A.” 2 Vols. 4to. 1806.

This is one of the best works extant, relating to the topography of Wales. The learned editor’s Annotations and Notes, are peculiarly valuable.

“Silvestri Giraldi Itinerarium per Walliam (in cujus calce desideratur descriptio Baldwini Archiep. Cantuariensis, uti annotavit J. D. f. Johannes Davisius) Harl. MSS. 1757.

“————— Itinerarium Cambriæ,” Cotton. MSS. Dom, i. 56.

“————— descriptio Cambriæ, libri duo, sc., et 2 illaudabilium.” Cotton. MSS. Dom. i. 111 b.

“————— Cambriæ descriptio.” Cotton. MSS. Vitel. C. x. 1.

“————— Cambriæ descriptio, ad Hurbertum Cant. Archiep. inscripta:” plura desunt quæ habentur in editione Camdeniana; plura etiam hic reperiuntur quæ in laudata editione desiderantur. Cotton. MSS. Nero. D. viii. 116.

“————— Topographia-Cambriæ” } Harl. MSS.

“————— De illaudabilibus Walliæ.” } 1757.

“————— De Mirabilibus Walliæ.” Cotton. MSS. Vitel. A. xiii. 98 b.

“————— Excerpta ex Topographia Cambriæ” } Har. MSS.

“————— Excerpta alia ex eodem libro” } 359.

“————— Excerpta e Giraldo de topographia Walliæ, aliisque.” Cotton. MSS. Domit. xviii. 123 b.

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“Excerpta de Itinerario Gerardi Cambrensis per Wal-  
liam.” } Harl. MSS.  
“Descriptio Wallensium et eciam Wallye secundum  
eundem Gerardum.” } 912.

“The Itinerarium of Giralde Cambrensis; and a de-  
scription as well of Wales as Britayne, written in Latyn  
and then in Englyshe by John Stowe, A. D. 1575.” } Harl. MSS.  
“Giraldus Cambrensis description of Wales, written  
by John Stowe in Anno 1575.” } 551.

There is in the Badmington Library a very curious MS. intituled  
“Notitia Cambrobritannica. Voyage of North and South Wales;  
being various cursory remarks touching their ancient kings, &c.  
Views of Churches—funeral monuments—fragments of antiquity—  
castles—seats of Gentlemen—with sundry observations in attending  
his grace the Duke of Beaufort in his progress and general visitation  
of his commands there A. D. 1684. By J. D. Gen. (Thomas  
Dinely)” It is illustrated by a great number of drawings and views.

“Leland’s Itinerary,” the journey through Wales.

“Leland’s Collectanea,” will also furnish many important particu-  
lars relating to the principality.

“A short relation of a long Journey made round or ovall by en-  
compassing the Principalitie of Wales, from London through and by  
the counties of Middlesex, and Buckingham, Berks, Oxonia, War-  
wick, Stafford, Chester, Flint, Denbigh, Anglesey, Carnarvon, Me-  
rioneth, Cardigan, Pembroke, Caermarden, Glamorgan, Monmouth,  
Glocester, &c. &c. performed by the Riding, Going, Crawling, Run-  
ning, and Writing of John Taylor,” (the Water Poet) 8vo.

“A Gentleman’s Tour through Wales,” 12mo. 1774. This was  
republished, with additions and plates, in 1781, under the following  
title:

“A Tour through Monmouthshire and Wales made in the months  
of June and July 1774, and in the months of June, July, and August,  
1777. By Henry Penruddocke Wyndham,” large 4to.

“Southeby’s Tour through Wales, with Views by Smith, 4to.”  
1794.

“Two successive Tours through the whole of Wales, with several  
of the adjacent English counties, so as to form a comprehensive view  
of the picturesque beauty, the peculiar manners, and the fine remains  
of antiquity in that interesting part of the British Islands, by Henry  
Skrine, Esq.” London 1778, 8vo.

“A Walk through Wales in August 1797, by the Rev. Richard  
Warner of Bath.” Bath 1778, 8vo.

“A Second Walk through Wales, by the Rev. Richard Warner,  
in August and September,” 1788. Bath 1799.

“Hutton’s Remarks on North Wales,” 8vo. 1803. It contains some  
observations on the northern parts of South Wales.

“Collection of Welsh Tours.” 12mo. 1797.

“Cambrian



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“Cambrian Directory, or Cursory Sketches of the Welsh Territories, with a Chart, comprehending at one view, the advisable route, best Inns, distances, and objects most worthy of attention.” 8vo.

“Cambrian Itinerary, or Welsh Tourist: containing an Historical and Topographical description of the Antiquities and Beauties of Wales, &c. &c. by Thomas Evans,” 8vo. London, 1801.

“The Cambrian Traveller’s Guide and Pocket Companion; containing the collected information of the most popular and authentic writers, relating to the principality of Wales, &c. &c.” 1808. Stourport. This has been since printed in 8vo. with considerable additions.

“A Tour through the South of England and Wales,” 8vo. 1793.

“Mather’s tour through Wales.”

“The History of the Worthies of England, by Thomas Fuller, D. D. a new Edition with a few Explanatory Notes by John Nichols, F. A. S.” 2 Vols. 4to. Lond. 1811.

“The Cambrian Register, for 1795, 1796,” 2 Vols. 8vo.

“Observations on the Welsh Castles by the Hon. Daines Barrington.” Archæology of the Society of Antiquaries, Vol. I. p. 280.

“Cambria, a Poem in three Books. Illustrated with notes historical, critical, and explanatory.” By Richard Rolt, London, 1749, 4to.

“The Fall of Cambria, by Joseph Cottle,” 2 Vols. 12mo. 1808.

