

THE HISTORY OF
BRECKNOCKSHIRE

GLANUSK EDITION

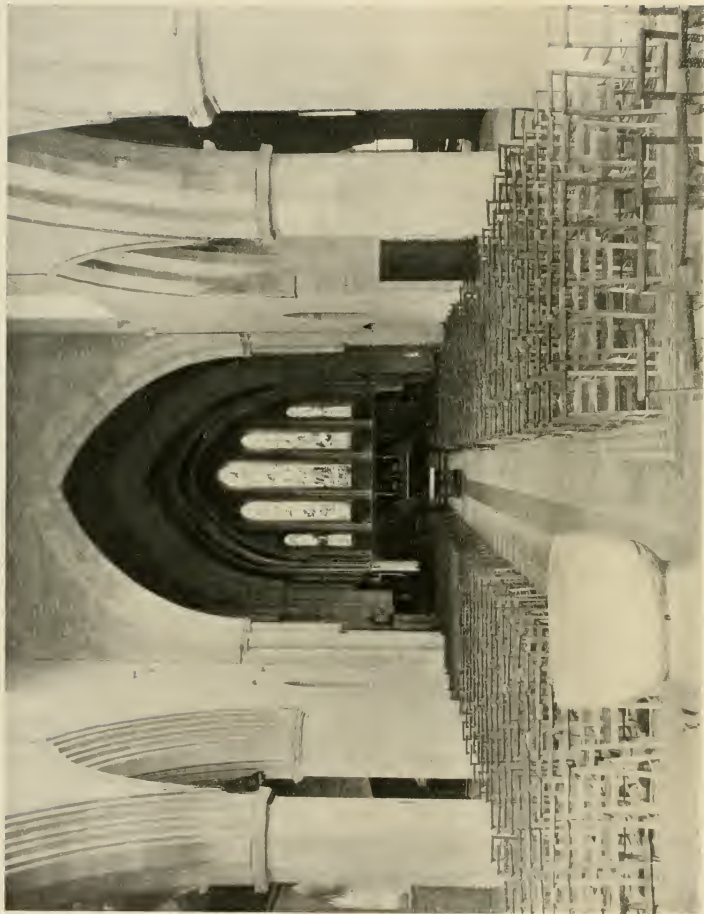
VOL. II.

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PRIORY CHURCH AT BRECON IN 1908

(From a Photograph by the Rev. H. Church Jones, M.A.)

HISTORY
OF
BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

A HISTORY
OF THE
COUNTY OF BRECKNOCK. *74163*

CONTAINING THE CHOROGRAPHY, GENERAL HISTORY, RELIGION, LAWS, CUSTOMS, MANNERS, LANGUAGE, SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURE, ANTIQUITIES, SEPULCHRAL MONUMENTS AND INSCRIPTIONS, NATURAL CURIOSITIES, VARIATIONS OF THE SOIL, STRATIFICATION, MINERALOGY, LIST OF RARE AND OTHER PLANTS AND BIRDS, PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY, NAMES AND BIOGRAPHIES OF SHERIFFS AND MAYORS OF BRECKNOCK, ALSO THE GENEALOGIES AND ARMS OF THE PRINCIPAL FAMILIES PROPERLY COLOURED AND EMBLAZONED, TOGETHER WITH THE HISTORY OF EVERY PARISH, AND THE NAMES OF THE PATRONS AND INCUMBENTS OF ALL LIVINGS.

By THEOPHILUS JONES,

Deputy Registrar of the Archdeaconry of Brecon.

Enlarged by the notes collected

By SIR JOSEPH RUSSELL BAILEY, BART., FIRST BARON GLANUSK

(Lord Lieutenant of Brecknockshire).

ILLUSTRATED WITH NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS, PORTRAITS, AND MAPS.

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THE HISTORY OF BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

VOLUME II.—CHAPTER I.

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Laws of Dyfnwal Moel-mud,—Hywel Dda,—the Lords Marchers,—the English Statutes,—Acts and Ordinances relative to Wales.

OUR first British legislator is placed so far back in the shade of antiquity, that his features are scarcely discernible, and his laws are not much better known than his character or his person.

He lived, it is said, about four hundred years before Christ, and was called Dyfnwal moel-mûd, or rather Dyfnwal mawl mäd¹ meaning Dyfnwal the famous or praiseworthy, whose name has been latinized into Dunwallus Molmutius; he died about the year 430 before Christ, according to George Owen Harry, and of his code only two mutilated extracts remain; one of them relates to the admeasurement of land, and is quoted in the laws of Hywel Dda and another by Rowland, which asserts the sovereignty of the imperial crown of London over the Kings of Wales, Scotland, and Cornwall. The laws of Dyfnwal continued to be obeyed, as far at least as the savage temper of the times respected any laws, until the coming of the Romans, when the system of jurisprudence which prevailed among the conquerors, became that of their subjects while they remained among them. Upon their departure, the Britons of Wales seem again to have recurred to their ancient code, on which Hywel Dda King of Wales, about the year 940 of the Christian era, built his superstructure, availing himself in the progress of his work of the systems of his predecessors, and the advice and assistance of the learned of his time. Though not a Breconshire man, he had one or two palaces in this county. Llyswen upon the Wye, where his grandfather, Roderick the Great, appointed the princes of Powys and Cardigan to meet to settle and adjust disputes, if such should arise between them, was one of Hywel's residences; and Caerau in Llangammarch near the western confines of the hundred of Builth was probably another.

The laws and ordinances of this prince, as Barrington observes in his preface to his *Observations on the Antient Statutes*, are the most regular of any extant, and have been wonderfully preserved considering their antiquity; but though there are many provisions in them dictated by wisdom and sound policy, there are some which it is impossible to peruse without a smile, and others which should not be passed over without censure. It would be foreign to our purpose to recapitulate all those laws which relate to the King's palace; among them is mentioned the right of the King's falconer² to his majesty's attendance, and the obligation of the master to hold his gamekeeper's stirrup when he had killed a crane, and the claim of the judge of the palace to the cushion for his night's repose, on which royalty sat by day, is admitted. Whether in the one case the merit of the falconer was equal to the high honour of the reward, or whether in the other, his majesty's body was supposed to act as a conductor from his head, and to communicate to the judge's by means of the pillow, the attributes of justice and mercy cannot now be ascertained, and therefore these and many other unaccountable and equally whimsical customs may as well be forgotten; but it is impossible to avoid reproaching here many of the *laws relative of women*. Making the proper allowances for the unenlightened times in which they were enacted, and the almost savage disposition of the inhabitants of those days, whoever is compelled or led by curiosity to peruse them, cannot avoid exclaiming against them as generally disgraceful, frequently immodest, and sometimes calculated instead of repressing, to encourage the injuries they seem to be desirous to punish or prevent.

REVIEW OF HYWEL DDA'S CODE.

A short review of the leading features of this code, by which the inhabitants of Brecknockshire,

¹ The Cambro British authors as well as Leland and Gildas assert, that Alfred borrowed many of his laws from those of Dyfnwal, though some English historians have doubted even of his existence: Wotton seems to think that his laws are a forgery, but while they are quoted in the very code he is translating, at a time when it is clear from that circumstance his name and memory remained, and when of course if any doubts of their authenticity had prevailed, the legislator Hywel would neither have mentioned or adopted them, there is no room left for scepticism on the subject.

² There are some instances in England, as late as 1625, of extraordinary allowances and gratuities to royal gamekeepers: in that year Andrew Pitcairne, esq., was allowed £30 per month, and 10s. a day for the provisions of pigeons, hens, and other diet for the king's hawks, a salary equal to that of keeper of the seals. (*Fadera*, tom. 18). In the same year the king's barber had £100; a surgeon and his wife £150 during their lives; the king's carver £150 per annum; his physician £230, and the professor of Hebrew in Oxford only £40 per annum.

in common with those of the principality of Wales, were governed for several centuries, will, it is hoped, not be deemed impertinent or irrelevant here. The distinguishing and general characteristic of this system was the making satisfaction in money, cattle, or other effects, for all offences and crimes, murder not excepted; for injuries to the person or privation of property to the party complaining of the grievance; for murder, to the relations of the deceased, and in this latter case, much pains were taken and labour employed under various circumstances and in different degrees of affinity, to ascertain who were entitled to receive this compensation, which was more or less in proportion to the rank the deceased held in the community; but even on this serious subject there were now and then distinctions, to us apparently ludicrous and certainly not to be accounted for. Several offences, which in the reign of Henry the Eighth would have been called high treason and punishable with death, by the laws of Hywel, were commuted for by fine: "the learned in the laws (says one of these ordinances) have determined that for committing adultery with the king's consort, killing his ambassadors or violating his protection, the offender shall forfeit to his Majesty a golden cup, having a cover to it, *as broad as his face*, as thick as the thumb of a ploughman who has been nine years in that employ; a silver rod of the same height as the King and as thick as his thumb, a hundred cows for every cantreff which the offender possessed, and a white bull¹ with red ears for every hundred cows, but if the cows are of a dark colour, then a black bull with every hundred. For the murder of the King of North Wales this fine shall be tripled," and the lives of the Princes of Powys and South Wales were, in all probability, protected in a similar manner, though it is not so stated in this chapter. Their laws, with respect to bail,² from which much has been borrowed by the English, and their remedies for the recovery of lands are tedious, numerous, and unintelligible.

LAWS AS TO WOMEN.

The statute of Rhuddlan (12th Ed. L.) recites that women were not then dowable by the laws of Wales, but though they were not entitled to dower of the lands of the husband, they possessed a proportion of his effects, and that not only upon his death, but immediately upon the marriage, and they had a separate control, and the sole disposal of their property, even during the life of the husband; nay, so fully was this right established, that the Welsh married ladies could not be prevailed upon to part with it for near two centuries after the English laws were introduced, as several of the wills of testators in Breconshire from 1500 to 1760 recapitulate and acknowledge debts due from and to married women, and in others the husband admits that a sum or sums is due to *his wife*, by mortgage, bond, note, etc. Yet still the British wives were in many cases in ancient times very hardly used, and their countrywomen of this day, though they may smile, and perhaps *some* of them tacitly approve of the causes for which it was lawful to separate from a husband,³ will all of them exclaim against the inequality of the crimes for which they might be chastised by him.

PECULIARITIES OF THE LAWS.

Much pains are taken in these laws to describe what articles of household furniture and other effects shall go with the husband and what with the wife in case of separation, and a laborious and impracticable attempt is made to fix a specific value upon every species of property, in case it should be lost, stolen or injured: for instance, the King's blanket (the effeminate luxury of sheets was then unknown), was worth one hundred and twenty pence, the Queen's flesh-fork twenty-four pence, the King's chess-board one hundred and twenty pence, a bucket one penny, a pail to wash the feet in one penny, a house-dog, even though he was the King's, only fourpence, while a shepherd's dog was equal in value to an ox, if it could be proved by his owner and neighbours upon oath that *he was accustomed to precede the cattle to the field in the morning, and bring them home at night*; the purloining, destroying or injuring of any of these effects or animals was punished in general by mulct, in the same manner, though in a lighter degree, with the death of the King. The legislators have proceeded to recapitulate with a tedious minuteness and apparently with a

¹ There was a breed of this kind and colour upon the banks of the Towy in Carmarthen-shire which were particularly valuable, (Wotton). Richard's *Welsh Dictionary* sub. verb. *Ysgaflynnig*. Bingley in his *Animal Biography* says, that all wild cattle are of this colour, and this fine being laid upon the *whole* of Wales seems to prove the truth of his assertion.

² Upon this law of Bail we have a remark rather whimsically introduced, "if a surety or one who has become bail die leaving a son, that son shall be bound by his father's act. There are those who say that he may upon his father's grave lawfully deny his having been surety, but the law is otherwise, for the *wise* say that

the laws of this world are of no effect either in heaven or hell, but only reach the living. The reason is this, men in the transactions of this life may be bound by human laws, but the angels and devils are subject to no law but to the power and will of God." This denying upon the grave alludes to a law by which a creditor, charging a dead person with being surety to him, was to go with six persons to swear to that fact on his grave if it could be found.

³ *Foul breath* was one of the causes for which a woman might separate from her husband, at the same time he might lawfully chastise her either for *reflecting upon his beard*, endeavouring to procure his death, or committing adultery.

peculiar whimsicality, the remedies in case some of these animals did any mischief to the property of those to whom they did not belong, and it should sometimes seem as if they meant to punish the fowl or beast himself, and endeavoured to make him sensible of his crime; as when they enacted that if geese were found trespassing in corn, it was lawful to *kill* them with a stick as long as from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger; if in a barn or rick-yard, to squeeze them to death with a forked stick placed on their necks; if a cock trespassed, one of his spurs might be cut off; if a calf in corn, he might be kept a whole day from sucking, and then liberated, and if a hen was caught fleching, she might be detained till she laid an egg. In all these remedies, as well as the recital of the damages to be paid when a cat is found mousing in a flax-plat, there is something extremely ludicrous and unaccountable at this distance of time.

Yet in one instance their law was superior to that of England; according to the latter, if beasts were impounded, which have been taken trespassing, they can only be liberated, if a surly neighbour refuses to accept of amends, by what is termed a *replevin*; by Hywel's code it was provided that if a man impounded a beast and amends were tendered and refused and the beast died, the taker was obliged to pay the value of it to the owner, and if an animal was impounded and he was permitted to graze by the person who impounded him, the taker did not, says one of these ordinances, lose his right to receive satisfaction because he had behaved kinder than the law required.

PRACTICE IN THE COURTS.

With respect to the administration of justice as it is described and explained in this code, there are, among a heap of trash, many wholesoms rules, and much good sense. The judges received *customary and specific fees* from both parties in all causes, but these were equal and well known, and in their history we never hear of any instances of corruption or accusations against their magistrates for receiving bribes. These expounders and ministers of the laws were required to be men of experience, and at least twenty-five years of age when appointed and to have a beard, for say the laws, "it is not meet to see a young man sitting in judgment upon the aged." The modes of administering oaths were different in different cases, as was the credit given to witnesses, which varied according to their numbers, their rank in life, their character in their neighbourhood, their relative situations, or the mode by which they obtained their knowledge of the facts to which they deposed. The general manner of administering an oath was by laying the right hand on the altar, and swearing by God and the relics placed thereon: in contracts and questions as to buying and selling, they gave to each other their right hand and plighted their faith, or swore by the faith of a Christian. This mode of asservation was called *Briduw*; a word now become obsolete, and the etymology of which is not understood: to testify a falsehood in this latter manner was accounted nearly, if not equally, criminal with perjury upon the altar. In most cases two witnesses were required, as by the Roman or Canon law. In questions as to land, the witness's testimony was either reduced into writing and then read to him, as now practised in depositions in chancery, or else the substance was taken down and repeated by the advocates to the Court and the witnesses then for the first time asked, if what was said was true, for this, says one of these ordinances, is the oath of a *Ceidwad* (or tenant) that "all which the advocate *has put it into his head* to swear is true in every particular: this is curiously worded, but the meaning, from the sentences following, is that the testimony read or repeated to the witness as having been given by him, or coming out of his mouth, is true, etc.

These witnesses, though of the same rank, were of different descriptions, and to the testimony of some of them more credit was attached than to others, though their characters were equally respectable. The general name for a witness was *Tyst*, or *Tysd*, an old Armoric word which will probably be derived from the Latin *testis*. In these laws, witnesses were again divided into *Ceidwad* or *Gwarcheidwad*, *Gwybyddiad* and *Arwaesaf*. The former is translated *Custos* by Wotton, and explained to be the tenant or possessor of the lands in dispute, whose evidence upon this subject could neither be rejected or discredited; it was therefore regarded as of the highest import and considered as most sacred. The next in point of respect or attention was the *Gwybyddiad*, *testis conscius*, or witness who swore to a fact which he saw, and the third was called *Arwaesaf*, meaning not only a person who proved or warranted a beast or other personal chattel, but, as Wotton says, the warranty itself.

THE DATES OF COURTS.

In the Welsh Courts of Justice there were only two terms; these lasted from November to February, and from May to August, to avoid interference with the ploughing and sowing season and the harvest. In actions concerning lands, commenced on the 9th of November, the claimant was

¹ This punishment of the animal was probably taken from the code of *Dynwal Moel-mâd*, when the druidical doctrine of the transmigration of souls was the faith of Britain.

entitled to judgment or sentence on the 9th of May following, and if then postponed he had a right to apply to the King, who compelled the Court to be open to him on any day he desired. Having cursorily mentioned disputes about land, it should be here observed that the tenure by which they were universally held in old times was called Gavelkind; by this was meant an equal partition of the lands of the parents among *all* their male children. It is specially provided by these laws that the inheritance shall be adjudged in equal proportions to every son, and it is also decreed that no crime or offence of the father shall prejudice his issue, or prevent their succession to the inheritance of his property: "Cyfraith Hywel a'i barn i'r mab ieuaf megis i'r hynaf, ac a farn na ddoter pechawd y tād nai ei anghyfraith yn erbyn y mab am dref ei dād," so that the cruel, though perhaps politic consequences of forfeiture and corruption of blood, were not known to the Welsh. The real origin and definition of the term *Gavelkind*, and whether it ought to be sought for in the British or Saxon annals, is a question that has been variously agitated and determined by etymologists. Many learned authorities are ranged on both sides. Sir Henry Spellman, assuming it to be Saxon, affirms that it originally came from Germany; he thus describes the tenure, "*Qua omnes filii ex æquis portionibus patris adevnt hereditatem*," and from Tacitus proves it to be the *vetus mos Germanorum*. Lambard compounds it from three Saxon words "Zipeal cyn, i.e., give to all the kindred"; this certainly is not agreeable to the nature of that tenure which gives only to the males. Blount derives it from Zafel, census, tributum, and cyno, natura, genus; and Verstegan, like Swift, seriously tells us that it is merely a corruption of "give all kind," meaning give to every child his part or share. Mr. Somner adheres to the Saxon etymology, and says, that in the Irish and Welsh vocabularies the word is sought for in vain; from thence he concludes that it was peculiar to the men of Kent, though in after times it was imitated by others.

THE LAW OF GAFÆL-KIND.

On the other hand, Dr. Powel very properly observes that gafaël is a British term signifying a holding, because every one of the sons did hold some part of his father's lands, as his lawful son and successor, but it is strange that he passes by the last syllable *kind*, as if it were a mere epithet or termination, which he writes in a common character, while capitals distinguish its fore-runner GAFÆL. Mr. Sylas Taylor in his very ingenious treatise on Gavelkind enters more fully into the merits of the case, and is we believe esteemed one of the best expositors upon the nature of the tenure; he observes that the word gafaël (according to English pronunciation Gavel) is derived from the British verb gafaëlu, which Dr. Davies renders, tenere, præhendere, and is still a word in common use among the Welsh in their ordinary discourse, as cymmerwch gafaël, take hold, gafaël swyddog is an officer of arrest, gefall from the same verb is a pair of tongs, or smith's vice. There is a parish in Monmouthshire adjoining to Urchenfield, evidently deriving its name from this custom, Llangattwg Meibion (now pronounced Fibon or Vibon) Avel, St. Cadocus de tenura filiorum; Mr. Taylor supposes the latter syllable to be from Cenedl, which signifies a clan or family, and in this he is supported by Wotton and his assistant Moses Williams. Lastly, Dr. Whitaker in his *History of Manchester* supposes it to be of Irish origin, "as the Irish (says he) is much nearer than the Welsh to the old Celtic, so it furnishes the very word kinead or kind; whence it was naturally denominated among the Britons, gafaël kinead or the family estate." Mr. Edward Ilwyd in his Welsh dictionary certainly gives the word Cine a family, Cineadh, a nation, descent, etc., and Cind, common or peculiar to a family, from whence we are to look for the origin of the English word kin and kindred. Ilwyd also has an Irish verb *Gabhaim* to take, receive, etc., and *Gabhallas*, a taking, which of course are of the same family as gafaëlu and gafaël.

It has already been observed that gavelkind implied an equal distribution of property among the male children of a family; but it is remarkable that in the British as well as the Irish usages, in such partition, no distinction appears to have been made between legitimate and illegitimate children, but the progeny of a wife, and concubine, took equal shares, and so strong was the connection subsisting between the foster father and son that it was especially provided by law that "if a villain should take the son of a Baron to be fostered with the Baron's consent, such child should be participator of the estate of the villain equally with his own sons."

To prevent all disputes between the brethren, by the laws of Hywel Dda, the mode of partition was thus particularly described: "Three times shall a general division be made, first between brethren, afterwards between cousins, and the third between second cousins, after which there shall be no division of lands. When brothers shall divide their father's property amongst them, the *youngest* shall have the choice tenement with the appurtenances and the kettle and felling axe and the coulter. In law a father cannot bequeath these or give them to any one but the youngest son, and though they should be pawned, they shall never become forfeited; after that, let every brother

take by seniority, the youngest brother to divide." In all cases, however, the younger held his share in subordination to the elder who was therefore called *Cyn-rhan*.

LAW AS TO LAND DISPUTES.

Before leaving the laws of Hywel, we briefly state the practice of the ancient Britons in questions as to land. In cases of this nature, the whole of the proceedings were had, and held upon the lands in dispute. The King, or the person who represented him, presided and sat with his back to the sun and wind, lest he might be incommoded by them; the judge of the palace or senior judge of the *Cwmwd* being placed on his left, and another judge on his right hand: next to them sat the priest or priests, then two elders and the great men of the country. In the middle or immediately before the King, or his representative, was left a lane or entrance into the Court or his presence, on the right of which stood the demandant, his council and attorney, and behind them the summoner, and on the left the defendant, his council, attorney and summoner in the same manner. Pledges being first taken from both parties to abide by the decision of the Court, and silence being proclaimed by the orier, upon pain of forfeiting three cows or one hundred and twenty pence, the judges proceeded to hear the cause. The demandant was first called to name his council and attorney; this done, the judge asked him, "Do you place your entire confidence in them to gain or lose? are you also determined to abide by the decisions of this Court?" Being answered affirmatively, he put the same questions to the defendant, and upon his agreeing to abide by the directions and conduct of those he employed and to obey the sentence of the Court, the demandant orally *declared*, "I am the true proprietor of the lands in dispute, and if anyone will this gainsay, I have here those who are ready to maintain my right and inheritance, from which I have been wrongfully put out; I thereby pray the aid of the Court to be rightfully restored to my land, from which I have been thus unjustly expelled." His witnesses were now produced and the whole of his proof gone through before the defendant was heard, who, now being called upon for his defence, said, "Truly I am the proprietor of the land by right and inheritance, and because my title to it is perfect and secure, do I hold it, and if anyone will this gainsay, I have here sufficient witnesses to verify what I now assert, and if thou wert formerly possessed of this soil, thou wert afterwards rightfully ousted from it and if any one of this doubteth, I have here credible witnesses who this fact well know." His witnesses being then examined, the Judge asked both parties if they had done or if they chose to amend their plaint or plea, which it seems either side had a right to do in this stage of the business; if they declined it, the Judge recapitulated the evidence, explaining or commenting upon it, when he thought that necessary, and afterwards departed or retired to some little distance from the place where the Court was held, accompanied by the rest of the Court (the parties and their advocates excepted) and by the summoner, whose business it was to take care that no one overheard their consultations, under pain of forfeiting six cows to the King, or in his absence, three to his representative.

When they had retired, the priest in a short prayer, craved the interposition and direction of Providence to guide them to the truth and to enable them to decide rightfully, and then *chaunted* the *Pater noster*, upon which the Judge again summed up the whole of the proceedings, in which, if there appeared any defect of evidence, or any circumstances requiring further explanation, two of the judges appointed a conference with the parties and their advocates; this was called "*Gair Cyfarth*," signifying "an address," after which proceeding no witnesses could be produced by the parties. This rule was adopted upon sound policy, and was the result of good sense and experience, as it would have been highly improper to have permitted either the demandant or defendant after a hint from the Court as to any error, insufficiency, or contradiction in the evidence, to amend the defect by additional proof, which would make the cause endless. Indeed their practice, as here related, seems in some measure to be liable to that objection; especially when we learn, that when this conference was not appointed the parties might have another and another day to bring further witnesses, if they required it, even after the judge had retired, upon bringing pledges into the field for their punctuality, which pledges frequently, if not invariably, were confined in prison until the day assigned for hearing further witnesses, or as the Welsh call it, "*the day of gaining or losing*"; when that day arrived, and the witnesses were examined, the pledges were liberated and the judge proceeded to decide in favour of that party with whom the weight of evidence preponderated. If that was doubtful from contrariety of testimony or any other cause, the land in dispute was divided into moieties, and assigned, one half to the demandant, and the other share to the defendant. The fee to the Chief Justice in a cause of this nature was forty-eight pence, and to every other judge half as much. This form of trial forms a striking resemblance to the practice of arraigning a recovery in the English law; a ceremony which frequently provokes a smile from the unlearned bystander, and sometimes discomposes the gravity even of a barrister, while he repeats his antiquated lesson in unmeaning monotony. Much learning has been employed to discover the origin of the

English recovery. Lord Chief Justice Willes¹ in a cause referred for the opinion of the twelve judges in 1744, said that Pigott (who was as able a conveyancer as any man of the profession) had confounded himself and everybody else in his publication upon recoveries.

THE LORDS MARCHERS—TRIAL BY JURY.

By these laws was Wales governed until the Norman invasion; soon after this event the lords marchers having acquired possessions in the Principality, endeavoured to compel the inhabitants to adopt their system or code, which soon became blended and intermixed, not only with the Saxon, but by the adoption (as has been partly seen) of the ancient British laws, from all of which a composition has at last been formed, possessing, it must be confessed, some defects, and creating some tenures inimical, on their early introduction, to our idea of the liberty of the subject, yet compensating for all their imperfections by the institution of the trial by jury; the advantages of which the Welsh for a long time obstinately continued to reject, and blindly refused to acknowledge.

As these lords marchers made so conspicuous a figure in our country, it will here be necessary to take a slight view of their laws and the nature of their government, before proceeding to notice the English acts and ordinances which sometimes interfered to curb the power of these little potentates or to regulate the mode of their judicial proceedings.

The term or appellation of lords marchers or baron marchers is a corruption of lords or barons of the marchers or borders: they were the most powerful and enterprising of the Norman nobility; men bound by the strongest ties of interest to the crown of England, and consequently those in whom the sovereign placed the most implicit confidence. At first they built strong towns and forts upon the immediate borders, as Bristol, Gloucester, Worcester, Shrewsbury and Chester, which were all garrisoned, as well for their own defence as to annoy the Welshmen. Having seated themselves securely in those strong posts, they next proceeded further into Wales, and possessed themselves of several lordships, as Clifford, Hay, Chepstow, Monmouth, Usk, Newport, Abergavenny, Scenfrith, Baulth, Brecknock and Radnor: it must not, however, be understood that this was done all at once, it required much time and was effected by different lords. The Earls of Chester and other noblemen did the same in Montgomery, Cedewin, Clunn, Oswestry, Whittington, Hawarden and Ellesmere; all these and other lands thus conquered by the English lords from the Welsh princes, and held, as they necessarily were, in chief from the crown of England, wherever they lay, were comprehended under the names of lordships marchers, as appears clearly from this circumstance among others, that offices holden of the *Principality*, and all other lordships in Wales, were returned into the exchequer, but, of lordships marchers, to Westminster. The term *marches of Wales* is to be understood, all Wales subdued by the English lords, and that it was not confined to that part called the marches, being that next adjoining to England, and thus were the proprietors first entitled lords of the marches; all called lords marchers wherever their dominions lay in the Principality,

Thus established, they held their seigniories freely, *per baroniam*, and exercised upon all occasions an almost sovereign dispensation. They built castles for their own residence and towns adjoining for their military dependents, from hence alone we are enabled to account for the many castles and small towns dispersed throughout the whole of Wales. These castellated mansions, many of them of considerable strength, were often irregularly built and upon no certain plan, the form depending entirely upon the caprice of the architect, or the circumstances and situation of the ground intended to be occupied. They generally preferred an elevated spot on a knoll above a river, though some are found without any seeming attention to these advantages, and the whole building was surrounded with a moat or foss; most of them were provided with an enclosed park, a warren, and tract of forest land for the maintenance of their cattle, sheep, and pigs, of which they kept a large stock.

NUMBER OF BRECONSHIRE CASTLES.

The number of castles in the Principality is said to have been about 143; of these there were thirteen within the small territory of Brecknock, and twenty-five at least within the adjoining county of Monmouth. These lordships were totally distinct from any shires, and being subject to the absolute sovereignty of their respective lords were in fact so many *imperia in imperio*. They had each a palatinate jurisdiction established within itself; their own mint, their own court, like the king's at Westminster, and out of their chancery issued all writs original and judicial. The king's writs were not even current among them, excepting only in Pembrokeshire, which perhaps, having been subjugated at the expense of the crown, was accounted to be a part of England, and therefore called "little England beyond Wales;" nor were the sheriffs or other officers of the crown permitted to execute any such writs or precepts within these precincts unless when the whole barony was in

¹ Wilson's Reports, edition of 1799, p. 73.

question or in cases of high treason. Maddox, in his *Baronia Anglica*, instances Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, as enjoying all these privileges within his honour at Brecknock, quoting the decision of a cause, in which the exclusive judicial authority of the lords marchers was maintained, between that nobleman and Roger Mortimer of Blannlyfni; so that all manner of indictments and processes were made in the name, and every trespass was laid to be done against the peace of the special lord, who was also, as appears by a document in the Tower of London, entitled according to the law and custom of the marches, to all the goods and chattels of persons dying intestate within their jurisdiction.

GOVERNMENT UNDER THE LORDS MARCHERS.

The first grand object of the marchers after their settlement in the country was to reduce the inhabitants to a peaceable acquiescence with the English form of government. All Welsh customs as well as the language were to the utmost discouraged; the Norman English laws were introduced and for the most part administered; their tenures were principally English or Norman, being transmitted by fine, recovery, feoffment and livery of seizin. Some lords however, from motives of prudence, permitted their Welsh tenants to enjoy many of their ancient laws, when they were not repugnant to the laws of England, or injurious to their own interest. Among other concessions in their favour was the permission of the usage of gavelkind and the transfer of land by the surrender in court, agreeably to the laws of Hywel Dda. This they called *Cof-Llys ac Ysdyd Wialen*; the first term signifying the recollection or evidence of the court or judges concerning causes or questions determined before them, as well as of transfers of land thus publicly made, and the second phrase means an investiture by extending or delivering a rod to a person when they took possession of an estate. In some of the Welsh lordships the Normans continuing this Welsh ceremony, ingrafted upon it one of the tenets of the feudal system, that the property of the soil was originally in the lord, and by him granted to his tenants for their lives only, under certain services; that upon the death of any one of them, though they usually admitted his heir, yet they were not bound to do so, and acting under this impression, some of them took very heavy fines for the investiture by the rod to the estate of the father. This was considered so great a grievance in the hundred of Builth formerly, that several of the tenants there compounded with the lords for the exemption from this fine, by the payment of an annual sum, which was known and paid in 1800 under the term of *Tâl di-estyn*, or the tax for being exempted from the payment of the fine on delivery of the rod. It is to be observed that where this custom was permitted, no deeds are to be found in any lands previous to the reign of Henry the Eighth, when Wales was made shire ground, and even so late as the middle of the seventeenth century, it appears by a recital in a will in the register office at Brecon, that lands in Llanwrthwl were conveyed by one person to another without writing, for a valuable consideration, "according to the ancient manner, in the presence of three or four neighbours;" whereas for lands held under English tenures, deeds remain dated as far back as the reign of Edward¹ the First.

In some 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 presentments of *Welsherie* were founded on a like policy.

The lords marchers increased in number until the final reduction of Wales by King Edward the First, when soon after the death and defeat of Llewelyn, the last Prince of Wales of the British race, the heir apparent of England was substituted in his room, though Sir John Doddridge says, Edward

¹ Theo. Jones possessed a conveyance executed in the reign of Edward I. from one Soliers to Brett, of the mansion and lordship of Porthaml in Breconshire. It was remarkable that the arms on the seal appendant to this deed were borne quarterly: the late Mr.

Henry Williams of Crickhowell had also a deed of conveyance of lands in Llangatock of the fee of Gwernvale, bearing date 11th Ed. 2d, subsequently possessed by the Rev. H. T. Pains of Llanbodri.

the First claimed it by a grant from his father, and even expressed his displeasure at Llewelyn's being permitted to hold the title, which produced the following rebuke from Henry: "*Quid ad me? Terra tua est, ex dono meo; exere vires primitivas, jamam excita juvenilem, ut te de cetero timeant Inimici, me autem alia negotia detinent occupatum.*" This sharp reproof (which, however, is too dignified for the mouth of the feeble Henry the Third) instantly determined Edward to commence and persevere in the conquest, to secure which, when obtained, his first care was to regulate the judicial proceedings of the country. For this purpose he directed inquiries upon oath to be made before certain commissioners with the Bishop of St. David's at their head, into all the ancient laws and usages of the Principality. The certificate and returns thereupon made, are printed in the appendix to Hywel Dda's laws; they contain much curious and valuable information, but are too long for insertion in a work of this nature.

THE BISHOP OF ST. DAVID'S AND LLANDEW.

After the statute of Rhuddlan no lordship marcher was created, nor could any individual assume to himself any liberty, privilege, or prerogative which he did not possess previous to that Act, otherwise than by special grant from the crown of England. It follows, then, that no lordship marcher could exist but such as was holden in *capite ante conquestum Wallie*. It is true that many lords had jurisdiction royal of their lands, long subsequent to this, but we are not to consider them as lords marchers, but as deriving their privileges under grants or charters, and many of them will be found to have been tenants to the ancient marchers. The same liberties were also purchased by bishops, abbots and the cells of St. John of Jerusalem, who held their lordships in Wales as the ancient dowers of their sees and abbies, and never came to the same by conquest like the lords marchers; they frequently held them under the free gift of the ancient princes and reguli of the country, subject to the legal jurisdiction of their patrons. Such, for instance, was the tenure by which the Bishops of St. David's held the castle and manor of Llanddew in Breconshire. Upon the expulsion of the Welsh chiefs by the Normans, these religious, equally with the lay marchers, assumed a royal power, though they were afterwards obliged to compromise for those liberties with the crown: this appears from the charter of Richard the Second to Adam Bishop of St. David's; the words are these: "*Ut cum ipse episcopus suum et quamlibet percellam ejusdem de nobis, ut de coronâ nostra integrè teneat, ipseq. et predecessores sui episcopi loci illius jurisdictione regali in omnibus dominis suis episcopatus predicti. et ut in cognicionibus omnimodorum placitorum personalium et realium ac de coronâ, ad prosecutionem suam propriam ac aliorum cum omnibus proficiis inde provenientibus juxta consuetudines partium illarum lotis retroactis temporibus usi fuerunt et gavisî absq. hoc quod nos seu genitores nostri seu aliquis alius dominus marchie aut eorum ministri ratione aliquorum dominorum in Wallia infra dicta dominia ipsius episcopi aliquatiter intromittere consueverint debuimus aut debeant.*" From hence it is clear that the Bishops of St. David's before any charter obtained, had assumed to themselves the exercise of *jura regalia* and the same authority in all things, as the lords marchers, and prescribed to hold cognizance of pleas between their tenants and dependants, which by the laws of England they were not entitled to do; so that if in the ancient times of the Princes of Wales the bishops had not these jurisdictions (which we have no reason to suppose they had) yet it appears from the words of this charter, that after the power of those princes was destroyed in Pembrokehire, saving the lands of spiritual men (which to invade was reckoned sacrileg), the bishops were under the necessity of assuming that high authority, in order to maintain peace and good government in their territories, and therefore we see that in the reign of Richard the Second, the Bishops of St. David's used all those privileges by prescription, after the example of their neighbours the lords marchers.

THE STATUTE OF RUDDLAN.

It is now, however, time to look cursorily over the statutes of the King and Parliament of England relative to the affairs of Wales. The first which appears on this subject, passed in the twelfth year of its conqueror Edward the First, is called by the Welsh "*Cyfraith Rhuddlan*," and by the English corruptly the Statute of Rothelan, and has before been referred to. This was intended principally for the government of that part of the Principality which was not under the jurisdiction of the marchers, but it may reasonably be presumed, that where this and other laws of the English Court did not affect the power or the revenues of these noblemen, they submitted to their provisions and assimilated the practice of their courts to those in the neighbourhood, as directed by the King and Parliament of England. This statute regulates the proceedings in the county and tourn courts; in the list of offences to be inquired of in the latter are some which are very extraordinary, viz., of those who whiten skins of beasts or horses, knowing them to be stolen, so that they cannot be proved by the lawful proprietors; of those who alter stolen cloaths, as a cloak into a coat or a great-coat and the like, and of those who shear sheep in the night time and flay them as well as other animals.

This statute proceeds to abolish compurgation in criminal cases as well as in causes with respect to lands, but allows it in all others, if the inhabitants of the country wish it to be continued. To this mode of acquittal, which was in general use with the Welsh and to which they were extremely partial for many succeeding centuries, there may be great and material objections, but it has also some considerable advantages, particularly in cases where no other proof can be adduced. It is said that it was an inlet and temptation to perjury, but when it was attended with the precaution used among the Britons who required sometimes twelve, sometimes twenty-four, and sometimes forty-eight neighbours to swear they believed that what the accused person or defendant deposed was true, it must be admitted that every prudent measure was taken to guard against the mischiefs to be apprehended, and that a notoriously bad man could not easily, perhaps not possibly, procure so many persons of character to support his credit. The remains of this practice lurked among us in our County Court in Breconshire for many years; it was called *purgation by the common rule*. A notice is sent (after the entry of the first summons and appearance of the defendant) that if the supposed debtor will not swear that he is not indebted to the plaintiff, he (the plaintiff) will prove his demand against him upon his own oath.

Barrington, in a note to his *Observations on the Ancient Statutes* says, this Act recites the *total conquest of Wales*; in this he is not perfectly correct. The preamble states that "Wales which was formerly subject by *feodal right* to the Crown of England was then by the mercy of Providence *converted and united* to the same, as a part or member of it;" but the lordship marchers at this time formed no part of the country here said to be thus united; those who then ruled over these possessions considered them as their own private property, having been acquired by their own valour, and that of their followers totally independent of the Crown of England, not did they acknowledge themselves to be English subjects, further than in respect to their estates in that country. Edward perceived this, and endeavoured to lessen their power and curb their insolence, but without effect. About the latter end of his reign he took occasion to question some of their tenures, claims and privileges by a *quo warranto*; Earl Warren, one of the principal of these noblemen, very significantly clapped his hand upon his sword and said: "By this warranty did my ancestors win my lands, and by this do I hold them." The King, finding all the other barons determined to support him, felt the force of the argument, and did not think it prudent to dispute the validity of the warranty.

EDWARD THE BLACK PRINCE.

Nothing further passed relative to the affairs of Wales, until the fifteenth of the reign of Edward the Third, when the King, in the Parliament held at Westminster in that year, created his eldest son, Edward the Black Prince, Prince of Wales, investing him "*per sertum in capite et annulum in digito aureum ac virgam argenteam juxta morem,*" and afterwards endowed him with all manors, lordships, castles and lands appertaining to the Principality as well as the forfeited lands of Rhys ap Meredith, which in the reign of Edward the First had escheated to the Crown by his rebellion. In the twenty-eighth of Edward the Third, an Act was passed determining that all the lords marchers of Wales should be perpetually attending and annexed to the Crown of England, as they and their ancestors were at all times passed, and not to the Principality of Wales, in whose hands soever they should be, or thereafter should come. In this the King seems to have had two objects, first to convince those haughty subjects, that he was entitled to, and determined to enforce their allegiance, and, secondly, to avoid throwing too much power into the hands of the heir apparent, or the person who might become Prince of Wales; for he appears to have in contemplation the possibility of that dignity being dissevered from the Crown. Perhaps on the death of his eldest son, his grandson being very young, he may have intended it for one of his other sons, though he afterwards relinquished the idea.

SURVEY OF LANDS.

In the reign of this king, an exact survey was made of all the lands of the Principality, by commissioners specially appointed by the Crown, for the purpose of assigning a proper dower for the Black Prince's widow, but as the profits were found to be of uncertain value, varying according to the circumstances of the times, it became necessary, in order to make a just estimate, to form an average on the aggregate of three years; the commissioners took the years 47, 48 and 49 of this reign, when it appeared that the sum total of the revenues of Wales amounted to £4,684 18s 5d.

THE FOURTH HENRY'S LAWS.

After this reign, no laws were enacted by the English Parliament to affect Wales, until the time of Henry the Fourth, who, goaded and teized by the rebellion of Glyndwr and by the support received by Richard the Second from the Welsh, was so exasperated with those "barefooted rascals," whom he affected at one time to despise, that he prohibited any one of that country from wearing

arms, buying lands in the neighbouring counties of England, assembling together without leave, having any house of defence (except a bishop), or holding any office *in his own country*. He enacted that no Englishman should be condemned at the suit of a Welshman but by an *English* jury, that no *Englishman* marrying a Welshwoman should hold any office there; in short, he appears to wish he could prevent them from eating, by prohibiting the importation of any victuals into Wales. It is true that these statutes were very seldom acted upon, and all of them (one only excepted, hereafter to be mentioned) were wiped off the statute book in the time of James the First, but the king who could recommend, and the senators who could assist, in enacting such oppressive and iniquitous laws, mistook their abilities as well as situations, when they fancied themselves wise legislators or sound politicians, and were better calculated to occupy stalls in Carnaby Market, or Billingsgate Street, than the palace at Westminster or the seats in St. Stephen's chapel.

There was a statute enacted in this reign remaining unrepealed in 1800 which is, perhaps, not perfectly, or at least not generally, understood. It is in the following words: "Item to eschew many diseases and mischiefs which may have happened before this time in the land of Wales by many *wasters*, rhymers, minstrels and other vagabonds; it is ordained and established that no waster *rhymyr*, minstrel nor vagabond be in any wise sustained in the land of Wales to make comorthies or gathering on the common people there." Waster in this statute, which is also written westwour, is a corruption of the Welsh *gwestwr*, frequently (according to a well-known rule in orthography) spelt westwr; it signifies a guest, an unbidden visitor, one who goes from house to house, demanding provisions or purveyance for the king or prince or under some such pretence. The laws of Hywel Dda frequently mention *gwesdfa'r Brenhin*, the king's right of purveyance, and regulate the mode of collecting it: the *gwestwr*, *westwr* or waster was the officer who was employed upon this occasion, and went about eating and drinking at the expense of the public and afterwards procuring food and supplies for his master.

THE FIFTH HENRY'S LAWS.

Henry the Fifth, following the narrow policy of his father, in the first year of his reign, passed or at least sanctioned a very severe law against the Welsh, though from the support he received from our countrymen, Sir David Gam, Sir Roger Vaughan, and their adherents at Agincourt, his sentiments were considerably altered in their favour before he died. This statute recites that "Welshmen pursued Englishmen for the death of their friends by indictments, accusations, or impeachments, and some by menaces and distresses, and some by taking their bodies and imprisoning them till they made them *gree* to them or excused themselves by one *assache*, after the custom of Wales, that is to say, by the oath of three hundred men; it is therefore ordained that no such quarrel, *action* or demand be made by the rebels or their adherents, be he cousin, ally or friend, under pain of treble damages or imprisonment for two years, and to make fine and ransom for his delivery; so that the effect of this law as far as it is prohibitory in the first part of the enacting clause, was to shut the courts of justice against inquiries into any enormities committed by the English in Wales during the rebellion, as it is called, and the mischief complained of in the latter part of the sentence is difficult to be understood; perhaps the Welsh still continued to require the *galanas* or compensation for murder, and the offender when taken, was imprisoned till he paid it, unless he could get three hundred persons to prove his inability to discharge it; but if the grievance intended to be remedied is not stated with sufficient precision and clearness, the term of purgation here introduced baffles every conjecture as to etymology among *Welshmen*. *Assache* is not found in Hywel Dda or any other code of British laws now extant. Blount, in his law dictionary, calls *Assach* a strange kind of purgation in Wales by the oath of three hundred men.

Had the statute abolishing the *assache* stopped there, or had it been satisfied with preventing the Welshmen from taking the law into their own hands, by imprisoning the subjects of the King of England, until they extorted heavy fines from them, the Welsh would have had no cause of complaint against the Parliament for their interference to prevent the mischief; but to permit an enemy merely because he happened to be born on the Eastern side of the Wye or the Severn, to indulge in the passions of revenge or malice with impunity was legalising murder and adding oppression to cruelty and injustice.

OTHER OPPRESSIVE LAWS.

Whatever might have been the cause of offence given to "the meek usurper," three or four severe and impolitic Acts were directed against the Welsh in his reign, which do no great credit either to the heads or the hearts of the legislators of that time. By the first, the benefits of an useful and equitable law for rectifying errors in judicial proceedings were confined to England *exclusively*; by the second, it was declared to be *high treason* to take the person or *goods* of an Englishman, and to carry them into Wales until they were made to *gree*, and by another Act of the same

reign to take and carry away the goods of an Englishman under colour of distress was made felony, and lastly, all the laws theretofore made against the Welshmen were confirmed, *and all grants of fairs and markets to persons of that country annulled*. The House of Mortimer, had, it is true, great possessions, and a considerable party of adherents in Wales and the Marches, but the name of Tudor (which family after the marriage of Owen with the king's mother became his warm friends and partizans) were equally respectable, and the followers and dependants of that house were also as numerous, if not more so than those of the other faction. Besides it must be observed that the contest between the houses of York and Lancaster, which afterwards produced such afflicting consequences to the nation, and wrote its history in such bloody characters, as centuries were not able entirely to efface, did not break out into open violence until after the last of these opprobrious Acts was passed: to the history of England we have recourse in vain to discover the motives which dictated them, nor are they more clearly or perfectly traced from any other source of information, unless we admit with Warrington (who with some degree of probability asserts it) that, "the manners of the Welsh nation during this and the two preceding reigns, actuated by few other springs than their passions, restrained by no regular police, no longer animated by the presence of their princes, nor their minds softened by the influence of native arts, had degenerated into the deepest ferocity"; yet even in this case it is to be lamented that the English did not rather attempt to convert the long subsisting enmity between the two countries into friendship, by adopting mild and lenient measures, than by continuing to preserve and continue it by sanguinary and oppressive laws.

During the intestine broils which convulsed the English nation for twenty years and upwards, after the death or murder of Henry the Sixth, both Yorkists and Lancastrians were too busily engaged in the destruction of each other to bestow any part of their attention or their time upon the inhabitants of Wales; during this period, therefore, they were permitted to drag after them those chains only which were forged for them in the preceding reigns. But it is very extraordinary that Henry the Seventh, their countryman (as he called himself when he thought it his interest to do so), who upon some occasions boasted of his descent from the ancient Britons and ordered genealogists to trace his pedigree and to preserve the line and names of his ancestors in that country, should yet not have made one effort to lighten their fetters or to redress their grievances. The Principality is not even mentioned or the inhabitants noticed in any statute passed in his reign, excepting in one, allowing them to import wine of Gascony or *Guienne* in common with their fellow subjects of England or Ireland.

HENRY THE EIGHTH'S LAWS.

Our dread sovereign Henry the Eighth (the first who took that title and who well deserved it), the son and successor of the cold-blooded Richmond, whom nothing could move but interest, and nothing stimulate but avarice, made us ample amends for the inattention and apathy of his father, and may with much greater propriety (without insisting too stiffly upon the high value or worth of his intentions), be styled the Welsh, than Edward the First, the English Justinian, the title Lord Coke confers upon him. Edward certainly did much to soften the rigour and ameliorate the English laws, considering the days in which he lived, but Henry the Eighth, modelled, perfected, and indeed almost created a system of jurisprudence, out of a jumble of incoherent, jarring and confused customs, the progeny of different times and countries, and established a code which, as it was earnestly sought¹ for by the Welsh, has been cheerfully obeyed from that day, and which has reconciled us by a complete participation of all the privileges of Englishmen, to the entire theory, and nearly to the practice of the laws of England, hitherto imperfectly known to us and therefore only partially adopted or approved of.

During the cessation of *legislative* as well as military hostilities, enjoyed by the Welsh after the death of Henry the Sixth, until the middle or latter end of this reign, they were employed in intestine feuds and contentions among themselves. These unfortunate animosities and sanguinary domestic broils, so far from being checked were promoted by the imbecility of the expiring authority of the lords marchers, which, though despotic, was in some measure necessary for the preservation of the peace and welfare of society; we must not therefore be surprised that when the laws of these barons were disregarded with impunity, and no others substituted in their stead, that the inhabitants, subject to no control, became licentious in their manners, savage and ferocious in their passions, dishonest in their principles; and that, of course, a wild and frantic spirit of insubordination pervaded the whole Principality.

LEGAL CUSTOMS IN THE LORDSHIP OF BRECKNOCK.

Henry saw the necessity of reforming them; but he very prudently proceeded with caution. In

¹ See Lord Herbert of Cherbury's *History of Henry Eighth* p. 371, and Warrington's *History of Wales*. The manly and nervous style, which the petition of the inhabitants of Wales to Henry the Eighth

displays, and the good sense and sound policy therein apparent, do immortal honour to the inhabitants of that country who were employed in proposing, framing and presenting that document.

the twenty-first year of his reign (or thereabouts), he appointed fourteen persons, amongst whom were his secretary Thomas Cromwell, Sir John Porte, knight, one of the justices of the common pleas, Sir John Hales, Sir John Inglefield, one of the barons of the Exchequer, William Walwyn, and Llewelyn ap Morgan ap Sir David Gam, empowering them or any two of them (*quorum* the said Sir John Porte,¹ etc., should be one), to act as justices itinerant within the town and lordship of Brecknock, to hear and determine all complaints and suits to be brought before them, *according to the laws and customs there used and known*. What was done upon this commission, or whether any proceedings were had in consequence of it, cannot be ascertained, but it was very soon afterwards followed by an ordinance, the purport of which it is sometimes difficult to comprehend; it certainly was intended as a boon to the subject, yet the mischiefs to be remedied, or the benefits to be derived from it are not *always* clearly elucidated in this document.

It sets out with directing, that when any person within the town and lordship of Brecknock shall be attached for "suspeycion" of murder, felony or breach of the peace, he may be let to bail, and that upon his appearance to take his trial, or upon his entering into sureties for his "good abeyring," such sureties (in the first case) shall be discharged and in the latter case the principal set at liberty; that when any officer of the Crown *surmised* that a fine was due for a supposed breach of the peace, it should not be levied by distress or the person from whom it was claimed attached, if he brought sureties to abide by the verdict of twelve men impanelled to try him, or by a decree of the court if he confessed his offence. This instrument then proceeds to recite, that in delay of justice, it was customary in this country to challenge jurors as being of kin to one of the parties, and particularly that another challenge was frequently known called *veterate*, which is explained to mean "*olde rancorous malice*," supposed to be entertained by a juror, not because one of the parties or his ancestors had slain one of the relations of the challenged, but because the "*juryman or one of his ancestors within the fourth degree of marriage had murdered or slain one of the Kynne to the plaintiff or defendant within the fourth degree of marriage*." To remedy this mischief, the ordinance prohibits any challenges of this nature, unless the person challenged was really and actually by the true line within the fourth degree of consanguinity to one of the said parties, and the challenge called *veterate* was disallowed, unless the murder alleged was committed within ten years next preceding the trial, and it was further decreed that every just reason which could be shown to induce the court to believe that a juror was corrupted, or entertained a partiality for either of the parties, should be heard and admitted as a good cause of challenge.

THE GREAT SESSIONS OF EYRE.

Thus far the subject is favoured, and even what follows seems to have been intended, if not to lighten the burdens, at least to facilitate the payment of a debt due from the inhabitants of Brecknockshire to the Crown, though how this debt accrued we know not and must be left very much to conjecture; the next clause, however, provides that the tenants of the town and lordship of Brecon shall pay the King by *installments* the sum of three thousand eight hundred and fifty four marks and half of a mark, three shillings and fourpence-halfpenny farthing, for the general pardon granted them under the great seal for the redemption and dissolving of the great sessions in Eyre in the sixth of King Henry the Fifth, the eighteenth of Henry the Sixth, the twenty-third of Henry the Seventh and the eleventh of Henry the Eighth, and likewise an arrear of one thousand five hundred and thirty-seven marks and half a mark and threepence-farthing, for the arrears of rent, fee farms and other dues payable to the Crown on certain days annually in this document specified.

What is here meant by the redemption and dissolution of the great sessions in Eyre, or why the inhabitants should be anxious to purchase an exemption from such a jurisdiction cannot perhaps ever be fully or satisfactorily explained; in all probability the Welsh had an aversion to the English laws introduced by the justices itinerant, particularly as the principal purport of their commission was to inquire into offences *surmised* to be committed against the Crown, and to cause the fines, *alleged* to be forfeited thereon, to be levied, which was effected in so arbitrary a manner and with so heavy a hand, that the inhabitants were glad to compound by the payment of a sum in gross to be relieved from so oppressive an inquisition, and to stand (as the legal phrase is) *recti in curia*; but from whatever cause this debt arose, the amount appears so enormous in proportion to the number and resources of the tenants, and others on whom it was charged, that it is no wonder if not being all paid, though continually demanded by the officers of the Crown, this burden produced the insurrection mentioned to have occurred on the death of Elizabeth.

After this follow some directions as to the mode of levying the money and the manner of appointing officers for that purpose, who are generally required to be resident in the lordship. Henry,

¹ Llewelyn ap Morgan was not of the quorum.

Marquis of Worcester, who is recited to have been steward there for life, by virtue of letters patents from the king, and to have full power and authority to appoint all the officers within that district, is requested, that for the purposes just mentioned, he will permit the king's receiver to name such persons as he may think fit. All the ordinances and "commandments made by the most excellent prince of noble memorie, King Henry the Seventh, and the late Duke of Buckingham, and all other lordes marchis in South Wales, for the amendment and avancement of justice and good rule" are ratified and confirmed; this clause is again succeeded by a number of regulations for securing and bringing to trial felons who fled from one lordship marcher to another, specifying also the penalties upon officers not residing. This ordinance, it may be necessary to observe, contains several other regulations well worthy of the attention of the historian and antiquarian; an inquiry is directed to be made how far it would be beneficial to the Crown to appoint an *Englishman* to be attorney-general for South Wales, and there is also one singular provision included in it which deserves notice: "No man shall be of counsaile with any felonye at the corte when such felon is in reinyng or arrayned there, onles that he may dispense in lands and tenements in freeholde by the yere ten pounds, and if the felon be founde guiltie and cast of the felonie that then the same person counsellor, to forfayt to the King's highness all his lands, goods and chattels, or else to make flyne and ransom for his great offence at our said soveryn lord's pleasure."

THE CUSTODY OF JURORS.

In a very short time after the will of our *dread* sovereign had been signified to the inhabitants of Brecknockshire, in the manner we have related, an Act of Parliament passed, which recites "that for lack of diligence and sure custody of jurors sworn for trials of murder, etc., in Wales and the marches of the same, the friends and kinsmen of the accused frequently tampered with the jury, and suborned them to procure an acquittal"; for remedy whereof it was enacted that an officer should be deputed and sworn by the court before whom the offender was tried, truly and diligently to keep the same jury, and not to suffer meat, drink or fire to be ministered to them without leave of the court, and that he would not suffer any person to speak to them, or speak to them himself without the like permission, unless to ask whether they were agreed upon their verdict, and if any juror who acquitted a felon and gave an untrue verdict against the king, contrary to good and pregnant evidence, or eat, drank or spoke to any other person than the officer so sworn, *the lord president and other the council of the marches* had power to bind him over to appear before them to take his trial for such offence, and upon conviction to fine and imprison him.

The next Act in the same year recites the frequency of robberies in Gloucestershire and Somersetshire by the inhabitants of South Wales, and that the stolen goods were conveyed across the Severn by the passages or ferries of Aust, Framiload, etc.; to prevent which mischief, barge-masters are prohibited from carrying goods, or persons of this description, and all others who being unknown to them, refused to discover their names and places of abode, before sun-rise or after sun-set.

This statute is followed by another describing the Welsh of that day in language in which it is to be hoped their crimes are exaggerated, though they were at this time in a very uncivilised state, and the offences of robbery and murder too prevalent in the country. The preamble tells us, that "the people of Wales and the marches of the same, not dreading the good and wholesome laws of this realm, had of long time continued in the perpetration and commission of divers and manifold thefts, murders, rebellions, wilful burning of houses, and other *scelerous deeds and abominable malefactions* to the high displeasure of God and the inquietation and disturbance of the public weal, which malefactions and scelerous deeds were so rooted and fixed in the same people, that they were not likely to cease unless some sharp correction and punishment for redress and *amputation*, was provided according to the demerit of the defenders."; for remedy whereof it is thereby enacted, that every person dwelling in Wales, shall, upon monition or warning given of the time of holding courts there, appear before the justice, steward, lieutenant, or other officer, at all and every sessions in any castle, fortress, or place, there to do and execute such things which to him afere or appertain.¹ The second section in part discloses the oppressions practised by the officers of the lords marchers upon the inhabitants of Wales, for it recites that they had often and sundry times theretofore *exacted* of the king's subjects within such lordships where they had rule and authority, and also committed them to strait dress and imprisonment for small, light, and *feigned* causes and extortions and compelled them thereby to pay unto them fines for their redemption; it is therefore provided that if any officer of a lord marcher by untrue surmises commit any person to duress or imprisonment, the king's

¹ This is the origin of the legal *action*, that every individual is present at each great sessions held in and for the county in which he or she resides.

commissioners and council of the marches upon suit made and good proof that there were no just grounds for confinement, may order satisfaction to the party injured.

CUSTOMS AS TO THE FORESTS.

It is remarkable that in the preamble to the next statute relative to the affairs of Wales, appointing justices of peace in that country, which recapitulates the enormities committed in many counties in the Principality, the counties of Brecknock, Radnor and Monmouth are omitted in the black catalogue of *malefactors*; this part of Wales therefore was either more civilised, or as is more probable, the lordship marchers or the greatest part of them being in the possession of the Crown of England, they were secured in their obedience, and their ferocity effectually restrained by the laws or troops of that monarch.

This Act is immediately succeeded by another, which recites a very extraordinary custom in the forests of Wales, and which is thereby prohibited in future; it states the usage to be, that "if any of the king's subjects fortune to pass, go or ride through the said forests, not having a token delivered him by the chief foresters, rulers or walkers (such person not being a yearly tributur or *chenser*,¹ he was obliged to pay the forester, etc., a grievous fine, and if taken, found or *espied* twenty-four feet out of the highway, he forfeited all the gold he had about him, and was liable to lose a joint of one of his hands, or to pay a fine at the will of the forester; and also, that if stolen cattle were brought or strayed into the forest, the officers had a right to seize and detain them as their perquisites; so that the owners (as the statute observes) had no remedy or mode to recover them, but by way of redemption or buying again of their own property. These were certainly unreasonable and iniquitous customs, yet the reader who will have recourse to the forest laws in the reigns of our early Norman conquerors, will see many of a similar description, and their long continuance in Wales can only be attributed to the less advanced state of civilisation of the inhabitants of that country.

ACT OF UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

Hitherto Henry seems to have had in contemplation only the redress of partial grievances, but the experience of the inadequacy of the laws hitherto provided, as well as the political and commercial benefits likely to result to both countries, loudly called for their incorporation as the most effectual expedient to prevent in future those disgraceful outrages which characterised the Principality, and to reconcile the inhabitants to a prompt obedience to the laws of the empire. In the twenty-seventh year, therefore, of this monarch's reign passed the Act of Union or annexation of Wales to England, which begins with asserting the right of the Crown of England to the dominion over the Principality with a laboured and pompous though almost ludicrous solemnity. The latter country, it is said, "*justly and righteously* is and *ever hath* been incorporated, annexed, united and subject to the imperial crown of this realm as a very member and *joint* of the same, whereof the king's most royal majesty, *of mere droit and very right*, is very head, king, lord and ruler," yet because "*divers rights, usages, laws and customs* be far *discrepant* from the laws and customs of this realm, and because that the people of the same dominion have and do daily use a speech nothing like ne consonant to the *natural mother tongue used within this realm*," some rude and ignorant people have made distinctions between the king's subjects of England and Wales, which has occasioned many quarrels between them, to prevent which in future, the king "*of a singular love which he beareth towards his subjects of his said dominion of Wales*," and minding to extend the English laws to that country, and, "*utterly to extirp*" all sinister usages and customs, and to bring the subjects of his realm and the said dominion into amiable concord and unity, with the consent and by the authority of Parliament, enacts, that from henceforth all persons "*born and to be born in Wales* shall have, enjoy and inherit all and singular freedoms, liberties, rights, privileges and laws within this his realm, and other the king's dominions as other the king's subjects naturally born within the same, have, enjoy, and inherit," and that all persons inheritable to any manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services, or other hereditaments which shall descend after the feast of All Saints next coming (Michaelmas, 1635) within the said Principality, country or dominion of Wales, or within any particular lordship, part or parcel thereof, shall for ever from and after the said feast inherit and be inheritable to the same manor, lands, etc., after the English tenure, without division or partition, and after the form of the laws of England and not after the Welsh tenure, or after the form of any Welsh laws or customs, and yet the 35th section of this very statute provides, that when lands in Wales have been immemorably,

¹ *Chensere*, such as paid tribute or cense, quitrent or chiefrent, farmers or fee-farmers; for so the French *censier* signifies, says Blount. Cense, rent of assize, quit rent, old rent, chief rent, the first pecuniary charge that is laid on conquered or uninclosed and

uncultivated land, and an acknowledgement of the direct seignior of him who grants it. This imposition derived its origin from the first conquest of Gaul by the French.

by the laudable custom of the country, deparable among issues and heirs male, they shall so continue: thus the destructive tenure of gavelkind, inimical alike to domestic happiness and political independence, was permitted to remain until the 34th and 35th of the same reign, when it was totally abolished in Wales, though it lingered, in defiance of law, in some places in Glamorganshire as late as 1800.

The third section of the Act of Union extends the English laws to Wales, and by the fourth, the mischiefs produced by an *imperium* or rather *imperia in imperio* are recited. The lords marchers exercising an unlimited and oppressive authority over their vassals, frequently at variance with the Crown and each other, and jealous of their seigniorial rights, were deaf to the claims of justice or true policy, and blind to the interests of society at large; insomuch that they even encouraged out-laws and protected thieves and murderers, provided they were permitted to partake of the plunder; yet still the Legislature seems to have proceeded with caution, and to have been apprehensive of giving offence to some nobleman who possessed seigniorial rights in Wales, for the statute provides that every person, then being a lord marcher, shall have a moiety of the fines and forfeitures imposed on his tenants and the mises and profits due from them, and shall also hold courts and law days as in times past, though their lordships merged and were constituted into parts of the counties in which they were situated or to which they adjoined.

ANCIENT PARISHES IN THE COUNTY OF BRECKNOCK.

From the description here given of what was thence forward to be considered as the county of Brecon, we learn what were then denominated the Marches in that neighbourhood. The names of places are horribly misspelt in this Act, but as written at this day they appear to consist of the following districts or parishes: Brecknock (meaning the town of that name and its vicinity), Crick-howel, Tretower, Penkelley, English Talgarth, Welsh Talgarth, Dinas, Glynbwh, Cantreff-selyff, Llanddew, Blantlyni, Ystradyw, Builth and Llangorse; these are all by this law made an integral and *indivisible* part and parcel of the county of Brecknock. It is further enacted, that Brecknock shall be considered as the shire-town, that the county court shall be held there, and in order to save the inhabitants the trouble and expense of making their payments to the Crown at Westminster, a court of chancery and exchequer was appointed to be held at the king's castle of Brecknock, where the sheriffs of Breconsire and Radnorshire were to account before his auditor or proper officer. This law was acted upon in the early part of the 19th century, and the auditor attended in October annually to receive the fines and rents due to the Crown, although since the demolition of the castle the audit was held in one of the principal inns in the town. Some further enactments follow, such as, that two members shall be chosen to sit in the English Parliament for Monmouthshire, and one for the borough, one for each county in Wales, and one for each borough there, being a shire town; the king was empowered at any time during the term of three years next after the dissolution of the then Parliament, to *suspend or repeal, revoke or abrogate this whole Act or any part thereof as should stand with his most gracious pleasure*, and lastly, a reservation was made in favour of the rights of Sir Walter Devereux, Lord Ferrars of Chartley, Chief Justice of South Wales, and steward and receiver of the lordship of Builth in the marches of Wales.

APPOINTMENT OF SHERIFFS.

In this Act the office of sheriff in the counties of Wales is frequently mentioned, but at that time and for a few years afterwards, their duty was of a very different nature from what it is at present; they were then only employed to collect the revenues of the Crown, to levy fines and to accompany the justices in Eyre in their circuits: they were appointed for life by patent, and the place being considered lucrative as well as respectable, was generally bestowed on some court favourite. Though the patents or grants made by Henry, as well as his father, were resumed and annulled in 1540, yet there were only nominal sheriffs in some counties and none in others,¹ until the union was finally adjusted and completed in 1543. The statute passed in this year directs that they shall be appointed by the Crown for the same time and no longer than in England, and their duties are declared to be similar to those of the English sheriffs in every respect.

PETITION TO HENRY VIII.

The Act of incorporation, which we have briefly examined, and from which some few extracts have been made, was certainly attended with considerable advantages to both nations; yet still many

¹ The first annual sheriff for Glamorganshire was Sir George Herbert of Swansea, in 1542; of Breconsire, Sir William Vaughan of Porthaml, in 1539; Radnorshire, John Baker of Presteigne, in 1544. There are many reasons to induce us to believe that the lord marcher of Brecon appointed his sheriff long prior to this act.

In a deed in the town coffer of the corporation of Brecon in 1800 (if it be not preserved with too much care), dated the eighth of Henry the Seventh, one of the witnesses subscribes "Jenkin ap Llewelyn ap Gwyllim, Vice-comes;" whether he was for the borough or lordship in not so clear.

difficulties and inconveniences remained while the laws of the two countries differed so widely, and the theory as well as the practice varied in different parts of the Principality. In some places the ordinances of the lords marchers continued, in others the Welsh laws prevailed, and in others the English were introduced. These discordant systems produced so much confusion and disorder, that the inhabitants of Wales very wisely determined to draw up and present the petition to which we have before alluded. There is one compliment in the petition, so well and so elegantly expressed, that we cannot refrain from noticing it. After asserting that the Welsh like the Florentines and Spaniards affected to speak gutturally, "as believing words that sound so deep proceed from the heart," the petitioners add: "So that if we have retained this language longer than the more Northern inhabitants of this island, we hope it will be no imputation to us; your Highness will but have the more tongues to serve you; it shall not hinder us to study English, when it were but to learn how we might the better obey your Highness." To this address, promoted undoubtedly, if not dictated, by Sir John Pryce, of the Priory of Brecon, an eminent antiquary and a great favourite at court, Henry lent a willing ear; and therefore "at the humble suit and petition of his subjects of Wales (as the statute of the 34th and 35th of his reign recites) out of his abundant goodness," he caused several regulations to be enacted as to the mode and practice of administering the laws in Wales; the principal of which was the establishing and confirming the jurisdiction of the president and council of the marches of Wales, and also of the court of great sessions, appointed to be held in every shire twice a year before one justice; which court was to have a concurrent authority with that of the lord president and council, and to continue six days in every shire at each of such sessions. Some further regulations were also hereby ordained as to the sealing and issuing of writs, the salaries of the judges, the fees of the officers, and other matters which need not be specified.

SALARIES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

Soon after the passing of this Act a difficulty arose about the payment of the wages of members of Parliament chosen for Wales. In England the common law of the land had long established the right of knights of the shires and burgesses to fees and wages, while attending their duty in Parliament. In 1543 it appears that this remuneration was fixed at four shillings a day to the former and 2s a day to the latter; but it should seem that it was doubted whether the newly established members for Wales, who of course could have no such prescription in their favour, had a claim to a similar compensation. The Act of the 35th of this reign, c. 2, therefore declared, that they were entitled to the same fees and wages as the representatives of the English counties and boroughs, and provided that the *writ de solutione feodi Militis Parlamenti* should issue to the sheriffs in Wales, to levy them whenever required.

SUBSEQUENT ENACTMENTS.

Though the regal dignity of the lords marchers had ceased and their power had been considerably curtailed and restrained by the laws of Henry the Eighth, their name and jurisdiction continued for some years after his time, for in the first and second of Philip and Mary we find "an Act to confirm the liberties of the *lords marchers of Wales!*" which recites the twenty-seventh of the late king, and proceeds to ratify the provisions there made in their behalf, and ascertain what forfeitures and benefits the lords marchers, spiritual and temporal, should have of their tenants; together with the mises, profits, liberties, and franchises appendant to their respective lordships.

The statute of the twenty-first of James the First, c. 10, is peculiarly gratifying to the feelings of a Welshman. It begins with the following recital: "Whereas the subjects of the country and dominion of Wales have been constantly loyal and obedient, and have lived in all dutiful subjection to the Crown of England," it then proceeds to recite the unprecedented clause in the thirty-fourth of Henry the Eighth, by which he was empowered to change, alter, order, publish and reform the law then passed at his pleasure, and that all such alterations, as well as any new laws which the king should make and publish in writing under his hand should "*be of as good strength, virtue and effect*" as if made by authority of Parliament!!! The statute of James then goes on to declare that it is manifest by long experience that the laws already ordained for the said country are, for the most part, agreeable to the laws of England, and are obeyed with great alacrity; for which reasons this most detestable clause is with great propriety repealed.

The president and council of the Marches of Wales retained their power until the epoch of the glorious revolution, when being deemed oppressive¹ to the subject and unnecessary to the due

¹ Lewis (one of the Harpton family, who wrote the *Antient History of Britain*) asserts that this court was useful in its design and impartial in its practice; he says the fees were small and the delays less than in most other courts, but in contradiction to this assertion, it must be admitted, that the tradition of the country is with the legislature of William and Mary, for it has most assuredly left behind it "a wounded name" throughout the principality.

The reader who wishes to know more of this court will receive much information upon the subject, by perusing the instructions given by James the First to Lord Compton, president in 1625, and ten years afterwards by Charles the First to the Earl of Bridgewater, which are preserved in *Rymer's Fœdera*, vo. 17. p. 629, and vol. 19. p. 448.

administration of justice, this court was finally dissolved and the appointment of the sheriffs in Wales referred to the recommendation of the justices of the Great Sessions, and by a subsequent Act of the same reign, a certain clause in the statute of the 34th and 35th of Henry the Eighth, limiting the justices of the peace of Wales to eight in each county, is repealed, and the King empowered to augment their number as he might think convenient.

The statute of the seventh and eighth of this reign, chapter 38, enabled the inhabitants of Wales to dispose of their property and personal effects by will, thereby abolishing a certain ancient custom in the Principality, whereby widows and younger children of persons dying there, were entitled to a certain portion of the goods and chattels of their late husbands or fathers, called her, or their, reasonable part notwithstanding any previous disposal thereof by will or deed, and notwithstanding a competent jointure had been made by settlement. By this Act, the widows, children and other relations of a testator, are wholly barred from any claim on his personal estate, otherwise than is limited by will. Several other statutes have also been passed relative to Wales from the time of Henry the Eighth to the present day, but they are of little consequence in an historical view.



CHAPTER II.

Language, Manners, Popular Opinions and Prejudices, Customs, State of Commerce, useful Projects, as Turnpike Roads, the Brecon and Abergavenny Canal and Railways.

IN general, the inhabitants of Breconshire, as well as the whole people of Wales, retain an enthusiastic veneration for their ancient language; we have this strongly exemplified in a tale of former times, and as it portrays the characteristic features of the Britons of the present day, we introduce it. The story is told by Giraldus Cambrensis. Henry the Second, when engaged in planning an expedition against South Wales, at a place called Pencadair in that country, consulted an ancient Welshman as to the strength and number of forces in that part of the Principality and the probability of his success against them. The old man thus pithily replied: "This nation, Oh King! may suffer much and be in a great measure ruined, or at least weakened, by your present and future attempts, as formerly it has often been, but we assure ourselves it will never wholly be destroyed by the anger or power of any mortal man, unless the wrath of heaven concur in that destruction; nor (whatever changes happen as to any other part of the world) can I believe that any other language besides the Welsh shall answer at the last day for the greater part of this corner of the globe." To the same effect prophesied Taliesin:

I ner a folant,
Eu iath a gadwant,
Eu fir a gollant,
On'd gwyll Wallia.

Taliesin.

Still they shall chaunt their great creator's praise,
And still preserve their language and their lays,
But nought preserve of all their wide domains,
Save Wallia's wild uncultivated plains.

Walters.

To this patriotic partiality for their language and *natale solvm*, we may venture to attribute all that nationality of character which, surviving the ravages of time, still continues undiminished in the Cambro-British breast. It was the observation of a late respectable historian, "that nations which have been long seated in the same country and have had little intercourse with strangers commonly retain the same national character, manners and customs through a long succession of ages; they become proud of their antiquity, fond admirers of their ancestors, and fondly attached to their sentiments and prejudices, their follies, errors and vices not excepted." This is very remarkably the characteristic of the native yeomanry of Wales; as to those of superior rank or the constant inhabitants of towns, they are now by habit or education become so wholly English that no distinction is observable between them and their fellow subjects eastward of the Severn; but the sequestered peasant who rarely quits the vicinity of his mountain, who speaks no other language than his mother tongue, still adheres with infinite attachment to all the habitudes and customs of his ancestors. On all occasions he adopts their sentiments and dwells with fond delight upon the traditions of old times. Arthur, Llewelyn, and Glyndyfrdwy's lord will ever be the themes of Cambro-British admiration, whilst Offa, Edward, and Henry will never cease to create disgust. Uneducated in the refinements of that new philosophy which ostentatiously affects an universal citizenship, the Welshman thinks no country equal to his own, and even in the midst of poverty is happy to acknowledged as his proudest boast that he was born an ancient Briton.

Whilst every good his native wilds impart
Imprints the patriot passion on his heart,
And e'en the hills which round his mansion rise
Enhance the bliss his scanty fund supplies.
Dear is that shed to which his soul conforms,
And dear that hill which lifts him to the storms,
And as a babe when scaring sounds molest
Clings close and closer to his mother's breast,
So the loud torrent and the whirlwind's roar
But bind him to his native mountains more. Goldsmith.

CHARACTER OF THE WELSH.

It is but justice to observe that the character given of this people by certain learned and unlearned writers is very little to be depended upon; biassed by interest, warped by prejudices, or judging without a sufficient knowledge of their subject, they have been more studious to paint them

in unfavourable colours, than diligent to inquire as to real facts. William the Monk of Newbury, for a race, asserts that Wales produces a race of men barbarous in manners and faithless in principle, greedy of other men's blood and prodigal of their own, vehemently intent on rapine and bearing an innate hatred to the English nation." These are doubtless heavy charges, but the bitterness of spirit which suggested them is easily accounted for when we learn from Dr. Powel that this William (whom the Welsh call Gwilym bach or little Will) applied for the bishopric of St. Asaph upon the death of Geoffrey Arthur (surnamed of Monmouth) about the year 1165, but being disappointed and having met with a little rough treatment from David the son of Owen Gwynedd, he became violently enraged and "vomited forth" (says Powel) his spleen against the whole British nation, as the unprejudiced reader may soon discover from the virulence and acrimony of his writings.

Another writer, Giraldus Cambrensis, from whose connections and descent we might have expected better treatment, and a more honourable report, to please a monarch whom at the same time he affected to despise, insults his countrymen with charges as gross and as illiberal as they are unfounded; he talks of crimes "which God and men abhor," and ransacks the black catalogue of vices for the foul reproaches with which he brands them. But we have seen the man; with all his learning, he too had great and prominent faults. Had he taken the trouble of examining the triads or perusing the laws of Hywel Dda, he would have found ample reasons for retracting some of his assertions; he would have seen that, with all their peculiarities, in no country were the laws of morality in general more strongly inculcated, more strictly guarded, or the breach of them more severely punished than in Wales.

Pinkerton—the respectable and learned, yet eccentric Pinkerton—has sacrificed candour to unmanly prejudice and a blind attachment to a system of his own creation. The following is his mode of contrasting characters: "The Goths, a wise, valiant and generous race, were the friends of every elegant art and useful science, and when not constrained to arms by the inevitable situation and spirit of their society, they carried every art and science to heights unknown before, as the ancient Greeks and modern Europeans might witness. In wisdom (that perfection of human nature) ancient authors call the rude Goths, the first of nations. The Celts from all ancient accounts, and from present knowledge, were, and are a savage race, incapable of labour or even of rude arts; being indeed mere savages, and worse than the savages of America, remarkable even to our own times, for a total neglect of agriculture themselves, and for plundering their neighbours. The Irish Celts, Scotch Celts and the Welsh Celts have all alike a claim to the character, and when it begins to pass away, it is a sign that by intermarriage the Gothic blood begins to exceed the Celtic, and that the Celts are no longer Celts, though so accounted. The Celts are savages, have been savages since the world began and will be for ever savages; mere radical savages, not yet advanced even to a state of barbarism, and if any foreigner doubts this, he has only to step into the Celtic parts of Wales, Ireland or Scotland and look at them; for they are just as they were, incapable of industry or civilisation, even after half their blood is Gothic." He assumes that "even their language is derived from the English, and to say that a writer is a Celt is to say that he is a stranger to truth, modesty, and morality," and to complete the whole and crown this climax of abuse, he says, "that a lion is to an ass, a Goth is to a Celt."

But now the old fable inverted is seen,
For the lion insults and the jackasses grin.

To abuse, indiscriminately thrown upon a whole nation, we will take the liberty of opposing an instance of individual virtue; it is a weak defence, and can only be justified in resisting an attack equally impotent.

STORY OF ERIPPE AND XANTHUS.

In the *Erotica* of Parthenius¹ we have the following proof of true greatness of mind in a Celtic savage:—"When the Gauls made an irruption into Ionia, and despoiled all the cities thereof, it happened that the sacred feast of Ceres was celebrated at Miletum, and the women of the place were assembled together in a temple at a short distance from the city. At that time a part of the barbarian army, separated from the rest, entered the Miletian territory, and making an unexpected attack took the women prisoners, in expectation that the Miletians would ransom them at a high

¹ Parthenius of Nice was a poet who lived in the beginning of Augustus's reign. He wrote a discourse from whence the above anecdote is taken; he dedicated it to Cornelius Gallus governor of Egypt. He wrote also the praises of Aretas his wife, and several other pieces. It is said he was made a slave in the time of the Mithridatic war, the Cyma emancipated him, and that he died in the time of Tiberius. If we believe what Suidas says of

him, he must have been very young when he was made a prisoner; for there were seventy years between this war and the time of Tiberius. Be this as it may, Virgil was his scholar and as it is said imitated him. In the premonition to the above story it is asserted that Aristodemus of Nysa in the first of his histories has preserved it; except that the names differ, he calls Erippe Oythmia, and the barbarian Gavaran.

price. Some of the barbarians took away with them such women as were skilled in domestic economy; of which number was Eripped the wife of Xanthus, a man of high authority, and of the first family of Miletum, who had left at home a son only two years old. Xanthus, doatingly fond of his wife, and dying to recover her, converted a considerable part of his property into money, and taking a thousand pieces of gold with him, he passed into Italy, from thence by the assistance of guides to Massilia, and from thence he reached the country of the Celts. At length he approached the house where his wife resided with a man, evidently of the first consequence among the Celts, and requested he might be admitted to lodge with them there. Upon the master of the house's acquiescing (for such is the hospitality of the people) he entered the house and beheld his wife, when she immediately threw her arms round his neck, embraced him and received him kindly. Soon after, Erippe told the Celt that the stranger was her husband, and that he came upon her account, and brought with him the price of her ransom. The Celt applauding the disposition of Xanthus, called his friends together, and treated him hospitably, and having prepared a banquet, placed his wife next to him: he then demanded by an interpreter at how much he valued the whole of his property. Xanthus replied, he valued it at a thousand pieces of gold. The barbarian on this ordered him to divide that sum into four parts, so that he might take three parts for himself, his wife and son, and leave the fourth for the ransom of his wife, who after they had retired to their chamber severely chid Xanthus, supposing he had not as much gold as he had promised to the barbarian, fearing he would get himself into danger from his inability to perform his undertaking. Xanthus assured her, that besides this he had yet another thousand pieces of gold concealed in the shoes of his servant, for he had not the least conception he should have found a barbarian so just, or that he would not have demanded an infinitely higher ransom. Upon the morrow, the wife most perfidiously betrayed this secret to the Celt, and insisted that he ought to suffer death for such a deceit; at the same time assuring him she loved him more than she did her country or her child, but that she utterly abhorred Xanthus. The Celt was so shocked at her relation that he was almost prepared instantly to put her to death. Afterwards, when Xanthus was ready to depart, he took an affectionate leave of him and sent him forward, following himself with Erippe; they were now arrived at the mountains of the Celtic country, where the barbarian said he would offer up a sacrifice before they parted. The victim then being set out, he ordered Erippe to lay hold of it, but no sooner had she seized it, as she had been accustomed to do, than with a drawn sword he stabbed her to the heart, and severed her head from her body, and in order to assuage the grief of Xanthus upon this melancholy event, he revealed to him the treachery his wife had meditated against him, and suffered him to depart with all his gold."

We leave the reader to make his comments on the story; fully satisfied the result (as far as it goes) will prove honourable to the Celtic character, for though it should be false, which we see no reason to assume, it will be recollected that even fables were always intended as illustrations of real life, and that this was written in an age when both Goths and Celts were stigmatised with the appellation of barbarians by their more polite neighbours, the Romans.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WELSH IN 1790—1810.

Such then were the sentiments and mode of thinking of some of our early ancestors. With respect to the manners, habits, and dispositions of the inhabitants of this county and the vicinity at the present day, it is much easier to say *what they are not*, than to describe them with accuracy and precision as they really are. We have no hesitation in asserting that the character of the Welsh, drawn by most of the¹ travellers of the latter end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries, had so little, if any, resemblance to the original, that it might as well be said to be

¹ In the *Gentleman's Magazine* for March, one of these gentry, a man of eminence and knowledge in his profession, but who will not be persuaded that he does not excel in the sublime, though he has no taste for that style, rather than dealing in the marvellous, tells us he was disturbed at Crickhowel by a number of people who were amusing themselves, as his hostess informed him, with hearing the trial of a woman accused of SORCERY. "The gentry and clergy (says he) of the county are all met together, determined to have a complete *bout* of it in the assembly room below (which by the bye is above stairs), a trial in the morning, a feast in the afternoon, and a ball in the evening!" To say that there could be no such trial here, is almost superfluous, but the fact is, that there was no such accusation. There happened to be a monthly meeting of the magistrates of the hundred in the house when this traveller and his nephew came there, when a woman was brought before them, not for witchcraft, but for imposing upon the peasantry of the country and obtaining money under

pretence of fortune telling, and in the evening of the same day the gentlemen and ladies of the vicinity had appointed an assembly, where for ought we know some of these very justices may have joined in the dance after business was over.

Candour as well as justice to these writers, many of whom are respectable for their talents, as well as conduct in private life, must induce us to attribute the defects alluded to, to inattention, want of authentic information, or erroneous judgment, rather than to a wilful intention to deceive the public. The vagaries as well as the appearance of this *order* may be thus described:—

"The *insect youth* are on the wing
Eager to taste the honied spring.

And glide along the plains at noon,
Some lightly o'er the mountains skim,
Some shew their gaily gilded trim
Quick glancing to the sun."

a description of a Breton, as a Briton, of Walachia, as of Wales. To pourtray the peculiarities of disposition and manners of a country, to discover thoroughly those sentiments which for different reasons they wish to conceal, and to develop and display with correctness their turn of thinking, their passions and their prejudices, requires a greater degree of knowledge, and a longer residence among them than those flying philosophers chose to bestow upon these subjects, and above all, and as a preliminary to a more intimate acquaintance with the poor Celtic savages, it was absolutely necessary that the polite Goth or Saxon should understand the British language, and yet this was a talent few of them possessed, though almost all of them endeavoured to explain Welsh words as they picked them up on the highways, and some of them even to criticise upon them with great flippancy; in consequence of this defect, and the hurry of the tour, they were too apt to describe any incidents or occurrences which may appear extraordinary to them as characteristic of the country.¹

The Welsh are proud, irascible, abrupt in address, hasty in their delivery, and sometimes in their conclusions; they are shrewd in argument, persevering, and indefatigable in pursuit of a favourite point, cautious and artful in their endeavours to conceal their object from the party from whom it is sought, and too fond of obtaining it by fraud or artifice: indeed, the difference betwixt wisdom and cunning does not seem to be thoroughly understood by *all* the inhabitants of this country. A victory in a Court of Law (and they have rather a litigious spirit) is thought more valuable, and the lawyer better esteemed by a certain description of people, when it is obtained by manœuvre or chicanery, than when it follows the weight of evidence or the fair merits of the case. For the English, they have long entertained an habitual, and almost inveterate aversion, and though it is now wearing off very fast, it is but too evident in their dealings and in their manner of speaking of them, "Sais yw ef syn"—("He is a Saxon, beware,")—is still frequently heard, when one of the natives of Wales perceives his countryman in treaty with an Englishman, and it is said that formerly the articles of consumption esteemed as the greatest luxuries in the Principality were, "caws wedi bobî, a Sais wedi grogi," or, "toasted cheese and hung Saxon."

The Romans have long been forgotten, and to the Normans they seem to have retained no enmity; indeed, they may almost be said to love them, for the same reasons that grandfathers are supposed to prefer their grandchildren to their immediate issue, because in them they see the enemies of their enemy. The treachery of the Saxons, whom the aboriginal Britons introduced into the island as friends and allies, and their cruelty in exterminating in cold blood the nobility of the ancient inhabitants (as is said to have been done on Salisbury Plain) still rankles in the bosoms of the indigenous sons of freedom; the connections and intercourse, however, of the two countries are now so numerous and so intimate, and the interests of both are so much blended, that the distinction of country will be thought of no more, and even at this moment it is confined to the secluded native of our wildest mountains, or to some unsociable beings who, unacquainted with the improved state of society, are prejudiced by tradition and are misanthropes from habit or constitution.

They are said to possess much curiosity, and an irresistible desire of prying into the designs, and learning the destination of travellers. There is nothing singular in this; all countries have this apparent curiosity, when they see or hear a being of a different garb or language from their own, and if a Welshman just caught and brought from the mountains were introduced into a levee at St. James, or into a rout among the fashionables of the metropolis, his country and his manners would be as much the objects of inquiry and curiosity as those of the English philosophers in the bogs of Wales.

One of the worst of their habits remains to be described and to be deplored; this is their savage mode of fighting. In England when a battle ensues the lowest of the mob has something like notions of honour, and roars out with sincerity, "Fair play," but with us all advantages are fair in war, and a fallen adversary is at the mercy of his more fortunate competitor, while the bystanders seldom, if ever, interfere to prevent this unmanly application of the feet, and this ferocious mode of injuring, and sometimes of murdering a fellow creature. Death has frequently ensued in consequence of this cruel habit: it is rather extraordinary that it has not oftener followed these affrays; but the Welsh are not to be argued out of the practice, and their countrymen in general do not reprobate it.

MODES OF LIFE IN BRECONSHIRE.

It is difficult to say how far that want of cleanliness, with which the Welsh were frequently charged a century ago, was really imputable to them. After a more laborious investigation of the

¹ Thus one of these gentlemen, having seen a shoemaker who also sells books, after remarking upon the oddity of this combination of trades, hints that it is common in the principality; the

fact is that this union of avocations is looked upon with equal surprise in Wales as it is in England, and is as seldom to be met with in the former country.

subject than has been employed by most of those who have thrown out the aspersion, we can form no decided opinion of their comparative merit or demerit in this respect. Glamorganshire, most certainly must be instantly acquitted of this offence, for such it is; the cots in the vales of that county were externally and internally neater than any other part of the kingdom, or at least we may venture to assert they were not excelled in that particular in any tract of equal extent in England. The hut indeed upon the wilds of Breconsaire, where the door serves for the threefold purposes of an entrance, a window, and a chimney, was a miserable habitation, and we have seen most disgusting scenes of filth in narrow allies in our towns.

Whatever may have been the facts in Theophilus Jones' time, it can no longer be a matter of doubt that the habits of the people of the county are as clean as those of any other county. A generous application by public bodies of improved sanitary laws has led to considerable improvements in farmhouses and country cottages; and the "huts" mentioned by Jones are now rarely to be met with except as ruined memorials of the past; and there is hardly a village in the county which has not a plentiful supply of pure water brought through pipes to its centre. In the towns, efficient drainage systems have been carried out at great cost, and water laid on to every house. It is true there is still some cottage property which reflect discredit, but these tenements cannot long survive the demand for more commodious dwellings made by a people whose ideas of comfort have been advanced by a system of higher education.

One of the proofs of want of cleanliness in the Welsh (which has been strongly relied upon) is their being observed frequently without shoes or stockings. The objection is not new, it is as old at least as Henry the Fourth; "I am not afraid," says he, "of those barefooted rascals"—meaning, we presume, that all those who were barefooted must have been rascals or vagabonds. Under favour, "my very noble and approved good masters," the dirt thus thrown will not stick: this custom, however odious it may appear to those who live in courts and are strangers to the "short and simple annals of the poor," is productive of the reverse of what they too hastily presume. It originates in hard necessity and commendable parsimony; the rustic Welsh damsel who trudges to a fair or market barefooted, has no more pleasure in this kind of exercise than the courtier, though from habit the inconvenience diminishes. As soon as she approaches her journey's end the first stream near the town to which she directs her course is employed to wash off the dirt acquired in her walk; the shoes and stockings are then put on and worn till her return, are again taken off and the feet again washed before she proceeds to her house or her bed. Is there any want of cleanliness discoverable here.

The "rustic Welsh damsel" of 1900 is not to be found who would imitate her sister of 1800 by going to market in the manner described by Theophilus Jones. A few years ago it was the general custom for farmers' wives to find their way to the market towns on horseback, with their baskets affixed to the saddle, or perhaps to ride there on a gambo, but even this practice is fast disappearing. And it is far more general in 1905 to see the farmer and his family drive into the market towns seated in a well-appointed trap, cushioned, and in some cases with the wheels rubber-tyred; all of which shows the farmer to be a much more prosperous man than his ancestors and with a taste for luxury quite foreign to his grandfather's nature.

FOOD OF THE GENERAL PEOPLE.

The English travellers have described the Welsh farmers and peasants as hospitable, a virtue they certainly possess, but we owe this acknowledgment more to the politeness than the experience of our neighbours. For the reasons we have already explained, as well as from a want of frequent intercourse with foreigners, the inhabitants of the Principality have a shyness towards travellers, and a suspicion of the motives for their peregrinations generally prevails; but if the stranger is fortunate enough to meet with, or to be introduced to an intelligent and conversible person upon his entry into the country, who will recommend him in his route, his business is done, and this shyness instantly vanishes, when they are assured by one of their neighbours on whom they can depend that the history of their country, a desire to explore the beauties of nature, and an abstract knowledge of their manners are alone sought for. Under these circumstances the door is thrown widely open to the welcome guest and such fare as their houses afford is placed without grudging before him. Most of the middling farmers in Jones's time killed one beast in November or December, and a pig about Christmas which were salted and roofed; this was the principal stock and capital for the ensuing year; a piece of this, out of the pot, formed one day's dinner; the broth in which it was boiled, with a desert of bread and cheese, washed down by water or whey, followed for the two or

three succeeding days, and flummery and milk and vegetables,¹ as potatoes, turnips, etc., with the usual assistance of the brown loaf and skim cheese, filled up the week. Butcher's meat fresh was rarely seen in small houses, and consequently when introduced was considered a luxury. In some parts of the county this description is, in some respects, still true; but a more liberal fare is in this year of 1900 partaken of by the farmer and his household. Cider and a light beer take the place of whey, which is not often met with.

THEIR WEARING APPAREL.