“Madoc, by Robert Southey,” 2 Vols. 12mo. 1812.

“An Address to the Charitable and well disposed in behalf of the Poor in the principality of Wales,” London, 1741. for printing Bibles, &c.

“Welsh Piety, or an Account of the circulating Welsh Charity Schools from Michaelmas 1737 to Michaelmas 1738,” &c. London, 1738, 8vo.

“Some account of two Musical Instruments used in Wales by the Hon. Daines Barrington.” Archæology, Vol. III. p. 300.

“Roberts’s Popular Antiquities of Wales,” 4to. 1814.

“Mercurii Britanici pars Altera, sive plantarum gratia suscepti itineris in Cambriam, sive Walliam descriptio, &c,” London, 1641. 8vo.

“The principal Rivers of Wales illustrated; consisting of a series of views from the source of each river to its mouth; accompanied by descriptions historical, topographical, and picturesque. By John Wood, F. S. A.” 4to. London, 1813.

“Voyage Round Great Britain, by Richard Ayton, illustrated with Views by Wm. Daniel, Esq. A. R. A.” folio, containing several Views on the coast of Wales, London, 1814.

Saxton published a General Map of Wales and Denbigh, 1579.

The next general Map of Wales is Speed’s 1610, “adorned with views of the four Cathedrals; and of Beaumaris, Carnarvan, Harlew, Carlisle”

#### LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

Cardigan, Penbrok, Carmarthen, Denbigh, Flint, Montgomery, Radnor, Brecknock, and Cardife."

There was published at the same time with Lewis Morris's plans of harbours, &c. in St. George's Channel, 1748, a large sheet Chart of the coast of Wales in St. George's Channel: "done from the same Survey with those roads and harbours; which chart being an abstract of the survey at large, will be very useful and convenient to them that have this book; to shew the situations of the harbours, &c. described here, as well as the courses and distances from place to place and all other requisites belonging to a sea chart of that kind," 1737—1744. Mr. Lewis Morris published also a set of Charts of the Coast of Wales.

"Buck's Views of the Antiquities of Wales," folio.

"Views in Wales, consisting of Castles and other interesting buildings, by Paul Sandby."

#### SOUTH WALES.

"An account of some remains of Roman and other Antiquities in and near the town of Brecknock, in South Wales, by John Strange, Esq." In the *Archæology of the Society of Antiquaries*, Vol. I. p. 294.

"Observations on the Julia Strata and on the Roman stations, forts and camps in the counties of Monmouth, Brecknock, Caermarthen, and Glamorgan, by the Rev. William Harris, prebendary of Landaff, and curate of Caerau." *Archæology*, Vol. II. p. 1, et seq.

"A Farther account of some remains of Roman and other Antiquities in or near the county of Brecknock in South Wales, by John Strange, Esq." *Archæology* Vol. IV. p. 1, &c.

"Remarks on the Rev. Mr. W. Harris's observations on the Roman Antiquities in Monmouthshire and the neighbouring counties of Wales, &c. by John Strange, Esq." *Archæology*, Vol. VI. p. 6. &c.

"Description of a Roman Hypocaust discovered near Brecknock." *Archæology*, Vol. VII. p. 205.

"Observations on a Tour in Wales by Mr. Salusbury Breretoñ." *Idem*. Vol. III. p. 3.

"The Scenery, Antiquities, and Biography, of South Wales, from materials collected during two excursions in the year 1803. By Benj. Heath Malkin, Esq. M. A. F. S. A. Embellished with views, drawn on the spot, and engraved by Laporte, and a map of the country." London, 1804, 4to.

This is a very excellent and well written work.

"Descriptive excursions through South Wales and Monmouthshire in the year 1804, and the four preceding summers. By E. Donovan, F. L. S. Embellished with 31 plates of views, antiquities, &c;" in two volumes, 8vo. London 1805. The author is well known to the public by his splendid publications on Natural History. His Tour is highly creditable to his observation and talents.

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“Tour through South Wales, by the Rev. John Evans, A. M.” 8vo. 1804. The same gentleman who wrote the account of North Wales for the BEAUTIES OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

“Lipscombe’s Tour in South Wales,” 8vo. 1802.

“Manby’s Tour in South Wales,” 8vo. 1802.

“Barber’s Tour through South Wales,” 8vo. 1803.

“Tour through part of South Wales, by a pedestrian Traveller,” 4to. 1797.

“Mrs. Morgan’s Tour to Milford Haven,” 8vo.

“A Tour in Quest of Genealogy through several parts of Wales, &c. by a Barrister,” 8vo.

“Poems by Edward Williams, the Welsh Bard,” 2 Vols. 12mo. 1794. Some valuable historical and biographical materials in the Notes, relating to South Wales.

Gilpin’s observations on the river Wye, and several parts of South Wales.

Mr. Edward Martin’s paper on the Mineral Bason of South Wales, inserted in the Philosophical Transactions, Vol. 27, No. 334.

“The Cambrian Visitor,” a periodical work published at Swansea, contains many interesting original papers on subjects relating to South Wales.

For the Ecclesiastical Topography &c. of South Wales, the following works may be consulted :

“Dugdale’s Monasticon.”

“Tanner’s Notitia Monastica.”

“Wharton’s Anglia Sacra.”

“Browne Willis’s Survey of the Cathedrals of Landaff and St. David’s.”

“Francisci Godwini de Præsulibus Angliæ, a Richardson,” folio. Cantab. 1743.

“Dugdale’s Baronage” will furnish much information relative to the Lord’s Marchers, or the Norman and English lords who held possessions in South Wales, together with the settlement and transfer of their estates by marriage, forfeiture, &c.

“God’s Warning to his people of England, by the great overflows of the waters or floudes, lately happened in South Wales, and many other places: wherein is described the great losses and wonderful damages that happened thereby; by the drowning of many townes and villages, to the utter undoing of many thousandes of people,” 4to. London, 1607.

“The distressed oppressed condition of the inhabitants of South Wales for many years last past, briefly and impartially stated. 1. In reference to their spiritual concerns. 2. In relation to their civil rights and freedoms. With several proposals tending to the discovery

of above 150,000*l.* unaccounted for to the commonwealth," 4to. no date.

"The heads of the present grievances of the county of Glamorgan declaring the cause of their late rising and taking up armes," &c. 4to. Lond. 1647.

"Two Petitions presented to the King's most excellent Majesty at Yorke, the first of August 1642; the first from the Gentry, Ministers, &c. of the Counties of Denbeigh, Anglesey, Glamorgan, and the whole principality of Wales," &c. 4to. Lond. 1642.

"Contemplations upon these Times, or the Parliament explained to Wales," 4to. Lond. 1646.

"A Full relation of the whole proceedings of the late rising and commotion in Wales under pretence for the King and Sir Thomas Fairfax," 4to. Lond. 1647. The official documents contained in this publication relate wholly to some transactions in Glamorganshire.

"The humble acknowledgement of the inhabitants of South Wales, and the county of Monmouth, presented to the supreme authority of this nation the Parliament of the Commonwealth of England," 4to. Lond. 1650.

"The Declaration and Resolution of Col. John Poyer, concerning Lieut. Gen. Cromwel, and the particular relation of another Great Fight in Wales," 4to. Lond. 1648. This relates to some skirmishing between Col. Horton and Col. Poyer in Caermarthenshire and Cardiganshire.

"The declaration of Lieut. Gen. Cromwell concerning his present design and engagement against Col. Poyer, and his adherents in South Wales," &c. 4to. Lond. 1648.

"Col. Poyer's Forces in Wales totally routed by the Parliaments forces commanded by Col. Horton, &c." 4to. Lond. 1648. This relates to the Battle of St. Fagan's.

"The humble representation and address to his highness (Oliver Cromwell) of several Churches and Christians in South Wales," &c. 4to. Lond. 1656.

"A declaration and Remonstrance of the inhabitants of South Wales," &c. 4to. Lond. 1650.

"A declaration of divers Gentlemen of Wales, with their proposition to his highness Prince Charles," &c. 4to. Lond. 1648.

"Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy," folio 1714.

"Mercurius Cambro Britannicus, or News from Wales touching the glorious and miraculous propagation of the Gospel in those parts, &c." 4to. Lond. 1652.

"Strena Vavasoriensis, or a Hue and Cry after Vavasor Powel."

The last two tracts were written by Alexander Griffiths, Vicar of Glasbury in Brecknockshire, who was turned out of his living in the time of Charles the first by the Commissioners of the Parliament.

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“The Life and Death of Vavasor Powel,” 12mo. 1671. See also the *Universal Theological Magazine* for 1805.

“The Taylors Cussion,” a miscellaneous collection of MS. tracts, contains several pieces relating to South Wales. This curious little volume was purchased at the sale of Mr. Gough’s MSS. by Richard Heber, Esq.

The *Antiquarian Repertory* contains accounts of some objects of topographical interest in South Wales.

In the *Philosophical Transactions*, No. 243, p. 279, is a paper by Mr. Edward Llwyd respecting some stones found in South Wales; and another in No. 252, p. 186, giving an account of a figured marble or Alcyonium found there.

Williams’s *History of Monmouthshire*, contains much information relating to other parts of South Wales, particularly of Glamorgan-shire.

The Rev. Walter Davies, author of the *Agricultural Survey of North Wales*, has also made a similar Survey of South Wales for the Board of Agriculture: but it has not yet been published.

Map of South Wales by Nathaniel Coltman.

The Counties of South Wales, by E. Bowen.

The Counties of South Wales, by T. Kitchin.

BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

“A History of the County of Brecknock, in 2 Volumes, 4to. By Theophilus Jones, Deputy Registrar of the Archdry. of Brecon.” Brecknock, 1805.

This is a work of great labour and research; and contains a great mass of information, though not always communicated in the most pleasing form. The worthy and learned author died soon after the completion of his arduous undertaking.

“King’s Munimenta;” has some observations on Brwynllys Castle in this county.

In the *Gentleman’s Magazine* for October, 1774, p. 469, there is an account by Dr. Blenkinsop of the Mineral Waters of Llanwrtyd in this county, which had been discovered by the Rev. Theophilus Evans.

“De Situ Brecheniauc, ubi multa de Brachano ejusque prole.”—Cotton. MSS. Vesp. A. xiv. 10. b.

“A Geographical description of Brecknockshire, and of most of the rarities, wonders, and remarkable places therein, 20 pages in an old hand.” Harl. MSS. 7017.

“History of Brecknock from Meyrick king of Brytain until 1693. 18 pages in an old hand.” Harl. MSS. 7017.

“History of Brecon and Glamorgan from the time of Meurrick king of

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of Brittain, until the year 1606." An Octavo Volume. Harl. MSS. 6108.

"Genealogia Comitum de Brecknock, a temp. Henrici I. A. D. 1230." Gallice. Cotton. MSS. Julius D. x. 28.

"A List of the Sheriffs of Brecknockshire ever since it was made shire-ground A. D. 1539 to A. D. 1717, inclusive." Harl. MSS. 2289.

"Justices of the Peace in Brecknockshire, A. D. 1620." Harl. MSS. 1933.