To the immortal honour of the commonality of this county, let it be recorded that "they have a tear for pity and hearts as open as day for melting charity." To the tale of woe they never turn a deaf ear, nor is the humble door of the little farmer on the mountain ever shut against an object in distress. The wearing apparel of the men—in striking contrast to that worn in the early part of the 19th century, when it was described as "would not tempt even the avarice of the collectors for rag fair," is now neat and serviceable, and their Sunday dress is little inferior in style and quality to that worn by the tradesmen of towns. In some districts the grey or drab-coloured cloth is still worn, manufactured out of the wool of their own country sheep; these garments being made more for warmth than show. Whereas the dress of the women formerly consisted of a brown or blue jacket, check handkerchief or apron, man's hat, and flannel petticoat, they are now in 1900 as well versed in the latest fashions as are their sisters in the towns, and do not fail to avail themselves of opportunities for improving their appearance by those aids to nature so extensively advertised in the ladies' magazines, which they eagerly read. The *coffee house* of the males is no longer the blacksmith's shop alone, for the village inn shares their patronage, and as to the grist mills being the place of meeting of the females, we have now to deplore the fact that the county no longer grows corn in any quantity, and has therefore no further need for its old mills, many of which have fallen into decay. "At night," says Theophilus Jones, "while the women card wool, spin, or knit, those who have memory to preserve the tales of tradition and can relate the exploits of their ancestors, entertain the household with a recital of them or frighten their audiences with the eccentricities of a ghost who is generally sent in search of old iron to be thrown into a pond or river, and the phantom is thereupon appeased and departs to rest." This was true as late as thirty years ago, but a material change has come over the people of the county. It is true they are still, in many places, able to ply the knitting pins to good effect, and are not less industrious than their predecessors, but they can no longer fascinate or terrify their younger neighbours by a recital of the exploits of their forefathers, either in the quick or dead state, for they provide themselves, by perusing popular cheap novels, with an abundance of those sensations.

SOME SUPERSTITIONS.

We have been frequently told that the Welsh are remarkably superstitious, and that most, if not all of them, believe in the reality of apparitions. This is idle assertion and mere conjecture; they have no more superstition or credulity than falls to the lot of the humble inhabitants of an equal tract of land in any other part of the kingdom. They have, it is certain, their stock stories, their provincial demons and goblins and their characteristic phenomena, with whom many are acquainted, most wish to hear of, and some few believe; among the visionary beings, of whom tradition tells, and whom imagination creates, we frequently hear of the fairies, whom they call, "bendith eu mamau," and "y tylwyth tég," i.e., the blessings of their mothers, the fairies or fair household, meaning that they were fair of form, though most foul in mind. The stories related of these fairies as well as of witches who were supposed to play tricks with the milkmaid and spoil the butter, are similar to those heard in England.

Besides these diminutive representatives of man, the Welsh have also fiends peculiar to themselves, or at least generally forgotten by the majority of the inhabitants of the island; these they call *cwn Anwn* or Anwn's dogs. Anwn is translated by Owen, *unknown*, but it is rather *anwnf*, bottomless, and the prince of this country who is personified in the *Mabymogion* may be called the king of immeasurable darkness, of that boundless void or space in which the universe floats or is suspended. This Being, say the gossips, is the enemy of mankind, and his dogs are frequently heard hunting in the air, some time previous to the dissolution of a wicked person: they are described in the beautiful romance to which we have referred, to be of a clear shining white colour with red ears. No one, with us, pretends to have seen them, but the general idea is that they are jet-black. To these dogs we conceive Shakespeare alludes in his "Tempest," when he talks of noise of hunters heard

¹ They had an universal and unconquerable aversion to mushrooms and looked upon the *gentry* (as they call them) who are fond of this excellent vegetable, as somewhat worse than swine in this particular, but these are now (1900) gathered in large quantities and brought to the markets for sale.

in the air, and spirits in the shapes of hounds, and not to Peter de Loier, "who (says Malone in a note) Hecate¹ did use to send dogges unto men to fear and terrify them, as the Greeks affirmed."

The corpse candle, which precedes the death of some person in the neighbourhood, and marks the route of the funeral from the house of the deceased to the church is a common topic among our peasantry, who believe it confined to the diocese of St. David's: a tradition is likewise very commonly received among them, which preserves the memory of certain extraordinary and wonderful feats of strength, performed by two oxen of prodigious size, called "ychain banog," or the oxen of the summits of the mountains. Davies in his *Celtic Researches* calls them "elevated oxen," and supposes them to allude to a sacrifice made by Hu gadarn or Hu the mighty; but whatever may have been the origin of the legends told of these oxen, the tradition seems to have been derived from the *Mythology of the Druids*, and in some measure confirms the antiquity of the Triads, from whence it is evidently derived.

CUSTOMS AT WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS.

The funerals in Wales, and the ceremonies preceding and following them, were in 1800 very similar to those of the Irish. Weddings were formerly attended with some very extraordinary customs, all of which are now disused in the towns and their vicinities, but in the hills some few still remain, particularly what is called the *bidding*, and we still occasionally see the herald of this event announcing it to the friends, relations and acquaintances of the bride and bridegroom. He bears in his hand a long hunting pole or staff, to the top of which is nailed or tied a bunch of ribbons of various colours; after greeting the family as he approaches the house, leaning upon his support like the *dalciniad pen pastwn* of old, he with great gravity and solemnity, addresses them nearly in the words mentioned in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, of December 1791, page 1103, with this difference, that in Breconshire, fish is not enumerated among the dainties of which the guests are invited to partake. The form of this invitation was printed as late as perhaps 1876, and the substance was a promise of cakes and ale, pipes and tobacco, chairs to sit down, etc., and an undertaking on behalf of the intending bride and bridegroom, that they will return the favour to such of their visitors as may thereafter claim it.

On the evening preceding the marriage, the bride's female friends bring her several articles of household furniture; this is called *stafell*². On the morning of the ceremony, the lady affects coyness and sometimes conceals herself, but is *fortunately* always discovered and rescued from the party who are resolved to carry her off. Upon approaching the church, another scene of confusion and bustle ensues; it should seem now, that some of the company are determined to prevent the celebration of the marriage. One of her male friends, behind whom she is mounted on horseback, though generally without a pillion, makes many attempts to escape and to run away with her, but the companions of her future husband succeed in dragging her ("nothing loath") to the altar. Upon this occasion, the racings and galloping on both sides are really alarming to bystanders unaccustomed to these exhibitions, and it is astonishing that more accidents have not happened in these sham fights and pursuits. Previously to the young couple's setting out for church, as well as at the public house in the village where they generally retire for a short time after the ceremony is over, the friends of both parties subscribe, according to their abilities, each a few shillings, and the sum is particularly noticed by one of the company; as it is expected to be returned to every person then present who may thereafter be entitled to it on a similar occasion, for this contribution has been long settled to be of the nature of a loan and has been sued for, and recovered at law. Lewis Morris³ asserts, that instances have been known where two persons have made biddings under pretence of marriage when it was not intended, in order to get money, which they have divided amongst themselves. Such a stratagem has never come within our knowledge, nor indeed can it possibly be effected according to our custom; but that of Cardiganshire, which Mr Morris in part describes, may be different, and the money may be there collected on the day, or in the week preceding the marriage.

But it must be confessed that in the year 1900 the lads and lasses of our county are ever ready to go to the altar, or the registry office, without enacting a comedy of this kind for the amuse-

¹ The prince of Anwn and Hecate are man and wife, and to Sir John Price the antiquary, a native of Breconshire, who both are the parents of this fable. For this and many other lived much in the English court in the reigns of Henry the Eighth peculiarities relative to Wales Shakespeare was probably indebted and his daughter Elizabeth.

² Literally the chamber, but it means here furnishing or furniture for the chamber.

³ *Gentlemen's Magazine*, Dec. 1791, p. 1103.

ment of their friends and neighbours. The custom of making wedding presents is substituted for the old-fashioned custom in vogue at the "bidding."

AMUSEMENTS IN THE COUNTY.

The athletic exercises of throwing the bar, running, and wrestling, were in 1800 superseded by the amusement of hunting, ball playing, and drinking; in the two first, much activity is certainly required, but the last, frequently, if not always, succeeds to both, until the head and stomach become brimful, and the pockets completely empty. In the course of the carousal, what they call singing is introduced; generally two or three begin at different times and in different metres and cadences (for they cannot be called tunes), and proceed with great satisfaction to themselves, and apparently to the great delight of their parties; if a third or fourth strikes up the *harmony* continues. No one complains of interruption, and even if a trifling dispute arises, provided it do not proceed to blows, the minstrels persevere with admirable calmness and composure to the conclusion of their ballads in a tone of voice which is applied without variation to a psalm or a sonnet, a hymn or a march, and than which nothing can be more dissonant and disagreeable; the last note to every song, whatever may be the subject, is protracted, drawn, or rather *drowled* out to a considerable length, and is in what a musical friend calls a *monotonous minor lower key*. The beverage drunk at these meetings is principally ale, not above a fortnight old, and the malt highly dried; for they suppose pale beer must be weak, and consequently, as they think, not so strengthening and exhilarating as more potent liquor.

To the games played in 1800 have to be added in 1900 those of cricket, tennis, golf, and football, and in every part of the county various clubs have been formed for the promotion of these several games. Fortunately, "drinking" is no longer considered as an essential to happiness, and, whilst the custom still remains, including the "musical" part of it, the pastime is indulged in on rarer occasions than was formerly the case: especially is this so at our county fairs and markets.

WELSH GENEALOGY.

Welshmen in the early part of the 19th century entertained a great dislike to surnames. When a complaint was made to a magistrate against a neighbour, his worship was entreated to grant a warrant against "Twm o'r Cwn," i.e., Tom of the vale. "Thomas of the vale (repeats the justice), what's his surname?" "I have never heard he had any other name," was the common reply. If the honest native be compelled reluctantly to adopt the English custom, and to introduce these epithets (as he conceives them) into his family, he and his children¹ were absolutely bewildered for the two or three next generations. Suppose his name to be Cadwaladr Griffith, his son in endeavouring to imitate the English fashion would call himself John Cadwaladr Griffith, and his son again would be known by the names of William John Cadwaladr Griffith; until fatigued and tired with dragging after him the long chain of cognomina and agnomina, his descendants submit to be called, al'Angloise, Thomas Williams, by which surname his family was ever afterwards distinguished.²

Our Saxon and Norman conquerors do not seem to be aware of this difficulty, for they conceive that a fondness for a multitude of names is one of the characteristic foibles of Welshmen; when they describe them by Thomas ap Dafydd ap Sienkin ap Shon ap Thomas ap William ap Evan, etc. It is true genealogists, whose business it is to register descents, will inform us that John was "ap," or the son of Thomas, the son of William, the son of David, etc.; but in the common intercourse and concerns of life, they were only known to each other by their Christian names and residences. They have also sometimes been described by the beauties and imperfections of their persons, and sometimes by their professions or avocations. Another anomaly prevailed with respect to names and continued down to 1805 in the Western parts of Brecknockshire, particularly in Ystradgynlais and Ystradfellte. The wife retained her maiden name, and should the husband be called Thomas David and her father William John, she subscribes Margaret William formerly written Margaret, *vz.* William, Margaret verch or the daughter of William, and as late as the beginning of the eighteenth century, this custom prevailed even in the *town* of Brecon, for in the chapel of the men of Battle in the Priory Church we have "Here lieth the body of Elizabeth *Morgan* the wife of Lewis *Price* of this town who died 1704, aged 70."

COMMERCE IN THE COUNTY.

As to commerce, although we have great advantages for manufactures, we can boast of few. From the latter end of the 16th to the beginning of the 19th centuries, great fortunes were acquired

¹ When this custom was first introduced, two brothers frequently adopted different surnames; for instance, John Thomas had two sons, Griffith and William, Griffith subscribed himself Griffith *John*, and the other brother wrote, William *Thomas*.

² Thus the Norman name of Bullen after being discontinued from Lawrence Bullen downwards, was resigned by the family, and the name of Williams substituted by Thomas Williams in 1613,

who was the son of William ap Phillip ap Richard ap John ap Lawrence Bullen. These are the present Abercromlais and Penpont families. So also the name of Boys, after rejecting the changes of Jenkin Williams Boys and William Seukin Boys is now *steadied* into Williams of Velinnewydd, though the name of Jenkin still continues to be known among them as a christian name.

in Brecon and the vicinity by the manufacture of woollen cloths; the superior industry or capital of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, and elsewhere, rivalled and at last put a stop to our trade. Few mills, therefore, are left to the county, and those are but small ones. The principal exports of the county are wool, butter, cheese; of the former a quantity is still spun and knit into stockings in the hundred of Builth and in different parts of the highlands. It was formerly the custom to drive some sheep, horned cattle, and swine to the markets of Worcester, London, Bristol, and other cities; but the dealers from these and other populous centres now come in great numbers to the county markets and fairs and buy considerable quantities, especially of sheep, very many thousands of which are reared at this time (1900) in the different parts of the county. There is also a large trade done in the county markets in poultry, eggs, etc., which are eagerly bought up by hucksters and carried off to the iron and coal works for sale there. This county for many years supplied the nearest seaports with considerable quantities of oak and other timber, for the purposes of ship-building, etc., and also for the use of the ironmasters; but the trade is now of little importance. Brecon, Builth, Hay, and Crickhowell depend very largely upon the trade done with the surrounding agriculturists and such county gentlemen as remain upon their estates and extend their support to the local tradesmen; but Brynmawr and Ystradgunlais may be said to be the headquarters of population dependent either upon coal mines or similar works. Almost every village in the county has now its "Emporium," where draperies, groceries, ironmongery, etc., may be obtained with as great facility as in the towns.

THE OLD CARTWAYS OF THE COUNTY.

Before we proceed to notice the construction of turnpike roads in the county, it may not be irrelevant to take a retrospective view of the different routes taken by the conquerors of the Principality, and by travellers through the county at different periods.

While this district was with propriety called Garthmadrin, and its inhabitants consisted principally of foxes, wolves, and beasts of prey, the low lands were almost covered or (as a modern historian said) *suffocated* with wood and brakes, and consequently almost impervious to travellers. When the Romans had cleared their way into the frontiers upon the defeat of Caractacus, Ostorius seems to have advanced some few miles further westward; though perhaps the utmost extent of his march in this direction was limited to the Gaer, three miles above Brecon, but the brave and indefatigable Julius completed, during the career of his victories and in the course of one life, what to common minds and more ordinary capacities, would have appeared to be the work of ages. The stratum or way known by the name of this commander pursued nearly the same track as the present turnpike road from Abergavenny to Brecon; from thence, instead of immediately crossing the Usk, it continued on the same side of the river to Gaer, and to the site of the present Aberbrân bridge or thereabouts; afterwards it again recovered the line of the present highway, and proceeded to Rhyd-y-briv, eight miles above Brecon, where instead of recrossing the Usk it passed the Senni near its fall into the former river, on the south side of which it pursued its course, as we conjecture, (for here it is merely conjecture) to Tal-y-sarn, Llys Brychan, in Duffrin Cydrich in Llanddisant, and so on the same side of the river near Golden Grove, until it joined the Glamorganshire line of the Julia Strata near Carmarthen. Upon the departure of the Romans this road was destroyed, either by neglect or from political motives, so that the recollection of the work was barely kept alive by some of the Roman authors, until the persevering assiduity of British antiquaries of the two last centuries once more explored the vestiges, retraced the footsteps, and restored the long lost fortresses and stations of the earliest of our conquerors, throughout the whole extent of Britannia secunda.

THE ROADS OF THE SAXONS.

The roads made by the Saxons in their incursions were hastily formed, badly executed, and as deficient in plan and system as their modes of warfare; sometimes we see them entering the confines of Breconshire, on the south-east from Monmouthshire, at other times their inroads were made through Herefordshire, and at others through Shropshire on the north-east. But wherever these barbarians penetrated, they left a gloomy solitude behind them, while deserted villages and the ashes or ruins of prostrated habitations, marked their progress and wrote the history of their expeditions, in characters too legible to be mistaken; for as plunder and not permanent subjugation was their principal object, it formed no part of their system, if such they could be said to possess, to facilitate the intercourse of travellers, or even the march of armies through the Principality. They were governed only by momentary rapacity or sanguinary revenge, and looked not for future advantages to their posterity, consequently whenever we hear of Rhyd-y-Saison, Bwlch-y-Saison, etc., the Saxon's ford, the Saxon's pass, etc., we must not conclude that there were roads near them, but that those situations only preserve the memory of the irruptions, perhaps of a victory gained near the spot by these depredators. But though the points of attack were thus numerous and uncertain, their principal and

common line of march was through Hereford, from thence called Henfordd and Henfordd y Saison, the old road of the Saxons; from this county they entered Radnorshire, continuing on the north side of the Wye till they came to Builth, where there was a bridge, we know, as early as the thirteenth century, and probably there was one of much earlier construction. Here they usually crossed the river and proceeded on the south side of the Irvon to Llwydlo-fach and into Carmarthenshire.

During the reigns of the two first Edwards, this seems to have been the principal road through Breconshire, and in the course of this period, several commissions issued, directed to the servants and ministers of the English Crown, "*ad prosterendas quercus*," in the hundred of Builth, for the accommodation of travellers; for this labour as well as for the protection of their persons a tax was levied at Builth Castle (which from this circumstance may be said to be the first *turnpike house* erected in Breconshire), called Porthant Herwyr, or a tax on alien merchants or drovers. Of this contribution, at first levied *ad libitum* by the lord marcher, the King of England did not scruple to accept a proportion. It was paid in Theo. Jones' time, and for many years afterwards, under the name of drift toll, but the amount was ascertained and limited in the time of Charles the Second. In the reign of Edward the Third, the other nearly parallel road, through the great forest of Brecknock, appears to have been newly planned or in a great measure to have been directed by some tracts or remains of the Julia Strata then visible, and perhaps about this time the little fortress of Rhyd-y-briw was built for the protection of passengers, and garrisoned by some troops of the lord of Brecknock. Before this time a great part of this tract was inhabited by outlaws and by those native inhabitants of the country, who being driven into the wilds and fastnesses of Breconshire, on the conquest by Bernard Newmarch, occasionally poured down like a torrent into the low lands, and ravaged the possessions of the tenants and dependants of the Normans; these irruptions made travelling through this tract dangerous. We therefore find that the usual route of those whom war or business led through Breconshire previous to this time, was through Monmouthshire into the vale of Grwyne-fawr, to Talgarth, Llanddew, to Tair derwen, crossing the Builth road to Brecon, and leaving that town one mile and a half to the south, thence to Aberscyr, Trallong and Llywel. On this road, and soon after it enters Breconshire, Richard Earl of Clare was murdered by the instigation of Iorwerth of Caerleon, as the English nobleman was foolishly piping along, after having imprudently dismissed his soldiers and attendants, and by this road Giraldus Cambrensis travelled from his house at Llanddew, to St. David's.

Though these three roads continued accessible to travellers for several centuries, they were little more than bridle ways, or as Mr Valentine Morris, of Piercefield, very humorously called them, "*ditches*." They were barely wide enough to permit even one carriage to be dragged along, and such was the difficulty and delay in travelling over the best of them until the middle of the 18th century, that Sir John Phillips, in his journeys from Picton to attend his duty in Parliament, was with difficulty able with a coach drawn by *six* horses, to travel from Llandoverly to Hay, a distance of only thirty-five miles, in the course of two long summer's days. No waggons or chaises let for hire were seen on the road, and those articles of trade for which we were indebted to the London and Bristol markets, were either brought in small carts or low sledges or else in panniers or barrels on horses' backs.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN THE 18TH CENTURY.

About the middle of the eighteenth century some gentlemen feeling the inconvenience arising from the want of good roads, proposed to repair and widen the old lanes, by individual subscription, and in September, 1755, the Breconshire Agricultural Society agreed that if any parish would raise a sum over and above the statute duty (not exceeding twenty pounds) toward the repairs of any part of the post-roads through the county leading from the county of Carmarthen to the county of Hereford, the inhabitants of such parish should receive from this society one half of such sum, to be laid out for the repairs of such road, such work to be performed before November, 1756.

These exertions were attended with considerable effect. Four of the parishes¹ on the post-road appear to have availed themselves of the liberality of this society. A stage coach having been established to run from Brecon to London, once a week, through Abergavenny, Monmouth, and Gloucester, in 1757 they extended the same premiums to the parishes repairing the *coach road over the Bulch hill*, and to the road in Llangynidr leading to coal and lime, as they allowed towards the improvement of the post-roads. A general surveyor of the highways throughout the county was appointed, at a salary of twenty pounds per annum; rewards were given to parish officers employed thereon to encourage them in their activity, allowances made towards hedging and fencing to those who gave their ground for widening them, and various other improvements were suggested and acted

¹ These parishes were Llanddew, Llanspyddid, Hay, and St. David's in Llanfaes.

upon by this truly public spirited association. But patriotic and laudable as these efforts most certainly were, the subscription of individuals was found totally inadequate to answer the desired ends. In 1767, therefore, resort was had to Parliament, and an Act passed to repair and widen the principal roads in the county of Brecon. Under the authority of this law the Commissioners erected toll gates and turnpike houses, and proceeded to put the spirit of the Act into execution; to enable them to carry their design into effect, they were empowered to borrow £10,000 on the credit of the tolls, and to take such other steps as might be expedient and conduce to the furtherance of the work.

Under these and other laws which followed at different times considerable improvements were made in the direction and formation of the roads, the convenience and comfort of travellers promoted, and the profits of the produce of the earth were increased rapidly. For many years after the establishment of the stage coach by Mr. Harper of the Golden Lion, it continued to run only to Brecon; soon after the turnpike road was finished it was extended to Carmarthen, and upon the adoption of Mr Palmer's plan an attempt was made to bring the mail by coach through Hereford and Hay, but some real or imaginary difficulties occurring in this route, it took the road through Gloucester Monmouth, Abergavenny, Brecon and Carmarthen, to Milford, every night in the week, excepting on Tuesday, and Friday on the return. Several waggons were also established for the carriage of heavy articles to and from Brecon and the other towns in that country, which set out and returned every week, so that a comparative bustle and activity prevailed there.

And here let the reader who desires to pursue this subject refer to the Records of Quarter Sessions dealing with roads, in the first Volume at page 149.

THE BRECON AND ABERGAVENNY CANAL.

In 1792, the Monmouthshire Canal Navigation Company was authorised by Act of Parliament (32 Geo. 3, c. 102) to make a navigable canal from Pontnewynydd to Newport and other subsidiary works. They were authorised to supply the Canals from any river within 2,000 yards of their works, and to construct reservoirs, doing as little damage as possible. The water for the main canal was to be taken from the Afon Llywd stream, that for the supply of a subsidiary canal from the River Ebbw.

In the following year (1793) the Brecon and Abergavenny Canal Navigation Company were empowered (33 Geo. 3, c. 96) to make a navigable canal from the town of Brecon to a junction with the Monmouthshire Canal near the town of Pontypool, at a place called Pontymoile, which canal would open an easy communication between the town of Brecknock (always so spelt in the Act), the town of Abergavenny, the county of Monmouth, and the seaports of the Kingdom. The Company was further authorised to make railways and roads for the passage of waggons from the canal, and so open communication with various iron works and collieries, and with extensive tracts of land abounding with iron, coal, lime-stone, and other minerals.

The names of the proprietors included those of the Duke of Beaufort, of Theophilus Jones, and apparently of all men of light and leading in the county, many of whose descendants are still with us, while others have passed into the realms of the forgotten. These were united into a company with powers to make and maintain the canal, and specified roads and railways; also to make roads and railways to any place within the distance of eight miles from the intended canal, a very wide power which has proved of use in the opening up of mineral wealth. They had the widest powers of taking any water within 2,000 yards of their undertaking, making satisfaction to the owners for all damages sustained by reason of the powers given.

The Canal should not exceed 26 yards in breadth in ordinary places, nor five feet in depth below the present surface of the ground, but for turning places, wharves, etc., a breadth of 80 yards was given.

All persons residing within the Counties of Brecknock and Monmouth, having an estate of £100 a year in land within the counties, or an equivalent in money, were appointed Commissioners to determine all questions arising between the Company and landowners, with very wide powers of arbitration. They might at any time settle what money should be paid by the Company as recompense for any damages which shall at any time be sustained by bodies corporate, or other person, being owners of or interested in any lands, waters, etc., by reason of the making or maintaining the canal and other works. The Company must also make convenient watering places for cattle where the cattle are by the canal deprived of those they had been accustomed to use, and to supply the same with water, and where the works interfered with any river or water course hitherto used for

supplying any mills or dwelling houses, or watering any farms near to the Canal, then the Company should convey to those places water for those purposes at their own charge. There were also many other powers to protect neighbouring landowners from flood, accident, and other dangers.

The Company were empowered to raise a capital of £100,000 in shares, the value of which should not exceed £100, and of which no one person should hold more than 50. The Company also had power to raise a further sum of £50,000 amongst themselves. Then follow at great length regulations as to ways and means, meetings, and rates and tolls, both on canal, road, and rail, with many rules for the proper user of the Canal, with penalties on persons who shall leave drawbridges open, or obstruct the navigation, or leave open wantonly or carelessly any lock, paddle, valve, or clough belonging to the Canal, so as to mis-spend or waste the water, in that case the offender shall pay a sum not exceeding five pounds.

It was further lawful for the Company to make navigable cuts to any place within four miles of the canal. Proprietors of mines, too, may make similar cuts, so that the same be done without diverting any water which shall be necessary for supplying the canal, and so that the said persons shall (if thereto required by the Company) erect a stop gate on every such cut to prevent the water being drained from the Canal.

Owners of land may erect wharves on their lands and, apparently, charge rates for the use thereof. The exclusive right of fishery is reserved to the owners of land through which the Canal passes, and, where the Canal passes through a Common, to the lord of the manor. These privileged persons have, moreover, the right to use pleasure boats not exceeding five feet in breadth and twelve in length, free of toll, so as they do not pass through locks, and the owners make a convenient tie by, and do not suffer their boats to be moored in the Canal itself.

And whereas, in consideration of the advantages to be derived by the Company of the Monmouthshire Canal Navigation from the junction of the two Canals, they have agreed to make the payment hereinafter mentioned to the Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal Company: the said Monmouthshire Company shall pay to the Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal Company the sum of £3,000, and shall not take for any merchandise, &c., which shall pass in boats to or from the said Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal any greater rate of tonnage than shall be taken by the Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal Co. for any merchandise passing on the Brecon and Abergavenny Canal. What the advantages gained by the Monmouthshire Company were is not stated; possibly increased traffic was looked forward to, or perhaps the water feeder may have been in the minds of the contracting parties.

In view of many vexed questions outstanding in 1899 the section following is of interest: "Limitations of Actions.—If any action shall be brought against any person for anything done in pursuance of this Act, every such action shall be commenced within six calendar months after the fact committed."

The Act has been quoted, it is hoped, at sufficient length to give an accurate idea of the powers, rights, and obligations of the Brecon and Abergavenny Canal Co. It is difficult now (1900) to obtain a copy of the Act, and in future years that difficulty may increase.

The first object to which the Company directed its attention was the construction of a tramway to bring coal and iron into the Valley of the Usk at Llangrwyne, through a rugged dell called Cwm-clydach to the mountain at a place called Rhyd y blew or Hairford. The road was finished in the spring of the year 1796. It was nine miles and six furlongs in length. The cutting of the Canal was commenced in April, 1796, and was navigable to Llangynidr Bridge, a length of eight miles and a half, in November, 1797. The remaining ten miles thence to Brecon was completed in December, 1800, and on the 24th of that month the first boat-load of coal was brought to that town from Gellifelen Colliery in Llanelly, being part of the Brecknock possessions of the Duke of Beaufort. Repeated slips impeded the navigation for the next two or three years and added enormously to the cost of construction.

The £150,000 was now entirely expended, and the money authorized as capital having been used up, it became necessary to again apply to Parliament to enable the Company to borrow a sum not exceeding £80,000 by optional loans (Act 1804, 44 Geo. 3). At this time, the workmen were employed at Llanfoist, near Abergavenny.

As to pecuniary success much difference of opinion existed, but the promoters congratulated themselves on one advantage hardly to be too highly estimated, namely, the unfailing supply of water in the driest seasons; in the autumn of 1803, when other canals suffered from want of water, the Brecon and Abergavenny Canal was copiously supplied and its banks full. The tonnage on the

finished part of the Canal from Lady-day, 1803, to Lady-day, 1804, amounted to £3,007, almost exclusively coal and iron. Merchandise could not reach the Canal, the junction with the Monmouthshire Canal not being then effected. The Canal contains four feet six inches of water, and is ten yards wide, being calculated for the navigation of boats carrying a load of 25 tons. The voyage from Clydach to Brecon took one day in summer and two in winter. From Brecon to Llangynidr, a distance of ten miles, there were six locks and a fall of 59 feet 8 inches; thence to the junction with the Monmouthshire Canal, being about 14 miles, there is no lock, but on the Monmouthshire Canal between the junction, the distance being only $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles, there are 34 locks and a fall of 340 feet. Thence to the Bristol Channel there is a further fall of 12 feet; so, calculates Theophilus Jones, with remarkable accuracy, Brecon is 411 feet above the level of the sea.

Such was the Canal, described at the period of its construction, as a great county work, with many hopes for the future. It has passed from Company to Company, with objects of their own far different from the loyal patriotism of its original promoters, whose first general assembly was held at the Golden Lion in Brecknock on the 16th May, 1793. Commercially it proved a failure and a source of heart-burning and bitterness to the very town it was intended specially to benefit.

In 1835 (5 and 6 William 4th, c. 75) The Newport Dock Company were incorporated, and authorised to construct the Newport Docks; they took powers to draw their chief water supply from the river Ebbw, from which an aqueduct was contemplated, but not constructed till 1854. They were also authorized to make a communication with the Monmouthshire Canal, and take the superfluous water therefrom for their own purposes, and for the use of certain wharves in connection with their docks.

The effect that this arrangement was to have upon Brecon and its Canal was probably not at the time apparent. The Monmouthshire Canal was, it is true, connected with that from Brecon to Abergavenny and received some water from it, but it had independent sources of supply, and the connection of the Monmouth Canal with the Docks seems to have created no alarm. Newport was a small place, the dock now known as the old dock, completed in 1842, was but four and a half acres. In 1858 it received an addition of $7\frac{3}{4}$ acres, thus being increased to thrice its original size, while the increasing trade has since necessitated the building of the Alexandra Docks (opened in 1875) with a water area of 25 acres, and with 400 acres of land reserved, suitable for the construction of wharves and warehouses, and for the extension of the Dock area.

At the commencement of the last century, Newport was a village of 1,135 inhabitants, not so large as Hay or Builth; in 1831, the census before the Dock Company was formed, the population had increased to 7,062, a town about the size of Brecon. Twenty years after, the population exceeded 20,000, and in 1891 the population was 54,707, considerably more than that of the administrative county of Brecknock. In 1852, 2,143 vessels in the foreign trade cleared outwards, with an aggregate of over a million tons burden, while of the coasting trade there entered 8,020 vessels of 1,048,000 tons, and the trade is continually increasing, there being a larger iron trade than at any port in the Kingdom.

It was about the time of the opening of the first Newport Dock in 1842, at the instigation of several traders whose boats passed along the canals, and who complained that the lowness of the water impeded their traffic, that the Brecon Canal Company are said to have increased the size of the feeder from the Usk above Brecon. No remonstrance or objection seems to have been made. The cause of the low state of the water in the Canal then complained of, may very well have been due to the great quantity of water now for the first time let out of the Monmouth Canal for the use of the newly constructed dock.

In 1845 (8 and 9 Vic., c. 159), the Monmouthshire Company were authorised to construct a railway from Newport to Pontypool, and when the line was finished, to abandon so much of their Canal as was above the junction with the Brecon Canal; in lieu thereof to make culverts to convey the water from the Afon Llwyd stream and the reservoirs to their Canal below the junction. To the Brecon Company were preserved all their rights. In the year 1849 the Monmouthshire Company did abandon so much of their Canal as lies between Pontnewynydd and Pontypool, and in 1853 the section between Pontypool and the junction with the Brecon Canal was also given up. They did not, however, maintain the connection between their Canal and their former independent sources of water supply, but after this date depended entirely on the water flowing through the Brecon Canal to their junction, to supply the Monmouth Canal below the junction.

In 1854 (17 and 18 Vic., c. 185) the Newport Dock Company obtained powers to increase their works (s. 26) and to construct an aqueduct from the river Ebbw, and also to divert the water of the Monmouth Canal. Their former Act had been limited to the superfluous water; now all the

water of the Monmouthshire Canal was available for dock purposes, the Monmouthshire Company having abandoned their independent sources of supply, the whole of the water was of Brecknock origin. The Brecon Company thus found that a larger quantity of water was drawn down from their Canal through the Monmouth Canal to the prejudice of their own navigation. They threatened to prevent water passing from their Canal to that of the Monmouth Company. At the junction of the two canals were lock gates, and a lock-keeper's house, at which a clerk of the Brecon Company resided; the gates were dilapidated, but the Brecon Company now repaired them. They then remonstrated with the Dock Company, who replied that they took no more than necessary waste, but obtained their supply from the river Ebbw. This river frequently runs dry, and in fine weather during the autumn of 1856 the Brecon Company let out their water for a fortnight for repair; whereupon the Secretary of the Dock Company is said to have written to the Clerk of the Brecon Canal begging him to have the water let in again at once, as the Dock Company were in "a deuce of a mess for want of it."

To this point the history is chiefly taken from a case prepared for the Brecon Canal Company who desired to know (1) whether the Monmouthshire Company were entitled to part with any water beyond waste from the locks of their Canal; (2) whether the Brecon Company might put a level lock between the two canals and prevent water passing from Brecon to Monmouth Canal; (3) whether in such case if any delay took place the Brecon Company or the freighter would have any remedy; (4) whether the Brecon Company are entitled to take as much water as they can from the Usk at Brecon, and, by connivance with the Monmouthshire Company, to sell such as is not required for their traffic, to the Dock Company for the supply of their docks at Newport.

The replies to these questions, made by Mr. J. W. Phipson, were (1) that the Monmouthshire Company were not entitled to part with water other than the waste from working their locks; (2) that the level lock was not allowable, the Act contemplating the junction of two canals, and the use of water may have been an inducement to the Monmouthshire Company to consent to the junction (and, it may be added, to make a free gift of £3,000); (3) that no one could sue the Monmouthshire Company for delay due to the action of Brecon; (4) that the Brecon Company might not take from the Usk an unlimited supply for the purpose of sale to the Newport Dock Company. Whilst the operation produced no evil consequences to any proprietor on the Usk probably no difficulty would arise. It was by no means uncommon for Canal Companies to sell their surplus water; but in strictness it was thought that the Parliamentary right of the Company was limited to waste water required for navigation. The traffic on the Brecon Canal had now become much diminished, and the Company were unwilling to embark in expensive litigation to protect their rights. Moreover, the interchange of traffic was of vital importance to the Brecon Company. So nothing was done.

In 1865 a solution was found for the difficulties between the two Companies. Parliamentary powers were obtained enabling the Monmouthshire Company to buy the Brecon Canal; all the rights, authorities, and agreements (s. 27) vested in the Brecon Company were on the completion of the sale to be exercised by the Monmouthshire Company. A clause was inserted (28) for the protection of salmon by means of a grating at the entrance of the Newton Mill feeder (a well-meaning enactment, but it seems to have authorized the existing aperture, which, being about three feet square, is capable in dry weather of swallowing all the water in the river). The purchase was concluded, and the Brecon Company obtained release from an unprofitable speculation, which was now scarcely of use to Brecon, the town being about this time placed in railway communication with Swansea, Merthyr, Newport, Hereford, and the North. The purchase price, £24,750, brought them £25 per share, which share had been previously almost unsaleable, though some few had been parted with at £8 each.

Much of the foregoing has been abstracted from a second case stated for counsel on behalf of the Board of Conservators of the river Usk, riparian owners, and the Corporation of Brecon. The sale had been chiefly effected by the late Mr. Crawshay Bailey, senr., and Mr. John Lloyd, senr., of Dinas; Sir Joseph Bailey, Bart., (1st Baron Glanusk) being also a director of the Company. Shortly after the sale of the property by Mr Lloyd, senr., and others, an opinion was asked of Mr. Manesty, the case being put somewhat shortly. It was apparently on behalf of the Usk and Ebbw Board of Conservators, and is endorsed "John Lloyd, junr., 1867, Nov. 19." Mr. Manesty, "on the facts stated," was of opinion that the Company could not be prevented taking water from the Usk at Newton Mill, the quantity of water which they at present take, notwithstanding it is more than is required for their navigation. If the culvert of supply had not been enlarged for twenty years then, having regard to the twenty years' user, it seemed to him that the Companies had acquired the right as against the Conservators of the Usk and Ebbw and against the riparian proprietors, to take into the Canal from the Usk as much water as will flow the existing culvert

at Newton Mill, and that it was not competent for riparian owners to complain of the use which the Company afterwards made of that water, provided they fulfilled the obligations imposed upon them by the Legislature as regarded navigation, &c.

This opinion not proving satisfactory to the proposed litigants, in the following year an amended case was prepared for counsel, and they added to it a schedule of Canal Companies and individuals alleged to be illegally receiving a supply of water from the Usk at Brecon by means of the Brecon Canal, viz., J. Prothero, Brecon, pipe to saw mills; Sir J. Bailey, Crickhowell, 6-inch pipe to turbine (the above are from the Brecon Canal); Great Western Railway, 8-inch and 4-inch pipes to engine sheds at Pontypool; Monmouthshire Canal, total supply; Monmouthshire Railway and Canal Company, pipes for engine sheds at Pontypool; Oakfield Iron Works, Cwmbrán, 6-inch pipe; Newport Docks, water *ad libitum*. Two cases, practically identical, were prepared in the year 1868 and laid before Mr J. H. Lloyd and Mr. Paterson, in which counsel were asked to advise the Board of Conservators, the riparian owners, and the Brecon Board of Health, (1) whether the Monmouthshire Company (as successors to the Brecon Company) are justified in withdrawing from the River Usk any larger supply of water than is required for the purposes of the navigation of the Canal from Brecon to the Pontymoile junction; (2) whether the Monmouthshire Company, having voluntarily abandoned their own supplies of water, have derived the right either by previous user, or by the purchase of the canal of the Brecon Canal Company, of withdrawing water from the Usk for the supply of their [original] canal between Pontymoile and Newport; (3) if so, whether they are justified in withdrawing from the Usk any larger supply of water than is required for the purposes of the navigation of the canal from Brecon to the Pontymoile junction, and of the canal from that junction to Newport; (4) whether the right to withdraw water from the Usk at Brecon by the means of the Brecon Canal in excess of that required for the navigation of the Brecon Canal, and also of the Newport Canal, is at all affected by the length of time during which they may have supplied the Newport Docks or other companies or individuals with water from this canal; (5) whether there is any difference between that portion of the water which they convey to the Newport Docks and that which they sell to other companies or to individuals; (6) if the Monmouthshire Company are not justified [in the above acts] what is the proper proceeding to prevent the excessive abstraction of water from the Usk and the continuation of its unfair application; (7) by whom such proceedings should be taken, whether by the Board of Conservators, the Corporation of Brecon, or the riparian owners; (8) against whom should such proceedings be taken, the Monmouthshire Canal Company, the Newport Dock Company, or the companies or persons who take the water from the canal.

The opinion of Mr. J. Paterson bears date October 3rd, 1868; that of Mr. J. H. Lloyd, November 7th. The learned counsel agree in points 1, 2, and 3. Mr. Paterson writes: "1, 2, 3, 4—I am of opinion that the Monmouthshire Canal Company are not entitled to divert any of the water of the Usk except for the purpose of maintaining the navigability of the Brecon Canal between Brecon and Pontymoile. The facts of their having purchased the Brecon Canal does not enlarge their rights *quoad* the Brecon Canal, which must still depend on the Brecon Acts so far as they are unreppealed. Whether the Monmouthshire Company have in point of fact used the water of the Usk to feed the Monmouthshire Canal and Newport Docks, and whether they have done so for a longer or a shorter time, or with or without the consent or acquiescence of interested parties, is immaterial. Their rights and duties are prescribed by their several Acts of Parliament, and no consent of parties can be set up to justify any violation of a statute of this kind." With regard to 4, Mr. J. H. Lloyd adds "as against individual riparian proprietors, a sort of prescriptive right might be acquired by long user, though I think it very doubtful whether in this particular case it could be successfully set up; but if the effect of the abstraction of the water in quantity sufficient to supply the Newport Docks is to diminish the volume of water so as to affect the public by creating what would be regarded as a nuisance, it is clear that no length of time would legitimate such a user, and no acquiescence preclude the application of a remedy." As to 5, Mr. J. H. Lloyd writes: "The case against the Monmouthshire Company is of course stronger and more free from question in the case of water supplied by them to millowners and others for purposes unconnected with the navigation, and the fact that they do so supply it to millowners and others should be a prominent item in the complaint against them." Dealing with question 6, Mr. Patterson wrote: "I think that the proper remedy is to apply to the Court of Queen's Bench for a writ of mandamus to compel the Monmouthshire Canal Company to erect good and sufficient locks at Pontymoile for the purpose of regulating the discharge of water from the Brecon Canal occasioned by the passage of boats thereupon into the Monmouthshire Canal and *vice versa*." Mr. J. H. Lloyd wrote: "On the matter of procedure I am less competent to advise; it will be desirable to consult an equity barrister." As to 7, Mr. Paterson said: "Any riparian owner of the Usk between Brecon and the tidal flow has a right to apply for

a mandamus for each and all have a good cause of action against the Monmouthshire Company for wasting water over and above the requirements of the Brecon Canal proper. The prosecution of the remedy is a proper subject for combination between the various riparian owners and others interested, but it will be sufficient to select any one riparian owner as the prosecutor of the mandamus." Question 8, as to this he replied: "The remedy must be taken against the Monmouthshire Company. With regard to the selling of Brecon Canal water to individuals, each riparian owner has a cause of action against the Monmouthshire Company for granting away the water to third parties, and the remedy to prevent this is either an injunction in the Court of Chancery to restrain the company so selling, or an action on the case at common law coupled with a claim of injunction. Probably the mandamus to compel the stop gate would be the best remedy, at least to begin with, for the Monmouthshire Company would no doubt soon discover their error and voluntarily discontinue supplying the parties with water."

Mr. J. H. Lloyd in his answer to query 6, having disclaimed the competency to advise on procedure, a further case was submitted to Mr. Paterson, in November, 1869, on difficulties which arose. A combination to a limited extent was at that date entered into. The Corporation of Brecon, acting as the Local Board of Health, did not feel inclined to take any active part inasmuch as their drains were carried into the river (since 1869 this has been altered and a sewage farm formed at Brynich, —and it might very well be contended that the offensive state of the Usk during the summer of 1869 was due as much to their drains as to the abstraction of water, but (say they for whom the case was drawn—no names given) the drainage would have done no harm if the water had not been abstracted. Lord Tredegar, the principal riparian owner near Brecon, was the chairman of the Monmouthshire Railway and Canal Company. Sir J. R. Bailey (the writer of these notes), the next largest riparian proprietor, was a nephew of the vice-chairman (the late Mr. Crawshay Bailey, senr.) and prizes his six-inch pipe from the canal. Mr. John Lloyd, senr., of Dinas, hesitated because, as one of the Committee of the Brecon Canal Company, he winked at the undue abstraction of water in his time, and because he was instrumental in selling the concern to the Monmouthshire Company. The Duke of Beaufort objected to be plaintiff as being a duke. Mrs. Gwynne Holford objected as being a lady, and the trustees of Mr. C. H. Leigh as being trustee only for a minor. Mr. William de Winton appeared objectionable as he had let the fishing. And these were all the owners to speak of for twelve miles below the town of Brecon. There is but one mill in that length, and that owned by Sir J. R. Bailey. The occupier said he was much injured by the abstraction of the water, having been able to work half-time only during the droughts of 1869, but his landlord did not wish him to move. This mill is so small that it seems never to have been let separate, but jointly with the adjoining farm of Millbrook.

A correspondence took place between solicitors, but the matter was carried no further. And so the contemplated action of 1869 went to sleep again. It was revived in 1899, when the evil was again increased, the Swansea authorities having, under their Water Act, taken part of the head waters of the Usk to supply their town. But it has not yet come to a trial. There have, however, been some alterations made to the weir immediately above the intake to the canal, and it is claimed for this arrangement that there is now a better flow of water into the Usk from Newton Pool during the summer months than was before possible. From time to time attempts have been made to revive the boat traffic upon the canal, but for many years there has been no regular service into Brecon, although occasionally a boat-load of merchandize is brought up the canal to the wharf in the Watton.

RAILWAYS IN THE COUNTY.

The enthusiasm for laying down public rail-roads, which had resulted in considerable progress being made in English counties, did not reach Brecknockshire until about the year 1859, although an earlier project had been outlined fourteen years earlier for making a railway affecting some parts of the county. The Brecon and Merthyr Railway was the first undertaking, and after the expenditure of a considerable sum of money, traffic was commenced on the 1st of May, 1863. A year and a half later the Mid-Wales Railway, extending from Brecknock to Llanidloes, was opened. The Hereford, Hay and Brecon was another route opened later, and it may be of interest to note that in 1863, Lady Morgan, of Tredegar, cut the first sod for this railway in Penlan Park, but the then intended route was abandoned in favour of the present one. The Neath and Brecon was completed by the year 1872. Attempts have been made to link up the Crickhowell Valley by railway, with a junction at Talylyn, but although some expense was incurred in securing powers, the scheme was allowed to drop. These railway services put an end to the stage coach and carrier businesses.

CHAPTER III.

Brecknockshire Agricultural Society, its Establishment, Rules, &c. Observations on the Soil of the Hundred of Builth, Talgarth and Vale of Usk, Size of Farms and Nature of Tenures, Course of Husbandry, Breed of Cattle, Horses and Sheep, Common Manures, Prices of Labour in this County, &c.

THE Breconshire Agricultural Society was first instituted in the month of March, 1755, being as early, if not the earliest association of this kind in the island; it originated in a club or meeting of some respectable gentlemen of the county, assembled at stated periods for amusement and social intercourse, but which the public spirit of the party directed to more beneficial purposes. A magistrate of considerable literary talents moved with an almost mysterious conciseness, "that *something* should be done to benefit the county"; this being seconded and the motion carried, that *something* was instantly defined to be the establishment of a society to be called the Brecknockshire society, formed for the encouragement of agriculture and manufactures, and promoting the general good of the county. At their second meeting on April 16th, 1755, the following rules were submitted and adopted.

I. It is agreed by all the members that no other person shall be admitted but by the approbation of a majority of the present subscribers, to be determined by ballot, and pay five shillings each for admission.—Gentlemen who refused to subscribe before to the first meeting to pay one guinea each.

II. Every subscriber to pay for his ordinary each meeting one shilling, and to pay for his extraordinary the like sum.

III. Every member absenting himself from dinner to forfeit one shilling towards the ordinary, and the like sum towards the general fund of the society.

IV. Dinner to be on table at two o'clock, and the society to break up at ten.

V. Any member to be at liberty, with the consent of the president of the day, to bring a friend to dine; he paying for such friend's ordinary and extraordinary.

VI. All fines and forfeitures to be applied to the common fund, and to be disposed of by the majority of the members; no less than twenty one to be present.

VII. All questions or differences of opinion to be referred to the president, but if a ballot is demanded, the majority shall decide.

VIII. When any member speaks on matters relating to the society he is to stand up and direct his discourse to the president, if two or more should be up at the same time, the president to name the person first to be heard.

IX. If an equal number should appear upon any ballot, the president to have the casting vote.

CHARLES POWEL, President.

SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS.

Sir EDWARD WILLIAMS, Baronet
JOHN HUGHES, Esq.
HUGH PENRY, Esq.
CHARLES DAVIDS, Esq.
JOHN PHILLIPS, Esq.
WILLIAM MORGAN, Clerk
THOMAS WILLIAMS, Clerk
MARMADUKE GWYNNE, Esq.

EDWARD JEFFREYS, Esq.
JAMES PARRY, Esq.
CHARLES LLOYD, Clerk
BARTHOLOMEW COKE, Surgeon
JOHN LLOYD, Esq.
JOHN WILLIAMS, Clerk
PENRY WILLIAMS, Esq.
THOMAS PRICE, Esq.

ENROLMENT OF MEMBERS.

Fifty members were at once enrolled, and meetings were held at the Golden Lion, Brecon (now in 1900 the offices of the Brecon Gas Company). Some idea of the accommodation of this house will be gleaned from the following advertisement which appeared on a handbill of that period:—"To be let and entered upon at Michaelmas next, 1778, all that well-known Inn called the Golden Lion, now very considerably enlarged, situate near the Shire Hall, in the town of Brecon, with very good stalls for upwards of 50 horses and other conveniences proper for a large inn, with or without 42 acres of land near the said town; and also with or without a new-built dwelling house adjoining the said inn, in which the Judges have lately lodged during the Great Sessions."

From the old minute book of orders which Colonel Thomas Wood, of Gwernyfed, in 1895, presented to the Breconshire Agricultural Society, it appears that the members dined together once a month, and that not less than 30 attended. Dinner was laid on the table at two, and the Society was supposed to break up at ten. It is not surprising that two years after formation it was found necessary to pass the following resolution: "Whereas it has been found inconvenient to do any

business while the liquor is going round, it is therefore proposed that after drinking the healths of the King, the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Royal Family, the absent members, and Prosperity to the Society, and the healths of other members and subscribers, the Society proceed to business, and that no liquor be called for or drunk till all debates are over!" To the honour of Mr. Howel Harris be it recorded that in those hard drinking days he steadily set his face against the drinking at the Society's meetings.

THE FIRST PRIZES OFFERED.

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Their attention was first turned towards the sowing and cultivation of turnips for feeding sheep and cattle, for which they offered a premium of five pounds to the person who raised the best crop on a farm of fifty pounds per annum and upwards, and inferior premiums to the second best, and for raising crops on smaller farms, which they afterwards increased, and it must be admitted that after experiencing difficulties and encountering prejudices suggested by that dislike and hatred of innovation which characterises the country, they ultimately succeeded in introducing this valuable vegetable into general use in this part of the Principality. In their next attempt they were not so fortunate. At their meeting in September, 1755, it was proposed and agreed to, that a premium of four pounds should be given to the person who would produce before the 29th of September, 1756, the best piece of drab coloured cloth, manufactured in this county, from raw wool, the produce thereof measuring twenty-one yards long and one yard wide; two pounds for the second best, and one pound for the third. This subject was again followed up at their subsequent meetings, and one of the members (the late Mr. Powel, of Castlemaedoc) was empowered to lay out a sum not exceeding five pounds in purchasing wheels and other necessaries for spinning flax and wool, and in order to promote the trade it was proposed to establish a market within this county for woollen yarn.

MANUFACTURE OF CLOTH.

If this market were ever held it was not of long continuance. Claims were at different times made and allowed for the manufacture of woollen cloth, pursuant to the regulations of the Society, but either the poverty or incapacity of the tradesmen employed in these works, or else a hint of the opposition from Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, or perhaps all of these causes combined, contributed to deaden the exertions of commercial men, and cramp that spirit of enterprise so absolutely necessary to the success of speculations of this nature. A similar fate marked the attempt of this Society to establish a linen manufacture in the vicinity of Brecon, but this, notwithstanding the advantage pointed out in the memorial or proposals copied above, though more expensive, was a less useless project as far as it affected the interests of the county and Principality. The failure of this speculation injured only the individuals that subscribed towards it, but the loss or rather the obstructions thrown in the way of the establishment of the manufacture of woollen cloths on an extensive plan, was a provincial if not a national misfortune.

The Society continued to encourage and promote this trade, though their efforts gradually relaxed until about the year 1780, after which, with the exception of a few premiums for spinning, their attention was principally directed to agriculture. The rewards offered by this institution in 1800 were 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 seed, rye, winter vetches or cole seed, as spring fodder for sheep, top dressing turnips, young clover or grassland with peat ashes, sowing clover, acorns, ashkeys, chestnut, beech-mast 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 recipe for the destruction of vermin and for the improvement of the breed of horses, cattle, and swine.

Besides the introduction of turnips into general cultivation, the Association also succeeded in their recommendation of clover and potatoes; in vetches they were not so fortunate, though the soil of the greatest part of the county was peculiarly favourable to the growth of this vegetable, many different kinds of which, and among them that most beautiful of the whole species, the *orobus sylvaticus*, being frequently found growing wild in our woods and fields.

THREATENED FRENCH INVASION.

Beneficial as these exertions were to the interest and prosperity of the county of Brecon, the subscribers did not forget they owed a paramount duty to their Sovereign and to their country at

large. When, therefore, this kingdom was threatened with an invasion by the French in 1756, the following loyal address was presented to the Throne:—

“To the King’s most excellent Majesty.”

The humble and dutiful address of the Brecknoche Society, for the encouragement of agriculture and manufactures, and for promoting the general good of the county, assembled at their general monthly meeting held at Brecon, on Wednesday, March 10, 1756.

May it please your Majesty,

We your majesty’s most dutiful and loyal subjects, with hearts filled with grateful sentiments of your majesty’s paternal care for the welfare of these kingdoms, do humbly beg leave to express the deep sense we have of your majesty’s wisdom in the vigorous measures you have so steadily pursued, in asserting your undoubted right to your American dominions, in the prudent and interesting treaties you have so successfully concluded, and in the happy effects of your great humanity and royal bounty to the unfortunate sufferers at Lisbon.

These, with many other instances of your majesty’s wisdom and benevolence, all concur to add fresh glories to your reign, to render your person and government dear to the heart of every Briton, and to defeat the insolent and unjust usurpation of an ambitious and perfidious power, envious of your goodness and our happiness—and if an invasion or any other emergency during the present critical conjuncture, should require your majesty’s loyal subjects to appear in the defence of your sacred person or the security of the protestant succession in your illustrious house, we hope our actions will then declare how sensible we are of the benefits derived to us, from the wisdom and equity of your majesty’s government: in support of which, we with true zeal offer to form ourselves into a troop of light horse complete, and will be ready to march, at your majesty’s command and at our own expense, to any part of Great Britain, under the discipline and command of such experienced officers as your majesty may be pleased to send for that purpose, and most gracious sovereign, if this method of shewing our sincere attachment to your majesty and illustrious family should not meet with your majesty’s royal approbation, we are ready to dispose of our persons and fortunes in such a manner as your majesty in your great wisdom may think expedient.

And as the prosperity and safety of the nation entirely depend, under God, on the continuance of our present happiness, from the influence of your majesty’s wisdom and justice, we therefore offer up our most ardent prayers to the great and supreme disposer of all things, for the health and preservation of your royal person, and that your endeavours for the public welfare may be attended with success and crowned with honour, so that the present crisis may hereafter appear among the shining periods of the British history.

WILLIAM POWEL, Gent., President.

Upon this occasion, Mr. Howel Harris, of Trevecca, a popular and distinguished preacher among the Methodists of Mr. Whitfield’s tenets, proposed to the Society that if his Majesty should accept of their offer, he would at his own expense furnish ten light horsemen completely armed and accoutred to attend them as an addition to their troop; that on the 20th of April, 1756, he would bring ten men to enlist on the then emergency, and that the bounty-money allowed such recruits should be paid to the Treasurer of the Society, to be laid out by the members as they should think proper. The services of these agriculturists were deemed more likely to be beneficial to their country in a civil than in a military capacity, but Mr. Harris procured the recruits at his own expense, and the bounties allowed by Government were paid into the hands of the Treasurer, and applied in rewarding industry and promoting the improvement of the county of Brecknock.

For this patriotic offer, as well as contribution to the fund, Mr. Harris was elected an honorary member, as was his brother, the celebrated astronomer, Mr. Joseph Harris.

The records of the Society dealing with the subject state that “upon the motion of Rev. Mr. Canon Williams, of Brecon, the Treasurer pay into his hands £14 12s. 6d., the county money for five recruits brought by Mr. Howel Harris to Three Cocks and there enlisted, which sum of £14 12s. 6c. was paid into the hands of the Treasurer, which Mr. Williams is to remit to the said recruits, and if they refuse the money, he engaging to return same to the Treasurer of the Society.” The five recruits here referred to went to Hereford, where they joined the 58th Regiment, and thence to Plymouth, till orders came for them to embark to Ireland, and as the seat of war between England and France was chiefly then in America, further orders came for that regiment to sail, so they embarked at Cork and landed at Nova Scotia. They fought in the siege and taking of Louisbourg, and their next enterprise was at the taking of Quebec, where the brave General Wolfe lost his life. The last place they were present at was the taking of Havanna from the Spaniards. Four of these young men died a natural death in that part of the world, and the fifth was taken prisoner by the French. This man when peace was concluded reached England, where he was offered preferment, but came home to Trevecca, and here he was gladly received by all the family after an absence of seven years.

HOWEL HARRIS AND THE POOR.

Mr. Howel Harris corroborates this account in his diary, in the following words: “I was admitted last night to the Brecon Society and my name written in their book. Sir Edward Williams proposed me as a honorary member to come and go whenever I could, to be always treated by ye president. They seated me on their right hand. I proposed about taking the poor of the county under my care and do whatever service I could to them gratis, and let them come to hear me once a day, and I to visit them myself, and Evan Roberts to look after them gratis, and the Society to order and oversee them, which they agreed to do, and I proposed giving Penywriodd House (near Trevecca)

gratis. I discussed with Mr. Charles Powell for about an hour on ye plain truth; my own conversion and my going about, and my present work at Trevecka. I went to Mr. John Meredith to dinner." It does not appear from the minutes that any order was made with regard to Mr. Harris's views to establish a home for the poor. It is evident Mr. Harris was a man in advance of his times, for in this proposal he embodied those regulations in the Poor Laws which came into operation 80 years later.

The following day Mr. Harris went to Penpont on a visit to Mr. Penry Williams. Mr. Williams was anxious for the erection of a working school for the employment of young people, anticipating, by 150 years, legislation relating to technical instruction; and Mr. Harris discussed the matter with him. Mr. Williams was favourable to a scheme whereby Mr. Harris should take over the children of the poor in this matter, but Mr. Harris remarks: "I saw strong opposition in the Society for me to have the children under my care."

In the year 1895, the then Secretary of the Society (Rhys Davies, Esq., J.P., borough surveyor) was placed in the possession of an old Minute Book of the Society, which carried its records to the year 1762, when a new minute was ordered to be procured. From this Minute Book and other sources, Mr. Davies compiled a history of the Society, with list of presidents, so far as he was able to do so, but he could find no trace of the records kept during the time Thomas Longfellow and his son (who succeeded each other as secretary, and the latter of whom died in London in 1816). From the earliest records of the Association we learn that presidents were numerous, and practically elected at each monthly meeting, to preside, we presume, over the deliberations of the day's meeting and the subsequent dinner. Later, this practice changed, and the election became an annual one; and the long list contains the names of many notable men resident in the county or having property or interest therein.

DISCOVERY OF OTHER RECORDS.

And it may here be mentioned that since the death of Lord Glanusk, and after a good deal of this work had been sent to the printers, there was discovered an old account book of the Society, which helps to throw some light upon the work of the Society between the years 1817 and 1841. This account book fortunately got into the hands of James Morgan, Esq., J.P., Manager of Lloyds Bank at Brecon, who made the present secretary of the Society (Mr. W. T. Isaac, of Castle Farm, Brecon) aware of its existence. From this book we learn the following facts. First, the inscription on the book reads "An account of money received and disbursed by the Brecknockshire Agricultural Society since its revival, November 4th, 1817 (first established in the year 1755)." It is thus clear that this old Society, like its contemporary institution, the Brecknock Lodge of Freemasons, lapsed for a period of years, probably from 1802 or earlier to 1816. The first balance sheet of 1817, shows that the Agricultural Society received in subscriptions the sum of £69 6s. 0d. It seems that the practice of meeting monthly was continued at this period, and from the frequent entries of "Cash paid to waiter," we presume the monthly dinners were also continued. The subscribers to the Society in 1817 are not all entered up in detail, but there are many names, such as Penry Williams, Esq., of Penpont (who was probably president this year), Hugh Bold, Esq., Osborne Yeats, Esq., Mr. Williams, Mannest, Col. Wood, M.P., Harcourt Powell, Esq., Mr. Parry, Tretower, F. Fredericks, Esq., Thomas Maybery, Esq., Samuel Church, Esq., David Thomas, Esq., Augustus Gott, Esq., Mr. Charles Price, and others whose memory is perpetuated in memorials in the churches of the county. The expenditure this year included "Premiums as per Minute Book, £52 10s. 0d.;" and "for two books to keep the accounts of the Society and to enter its transactions, £1 3s. 6d.;" "for printing in Hereford paper as per bill, £2 10s. 9d.;" and in the *Cambrian* £4 3s. 8d.;" "by money paid Thomas Powell, cabinet maker, £2"; and "Messrs. W. H. and J. Parker for printing 300 circular letters, 16s. 6d.;" the total expenditure being £67 9s. 4d., and the account was audited by "Hugh Bold, officiating chairman," on December 30, 1818.

In the following year's balance sheet appear the names of the Rev. Canon Payne, J. Bailey, Esq., Nantyglo, Mr. Howell Maund, Brecon, Mr. George Forrest, Cyfarthfa, John Lloyd, Esq., Mr. David Jeffreys, and the receipts rose to £94 7s. 1d. The Show appears to have been held on the 29th September, for we find that a guinea was paid to Mr. Gunter and his assistants "for the use and erection of hurdles for the Show on that day," and a guinea was also paid "for the use of the field for the show of stock in September last"; but there is nothing to indicate the nature of the Society's operations beyond the words "show of stock." There seems to have been some difficulty in finding judges, for we find a copy of a letter addressed to "William Williams, Esq., Seethrog," and signed by "W. H. West," in the following terms: "Dear Sir,—Mr. John Powell "and myself have been in vain trying to find or hear of a gentleman to act as judge for us on

“Friday. Mr. Powell will be glad if you will come into Brecon to confer with him on the subject.” “this evening, as no time is to be lost, and it may be necessary to send off a purpose messenger.” The balance in hand at the end of 1819 was £62 10s. 4d., and Penry Williams signs the account.

The year 1820, has “Mr. Archibald of Abercyndrig,” “Thomas Price, Esq., of Builth, for the years 1818, 1819, and 1820, £3 3s. 0d.,” Mr. Ekins (one of the county coroners), William Morgan, Esq., of Bolgoed, Mr. Rees Williams, Tynewydd, and Mr. William Williams, Skethrog, among the new subscribers; and there is the entry on the credit side, “Received of Mr. Williams, of Mannest, towards payment for his silver cup awarded to him at the autumn show, £2 2s. 0d., the cup being ordered to the value of £6 6s. 0d.” And from another like entry we learn that John Ball paid £2 2s. 0d., “being the premium he received for 1818 for ewes, his plate being of the value of £10 10s. 0d.” On the expenditure side we note that Williams, Silversmith, was paid £26 5s. 0d. for the different premiums, and “Mr. Williams, of Aberyskir,” secured £2 2s. 0d. “for the best ram for 1819.” The receipts were £158 1s. 0d., and after meeting the expenditure there remained a balance of £69 1s. 9d.

In 1821, the Duke of Beaufort, Major Price of Brecon, Mr. Churchey, Mr. Williams, Newton, G. Overton, Esq., Edward Jones, Esq., Battel, Rev. Canon Williams, Henry Allen, Esq., J. P. Wilkins, Esq., W. A. Madocks, Esq., M.P., were among other new subscribers, and the receipts, including last year’s balance, were £160 8s. 9d. We have this entry in the expenditure, “Paid Mr. David Jenkins for inspecting and reporting on the turnip crops, for 1820, £2 2s. 0d.,” so that turnip growing was still being fostered by the Society. It appears that Mr. Hall, who was an innkeeper of Brecon, had something to do with the management of the Society, for we find he was paid £12 7s. 5d. “for advertising in *Cambrian* and other newspapers, as per bill”; and it should be noted that £2 2s. 0d. was paid to Mrs. Hughes, printer, of Brecon, for printing. A large amount of money was given to purchase plate for premiums, and “Mr. Evan Williams, of Aberyskir,” took £5 5s. 0d. in silver plate, and the Penkelly Castle and “Tenewidd” farmers were also successful; Mr. Williams, Newton, for the best boar, gets £2 2s. 0d., and “Jane West for long service” is paid £2 2s. 0d. “Henry Allen” signs the account.

In 1822, Mr. Roger Watkins, of Llyswen, Thomas H. Powell, Esq., Peterstone, Mr. William Parry, Ceven y Cantref, Rev. Geo. Jones Bevan, Crickhowell, Lancelot Morgan, Esq., W. H. Bevan, Esq., Beaufort Iron Works, Henry Goldsmid, Esq., Penymyarth, Mr. John Herbert, Gilvach, were among the new subscribers. The prize winners included Mr. Robert Downes for £3 3s. 0d., Mr. Powell of Chilston “for a cart stallion,” £5 5s. 0d.; and there were premiums awarded for turnip hoeing, long service, and “for bringing up a family without parochial aid.” The receipts drop to £81 0s. 5d., and a balance of only £3 2s. 7d. remains in hand when the account is audited.

In 1823, these receipts are still further reduced, being only £56 13s. 7d. In this year George Overton, Esq., gets a premium of £2 2s. 0d. “for the best crop of turnips in 1821,” and the waiter still gets his tip, but as the meetings are few, his income from the Society is much reduced.

The year 1824 is notable for a vigorous growth in the subscription list, and the receipts from all sources reach £147 7s. 6d. This seems to be due to the payment of many arrears due from members, and the Marquis Camden is credited with £22 1s. 0d. “for subscriptions for 7 years to 1824.” The premiums are paid for various kinds of stock, turnip growing, long service, largest family, and a new premium is that for small farmers, amounting to three guineas.

In 1825 and 1826 matters are much the same financially, but we have this new feature in the prizes. The Society had no doubt seen the wisdom of encouraging shepherds to look after their flocks, and especially during the lambing seasons; premiums were therefore offered to those shepherds who were successful in rearing the largest number of lambs. The following certificate will give an idea of what the system was: “Lowland Shepherd. This certifies that John Jones, shepherd to “Thomas Trouncer of Sheephouse, hath, this last season, reared from 285 hill ewes the number of “304 sound, healthy lambs, until the 31st day of May last. Witness my hand the 30th day of “September, 1843. THOMAS TROUNCER, Master.” Prizes were also offered to Mountain Shepherds. From the account of 1826, we also get information that Wilkins and Co. were treasurers to the Society.

The work of the Society was continued much in the same way until 1841, when the entries in the account book cease. Here and there we get a glimpse of the changes which time made in the ranks of Brecknockshire magnates; but when men disappeared by reason of death or other circumstances, others took their places in the management and encouragement of the Society. And the pages in this old account book contain the names of many gentlemen who for years loyally supported the

efforts to promote the interests of agriculture within the county. Some of those names are no longer even a memory in local annals, but the descendants of many of those patrons are still in the county, taking their part, as did their ancestors, in the work of this old institution.

With regard to the long service premiums already mentioned, as these are no longer awarded by the Society, it may not be devoid of interest to quote one of the certificates sent in by a competitor. Here it is: "Second day of September, 1843. This certifies that Morgan Pritchard has "lived in my family as a yearly servant, wholly employed in husbandry, during twenty-seven years "ending the 1st day of August last; that he was not a parish apprentice, and that his conduct "during the whole time has been honest, sober, orderly, and industrious: as such I beg leave to "recommend him as worthy the reward of the Breconshire Agricultural Society. William Probert, "Court-Gilbert, Master." This certificate was countersigned by the Minister and Churchwardens of the parish, in this particular case, "Jno. Jones, Minister of the parish of Llanspythid, and John Jones and John Probert, Churchwardens."

At the end of the book of accounts is a list of subscribers, alphabetically arranged, together with the amount of their subscriptions and donations for the years 1817 to 1824. A special meeting of the Society held on the 26th day of November, 1817, made numerous rules for the government of the Society, 34 in all, and elections to membership were by ballot, quarterly meetings were to be held, with monthly committee meetings. By these rules the Association still maintained much of the character of a club devoted to the improvement of agriculture, and for social intercourse, and one of its rules provided that a library should be formed out of the funds of the Society, but the records of its payments from 1817 to 1843 make no mention of any purchases of books.

The schedule of premiums offered by the Society for the year 1839 is before us. The patrons were the Duke of Beaufort and Marquis of Camden, the president Charles M. R. Morgan, Esq., M.P., and Colonel Wood, M.P., vice-president. The office of treasurer was held by John Parry Wilkins, Esq., and Mr. William Williams was secretary. The subscribers numbered 98, and a perusal of the list affords striking evidence of the changes which have taken place in the holding of landed property in the county in the comparatively brief period of seventy years. Many of the names there given are no longer known within Brecknockshire. The first of three premiums offered were—For the best ploughman, a suit of clothes; for the second best ditto, a coat and waistcoat; for the third ditto, a coat; *all with the Society's buttons*: those buttons would be valuable to-day as curiosities. Fifty pounds were offered as premiums in the live stock competitions, besides 12 silver cups. For the cultivation of land, such as the best crops of wheat, best and cleanest crops of turnips, best crops of mangel wurzel, etc., £10 were offered. To shepherds rearing the largest number of lambs, to the best shoeing smith, to the cottager showing the best selection of honey, to the best labourer, "male or female," who shall hoe turnips in the most complete and clean manner, to the labourer having the largest number of children which he has maintained without troubling the parish, to servants remaining the longest period in service, premiums amounting to £19 19s. 0d. were offered as rewards, and a new feature was included, for we find £2 12s. 6d. offered as rewards to servants who shall have invested, "out of his or her earnings, and still possesses the largest sum in the County and Borough Savings Bank." These last premiums show that in the past the agricultural labourer was much more considered in the operations of the Society than he has been for some years past. The silver cups were offered by Joseph Bailey, Esq., M.P., Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, Esq., Major Gwynne Holford, John Parry Wilkins, Esq., W. B. Stratton, Esq., Walter Wilkins, Esq., M.P., Colonel Wood, M.P., Walter Maybery, Esq., J.P., J. P. Snead, Esq., the Rev. R. W. P. Davies, of Courtygollen, Penry Williams, Esq., and the Messrs. Morgan of Glasbury (whose prize was "for the best pen of fat wethers, not less than 10 in number, quality and quantity of wool to be considered." This family were the ancestors of a president who in 1907 was serving the high position of Lord Mayor of the City of London (Walter Vaughan Morgan, Esq.), and who was afterwards created a baronet of the United Kingdom, and received from several foreign Sovereigns other distinguished marks of favour. The tradesmen of Brecon also offered silver cups, etc., of the value of £25. The Committee appointed by the Society to carry out the Show of 1839 comprised—Mr. Canon Williams, Mr. Thomas Morris, Therrow; Colonel Allen and Henry Allen, Esq., Oakfield; C. C. Clifton, Esq., Tymawr; Mr. W. Hughes, Llantaes; Mr. Thos. Watkins, Brecon; Penry Williams, Esq.; Mr. James Williams, Pontithel; J. W. Morgan, Esq., Treble Hill; Thomas Morgan, Esq., Pipton. From this document we learn the Society was revived on the 28th November, 1817.

The later history of this Society is set out in the newspapers of the day, and there is hardly any necessity for dealing with the subject further. Its premiums were and are to this day awarded for purely agricultural purposes. The growth of other towns in the agricultural districts has resulted

in the formation of similar societies at Devynock, Crickhowell, Builth, and Hay. Ploughing Associations, also formed in the county, stimulated good work amongst the ploughmen, but alas! with the diminishing acreage under cultivation, there is less need for those Societies or for ploughmen.

THE SOIL OF THE COUNTY.

In his observations upon the nature of the soil of the county, Mr. Theophilus Jones writes thus :—

“There is a considerable variation not only in the surface of the country, but in the nature of the strata of the hundred of Builth, from that of the vale of Usk: there is also a great difference in the course and practice of husbandry of the former district, from that which prevails in the Southern and Eastern parts of the county. As the soil of the latter is too porous to retain the necessary moisture, that of the hundred of Builth is remarkably argillaceous; the water therefore is prevented from sinking sufficiently deep, and is held upon the surface until it sours. Notwithstanding, the mode of improving such land is obvious, draining creeps too slowly into practice there, and one-fourth part of the hundred is permitted to remain in the state of wet boggy commons, called in the British rhydydd, upon which *something like hay* is mown at the latter end of the summer, though the English farmer will hardly recognise it by that name, when he is told that it is so short as to be carried home in a sheet, or thrown into a basket placed upon a sledge.

“The farms in this part of the country are generally small, and let on leases for years, the term usually commencing on the 25th of March, although the going off tenant has the outhouses till May to fodder his cattle, and a road to water; lands let from six to seven shillings per acre, and the poorest grounds from three shillings to four.

“The inhabitants do not raise a sufficiency of corn for their own consumption; according to their present system of husbandry, tillage would certainly not repay them, as the general average produce of wheat per acre in the hundred (unless the vicinity of the town of Builth be included, and even then it would make no material alteration in the aggregate) is not calculated to exceed five bushels; but there is no doubt that if the land were well manured and limed, tillage would become as profitable in the vales here as in other parts of the county. The farmers, however, at present depend principally, if not entirely, upon the sale of their butter, cheese, cattle and sheep: this latter animal is a peculiar favourite, because from the contiguity of the extensive chain of mountains, dividing Builth from the hundred of Merthyr on the South, and the hills on the borders of Cardiganshire and Radnorshire on the North, most farmers claim, and all of them exercise, an unlimited right of common upon these valuable *walks*, upon which the sheep are depastured with little, if any, expense during the greatest part of the year.

“As we descend along the vale of Wye towards Glazbury and Hay, the soil improves materially; it loses its injurious tenacity and admits a proportion of loam and sand, though it is not so porous as that of the Usk. When we cross the Epynt and approach the banks of the latter river, a far better and more enlightened system of husbandry is discoverable; the farms are in general larger, the enclosures more regular and better preserved in many places, and particularly in the neighbourhood of Brecon; ground has been reclaimed and cultivated, which only a few years back was unproductive, the arable lands are well manured and limed, the pastures top-dressed and cleared of stones and rubbish, and in short, the face of the country wears an aspect very different from that of the hundred of Builth.

AGRICULTURAL TAKINGS AND METHODS OF CULTIVATION.

“The landed property is generally freehold throughout the country. In the vales it lets from fifteen shillings to a guinea an acre; in the neighbourhood of Glazbury and Hay some farms are let for forty shillings an acre, and in the vicinity of Brecon and other towns in this county from three to four pounds. The takings in the vales are from fifty pounds to two hundred pounds a year, and in the high lands from ten to twenty pounds. The nature and duration of tenures vary according to the disposition of the landlords; some farms are held at will, and at rack rent, others under leases from a term certain, and some from the lord of the manor of Crickhowell, and under the Tredegar family in Ystradfellte for three lives.

“It has been justly observed that men rarely cultivate an estate well, or even to the best of their capacities, unless they be invested in some degree with the property of it, or enjoy a tenure of some duration in it. Encouragement therefore for industrious and careful tenants should be thought of by landlords; rack-renting hurts the proprietors of the land sometimes immediately, and always remotely, for in such cases a shrewd farmer gets more by continually harrassing the ground

than by giving it the assistances of repose and manure, he gains by desolation and loses by improvement. In some parts of England the inhabitants have a strange old proverb on this occasion,

He that havocks must sit,
He that improves must fit.

“Or in other words, the tenant who racks the land may continue in the farm until he had worn out the soil; but he who improves the estate must pay an advanced rent, or be obliged to quit. In Italy, where the husbandman’s time of holding is almost expired, it is his custom to ruin the vineyard he rents, by forcing the trees to bear, till they become barren: such treatment is called by the neighbourhood *Lascia podere*, or adieu farm. The spur of interest is certainly necessary to excite industry: leases then of a proper length and upon a fair medium rent, render land of equal benefit to the landlord and tenant, thence arises a liberal and enterprising spirit, which to a certainty enriches the industrious occupier and fully secures the property of the owner.

“The general terms of leases in this county are from seven and fourteen to twenty-one years current; in some instances eleven, or twenty-one certain. In the hundreds of Crickhowel and Talgarth new tenants commonly commence their term at Candlemas; the usual covenants are, the landlord puts everything in repair at the first entry upon the farm, and makes good the ring fence; the tenant engages to keep and deliver up the premises, and the precincts, in *statu quo*, at the expiration of his term. The landlord allows plough-boot, hedge-boot, and rough gate-wood: the tenant not allowed to top or poll any maiden tree, the landlord upon tenant’s first entry allows twenty barrels of lime (some more, some less), per customary acre for the arable; the tenant engages to lay an equal quantity within the last year of his term; no ancient ley or meadow to be ploughed up without the landlord’s permission; tenant to consume all the hay and straw upon the premises; the tenants under the Duke of Beaufort have special clauses, agreeably to the custom of the manor.

“The going-off tenant throughout the county retains the use of the house, barns and other offices, and in most places a piece of arable land, having water in it, for the purpose of feeding off his hay and straw, till the 1st of May. The meadow land to be given up to the new tenant at Christmas, where the taking is Candlemas. In case the going-off tenant has sown wheat, and *limed his fallow*, he is entitled to three-fourths of the ensuing crop; if he merely fallows, but lays on no lime, to two-thirds; if upon clover lay, to one half, and barn-room in every instance for his portion of the crop, otherwise he is at full liberty to carry it away. Wheat after turnips is deemed a fallow.

“Tenants at will, without a special agreement to the contrary, assume a right of carrying off or selling all hay, straw and manure from the premises, and ruinous as this custom is, it has been frequently exercised and allowed, though some doubts are entertained whether it be legal. Mr Clarke, in his agricultural report on Breconshire, observes ‘that the mode of culture upon the good soil of this district is conducted in such a manner as to leave little room for improvement; but where the land is poor by nature, the tillage part of the husbandry especially is the very worst that can possibly be imagined.’ Upon the first head, we give our reporter all due credit for the civility of his observation: it must indeed be allowed that within the last twenty years agricultural knowledge has been considerably advanced within the vale of Usk; but it cannot even by vanity be supposed that we have as yet arrived at the *ne plus ultra* of improvement. A multitude of ridiculous and idle prejudices still continue to disgrace the practice of our native farmers, which in the present generation it may be difficult to eradicate: it is not, however, unreasonable to hope that time and experience may contribute to dispel the mist, and enlighten the minds of a better informed posterity. As to our highland farmers, they are generally too poor to attempt improvements of any consequence; to use a common expression, they literally ‘live from hand to mouth.’ A few acres of oats or barley (which with difficulty they are at any rate enabled to cultivate), with a few sheep and small cattle upon the mountains, are their only stock; and yet with these, provided they are enabled to discharge their rent, they live contented.

“Carts and waggons are the common implements of conveyance of materials in the vale; but the uplands are accessible by the sledge only.

“The usual teams in tillage are four or five horses, otherwise six oxen, or four oxen and a horse, ‘enough (to use the words of an intelligent friend) to ruin a farmer, if land were at five shillings an acre.’ That curse to labouring oxen, the heavy yoke, is still in common use, and they are worked in pairs.

“The country plough is a heavy, clumsy, and inefficient implement, but long custom has prejudiced our husbandmen in its favour. Within the last few years, however, the short Rotherham, or as it is here called the Whitechurch plough, has been introduced, and we think it now bids fair to

obtain a preference. It is certainly worked with less labour and better adapted to our light and sandy soil; some few gentlemen have adopted the whip-rein, with two horses abreast, without a driver, and with this they are enabled to plough a statute acre per day. The advantages of this latter plan are so clearly manifested by the reduction of expense, and the lessening of labour, that our farmers will shortly see them, and we may hope in a few years to find it in universal practice. Our ploughmen are generally good; not a man of them but is perfectly master of the *strait line*, and every furrow runs perfectly parallel: to their credit be it spoken, a neighbouring county to the West annually offers, or at least lately did offer, a premium of ten guineas to such of their servants in husbandry, as shall be willing to reside three years in Brecknockshire, and there learn to hold the plough. 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, 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, peas or oats, fallow again, and sow turnips. Premiums were at one time offered by the Agricultural Society to promote the culture of potatoes upon intended wheat fallows, but owing to the lightness of the soil it was not found to answer, and was soon abandoned: potatoes are now generally set upon parts of the turnip land, or, when made a sole crop, are succeeded by barley.

“The harvest generally commences in August, and ends about the middle of October; though upon high lands and in the close valleys between the hills, owing to cold, or unfavourable seasons, they are sometimes later. The sickle or reaping hook is the favourite instrument of the country; though of late years the scythe and cradle has considerably superseded it: the operation of the latter being more powerful, and consequently requiring fewer hands in the field. One good mower with the scythe and cradle will cut at least three acres a day. Reapers are paid from one shilling to eighteen pence per acre with meat and drink, from two to three shillings when they find their own provisions; though a certain portion of beer or cider is even then expected, and generally allowed; oats and barley are commonly mowed with a scythe like hay. It appears from the account of Giraldus Cambrensis that neither scythe or sickle was in use among the Ancient Britons but that they used an instrument formed like the blade of a knife, with a wooden handle, fixed loosely at each end, and with this they cut their corn in a manner infinitely more expeditious.

“All grain is for the most part threshed out by the bushel, and payment made in kind, in the proportion of one bushel in twenty to the thrasher—with some few exceptions, but in some parts of the county they are paid in specie. The average product or returns are nearly 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. Our bushel contains ten gallons. Good wheat weighs from seventy-eight to eighty pounds per bushel. The red lammas seems to be the favourite wheat of the county; but the cone, and Essex duns, where tried, have been found to be at least equally productive.

MENSURATION OF LAND.

“The mensuration of land is very generally estimated by the cyfar, or cyfar, a portion nearly answerable to the Roman Jugerum, and by common computation one-third less than the English statute acre. In the British laws of Hywel Dda, the *Eru*, is declared to have been the statute acre of the early Welsh, and is thus singularly and whimsically defined: The following is the measure of the lawful statute acre; four feet in the length of the short yoke; eight in the field yoke; twelve in the lateral yoke; sixteen in the long yoke; and a rod equal in length to that in the hand of the driver, with his hand upon the middle knot of that yoke; and as far as that reached on each side of him, is the breadth of the acre; and thirty times as much as its length.” Others say that the acre ought to be measured with a rod equal in length to the stature of the tallest man in the hamlet, with his hand stretched upwards towards heaven; and then it proceeds in the manner above mentioned. It is also defined in another manner thus: ‘Sixteen feet are the length of the yoke; sixteen yokes make the length of the acre, and two makes its breadth.’ Again, ‘The perch of Hywel Dda was eighteen feet long; and eighteen such perches made the length of an acre, which was two perches wide.’ In the short yoke there were two oxen abreast; in the next, four; in the next, six; and in the last, eight. Neither meadow, pasture, nor woodland were included in the *Eru*, for only the arable land was measured, and that of every other description was deemed waste: indeed this also appears from our term *cyfar*, compounded of *cyf*, together, and *ar*, ploughing. It takes its name from an ancient custom among the Welsh, of entering into articles of partnership, wherein each partner was obliged

to bring cattle and implements of husbandry until they had finished ploughing; in these agreements a certain acre was set aside towards the expenses of providing such implements, in the Welsh laws termed *cyfair-casnadd*; but neither Dr. Wotton nor any other Welsh lexicographer attempts to explain the meaning of the word, simply stating that it is synonymous with Erw'r-gwydd. The latter, it is thought, implies the *woody-acre*, from whence the partnership was to be supplied with timber for their plough-boot. A piece of land in Llanbedr, in the hundred of Crickhowell, is to this day called Erw-y-Gwydd. May we venture to derive the word *casnadd* from the old *Irish*? Edw. Llwyd in his Irish-English dictionary gives us as obsolete words, *caots*, a furrow (now written *Cuys* in Welsh) and *naidhm*, a bargain or covenant. There was also another acre set aside as a remuneration to any such partner as might have the misfortune of losing one of his oxen in ploughing, upon his oath that such accident had not happened through his own fault or negligence. This was called Erw'r ych du, or the acre of the black, i.e., dead ox. Whence perhaps the old proverb, 'the black ox has never trodden on his foot'—applied to a person who has never suffered misfortune. The word *Erw*, in Breconshire, always signifies the English statute acre. In Monmouthshire, and some parts of Glamorganshire, they estimate four *cyfars* to the *Erw*. In some part of Wales the term *cyfar* is still used to signify as much ground as one plough can work in a day; but here it is not restricted to any one species of land. Mr. William Williams, a land surveyor of Cwmdu, computes the Brecknockshire *cyfar* at 2 roods and 26 perches; but the computation differs in different parts of the county. In the foregoing observations the English statute acre is adhered to.

THE FARMING STOCK AND CROPS.

"The cattle and horses of the country are generally small; both breeds however, have been considerably improved within these few years by crosses from other counties, the former principally from Glamorganshire and Herefordshire, of which the latter is now the favourite.

"With respect to horses, the Agricultural Society has from time to time exerted itself and still continues to attend the breed within the county, by offering premiums for the introduction of good stallions, both of the hunting and draught kinds; in the latter case giving a preference to the Suffolk Punch breed, as being best calculated for work in a mountainous country. The Punch is a well knit horse, short backed and thick shouldered, with a broad neck and well lined with flesh; it is a satisfaction to observe that our farming teams have been greatly improved by these encouragements, and our yeomen begin to feel a laudable pride in the goodness of their cattle.

"The extensive mountains which form so considerable a portion of the whole county are covered with innumerable flocks of sheep. The habits and manners of these animals and their keepers are little known to the world at large and much less to the learned part of the community. After long hesitation and frequent doubts, courts of justice have at last agreed, though apparently against their conviction, to admit, that those who have been accustomed to the care of sheep can identify their countenances and describe with precision their general shape and make.

"Nor are these animals themselves without talents and without peculiarities; their general characteristic is an amiable mildness, which submits without complaint to every injury they may sustain from either man or the brute creation. When they are accompanied by their young they appear to assume a courage, which is almost ludicrous, when we know how short lived it is likely to be. The dam (placing her offspring in the rear) turns round, looks at the barking cur, stamps with her foot as if challenging an attack and provoking the affray, nay even the whole flock form something like martial array, and put on 'a swaggering outside,' but the moment the enemy charges they disperse in all directions, seek their safety in flight, and become the same defenceless creatures as they are during the greatest part of their lives. Their dispositions however vary in different parts of the kingdom. In England they are docile and domestic, they may be there confined by enclosures, and are patient of control, 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 low lands, and boundaries prescribed to them, they have a mischievous activity which baffles human ingenuity to correct.

"There are some other traits in their character deserving of notice, and therefore proper to be stated before we have done with them. 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, showing 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 sometimes (though seldom) they have been known to quit the hills entirely, to leap over all enclosures 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 Breconshire which is very remarkable; but incredible as it appears, it is attested by the universal voice of those who are conversant in 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 recognising their native air, they instantly meditate an escape; it is certain (whatever may be the cause) that they may be described 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 reach 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.

“It is hardly necessary to add that the Welsh sheep are considerably smaller than those of their species in England, and therefore it is said less profitable. The English sheep are certainly heavier, and therefore produce a greater price in the market, but it must be recollected that ours live upon much poorer lands than the former, and indeed that they feed a great part of the year on the summits of the hills, where few other animals could be placed, and which would otherwise produce no profit to the community. When these advantages are considered, we must not too hastily decide upon the question. Certain it is that if our diminutive breed were lost, the epicure would lament, even though the farmer might rejoice.

“The common manures of the county are lime, yard-muck, the produce of the farm, compost of lime with the scourings of headlands, and ditches, and coal-ashes, the last generally used for grass lands, upon which it produces the meillionen or white clover in abundance. Fern or straw is likewise thrown in the hollow wet parts of bye roads to rot during the winter, but this, as it is an abuse injurious to the public, ought not to be allowed.

“There is certainly no part of husbandry in which our farmers are more unpardonably negligent than in the management of their muck yard—most inconsiderately do they suffer those valuable juices to run in waste along the roads to the annoyance of the traveller, which more attentive husbandmen would carefully preserve for the enriching of their lands. The farmer’s best friend is undoubtedly his dunghill! how often does he ungratefully neglect it!

“Our British farmer forms one common heap of all the produce of his yard; and if he keeps it tolerably together, supposes that nothing more is necessary. There it lies exposed to wind and sun, till the owner is at leisure to carry it to the field, and then both new and old are indiscriminately used together; or if any lies over to another season, it is most probably that which ought to have been used first. The Roman, with greater judgment, formed his dunghill into two parts, providing that one should be rotted to its proper state of putrefaction, whilst the other was accumulating to its intended quantity; and was always particularly careful to preserve it from evaporation.

“Lime, as an acknowledged native of the country, easy of access, and cheap of purchase, is the general favourite manure with the greatest part of the farmers in Breconshire, and is commonly laid on in the proportion of thirty barrels to the statute acre: each barrel containing three customary bushels, or thirty gallons,—some lay on more, some less.

“Clover, rye-grass and trefoil are the only artificial grasses in common cultivation; some few farmers have we believe attempted the growth of saintfoin, but as their attempts were languid, we need not wonder they were unsuccessful; with proper management and attention it would doubtless prove a valuable acquisition. Jethro Tull tells us, that its increase in poor land is in a ratio of forty degrees greater than that of common grass. Vetches are sometimes, though (as before observed) not frequently and generally sown for the spring feeding of cattle.

“Perhaps, to use old Hartlib’s words, ‘we are to blame that we have neglected lucerne;’ that valuable plant so highly celebrated by ancient as well as modern writers. If we may believe Columella and Palladius, ‘The herb medica is most excellent; because one sowing lasts ten years, and affords commonly four, sometimes six cuttings in the season—because it enriches the land that produces it; fattens lean cattle, and affords a remedy to such as are sick, and because one jugerum of it completely feeds three horses for a whole year.’ The modern writer of ‘Experiments on

transplanted lucerne' makes one remark, which, if correct, is worthy of our attention. 'I know,' says he, 'from my own experience, that sheep will eat lucerne, green when they refuse every sort of food besides, nor can there be a better preservative, when the rot begins to threaten, than to give them green lucerne, mixed with a little bog-bean; or lucerne hay moistened with fresh brine.' He then adds in a note, 'the marsh trefoil commonly called buck-bean, is a plant of an unsavory taste, and sheep when sound commonly avoid eating it, but when symptoms of the rot begin to attack them, they search for it by instinct, and devour it greedily. Where such sheep are depastured, no buck-bean is to be found, for in a week or two they devour it all. Might it not be prudent therefore in our husbandmen, who keep large flocks, to cultivate an acre of the plants in morassy grounds, which otherwise would not yield them two shillings an acre? Some might be cut green for unsound sheep, and given them with lucerne, as occasion might require; and some might be made into hay and mixed with their fodder. We cannot remember that this advice has been given by any husbandry writer.'

"In our Welsh botanologies, this plant is called *meillionen y gors*, or the march trefoil, but is better known to our mountaineers by the name of *fa'r waun*, i.e., bog-bean, and is found in great abundance upon a quaking bog at Rhos-y-mwyn, upon the mountains of Llangattock and Llangynidr, upon Mydd Illtyd, in Llangorse lake, and many of the rhydydd in this county. It is a fine generous bitter, wonderfully strengthening to the human stomach, and assisting a decayed digestion, and from these well known qualities, it is probable that our author's observation upon *sheep* is perfectly just; if so the discovery is a very useful one.

"In the management of the meadow land there is nothing very praiseworthy. Too generally the hay crops are ruined by the mischievous, but prevailing practice of late grazing with sheep, which are sometimes suffered to remain on the land until the latter end of April or beginning of May; the consequence of this is, that in hot dry summers a fatal deficiency must ensue, and should a severe winter unfortunately follow, the owner is obliged to purchase hay for his spring consumption, under all the disadvantages of dear markets. The introduction of green crops for the spring feeding of sheep can alone remedy this defect, but this is an improvement at which we have not yet arrived. Another almost universal fault which may be observed is, the suffering grass to stand too long before it is mowed; a generally prevalent but erroneous idea has immemorably influenced our farmers to a belief that by cutting hay before it is (as they call it) *sufficiently hard*, they lose in quantity, and therefore they leave it standing till the stools are become absolutely foxy and the stocks are dwindled into mere bents, sans taste, sans smell, sans everything. In fact, by this means the first crop is lost, and they are now cutting what ought to be their lattermath. Avarice is here their principal motive. It will hardly be controverted that the leaves of grass are equally essential to good hay with the stalks, they indeed form the most nutritious part of it; let us watch their progress and we see them grow together, daily gaining in strength and increasing in quantity until the stalks arrive at full maturity and put forth their blossoms; the plant is now in high perfection and ready for the scythe, but this once past, the leaf decays, the stalk hardens, and every symptom of old age increases: in such a stage what nutriment can it afford to cattle? Little, if any, and clean straw is nearly as beneficial.