"Valor Beneficiorum in Com. Brecknock." Harl. MSS. 128.

"Cognatio et genealogia Brychain, unde Brechinia dicta est pars Demetia." Cotton. MSS. Dom. I. 157, b.

A large Collection of Brecknockshire pedigrees, in the hand of Mr. Hugh Thomas. Harl. MSS. 2289.

"A List of the Bayliffs, Recorders, and Aldermen of the Burrough of Brecknock, ever since it was incorporated by King Philip and Mary, A. D. 1556 to A. D. 1715 inclusive." Harl. MSS. 2289.

"Charter of Wm. and Mary confirming all former grants and charters of K. Hen. VIII. and Qu. Eliz. of the emoluments of the dissolved house of the Freers Mendicants, College of Aberguerille, &c. to the new erected college, called Christ College of Brecknock." Harl. MSS. 6809.

"General View of the Agriculture of the county of Brecknock, &c. by John Clark," 4to. Lond. 1794.

Buck's Views of Brecknock Priory and Castle, the castles of Landdew, Blaen lleveny, Penkelly, Crickhowell, Tretwr, Hay, Brwynllys.

Speed's Map with a plan of the town of Brecknock.

Kitchen's Map.

Bowen's Map.

CAERMARTHENSHIRE.

"The Charter of the Borough of Caermarthen," 8vo. Caermarthen 1765.

"Major General Laugharne's letter to the Speaker on the taking of Caermarthen Town and Castle, and reducing that county to the Parliament."

"John Cade's representation of the poor estate of the town of Kidwillie to Sir George Carew, knight Marshall, with a proposal for improvements, temp. Eliz." Printed in Leland's Coll. Vol. II. p. 695. MS. in the Harleian Coll. B. Museum, 5203.

"Henry the fifth's precept about restoring the temporals of St. Clere priory in St. David's diocese to Thomas Elmham prior." Rymer IX, 383. Hearne's Elmham, p. 340.

"The

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“The Head of the Rock, a Welsh Landskip. Being a prospect near Abergwilly Palace, the residence of the Bishop of St. David’s in the neighbourhood of Caermarthen. By William Williams of Pembrokeshire.” London, 1775, 12mo.

“Llangynnor Hill, a Poem. By Edwards.”

In the Philosophical Transactions, No. 416, p. 444, is an account of the effects of Lightning in Caermarthenshire, by Mr. Evan Davies.

The Gentleman’s Magazine, July 1776, contains an account of an inscription on a stone pillar in this county, which is explained in that for November following, p. 508.

Dyer’s Poems—Grongar Hill, &c.

“General View of the Agriculture of the County of Caermarthen, by Charles Hassal.” 4to. Lond. 1794.

“A Collection of Caermarthenshire Pedegrees,” &c. Harl. MSS. 2300.

“Valor Beneficiorum in Com. Carmerthen.” Harl. MSS. 128.

“Caermarthen, both shyre and towne, described by John Speed.”

Kitchen’s Map of the County with a south east view of Caermarthen.

A large View of the town of Caermarthen by Buck; a smaller south of the Castle 1740.

South-east View of the Castle by Buck 1740.

Buck’s Views of the Castles Caerkennin (Careg Ceuen)—Green, Laugharne, Llanstephan, Dinevor.

View of Dinevor Castle by Sandhy.

In the last edition of “Fuller’s Worthies,” the very respectable editor, John Nichols, Esq. has inserted in the list of Books relating to this County, “A History of Caermarthenshire, by Nugent.” As I have never heard of this work, I take it for granted there must be some mistake in its insertion in this place. On personal application to Mr. Nichols on the subject, he was unable to say on what authority he had given the title.

CARDIGANSHIRE.

“History and Antiquities of the County of Cardigan, by S. R. Merick, A. B.” Lond. 1808. 4to.

“A Letter from Capt. Richard Swanley to the Right Hon. the Earl of Warwick, being a full relation of the taking of the town and castle of Cardigan in Wales, by Major General Laugharne, with above 100 Commanders and common soldiers, and all the arms and ammunition therein, &c. published by authority,” London printed for John Thomas, 1645.

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

Mr. Ray annexed to his Collection of English local words, 1674, 1691, 1742, an account of the manner of preparing silver in Cardiganshire.

“*Fodinæ Regales, or the History, Laws, and Places of the Chief Mines and Mineral Works in England and Wales, and the English pale in Ireland.* By Sir John Pettus, Knt.” London 1670, folio.

“*A just and true remonstrance of his Majesty’s Mines Royal in the principality of Wales.* By Thomas Bushel,” 4to. Lond. 1642.

“*Proposals for enriching the principality of Wales, humbly submitted to the consideration of his countrymen, by Giraldus Cambrensis.*” 8vo. Gloucester 1762.

“*The Mine Adventure, or an expedient, first for composing all differences between the partners of the mines late of Sir Carbery Pryse, 2ndly, for establishing a new method for the management thereof and thereby setting an equal and fair constitution for every person concerned, &c. &c.* Proposed by Sir Humphrey Mackworth,” London 1698, fol.

“*An Essay on the value of the Mines late of Sir Carbery Price.* By William Waller, Gent. Steward of the said Mines, writ for the private satisfaction of all the Partners.” London 1698. Mr. Waller wrote also “*The Mine Adventure : or an experiment proposed by Sir H. Mackworth,*” and “*A Description of the Mines,*” with plans 12mo.

“*A familiar discourse or dialogue concerning the Mine Adventure, 8vo. Lond. 1700, (By Mr. Shiers).* To which is prefixed, *An Abstract of the present state of the Mines of Bwlch yr Yskir hir ; and of the material proceedings of the Committee, appointed for the management thereof ; published for the information and satisfaction of the Absent Partners, and at their request.* By order of the Committee.”