"The common price of mowing hay is from two shillings and sixpence per statute acre, with a limited quantity of ale or cider; in some places a gallon to the acre, in others less. Most of the farmers, however, pay by the day, viz., a shilling, and find the mower both in meat and drink; female haymakers receive from sixpence to ninepence a day, and usually stipulate for an allowance of drink. Hay, from the great demand for it, has for several years been estimated very highly, having been seldom under three, and sometimes amounting to five, and even seven pounds per ton. But in future it will probably decline in value; various circumstances having combined to depress those markets by which the trade was principally supported—railways and canals are daily subverting the business of the carriers. And agricultural improvements in the region of the mountains have enabled the gentlemen in the iron trade in some measure to supply themselves, without depending as heretofore upon the produce of the vales.

FARM SERVANTS.

"The wages of farming servants have increased very greatly within the last ten years—mining, collieries, lime kilns, iron works, canals and railroads, whereby the labourer is enabled to earn his half crown or three shillings a day, have thrown the husbandman very far into the back ground: and it is often with difficulty that he can find a sufficient number of hands to cut and house his crops. Certain it is that his expenses are nearly doubled within that period. The head bailiff or upper servant in particular has an extraordinary advance of wages, for which it is difficult to

account; the exertions of this class are neither greater, nor their services more valuable now, than at any former period. The dearness of provisions cannot be urged as an argument in their favour, for the whole expence of maintenance is borne by the employer. Clothes we must indeed allow to be extra, which are rendered dearer by the times, and consequently bear heavily upon the servant, but (these once laid in, in tolerable stock), two-thirds of lower wages would be clear gain. Far different from theirs is the situation of the day labourer, upon whose single exertions not merely himself as an individual, but perhaps a wife, and a numerous family of children depend for bread. To such a man an occasional increase of wages is undoubtedly both just and necessary. The price of labour ought surely to bear some proportion to existing circumstances and the increased prices of the necessaries of life; or the farmer should supply his labourers with grain on such terms as may enable them to subsist upon their present hire, and in this, we believe all thinking men agree. The great difficulty is to arrange such a plan as may assume a practicable shape. Humanity and a kind anxiety to relieve the distresses of the poor, and particularly those of the industrious labourer and manufacturer, have ever been distinguishing characteristics of the British nation, and never were they more brilliantly exerted than during the universally distressing scarcities of 1795, 1800, and 1801. 'The wages of the day labourer,' says Dr. Withering, 'are certainly very inadequate to the price of provisions, and hence arises in a great measure, the enormous increase of the poor rates. I confine my observations on this subject to country parishes; a man, his wife and five children, living chiefly on bread, as these people do, will consume one bushel of wheat per week. The man gains from six to nine shillings a week, and his bread costs him eight shillings or more when such is the price of wheat.'

"The years 1795, 1800, and 1801 have been already noticed as seasons of unusual scarcity: during the summer (1801) wheat was sold in the Brecknock and Abergavenny markets at the enormous price of thirty shillings for the bushel, and other grain proportionately dear. The majority of our farmers, so far from having corn to sell—to use a figurative expression, were compelled to 'go down to Egypt to buy corn, that they might live and not die.' 'They sold their cattle in exchange for bread, and scarcely aught was left but their bodies and their lands.'"

MODERN CONDITIONS.

Such was the condition of agriculture at the period when Theophilus Jones completed his inquiries. For the next fifty years there was no material change in those conditions, for there were good and bad seasons, and alternating depression and prosperity. Brecknockshire did not increase its corn growing capacity, and when bread was scarce and dear elsewhere, the same state of affairs dominated existence in the county. Men, however, continued to remain on the land, but the wages of the labourers were small and his opportunities for advancement few. Farmers still pursued their avocations in the same old-fashioned way: they sowed, mowed, and reaped by hand, and gathered their crops together into well-ordered ricks in the rick-yard or field, or filled their extensive barns. But manual labour in this respect was soon to be replaced. Machinery for mowing and making of the hay came into use about 1860, but not extensively until about ten years later, when reaping and all other kinds of agricultural implements were placed upon the market. This inroad of machinery created utter confusion amongst agricultural labourers, who seemed doomed to extinction, and men began to wander away to the towns, never to return to the villages, and their old cottages soon fell into decay for want of tenants. As some indication of the general state of things it may be stated that in one village where there were numerous cottages and three public houses forty years ago, those licensed houses have all now disappeared and most of the cottages are in ruins. To such an extent did this exodus continue that in 1880 the farmers began to experience a considerable scarcity of labour, and the wages of farm labourers rose considerably. But much of the land was going out of cultivation, and the growing of corn was much decreasing in volume. Farmers realised that they could do better than follow the plough; and they began to lay their land down to grass and to rear cattle and sheep, and here and there a few good horses; with this stock they came into the markets and fairs, and assumed the role, in many cases, of dealers in stock. In the district of the hills there are great quantities of sheep, the largest breeders probably being Thomas McTurk, Esq., J.P., of Cnewr, W. S. Miller, Esq., J.P., of Forest Lodge, Owen Price, Esq., J.P., of Nantyrharn, and Mr. David Price, of St. John's Mount. Farmers generally breed sheep in abundance, and find a constant and an increasing demand for them, the proximity of their markets to the iron and steel works of Cyfarthfa and Dowlais, and the great mining valleys of Glamorgan, being responsible for this ready sale.

The farmers' wives and daughters are still adepts in the art of making good butter and cheese, and in rearing poultry. These commodities are brought into the county markets in great quantities.

and are readily purchased at excellent prices by inhabitants of the towns, and by those hucksters who carry the agricultural produce away into Glamorganshire. The growth in this latter trade has been very great. A few years ago, half a dozen women used to attend the Brecon Market with their donkey carts, and carry away small quantities of eggs and butter by road to the hills; but at the present day there are dozens of women and men engaged in this trade, and every Friday take from the same market tons of farm produce. This applies also to other markets in the agricultural portion of the county.

For some years past there has been prosperity for the farmers, and this prosperity is strikingly manifested in their domestic habits. The general practice of many of the farmers is to place certain members of their family into shops in the adjoining towns, there to learn the drapery, millinery, grocery, or other trades, and occasionally some of their sons will be found in the banking establishments or in the offices of professional men. But, as evidence that the business of farming is not unremunerative, the farmer generally arranges that one of his sons is brought up in the business and so secure the succession to the old farm when the days of sowing and reaping shall have no further attractions for himself. For it should be here observed that the same farms have been for generations occupied by members of the same family; and at a recent sale in the county on one of the farms the present tenant told the writer that his people had been farming that same farm for over 150 years; and he was continuing the farm now that his father was dead.



CHAPTER IV.

The Archdeaconry of Brecknock,—Description of Brecon by Hugh Thomas and others,—Ancient Guilds,—Tolls and Fees,—Borough Charters,—Capital Burgesses,—Corporate Revenues,—St. John's (Priory) Church,—Ancient and Modern Monuments.

THE archdeaconry of Brecon, or Brecknock, in the diocese of Saint David's (writes Theophilus Jones), contains the whole of Brecknockshire and Radnorshire, except the parishes of Knighton, Norton, Presteigne, Old and New Radnor, and a very small part of Cascob in the latter county, two parishes in Montgomeryshire in North Wales, seven parishes in Herefordshire, and two parishes in Monmouthshire. It consists of seven deaneries, and one hundred and twenty-four parishes. The deaneries are called Melenydd, Elvel or Elvel ysmynydd, Builth, Hay, and the first, second, and third parts of Brecon.

Melenydd contains

1	In Montgomeryshire, Kerry	9	Llananno	17	Llanbadarn fawr
2	Moughtreff	10	Llanbadarn tynydd	18	Whitton
3	Radnorshire, St. Harman	11	Llanfihangel-rydithon	19	Pilleth
4	Llansaintfred Cwmytoiddwr	12	Llanddewy Ystradenny	20	Heyop
5	Nantmel	13	Llandepley	21	Bleddfa
6	Llanvre	14	Llanfihangel Cefnllys	22	Cascob
7	Llanfihangel-fach-helygon	15	Llandrindod	23	Regulidly
8	Llanbister	16	Llangunilo	24	Rhayadrwy

The whole of Elvel, except a part of the parish of Glasbury, is likewise in Radnorshire, and comprises

1	Llanfihangel nant melan	9	Llanbadarn y garrog	17	Llanellwedd
2	Gleadowry	10	Bryngwyn	18	Llanstephan
3	Glasewm	11	Aberedw	19	Boughrwd
4	Colva	12	Llanfaredd	20	Llowes
5	Rhulen	13	Disserth	21	Llandewi fach
6	Newchurch	14	Bettws Disserth	22	Clyro
7	Llanbedr Pain s castle	15	Llansaintfred in Elvel	23	Glasbury
8	Cregrina	16	Llandilo-graban		

The deanery of Builth comprehends the following parishes, all in Breconshire,

1	Llanwrthwl	7	Llanwrtdid	13	Llanfair in Builth
2	Llanfawr	8	Llanddewi-bergwessin	14	Llanddewi'r cwm
3	Llanfechan	9	Llanlleonfel	15	Llangynog
4	Llanfihangel Abergwessin	10	Llanganten	16	Altmaur
5	Llanfihangel bryn-pabuau	11	Maesmynis	17	Tyr yr abad alias Llandulas
6	Llangammarch	12	Llanynis		

Hay was divided prior to the commencement of the seventeenth century into two deaneries, called Hay Herefordshire and Hay Breconshire; the district is now however known by the general name of the deanery of Hay, and contains the following seven parishes in Herefordshire.

1	Clodock	7	Llanillo, Heref.	13	Llan-Elyw
2	St. Margaret's	8	Cwmyoi and	14	Llyswen
3	Ewyras Harold	9	Oldcastle in Monmouthshire	15	Gwonddwr
4	Michael Church Esley	10	Hay, Breconshire	16	Llandefalle
5	Walterstone	11	Llanigon	17	Crickadarn and
6	Rowlstone	12	Broullys	18	Talochddu.

The remainder of which county is divided into three deaneries, called the first, second, and third parts of Brecon.

The first part of Brecon,

1	Llanfihangel nant bran	5	Aberyscir	9	Garthbrenny
2	Llandilo'r fan	6	Battle	10	Saint John the Evangelist's
3	Trallwng	7	Llandefallog	11	Saint Mary's
4	Merthyr Cynog	8	Llanddew		

The second part of Brecon,

1 Pendorin	4 Saint David's	7 Ystradfellte
2 Callwen	5 Vainor	8 Llanspyddid
3 Devynock	6 Ystradgynlais	9 Llywel

The third part of Brecon,

1 Talgarth	9 Patrishow	17 Llanfrynach
2 Llandefaioig tre'r graig	10 Llanelly	18 Llangasty tal y llyn
3 Llanbedr Ystradyw	11 Cathedine	19 Llanfihangel tal y llyn
4 Llangatock juxta Crickhowel	12 Saint Michael Cwmdu	20 Llandetty
5 Llangeney	13 Llangorse	21 Llanhamlach
6 Crickhowel	14 Llanywern	22 Cantrefi
7 Llanfillo	15 Llansaintfred juxta Usk	
8 Llanguydir	16 Llanigan	

The archdeaconry now (1900) contains nine deaneries, composed as follow :—

BRECON (1st PART.)—Aberyskir, Battle, Saint John's Brecon, Saint Mary's Brecon, Dyffryn Honddu (otherwise Upper Chapel) in Merthyr Cynog, Garthbregy, Llanddew, Llandefaioigfach, Llandefalle, Crickadarn, Llandilofan, Llanfihangel Nantbran, Llanfihangel fechan, Merthyr Cynog, Talachddu, Trallwng.

BRECON (2nd PART.)—Bettws Penpont, Callwen, Chapel Coelbren, Saint Ilid Cray, Devynock, Saint David's Llanfaes Brecon, Christ College Chapel, Llanilltyd, Llanspyddid, Llywel, Rhydybriw, Penderin, Traianglas, Ystradfellte, Ystradgynlais.

BRECON (3rd PART.)—Cantrefi, Capel Nantddu, Cathedine, Glyncollwng (in Llanigan), Llanfihangel Talyllyn, Llanwynn, Llanfrynach, Llangasty-Talyllyn, Llangorse, Llanhamlach, Llansaintffread juxta Usk, Llanigan, Llanfillo, Llandefaioig-tregraig, Talgarth, Vaynor.

BUILTH.—Alltmawr, Builth, Eglwys Oen Duw, Gwenddwr, Llanafanfawr, Llanfihangel brynpabuan and Llanafan fechan, Llanddewi'r Cwm, Llanfihangel Abergwessin, Llanddewi Abergwessin, Llangamach, Llanganten, Llangynog, Llanleionfel, Llanwrtyd, Maesmynis with Llanynis, Tir abad (otherwise Llandulas) Llanwrtyd.

CRICKHOWELL.—Brynmawr St. Mary, Capel Taf-fechan (in Llanthetty), Crickhowell, Llanbedr Ystradw, Patricio, Llanelly, Llanfihangel Cwmdu, Llangatock, Llanguenny, Llangynidr, Llanthetty, Tretower.

ELWEL.—Aberedw with Llanfaredd, Cregrina with Llanbadarn-y-garreg, Cwmbach-Llechryd, Disserth, Gladestry, Glascombe and Colva and Rhuler, Llanelwedd, Llanfihangel Nantmelin, Llansaintffread in Elwel, Bettws Disserth.

HAY.—Boughrood, Bronllys, Bryngwyn, Capel-y-ffin in Llanigon, Clyro, with Bettws Clyro, Glasbury, Glasbury All Saints, Hay, Llanbedr Painscastle, Llanddewi-fach, Llandilo Graban, with Llanstephan, Llanellieu, Llanigon, Llowes, Llyswen, Newchurch.

MELINETH SUB ITHON.—Beguildy (and St. Peter), Bleddfa, Cascob, Heyope, Llanbadarn fynydd, Llanano, Llanbister, Llanddewi Ystradenny with Llanfihangel Rhydithon, Llanguyno, Pilleth, Whittton.

MELINETH ULTRA ITHON.—Abbey Cwmhir, Cefnllys and Holy Trinity Llandrindod Wells, Cwmtogyddwr, St. Harmon's, Llaebadarn fawr, Llanfihangel Heligen with Llanyre, Llanwrthwl, Nantmel, Newbridge on Wye, Rhayadergwy.

The Archdeacon of Brecknock has now a fixed stipend of £400 a year, and generally holds some preferment in addition to this. The late Archdeacon de Winton succeeded Archdeacon Davies, of Courtgygollen, and held Llandrindod. He was followed by the Rev. W. L. Bevan, canon of St. David's, who for a time held the living of Hay, and upon his resignation of the archdeaconry, his son, the Rev. E. L. Bevan, vicar of Brecon, was appointed. The Archdeacon is patron of the benefices of St. David's (Brecon) Llanddew, Llowes, and Llanddewi-fach, near Hay. In Theophilus Jones time, the Archdeacon possessed the great tithes of the parish of St. David's in Brecon, of Llanddew, of the hamlet of Penpont, of Llowes, of Llanstephan, and Llanddewi-fach; he had also in right of his dignity a tenement in the parishes of Llanrhian and Mathrey in Pembrokehire called Torrbant, consisting of 320 acres of land, and was intitled to procurations from the clergy of the archdeaconry and many of the impropriators of tithes within that jurisdiction. The Archdeacon holds an annual visitation, and his present Registrar is Molyneux F. Thomas, Esq., Solicitor, Brecon.

Among the papers of Archbishop Sancroft, in the Bodleian library, is a very curious letter, or return made to a commission by him issued to inquire into a dispute between the bishops of Saint David's and

Gloucester, in the year 1664, upon the right of visiting, claimed by the latter, who was then archdeacon of Brecon. It is dated the 8th of October in the above year, and proceeds thus to address the primate :

May it please your Grace,

We thought it our duty to represent to you what happened between the bishop of Saint David's and the Bishop of Gloucester, in the case of the archdeaconrie of Brecon: we waiting upon my lord bishoppe of Gloucester, who with his servants came late to the town of Brecon on Saturday night, when the archdeacon of Carmarthen and one Edwards a minister (as they call him) askt the bishop of Gloucester where the bishop of Saint David's should wait upon him, who replied hee stood not upon equal grounds, he was an archdeacon and so one of his clergy and owed him canonically obedience which he would as readily performe as any priest of them all, with which expression (when related) the bishop of St. David's was so taken that he promised to give him a visit and accordingly on Monday morning did and after a few complaints the bishop of Saint David's said he stood upon two things: he would not see his clergy oppressed or his officers deprived of their fees. To which the bishop of Gloucester replied, he would endeavour to take such care that neither bishop or archdeacon should oppresse and hoped his lordship had better thoughts of him. I doubt not you, but know not what your successors may doe, and withall my lord you promised you would not visit without my leave, which the bishop of Gloucester denied, the other constantly and passionately affirmed, may then sayd the bishop of Gloucester if you say this you may say any thing, and here David's crying out he gives me the lye, he gives me the lye, lets begon and went away. After this wee opened our commission, swore some witnesses and adjourned to sit in a warmer place than a miserable open ruinous church, the object of every good christian's pity, the nobodies relief in that place. Our proceedings were excepted against for the misnomer of the place where wee opened our commission and yet my lord of Saint David's sent three commissioners to sit with us, two of which were lustily engaged in the parliament or army's service against the king and well rewarded for their pains, as we are credibly informed. Much pressing there was for accomodacion, whether sincerely or pretendedly we know not, but were very ready to embrace any thing that looked that way, and prevailed upon the bishop of Gloucester *cedere de jure*. On Tuesday morning came one Mr. Williams, whether sent or not is not ours to determine; willing he was to be mediator and accepted and carried to the bishop of Saint David's the bishop of Gloucester's concessions and condessions, which were accepted as the said Williams reported, whereupon we desisted from the farther prosecution of our commission.

After dinner the bishop of Gloucester caused the terms of accomodation to be drawn up into an act by a public notary, when he was received with a *bestia pacifica*, English by a lady (as the bishop of Saint David's sayd) *putt up thy dagger James*, but after he had perused the act and received the whispering and instructions of one Nicholas, a parliament, or army creature, one that denied the bishop of Gloucester archdeacon of Brecon's *procurons*, the bishop of Saint David's fell into an old proverb *festina lente* and sayd he would not be surprized but would take time to consider.

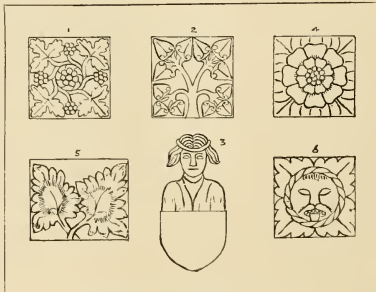
Whereupon the bishop of Gloucester desiring to know when he should know his mind tooke leave and departed and wee to our commission againe. About 9 at night came the above named Mr. Williams with the bishop of St. David's resolutions drawn up into an act, wherein the former accord was slighted and the archdeacon's jurisdiction reduced to a *tantummodo citare* and *procurons*, which the bishop of Gloucester utterly dislike and resolved for his return to Gloucester next day early. After all this, between 10 and 11 o'clock at night, the bishop of Gloucester being in bed, the bishop of Saint David's sent to invite him to dinner the next day, for which he thanked him but told the messenger he had taken orders for his journey and the next day entered into it. This is the true narration and we most humbly crave your pardon for detaining you so long.

Your Grace's daily besdesmen,

ANTHONY ANDREWS,
THOMAS CARLES.

October 8, 1664.

But to return to Breconshire. This county is divided into six hundreds: Merthyr, Builth, Talgarth, Crickhowel, Penkelly, and Devynock. In the centre of these districts, but at the southern extremity of the hundred of Merthyr, is situated the town of Brecknock, upon the conflux of the rivers Usk and Honddu, from whence it is called in the British language Aberhonddu.



BOSSSES IN PRIORY CHURCH.

(See page 93.)

BRECON.

AMONG the parishes in the Hundred of Merthyr, Saint John the Evangelist's and Saint Mary's first require attention, inasmuch as within their precincts is included the town of Brecknock, where no inconsiderable part of the wealth of the county centres, and most part of the public business is transacted. It has been seen that some authors talk of the destruction and spoiling of Brecknock by the Saxons and other invaders long before the year 1091; but it is more than probable that until that period the banks of the Honddu, where it falls into the Usk, were covered with verdure: and it is certain, that if there were a few straggling cottages where this town is now situated, it was not until the Norman invasion considered as the principal town, and that it owes its consequence to the demolition of Caerbannau and the building of the castle by Bernard Newmarch.

HUGH THOMAS' DESCRIPTION OF BRECON TOWN IN 1698.

From a manuscript Essay towards a history of Brecknockshire, by Hugh Thomas, written in 1698, we gather a description of the town of Brecon in that year. Its walls were then in good repair. "It hath four gates for entrance, the Watton Gate in the east, the Stoned (? Struet) Gate in the north, the other two in the south west very near each other, divided by one house only: the greater of the two is called the Bridge Gate because it opens a passage to the town from one of the strongest and fairest *stone* bridges in the kingdom; it crosses Usk upon seven arches. The other opens exactly to the water side, therefore called the Water Gate: it is the least of the town gates, and leads westward to a stone bridge of three arches over the river Honddu. Upon the west of Honddu is seen the ruin of a large and spacious castle built four square upon a very high mount, having two watch towers at each corner; which castle had a passage over the river Honddu into the town by a stone bridge of two arches, one of them being to be drawn up at pleasure.

"The Priory for its greatness and inclosures looks more like a town than a private residence, having no less than three great gates for entrance into the outer court. This formerly belonged to the monks, but at the dissolution of the monasteries was, by King Henry VIII., given to the great antiquary, Sir John Price, knight; it is now (1698) in the possession of Jeffrey Jeffreys, Esq., late Burgess in Parliament for this Borough.

"In the middle of the town is a large Chapel of Ease dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, in which are six bells, a quarter clock, and chimes at every third hour. Hard by stands the Guild Hall, for keeping the town and county courts, and Great Sessions, the record house, council chamber, town clerk's office, and magazine, the fairest in all Wales.

"For the education of youth, without the walls of the town stands the College. It was once a priory of Friars medicant, the Church being dedicated to St. Nicholas. The founder [of the monastery?] is unknown, but the confounder was King Henry VIII. in the one and thirtieth year of his reign [from which we gather a leaning towards the tenets of Romanism: a Brecon man would naturally rejoice at the establishment of the College at Brecon]. The Chancel of the Church only was standing in 1698; it had been repaired by Bishop Lucy. The school had been repaired in the reign of King James by the Worshipful Jeffrey Jeffries, Esq.

"By the water gate in the east part of the town stands the county goal, built 1690, which of its bigness is as strong and handsome as any on this side England or Wales."

There were four hundred families dwelling in the borough when Hugh Thomas wrote, scarce 30 of English name and descent. Of all that came over with the Conquest, there was but one remaining, that was John Walbeoff of Llanhamlach, Esquire. Some of the Walbeoff family were living in 1899, but they had come to poverty. Thomas continues,

"The town under Charter 1556 is governed by a recorder, and fifteen common councilmen, who for their chief chose yearly from themselves a bailiff and two aldermen for the better execution of justice. Whenever one of the Council die they are empowered to make choice of a Burgess to supply his place. Besides they were to choose a town clerk, two chamberlains, the serjeant at mace, and 24 constables, two constables for each of the twelve wards into which the borough was divided. The twelve wards of Brecon: High Street superior, High Street inferior, Ship Street, St. Mary's,

Morgannwg, Cantref Selif, Old Port superior, Old Port inferior, Watton, Heol Rudd, Llanfaes, Trecastle. The town courts to be held every Monday and Thursday. His Majesty hath also a steward, always a barrister at law, holding office for life, to hold courts leet.

"And whereas the town groaned under the heavy burden by the payment of £120 to the Crown for their liberties, they (Philip and Mary) of their Royal bounty not only forgave arrears but also abated £100 of the amount of the former rents and took of them only £20 chief rents, and in token of their releasing them from their former oppressions they gave them a boar for their arms or common seal, luna, a mantle of state, mars, double ermined, bush, sol, garnished with strings fashioned thereunto firstwise, dependents tasselled of the same—[of which it may be necessary to explain that in heraldry luna means white, mars red, sol yellow]. This mantle is a robe peculiar to Emperors, and Kings, and Free States; whereas formerly the town seal was the arms belonging to the Bohuns. And for the better commerce of trade their Majesties granted their authority to hold three markets in the week, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, of which Friday is for cattle.

"King James II. in the first year of his reign gave them a Charter for a May fair, and to keep another fair on St. George's day. This charter was only in force for three years, when it was revoked by the King, yet they make it a custom ever since to keep a great market on St. George's day.

"The first six of the aforementioned wards are enclosed within the walls of the town, and contain 152 families, all having very fair stone built houses. The streets are handsome and broad, not having above seven thatched houses within the walls. The other six wards are without the walls, and are limited as follows: The Watton ward contains all the lands from the town wall to the brook Brynich, in length about a mile, being the uttermost extent of the parish eastward. In this ward are eighteen families, all in a row from the town gate. In it stands a county gaol or house of correction, and within less than a quarter of a mile from the town gate stands a great barn, in possession of Mr. John Waters, ironmonger, called the Spittle, of which there is a tradition that is was once a hospital, or chapel belonging to the family of Games of Newton.

"Edward Games (father of Sir John Games of Newton, knight) was instrumental in obtaining from Philip and Mary the Charter which abated £100 fees, and being much in arrear for his Parliament fees, the Borough gave him the hospital and lands thereto belonging as a reward for his services. Tradition says it was once a church. An old deed gives to Sir Thomas Howell, chaplain, 'All the lands belonging to St. Catherine in the suburbs.' St. Catherine is not to be found and may have been the same as this hospital; a font is (1698) to be seen there, stairs which led to a pulpit, the ground adjoining is called the Churchyard, where formerly there stood yew trees, and skulls and human bones have been taken up there.

"Heol Rudd ward contains all the lands to the north east of the town to the parishes of Llanthew and Llanhamlach. In this ward there stands another chapel of ease called by the St. Taylaw (?), now vacant and unused. It formerly belonged to the Priory, the land for maintaining a priest to say mass is in possession of Sir Edward Williams of Gwernevet, Knight, the ward hath in it fourteen families.

"Old Port inferior contains all the lands on the banks of the Honddu from the 'Stronod' gate northward to the parish of Llanddew. It hath in it 37 families, all save one or two in a fair broad street from the town gate to the Priory bridge; it is called the Stronod; only ten houses are thatched.

"Old Port superior contains all the lands on the west and north west of the town at least a mile every way; this is the greatest ward in the whole town. In it stands the parish Church of St. John the Evangelist, the Priory, and Castle; it hath three stone bridges leading to it over the Honddu: The Priory Bridge, the Castle Bridge, and Aberhonddu Bridge. It contains 65 families.

"Llanfaes ward is divided from the parish of St. John by the river Usk, and is in the parish of St. David. It is connected with the town by the great bridge. It extends itself to the south west in a broad street about half a mile long from Usk Bridge to a fair stone bridge of four arches over the river Tarrell. In this street stands the College and the parish church of St. David's, and several fair new-built houses; it hath 58 families. Llanfaes almost surrounded by the rivers Usk and Tarrell, which latter in time of flood comes down in a great stream through the middle of the street, and so into every house in the ward, doing much damage.

"Trecastle ward is in the parish of Llowall, eight miles from the town.

"The common men—(what a slip of the pen!)—except four, are esquires of great fortune and rank. Ten have dwellings within the walls, and two more in the town. *Extra muros*. John Jeffries of the Priory, and Jeffrey Jeffries late Burgess in Parliament for the town; Thomas Morgan of

Tredegar, now (1698) Burgess in Parliament for this Borough; Thomas Walker, Recorder; Howell Jones, High Sheriff for the County, and bailiff for the Town; W. Philips, His Majesty's Steward for the Borough; Robert Lucy, Registrar of the Diocese, and son of Bishop Lucy [and several others. How the worthy historian rolls their names upon his tongue—great citizens, future subscribers it may be to the history which is still in manuscript; some of them names we have read of before, one at least is worthy of note, as being of still greater repute; and some have passed into limbo.]

"For the trade of the town it is such that there is hardly a shop keeper of any continuance but hath an estate, The grandfather of Sir Wm. Lewis of Llangorst was a mercer of the town, so was the grandfather of John Jeffries, Esq., whose great estates were chiefly purchased by their trades. The language is generally Welsh, as good as any in Wales. As for the air of the town, there is none wholesomer in the Kingdom, yet it hath lately been troubled with the bloody flux [typhoid or dysentery perhaps] which in the year 1695 was so violent that between May and December it was common to see three or four burials in a day. The distemper was generally over most of South Wales, but hath now, in 1698, ceased. God make us thankful for his mercies!"

CAMDEN'S DESCRIPTION.

Camden, in his description of this county, tells us that "Usk falling headlong from the Black Mountain, and forcing a deep channel, passes by Brecknock, the chief town of the county, placed almost in the centre thereof. This town, the Britons (says he) call Aberhondhy, from the confluence of the two rivers, Hondhy and Usk. That it was inhabited in the time of the Romans is *evident*, from several coyns of their emperours found there." It is painful, as well as imprudent, to differ with such men as Camden and Leland, but when *one* talks of having entered Saint Iltid's hermitage, that it is a hut eight feet long and four wide, and when the *other* states the danger of being drowned in the Wye, *in crossing it between the Black Mountain and Hay*; whatever merit these authors may be intitled to for their general accuracy, a native of Brecknockshire cannot avoid doubting whether either of these ancient *tourists* ever was in this country, and he will perhaps, with good reason, conclude that they gained their information of the distant parts of the kingdom from some correspondents, of whose attention and correctness they formed too high an opinion. In the extract given above, Camden decides without hesitation, that Brecknock was as antient as the time of the Romans; and assumes a fact which he has not proved, and which must by no means be admitted. With the advantage of a residence in this place, and a fondness for inquiries of this nature, we have not been able to learn that coins of the Roman emperours have ever been found at Brecon,¹ though many such have been discovered at Caerbannau, as well as at Llanfrynach; but even if this information were correct, the finding of a few coins, without any corroborating circumstances, is not sufficient to justify an opinion, much less a conclusion, that the place where they were discovered is the site of a Roman station or city. Especially in this case, when it is recollected that the Strata Julia from Caerbannau to Gaer in Cwmdu and Gobannium ran close to what was afterwards called the *Struet gate*. The residence of the reguli of Brecknock, until the time of its subjugation by the Normans, was (as has been seen) undoubtedly three miles higher up the river Usk, from whence we are told, the conqueror disliking the situation, and preferring that of Brecknock, 'by reason of the straits,' brought all the materials of the old town, that were worth carrying, to his new habitation. The building thereof of Brecon, or at least of the greatest part of it, cannot be attributed to an earlier period than 1092; indeed, if an anonymous chronicle in Leland be correct, the castle, which for his own security the successful invader first attended to, was not completed till the year 1094. 'Franci adificunt Castellum in Brekniauc,' says this document; it is true the year is not here specifically stated, but from occurrences recorded in the preceding lines, there are reasons for concluding the castle was not finished before the year above mentioned. When this work was completed, we may suppose the conqueror caused his new town to be surrounded by a wall, for the protection of such of his followers and others as might chose to settle in his neighbourhood for the purpose of trade, and to supply the wants of his garrison.

THE OLD TOWN WALL AND GATES.

This wall was perfect in Speed's time, and indeed until the demolition of the castle in the time of Charles the First. Its track or course is now perfectly visible, as is the old wall itself in some places. It commenced at the south east end of the drawbridge, leading from the Postrwm or

¹ Hugh Thomas has the same observation, "As to the antiquity of the town (says he,) it hath been of good note ever since the Norman conquest, but what it was before I know not; having not in eight years since I have lived here, seen or heard of any old Roman coins, stones, bricks, or inscriptions, found in or near it, although I have seen much of the castle walls digged up, and several fair large houses built in the town." He then proceeds to add, after noticing the conquest by Bernard Newmarch, "for this reason, and because I find the inhabitants hereof were wholly English for several hundred years after, and finding nothing of great antiquity in it, I presume that this might have been the first foundation of the town."

Postern gate of the castle, from hence to the Struet gate it is no longer visible, being concealed by a range or row of houses, which have covered and concealed it, and its materials have been converted to building them many years ago. From thence, after crossing the last mentioned gate, it divided the gardens appurtenant to the houses in Lion lane, from those in the possession of the late Pennoyre Watkins, esq.; then into a field called Clawdd y Gaer, or fortification dike, and here the whole ditch and much of the walls are still visible. Having crossed this field nearly from east to west, it rounded south west to the Watton gate, following the wall of what is called the Captain's walk to the Usk, to which it kept nearly adjoining, turning northward to the foot of the bridge, from whence it went to Porth y dwr, or the Watergate, and the lower bridge upon Honddu; from this place upwards to the bridge, where we set out, the castle, situated upon a small but precipitous eminence, with the river at the foot of it, formed an impenetrable barrier.

This oval (for such upon a view of the plan¹ given elsewhere it will appear to be) measured, according to Speed, 640 paces, or 1,066 yards and 2 feet, on the inner side of which was a raised walk or terrace, by which means the inhabitants, in case of a siege, were enabled to cover themselves from attack by the parapets, at the same time that the height was such that they might discharge their arrows or musketry through the embrasures. On the outward side of this wall was a deep foss or ditch, the remains of which are still very visible, and which there is great reason for believing was occasionally filled with water, so that the town of Brecon within the walls was completely insulated by the Honddu and the Usk. How or where this water could be conducted from one river to the other does not appear, but we are supported in our conjecture by Leland, who says 'ther apperith digging wher men laborid to bring a peace of Hondy about to insulate Breckenok with hit and Wiske,' and though the fall from the eastern side of the drawbridge to the Usk at the Captain's Walk is small, yet perhaps by a cut taken from above, and running collaterally with the Honddu, the project might have been feasible.

On this wall were ten towers or turrets at nearly equal distances, but of irregular constructions and shapes, some of them being semicircular, the round side outwards, and others square. One stood on the eastern side of the Castle lane, and was the first taken down; the next stood between the gardens belonging to Penry Williams, esq., and the late Mr. Pennoyre Watkins; the third in Clawdd y Gaer, opposite the garden appurtenant to the Lion inn; the fourth adjoined the same field and was semicircular, part of it now remains where the reverend William Morgan has built a green house; the fifth was in the garden of the reverend Thomas James; the sixth was where the late Mr. Bullock Lloyd built a summer house; the seventh, which was semicircular, was in the garden of the late Major Awbrey; the eighth in a garden lately occupied by the reverend Robert Wynter; the ninth where the summer house of Mr. Thomas Williams, attorney, is built; and the tenth (underneath which was one of the town gates) was close to the river Usk at the bottom of Mr. Maybery's garden, from whence to the bridge, the river Usk and its steep and abrupt banks, were considered as a sufficient protection.

ENTRANCES TO THE TOWN.

The entrances into the town at the time this wall was perfect, were through five gates; the two first seem to have been entrances into the Priory, and now remain in part, the one leads into what has been since converted into a farm yard, and the other, which was entered upon coming from the castle, now faces the back part of Mr. Wilkin's house at the Priory. Leland says there were four, but enumerates seven: 'the town of Brekenok (says he) is well waulld, with iiii gates old Port superior, as the hygate by north, westgate by the black Freers, they be in the suburbs, East gate [since, called the struet gate], Water gate, cambrice Porth hene hiehea, [Porth y dwr, or the higher water gate] i.e. superior, the old gate Portbont Bridgate, alias westgate, [Porth y bont or the gate near the bridge over the Usk] Port issa, the lower gate, alias east gate, [Porth issa, or Watton gate] and Port down, water gate, alias Portwiske.' Porth y dwr issa, neu Porthwysc, the lower Watergate, or gate near the Usk, i.e., at the bottom of Mr. Maybery's garden.

Thus insulated, and thus fortified, Brecknock must have been tolerably strong, and the inhabitants secure from a sudden attack or a siege until the invention of artillery; but upon the discovery of those tremendous instruments of destruction, it could not have been tenable for a day, as it is so completely commanded on all sides by the nearly surrounding heights. Indeed, even before the use of musketry, or at least of cannon, we have seen it frequently attacked with success; for though

¹ This ichnographical survey of the town of Brecon was copied from another drawn by a Meredith Jones, land surveyor, in 1744, obligingly lent by Edward Morgan, esq., the recorder. The streets, lanes and roads, within and leading from the town are so accurately described and delineated, and are so like what they are at this day (1800) that it appeared to deserve publication. The course of the wall, though now imperfect, may as well be preserved. Speed's ichnography of Brecon published in 1610, is incorrect in several respects.

the walls, thus strengthened by the towers and moat, could not easily be surmounted by assailants, yet if the besiegers were furnished with engines to throw ignited matter to the distance of one hundred yards, the ramparts could not be raised to such a height as to intercept their projection, or prevent their descent, when the houses, being composed principally of wood and thatch, must have been easily reduced to ashes.

THE EMINENCES ROUND BRECON.

The surrounding heights near Brecon have just now been alluded to, which makes it necessary for the information of such of our readers as may reside at a distance, that we should describe briefly how this town is situated. Adams, in his *Index Villaris*, places it in 52-1 north latitude, 3-21 west longitude from London. Hugh Thomas says, the reverend Jeremiah Griffiths, schoolmaster of the college, told him it was in 52-6 longitude, 3-13 west, but we believe Adams is correct. On the south east it is commanded and almost overlooked by an eminence, which in England would be thought a considerable hill, but which is here called Slwch tump; upon the east after a steep ascent near the top, we descend to a step, the superficies of which extends nearly to the town of Brecon, and stretches northerly as it approaches to Llanddew. North, or N.N.W. again we have another eminence called Pen y crug, shelving down gradually towards the middle of the descent to Brecon, so that the traveller approaching it from Hay, Battle, or Builth, finds the town below him. On the southern side is Cantreff and a brow covered with wood, called Clos y coed, the foot of which is washed by the river Usk. This ascent terminates before we approach the town from Abergavenny; and at a gate, called the Watton gate, we have again a gentle rise upon entering Brecon, as there is also immediately after crossing the bridge over the Usk in the road from Carmarthenshire. A few yards above this bridge the river Honddu falls into the Usk, and on the west the town is separated from the suburb called Llanvaes by the latter river. The distance from the lower end of the Watton to the upper end of Llanvaes is about a mile; to the gates leading to Builth and Battle, something less; and the breadth from the upper end of the Struet to the wall of the Captain's walk may be about three or four hundred yards.

THE CORPORATION BOUNDARY.

We have not been able minutely to trace the boundary of the corporation, although we have described the larger circuit of the county accurately. Both the charters granted to this corporation, the one by Philip and Mary, and the other by James II. authorize the bailiff or mayor to make perambulations to ascertain the boundaries; but this very useful provision has been so very little attended to during the last century, that we cannot find any person who is able to inform us correctly as to some parts of the line. On the N.W. it is however well known to commence with the fall of the Tarell into the Usk, up the former stream until nearly opposite Ffrwd grech mill, here turn southwardly and afterwards to the east until we come to a brook called Nant y celiog at the bottom of Dafoden, which follow to its fall into the Usk. From the Tarell to the Usk this boundary is not clearly ascertained, all that is known seems to be that it runs through part of the farms called Baili helyg and Pen y lan.

From the *aber* of Nant y celiog, the Usk divides the corporation from the county as far as the river Cynrig; here cross the Usk, up the Brynich, to Slwch and the forge upon Honddu; during the whole of this distance the boundary of the corporation follows that of the chapelry of Saint Mary's. Upon crossing the Honddu we proceed northward; how far is not ascertained, nor is the line from hence to a brook falling into the Usk near Pennant house accurately known, further than it crosses part of Pontwilym farm and afterwards Glydyd, when it pursues the course of the above mentioned brook, and then the river Usk downwards until we come opposite to the Tarell where this tour terminates.

ANCIENT GOVERNMENT AND TRADES OF THE TOWN.

This borough is governed, say the geographers, and most of the English topographers, by *two* bailiffs, fifteen aldermen, two chamberlains, two constables, a town clerk and other inferior officers, to whom various immunities were at different times granted. This account, which has been copied by one writer from another for these last two hundred years, is erroneous, though it is by no means improbable that the author from whom it is originally derived was correct. The charters granted to the inhabitants of this borough by the lords of Brecon have been briefly noticed; we have copies of most of them, but they do not appear to be sufficiently interesting either to the historian or the antiquary to merit insertion, especially as the substance has been already related.

To induce persons, skilled in trade and useful occupations, to settle within the town, to supply the lords and their garrison with the necessaries of food and raiment, it is probable that these barons marchers granted other privileges, exclusive of those mentioned in the above grants; the principal

of which was a monopoly of the different articles in which they dealt, in preference to strangers and accidental or wandering traders, and even to the lower ranks resident in the town, for it appears, by certain documents in the corporation chest, that in the reign of Henry 8th, no chenser (the meaning of which word has been explained to be villeyen, or person holding a base tenure) should be permitted to occupy any principal craft, viz., baking, brewing, mercery, butchery, wine, honey, iron, or any other merchandise. Here we see these selfish traders establishing a precedent for the exclusion of their fellow subjects from a natural or at least a social right, for which it will be found hereafter they were repaid in the same manner by the loss of their elective franchise; if indeed the restraint of a power, which, when exercised by the many is generally abused, can be called a loss.

These artizans and mechanics had without doubt individually votes, not only for the better regulation of their own companies or guilds, but in the general government of the town; for it appears by a deed dated 6 Henry 8th (A.D. 1515), between Thomas Walter, then bailiff of Brecknock, and others of one part, and Thomas ap Howell capellan of the same town of the other, that this right of interference of the commonalty, in the disposition of the lands and revenues of the borough was known and acknowledged by the principal officers. By this deed, the bailiff recites, that the grant of the chapel of Saint Catherine is made by him, and certain persons therein described to be the 'twenty four, elected and chosen by all the hole town and commonalty of the same, of their assent and consent to order and govern the same;' whether when they had so delegated their power as to the general government, any part of it remained with the electors, or how often this election took place, does not sufficiently appear, nor is it perhaps material.

BOROUGH CHARTERS AND OFFICERS.

Thus then we see, that prior to the charter of Philip and Mary, the police of the town of Brecknock was regulated and conducted by the bailiff and twenty four of the principal inhabitants, with inferior officers of course. The bailiff had a power to appoint a deputy or deputies, for in the deed first mentioned, we read of a fine being levied before the sub-bailiffs, and we occasionally hear of 'two kings of Brentford,' one of them called the bailiff itinerant. We have said *occasionally*, for we observe, that in 14 Edward 4th (A.D. 1416), and 15 Henry 7th (1472), William Vaughan and Edward ap Gwilym describe themselves thus, 'William Vaughan, esq., bailiff (not, *one of the bailiffs*), Edward ap Gwilym, bailiff of Brecknock.' What the duty of the bailiff itinerant was, must be left to conjecture, for to that *alone* we are compelled to resort. We conceive they were officers specially appointed and upon special occasions, like the justices itinerant in Wales, mentioned in the former volume, perhaps to enforce the laws and preserve the peace within the town of Llywel, which, though part of the corporation, is eleven miles distant from Brecon; they may also have been employed to collect the fines and superintend the payments, as well as the administration of the revenues of the borough, from whatever source they arose, and whether within or without the precinct, for there are several reasons for believing that this body corporate possessed formerly a considerable territorial property, all of which has been lost or alienated.

Besides the bailiff, the lord of Brecon anciently appointed his sheriff an officer for life, who executed the same duties (with some few exceptions) within the lordship, as are now attached to that office, throughout the kingdom. In a grant dated September 20th, 8 Henry 7th, from William Herbert, esq., *bailiff*, and the commonalty of Brecon, of a piece of ground between the town hall and the river Usk, and 'butting upon a house *pertinen servilio B. M. Virginis*' at the rent of four pence yearly, the following persons occur as witnesses, Howel ap Morgan, David ap Howell, *locum tenen* (to the bailiff), Jenkin ap Llewelyn ap Gwilym, *vicecomes*, and John ap Rosser, *Balliv. itin.*

The bailiff of Brecon, prior to the union, was, as we conceive, appointed by the lord, for though these noblemen may have permitted tradesmen to have enacted regulations for the governance of their own companies, they would hardly have permitted any person to assume a political importance or authority therein, except such as were nominated by themselves; and by the deed secondly before referred to, the twenty four only (without adding or including the bailiff), are said to be chosen by the commonalty of freemen.

ANCIENT FREEMEN.

This latter word is not generally understood. It is frequently supposed to consist only of a description of persons having a right to exercise a trade after seven years' apprenticeship or servitude; but this is only *one* of the privileges of a freeman, and one upon the policy of which there are various opinions. It is not peculiar to Brecon: the statute of 5 Elizabeth, c. 4., prohibits it throughout the kingdom. The necessity of this law (as far as it relates to this clause) is not recited in the preamble of the act, but it has been said, that the object of the legislature was to prevent unskilful persons from setting up in trade and imposing upon the public. This is a very poor reason, a very tottering

defence for the continuance of the prohibition; if a person using a 'trade, mystery, or occupation' (as the act expresses it), be unskilful, he will have no customers, and the evil will cure itself. On the other hand, if a man has talents to learn his business as completely in one year as many do in seven, he should be encouraged, instead of being repressed; indeed, we never knew a prosecution upon this statute which did not originate either from motives of interest or revenge. The only argument that occurs in favour of the law, arises from the uncertainties and vicissitudes in trade; and as in case of failure, persons of this description are intitled to support from the parishes in which they have resided, the community there have a claim upon their labour for a certain number of years, as a contribution to the general fund for this and other purposes; but whether the law be politic or not, it still continues, and the principal regulations of the borough are confirmed by it. This however is not the only franchise of a freeman, he is (generally speaking) within a borough what the freeholder is within the county, with this difference, the privilege of the one is gained by his personal exertions, the other follows the holding or the land: the freeman may delegate his elective franchise to a smaller part of the body corporate, he even may in some places sell and transfer his freedom, but the vote of the freeholder is inseparable from the soil, and cannot by human ingenuity be torn from it, nor can it be deputed or executed by proxy; the freeman may also lose his elective franchise by negligence and non usage for a great number of years, and the same may, by prescription, become vested exclusively in a smaller part of the body corporate. This appears to be the case at Brecknock, which undoubtedly anciently was a *democratic* borough; is is now an oligarchy. Let not the reader regret the change, or lament that individuals are thus deprived of a right; let him not call it a misfortune to the place or the public, 'till he has been present at a popular election, where he may feel the evils that contests of that nature produce, while perhaps he is estimating the benefits likely to ensue from the general exercise of a franchise, so eagerly sought after by the unthinking multitude, for the mere purpose of abusing it.

CHAPELS OF THE GUILDS.

But to view those freemen in their commercial relations. They consisted of five guilds¹ or companies; these were the weavers, tuckers, tailors, corvizers or shoemakers, and glovers or skimmers. At a very remote period they had probably their different halls, where the regulations of trade were settled and recorded; but for several centuries back they met in their respective chapels in Saint John's and Saint Mary's. The corvizers had a chapel in both churches; that which they frequented in the Priory, is on the left hand as we enter the nave of the church from the western door, and was possessed by them jointly with the tailors: the weavers and tuckers used the chapel on the right, and the skimmers had no chapel but held their halls, as they called them, under a thornbush in the church yard. From a royal ordinance in favour, or at least in confirmation of the rights of the freemen, it appears they chose their officers on *Corpus Christi*, or Thursday in Whitsun week, annually. Since the charter of Philip and Mary they met for this purpose in their chapels, in the week before Michaelmas, and the master and wardens took an oath, well and faithfully to execute their respective duties, at the same time and in the same place with the bailiff and aldermen.

From the document referred to, it appears, that for the corvizers' or shoemakers' company, four wardens were chosen 'to set good rule among them touching their said craft;' and strangers were prohibited from exposing to sale any 'shoves, botis, buskynnes, or anie other thyng pertaying to the craft' in the market of Brecon. In return for this, they engaged under the common seal, (whether they had a seal of their own, or the common seal of the borough is meant, is not explained), that they would provide annually twelve torches to be carried in procession, on Ascension and *Corpus Christi* days, by so many apprentices; and that they would finish, according to their ability, the cloister in the Priory church yard, here called 'the church yard of the holie Rode is church,' the church of the holy rood, or, as in another document, *eclesia sanctæ crucis*. The other crafts had most likely similar regulations and grants, but their books and proceedings in the last century were either carried away, destroyed, or lost, so that excepting this, and a few other papers preserved by Hugh Thomas, there is no written evidence to prove that such guilds ever existed.

ANCIENT BOROUGH TOLLS AND FEES.

Prior to the attainder of the last Duke of Buckingham of the name of Stafford, the corporation of Brecon paid to their lords for their protection, as well as for the grants and immunities derived from them, the annual sum of £120, which it seems was raised from the tolls, fees of court, fines

¹ Only five companies were in 1805 recollected or recognised, but certain regulations of the *mercere's* company were then seen bearing date in 1619, approved and confirmed by the justices of the great sessions, whereby it appeared they also were freemen, and that they chose two wardens annually, who were sworn at the same time with the bailiff: the youngest tradesman was their beadle or summoner. The fines for non attendance at their meetings were 6s. 8d. and 3s. 4d.; one half went to the bailiff, and the other half to the master of the company.

for the pardons of felons, and for other offences, licenses from brewing and baking, and from the rents of their lands and houses. The officers employed for this purpose were the serjeants, common attornies, and customers: it is remarkable, that the first, who in the time of Henry the 8th were called catch-polls, always took precedence of the attornies, and even to this day, when the absurd and mischievous prejudices of the lower ranks of people have driven sheriff's bailiffs out of society, and of course deterred reputable persons from accepting the office, the serjeants at mace are excepted out of this proscription in benefit societies. It appears that there was much form and ceremony in the election of the catch-polls, who were to give security for the due execution of the office; their duty was in the first place, to levy and collect the fees of court, and all fines and forfeitures, among which were those upon casting an arthel (as the English laws term it), fresh force, affrays and shedding blood, and assaults upon a burgess by a foreigner, or by a stranger upon stranger, and by freemen upon each other.

By the statute of 26 Henry 8th, c. 26, sect. 5, no person shall cast any thing into any court within Wales, or in the lordships' marchers of the same by the name or mean of an *arthel*, by reasons whereof the court may be letted, disturbed, or discontinued for that time, upon pain of one year's imprisonment. From the phrase of *casting an arthel*, as well the mischiefs stated as likely to ensue from such a proceeding, it is clear that the English legislature considered it in the nature of an *essoigne*, a legal apology for not appearing on the first summons, and frequently used under false pretences for the purpose of delay; the arthel, or cyd arddel of the Welsh, was undoubtedly often employed with a similar view, but the word imports in the British language a claim made by two persons to a chattel in dispute between them, and whether the claim was made to delay or to try the right, the unsuccessful party paid to the serjeants at mace of the borough of Brecon one pound and ten shillings. The word arddel is omitted by Spelman and Minsheu, but Cowel thus explains it, 'Arthel is a British word, more properly *Arddelw*, which the South Wales men write *Arddel*, and signifieth, according to Dr. Davies's dictionary, *astipulari, asserere*, in English to avouch, 'o delai dyn a'i ladrad yn ei law, rhaidd iddo geisiaw arddelw cyfreithlawn i fwrw ei ladrad oddi wrtho;' that is, if a man be taken with stolen goods upon him (or as the English lawyers have it, if he be taken with the *mainour*), he must shew a lawful claim to them, or shew that he came lawfully by them to acquit himself of the felony.

Next to the serjeants, but, as has been observed, apparently inferior to them in rank, were the common attornies. There were only two permitted to exercise this profession in the town; part of their time, no doubt, though it is not stated in the documents to which we are referring, was occupied in the conduct of causes in the bailiff's courts, but there does not seem to have been any recorder earlier than the reign of Henry the 8th; before that time perhaps the whole of their proceedings were oral. Another part of the duty of the attornies was to collect from eight parishes within the lordship, yet without the borough of Brecknock, the sum of £26 13s. 4d. annually, for permission to buy and sell in the markets and fairs without payment of tolls, and they also received an annual sum for the use of the corporation from brewers and bakers, who were obliged to take out a licence to exercise their trades. The last office mentioned in the old corporation books, from whence these extracts were taken, is the customer or collector of the customs or tolls. His duty is obvious; one payment to be received annually by him, amounting to one pound ten shillings, is called *de la boroughe* or *borge*, but from whom or for what it became due is not explained, although it appears that they had here, as well as in the hundred of Bultih, a drift toll upon corn or fish carried through the town, and also for cattle driven through the place, which continues to this day.

ARTHEL AND OTHER WELSH LAWS.

The whole of the income thus produced, amounted to nearly £120, being the sum payable from the borough to the lord and afterwards to the crown; but the statutes of Henry the 8th abolishing arthel, and some other Welsh laws and customs, having deprived them of several of the resources by which they were enabled to discharge this burden, in the reign of his son and successor, they complain heavily of the incumbrance and the deficiency of their fund, which in consequence of the laws above mentioned, was reduced to less than one half of the ancient income, but notwithstanding this, nothing appears to have been done during the life of Edward the 6th. Soon after his sister ascended the throne, by the influence of Sir John Games of Newton, with William earl of Pembroke (his relation, as he called him), £100 per annum was remitted to the inhabitants of Brecon by the crown and only £20 reserved annually to be paid by them.

THE PHILIP AND MARY CHARTER.

By the same interest, in the 2d and 3d of Philip and Mary, the charter under which the bailiff and corporation now (in 1800) act, was obtained: it sets out with a recital of the ancient charge

and the repeal of the laws and customs by which they in part levied it, and (in consequence) their inability to support the burden; it then proceeds to say that their majesties detesting exactions and extortions, at the petition of the above named earl, did grant, and thence forward the borough of Brecknock should become a body corporate and politic, by the name of the bailiff, aldermen and burgesses of the borough of Brecknock, that they shall be intitled to use a common seal, which they may break, alter and make anew at their will and pleasure; that the bailiff shall be elected, annually on Monday before Michaelmas day, by the *capital burgesses*, common council of the said borough or the major part of them, who shall be sworn before his predecessor, the aldermen, or one of them, and six capital burgesses, on Monday next after Michaelmas, well and faithfully; to execute his office; and in case of his death, while in office, the same persons are impowered to choose another bailiff, to be sworn in like manner, to conduct himself during the remainder of the year. The charter likewise proceeds, that there shall be two aldermen, a common council consisting of fifteen persons, among whom the bailiff and aldermen to be three, a recorder, town clerk, or common clerk, two chamberlains, two serjeants at mace and other officers, all of whom are to be elected by the capital burgesses, being common council men of the said borough; so that whatever doubts arose thereafter, the charter seems to have it in contemplation to create distinctions and a difference of rank in the body corporate. The aldermen, as well as the officers, are to be sworn on the same day with the bailiff, before his predecessor, the *old aldermen* and six capital burgesses, with the like power to appoint a successor in case of death, as in the bailiff's case; the recorder and common clerk, or town clerk, are in like manner to be chosen by the bailiff, aldermen, and common council, to hold their respective offices during the pleasure of their electors, but no oath is required to be administered to them. The former they require to be honest and discreet, and to have a knowledge of the laws of England; for the latter office, probity and discretion are supposed to be sufficient qualifications.

The bailiff, aldermen, and capital burgesses, are also, by this charter, empowered to appoint two chamberlains, and as many constables and other officers, to be sworn before the bailiff, aldermen and six capital burgesses, well and faithfully, to execute their offices, as the burgesses and *governors* had been accustomed to appoint; they are enabled to choose at any time upon a vacancy happening by death or otherwise in the common council, a successor, who shall take the same oath as his predecessor; the serjeants at mace, when also appointed in like manner and sworn, are required to carry maces, gilt with gold or silver, with the arms of England engraved or painted thereon, whenever they precede the bailiff throughout the town of Brecon or Llywel, the liberties and franchise of which latter precinct are hereby confirmed.

POWERS UNDER THE CHARTER.

The body politic, thus established, are authorized to have and hold a council house within the guild hall of the same borough, to make laws, institutions and ordinances for the better government of the municipality, to lay down rules for the regulation of trade, to make and regulate rates and assessments, to punish offenders, to hold a court of record twice a week, where all actions, real, personal and mixed, arising within the borough, are triable before the recorder, bailiff, aldermen and common clerk, or any two of them, to receive and levy, for their own use, all fines and americiaments imposed upon the inhabitants of the borough, to have a common gaol, of which, the bailiff for the time being to be custos, to have view of frank pledge, to apprehend and try felons for crimes committed within their jurisdiction, to have the returns of writs, and the sheriff of the county, and all other officers of the crown, are prohibited from entering the liberty to execute any process therein; the bailiff is appointed sealer of weights and measures, clerk of the market and coroner within the borough; he is entitled to waifs, estrays, goods and chatels of felons convicted, and is authorized to seize and apply the same to the use of the body corporate; three weekly markets, and two fairs annually, are allowed to be held; the former on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, and the latter upon Saint John the Baptist's and Saint Leonard's in every year, each fair to continue two days; the bailiff, aldermen and recorder, are constituted justices of the peace within their jurisdiction, and the common clerk is clerk of the peace within the same; but it is ordained, *that no inhabitant shall enjoy any of the liberties and franchises aforesaid, unless he be continually resident and conversant within the borough and town (Llywel) aforesaid, or in one of them.*

EXEMPTIONS PERMITTED.

The burgesses are exempted from serving the offices of assessors or collectors of taxes due to the crown out of the borough, and also from the payment of toll *throughout the kingdom*; the burgesses, residing within the town, are not liable to serve on juries with foreigners at the great sessions, nor are they compellable to appear without the walls of Brecon before any judge or justice appointed by the crown, the chief justice of the county of Brecon only excepted. Their right to waste soils, and the revenues arising therefrom, is confirmed; they are permitted to nominate and appoint as many

armed men, provided with competent and sufficient weapons and harness for the wars, as shall be assigned by the crown from time to time; no man shall sue another for causes arising within the liberty; *the bailiff, aldermen and burgesses of the said borough, may make any of the inhabitants free citizens of the borough, upon their taking an oath to obey those officers for the time being, in all things lawful, and to defend the liberties and franchises of the borough to the utmost of their power.*

REDUCTIONS OF RENTS DUE TO THE CROWN.

The better to enable the corporation to discharge the rent to the crown, which by this charter is reduced from £120 to £20 per annum, they are authorized to take grants or devise of manors, lands, tenements, or hereditaments, to the value of £20 a year, notwithstanding any law or statute to the contrary. There are also some further regulations and provisions therein, such as that the precinct of the Priory shall be considered to be within, and to form a part of the borough; the bailiff and other members are authorized to make a perambulation as often as necessary, to ascertain the boundaries of the borough; and the whole conclude with a general pardon for past offences, a remission of arrears and forfeitures, a release of all former dues to the crown, and a general confirmation of their ancient liberties.

Some of these concessions were as extravagant as they were illegal. Among those of this description, are the exemptions from tolls throughout the kingdom, and from appearance in any court but their own: the crown can, no doubt, bestow honours, privileges or immunities, but not at the expense of the subject, much less can it alter or control the administration of the laws. Neither Philip and Mary, or James the Second could therefore deprive any magistrate of his right to toll from an inhabitant of Brecknock, who came to the market under his jurisdiction, unless that inhabitant had an exemption by prescription, in which case the grant is nugatory; the same observation will apply to the other privilege.

ANCIENT BOROUGH SEAL.

To the substantial benefits conferred by this charter, Philip and Mary, who, though they were not distinguished either for generosity or benevolence in their general conduct, yet were in high good humour with the town of Brecon (in so much, that one of the courtiers of the time exclaimed with an oath, that they must have been asleep when they granted it),¹ also added an honorary distinction. The ancient seal of the borough bore the arms of de Breos on one side, and Bohun on the reverse (see plate II. fig. 1). Philip and Mary gave them for arms, Luna, a mantle of state, Mars, doubled ermine bush'd Sol. garnished with strings, fastened fretwise pendant and tassell'd of the same (see the same plate, fig. 2); which arms they continue to use to the present day, except, that in the time of Cromwell, it was considerably reduced in size (fig. 3). The seal, fig. 7, in the same plate, is that of the last duke of Buckingham, the impression from which is in wax, appendant to one of his charters to the town, now remaining among the records of the corporation.

CHARTER WITHDRAWN BY JAMES THE SECOND.

Thus favoured by the munificence of the crown, and their burdens in a great measure removed, they continued to act under this grant until the second year of the reign of that unfortunate monarch James the Second, who however deserves our pity, rather than our detestation. When, among other weak and ill judged schemes suggested by his advisers, in order to raise a fund to support his short lived authority, he compelled the corporation of Brecon (as well as several others) to surrender their charter and to pay him a sum of money for granting them a new one, in which the chief magistrate is called a mayor, instead of bailiff, and which so nearly resembles the former, that we are astonished, that in about four years afterwards, when they were left at liberty, they seem to have felt a pleasure in resuming their ancient charter. Hugh Thomas speaks of it with great comfort and exultation, for, after mentioning the fact, he adds, 'and so from being a mayor, they once more became a bailiff town.' In some instances, James's charter is more liberal than the former, for it empowers the magistrates to appoint an additional fair upon Saint George's day, annually, which is still holden: it likewise constitutes the recorder one of the common council men in right of his office, the omission of which, in Philip and Mary's charter, is certainly an oversight; but there is one dangerous clause in James's grant, which perhaps was the cause of its being rejected, as it certainly subjected the borough to the arbitrary power of the crown, for it provided that his majesty

¹ Whoever reads this charter attentively, will agree with *the courtier*, for independently of the loss of £100 per annum to the crown, the powers granted to the corporation in some cases, are unusual and excessive; and indeed, the crown seems, by this charter, to have granted away almost all its revenues and rights, except £20 a year, and the allegiance of the subjects there

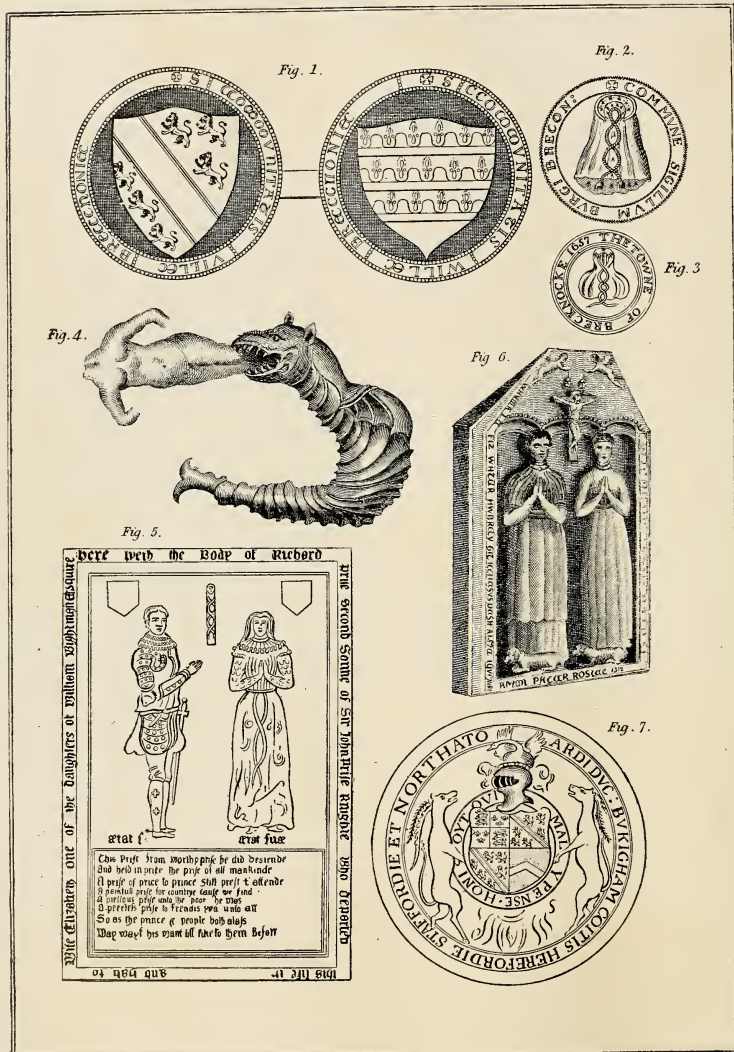


PLATE II.

From Drawings by Rev. Thomas Price ("Carnhuanawc.")

Fig. 1. The arms of de Breos and de Bolun. Figs. 2 and 3. The Borough Arms. Fig. 4. Ancient figure in the Priory. Fig. 5. Monument of Richard, second son of Sir John Price in the Priory. Fig. 6. Monument in the Priory Chancel. Fig. 7. Seal of the last Duke of Buckingham.

and his successors in the privy council, and under the privy seal, might remove from their office, the recorder, mayor, common clerk, chamberlain and aldermen, at his and their will and pleasure.¹

FIGHT FOR POLITICAL SUPREMACY.

In 1698, Hugh Thomas says, there were 160 burgesses, who gave their votes in a contested election between Thomas Morgan of Machan and Sir Jeffrey Jeffreys of the Priory, 'besides about 40 others that voted not.' In the beginning of the following century, the town seems to have been much divided, and party spirit ran very high. The Jeffreyses of the Priory laid claim to the voices of the burgesses, and sometimes succeeded in becoming their representatives in Parliament, but very soon after the marriage of Mr. Morgan of Machan with the heiress of Dderw in Breconshire, the interest of that family predominated, and in the above mentioned election Mr. Morgan was the successful candidate; but there was also a third power, Mr. Gabriel Powel, who then lived at Pennant, within the borough, and who, as steward influence of that house, from whence the burgesses, in 1685, had chosen one of their representatives, though it does not appear that Charles, marquis of Worcester, the person so chosen, accepted of the seat in Parliament for this borough. Mr. Powel finding his efforts ineffectual and his friends left in a minority, determined to attack the partizans of the successful party: in 1723, therefore, he obtained leave to file informations in the nature of a *quo warranto* against Edward Jones of Buckland and Hugh Powel of Castlemadoc, esqrs., to shew by what right they claimed to be capital burgesses of Brecon, neither of them residing within the borough. Both these cases are published, or we certainly should have permitted them to sleep, as the usage in this borough, before and since that time, has been in direct opposition to the decision of the judges and the determination of the house of lords, the dernier resort and supreme court of judicature of this kingdom.

The first, against Mr. Jones of Buckland, is in Vol. 8, Modern Reports, Case 165. The evidence given at the trial at Hereford is not detailed there, but those who have heard of this decision always assert that Mr. Jones, in order to shew he was sufficiently resident and conversant within the borough, for the purposes of justice, produced a witness to prove, that though he lived nearly eight miles from Brecon, he heard the great bell of Saint Mary's toll² to collect the constables, while he sat in his parlour at Buckland; but he principally relied upon usage, and the jury, contrary to the opinion of the court, acquitted him, which produced a remarkable division among the judges. Six were of opinion, that this being in the nature of a criminal prosecution, the verdict could not be set aside, and the other six were of a different opinion; but all agreed that it was illegal, and that residence was necessary by the charter, to intitle a burgess to his privileges: however, as nothing further was done upon this, it appears that the non resident burgesses considered it as a temporary victory. The other case, which is in Brown's Cases in Parliament (vol. 3, page 28), was fought with much more obstinacy and ardour; it was commenced at the same period with the former, but it was not tried till Hereford assizes, March 1724, when the jury, under the direction of the court, returned a special verdict, the substance of which was, that the place and office of a freeman, and the place and office of a burgess, was one and the same, and not different. They then, after stating that Mr. Powel did not live within the borough at the time of his election, proceeded to say, that from the 15th Elizabeth to that day, the usage was to choose freemen or burgesses out of men inhabiting, as well without, as within the borough, but that they submitted to the court whether that usage was legal or not.

MR. POWEL'S APPEAL TO PARLIAMENT.

This special verdict being argued in the court of king's bench in Michaelmas term, 1727, the court gave judgment of ouster against the plaintiff, Mr. Powel. To reverse this judgment he brought a writ of error in Parliament, where it was insisted on his behalf, that this was a corporation by prescription, as well as charter; that the charter confirmed all their ancient customs, and that from the 15th Elizabeth down to that time, without interruption, it had been usual to elect freemen or burgesses out of persons inhabiting, as well without as within the borough; it was therefore conceived that it would be of dangerous consequence to set aside such usage after such a length of time, and more especially, as it might be the cause of disfranchising many other members of the corporation, who had been chosen in the same manner, or whose elections depended on the same usage, and that it might also tend to destroy the whole body, if, after Mr Powel had been twenty years in possession

¹ A similar objection was made to a charter granted by this monarch to Nottingham. See Deering's history of that town: indeed it formed part of his *system* of making the principal officers of every corporation in the kingdom removable at pleasure, and consequently dependent upon the crown.

² This very salutary regulation was continued in 1800. At eight o'clock in the evening, of the November fair, the bell tolls to command the attendance of the peace officers of the borough, upon the belliff and aldermen, who, at that hour, visit the public houses within their district, to prevent or punish drunkenness or disorderly conduct,

of the superior office of a capital burgess, and twice served the office of bailiff, it should be drawn into question whether he was a legal burgess at the time or not. To this, it was answered that since the acceptance of the charter, no one could be a burgess unless his election could be warranted under such charter, that it appeared from the verdict of the jury, that Mr. Povel was not capable of being elected to such office, as he was not an inhabitant of the borough, that no usage can be sufficient to establish a right, but an immemorial usage, which did not appear, as it went no further back than the 15th Elizabeth, but that, even supposing it to be such an usage as would amount to a prescription, still when a charter was accepted, directing an election, inconsistent with such usage, as in the present case, when the election of burgesses is confined to be out of the inhabitants, the prescription, inconsistent with the charter can no longer exist but is determined by the acceptance of the charter, which must afterwards be the only measure by which the election of burgesses is to be governed that corporations were merely creatures of the crown; that, when they subsisted under charters, they must be guided by such rules and directions as are hereby prescribed; that therefore, when any charter has directed, as in this case, that certain members were to be elected out of persons under any particular description, such persons, and *no others*, were capable of being elected; that, though in some corporations, practices inconsistent with the rules of their charters, might have prevailed, yet they were no better than so many usurpations upon the crown. Such wrongful practices could no more create a right, contrary to the words of the charter, than the first instance of the kind, after the acceptance thereof, could be legal, and that since it would be difficult to maintain that position, it would be equally so to fix upon any period of time when such practice would begin to be legal. Of this opinion were the lords; they therefore affirmed the decision of the court of king's bench.

NUMBER OF CAPITAL BURGESSES AND CORPORATION REVENUES.

At present the number of capital and other burgesses in this borough are nineteen; fifteen of whom, including the bailiff, recorder and aldermen, are common council men; 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. The twenty pounds reserved to the crown, were granted in the time of Charles the Second to Sir Thomas Osborne, created Earl of Danby in 1694, and afterwards Duke of Leeds, from whom it descended to Francis Godolphin Osborne, the fifth peer of that title, who sold it to the late Sir Charles Morgan. Towards the discharge of this incumbrance they have a manor, called the manor of the borough of Brecon, though it is not co-extensive with that precinct. The chief rents within this district amount to about twenty-three pounds per annum.

COURT LEETS AND ANCIENT WARDS.

Exclusive of the town courts, held on Mondays and Thursdays, weekly, they sometimes hold a court of quarter sessions, in which the recorder presides, and tries criminals for offences committed within the borough. Within one month after Michaelmas, yearly, they have a court leet, with a view of frank pledge, of the tenants of the manor; and at this court they appoint constables for the twelve wards within the borough. These wards are: Watton, in which all the houses in the suburbs of that name, and all the lands from the town wall, at the Captain's walk, to the river Brynich, are included; Old Port superior, in which are the precinct of the Priory, and all the lands in Saint John's, within the borough; Old Port inferior, comprehending the whole of the Struet, except the Dolphin public house and Lón y baw, and extending to the Forge and Hay turnpike gate; High street superior, in which are the Castle lane and the street leading from the Struet gate to the top of Ship street, including also a street running nearly parallel to the middle of the town, and all that cluster of houses, save one, in which the Bank is situate; High street inferior ward, is that street in which stands the hall; Saint Mary's contains two parallel streets adjoining the church or chapel of that name; Canterely, the whole of Lion lane, and up one side of Mount street to Pencerrig cochon turnpike; Heol rydd is the street of that name to the turnpike gate; Morganwg comprises that row of houses frequently called Glamorganshire street, part of Lón y poffty and Wheat street; Ship street has the two rows of houses so called, as well as Horn lane and the greatest part of Lón y poffty; Llanfaes contains the suburb of that name and the whole of the lands in the parish of Saint David's within the borough; and Tre-castle ward is within the parish of Llywel, at the distance of ten miles from Brecon.

THE PARISH CHURCHES IN 1800.

Within the borough are two parish churches, Saint John the Evangelist's and Saint David's, and within the circuit of the town wall is the third, called Saint Mary's, the description of which is not decisively ascertained. Prior to 1700 it was called, in all ecclesiastical proceedings, the *church* of the blessed Virgin Mary; in the beginning of the last century it was called the chapel of the blessed

Virgin Mary, and since, it should seem, that it is doubtful how it ought to be described, for the style of the ecclesiastical court, held there, is 'at the consistory court for the archdeaconry of Brecon, held at the church or chapel of the blessed Virgin Mary in Brecon.' The commissioners, in the reign of Queen Anne, returned it to be a curacy and chapel of ease to Saint John's, and it is stated by Etton to be a curacy, and discharged from tenths in the king's book.

ST. JOHN'S, OR PRIORY.

[Saint John the Evangelist's, formerly, from its cross aisles or chapels, called *ecclesia sanctæ crucis*, and sometimes the church of the holy rood, 'standeth (as Leland says) north without the waulle up the Rise of Honddye.' It is situate upon an eminence, and formerly, as well as the precinct of the Priory, was surrounded by a lofty and strong wall, still remaining on the western side. Whether this church was entirely erected by Bernard Newmarch, or only repaired by him, cannot be clearly ascertained, but if there was a church here before his time, as we have some reasons to believe there was, from the Saxon font and some slight remains in the building of the architecture of that age, he so far improved and enlarged it, and as he says, caused it to be dedicated to the honour of Saint John the Evangelist, that he may, very fairly and properly be said to be intitled to the appellation of its founder. Since his days, however, it has undergone so many changes and so many amendments, in consequence of the injuries of time and unavoidable dilapidations during the lapse of seven centuries, that little of its original form or materials remain; and at present it has a venerable, though rather a motley appearance in the eye of the man of science and the antiquary. The principal style of architecture, however, still predominant throughout the whole of the building, is the *Gothic*, as it has been strangely called.

ITS CHAPELS.

At first, we have no doubt, the fabric was perfectly cruciform; the chapel of the men of Battle and the Norman, or chapel of the *red haired*, forming the cross aisles or transept. Soon after the establishment of the guilds in Brecon, and when trade began to flourish, the chapels for the shoemakers and tailors on one side, and the weavers and tuckers on the other, were taken out of the breadth of the nave, and appropriated for the use of these bodies exclusively: this probably happened shortly after the time when Brecknock became a borough town, in the reign of Edward the First or Second. As early as this, if not earlier, one of the family of Havard of Pontwilym obtained leave to erect a chapel adjoining the chancel, which for two or three centuries back, has been called the Vicar's chapel; and if conjecture may be allowed, from appearances in the building and the foundations of the walls, seen by Hugh Thomas, another, by way of addition or enlargement of the Norman chapel, communicated with the chancel on the west, where a door, remaining still (though stopped up) opened into the Hughes's burying place. Of the Priory or monastery, there are now no remains, save the outward parapet wall, which is very perfect from the church, near the entrance into the church yard from the north west to the foot of the bridge over the Honddu on the south. In this wall, says Hugh Thomas, there were three gates; two of the ancient entrances only are to be seen at present, but the third certainly must have been where the modern door is placed, leading to the Priory house. The church yard does not seem to be within the precinct; this cemetery was probably intended for the *vulgar*, the bodies of the great and the religious being interred in the church.

From a door, at the southern end of the weavers and tuckers' chapel, now remaining, the cloisters led in a direction from north east to south west, behind which were the habitations of the Prior and Monks; these were known of late years by the name of y Doctor du, from a tradition, that the ghost of a man, clothed in black, haunted them. These buildings were taken down about thirty years ago (about 1751),¹ and probably another cloister ran parallel with them, entering into the church near the font, and proceeding from thence, in the same direction, to the wall at the top of what is now called Parnassus Hill, behind which again were dwelling houses and a court, now converted into a farm yard, and then granaries and other out-houses adjoining the wall, the remains of which are seen, and are now used as barns, stables, and for other purposes of agriculture or commerce.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH IN 1800.

But to return to the church of Saint John the Evangelist, and to describe it in its present state. We begin at the western pine end, near which is a beautiful circular stone font of the Saxon age, which the decorators of the building have so thickly covered with white lime, that it is difficult to

¹ It appears by a MS. in the Duke of Beaufort's library, intitled *Notitia Cambro Britannica*, written by one Thomas Dindly, who accompanied the Marquiss of Worcester, president of Wales, in his tour through the principality, in 1684, that in this cloister was seen a figure in wood of a dragon, or some other imaginary monster, in the act of devouring a woman as large as life, though without a head. This is, perhaps, an awkward illusion to the dragon seeking to devour the woman as mentioned in the 12th chapter of Revelations. For a representation of this figure, as seen in 1684, see plate 2, fig. 4.

trace the ornaments sculptured round it; as far, however, as they can be made out, they consist of a wreath entwined about the outward edge, below which are four circles, including smaller ones crossing each other in various directions, and the column, supported by a base of three grieces, or steps, shows a regular chain of intersecting arches.

THE NAVE.

The nave of the church, which is very lofty, has been lately (1800) cieled, and exhibits a number of tawdry compartments,¹ alternately red and white, is in length, from the western pine end to the entrance into the chancel, one hundred and thirty-six feet, six inches, and in breadth, twenty-eight feet and six inches: on each side are the tradesmen's aisles before mentioned, which are separated *at present*, from the nave, by thin wooden partitions, on which are, partly carved and partly painted, goat's heads erased, the shears, shuttles, and other instruments used in, or emblematical of, the different occupations or guilds. At the western end of the fabric, it is intersected by two cross aisles, called the chapel of the men of Battle, and the chapel of the red haired race. The first, which is one of the northern entrances into the church, is the Battle chapel; it is in length thirty feet six inches, by twenty-nine feet, and is divided from the vicar's, formerly the Havard's chapel, of somewhat larger dimensions, or extent in point of length, than the former. The Cappel Cochiaid, Norman or red haired men's chapel, is on the southern side of the nave: it is in length, thirty eight feet three, by twenty-nine feet; on the eastern side is a small recess, now used as a burying place, by the family of Hughes of this town and Gregunter; and still further eastward is a ruinous building, formerly used as a vestry room, which fell into decay about one hundred years ago (1700), but we are inclined to think, both these last mentioned buildings are not of very early erection, and that a much larger chapel,² covered their site, being co-extensive with the vicar's chapel on the other side of the chancel, from which there were doors on each side. One is now apparent where Mr Hughes's hatchment is placed, and the arches, over two others, may be seen in the vicar's chapel, opposite. The steeple is placed immediately over the intersection of this cross, and covers an area of ten square yards within the walls. It is said to be considerably higher than Saint Mary's, though, from its enormous bulk, it does not appear to be as lofty as the latter: in it are six bells, and formerly it could be entered by galleries from all parts of the church, though now it can only be ascended by stone stairs from Cappel y Cochiaid.

THE CHANCEL.

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 likewise is cieled and divided into compartments, *adorned* with paint, yet time and its apparent adversary, though frequently too powerful coadjutor, innovation have here failed in their attempts to efface entirely the ancient magnificence of the church of Saint 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 show parts of the ribs springing to support the roof; these, 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, we do not conceive it to have been coeval with the fabric.

Those only who have seen structures of the same description in Westminster Abbey, or the beautiful representation of it in a valuable publication entitled *Essays on Gothic Architecture*, by Wharton and others, know how to appreciate the grandeur of this style of architecture; the symmetry and proportion of what is called the gothic arch, has something peculiarly attracting in its sweep and finely pointed termination, whether it naturally and forcibly elevates the human mind and tends to impress the soul with devotion, or whether we acquire the admiration of it from habit, we do not pretend to determine, but to us it appears powerfully to promote and assist religious awe and holy rapture, when,

Through the long drawn aisle and fretted vault,
The pealing anthem swells the note of praise.

“We have just now suggested that it is probable the nave of the church has undergone some alterations, and that the side aisles may have been added subsequent to the erection of the most ancient part of the fabric; a survey of the exterior of the church will confirm this conjecture. The outward walls, beneath the tile, are what is frequently called embattled, and within runs a gutter to carry off the water: the windows, of which there are four on each side, are of the gothic, of the 15th

¹ Since writing the above, the cieiling has been uniformly white washed, which removes objection to the tawdry appearance here described; but alas! the same *decorating and beautifying* hour, swept away the venerable skreens, with their emblems from the tradesmen's aisles, and in a few years they will be forgotten.

² This we conceive to be the chapel of Saint Lawrence, mentioned in the composition between the last Prior and the vicar of Brecon, which will be noticed hereafter.

GROUND PLAN of the Church of *St. John the Evangelist in BRECON*, the Wall surrounding the precinct of the PRIORY, together with the supposed site of the Cloisters and Dwellings of the PRIOR & MONKS marked by dotted lines

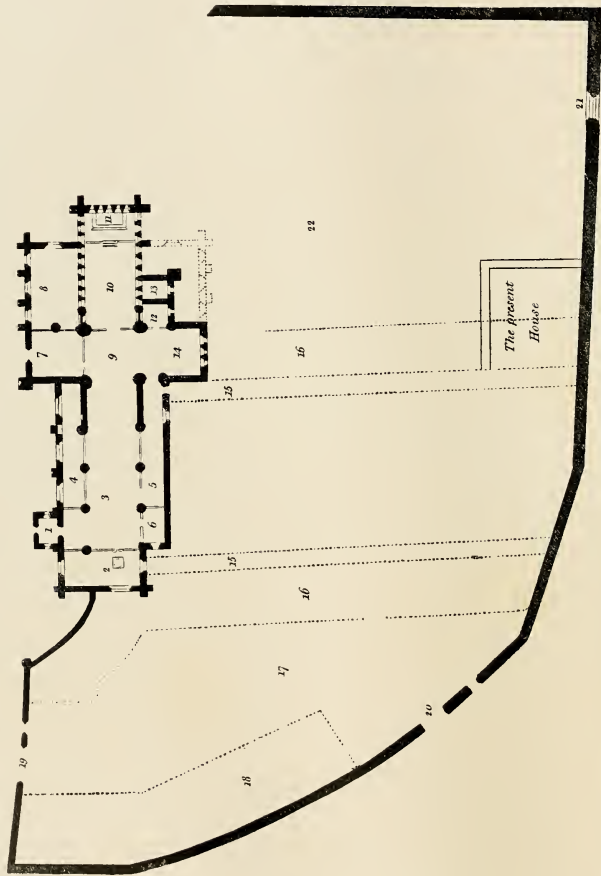


PLATE III.—REFERENCES AND EXPLANATION.

(Applicable to the Church in 1809.)

- (1) Western Porch, or Entrance; (2) Font; (3) Nave; (4) Northern Aisle, called the Shoemakers' and Tailors' Chapels; (5 and 6) Southern Aisle, now divided, formerly called the Weavers' and Tailors' Chapel; (7) Chapel of the Men of Battle; (8) Harvard's supposed to have been under the Chapel; (10) Chancel; (11) High Altar or Communica. Table; (12) High Altar or Chapel; (13) Hugh's Chapel; (14) Chapel of the Monks; (15) Cloisters; (16) Residences of the Monks; (17) Fold for Funn horses, now converted into Barns, Beuchouses, etc.; (18) Northern Gate; (19) Northern Gate; (20) Western Gate; (21) The present door or entrance towards the Priory House.

century, and divided at their tops by ramifications or intersections, the western only excepted, which has a wheel or circle near the top, within which are quatrefoils conjoined at the centre. The aisles had three windows of the same age as those now in the side walls of the church; these are since stopped up, and a late one in each substituted. The arch of the north eastern door is of the architecture of the same days as the windows in the body of the church; but the moment we come to the Battle chapel and the Cappel y Cochiaid, a different style prevails. Both these edifices present us north and south with their pine ends, in each of which are three long lancet windows; those in the former are now filled up with boards, through which are made small holes, to admit the light, and the archway over the door below, is evidently of much earlier construction than the western. Proceeding eastward, on both sides of the chancel, where it is not concealed by the vicar's chapel, the same leaden gutter continues under the tile, but the side walls want the parapets and embrasures, while below are seen three plain lancet windows, and in the eastern pine end are five long lights of the same description, divided by five slender pilasters on the inside, and externally by narrow compartments; so that it should seem, that the chancel and the cross aisles, on the junction of which is placed the steeple, a building of the same age, are of higher antiquity than the side aisles; for that there have been additions and alterations made in all parts of the church, at different periods, is clear, even on a superficial survey of the fabric.

ITS ANCIENT BURIAL GROUND AND MONUMENTS.

Thus far as to the structure. The silent, yet communicative, and frequently interesting register of mortality, which the tombstone displays, next demands attention, and will, we hope, apologize for an attempt to preserve the perishing fragments, recording the virtues, the talents, the names, the years, and the departure of those who have preceded us in the race of life. The study is of greater moment than many people are aware of, to the Christian, the moralist, and the philosopher. And here it may be proper to observe, that there is not a single spot of ground, throughout the whole of this church, which has not at one time or other been a place of interment; this may be lamented, but unless a greater portion of ground be allotted, as a burying place for this now populous parish, it cannot be avoided, for it can hardly escape notice, that the surface of the Priory church yard, is so considerably raised, in consequence of the frequent and continued deposit of dead bodies there, that we descend considerably into the church, though from the appearance of the lower tier of windows in the northern side aisle, it is clear, that the soil within the church is now much higher than it was at a very remote period.

Before proceeding to notice the monuments and inscriptions now to be seen here, we beg leave to request the assistance of those who have long preceded us in our researches, and who have described some memorials of the dead no longer to be met with in this church. From Leland and Camden little information is to be expected, the former seldom notices a monument, and the latter sought principally for Roman and British remains and inscriptions. Churchyarde, who published his *Worthiness of Wales* in the year 1587, is the first author to whom we are indebted for some fragile mementos of mortality, most of which have since either been removed, defaced, or are decayed: the first he notices is the clumsy wooden monument of the Gams, which we shall reserve until we enter the chancel; he then goes on:—

Within that church there lies *beneath the quere*
 These persons two whose names now shall ye heare
 In tomb of stone full fayre and finely wrought
 One *Waters* lyes with his wife fast by his side
 Of some great stocke these couple may be thought
 As by their armes on tome may well be tried
 Full at his feete a goodly greyhound lyes
 And at his head there is before your eyes
 Three *Libbarts*¹ heads three cups two eagles splayd²
 A fayre rod crosse and further to be sayd,
 A Lyon blacke a serpent firely made
 With tayle wound up these armes thus endeth so.
 Crossleg'd by him as was the ancient trade
 Debroes lyes in picture as I troe

Of most hard wood: which wood as divers say
 No worme can eat or time can weare away
 A couching hound, as harolds³ thought full meote
 In wood likewise lyes underneath his feete.
 Just by the same *Meredith Thomas* lyes
 Who had great wit and worship both
 And world him thought both happie blest and wise
 A man that lov'd good justice faith and troth
 Right oer his tombe to his great fame
 Good store in deed of Latin verses are
 And every verse set fourth in such good frame
 That truly doth his life and death declare
 This man was likt for many graces good
 That he posseseth besides his birth and blood.
Worthines of Wales, p. 72, Lond. edit. of 1776.

“The tomb here described, as that of Waters, is that now (in 1800) surrounded with rails on the left hand, entering Cappel y Cochiaid; of this, nothing remains, save the altar part, on which formerly lay two recumbent figures in stone, one of them, though in a mutilated state, lay there within memory, and there are some persons still living who recollect another figure placed upon this tomb. The persons here meant to be commemorated, were certainly a Walter and his wife, a family of considerable note in this town during the reigns of Henry the Seventh and his successor, though from what ‘fayre stock’

1 Leopards.

2 displayed.

3 Harolds.

originally descended, we know not, or whether they were of Welsh extraction, but they are not found among the descendants of Brychan or Cradoc, or even among the *advēnē* or strangers long settled in Wales. None of the quarterings in the arms, as here set down, are British, but they are so defectively blazoned, that it is impossible to say with certainty to whom they belong.

PRIOR WALTER'S FAMILY.

From a list of the Priors of the Priory of Brecon, in Tanner's *Notitia Monastica*, it appears that William Walter succeeded John Burgrove as prior of Brecon in 1434, and by a MS. note in the handwriting of Brown Willis, in an interleaved survey of Saint David's in the Bodleian library, we are informed that a William Walter was archdeacon of Brecon in 1504 and 1510, that his arms, some time before Brown Willis published, were to be seen over his house at Saint David's, but so much defaced that it could not be known whether they were three boars' or three oxen's heads, and in chief two griffins; if he was of this family, and Churchyarde be correct, they were three leopards, and in that case the lion and griffin were in chief. In 1515 Thomas Walter was bailiff at Brecknock; at the time of the attainder of the last Stafford duke of Buckingham, Matthew Walter filled that office, and was appointed by the lord of Brecon. In the latter end of the sixteenth century, we find one of this name, and we are inclined to think of this family, who commenced his practice at the court of the president of the council of the marches, and went to settle at Ludlow; Edmund Walter¹ who died there in 1592, married Mary, one of the daughters of Thomas Herbert of Eytton, and had issue James, John, Edward, Mary, and Dorothy: he bore sable, a fess indented between *three eagles displayed* argent, beaked and clawed gules, crest *a leopard's head* erased ermine. This we conceive to be the elder branch of the family; the second house still continue in Brecon, and were in some repute in the time of Hugh Thomas, who mentions a Mr John Walter, ironmonger, who was then in possession of a barn called the Spittle, in the Watton, and who was bailiff of Brecon in 1682 and 1687.

THE DE BREOS AND MEREDITH THOMAS MONUMENTS.

Reginald de Breos has been noticed where it was observed that no trace of his tomb remained; from the mention of its situation under the choir we presume it must have been placed under the present gallery, and on the right hand, entering into the chancel; the cross legs of the lord of Brecon offended the puritanic mind and eyes of the soldiers of Cromwell, and provoked them to make a bonfire of 'that most hard wood,' which had otherwise defied the power of time, and which, the unwearied worm would have in vain assailed.

Meredith Thomas has followed De Breos in the road to oblivion, though we learn from our homely historic poet that his tomb was near the descendant of Bernard Newmarch, which name reminds us of an erroneous tradition in this place, that Reginald's monument was that of our Norman conqueror, who was certainly buried at Gloucester.

Meredith Thomas was of the profession of the law and a notary public, perhaps deputy registrar of the archdeaconry of Brecon; he was eight times bailiff of Brecon, and died in 1587, and though we have lost that good store of verses, formerly recording his merits, fortunately he still lives in his will, a copy of which is preserved in the Registry office at Brecon. This document recites his wish (in an age when such a wish was thought almost impious) that his body should be opened in order that the cause of his disorder might be known, and posterity benefited by the discovery, and proves that he had more benevolence and profundity of thinking than many wise and sensible men even of the present day possess. A short extract from it may not be unacceptable, as it pourtrays his character; it was proved in 1585, and he describes himself therein by the name of Meredith Thomas Ap David Goch: 'I desire to be buried in the parish church of Saint John the Evangelist, in the chappell there, where my father, my brothers and sisters were buried hard by the wall, and I will that mine executors do erect a stone by the wall syde or the syde of the same to be in the wall close as high as a man's brest that any of the parishioners may lean upon, and I will that mine executors shall cause a surgeon or physician to open my body and extract my bowells that the cause of my sickness may be known. I appoint my wife Elinor and my son Daniel to be mine executors, I give to the cathedral church of Saint David's four pence, for my forgotten tythes twelve pence, and for the reparation of the parish church and chappell of Brecon three shillings and four pence, I give my house in Morganwg street where

¹ He was a benefactor to Jesus College Oxford (founded by a native of Brecon, as will be seen hereafter) to which seminary he gave 1000*l.* which were laid out in the purchase of lands in Carmarthenshire. Morant, in his *History of Essex*, vol. 2, p. 73, informs us, that Thomasia, daughter and heiress of Thomas Hoveningham of Roxwell, in that county, married Walter Thomas, gent of *Goge Howell*, in Wales, by whom she had issue William Walter, married to Isabella, daughter of Thomas Denton of Catesfield in Yorkshire, by whom she had issue Thomas Walter, and that William Walter was in possession of Roxwell in the reign of Elizabeth. By Goge Howell, is undoubtedly meant Crickhowell; perhaps the Walters of Brecon and Ludlow were of this family, as the author referred to, also tells us, that Anne, the sister of the last named Thomas Walter, married — of Denton, in Salop.

my *kellen* (kilo) ys to my son Daniel reserving the use of it to my wife for her life, but if he shall have no issue then to my daughter Catherine Meredith and her heirs for ever, I give to my son Daniel after my wife's decease my barns orchards and gardens in the Wacktowne (the Watton) purchased from my brother Thomas¹ and a mead called Lack issa paying the rent in equal shares with my wife while she lives, I give after her decease the house bought of John Hoel and his wife in Canterely strete and all barns stables backsydes *killen's bruers*, (kilns, breweries, or brewhouses), etc., to my son Daniel and his heirs for ever also I will that mine executors shall joyne together in all actions concerning my will and that they shall dwell together and spend in all honest means all such *talments*² that I leave or bequeath to them in mayntaynyng my house and family and *relpyng my friends that come unto them without grudge or variance* I give my son Daniel the tythes of the rectory of Llanfaes after the decease or marriage of my said wife and if my executors cannot agree together I will that my effects platts (plate) jewels be divided among them by Jno. Thomas ap Thomas and Robert ap Phillip my cousins.³ This will is attested by *Piers Williams, Water Davids, vicar of Brecon, Thomas Lewis Clicus* and others.

JOHN TOWERS, BAILLIFF OF BRECON.

Meredith Thomas was succeeded as bailiff by John Towers, who married Catherine, daughter of his brother Thomas ap Thomas. His tombstone may be still seen, it is close upon the left hand entering Cappel y Cochiaid from the church in the very spot where we should have been inclined to have placed Meredith Thomas's, if we were not satisfied that no person would have presumed, in 1587, to efface the memorial of a man of Meredith Thomas's respectability, by substituting another, although Towers was married to his niece.

The family of Towers, Hugh Thomas says,³ came here from Cumberland, or somewhere in the north of England; he has preserved the inscription on his tombstone, which is now so mutilated and defaced⁴ as not to be legible. The letters are in relief, and in what Mr Astle calls 'set chancery,' but more commonly called the German text character; the words follow:

Here lyeth the body of John Towers, haberdasher, late bailiff of this towne of Brecknock, who departed this life the 10th day of April, 1587, and had to wife Ale, one of the daughters of Thomas ap Thomas, one of the council of the same town.

Oh Towers farewell thy saedg (sage) advice,
Fare well thy help and ayde;
Farewell good Towers, farewell old
Frinde that friendly would have stayd.

By his will, proved in the register office in Brecon, it appears he had no children; he was possessed of a considerable property in and near the town of Brecon, particularly 'a new house buydd by himself adjoynng our ladie's chapple,' also a barne in the Watton, being of late Sir Thomas Griffiths's⁴ barne, he held also by lease under William Watkins of Llangorse, esq., the bishoppe's meadow, and a close in Llanddew, called *Stanbey*, under Henry Vaughan of Crickhowel, esq.⁵ These, together with many other possessions and effects, among which is a *curkall* horse (a curricule horse) he bequeaths to his nephews and nieces, sons and daughters of his brothers, Matthew, Richard, and William. The arms on his tombstone are, paly way of 6..... a lion rampant, impaling three towers; and for his crest, ensigned with a helmet befitting his degree, a wreath, and thereon a tower, on which a pelican vulning herself. What are here called towers in the arms, with some little faith, may be supposed to be such, or at least they may represent or *disfigure the pine ends* of towers, with a door in the base of each; that on the crest is not very unlike a night-cap, but what can be expected from that *artist* who has reversed the arms in the shield, and placed those of baron in the sinister, and femme in the dexter side.

Hugh Thomas proceeds to say that he knows not how many children he left, but that his son Matthew was bailiff of Brecon in 1610, and buried near his father, with this inscription:

Here lyeth the body of Matthew Towers, gentleman, once bailiff of this town of Brecknock, who married Catherine, daughter to Roger Crump of Eardisley, who had issue seven children, now living, Matthew, Richard, Timothie, Robert, John, Elizabeth, and Jane; he died 1st June, 1614.

Hugh Thomas is evidently mistaken in calling this Matthew a son of John Towers, he was his nephew; the inscription is no longer visible, nor have we been able to meet one in the body of the church, as Thomas says, commemorating the interment of William Towers, who married Sibil, daughter to John Dillwyn, barber, by whom he had ten children; living two, Catherine and Ales, and who died 28th October, 1613. Hugh Thomas supposes that Matthew, the eldest son of Matthew, died without issue as did also Richard in 1634; Timothy died in 1624; Robert without issue, in 1634; John, the

¹ Bailiff of Brecon in 1573.

² A corrupt Welsh word for payment, here, we believe it means dues of debts owing to the testator.

³ They were of Crolinghall in Cumberland.

⁴ Sir Thomas Griffiths was vicar of Brecon, and died in 1572. Vide, List of incumbents

youngest son of Matthew, by Catherine Crump, in 1635, leaving his son Matthew an infant and three daughters; the gravestone of his wife remains near that of John Towers, though the inscription is in part defaced, what is legible is as follows :

Here lyeth the body of Catherine, the daughter of William Awbrey, who married Matthew Towers, they had issue three children, Margaret, Catherine and Elizabeth, she died 27th July, 1683.

So that the infant died while of tender years and soon after the father, whereupon the name became extinct in Brecon. The arms on the stone over the grave of Catherine Awbrey, afterwards Towers, are, 1, a lion rampant..... 2 Towers, 3 Awbrey, 4 a lion rampant, 5 Towers, 6 7 and 8 not legible, motto, Prayes God. Near her also is another coat of arms, the inscription round the stone is not legible, further than that, from it we learn, that the person there interred, married Elizabeth, daughter of Matthew Towers, by whom he had issue Elizabeth _____, and that he died in March, 1706. The initials I. B. shew this to be John Berrow, who married this Elizabeth in 1684.¹ The Brecknock herald of this day (not Hugh Thomas) has here again erroneously given the arms; they are, party per pale baron et femme, a chevron between three fleurs de lis in the dexter chief 2 and 1, in the sinister chief 3, fusils 2 and 1, and in base two swords crossing each other in bend, their points upwards, impaling quarterly, 1st and 4th a lion rampant, 2d and 3d Towers.

These Towers being now levelled with the dust and the name forgotten, we proceed to follow the footsteps of a later writer, who has preserved some inscriptions no longer legible, and some figures which cannot now be traced without difficulty; we allude to the writer of the *Notitia Cambro-Britannica*, from whom we learn, that the monument, supposed to be that of Bernard Newmarch, was destroyed, as already suggested, by the soldiers of the Commonwealth, and that the arms, then remaining near it, were 1 sable, a cross in saltire gules, a chief of the 2d, 2 Pichard, 3 sable, a lion rampant Or, 4th as the 1st, which he says was the bearing of Llewelyn, prince of Wales. If so, there can remain no doubt but that this was the monument of Reginald de Breos, who, marrying Gwladis ddu, daughter of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, prince of North Wales, assumed, as was frequently done, the arms of his wife, as the most honourable bearing; but, according to our British heralds, Llewelyn ap Iorwerth bore quarterly gules and Or, four lions passant guardant counterchanged, and Gwilym tells us, that the saltire and chief as above, are the arms of Bruce of Kinloss in Scotland.

RICHARD PRICE OF THE PRIORY.

But return to the *Notitia*. One of the first monuments noticed by this writer, is that of Richard Price of the Priory, and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of William Wightman, esq. (plate 2, fig. 5). This was within the communion rails on the left entering into it, and the outlines may be still traced, though not without considerable difficulty; they were, as he observes, inlaid with brass, which was an immediate object of aversion or plunder, or both, with the fanatics, who never failed to deface, and generally to carry away, this ornamental decoration of the tomb. There is no date to ascertain the death of this Richard Price, but we find him living in 1577, and in 1573 he published a defence of Tyssilio, written by his father, in answer to Polydore Virgil, but as this family was of considerable celebrity in Brecon, we shall postpone any further relation with respect to him for the present.

THE WILLIAMS OF GWERNYFED MONUMENT.

Another monument, noticed by this writer, is that of Sir David Williams, the paternal ancestor of the baronets Williamses of *Gwernyfed*, which has lately been ornamented, painted, and a new scarlet robe purchased for him out of a fund appropriated for the purpose. The inscription, as directed by him in his will, was :

HIC JACET SIR DAVID WILLIAMS MILES UNUS JUSTICIARIORUM AD PLACITA CORAM IPSO REGE TENENDA ASSIGNATORUM, NATUS EX PROGENIE ADAM² HOWEL YCHAN ET OWEN GETHING MATRIMONIO CONJUNCTUS MARGARETE UNÆ FILLIARUM JOHANNIS GAMES, ARMIGERI ORIGINEM TRAHENS A STRIPE DE GAMES ET VAUGHAN PER QUAM HABUIT NOVEN FILIOS ET DUAS FILLAS QUORUM NUNC EXISTUNT SUPERSTITES QUATUOR FILII ET DUE FILIE.

Nuper eam judex nunc judicis ante tribunal,
Subsistens paveo; judicior ipse modo.

Thus not unhappily translated by an anonymous versifier :

Bu'm farawr, cirwr ar wyr fy hun,
Bu'm hynod benadur;
Nawr mewn poen dyfn (mân fy nhir)
O fân barawr fe'm bernir.

This monument, which reflects a transient disgrace upon the dull unicoloured remnants of

¹ MS. Register Office, Brecon.

² Not the common parent of mankind, but Adam ap Rhys of Porth yr ogaf, in Ystradfelltho.

antiquity around it, presents us with the effigy of Sir David Williams in his judicial habiliments, and on his right is the figure of his first wife, the daughter of John Games of Aberbrân, by a daughter of Sir William Vaughan of Porthaml; over their heads is a canopy or covering, supported by four columns or pillars of an unknown order of architecture, with bases and pedestals which defy technical description. Within on the south wall are his arms blazoned, impaling his wife's, and at the top and in front of the monument they are given again with the following quarterings (having a crescent, which by the bye should have been a mullet, by way of a difference), 1 Bleddin ap Maenarch, 2 Rhys Goch, 3 Einion Sais, 4 Ynyr, king of Gwent, 5 Gwys, lord of Gwiston and in base, Justin ap Gwrgran, 6 Rhys Grug, 7 Brychan, and at top and in front of the monument are *again* the same arms. 'Oh confound these fellows!' (says Puff in the *Critic*) 'whenever they get a good thing, they never know when to make enough of it.'

THE GAMESSES OF ABERBRAN.

Opposite to this, was another to the memory of the Gameses of Aberbran, which consisted entirely of wood, with some nearly obliterated verses, which, says Dinely, 'are as wooden as the monument.' Churchyard thus describes it:

Built in this church a tombe or two I find
That worthis is in briefs to bring to minde.
Three couple lies one ore the other's head
Along in tombe and all one race and lyne
And to be playne one couple lyeth dead
The third likewise as destine shall assyne
Shall lye on top right ore the other twaine
Their pictures now all readie there remaine
In signe when God appoints the terme and date
All flesh and blood must yeld to mortal fate
These are indeede the ancient race of Gams
A house and blood that long rich armes doth give
And now in Wales are many of their names
That keepe great trayne and doth full bravely lye
The eldest son and chiefest of that race
Doth bear in arms a ramping lion crown'd

And three speare heads and three red cocks in place
A dragon's head all greene therein is found
And in his mouth a red and bloody hand
All this and more upon the tombe doth stand.
Three fayre boyes heads and every one of those
A serpent hath close lapt about his necke
A great white bucke and as you may suppose
Right ore the same which doth it trimly decke
A crowne there is that makes a godly shoe
A lion blacke and three bulles heads I troe
Three flower do luce all fresh and white they were
Two swords two crownes with fayre long crosse is there,
Three bats whose wings were spreaded all at large
And three white barres were in these armes likewise
Let harrols now to whom belongs that charge
Describe these things for me this may suffice.

And so perhaps saith the reader; but we must trespass upon his patience once more, by the introduction of some other 'wooden verses,' formerly written or painted round the valances of this tier on tier of oaken beds, which they perfectly resembled. We are induced to do this for two reasons, first, lest posterity should suppose they lost some valuable information when these lines disappeared, and secondly and principally because they lead to something more than conjecture, as to the persons there interred, or at least whose effigies were intended to be placed thereon; they therefore follow:

This Thomas he of godlie seale
Upon this monie spente
To shew their race from whence they came
By thys thyr monument
Oh Thomas Games, God graunte thee grace
To judge of good and evil
Thy daughters wise to serve God daylie
To fight against the devil
I wish thyself as rich to be
As ever Cressua was
In power to pass octavian
To bring all things to passe¹

Mayens lyeff is vayn you see
As scripture playne doth saye
Like pilgrims poor we roone our race
And then return to clay
Is Samson yet alive
For all his mighty strength
Both Solomon and Absalom
Hath yelde to death at length
And Abraham he is dead
As scripture tols hit trow
Ould Gallen he hath left his booke
And physick byddes adew.

From these miserable lines we learn that this monument was erected by Thomas Games of Aberbrân, in memory of his father and mother, John Games of Aberbrân and Anne his wife, daughter of Sir William Vaughan: the second couple were William Games and his second wife, a daughter of ——— Bodenham of Rotherwas, elder brother of Thomas, who died in the life-time of his father; the third place, when 'destine should assigne,' was reserved for Thomas Games and his wife, and these verses were added after their deaths by some churchyard poet who possessed more affection for the family than sublimity of thought or harmony of metre. Only one female figure remained when this vile incumbrance was removed; the rest, the writer of the *Notitia* tells us, were burnt by the Commonwealth soldiers. Much as we deplore the outrages they committed, we have often lamented, while it continued, that they did not destroy the whole of it. Lord Camden has, however, with great propriety, lately caused it to be taken down, and the chancel decently and uniformly painted, so that when the judge's monument is stripped of its frippery and glare, and

¹ This stanza is omitted in the *Notitia*.

converted to plain stone colour, except the inscription and the arms, this part of the fabric will once more wear its ancient and venerable appearance.

THE WALTER AWBREY MONUMENT.

The last tomb noticed by Dinely, is that of a Walter Awbrey and Christina his wife, in the Havard's or vicar's chapel: it is said to have been removed from the college. If so, it was probably upon the erection of the present collegiate church, in the time of Henry 8th, and this tomb must have been placed, and remained for several ages, in the church or oratory of the friars mendicants there; for it bore the date of 1312, though neither the inscription or the date are now to be seen. It forms part of the floor of the chapel, and the figures are in *alto relievo*, so thickly covered with mortar, dirt and dust, that they can hardly be traced with accuracy. It will be seen by plate 2, fig. 6, that little angels held censers over the heads of this Awbrey and his spouse; these aerial beings have vanished, the features of the countenances of the descendant of the Normans and his lady have been nearly defaced, and the plaits of their garments are barely discernible. The inscription round the stone was: 'WALTER LE PIZ WATER AWBREY GIT ICI JESUS DE SA ALME EIT MERCI AMEN. PATER NOSTER.' It then proceeds whimsically to record the name of the wife backwards, writing from the right hand to the left, beginning at the bottom, and reversing the letters: the words were: 'CHRISTINA SA FEMME GIST ICI JESUS DE SA ALME EN MERCI AVE MARIA PATER NOSTER.' A MS. in the British Museum, Harl. coll. No. 3825, Plut. $\frac{15}{v}$ A., preserves a proud inscription upon a grocer, of no small consequence in his time, if it be believed, which is no longer to be seen: 'Hic jacet Ludovicus Johns mercer hujus olim dum vixit urbis Breconia non vulgaris civis qui obiit 24 die mensis Septembris Anno Domini 1581, hujus ossa sub hoc lapide habemus inclusa hujus aia perpetua (sic uti sepebamus) cum Christo servitur beatitudine.'

THE BERRINGTON EPITAPH.

Having now parted with his predecessors, Theophilus Jones thus makes his own survey. Beginning in the chancel, within the communion rails, on a board attached by a nail to the north wall, is an epitaph on the right virtuous gentlewoman, Mrs. Elizabeth Berrington, wife of the right worshipful Humphrey Berrington of Bishopstone, in the county of Hereford, esq., and daughter of the right worshipful Thomas Price of the Priorie of Brecknock, esquire, who dyed the 14th day of February, 1626.

Worth zeal all virtues divine did dwell
In her who lies intomb'd within this cell
Her soul in bliss her body here must rest
Till Christ shall come and say, rise, rise thou blest
One child she bore whom death slew in her womb
And brought both child and mother to the tomb.

Thomas Jones.

This is not, as Mr. Gough says in his second volume of sepulchral monuments, upon *parchment*, but is written or painted, in the German text character, upon a board coloured or painted white, and here we beg leave to rectify another error of this very respectable and learned antiquary, though there are none of the graves he describes in this church or churchyard. The figure he gives of some, which he saw in Wales, nearly resemble a bee-hive with a hole in the top, whereas the graves in this country are not watted nearly around, as he represents them, but only on the sides, to prevent the earth from falling, when collected in a heap, as immediately after interment, and are of a parallelogramic form, narrowing at the head and widening at the feet. This trifling inaccuracy perhaps arose from a habit of making a rough sketch, while the object was in view and finishing at leisure and at a distance, a practice too prevalent and difficult to be avoided, but productive frequently of material errors.

FIGURES OF RICHARD PRICE AND WIFE.

Below the board first mentioned, to the south west, are seen the outlines of the figures on the gravestone of her uncle Richard Price and his lady before mentioned, though the inscription is gone; the next was an altar-piece, and placed in the wall over the altar: it is of very high antiquity, perhaps coeval with the church. The figures are in *alto relievo*, and represent the ascension, one person stands on each side of the representation of our Saviour, and below are four others kneeling.

OTHER MONUMENTS.

Below the communion, or as Hugh Thomas describes it, under the high altar, were deposited the remains of Edward Games of Newton, esq. (who will be hereafter noticed) with the following inscription:

Hic sepultus erat doctissimus EDVARDUS GAMES, armiger legum peritus et pater patriæ qui obiit 1564, Die 9, Septembris, cujus animo propicietur Deus.

Not a trace of these letters remains, so that the stone has probably either been broken or removed.

Proceeding southward, Frances Owen, daughter of Evan Owen¹ clerk, late rector of Beguildy, *obit* 1692. Frances Williams, widow of Thomas Williams of Taley, in the county of Carmarthen, esq. *obit* 1731, *ætat* 45; she was one of the daughters and coheireses of Francis Lloyd of Crúgadarn, esq., a judge upon the North Wales circuit, and she had issue by Thomas Williams, Lloyd Williams, who died an infant, and Elizabeth, who married Owen Evans of Pennant, esq., only son and heir of Owen Evans, clerk, archdeacon of Cardigan, one of the daughters, and at last, sole heiress of Lodowick Lewis of Pennant, esq. Jane, the other daughter of Judge Lloyd, married John Waters of Brecon, esq., and left one daughter Jane, who married Sir Halswell Tynte, baronet. On the south west wall,

MS.

Eodem sepulchro tumulata jaçent corpora duarum sororum, Franciscæ Owen et Susannah Brewster; *obit* Susannah primo die junii 1719 primo nupta Rheso Powel de Boughrwd, deinde Gulielmo Brewster, M.D. utriusque uxor amantissima.

Below, on the same wall, 'Sacred to the memory of Sarah, the wife Hugh Powell, late of Cwmclyn, in the parish of Devynock, Com. Breck. esq., *obit* 1687, *æt.* 76.'

TOMBSTONE OF REV. REES POWELL, FOUNDER OF BOUGHROOD CHARITY.

On a flat stone beneath,

Here, in hopes of a sure and joyful resurrection, sleeps the body of Mr. Rees Powell, minister of the gospel, and late rector of the church at Aberedw, in the county of Radnor, whose diligence in his calling, steadfastness in the true faith, exemplary piety and permanent charity, the generations yet to come, and grateful poor, will have just cause to remember, and speak more of, than any monument can contain; for a good name is like a precious ointment, and the memory of the just shall be blessed for ever; he finished his short course here in the fifty fifth year of his age, upon the fifth day of May, in the year of our redemption, 1687.

Sic itur ad astra, Monumentum hoc sanctissimi amoris et obsequii Symbolum merens erexit, fidissima conjux, Susannah Powel.

This pious and good man, by deed, dated the 6th of January, 1686, gave and conveyed to Sir Rowland Gwynne of Llanelwedd, knight; Sir John Powel, one of the judges of the court of Exchequer; Edward Jones of Buckland, esq.; James Baskerville of Aberedw, gent.; Owen Griffiths of Llandeivailog, clerk; William Powel of Llangatock juxta Crickhowell, clerk; William Watkins of Penyrrlodd, gent.; Charles Lloyd of *Gwernylfet*, gent., and Lewis Lloyd, his son and heir; James Parry, of Trostre, gent.; John Watkins of Aberedw; and Richard Parsons, of Brecon, mercer; the manors or lordships of Upper Elvel, Aberedw, and Garreg, and the common, castle and forest of Colwyn, Radnorshire. To hold to these trustees and their heirs and assigns, in trust, to lay out twenty pounds annually, in placing out poor children, natives of the town and borough of Brecon, or of the parishes of Saint John the Evangelist, Saint David's, or Aberyseir, to some lawful trades, in the borough of Brecon, with the approbation of the bailiff and aldermen, or any two of them, the kindred of the donor, being natives of the borough or parishes just mentioned, to be preferred; and ten pounds annually, for a stock or fund, to enable such children to set up their trades; also twenty pounds annually towards placing out poor children, natives of Hay and Bulth, and of the several parishes of Llanigon, Llanellieu, Talgarth, Llanafan fawr and Llanwrthwl, in Breconshire; Cregrina, Llanelwedd, and Betwys Disserth, in Radnorshire; and ten pounds, in like manner, for setting them up in their trades; also twenty four pounds yearly, to be paid to the principal, or vice principal of Jesus College, Oxford, to be by them paid to two poor scholars or undergraduates, members of the said college, share and share alike, for their better maintenance and encouragement in the prosecution of their studies, the said two scholars to be natives of the counties of Radnor and Brecon, or one of them, the kindred of the donor, if such can be found, to be preferred; and if there should be no scholars natives of these counties, then to any two scholars or students in the said college born in Wales, also, five pounds, annually to the churchwardens and overseers of Boughrood, to be laid out, with the approbation of the vicar, in settling a native of that parish an apprentice to some honest trade or occupation, also eleven pounds a year to an honest careful man, to teach and instruct poor children, natives of the borough of Brecon, in the English tongue,² the better to enable them to serve God and manage their trades or occupations; with power to the survivors, upon the death of two or more of the trustees, to appoint successors, so that there may always be twelve at the

¹ From the habit of ringing the change of names prevalent in the 17th and preceding centuries, we suspect that Owen Evans, archdeacon of Cardigan, was son of Evan Owen, rector of Beguildy, and that the wife of Francis Lloyd was Elizabeth, one of the daughters or sisters of this Evan Owen: the name and interment of Frances, the daughter of judge Lloyd, among the family of the Owens, confirms this conjecture.

² In reference to this part of the will, Theo. Jones makes the following comment in a note:—"It is not clear to me, from these words, whether this good divine intended these children should be taught to read and write or not. I am sure I should respect his memory much more if I thought he did not, notwithstanding the fashionable mania for parochial and Sunday schools, which, 19 times out of 20, only teach boys to misapprehend their bible, to prate and become troublesome in their neighbourhood." The genial historian was a martyr to gout, and he must have experienced an extra painful twinge to cause him to write this.

least. The premises hereby conveyed are of the annual value of one hundred and seventy pounds, and out of this fund they are now enabled to settle twenty boys in every year. The present trustees are Sir Charles Morgan, bart., M.P.; Walter Wilkins, esq., M.P.; Reverend William Morgan; Walter Jeffreys, esq.; Thynne Howe Gwynne, esq.; Jeffreys Wilkins, esq.; Thomas Harcourt Powell, esq.; Penry Williams, esq.; Walter Wilkins, the younger, esq.; the Reverend John Williams, archdeacon of Cardigan; and the Reverend Richard Davies, archdeacon of Brecon.

AN ANCESTOR OF THE TREDEGAR FAMILY.

Descending from the communion rails and passing the monument of Sir David Williams, we see two stones placed against the wall, which were removed upon the interment of a Mrs. Arabella Nixon, who died at the Lion inn, in this town, in her road to or from Ireland, and left the whole of her property to her man and maid servants: on the first, 'Here lyeth Morgan Llewelyn of Ystradfelte, who married Gwladis, daughter of David Gwalter of Dan y fedw, gent., and had issue William Morgan, esquier, king's attorney of South Wales, and recorder of this borough, he died the _____ day of _____,' (Arms, 1 Vaughan, 2 Bleddin ap Maenarch, 3 Havad, 4 Rhys Grug, 5 Rhys Goch, 6 Pichard, 7 a lion rampant, 8 ditto.) On the other stone, 'Here lyeth the body of William Morgan, esquire, king's attorney of South Wales, and recorder of this borough, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Morgan of Tredegar, and had issue William, Elizabeth, Mary Ann, _____.' There is no date to either of these inscriptions, or at least, if there ever were such, they have been effaced. William Morgan died in 1650; his son William married and had issue an only daughter and heiress, who marrying William Morgan, of Machan and Tredegar, brought with her Dderw and the Breconshire estate, which has ever since continued in that family.

THE LEWISES OF FFRWDGRECH.

Nearly opposite, but further northward, is a Welsh inscription, in German text, the letters in relief, without beginning or conclusion; it is to the memory of one of the Lewises of Ffrwdgrech, it had the date of 1580 upon it, and is as follows, "Thomas Lewis vab Llywelyn, vab Morgan, vab Davydd, vab Howel ychan, vab Davydd, ap Rhys y ddimmau; y wraig cynta ef oedd varged jennys (Margaret Jennings) 'ai henaf fab yw Sion Lewis, yr ail wraig oedd, Elizabeth verch Meredydd Games." Near him, is the grave of his eldest son, by the second wife, Edward Lewis, father of Thomas Lewis of Mynachty, near Presteigne in Radnorshire, which the English Welsh of that country most *naughtily* corrupt into *Minawghty*. The inscription is, 'Heare lyeth the body of Edward Lewis of this town, gent.; he married Anne, one of the daughters of John Nott of Sheldsley, in the county of Worcester, esq.; they had issue Thomas, John, Elizabeth and Joyce, he died 27th September, 1654.' (Arms, impaling his wife's erroneously, 1 Bleddin ap Maenarch, the chevron ermine, 2 Rhys Goch, 3 Gwys, 4 Einon Sais, 5 Hughes, 6 Justin ap Gwrgan, 7 Progers, 8 Brychan, 9 _____, 10 a lion rampant, 11 ditto regardant, 12 a lion rampant, crest Rhys Goch: Femme bears a lion rampant, but her arms were, azure, a bend between three leopards' heads erased *Or*; these are the arms of Nott of Great Sheldsley, or Sheldsley Beauchamp, in Worcestershire, as given by Nash, in his collections of that county, by which we are also informed that the crest of the family, upon a wreath of their colours, was a hound sejant ermine collared *Or*. Motto, *Solus mihi invidus obstat*.)

THE HARBOTTLE MONUMENTS.

Near the north wall; 'Hic depositum est quicquid mortale Lanceloti James filii natu maximi Meredithi James Generosi qui post sex annos in academia Oxoniensi rei literariæ nec sine spe aliqua exhibitos tandem lethali morbo correptus ad parentes suos charissime dilectos adventit et in illorum gremiis expiravit animam 18 die Augusti anno salutis 1716, ætatis 23. Veniat regnum tuum, Oh Pater cœlestis!' (Arms, Bleddin ap Maenarch, over all, on an escutcheon of pretence, three icicles or *air bottles*, in bend Herbert, otherwise Harbottle.) On another stone, 'Lancelot Morgan, town clerk of this borough, who was youngest son of William Morgan of the same borough, esq., deceased, and Mary his wife, eldest daughter of Meredith James of the same borough also deceased, departed this life the 24th day of March 1753, æt. 29.' Near him: 'Here lieth the body of Rebecca James, the wife of the above named Meredith James, who died 3rd January, 1720, æt. 56.' She was the mother of Lancelot James, and one of the daughters of Lancelot Herbert, otherwise Harbottle, who died in 1691.

The first of the family here (says Hugh Thomas) was one Lancelot Harbottle, changed afterwards by the general corruption of the Welsh, who alter all surnames for shortness of speech, into Herbert; a man born in the town of Kendall in Cumberland, of parentage unknown, and by his trade of mean education, yet his name and county speaks him to be descended of the ancient

¹ The pedigree of Games and Lewis of Ffrwdgrech, shew this to have been an inscription to the memory of Thomas Lewis of Ffrwdgrech.

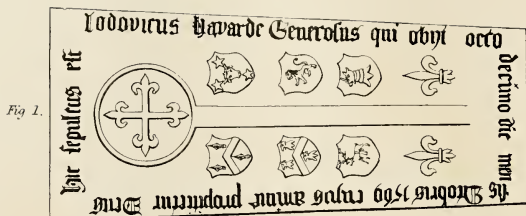


Fig 2

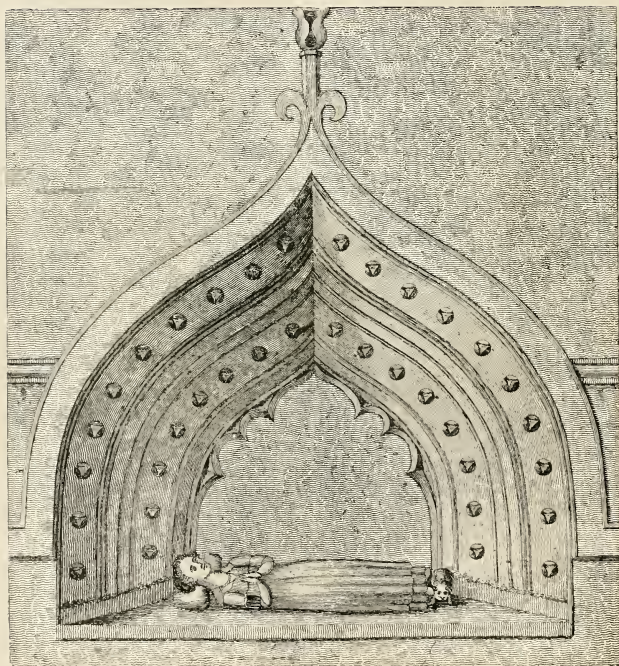


PLATE IV.—MONUMENTS IN PRIORY CHURCH.

From Drawings by Rev. Thomas Price ("Carnhuanaw").

families of the Harbottles of Northumberland, of which Sir William Dugdale makes mention in his English *Baronage*, where he says that one of the noble family of Percy, earl of Northumberland,¹ was married to a daughter of Sir Guiscard Harbottle, some of which name are now of considerable note in those parts. This Lancelot Harbottle, coming into Herefordshire, and marrying with Bulcott's (the first of this town) wife's sister, a woman of mean parentage, was probably persuaded by his wife's brother in law, who was then a man of authority and note, to come and set up a mercer's shop here, in which he met with success: he was buried in the chancel of the Priory, with this inscription, 'Here lyeth the body of Lancelot Herbert, who died the 14th day of September, 1617.' He being then bailiff, who first married Mary, daughter to Richard Peerce, they had issue William, Catherine and Elizabeth; he married secondly, Joan, daughter of Thomas Matthew, they had issue one daughter, Anne. Catherine was wife to Edward John Howel of Gaer, by whom she had issue Henry ap Edward, Mary wife to Thomas Bulcott, and Anne. Elizabeth was wife to Wynter Jones, attorney at law, by whom she had issue, Herbert Jones a seaman, John Jones a parson, and William. Anne, the daughter of the second wife, never married, but had issue a base son, called Edward, common bellman of the town, in 1700, by Roger Games, son to Edward Games. William Herbert, otherwise Harbottle, of Brecknock, mercer, married Anne daughter of William Wynter of the same town, by whom he had issue Lancelot Herbert, Charles Herbert of Bristol, who died issueless, Mary the wife of Thomas Vaughan, mercer, Elizabeth, married to William Harris of Abergavenny, mercer, and Margaret, wife to Michael Churchey, grocer: he married secondly Anne daughter of Roger Bulcott, gentleman, his cousin german's daughter, by whom he had issue Roger Herbert, mercer, Anne wife to Thomas Bulcott, esq., and Susan wife to John Lock, apothecary, and after his decease to George Peak, gent.: he was some time receiver of the king's rents for this audit, and three times bailiff of this town, and five times alderman, he died February 20th, 1692, being above eighty one years of age, having seen his great grand children married or marriageable, and about eleven families extracted from his own body, by his two wives. His son (the last Lancelot Herbert) of Brecon, mercer, married Rebecca daughter to Thomas Penry of Llwynyntefn, by whom he had issue William, Anne wife to John Price, mercer, Rebecca wife to Meredith James, gent., town clerk, and Margaret wife to Charles Sandys, gent.: he died before his father in 1692-3, and was buried in his grandfather's grave in the Priory chancel. William Herbert, mercer, only son and heir of Lancelot Herbert, married Mary, daughter of William Phillips of Penrhwtin, esq.: he died issueless, and gave his estate away from his sisters and family to his wife, so that now there is no memory of this family left in the male race, except this young man's uncle, Roger Herbert, who is now a pretty aged bachelor, and not a stone in the Priory to their memory; that which was laid upon Lancelot the first being broken in four pieces. They were a people ambitious of honour, but we could never learn what their coat of arms was, but that they were imposed upon by some subtle herald by a device of their coat of arms, which were, azure a dragon's head erased sable, with a right hand couped in his mouth and upon a chief gules and *Or*, two fleurs de lis of the second, which colour upon colour is all *faist* heraldry, which every *vulger* herald knows, and is a fit emblem to signify a venomous fellow being beaten black and blue out of his own country for his villany, but their true coat of arms is azure three clubs, in bend *Or*, the knot end upwards, as was quartered by the earls of Northumberland in right of the aforesaid heiress.

Hugh Thomas might well mistake this bearing for three clubs, to which they bear a greater resemblance than they do to anything else in the creation, animate or inanimate, unless it be to three tadpoles, but *punning* heralds had certainly in contemplation an allusion to the name of Harbottle when they blazoned and formed these bubbles or icicles: this practice in heraldry, childish as it appears, so far from being reprobat is rather encouraged, particularly in mottoes, which, when they are of this description, are termed *canting*. These arms are still borne quarterly with Bleddin ap Maenarch by the Reverend Thomas Jones, who is descended from one of the daughters of the last Lancelot Herbert, and possesses the whole of the property of Mr. Meredith James.

THE BULCOTT FAMILY.

But to return to the chancel of the Priory. On the north wall, further westward than the burial place of the Herberts and Jameses, is a marble monument to the memory of Mrs. Mary Williams, daughter of David Williams of this town, esq., by Anne daughter of Thomas Bulcott, she died in 1794, aged eighty four. And below her, further southward:—

Here lyeth the body of Mary, wife of Thomas Jones of Tredustan, esq., second daughter of Thomas Bulcott of the borough of Brecon, esq., by Anne his wife. Obit 1723.

¹ Sir Thomas Percy, second son of Henry Percy, sixth earl of Northumberland, attainted for being concerned in Ask's conspiracy in 1587, married Eleanor daughter of Guiscard Harbottle of Bemish, in the county of Durham. The Harbottle arms are the 17th among the 150 quarterings of the noble family of Percy! *Edm. Bur. Gen. vol. 3, p. 267, 271.*

Also Anne, who first married Thomas Boulcott, by whom she had issue Thomas, Anne, and Mary, she married secondly Jehosaphat Jones, by whom she had issue one daughter, Barbara. Obit 1723, *et.* 71. Near this place probably, though not now visible, was a stone noticed by Mr. Townsend of the Herald's Office, yet we do not recollect ever to have seen it; the inscription as taken from the MS. was,

Here lyeth the body of Roger Boulcott, son and heir to Thomas Boulcott, esq., who married Mary daughter to John Caroline (Carwardine) of Gileston, in the county of Hereford, they had issue John, Roger, Anne. He died the 28th day of March 1637.

Here also lyeth the body of Thomas Bulcott, eldest son unto the said Roger Bulcott, who married Anne, the daughter of Lewis Morgan, master of arts, vicar of Brecon, who had issue living, Thomas Bulcott: he died 8th July 1659.

The first of this family who settled in Brecon, Hugh Thomas says, came also from Herefordshire, he was an apothecary, and made a large fortune by his profession; his son, Thomas Bulcott or Boulcott above named, served the office of sheriff of the county of Brecon in 1679. Mrs. Hughes of Tregunter, whose maternal grandfather, Mr. Thomas Jones of Tredustan, married one of the daughters and coheirresses of the last Thomas Boulcott, now quarters the arms of the family, viz., sable, a bend between six martlets *Or*, but more correctly, *argent*, a bend *Or* between three bald coots or dobbiecks proper, in allusion of the name, though the *vulgar* herald above mentioned hints that the apothecary who settled in Brecon, was the first of the family who ever assumed arms.

THE GWYNNES OF ABERCRAAF.

At some distance, near the middle of the chancel, are interred some of the Gwynnes of Abercraaf, who settled at Newton, Pontwilym, and Abercynrig, with their children; one stone commemorates the death of Howel Gwynne, called of Abercraaf, but at the time of his death of Pontwilym, in 1740, aged 76; Gwennlian his wife, in 1758, aged 87; Thomas, Walter, Edward and Anne, their children, all died young. Howel Gwynne of Newton died in 1775, aged 60, Theresa, Maria, Gwen, Maria and John, his children, also died young: (arms, 1 Brychan, the field argent and the fess and swords gules, 2 as 1 a lion rampant regardant of the second, 3 Awbrey without the chevron in a field of the first, the eagles' heads of the second, 4 Cadwgan ap Elystan Glodrydd.) Nearer the entrance into the chancel, 'Howel Gwynne of Brecon, esq., *obit* 1744, *æt.* 48, and Elizabeth, his wife, in 1741.'

WILLIAMSES OF GLUDY.

At some little distance, 'Here lieth the body of William Williams of Lower Gludy, who married and had issue ten children, living Juan, Ales, Anest, and Maud, he died———March. Richard Williams of Gludy, gent., *obit* 1692, William Williams, his brother, 1692. Richard John William, who married Gwladis, daughter of Philip Prichard, who had issue three children, living Walter, Howel, and Elizabeth; and at the entrance into the chancel, after much perseverance and labour, with the assistance of a young but most zealous antiquary, an inscription was recovered, nearly effaced, upon the gravestone of the wife of Dr. John David Rhys, the learned author of a Welsh and Latin grammar, called *Linguae Cymraeae Institutiones*, whom we shall briefly notice hereafter, and who probably lies interred here, but dying a Roman Catholic, he was ashamed to inform posterity that he got into the company of Protestants; the inscription upon his wife is this:

Hic jacet Agnes Garbet filia Johis Garbet viri nobilis natione Herefor. uxor Johis David armigeri natione Britan. medicinae doctor Senensis; filios habuit septem quorum unus Walterus David adhuc vivit. Mortuus vicissimo die Maii 1617.

THE MONUMENTS IN THE CHAPELS.

Quitting the chancel, we now proceed to the chapels, beginning with Cappel y Cochiaid, and reserving the body or nave of the church to the last, where many a memento of the departure of the forefathers of the town are concealed by the pews.

On the south-west wall of this chapel, called frequently the Norman chapel, is a marble monument, on which is the following inscription:

Near this place lie the bodies of John Price of this town, esq., and Anne, his wife, one of the daughters of Lancelot Herbert of the same town, gentleman, deceased; the said John departed this life the 23d day of September, 1719, aged 74, and Anne, his wife, the 10th day of August 1699, aged 43. To whose memory this monument was erected in pursuance of the last will and testament of Jenkin Price of this town, esq., their only son and heir by their great grandson the Reverend Mr. William Morgan. In the same place lies interred the body of the said Jenkin Price, barrister at law and recorder of this town, who by the same will, gave twenty shillings a year for ever towards the repairs of this chapel, he died the 26th day of April 1735, aged 54; and also the body of Anne, eldest daughter of the said John Price, and Anne, his said wife, who was married to Edward Morgan of the parish of Fenderin, in this county, gentleman, late deceased, she departed this life the 16th day of September, anno domini 1719, aged 47. (Arms below, argent three bulls' heads cabossed sable, Price of Devynock and Llywel impaling Herbert or Harbottle, the field argent and the icicles or air bottles sable.)

1 A similar benefaction of 20s. per annum for the repairs of this chapel was given by the will of Mr. Thomas Harris of Brecon, registrar of the diocese of Saint David's in 1629. We deviate from the original plan in this and another instance, because there is no table of benefactions in the Priory church; the charitable donations to this parish being noticed and recorded in Saint Mary's chapel.

Southward is another marble monument attached to the wall,

Near this place lie interred the bodies of Walter Jeffreys of this town, esq., and Magdalen his wife: the said Walter Jeffreys dyed the 19th day of May 1748, aged 71 years; the said Magdalen dyed the 14th day of June 1734, aged 50 years: the said Walter Jeffreys left issue by the said Magdalen, Edward Jeffreys, gent., Sibill, the wife of John Wilkins of this town, gent., Jane Jeffreys, spinster, and Magdalen, the wife of David Morgan of Bettws, in the county of Radnor, gent. (Arms, Bleddin ap Maenarch.)

On the opposite wall,

Near this place lyeth the body of William Phillips, esq., late recorder of the town of Brecon, he departed this life on the 18th day of January, 1721, aged 58, leaving behind him one daughter, Anne Phillips.

Descending to mother earth, the graves are found in all kinds of geometrical figures; to begin however at the entrance into the chapel, we see a stone to the memory of Henry Hughes, 'son of John Hughes, sonne of John Hughes,' who died 19th September, 1655: he was of the family of Hughes, an attorney of this town, whose property centred in Hughes of Llanddety and Allen of Crescelly in Pembrokeshire.

Westward, 'Here lyeth the body of Mary Powel, only daughter of James Powell of this town, ironmonger, who was the youngest son of Thomas Powell of Craswall, in the county of Hereford, esq., councillor at law, her mother was Mary, daughter to Thomas Perrott of Llanvihangel tallyn, clerk, she died 29th October, 1701.' (Arms. 1 three Cornish choughs, in chief a mullet, 2 the sun in his glory, Delahay, 3, Perrot, 4, Justin ap Gwrgan.) Next stone, 'Here lyeth the body of Thomas Powel, gent, only son of James Powel, of this town, ironmonger, who died ——— 1690.' Near them, 'Here lyeth the body of James Powel of this town, ironmonger, who married Mary, daughter unto Thomas Perrot of Llanvihangel tallyn, Breconshire, they had issue Thomas and Mary, obit 1670. Here lyeth the body of Richard Jones of Aberlyfyni, gent., who married Joyce, the daughter of Harry Parsons of ye said town, he died 1679.' On this stone has been since inscribed Alice, the wife of Meredith Penry, died November 25th, 1775, æt. 58.

Near this is another to the memory of Mary, the wife of John Waters of this town, esq., daughter of Thomas Penry of this town, mercer, she died in 1682, and had issue four sons and two daughters, whereof only one son survived her. (Arms, 1 Bleddin ap Maenarch, 2 Rhys Goch, 3 Elystan Glodrydd, 4 Cadwgan ap Elystan, 5 Proger, 6 Herbert, 7 as 1, 8 as 2.)

At some little distance, 'Here lyeth the body of Thomas Bannister, who married Rebecca, daughter of John Cruso, apothecary, obit 1737.'

On the next stone, 'Here lyeth the body of John Davies of this town, who married Gwenllian, daughter of Meredith Games of this town, they had issue John, Richard, Rebecca and Jennet, obit 24 September 1658. (Arms, 1 an eagle with two necks displayed. Bloet, 2 Bleddin ap Maenarch, 3 Vaughan Tyle glâs, 4 Cradoc ap Gwilym.)

Further southward two stones, on one, 'Here lieth Richard Jones of this town, *fsceer*, who married Margaret, daughter of John Watkins of this town, they had issue John, Evan, Rowland, John, William, Thomas, John and Anne, obit 1694.'

On the next stone, 'Here lyeth the body of David Jones, son of John David of Pont ar vran, obit. 1707, æt. 30.'

In a marble square or diamond, on the next stone, 'Here lyeth the body of Morgan Davies, gent., who departed this life the 18th day of March, 1727, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Roger Prosser of this town, mercer, they had issue Thomas, Morgan, and Elizabeth.' Below Mr. Jeffrey's monument:—

Hic jacet corpus Hoeli Thomas Morgan ap Rytherch nuper ballivus de Brecon, qui obiit 28 Decris 1623, ac qui nuptus fuit Margaretæ filie Leolini Williams de Garreg vawr arnigeri, ex cujus corpore habuit tres filios et tres filias Thomas Powel, Llewelyn Powel, John Powel, Maud Powel, Margaret Powel et Jennet Powel.

MONUMENTS TO THE PENRYS, LLOYDS OF ROSFERIOL, ETC.

On the wall near the Hughes's chapel,

To the memory of Rice Penry, esq., who, in the year 1677, was both high sheriff of this county and bailiff of this town, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Charles Hughes of Trostreby, in the county of Monmouth, esq., and left issue by her Elizabeth, Charlotte and Mary, he died the 29th day of December 1683.

Below,

Here lieth the body of Martha, the wife of Charles Penry of this town, esq., second daughter of James Allen of Gilestone, Glamorganshire, by Mrs. Winifred Giles, daughter and heiress of Major William Giles; obit 1724, aged 52. Also, said Charles Penry, obit 1727, aged 53. (Arms, Penry impaling Allen, viz. sable a cross crampoune Or.)

Here lieth Meredith Penry A.M., vicar of Brecon, who married Mary, daughter of Thomas Howel of Cynvilgino, in the county of Carmarthen, esq., and left issue by her four sons, Meredith, Thomas, James, and Benjamin, and three daughters, Hannah, Mary and Margaret, obit 1676.

Near him,

Here lieth the body of Meredith Penry, son of Hugh Penry of Aberseenny issaf, obit May 6, 1799, æt. 84. Thomas Penry, surgeon, obit August 6, 1769, æt. 66.

In the middle of this chapel are two stones; on one,

Thomas Phillips, late of Trostre, in the county of Brecon, esq., *obit* 18 October 1761, aged 50. Also Priscilla, his wife, *obit* 1787, aged 83. And Anne Watkins, their daughter, died 1793, aged 53.

On the other,

Frances, the wife of Thomas Phillips of the town of Brecknock, second daughter of Charles Vaughan of the same town, esq., died the 22d March, 1757, *at* 25.

These were of the Pont y wal family,

Mr. Philips, the recorder, whose monument has been noticed, was a Devynock Philips; indeed the similarity and consequent confusion of names, after surnames were adopted in Wales, can in no instance be more clearly exemplified than in this chapel; here are two families of Philips, between whom there were afterwards intermarriages, who are continually crossing and jostling each other.

Below the memorial of the death of Mr. Walter Jeffreys (as before noticed), is that of his son Edward's widow Joan, who died 24th December 1786, aged 69. At a very little distance from them are two other tombstones, on one,

Here lieth the body of John Jeffreys, son of Jeffrey Jeffreys, mercer, of this town, he married Elizabeth, the daughter of Morgan Awbrey, he was twice bailiff of this town and seven times alderman, and died January 22, 1718.

On the other stone,

Here lieth the body of Elizabeth Lloyd, widow of David Lloyd, late of Rhosferig, gent., and only child of John Jeffreys, late of this town, gent., *obit* 1732, aged 43. Also Mary, her youngest daughter, wife of Pennoyre Watkins, gent., she died 1762, aged 34. Also John, William, Pennoyre, and Mary (infants) children of the said Pennoyre Watkins and Mary his wife.

These are all of the Llywel Jeffreyses, but several of the Jeffreyses of Abercynrig and the Priory are buried here: these families having also frequently intermarried with each other, it is very difficult to distinguish these two houses of different tribes, especially as they both possessed the same mansion.

HUGHESSES OF TREGUNTER AND OTHERS.

On the ground, in the recess of Hughes's burying place,

Here lieth the body of Henrietta Wellington, one of the daughters of George Wellington of the Haywood, in the county of Hereford, esq., *obit* 1755, *at* 68. (Arms, gules, a cross in saltire vair, over all an *escutcheon of pretence* Hughes.)

Mary Hughes, wife of Richard Hughes, of this town, died 25th January, 1718. Here also lie buried two of the children of Richard and Mary, they left issue behind, Charles, Elizabeth, John, Mary and Richard. John Floyer Hughes, second son of Charles Hughes of this town, by Mary, his wife, eldest daughter of John Floyer, of Whitehouse, in the county of Monmouth, who died — September 1751, *at* 21. Charles Hughes, eldest brother of said John Floyer Hughes, died May 5, 1756, *at* 28.

On a monument affixed to the wall,

In memory of Richard Hughes, late of this town, esq., who died 13th June, 1739, aged 78, and Mary, his wife who died 25th January, 1718, aged 51 years; he was 13th child of Charles Hughes of Trostre, in the county of Monmouth, esq., she was eldest daughter and coheirress of John Philpott of Monmouth town, esq.: of their seven children, five lie buried near this place, namely, Richard, Charles, Mary, Elizabeth and Mary. Also, Charles Hughes, esq., grandson of the above Richard and Mary, who died May 5, 1756, in his 28th year. Erected by John Hughes, esq., third son of Richard and Mary. Here also lie the remains of John Hughes, esq., who died August 9th, 1744, aged 70 years, and though blind from his youth, blessed with a sensible and enlightened mind. (Arms, Hughes impaling Philpott, with an auilet by way of a difference for the fifth house.)

Near this monument is another, on which is a long inscription, to the memory of Amelia Maria Hughes, youngest daughter of Samuel Hughes, esq., and Anna Maria, his wife, who died June 9, 1794, having nearly completed her eighth year; and over a door, formerly leading into the chancel, now stopped up, is a hatchment, placed there upon the interment of the late Mr. Samuel Hughes of this town and of Tregunter, without any inscription; he died February 21, 1794; and his two sons did not long survive him, both dying single and in the prime of youth, so that, numerous as the family were a generation or two back, the name in the male line is now extinct at Brecon; similar occurrences may be frequently observed and perhaps physically accounted for. They settled in Breconshire upon the appointment of their relation, Richard Jones, to be agent for the Tredegar estate in this county, to which situation two or three of this family succeeded; they have now likewise failed in Monmouthshire, but a branch still remains at Cheltenham. The arms on Mr. Hughes's hatchment are quarterly, 1 argent,¹ a chevron between three fleurs de lis sable, Hughes, 2 argent, a bend gules between three Cornish choughs proper, beaked and leggd of the second, 3 argent, a Wyvern's head erased vert, having a bloody hand in his mouth, 4 as 1. Over all, an *escutcheon of pretence*, argent, a stag winged behind proper, having a crown between his horns Or, Jones of Tredustan, crest an arm, vambraced and hand proper, holding a fleurs de lis argent.

¹ We give them here at length, because the arms generally borne by the Hugheses of Trostre were sable, a chevron between three fleurs de lis Or, and sometimes the chevron was omitted.

Before crossing the aisle, we wish to preserve an inscription noticed by Mr. Townsend, to the memory of Thomas Walter, son of John Walter, mercer, by Jane, daughter of John Mason; her mother was Juan, daughter of Lewis Gwyn, esq. This Thomas married Jenet, daughter to Saunders *Sherbery*, and they had issue Thomas, Anne, Jane, Elizabeth, Catherine and Jane, he died — May 1631. (Arms, a chevron ermine between three dolphins.) Not a remnant of this stone remains, but they are so frequently displaced, removed and broken, that we can easily account for its being no longer visible. The name of *Sherbery* occurs in the churchyard, where there is a tombstone, having the butcher's arms upon it, to the memory of Meredith Watkin, butcher, and Roger Meredith, his son, who married Gladis, daughter of Richard John Sherbri, they had issue —, *obit* 1603.

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS IN THE BATTLE CHAPEL.

The chapel of the men of Battle is little better in appearance than a barn; it is in fact now only an entrance into the church, the floor is of earth, save where it is here and there covered with a tombstone, indeed it would be useless to lay out much money upon it as a place of worship, if such it can be called, for the voice of the clergyman in the pulpit in the aisle, could barely be heard here, and we are inclined to think, that when it was appropriated for the attendance of the inhabitants of the hamlet of Battle during divine service, the pulpit must have been placed in the middle of the aisle, where the cross chapels intersect the nave, or else as is more probable, that it was used for private masses for the souls of the deceased, which were frequently celebrated at the same time that the public liturgy was going on in the nave and choir. On a stone just below the door,

Here lieth Mary, the daughter of Evan David of this town, tucker, wife of Roger Jeffreys of this town, mercer, they had issue eight children, viz. four sons living, Jeffrey, John, Roger, Evan, and four daughters, Maudlin, Elizabeth, Mary and Margaret, *obit* 1695. (Arms, Bloddin *ap* Maenarch, impaling a lion rampant between three fleur de lis.)

Near this stone, another, having a cross flory on three grices *in relief*, to the memory of David ap Juan Thomas of Battle, who married Maud, daughter of Thomas David ap Rhys, they had issue William, Thomas, John, Evan, Jonet, *obit* 2nd October, 1674. On another stone, *nearly square*!

Here lieth the body of Maud, the late wife of Meredith Thomas Richard, she departed this life —, 1600, and had issue John Meredith.

In the middle of the chapel are tombstones to the memory of the late Mr. Mitchell and his father:

Here lieth the body of Thomas Mitchell of Battle, esq., who died 21 January, 1605, he married Anne, daughter of Robert Holt of Heyhouse, in the county of Lancaster, gent., by whom he had two sons and two daughters, who died young, he was only son and heir of Henry Mitchell of Battle, esq., by Margaret, eldest daughter of Thomas Penry of Llwynycyfevlin, esq.¹

Near him are inscriptions to the memory of the Browns of this town:

Here lieth John Brown, weaver, who married Catherine, daughter of David Williams of Battle, she afterwards married Walter Brooks, he died May 9, 1730, *act.* 43, she November 5, 1746, *act.* 56, they left issue Evan, Elizabeth and Catherine; Evan died December 11, 1770, *act.* 42, Sybil, his wife, April 16, 1765, *act.* 41.

This chapel is divided from the Havard's chapel by a wooden partition and rails: when the latter lost its first appellation, we cannot say; it certainly has been called indiscriminately the Havard's and the Vicar's chapel ever since the reign of Elizabeth. The arms of Havards, three bulls' heads cabossed, with the motto, "Hope in God," are still seen on the eastern pine end. On the wall which divides this building from the chancel is a marble monument to the memory of Joanna, third daughter to Edward Hughes of this town, attorney at law, relict of James Thomas of Slwch, in this parish, gent., who afterwards intermarried with Thomas Rodd of Marden, in the county of Hereford, attorney at law, &c., *obit* 1741: at her desire her body was interred in the grave of her niece Anne, by Elizabeth, her eldest sister, wife to Thomas Philips, A.M., vicar of Laugharne, in the county of Carmarthen. A tombstone below commemorates the same Mrs. Johanna Rodd, who by her will, charged Tyr Nant y defaid ycha, alias Tyr John Jenkin William, in Llandefalle, with the payment of ten shillings on the first of May, annually, to the vicar and churchwardens of Saint John the Evangelist, to be applied towards the repairs of Cappel yr Havardiad,² in the said church, and with the payment of twenty shillings annually, to be given to four poor widows of the town of Brecon, on Wednesday in passion week, with power of distress in case of non payment. This tenement is now (1805) in the possession of Mr. Allen of Crescelly, in Pembrokeshire, to whom it descended from Mrs. Florence Hensley, named in this will, his maternal grandmother.

Mr. Townsend, whose industry and perseverance in this *cold pursuit*, is as ardent and indefatigable, as his knowledge in his profession is eminent, has here preserved an inscription nearly obliterated, which will be seen in plate IV. figure 1. This Lewis Havard, we believe, to be Lewis

¹ Thomas Mitchell, who was bailiff of Brecon in 1742, and who married Esther, the daughter of David Williams, was buried here; the date of his interment is defaced, he died in 1744, and was the father of Henry Mitchell above named.

² It is also thus described in the will of Walter Havard of Brecon, in 1624, who gave 20s. and the best piece of squared timber tree that lay in Morgannok street, towards the repairs of this part of the fabric.

Havard of Aelvanog, grandson of William Havard of Aberbrân. Though this Lewis Havard has almost disappeared, another of the name and family lies buried here, who is described as Lewis Havard of Blansenni, attorney at law, he married Mary, the daughter of William Awbrey, esq., and died ——— 1723, *æt.* 43. He left an only daughter, who intermarrying with an inhabitant of Shropshire, brought to her husband an estate called Blansenni, from whom it descended to a Mr. Guest of Knighton, in Radnorshire, ancestor of Mr. Guest, attorney, now of Bristol, and by whom it was lately sold. Not far from this stone, is another upon the father in law of this Lewis Havard, William Awbrey of Brecon, gent., who died in 1704, placed there (as it states) by his sons, William and Timothy Awbrey. (Arms, Awbrey, impaling, a fess dauncette between three crescents, Harris of Gloucester.)

OTHER MONUMENTS IN THE SAME CHAPEL.

Further northward,

Here lieth the body of Meredith Watkin of the town of Brecon, in the county of Brecon, glover, who married Frances, the daughter of William Hughes of the said town, corsiver (they had issue two daughters, Frances, she died, Margaret, now living); who died the 17th day of January, 1680. (Arms, 1 a bend and in chief two crescents, in base a lion rampant 2 Havard, 3 as 1, 4 Burchill.)

Near the north wall,

Here lieth the body of Elizabeth Harris, the wife of Walter Harris of the city of Gloucester, she died the 16th day of January, in the 71st year of her age, A.D. 1691. (Arms, a fess dauncette between three crescents, impaling a lion rampant within a bordure verdy.) She was mother to Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. Awbrey, who died in 1704.

On a marble monument, attached to the same wall, the inscription nearly obliterated, and not legible without close inspection and considerable trouble,

Here lieth the body of Gabriel Powel of Pennant, in this burrough, gent., several years steward under two successive dukes of Beaufort, of the lordship royal of Gower, in the county of Glamorgan, some time bailiff of this corporation, and a strenuous assertor of the rights of inhabiting burgesses against foreigners, who died 5th November, 1735, aged 60.

Below this is a tombstone to the memory of

John Robinson, first son of John Robinson of the town of Ludlow, in the county of Salop, gent., who married Elizabeth, daughter of Lewis Powel of this town; he lived in the fear of God, and died in charity with all men.

This John Robinson was a stationer, and left an only daughter, who married Daniel Williams, tanner, third son of the first Richard Williams of Aberbrân.

In the middle of the chapel are gravestones to the memory of many of the Prossers, mercers and saddlers of this town, and their issue, now extinct. Near the black marble tombstone,

Here lieth the body of John Jeffreys, mercer, beinge bailiffe of this towne, he married Margaret, the daughter of Howell ap Evan ap Roger, they had issue fifteen children, living Jeffrey, Howel, John, Lewis, ———, Anne and Elizabeth, obiit 1604.

He died while bailiff of Brecon, and was of the Abercynrig family, being the ancestor of Roger Jeffreys, the husband of Mary, the daughter of Evan David, noticed here to have been buried in the Battle chapel. Near him,

Here lyeth the bodye of David Vaughan, once bailiff and town clerk of this towne of Brecon, the son of Richard Vaughan, of Llangerywne, gent, linally descended from Roger Vaughan of Bredwardine, knight, he married Elizabeth, the daughter of Francis Powel of Crickhowell, gent, obiit 1686.

He died intestate, and we believe without issue, and what became of his property we know not, it was probably very considerable, as his wife's father received a vast accession of property upon the death of his brother, Henry Powel, who made a fortune in trade, and by purchasing for small considerations, several beneficial leases during the Commonwealth.

Further westward is interred a near relation of Hugh Thomas the herald, who is omitted in the pedigree,

Here lieth the body of Roger Thomas, son of William Thomas and grandson of Roger Thomas of this town, gentleman, who departed this life the 10th day of November, 1685, and Blanch Bevan, who departed this life——. (Arms, 1 Brychan, 2 Marchell, 3 Hughes, 4 Justin.)

It is impossible to make out this man according to the pedigrees, though Hugh Thomas has left a genealogy of this family, which we must naturally suppose he spared no pains to make correct, especially as to his contemporaries; Roger Thomas of Brecon was the son of Thomas ap John of Llanfrynach, the son of John Thomas, by Maud, the daughter of Thomas Awbrey of Cantref: this last named Roger had a daughter Blanch, who married secondly Walter Bevan, but he had no son of the name of William. William, the brother of Hugh Thomas, was the son of William Thomas, but he had no son of the name of Roger Thomas, so that unless the shade of the deputy herald may be permitted to explain his affinity it must remain in uncertainty.

Proceeding eastward from this grave, an inscription to the memory of Jonett Havard, daughter of Thomas Havard of *Cain Castle*, in the parish of Talgarth, gent., *obiit* 1696. An error of the sculptor for *Carn Castle*, or rather *Carn y Castell*, a farm in that parish, not far from Dinas, now the

property of Mrs. Hughes of Tregunter, and probably the residence of the foresters to the lords of that fortress. One or two persons of the name of Harper, of the Lion inn, are buried here, as is the late wife of Mr. Longfellow, the present landlord. Near whom, but further southward, a stone, on which we read.

Here lieth the body of Ann, daughter of Watkin Thomas Williams, she married Evan John Goch, they had issue Watkin, Llewelyn, Elizabeth, Elinor, Janet and Gwenllian, she died 13th January, 1623; (below are represented Saint George and the dragon.)

Another stone commemorates the death of Gabriel Jeffreys, surgeon, without issue, in 1766, and of his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Walter Williams of Wern, in Talgarth, and granddaughter of David Powell of Llan y wern, in 1747, aged 18.

Attached to the eastern pine end wall is a stone monument to the memory of Thomas Charles of Brecon, gent., who died in 1741. (Arms, azure a fleur de lis *Or*, on a chief gules, a castle triple towered argent.) This family are from Glamorganshire, one of them was curate of Llansaintfreid in the last century. On the same wall, northward, a marble monument records the interment of Esther Elliston, of London, spinster, who died November 10, 1737, aged 37, and of Elizabeth Elliston, her sister, who died May 1757, aged 55. (Argent, an eagle displayed sable.)

Still nearer to the churchyard, another marble monument to the memory of Henry Williams of this town, gent., *obit* 1736, *æt.* 74; Johanna *ejus uxor*, *obit* 1731, *æt.* 66; Thomas Williams, clerk, (late vicar of Brecon), *obit* 1787, aged 89; Catherine (Elliston) his wife, 1752, aged 46; Edward Williams, gent. in ———, aged 51, and Joan, his wife. (Arms, quarterly 1st and 4th, Cradoc ap Gwilym 2d and 3d, gules, 3 castles triple towered proper, impaling Elliston). This was a younger branch of the baronets of Eltham, there is a doubtful link or two in the pedigree, which makes it incomplete, but as the descendants in the male line have failed, it is not material, for this title is clearly extinct.

ARCHDEACON DAVIES'S MONUMENTS AND OTHERS.

Richard Davies, clerk, B.D. (predecessor of Mr. Williams, who has just been named), archdeacon of Saint David's and vicar of Brecon, who died 22nd November, 1768, and Richard Davies, clerk A.M. his son, and successor to Mr. Williams, which last named Richard Davies was one of the canons of Saint David's, and died 22d August, 1804; both lie interred beneath two tombs, within iron railings, on the northern outside wall of this chapel. The archdeacon of Saint David's came into this country from Myddfe in Carmarthenshire, where his family were respectable but not affluent, they had been in the habit from time immemorial of ringing the changes of Richard David and David Richard. Our vicar was the first who followed the English fashion, and *steadied* the surname into Davies. His father's uncle was rector of Llanvihangel Penbedw, in the county of Pembroke, vicar of Llangevelach, in the county of Glamorgan, and died in 1729; he calls himself William Prichard, and by his will of this date, he notices his nephew, the last named Richard Davies, whom he appoints executor; Richard Davies married Hannah or Johanna Williams, one of the daughters of Mr. Henry Williams of Brecon, attorney; by this connexion he increased his fortune and influence, but he possessed, independently of these advantages, very eminent talents, and was a very learned scholar.

Before leaving this chapel, it should not be forgotten, that in a recess or niche, similar to that in the shoemaker's chapel, which will be hereafter described, and under an arch, there appear the remains of an effigy in stone, of a person in a recumbent posture, but whether male or female cannot be ascertained, for it has been so mutilated and defaced, and is now so nearly covered by the wall built upon it, that little more than the outline or profile part of it can be seen.

IN THE NAVE OF THE CHURCH.

Entering into the church we are interrupted and prevented in our pursuits by the seats, right and left, which cover a great number of the tombstones, whereunder many a sage forefather of the borough sleeps: on the right is an inscription concealed except the words Lander Jones, gent., of Lanvabey, in the county of Monmouth, they had issue one son and one daughter. This stone covered the remains of Morgan Jones, the father of Howel Jones, and grandfather of Mrs. Parry, Mrs. Tanner, and Mrs. Lewis; he married Mary, daughter of Lander Jones of Lanvabey, by Susan the daughter of William Herbert. This is one among *many* instances where the MS. genealogies are confirmed by the tomb. This daughter of course must have been Susan, the wife of Lander Jones and daughter of William Herbert of Lanvabey, but we do not see how she or her husband was connected with Howel Jones, from whom the Tanners and Mrs. Hay are descended, and yet this is the usual burying place of these families; the name of Tanner appears on a stone under the seat, and on a marble monument above, attached to the wall in an inscription to the memory of Charles Hay, esq., who died March 13, 1785, aged 64; Mary Hay, his widow, who died March 26, 1791, aged 69, and Elizabeth, the widow of the reverend Rice Price, who died August 8, 1788, aged 70.

Proceeding from east to west and commencing at the entrance into the chancel we meet with two of the descendants of one of the Norman knights :

Here lieth the body of John William Skwl, paternally descended of Sir John Skwl, knight, he married Anne, daughter of Howell Morgan of Dovynock, they had issue William, Thomas, Margaret, Elizabeth, Gwenllian, Jonnet and Joan, obit 1680, et. 78. (Arms Skwl impaling quarterly, Vaughan and Pitchard.)

Near this stone is another, on which,

Here lieth the body of William John William Skwl paternally descended of Sir John Skwl, knight, he married Jane, daughter of Gwalter John of the parish Trallong, gent., they had issue John, Gwalter, Thomas, Anne, obit 1685, et. 38. (Arms, Skwl impaling a bend between six dolphins naiant.)

Next stone, 'Here lieth the body of Lleiki, the daughter of Thomas David, who married Samuel Owseley, grocer, of this town, they had issue four sons and three daughters, whereof Samuel is now living, obit. 1675.' (Arms, three boars' heads.) In the middle of the aisle, 'Here lieth the body of Evan ap Richard, tanner, who married Jonet, one of the daughters of Thomas Games, obit 1507.' (Arms, two shields, on one a stag statant regardant, on the other a lion rampant.) Under the pulpit, 'Here lieth the body of Thomas ap Jean of this parish, who died on the 9th day of 7ber, 1682.' On the same stone, 'Here lieth the body of Thomas Williams of this towne, gent., he died November 5, 1699, aged 56.' This Thomas Williams was one of the Llanspyddid family; he married Alice, the daughter, we believe, of the above named Thomas Evan; by her he had issue one daughter only, Gwenllian, who married first Hugh Penry, son of Rees Penry of Cefnbrith, esq., by whom she had issue Catherine, the wife of the late Charles Powel of Castlemadoc, esq.; she married secondly Walter Vaughan of Merthyr, esq., by whom she had issue Elizabeth, who married Peter Chabbert, esq.; and thirdly, she married Edward Jones, clerk, vicar of Merthyr (of the family of Jones of Gilfach yr heddweh near Llandoverly), by whom she had issue Thomas Jones and the present Mrs. Williams of Pen issa'r waun. Near them,

Here lieth Jane, the daughter of Thomas Boulcott, esq. who married ——— Waters, they had issue Margaret, she died in childhood of Margaret, who is here buried with her, 28th April 1631. Roderick Prythorch of Llanspyddid, esq., obit 1751, et. 56; Anne his wife, 1772, aged 78.

THE POWELS OF CASTLE MADOC.

On the wall near the pulpit are two cenotaphs, erected pursuant to the will of the late Miss Powel of Castlemadoc; one to the memory of her father, Mr. Charles Powel, and her mother, Catherine Powel, the latter of whom died in the year 1740, at the early age of twenty four; and the other to the memory of Margaret Powel, another of the daughters of Mr. Powel, and wife, who died 20th April, 1774, aged 30. Arms, on both, quarterly, 1 Bleddin ap Maenarch, the field azure, 2 Elystan Gledrydd, 3 Brychan, 4 as 1. Crest, the arms of Rhys Goch. Motto, 'Gwell marw na chwylydd' (better to die than shame); correctly, it should have been, 'Gwell angau na chwylydd' (better death than shame): the ancient family motto was, 'Fy Nhwu 'n unig' (My God only).

PRICES OF NANTGWARED AND OTHERS.

Nearly opposite is a stone monument, bedanded and painted in a most tawdry manner, having the arms of Vaughan, with a crescent, by way of a difference, impaling Awbrey, to the memory of Mr. Daniel Price, late of this town, apothecary, he was of the Prices of Nantgward, in Llywel; his epitaph has considerable merit.

MS.

DANIELS PRICE, viri ob pietatm et eclesie amorem Animique candorem et perspicacitatem conspicui cui adfuit vultu gravitas, in factis equitas, in moribus simplicitas. In tota vita integritas. Qui vivere sic novem non ignoscit mori. Liberos procreavit 15, superstites reliquit 10, Viz natos 4, natas 6 ex uxore Elizabethæ, Gulielmi Awbrey filia. Obit die 22 Decembris, Anno Dom. 1716, ætat. suæ 62.

On his tombstone below, he is described as second son of Rice Price of Llywel, by Anne, daughter of Daniel Williams of Abercamlais, gent. Not far from the graves of part of the Cefnbrith family, lie two or three of the Vaughans of Brecon, the descendants of the Vaughans of Bredwardine. Walter Vaughan, brazier, died in 1796, Elizabeth his widow, in 1803, aged 78, an infant child of theirs, named Walter, and two or three children of William Vaughan, their only surviving son, by Sarah his wife; and upon the same gravestone, Anne White, widow of the late Dr. White, Christian-Malford, Wilts, died October 19, 1786, aged 82. Further westward are two Welsh stanzas, viley spelt and not worth preserving, even if the orthography had been more correct; one is upon the grave of Evan Peter, some of Peter Evans of Brecknock, tanner, who died in 1681, aged 16, and the other to the memory of Thomas Philips of the parish of Llywel, who married Margaret, daughter of Owen Peter, and who died in 1719, aged 65.

ISABELLA POWEL, DAUGHTER OF DR. JOHN POWEL.

But to make ample amends for these 'uncouth lines,' we have near them an epitaph in prose, which contains, in a plain and unaffected phraseology, an eulogy more valuable than the laboured

epitaphs we read on the monuments of the great and the wealthy, and more worthy of admiration than the proudest panegyric of the poet; and

Let not ambition mock their useful toil,
Their homely joys and destiny obscure,
Nor grandeur hear with a disdainful smile,
The short and simple annals of the poor.

The inscription follows: "In memory of Isabella Powel, who, though the daughter and only child of John Powel, doctor of physic, by the vicissitude of human affairs was obliged to have recourse to service for a maintenance, in which station she behaved with such probity and integrity, as gained her the regard and esteem of all who knew her, and having lived respected, she died regretted, upon the 4th day of February, 1757." Not far from hence,

Here lieth the body of Alice, daughter of William Thomas, wife of Arthur Mitchel of this town, carpenter, they had issue one daughter, Jonet, she died 19th June, 1696.

Here lieth the body of Tobias Williams, esq., who married ———, daughter of James Harris of Abergavenny, obiit 1663. (Arms, 1 Bullen, 2 Bleddin ap Maenarch, 3 three hedgehogs, 4 as 2, 5 as 1.)

Henry Parry of this town, vintner, who married Ales, the daughter of Erasmus Williams¹ who had issue Erasmus and Mary, died 1653. (Arms, partic per fess, a bend, on which three stags' heads cabossed between three wolves' heads erased, in base a chevron between three tons.) Not far from the western door, southward, is a stone of a very old date and letter, all that can be read is, *Hic jacet Ricardus Wilyam et ejus uxor.* "Here lieth the body of William Perrott, who married Cissil Garland, obiit 1684." The father of this Cissil was a hatmaker; there were two or three of this family of good repute in trade in this town.

WEAVERS' AND TUCKERS' CHAPELS.

The weavers' and tuckers' chapel has very few tombs, and those not worth noticing; the tailors' and corvizors' chapel is so covered with dirt, dust and rubbish, that none of the inscriptions can be entirely made out. In the wall is a niche under a gothic arch, under which is an effigy in stone, long known by the name of Mary Drell; it was of course supposed to be a female, and from her, say the inhabitants, the name of Mardrell in the neighbourhood. This figure, however, seems from the tonsure, to represent a priest or person of some religious order, but Dr. Milner, who is much better skilled to determine upon this subject, insists it is a layman and not a religious or person in holy orders, probably a provost of one of the guilds or trades in this borough; the effigy will be seen in plate IV. fig. II. and readers may judge for themselves. If Dr. Milner be correct, (as it is most likely he is), perhaps this provost was inrolled as one of the brothers of this convent, though he was not in orders, and from this circumstance he may have been permitted to adopt the tonsure; readers will see in Ralph Baskerville's charter to this religious house an instance of a layman and *his wife* being admitted into the fraternity in full chapter.

Within the rails, where the font is placed, on the west wall, "In memory of Anne, the wife of William Gunter of this town, surgeon, obiit 1777, aged 35, she was only daughter of Joshua Parry of Tretower, esq., and widow of John Powel of Moor Park, esq." Below, but further northward, on a tombstone, "Here lieth the body of William Thomas of this town, who married Jonet daughter of Harry John of this town, had issue six, living three, William Williams, Alice and Maud, he died May 16th, 1676. (Arms, a cross flory upon three greeces.) "George Morgan, esq., obiit November 15th, 1788, at. 67; Anne, uxor 13th January, 1791, at. 67."

Before quitting the church, we notice one truly classical epitaph on a neat marble monument:—
MS.

DAVIDIS FILII, Revdi Davidis Griffiths, Vic. de Merthyr, Scholæ Coll. Brechin. Prefecti et Prebendarii de Llandegla, ex Franciscæ filia Hugonis Morgan de Bettus agro Radnor ex Elizabetha filia natu maxima Caroli Hanmer armigeri ex illa perantiqua et illustri gente Hammerum de Hanmer Com. Flint, pueri optime indolis et ingenii, morum et etiam suavitate, facile noti; magna parentibus promittentis si Deus opt. max. annuisset, sed alter voluit et fiat voluntas. obiit enim 3^o. Cal. Maias, Anno Dom. 1769, Ætat 12^o.

Juxta filium in pace requiescit Franciscæ, Prædicti Davidis Griffith dilectæ uxoris Marito floque Carolo superstitibus eropta plures gravioresque causas et desiderii et doloris reliquit quo in virtutibus sita sunt bona implevit que in salvis amicitiiis constantiam servavit omnibus officiis socialia privato quo vite inter omnes quas terre sustinuit Nulli secunda ejus vite puritatem Religionemque non simulatam Beata Æternitatis comprobabit Piam animam Deo reddidit 7^o. Idus Martias 1792, Ætat. 58.

(Arms, Hanmer, viz. gules, on a bend argent, a lion passant, sable crest, on a wreath of his colours, a lion sejant of the third. These arms are not correct on this monument, Hanmer of Flintshire and

¹ He was a physician and of Llanfoist in Monmouthshire. The arms here given are the mere whim or the Lapidary of his employer.

of Beachfield in Salop, bear argent, two lions passant gardant azure, crest on a chapeau, gules turned up ermine, a lion sejant argent.

TOMBS IN THE CHURCHYARD IN 1800.

There is little interesting in the churchyard, where to attempt to record the names of the deceased, and their years, as spelt by the unlettered muse, would be to copy an erroneous transcript of the parish register. On the left hand, coming out of the church by the western door, are two or three ancient gravestones which cover the remains of the Wynstones, and some of them have their arms sculptured thereon. Near the porch entering into the churchyard, "Here lieth the body of Dennis Jones, daughter of Jenkin Jones of Trebinshwn, by Luce Vaughan, daughter of Henry Vaughan, doctor of physick, late of Newton, in the parish of Llansaintfread, she died 29th August, 1780, aged 92."

THE WYNSTONES AND OTHERS.

On the right hand of the path, leading to the western door into the church, Alice, the wife of Roger Wynstone of this town, barber, died 5th July, 1696, they had issue Charles, Thomas and Florence. (Arms, Wynstone impaling Bleddin ap Maenarch.) Charles, who probably caused this stone to be placed on his mother's grave, was an apothecary, and died in 1714, leaving by his wife, Elizabeth, only one daughter, Catherine, upon whose death, without issue, he devised a tenement in Brecon to his nephew, Roger, the son of his cousin Richard Wynstone, he also mentions Charles, the son of Walter Wynstone; many of this name and family are now living and in trade at Brecon.

Eastward of the door before mentioned, a tombstone to the memory of David Williams of Gaer, esq., who died 1767, Catherine, his wife, in 1783, Rebecca Morgan, his daughter, in 1771, David Williams, his son, in 1783, and David Williams, his grandson, an infant, 1785. (Arms, argent, three cocks gules, on a chief of the second, three spears' heads of the first.) Near the path leading across the churchyard, "Here lies interred the body of Margaret, the wife of John Bruce, esq. of Hesse Cassel in Germany, and daughter of William Bevan of Llandilo fawr, in the county of Caermarthen, tucker, obiit 1769. She was sister to Mary, the wife of Morgan Watkins, a clothier, late of this town." Not far from this stone, "Here lieth Illtid Nicholl, surgeon of this town, paternally descended of Bleddin ap Maenarch, he married Jonet, daughter of David Williams, they had issue David —, he died 11th January, 1653. (Arms, 1 a lion rampant, 2 ———, 3 Bleddin, 4 ———, 5 Bleddin.)

Near the church, "Elizabeth, the wife of Hugh Bold, died 31st October, 1784; Joanna, the wife of Charles Pritchard, surgeon, died 27th January, 1779, aged 50; Rebecca Wood, daughter of John Wood of this town, mercer, died May 8th, 1771, aged 47; Elizabeth Williams, late of Llwyn y wernwd (one of the daughters of David Williams, esq.), died 6th January 1797, aged 70, and near these tombs Henry Williams, second son of Henry Williams of this town, attorney at law, died 9th November, 1723, aged 28."

LATER DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH.

Thus far we have enumerated those memorials recorded by Theophilus Jones and his predecessors It is related that a full list of the ancient monuments was made a century or more ago, and lodged in one of the institutions of Wales, and that at a later date antiquarians made numerous rubbings of the more ancient stones; but inquiry has not resulted in a recovery of these. Since Theophilus Jones's time, the whole aspect of the church, so far as sepulchral monuments are concerned, has been changed. With the exception of that near to the altar, all the monumental effigies and inscriptions referred to by him have been removed elsewhere, principally to the Havard Chapel and the transepts. For many years the ancient church presented the appearance of desolation, and during that period many of the monuments must have suffered: indeed the wonder is that so many have survived to this day. In one case the large memorial to a well-known public man, born in the borough, was taken from the church and presented to a Nonconformist Chapel in the town; and at a later date, several very massive monuments were brought from St. Mary's Church, and placed in the north transept: we refer to the Pennoyre Watkins Memorials. And of course many new tablets have been erected in the church during the past 100 years. The chancel and choir are now given up to a display of brasses relating to officers and men of the 24th Regiment, so long associated with the county, who have fallen in the wars, and the liberality of those connected with that regiment has done much to adorn the sacred edifice.

But before proceeding to catalogue these, it will be necessary to refer to the condition of the church previous to the restoration so happily completed in 1875. For this purpose we cannot do better than quote the remarks of competent contemporary writers, who spent some time within the precincts of the building, and made themselves acquainted with the actual condition of affairs.

Major H. S. Davies, of the 52nd Regiment Light Infantry, stationed at Brecon about 1846, has left a very interesting account of the Church at that period, which is worth preserving as showing its then condition, together with some drawings, which are also reproduced. He says: "The Church is a most imposing mass of building, comprising a nave, with aisles, a chancel, and north and south transepts, each of which have aisles on their Eastern sides, and communicate by deep moulded Early English arches with the chancel, but these have been for some years blocked up by the monuments of the Camden family. The remains of a chapel, unroofed, with an altar-window and piscina, on the South side of the great chancel, are visible; the entrance being by a small door. The chancel and nave have at their entrances under the intersection of the transepts beneath the great tower, finely worked open screens of the Decorated period. The interior of the chancel deserves especial attention, from the beauty, delicacy, and fine finish of the masonry. It is lighted by lancet windows, on each side, of great height, which, splaying inwards, are separated by three detached slender and banded Early English shafts, supporting the commencement of a groined roof, which it appears was never finished. The East window is a combination of lancets."

After giving the dimensions of the nave, chapels, etc., the same writer proceeds: "Nearly the whole of the transept and chancel are paved with large monumental slabs, ornamented with highly floriated crosses; many exhibit the badges of ancient guilds, as old, it is supposed, as the times of the Edwards. Five chapels in the nave are designated the Weavers', Tuckers', Tailors', Corvisors' (shoemakers'), Glovers' or Skinners'; and at a remote period these guilds had probably their different halls for meeting for the settlement of their affairs. Little remains now of the monastery attached to this Church: the stables of Lord Camden's residence appear to have formed either a refectory or a dormitory, of considerable size. Some large lavatories remain, and a tomb, said to be that of Bernard Newmarch, which stood under the great tower, was pulled down, and converted by the old women of the parish into means for scrubbing their tubs and milk-pails. . . . The original font, probably the gift of the founders of the Abbey, is at the West end of the Church, and it is a very fine specimen, but mounted on a barbarous modern base. It appears older than anything that surrounds it. Near the altar in the chancel is a remarkable slab, in very high relief, of about four inches, surrounded with a deep projecting moulding of the same depth. *The subject is a rood, with figures of souls in purgatory beneath.* The Priory was called 'The Church of the Holy Rood, and this slab, which, from its relief, appears not suited to have been a monumental pavement stone, may possibly, I think, have been gilt and coloured, forming a portion of the *veredos* to the high altar, to which it now lies adjacent. The nave is used on Sundays for Divine Service, and the Holy Communion is always administered in the chancel."

The late Mr. J. R. Cobb, in his "Short Account of St. John the Evangelist or The Holy Rood at Brecon," first published in 1874, writes that shortly after the period described by Jones, "the first symptoms of a better state of things began,—the dilapidated Games' tomb was removed, and the floor of the transept flagged with tombstones brought out of the nave or elsewhere. It is true this movement further distinguished itself by removing the screens of the guilds . . . but it was alleged they, with the tombs, were too much damaged to be restored, and the transepts were ceiled so as to cover the tops of the windows, and the pews were made uniform; but still there was a sign of some care for the Church itself. From that date attempts were made from time to time by subscriptions to prevent decay, and in 1836 Lord Camden covered the chancel with slate, not thereby adding to the beauty of the fabric, but most effectually contributing to its preservation. A glass screen was erected between the choir and the nave, much condemned indeed for want of taste; but still apparently the only reasonable means of making the nave serviceable until larger sums were available for the restoration of the transepts. And, as the walls tell us, the church was then re-pewed, and 295 sittings, of which 250 were free, were added to the 414 before existing, of which 39 were free. The nave was warmed by flues, and the transept windows were again glazed."

In 1853 the Cambrian Archaeological Association visited Brecon, and Mr. Freeman, the eminent architect, wrote a paper upon the St. John's Church and Priory, and again in 1856, he remarked: "Brecon is indisputably the third church not in a state of ruin to be found in the Principality. It comes beyond all competition next after the two southern Cathedrals; it might possibly venture even to dispute the second place with Llandaff. With nothing to compare with the individual splendours of that building—with absolutely no West front and a very inferior nave—Brecon is a grand and perfect whole, which Llandaff is not. Its external idea is that of pure bulk, and no building ever better expressed it. Its outline, as a matter of picturesque effect, is inimitable, but there is little external detail. This, however, is amply made up within by the splendours of its magnificent presbytery—one of the choicest examples of Early English style, on a scale intermediate between the sublime majesty of Ely and the diminutive elegance of Skelton." And at this time, Mr. Cobb

writes, "It will be borne in mind the nave alone was used for service, the pulpit and desk being near the North-east respond to the nave arcade. The chancel had the same pitch to its oak roof which the nave yet has, with a hipped end, somewhat similar to that lately existing on the West. The tomb of Sir David Williams, with its four-post canopy, projected from and entirely obscured one section of the piscina and the whole of the sedilia. The 16th century screen extended across the arch, dividing the chancel from the lantern. The two arches, communicating with the North and South chancel chapels, were filled with marble slabs bearing inscriptions to the members of the Camden family, now against the South wall of the South transept. The roofs and ceilings of the transepts came down below the heads of the windows; the South transept was almost in darkness, deriving light only from the three lancets situate at a great height and partially blocked. There was a glass screen filling the arch between the nave and the choir; the arches giving access to the rood loft were hid—on one side by the Commandments in plaster, and on the other by a marble monument. The high deal panelled pews built on the floor, covering the bases of the piers in the nave, almost obscured the piers themselves, and the whole from end to end was covered with lime wash laid on unsparingly at stated intervals at least from the time the monastery was suppressed. The East end of the Shoemakers' Chapel was enclosed with a lath and plaster partition, for the most part at right angles with the centre of the recessed effigy, but turning away ingeniously so as to form a dark corner at the feet, used as a receptacle for old books, hassocks, and lumber of all sorts, the enclosure being used as a vestry."

In 1858, after a prolonged stay of the Marquis Camden and his family at the Priory House (then the residence of William de Winton, Esq.), his lordship made an offer to restore the chancel, if the parishioners would restore the choir, transepts, and chapels. The Marquis sought the assistance of Sir Gilbert Scott, who, on November 6th, 1860, reported as follows: ". . . . In undertaking the restoration of the Priory Church of Brecon, you are preserving and perpetuating a work of a high order of architectural merit, and one in every way worthy of all the care which can be bestowed upon it. . . . The present condition of the interior of the noble structure is melancholy in the extreme. Though its dimensions are by no means such as to cause inconvenience from using it in its integrity, the nave alone is made use of for Divine service, the whole of the Eastern portions being partitioned off by an enormous glazed screen. The most beautiful half of the church—thus left without the pale—is left in a state of deplorable desolation. Happily, the structure itself—so far at least as concerns its walls—is sound and substantial. The good old builders, though hardly, we can suppose, foreseeing the disrespect to which their work would for a time be subjected, nevertheless practically provided against it by the solidity and good construction of the stonework, so that we have not any very formidable constructive repairs to undertake." Sir Gilbert then outlined what he proposed for internal restoration; he proposed "To cleanse from whitewash all the stone dressings, repairing such parts as are seriously damaged, but preserving all remnants which may be discovered of any ancient colouring, whether on stone-work or plaster; to re-pave the floor, retaining the ancient monumental stones, but laying them hollow on a bed of concrete so as to put an end to their miserable dampness, and generally to put the whole into a perfect state of repair."

"In the chancel," he continues, "I would take one step beyond the restoration of what now exists, or, perhaps, has existed,—I mean the completion of the stone vaulting, without which half the beauty of the original design is lost. The North Chapel will demand more structural restoration than most parts, inasmuch as its windows have lost their mullions and tracery. These may pretty safely be restored from those of the aisles of the nave, with which the East window of this chapel agrees. It may be asked why we should not restore this chapel to its original form? As a matter of taste, I would most gladly do this, but when it is considered that the alteration was made as early as the fourteenth century, and is coeval with the nave of the church; and, on the other hand, that the original design of the chapels is not quite certain, I think it will be agreed that we should be going beyond what is proper if we were to attempt it. I must, however, confess that I am perplexed as to what to do with the roof, which now covers four entire windows of the chancel. One of the transept roofs is, I believe, in such a state of decay as will require either extensive reparation or renewal. I should desire if possible to restore both of these roofs to their original pitch. The upper stage of the tower is a good deal cracked owing to the malconstruction of the roof, which has no tie whatever. A considerable amount of reparation will be consequently demanded both to the walls and roof. The floors of the tower will also want reparation; and an oak ceiling must be placed under that which is visible from the church. Externally the walls demand a certain amount of reparation and pointing. The foundations must be examined, drained, and underpinned where necessary. The glazing necessary must be renewed. Finally, the interior must be prepared for use by proper fitting, and the present glazed screen removed."

This, then, was the report which resulted from Sir Gilbert Scott's examination of the church in 1860; and under his direction a new roof, covered with local stone and tiles, was put on the presbytery, of the pitch originally designed, and the vaulting completed below the former ceiling, which yet remains entire between the vaulting and the new roof. The floor was tiled, and the tomb of Sir David Williams removed to the Vicar's Chapel, exposing to view three sedilia corresponding with the treble piscina. The screen was removed, and the inner pair of shafts of the Western arch are corbelled off in the same way as those of the Eastern, so that no conclusion in favour of there having been a second screen in the Eastern arch can be drawn from this. The roofs of the transepts were raised in conformity with that of the chancel, to the pitch shown by the weather mouldings on the tower.

In the Havard Chapel, Sir Gilbert Scott elected to restore it to its later character with a single gable, thus obscuring the chancel lancets, instead of to its earlier, with two gables. The Havard tomb and stone, and some of the tombs in this chapel, are worthy of careful attention.

"The chapels on the South," Mr. Cobb continues, "remain as they were. From the original foundations, exposed by Sir Gilbert Scott, it is clear that originally these chapels were of similar size, if indeed they were not of similar design to those on the north. A window has, however, been inserted in the southernmost arch on the East side of the South transept; for which there seems no authority. The window described by Mr. Freeman in the Western bay of the presbytery on the South side has been removed. When he wrote, the stairs in the thickness of the wall on each side, leading to arches communicating with the roof loft, were not visible. These amply confirm his conclusions as to the position of the roof loft and choir. The roof must have been of unusual size, and the church appears at one time to have been known by the name of the Church of the Holy Hood. The steps and door on the South side appear to have been intentionally broken down for about two feet. The turret stairs in the South-west angle of the nave are worthy of notice—it would appear that access was gained to them from below only by a ladder to be pulled up after ascent was completed. The porch is certainly picturesque and quaint in its details, and must be of an early date; but it is of inferior workmanship, and, like the sacristy stairs, seems composed of fragments of an earlier building, some of the stones having dates on them. It seems to have slipped on one side, and the gable to have been afterwards restored and coped, without previously restoring the perpendicular, so that the point of the gable is far out of line of the centre of the other work; it has a quaint parvise, with oddly arranged stone stairs, and the floor comes below and obscures the arch leading into the church. The step down from the churchyard into the porch was a handsome coffin lid (now broken up). An ancient oak cope chest, in the form of a quarter of a circle, for holding vestments, deserves attention. The nave and its aisles and the baptistry were until very lately, as they were left when last adorned, except that attempts have been made from time to time to make good the glazing, repair the roof, and scrape the whitewash. The roof timbers are sound, and may preserve the building for many years, while to put new timbers, as would be necessary, if the original pitch is to be restored, would cost at least £3,000, and there would yet be the restoration of the West parapet to follow. The recent scrapings clearly bring out the difference of character of the South and North walls of the nave. . . . The state of the church has been described. Service was just continued on Sundays; but the church became little more than the building in which the burial service should be read over the towns-folk deposited in the adjacent ground. On the closing of the church and churchyard for burials, the vocation of the church seemed almost ended. But when things looked darkest, light came. The movement so well began by the late Marquis Camden, aided by the zeal of the then Vicar, the Rev. Garmons Williams, who was then, and has since continued to be, a large contributor to the expense has, so far as the fabric is concerned, nearly restored the chancel and transepts to their original design."