“*A List of the Names of the Mine Adventurers, printed by Freeman Collins,*” 1700.

“*Mr. Yalden’s Poem to Sir Humphrey Mackworth, on the Mines late of Sir Carbery Price,*” folio. Reprinted in the *Poetical Calendar, Vol. IV. p. 65,* and in Dr. Johnson’s edition of the *English Poets.*

“*The Case of Sir Humphry Mackworth, and of the Mine Adventurers, with respect to the irregular proceedings of several Justices of the Peace for the county of Glamorgan, and of their Agents and Dependents.*” Lond. 1705, 4to.

“*The Case of Sir Humphrey Mackworth and the Mine Adventurers, with respect to the extraordinary proceedings of the Agents, Servants, and Dependents, of the Right Hon. Sir Thomas Mansel, Bart.*” London, 1707, 4to.

“*Some account of Mines, and the advantages of them to this Kingdom, with an Appendix relating to the Mine Adventure in Wales.*” London 1707, 8vo.

“*Waller’s Mine Adventure laid open, with plates,*” 1711.



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“A reply to the same,” 1712.

“A plan of the Waste or Common and adjoining Freeholds in the upper parcel of the parish of Gwnws in the manour of Mevenith, in the county of Cardigan, with the mines of Esgair y Mwyn, situate on the said Waste or Common, taken by virtue of an Order of the court of Exchequer, dated the 11th day of July 1753, by Edward John Eyre, Surveyor.”

“Cumberland’s Attempt to describe Hafod.”

“Tour to Hafod by J. E. Smith, M. D. F. R. S. &c. accompanied with splendid Views of the Scenery in the Grounds, and adjacent Country.” Lond 1810, large folio.

Valor Beneficiorum, &c. in Com. Cardigan. Harl. MSS. 128.

“General View of the Agriculture of the County of Cardigan, drawn up from the communications of Thomas Lloyd, Esq. and of the Rev. Mr. Turner,” 4to. Lond. 1794.

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“ Swansea Guide,” 12mo.

In “ Birch’s History of the Royal Society,” Vol. IV. p. 329, is a Letter from Mr. William Cole of Bristol, to Dr. Plot, about the liquor of Shellfish, found near St. Donat’s, staining linen.

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“Account of Lantwit Major printed in the Cambrian Visitor from a Manuscript by Mr. Edward Williams, the Welsh Bard.”

“A Map of the County of Glamorgan from an actual Survey made by George Yates of Liverpool,” four Sheets 1799. This is a handsome and excellent Map.

“Glamorganshire Comitatus Australis Cambria descriptio, by Saxton,” 1578.

“Glamorganshire, with the situations of the chief towne of Cardyff and ancient Landaffe described, by John Speed,” 1610.

Kitchin’s Map of Glamorgan, with a N. W. View of Cardiff.

Buck’s Views of St. Donat’s Castle, Landaff, Neath Abbey, Neath Castle, Caerphili Castle, Cardiff, Cardiff Castle, Ewenny Priory, Swansea and Castle, Oystermouth Castle, Pennarth, Coyty, Llanblythian, Penrice, Morlashe, Webley.

Sandby’s View of St. Donat’s, Landaff, Neath River from Britton Ferry, Copper Works at Neath, West Gate of Cardiff, Cardiff Castle, St. Quintin’s Castle.

View of Pont y ty pridd, with a short history of the Bridge, in the Gentleman’s Magazine, Dec. 1764, p. 564.

Plan and Prospect of the same Bridge published in 1755, and dedicated to Lord Windsor.

View of the same by R. Wilson, 1767, engraved by Carot.

## PEMBROKESHIRE.

“A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire by Richard Fenton, Esq. F. A. S.” 4to. London, 1811.

“Bishops and Benefactors of St. David’s vindicated from the misrepresentations of a recent publication (Mr. Fenton’s Historical Tour) in a Charge delivered to the Chapter of St. David’s at his primary Visitation of the Cathedral Church, on the 30th of July 1811, by the Right Rev. Thomas Burgess, DD. F. R. S. & F. A. S. Bishop of St. David’s. To which are added a Postscript, and an Appendix of Original Documents,” 4to. Caermarthen 1812.

The Appendix contains a long schedule of Records relating to the see of St. David’s, which the learned prelate informs us, is to be considered as “the foundation of a series of *Collectanea Menevensia* intended to be published, consisting of 1. Extracts from our old historians. 2. Charters of Privileges, endowments, grants, &c. 3. Extracts from the Statuta Eccles. Meneven. 4. Extracts from the Extenta terrarum et reddituum Episcopi Menevensis facta per Magistrum David Frauncis A. D. 1326. 5. Manuscript Papers from the Bodleian and other Libraries. 6. Communications from learned friends and correspondents.”

For many manuscript documents relating to the see of St. David’s, reference may be had to this Schedule.

“Annales Ecclesiæ Menevensis ab Orbe Condito usque ad 1286.” Harl. MSS. 838.

“Fragmentum de Archiepiscopis Menevensibus qui non sunt usi pallio: ex historia Britannica Scripta.” Cotton. MSS. Cleop. E. i. 99.

“Chronica Ven. Bedæ, et aliorum usque ad An. 1288 (Annales Ecclesiæ Menevensis) ubi versus finem, multa de rebus et principibus Wallicis habentur.” Cotton. MSS. Dom. I. 138.

This is erroneously referred to by Dr. Burgess as Dom A. 1.