Writing at a later date, Mr. Cobb says: "The pews have been removed from the nave, and the whole floor lowered between eighteen inches and three feet to its original level, exposing the bases of the piers, and the whole (except the central passage, which is to be tiled) has been flagged with stones found under the floor. The cleansing has exposed to view a plain Early English doorway from the North aisle of the nave, hitherto the vestry, and heretofore the Shoemakers' Chapel, into the North transept, and the whole, as far as the dormer, is covered with a sound oak barrel roof. Probably the doorway was filled with an altar, and the chapel may have belonged to some one with whom the recessed tomb was connected. It has also exposed the excellence of the walling of the North aisle, and of the Northern arcade of the nave, and the inferiority of that on the South sides, especially the external wall of the South aisle. That wall appears to consist of three portions, one ancient with one jamb of an Early English door to the cloisters remaining, a comparatively old filling up of that door, and some modern and very rough walling in which the present wooden window is

placed. It would seem from the commencement of the South clerestory wall by the tower, and some signs at the West end, that it was intended to have an external corbel table to the nave similar to the chancel; but, if so, it must have been further in than the present wall, and yet the present encroaches internally on the choir arch at least ten inches more than on the opposite side.

“The inscription in the East end of the South aisle, that these chapels were RE-BUILT IN 1785, may explain the condition of the South wall of the aisle, but not that of the clerestory. The design of building a wider aisle, evidently contemplated by the arch leading to the transept being so much wider than the aisle—the Southern jamb standing externally in the garden—seems never to have been carried further. An arch under the roof loft on the South side has also been exposed. Possibly, this was the site of the altar under the crucifix, or a recess for a tomb, adjacent to it. Sir Gilbert Scott, speaking of St. David’s, says, ‘Old monastic churches, while the conventual body occupied the choir, had often what was called the People’s altar.’ . . . Mr. Purgin states that it seems to have been the custom of the primitive church, and long afterwards, to sing the Epistle and Gospel from two stone pulpits, placed at the lower end of the choir, so that they could be conveniently heard by the people, and for this reason they were called ambones. These pulpits were also used for chanting, and were called Jube’s, which name was retained when those pulpits were exalted into a lofty gallery reaching across the choir. They were usually ascended by two staircases, either in circular turrets or carried up in the thickness of the wall. The furniture of the rood screen consisted of the rood itself, lecterns and coronels for light. Frequently, as was the case at Norwich Cathedral, there were side altars under the screen; the Commandments were written in front. That there was something of this sort here is confirmed by the very curious sprint from the dormitory nearest the church, in the direction of the rood.”

In recapitulating his remarks upon the work of restoration, Mr. Cobb, whose interest was remarkable, writes: “A parapet corresponding with vestiges of the old has been restored round the chancel and nave, and new lights put in both Eastern and Western gables, the old jambs remaining. The chancel roof has been raised to the pitch originally designed, and the chancel has been vaulted. The Vicar’s Chapel has been treated as before mentioned. It has been doubted by some whether the vaulting of the chancel enhances its beauty, for the reasons given by Mr. Freeman. The existing wooden roof which had to be vaulted off was very good, and height is lost. The same reasoning would have required the original design of vaulting the lantern to be completed; but in the Vicar’s Chapel, where there was nothing desirable to perpetuate, the carrying out of the original design of vaulting would have been most effective, while at the same time the beautiful chancel windows would have been freed. It is hoped this may yet be effected. The transept roofs have both been raised to their original pitch. The window in the South arch of the South transept is wholly new; it seems to detract from the peculiar and solemn effect given by the great height of the other genuine lights. The roof of the South aisle is entirely new, and the wall from the door to the conventual buildings. There were no windows before, this being the north wall of the cloisters. The windows are faithfully copied from those opposite, but the buttresses are omitted. The mullions and tracery of the South-west window of the nave are new, and the corbels supporting the new mouldings to the principals of the nave. The nave roof remains of its former pitch, being now externally far lower than the chancel, while internally it is far more lofty, an effect which it may safely be said was not part of the original design. It would seem that for some reason the rampart or gutter of the nave had been much raised—probably originally it was laid with lead, the roof timbers being supported on a rere wall of some height. On failure of the lead, the water way or rampart had been raised so as to give greater fall towards the gurgoyles, and for the most part paved with heavy slabs—two of the most interesting crosses, one eight feet long, were rescued from this position, where they had been turned face downwards and channelled. It may be doubted whether the channel is not now higher than originally. The angle turret at the South-west corner is wholly new: it was designed in imitation of that on the central tower. It has been thought that a pinnacle would have formed a more effective capping, but no clue was afforded as to the nature of the original work. The porch is rebuilt, and the font newly set. The Eastern pinnacles, designed by Sir Gilbert Scott, have been added in memory of the late Marquis Camden, who, as Earl of Brecknock, for some years represented the borough of Brecknock in Parliament.”

Such, then, is an account of the restoration period, and the condition of the church as it now stands; and it only remains to add the notes made by Mr. Bloxham on certain ancient sepulchral monuments there.

“In the North aisle of the nave,” he writes, “within the North wall at the East side of the aisle is a fine open-shaped sepulchral arch, with numerous sets of mouldings, rounds and hollows. In two of the latter the ball flower is inserted at intervals. The arch is surmounted by a plain but

well-proportioned hood mould, and the head of the arch within is engrailed or foliated. Beneath the arch, on a plain high tomb, lies the fine and perfect recumbent effigy of a civilian, well sculptured in stone. He is represented bare headed, his hair curled on each side of the face. He is clad in a long tunic or coat, with close fitting sleeves, with the hands conjoined horizontally on the breast as in prayer. Over the long tunic is worn a shorter and overcoat, with short, loose sleeves, covering the upper part of the arms, but not reaching down to the elbows. In front of the breast, and over the shoulder, is worn tippet-like the hood. The feet, the extremities of which have been destroyed, seem to have rested against a dog. The habiliments are such as we meet with anciently, described as *tunica et supertunica cum caputio*. This is a very interesting effigy of a layman of the middle of the 14th century, circa 1350, and the sepulchral arch over is also of the same period.

"In the North-east corner of the North aisle of the choir, on a slab on the pavement, are the recumbent effigies in relief of a civilian and his wife, her effigy being placed on the left side. This is a monument of the 14th century. He is represented as bare-headed, with curled locks on either side of his face—the latter is close shaven and the neck bare. He appears habited in the *tunica talaris*, lay tunic or coat, with the mantle over, open in front, with the *caputium* or hood about the neck. The sleeves of the tunic are close-fitting. The hands, conjoined horizontally on the breast, are represented holding a crucifix. The lady's head-attire consists of a close-fitting cap and wimple, the latter covering the sides of the face and coming under the chin. Her body habiliments consist of a gown with somewhat close-fitting sleeves, and a mantle over, open in front, and fastened by a cordon crossing the breast. The hands are conjoined horizontally on the breast. Between the heads of these two effigies, the rood or crucifix is represented, with the figures on either side of St. Mary and St. John, and in a kind of pediment which forms the head of the slab, rudely sculptured in relief, are the figures of angels with thuribles. Round the edge of this monument is an inscription in Longobardic letters. The date of this monument may, I think, be ascribed to circa A.D. 1350.

"Lying loose in the nave [now near the font], but removed from its original position, is the recumbent effigy, carved in wood, of a lady *temp* Mary, circa 1555. The head is represented as reposing on a square double cushion—on the head is worn the close-fitting cap of the period, with the partlet on the top, and round the neck is a ruff. Over the petticoat is a double chain, worn over the shoulders, and in front of the breast; the petticoat is stiff in front, and hanging by a chain reaching nearly to the feet is a pendant ornament, pomander or perfume box. Over the petticoat is worn an open robe or gown tied round about the waist with a scarf; this gown is in numerous folds, and is open in front up to the shoulders. The middle portions of the arms are gone, about the wrists are ruffs, and the hands are conjoined in prayer. The face is somewhat mutilated. This is the latest instance I have met with of a recumbent sepulchral effigy carved in wood. (See reference elsewhere to this part of the Games monument.)

"In the North aisle of the choir [now in Havard Chapel], on a high tomb, is the recumbent sepulchral effigy in marble and alabaster of Sir David Williams, one of the Justices of Pleas, who died A.D. 1613, with the recumbent effigy of his wife Margaret Vaughan, lying on the right side. He is represented in his Judge's robes—a scarlet coloured gown tied about the waist with a scarf of the same colour. The sleeves of the gown are cuffed with ermine. Over the gown is worn the ermined mantle, open in front, with a plain tippet over the breast, and a casting hood of ermine about the neck, round the which is a nebule shaped ruff. On the head is worn the square judicial cap, the face has the moustache and beard, and the hands are conjoined vertically on the breast; the head reposes on a tasselled cushion. His lady has the partlet head-dress, wears a ruff round the neck, and is habited in a gown with ample skirt, over which is worn a rich stomacher buttoned in front of the breast. The sleeves are full at the shoulders and cuffed at the wrists with small ruffs. The soles of the shoes are represented unusually small, the hands are conjoined vertically on the breast, and the head reposes on a tasselled cushion; a chain is worn over the shoulders, and hangs down in front of the neck." This monument is not coloured now.

The peculiar slab near the altar has already been described.

THE MONUMENTS IN 1908.

It is well-nigh impossible to give a list of the sepulchral monuments in so large a building, without omissions or duplications; the floor is in places covered with matting and heavy seating, but nevertheless the account here given of the memorials to the dead, as contained in the church at the present day, may be considered fairly accurate, for the writer of them spent several weeks in pursuit of his object. It will be noticed that many of the stones are not noticed by Jones, probably these were in the churchyard in his time. Some of those mentioned by him have been removed from the places in which he found them, and many have altogether disappeared.

The magnificent East window, consisting of five graduated lancets, was placed there "In memory of officers and soldiers of the 24th Regiment who fell in South Africa" at Isandhlwana on January 22nd, 1879—"and the victory that day was turned into mourning unto all the people" (2nd Samuel, 19—2). Above the choir stalls, on the organ side, is a small three light window of stained glass, "dedicated to the honour of God's house in affectionate remembrance of George James Williamson, of Ffynonau, by his widow Elizabeth Mary Williamson." There is over the communion table a very beautiful oil painting which was "Presented by E. Cambridge Phillips, of Brecon, in loving memory of his father Jacob Phillips of Chippenham, Wilts, gent., who died the 8th day of October, 1884." To the right, let into the floor, is the ancient sepulchral stone illustrative of the Crucifixion.

Mr. Westwood's description of this stone, which is illustrated in his work *Lapidarium Walliæ*, is as follows: "The stone, which is very much defaced, contains a representation of the Crucifixion (the cross being omitted), with two angels at the upper angles of the stone censing the head of the Saviour; at his sides are figures of the Virgin and St. John, and beneath them are four figures, kneeling, being the persons to whose memory the stone was inscribed." He describes this kind of sculpture as being one of extreme rarity.

Within the altar rails is a very large and handsome brass, with this inscription: "To the Glory of God, and in memory of the non-commissioned officers and men of the 24th Regiment who fell in action during the Zulu Campaign of 1879, this memorial is erected by all ranks, past and present, of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 24th Regiment, now South Wales Borderers. They gave their lives for Queen and country. Jesu mercy." Inscribed on the brass are the names of 409 soldiers of the 1st Battalion and 178 of the 2nd Battalion.

On the same side of the choir are brass tablets to the memory of many other military men. One, "To the Glory of God and in memory of Sergt. H. Hook, V.C., 24th Regiment, who died 12th March, 1905. This brass is erected by officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of his regiment in memory of his distinguished gallantry at the defence of Rorke's Drift, 22nd January, 1879, for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross." Another, "In memory of Lieut.-Colonel John James Harvey, D.S.O., 24th Regiment, The S.W.B., died at Raniknet, 27th July, 1890, aged 46 years. Served with the 2nd 24th Regiment in South African War 1878-79, including the Kafir and Zulu Campaigns, also with distinction in the Burmah Expedition, 1885-89. Erected by the officers of both battalions." Near by is yet another, "In memory of Major Granville Bromhead, V.C., 24th Regiment the South Wales Borderers, died at Allahabad 9th February, 1891, aged 46 years. Commanded B Company 2nd 24th Regiment at the defence of Rorke's Drift 22nd-23rd January, 1879. Erected by officers of both battalions." And also, "In affectionate memory of Capt. H. E. Every, 24th Regiment, who died at Eccington Hall, Derbyshire, on December 1st, 1892, aged 32 years. Erected by officers who served with him in the 1st Battalion from 1881 to 1892." And likewise, "In memory of Captain Percy Tatham Armitage, 24th Regiment the South Wales Borderers, died at Brecon 10th September, 1893. Served with the 24th Regiment in South Africa Zulu Campaign 1879 and in Burmah 1887-89. Erected by officers of the Regiment." This officer, who became adjutant of Volunteers, died suddenly at Tregunter, near Talgarth, and lies buried in the Brecon Cemetery, where there is a monument to his memory.

Near to these smaller brasses is another large one, with this inscription—"To the Glory of God and in memory of 22 officers and 655 non-commissioned officers and men of the 24th Regiment, who fell in action or died of wounds or disease in the South African Campaigns of 1877-78-79, the East window is erected by their comrades past and present." The officers' names inscribed on this brass are as follows:—1st Battalion: Lieut.-Col. H. B. Pullienc, Captains W. Degacher, W. E. Mostyn, G. V. Wardell, R. Younghusband, Lieutenants F. P. Porteous, C. W. Cavaye, N. J. A. Coghill, E. O. Anstey, J. P. Daly, G. F. J. Hodson, C. J. Atkinson, Second Lieutenant E. H. Dyson, Lieut.-Adjutant T. Melvill, Paymaster F. F. White, Quartermaster J. Pullen; and 429 non-commissioned officers and men. 2nd Battalion: Lieutenants C. D. A. Pope, H. J. Dyer, F. Godwin Austen, Sub-Lieutenant T. L. G. Griffith, Second Lieutenant R. W. Franklin, Quartermaster E. Bloomfield, and 226 non-commissioned officers and men. Twenty-one officers and 590 non-commissioned officers and men were killed in action on the field of Isandhlwana, or in the defence of Rorke's Drift, and on this brass are inscribed the names of Melvill and Coghill, the two young officers who died in a brave attempt to save the colours.

There is also a brass here "In memory of Lieut.-General Richard Thomas Glyn, C.B., C.M.G., Colonel the South Wales Borderers, 24th Regiment, born December 23rd, 1831, died November 21st, 1900. Served with the 24th Regiment 27 years, taking part in the Indian Mutiny, 1857-1858, the Kafir war 1877-1878, and the Zulu war 1879." This General was stationed at Brecon for some years in command, and one of his daughters married C. H. de Winton, Esq., J.P., of Maesderwen. Another

PENOYRE WATKINS MONUMENTS.



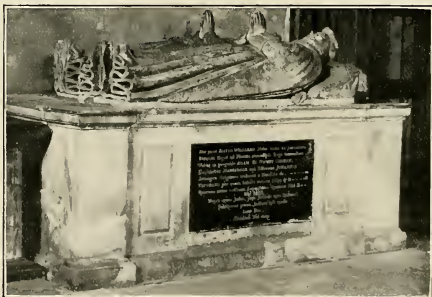
MONUMENT BY
FLAXMAN.



THE MAYBERY MONUMENT.



JUDGE WILLIAMS OF GWERNYFED.



MONUMENTS IN PRIORY CHURCH, 1908

(From Photographs by Mr. Reg. Wilkinson, Brecon.)

brass erected by his brother officers as a token of esteem, is "Sacred to the memory of Herbert Wykeham Parker, 1st Batt. S.W.B., 24th Regt., born 11th May, 1872, died 18th March, 1899, from the effects of wounds received in action whilst employed on special service with the Niger Company." Near this is one "In memory of 2nd Lieut. J. Douglas Morgan-Thomas, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, who died 2nd December, 1889, aged 21 years. Erected by his brother officers." This young officer was a son of the late J. Morgan-Thomas, Esq., J.P., of Glyngarth, Brecon, and a brother of the late Capt. Morgan-Thomas, Chief Constable of Breconshire; he lies buried with other members of his family in the Brecon Cemetery.

When it became necessary to send out reinforcements to South Africa in the war with the Boers, many Militia and Volunteer Regiments volunteered for service. The 3rd Batt. South Wales Borderers (Brecknock and Radnor Militia) was sent out, and also a detachment of Volunteers. The two brasses here noted were erected in memory of officers and men of those regiments who fell in this war. The first is: "To the Glory of God and in memory of the undermentioned officers and men of the 3rd Batt. S. Wales Borderers who were killed in action or died on active service during the South African Campaign, 1900-01-02." Then follow the names of three officers, eight non-commissioned officers, and 26 privates. The tablet was erected by the officers of the Battalion. The second one is: "To the Glory of God, and in memory of Privates S. Jones, E. Powell, W. E. Jones, and A. J. Morgan, 1st Vol. Batt. S.W.B., who died in South Africa, 1900-1901. Together with 33 other members of the Battalion, the above mentioned proceeded on active service and shared in the hardships and perils of the late Campaign. Erected by past and present members of the Battalion."

In the north transept is a very handsome stained glass window, and to commemorate its erection a brass has been placed, with the other military tablets, in the choir, bearing this inscription. "The window in the north transept of this church was erected by their comrades in the 1st and 2nd Battalions, to the Glory of God and in memory of the following officers, N.C.O.'s, and men of the 2nd Battalion South Wales Borderers (24th Regt.), killed in action and died of wounds or disease in the South African War, 1889 to 1902. Capt. H. de Moody, Lieut. W. A. G. Williams, D.S.O., Lieut. A. J. Forbes, D.S.O." And then follow the names of 136 non-commissioned officers and men. Beneath the window there is inscribed: "In memory of those who gave their lives for their country in the S. African War, 1889-1902."

On the south side of the choir there are several memorial brasses. One, "In memory of Lieut.-Col. Hunter Ward, 48th Regt., who died at Brecon, Dec. 26, 1852. Taken away from the evil to come." Beneath it, one, "To the Glory of God and to the beloved memory of Thomas Frederick Thomas, Commander Royal Navy, fourth son of the late David Thomas, of Watton House, Brecon. Born Jan. 18, 1849; died Oct. 7, 1902." Another, "In memory of Second Lieut. E. W. Chapman, 1st Batt. 24th Regt., who died at Karachi from enteric fever, on the 18 Dec., 1905, this tablet is erected as a token of esteem by his brother officers of the 1st Battalion." Also, "In memory of Henry James Degacher, Major-General in H.M. Service, Companion of the Bath, Colonel of the 24th Regt. (South Wales Borderers). Born 24 Feb., 1835, died 25 Nov., 1902. Served in the Crimea 1854, Kafir War 1877-1878, Zulu War 1879." There is also one, erected by his brother officers, "In memory of Major General Sir William Penn Symons, K.C.B., served in the 24th Regt. (the S.W.B.) from 6th March, 1863, until 21st March, 1893. Mortally wounded at Talana Hill, South Africa, on 20th Oct., when commanding the 4th Division, and died at Dundee, Natal, on 25th Oct., 1899." And also one, "In memory of Basil George Bagot Paton, lieut. 1st Batt. 24th Regt. The S.W.B., younger son of Major General George Paton, C.M.G., Colonel of the regiment, who died at Tullundur, Punjab, 29 Nov., 1902, aged 26 years. Erected as a mark of affection by his brother officers." Another, "In memory of Major Alfred Granworth Worledge, A.P.D. (late 24th Regt. The S.W.B.), who died on Christmas Eve, 1903, aged 46 years. Served with the 24th Regt. in South Africa, Zulu Campaign, 1879. Erected by his brother officers who served with him in the 24th Regt." This gentleman married into the Williams of Abercamlais family, and is buried, together with his wife, in the Penpont churchyard. Near to the organ and beneath the Williamson window is a brass tablet, "To the Glory of God. In loving memory of Herbert Williams, for thirty-two years vicar of Brecon. Born 15th Feb., 1836, died 19th Nov., 1896." The great west window was erected to the memory of this incumbent, who was a son of Dean Williams of Llandaff, and a brother of the Rev. Preb. Garnons Williams, of Abercamlais. On a brass tablet beneath the window a brass has this inscription:—"This memorial window was erected by the parishioners and friends of the late vicar, Prebendary Herbert Williams, as a lasting token of the love and esteem with which he was regarded by them. 18th September, 1898." Nearly every brass erected here is the work of Mr. George Hay, the sculptor, of Brecon.

THE PENYOIRE WATKINS MONUMENTS.

In the north transept are the Penyoire Watkins monuments. They are massive and handsome

in design, the figures being carved in white marble. The inscriptions read: "In memory of Mary, wife of Pennoyre Watkins, of this town, and Broadway, in the County of Carmarthen, Esquire. She was the youngest daughter of David Lloyd of Rhosferrig, in this county, Esquire. . . . She died lamented by all who knew her December 27, 1762, in the 34th year of her age. In memory also of John Lloyd of Rhosferrig and Aberannell, in this county, Esquire. A man whose integrity was perfect, whose manners were unoffending. The esteem and respect of his country he preserved to the great age of 92. He died June 30, 1812. This tribute of affection for a dear mother long lost yet now regretted, and of grateful respect for a liberal relative is raised by George Price Watkins, Esq., 1813."

Beneath this is another with life-size female figures carved in marble, and "This monument is erected by his nephew and executor, Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, Esq., M.P., to the memory of George Price Watkins, of Rhosferrig, in this county, and Broadway, in the county of Carmarthen, Esquire, who was born July 4, 1752 (old style), and died May 23rd, 1843, at the advanced age of 91. As a gentleman and a scholar he justly merited the admiration of his friends and acquaintances, and his munificence to his native town of Brecon, as founder of the Infirmary, and donor of the annual interest of £1,000 among its distressed inhabitants, will ever ensure their gratitude. Also to the memory of Elizabeth, his wife, second daughter of the Rev. Thomas Bacon, of Maryland, universally admired for her piety, amiable disposition, and kindly feeling."

Near by is another, which is "Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Thomas Watkins, A.M., F.R.S., F.S.A., late of Pennoyre, in this county, who died Oct. 15, 1829, aged 68. His remains were interred in the family vault at Llandefaelog. The integrity and high character which ornamented the whole of his career commanded affection and respect from all. Anxious for the welfare of his family, his unremitting attention was directed to the moral education of his children, when he endeavoured to impress on their minds those religious principles which can alone assuage the sorrows of the mind on the bed of sickness, or at the awful hour of trial. The sound sense that formed one of his strongest characteristics was only equalled by his chaste and elegant classical attainments. As a magistrate the justice and strict impartiality that invariably actuated his conduct leave a lustre to his name that time can only obliterate. Oh, Reader! if thou hast experienced such a loss, imagine the feelings of a son! Also to the memory of Penaur, eldest son of the above mentioned, who at the early age of 16 was snatched from his agonised parents by a watery grave. His transcendent abilities were only surpassed by a generous, affectionate, and noble disposition. And lastly, to commemorate the equally premature death of Julia Sarah, the youngest daughter. Amiable, lovely, and most dear to her family, this pure and spotless spirit has fled to her heavenly father. She died September 8, 1818, aged 12 years." This monument is surmounted by an urn, and two child-angels are above the recumbent effigy of a man. Beneath the family arms is the motto, "Pen aur a chalon wir."

To the right of this monument is one "Sacred to the memory of Susanna Eleonora, widow of the late Rev. Thomas Watkins of Pennoyre, in this county, and daughter of the late Richard Vaughan, of Golden Grove, in the county of Carmarthen, Esquire, born Dec. 21, 1768, died Dec. 25, 1847. This monument is erected by her son and daughters, in commemoration of that humble piety, and the many amiable qualities which endeared her to friends of all ranks. Her children here affectionately bear testimony to her generosity of heart, ever accessible to those in distress, and to an amiable disposition, justly appreciated by all who knew her."

Near by is a monument having the head of a female carved thereon in marble, and inscribed, "Sacred to the memory of Eliza Luther Watkins, wife of Colonel Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, lord Lieutenant for Brecknockshire, and M.P. for the Borough, and widow of Brigadier General S. Hughes, C.B., born May 21, 1815, died January 25, 1855." And also another, "Sacred to the memory of Sophia Louisa Henrietta, the beloved wife of Colonel Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, M.P., of Pennoyre, in the county of Brecknock, who died at Bath at the early age of 49, on the 27th May, 1851. Her amiable disposition, suavity of manners, and kindly feeling, won the love and admiration of all, while the poor will long remember her unremitting care and attention with a lively sense of gratitude. Truly may it be recorded of this spotless spirit, that she 'loved mercy and walked humbly with her God.' This last tribute of love and affection is erected by her sorrowing husband." This Col. Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, M.P., was the last of his race to own and live at Pennoyre; the estate became heavily charged during his time, and he was reduced to comparative poverty. He died at the old Bear Hotel (now no longer in existence as such), and was buried with every demonstration of respect, at the family vault at Llandefaelog, in the year 1865.

THE PENYOIRE WATKINS CHARITIES.

Near to the doorway of the north transept is a marble slab containing the following inscription, now somewhat difficult to read: "George Price Watkins, a native of this town, now of Rhosferrig, in

this county, and Broadway, in the county of Carmarthen, Esquire, eldest son of Pennoyre Watkins, Esquire, transferred to the Rev. T. Watkins, Elizabeth Rice of Brecon, and the Vicar of Brecon, for the time being as trustees, one thousand pounds three per cent. Imperial Stock, and by a deed dated the 9th May, 1814, enrolled in the Court of Chancery. The same was settled upon trust to distribute the dividends thereof annually, or as often as they thought it right, amongst such decayed discreet inhabitants not receiving parochial relief, and who regularly attended the parish churches of St. Mary or St. John the Evangelist, as the trustees in their discretion should think the most deserving of their assistance. The security having been changed, the proceeds were invested in the purchase of a farm and lands in the parish of Crickadarn, in the county, called Bailie, and which is now in the occupation of William Price, to be applied to the same purposes as the dividends were. The said Rev. T. Watkins and Elizabeth Rice having departed this life in the year 1829, J. L. V. Watkins, of Pennoyre, in this county, Esquire, and Walter Rice, of Llwynybraim, in the said county, Esquire, were appointed trustees by the said George Price Watkins in the year 1830.''

SIR JOHN MEREDITH AND OTHER MONUMENTS.

Over the doorway is a large memorial slab bearing the following inscription: "In memory of Sir John Meredith, late of this town, who died the 6th of March, 1780, aged 66 years. He served the office of H.S. for Breconshire in the year 1762, and for Radnorshire in 1780, of which county he was a native, being descended from an ancient Welsh family. He was a man of vigorous intellect and sound integrity, warm in his attachments, upright and honourable in his principles, firm and inflexible through good report and evil report in adherence to the conduct and opinions which his judgment and his conscience approved. As a husband, a relation, a friend, a generous benefactor, above all as a Christian, he uniformly displayed the influence of those principles which never fail to command respect and acquire esteem. This marble also commemorates Johannah, his beloved and amiable wife, who expired the 28th February, 1780, nine days previous to the death of her esteemed husband, a circumstance rendered remarkable from a mutual wish long entertained by them of being permitted to depart this life nearly at the same time. Oeddynt Gariallus ac anwyl yn eu bywyd ac yn eu marwolaeth ni wahanwyd hwynt. This tribute of affection and grateful respect to the memory of a beloved uncle is erected by Jane, the wife of Richard Davys, of Noyadd, in the County of Carmarthen, Esquire, late Jane Meredith.'"

Near by is a small slab, "Sacred to the memory of Mrs Mary Williams, who departed this life 15th November, 1794 (?), aged 84. She was the daughter of David Williams, Esq., of this town, by Anne, daughter of Thomas Bulcott, Esq., and sister of the late Rev. David Williams.'" And also one, "Sacred to the memory of Nicholas William Lewis, Esq., he married Frances, relict of Thomas Young, Esq., of Bush Hill, Herts, and died without issue the 13 Dec., 1819, aged 77. Also of the said Frances, who entered into heavenly rest May 21, 1822, aged 78. Her mortal remains are gathered to those of her loved daughter, Mary Ann Clifton. She was an exemplary wife, a tender mother, a generous friend, a Christian indeed. This tablet was erected by her daughter Frances, relict of the late Rev. Thomas James, of Brecon, and by a son-in-law, to whom she was a mother.'"

In the same transept: "Near this place lie the bodies of Henry Williams, late of this town, gent., and his wife Joanna. Joanna was richly adorned with those virtues that form the good wife, the mother, and the mistress of a family. Her works of charity, which she daily exercised and promoted, made her justly esteemed a good woman, and to crown all, her zeal and piety in serving God, both in the church and the closet, compleated in her the good Christian. She died March 14, 1731, aged 66. Henry was blest with the richest gifts of nature, improved by uncommon industry, application, and experience. He was a watchful guardian of the true interest of the town and its inhabitants, and gave many expressive proofs of a generous and public heart. He was skilful and active in business, cheerful and instructive in conversation, and in all the concerns of his family, his friends, and his country, a most useful man. He died Oct. 25, 1737, aged 84.'" Beneath this, and carved on the same stone, is the following: "And of Catherine, his wife, who departed this life the 30th May, 1752, aged 46; and of Joan his wife who departed this life the 6th of April, 1752, aged 55'"—a similarity of dates somewhat confusing.

A brass tablet contains this inscription: "Sacred to the memory of Lewis Watkins, Esq., of this town, surgeon, and one of the cornerers of the county, youngest son of Thomas Watkins, Esq., of Lloegy Fawr, who died Aug. 16, 1838, aged 49 years. A man of the highest honour and liberality of sentiment, of the strictest integrity, and most approved ability in his profession; of general knowledge and distinguished for his taste in the polite arts. His widow Margaret Anne, interred in the Cemetery, died Oct. 1, 1870, aged 93 years.'" Near this is a small tablet, "Sacred to the memory of David, son of John and Jane Thomas, of Berkeley Place, Brecon, who died at Hurriah, in the

East Indies, on the 14th day of January, 1840, aged 25 years." This is one of the family of Thomas, the Brecknockshire sculptor.

Near to the Pennoyre monuments is a brass tablet to the memory of "James Williams, F.R.C.S., Esq., V.D., J.P., and D.L., County Brecknock, Coroner for the same county 1853—1889, Mayor of Brecknock 1860 and 1887 (Jubilee year). Born 6th Dec., 1818, died 12th Nov., 1906. Interred at the Brecknock Cemetery. A man of many parts, who loved Brecknock and promoted the welfare of those who dwelt therein."

There are many sepulchral stones upon the floor of the north transept, but some of them it is quite impossible to decipher. There is one to Benjamin Tanner, *ironmaster*, and his wife Ann; she died Oct. 3, 1742, and he followed on Dec. 18, 1758, aged 84. Also to David Vaughan, bailiff and town clerk of this town of Brecknock, the son of Richard Vaughan, of Llanywern, gent., lynally descended of Sir Roger Vaughan of Bredwarden, knight; he married Elizabeth, the daughter of Francis Powell, of Crickhowell, gent., and died the 15th day of 7ber, Ano Dn. 1689. This stone has carved thereon the arms of the family. Another to Walter Jeffreys, merchant, and F.R.S. of London, died the 27 January, 1746, aged 63; William Jeffreys, of Brecon, Bachelor of Physick, who died April 11, 1722, aged 26; also the sons of Evan Jeffreys; and also to Walter Jeffreys, of this town, Esq., who died May 11, 1794, aged 96. Near by is a stone to Elizabeth, wife of John Robinson, of Brecon, the daughter of Lewis Powell, of the same town; "She lived in the fear of the Lord, and died at peace with all, the 17th day of February, Ano. Dom. 1688. Her age is 78." Also, "Here lyeth the body of Bridget, the wife of John Harries, of this town of Brecon, carrier; she departed of this life the 4th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1694."

A piece of marble set into an older stone records that "Mary Jane Williams died 13th May, 1843, aged 24 years," and near by "Peter Jones, of this town, merchant," is inscribed. Near to the wall, "Here lyeth the bodies of three children of Howell Gwyn, of Abercrave"; a fuller memorial has already been recorded. A large stone much defaced alludes to "Watkin Thomas Williams, who married Thomas ap Ievan John Goch: they had issue Watkin, Llewellyn, Elisabeth, Elinor, Ioan, and Gwenllian; she died the XIII. of Ianuarii, ano. dni. 1627." Near it, one to Lewis Watkins, Esq., died 16 Aug., 1838, aged 48. There is also a defaced stone to the memory of a former bailiff of the town, and the date looks like 1598. Close to this it is recited that Lewis Havard, of Blaensenny, Devynock, attorney-at-law, married Mary, daughter of William Aubrey, and died the 3rd of December, 1723, aged 43. "Elizabeth, the wife of David Price, of this town, mercer," died 1705; and a defaced stone near this records that "—gha—nes, of this town, *fiscer*, who married Margaret, the daughter of John Watkins, of Brecon," and had issue, died 6th December, 1694. Also another to "Jeffrey Jones, taylor, who married Jane, the daughter of William ———, died 1618." "Lewis Price, of the parish of Battle, farmer, died May 17, 1798, aged 69; Elizabeth, his wife, died 1813, aged 94; also to William Price, *glasscutter*, son of William Price, of Mount Pleasant," and other members of the family. A stone remains to "Thomas Mitchell, gent., late Bailiff of this town, who died January 10, 1744, aged 66; he married Hester, one of the daughters of David Williams, of Battle, gent., by whom she left issue 1 son named Henry. Also the body of Henry Mitchell, Esq., who died June 4, 1782, aged 77; he was the only son and heir of the above named Thomas and Esther, and intermarried with Margaret, the eldest daughter of Thomas Penry, of Llwyncynteivin, in this county, Esquire, ——— and left issue one son; also the body of the said Margaret, who died September, 1788, aged 84. There is also the old defaced stones to the family of Powell, who married a Perrott, of Llanfihangel Talyllyn—date 1690; and also to a daughter of Roger Williams, corvizer, who died 1766; a David Thomas, born 1694; a daughter of Thomas David, 1675.

THE CARVED OAK BOSSES.

Before leaving this part of the building it may be noted that on the screen dividing this transept from the Havard Chapel are placed some carved oak bosses which were originally on the ancient ceiling of the chancel. Two of these were bought at a sale in the district by the Misses Philip Morgan, of Buckingham Place, and restored by them to the church, and others were bought and given by the churchwarden, Mr. Aneurin George. These bosses, of which a few of the original set are still missing, were fixed at the intersection of the beams over the chancel. Above the altar were the vine leaves (fig. 1) representing the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Then followed (fig. 2) the triple leaves representing the Trinity, with their three leaves in one,—a leaf which seems to have been adopted by the Benedictine monks. The Franciscan monks seem to have adopted, to represent the Trinity, the fleur-de-lis, and of this a good specimen is to be seen in the Chapel, 1893, number of the *Archæologia Cambrensis*—seal of the Abbey of the Austin Canons of Somebecca in the diocese of Ypres, the Virgin Mary holding in her right hand the fleur-de-lis, meaning the Three Persons in one Godhead; on her head is the crown of Virginity. The sepulchral monuments of the fifteenth and

sixteenth centuries, were greatly adorned by the fleur-de-lis on each arm of the cross, which gave such a beautiful meaning to the Atonement. Fig. 3 represents Saints, "intercessors at the throne of God." We are informed that there was one boss different from the rest with a figure upon it, but whether it represented the patron saint, St. John, or an angel, cannot now be determined. The fourth figure is the white rose, representing the House of York; and fig. 5 are the monk-leaves, telling us of their handiwork. The leaf is round in the centre, and void of any cutting except the veins, and they resemble the shaven head of a monk, the toothings of the leaves resembling the hair. Fig. 6 represents the sun (but was not placed in the chancel, fearing its misconstruction); it is the symbol of sovereignty. Tertullian, in his treatise *De Corona Militis*, states that "the Roman Emperors and Kings wore their crowns in form of the sun's beams, because they were as suns and flaming lights, for the whole world were led by their examples: so that suns, moons, and stars, signify in general men born to public good, and of exemplary lives among the worthy bearers." Celestial charges also denote dignity, glory, and grandeur: how appropriate to such a grand building as the Priory Church. The sun boss was placed at a distance from the other bosses, for it was fixed in the roof over the west window in the nave.

IN THE HAVARD CHAPEL.

In the Havard or Vicar's Chapel, where services were frequently held during the restoration periods, the floors and walls are thickly covered with monuments. Lying flat in the north east corner is a slab containing the recumbent effigies of Walter Aubrey, of Abercynrig, and his wife (date 1312), and in the centre of the chapel are memorials to descendants of this family, viz., Jane, daughter of Richard Gough Aubrey, Esq., of Yniseedwyn, in this county, and daughter of Rev. Wm. Wynter, late rector of Penderin, who died at Brecon on Sunday, 20th of October, 1811, aged 51; also Thomas Williams, Esq., of Coity mawr, in this county, and of Glamorgan Street in this town, who departed this life 25th July, 1808, aged 62; also William Williams, Esq. (who died 16 July, 1809, aged 26), third son of the above named Thomas Williams, by Mary, his wife, daughter of Howell Jones, Esq., of Coity mawr; and another, to Walter Williams, Esq., of Coity Mawr, the eldest son of Thomas and Mary Williams, who died 19 Nov., 1813, aged 38. There is also a stone to George Awbrey, corvior, who died October 6, 1778, aged 74. This chapel also contain the Williams of Gwernyfed effigies, brought from the chancel at its restoration, but the canopy is no longer to be seen. Adjoining this monument is one erected by the late Colonel Thomas Wood, M.P., his nephew, to the memory of Edward Williams, Esq., for some time Major Commandant of the Brecknock Militia, and son of Sir Edward Williams, Bart.; he was born November, 1757, and died at Brecknock, December, 1799.

AN ORIENTAL SCHOLAR.

Immediately over the effigies, is a large tablet inscribed: "Sacred to the memory of David Price, Esq., M.R.A.S., F.R.L.S., who departed this life on the 16th December, 1835, age 73 years. He was a magistrate and deputy lieutenant of the county of Brecon, Major in the Service of the Hon. East India Company, and Judge Advocate General of the Bombay Army. He was an elegant and accomplished Oriental scholar, to which various publications bear ample testimony. The unassuming simplicity of his general deportment was not less admirable than the high moral courage which on every occasion marked his manly conduct. A stranger to every selfish principle, his universal benevolence and uncompromising integrity justly secured him the esteem and confidence of all classes of society, and his death was deeply and extensively lamented. In his generous breast, next to the pure love of virtue, glowed the ardent love of his country, in whose sacred cause he bravely fought and freely bled. After twenty-five years faithfully and zealously devoted to the public interest, he returned from India, alas! the wreck of what he left his home, and dedicated the peaceful evening of his days to the pursuits of literature, to the exemplary discharge of every relative and every social duty, but mainly to the contemplation and to the practice of that genuine piety, that patient submission to suffering, so pre-eminently exemplified in the perfect pattern of obedience left to us by our Blessed Redeemer, on whose infinite Atonement he solely rested his humble hope of eternal salvation. In tribute of devoted affection to a beloved husband, this imperfect memorial is recorded by his sorrowing widow." Jane Charlotte Price, widow of the above, died 1841, aged 59. On the floor, in front of the Gwernyfed monuments, is a slab, on which is the following:—"Beneath this sacred stone repose, in humble hope of a blessed resurrection, the hallowed remains of Major David Price, late of this town; he departed this life respected and regretted on the 16th day of December, 1835, aged 73 years."

THE COKE MEMORIALS.

Another feature in this chapel are the memorials to the Coke family. On the wall is a long black marble, upon which is inscribed the following: "Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Thomas Coke, LL.D., of Jesus College, Oxford, who was born in this borough the 9th of September, 1747, was one

of the Common Councilmen, and in 1770 filled the office of Chief Magistrate with honour to himself and equal benefit to the public. After a zealous ministry of several years in the Established Church, in 1776 he united himself to the Rev. John Wesley, M.A., and preached the Gospel with success in various parts of Great Britain and Ireland. To him were confided the Foreign Missions of the Methodists, in support of which he expended a large portion of his fortune, and with unremitting vigour encountered toils and self-denial which the Christian world beheld with admiration. By the blessing of God on the Missions to the Negroes in the West Indies, commenced by him in 1786, a foundation was laid for the civilisation of that degraded class of human beings. To the negro race upon their native continent, as well as in the Island of their bondage, his compassions were extended, and he set the first example in modern days of efforts for the spiritual emancipation of Western Africa. After crossing the Atlantic eighteen times on his visits to the American Continent and the West Indian Colonies in the service of the Souls of Men, his unweary spirit was stirred within him to take a part in the noble enterprise of evangelising British India. He sailed in 1813 as the leader of the first Wesleyan Missionaries to Ceylon, but the burning and shining light which in the Western world had guided thousands into the paths of peace, had now fulfilled its course, and suddenly, yet rich in evening splendour, sunk into the shadows of mortality. He died on the voyage the 3rd day of May, 1814, and his remains were committed to the great deep until the sea shall give up her dead. His days were past, but his purposes were not broken off, for the Mission which he had planned was made abundantly to prosper. The same love of Christ which made him long the advocate and the pattern of exertion in behalf of foreign lands, constrained him also to works of pious charity at home in many neglected districts of England, Wales, and Ireland. The means of grace were carried by his private bounty, or through his public influence, and his praise is in the Gospel throughout all the Churches. This monument A.D. 1829, at the expense of the ministers and missionaries with whom he was united, as a record of their respectful gratitude for the distinguished services, the eminent usefulness, and the long-tried and faithful attachment of their now glorified friend, by their appointment, and under the direction of the Rev. T. Roberts, M.A., and the Rev. J. Buckley." There was a much more pretentious monument in this church to the memory of this remarkable man, which was given to the Wesleyans of Brecon by the Church authorities at the time when the chancel was about to undergo restoration, and this black tablet seems to have been put up instead. The original tablet is now to be seen in the Lion Street Wesleyan Chapel, behind the pulpit there.

On the floor of the Vicar's Chapel, close to the screen, we read, "Here lie the remains of Mrs Penelope Fielding Coke, wife of the Rev. Thomas Coke, Doctor of Civil Laws, of the University of Oxford, and a Common Councilman of the Borough. She departed this life on the 25th January, —, nearly forty-nine —. She was one of the best of wives, and one of the holiest of saints. Her monument, which has been set up in this church by her affectionate husband, will give to the pious reader many pleasing and profitable traits of the character of this excellent woman." (This seems to indicate the erection of a monument within the church which is not now to be seen.) "Also of Mrs. Ann Coke, second wife of the Rev. Dr. Coke, daughter of Joseph Loxdale, Esq., died on the 5th day of December, 1812, in the 57th year of her age. She was a woman of eminent piety." Alongside this stone is one to Bartholomew Coke, apothecary and common councilman of the Borough, who died 7 May, 1775, also of some of his children and his wife Anne, who died 17 May, 1783.

Around the walls are memorials to Hester Elliston of London, spinster, who died Nov. 1737, and Elizabeth her sister, died 9 May, 1757; Henry, son of Rev. Jas. Olive, minister of St. Paul's, Bristol, died July, 1854, aged 25; David Williams, of Newton, St. David's, died 6 June, 1825, aged 77; Susanna his wife, died 18 Sept., 1844, aged 44; Philip, eldest son, died 3 Nov., 1828, aged 43; Charles, youngest son, died 27 Jan., 1820, aged 18; John, the second son, died 17 July, 1845, aged 58; David, third son, died 23rd April, 1854, aged 66. Gabriel Powell, of Pennant, within this borough, gent., for several years Steward under two successive Dukes of Beaufort of the Lordship Royal of Gower, in the county of Glamorgan, sometime bailiff of this Corporation, and a strenuous asserter of the rights of inhabiting burgesses against foreigners, who died ye 5th of Nov., 1735, in ye 60th year of his age. Above this are monuments to the Powells of Castle Madoe, already noticed, and there are other memorials to the same family elsewhere in the chapel. A tablet to the Maunds is inscribed to the memory of Andrew Maund, architect, died 24 March, 1803, aged 81; Jane, youngest son of Andrew and Elizabeth Maund, died 31 Jan., 1812, aged 37; Elizabeth, wife of Andrew Maund, died 12 Nov., 1816, aged 83; John Atkinson, son of John Maund, Esq., of Tynawr, Llanelly, died Jany. in 1831; Elizabeth Maund, spinster, died April, 1843, aged 82; Howell Maund, Esq., died Nov. 21, 1837, aged 70, and Anne, his wife, died 1849, aged 87; John Maund, of Tynawr, Llanelly, Esquire, died 1850, aged 79; John Maund, Esq., D.L., J.P., late of Tynawr, son of the last named, died at Boulogne, S.M., France, May, 1876. In the churchyard are records of the burial of the other members of the family, which is no longer represented in Brecon.

There are memorials to John and James Sims : John Lazenby, Governor the County Prison, and his wife ; Ann, wife of William Bridgwater, of Penkely Castle, in this county, gent., died Nov. 24, 1797, aged 32 ; of William Bridgwater, gent., died July, 1803, aged 34 ; and of Thomas Bridgwater, of this town, gent., late Captain in Royal Monmouth and Brecknock Militia, and formerly of H.M. 36th Regt. of Foot, who died Jan 15, 1848, aged 74. Eleonora, wife of the Ven. Richard Davies, Archdeacon of Brecon, died 29 April, 1855, aged 81. To the Powells, of Cwmelyn, Devynock, viz., Esther, wife of William Davies, of Brownllys Castle, in this county, Esquire, and only daughter of Hugh Powell, late of Cwmelyn, Esq. ; also Sarah his wife, died July 1813, aged 77 ; and Sarah, relict of Hugh Powell, late of Cwmelyn, Esquire, who died 13 May, 1787. Memorials are visible to the family of Thomas, timber merchants and subsequently architects (1795—1829) ; to James Gibbon, Esq., of Bedford, physician, obit July, 1837 ; Dorothy, wife of Hugh Bold, Esquire, died December 27, 1806, aged 71, and Hugh Bold, who died Feb. 10, 1809, aged 78.

In the same chapel : "Sacred to the memory of Walter Morgan, of this town, gent., who died Oct. 16, 1781, aged 70 years ; also Sarah, his wife, died Nov. 20, 1780, aged 63 ; also of Walter Morgan, junr., died Dec. 19, 1771, aged 22 ; likewise of David Morgan, gent., late of Abercudrig, he died Dec. 27, 1780, aged 39 ; Mary, relict of the said David Morgan, died Dec. 11, 1801, aged 62 ; Sarah Morgan, spinster, died Nov. 11, 1796, aged 40 ; John Morgan, of Llanvace, gent., died Aug. 22, 1808, aged 66 ; Howell Morgan, of Llanvace, gent., died March 24, 1837, aged 66 ; Sarah Morgan, spinster, of Llanvace, died Feb. 5, 1851, aged 78."

There is a later inscription to Hugoni Bold, who died 1809, aged 78 ; and also one to Gualter Churchey, gent., who died 1646 ; Joanna, whose first husband was James Thomas, of Slwch, gent., and the second Thomas Rodd, of Marden, in the county of Hereford, attorney at law ; she died 21st May, 1741.

Imbedded in the East wall may be seen the arms of the Havard family, with their motto "Hope in God." Near to the screen is also an old chest cut out of one piece of timber ; this was brought here from Llanspyddid Church a few years ago, but why the antiquities of one parish should be removed to another in this way requires some explanation.

IN THE SOUTH TRANSEPT.

In the large window of the South transept the centre panel is of stained glass, and on the walls are numerous sepulchral monuments. Immediately under the window are those to the memory of some members of the Marquis of Camden's family. These monuments are surmounted by the arms of the family, as well as the coronet of a peer, carved in marble ; the first inscription reads :—"To the memory of Elizabeth, Baroness Camden, consort of Charles, Baron and afterwards Earl Camden, she died in the year 1779, and was interred in the burying place of her husband's family at Seal, in the county of Kent ; she was daughter and at length sole heiress of Nicholas Jeffreys, Esq., of the Priory, in the county of Brecknock. In recollection of her many virtues and in affectionate gratitude to the memory of her from whom he inherited the estates of her ancestors in the county of Brecknock, and elsewhere, this tablet is erected in this chancel by her dutiful and affectionate son, John Jeffreys, Marquess, and Earl of Brecknock, K.G." The other inscription is : "Sacred to the memory of the Right Honourable John Jeffreys Pratt, Marquess Camden, K.G., who died October 8, 1840, aged 81 years. During a long life passed in the service of the public, and in the highest offices of State, he contributed by voluntary donations towards the exigencies of his country £366,116 14s. 3d. This tablet to record his patriotism and virtues is erected by his affectionate niece, Lady Caroline Wood, 'A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.'" This nobleman was lord lieutenant of Ireland in 1798, one of the tellers of the Exchequer, lord lieutenant of Kent, Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, and Recorder of Bath. The inscription on his monument in the Priory has provoked the merriment of a recent learned writer upon sepulchral stones.

The other monuments noticed here are : "William Ives, Esq., of Brecon, who died 28 Nov., 1838, and was buried in the choir of this church. Also of Jane Rhoda, his wife, third daughter of the late Henry Lucas, Esq., M.D., of this town, who died at Clifton, 26 Feb., 1888, and was buried at Arnos Vale Cemetery, near Bristol." Also, "Arabella Ives, widow and relict of Edward Otto Ives, of Titchfield, Hants, formerly Resident of the H.E.I. Co., at Lucknow (and who died May 5, 1809) ; was born April 13, 1765, died July 22nd, 1853, after many years' residence in this town, and was buried in the choir of this church."

"Sacred to the memory of William Vaughan, who departed this life the 23rd January, 1835, aged 67. Likewise of Sarah his wife, who died August 1st, 1828, aged 56. And also of two of their children, William and Margaret : William died Aug. 27, 1819, aged 21 ; Margaret, wife of William Wilson

Archibald, died Dec. 19, 1824, aged 21 years; Mary Ann, another daughter of the above named William and Sarah Vaughan, and wife of Thomas Morgan, Pipton, Glasbury, who died 29 July, 1840, aged 40 years."

"Near this place lie the bodies of John Price, of this town, Esquire, and of Anne his wife, one of the daughters of Launcelot Herbert, Esq., of the same town, gentleman, deceased. The said John departed this life the 23rd day of September, Anno Dom. 1719, aged 74, and Anne his said wife the 10th day of August, 1699, aged 45. To whose memory this monument was erected in pursuance of the last will and testament of Jenkin Price, of this town, Esquire, their son and heir, by their great-grandson the Reverend Mr William Morgan. In the same place lies interred the body of the said Jenkin Price, Barrister at Law, and Recorder of this town, who by the same will gave twenty shillings a year for ever towards the repairs of this chapel. He died the 26th April, 1735, aged 54. And also the body of Anne, eldest daughter of the said John Price, and Anne his said wife, who was married to Edward Morgan, of the parish of Penderyn, in this county, gentleman, deceased. She departed this life the 16th day of September, 1719, aged 47."

"Near this place are deposited the remains of Samuel Pryce, Esq. He was descended from an ancient family in this county, and for many years served the office of Coroner. Died May 22, 1813, aged 71. Anne his wife died 24 Nov., 1794, aged 52 years. And here lieth interred Elizabeth, daughter of John Wilkins, Esq., and relict of Samuel Pryce, Esq., died February 25, 1814, aged 63."

"Sacred to the memory of John Powell, Esq., born 17 July, 1761, died 5th Aug., 1809, and was buried near this spot."

"Esther, relict of the late Rev. William Williams, rector of Llyswen, in the county of Brecon, and daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Maund; she died 10th day of November, 1843, aged 75 years." Below this is one to "Anna, wife of William North of this town, and daughter of James and Jane Watson, of Bishop Waremouth, in the county of Durham, died October 11th, 1802, aged 65 years." "Frederick Jones, Esq., formerly Captain of Artillery on the Bombay establishment; who died January 26th, 1834, aged 77." This monument was erected by his nephew, Charles M. D. Humphreys, Esq."

There is a marble tablet, the work of "J. E. Thomas, sculptor, London," to the Maybery family. It is inscribed: "Near this place lie the remains of Thomas Maybery, Esq., son of John Maybery, Esq., and Ann his wife (eldest daughter of John Wilkins, Esq., by Sibyl, eldest daughter of Walter Jeffreys, Esq.), who departed this life the 10th November, 1829, aged 70 years. Also the remains of Elizabeth, wife of the aforesaid Thomas Maybery, and daughter of the Rev. Richard Davies, vicar of Brecon; she departed this life the 22nd January, 1842, aged 72 years. And also the remains of Richard, John, Thomas, William, John, and Charlotte, children of the above named Thomas and Elizabeth Maybery, who all died in their infancy. And of Emily, their daughter, who died the 4th of November, 1824, aged 10 years. Also of Frances Maybery, sister of the aforesaid Thomas Maybery; she died the 15th January, 1845, aged 92 years." The tablet was erected "to the memory of his beloved relatives by Walter Maybery, Esq." Members of this family are also buried in the Brecon Cemetery, and in another part of this work will be found the later monumental inscriptions.

"Near this place lie the bodies of Walter Jeffreys of this town, Esq., and Magdalen his wife. The said Walter Jeffreys died the 19th of May, Anno Dom. 1748, aged 71 years. The said Magdalen dyed the 14th June, Anno Domini 1734, aged 50 years. The said Walter Jeffreys left issue by the said Magdalen, Edward Jeffreys, gent.; Sibill, the wife of John Wilkins, of this town, gent.; Jane Jeffreys, spinster; and Magdalen, the wife of David Morgan, of Bettws, in the county of Radnor, gent." Near, are monuments to Thomas Morgan and Ann his wife, both of Poytendu, Llanddewi; they died 1808 and 1814 respectively.

"William Phillips, Recorder, died 1721, aged 58, leaving issue one daughter, who married Henry Scourfield, Esq., of the Moat, Pembrokeshire."

"William Morgan James, Esq., died Feb. 27th, 1798; also of Rev. Thomas James, died May 11, 1812." The monument was erected by their brother, Launcelot Morgan, Esq., and is a fine piece of sculpture by the eminent Flaxman.

On the floor are many memorials. On a marble slab set into a large stone is the following: "Here lieth the body of Alice, wife of Meredith Penry; she died Nov. 15th, 1775, aged 58 years. Also the above Meredith Penry, son of Hugh Penry, of Abersenny isaf, in Devynock; he died May 6, 1799, aged 84. Here also rest the remains of Catherine Penry, spinster, daughter to the above named Meredith and Alice Penry, who died the 9th day of June, 1812, in the 68th year of her age. Likewise in memory of Elizabeth, the beloved wife of William Winstone, and granddaughter of the above named Meredith Penry, died January 6, 1837, aged 64. Also the above William Winstone, who died

Oct. 5, 1846, aged 61." The Winstone family from the above alliance appear to have favoured Penry as a Christian name, even to the present day.

On another marble inset: "Frances, wife of Thomas Phillips, of the town of Brecknock, gent., and second daughter of Charles Vaughan, of the same town, Esq., who dyed 22nd day of March, 1757, aged 23." (Above is a very elaborate coat of arms.) Near by is another: "Mrs Elizabeth Wilkins, wife of Thomas Wilkins, Esq., and daughter of Rev. William Games, rector of Llanddettty, died April 2, 1772, aged 28." And also to the "Widow of Edward Jeffreys, Esq., died December 1786, aged 69"; and "Frances Maybery, Ob. 13 June, 1823." Another tablet has: "Underneath this stone lieth the body of Captain Frederick Jones, of Brecon, died 26 June, 1834, aged 77"; and one stone has simply: "Richard Williams, Esquire."

"Walter Vaughan, of this town, brazier, died September, 1776, aged 51. William Vaughan, surgeon, died August, 1819, aged—; Mary, wife of William Wilson and sister of William Vaughan, died December, 1824, aged 21; William Vaughan, died January 23, 1835, aged 67; Mary Ann, daughter of William and Mary Ann Vaughan, and wife of Thomas Morgan, of Pipton Villa, Glasbury, died July 20, 1840, aged 40 years."

"Thomas Phillips, of Trostrey, died 1761; Prisella, his wife, died 1787; Jane Watkin, daughter, who died 1797," and to Thomas Watkin, gent., her husband.

"Mary, wife of David Morgan, of Abercynrig, gent., died 1801, aged 61; Margaret, wife of Lewis Jones, of Penrose, Monmouth, gent., died August, 1804, aged 40"; also their infant son. Near this, "Katherine Preece, died 1757, aged 76," and her husband; also "Rev. William —, of Brecon, and Catherine his wife; he died 20 Nov. 1813, aged 92; she died, aged 70, in 1800"; set into this stone is a marble plate, "Edward Morgan, Esq., Recorder, obiit Sept. 6, 1821."

Adjoining these, one to "John Brown, of this town, weaver, married Catherine, daughter of David Williams, of ye Barle—, now wife of Walter Brooks. He died Mareh ye 9, 1730, aged 43 years; left issue Evan, Elizabeth, and Catherine. Here lyeth ye body of Sibil, the wife of Evan Brown, who died April 16, 1765, aged 41. Meek was her temper, Modest was her life, A tender Mother, and a Virtuous Wife. Greater blessing ne'er to man was given, Nor a greater loss except the loss of Heav'n."

There is a stone to Henry Thomas, who was bailiff and alderman of this town. He married Joane, the daughter of John Games, of Cuy, who died 11th day of April, —. Also one to "John Awbrey, son of John Jeffreys of this town; he married Elizabeth, daughter of Morgan Awbrey. He was twice bailiff of ye town, and seven times alderman; he died Jan. ye 22, 1718, aged 53 years." And to "Thomas Maybery, Esq., died 10 Nov., 1829, aged 70." Inscriptions upon other stones are as follow:—

"Elizabeth, wife of Gabriel Jeffreys of this town, daughter of Walter Williams, of the Wern, in the parish of Talgarth, and granddaughter of David Powell of the parish of Llanywern, who died —. Gabriel Jeffreys, of this town, surgeon, died 1766, aged 49."

"Rev. Robert Wynter, rector of Penderrin, in this county, died Nov. 1805; Anne, his wife, died August, 1803; also the Rev. Robert Wynter, rector of Penderrin, son of the above, born 1794, died April 11, 1831." This is set into a stone upon which the name "Evlleot" is decipherable.

"Walter Jeffreys, Esq., died Oct. 15, A.D. 1811." This is set into a stone on which is inscribed "Here lyeth the body of Howell Thomas the younger; had three wives, lastly Jane, the daughter of Thomas Gvnter, Esq. He died the 12th day of August, 1674." This is Powell the ironmonger's stone, and there is upon it a large coat of arms with many quarterings. Near this is a stone marked M.W. and the Havard arms.

"Martha, wife of Charles Penry of this town, and second daughter of Mr. James Allen, of Gilestown in the county of Glamorgan, by Mrs. Winifred Giles, daughter and hayrest of Major William Giles, of Gilestown in the said county; she departed this lie ye XII day of June, in the year of our Lord 1724, aged 32. Also the body of Charles Penry, Esq.; he departed this life XIX day of May, in the year of our Lord God 1727, aged 48."

"Henry, son of William Davies, corvizer, died Oct. 27, 1779," and also other sons.

"Here lyeth the body of George John North, son of George and Ann North of this town, who died 29th Oct., 1829, in the 23rd year of his age; also of the above named George North, who died Spt. 22, 1830, aged 76; also of the same Ann North, who died on the 10th day of March, 1855, aged 85." The marble tablet on which this is cut is set into a large stone inscribed: "Mary, the beloved wife of John Walters, of —, who had issue 4 sons and 2 daughters."

"Walter Morgan, of this town, skinner, died 16th October, 1761, aged 70."

"Joan Watkins, the daughter of Watkin ap Euan, she departed of this life 19th day of April, 1687." There is an earlier date on this stone, viz., 1666.

A defaced stone: "——— Body of John —— descended of John Skwl, Knight, who married Ann, daughter of Howell Morgan, of Devynock, gent., and they had issue William, Thomas, Margaret, Elizabeth, Gwenllian, Jonett, and Johan. He died the 28 day of April, Anno Domini, 1680, aged 78 years." There is a many-quartered coat of arms carved upon this stone.

"Here lieth the body of Peter, the son of Peter Evans, of this town, who departed this life 27 day of 7ber Anno Dom. 1677."

"David, son of David Griffith, vicar of Merthyr. He died the 29th day of April, 176—, in the 12th year of his age."

"John Whittam, Esq., obiit April 6, 1842, ætat 38."

"To the memory of Isabella Powell, the daughter and only child of John Powell, doctor of physick," already referred to.

THE TREGUNTER CHAPEL.

In the Tregunter Chapel, is placed the organ. This magnificent instrument was erected by public subscription in the year 1879. A small door from the choir leads into this chapel, and here are several monuments to the Tregunter family. The inscriptions on those now exposed are to "Richard Hughes, late of this town, Esq., died 13th June, 1739, aged 78, and of Mary his wife, who died 25 Jan., 1718, aged 51. He was 13th child of Charles Hughes, of Trostrey, in the co. of Monmouth, Esq. She was eldest daughter and co-heiress of John Philpot, of Monmouth Town, Esq. Of their children five lie buried near this place, namely, Richard, Charles, Mary, Elizabeth, and Mary. Also Charles Hughes, Esq., grandson of the above Richard and Mary, who died the 5th day of May, 1756, in his 28th year. Erected by John Hughes, Esq., 3rd son of Richard and Mary, 1756." Several other names have been painted on this tablet, but they are now so obliterated as to render them unreadable. Another tablet is "To the memory of Amelia, erected by her mother; she was the youngest daughter of Samuel Hughes, Esq., and died June ye 9, 1794, nearly 8 years." Also "Sacred to the memory of Anna Maria Hughes, spinster, who died 23rd March, 1853, in the 79th year of her age." Likewise, "Sacred to the memory of Eliza Anne Madocks, of Tregunter, in this county, relict of W. A. Madocks, Esq., of the Madoc, Carnarvonshire, who expired the 30th July, 1859, in the 75th year of her age." And another reads, "This tablet is erected by Anna Maria Hughes, in memory of her husband Samuel Hughes, Esq., who died February 6, 1795, aged 63 years; also their two sons, Samuel Harris Hughes (the eldest, died August 15, 1796, aged only 21 years, whose premature death and many amiable virtues so deeply wounded a fond mother's heart, no time can blunt the arrows of her affection), Thomas Harries, who in the service of his country fell a victim to the yellow fever in the West Indies in the exercise of his duties as an officer in the 48th Regt. of Foot, died July 25, 1796, aged only 20 years. The above named Anna Maria Hughes departed this life April 26, 1814, aged 69."

THE NAVE.

Under the tower, the floor contains but few sepulchral inscriptions. Those seen are: "Henry Lucas, M.D., died July 21, 1840, aged 67; Theresa Lucas, died July 18, 1850, aged 63." "Ann, wife of John Bevan, died March 1763, aged 63." "William Wynter, Esq., died April 1, 1806, aged 39." "Ann, daughter of William and John Blashfield, who died young, April 29, 1811."

The Tailors' Chapel, besides the recumbent effigy beneath a recessed tomb, contains several sepulchral slabs on the south wall (one to Richard Creed, died 1666, and another to Thomas ap Richard Thomas, but without date); on the floor is one in old English text partly covered, and others much defaced, relate to the Bulcott's, with the date 1631, and Powell, *feltmarker*, date 1693.

In the nave of the church are windows of stained glass: "To the glory of God and in memory of David W. J. Thomas and Elizabeth Grace his wife, this window was erected by his children." This gentleman was churchwarden of the parish for 20 years, and held many public appointments; he was a solicitor and the eldest son of the late David Thomas, Esq., one of the Thomases of Welfield in Breconshire. He died in 1899, and lies buried in the Brecon Cemetery. Another window has a brass plate beneath it, which says "Phoebe Jones caused this window to be erected in memory of herself, her husband Evan Jones, her father William Webb, and her mother Phoebe Webb, all of this town. A.D. 1889." There is also another: "To the glory of God and in memory of John Morgan-Thomas, J.P. for the county of Brecknock, Glynarth, Brecon. Born 24 Jan., 1831, died 17 Dec., 1902. The above window was erected by him to the memory of his loving and beloved wife and children. This

tablet is erected by his two surviving children." The small window to the right of the west window has a brass beneath inscribed: "To the glory of God and in memory of the undermentioned officers and men of the 2nd Battalion South Wales Borderers (24th Regt.), who were killed in action or died of disease in the Burmah Campaign, 1886-7-8. This window is erected by their comrades in the Line, Militia, and Volunteer Battalions of the S.W.B., 1890"—(then follow the names of 1 officer and 50 non-commissioned officers and men). The next window is one given by Mr Aneurin George, who was for 50 years churchwarden of this parish: "To the glory of God and in loving memory of his wife and daughter Elizabeth and Emily Catherine George; A.D. 1887." Beneath this window, and affixed to the wall, are memorial stones to the memory of some members of this family, including Joan George, who lived to be 100 years; two others lived to be 91 and 96 years respectively, and the total of the five persons commemorated amounts to 419 years.

A painted board affixed to the wall near the main entrance records the fact that the Incorporated Society for Building Churches granted in 1873 the sum of £100 towards the re-seating and restoring of the church upon condition that all the sittings in the church be free for the use of parishioners according to law; and near the entrance to the vestry is another board upon which is painted particulars of the Sir Joseph Bailey bequest, viz., "Be it Remembered that Sir Joseph Bailey, of Glanusk Park, in the county of Brecon, Bart., M.P., by a codicil to his will dated the 19th day of May, 1856, gave to the poor of the town of Brecon for ever the yearly sum of £20 sterling to be applied from time to time for the benefit of any poor individuals being inhabitants of the said town, to be selected for that purpose by the minister and churchwardens for the time being of the parish church as they in their discretion should think proper. And for answering the said sum he hereby directed his executors within 12 months after his decease to invest in the three per cent. Consolidated Bank Annuities in the corporate name of the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds such a sum as would by the dividends thereof produce that annual sum. REV. GARNONS WILLIAMS, Vicar; GEORGE J. WILLIAMSON, ANEURIN GEORGE, Churchwardens, Brecon, 1860."

The sepulchral stones on the floor of the nave are mostly those which were brought into the church from the churchyard when the nave was restored in 1874, and are principally to the memory of families engaged in trade within the borough; but some of them are mentioned in the list collected by Jones, such as the tombstone to Dennis, a son of Luce Vaughan, daughter of Henry Vaughan, "doctor of physick," of Llansaintfraed; and Morgan son to Lewis Morgan, vicar of this town. . . . died 19 day of May, 1629; &c. Some of the stones visible are to the following: John Philbedge, died Nov. 7, 1796, aged 71, and Evan his son, who died 1768, and also to another Evan Philbedge, aged 48, who died 1784; members of this family traded in Brecon up to quite recent years. Thomas Williams, saddler, son of Thomas Williams, gent., of Glantowy, Carmarthenshire, died ye 27 May, 17—, aged 31, and left issue a daughter. Richard Watkins, corvizer, died 1812, aged 75. Katherine Bowns, wife of David Bowns, of this Burrough, carrier, died May 21, 1757, aged 77; David, died 27 April, 1765, aged 65. Mary, wife of Evan Gwyn, chandler, died Nov. 16, 1733, aged 70. William Morgan, Esq., who dyed ye 23rd day of May, A.D. 1725, aged 30; also Edward Morgan, Esq., dyed 27 day of March, 1750. John Jones, late of Six Bells, died March 30, 1790, aged 29, and Jane his daughter. Vaughan William Ferrant, late of the parish of Caron in Cardiganshire, died 1788, aged 50. Margaret the wife of Edward Lloyd, died Oct. 17, 1774, aged 63. William Watkin, of this town, corvizer, son of John Watkins, of Pante, in ye parish of Talachddy, died Feb. 16, 1725, aged 33. Elizabeth, wife of John Nicholas, of this town, who died April 21, 1812, aged 72 (this is cut in.o the Luce Vaughan stone). David Lewis, of this town, *harper*, died 24 June, 1781, aged 54, and Elizabeth his wife, died 1782, aged 57, (a member of a profession now almost unknown). Thomas Robb, innkeeper, died 1770. Maria *Theresa* Cotton, relict of — Salisbury Cotton, Esq., died July 13, 1791 (?), aged 73. William Hughes, *hatmaker*, died Feb. 18, 1808, aged 27, and his sons. To the Pugh family, butchers. Near the vestry door: Thomas Longfellow, died June 30, 1815, aged 54; John Longfellow, eldest son, died in London, Aug. 13, 1816, aged 46; William Longfellow, died in London, 14 day of Feb., 1843, aged 63; Amelia, relict of William Longfellow, died 11 May, 1849, aged 49; Sarah Longfellow, died in London, March 24, 1851, aged 74, a daughter of Thomas Longfellow, late of Brecon. A member of this family was also buried here in 1780. Some of them were innkeepers in Brecon, and father and son successively held the office of secretary to Breconshire Agricultural Society. Near by, "Launcelet Morgan, gent., town clerk of this borough, who was youngest son of William Morgan, of the same burrough and of Mary his wife, eldest daughter of Meredith James, of the same burrough, gent.; he died 24 March, 1753, aged 29. Mary, wife of Edward Davies, weaver, died Feb. 22, 1775, aged 53; he died Feb. 15, 1794, aged 71. John Powell, ironmonger, son of Thomas Powell, of this town, innkeeper, by Ann his wife, who died May 9, 1809, aged 25; Ann, daughter of Thomas Powell, died April 1811, aged 24. Thomas Morgan, late Corporal in Brecon Militia, died July 17 —. Joan Harris, spinster,

who lived for 36 years in the service of Mrs Allen, she died April 8, 1825, aged 64; there is another to an old servant in the same lady's house. Powell, china dealer, died Feb. 8, 1838. David Waters, *cardmaker*, died 1775. Beside these there are many others now covered by the seats and matting of the nave. On its walls, in addition to those already mentioned, such as the Griffiths, Gunters, &c., one to Thomas Batt, Esq., surgeon in 7th Royal Fusiliers, and coroner, who died on the Bulwark, where he resided, on 13 Jan., 1848, aged 65. Also to Thomas Dumaresq, son of Thomas Batt and Cartarette his wife, who died in Guernsey 19th January, 1815, and Catherine Jane, their daughter, who died at Caen, 3rd Nov., 1834. Rev. Thomas Clarke Griffiths, M.A., who died April 4, 1852, aged 61, also of Anna Jane, his wife, youngest daughter of Rev. John Williams, M.A., of Abercramlais, who died 17 May, 1856, aged 76. Another to Thomas, the eldest son of Crozier Thomas, Esq., who died Sept. 8, 1777; Hugh Lloyd, died 1770; Joseph Michael Awbrey, who died at Vittoria, March, 1856; his sister erected this monument, which states that owing to untoward circumstances he entered the service of the Queen of Spain, and after many privations met with an untimely death.

Near the font is the recumbent effigy in wood of a lady, being one of five figures which formed part of a tomb to the Games family of Aberbran (date 1555), and around about are several old sepulchral crosses and inscriptions, and a cope-chest, quarter circle in shape.

Near to the doorway leading into the Priory grounds, are two large slabs lying flat upon the ground to the memory of two very ancient families still represented—the Gwyns of Abercraf, and the Wynthers. As the inscriptions upon them have not hitherto been correctly recorded, they are here given:—

THE GWYN'S: To the memory of three children of Howell Gwyn, of Abercraue, by Gwenllian his wife, viz., Thomas, died 10 March, 1719, Walter died 12 April, 1719, Edward died 20 Oct. 1726; also Howell Gwyn, gent, who died September 29, 1740, aged 70; Gwenllian his wife died 22 March, 1758, aged 87. Anna, daughter of Howell Gwyn, died 2nd June, 1760, aged 22. Upon the other half of the stone: Also three children of Howell Gwyn, Esq., by Teresa Maria his wife, viz. Teresa Maria died 10 May, 1763, aged 15 weeks; Gwen Mariana, died 5 June, 1770, aged 9; John died 3 July, 1772, aged 7 years; also Howell Gwyn, Esq., died March 5, 1775, aged 60.

THE WYNTHERS:—In addition to those already mentioned: "Mary wife of William Wynter, Esq., of this town, who died August 6, 1749, aged 39; also the body of William Wynter, Esq., who died June 2nd, 1758, aged 55. William Wynter, Esq., died April 1, 1805; Hugh Wynter, Esq., died December, 1, 1833, aged 28; Jane Wynter, died July 31st, 1838, aged 37; Elizabeth Wynter, widow of the above named William Wynter, and mother of the above named Hugh Wynter and Jane Wynter, died on the 27th day of March, 1847, aged 70; Captain Daniel Wynter, 11th Regt. M.N.I., died April 30, 1842; also William Wynter, eldest son of the above Captain D. Wynter, and Lieutenant in the 52nd Regt. Madras N.I., who died at Hayteepaullee May 27, 1856, in the 23rd year of his age."

THE PRIORY CRESSET STONE.

Behind the font is placed a cresset stone, of which Mrs Dawson, a daughter of Archdeacon W. L. Bevan, M.A., wrote: "Not long since a remarkably fine and perfect specimen of a cresset stone was discovered in a garden at Brecon, and there can be little doubt that it originally came from the Priory, and was the identical cresset stone which hundreds of years ago, afforded a light to Godfrey the cook and his brother monks as they chanted their praises and prayers, and kept their night vigils in the dim Priory while all the world slept." The history of the recovery of this stone is described by Miss Gwenllian E. F. Morgan (who with her sister presented it to the Priory in 1907). She writes: "Many years ago the late Miss Sarah Jenkins, of Struet House, Brecon (aunt to G. Hyatt Williams, Esq., town clerk), noticed a curious looking block of stone, with many round holes worked into its surface, lying neglected in a garden at Pendre not far from the church; she always took a keen interest in antiquities, and had considerable knowledge on antiquarian subjects, so she at once formed the opinion that it was a cresset stone, and purchased it from the owner, to which act of hers we owe its preservation, though it did not occur to her that it had ever belonged to the Priory, though from the place in which it was found, and from all we have been able to learn about it, we are perfectly satisfied that it was removed from our parish church about 60 years ago. At that time the church was unrestored, and there was not the same reverent interest taken in the relics of the past, which now happily prevails, so that in sheer ignorance the cresset may have been taken away. Some years after Miss Jenkins found the stone she gave it to us. . . . whether the cresset stone came from the Monastery or the church we do not know, but it has a larger number of holes than any other specimen we have seen. Its dimensions are as follows: Size 2ft. by 1ft. 9in.; depth at thickest part, 6 inches; it contains 30 holes of a diameter of 3 inches each, the depth of each hole being 3 inches; it is of native stone which has laminated in two places, probably at the result of blows; it is very heavy, and we are told the workmanship used in making the holes is remarkable, as, without the greatest care, the stone would have been broken."

The burial ground of the Priory was closed in the year 1858, and after that date interments were generally made in the Brecon Cemetery, but in 1876 an application was made to the Home Secretary by representatives of Sybil, widow of John Cadogan, for an order to open a grave so that she could

be buried with her husband, who died in 1852. This order was granted, and the burial took place. After this an inspector was sent down by the Home Office, and, so we are informed by Mr. Aneurin George, permission was granted for burials to be made in the old churchyard. But it was generally understood that space would only be provided for the dead whose families had been already interred in the churchyard. Even this rule has, however, been departed from, for in 1887, the wife of William Ind, schoolmaster at the National School, was buried there, and at a later date William Ind himself was buried there. Neither of these persons were natives of the parish, nor had they relatives buried in the churchyard. The burials, however, are very rare, and for years past there has been a disposition on the part of the authorities to discourage their taking place.

At the restoration of the nave in 1872-75, the entrance gate to the churchyard was at the boundary wall running parallel with the main road, but in consequence of traffic through this gateway into the yard of the Camden property, it soon became in a ruined state. When, therefore, in 1900, a new lych-gate was erected by the representatives of the late Mr. J. R. Cobb, it was put back some distance from the roadway. This handsome gateway has a tablet of stone, upon which is carved the following inscription:—"To the glory of God, lived 1821-1897 Joseph Richard Cobb, to whose memory this gate is erected by his wife and children, 1900." The gentleman here commemorated was of Nythfa, Brecon, and a celebrated antiquary who contributed large sums towards the restoration of churches at Brecon, Llanddew, and elsewhere.

Passing into the churchyard, we find the main pathway, leading into the Priory Groves, planted on either side with trees which form a delightful avenue. For many years prior to 1896 the appearance of the burial ground was a reproach to the parishioners. The old monuments were largely in ruins, and the whole aspect was one of neglect. But in the year named, subscriptions were sought to remedy this state of things. The first step taken was to level up the older sepulchral monuments, but in doing this many of them were removed a considerable distance from their original positions; so that when we read: "Here lyeth the body" of a particular departed one, it must not be accepted as literally true; of course this does not apply to other than head-stones. The general appearance of the churchyard is, however, much improved, and a commendable interest is being maintained in these improvements, so as to make it harmonious with the stately structure skirting the full length of it. A careful survey of the monuments reveals the fact that nearly all the ancient stones have disappeared; probably many of them have from time to time been taken into the church, and it is by no means improbable that some were taken to repair adjacent cottages and buildings, for not long ago the remnant of a tombstone dated 1600 was found in a building at the top of Pendre.

Perhaps the oldest in the churchyard now is the stone underneath one of the yews facing the main entrance to the church, viz., "HERE, LYETH, THE, BODY, OF, AGNES, VZ, LEWIS, JONES, SCRYVENER, DESCENDED, . OF, MAYNARCH, LO. OF, BRECON. SHE, MARRIED, JOHN, MEREDITH, THOMAS, AP, MORGAN, THEY, HAD, ISSVE, THOMAS, DAVID, LEWIS, ALS, ELIZABETH, AND, SICILY, SHE, DIED, THE, 18, OF, JANVARI, ANO, DNI, 1628." Next in the matter of age come the Wynstone tombstones, lying flat near to the small gateway leading to the entrance of choir vestry at the west end of church. These burials commence in 1696, and continue to 1714; this family held important positions in trade for several generations, and descendants are still living within the borough.

ARCHDEACON DAVIES'S FAMILY VAULT.

The churchyard contains the vault of Archdeacon Davies's family, to which there was formerly an entrance through the Vicar's chapel. The high railings were removed when the restoration of the nave was completed; over the vault is a large square tombstone, surmounted by an urn, similar in construction to the monument over the Williams of Penpont vault in the Penpont churchyard. The four squares are thickly covered with inscriptions, which are here given:—

"Within these rails (and in the premises adjoining) in hopes of a joyful resurrection, through the merits of a redeeming Saviour, is deposited what was mortal of ROBERT WILLIAMS, Esq., of this town. He died on the 16th day of December, 1810, aged 81.

"Also CATHERINE, wife of the said ROBERT WILLIAMS and daughter of the Reverend RICHARD and JOANNA DAVIES. She died the 4th day of September 1816, aged 81.

"Also of MARY, daughter of HENRY DAVIES, Esq., and FRANCES his wife. She died the 23rd of January, 1802, aged 22.

"Also of HENRY DAVIES, Esq., second son of the before-mentioned RICHARD and JOANNA DAVIES. He died the 28th day of May, 1813, aged 71.

"Also of SERYL, wife of the Rev. RICHARD COLLINSON, rector of King's Weston in the county of Somerset, and daughter of the before named Reverend RICHARD and JOANNA DAVIES. She died on the 31st day of October, 1815, aged 71.

"Also of Captain JOHN RYND (late of the 53rd Regiment of Infantry) who married MARY the youngest daughter of the Rev. RICHARD DAVIES, vicar of Brecon, and ELIZABETH his wife. He died the 31st day of March, 1821, aged 59.

"Also of MARY, widow of Captain WILLIAM DAVIES of Gweth-y-fed, and second daughter of EDWARD ALLEN, Esq., of the Lodge, in this county, and JOANNA his wife, who was the eldest daughter of the Rev. RICHARD DAVIES, Archdeacon of St. David's, and JOANNA his wife. She died at Brecon the 24th day of March, 1831, aged 73.

Also of FRANCES, widow of the above named HENRY DAVIES, Esq. She died on the 18th day of June, 1837, in the 91st year of her age.

"To the memory of JOANNA daughter of the Rev. RICHARD DAVIES, M.A., Archdeacon of St. David's, and widow of the late EDWARD ALLEN, Esq., of The Lodge, in this county. She died on the 25th day of March, A.D. 1805, in the 80th year of her age.

"Also of MARY daughter of the above named RICHARD DAVIES, M.A., and widow of the Rev. HENRY ALLEN, D.D., of Alneley in the county of Hereford. She died at Brecon on the 12th day of December, A.D. 1838, in the 96th year of her age, and was buried at Alneley. Distinguished by simplicity of character and kindness of heart, her long life was passed in the exercise of the largest and most extended charity. Beloved by her family and friends, lamented by the poor and needy, but one common sentiment of regret attends her loss.

"In memory of JOANNA, the wife of Mr. JAMES WILLIAM MORGAN, of this town, and formerly of Treble Hill, Glasbury, great niece of the above named Mrs. MARY ALLEN and her sister Mrs. CATHERINE WILLIAMS, the latter of whom, on her early losing her mother, adopted her as her daughter, and together with her uncle always treated her with parental kindness and affection. She lived at Tenby and was buried in her mother's grave in Glasbury Church on the 8th September, 1847, aged 70 years. Beloved and lamented by all who knew her."

The remaining inscriptions upon this Monument are in Latin, as follow:

"In Sacello huic Sepulchrali Monumento Adjacente Repostum jacet quod Mortale fuit HENRICI WILLIAMS Generosis, et rerum forensium in Oppide Breconensi olim Procuratoris, obiit 6to Calend. Novemb. A.D. 1736 .Ætatis sue 74.

"ETIAM HENRICI WILLIAMS filii nata secundi ejus; qui obiit 5to Idus Novemb. A.D. 1723, .Ætatis 28.

"ETIAM Reverendi in Christo Viri THOMÆ WILLIAMS, B.D., filii ejusdem nata tertii; qui per annos 36 in Æde Menevensi Canonatus munere religiosissime functus est. Vixit annos 89. Obit 3to Non. Feb. 1787.

"Subtus Extra Muros, Conduuntur ejusdem familie qui sequuntur Cineres; Nimirum Reverendi in Christo Viri RICHARDI DAVIES, B.D., Parochie Breconensis Vicarii, Necnon in Cathedrali Ecclesiâ Menevensi Archidiaconi simul et Canonici. Obit 10mo. Calend. Decembris A.D. 1748, .Ætatis 52.

"JOHANNÆ ejusdem RICHARDI Vidue, et Hen. Williams, de prenominati filie. Obit 11mo. Calend. April A.D., 1751. .Ætatis 52.

"Reverendi in Christo Viri RICHARDI DAVIES, M.A., Prædicti RICHARDI et JOHANNÆ filii nata maximi. Vicariam hanc Breconensem, per 17 annos tenuit; Canonici itidem Menevensi exstitit. Obit 11 mo. Calend. Septem. A.D. 1804. .Ætatis 67.

"ELIZABETHÆ ejusdem RICHARDI, vidue, et PENNÆ WILLIAMS de Penpont in agro Breconensi Armegeri, ex filiabus nata maxime obiit 15to Calend. Decembris, A.D. 1816. .Ætatis 76.

"MARTHÆ, filie infantile RICARDI DAVIES, junioris quæ et RICARDI et ELIZABETHÆ, neptis erat. Evita jam tantum incepta in lucem transit æternam, pridie Calend. August. 1803.

"MATHE, charissimæ conjugis RICARDI DAVIES, Archidiaconi simul et vicarii Breconensis Necnon in Ecclesiâ Menevensi Canonici. Ex filiabus Reverendi JOHANNIS WILLIAMS de Abercromlais in agro Breconia et Archidiaconi Coreticensis vixit nata quarta. Bathoniae confectis cursum 6to Non. Maii A.D. 1820. .Ætatis 42.

"Suis et sibi hoc monumentum extrui curavit R.D. MEROUS, LECTOR, Communis est quam aspicias mortalitatis facias."

"M.S. — RICARDI DAVIES, M.A., Qui annos plus L. Archidiaconus simul et Vicarius Breconensis Necnon annos plus XLIV. In Ecclesiâ apud Menevensis Cathedrali Canonici. Obit Frid-Id-Mai: MDCCCLXII. Anno .Ætatis LXXXII mo."

THE CHURCHYARD INSCRIPTIONS IN 1908.

Near by is a tomb to Frederick Watkins, J.P., who died in 1881, aged 76; he was a former Registrar of Christ College. On the edge of the path near the Groves entrance are several tombs to Howell Maund, Esq., and other members of that family. In the same portion, is a chaste monument, "In loving Remembrance of Major Charles Henry Lumley, V.C., Royal Welsh Fusiliers, who died at Brecon, October 17, 1858, aged 34 years. 'In a little wrath I hid my face from Thee for a moment, but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer.'" This gallant soldier won the Victoria Cross at the storming of the Redan during the Crimean war, and when stationed at Brecon committed suicide while temporarily insane. Several soldiers and their wives are buried hereabout. Andrew Skayne, assistant surgeon 52nd Light Infantry, died at Brecon, 23rd January, 1846, aged 33. Eliza Catherine, wife of James Watson, captain 14th Regiment, who died 30th April, 1839, aged 27, and of John their son, who died 28th April, 1839, aged 7 months; Widderington Jackson, aged 21 years, an ensign in the 41st Regiment, who was killed by a fall from his horse on the 9th May, 1845; James Brown, late sergt.-major of the 93rd Highlanders, who died January 12, 1831, aged 34 years; Private Samuel Coarse, 11th Regt., of Foot, who was accidentally shot when at ball practice at Battle Hill on the 7th August, 1855, aged 22 years; Mary Ann, wife of Simon Hurley, 4th Dragoon Guards, who died June 5, 1854, aged 27; Hannah wife of Sergt.-Major James Sly, of the Royal Scots Greys, who died Oct. 30, 1851, aged 37; other stones record the deaths of soldiers of the 52nd Regt. of Foot, 82nd Regt., 11th Regt., and Grenadier Company of the 11th Regt. (dates between 1842 and 1848). Under a small tree is the monument to the French prisoner of war who died at Brecon:

C I GI FRANCOIS HUSSON, PRISONNIER DE GUERRE FRANCAIS, CAPTAIN AN 4 REGT.
D'ARTILLERIE DE MARINE DECEDE LE 27 AVRIL 1810 DE 48 ANS.

BY FOREIGN HANDS HIS HUMBLE GRAVE ADOEN'D,
BY STRANGERS HONOUR'D, BY STRANGERS MOURN'D.

Not far away is a heap of stones, the ruins of the once substantial box tombs of the Churchey

family, two members of which, father and son, bore the same name. Walter Churchey the elder was a poet of some ability, and published several of his compositions, including "Poems and Imitations of the British Poets," an "Essay on Man, &c.," "A Philippic on the Idleness of a Causeless Session at Brecon, with a very nice and useful application at the close"; an "Ode to Music"; "An Elegy to the memory of the late celebrated William Cooper, Esq.," and when the great Admiral Nelson visited Brecon, he sang his praises in an ode which the gallant seaman suitably acknowledged in a letter of thanks. So far as it is possible to decipher them, the inscriptions read: "Sacred to the memory of Walter Churchey, Esq., who departed this life the 3rd day of December, 1805, in the 58th year of his age. Also of Mary his wife who died October 26, 1822, aged 77, and to their second daughter Jane who died October 29, 1842." Another stone commemorates the death of a daughter Mary who died October 1st, 1835; and on a third we read, "Underneath this tomb lie the mortal remains (commingling with those of his revered parents and beloved sister) of Walter Churchey, Esq., for 26 years town clerk of Brecknock. The strict integrity, unwearied diligence, and consummate skill with which he executed many important offices, gained for him universal esteem, while in the domestic and social circle he was much endeared by the suavity of his manners, the playfulness of his wit, and the extreme kindness of his disposition. His surviving relatives deeply deploring their afflictive bereavement, cherish his memory with fondness and veneration, and console themselves with the Christian assurance of a happy reunion to endure through a blessed and glorious eternity. He died Feb. 28, 1840."

Near to the Churchey graves is a monument, "Sacred to the memory of Thomas Williams, Esqr., of this town, wine merchant, who died the 7th February, 1855, aged 45 years. He for several years faithfully discharged his duties as a magistrate and member of the Town Council, and was twice elected Mayor of the Borough. Exemplary in every relation of life as a husband, a father, a friend, and a neighbour, and his death will ever be regretted as an irreparable loss by his wife and children who are left to mourn their early bereavement." A son of this gentleman died May 20, 1858, aged 20, and another son died 24 March, 1879, aged 44 years.

On the wall of the church, facing the churchyard, is a stone inscribed: "Near this place lie the remains of Johanna Prichard, the late wife of Charles Prichard, surgeon, and apothecary of this town. She departed this life the 27th of January, 1779, aged 50 years." Beneath this, laid flat on the ground, is "Under this stone are deposited the remains of Charles Prichard, Esq., of this town, surgeon, who departed this life the 10th day of November, 1804, aged 73. Reader! he was the noblest work of God's: he was an honest man. He lived universally esteemed, and his loss is most sincerely and deeply regretted. Erected by his widow and executrix, Elizabeth Prichard." Adjoining this is one to the only child of Howell Harris, of Trefecca, and the full inscription is as follows: "Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Pritchard, the widow of the said Charles Prichard, late of this town, esquire, and only child of Howell Harris, late of Trevecca, Esqre., deceased. She died 8th February 1826, aged 78 years." And close by are stones to the memory of Elizabeth, wife of Hugh Bold, of this town, gent., who dyed the 31st Oct., 1781, and to infant daughters of Thomas and Marianne. Bold, who died in 1802 and 1804, also of Thomas, infant son of the above, who died 14 April, 1807.

In front of the small door leading into the church: "Here lyeth ye body of Susanna Madocks, she died December the 4th, 1741, aged 83 (?)" and "Here lyeth the body of John Jones, of the Queen's Head Inn, in this town, who died ye 26th June, 1805, aged 38 years. Also of Elizabeth, daughter of the said John Jones, by Joan his wife, who died the 16th July, 1802, aged 7 years.

Nearly facing the porch is the tomb upon which is carved the arms of the Gwernyfed Williamses. The inscription reads: "Here lyeth the body of David Williams, of the Gare, in this parish, esquire, who departed this life ye 29th day of July, 1767, aged 76. Also David Williams, junior, of the Gare, gent., died February 14, 1787, aged 50. Also David Williams, son of the above, died May ye 14, 1785, aged 6 years. Also of Rachel, wife of Rees Price, of Gare in this parish, who died the 13th October, 1821, aged 66 years." Near this tomb is a stone lying flat on the ground, inscribed: "Here lyeth the body of Rebecka Morgans, daughter to David Williams, of Gare, esquire, who departed this life July the 18, 1771, aged 30 years. Also lyeth the body of Catherine Williams, mother of the above named, who died April ye 19, 1783, aged 70 years." In another part there are monuments to Thomas Price, of Gaer, who died March 12, 1841, aged 41 years. This Thomas Price was a most highly esteemed agriculturist, and was the recipient of a testimonial of silver plate of considerable value from the noblemen and gentlemen of the district. Sarah his daughter died in 1848, aged 25, and Margaret his wife in 1852; his grandson, David Lewis Price, son of the late Lewis Price, chandler, of Llanfaes, died 24 August, 1906, aged 32. By the side of this monument is one to William Thomas, chandler, of Llanfaes, who died in 1847, aged 83, and his wife Sarah, who died 1843, aged 79.

There are some tombs to the Church family, inscribed: "Underneath are deposited the remains of four infant children of John and Mary Church. Also of Mary their daughter, who died the 13th of January, 1785, aged 19. Of the said Mary Church, who died the 29th of December, 1799, aged 67. Also of the said John Church, who died the 16 day of June, 1814, aged 69. Also of Richard William Ellis, of Arundel, in the county of Sussex, and since of Cheltenham, in the county of Gloucester, late an officer in the 14th Light Dragoons, who departed this life on the 23rd of September, 1831, aged 43 years, leaving his widow, the grand-daughter of the said John Church." "To the memory of John Church Morrice, grandson of the above-named John Church, who died 23rd April, 1833, aged 31. Also of Samuel Church, of Pfrwdgrech, Esquire, son of the above-named John Church, died May 1st, 1845, aged 71." "Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Morrice, of Pfrwdgrech, in this county, widow of William Morrice, Esquire, of Cardiff, in the county of Glamorgan, whose remains are interred in Cardiff Church; daughter of John Church and Mary his wife, of Pfrwdgrech; mother of John Church Morrice, Esq., and sister of Samuel Church, Esq., of Pfrwdgrech. This venerable and excellent Christian departed this life the 18th day of May, 1846, in the 77th year of her age."

Of the Awbrey family there are several monumental records, and among them the following: Phebe, wife of George Awbrey, of this town, saddler, who died — December, 1775, aged 43; Mary, daughter of George Awbrey, saddler, died August 29, 1795, and other children; George, eldest son of George and Mary Awbrey, drowned whilst bathing in the river Usk, June 30, 1815, aged 8 years; likewise of Joseph Michael, their second son, who died in Vittoria in Spain, March 19, 1836, aged 27 years." He was an amiable and highly talented young man, whose premature death caused deep sorrow to his surviving relatives. One stone has this inscription: "Underneath are deposited the remains of Mary, wife of George Awbrey, of this town. Unassuming piety and a meek deportment marked her walk through life. During a series of trying dispensations her submission was exemplary, and in her last illness she retained a serenity of mind seldom witnessed. As a wife and mother she excelled. Of her children only one daughter remains to lament the loss of such an endeared parent. She resigned her gentle spirit to God Oct. 12, 1842, aged 77 years."

There is a substantial tomb, near to the small door, to the memory of "John Lloyd, gent., of Gwerllwyn Cottage, in the parish of Dowlais . . . who was a native of Maesmysin in this county, and was engaged in an extensive trade as jeweller and silversmith in this town upwards of 30 years. . . . He died April 18, 1854, aged 67." There are stones, also, to Elizabeth, wife of Rees Lloyd, of The Wharf in this town, gent., who died May 19, 1808, aged 27; to Rees, their infant son, and to Rees Lloyd their second son, who died 28 May, 1831, aged 29 years. Near to this is a substantial tomb recording the deaths of several members of the Link family, to whose memory there are also some slabs in Llanfaes Church.

Of Hughes, the printer's family, there are several well-kept memorials. H. Hughes, printer, died June 14, 1794, aged 39. Elizabeth, his daughter, died April 14, 1795, aged 8; four other children died in infancy. Also of Ann, widow of Henry Hughes, she died March 26, 1821, aged 75. Henry Hughes, jun., of Brecon, printer; he died April 15, 1820, aged 39; also of his two sons, who died in infancy. Also of William, son of the above-named H. Hughes; he died July 30, 1829, aged 8 years.

There is a monument inscribed: "Here lieth in certain hope of the life to come, Anne Sophia Lucas, daughter of the late Henry Lucas, M.D., of this town; she died April 9, 1854." Dr. Lucas was buried in the Brecon Cemetery.

Some other stones noticed were "David Morgan, late of this town, Chandler, who died January 26, 1807, aged 48 years." He was a Freemason, and for some time secretary of the Brecknock Lodge; his monument was restored in 1907 by the Brecknock Lodge of Freemasons. Another member of this craft was "Samuel Campion, upwards of 25 years organist of St. Mary's in this town, who died 26th September, 1816, aged 52." "Mrs. Reeve, widow of John Reeve, Esq., of Whitley, near Reading, who died January 3, 1852, aged 75 years." On a tomb underneath one of the yew trees, "Rest the remains of two children of Clement and Mary Anne Ekin," who died in 1821 and 1833; "the beloved father of the above-named children was formerly one of the Coroners for the county. He died at Barbadoes in the West Indies July 16, 1832, aged 42, to which place he accompanied his regiment, the 93rd Highlanders, as surgeon." A representative of this family is still living in Brecon. "Here rest the remains of William Williams, Esq., of this town, who died Dec. —, 1821, in the 75th year of his age"; also of Priscilla, his wife, who died May 20, 1834, aged 78; Jane, widow of Thomas Vaughan, late of Chancefield in this county, who died Nov. 22, 1815, aged 79; also of John, son of Abel Powell (maltster), of Brecon, who died Oct. 6, 1821, aged 17; also to several of the Powells of Vennyfach (1809 to 1835); to several of the Phillipses of The Bull Inn (1798-1838); Lewises, butchers (1815 to 1832); tomb to "Llewellyn Jones, late of the New Greyhound, in the



PRIORY CHURCH AT BRECKNOCK—LOOKING WEST.

(From Photograph by Mr. DeG. Wilkinson)



FONT AT PRIORY.



THE PRIORY.

(From an old Print.)

parish of St. David's, Brecon, who died April 20, 1828, aged 75; Jane, his wife, died Feb. 13, 1834, aged 70; William Jones, son, died April 10, 1836, aged 33, leaving a wife and five children to deplore the loss of an affectionate husband and father. Also of Herbert Edwin, grandson of the late William Jones and 4th son of Edwin and Jane Evans, of Bowen Terrace, Brecon, who died April 11, 1884, aged 20 years." This family is now represented by the Misses Jones, of Bowen Terrace, who still own the New Greyhound and other property in Llanfaes.

Powells, braziers, are represented by several sepulchral stones bearing dates between 1807 and 1830; one of this family was a clothier and tanner of the Middle Marsh, Leominster, and his son died in 1843 aged 73, and the latter's wife died July 9, 1850, aged 80; Margaret, wife of David Morgan, of Penlan, died 1855, aged 61, and he died Feb. 8, 1853, aged 65, while David Morgan, jun., of Llanfaes, died Oct. 28, 1888, aged 76. "Underneath lie the remains of Ann Evans, who died the 8th day of September, 1839, aged 81 years—the last 34 of which she lived in the service of Mrs. Maybery. This tomb is erected by Mary, Martha, and Catherine Maybery to perpetuate the memory of a nurse they dearly loved." Memorials are standing to Elizabeth Harding, daughter of Thomas and Mary Ann Head, of this town, she died in New York, North America, Nov. 9, 1832, aged 13; also of John Wesley, brother of the above, who died in 1839; also of Mary Ann Head, their mother, who died July, 1855, aged 48. To Mary, wife of John Jones, of Penylan in this parish, who died Sept. 10, 1825, aged 40; Stephenses, of Penpont Hamlet (1807-1856); William Gilbert, of The Watton, who died in 1816, aged 73, and other members of this family; Thomas Phillips, of this town, who died Jan. 22nd, 1835, aged 81 years, and several members of the same family, who died between 1790 and 1855.

There is a tomb inside railings near the small door, on which these particulars are engraved: "Sacred to the memory of Ann, wife of Jeffrey Jenkins of this town, she died April 24, 1788, aged 70 years; also of the said Jeffrey Jenkins, he died May 2nd, 1795, aged 75; Mary Jenkins, of this town, she died August 1st, 1795, aged 38. Jane Morgan, widow, sister of the aforementioned, she died Jan. 24, 1820, aged 83."

Close by there is one in "Memory of William Watkins, of this town (butcher), he died March 31, 1826, aged 60; also of Ann, his wife, who died at the age of 81. Elizabeth, wife of James Watkins, of this town, clothier, and daughter of the Rev. Mr. Thomas Lewis, of Llandefalgach, who died ye 14 day of May, 1807, aged 60; also of the said James Watkins, who died Oct. 14, 1806, aged 60." Thomas James *hatter*, died 1817; John James, *nailer*, died 1849; Thomas James, *carder*, died 1811; Thomas Powell, *currier*, died 1817, aged 78; Roger Prosser, *weaver*, aged 69, died Dec. 13, 1854; Richard Powell, *cordwainer*, died Sept. 4, 1818; John Watkins, *tiler*, died April 18, 1857, aged 93; Mary, wife of Morgan Watkins, *tucker*, died Nov. 1779, aged 55; Frances Powell, *glover*, died Nov. 15, 1720, aged 66; Martha Seadaway, *mantua maker*, died Nov. 22, 1801, aged 20.

Catherine the wife of John Williams (Old Bank), died 4 Feb. 1840, aged 30; John Williams was buried in the Cemetery, having died in 1871. James Pierce, of the Forge, near Brecon, died 15 July, 1785, aged 65; also John Pierce, of the Forge, his son, who died 7th April, 1829, aged 69; and of Elizabeth Herbert, who died Nov. 15, 1856, aged 84 years. Near by is a stone to James Pierce, son of Joseph Pierce, of Belle Vue, Brecon, who died 13 July, 1842, aged 44; also Thomas, son of the said Joseph Pierce, who died in London, June 9, 1846, aged 46. For several years, and down to 1890, some maiden ladies of this name kept a private school at Belle Vue. "Barbara, relict of Thomas Morgan, late rector of Penderyn, died Feb. 1st, 1781, aged 87"; "Margaret, relict of Meredith Jones, died July 30, 1789, aged 79; also Penry, son of Thomas Powell, and grandson of Meredith Penry, of this town, who died January 30, 1797, aged 21"; Evan Winstone, died July 13, 1845, aged 56; Margaret, daughter of Samuel Church, of this town, butcher, by Catherine his wife, died Sept. 30, 1786; also Samuel Church and his wife, died 1818 and 1825 (?); Thomas Proberts, Holly Bush Cottage, near Brecon, died 12 Feb., 1853, aged 82 years; Bighall Proberts, late of Penywin, Llanthew, died 5 March, 1821, aged 77; Elizabeth Williams, his daughter, died 11 January, 1891, aged 85.

The Georges have several tombstones. David George, of this town, plasterer, died June 27, 1817, aged 49; Elizabeth, his wife, died 19 Aug., 1891, aged 90; also Watkin, their son, died 6 Aug., 1871, aged 31; Emily Catherine, only child of Aneurin and Elizabeth George, born 9 Jan., 1861, died 25 Feb., 1885; also of the said Elizabeth George, born 12 Aug., 1820, died March 1, 1887; also of Mary Ann Wrightson, second wife of Aneurin George, born 1850, died March, 1891; Arthur Morgan, beloved and only child of Arthur and Gwenllian George, born at Clifton 23 Nov., 1869, died 18 March, 1892; also of Arthur George, born in Brecon 17 Dec., 1837, died in Clifton 16 Dec., 1905.

Near to the George's monuments is a small headstone, having at the top a coat of arms. It is

to the memory of James Howells, who died May 3, 1852, aged 74; Mary, wife of the above, died Jan. 1st, 1840, aged 77; also of James Howells, died 2nd March, 1887, aged 78. The last-named was a hat maker, and probably the last person to carry on the business in Brecon; he was for many years the parish clerk of St. John's parish, and vergier; town crier and mace bearer for the Corporation; and also one of the oldest Volunteers of his generation. He was a man held in much esteem in the Borough, as well as by many of the old county families of the district.

"Morgan Price, of this town, maltster, second son of David Price of —, in the Parish of Trallong (?), gent., died 1817, aged 33." Also Mary, wife of Edward Powell, of Trallong, in this county, who died April 14, 1822, aged 82. "Sacred to the memory of Margaret Meredith Blair, wife of Richard Blair, Esq., formerly of the parish of St. Marylebone, London, and lately of Cumberland in Nova Scotia in North America. She was daughter of Mr Evan Bevan, of this town, carpenter, and of Mary his wife. She died in Nova Scotia on the 3rd day of January, 1825, in the 35th year of her age, and was buried here on the 13th of October following." Near to the lych gate is a small stone over the grave of Joan George, aged 100, who died in 1815. William Jones, of the Priory, in this parish, who died 5 Sept., 1777, aged 70; William Jones, late master of the Benevolent School, Brecon, who died Jan. 31, 1821, aged 21 (?); John Pugh, surgeon, died Oct. 20, 1814, aged 72, and his wife Jane, who died in 1823, aged 86; Phœbe, daughter of Penry Winstone, tallow chandler, died April 15, 1831; Penry Winstone, died Sept. 5, 1817, aged 40; Phœbe, wife of Richard Winstone, Brecknock, clothier and grocer, died 22 June, 1824; Walter Winstone, who died May 18, 1833, aged 75, also of Mary his wife, who died Nov. 5, 1853, aged 90.

Morgan Morgans, late of this town, clerk, died May 15, 1815, aged 37; Joama, wife of the Reverend John Jones, vicar of Llanspyddid, in this county, who departed this life the 20th day of February, 1828, in the 72nd year of her age; also of the said Reverend John Jones, who died on the 19th day of Sept., 1846, aged 80 years. Several stones to the Robertson family—1792-1858; Michael Jones, bookseller, died May 11, 1778, aged 36; Mary Robertson, wife of Howell Williams, of Mount Place, Brecon, died Nov. 26, 1858, aged 76; Thomas Williams, organist, died Aug. 1, 1823, aged 19; William Webb, flour merchant, died 2nd March, 1856, aged 57; also Phœbe, his daughter, relict of the late Evan Jones, who died 4th March, 1889, aged 68; Andrew Maund, builder, who died 24 March, 1803, aged 81; James, his youngest son, died 31st Jan., 1812, aged 37; Elizabeth, wife of Andrew, died 12 Nov., 1816, aged 83 years; Esther, relict of the late Rev William Williams, rector of Llswysen, in the county of Brecon, and daughter of the above-named Andrew and Elizabeth Maund, she died the 19 Nov., 1843, aged 75. "Sacred to the memory of Ann, wife of William Dyke, and daughter of the late David Griffith, of the town of Brecon, she died on the 2nd March, 1851, aged 65; also of the above-named William Dyke, of this town, who departed this life at the Vern farm, in the parish of Nantmel, in the county of Radnor, on the 6th Sept., 1863, aged 66 years. Also of Ann, wife of David Griffiths, of this town, who died 26 Oct., 1809, aged 44. Also of David Griffith, who died 11th Oct., 1810. Here also are deposited the remains of four children of William and Ann Dyke, who died in infancy between Oct., 1829, and Aug., 1833.

In the upper part of the churchyard there are memorials to Margaret, relict of William Dyke, Esq., of the parish of Nantmel, who died at the house of her grandson, Benjamin Dyke, Brecon, Aug. 19, 1849, aged 78; Eliza Catherine, wife of James Watson, Esq., Captain 11th Regiment, died 1839, aged 27; Robert Buck, of the county of Norfolk, died 1838, aged 72; Thomas Batt, of this town, surgeon, 7th Royal Fusiliers, and Coroner for County Brecon, died 13 January, 1848, aged 64; George Harrison, late Barrack Sergeant, Brecon, and formerly Q.M.S. 84th Regt., died Nov. 18, 1850, aged 55; David Thomas, Watton House, Brecon, born 29 July, 1809, died 18 May, 1885, he was a solicitor, Clerk of the Peace for county Brecon, an alderman of the Borough Council, and agent for many years to the Tredegar Breconshire estates; also Julia Sophia, wife of the above, born 30 June, 1815, died 10 May, 1854; Alice, wife of Rees Watkins, formerly of Tynamr, Llanfrynach, died 1839, aged 68; some members of the family of Henry Thomas, *mail coachman* (1855-1857).

There is a tomb here, within railings, to the memory of the father and mother, and other relatives, of John Evan Thomas, the celebrated Breconshire sculptor. The inscriptions read: "This memorial is placed over the grave of Jane Evans, the beloved wife of John Thomas, who died Feb. 7, 1843, aged 53; David, second son of John and Jane Thomas, who died at Hurriah January 14, 1840, aged 25; also of Benjamin, their son, who died in his infancy; John Thomas, of this town, who died October 10, 1857, aged 66; also of Harriet Elizabeth, wife of W. H. Bird and youngest daughter of John and Jane Thomas, she died March 2nd, 1859, aged 31."

Also to William Hier, of this town, solicitor, who died 29 May, 1855, aged 62. His daughter Margaret married Philip Edwards, J.P., of St. John's Villa; he died 25 March, 1902, aged 78, and she died 30th May, 1900, aged 82. Adjoining this is one to Hugh Edwards, who died in 1833, and

others of the same family; and also to the Brace family, viz., Margaret wife of John Brace, and daughter of Cadogan Edwards, of Elmoreich, who died 5 June, 1902, aged 66; Edwin Sidney, her son, died May, 1894, aged 27; John Brace, died Nov., 1841, aged 46, and Ann, his relict, died June, 1855, aged 56.

The Armstrong family is commemorated. "Mary Ann, wife of David Armstrong, of this town, died July 24, 1826, aged 61; David Armstrong, died Sept. 9, 1831; Maria Hughes, their daughter, died 8 Sept., 1889, aged 91. For many years, with her son, Charles Brownlow Hughes, who still lives, she kept the Brecon depot for the sale of the Christian Knowledge Society's publications.

Edward Holl, late of Abergwyd, parish of St. David's, died June 13, 1836, aged 43; William, son of Mathew Kinsey, gent., died Oct. 7, 1768; Marmaduke, another son, died 1799; Elizabeth, wife of Mathew, died 1815, aged 73; Mathew himself died 1821, aged 79; Elizabeth, his daughter, died April 27, 1850, aged 70. This latter tomb is most substantially railed with iron. Near here are memorials to Thomas Baker, coachman of the Hereford and Brecon mail, who died Nov. 22, 1847, aged 57; Winstone, of Bell Inn; Morgans of the same hostel, whose descendants became printers in Brecon and are still represented there; Richard Winstone, tallow chandler, who died 1894, aged 64; Richard Wathen, of the same family, died 1830, aged 75.

CONTINUATION OF JONES'S ACCOUNT.

Having now completed a description of the monumental records as they appeared in 1908, we proceed to a continuation of Theophilus Jones's narrative, supplementing it with some later notes.

The gifts and grants to the priory of the Benedictine monks at Brecon, by the lords of Brecon, have been noticed in the first volume, as being in some measure connected with their history and lives; those by individuals still remain to be preserved by the press, and may perhaps with propriety be here introduced, as this fabric anciently formed part of that religious house, though they are no longer part of the revenues of the church.

AN ANCIENT REGISTER.

In the time of Bishop Tanner, author or collector of the *Nolitia Monastica*, published in 1744, among the papers of Dr. Brewster, of Hereford, was an ancient register of the priory of Brecon. We lament extremely that so valuable a document should have been preserved till the middle of the eighteenth century, until the very period when these remains of antiquity were sought for with the greatest avidity and purchased at high prices, and that it then may perhaps have been applied as directions for parcels or converted into tailor's measures. Dr. Brewster bequeathed his MSS. to the Bodleian library, but the register of the priory of Brecon is not among them. Sir Watkin Williams Wynne has also lately bought the remainder of the Seabright papers, still however the register of Saint John's is missing; the industry of the indefatigable Carte has, in some degree, supplied the loss. In his collections, in the above repository, are a number of benefactions to this house, thrown together, it is true, without any regular arrangement, and most of which have unfortunately no dates. We have, however, endeavoured to introduce them in chronological order, though from the circumstance just mentioned, it has occasioned a good deal of trouble to ascertain the respective periods when they were made, being obliged to refer to the different years in which the attesting witnesses lived.

GRANTS TO THE PRIORY.

The first, in point of time, among those grants by which the priory of Brecon was benefited, is from the crown. Henry the First, in the twenty-seventh year of his reign, A.D. 1127, which was afterwards confirmed by Pope Honorius the Third, exempted the abbot and convent of Battle, and the *religious cells belonging to them*, from the payment of tolls throughout the kingdom, and gave them all amerciaments, goods and chattels of felons, and the trial of offenders within their jurisdiction: this is the true foundation of the privilege which the inhabitants of Llan y wern and other parts of Breconshire have ever since claimed and enjoyed, and not because they are parcels of the duchy of Lancaster, as is generally supposed. The next are three grants of Bernard the Norman, bishop of Saint David's from 1116 to 1149, who surrendered the metropolitan dignity of his church to Canterbury. By the first, he grants to the prior and convent the chapel of *Saint Haellide* (Saint Alud or Elynded near Slwch) '*ex nostro proprio dono*.' The second is missing, the third confirms the grant of William Revell, in pure and perpetual arms, by the consent of his lord, Bernard Newmarch, of the church, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, at Hay, to the priory of Brecon, and recites that our conqueror was present at the dedication. This document is published by Kennet, in his case of impropriations, and is said to have been extracted from the now lost register before mentioned. The lands with which the church of Hay were probably at the same time endowed by this benefactor are thus

described, 'XI. *Acras terre*,¹ et *duas mansuras videl. Levenathi (Lavenochi, as Kennet) prepositi et Alberici bubulci et totam terram sursum in nemore usque ad divisas de Ewial*,² et *in bosco et in plano, d'edit tiam ecclesie totam decimam totius terre sue de Haia in omnibus rebus et de terra Ivoiris*,³ et *de Meleniag*,⁴ et *de omnibus illis qui de foendo Haie tenebant*.' The Bishop proceeds to state that Revell also gave to the church the tythes of corn, hay, chickens, calves, lambs, wool, cheese, flax and under-wood,⁵ together with the rents due from the Welshmen, pannage and cognizance of pleas—and concludes with denouncing excommunication against all or any who should lessen or deprive the church of any of these rights; '*Testes sunt clerici nostri videl. Willielmus Archid. de Kermerthin et Elyas*,⁶ *Archid de Brech. Lirienicus? Chic. Regis Henr. et Bernard. de noro mercau et Ric⁸ filius Puncii Valete*.'

The next document that occurs is a kind of award by Robert de Betune, prior of Llanton, elected and consecrated Bishop of Hereford in 1131, who died in 1148, upon a dispute, referred to him with the approbation and under the Pope's authority, between the prior and convent of Brecon, and the abbot and monks of Gloucester, by which he directs that in consideration of the *brothers* of Brecon relinquishing their claim to the tythes of wool, cheese, lambs and calves, of the demesne of Talgarth (which belonged to them) to the abbot of Gloucester, the latter shall cede to the former the tythes of calves and lambs within the forest of Brecon, reserving to himself (the abbot) the tenths of the chase and the slaughter house⁹ at Christmas yearly; '*Hujus rei testes, Gaufr. Decanus, Rod. Archid. Ivo Thesaur. Mag. Nichol. William de Stoc. Canonici Herefor. Mag. Gilbert de Ric. Pbr. de Bodeham, Henry de Kilp. et Walter frater ejus, Milo de Michel, Osb. Cler.—Archid. et plures alii*.' Strange to tell! the next document has a date. It purports to be made upon the fifth of the calends of July 1152, whereby David Fitzgerald, Bishop of St. David's, at the petition of Ralph the prior and the whole convent, confirms to them the church of Saint Aissilde (Saint Hailide or Saint Alud), granted them by his predecessor, and to increase the charity and devotion of all those who should come annually at the feast of the Virgin Mary, or within three days afterwards, to visit the convent, he granted them certain immunities and pecuniary privileges for thirty days, while going or returning.

The doubtful times soon return, and we are driven to look for the period in which Gilbert Foliott, Bishop of Hereford, lived, to ascertain his confirmation of the grant of the church of Humbre to the prior and monks of Brecon, by Walter del Mans and Agnes, his wife: this Bishop was elected and consecrated in 1162, consequently it must have been in or some short time subsequent to that year.

The same Bishop also confirms the grant of Roger, earl of Hereford, to the priory of Brecon, of the church of Burchull (now written Burghill, and pronounced Burfield, in Herefordshire), and a mill near, or higher up, '*et molendinum quod superius est*,' with all the lands and customs thereto belonging. This was made upon a dispute between the prior and convent of Brecon, and the canons of the church of Burghull, but we suspect that there is an error or omission in the MS. from which we copy, and that the grant was from one of the family of Burghill, with the consent of his lord, Roger earl of Hereford, for no such benefaction appears among the charters of this baron.

About the middle of the 12th century are two grants to the religious of this house, by Walterus de Traveleva, or Walter de Travele; by the first he gives them, in pure alms, his mill in the village of Saint Michael, and twelve acres of his land, called Travelia, nearer to the possessions of the monks of Brecon, in that part of the country, '*meum molendinum quod est in villa de sancto Michaela cum omni molitura et duodecim acras in terra mea de Traveleva propinquiores terre ipsorum monachorum*,' &c. By the second, he confirmed to God, to the blessed Saint John, and to the monks of Brecon, the mill aforesaid, according to the full tenor and purport of his former charter, *J*, the prior of Brecon who at length had received the donor into the fraternity, allowing him, annually, a mark of silver for

¹ Kennet has here introduced the æ, "*terre*," erroneously, they wrote *terre* and *ecclesie* in those days; therefore Carte is correct in his copy, this is more material than many readers will acknowledge.

² Here Kennet has more correctly Ewias; the parish of Hay joins part of the possessions of the family of Laci, called formerly Ewias Laci, now a parish only.

³ Ivoiris, as Kennet, we think erroneously.

⁴ *Terra de Meleniag*, Melnog is a very small and meane manor, belonging in 1800 to Mr. Wood of Littleton, on the confines of the parishes of Hay and Llanigon, running in a narrow slang nearly north and south and crossing the Wye, where there are some fields, the property of Mr. Wilkins, of Maeslwech, still called Caeon Melnog.

⁵ *Virgultis*, we translate underwood, though in common acceptation it means twigs; Kennet omits *lino*, flax; it would perhaps be very material to ascertain which copy is correct, but the attempt can never be made.

⁶ Brown Willis erroneously calls him Elyas.

⁷ Brientius, as Kennet.

⁸ Richard Fitzpans—the same who is said to have had a grant of Cantreff lychan from Henry the First, and father of Walter Fitz Richard, Fitzpans was afterwards called Walter de Clifford.

⁹ *Decimis crantionis et occisionis*, of venison and the slaughter, i.e. the *Fushe larder*, or *benevolence* of the Welshmen, Roger, earl of Hereford, will be seen in the former volume, granting the tythes of his larder and provisions, brought to his castles at Hay, &c., to the prior and convent at Brecon.

his life; *'tandem I, prior de Brech. mihi qui in fratrem recepit unam marcam argenti tanquam fratri suo ad vitam meam tantum concessit; ne igitur hec veritas post obitum meum lateat et ne aliquis meorum p hac temporalis ac temporali dicte marce concessione mihi tantum facta coram testibus ad hoc vocatis Priorem aut monachos de Brech. vexare presumat sigillum meum duxi apponendum.'* This was again confirmed by his son, Walter de Traveley and attested by R. de Breos, and others.

The attestation of Reginald de Breos fixes the date of this instrument to be between the years 1215 and 1228, when that baron lived. And nearly coeval with these, was one of John le Picbard, who instead of pecuniary or territorial possessions (to comfort the monks in the intervals, and cessation from study and religious exercises) gave them twenty gallons of wine at the feast of Saint John the Evangelist, annually, *'Test. Maltero le Picb. et Sartisone fratre ejus. Rico Waleusi, Job persono de Sevelech (believed to be Seethrog), John de Curveile. Tho. capellano cum multis aliis.'*

These benefactions were again followed and confirmed, and additional possessions annexed to the priory, by the descendants of these last named donors, for Roger Picard, who was the eldest son of John le Picbard, with the consent of his wife, Martha (*Matthie uxoris mee*), ratified the gift of his father, of a tenement at Stradevi, near the west gate, which is called *Boket¹ gate*, containing five perches and a half in length, and in breadth three perches and four feet; he also confirmed his father's grant of two parts of the tythes of Stradevi, in the presence of Mahel, the secular priest, Walter de Travle, Thurstan S—, Ralph de Mans and Hugh de Turbeville. John Picart, another son of the former John, with the consent of his wife, Hawys, gave them twelve pence per annum, charged upon land in the possession of Vincent le Deyne, *'ad sustentationem luminariorum,'* and he also confirmed his father's benefaction of a tenement in Stradevi, and added two parts of all his tythes there and at Llansafreit (Llansaintfraed). These two last deeds are attested by Mathew le Bret, Hugh de Cluna and Robert the clerk, which nearly ascertains their dates, for Hugh de Cluna was archdeacon of Saint David's from 1200 to 1232, consequently they must have been executed during that period, probably about 1215 or 1220.

Of nearly the same date as those of John le Picbard, are three grants from a benefactor of the name of Torel. This name is written Tirell in one copy of the roll of Battle Abbey; Torvile in another and by Du-Chesne, in the appendix to his collection of the historians of Normandy, Torell, where he is mentioned as one of the companions of William the Conqueror, in his expedition to England; he is also called Torell in Domesday Book; the first of the name, after the conquest, probably came down with Bernard Newmark and settled in Bruneshope, now Brinshope, in Herefordshire, where they had large possessions, some of which have since descended to the Danseys. By the first charter, Ralph de Torel, with the consent of his son and heir, Ralph de Torel, for the health of his soul and the souls of his father, William Torel, his (the donor's) wife Joan, and for the health of the souls of *all his ancestors and predecessors²*, grants to God, to Holy Saint John, to the prior of Brecon, and to the whole convent serving God there, in pure alms, *'unum messugium cum omnibus pertinentiis quod jacet juxta regalem viam et extendit in longitudine de la Lidesdale ad semitam que tendit versus ecclesiam de Bruness juxta rivulum qui descendit de Brenihesourre et etiam illum rivulum, concedo illis ut adjuget predicto messugio et extendit se in latitudine a via regali usque ad Gardinum meum de Holmedewe et duos pedes infra fossatum gardini mei sc. in summitate Tenend et habend. &c. concedo etiam dictis priori et toti conventui q omnes homines sui habeant liberos exitus et redditus in sua terra et in omnibus terris meis sine contradictione,'* &c. By the second charter he granted them a spot of ground, being part of his lands at Brunehope, being in length sixty and in breadth forty feet, near Geoffrey de la Lidesdale's orchard, for the purpose of building a barn upon it. And by the third charter, if not a mere confirmation of the first, he grants a message or tillage, with its appurtenance, in his ville or township of Brunehope, being of equal breadth with Geoffrey of Lidesdale's garden, and in length with his own at Holmedewe. One of the witnesses to the second charter was "Gilberto Talebot."

This Gilbert Talbot appears very opportunely as a witness to this instrument, for without his assistance we should have been at a loss to ascertain anything like a date to it; he was the son of Geoffry Talbot, who fortified Hereford castle for Maud the empress; Gilbert held a knight's fee at Linton, in Herefordshire, under Robert of Ewyas, 12th Henry the second, A.D. 1166, but as Ralph

¹ In another Boghlek, perhaps Dwlich: from the confused manner in which lands are described here and elsewhere, and from the horrid disfigurements of the names of places by the monks, it is difficult to ascertain their locality, but from this and several other documents already seen, or which will be hereafter noticed, we do not conceive it to be an extraordinary stretch of conjecture, if we place the Villa Monachorum near the site of the hitherto neglected Gaer, in Cwmda, and the capella Sancti Johannis de stradevi, (which will occur by and by) where the present chapel of Tretower stands.

² This we would conceive to be driving a pretty tolerable bargain with Heaven, but it will be hereafter seen, that a pious benefactor to this church has contrived to demand still higher terms for lands of less extent.

Torell,¹ together with William de Breos and Maud, his wife, are witnesses to one of Walter de Traveleia's charters, this grant must have been made about the year 1190, when de Breos was in favour at court, and in the splendour and meridian of his glory.

A BASKERVILLE ONE OF THE BENEFACTORS.

About the same period the name of Baskerville appears conspicuous on the roll of benefactors to the convent of Brecon. The first in the M.S. pedigrees of this family is Sir Ralph Baskerville, who is said to have married Joan, the daughter of Rhydderch le gross of Arcop or Arcopp, whereupon he settled in Herefordshire, and Sir Ralph Baskerville, his grandson, marrying Sibil, one of the daughters of Adam de la Port, had with her a manor, lordship, and ample possessions in and about Eardisley and Willersley, where they built a castle, or rather castellated mansion, wherein the elder branch of the family resided, until the middle or latter end of the seventeenth century, and from whence they spread by marriages into Aberedw, in Radnorshire, and the neighbourhood in which they still continue.² Bernard Newmarch, though he did not think one of the ancestors of this family, who accompanied him in his expedition, of sufficient consequence to rank him among his knights, yet granted him lands near Llandeavailog tre'r graig and on the banks of the Llyfni, in Brecknockshire, for, among the papers from which we are now extracting, we find a Robert or Roger Baskerville (he is called by both names), by a charter, attested by William de Breos and Maud his wife, and Jordan,³ archdeacon of Brecon, in consideration that the prior and monks will admit his son James into their order, at the intercession of De Breos and his wife, grants them lands, the names of which are so horribly disfigured that we are ashamed to introduce them, but he adds, if he shall not be able to warrant these possessions to them, he will grant them sixty acres of land, '*quinque solidatas terre*,'⁴ being part of the lands brought him by his wife on their marriage, situated in the city of Worcester, and then in the tenure of Osbert, the son of Gunnor, and he likewise informs us that he and his wife, in full chapter, had *fraternized* with the monks, and that their bodies and such part of their property as ought to remain with or about them in the grave were to be buried there, whether they died in Herefordshire or Breconshire, '*et sciendum est quod Ego et uxor mea suscepimus fraternitatem illius ecclesie in capitulo suo et in die obitus nostri corpora cum substantia que sequi debuit ibid sepelienda ubicunque in comitatu Herefordie vel in provincia Brech. nobis contingatur*.'

Ralph, another of this family, about the same period, gave them lands at Bredwardine, by a charter attested by William de Breos and his wife and William de Breos the younger, which he afterwards confirmed by another, in the presence of the elder de Breos and Maud de Saint Valeri, his wife, and of Ralph Abbot of Wigmore. By two more instruments of the same nature, the first attested by William de Oildebeof, then constable of Brecon, and William de Burchull, and the other, which he confirmed by the impression of his seal, before Peter bishop of Saint David's, in the chapter of Brecon, where he presented and caused it to be read before William de Breosa and many others, French, English, and Welsh, clerks and laity, before whom he placed it upon the altar of Saint John; he gave to the convent a message, tenement and mill, called Trosdref mill, upon the river Llyfni, with the tolls taken for grinding there, &c., "*meum molendinum de Trosdref cum moltura, &c., et gurgitem et situm suum super Livini*.' This grant was afterwards contested by Nest, the daughter of Griffith and widow of this Ralph Baskerville, but the dispute ended by her recognizing the right of the convent to the mill, discharging them of the arrears of the rent of a mark annually since the death of her husband, and granting them a pound of incense yearly to pray for her soul.

The original grant of Robert or Roger Baskerville was again confirmed by Robert le Wafre, who married Alice, one of his daughters, who describes it by the name of the mill of Llandeavailau, meaning Llandeavailog tre'r graig, in which parish it was situated, and probably on the same spot where it continues to this day. The witnesses are, Reginald de Breusia, Rich. le Bret, John de Waldebeof, Will. *Pictaviensis* or Peyton, Llewelyn son of Madoc, Will. de Burchull, Ralph the porter (*janitor*): and at a later period, though not long subsequent to these grants, Alice de Baskerville gave to the same prior and convent a message or tenement, together with a croft, which Adam the smith formerly held under her brother in the village of Bredwardine.

¹ William Torell was sheriff of Herefordshire, 31st Henry Second, 1185, and in the following year. This was probably the father of the grantor. This family were since called Tyrell. A descendant of Ralph Tyrell, is called Sir Roger Tyrell, about one hundred years afterwards, and is described as one of the knights of Edward the First, in 1295, assisting him in his wars with the Welsh.—See *Duguesne's Heref.* vol. I. p. 78. We believe the name is now extinct in Herefordshire. There are also two more charters of Ralph Torell's among Carte's MSS. but they are mere confirmations of former grants, and the same witnesses occur as to the two first here noticed.

² See *Radnorshire* for this family's pedigree.

³ He was ousted by Gir. Camb. in 1185, this grant, therefore, must have been prior to this period.

⁴ Solidata, from *Soldarius*, a soldier's pay, twelve acres of land. Vide, *Spelman's Glossarium* sub verbis *soldarius solidata* et *feldella*.

In 1163 it appears that there was another dispute in consequence of the different and almost contradictory grants of Bernard Newmarch and his successors between the monks of Gloucester and Brecon, which was compromised, and by a deed, dated 3rd November in that year, under the seal of the church of Saint Peter's at Gloucester, the former, by the consent of Hamel their abbot and Walter abbot of Battle, on the other part, acknowledging the right of the monks of Brecon to the parish church of *Melanach*, rendering to the abbot and monks of Gloucester three shillings to be paid them at Saint Peter's church on the feast of Saint Dyonisius, yearly; the same alterations frequently occurred between the monks of Brecon with other ecclesiastical bodies about their possessions in England. One appears to be settled by the award of William de Vere, who was consecrated bishop of Hereford in 1186 and died in 1199, by which he awarded to the prior and convent of Saint John's at Brecon the tythes of Bodenham, claimed by the monks of Hereford; another was settled by the prior of Akeley or Lyre Okeley near Hereford, between the same parties, relative to the tythes of Humbre, and a third by Geoffrey, bishop of Coventry, by which he confirmed to the monks of Brecon a pension of ten shillings annually, from the church of Patingham, to be paid them by the canons of Landa,¹ the latter of whom had the advowson of that living adjudged to them by the commissioners or delegates of Pope Lucius, 'of happy memory;' so that the church of Brecon seems sometimes to have been inattentive to their rights, or else the pope infringed them, for it will be seen in the former volume that the church of Patingham itself, with its tythes, and not merely a pension from it, was granted them by Bernard Newmarch.

William de Waldebeof, one of our Breconshire knights, also appears among the benefactors to the priory, as do likewise one or two of the Burghills; whether they were of Herefordshire or Breconshire at the time of their grants is not so clear, as their names do not appear in the M.S. pedigrees preserved in the principality. It should therefore seem that a branch of this family preferred the fat pastures of Siluria to the wild mountains and heaths in Breconshire, though they retained possessions there, and occasionally condescended to partake of the *benevolence of the Welshmen*. William de Waldebeof, above named, by a charter, which, from the witnesses, appears to have been conceded about the middle of the twelfth century, gave them his bosage or underwood appurtenant to the land formerly of Bernard *Unspac*, above the highway leading from Brecon to Aberyst, attested by William de Breus and Maud his wife, William, his son and heir, Phillip and Walter de Braus, Richard the dean, Stephen the doorkeeper and Ralph his son, Geoffrey the cook, Richard the deacon, Thomas the provost or mayor, and several others.

GRANTS FROM THE BURCHULL FAMILY.

The first grant by the Burchull family is not among Carte's papers in this collection or at least it has escaped us. Payne de Burchull, who describe himself as a nephew to the original donor, confirms the grant of Hugh his uncle's of 'land in the *ville (villa)* of Saint Michael, adjoining the road leading from Brecon to Llandeivailog and the river called *brunive broc*, in length and in breadth between the lands of Roger, son of Emmerod,² and the lands of the said monks.' With the advantage of a perfect topographical knowledge of the country, we are puzzled to ascertain whether these lands were on the banks of the Brân or the Brynich, whether Llandeivailog fach or Llandeivailog tre'r graig, Llanvihangel nant brân or Saint Michael Cwmdud, are meant; we should have had no hesitation in deciding that they lay in the latter parish, if the following grants by one of the same family did not prove that they, as well as the monks, had possessions near Benni and the old town of Caerbannau.

By a charter of William de Burchull, which from the witnesses, appears to be about the middle of the thirteenth century, he, with the consent of his wife Edith, gives to the church of Saint John at Brecon, in pure and perpetual alms, five acres of his land at *Benny*, which extend as far as a certain marsh or moor below the high road leading from 'Breken' to Abereskyr, and are in breadth from a river, which is called *Glyedy*, to the land of the said monks, together with the marsh aforesaid. And by another instrument of nearly if not the same time, and by the same William Burchull, who styles himself lord of Benni, after stating that at the petition of himself and his friends, the prior of Brecon had given his (William's) chaplain leave to officiate and say mass for the souls of the deceased in his chapel of Benni, at his own expence, he promises on oath that this permission shall not prejudice the right of the mother church, but that he, his family, and all his tenants at Benni, would

¹ In 18th Edward III. the prior and monks of Landa or Launde priory in Leicestershire, had a grant of the advowson of the church, with the chapel of Pateshall annexed. (Tanner's *Not. Monast.*)

² The eldest son of Sir Emmerod Turberville was Sir Roger T. The only way we can account for the Burchull's having lands in the neighbourhood of Brecon and Benni is, that they acquired them by intermarriages with the Havards of Pont-wylm. These Burchulls we believe to be a younger branch of the family.

attend there as usual, would fully and freely pay to her all lawful dues, and would obey her mandates and statutes as heretofore they had done.

LE SIRE DE HAGARNEL'S AND OTHER GRANTS.

Another benefactor remains to be noticed who is no longer known in the neighbouring county, and even his possessions there, we have not at this moment been able to ascertain; he was called Le Sire de Hagarnel, and, we presume, came over with the conqueror, though not named in any list of his companions.¹

In the list of the last duke of Buckingham, lord of Brecon's possessions, is mentioned Upton Hagarnel in Herefordshire, yet we see no Upton in that county but Upton Bishop, which, however, was not, as we conceive, the residence of this family. The name of Richard Hagarnel occurs in one charter only, attested by William de Wolbeth, constable of Brecon, and Robert de Burchull, whereby he gave to the prior and convent an annual pension of twelve pence at the feast of Saint Mary's, in quadragesima, payable by William Prest and his heirs, and also eight bushels of corn to be delivered at Bodeham at Michaelmas, yearly; and in one or two of the instruments before noticed, his daughters describes themselves as the daughters of Sire de Hagarnel, Hagner, le Sire de Hagarnel, Hagnel and Hagurn. Which of their grants are prior in point of time, is not very clear, nor perhaps material, they were certainly very early in the thirteenth century. Maud de Hagarnel gave lands, the description of which defies every attempt at explanation, at least by a Breconshire man; save that from the river or water of Toni's being mentioned, we presume they were somewhere on the banks of the Honddu near Llantoni. Her charters are three, by the first she gives, with the consent of her husband, thirty six acres of arable land, thus divided, eight acres in *leviotrefeld*, eleven acres beyond *le Ruedriche*, near three acres which her sister Maud had granted to the monks to pray for the soul of her brother William and his son and heir, one acre which Robert Trump inclosed, four acres under *Osbne Skufft*, eleven acres lying on the other side of the road leading from *Maghtiledeste* to *Berigrove*, four acres beyond *Maghtiledeste* near Simon's inclosure, and six acres in *Morsgolnde*, besides half the long meadow, her part of the broad meadow, and the whole of the meadow called *Horspol*. By the second charter, she gives two acres of land at Re Wielwett and the third part of Simon's inclosure, to hold to the monks of Brecon, in pure alms, towards the support of the poor, and that they might pray for her soul and the souls of her ancestors and successors. And by the third charter she gave two acres by the water of Toni, which Simon the son of G. had inclosed near the well of Redwy and above the well called Berde, with a meadow adjoining that which her sister gave the monks of Brecon, sealed with her seals, the seals of Llewelyn and Idenard, officials, &c., Gerald dean of Brecon, and of the chapter of the same place.

Maud or Matilda de Hagarnel, sister of Margaret, by a charter, which seems to be subsequent to the first above mentioned, and prior to the last of Margaret, gave six acres of land near the water of Toni, with a meadow adjoining and belonging, bounded by the meadow of the prior of Brecon on the one side, and to her sister Margaret's lands on the other, and extending obliquely towards the north as far as the rivulet of Toni and Simon's inclosure, then held under her by Stephen Surdwal² for his life, with the reversion in fee to her after his death, '*et ut hec donatio &c., rata sit, &c. carlam meam sigillo meo una cum sigillis Levelini d' Ychenardi officialium, &c. et Gerdaldi decani Brecon teste capitulo Brecon duxi confirmare.*' She also by another charter, by the description of Matildis filia seer le Hagurn, confirmed her sister's grants of lands, without naming them. A few more grants shall be briefly noticed. Peter de Leia, who succeeded David Fitzgerald as bishop of Saint David's in 1176, and died in 1289, gave to God and Saint John's at Brecon, and the monks serving God there, in pure alms, the church of Saint *David de Cwm* (Llandewi'r Cwm near Builth), with its appurtenances.³ Richard Brett, or as he is called in the document, Bruto, with the consent of his son and heir Robert, gave lands to the monks of Brecon, but without any description further than, 'the lauds which were Gilbert's and one acre thereto belonging,' for which he requires a higher price than any one of the other good charitable Christians here named, for he stipulates that it is in consideration of their praying for the souls of his father and mother, for his soul and the soul of his wife, the souls of their

¹ Giraldus Cambrensis, in his itinerary through Breconshire, mentions a soldier of the name of Hagarnel, who after being three days in labour, vomited forth a calf!!!

² Stephen de Surdeval was the husband of Maud, and with her consent and the consent of his son William, demised an inclosure to Simon near the water of Toni, at the yearly rent of twelve pence, for seven years, and if he could not warrant the same to him, he was to have in lieu thereof twelve acres in Kilmanawit: witnesses, Walter de Breus, William de Furcis (or Chaworth) John de Evereus, Roger de Bodeham, Walter de Kiffin, Richard de Grismont, Walter de Mora, Roger son of Maurice, Richard de Bolegh (Bwlch), Tho. de Boleg, Hugh de Monachis, Walter de Boklynton, master Thomas Brett and many others. (Carte's coll. Bod.)

³ From an incomplete instrument in this collection, it appears that the monks of Brecon claimed the tithes, and also a right to pronounce judgment of life and limb throughout the *dominion* of Buallt.

sons and daughters, of his brothers and sisters, and the souls of all his ancestors and successors. William de Mara gave a right of water to a mill at Berrington, through his land of Little Hereford, rendering to him three pounds of wax yearly, for his life. Walter de Ebroc. (or of York) the younger for the love he bore to his lord, William de Breus the younger, and at his request gave twelve acres of land.¹

Isabella, the daughter of Gilbert and widow of Lawrence, gave lands which are described in as confused and unintelligible a manner, as those of Maud de Hagamel, and though certainly in Breconshire, yet we can hardly form a guess where they are situated; we shall therefore give them in the original words, "*triginta acras terre quarum sexdecim jacent in uno tenento subter magnam viam que dirigitur a Brech. versus Troscot. hiis limitibus, viz. ex parte australi a dicta via deorsum juxta terram Epi. usq. ad Holwille,*"² et inde juxta rivulum qui vocatur Flur usq. ad locum qui vocatur Bronhul inde secessum juxta locum qui vocatur Gilbardsmore usq. ad dictam magnam viam, quatuordecim vero jacent in uno tenento supra dictum viam continue ita quod ultima earum joctet ultra acrum que vocatur Boreseker et pratium unum vocatur Burlmedewe." The attestation of this grant by Hugh de Cluna, fixes it between the years 1200 and 1232, probably it was about the year 1210; the donor was perhaps the daughter of Gilbert earl of Clare, who is said in Dugdale, as well as our MS. pedigrees to have married Robert de Breos, though no such name appears among our Brecon lords or their descendants, yet there is a reference to him from the MS. book of Advena of Glamorganshire, to that part of Cradoc Fraich-fras's book, which has been missing upwards of two centuries back. We are inclined to think that she was Isabel the wife of William de Breos, or William Gam, who was starved to death at Windsor, and daughter of Richard Clare earl of Hertford, that she married secondly Lawrence Buller, whom she survived, and that these lands were parcel of the possessions of that family, bequeathed to her by her second husband.

There are also some very brief concessions of lands to the priory of Brecon, among which is one of seven acres at Kilmanant, perhaps Cilmaharen in Garthbrenigi, by William Peyton, or *Pictaviensis*, as he is therein called; another by Walter de Riffe, the burgess named in one or two of the before mentioned grants as a witness, of an acre of land adjoining Bradfele, with the consent of his wife Amice; another by William de Bradfele, of lands in Bradfele, Petercroft, *Llaneglege*, lands near Mara, Estlege and in Weterofit near the chapel, attested by Walter de Evereus, Richard de Grismond, Thomas de Bolegh and others; and another in the latter end of the twelfth century by Nicholas de Machna, afterwards confirmed by Brian de Machna and Thomas his son, of the tythes of his lands to the church of Bodeham, attested by Henry de Kilpec, *Bernard Fitzhamon*, and others; and likewise of immunities and privileges, as an exemption from tolls throughout the town and vale of Monmouth, by John de Monmouth about the year 1220, in consideration of their prayers for the health of his soul and that of his wife Cicely, the souls of Baderon,³ his ancestor, Roaps of Monmouth, Gilbert his (the donor's) father, Bertha his mother, Margaret his sister, and of the souls of all his children, and also, in consideration of their keeping an anniversary in the house (or abbey) of Batle and in all cells or priories thereto belonging, to his memory for ever, in like manner as if he had been a monk of that house. These papers also contain several confirmations by the bishops of Saint David's and Hereford, and others of the donations of the pious and the charitable to this church; among them, one about the year 1280, by John, son and heir of Reginald Fitzpeter, of the gift of his grandfather, Peter Fitzherbert, of the churches of Mara, Talgarth, Kethedyn and Llangeleu, attested by Roger Richard, John de Crofte, Sir John le Bret, knight, Roger Gunter and John Poleyn. Another by Ralph, bishop of Hereford, dated 1237, afterwards confirmed by the dean and chapter, of two portions of the tythes of corn and hay in the township of Bruneshope; another by the same bishop of the gift of his predecessors, Gilbert and Giles, of ten shillings a year, charged upon the church of Humber, a confirmation by the dean and chapter of Hereford of the church of Bodenham, dated 1240; another by the above named bishop, of the church of Byford, given by Walter de Travle, dated 1236; another, in the same year, of the tythes of Berrington and Hopton Wafre, and another of the Advowson of Bodenham in 1237.

THE PRIORS OF THE MONASTERY.

Of the priors of this monastery we have but a meagre catalogue, the knowledge of whose names we derive from bishop Tamer's *Notitia*; the first who occurs and who was appointed by Bernard Newmarch, the founder, about the year 1095, was Walter the monk; he was soon afterwards succeeded by Reginald, who in the time of David Fitzgerald, bishop of Saint David (elected in 1152) presented

¹ From the witnesses to this grant it must have been executed circa 1190.

² Qu. If not Heol gul,—the narrow lane.

³ John's grandfather was named Baderon, and was the first of the family who settled in Monmouth, and possessed the castle there. (Coxe's *Monmouthshire*.)

to the living of Llangorse. *I.* occurs as prior in a grant of Walter de Traveleia, about the year 1180. In 1248 Reginald was prior; here there is a very considerable hiatus until 1411, when John Hekington was elected, resigned the same year, and John Becke was appointed in his room; in 1426 John Burgrove was elected, who died in 1434 and was succeeded by William Walter, after whom came Thomas Falding, who was prior in 1487, and was followed again by William Rethime, who resigned in 1497, when John Lewis was chosen, who also resigned in 1499, and was succeeded by William Westfield who in 1502 was raised to the dignity of Abbot of Battle; his successor was Thomas Redyng or Thomas of Reading, who in 1505 demised the tythes of Berrington to Roger Parsons and Matilda his wife for seventy years, and in 1521, two messuages in the same parish to William Rowbery.¹

Robert Salder, sometimes called Salden and Halden, concludes the list: according to Tanner's *Notitia*, he surrendered the priory to Henry the Eighth in 1537, and had a pension of sixteen pounds per annum for life assigned him by that monarch, at which time the possessions of this house were valued at 112*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* according to Dugdale, 134*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* as Speed.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAST PRIOR AND FIRST VICAR.

An agreement between this prior and the vicar of Brecon is preserved in the Register of the Bishop of Saint David's, and is as follows:—

Be it known to all that been now and shall come hereafter, which shall hear, see or read, these presents that Robert Salder, prior of the house or priory of Saint John the Evangelist of Brecknock, in the diocese of Saint David's, and the whole convent of the same place, of the one party, and Sir Thomas ap Jeuan² Groge, vicar of the parish of Saint John the Evangelist aforesaid, in Brecknock, of the other party, have made a final peace, end, translation and composition, real, through the assent and consent of *their ordinary*, and of all other having or pretending to have any right title or interest in this behalf for the said parties and successors for ever more, by such covenants and agreements as are after particularly followeth, that is to say, that the aforesaid Robert Salder and the said convent of their own express assent and consent have bounden themselves and their successors under their conventual seal to the said Sir Thomas, vicar and his successors for ever, and the aforesaid Thomas hath bounden himself and his successors likewise unto them and their successors under his seal for the true keeping of all the singular articles and covenants hereafter ensuing. First, that the said prior and convent willetth and by these presents granteth for them and their successors for ever, that the said Sir Thomas, vicar and his successors, then to come, shall have all manner of tythes, offerings, emoluments, longing or appertaining to the aforesaid church of Saint John the Evangelist of Brecknock, with all the chapels annexed unto the aforesaid parish, or to the said prior and convent by reason of the same, except and reserved to themselves all manner of grains, that is to wit, wheat, rye, oats, barley, and also was, with all other offerings that come to the rood sollar within the said church, also they do except all offerings and emoluments done within the monastery of Saint John the Evangelist in Brecknock, and also they do except the chapels of Battle Monkton and Saint Elyot, with all the tythes, offerings and emoluments belonging thereto, also they except and reserve to themselves and to their successors the manor and grange of the Poole, with their appurtenances, that is to say, the tyth lamb, cheese, wool and hay, renitting and giving all other tythes growing within the said parish to the aforesaid vicar and his successors for ever more, also they except and reserve all offerings and emoluments done within Saint Lawrence chapel, being within the parish church of Brecknock, from the first even song upon Saint Lawrence eve unto the last even song upon Saint Lawrence day, also that it is agreeably covenanted between the said parties, that the said prior and convent and their successors shall cause all sacraments and sacramentals to be administered within the three aforesaid chapels, and to all the inhabitants and dwellers within the precincts of the aforesaid chapels at all times necessary when they shall be called upon on the proper cost and charges of the said prior and convent and successors, moreover, that it is between the said parties agreed and covenanted that the aforesaid Sir Thomas and his successors shall elect and find a curate to serve and bear cure and charge of the aforesaid prior and convent and their successors of them that dwell within the precinct of the chapel of our lady set within the walls of the town of Brecknock, upon the costs and charges of the said vicar and his successors. In like manner also the said vicar and his successor shall find bread and wine within the said chapel and parish church at all times necessary, also that it is covenanted that the said vicar and his successors shall have both meat and drink at the said prior's tome messe continually and dayly, unless there be strangers with the said prior, and when there is no stranger, then he to use his said place at the table, the said vicar paying every quarter for his meat and drinke the six shillings and eight pence sterling, also that when it shall please the said vicar to come, he to have his beaver³ at two of the clock at afternoon, that is to say, a cup of ale at the Buttery Hatch if he demand it, also covenanted is, that the said prior and convent shall have all manner of offerings done within the chapel of Saint Nicholas being within the castle of Brecknock, and the said prior and his successors shall find masses to be sung or said within the said chapel according to the old custom there. And also covenanted is that the said vicar and his successors shall have no manner of tythe, corn, meal, neither malt of any mill belonging to the said prior or house of Saint John the Evangelist, nevertheless he to have prive tythes of the farmers there at every Easter according to their conscience. In witness whereof, the said parties, hath caused and procured this consent writing to be made tripartite, whereof one part to remain in the custody of the said prior and convent, the second to be in the hands of the said vicar, and the third to be kept and reserved in the register of Saint David's, and to each of them hath put their seals and severally subscribed their hands; and also for the more assurance of the premisses, the reverend father and bishop of Saint David ordinary and diocesan of the said parish of Brecknock and the whole chapter of the college church of Saint David giveth their consent and assent ratified, corroborated and confirmed with their seals and writing, given the first of August in the year of our Lord God one thousand five hundred and twentieth, also it is covenanted that the said prior and convent shall have and enjoy for ever more to them and to their successors the parish church yard of Saint John the Evangelist and all that shall grow therein, with all manner of offerings that shall be done to all images within the precinct of Saint John the Evangelist aforesaid.

¹ Records in the Augmentation Office.

² He is called Jenkin by Stephens; this mistake is easily accounted for, the abbreviation of Jeuan or Evan and Jenkin in MSS. in Wales, is nearly if not entirely the same, Thomas ap Evan y Groeg means T. ap E. the Grecian or Greek scholar.

³ An obsolete word for Beverage.

This deed was not confirmed by bishop Richard Davies and the chapter of Saint David's until 1529, and though it appears to have been then registered by George Arblaster, deputy to Alban Stepney the registrar of the diocese, it does not appear in what is called the book of Episcopal acts of the see until 1575, when it was recorded by the command of bishop Richard Milbourne, on the petition of the before named Meredith Thomas, N. P., in the name of the bailiff, aldermen and common council of Brecon, and of Thomas Wightman (erroneously called Wigstan), then vicar of Brecon; the instrument being then shown to the bishop and left with him under seal¹ of the prior and convent in green wax. Soon after the dissolution of the monasteries (38 H. 8th), the bishop of Saint David's obtained a grant from the crown of part of the priory lands, but for some reason or other it was soon afterwards superseded, and the site of the monastery and the lands in the neighbourhood granted to Sir John Price the antiquary, in whose family they continued until sold by one of his descendants: yet from a document in the lord treasurer's remembrancer's office (Rot. 30) we find that in 17th Elizabeth the then bishop of Saint David's made an unsuccessful claim to them.

CERTIFICATE OF DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM'S BIRTH.

To the history of the Priory at Brecon, Mr. R. W. Banks, in 1900, contributed some additional particulars, preceding them with a copy of a document certifying the birth in the Castle of Brecon of Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, the last lord of the Lordship of Brecon, who was attainted for high treason and beheaded in 1521 by Henry VIII. This certificate reads:— We, Thomas Redyng prior of the hows of Saint John the Evangelist withyn the Towne of Breknock in the Marches of Wales and the Convent of the same to our Soverayne lord the Kyng is most honorable counsell do certefye thatoure founder Edward Duc of Buckyngham Erle of Hereford Stafford and Northampton was borne in the Castell of Breknock for said the Wensday the third day of february abovev vij of the cloke in the mornyng the dominical letter beyngh then A pon C and yn the yere of owre lord God a thousand cecelxxvij. as more playnly appereth in wrytyng in the begynnyng of a boke of David Salter remaynyng withinoure said priorye to be schewed. In witness where off we the said prior and convent to thisoure present wrytyng of certificat have settoure convent seale the secunde day of September in the vjth yere of the reigne ofoure gyde soverayne lord Kyng Harry the vijth." To this was appended the Priory Seal, which Mr. W. de Gray Birch has described as "Exhibiting the eagle of St. John standing regardant on a demi-wheel of Ezekiel."

THE ANCIENT STREETS AND PLACES.

Brecon Priory is included in a list of monasteries in June, 1536, as being in value of less than £200 a year. No delay took place in annexing its rents and revenues, for in Michaelmas all fell into the hands of the Crown. At the time of its suppression John ap Llewelyn, gentleman, was steward of the Convent's manor and lands in the lordship of Brecon, and held his office under a deed 20th July, 11 Henry VIII., of Thomas Redyng, who is described as the Prior and Rector of the Chapel of St. Mary, Brecon, at a salary of £1 6s. 8d. The first account of the revenue of the late Priory, for the year ending Michaelmas, 28 Henry VIII., was rendered by Thomas Haverford, the collector for the Crown. His total receipts were £165 14s. 11d. It appears from the details of his account that the demesne lands were let on lease by the Court of Augmentation to John ap Rice, gentleman (at a later period Sir John Price, of the Priory, Knight) for a yearly rent of £3 6s. 8d., and the tithes at £11 6s. 8d. The rents of free tenants and tenants at will in the town and suburbs of Brecon amounted to £13 0s. 1d. Fifty-two tenements are described as let at a yearly rent; thirty-one tenants held under leases, many of which were not produced to the collector. The usual term granted by the Convent appears to have been for 70 years; in one case it was for 75 years. Eight tenants held at will. In the majority of cases the name of the tenant and rent payable are only mentioned, The situation of the tenement is occasionally indicated.

The following names of places occur, and it will be interesting to preserve them here. St. Eilan Layne; Bryge Street; Old Port Superior; the highway leading through the gate of the Priory to the Cemetery of the Church of the Holy Rood; Benney's more; Benney's Holme; a tenement lying in width between the garden of the Infirmary of the Priory, and a tenement above the stream of Hothny (Honddu), and in length between the great garden of the Priory by Held, and the common way leading from Brecon to the Priory; stone bridge over Honddu; Averner's Close, extending from the highway from Brecon to Pool; closes called Monkestoake, and a small meadow called Gwerlodglothey Deveydd, with a plot of land called Le Held, extending in length from the Common way to Crekecrusteth. (The Held, often pronounced Yeld, is a name which frequently occurs on the

¹ The seal of this cell was of course that of Battle Abbey, the superior house to which they belonged. The arms, quarterly with Marchell ap Tewdrig, were seen in the jury room at Brecon under the initial of the first list of bailiffs of Brecon.

border, and seems to have been applied to land, often woodland, held with the manor, or appurtenant to a tenement.) A tenement between the Cok garden wall and the wall of the ancient infirmary on one side, and the way leading from Honddu bridge to the church on the other side. Blake medowe, extending from the way leading a le Ponte Wilym towards Llandeuaelg as far as Castell hyll; tenement in Old Port Superior by the torrent called Mardrell, extending from the common way from the Priory to Bayle Glase; Paynodis Close, situate at Slewdney tenement in le ower old Porte, extending from a small path a le Awmry towards Frogelonde; a tenement near Old Port in le Mill Strett, in length from the highway from Old Port Superior towards Llanddew, and in width from the Priory wood called Held to the stream Honddu. Among the tenancies at will, a "close nye the Raks," and a tenement called "Owten Street" are mentioned.

Thomas ap Ieuan Groke was vicar of the Church of Holy Rood. Two pounds were received as the accustomed rent of the Chapel of St. Nicholas within the Brecon Castle.

CHAPELS OF ST. ELYNED AND ST. CATHERINE.

It has been noticed in the former volume that the chapel of Saint Elyned near Slwch being parcel of the possessions of the monastery of Saint John's, fell down about the latter end of the 17th century, and it is now (1800) only a confused heap of stones; besides this there was also an hospitium with a chapel annexed, dedicated to Saint Catherine, adjoining an inclosure converted or intended for a public coal wharf near the Watton turnpike: the chapel stood where the barn, now called the Spital barn, has been erected.¹ When this was an ecclesiastical structure, it appears to have been independent of the priory, and was probably raised at the expense and for the ease and convenience of the bailiff and burgesses of Brecon, though undoubtedly with the permission of one of the early priors, for by the deed (No. II. preserved in the appendix), we see the municipal officers of the borough, among whom is Rees y Cigwr, or the butcher, the father of Hugh Price, founder of Jesus college, appointing a chaplain and conferring a salary for saying mass and doing duty occasionally in this chapel as well as Saint Mary's, and they afterwards, when the building fell into decay, presented the soil, as appears from Hugh Thomas, to Edward Games of Newton, esq., their first recorder, in gratitude for the pains and trouble he took in procuring the charter of Phillip and Mary. The same writer also tells us there was a font then to be seen in or near the barn, and a pair of stone steps that led to a pulpit; that several persons then living remembered yew trees growing in the piece of ground adjoining, called the church yard, and that skulls and other human bones were frequently dug up there: all these vestiges of its former state have now disappeared, and the barn and ground descended to Walter Jeffreys, esq., from his ancestors, one of whom purchased them from the family of Newton.

THE CHAPEL OF ST. MARY.

Before we conclude our notice of ecclesiastical structures in this parish, we proceed to the church or chapel of Saint Mary, where little will be found to detain the antiquary. The precise period of the erection of this fabric cannot be ascertained, but a document among Mr. Carte's papers in the Bodleian, from which we have so largely extracted, proves that it was built as early as the latter end of the twelfth or the beginning of the following century, for Mahel le Brett, by charter under his seal, and attested by Walter de Traveleia, William and Ralph le Bret, Rowland Haket or Hakuet and Walter de Bodenham, who were all of Herefordshire, or that part of Breconshire bordering on Herefordshire, and who lived about this time, gave in pure and perpetual alms to the church of *Saint Mary*, in Brecon, an annual pension of twelve pence, charged upon land near the town of Brecon, which Hugh de turba Villa (or Tuberville) gave to the donor's brother, to be applied towards purchasing a taper to burn there during the celebration of mass for the souls of this benefactor, his wife and children. The present steeple, which is about ninety feet in height, was built in the reign of Henry the Eighth; it has a peal of eight musical bells, cast by Rudhall of Gloucester, the treble being the gift of the late Mr. Thomas Lloyd of Brecon, uncle to the late Mrs. John Bullock Lloyd. The body of the church, which we think was rebuilt at the same time, though the steeple only is mentioned in the MS. referred to, consists of two aisles, and on the north east is the shoemakers chapel, from which is a door into the vestry, but since the erection of houses close to the windows, both these places are become so dark, that the want of room alone compels the inhabitants to occupy the seats in the one, and the business of the parish, formerly transacted in the other, is now conducted in the town hall.

THE MAIN ENTRANCE AND ECCLESIASTICAL COURT.

The principal entrance into the church is under part of the gallery, in which an organ was placed about the years 1796 or 1798, and under the southern door, the ecclesiastical consistory

¹ This spot in 1908 is known as the building yard of Messrs. Jenkins in the Watton.

court for the archdeaconry of Brecon is held once a month. This part of the building was divided from the other where divine service is performed, by a slight partition and railing, about the year 1690, to prevent (as was alleged) the country people who attended the court for appointing church-wardens from strolling into the church and stealing the prayer books; this division has been again repaired and improved by the addition of lath, plaister and whitelime, which preclude the cold winds, and as the floor is considerably lower than the street at the northern entrance, which with other causes, occasioned a considerable moisture or sweating of the flag stones in damp weather, in 1805 they were taken up, the aisles boarded and two buzaglos placed there, partly at the expense of the parish, but principally of the Reverend Richard Davies, archdeacon of Brecon, the vicar, who likewise erected several new seats in the chancel, but the church is still too small for the number of inhabitants, and several families in the place are destitute of pews.

When these alterations were made, although no persons have been buried here within the memory of man, nor does even tradition recognize an interment within this fabric, two stones were removed which were evidently sepulchral, perhaps they covered the graves of two of the vicars of Saint Mary's; they were upwards of six feet in length, and in shape a parallelogram, widening however at one end, and on one of them a small cross was sculptured, as if merely to intimate that it had once been sacred to the memory of a christian, for the inscription, if such there had been, was worn out, though there seemed to be some slight traces of figures remaining, like those formerly seen, wherein brass lines were inserted. In the wall of the northern aisle are some marble tablets, on which are inscribed the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's creed, and the Ten Commandments, presented by Mr. Walker of Newton.

TABLE OF BENEFACTIONS.

In the wall of the chancel are two tables recording all the benefactions to this town, as well as to the parish of Saint John's, except Mrs. Rodd's; from one of them we learn, that in 1727, the vicarage of Brecon, upon the contribution of £200 by several gentlemen there named, was augmented by Queen Anne's bounty, and the charitable donations there noticed, are as follows:—

1581. Mr. William Evans gave 100*l.* to be lent to five weavers and five tuckers, from three years to three years for ever.

1581. Mr. Peter Body gave a message and garden of the yearly rent of two shillings, to the poor; Mr. Lewis Meredith gave a message and garden of the like value to the poor; Evan William Jenkin gave forty shillings yearly to the poor. This benefaction is rather irregularly introduced here in point of time, as it is also the next of Sir David Williams's, and it is not perfectly correct or explicit; in his will in the register office, proved in 1638, he is also called Evan William, tucker, and he thereby charges his two houses in Heol rydd, with the payment of twenty shillings yearly to the poor, during his son's life time, and after his death, of forty shillings annually for ever.

1612. "Sir David Williams gave forty shillings to the poor and ten shillings for a sermon on Ash Wednesday." His will, which was proved in the commons on the 27th January, 1612, directs that a sermon should be preached in the parish church of Saint John the Evangelist on the day of his funeral annually, for which, the preacher was to have for his pains ten shillings, and that there should be for ever, on that day, disposed to the use of the poor of that parish in bread, forty shillings, with which, among other bequests to charitable uses, he charges the tythes of Gwenddwr, granted to him by the Crown.

1557. "Mr. John Williams gave six pounds per annum to three poor people of Brecon for ever; Mr. Howel Thomas gave twenty shillings per annum to the poor." He was of Cilwiballt, now generally called Kihwibarth; his will is in the register office, and was proved in 1623, he hereby charges a burghage, kiln house and cuttings in Saint Mary's ward, devised to his second son, Llewelyn *Towel*, with the payment of the above sum of twenty shillings, to be paid to the bailiff of Brecon on Saint Thomas the Apostle's, annually, for the use of the poor of the town of Brecon.

"Mr. Thomas Davies gave four suits of cloaths to four poor tradesmen at Christmas." By his will, proved in 1635, he bequeaths forty shillings per annum, towards purchasing four suits of cloaths annually for four aged and poor persons, one a tailor, another a shoemaker, another a weaver, and the fourth a tucker, which he charges upon a house in Cantref-selyf ward.

"Mr. Tobias Williams gave twenty shillings to the poor and ten shillings for a sermon on Candlemas." His will was proved in 1663, he lived in Brecon, and made a considerable fortune there, as a mercer; he was the youngest son of Mr. Daniel Williams, of Abercromlais and brother of Edward Williams of Ffrwdgreb and Richard Williams of Aberbran, to the former of whom he gave lands in Mlodydd, chargeable with the payment of ten shillings yearly to an orthodox minister, for a sermon upon Candlemas day, in Saint Mary's chapel, and twenty shillings to the poor annually.

1674. "Edmund Jones (of Buckland) esq. gave a house, stable, yard and out-house, in High Street, Brecon, to trustees, for the purpose of placing out poor boys, of the said borough, apprentices to some manual trade within the same borough, which premises have been lately let at the yearly rent of thirty three pounds, and consists of two houses, next adjoining, on the western side to the street leading to the north west entrance into Saint Mary's church.

1675. Mr. Roger Bulcock gave a yearly rent of seven shillings and six pence for 1,000 years to the poor.

1683. Mr. William Thomas gave fifty pounds, the interest to be paid to the poor annually at Christmas.

1685. Mr. Richard Jones gave forty pounds to purchase lands, the rent to be paid to the poor at Christmas yearly." He was originally of Trostre in Monmouthshire, and steward to the Tredegar family for the Breconshire estate.

¹ Upon this matter Theo. Jones wrote: "I am aware that the insertion of these benefactions here and elsewhere will appear uninteresting to many and perhaps tedious to all, but after mature consideration, I am determined to preserve as many as I can discover: the frauds, concealments and mis-applications of these aids to the poor rates, are in some parishes highly culpable and disgraceful." It is equally necessary in this year of grace 1800, to place upon record these benefactions, for within the past few years several well-known charities have ceased to be administered, and many others are misapplied.

1686. "The reverend Rice Powel (the charitable vicar of Boughrood, before named) gave lands, chargeable with twenty pounds annually to settle poor children apprentices, ten pounds for a stock to enable them to set up their trades, and ten pounds for a schoolmaster to teach poor children to read.

Mr. William Watkins gave sixteen shillings for two sermons, and twenty four shillings annually for bread to the poor.

1698. "John Waters, esq., gave four pounds annually to eight poor tradesmen." His will was proved in 1699, his father was a clothier and made a large fortune in Brecon in that trade; his son, the benefactor to the poor of Brecon, improved it by marriage with a daughter of Lewis Lloyd of Crickadarn, a judge on the North Wales circuit, they left only one daughter, who married Sir Halswell Tynte bart. whose family, in her right, still hold part of the property; by his will, he charges all his real estate with the payment of the bequest to the poor, and directs that it shall be distributed among such poor tradesmen as shall not receive any interest from the money given by Mr. John Williams.

1700. "Mr. Howel Jones gave twenty shillings to clothe four poor people of Saint John's at Christmas yearly." His will was proved in 1670, he was a butcher, and acquired a considerable sum of money in trade, he charges a barn and garden in the Watton with the payment of twenty shillings annually, to be laid out in cloth for four of the most indigent and impotent persons of the parish of Saint John the Evangelist's.

1703. "Mrs. Mary Powel gave an annuity of six pounds, three pounds whereof to put out two apprentices yearly, and the remaining three pounds to six of the poorest house-keepers; widows to be preferred." Her will, by which this legacy was charged upon Tyr John Hugh in Llandeulle, was not proved till 1704.

1710. "Henry Jones, esq. gave ten shillings annually towards clothing two poor people." He was a barrister and second son of the before named Howel Jones, butcher, by his will, proved in 1711, he recites that the premises in the Watton, charged with his father's legacy to the poor, were unfortunately burnt down, he therefore subjects Cae Tabacco and Gerddi Gleision with the payment of the same in perpetuity, as well as with the further sum of ten shillings annually, which he bequeaths for the same charitable purpose.

1712. Mr. Thomas Philips gave fifty pounds, the interest to be distributed yearly to the poor.

1721. William Philips, esq. gave twenty pounds for the same purpose.

1721. Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Catherine Games founded an hospital for twelve poor women, and gave six hundred and twenty pounds to endow it.

1721. Mrs. Elizabeth Jeffreys settled an annuity of six pounds: fifty shillings to ten poor men, fifty shillings to ten poor women yearly on Whit-sunday, and twenty shillings for a sermon.

1722. Nicholas Jeffreys, esq. gave one hundred pounds, the interest yearly for the use of the charity school of the blue coat boys.

1724. Mrs. Katherine Games gave three hundred pounds to purchase lands: forty shillings yearly to the charity school for girls, and the remainder to be distributed yearly in bread, at the discretion of her trustees.

These tablets are now fixed upon the wall beneath the tower, and since Theophilus Jones wrote, the following items have been added:—

1726. Matthias Berrow devised an annual rent-charge of 40*s.* issuing out of certain premises in Mount Street to apprentice poor children.

Benefactions were made by Queen Anne's Bounty Office to increase the stipend of the Perpetual Curate of St. Mary's in

1726, of £200. } These grants were met by similar or larger amounts and were invested in the purchase of the following Bounty

1735, of £200. } lands: Pentwyn and Merdy, in the parish of Llanoion; Tylcewyn vach, in the parish of Llanvillo:

1738, of £200. } Penybank, in the parish of Llanstochan; Blue leaf, in the parish of Llandafally.

1794. Mrs. Mary Williams devised the interest of £100 to be applied annually to the Charity School, Brecon.

1906. Benefaction of £100 from Ecclesiastical Commissioners to meet a local Benefaction of £100 to increase the stipend of the Perpetual Curate of St. Mary's. The total sum (£200) was invested by the Commissioners in India 3 p.c. Stock.

It has been observed upon entering the church, that Saint Mary's in Brecon was as old as the twelfth or thirteenth century, but we are not from hence to conclude (as before hinted), that the present structure is of that early date; from the eastern window of the chancel, which is of what is frequently called the middle gothic, or the gothic of the middle age, and from the general style of architecture in this fabric, it does not appear to have been erected until after the year 1515, or 6 Henry 8th: none of its decorations or pillars have the slightest pretensions to antiquity, nor is there a single description, figure, or monument preserved within its walls.

From the deed, No. II, in the appendix, it appears there were at Saint Mary's, stalls, choir service, or at least a chauntry and an organ, at this time:—"He (the vicar) shall keep his stall secondary in the quere, Sundays and holidays, at Matins's masse and evyne songe within the chappel of our ladie within the saide towne of Brecknocke, and also keepe our ladie masse, daily having sufficient company with him, with pricked songes, else to be excused, also kepe the organes and teache two children limited by the baylie, their pricked song and plaine songe upon his own cost and charge during the said tyme." By plain song is meant the most ancient species of music heard in Europe before the 11th century, in which all the voices of the singers were in the same notes or tones. pricked song, invented by an Italian monk, Guido Aretini, is literally nothing more than written music, but it is generally applied to harmonic compositions, consisting of parts, in which the principal or leading tunes are assisted or embellished by tasteful airs or accompaniments.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH IN 1847.

Sir Stephen Richard Glynné, Bart., visited this church on the 14th September, 1847, and his description of the building at that period may not be uninteresting. He says: "This is a large church, built of coarse red sand-stone, and somewhat irregular in form. It has a nave and chancel, with south aisle running parallel with both; a chapel on the north of the nave; north and south porches; and lofty plain tower at the west end of the nave. There are various styles. The tower is late Third Pointed, Embattled, and having an octagonal stair-turret. The belfry windows of three

lights, and a large west window of five. There is no west door, and the arch opening from the tower to the nave is lofty and elegantly moulded, but without shafts. The interior is much encumbered with pews and galleries, which render it very dark, and the west gallery being advanced considerably into the nave, the western arches are much hidden. The nave has an arcade of five wide arches; the arches of the chancel very low, and no chancel arch. The three western arches of the nave are wide, of pointed form, with circular pier between them having octagonal capital. The next pier eastward is square, and against it is what has evidently been an altar with stone panelling about it. The two west arches are First Pointed, low and plain, without mouldings, having between them a low circular column with an early capital having the abacus. The next pier eastward marks the division of the chancel, and has an abtase arched opening. The chancel has two First Pointed arches opening to its aisle, plain and without moulding, the pier circular with octagonal capital. The arcade of this church is low and ungraceful, its division by intervals into three is to be found elsewhere; and though the arches differ slightly they all seem to be First Pointed. Even without the galleries the church would be heavy and gloomy within. The north chapel opens to the nave by two rude First Pointed arches, rising from a low circular column with early capital and abacus, above which is an obtuse-headed niche. The roof of the nave is covered with intersecting ribs. There is a clerestory, and a range of stone corbels runs above the arcade. Some windows are Middle Pointed, that at the east end of the south aisle of three lights, and another on the south side of two lights. Another on the south side has three lancets under a containing arch, a form not uncommon in Herefordshire and parts of South Wales. Over the south door is a square-headed window of two lights, more of Third Pointed character. The east window of the chancel is late Third Pointed, of five lights with transom; to the north and south of it are Middle Pointed ones of two lights, of early character. Under the southern one is a pointed piscina with stone shelf. On the south side of the chancel is another recess in the wall. In the eastern pier of the chancel arcade is a curious small arched recess, set very low down and trefoiled. The north chapel has Middle Pointed windows of two lights, one of which has two trefoil-headed lights within a segmented arch, and sills coming down low. The chancel is pewed quite to the altar rails. The pulpit has stone steps, and a carved sounding board. The north side is closely encumbered with houses, and has very few windows. An organ is in the west gallery." In the year 1857 we read, "All the old houses that touched the edifice have been removed, so that the building is now visible all round. Within, the pews have all been taken away and open seats put in their stead. The piers and mullions of the windows have been repaired, and the interior generally has been put into thoroughly good condition. Under one of the earliest piers of the central aisle was found a large coffin-lid, with a rude cross. This has been imbedded vertically in the east wall of the south porch."

THE CHURCH IN 1908.

It was about this period (1857) that the church underwent restoration at a cost of £3,300; and seating accommodation made for 1,000 persons—the Incorporated Society for Church Building giving £300 on condition that 550 seats were reserved free for the use of the parishioners. There is a peal of eight bells, and these were restored, and new bell-framing provided, when the tower was repaired in 1894-5, as is recorded by a brass plate over the entrance to the belfry from inside of the church, viz., "The clock in this tower was given and the bells restored in the year 1895 by Colonel John Morgan, Mayor of Brecknock, 1884, 85, 89, 90, 91, 92." The clock here referred to, replaced one which formerly faced the Bulwark and also High Street.

Under the tower, the space is now separated from the nave by a curtain, and used as a vestry for the choir. There is a floreated stone cross erected against the wall beneath the window, but inscription is missing. On the north wall, near the pulpit, is a stone relating to the George Price Watkins' charity, the inscription being similar to that already noticed in the Priory.

Below, is a brass tablet having this inscription: "To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Thomas Games, for over 60 years a faithful worshipper in this church, who died December 23, 1906, aged 81. He filled the office of churchwarden from 1884-1886."

The east window is of stained glass, and was erected by the late Col. John Church Pearce, K.H., J.P., "To the memory of John Church Church, of Ffrwdgrech, son of William and Mary Church Pearce, born August xth, MDCCCXXXIX; died October XIX., MDCCCLVI." In the choir is a brass tablet, "To the Glory of God and in memory of Herbert Williams, M.A., Prebendary of St. David's, and for 32 years vicar of this parish. Born 15th February, 1836, Died 19th November, 1896. This Brass, together with the west window in the Priory Church in the Parish of St. John was erected by his parishioners as a slight token of the love and esteem in which he was held by all classes." There is also one erected by Mr. Councillor John Williams, who was Mayor of Brecon in 1907, inscribed as

river side to the Tarrell Bridge. At the end of Silver Street, there is Walnut Square, so named from a walnut tree which formerly flourished here, and, with the Lanfaes Wesleyan Chapel on the left, we proceed up Newmarch Street until the Games' Almshouses are reached. The main highway of Lanfaes, has Bridge Street, Orchard Street (off which on the right is St. David's Street), and Newgate Street, off which is Fwdgrech Road, leading to the mansion of that name and elsewhere. Before reaching St. David's Church on the left is Baileyheig Road, leading to the work-house, opposite to which is a road leading to the public road to Dinas and Abercynrig house and mill, before entering which, on the right is a steep lane leading to Cantref Church.

At the bottom of Castle Street is Market Street, and passing over the bridge (recently widened, so as to admit of footpaths) the Castle road is traversed to The Avenue, with Dainter and Maendu Streets on the right, and two roads leading to Watergate and Kensington on the left; the Avenue joins the Cemetery Road, leading to Battle parish, &c., and a lane running down to the end of the Promenade and on to the Vennyfach Road. There is a new road, called St. John's Road, running from the Postern through the Dainter Field, where houses are now being erected, into Dainter Street.

There are numerous public walks. From the Struet, over a small footbridge crossing the Honddu, is a road leading to the Priory Church, and past the Priory Well to the Priory Groves, a public road through which leads to the old iron forge. Passing over the Captain's Walks, a road leads to the Island Fields, and a pathway proceeds by the side of the river for a considerable distance. There is also a roadway leading from the top of Pendre to the Priory Groves. Off Maendu Street is a public way to the well of that name, and beyond the well a pathway leads to the summit of the Crug, a road on the other side of which leads to a road with an exit on to the main road to Builth. A pathway along the river side, past the boat house, leads to the Vennyfach wood, already referred to, and to Vennyfach Rocks. Off the Vennyfach Road, not far from the end of the Promenade, is a disused road which formerly led to the Gaer, and parallel with it is a pathway for some distance through the fields.

Having described the streets as they now are, we proceed to enumerate the few features which characterise them. The main streets of the borough are principally comprised of business premises, with the exception of the upper part of the Struet, the lower part of the Watton, and Lanfaes, where are mainly private dwellings. The Priory Mansion, Buckingham House, and Place (the residence for many years of the Misses Philip Morgan, Miss Gwennllan having been recently elected, under a new Act, the first woman Borough Councillor for Brecon and indeed for all Wales), and Glamorgan Street generally, have an old world appearance, and perhaps reflect the only glory of two centuries ago. On the top of Ship Street, forming part of Mr. George Whitfield's shop, and apparently resting the bulk of it upon his shoulders, is the curious figure of a man, but where this came from, or how it came to be placed where it is, no explanation is at present forthcoming. Lion Street contains a couple of very large houses, notably that occupied by Dr. Valentine Rees, J.P., and which was formerly the residence of Dr. North, and before then the Ives family, where there is a fine entrance hall and old staircase. Immediately opposite this is another old house with a rare oak staircase, viz., the house of Mr. Evan Jones, cabinet maker. On the other side of the Church is a large house once the residence of Mr. Tennyson, a brother of Lord Tennyson, the poet Laureate. Lower down towards the Watton, the house now occupied by Dr. G. P. Francis, was once the residence of Dr. Thomas Lucas, and after him of Dr. Talfourd Jones, both medical men of eminence. Watton Mount, the property of the De Winton family, faces the Captain's Walk, and is the residence of J. A. Jebb, Esq., J.P., a recent high-sheriff. In the Watton, is Watton House, formerly the residence of the celebrated Major Price, and subsequently of the late Ald. David Thomas. In the centre of the town is the Siddons Wine Vaults, and on this house is a tablet recording the fact that it was the birth place of Sarah Siddons, the great actress.

On the hill above the Struet, and overlooking Brecon, is a handsome residence, standing in the midst of extensive grounds, called "Nythfa," built by the late Joseph Richard Cobb, Esq., and now the residence of his son. Not far away in a portion of Penlan Park is "Penbryn," built in 1887, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Best (Mrs. Best was the only daughter and heiress of Walter Maybery, Esq.), and close by is Penlan Farm, once the home farm of the Maybery family. At the end of the park, nestling together close to the Honddu, are several cottages near to the disused iron forge, and these are known as the Forge Cottages.

Of public monuments, there are but three. The statue to the Duke of Wellington, railed off on the Bulwark, is by John Evan Thomas, the Breconshire sculptor, and presented to the town by his relatives. Opposite Lloyds Bank is the Games drinking fountain, presented to the borough by Alderman William Games, a former Alderman and Mayor; he was a Solicitor. And near to the

Shire Hall, and facing the Watton, is a cattle drinking trough of granite, erected out of funds left in the hands of King Edward the Seventh's Coronation Sports Committee at Brecon.

It will be proper to mention here that the Captain's Walk beyond the Shire Hall was erected by some French prisoners of war, and the Promenade leading from Honddu iron bridge to the top of the lane leading to Vennyfach was constructed at the expense of the Corporation, the waste lands from the bridge to the steps being given to the Corporation on what is practically a freehold by the late Mr. J. R. Cobb, the lord of the manor, in consideration of a small annual payment and the grounds being laid out and maintained as a public promenade; the other portion was secured from the Great Western Railway Company and others, on favourable terms, so as to complete the scheme.

There are no industries in the town, which for trade mainly depends upon the agricultural prosperity of the district. There was, some 30 years ago, a woollen factory at the Rock and Castle, on the Hay Road, near to the Flour Mill there, but this building was removed and houses substituted. There are two flour mills, one known as the Priory Mill and the other as the Struet Mill. A flannel factory stands at the end of the stone bridge in the Struet, on the Priory side of the Honddu, and there is at the Llanfaes side of the Usk Bridge, a tannery and wool business, from which very large quantities of wool, bought from the farmers, are sent away every year.

The weekly market is held on Friday, to which day it was altered from Saturday, about 1878. The May and November fairs are now held on the first Tuesdays and Wednesdays in those months, having been changed by arrangement to those dates. There is also a monthly market for stock on the first Tuesday in each month, and bi-monthly as well as Christmas markets are held. Large numbers of sheep are brought into the markets, and there is a considerable trade done in them.

BRECON WATER SUPPLY.

The town is now in possession of an excellent supply of water, brought from the brook above the Ffrwdrech waterfalls through pipes to a storage reservoir on the Baileyhelig road. But this undertaking was not completed without much delay, difficulty, and great expense. Numerous estimates of the cost were made, not one of which was correct, but it is certain that at least £15,000 have been spent upon construction, repairs, &c., and even then for many years the reservoir was not of any service. There was an alternative scheme to this before the town, in 1864, when the late Mr. J. R. Cobb offered to construct works at his own expense and to sell the water to the Corporation. Previous to the completion of this undertaking, the town got its supply of water from numerous public and private wells; and among those in general use were the Maendu Well, which at one period was used to fill the moat surrounding the Brecknock Castle; The Priory Well; one near the street now called "Well Street"; another still visible in the Postern near the bed of the Honddu, and the steps leading down to which are still to be seen. This well was considered of so much importance that when powers were sought to take land for the Neath and Brecon Railway Company, a special clause was inserted to protect it should it be decided to purchase; and there was also the St. David's Well near the Brecon Workhouse. Besides these, there was the supply from the Honddu, pumped through the old engine house up to the reservoir near to the Priory Well. Of these various supplies, however, none remain in use except the Maendu, Priory, and St. David's Well, and all these still give out an abundant supply of pure water. The whole of the capital borrowed to instal the present supply of water was paid off about 1904, so that the undertaking is now a source of revenue to the ratepayers.

THE MARKETS OF THE BOROUGH.

A scheme for building the Markets House was inaugurated in 1838, when a number of representative men agreed to contribute money towards the object. An Act was applied for, and the building proceeded with in 1839-41, but the Council of the Borough appears to have delegated their powers of supervision to a Committee, which got into difficulties with the undertaking. After considerable sums had been borrowed and expended, the Council in 1840 handed over the title deeds of the Corporation property to the Solicitor of Miss Sarah Edith Payne, together with three debentures, for £500 each on tolls of the new building. The market was duly opened on the 4th April, 1840 and it was further extended four years later, after other sums had been borrowed, and some years later we find the liabilities on the Markets to be about £9,000.

Steps were about this time taken to promote a new Markets Act, and in the year 1862 a Company was formed and the Brecon Markets Act passed; and this Company acquired all the markets, tolls, &c., "subject to the payment of the annual sum of £210 to the Corporation." This Company continued to hold the markets and also a new slaughter house which they had built, until the year 1895, when the Corporation acquired them from the late Mr. J. R. Cobb; so that the whole of the market buildings, slaughter house, and tolls, are again vested in the Corporation. It having become

necessary to carry out much needed improvements in the general Market in High Street, and also the cattle and sheep market in Free Street, the Corporation in 1895-1904 borrowed the sum of £10,114 16s. 4d., repayable at periods varying from 60 to 18 years, for this purpose and to cover the cost of purchase. The Free Street Market was much enlarged, and by this means the cattle exhibited for sale were removed from the public streets; but the horse fairs are still held on the streets in Llanfaes. The General Market in High Street has entrances from that street and from Bell Lane, Castle Street and Market Street. At the entrance from High Street have been erected lock-up shops, and beyond them is the commodious hall used for the sale of cheese, butter, poultry, eggs, vegetables, fruit, &c. Towards the erection of this hall, which is used for large assemblies, such as Eisteddfodau, the Brecon Eisteddfod Committees of 1894 and 1897, contributed the sum of £692 10s. 6d., and to commemorate this event a tablet with the following inscription has been erected, "This hall was erected on the site of the Butchers' Stalls and Butter Market, in the Diamond Jubilee year, 1897. William de Winton, J.P., D.L., Mayor; G. Hyatt Williams, Town Clerk; Rhys Davies, Surveyor; The Brecon Eisteddfod Committees of 1894 and 1897 contributed the sum of £692 10s. 6d. towards its erection." The large clock over the entrance to this hall was presented by Col. John Morgan, J.P., D.L., of Bank House, Lion Street. Madame Patti gave a concert in this building, assisted by other artists, for charitable purposes, and was enthusiastically welcomed by a crowded audience.

THE GUILD HALL AND ASSEMBLY ROOM.

The town hall and municipal offices are situate in High Street on the site of the old building erected from plans drawn by John Abel, the Herefordshire architect, probably in 1624. Here for many years were held the Great Sessions, and on this spot were given those rigorous sentences peculiar to the administration of the law in those days. In 1638 alterations appear to have been made in the building, for the Great Sessions were in consequence of this held for a term at the "great hall of Newton on the banks of Tarrell." Later, in 1775, the place was rebuilt partly at the expense of the county and borough fund, and restored in 1809 by Sir Charles Morgan, Bart., of Tredegar. This old building had on the ground floor several massive pillars supporting the rooms overhead; and on three sides had archways filled with iron railings. Here was held the corn market, and occasionally farm produce was exposed for sale. Above was a large assembly room with the platform on the High Street end, whilst opposite was a large gallery; beneath and at the rear of which were rooms devoted to the use of the Corporation and the magistrates, for the Borough has its separate commission of the peace, and above these rooms were extensive garrets used at one period for the storage of arms belonging to the military. Below the level of the street there were also extensive cellars. In this building were held the Quarter Sessions, Assizes, and all other county meetings, previous to the erection in 1842 of the present Shire Hall on the Captain's Walks.