“Excerptum ex historia Britannica de Archiepiscopis Menevensis qui pallium non gestarunt, et tamen episcopos Walliæ consecrabant.” (Wallice Scriptum circa temp. Hen. VI). Cotton. MSS. Claud. A. viii. 76. b.

“Omnes Ecclesiæ Spectantes ad donationem sive præsentationem Reginæ, Episcopi et nonnullorum aliorum patronum infra Episcopatum Menevensem.” Harl. MSS. 6077.

“The districts of the several counties in Wales belonging to the bishoprick of St. David’s, with their towns and assessments.” Harl. MSS. 6696.

“Codex membranaceus, pervetustus, carie prope finem exesus, continens Statua Ecclesiæ Menevensis.” Harl. MSS. 6280.

“Codex Chartaceus recenti manu scriptus continens Acta, et Statua Ecclesiæ Menevensis, Cartæ, Bullæ, Indenturæ, Literæ patentes et alia Instrumenta publica.” Harl. MSS. 1249.

“Extractus

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“Beneficia Spectantia ad Collationem Epi Menevensis.” Harl. MSS. 6077.

“The names of all the parishe Churches and Chapells within the diocese of Saint David’s, &c. Signed by Richard Davies Bp. of that Diocese.” A. D. 1563. Harl. MSS. 595.

“Valor Beneficiorum in Com. Pembrok.” Harl. MSS. 128.

“Silvestri Girald. De Successione Episcoporum, et gestis eorum, viz. Bernardi et David Secundi.” Harl. MSS. 359. See also 544.

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“A History of Pembrokeshire from a manuscript of George Owen, Esq. of Henllys, Lord of Kemes, with additions and observations by John Lewis, Esq. of Manerawan, the same that is referred to and cited in Gibson’s edition of Camden, and now first published from the original, by his great grandson, Richard Fenton, Esq.” in the Cambrian Register, Vol. 2. for 1796.

Mr. George Owen’s description of the County of Pembroke. Harl. MSS. 6250.

“Description of Berkly in Pembrokeshire,” 6 leaves Harl. MSS. 7017.

Justices of the Peace in Pembrokeshire, A. D. 1620. Harl. MSS. 1933.

Several grants, &c. of Pembroke priory to St. Alban’s Abbey are in the acts of Abbot Whithamstide, published with Otterburne’s Chronicle by Hearne, Oxford, 1732, 8vo. p. 311, 314, 323, 523.

“A Letter from the Earl of Pembroke to Q. Elizabeth, dated Feb. 11, 1592, containing his opinion on the expediency, and practicability of fortifying Milford Haven,” printed in Murden’s State Papers, p. 659.

“Reasons humbly submitted to the consideration of the honourable the House of Commons with respect to the commodious situation of Milford Haven for fitting out fleets and expeditions from thence in the time of War, with a copy of Captain Philip Skelton’s letter in support of the said reasons.” Single folio Sheet, 1757.

“A plain disquisition on the indispensable necessity of fortifying  
and

and improving Milford Haven ; containing likewise an attempt to demonstrate the advantages that will arise from it to this nation, with some hints on the prosecuting scheme. To which is annexed an exact map of the harbour, drawn after a very late Survey. Addressed to a patriotic member of Parliament," London, 1759, 8vo.

"Beneficial Reflections on Milford Haven. A short memorial of its advantages, how it might be improved and fortified:" In Butler's Posthumous Works, Vol. I. p. 411.

"Asserius Menevensis de Alfrædi Rebus Gestis," 8vo.

"A true relation of the discomfiting and routing the Earl of Carbery and his forces out of the county of Pembroke, manned and performed under God by the valiant and courageous gentlemen, Col. Rowland Laugharne, John Poyer, Mayor of Pembroke, Esq. Major Thos. Laugharne, Simon Thelwall, and Arthur Owen, Esq. Capt. Powel and Capt. Cuney, and other well affected Commanders and Gentlemen, &c." Lond, 1643.

"Norris's Architectural Antiquities of Wales," the first three numbers, containing Views, &c. of St. David's. This work cannot be too highly praised for the fidelity of the views, and the elegance with which the whole is finished.

"History and Antiquities of the parish of St. David's, by W. Manby, Esq." 8vo. 1801.

"Etchings of Tenby ; including many ancient edifices which have been destroyed, &c. with an account of that town and of the principal buildings in the neighbourhood. By Charles Norris, Esq." 4to. Lond. 1812. This is a very beautiful work.

"The Tenby Guide ; comprehending such information, relating to that town and its vicinity, as could be collected from ancient and modern authorities." 12mo. Swansea. 1810.

Letter from Mr. Edward Llwyd to Dr. Lister, giving an account of locusts observed Oct. 20, 1693 in Marthery Parish ; and green worms on a hill in Maen Clochy parish, 1601. Inserted in the Philosophical Transactions, No. 208, p. 45.

"General View of the Agriculture of the County of Pembroke, by Charles Hassal," 4to. Lond. 1794.

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"South Prospect of the Cathedral Church of St. David's, with a ground plan, drawn by Thomas Lewis, Engraved by T. Miller ; dedicated to Bishop Moss, with a Sheet of Letter-press containing a History of the Church," 1770.

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View of Pembroke Town and Castle by James Mason after Wilson.  
St. Gouen's Chapel, etched by John Campbell, 1775.

View of Haverford West Castle and Bridge, 1773.

View of Kilgarran Castle after Wilson by William Elliot.

"Penbrok Comitatus qui inter meridionales Cambriae provincias hodie censetur, olim Demetia, L. Dyfet. B. h. e. occidentalis Wallia, descriptio." Saxton 1578,

"Penbrokshyre described, and the situations both of Pembroke and St. David's shewed in due form as they were taken by John Speed, 1610."