REBUILT BY COLONEL JOHN MORGAN.

This borough hall had long been considered quite unsuitable to the requirements of the town, and in 1884-5 the question of alterations was debated by the Corporation. After considerable delay, and much diversity of opinion, the Council resolved to borrow £1,200 to carry out the needed improvements. They failed to get the sanction of the Local Government Board to this loan, and matters were at a dead-lock when the late Colonel John Morgan, J.P., and D.L., offered to rebuild the hall from plans prepared by his late brother-in-law, Mr. Brewer, architect, of Cardiff. These extensive alterations cost about £4,000, and were completed in 1889. The main entrance, which had formerly been in Lion Street, was now made from the High Street. On the ground floor were a handsome entrance hall (where was placed the life-size plaster cast of the Prince Consort, made by Thomas, the Breconshire sculptor,) and beyond, a Mayor's parlour, a police court (also used as the Council chamber), and two rooms for the town clerk (with entrance from Lion Street). The whole floor space above was devoted to the assembly room, which was handsomely decorated, the platform being placed at the Lion Street end. Above the stage, and on a level with it, were placed retiring and dressing rooms. The completion of the building, and the liberality of the donor, gave immense satisfaction to the burgesses, and Colonel John Morgan was made a freeman, and presented with a life-size painting of himself in oils by B. S. Marks. This painting, together with another in similar size, and by the same artist, of Dr. James Williams, J.P., presented to him by many admirers, and a smaller one of the late Bishop Lloyd of Bangor, were hung in the assembly room.

In consequence of serious defects in the roof of this building, it was declared unsafe in the year 1906, and, after being closed for over twelve months, the Council secured powers to borrow

the sum of £1,500, and with this money the building was re-roofed, renovated, and heated by hot water; and it is now, in 1908, re-opened for the use of the public.

CORPORATION INSIGNIA AND ARMS.

In the entrance hall, there is a very ancient oak chest, as well as the old stocks, and a Corporation measure bearing the following inscription:—"Brecknock in South Wales. Charles Draper, bailife. Charles Roberts, Towne Clarke. 1673."

Here are kept the insignia of the municipality. They consist of two maces, a Mayor's chain and a corporate seal. The two maces are of silver, 24½ inches in length, and have slender shafts and semi-globular heads, surrounded by a rich double banding of fleur-de-lis, so arranged that the upper half forms a circlet; on the flat top are the royal arms, and these maces probably date from the reign of James I. The Mayor's chain was presented in 1881 by Mr. Lewis Jones, and is of gold, and consists of 20 small knobs or bosses, united by links in short lengths; the pendant badge displays arms, viz: "on a field arg. a mantle of estate gu. doubled ermine." On these bosses are inscribed the names of Mayors who wear the chain, and they are being added to as occasion requires, at the expense of the wearers. The ancient seal, like so many other possessions of the Corporation, is lost, but the modern one is circular and also bears the same arms.

KING GEORGE FOURTH AT BRECON.

Within the Council Chamber, affixed to the wall, is a tablet of brass inscribed as below: "Borough of Brecon, 1821. The Rev. Charles Griffith, bailiff. Edward Morgan, Esq., recorder. David Price, Esq., William Williams, Esq., aldermen. Walter Churchey, town clerk. This tablet is erected to record the following testimony of the affectionate and loyal attachment manifested by the Corporation and inhabitants to King George the Fourth on His Majesty's arrival in this Borough, Sept. 13, 1821. 'London, Sept. 25, 1821. Sir,—Previous to His Majesty's departure for Calais I had it in command to express the King's entire satisfaction of your conduct on His Majesty's late visit at Brecon, and to request that you would convey in the manner most agreeable to yourself His Majesty's sense of the loyalty and affection so strongly demonstrated for his person on that occasion by the Corporation and inhabitants of Brecon. I take this opportunity of assuring you of the gratification I feel in conveying His Majesty's most gracious message, and of the high respect and esteem with which I have the honour to be, Your most obedient and most humble servant, GRAVES. The Rev. Charles Griffith, Brecon.' Erected at the expense of Sir Charles Morgan, Baronet."

The chair used by the Mayor or presiding magistrate is of massive oak, and on a brass plate there is this inscription: "Presented to the Mayor and Corporation of Borough of Brecon by the Rev. John Daniel Williams, Headmaster of Christ College, Brecknock, September, 1878."

In the Mayor's Parlour there are many portraits of Mayors of Brecon, and a large board upon which are painted the names of high sheriffs, &c. This was formerly at the mansion house in Brecon, the Brecon residence of the Tredegar family, but it was presented to the Corporation by the Right Hon. Godfrey Charles, 2nd Baron and 1st Viscount Tredegar.

POLICE FORCE AND BOROUGH GAOLS.

Up to the year 1888, the Borough had its separate police force, and also a borough gaol, but at that date the County took over the Brecon police. For some time, the old gaol in the Postern continued to be used by the County authorities as a lock-up and residence for their police sergeant, and in order to make this efficient for the requirements of the Home Office, the Borough was called upon to spend a considerable sum; hardly, however, had the work been completed, when the authorities in London sanctioned the building of a new County lock-up and sergeant's house on the Captain's Walks adjoining the Shire Hall. This necessitated their relinquishing the old borough prison, and it was thrown useless upon the Borough authorities. After this had been vacant for several years, the Corporation converted the cells into a fire station, and there is now stored there a steam fire engine and other fire extinguishing appliances; and the house is rented to a tenant. The Corporation, previous to 1842, had a gaol in the Street. Older prisons have already been described. His Majesty's Prison is in Newgate Street, and has already been noticed in the Records of Quarter Sessions.

THE FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH.

The freedom of the Borough carries no special privileges, but has been used by the Corporation since the year 1892 to show appreciation of honours secured by Breconshire people, or to express gratitude to distinguished persons for favours received. In 1892, the late Sir David Evans, who was Lord Mayor of London in 1891-2, was made a freeman; Col. John Morgan was the next to be

honoured; then Earl Camden in 1893; Lord Tredegar in 1894; Madame Patti in 1896; and Sir Walter Vaughan Morgan, Bart, Lord Mayor of London, in 1906. The roll of freedom is generally bestowed enclosed in a gold casket of some value.

THE LEET JURY.

About the year 1852, the custom commenced of summoning what was called the Steward of the Leet's Jury to meet on the morning of the Election of Mayor in each year. The minute book does not disclose that this body ever had any useful functions beyond the nomination of constables for certain wards, who were seldom called upon to act, and many of whom would have been unable to perform such duties if requested. The Jury generally commenced and ended their proceedings with wine and biscuits at the Steward's expense, and under the influence of this refreshment occasionally drew up a long list of recommendations to the Council of desirable improvements. This practice was for some years kept up with some show of respectability, but in 1887 an end was put to a custom which had become to some extent a nuisance. The Steward of the Leet, who was the retiring Mayor, held a banquet at one of the hotels, where his friends gathered to partake of his hospitality, and to hear reports of the work of the Council during his year of office. This custom, too, has fallen into abeyance, and it is possible we have seen the end of it.

THE MADAME PATTI POOR FUND.

This fund was established as a result of concerts given by the great singer, Madame Patti-Nicolini, who afterwards became the Baroness Cederstrom, of Craigynos Castle, Breconshire. In the Corporation books there has been engrossed full particulars as to this charity, the capital sum of which in 1908 amounted to £872. Of this, £650 is invested in the Alexandra Newport Dock 4 per cent. debenture stock, and the balance in Consols. No scheme has been formulated under the supervision of the Charity Commissioners, and the Mayor and Corporation use the income annually as occasion arises in the establishment of soup kitchens.

THE OTHER BOROUGH CHARITIES.

On the 12th of April, 1904, the Town Clerk (Mr. G. Hyatt Williams) reported, by request of the Council, upon the older charities; and briefly the result of his inquiries was as here given. THE DANYPARK or Mary Powell charity, £6 a year on Danypark farm. £3 of this is annually handed to the Edmund Jones trustees, and the balance of £3 is distributed at each Christmas to the poor in accordance with the bequest. THE CWM CHARITY was created by the will of John Jones of the Cwm in the town of Brecon, who in 1825 left £50, the income of which was annually to be distributed by the Vicar, the Bailiff, and Town Clerk of Brecon among five poor widows residing in St. John's parish. The sum, with accumulated interest, in 1894 was invested in Rhymney 4 per cent Preference Stock, and the five widows receive 8s. each annually. ROGER THOMAS WATKINS' CHARITY is the sum of £200 left in 1857 by a Town Clerk of that name, the interest to be paid annually to a fund collected at Christmas called the Soup Fund. The money is now invested in Pontypridd Waterworks 3½ per cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock, and the interest is annually paid into Lloyds Bank, and used as required. There are two Rent Charges, £1 on premises in Steeple Lane, and £1 1s. 0d. on Old Borough Police Station. The former is paid by Viscount Tredegar, and the latter by the Corporation, and the money is distributed yearly to 41 poor persons on Christmas eve. THE EDMUND JONES CHARITY is the income derived from the premises now and for some time past occupied by Messrs Heins and Co. near the Town Church, and it is used in conformity with the will.

The Town Clerk reported the following charities as lost to the Corporation: a rent-charge of £3 on Clawdd-y-gaer, upon which no payment had been made since 1860; £2 on premises in Lion Lane; £1 10s. 0d. on house and garden near Captains Walk, the last payments of which on these two were made in 1867; £1 10s. 0d. on premises near the Watton Gate, payment of which appeared to have been made in 1879. In 1873 the late Town Clerk and Ald. Games endeavoured to revive these charities, and in 1886 the Charity Commissioners appointed legal trustees to the Municipal Charities, when further efforts were made to recover possession, but as the Charity Commissioners refused to authorise legal proceedings, when the claims were barred by the statute of limitations, this attempt again failed.

The Charity Trustees' report of 1886, in respect to Clawdd-y-gaer, says: "The rent charge or net annual payment of £3 is charged upon a close of land called Clawdd-y-gaer, in the borough of Brecon, belonging to Joseph Richard Cobb, John J. Williams, the Neath and Brecon Railway Co., and the Brecon Markets Company." In regard to this, it would appear that the late Mr. Cobb

himself distributed this amount to poor persons in the borough, But it will be seen from the foregoing that the Council has lost the administration of about £8 annually.

TOWN CLERKS OF BRECON.

— Charles Roberts.	1745. Lancelot Morgan (his nephew), appointed Oct. 1st.
1678. William Phillips, appointed on the recommendation of King Charles II. on Aug 30.	1753. Thomas Williams, appointed July 16th, 1753.
1686. David Vaughan, appointed March 24.	1754. Robert Williams, appointed Sept. 30 (to Oct., 1807.)
1688. Meredith James, appointed (first time) Sept. 23.	1807. Lancelot Morgan, appointed Oct. 5.
1707. David Gwillim, appointed Oct. 17.	1812. Samuel Church, appointed Oct. 13.
1710. Meredith James, appointed (2nd time) October 30.	1814. Walter Churchey, appointed Oct. 3.
1718. Thomas James, his son, appointed Sept. 22.	1840. R. T. Watkins, appointed March 11th (left £200 to the poor of Brecon).
1736. Meredith James, appointed (3rd time) Sept 27.	1858. Stephen Bowen Evans (to 1873).
1738. Thomas James, appointed Oct. 2; resigned 1745.	1873. John Williams, of The Struet (to 1887).
	1887. G. Hyatt Williams (his son), present holder of the office.

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

There are schools in Pendre and the Postern; also in Mount Street, and Llanfaes. The two first named were formerly called the National Schools, and were built by the members of the Church of England, and received certain endowments bequeathed by persons interested in education two centuries ago and later. The other two were erected by the Brecon School Board under the Elementary Education Act of 1870. In 1868, school buildings were erected in Lion Street by the Wesleyans, in memory of the late Dr. Coke, and a flourishing school was there carried on until 1890, when the buildings were consumed by fire. Previously there had been a British School in the town, and several private institutions. The first school erected by the School Board was that situate in Llanfaes, but it has been much added to since 1875, when it was publicly opened. The Mount Street Schools were built by the School Board in 1893, and were intended to replace the Wesleyan Schools destroyed by fire. Under the Welsh Intermediate Education Act, school buildings were erected for boys on the Cemetery Road in 1901, and for girls on Cerrigeochion Road.

BRECON A MILITARY STATION.

A reference to the monumental stones in the Priory Churchyard, some notes of which will be found on previous pages, shows that for a very considerable period Brecon has been occupied by detachments of various regiments. These men appear to have been quartered in the many public houses in the borough, and occasionally, as necessity arose, in private dwellings. The first barracks, or armoury, was built by Mr. John Maund, who erected several bridges in the county, and Mr. Samuel Hancock, of Brecon, contracted to build the infantry and cavalry barracks in the Watton from designs made by a Colonel Ord, an officer of the War Office. The older barracks, put up about 1805, and altered eight years later, is recognisable to-day in the red-brick portion. When Brecon was made a military centre in 1873, a decision was come to by which the Government determined to build a large and strongly-constructed keep for the storage of arms and ammunition; this was done in 1879, and the imposing building at the entrance to the barracks also forms accommodation for pay officers, military tailors, &c. In the Watton are located the headquarters of the Breconshire Volunteers, and also their drill room, and on Slwch fields, just beyond Camden Road, the 3rd Battalion (or Breconshire and Radnorshire Militia) the South Wales Borderers has for many years encamped.

GAS AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

The public lighting of Brecon is in the control of a private company, formed in 1856, and this company purchased certain rights held by Messrs. Parry and Jones, who in 1840 secured a concession granted in 1822 by the Town Commissioners to a Mr. Benjamin Broadmeadow, a civil engineer of Gloucester. In 1870 the Company extended its operations, and at the same time its capital to £10,000, and since that date its business has been much developed, and its service to private consumers for purposes of lighting and cooking is now very extensive, and the whole undertaking highly remunerative to its proprietors. In 1890 the late Col. John Morgan obtained a Provisional Order, to instal within the borough electricity, for the purpose of public lighting, &c., and this order, the cost of obtaining which was considerable, he eventually presented to the Corporation, but that body made no use of it, and the period for which the order was granted having lapsed, the concession became valueless. A private individual, however, in the person of Mr. R. W. Phillips, has utilised

the old Castle Mill, and the mill race leading thereto, for the purpose of generating electricity wherewith to light his premises on the top of Castle Street, taking the power from the mill house by means of a wire placed alongside and across the Honddu, and through Chapel Street. The introduction of gas lighting, and of petroleum lamps, put an end to the businesses of tallow chandlers carried on by several reputable families in Brecon, notably the Winstones and the Prices of Bridge Street.

The construction of an extensive system of drainage for the borough occupied the attention of the Brecon Corporation for several years, and several schemes were brought forward at different times, but it was not until the year 1879 that the system now in operation was proceeded with. To commence these works, the engineer for which was Mr. Samuel Harper, C.E., of Merthyr, the Corporation borrowed the sum of £10,000; but a further sum of £530 was subsequently borrowed, and there has also been much expenditure on the works from current rates at varying periods. The scheme was one of downward filtration, and land for the construction of tanks and sewage areas was secured at Brynich between the Canal and river Usk. The contractor was Mr. Mackay, and Mr. Rhys Davies was the resident Engineer in charge of the works.

RAILWAYS AND CANALS.

Reference has already been made to the construction of the Canal passing out of Brecon, and the uses to which it has been put. Previous to the year 1859, Brecon, and indeed the whole county, was devoid of railways as we now understand them. Travelling was done on the King's highway by means of coaches, a regular service of which ran from Brecon to London, starting from the Golden Lion and elsewhere in Brecon, and returning at convenient dates; and coaches also traversed other routes. The traders depended upon the road carriers, prominent amongst whom, in their day, were the Messrs. North, whose huge warehouses are still to be seen near the St. Mary's Church at the rear of High Street.

But railways were being brought to the borders of the county, and in 1859 the Brecon and Merthyr Railway scheme was projected, and afterwards constructed at a vast expenditure of money. It was first used for traffic in May, 1863, and its first Brecon station was in the Watton at the end of the Barracks. This Company now runs to Merthyr, Dowlais, and Newport, and links up important railway connections at the latter place and at Merthyr and Bargoed. At its junction at Talylyn, it forms a connection with the Cambrian Railways Company, now traversing the old Mid-Wales Railway route (opened in 1864), and making the mineral springs of Builth, Llanwrtyd, Llangammarch, and Llandrindod, as well as the sea-coast of Aberystwith, Barmouth, &c., easy of access. At Brecon, in the year 1867, the Neath and Brecon Railway was opened for traffic between that town and Neath; this company had its separate station on the top of Mount Street. The railway communication between Brecon, Hay, and Hereford, was projected about 1863, when the late Lady Tredegar cut the first sod in Penlan Park amid much rejoicing. Another route was, however, ultimately decided upon, and the railway never got within four miles of the Park. The working of this railway was eventually taken over under lease by the Midland Railway Company, who also entered into a lease with the Neath and Brecon Railway to work their line between Brecon and Colbren, and so direct from thence to Swansea. These various changes made the location of separate railway stations in the Watton and Mount Street inconvenient not only to the Companies but also to the general public. So eventually a new joint railway station was erected by the Brecon and Merthyr Company on the Camden Road, near to the top of Free Street, and the old stations abandoned. This commodious building was destroyed by fire in the year 1877, but was immediately re-built, and here all passenger traffic is now dealt with, the goods department of the various companies being located in the Watton.

THE BRECON CEMETERY.

In the year 1856, in consequence of the overcrowded state of the Priory Church burial ground, parish meetings were held in St. John's and St. Mary's and resolutions adopted in favour of providing a new burial ground for the united parishes, pursuant to the "Burials beyond the Metropolis Act." When the Board had been constituted, considerable difficulty was experienced in procuring a suitable site, but eventually land, part of the Court Farm, the property of the late Sir Charles Morgan, which was placed at the disposal of the Board, was considered suitable, and on the 9th October, 1857, purchased at a cost of £620, being about five acres. Tenders were advertised for building chapels on the site and a suitable substantial boundary wall and entrance gates. Messrs. Griffith and Sons, builders, of the Watton, were successful, and they were paid about £1,500 for these works and also the laying out of the roads and paths and building of the caretaker's lodge. On the 23rd December, 1858, the late Bishop Thirlwall, of St. David's, performed the act of Consecration in the Church of England portion, and he was accompanied by the Rev. A. Hackman (who has only recently, 1908,

resigned the Vicarage of Llyswen) and the Rev. James Newman, curates of St. John and St. Mary; The Rev. Rees Price, Vicar of St. David's; the Rev. J. D. Williams, headmaster of Christ College; and the Rev. Gilbert Harries (afterwards Canon), rector of Llandefaelog; the members of the Board, and others. The sentence of consecration, a document closing by order in Council the burial places in the two parishes, and the petition for consecration, &c., were read, and Bishop Thirlwall delivered an address and pronounced the benediction. The amount of money borrowed by the united parishes was £3,000, and this sum was advanced by the Benefit Societies of Brecon; the debt and interest was cleared about the year 1879.

The Cemetery is most beautifully situated and overlooks the Newton Pool on the river Usk and the old Mansion of Newton. Far away are the everlasting hills,—the Brecknock Beacons,—and behind the Cemetery is the Crug. The present caretaker and sexton, Mr. Powell, succeeded Mr. Herbert a few years ago, and both these men have bestowed much care upon the plants, trees, and flowers with which the grounds are tastefully laid out. Almost at the entrance to the Cemetery, and close to his burial place, the late W. T. Bonnell Bishop, Esq., a well-known solicitor and advocate in the local courts, erected and presented to the Board a sun-dial. It bears this inscription on the face: "The gift of W. T. Bonnell Bishop, Solicitor, June, 1882," and carved below on the stone is "Dysg Gyfrif dy Ddyddiau."

A tombstone, not far from the Price of Queen's Head monument, records the first burial in these terms: "To the memory of Elizabeth Price, late of the Watton, who died December 19, 1858, aged 76, *being the first burial in this Cemetery.*" From this period most of the representatives of well-known families have been buried here, and below we notice them, but it must not be understood that these details are copied from the stones in detail: Mary Rynd, widow of Captain Rynd, of the 93rd Infantry; she died March 28, 1868, aged 91; and also to one of the Bold family, name indistinct, born in 1775 and died in 1863. "Hic Jacit Eliza Marian Maybery (wife), Eleanora Maybery (daughter), Henry Maybery, Esq., Charles Westenhall Maybery (son)," and close by, "Henry Oxenford Maybery, hon. Major 1st Brecknockshire Rifle Vols., died at the Priory, Brecon, 30th July, 1906." Walter Maybery died 29 May, 1862, aged 62, and Diana Middleton Maybery his widow, who died 20 Feb., 1899, aged 63 years. The Maunds, whose ancestors are buried in the Priory Churchyard near the Priory Groves entrance, are here remembered by monuments; Mary daughter of Howell Maund and Anne his wife, who died 25 May, 1863, aged 61, Anne youngest daughter died 21st May, 1883, aged 85, and Elizabeth the eldest died 23 April 1879, aged 85 years; they lived for many years in the Street in a large house near the Star Inn. Frances Lloyd, wife of John Lloyd of Dinas, Esq., died 6th Jan., 1880; she was a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Bold. Martha James, a daughter of Thomas Maybery, Esq., of Brecon, and widow of John James, Esq., of Presteign, died 15th May, 1882, aged 72. Thomas Chandler Perks of Bulwark House, Brecon, died Aug. 20, 1867, aged 42, and Jane his widow who died (and was buried at Glasbury) 19th Dec., 1902, aged 63. Near by are tombs to the memory of John North, M.R.C.S., who died 1884, aged 75, and to several members of his family, viz., Alice Mary his daughter and wife of Capt. Tempest Stone of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and some of their children. Emily Kate daughter of John North and Kimbrey his wife; Edith Marian their daughter and wife of Major F. Stringer, Royal Welsh Fusiliers; and in a line with these one to the memory of Walter Meyrick North, Esq., for 14 years Stipendiary Magistrate of Merthyr Tydfil, who died at Brecon 14th February, 1900, having been born on 26 Nov. 1847. He was a son of Archdeacon North, and nephew of the late Dr. North. On the opposite side of the path: Mary the wife of Rev. Charles Griffith of Glyncelyn, and daughter of Thomas and Marianne Bold, died Feb. 19, 1870, aged 64. Rev. Walter Powell, M.A., formerly incumbent of Llanthuew, born Aug. 26, 1795, died 15 Nov., 1862. John Powell, Esq., of Watton House, Brecon, born Dec. 25, 1792, died 24 Jan., 1865; and another to Launcelet Powell, J.P., formerly of Watton Mount and Clydach House, who died at Brecon, Dec. 4, 1884, aged 79, (they were the Powells of Clydach of ironworks fame).

Near by these is a large marble tomb to the memory of Dr. Thomas Prestwood Lucas, whose services to the Brecknock Infirmary and suffering humanity, are affectionately remembered by the oldest inhabitants: "Underneath are buried the mortal remains of Thomas Prestwood Lucas, M.D., of Brecon. The spirit has returned to God who gave it. Born Dec. 16, 1801; he died May 29, 1871. Also in loving memory of Sarah wife of the above, daughter of Alan Ker of Greenock, N.B., who died 13th Dec., 1893, and is buried in St. Luke's Churchyard, Cheetham Hill, Manchester." "Anne, widow of late Evan Winstone, Esq., who died Jan. 14, 1866, and of the Rev. John Jones, vicar of Penbryn, Cardiganshire, who died June, 24, 1878, aged 48 years." The latter was father to Rev. Church Jones, M.A., curate for many years at Brecon, and Vicar of Battle. Many generations of the Winstones are buried in the Priory, and a few of the direct descendants of this ancient family are still resident in the district.

On the same side of the pathway there are costly monuments to the memory of David Hughes, J.P., Banker, of Brecon, who died 25th January, 1882, aged 74 years. He amassed a great fortune, the bulk of which he bequeathed to his nephew, who is thus commemorated on a monument adjoining: "Lieut. Col. John Morgan, J.P., D.L., V.D., Bank House, Brecon, Born 18 March, 1845, died 12 March, 1902. He was twice high sheriff of this county, eight times Mayor, and a most generous benefactor of the town." He is referred to elsewhere in this work. Within railings by the side of these monuments, is a stone inscribed as follows: "Joseph Joseph, F.S.A., and J.P., born 24 Feb., 1825, died 29 Nov., 1890, and of his wife Elizabeth, daughter of John Hughes of Kilposte, Llandovery, by Mary his wife. She died 28 Dec., 1873, leaving issue one daughter married to James Buckley, of Bryn-y-Caerua, in the county of Carmarthen." This Joseph Joseph was a noted antiquary and collected a valuable library of books and papers, which he bequeathed to the Buckley family. He was a banker and for some years in partnership with David Hughes under the style of Hughes and Joseph; this private bank was subsequently acquired by the Birmingham and District Counties Banking Co. Limited, who built banking premises in the square near to Lloyds Bank (formerly the Old Bank).

Other inscriptions in the Cemetery record the deaths of Charles Francis, J.P., of Vennyfach, died 10 July, 1900, aged 75, and of Anne his wife, who died 19th May, 1883; John Williams, late Town Clerk, died May 27, 1887; Lewis Jones, a former Mayor of Brecon, of Penbryn House, Bulwark, who died 29 Sept., 1894, and of his wife and daughter; John Kirk, the noted County Roads Surveyor, and Finance Clerk of Brecon, who died Oct. 18, 1888, aged 70, and of his wife Elizabeth, who died Aug. 29, 1898, aged 84; Thomas Downes, J.P., died Jan. 18, 1880, and Amelia his wife died 27 Jan., aged 72; Dr. James Williams, County Coroner, &c. (whose death has already been noted in the particulars of the Priory), and of his wife, and close by, his son; the Rev. Herbert Williams, M.A., Vicar of Brecon, his wife, and two children (see tablet in Priory Church); John Morgan-Thomas, J.P., of Glynarth who died 17th Dec., 1902, aged 71, and of his wife Mary, who died 22 Aug. 1898, aged 58; and of his daughter Mary Ann, and John Douglas his 2nd son, a Second Lieutenant in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (46th Regt.), who died from typhoid at the Huts Pembroke Dock, 2nd Dec., 1899, aged 21 years and 6 months. Near this is a marble cross to the memory of "William Morgan-Thomas, chief constable of Breconshire, eldest son of John Morgan-Thomas, J.P., of Glynarth, Brecon, who died 14th March, 1906, aged 39 years." There is a monument to Captain Armitage, of the 24th Regt., who was adjutant of the Breconshire Volunteers, and died at Tregunter, 10th Dec., 1893, aged 34. Benjamin Jenkins, builder, who established a large timber and building yard on the site of the old church and burial ground in the Watton alluded to elsewhere; he died at his residence "Maesllan," March 16, 1899, aged 43. He re-built several chapels in the town of Brecon. "In memory of Anne Lewis, who died Feb. 23, 1865, aged 64, was upwards of 37 years a faithful and esteemed servant in the service of the Gwynnes, late of Glanbrane, county of Carmarthen." Above this stone is a large granite monument to the Prices of the Queen's Head, some of the male members having been drivers of the coach in the old coaching days; the last recorded William Price, who died in 1891, aged 63, was a member of the Brecon Corporation. At the foot of the steps leading down from the chapels, are many monuments to the Webbs, the Halls, and Merediths, all of whom were connected by marriage and prominent in trade in Brecon and elsewhere. Richard Webb, jeweller, was a J.P. for the borough, and died 27 Sept., 1892, aged 67. The Webbs were millers and flour merchants in a large way of business. Edward King, surgeon dentist, who died suddenly at the Volunteer Camp at Rhosfach on Sunday, July 27, 1873, and his widow, are buried near; as are also John Evans of the Old Bank, Esq., J.P., and D.L., who died at Brecon, 17th May, 1876; his widow died 24th Feb., 1905. He was born at Trecastle, and amassed a great fortune as a banker at Brecon, the bulk of which fell to his nephew David Evans, Esq., J.P., who bought Ffrwdgrech, and died there in 1908. Colonel Arthur Noel Phillips, formerly of Bronllys Castle, born 4th Dec., 1840, died 20th June, 1890; Alderman Cansick, died Dec. 3, 1873, aged 52, and his widow who died 1896, aged 74; John Evans of Mount View, Brecon, Clerk to the Burial Board at Brecon for 40 years; he died 14th June, 1896, aged 81, leaving considerable property to a former clerk, his housekeeper, and others; also Esther Powell, his second wife, died 3rd July, 1889, but his first wife is not recorded on this stone. John Lazenby and his wife, both for 41 years in charge of the County Prison lie buried at the bottom of the Cemetery; he died 23rd Jan., 1892, aged 83, and she died July, 1886, aged 78.

Not far away is a stone to the memory of Capt. Clifton Mogg of the 54th Shropshire Militia who died Feb. 2, 1872, and to his wife; and to David W. J. Thomas, Esq., solicitor, of Ely Cottage, Brecon, Clerk to Guardians and Magistrates, and a Coroner for the County, who died March 8, 1899, and of his wife, Elizabeth Grace, who died 22 Aug., 1888. Florence Mary, wife of H. Edgar Thomas, Esq. (Clerk to the Breconshire County Council and Clerk of the Peace), and a daughter of the late Canon Harries, is buried immediately opposite; she died 27th Oct., 1897. Adjacent are monuments

to the memory of Isaac Davies, J.P., and of his son Henri Williams Davies, who died in 1888 and 1897 respectively; and to the Rev. John Bowen Jones, B.A., minister of the Plough Congregational Church, who died in 1905, and his wife and daughter. Near the top, Battle end, of the Cemetery is a monument recording the virtues and death of Stephen Bowen Evans, attorney and solicitor, who was town clerk of Brecon, clerk to the Board of Health, &c., and who died June 28, 1873; he was only son of the Rev. John Evans, Baptist minister. Opposite this stone is one which commemorates the death of the only centenarian so far buried in this Cemetery, viz., Ann Jones, mother-in-law of Morgan Jones, cabinet maker, Brecon, who died Oct. 29, 1869, aged 100 years and 6 months. Close by is the burial ground of the Trews of Coedmawr, and Brecon, farmers and butchers for several generations in this neighbourhood; and Williams, iron founders, of Brecon; and to Joseph Bass, who made money in the drapery business and retired to Slweh Villa, where he died, leaving an only son William S. Bass, who improved the fortune left him by his father, and died unmarried in 1899, aged 58, leaving his property to distant relatives and to his principal assistant for some years in business; Alderman John Prothero, J.P., at one time a large employer of labour, and owner of considerable house property is buried at this spot, but no monument has yet been raised to his memory. Many of his family connections are buried at Llanfihangel Talyllyn. Another Alderman of the Borough Council, John Morgan, J.P., currier, is buried here; he died 11th June, 1901; his wife is also buried here. Not far distant lies yet another borough Alderman, H. C. Rich, J.P., who died 30th Jan., 1892, aged 72. These three Aldermen served the office of Mayor. On a rough native stone near them is inscribed "Rhys Davies (Llew Llywel), J.P. and surveyor for this Borough, born at Llywel, 18 June, 1844, died at Brecon, (18 March, 1899)"; his father and mother's names are also carved on the same stone.

The Rev. David Rowlands, B.A. (Dewi Môn), principal of the Memorial College, Brecon, "bard, preacher, hymn writer" has found a resting place near to Alderman Rich; he died Jan. 6, 1907, having been born March 4, 1836. In another part of the Cemetery lie interred and commemorated by a similar monument, his first wife and his daughter and eldest son, who was a doctor practising at Maesteg, where he died Jan. 19, 1905; near by the latter monument is one to Edwin Poole, editor and publisher, who compiled a history of Breconshire, he was a native of Oswestry, and died in High Street, Brecon, April 15, 1895, aged 44. There is also one to Mordecai Jones, Esq., J.P. and D.L., of Morganwg House, who died Aug. 30, 1880, and to his wife who died Jan. 1885; he made a considerable fortune in trade and speculation in coal mines, and was a man of much talent in business. To him was largely due the erection of the Presbyterian Chapel in the Watton, where he was a member for many years prior to his death. There is a monument to "Rev. Charles Griffith, who died March 15th, 1861, aged 61 years;" he laboured for 40 years in the ministry of the gospel, first in Cardiganshire and subsequently at the Plough Chapel, Brecon, and at Mount Zion, Newport, Mon. His widow is also buried here. And to "Rev. Henry Griffiths, for 25 years the zealous pastor of Glamorgan Street Chapel, Brecon, and then for 12 years a district Secretary of the Bible Society; who died 19th March, 1886, aged 61;" this good man deserves to be remembered, if only for the excellent work he did amongst the children of Brecon, irrespective of creed. He was certainly the pioneer in Band of Hope work in Brecon, and died sincerely mourned by the people of the town. Near to one of the Chapels is a large stone monument to the memory of Philip Bright, J.P., a former mayor, and member of the Borough Council, who died at Greenfield, Dec. 16, 1876, aged 53; the inscription also commemorates the death of Robert Bright, who died in 1836, his wife who died in 1861, and Martha, widow of Philip Bright, who died in 1900, aged 79.

ST. JOHN'S MISSION CHURCH.

This is situate in the road leading to the Cemetery opposite Fronwen Terrace. Some years ago there was, near to the site of the present Boys' School on that road, a small building used as a Mission House and Sunday School by a gentleman named Prichard. When he died the building was secured by the late Rev. Herbert Williams, and Church of England services, and a Sunday School, were held there. The new church was built by the late David W. J. Thomas, Esq., Ely Cottage, Brecon, and other members of this family, as a memorial to their father, the late David Thomas, Esq., solicitor, and alderman of the Common Council for many years. The builder was Mr. John Griffiths, of Mount Street.

BRECON MEMORIAL COLLEGE.

On the Camden Road is an imposing building of Gothic design, of native stone with bath dressings. This is the Memorial College belonging to the Independent denomination, and here the students for the ministry in that body are educated under tutors. The College stands in the centre of grounds having an area of about five acres, and cost, including the purchase of land, the sum of £12,000. Besides the residences for the tutors—a Principal, Vice-Principal, and two others—there are

a number of studies and dormitories for the students, a large dining hall, library, the whole building being surmounted by a tower 16 feet square and 100 feet high. Previous to the erection of this building, the work of the College was carried out in the large house known now as the Oddfellows Hall, recently partly destroyed by fire. The foundation stone of the new College was laid on Wednesday, June 12, 1867, by Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P., whose son Charles succeeded Mr. W. F. Maitland as member of Parliament for Breconshire. The College was opened in 1869.

One of the tutors of the old College, Mr. Edward Davies, lies buried in the Priory Churchyard at the Groves End, and he was succeeded by a Mr. William Roberts in 1857, who was killed by a passing train at Malvern in 1872. Subsequently, the office of principal was filled by the Rev. John Morris, and the Rev. David Rowlands, B.A. (Dewi Môn), and Mr. William Oliver, M.A., were the professors who assisted him. Upon Dr. Morris's death, he was succeeded as principal by Professor Rowlands, and when he died the Rev. Thomas Lewis, M.A., B.D., was elected principal; and he is assisted in the work of the College by the Rev. Thomas Rees, M.A., Rev. John Evans, B.A., and Rev. Joseph Jones, M.A.

There are several scholarships attached to the institution, viz., the Thomas Scholarship of £20, tenable for one year, and the Rees Scholarship of £20 tenable for two years and open to students in other Congregational Colleges in England and Wales, if natives of South Wales; and three Entrance Scholarships called the "John Jones Scholarships," valued at £10 each. Several talented and eminent Nonconformist ministers have been educated in this institution, many of whom have occupied distinguished positions in the ministry at home and in the Mission field. In the halls of the College are several paintings of men honourably connected with the denomination.

NONCONFORMIST CHAPELS.

The Nonconformists have eight chapels within the borough, all of them modern in design and well built. The Wesleyans have two—one in Lion Street with accommodation for 450, and extensive schoolrooms, erected to the memory of Dr. Coke; and the other in Newmarch Street, Llanfaes. This latter was for many years the chapel where Welsh services were held. The Baptists have chapels at Watergate (to seat 400) and Kensington (500); both of these have schoolrooms in addition. The former is the Welsh chapel, but services are mostly conducted in English. The Calvinistic Methodists have a Chapel in Bethel Square, which is the home of the Welsh cause; this is a very large building, having 800 sittings. In the Watton there is a large and imposing building the property of the same denomination, generally known as the Presbyterian Chapel, with English services, and sittings for 550 persons, and also a substantial schoolroom beside. The Congregationalists have also two places of worship: the Plough Chapel in Lion Street and the Chapel in Glamorgan Street. The former is Welsh and has accommodation for 700, and the latter English with sittings for 350. Both have schoolrooms, in addition. The Chapel in the Watton was built in 1866-67, when several members of the old Bethel Chapel resolved to start an English branch of their church; and all the other chapels have been rebuilt within the period 1840-90. For some years there was a burial ground belonging to the Baptists near to Mount Pleasant, where the Pastor's residence now stands. There are several sepulchral monuments still to be seen in the garden there.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL.

This Chapel, and residence for the priest, are in Wheat Street, and at the corner of a street named St. Michael after the chapel there. There are no documents at Brecon which give the history of this church, but the marriage and baptismal registers go back to the year 1790. In 1818, the County records refer to a Roman Catholic Chapel in Wheat Street at that date, and there is some evidence that services connected with this church were conducted in a private house or private chapel somewhere in Watergate. The present chapel was erected in 1851 and it has been much beautified internally since the Rev. Father Griffiths came into residence. Adjoining the chapel has recently been erected, upon the site of two cottages and gardens, a large assembly room with commodious house parallel with Wheat Street. This serves as a club, where is a reading room, billiard tables, and the like. One of the priests in charge of the Mission was the late Father Havard, one of the Breconshire Havards, some of whom are still connected with the faith here. There are endowments belonging to this chapel, in which Madame Patti-Nicolini was married to Baron Cederström.

THE BISHOP'S MEADOW.

About 1884, there were discovered in a field called "The Bishop's Meadow," two field's breadths from Ffynnonau, and near the extremity of the parish of St. John the Evangelist, some bronze implements. They were dug out by some drainers when cutting through the peaty ground. Six of the articles, viz., knife, knife-dagger, two ferrules, and two celts or palstaves, were in the possession

of the Rev. Prebendary Herbert Williams, M.A., of Brecon, and engravings of them appear on page 225 of the 1884 vol. of *The Archæologia Cambrensis*.

ANTIQUITIES IN THEO. JONES' TIME.

The town of Brecknock, and the parishes of Saint John's and Saint Mary's, have few antiquities to boast of after the priory and castle have been explored. The wreck of Bannio or Castrum Bonii, the Roman altar, which Hugh Thomas introduced to the attention of the curious, is now no longer seen,—perhaps some savage celtic mason, who was not advanced even to a state of barbarism, about the middle of last century (for until that time it retained its situation under the western gate entering into the priory), equally indifferent about the Romans and their works, may have applied its fragments to such base uses as assisting in the erection of a cottage, or to contribute towards the repairs of a pig's sty.

A writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for December 1787, who subscribes 'P. Britannicus,' gives what he calls a draught of the altar dug up at the Gaer in Breconshire. 'The preservation of its inscription (he adds) is almost as *miraculous*, as its vicissitudes are interesting; it was discovered about the latter end of the last century, by a Mr. Phillips, whose estate the Gaer then was, but having been afterwards purchased by Sir Jeffrey Jeffreys, he caused it to be laid *as a step to the door of the Priory of Brecon*, and it is probable the whole might have been irrevocably lost had not the ingenious Mr. Hugh Thomas, who made considerable collections for a history of Wales, very fortunately rescued it from oblivion. The draught is among his papers in the British museum, whence the above is sketched.' He then proceeds to combat with success Mr. Harris's conjecture, that the Gaer was Magna, and concludes by stating that this stone was four foot seven by two foot eight. All that relates to the removal of the stone is confusion confounded. Mr. Hugh Thomas's friend, Mr. Phillips, never was possessed of the Gaer; if he had, he was such a lover of antiquities, that Mr. Jeffreys's whole property would have hardly induced him to part with this valuable relic. There is also great reason to believe that the inscription upon it, as here given, is erroneous. Let us hear Hugh Thomas's words, in his MS. essay towards a history of Breconshire, now remaining in the Bodleian library, and it will appear he never saw the stone, though he is accurate as to the manner and the person who sent it to the Priory: 'The Gaer is in this hamlet (speaking of the hamlet of Venni vach), is the name of a great house at the end of the parish, westward upon the fall of the river Yskir into the Usk, about two miles from the town of Brecon, and the dwelling house of my honoured friend Elinor Williams, lately deceased, a gentlewoman, for her birth qualities, and hospitality and deeds of charity, well known and respected throughout the whole county; being daughter of Henry Williams, Esq., of this place, who was paternally descended from the right worshipful Sir Henry Williams, of Gwernyfet, knight, which lady, in building her new barns, coach house and stables, in a field on the south side of the house, called by some old people *Caer vong vavr Brevi*, digged up several great walls and Roman bricks and a pair of stone stairs, one of which bricks she gave me, and two others, she told me, she sent to the worshipful Dr. Brewster. The field, being about twenty acres of ground, is inclosed with the ruins of a great wall, four-square, about two yards in thickness; she also told me, she had dug up in her ground adjoining, several long cause-ways leading several ways, but especially towards the bridge called *Pont ar Yskir*, that divides the parishes of Saint John from the parish of Aberyskir, she also told me, her father, in his buildings, had dug up a great stone like a grave, with a character on it that nobody could read, therefore he sent it to the worshipful Thomas Price of the Priory of Brecon, grandson and heir male of our great antiquary, the honourable Sir John Price, knight, in hopes he might read it; the stone, *I believe*, now remains under the west gate of the Priory, it not being laid till within these few years.¹ I have also been lately informed by a credible person, that at the same time, with this stone, there was dug up as many bricks as would make an oven, and that they were for that purpose sent to the Priory also; but that resolution altering, they were afterwards employed to stop up a window in that part of the Priory house called the *Doctor dû*. This I thought proper to note, least after ages, in another survey, might mistake themselves in presuming the Priory to have been a Roman building, and that they were first dug up there. It was the opinion of the very learned Mr. William Phillips, the town clerk, whose great labours, were they not buried in oblivion, but made public to the world, would not only shew his great merit, but redound much to the honour of the nobility of all Wales, that *Caer vong* might rather be *Caer Mong* or *Monach*, so called by the monks of the Priory, monk town, but I believe it must have some older signification, neither can it enter my thoughts, that a people

¹ The inscription and stone given in plate V, fig. I, is copied from the writer of the *Notitia Cambria Britannica*, in the Badmington Library, who made the drawing on the spot, from a careful examination and views of the stone.

Fig. 1

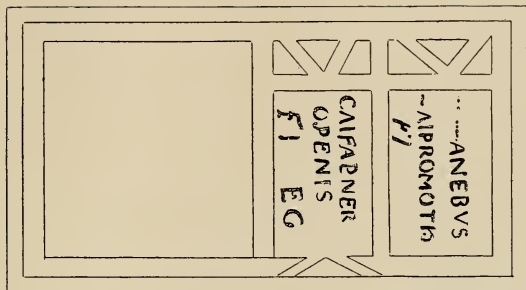
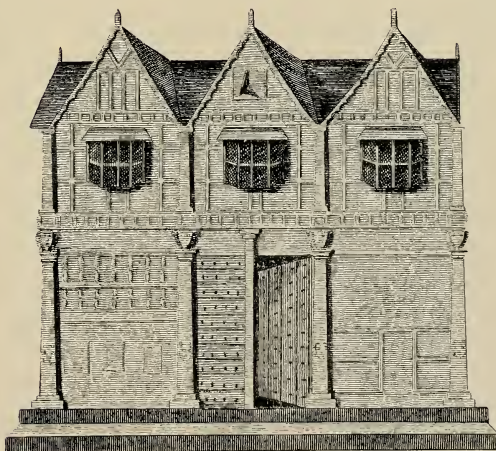


Fig. 2.



Old Town Hall at Brecon.

PLATE V.

(From a Drawing by the Rev. Thomas Price.)

(1) Ancient stone from the Gaer. (2) Old Town Hall at Brecon.

so learned as the monks of all ages have been, should give the name of a town to a place that was destroyed before there was a monk at the Priory, or before ever the Priory was thought of, as we find in Giraldus Cambrensis.¹

Here then is an unquestionable statement, as to the time and manner of the removal of this stone, by one of the actual proprietors of Gaer, which continued in the possession of the lineal descendants of Bleddin ap Maenarch, until the time of William John Prosser, sheriff of Breconshire in 1554 and 1561, who left only a daughter or daughters, from whom it was purchased by Roger Williams, the second son of Sir David Williams the judge, whose monument in the Priory church has been noticed, and the younger brother of the first Sir Henry Williams of Gwernyfed, another branch from the same common ancestor as William John Prosser, with whose posterity it still continues.¹

STATE OF THE GAER IN 1800.

To those who have been in the habit of observing the fluctuations of property, so frequently occurring in the present days, this *unity of possession* for such a length of time may appear extraordinary; but it must be recollected, that when Bernard Newmarch established himself in this country, he rased Caerbannau to the ground, carried away with him to Brecon whatever materials he thought valuable, and left Gaer covered with heaps of rubbish, or Carnau, as the Welsh call them, so that the soil was of very little value for many generations afterwards; but independently of this, it was the practice, as well as the obvious policy of the first Normans settled here, to permit the old inhabitants of the country, upon their supplying the lord's larder with a sufficiency of provisions, to retain their ancient possessions, of which many instances will be seen hereafter: relying solely upon the strength and security of the impenetrable walls of their castles and castellated mansions, it was not until long after habits of intimacy and connections by marriages with their British subjects or neighbours, that they even ventured to quit their strong holds without their weapons. The characters of landlord and tenant were unknown, or at least not well understood, perhaps for a century or two after the irruption of the victors into this country, their supplies, extorted by rapine and violence, confined neither to measure or stated periods, were sometimes resisted by force, and frequently evaded by artifice, and civilization had made a considerable progress, and its consequent blessings and comforts were introduced and properly appreciated, before the conquerors applied themselves to agriculture, or obtained a permanent and definite interest in the produce of the soil.

We are now, then, arrived at Gaer, one of the earliest stations of the Romans in Britannia secunda, the ill fated metropolis of the unfortunate Bleddin ap Maenarch and the parent of Brecknock, and here 'P. Britannicus's' miracle dwindles into insignificance, when we find that after a period of 1,600 years and upwards, the situation, the figure, and the dimensions, of the Roman camp, are ascertained beyond the possibility of a doubt; conjecture therefore may upon this occasion be dismissed, and *probability*, the indulgent helpmate of the antiquary, be reserved for *further and future use*.

MR. STRANGE'S DESCRIPTION OF THE CAMP IN 1774.

Mr. Strange, in a paper inserted in the English *Archæology*, vol. I., has so well described this camp, that after an admeasurement of the place, we follow his steps without deviation, his accuracy is generally if not always unquestionable, unless when he is tempted to translate from the Welsh; Gaer (says he) signifies a *round* wall or fortification, he then proceeds to state with great truth, that this encampment is upon the angle between the rivers Usk and Iskir, and commands a view of the former, and that it is a *parallelogram* of 624 feet by 426. 'The foundation of the wall, (he adds) 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; part of the facings is still perfect, the thickness of the walls is near seven feet and a half: it is in every respect similar to the walls of Caerleon and Caerwent; the farm house and offices are built in the north west angle of this camp.' 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 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 farm yard, and where, if it be not downright profanation and Celtic barbarism, a new wall may be erected upon 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

¹ The pedigree of this house will be given when we come to Gwernyfed, where the *Pencenedl* settled.

silver; the gold coins of Nero weigh, one of them four penny weights sixteen grains, and the other four penny weights, 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 left hand what we conceive to be a small image of victory,—inscription, AUGUSTUS GERMANICUS. The silver coin of Trajan weighs two penny weights only; around the head, as far as it can be made out, for it is not perfectly legible, IMP TRAIANO 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, further than that it commences with COSU and concludes with PRINC.¹ This coin was evidently *struck* in commemoration of Trajan's victory over the Dacians, A.D. 102, from which he obtained the surname of Dacius, during the consulship of Bebius Macer, Cæpio Hispo, Valerius Paulinus and Caius Cecilius, the initials of whose names perhaps may have formed part of the inscription.

Mr. Strange, who visited the encampment he describes in the year 1774, though it does not appear that his paper was read to the society of antiquarians until 1796, after thus briefly noticing this station, informs us, that within half a mile of Gaer house, joins an old Roman causeway, which, though overrun with bushes, is still visible; it runs nearly at right angles with the Eskir, but we could find no traces of it (says he), 'on the other side of that river or in the neighbourhood, except at Rhyd y briw bridge, where the remains of it are very visible. This was in all probability a branch leading from Caerleon in Monmouthshire through the vale of Usk and the eastern part of Breconshire to Ariconium, which is the twelfth iter in Antoninus's itinerary. Mrs. Williams, the present owner of Gaer, assures me the whole of the inscription on the Maen y Morwynion was legible in her memory.' What Mr. Strange means by the present road, is the cross lane leading from Pool to a gate on the old Roman way, about 100 to 150 yards eastward of the Maen y Morwynion, a stone first noticed by Bishop Gibson, in his additions to Camden's *Brecknockshire*, standing on the right side near the hedge as we pass from Brecon to Gaer: it is now fixed in the ground, though it was dug up some years back in hopes of making discoveries, but without success.² The good lady named by Mr. Strange amused herself (as is too frequently the custom in Wales) with the credulity of the Saxon, when she made the assurance he states, or perhaps he mistook her when she asserted that the inscription was then as legible as it ever was within her memory. Hugh Thomas, in one of his MSS. written between seventy and eighty years prior to this time, tells us the inscription was defaced, but that there were some old people living who remembered to have read it, and from him it was probably communicated to one of the Thomases of Slwch, for by an entry in the hand writing of the Reverend Henry Thomas, late of Slwch, rector of Llandeivaill in this county, in an edition of Gibson's *Camden*, now in the possession of the Reverend David Griffiths of Brecknock, it is stated that the inscription was, 'ALANCINA CIVIS, ET CONJUNX. H.S. EST.' 'That is (adds Mr. Thomas) as I take it, *Hic sepultus est.*' We are not inclined to deny that this constituted part, certainly it was not the whole of the inscription; it had probably not only the name of the Roman citizen, as well as his wife's, but also the description of his residence and other particulars, for from the space on the stone allotted for the purpose, as well as the letters still remaining, it consisted of many more words, and perhaps lines, than are above stated.

BRITISH INTRENCHMENTS AT PEN-Y-CRUG, BENNI, AND SLWCH.

From Gaer, Mr. Strange takes a stride to Pen y crûg, without noticing the British intrenchment in Benni wood, which is probably of higher antiquity than even the Roman camp, but concealed as it now is by trees, and defaced, as its foss and other vestiges nearly are, the omission is certainly pardonable, particularly as his description of the British military work near Brecon, of early, yet much later date than either of the former, though brief, is correct, except as to the name, which, with the true Saxon facility of blundering in attempts to translate the Welsh language, he says, 'signifies the chief heap or burrow,' whereas Pen y crug is the summit of the mount or hillock, which at once points out the situation of the camp. It is as he observes, 'of an oval figure and surrounded with three very deep ditches, it appears to be one of the most curious and best preserved remains of that kind throughout the principality.' It contains within its area 200 yards, running north and south by 144; the western and south western sides are nearly precipitous; the ditches are in most places five or six yards in depth, though of unequal width, both in the trench and mounds, the entrance is from the south.

¹ Plate of coins, No. I. II. III.

² See plate VI. fig. II.

On an eminence opposite to this, called Slwch, formerly Penginger or Pen cefn y gaer, is another British camp of nearly the same form, though not of equal dimensions, with a double foss, in some places nearly destroyed, and none so perfect as those on the Crûg; these are the only remains in this parish of the labours of the Aborigines for their security and defence in intestine commotions or against the attacks of their English neighbours, until the Norman conquest taught them not merely to take the advantage of precipitous and elevated situations, but to add stone walls of enormous thickness and ponderous wooden and sometimes iron gates, fortified with the portcullis, for their protection.

THE BRECKNOCK CASTLE.

The earliest structure of this description in this country was undoubtedly the castle of Brecknock. The time of the erection of this building by Bernard Newmarch has been already ascertained to be about the year 1094; the ruins of it, now remaining, are part of the very walls raised by our conqueror, for though it be admitted, as some authors have asserted, that Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, in one of his expeditions into South Wales, burnt or destroyed the castle of Brecknock, the observation of Mr. King, in his third volume of the *Munimenta Antiqua* upon the Castle of Broynllys, will apply to this, as well as perhaps all other fortresses in the principality. 'The present floors (says he) are all of timber, and every mark in the mode of constructing and supporting them, shew that from the very first æra of its building they must ever have been so, and therefore it is very possible they may have been even burnt and refitted over and over again, whilst the walls remained less injured than those of a potter's kiln; we may easily comprehend then how it comes to pass that several of those so strange and marvellous piles have really preserved their exact outward form from age to age, and do still exist to bear testimony to the usages of the most early periods, notwithstanding what has been recorded in history concerning their having been repeatedly destroyed.' The outward walls, therefore, of this castle, which are thicker even than those of the Roman camp at Gaer, still continue to display the earliest style of Norman architecture, though we cannot say that the resemblance between this structure and Fitzhammon's castle of Caerdiff is as apparent to us as it was to Mr. King; on the contrary, we conceive that if the present dwelling house there constituted part of the building, while it continued to be considered as a place of defence, it is of much later date than the time of Fitzhammon, and though what is called Robert Courthose's tower and the keep in the centre may boast of very high antiquity, yet the masonry differs *very materially* from that seen in the walls of the castle of Brecon.

Though the construction of the interior of the residence of Bernard Newmarch must be left very much to conjecture, the form of it remains perfectly visible; it was an oblong square of one hundred yards by eighty yards. On the east and south east the river Honddu washed its walls, and we are inclined to think that the deep ravine on the north, though now considerably filled up by the ruins which have tumbled into it, was once so deep as to convey part of the water of the Honddu around the castle into the Usk, somewhere near the lower bridge on the former river, by which means the castle was completely insulated.

THE MAENDU WELL SUPPLIES THE CASTLE.

Hugh Thomas tells us, that at each corner of what he calls the square of this spacious building, were two watch towers, as might then be seen. The ruins of two of them still remain at the southern angle, and upon an elevated and artificial mound, to the north east is the keep, since the confinement of Morton bishop of Ely, called Ely tower, where the conversation with the duke of Buckingham, mentioned in the former volume, is supposed to have passed. The adjoining ground on this side is considerably higher than the site of the castle, which made the northern front more assailable than on any other aspect; there were here therefore, in addition to the deep ravine or mote before noticed, two additional fosses, occasionally filled with water from a well called the Maendu well, which also supplied the fortress, though from the facility with which this stream could be interrupted by an enemy in the time of a siege, there can be no doubt that there was also a well within the walls, as water could be procured there without digging to any great depth.

ENTRANCES AND COURT OF BAILI GLAS.

The principal entrance or gate was to the west; opposite thereto and in the eastern front was another called the Postern, since corrupted into the Postwrn and Apostwrn, by which the lane and street adjoining are now known. Leading from the gate a few yards eastward is a stone bridge of two arches, formerly a draw bridge, and if Speed's map can be relied upon, there was also another of the same description on the western side over the mote between the castle and the green mound of hillock called Baili glas, where the courts leet with view of frank pledge and courts baron of

the lords of Brecknock were held of old, and even as late as 1694, Bishop Watson was served here, while sitting in court with the steward or seneschal,¹ with a citation by a mandatory, named by the Archbishop of Canterbury to answer certain articles objected against him.

This court of Baili glas has been mentioned in the former volume; its jurisdiction was anciently very extensive,² it not only comprehended the manor of Brecon, but also extended to Herefordshire. The time and manner when these possessions were dissevered from those in the county of Brecon can only be discovered by the perusal of the title deeds of the present proprietors; but in the 13th of Henry the 8th, after the attainder of the last Duke of Buckingham, the crown held lands in Herefordshire, as part of the honour of Hereford, it is true, yet appurtenant to the manor of Brecon, and consequently subject to the jurisdiction of the court of Baili glas.³

ANCIENT HALL.

The situation of the goodly hall, with its costly pendants in goodly fashion, mentioned in the survey we have just alluded to, is now sought for in vain within the interior of the castle of Brecknock; if it had not been described as having no lights or windows on the sides, and only one in each pine end, we should have concluded it occupied the site of the present fives court, but here there are several very ancient windows in the side wall, which were not stopped up until after it was converted into a ball court, so that from the figure of the cow in wood, now nearly decayed in the front of the present house, the latter being evidently of late construction, it may have extended the whole length of the mansion, and upon its falling into ruins towards the middle of the 18th century, the modern dwelling succeeded it.

SAINT NICHOLAS'S CHAPEL.

The site of the chapel of Saint Nicholas, within this fabric, must also be left equally to conjecture, as no vestige remains by which it may be ascertained; but such there certainly was, in which divine worship was performed and mass sung by the monks of Saint John's, for which they were repaid principally by the contributions of the garrison and the voluntary offerings of the pious. We say principally, because, though no grants to this chapel are preserved, we learn from Dugdale and Giraldus Cambrensis⁴ that there formerly were territorial possessions belonging to it, for the latter tells us that William de Breos detained certain lands which had been given to the chapel of Saint Nicholas at Aberhodne, when the priest serving there, whose name was Hugh, saw in a vision a reverend person assisting him, and heard him speak these words, 'Go tell thy lord, William de Broese, who presumeth to hold these possessions which were anciently given to the chapel, in pure alms, this saying, *Hoc aufert Fiscus quod non accipit Christus; dabis impio militi quod non vis dare sacerdoti*': and thereupon the priest went to the archdeacon of Landu (Llanddew) and relating what he had seen and heard, the archdeacon told him they were the words of Saint Augustine, and shewed him where, adding that the detainee of tythes should be improsperous.

OLD COUNTY PRISONS.

This castle continued not only to be the seat for the administration of public justice under the lords marchers, but after its forfeiture to the crown, and until its demolition in the time of Charles the first, the receipt of the king's audit, and likewise the common gaol for the county; it should seem indeed that it was used for the latter purpose as late as the year 1690,⁵ when Hugh Thomas says the gaol in the Watton was built, 'which of its bigness (he informs us) was as strong and handsome as any on this side England or Wales.' If the herald be correct, miserable indeed must have been the appearance of the prisons on this side of England or Wales in his time; in point of strength, indeed it was perhaps sufficient to secure the criminals in those days, to whom the ingenuity of modern offenders was unknown; but it was very far from being well planned or properly constructed, although the outward wall was higher and more strongly built than that of the present

¹ This officer was formerly (though perhaps improperly) called here the seneschal. '*Seneschallus, siniscalco, we English it and use it for a steward*,' says Minshew: he had the receipt, management and control of the lord's revenues, as the constable of the castle had of his household; this latter officer, by a strange *bowleversment* in terms, is now called the mayor or major domo, the ancient seneschal; he is at present merely nominal, and generally landlord of the house.

² The copyholds now held under this court, and which pass by surrender at the will of the lord, which however is limited, by which he is restrained from precluding or objecting to the right of succession of the heirs, called in this case, the customary heirs, or to the alienation of the property, are confined to part only of the town of Brecon and its vicinity, and also to what is called the mansion and demesne in Treacastle and Hallimote meadow, being the principal inn there, and some few fields adjoining.

³ For a survey of the possessions of the lords of this lordship, castle and manor, obligingly communicated by the late Sir Charles Morgan, see appendix, No. VI.

⁴ Dugd. Mon. 415. Gir. Cam. Itin. p. 71, 72.

⁵ Perhaps the old building in the Straet, which was afterwards used as a workhouse and house of correction, on which two houses have been since erected by Mr. Grazebrook, who laid the present pipes and brought the water for the use of the town, may have been the common county gaol, after the demolition of the castle and prior to that in the Watton.

Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 3.

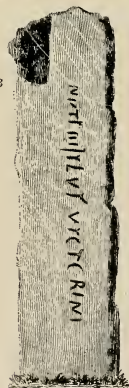


Fig. 4.

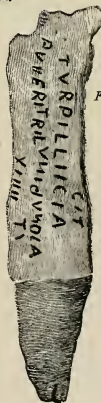


PLATE VI.—ANCIENT MONUMENTS.

(From Drawings by Rev. Thomas Price.)

- (1) The stone at Llandfaelog. (2) The stone near Cradoc. (3) The Victorini Stone.
 (4) The Turphilus Stone. (5) The Catari Stone.

county gaol and house of correction, erected in the parish of Saint David's, on the south side of the river Tarell, in pursuance of Mr. Howard's suggestions, which was so miserably and negligently finished, that it might be asserted without exaggeration, a prisoner, with a little perseverance, might, with a bit of old iron or ten penny nail, have made a sufficient breach to enable him to escape. This mischief has now however been prevented by the erection of a solid, strong and thick stone wall, built by the county at a great expense, surrounding the whole area of the prison and former wall.

OLD BOROUGH GAOLS AND PRISONERS' CHAPEL.

Besides the county gaol, the corporation have one adjoining the Struet gate, near which, it appears¹ there was formerly a chapel where the prisoners heard mass. This is very rarely used now as a place of confinement, as the borough magistrates commit to the county gaol, which is within their jurisdiction, except in cases of riots, or breaches of the peace; they had also a cell near the bridge over the river Usk adjoining the gate there. In this hole, though the sentimental sympathizing sensibility of the present day, which is more actively engaged in promoting the comfort of criminals, than in the prevention of vice, would hold it cruel to immure a dog, drunkards were sometimes confined for a night, and to this dungeon, tradition tells us, a lord lieutenant of Ireland narrowly escaped being committed in the reign of Elizabeth: his name is forgotten, but it was probably either the Earl of Leicester or Essex, who, in his journey to or from England, dining with the bailiff, aldermen and common council of Brecon, at one of their feasts thought proper to assert his claim to precedence at the table. 'Sing the bell'² (says the testy Welshman, who then presided over the corporation) and take him to Porth bach': the viceroy saw the imprudence of resistance, apologized for his conduct and submitted to become the second subject in Brecon.

This building, as well as the bridge gate and some adjoining houses, which rendered the entrance into Brecon by this road extremely narrow, were taken down in 1776 or 1777, under the act for paving, lighting, cleansing and widening the streets of Brecon; under the provisions of this law, many improvements have been made there at different times, insomuch that if one of the burgesses of 1650 were now placed in the middle of the town, and his memory of past events and the haunts of his youth permitted to return to his mind and his eyes, Brecknock would hardly be recognised as his quondam residence. He would look about in vain for the pent-houses formerly fronting to the High Street; in vain would he search for what was called the Cross, which afterwards served as a conduit for the water, conveyed there by one of the Jeffreyes of the Priory for the use of the town,³ and the old town hall would appear to him with a new face, though it has not changed its situation.

THE ANCIENT TOWN HALL AND NEW BARRACKS.

This old town hall, of which an engraving is given,⁴ was built by John Abel in 1624, he was a Herefordshire man and erected those of Hereford and Leominster, he died in 1674, aged 97, and is buried at Sarnfield in that county. The motto round the sun dial, on the front of this building was, *Soles nobis percutit et imputantur*, and on the four shields, on the capitals of the lower range of pillars first *Vive ut post vivas*, on the second *Where justice rules, there virtue flows*, third *Sat cito et sat bene*, and on the fourth, 1624, and the initials B. and W. From the above date, we conclude that it was erected in the year 1624, if so, it underwent some alterations or repairs in 1638, for in the spring of that year we find the Great Sessions to have been holden in the great hall at Newton in Saint David's, as it was in the year 1770 (while the town hall was building), in the great hall adjoining the dwelling house in the college. The expense of this structure was borne partly by the county and borough and partly by the munificence of their representatives, it has a cellar or vault below it, where leather and other merchandizes are preserved, above which is a market house, where hops, butter and other articles, are sold at fairs and markets. On the first floor is a room for the administration of justice, here the Great Sessions, Quarter Sessions, the County and Town Courts are held, and at the east end is a jury room, for the accommodation of the grand jury of the county, and for the preservation of the public records. The garret or upper floor was usually converted into a receptacle for military stores; government, however, in the year 1805, erected a very handsome

¹ See appendix, No. I.

² Meaning the bell to call the constables together. *Sing* the bell is the literal translation of *Canweh y gloch*, and is frequently heard in Wales.

³ Prior to the erection of this conduit, it should seem that the water was brought into a general reservoir, situate where the house of the late Mr. William Winter now stands on the south side of Saint Mary's Church, for in 1587, one Watkin Lewis, bolyth (or the baker), devises a burgage freshold in Morganwg street, where the *townys pond* is to his son; and in digging the foundation of the present mansion, some years back, it was not without great difficulty, and after driving down piles to a considerable depth, that the workmen were able to secure a temporary support to one of the pine ends, which has since sunk, the whole of the small garden between Mr. Wynter's house and Morganwg street, if dug up, would probably turn out to be treacherous ground.

⁴ Plate V. fig. II.

depot for arms and ammunition, on the east side of the road leading through the Watton, which removes the apprehensions of danger, felt by some of the inhabitants when large quantities of gunpowder were deposited in the hall.

In this street, at a public house, called the Shoulder of Mutton, was born, the celebrated Mrs. Siddons. We know not whether we may or may not, without offence, state her age, but presuming that there is no impropriety in an insertion of the copy of the register of her baptism, we take the liberty of stating that it was upon the 14th of July, 1755, though her father is therein erroneously called George Kemble, a comedian, instead of Roger Kemble. We are 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. Siddon's birth,¹ and perhaps even now it may not be difficult to establish the circumstances, if necessary.

EARLY NONCONFORMIST CHAPELS.

We have now taken a brief survey of what may be called public or principal buildings in Brecon, unless the meeting houses be considered as such, in which case it will be sufficient to say we have four, one in the persuasion of Mr. Wesley, another of Mr. Whitfield, another for Anabaptists, and the fourth for Independents, and we have likewise a small congregation of Roman Catholics in a private house.

OLD MANSIONS IN THE BOROUGH.

Of the mansions of the former great, little remains to be said; their grandeur has perished and their castellated fronts have yielded to the fashions of later times or the capricious taste of more modern architects. Slwch, the manor house, though not as we apprehended, the principal residence of the Awbreys, afterwards for several generations the seat of a rich, powerful, and numerous family of the name of Thomas, now extinct, and devised by one of them, as before noticed, to Anne, daughter of Mr. Phillips of Brecon, who married Henry Scourfield of Mote, in Pembroke-shire, esq., in whose descendants it continues, is now a farm house. The mansion of the Priory has hitherto preserved, in some degree, its respectability and probably will soon appear in greater magnificence than ever; it therefore requires some further attention, not only on account of the celebrity of its former occupiers, but because it will introduce to the reader's acquaintance a family of considerable wealth and distinction, whose descendants, in the female line, have been ennobled, and some of whom have held very high and important stations under the crown.

In this house, King Charles the First, after the battle of Naseby, dined with Sir Herbert Price, called the governor in the *Iter Carolinum*, and slept on the 5th of August 1645, and from hence he despatched 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. Pritchard's of Llanca-yach in Llantrissant, Glamorganshire, 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.

Sir John Price was, as appears by the pedigree hereinafter inserted, one of the descendants of Eimon Sais, and like the Gameses, the Williams of Gwern-yvet and others from the same ancestor, inherited from him, or stimulated by his success, entertained early in life, an expectation of making his fortune in England. In what year he was born does not appear, but from A. Wood (who is however much at a loss to discriminate between two or three of the same name), we find that he was of Broad Gates Hall or Pembroke College at Oxford, and admitted bachelor of civil law in 1534. No mention is made by this author of his having obtained further academic honours, but York, in his *Royal Tribes of Wales*, says he was a doctor of both laws; he was patronized and encouraged in prosecuting his studies by William earl of Pembroke, in token of respect to whose memory the family afterwards adopted the name of Herbert, as a christian name, or at least, we presume thus much, for we see no intermarriages between any of the descendants of that peer and the Prices of the Priory. Sir John Price became a student at one of the inns of court, and after having been called to the bar, was soon noticed by King Henry the Eighth, by whom he was appointed one of his Council in the Court of the Marches; he married Joan, daughter of John Williams of Southwark, Esq.

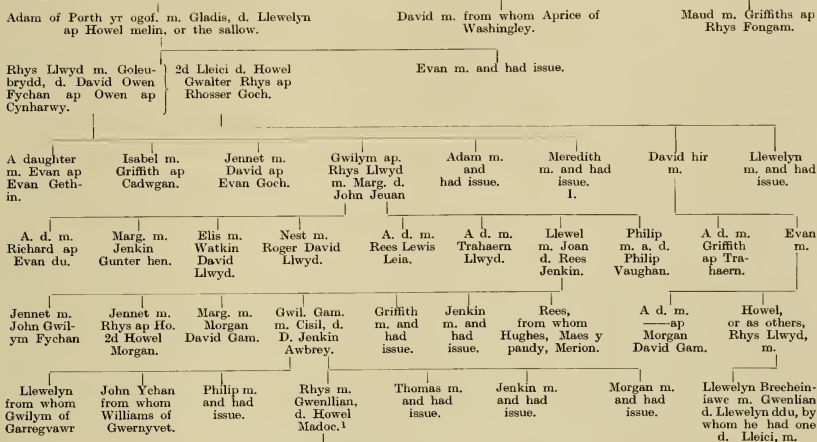
ANCESTOR OF OLIVER CROMWELL.

This John Williams was a son of William Evan or William *Morgan* of Whitechurch, and elder brother of Morgan *Williams*, who married a daughter of Walter Cromwell of Putney, from whom descended Oliver Cromwell the protector.

¹ The registration of birth will be found duly entered in the Register of St. Mary's Church, Brecon, the parents being described as "strolling players."

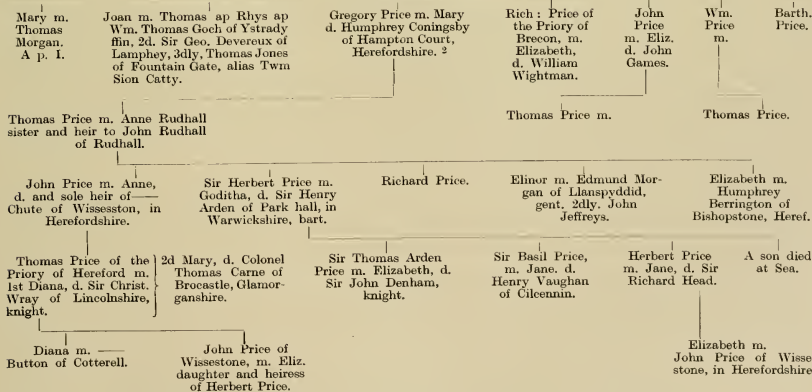
SIR JOHN PRICE OF THE PRIORY OF BRECON.

I. The same as Sir David Gam, to Rhys second son of Einion Sais, inclusive, Rhys ap Einion Sais married Elen, second daughter of Llewelyn ap Howel Hên, or the old.



Sir John Price of the Priory of Brecon
m. Joan, d. John Williams of Southwark.—Ap. II.

II.



¹ Besides the above, Rhys had by his first wife, Griffith, who had issue John, father of David, father of Howel, called *Pencerdd*, or doctor of music.

² He had also a daughter, Margaret, who married Jeffrey Jeffreys of Abercynrig, and brought with her the Priory to that family.

N.B.—The numerical references in the pedigrees will be to the figures at the top of the inner margin of the pages of genealogy.

Sir John Price took a very active part in the union of Wales with England, and was, as before observed, supposed to be the person who dictated the petition to Henry the Eighth, a composition which does him great honour, and which will probably outlive all his other works; during the whole of this reign he was a favourite in the English court. Upon the dissolution of religious houses, he, with others, among whom were Sir Edward Carne of Ewenny, and John Arnold of Llantoni, was appointed a commissioner for their suppression, and empowered to seize their possessions for the use of the crown; this duty, within the county of Brecon, fell to the lot of Sir John Price, and it must be acknowledged, was executed with great alacrity and diligence. Having, either by favour or for a pecuniary consideration, or both, obtained grants from the king, he undertook the task of applying the produce to charitable purposes, and recollecting the old adage, that charity begins at home, he retained the whole or the greatest part of the lands and tythes lately belonging to the Priory of Brecon, and other religious houses lying in this county, in his own hands. Wood says he was knighted by Edward the Sixth in 1545, but in this he is incorrect, for he occurs as sheriff of Breconshire, by the description of Sir John Price of the Priory, knight, in 1541; so that he must have received that honour in the latter end of the reign of Henry the Eighth. It is by no means clear when or where he died; Wood, from whom Owen, in his *Cambrian Biography* has copied, says in 1553, yet York, in his *Royal Tribes*, places that event more correctly in 1572. He was sheriff of Herefordshire in the former year,¹ and probably the publication of his defence of the British history against Polydore Virgil by his second son, Richard Price, in 1573, appeared soon after his death, and not long after it was finished. His other works are, *A Description of Wales*, prefixed to Powel's history, which is extremely inaccurate and confused; Brwynllis is given as another name for Eglwys iail, Tyr Ralph is brought from Glamorganshire into Breconshire, and other mistakes as to the situations of places frequently occur, as before noticed; he is likewise said to have written a translation of the Apostle's creed, the Lord's prayer and the ten commandments into Welsh, a treatise in Latin concerning the Eucharist, and to have assisted his friend Leland in his *Assertio Arturii*. To his son Richard Price, who was well known, and received at the court of London, during the reigns of Edward the Sixth, Philip and Mary, and the beginning of Elizabeth, we have reason to believe that Shakspeare was indebted for 'that remnant of Welsh flannel,' Sir Hugh Evans, a character (if such it may be called) which seems to be introduced merely to amuse the audience with the jargon and phraseology of the Briton, and to make fritters of the English, in which, as in everything else the poet has undertaken, he has most admirably succeeded.

SIR HUGH EVANS' WILL.

Sir² 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; by his will of that date, in his own hand writing, he gives to his brothers and sisters several legacies, among which are a black horse, fifteen lambs, ten hedes (heads) of shipe, 'to Richard David, clerk, the third part of my books, and my will is that Mr. Richard Price, esquier, shall have the openinge of my grete chest, and that he shall give and distribute the monie found there between my brothers and sister, Harry Jeuan, John Jeuan and Juhan, vz. Jeuan, I give Mr. Richard Price 3*l*. to my sister Lleiki vz. Jeuan, 16*d*. I appoint David ap Jeuan and Jenkin ap David, mine executors, and Mr. Richard Price, esquier, to be overseer of my will.'

OTHER OWNERS OF THE PRIORY.

Gregory Price, the eldest son and heir of Sir John Price, was sheriff of Breconshire in 1585 and 1593; upon his marriage with the daughter of Sir Humphrey Coningsby, he settled in Herefordshire, for which county he was elected one of the representatives in the fourth and fifth of Philip and Mary, and in the thirty ninth of Elizabeth.³ Richard Price, the second son of Sir John Price, was a man of learning, though he never published any work of his own; he appears twice on the list of Breconshire sheriffs, where he was very highly esteemed and honoured; he resided at the Priory of Brecon, and held it during his life, either under a devise in his father's will or as tenant to his brother Gregory. We are inclined to think he was chosen to represent the borough of Brecon in Parliament in the year 1571, although he is called in the list of members, in the first volume, *Rice Price*, but the abbreviations of Rice and Richard are so similar in MSS. in Wales, like Jenkin and

¹ Duncombe's *History of Herefordshire*, vol. I. p. 146.

² In order that this appellation may be understood, it must be observed that when it was formerly applied to a clergyman it was to such as had not taken a degree in the university (see notes to *Merry Wives of Windsor*, by Malone and Pores). Where the title is confined to readers alone, whereas, not only curates but vicars frequently described themselves as their

³ Duncombe's *Hereford* vol. I. p. 155.

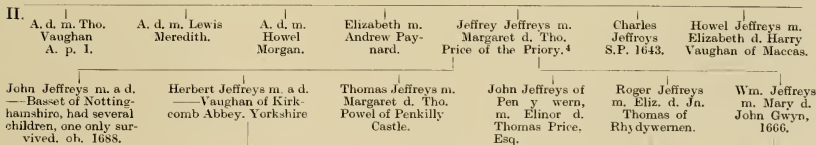
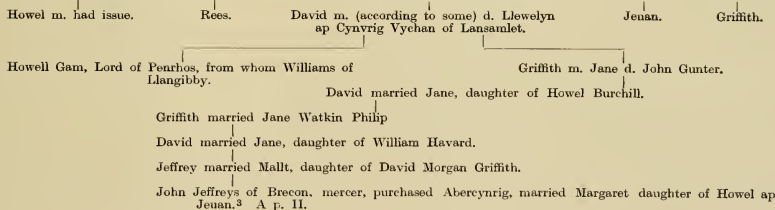
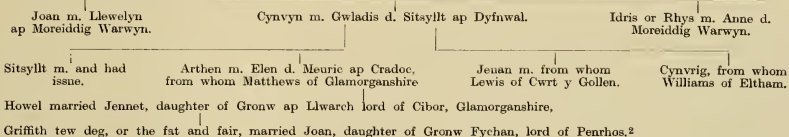
Jean, that the copy used by us is probably erroneous in this particular. Upon the death of Richard Price without issue about the year 1590, the Priory came into the possession of John Price, who resided there during his father's life time, and who was elected member for the county of Brecon in 1625, but one of his relations marrying Jeffrey Jeffreys of Brecon, it was settled upon her and her issue; their surviving granddaughter and heiress, Dorothy,¹ married Thomas Flower, their son was William Flower, baron Castledarow in Ireland, father of Henry, first lord viscount Ashbrook. Thomas Flower and wife sold the Priory to Sir Jeffrey Jeffreys, knight, of the Llywel family of that name, whose granddaughter and heiress, Elizabeth, married Charles, the late Earl and father of the present Earl Camden, and brought with her the Priory and a very considerable landed property in Breconshire, now possessed by his lordship, who, it is said, has an intention of occasionally residing here.

The pedigrees of the families next immediately succeeding Sir John Price's, in the possession of the Priory, follow :

JEFFREYS OF THE PRIORY OF BRECON AND ABERCYNRIG.

I. Rhys Goch, or the red haired, lord of Ystradyw, now the hundred of Crickhowell, married Joan, daughter of Cadwgan ap Elystan Glodrydd, prince of Ferrega.

Genyllyn Cynhyllyn, or Cyhylyn foel of Powis, married Jonet, daughter and heiress of Howell, lord of Carleon.



(See next page.)

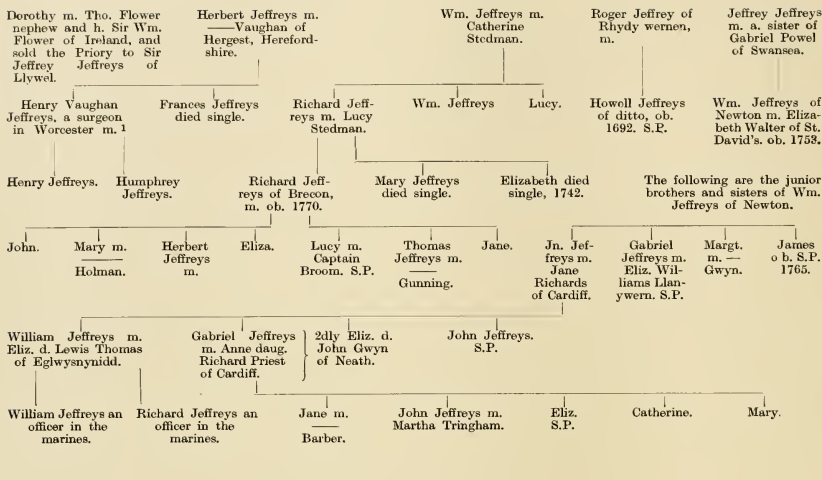
¹ John Jeffreys, the father of this lady, it is said, prohibited her from doing three things; selling the Priory, burying him at Carmarthen, (where he had a property, but where he conceived himself ill used) or marrying an Irishman; she inadvertently disobeyed him in all.

² He was hanged by Gilbert, earl of Clare, who resided at Caerfili, because he hung a monk at Ystrad monach, who told the earl that the countess at confession acknowledged an over familiarity with Griffith.

³ He had, as appears by his tomb stone, fifteen children; the two sons next to Howel were named John and Lewis, he had also a daughter, Anne, who married Edward Herbert of Crickhowell.

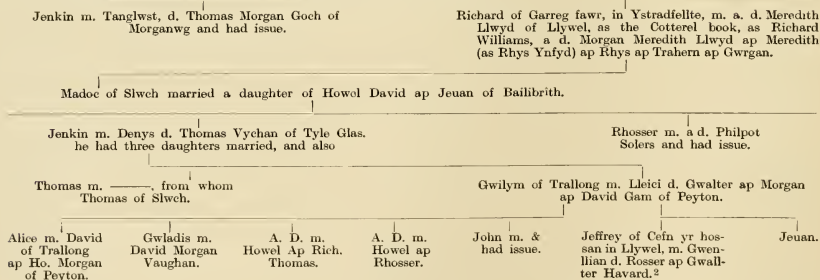
⁴ Jeffrey Jeffreys of Abercynrig had also three daughters, Elizabeth married Francis Pitt, eighth son of Edward, eldest son of Sir William Pitt, comptroller of the household under Elizabeth, James, and Charles the First, Anne married Thomas Williams of Abercamlais, and the third was also married.

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JEFFREYS OF THE PRIORY, OF THE LLYWEL FAMILY.

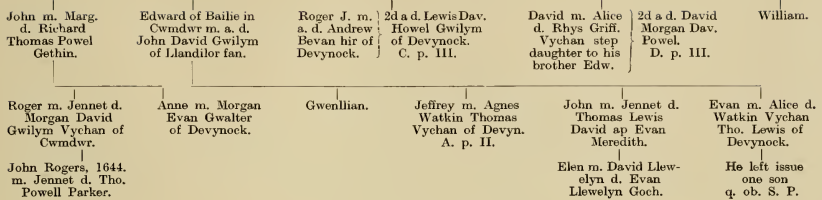
- I. The same as Sir David Gam, to Richard of Aberyscir, inclusive.
Richard of Aberyscir married a daughter of Madoc ap Jenkin Havard.



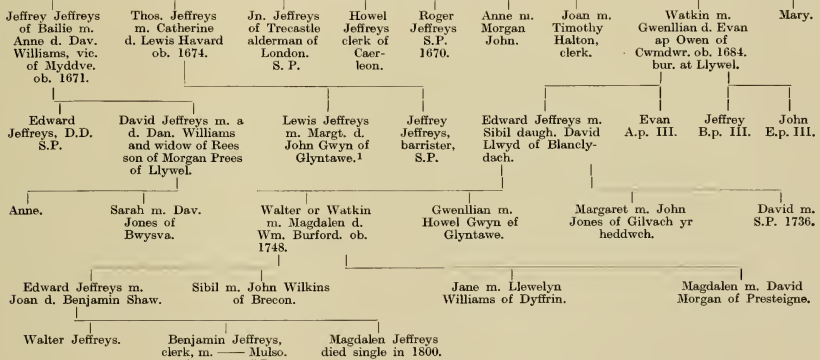
(See next page.)

¹ Henry V. Jeffreys had also five daughters.² Jeffrey had also five daughters, Margaret married Thomas ap Einion of Ynis fawr in Llywel, Joan married Llewelyn Gwilym of Garreg fawr, a daughter married Rhytherch Morgan Price of Llangamarch, a daughter married Gwalter Iain ap Thomas hir, and Catherine who married Morris Jenkin ap Morgan Jenkin Griffith Bowen Gethin.

(Continued from previous page.)



- II. A p. I. Jeffrey Edward aforesaid had issue by his wife Agnes, five daughters. Agnes married Thomas Pries Thomas of Llywel, Jennet married David Thomas ap Owen, Gwenllian married Watkin Jeanu Edward of Devynock, another Gwenllian married Jenkin James, and Nost married David Evan David ap Howel Gwalter, and also Edward Jeffreys, who married Agnes, daughter of Watkin David Llwyd, and died in 1642.



(Continued on next page.)

For later details as to the Jeffreys family, the reader should also consult the pedigrees under the parish of Llywel.

¹ Lewis Jeffreys was taken suddenly ill at the Swan and Falcon at Hereford, on the 16th May, 1687, he gave directions for his will, which was immediately drawn, but he died before it was executed; he appointed his uncle, the alderman, and others, executors in trust for his four daughters and bequeathed to his mother a great guinea, and to his sisters a guinea each; his nuncupative will was proved first at Brecon and afterwards in the Commons.

between him and John ap Rhys *cymro* (or the Welshman), and could not declare yit perfectly for his paynes; here the scribe speaks and tells us, the testator informed them that there were accounts between him and his namesake, which, in consequence of increasing bodily pain, he was unable to state. This change from the first to the third person in the same will, was very common in those days. What became of Mr. Walter Johns or Jones, archdeacon of Brecon and chancellor of York, we know not, or whether his son Gervase Jones left any issue, probably the family left this country upon the latter preferment, though he is not named among the dignitaries of that cathedral by Drake; the descendants of Evan ap Rhys, the younger brother, perhaps still remain among us, but our former vile habit of changing the surnames has so completely concealed them, that the pursuit would be as endless as it would be idle, especially as no advantages attach to the founder's kin at Jesus College.

Of Dr. Hugh Price, we are sorry to observe that very little is known either at Oxford or Brecon; an inscription on the north side of one of the gates of Jesus college informs us that he was born at Brecon,

*Breconia natus, patriæ monumenta reliquit,
Breconia populo signa sequenda pio.*

He is said to have been a monk of Osney in Oxfordshire, and one writer¹ adds that his uncle was a canon there; what authority there is for the first assertion or rather report, we know not. The latter is evidently erroneous; it does not appear that he had any relation of that description, and if he had, he was poor and probably illiterate, for the founder of the property of this family was most certainly Dr. Price's father, Rees ap Rees the butcher, who by his industry acquired such a fortune as to enable him to give his children a liberal education, and to leave to his eldest son a considerable landed estate. He took his degree of doctor of the canon law at Oxford in 1525, and was afterwards made prebendary of Rochester and treasurer of St. David's. In 1571 he obtained the Queen's leave to erect a college at Oxford by the name of 'Jesus college within the cite and universitie of Oxford, of Queen Elizabeth's foundation,'² and to endow it with lands and tenements of the annual value of sixty pounds, and some further privileges were granted to it in her successor's reign.³ The expense of this building amounted in his lifetime to about fifteen hundred pounds; to which were added about three hundred pounds left in the hands of Sir Eubule Thelwall towards completing it.

HUGH PRICE'S WILL.

Gutch says, he conveyed upon the last day of June, 1574, in his life time, 'divers lands, messuages and tenements in Breconshire,' to the principal and fellows of this college, and refers to a document in the treasury there; after some inquiries upon this subject, we have not been able to discover it, and there are many reasons for supposing this to be an error. In the first place he was not possessed of lands in Breconshire at the time of his death to the value of sixty pounds per annum, he had then only a small tenement in Llanvihangel nant brân, now called Pwll Llaca. let at present at twenty pounds per annum, which still belongs to the college, and a few houses at Brecon, and it is clear from his will dated August 8th, 1574, that he had not then completed his intention, for after giving forty pounds to the cathedral of Rochester and forty pounds to 'Saint Davies,' he adds," Item, I give and bequeath to Jesus college, within the universitie of Oxford, 100 marks and all my books, conditionally, that I remayne founder of the same college, Item, I give and bequeath to Jesus college, according to my promise in that behalf, sixty pounds by the yere for the exhibition of the scholars there and maintenance of the same house, and I will that the said summ of LX. lands by yere shall rise and be supplied and performed with the obligations and evidences that Mr. Doctor Lewis and Mr. Doctor Awbrey have in their hands and custody of mine, and the residue, over and above the same, if any doe remayne, to be delivered to mine executors, Item, I give and bequeath to the curate and minister that doth and shall say morning prayer or divine service dayly within our lady's chappell within the town of Brecon, the yearly rent that now is of my house which I bought of my brother John Aprice wherein dwelleth Watkin Thomas, baker, the said rent to continue and remayne to the Vicar of Brecknock or his deputy for his soe saying dayly service for ever, Item, I give and bequeath towards my burial and to be given to the poor the same day of my burial 26l. 13s. 4d.; Item, I give and bequeath towards the reparation of my house at Saint Davies 9l.; Item, all the residue of my lands, goods, chattels and effects whatsoever, I give and bequeath them holely to my executor to employ the same to such godly use as they shall think best, and I do ordaine, constitute, make and appoint Mr William Stock and Hugh ap Evan ap Price, my nephue, my hole lawfull and only executors." So that the remainder of the lands settled upon the college were bought with the produce of his personals, and from a M.S. in the college, it appears that 400l. arising therefrom were

¹ Gutch in his *Antiquities of Oxford*.

² 13th Elizabeth, Rot, Escamb, 120.

³ 19th James I.

delivered to Principal Griffith Powel, above fifty years after his decease, and by him laid out in the purchase of lands in Dorston in Herefordshire, from a Mr. Henry Rogers.

HIS BURIAL PLACE.

His will was proved in the Commons on the 31st of August, 1574,¹ it therefore must have been executed only a short time before his death, and from the witnesses, Thomas Hill, Thomas ap Jean, Walter John, Thomas ap Thomas, and Jeffrey Thomas, clerk, *all* resident in Brecknock, it is almost certain that he died in that town and was buried, as Brown Willis in a MS. note to his *Survey of St. David's* at the Bodleian suggests, at St. John's parish church, 'without any memorial as yet erected to his memory, though 'tis hoped the principal fellows of his foundation, as they have increased in wealth, will erect one worthy of themselves and of so great a founder;' to which we add hearty and we hope not ineffectual solicitation.

Wood observes that the arms *painted* in the margin of Dr. Price's will, gules a chevron ermine between three fleurs de lis *Or*, are not the arms adopted by Jesus College, though they acknowledge him as their founder; they had probably good reasons for not assuming them, for Dr. Price was, as Hugh Thomas says, speaking of another person, the first of his family (for several generations at least) who bore arms. This was the coat armour of 'Mr. Doctor Hughes,' one of the executors of his brother's will, of whom we know nothing further than that it should seem from thence, he was one of the descendants of the Herberts. The three stags trippant argent in a field vert, which are also seen in a plate of Dr. Price published some years back, are the arms of the families of Green and Greenly; why they are here introduced, some of the English heralds may explain, we are at a loss to account for their appearance.

THE HAVARDS OF PONTWILYM.

Another family of note in Brecon and the neighbourhood were the Havards,² and though they are no longer settled at Pontwylm, now a farm house, about one mile northward of the Priory, yet as they have multiplied their species, and their name is more frequently heard in Breconshire at this day than any other of the followers of Bernard Newmarch; and as they are now so completely dispersed that they cannot be confined to any particular precinct, the mansion where they first settled may be considered as their proper habitation for the purpose at least of introducing their genealogy.