Kitchen's Map, with an E. view of Haverford West.

RADNORSHIRE.

"A journey to Llandrindod Wells, in Radnorshire; with a particular description of those Wells, the places adjacent, the humours of the company there, &c. Being a faithful narrative of every occurrence worth notice, that happened in a journey to and from those Wells. To which is added, Observations and information to those who intend visiting Llandrindod: and to which is prefixed the Parsons Tale, a poem, by a Countryman, the second edition corrected and amended," Lond. 1746. The first was about 1744. The work, says Gough, of a Lawyer, who gave himself great airs there, and afterwards drew caricatures of all the characters he conversed with.

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"Justices of the Peace in Radnorshire. A. D. 1620." Harl. MSS. 1933.

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"Radnor, Breknok, Cardigan, et Caermarden, quatuor Australis Cambriae Comitatum, B. Deheubar, A. South Wales, descriptio." Saxton, 1578.

"The Countie of Radnor described, and the shyre townes situation, 1610—by John Speed."

Kitchen's Map.





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## BEAUTIES OF SOUTH WALES.

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## ERRATA.

*The reader is requested to make the following corrections. He will meet with some other occasional literal errors, which he will be pleased to rectify.*

Page 96, line 15, for *eastern* read *western*.

— 118, — 5, note, from the bottom, after *would* insert *not*.

— 151, Mr. Price of Builth, is erroneously said to be the member for New Radnor; this borough being represented by Mr. Price of Knighton.

— 352, — 17, for *Langhorne* read *Laugharne*; and the same elsewhere, as the mistake has been committed in other instances.

— 475, — 21, after *dark*, for *a* read *and*.

— 482, — 17, for *aobi* read *acobi*.

— 488, — 4 from the bottom, for *Quod* read *Quid*.

— 557, — 14, for *probable* read *probably*.

— 599, — 1, for *depreciated* read *deprecatèd*.



# DIRECTIONS

FOR PLACING

*The Cuts to Volumes I, to IX. and XI, to XVIII.*

OF

THE BEAUTIES OF

## England and Wales.

---

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*The following are material errors in the writing on the Plates, others of less consequence it is unnecessary to notice.*

PENSHURST, *instead of* Sussex, *say* Kent.

MADINGLY, *instead of* Shropshire, *say* Cambridgeshire.

SWAFFHAM two Churches, *instead of* Norfolk, *say* do.

AIREY FORCE, *instead of* Westmoreland, *say* Cuinberland.

Instead of THAXTED CHURCH—the print represents SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX.

Instead of KOWDEN, Yorkshire, *read* HOWDEN.

CALDICOT CASTLE, Monmouthshire, *instead of* South Wales.

BURLEIGH GATEWAY, *instead of* Lincoln-hire, *say* Northamptonshire.

POOLEY HALL,—*instead of* Lancashire, *say* Warwickshire.

Several Plates of Middlesex, will be found in the Volumes above-mentioned which must be reserved for the TENTH, these having been given in other Volumes by mistake.

\* \* \* The temporary List of Plates given at the end of each Volume, to be cancelled.

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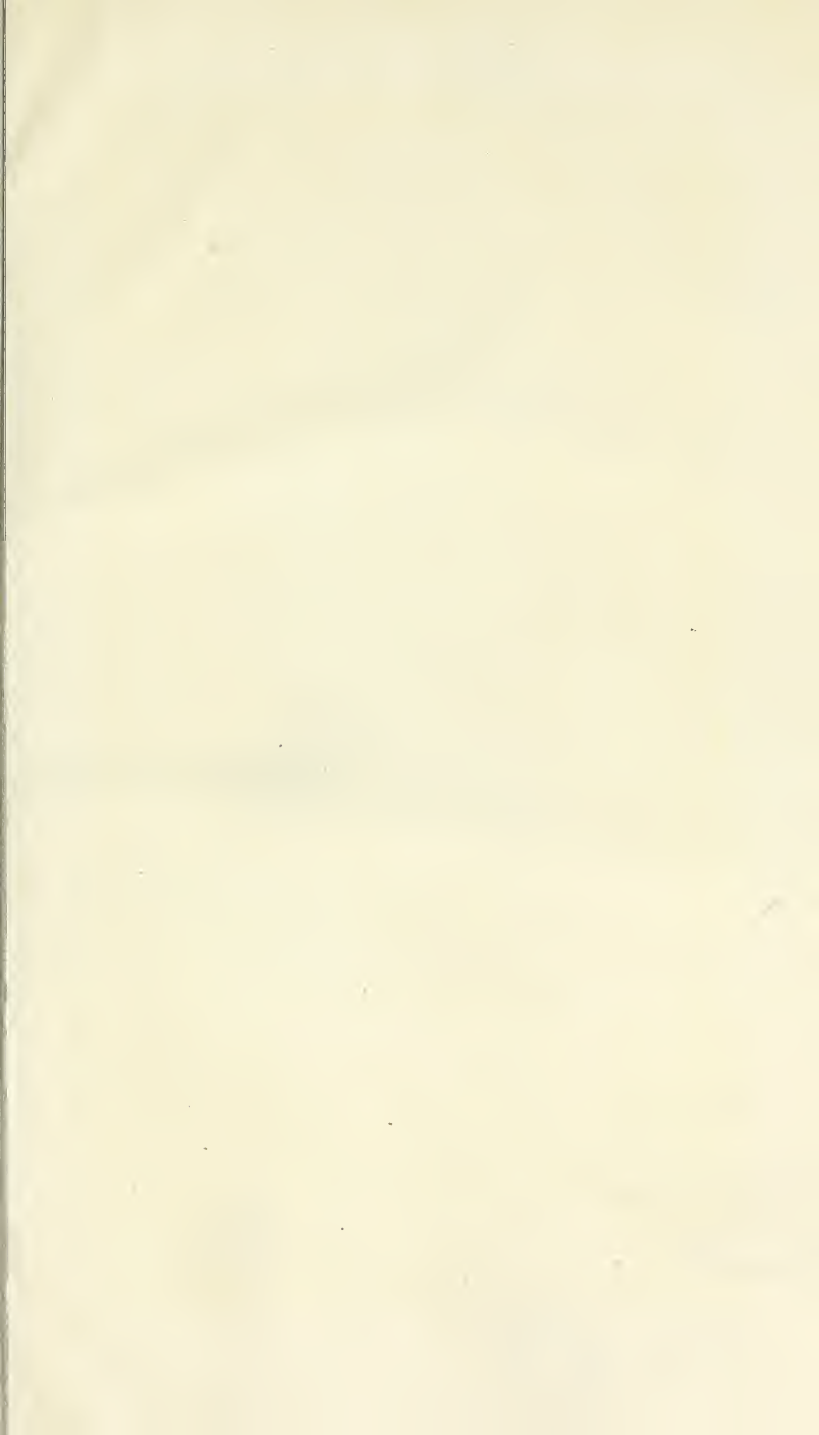
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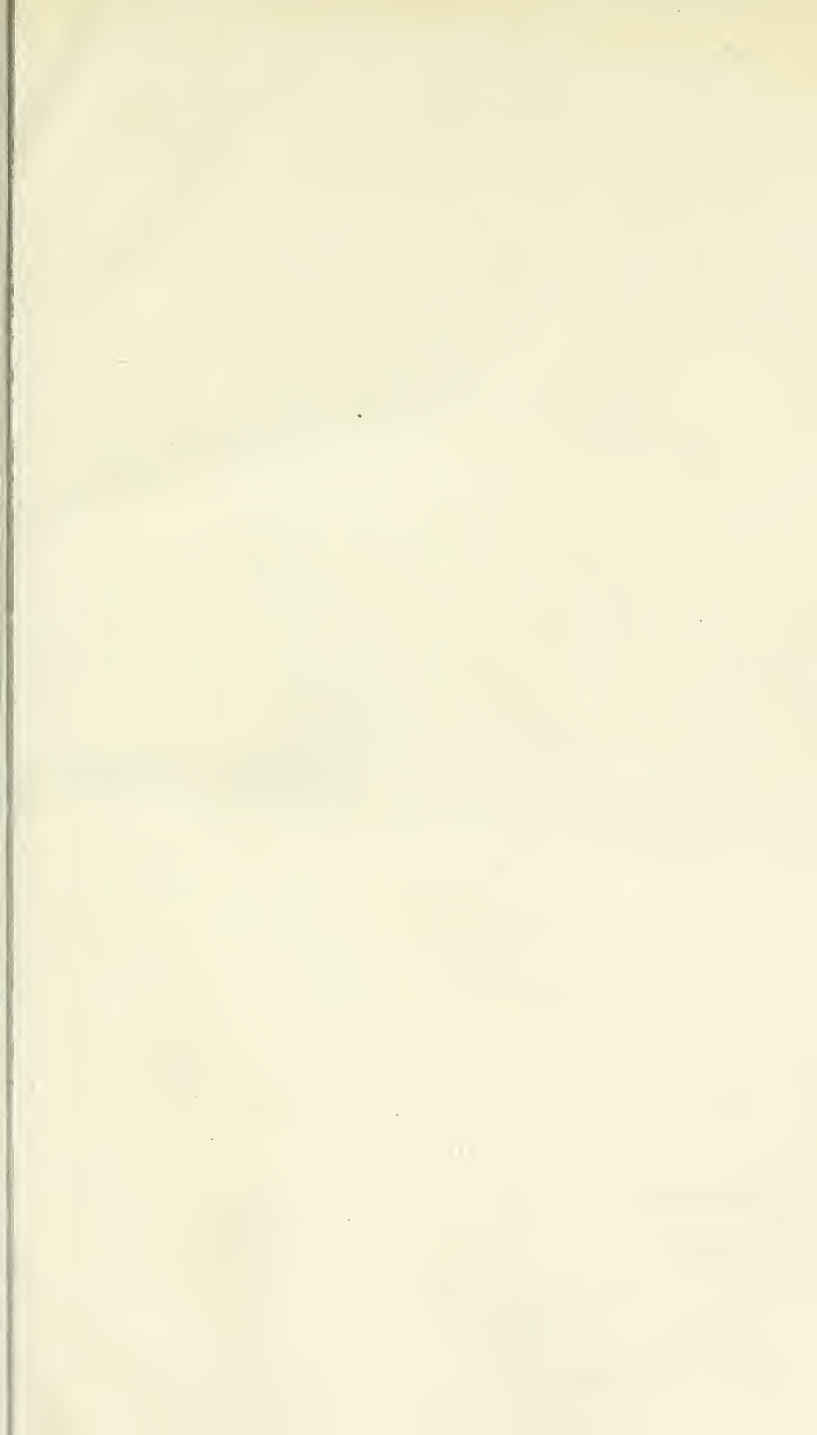
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IN making out the above Table of Directions to the Binder, the Publisher finds several Prints, of which there is no Description, these he has desired to be placed at the end of the County to which they are supposed to belong, and probably the local knowledge of the Subscribers may discover that, which he has not been enabled to do.







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