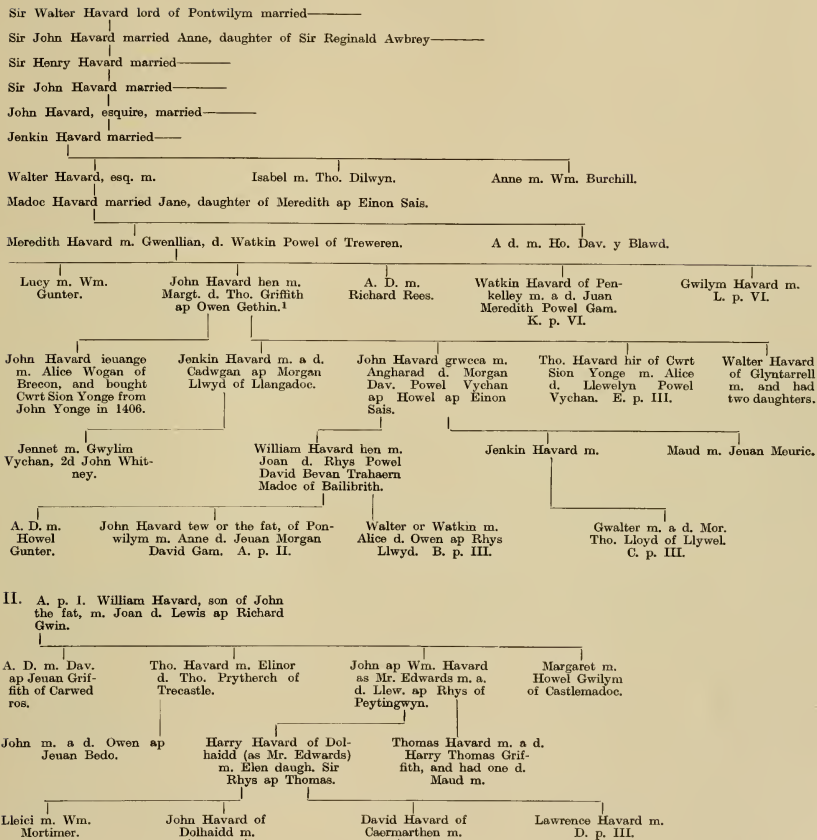
The last resident of this name at Pontwylm was Thomas Havard, sheriff of Breconshire in 1549 and 1555. In 1543, Thomas Havard (perhaps the same) occurs as sheriff, and is described as of Cwrt Sion Yonge. The site of this mansion, which appears to have been surrounded by a mote, is apparent on the left hand side of the road leading to Battle, near the turnpike house. We have several conveyances of this property during the reigns of Edward 3d, Richard 2d, and Henry 4th, to the family of Yonge, by the first of which, dated on Sunday next after the feast of St. Gregory the Pope, 36th Edward 3, William le Yonge releases to his son John Yonge his claim to lands in Brecon, which would descend to him on the death of Sir Thomas ap Rhys; several others follow, one from Cecil, daughter of John Bischope, of Brecon, to different persons of the family of Yonge, all describing Cwrt Sion Yonge (though not so named) as bounded by the highway leading to *Limepite*, the Lime pits or Pyllau Calch, and by indenture, dated 7th Henry 4, not quite as long as the charter of Brecon, John Yonge of Brecon, conveyed to John Havard the younger and Alice Wgan, his wife, this tenement by the description of 'unu curtillagiu cum pertinenciis in suburbis Ville Brechie vid apud holde port jacen in latitudine a tenemeto qd. David ap Phillip ap Hoel, quondam tenuit usq. ad gardinu antedeci Johis Yonge in longitudie vero de via ducente de Oldeporte vsus Lympete vsus Gardinu pfati Johis Havard que vocat. Dubiorde.'³ This deed is attested by Thomas ap David, bailiff of Brecon, Roger Batte sub-bailiff, David ap Thomas, clerk of the town aforesaid, John Havard senior, and Rees ap Jenkin; the seal appendant has the Virgin and Child, with an inscription round the margin, which we have not been able to decypher, and on the other side of the wax is the impression of a large human front tooth.

¹ Hugh Press or Price was Bailiff of Brecon in 1572. We are inclined to think this was the founder of Jesus College; there can be little if any doubt as to his death in this town in 1574.

² This name seems to be a corruption or abbreviation of De Havre or Havre de Grace, and designates the port or town in Normandy from whence our first Havard came.

³ Tyr y Priory forsitam, i.e., The Priory Land.

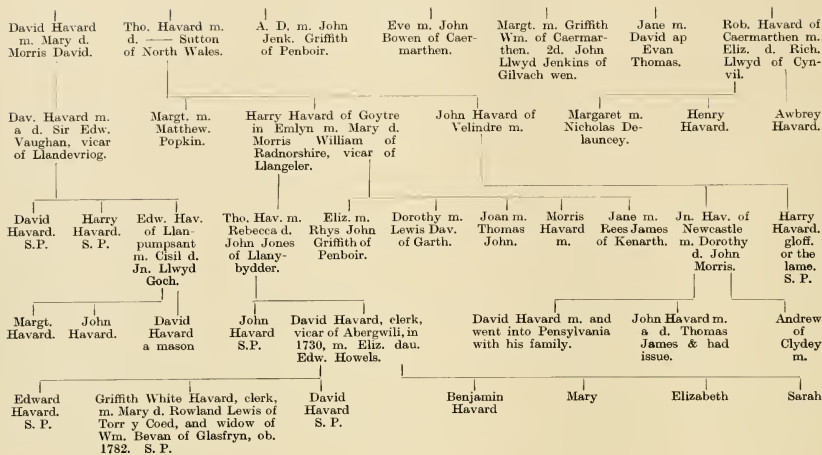
HAVARD OF PONTWILYM, &c.



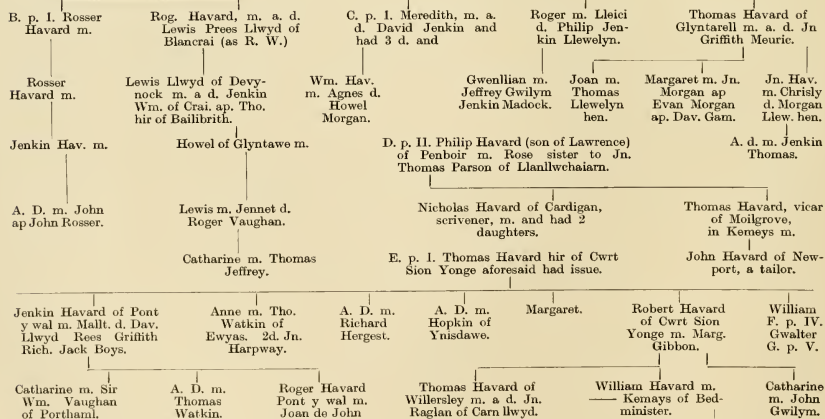
(See next page.)

¹ In the MS. from which this pedigree is copied, this John is called Jenkin Havard hen, and he is said to have had a brother of the said name, called Jenkin Havard ieuangio; old Jenkin Havard is also therein said to have married Alice, daughter of Watkin Wogan, but this is certainly incorrect, as we have in our possession the conveyance of Cwrt Sion Yonge to young John Havard and Alice Wogan his wife, attested by his father, old John Havard. The abbreviation in MSS. in Wales for Jeanan, Evan, or John and Jenkin, are so nearly alike, that the error may be easily accounted for. On the death of young John, S.P., John Havard the deformed, succeeded to Pontwylm, and Thomas the tall to Cwrt Sion Yonge.

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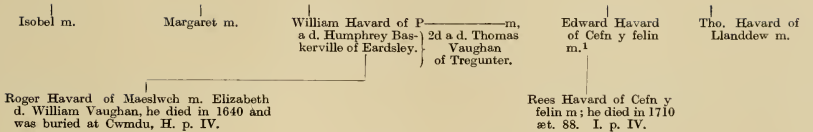


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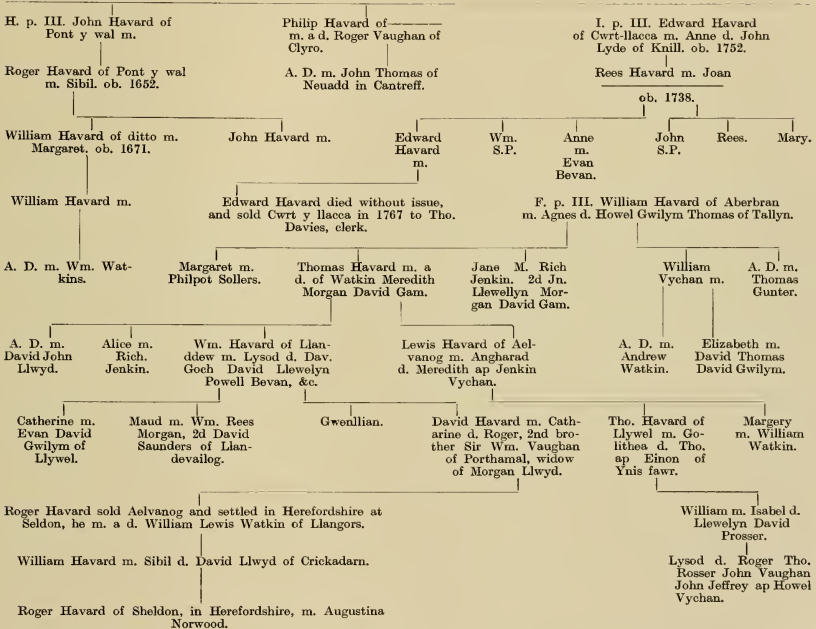


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IV.

¹ Edward Havard was a younger son; the eldest settled in Herefordshire, where many of his descendants continue to this day.

V.

G. p.¹ III. Gwalter Havard m. Mary d. Henry
Sherman of Brecon, and died in 1642.

Howel Havard of Senni m. a d. David ap Howel
John David Gwin.

Lewis Havard m. a d. Evan Meredith ap Evan.
David Meredith.

A. D. m. Howel ap Jean.

Howel m. Elen d. David Thomas Bowen
ap Rhys Vychan.

Gwladis m.
David John
David Gwin.

A. D. m. Dav.
William Madoc.

A. D. m.
David ap
David.

A. D. m. Philip
John David
Gwin.

David Havard m.
Cissil d. Rees
Howel Evan.

Lewis Havard of Senni
m. Jennet d. Philip
David Gwilym of Moel
y pric.

David Havard third son m. Denys d. John
Walter Thomas.

Howel Havard m. Isabel d. Rees Thomas John
Trahearn. ob. 1719.

Lewis Havard m. ob. 1716.

Thomas Havard m.

John Havard m.
a. d. William
Lewis of
Blansenni.

2d a widow
of—Powel
of Bailieu,
Maescar.

Elinor m.
Henry Wil-
liams of
Bailibrith.

Anne m.
Thomas
Gwyn of
Panty cored

Isabel m.
Geo. Willi-
ams of Aber-
pergwm.

Howel
Havard m.

Anne.

Lewis Havard
m. Maud d.
Wm. Aubrey,
ob. 1732.

Rees m.
ob. 1706.

William m.
H. p. VI.

John Havard
m. Margt. d.
Dr. Jones of
Myddf.

A. D. m.
and had
issue.

David
S.P.
1720.

Howel.

Lewis
Havard
m.

Thomas

John of Dan y
grraig in Senni
m.

Isabel m. David
Jones of Dan-
y graig.

William
Havard m.

Elizabeth m.
John Watkins
of Brycheod.

Rees Havard.

Michael Havard.

Rees Havard of Crai m.

Three sons died S.P.
David 4th son m.

John Havard.

William.

Lewis Havard m.

Evan.

John m.

David Havard.

Howel Havard.

John Havard.

Tho. Havard.

John Havard.

David Havard.

William Havard.

VI.

H. p. V. Howel m.

John m.

John m.

Howel of
Brycheod.

William m. and
has issue.

Howel m.

John m.

Howel m.

K. p. I. Llewelyn
Havard m. a d. Llew-
elyn Jenkin.

John Havard m. a d.
John Milwater.

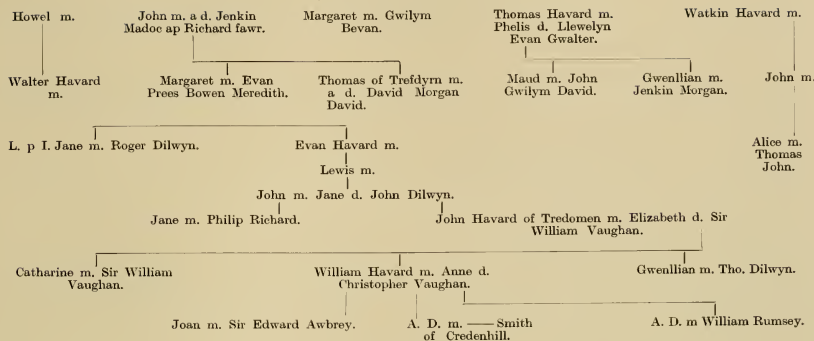
Philip Havard m. a d.
Griffith Llewelyn
Powel Vychan.¹

Gwilym Havard m.

(See next page.)

¹ He was of Tredustan, and married Jane, daughter of Sir Roger Vaughan, he left issue besides, Thomas, John, Roger, and four daughters, he had a cousin, Hugh Havard, N.P. of Llanfaes, whose some of the family now remain.—A branch of the family are omitted in this pedigree, Philip Havard, first bailiff of Brecon, under the charter of Philip and Mary. Hugh Havard, bailiff in 1588, and their descendants are not noticed; Philip Havard of Brecon is, however, in the Games pedigree said to have been a natural brother of Thomas Havard of Herefordshire, sheriff of Breconshire in 1549 and 1555.

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A MANSION AT PENNANT.

About a mile westward of Cwrt Sion Yonge *was* Pennant¹ (for it is now, 1805, in ruins), for a few years the seat of gaiety, revelry, and voluptuous enjoyment, the transient abode of dissipation and extravagance, the banqueting room of Bacchus, the couch of illicite love, and consequently the cradle of poverty, misery, and ruin. In 1598 it was called Llwynceelin (or the Holly-bush), and was the property of Meredith Morgan, chancellor of St. David's; he had issue, Marmaduke Morgan, who married Anne, the daughter of James Pennoyre, of the Moor, in Herefordshire, widow of Evan Gwyn, of Garth, gent.; she married thirdly Meredith Lewis, of Brecon, a descendant of Lewis of Frwdgrech, who by her influence persuaded Matthew Morgan, her son by the second husband (*a natural innocent*, as a MS. calls him), to sell the estate to him for a mere song. What became of this Matthew Morgan afterwards we have not been able to learn, save that he married Mary Walcott, of Builth, and had issue.

Old fashioned writers would insist upon it, perhaps with much truth, that the interference of providence was evident in the punishment, even on this side of the grave, of the party committing this fraud; they would instance his being sent childless hence, they would remark that his name and posterity, in the male line, soon perished, they would point to the frequent change of proprietors of this estate, and probably conclude in the words of a Welsh poet, with a reflection on the instability of wealth thus wickedly acquired.

Ya ol hir ymaeru gwaith angall, a thyngeu
Twy'r trwch, a gortechu a gwasgu ar y gwan;
Y geiniog oedd gynneu heb bydyo yn ei fodeu,
Fel dŵr o rhyllleu a red allan.

Etu. Richards.

The meaning of which is that after long perseverance in the works of darkness, supporting them by perjury, through thick and thin, and oppressing the poor, the penny thus gained, which just now was bright and free from rust, dissolves suddenly and departs like drops of water through a sieve.

MEREDITH AND LODOWICK LEWIS'S FAMILY.

Meredith Lewis, sheriff of Breconshire in 1654, by his will devised Pennant and the remainder of his property to his nephew, Lodowick Lewis, who left three daughters, two died without issue, Annie, the second daughter, married Owen Evans, archdeacon of Cardigan, by whom she had Owen Evans, esquire, who married Elizabeth Williams, daughter of Thomas Williams of Taly, by Frances, daughter of Judge Lloyd of Cricadarn. The last named Owen Evans had by his wife four children, Lloyd Evans, Lodowick Evans, Thomas Evans, and Elizabeth Evans; the two first died infants; Thomas Evans lived to be within fifty and sixty, and died single. During his life, the estate (which had been deeply involved by his father) through inattention and mismanagement was squandered away; the mansion house of Pennant, and the property in the vicinity of Brecon was mortgaged to, and afterwards the equity of redemption foreclosed by Michael Cope Hopton, esq., who now (1805) possesses it.

¹ There is a farm house now (1908) known as Pennant.

Elizabeth, the daughter of the last-named Owen Evans, married Francis Lewis, a lieutenant in the army, by whom she had two daughters, one married William Courtenay of Kington, and died without issue, the other was living in London, and married to William Simmonds, a cabinet maker, by whom she had several children.

To return to Brecon (though we have not quitted the parish of Saint John the Evangelist), the families longest settled there, exclusive of that of Joffreys of Llywel and the Williamses of Abercamlais, Penpont and Aberbrân, who will be more properly noticed when we come to Llanspyddid, are Wynter, formerly of Lydney and the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire; Morgan, formerly of Penderin; and Wilkins, heretofore of Lanquian, &c., near Cowbridge in Glamorganshire.

WYNTER OR WINTER, OF BRECON.

Walter, or as others William, came into Dyfed with Arnulph de Belesmo, 4 W. 2, and married Gwennlian, daughter of Gwilym ap Aeddau, Lord of Castell gwyn.

William Wynter married—

David Wynter, of Caernarthen married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Wm. Perrott.

Morgan Wynter, of Rhyd y gors, married and had issue Joan, who married David Griffith ap Gronw goch.

Jenkin Wynter, married Angharad, daughter of Philip Vychan, of Edwinstford.

David Wynter married Jane daughter of Sir John Morgan, knight.

Owen Wynter m. Eliz.
d. Dav. Meuric of
Cilewm.

Morris W. m. J. d.
Sir Peter Barret.¹

Gwennlian m. Owen ap
Meredith of Pwll-
dufarch.

Walter m. a d. Meredith
Gam.

William Wynter, married Margaret, daughter of Philip Jordan.

Jenkin Wynter, Lord of Maenorgain, married—

Elizabeth Wynter, married Richard Read—second ——— Fisher

A son ——— Fisher, otherwise Wynter, married—

William Wynter, otherwise Fisher, married—

Fisher, alias Wynter.

Lewis Wynter, of the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire,
m.—Earsley, A.p. II.

II.

A. p. I. Andrew Wynter of
Brecon m. Cissil d. Matthew
Walter, last bailiff there
under the Duke of Bucking-
ham.

Lewis Wynter of Cantref,
M.D. m. a d. ——— Bouleott.

Sir William Wynter, Lord High
Admiral of England to Henry
VIII. and Elizabeth m. Eliz.
d. Sir Wm. Tyrell.

Walter Wynter, barrister m.
Margt. d. and h. Jn. Walwyn
of Brecon, by Gwladis d.
Gwilym Morgan of Trallong.

Margaret m.
Roger Vaughan
of Cathedine.

John Wynter m. a d.
Howel David Prosser
of Gaer.

Sir Andrew Wynter of Lynd
m. Mary d. Sir Andrew
Chyd of Lydney.

Wm. Wynter of Llan-
vihangeltallyn m.
Blanch d. Anthony Dew
of Herefordshire.

Edward Wynter.

William Wynter of
Brecon apothecary m.
Margt. d. Phil. Jones
of Edwin.

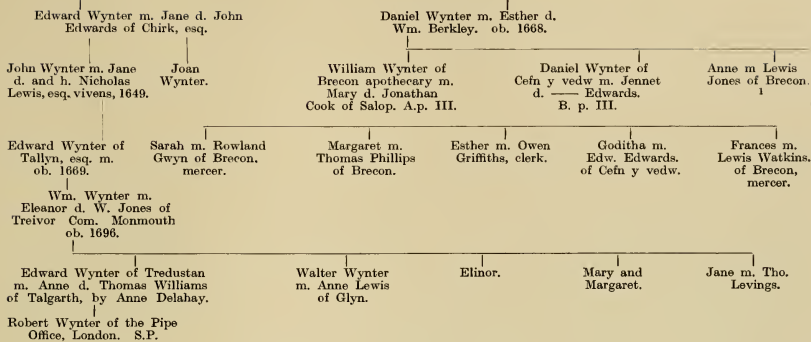
Sir William Wynter knt. m.
Anne d. Edw. Somerset, earl
of Worcester. ob. 1627.²

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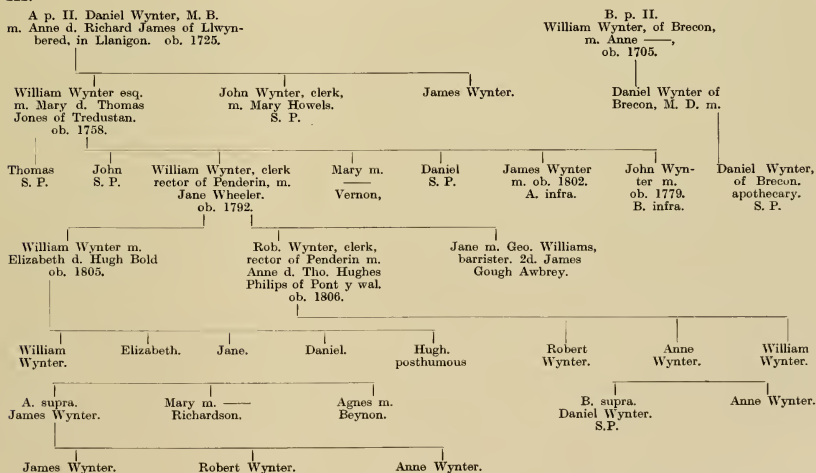
¹ Another pedigree makes Morris the father of Owen, who had issue William Wynter, married Jennet, daughter of Griffith ap Cadwgan, of Escirgaib, who had issue Jenkin Wynter, of Pontre Ritsart, Pembrookshire, married Agnes Phillips, who had issue Walter Wynter, married Elizabeth, daughter Jenkin ap Rhys, who had issue Edward Wynter, married Joan Lloyd of Glyn Aeron, who had issue Philip Wynter of Castell Garthen, married and had issue. Griffith Wynter married a daughter and heiress of Richard Fisher, of Cwmerddm, by whom he had William Wynter of Laugharne, who married a daughter of David ap Howel Morgan ddu, of Llangadock, by whom he had, according to this chart, Lewis Wynter of the Forest of Dean.

² Atkins in his Gloucestershire, and Edmondson in his Baronage call this Andrew, Edward, and the former omits the second Sir William. Atkins says Sir Edward had issue Sir John Wintour Lidney, a celebrated loyalist in the time of Charles I. who had issue Sir Charles Wintour.

(Continued from previous page.)



III.



It is remarkable, that though this family do not appear to have settled in Breconshire until the reign of Henry the 8th in the charter to the borough, by the first Stafford, duke of Buckingham, in 1448, among the burgesses is the name of Benedict Wynter.

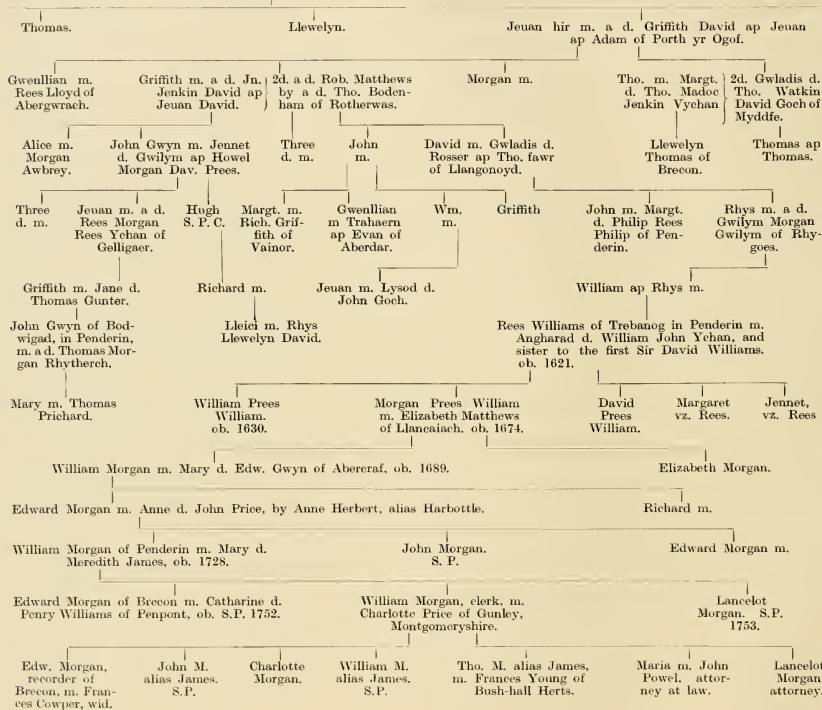
¹ They had issue one son, Wynter Jones, of Brecon, attorney, who died in 1668.

I.

MORGAN OF PENDERIN, AND OF BRECON.

The same as Sir David Gam, inclusive. (See Garthbrenegy.)

Morgan, son of Sir David Gam, m. 2d, Margt. d. Llewelyn Gwilym Rees Lloyd of Porth yr ogof.



I.

WILKINS OF LANQUIAN, OF BRECKNOCK, AND BRISTOL.

Robert de Wintona or Winecestria came to Glam. with Robert Fitzhamon, m.

Nicholas de Wintona m.—

Michael de Wintona m.—

Wilkyne de Wintona m.—

William de Winecestria, cotemporary with Hamon Turbeville m.—

Wm. de Winc. *ut alii* cotemp. with Rich. son of Gibb. Turbeville, Temp. E. 1 and 2, m.

John de Winecestria *script.* de Winecestre, lord of Landough m.—

Robert Winchester, lord of Landough m.—

Catharine m. David
Llewelyn Philip, Caer-
marthenshire.

William of Winchester m.
Anne d. Hopkin Vaughan.

John dictus Wilcoline aut Wilkyn m.
Gwenllian d. Griffith Getthin, temp. E. 3.

Annie m. Wilkyn Neverber, Lord of
Castleton, 13. E. 2.

John Wilcolyne or Wilkyn, vixit temp. E. 3 and 4 R.
2. m. Isabel d. John Raleigh.

John Wilkyn m. Anne d. Howel Carne.

Richard Wilkyn m. Jennet d. Thomas Madoc of Llanfair, vix. 18, H. 7, 1505.

Thomas Wilkyn m. Gwenllian d. Jenkin ap Richard ap Howel of Lansanor, ob. 1558.

{ Thomas Wilkyn, rector of Porthkerry and St. Mary's church, m. Eliz. d. Lewis Harry of Lancadle. 2d, Margaret }
d. Morgan ap James Matthews of Roos, ob. 1623. }

Roger Wilkyn m. Blanch d. Christoph. Gaynor of St. Bride's Monm. ob. 1648.

Tho. Wilkins, L.L.B., R. St. Mary's church, m. Jane d. T. Carne of Nash, ob. 1698.

Thomas Wilkins, prothonotary on } he m. 2d, Anne d. Mere- } 3d, Esther Shrenton
the Brecon circuit, m. Anne d. Rich. } dith Bowen of Lan y } of London. S. P.
Cann of Compton, Glouc. A p. II. } vern. B p. II.

Thomas Wilkins, the last of the name, rector of St. Mary's church, had, besides the Prothonotary, Roger Wilkins, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Lewis of Llanishen, by whom he had one daughter, Jane. The third son of Thomas was John, who married Jennet, daughter of Walter Morgan, (from whom Wilkins, now of Lantwit, &c.) by whom he had John, Mary, and Edward Wilkins. Gaynor and Blanch, two daughters of Thomas Wilkins, died single.

II.

A p. I. Cann Wilkins m. Mary Sparrow d. Mrs.
Anne Morgan of St. George's by a first husband

Annie Wilkins,
ob. 1706.

Tho. Wilkins Morgan
m. Elizabeth d. Eben-
ezer Mussell, by Eliz.
d. Sir Jn. Davie of
Crediton.

Richard Wilkins m.
Cordelia d. Conyers
place of Mornhill, in
Dorsetshire.

Annie m. John
Howe of Chip-
penham, S.P.

George Wilkins, clerk, 3d Anne d.
m. Mary d. John Din- Jn. Thomp-
widdie, S.P. 2d. son of Bristol
Johanna d. John }
Wilkins }

Elizabeth m.
Bates.

Cann Wilkins
died young.
S.P.

Jane m. John
Parry Wilkins.

Cann
Wilkins.

Mary
Anne.
S.P.

George
Wilkins

Harriet
Wilkins

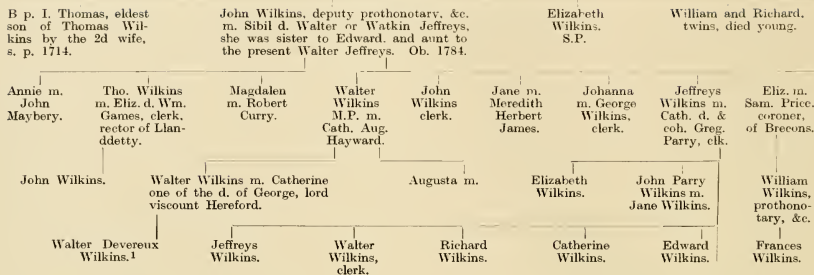
Thomas
Wilkins

Wm.
Wilkins

Mr. Cann Wilkins had also by his first wife, M. Sparrow, nine other children, who died young; his son Thomas, by a second wife, Mary Thompson, had one daughter, Mary Anne, now living, but unmarried; his son George is married to a 4th wife, Elizabeth Spencer, widow, by whom he has no issue.

(See next page.)

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Besides the above, many individuals have acquired by application and industry in their professions or employments considerable wealth and influence, and are continually rising into weight and importance from the purchases they have made and are making in the vicinity, but in no view are they more commendable than in the general spirit of improvement of the soil, which has of late years distinguished the gentlemen of Brecon, and which leads us into a short consideration of that subject.

We have before observed that the ground on the Usk side is remarkably porous and consequently that it requires a great quantity of rain to procure good crops; fortunately for us at Brecon, from our contiguity to the Beacons, more falls here than upon large and extensive plains. When we are deprived of this blessing, the pastures and hay ground, which are principally on the south side of the Honddu, and north of the Usk, are sometimes so extremely unproductive, that in a very dry summer three acres of meadow kept up during the spring, have not given half a ton of hay. The soil of the parish of Saint John the Evangelist, north of Honddu, is chiefly arable land, and is rather more argillaceous than that on the Usk side; no minerals, fossils, metallic substances or coal, have been discovered within this precinct. Indeed, it is impossible that the latter should ever appear, as the lime bursts out at Venni beach wood and upon Pen y crug, and is now worked and burnt by Messrs Maund. It is the second best for water cement in the county, that part of the same vein which is found at Pen y lan near Clos y coed being the first. Upon analysis of the Venny vach limestone, one hundred parts consist nearly of the following ingredients:

Carbonate of lime	..	..	..	75	2
Water	..	..	..	0	3
Sulphate of lime	..	..	..	0	43
Residuum, consisting of argill, silix and oxide of iron	..	..	..	24	0

THE VENNI AND PRIORY GROVES.

Within this part of the parish are two beautiful groves of wood, one of them (Venni) extremely picturesque, and displaying on the banks of the Usk scenes, which, if they were oftener frequented and explored, would be more admired than even those of the other, the Priory grove, which, however, is a great ornament to the vicinity of the town. This wood was formerly preserved, by the late Mrs. Maybery, with great care, and walks cut through it in various directions; it has since been much neglected. Lord Camden, however, has in his last visit to the mansion of his maternal ancestors, greatly improved them, and should he, as it is said, make this his occasional residence, proper attention, no doubt, will be paid to the beauties of this little glen.

RIVERS OF THE PARISH.

Within this parish two rivers empty themselves into the Usk, the Honddu and the Brynich; a third falls in on the confines, the Escir, but that will be more properly noticed when the parish to which it gives its name is under review.

¹ Referring to this, Jones adds in his corrections: Walter Devereux Wilkins, the son of Walter Wilkins, the younger and wife, died an infant; they have at present an only daughter.

Honddu, which from its conflux with the Usk has given this town its Welsh name, is readily derived from Avon ddu, the black river; this will immediately satisfy the generality of my Welsh readers, the etymologist will, however, exclaim that Avon is a corruption of the Celtic *Aw*, or *Awm*, water, while others, to whose opinions we incline, will derive it from *Haw*-ddu, the rapid black stream: this definition is peculiarly descriptive of its course from its rise on the Epynt, about two miles above the upper chapel in Merthyr Cynog to its junction with the Usk. Over this river, within the town of Brecon, are three bridges, the upper bridge leading to the Priory is of stone, consists of two arches, and is repaired by the inhabitants of the borough of Brecon; it is a very old bridge though the date of its erection is not known, very narrow and inconvenient, and the form of the arches extremely clumsy, despising the rules of modern architecture. But it is *old*, and this is of great consequence as to bridges, which should not be touched but in cases of absolute necessity, for notwithstanding the common idea that the ancients were better workmen, or possessed some secret as to mixing the lime is now properly exploded, yet there can be no doubt that time alone will effect that apparent mystery, the effects of which art will in vain seek to acquire. The next bridge below on the Honddu was once private property and led to the castle; it is now public, but repaired by the lord of the manor of Brecon. It is of two arches, with an immense thick wall in the middle, for it can hardly be called a pillar, supporting formerly a drawbridge, but whether it was double or only covered the span of one of the present arches is not known. The third bridge over the Honddu near its junction with the Usk, is of three heavy arches, and is repaired by the inhabitants of the borough.

Usk bridge (says Leland, Itin vol. 5, p. 57) at Brekenoc, was thrown down by the rage of Wsk water, anno 26 Henrici 8, die, S. Hugonis, it was not by rain but by snow melted that came out of the mountains; the water ran forward about the toppe of the Hy bridge and the circle marke apperthe almost to the middle waul of the Black Freres cloistre.' Leland here has established the fall of an old bridge over Usk, which preceded the present, and that it was thrown down by a flood upon the fifteenth of November, 1535; if so, the inhabitants either erected a temporary wooden bridge or remained without one for nearly thirty years, as we find from the following lame stanza, that the present structure was built in 1563.

Mil oedd oedran Iesu lle molant,
Trugain a thri rwy na phumant,
Y gnawd poth difethiant,
Pont ar Wyse mi rho' i gant.

(Namely, one thousand years after Christ, according to the computation where he is worshipped, sixty and three more than five hundred, an imperishable work was effected: a bridge upon Usk, we'll call hundreds to the recollection of it.) This bridge was so extremely narrow and inconvenient to the public when travelling and commerce increased, being the great thoroughfare through the county, that in 1794 it was considerably widened, so that two waggons may now, with ease, pass each other while driven over it, but even this convenience, imperiously as it was called for, was not obtained without peril, for though the ablest bridge builder the principality ever produced was employed in it part of the new work or piers fell down. It was, it is true, soon afterwards repaired, but it must remain some years before the architect will venture to pronounce the facings to the current and their foundations perfectly secure. This bridge is repaired principally by the town and partly by the county; whenever twenty-five pounds are necessary to be expended upon it, the inhabitants of the county pay twenty-four pounds and the borough the remaining one pound, and in the same proportion when any greater or lesser sum is required.

Brynich, the other river, mentioned to fall into the Usk in the parish of Saint John the Evangelist, is on the eastern side, about one mile below the Watton turnpike gate; it is a small insignificant stream, and would hardly have been noticed if it had not formed part of our plan to give the names at least of most rivulets in the county, and if it did not show the great uncertainty of etymology. *Bryn* is a hill and *eich* is water, which at once defines it to be the hill stream; but this is unfortunately by no means a description of the brook. It rises a little above Slwch from some boggy wet lands at the foot of a hill, it must therefore be sought for in *Braon*, *Brion* (Irish) plur. *Braoim* and *Braonydd*, a dropping, oozing water, which characterises its origin as well as its course. The canal from Brecknock now intercepts its fall into the Usk, arrests its current, and commands its assistance in conveying our coals to the market at Brecon, with which article we are at present daily and plentifully supplied.

The usual and general market for provisions and other articles in this town is on Saturday, another smaller on Wednesday, and for cattle on Friday, in every week. There are here five fairs in the year,¹ principally for cattle and some horses are sold, but of them the less said the better, for the breed of the country generally produced at these marts, have very little resemblance to the war horse described in Scripture.

¹ First Wednesday in March, May 4, July 5, Sept. 9, and Nov. 17.

VISCOUNT TREDEGAR.

The "Mansion House" at Brecon, the Breconshire residence of the Tredegar family, is situated between the St. Mary's Church and Glamorgan Street. It is a commodious dwelling, and is faced by a garden walled in from the Glamorgan Street side. The house is used as the occasional residence of members of the Tredegar family, and is always kept in readiness for their use. The earlier particulars of this ancient family are stated by Mr. Theophilus Jones, and it will only be necessary here to give a continuation of the pedigree from that period when William Morgan, eldest son of Thomas Morgan, of Machan and Tredegar, married 1st Blanche the daughter of William Morgan, of Therrow, Brecon, which lady died in 1673, and 2nd Elizabeth daughter and co-heir of Edward Lewis of Van Park, co. Glamorgan, and relict of Sir Francis Darell, of Bucks, Knt. William Morgan died in 1680, leaving by his first wife a son and successor.

JOHN MORGAN of Tredegar and Ruperta, lord lieut. of cos. Brecon and Monmouth, born 1670, who *m.* Martha dau. of Gwynn Vaughan of Trebarried, Brecon, and had with other issue,

1. WILLIAM his heir.
2. THOMAS heir to his nephew.

John Morgan was a great supporter of the Whig interest, and, dying 1719, was succeeded by his eldest son,

SIR WILLIAM MORGAN, of Tredegar, K.B., born 1700, who married Rachel eldest dau. of William 2nd Duke of Devonshire, K.G. (by his wife Rachel, eldest dau. of the celebrated William, Lord Russell) and by her (who died 1780) had issue,

1. WILLIAM his heir.
2. Edward, died 7 Feb. 1743, *æt.* 16, *s.p.*
1. Rachel, died unmarried 11 March, 1738.

2. Elizabeth, born 29 March, 1729, *m.* 1767, William Jones of Clytha House, co. Monmouth, 4th son of John Jones, of Llanarth Court, she died without issue 14 Jan. 1787; he died 1805.

Sir William died 1731 aged 30, and was succeeded by his eldest son and heir,

WILLIAM MORGAN, of Tredegar, *b.* 28 March, 1725; who *d.* 16 July, 1763, *unn.*, when his sister Elizabeth, wife of William Jones, of Clytha, became sole remaining child and heiress of Sir William Morgan, K.B.; and he was *s.* in the Tredegar estate by his uncle,

THOMAS MORGAN, of Ruperta, and of Tredegar, at the death of his nephew William; *b.* 1702; who *m.* Jane, 2nd dau. and co-heir of Maynard Colchester, of Westbury-on-Severn, by whom he had,

1. THOMAS, his heir.
2. CHARLES, heir to his brother.
3. JOHN, heir to his brother Charles.

1. JANE, *m.* Dr. CHARLES GOULD, who, upon his wife becoming possessed of the Tredegar estate, took to name of MORGAN.

2. Katherine, *b.* 1735; *m.* August, 1754, Charles Van, of Llanwern, co. Monmouth; *d.* 1784, having had issue one son and three daus., *viz.*

1. Thomas Van, *d.* 1794, leaving a son, Charles John, who *d.* 1798.
1. Katherine Van, *m.* May, 1780, Sir Robert Salusbury, Bart. (who became of Llanwern in right of his wife); she *d.* 21 July, 1836, leaving issue.
2. Jane, *m.* Rev. Edward Cage.
3. Charlotte, *m.* 1st. Major John Sayer; 2ndly, John Watchurst.

Thomas Morgan *d.* 12 April, 1769, and was *s.* by his eldest son,

THOMAS MORGAN, of Tredegar; *b.* 1727; M.P. for the co. of Monmouth, *d. unm.* 15 May, 1771; and was *s.* by his brother,

CHARLES MORGAN, of Tredegar; *b.* 1736; *m.* Mary, dau. and heir of Thomas Parry; and *d.* 1787, *s.p.*, and was *s.* by his brother,

JOHN MORGAN, of Tredegar, M.P. for the co. of Monmouth, who *m.* Louisa, dau. of Charles Pym Burt, but *d.s.p.* 1792, when the Tredegar estate went to his eldest sister,

JANE MORGAN, who *m.* Feb. 1758, SIR CHARLES GOULD, 1st Bart., who was son of King Gould, deputy judge-advocate, by Elizabeth his wife, dau. of Charles Shaw, of Pesthope, in Norfolk. Dr. Gould was an eminent civilian, having been appointed judge-advocate, and judge-marshal of the forces, and sworn of the privy council; he received, in 1779, the honour of knighthood, and was created a baronet 15 Nov. 1792. By her (who *d.* 14 Feb. 1797) Sir Charles had issue,

1. CHARLES, 2nd bart.
2. John, a midshipman, killed in the memorable engagement of Lord Rodney.

1. Jane, *m.* 1st. Capt. Ball. R.N.; and 2ndly, Samuel Homfray, of Penydarren, co. Glamorgan. She *d.* 22 Dec. 1846.

2. Elizabeth, *m.* Rowley Lascelles, and had issue.
3. Fanny, *m.* her cousin, the Rev. Augustus Morgan.

Sir Charles assumed, in conformity with the testamentary injunction of his brother-in-law, John Morgan, and by royal permission, the surname and armorial bearings of the family of Tredegar. He represented, in three parliaments, the co. of Brecon; *d.* 6 Dec. 1806, and was *s.* by his eldest son,

SIR CHARLES MORGAN, 2nd Bart., lieutenant-col. in the army, capt. Coldstream Guards, M.P. for Brecon, 1787 to 1796, and for co. Monmouth, 1796 to 1831; he was *b.* 4 Feb. 1760; *m.* Mary Margaret, only child of George Stoney, capt. R.N., and by her (who *d.* 24 March, 1808) had issue,

1. CHARLES MORGAN ROBINSON, 1st Lord TREDEGAR.
2. George Gould, M.P. for Brecon, *b.* 12 July, 1794; *m.* 7 July, 1824, Eliza, dau. of the Rev. William Beville; and *d.* 25 Aug. 1845, having by her (who *m.* 2ndly, Capt. Churidge, and *d.* 1845) had issue,

1. Eliza Angelina, *m.* 11 Dec. 1856, Major-Gen. Sir G. H. S. Willis, G.C.B. She *d.* 1867. He *m.* 2ndly, 8 Aug. 1874, Ada Mary, eldest dau. of Sir John Field, 1st Bart., and *d.* 29 Nov. 1900, leaving issue.

2. Georgina Frances, *d.* in 1847.
3. Selma Rose Catherine, *m.* 10 April, 1850, the Rev. W. N. Tilson Marsh, M.A., of Streethead Manor, Cambridgeshire, who *d.* 1881.

2. Charles Augustus Samuel (Rev.), chancellor of Llandaff Cathedral, rector of Machan, in Monmouthshire, and chaplain in ordinary to the Queen, *b.* 2 Sept. 1800; *m.* 20 April, 1837, Frances, dau. of Rowley Lascelles, and *d.* 5 Sept. 1875. She *d.* 16 Feb. 1867.

4. Charles Octavius Swinerton, F.R.S., M.A., M.P. for Monmouthshire, 1841 to 1874, D.L. co. Monmouth, *b.* 15 Sept. 1803, *d. unm.* 5 Aug. 1888.

(See next page.)

(Continued from previous page.)

1. Maria Margaretta, m. 8 March, 1817, Lieut.-Gen. Francis Miles Milman, son of Sir Francis Milman, 1st Bart., and d. 15 May, 1875. He d. 9 Dec. 1856.
2. Charlotte Georgiana, m. 27 Feb. 1819, George, 3rd Lord Rodney, who d. 21 June, 1842; she d. 19 Feb. 1878.
3. Angelina Maria Cecilia, m. 12 April, 1825, Sir Hugh Owen, Bart., and d. 4 Sept. 1844.
4. Selina Anne, d. an infant.

Sir Charles d. 5 Dec. 1846, and was s. by his eldest son.

SIR CHARLES MORGAN ROBINSON, 1st BARON TREDGAR, b. 10 April, 1792, M.P. for Brecon, who was raised to the peerage as BARON TREDGAR, 16 April, 1850. He m. 6 Oct. 1827, Rosamund, only dau. of General Godfrey Basil Mundy, and by her (who d. 3 Jan. 1883) had,

1. Charles Rodney, b. 2 Dec. 1828, was in the Coldstream Guards, M.P. for Brecon; d. *unm.* 14 Jan. 1854.
2. GODFREY CHARLES, present peer.
3. FREDERIC COURTENAY, of Ruperra Castle, Newport, D.L., M.P. for co. Monmouth, 1874-85, and for south division since latter year, hon. col. 2nd vol. batt. S.W. Borderers (V.D.), late capt. rifle brigade, served through Crimean war (medal with five clasps, Turkish medal and Medjidie), b. 24 May, 1834; m. 3 May, 1858, Charlotte Ann, dau. of Charles Alexander Williamson of Balgray, Dumfriesshire, and by her (who d. 30 March, 1891) left issue,
 1. Courtenay Charles Evan, of Ashford Court, Ludlow, Shropshire, J.P. and D.L. co. Monmouth, major and hon. lieut.-col. Royal Monmouth Engineers, hon. maj. in the army, served in the S. African war 1900-1, b. 10 April, 1867; m. 5 Aug. 1890, Lady Katharine Carnegie, dau. of James, 9th Earl of Southesk, K.T., and has issue,
 - Evan Frederic, b. 13 July, 1893.
 - Gwyneth Erica, b. 5 Jan. 1895.
 2. Frederic George, b. 23 Nov. 1873; m. 14 April, 1898, Dorothy Sysyllt, dau. of R. T. Bassett, of Bonvilton, Glamorgan, and has issue,
 - Sysyllt Avis, b. 24 Feb. 1903.

1. Blanche Frances, b. 3 Feb. 1859; m. 18 Sept. 1883, Charles Twysden Hoare, of Stratton, co. Gloucester.
2. Violet Wilhelmina, b. 23 Sept. 1860, m. 28 Aug. 1894, Major Basil St. John Mundy, late 15th Hussars.

4. Arthur John, J.P. and D.L. for Monmouth, J.P. co. Brecon, b. 27 Aug. 1840, d. *unm.* 9 Nov. 1900.
5. George Gould, b. 15 Sept. 1845.
1. Rosamond Marian, m. 18 Dec. 1848, Sir William Henry Marsham Style, 9th Bart. She d. 15 Jan. 1883. He d. 31 Jan. 1904, leaving issue.
2. Selina Maria, m. 5 Jan. 1853, David Robertson Williamson, of Lawers, co. Perth, and has issue.
3. Fanny Henrietta, m. 9 Oct. 1854, Sir G. F. R. Walker, Bart., and d. 2 Sept. 1887. He d. 1 Aug. 1896, leaving issue.
4. Ellen Sarah, m. 14 May, 1856, Lieut.-Col. Henry Gore Lindsay, and has issue.
5. Georgiana Charlotte, m. 1st, 28 Sept. 1857, Lord Francis Conyngham, and d. 14 Sept. 1880; 2ndly, 27 April, 1882, Lieut.-Col. Alan Chichester, 18th Royal Irish Regt., and *d.s.p.* 22 April, 1886.
6. Mary Anne, m. 16 July, 1863, Robert, 16th Viscount Hereford, and has issue.

The first Baron Tredgar, who was lord lieutenant for co. Brecon, d. 16 April, 1875.

The present peer (the second baron, and a baronet) was born 28 April, 1831; he was educated at Eton; late captain in the 17th Lancers, and served in the Crimean War (medal and four clasps), where he rode in the charge made by the Noble Six Hundred; was M.P. for county Brecon from 1858 to 1875; is hon. col. Royal Monmouthshire R.E., and late major Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeo. Cav.; has the Order of the Medjidie 5th class; lord lieutenant for Monmouthshire, and vice-chairman and alderman of that County Council; J.P. and D.L. for co. Brecon and elsewhere; and known throughout the country as one of the most generous benefactors of his generation to public institutions and private charities. His lordship was created a Viscount by King Edward the Seventh in 1906.

THE MARQUESS OF CAMDEN.

(See *Jeffreys pedigrees.*)

The Priory House is the property of the Camden family, who have not occupied the mansion for many years past, the place being rented to tenants; the present occupier is Mrs. H. O. Aveline Maybery. As noted in the Jeffreys pedigrees, this and other Breconshire property came to the Camden family by marriages between the Pratts and the Jeffreyses. John Pratt, of The Wilderness, Kent, M.P., married as his first wife, Elizabeth daughter of Sir Geoffrey Jeffreys of The Priory, Brecon, and had by her a son John of Bayham Abbey, Sussex, who *d.s.p.* in 1797, bequeathing his estates to the Marquis Camden. The Right Hon. Sir Charles Pratt, 1st Earl Camden, was a great lawyer and statesman (born 1713) and became Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain. He married 4th Oct. 1749, Elizabeth, daughter and sole heir of Nicholas Jeffreys, of the Priory, co. Brecon; the Earl died in 1794, and was succeeded by his son, John Jeffreys, 2nd Earl and 1st Marquis Camden; he was created Earl of the County of Brecknock and Marquess Camden 7th Sept., 1812. He was lord lieutenant of Ireland in 1798, and died 1840, being succeeded by his son George Charles, second Marquess, who was installed K.G.; he died August 6, 1866, and was succeeded by his eldest son, John Charles, third Marquess, born 1840, who was M.P. for co. Brecknock, and materially contributed to the restoration of the Priory Church at Brecon. The third Marquess married 12 July, 1866, Clementina Augusta, younger daughter of George, 6th Duke of Marlborough; he died May 4,

1872, and was succeeded by his eldest surviving son, then a minor, John Charles, the present and 4th Marquis (born 9 Feb., 1872), who married 2nd June, 1898, Joan Marion, daughter of Lord Henry Nevill, second son of the Marquess of Abergavenny. The heir to the Marquess Camden is John Charles Henry, Earl of Brecknock, born 12th April, 1899. The only sister of the Marquess married 1890 the Hon. Arthur Henry John Walsh, late M.P. for Radnorshire, and a son of Lord Ormathwaite. The widow of the 3rd Marquess married 2ndly Captain Philip Green, by whom she had a daughter, Evelyn Frances Henrietta Green.

THE MAYBERYS OF BRECON.

(See *Wilkins of Brecknock, etc.*, page 155.)

This family was actively identified with the public life of Breconshire for a considerable period, and principally resided at Brecon, having also that property known as Penlan, St. John's, in which extensive park one of them made the fish ponds there. This property descended to a daughter of Walter Maybery, Esq. The office of Prothonotary of the old Brecon Circuit was in the family, and it was last held by one of them. The last male member of the Mayberys to reside in Brecon was Major Aveline Maybery, who married Miss Cobb, of Nythfa, and by whom he left a young son and a daughter, who reside at the Priory House, Brecon. Mr. H. H. Maybery, a brother, resides in Monmouthshire, and inherited an estate from his friend the late Major Bargrave Watkins, of the Watkins of Lloegr family. The Mayberys married into the Wilkins family, and for the purpose of this work, we have commenced their pedigree as follows:—

THOMAS WILKINS, Prothonotary of the Brecon Circuit was son of Rev. Thomas Wilkins, LL.B., rector, who died in 1698. The Prothonotary married as his first wife Anne daughter of Richard Carne, Esq., and had a son, Carne Wilkins, born 31st October, 1702, who married Mary daughter of Anne Morgan, widow of Thomas Morgan, Esq., of St. George's, Somerset. They had issue three sons, (1) Thomas Wilkins, high sheriff of Somersetshire 1787, died without male issue; (2) Richard, d.s.p.; (3) the Rev. George Wilkins, rector of St. Michael's, Bristol, born 1743. He married Anne daughter of John Thompson, Esq. (his third wife), and had issue by her.

1. Cann de Winton, Esq., of Clifton, co. Gloucester, J.P. and D.L. for Glam. and Som., 17th in a direct line from King Edward I.; he married Mary a daughter of Thomas Evans, Esq.
2. George de Winton, Esq., late Captain 39th Regt., m. and had issue.
3. Thomas, lieut. R.N., dec., leaving one daughter.
4. William de Winton, Esq., late Major in the Light Cavalry, Bombay.

Thomas Wilkins the Prothonotary married for his second wife Anne, daughter of Meredith Bowen, Esq., and had John Wilkins, Esq., born 15th Nov., 1713, who married Sybil, daughter of Walter Jeffreys, Esq., and had issue,

1. Walter Wilkins, Esq., M.P. for Radnorshire, married 1777 Catherine daughter of Samuel Hayward, Esq., and had issue.

1. Walter de Winton of Maesilwech Castle, M.P. for Radnorshire (died 1840), married Julia Cecilia, dau. of the Rev. R. J. Collinson, rector of Gt. Gwenthead, and had issue,

1. Walter de Winton (now of Maesilwech).
2. Francis Walter de Winton.
3. Emily Gwentlian.
2. ANNIE WILKINS, who married JOHN MAYBERY, Esq.,¹ and from whom
THOMAS MAYBERY, prothonotary of the Brecon Circuit, who married ELIZABETH DAVIES, dau. of the Rev. Richard Davies, vicar of Brecon.
3. Frances Wilkins, died unmarried.
4. Jeffreys of the Priory, married Catherine dau. of the Rev. Gregory Parry, from whom, John Parry de Winton, Esq., of Maesderwen, co. Brecon (See the *Maesderwen pedigree*); Jeffreys de Winton, Esq., of the Isle of Wight, married and had issue; the Rev. Walter de Winton of Hay Castle, Breconshire, married and had issue.

By the marriage of THOMAS MAYBERY and ELIZABETH DAVIES, there was the following issue,

1. Elizabeth, the eldest of 18 children.
2. Frances, m. John Lloyd of Dinas, Esq., died without issue.
3. Anne, m. Edward Jones of Velindre, Carm., and died leaving three sons, Edward, David and Thomas.
4. Walter, last Prothonotary of Brecon Circuit, married D. M. Phillips, from whom Julia Martha Diana, (who inherited the Penlan estate in St. John's, and who married C. W. Best, Esq., by whom she has several sons and two daughters).

5. HENRY, who married for his 1st wife Eliza Marian Aveline, dau. of Capt. Aveline, and had issue,

1. Annie, twice married, and had issue.
2. HENRY OXFORD AVELINE, major in Breconshire Volunteers, who married Lucy Powys Cobb, dau. of Joseph Richard Cobb, Esq., of Nythfa, Brecon, and of Emily Powys his wife, dau. of John Parry de Winton, Esq., and by which marriage he left issue,
 1. Muriel Powys Aveline.
 2. Richard Aveline.

3. Christina, married General Bengough, C.B., and had issue.
4. Herbert Hartland, married Katharine Dorothy Osborn, a dau. of the late Sir Melmoth Osborn, R.C.M.G., former Chief Commissioner for Zululand. This son inherited the estates of his friend Major Bargrave Watkins, J.P., who made a will in his favour. He has issue one son, Thomas Bargrave Aveline.
5. Elinora, died in infancy.
6. Henry Marian.

By a second marriage with Mary Wetenhall, Mr. Henry Maybery had Caroline Frances, and Charles Wetenhall.

¹ The first Maybery to settle in Breconshire was John Maybery, a pioneer ironmaster of South Wales, who was the son of John Maybery and Mary his wife; the former was an ironmaster in Worcester-shire and lived at Powick Court in that County, the latter (Mary Maybery) in her will, which was in the possession of the late Aveline Maybery, Esq., left a sum of money to the poor of Powick.

In a work published by Mr. Boyue, F.S.A. in 1858, there is some account of money tokens issued in Breconshire. There is a Brecknock farthing, with "B.B. 1670" in the centre of one side, and on the reverse the arms of Brecon. Another has "THOMAS IVXSON, GLOVER" with a drawing of glove and shears in the centre, and on the other side "IN BRECKNOCK 1669," and "HIS HALF-PENNY" in centre. In the town of Hay, there is a still earlier one, viz., "MATTHEW PARRY 1663," and "O.B." in centre on one side, and "MERCER IN THE HAY," with "M.P." in the centre, on the reverse.

The parochial register of Saint John's, commences in 1709, Saint Mary's in 1685. Saint John's is a vicarage discharged; Saint Mary's is not in charge.

	£ s. d.	Tenths.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Value of the living, in Pope Nicholas's taxation, in 1288	20 0 0	2 0 0
Temporals of the prior of Brecon	25 19 4	2 11 11½
Value in the Liber Regis	31 6 0	0 13 4
Saint Mary's, certified value	4 6 2	
Archdeacon's procurations from the rectory of Saint John's	- - -	0 6 8
Ditto, from the vicar	- - -	0 2 6

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1403.—The Prior and Convent of Brecon		David ap Thomas, alias Owen-teine.	1685.—		Thomas Sandys.
1406.—The same.		Morgan ap Rhys. ¹	1694.—		Charles Pryce. ⁹
1408.—The same.		Roger Bampton.	1695.—		Edward Gwyn. ¹⁰
1408.—The same		Griffith Scheppey. ²	1718.—Sir Edw. Williams, Baronet.		Thomas Stockdale.
Ditto.—Ditto.		Walter Wodewey.	1720.—John Williams, Penkelly, Herefordshire, and Wm. Phillips, Brecon.		Richard Davies.
Ditto.		Philip David. ³	1748.—Edw. Williams and Joanna Davies		Thomas Williams.
1486.—Ditto.		Jeffrey Thomas.	1787.—Richard Davies, clerk, A.M.		Himself, <i>obit</i> 1804.
1505.—Ditto.		Thomas ap Iwan.	1804.—Richard Davies, clerk, A.M.		Himself.
		Thomas ap Hoel.	1859.—Dean Williams of Llandaff and Mrs. Williams.		Garnons Williams, afterwards Vicar of Bettws-Penpont, and prebendary of St. David's.
		Sir Morgan ap David. ⁴	1864.—The same.		Herbert Williams, a prebendary of St. David's, and brother to his predecessor.
		Thomas Griffiths in 1559. ⁵	1897.—Rev. Thomas Williams, vicar of Llowes, a brother to the two previous vicars of Brecon.		Edward Latham Bevan, son of Archdeacon William Latham Bevan, whom he succeeded in the archdeaconry in 1907.
1572.—		William Hyde			
1575.—The Crown.		Thomas Wightman.			
1576.—Ditto.		Walter David.			
1621.—Sir Henry Williams, knight.		Lewis Morgan. ⁶			
1638.—Sir Henry Williams, knight.		Meredith Lewis. ⁷			
1661.—Sir Henry Williams, baronet.		Owen Griffiths, curate of Brecon, 1583.			
1662.—Ditto.		Meredith Penry.			
1677.—Thos. Lane and Abigail his wife.		John Hergest. ⁸			

¹ In 1405 he was appointed receiver general to the bishop of St. David's; in 1410 he was nominated by John, prior of Brecon, and the convent there, to be chaplain or perpetual curate of the free chapel of St. Nicholas, within the walls of the castle of Brecon, to which he was inducted by Matthew hir, his proxy.

² It is not certain when he was presented, but it appears that he resigned.

³ Uncertain when presented.

⁴ On the resignation of Jeffrey Thomas this living is here called, in the bishop's register, *Ecclesia Sanctæ Crucis de Brecon*. Sir Morgan ap David was great grandson to Sir David Gam.

⁵ He died in 1572; by his will he desires to be buried in the vicar's chapel; he gives to his maid servant a flock bed with a *bolster of leather*, and the remainder of his effects to John Bettyfule, after payment of his debts and funerals at his burial, daie months mynd and twelve months mynde. Attested by Hugh Harvard, N.P. &c.

⁶ He was a commissary, or as we now call him, a surrogate for proving wills, &c. In the inventory of his apparel are six pair of *hand cuffs* — these were linen sleeves and wristbands worn with flannel shirts.

⁷ He died in 1646, the living was therefore probably vacant for some time, and until the restoration; he seems to have been of Masmyris, as he describes his brother, Thomas Lewis to be of that parish, and gives him an estate there. In this inventory are two great *blaidd* staffs (*blaidd* is a wolf), a pitchfork, a bowl from Thomas Pryce, clerk, in the hands of Wynator Jones, put in suyte in the Council of the Marches, a silver beer bowl and the portraiture of the twelve sybils; he left only two daughters, Anne and Sarah. (a)

⁸ He was master of the free grammar school at the college, and held Llanhamlach with Brecon under a dispensation.

⁹ This is the *Prezenter vere Dardicæ* described in his monument in the college church.

¹⁰ This living was vacant some time after the death of Mr. Gwyn.

(a) In an inventory in 1631, of a testator of Brecon, are one glaiſ staff, one bastard him, one pattle staff, and three stockards most of the tradesmen of this town about the same period were also possessed of a harp.

LLANDEW.

THE parish church and village of Llanddew is two miles north-east of Brecknock, and is situated, according to Adams in his *Index Villaris*, in 52 3 north latitude, and in longitude 3 21, which is in precisely the same degree as Brecknock, but we rather think it should be placed at 3 20 west. It is sometimes spelt, in the English manner, Llanthew, sometimes erroneously, as in Adams, Llandew and Llanddew, and in the memorial papers and Pope Nicholas's taxation, Llandon. Many persons think it ought to be written Llanddew, which (say they) is the church of the Holy Trinity; in confirmation of their opinion they quote Ecton, who states it to be dedicated to the Trinity, and, it is added, the wake or feast is held upon Trinity Sunday, but there are some very powerful objections to this derivation, even if there were no evidence in favour of our mode of spelling and defining it. Duw, in Welsh, always means (as God does in English) the first person in the Trinity, and there is no instance in this kingdom of a church thus dedicated; if it had been Trinity Church, it would like that in Radnorshire, have been called Llandrindon, and as to the time of holding the feast, it deserves no attention; fifty instances may be cited, where the feast is not held on the patron Saint's day. Llanddew then is, according to our comprehension, an abbreviation of Llanddewi or Saint David's, the saint to whom it is dedicated, and not as Ecton states, to the Holy Trinity. From early ages it was the seat and house of the bishop of Saint David's, where the archdeacon and dean of Brecon had habitations, and where the prelate, with his other dignitaries and ecclesiastical officers, resided occasionally on his visits to the diocese. On one of these occasions, Guy de Mona, as appears by his register at Abergwili, then being at his castle here, resigned a living, and is described as "the lord bishop of Llanddew, otherwise Llanddewi." Of this parish, we must hazard a conjecture; though we will not assert it as an historical fact, that the present parish anciently formed part of Saint David's, or Plwyf Dewi, in Breconshire, that there was a chapel of ease within the latter, in which the archdeacon of Brecon officiated, for which he had the tythes, and is ever since the patron of the living, and there was a prevailing opinion, among many of the common people, that the college, being within the circuit of the parish of Saint David's, though certainly extra parochial, constituted a parcel of the parish of Llanddew, that the poor who gained a settlement within the precincts of the college, were parishioners of Llanddew, and that the poor who died in the former place should be buried in the cemetery of the mother church.

THE CHURCH OF 1800.

This fabric is cruciform, and as before observed, is one of the earliest in the county, and perhaps may claim a seniority over the parish church of Saint John's at Brecon, though both no doubt have so frequently undergone repairs and alterations that it would be difficult to point out the parts of the original building now remaining: it consists at present (1800) of a nave only, intersected by two chapels, one of them, like that in the priory, being called Cappel y coehaid, forming a cross aisle. Both of them, as well as the church, are dark and dirty, the floor of earth, and uneven, in consequence of the vile and pernicious habit of burying within the walls; the pews are irregular, many of them decayed, and the windows are of the lancet form but not pointed at the top. The steeple, placed over the intersection of the nave by the cross aisle, is extremely clumsy and heavy, and has four bells within it. It was built, as appears by a stone in the wall in the church, in 1623; William Havard and William Griffiths then being wardens; near it are the arms of Havard and a lion rampant, perhaps intended for the arms of Griffith. There are no monuments, and very few gravestones, in this church; under the steeple is an inscription to the memory of Gwenllian, the wife of Thomas Games of this parish, gent., who died in 1729, aged eighty. Near the chancel, and partly concealed by the pews, belonging to two tenements in this parish, called Wern and Ty issaf, a stone commemorates the departure of Thomas Games of this parish, who married Gwenllian, the daughter of Richard Williams of Llywel, gent., the time of his death cannot be ascertained without removing the seats. (Arms, 1 Bleddin ap Maenarch, 2 Rhys Goch, 3 Gwys, 4 Brychan, 5 as 1, 6 Eionon Sais, 7 Gwarin ddu or Progers, 8 as 4, 9 Elysian Glodrydd, 10 Hughes, 11 Cradoc ap Gwilym, 12 as 2, 13 as 3.) This Richard Williams, who was an attorney in considerable practice, was also the genealogist, described by Hugh Thomas, as "a subtle lawyer and adulterer." John Games and Richard Games, the above named sons of Thomas Games, both died without issue, the former in 1709, having spent the whole of the property left him by his father, which was very considerable, and his sisters married two tradesmen in Brecon, as will be seen in the pedigree of the family in the next parish.

Near the communion table, though partly concealed by a seat, "Here lyeth the body of James Powel of Troed yr harn, son to Thomas Powel, by Catherine his wife, one of the daughters of Aurelius

Williams of Llanffwyst, in the county of Monmouth, doctor of physic, who died the 17th day of March, 1698." (Arms, Bleddin ap Maenarch, crest on a helmet of an esquire, the coat of Rhys Goch.) Under the communion table, Howel ap Jeanu of Troed yr harn; the remainder of the letters are defaced. Near the north wall, under the Penywaun seats, 'Here lyeth the body of William Bevan of Alexanderstone, who married Elizabeth, daughter of _____, they had issue Thomas William and Anne, he died _____ 1630.' William Bevan was (we believe) the William Evan mentioned in page 10 of the pedigree of Brychan, in the appendix, whose first cousin, Lleici, married Gabriel Powel of Alexanderstone, though the herald seems to have known nothing of his children; he was registrar of the diocese of Saint David's, and succeeded Alban Stepney, ancestor of Sir John Stepney, Baronet, the first who held that office, and who came into Wales in 1558, and settled at Prendergrast in Pembrokeshire, but whose family since, in consequence of intermarriages with Vaughan of Llanelly and Lloyds of Dan yr allt, removed into Carmarthenshire.

Another stone, near that of William Bevan, has the arms of Havard, impaling Watkins of Llan-gore or Vaughan of Tyle glas; the inscription is not legible, though of later date than the former. It probably covers the remains of Thomas Havard, who married a grand-daughter of David Gunter, by a daughter and heiress of Thomas Philip Vaughan of Tyle glas, which entitled his descendants to quarter the arms of the last mentioned family.

In the church yard there are no tombs, grave-stones, or inscriptions worthy of notice; there is no table of benefactions hung up or painted within the church, nor can we find that any such have been bequeathed for the support of the poor of this parish, except the sum of three pounds, given by Edward William David John of Llanddew, by his will, proved in 1621, to be delivered to the overseers of the poor there, from time to time, for ever, the interest, or six shillings, *being the rent thereof*, to be by them distributed at Christmas yearly, to the poor and needy impotent men and women of this parish.

THE BISHOP'S PALACE, AND MANORS.

The road leading from Bronllys by Talachddu through this village to Tair derwen and then to Aberyseir divides the church and churchyard from the ruins of the castle, though perhaps anciently the former were included. Within the area is an arched well of most excellent water, which was evidently intended to supply a court on each side of the present wall. The site of what now appears to have been the castle contains about an acre of ground, and is of an oblong square or parallelogram; on the north side, the wall, of what was clearly the chapel, still remains, in which are three gothic windows, the pine ends also are in part standing and have one window of the same form in each; it is seventeen yards and a half by nine, but the foundation only of the south wall appears. There are no remains of the houses of the archdeacon or other dignitaries of the church now to be seen.

That this was the mansion and occasional residence of the bishops of the see, from a very early period, is certain; that it was nearly coeval with the bishopric is not improbable, but there are no documents to enable us to form an opinion as to the time of its erection. The remains of the chapel, and the wall adjoining the road, appear from the formation of the windows in the former and the masonry and structure of the latter, to be of the early Norman architecture, but from its having been in the possession of the church, we are not to expect the occurrence of events within the historian's department; accordingly, it seems, amidst the din of war and the horrors of civil commotions, to have escaped the rage of all parties, until the Puritans in the time of Cromwell, more ferocious and eager for plunder than the uncivilised savages of antiquity, laid violent hands upon it, and in 1658 sold it, together with the manor, to David Morgan of Bovingdon, in the county of Hertford, esq., for £546 7s. 1d.: it was however restored to the bishopric soon after the return of Charles the Second to the throne, and it has continued to pass with the see ever since. The Bishop, by his steward, held a court leet here once a year, and formerly also a court baron, which has long been discontinued. The whole amount of the chief rents was extremely trifling, and the manor a "thing of shreds and patches," consisting of parcels of five parishes, lying in different parts of the county: this may, perhaps, be accounted for when the mode by which the church acquired its property is considered. Other manorial and feudal rights were the fruits of conquest or matrimonial connections, after long possession resulting from the law of inheritance, or in consequence of purchases. In all these cases the possessor endeavoured to make his domains compact, and to enclose them within a circle as far as it was in his power; but the wealth of the church arose sometimes from the benefactions of the pious, and more frequently as atonements for guilt: probably, therefore, the freehold of these detached parcels was originally given by persons residing in the different parishes in which they were situate, to the bishops of the see, but not being cultivated, and of very little value in early days, they were granted

to those who undertook to improve and make them productive at small rents,¹ which in process of time were erroneously considered as chief rents, a payment which owes its origin to causes very different from these reservations to ecclesiastical dignitaries, though attended with all the peculiarities accompanying commutations for military services, such as heriots, alienations, fines, comortha, &c.

Adjoining the manor is another lordship, belonging to Sir Charles Morgan of Tredegar, called Alexanderstone and Mara mota, comprehending parcels of this and two or three other parishes, if indeed they be two distinct lordships, for they have always gone together. We leave these names whole and untouched, as we received the same, to future historians and etymologists, first premising that neither document nor tradition has preserved the memory of an Alexander the Great "the pig, the magnanimous," or the little, as the owner or occupier of this precinct, or the mansion of the same name; and though Mara be one name for Llangorse Lake, we have never heard or read of its removal to or from any part of this manor.²

ANCIENT MANSIONS.

The first mention we find of this tenement of Alexanderstone³ is that it was possessed during the latter end of the reign of Elizabeth by Mr. Registrar Bevan, after which it became the property of Mr. Gabriel Powel, one of the Powells of Cantreff, who married Mr. Bevan's first cousin, Leici William; he was in the law, and acted as deputy registrar for the archdeaconry of Brecon for several years, but it should seem that he had only a life interest in this estate, for it is afterwards found in the possession of the descendants of the above William Bevan, the registrar, two of whom sold it to Mr. William Jeffreys, of Brecon, after whose death it was purchased by Walter Wilkins, of Maeslough, esq., M.P. for the county of Radnor.

Nearly adjoining this farmhouse is another called Troed yr harn, but correctly Tref Trahaern, it having been parcel of the possessions and one of the mansions of Trahaern fychan, lord of Llangorse, who was inhumanly murdered by William de Breos, as related in the first volume; it continued in his family until some time in the latter end of the seventeenth century, when it was purchased by one of the Gwyns of Pant y corred; and subsequently possessed by John Llewelyn of Penlle'r gaer, esq., an ancestor of Sir John T. D. Llewelyn, Bart. Griffith William, who describes himself of Trewern or Wern, though his grandfather was also of Troed yr harn, died in 1683, and is buried at Glazbury; by his will he devised a tenement called Cwm coed y clas, in Glazbury, to his grandchild, Henry Williams, son of John Williams of Scynlas, who likewise inherited this estate of Wern, and from him it descended to the late Rev. John Williams, vicar of Glazbury, whose widow devised it to Miss Hughes, the proprietor in 1800.

These are the only mansions in this parish which can boast of anything like antiquity, and these soon will perhaps not be thought deserving of notice; but before quitting this part of the subject we must hazard a conjecture upon the name of another farm. Upon a high ridge, in this parish, at a short distance from the present turnpike road, is a house which in some old wills is called Stanbey, Stanby, and now Standell, a corruption of some English word, probably of Standard, from its having been the spot where the standard of Henry the Seventh was placed, when part of his troops, under the conduct of Sir Rhys ap Thomas, marched through this country, in their route from Milford Haven to join their leader at Shrewsbury.

JONES' DESCRIPTION OF THE PARISH.

The soil of the greater part of this parish differs considerably from that of Brecon on the banks of the Usk; it is more argillaceous, and consequently boggy, it is three parts out of four arable, but there are also a great number of acres in common, which of course are uncultivated, though capable of producing good crops of corn, if enclosed and manured. On the south of a common called Waun y Geifyr is seen the lime stone, which was frequently burnt here in 1800; it consisted out of one hundred parts of the following proportion of ingredients:—

Carbonate of lime	..	..	..	..	96	6
Water	..	..	..	..	0	3
Residuum, consisting of argill. silic., a portion of oxide of iron and a trace of sulphurous acid					2	9
					100	0

It is remarkable that within this small precinct could be seen, in Theo. Jones's time, specimens of the best and the worst husbandry in the county of Brecon. On the right side of the road from

¹ There were no copyholds within the manor.

² Notwithstanding the resolution we had formed when we wrote the above, an habitual propensity to nibble at old words, and an accidental conversation, in *very bad company*, suggested that though the lake may not be in the manor of Mara *Mota*, the lord of Mara may usually have held his mote court here, from whence it may have taken its name.

³ Fortasse Alud sive Alynstone, the chapel of Saint Elymod being near it.

Brecon to Hay, at the distance of about two miles and a half, were lands overrun with bushes and brambles, and so full of bogs that a heavy beast could hardly stand in them in the winter time, though there was a sufficient fall for draining them, and though with this labour and at an expense comparatively trifling, when the profit of the improvement was considered, they would produce from two to three pounds an acre; while on the other hand, adjoining the village of Llanddew, was a farm, which within a few years, though little better than a wilderness, was converted into a garden, repaying the cultivator in rational pleasure, and returning his expenditure with an annually increasing interest. Upon a common within this parish, some years back, was dug up what appeared to be a valuable species of marl, which mixed with lime would be an useful addition to the manures here laid on, but it seems that it was either destitute of a sufficient quantity of saponaceous matter, or the discovery was not followed up by perseverance and experiments, for it was hardly ever tried, nor did the labour or ingenuity of man find any other of the subterranean treasures of nature within this parish, except here and there a few quarries of hard and durable stone for building.

This is a perpetual curacy, writes Jones, augmented by Queen Anne's bounty; the tythes of the whole parish belong to the archdeacon of Brecon, who ought to nominate the curate, but a want of liberality or foresight, not only in the rector and vicar but in the prelates of the see, while that regulation was in contemplation, has created some difficulties in this case and will considerably injure the patronage of the church; prior to that event these parochial chapels, frequently built by some great man for the ease and convenience of himself and family, when the mother church was at a distance, upon his death or removal, or by the negligence or inattention of his descendants, had no salary annexed to them, and the curate was often left to a precarious support arising from the benevolence of the neighbouring inhabitants for his livelihood; in general, however, it was (as was reasonable) the duty of the proprietor of the tythes to allow a stipend to the officiating minister, this charge they were very ready to throw off their own shoulders; when, therefore, they demised them, they caused a covenant to be inserted in the lease, that the lessee should, at his own expense, find and provide a curate to serve the church, but when the augmentation took place and especially when it occurred, as has been the case in some places, three or four times over, the curacy became better than the generality of livings, the lessee then claimed to exercise that as a privilege and right which was originally a burden upon him, and the bishop, as well as the rector or vicar of the mother church, has by this means lost the nomination to several curacies of this description within the county of Brecon, as will be seen hereafter.

There is no parsonage house or glebe within this parish. It is called Landon in Pope Nicholas's taxation, and valued at £8 0s. 0d.—Tenth's 16s.

The certified value in the king's books is only £6 0s. 0d.

The register book of this parish commences in 1709, and the curacy is not in charge.

LATER PARTICULARS.

Thus far Theophilus Jones's account of this church and Llanthew parish. Major H. S. Davies, of the 52nd Light Infantry, who was stationed in Brecon about 1846, and wrote a great deal, from personal observation, regarding the antiquities of this district, thus describes the castle and church of Llanthew in his time. "A small portion," he writes, "of the castle exists, and a considerable part of the wall, in which are some remains of an early English door, and an arched fountain, apparently of Norman date, affording a supply on both sides of the wall, for the convenience of the villagers as well as the inmates of the Castle; this is still in use, and the water is of excellent purity. The church . . . comprises a nave, barbarously rebuilt with brick, a chancel, and two transepts, over which a finely proportioned Norman tower rises. The north transept has a peculiar feature, being lighted only by a long window splaying inwards, about two inches in width, like an oil hole, and admitting only sufficient light to allow of gaining the foot of a staircase, a very ponderous construction, serving as a buttress to one angle of the tower, and by which access is gained to the upper story in the tower. . . . The chancel is in its primitive state, and very rude. It is lighted in its east end by three lancet lights, which splay inward very widely. It has two windows on the north and south sides, with the addition of a very early door on the south, and an early English stone bench on each side of the door running east and west. Llanddew Church has no buttresses, but the lower portion of wall splays outwards as it approaches the foundation, and thus acts the part of one. It is to be regretted that the chancel is used as a burial place for the poor of Llanddew, as also by the inhabitants of the parish on the other side of Usk, at Christ College, which, being extra-parochial, and belonging to Llanddew (its mother church), they claim a right to carry their dead thither, their ancestors having been for ages buried at that place. It may certainly seem natural that they should wish to mingle their dust with that of many generations of their forefathers, and that their bodies should rest together at their ancient mother church of Llanddew."

The author of this description made several drawings upon the occasion of his visit, and these, with many others, relating to this part of the county, were presented to the Archæological Institute, but they are no longer available, or they would be reproduced here.

THE RESTORATIONS, AND ANCIENT STONES.

About twenty years later, Sir Stephen Glynne, Bart., visited the church, and has left this description of it: "Llanddew is a small cruciform church without aisles and with central tower. The state of the church is truly deplorable. The nave only is used for service, and partitioned off by a boarded division under west tower arch. The south transept is walled out, and was formerly used as a school, which has now been given up for want of funds. The north transept is dilapidated and without pavement. The chancel, though dirty and neglected, is capable of being improved, and not so much out of repair as the rest. The chancel is really good Early English, with the features unaltered and well preserved. The rest of the church may be also of Early English origin, but the character has been much obliterated. The tower is low, rude, and clumsy, having square belfry-window, and a painted roof of tiles. It stands upon four very plain semi-circular arches which open to the nave, chancel, and transepts. The windows of the nave are modern insertions and there are none on the north side. The south porch is large and plain. The nave is peved, and looks cold and damp. Against the partition at the east of the nave is a shabby chest, used as the altar. There is a lancet window, without glass, on the east side of the north transept, which is in a truly wretched condition, and contains the steps to the steeple. The chancel is an unusually good Early English specimen for Wales. It has on each side three lancet windows; that nearest the west, on the south side, has the sill cut partly away, forming a kind of seat. At the east end is a triplet with hood-mouldings; the centre light is the highest. The south door of the chancel has a trefoil head, with a hood of very good work. The roof of the chancel is vaulted in stone. The nave has a modern ceiling. There are hagioscopes from both transepts into the chancel. There is a small square recess in the east wall, and on the north a rude, pointed piscina. Both on the north and south are stone brackets opposite to each other. The font is now in the chancel and apparently never used: it has a large circular bowl on a quadrangular stem, with angles chamfered, and no base. The outer walls are whitewashed."

The restoration of the church was commenced in the summer of 1883, in the course of which additional proofs of its antiquity were discovered. Underneath the whitewash on the chancel walls traces of illuminations and sacred texts were discovered. On the north wall were portions of the Lord's Prayer in Welsh, the characters and spelling clearly pointing to a period not much later, if any, than that in which the Bible was translated into the Welsh language; and on the intersection of the south transept, just above the squint, were found the faded remains of a well executed fresco of an angelic form.

The Rev. J. Lane Davies made sketches and rubbings of two carved stones ornamented with lozenge-shaped devices, accompanying, on the larger fragment, the representation of a Maltese-formed cross with dilated ends to the limbs, which at some former period had been used as the top stones of the quoins carrying the coping of the east gable of the church, and which had plainly been hammer-dressed on three sides.

The larger and more perfect of these two fragments measured 30 by 14 inches, and the other, which had a portion of the right hand ornament cut away, was 30 inches by 9. The ornament of the two portions was continuous and incised to the depth of three-quarters of an inch; so that the stone, when unbroken, must have been 5 feet long by probably 18 inches wide; whence it may be conjectured either that it was an upright cross with a long stem, or a coffin-lid. As, however, the stones were at least a foot thick, the former suggestion seems the more probable. The ornament was very peculiar, and unlike any other discovered in Wales, bearing a slight resemblance, in the numerous lozenge and square spaces into which it was divided, to the Llwoes Cross. The form of the cross, in the upper portion of the larger piece, was also very peculiar; the ends of the limbs being marked with triangular space occupying the place of titulas was marked with slender diagonal and straight lines, forming a smaller series of lozenges. Between this and the top of the cross was a space formed by a trough cut to receive the coping. As the sculpture on the smaller portion was *across* the natural bedding of the stone, whilst it was *on* it on the larger piece, it is probable, as suggested to Mr. J. O. Westwood by Mr. J. R. Cobb, that the stone was originally sculptured on each side, thus supporting the idea that it was originally an upright pillar or churchyard cross.

Mr. Cobb sent Mr. Westwood rubbings of another stone which had been built into the wall of the south transept which, from its character, has been supposed to be pre-Norman. This stone was oval in shape, 20 inches long by 12 wide; its face very uneven and scaly, clearly not having been

dressed or rubbed before the cross was cut, as the lines of the latter are continued over the inequalities. The cross was very plain, and formed of double parallel lines surrounded by double circular lines, resembling that of the Trallong stone. The lower part of the stem of the cross seems to have been cut off, and within one of the lower spaces between the arms of the cross was an inscription consisting of only six letters, which, however, are paleographically of considerable interest. The first two letters resembled two *y* *y*; but Mr. Westwood considered them to represent a *v*. The next tall letter was joined by a short oblique stroke to the outer line of the second *y*, and being conjoined with it forms, as he believed, a capital *A*. This was followed by an *L* with the bottom stroke oblique. Then follow four straight strokes which are somewhat blurred in the lower part. These seem to represent *MI*, followed by a curved stroke and oblique dash, which it is presumed are a terminal $e = \sqrt{AL}me$. The letters are formed of slender, simple, incised lines about two-thirds of an inch long. Mr. Westwood supposed they may be of the eleventh or twelfth century.

Mr. Cobb also sent Mr. Westwood a drawing of another interesting stone which, *inverted*, was placed as a finial at the point of the east gable; but which, when examined, must evidently have been used as a piscina, being too small for a font. The larger, upper part (on which it rested upon the gable) was quadrangular, being 9 inches square, with a cable-moulding round the top edge, and another similar cable about 6 inches lower. The lower portion of the capital, as it might be called, was 3 inches deep, formed into wide scallops; and the basal portion, or stem of the structure, was quadrilobed, measuring 7 inches across the widest part, and 5 inches between the sunk part of the lobes. The upper part had a well formed cistern, 5 inches square, gradually diminishing to a hole $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, which passed out on a curve to the back, or apparently unsculptured side, at the junction of the capital with the basal pillar. As placed, reversed, on the gable, the cistern and hole had no function whatever. Three of the semi-circular lobes of the support plainly showed sculpture, but were very much weathered. The present piscinal recess in the chancel is very ill formed, but it is pretty clear that it was once square. If square, it would hold this stone; but the drain in the stone would not fit. It may, however, be further suggested that this was a holy water stoup, or was connected with the font, and used in the office of holy baptism as a receptacle for the water which had escaped from the swann of the baptised infant—a use of which other analogous instances have been traced by Miss E. Swann, niece of Mr. Westwood.

The chancel, transepts, and tower were restored in 1894 at a cost of £1,120, and in 1900 the nave, which had long been disused, was also restored at a cost of about £500. In 1899 the parish received a grant of £40 from the Incorporated Society for Church Building on condition that all sittings were made free to the parishioners. The pulpit is of oak and was put in the church during the Rev. W. Howell's incumbency to the "memory of Giraldu Cambrensis, Archdeacon of Brecon 1175-1203." The lectern, likewise, is of oak, and was the gift of Mrs. Jones, of Oaklands, and is inscribed "To the glory of God and in loving memory of Edward Jones, of Oaklands, in this parish, and Snatchwood Park, Monmouthshire, born Dec. 4, 1836, and entered into rest Sept. 4, 1903"; and the Bible and Prayer Books were the gift of the same family. The font is in the north transept, which is also used as a vestry.

THE PRESENT MONUMENTS.

There were but few monumental stones in the church when we visited it in 1907; but piled together in a corner of the churchyard were several stones which had been hung on the walls within or without the building. The stones within the walls include the following: "Near this tablet lie the remains of Thomas Morgans, late of Velinnewydd, in the parish of Llandevalley, who died Feb. 27, 1814, aged 34 years; also of James, son of the abovenamed Thomas Morgans, who died Sept. 9, 1813, aged 18 months."

"In memory of David, son of David Williams, late of Llanfrynach, by Ann his wife, who died in 1823; also of Mary Ann, dau. of Roger Williams, of Gwernuaf, in the parish of Crickhowell, by Ann his wife, the abovenamed, who died 1825, aged 11 months."

"Sacred to the memory of Jenkin Jones, of Newcastle, in this village, gent., who died April 7, 1824, aged 42; and to Mary Ann Jones, his wife, who died January 24, 1845, aged 64."

"John Williams, gent., of Upper Penwain, in this parish, who died February 5th, 1855, aged 59." Also, "Roger Williams, late of Penwain uchaf, in this parish, gent., who died April 21, 1833, aged 73; and Alice his wife, died 3rd June, 1840, aged 73."

"Opposite are the remains of Thomas Jones, late officer of excise, who departed this life at Gwarcae, Feb. 10th, 1864, aged 64." Near by, there is a stone "To the memory of Ann Davies, who died at Old Castle, in this village, September 25, 1848, aged 60."

The stones already referred to as lying loose in the churchyard are—"In memory of John Morgan, of this parish, who died January 7, 1786, aged 36"; also of his son, an infant.

"Underneath lie the remains of Robert Davies, late of Cwmnant y moch, in this parish, who died January 8, 1819, aged 83," and of his wife Alice, who died 1822, aged 74.

"Underneath lie the remains of Roger Jones, late of Penwain uchaf, in this parish, gent., who died August the 7th, 1805, aged 81. Also underneath lie the remains of Elinor, daughter of Roger Williams, of Pen y wain, in this parish, gent., who died Oct. 6, 1821, aged 28."

"Underneath lie the remains of William, son of John Jones, late of Court, in this village, who died June 25, 1794, aged 2 years." Also of the above John Jones, who died Nov. 13, 1808, aged 62, and Lewis his son, who died June 18, 1793, aged 34; and also Elizabeth, relict of John Jones (daughter of John Jones, Esq., of Heolfanog), who died March 26, 1798, aged 72 years.

"Underneath lie the remains of John, son of David Thomas, Brecon, who died June 9, 1801," and also an infant of the same family.

"To the memory of Margaret, relict of John Jones, late of the Swan Inn, in this village, maltster, who died Dec. 10, 1813, aged 67."

The modern monuments standing in the churchyard are to a son of the Handley family of Ffynonau; the Price Williamses of Gwernvale, Crickhowell; the Williamses of the Wern; and near the porch, in a large railed space, is the burial ground of the late vicar, the Rev. J. Lane Davies, and members of his family. Mr. Davies was vicar of Llanddew with Battle from 1862 to 1903, when he died on October 4. This burial ground contains the remains of his first wife Phœbe, who died in 1875; John Lane, his eldest son, died 1881; Mary, eldest daughter, died 1869; Adeline, died January 21, 1875; Mary Lane, died March 10, 1892. There are other memorials to the Powells of Alexanderstone, Daviseses and Lewises of Gwarcae, and of Pentwyn, Joneses of Upper Talwen, &c. But of the old sepulchral stones, not a trace remains; most, if not all, of them were broken up between the years 1820 and 1868.

There is a small Calvinistic Methodist Chapel in the village, erected in 1866; and from the Records of Quarter Sessions we learn that one of the earliest licenses to preach was granted to a minister in this parish.

A substantial vicarage house was built within the old Palace grounds about the year 1869. The net income is now £215; from 1740 to 1817 it was augmented by a sum of £1,000 from Queen Anne's Bounty. The population, which in 1895 was 319, had dwindled to 183 in 1905—several substantial houses and cottages being in ruins; there were, 25 years ago, three public-houses in the village, but there are none now.

There are several large farmhouses in the parish, and Oaklands, which is a well-appointed country residence, is now the property and occasional residence of the Joneses of Snatchwood, in Monmouthshire; Mrs. Jones, the widow of the late owner, being a sister to Rees Williams, Esq., J.P., of Aberskyr. Peytindu, already referred to in conjunction with Peytingwyn and Peytinglas, once the property of Sir David Gan's father, was a few years ago but an indifferent farmhouse residence; but recently the property was acquired by Mr. David Jones, of Dowlais, a Breconshire gentleman who made a fortune in trade in South Wales, and the house was considerably enlarged and made into a country seat. Mr. David Jones has since been added to the Commission of the Peace for the county by the Lord Lieutenant.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1397.—		Guy de Mona. Lord Bishop.	1741.—The bishop of Saint		Thomas Lewis.
1572.—The Bishop of Saint		David's.	David's		
			1783.—The lessees of the tythes		Samuel Evans.
1662.—1		Andrew Watkins.	1836.—		Walter Powell.
1683.—Ditto.		John Rice, ²	1838.—		T. B. Evans.
1723.—		Lewis Morgan.	1846.—		Morgan Jones, B.A.
1729.—		Samuel Jones.	1862.—The Archdeacon of		J. Lane Davies.
1736.—		David Morgan.	Brecon.		
			1903.—Ditto.		William Howell.

¹ This living was vacant six years during the rebellion in the time of Charles the First. See Walker's Sufferings of Clergy.

² He married one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Thomas Draper of Brecon, who died in 1676. This Mr. Draper kept his town and country house; the present inhabitants will perhaps be surprised when they hear that the latter was situated in the Street.

GARTHBRENGY, or GALLTBRENGY,

IS according to Adams's Index Villaris, in latitude 52 3, long. 3 20, west, which is nearly if not perfectly correct. The first syllable of the two names above mentioned differ very little in signification, both mean an ascent, but the Allt or Gallt is generally a woody steep; the remaining two syllables are not so easily defined. The parish is mostly on sidelong ground and rises rather abruptly from the banks of the Honddu, and on the north and north east of the church, which is surrounded with a few straggling cottages, is a hill or high ridge. Garthbreny or Galltbreny may therefore mean Gallt y bryn gu, the woody ascent to Mount Pleasant, the lower part having been in all probability covered with underwood; this will in some measure remove the difficulty, but we are by no means satisfied with the definition and only give it thus until a clearer can be discovered.

The church, dedicated to Saint David, is situated upon an eminence, and is overlooked by a mountain still higher on the north; it consists of a nave and an aisle on the north, equal in breadth to the church, the roof panelled fret-wise, divided from the former by three pillars and as many gothic arches, but the floor is of earth and uneven, the pews are irregular, decayed and broken, the church is in part only flagged, the stones being frequently removed, the vile custom of burying within the walls still continuing here as at Llanddew. The nave is barn roofed, and the pulpit, in which as is commonly the case in our country churches, the minister stands *in his own light* with his back to the window, is the section of a meal tub; near it are the steps to the rood loft, now taken down, and not far from the pulpit is a little bell, formerly rung on the elevation of the host in the time of mass; this was not in general affixed to the church, but was carried in the hand before the host when administered to a sick person.¹

On the west end is a tower, in which are four small but musical bells. The chancel is in tolerable repair, and within the communion rails are some grave-stones to the memory of the Gwyns of Pant y corred. On one, "Here lieth the body of Thomas Gwyn of Pant y corred, gent., who died 10th December, 1737, *at 50.*" Next stone, "Ann Gwyn, wife of Thomas Gwyn of Pant y corred, and daughter of Levis Havard of Senni, gent.: they had issue Thomas, Samuel and Edward. Anne Gwyn, daughter of the above named Thomas by Margaret his wife, died August 27, 1757, *at 29.* Thomas Gwyn of Pant y corred, junior, *obit* 1730, *at 26*, he left issue Thomas, Anne and Catherine. Thomas Gwyn, son of the above, died ——— 1749, aged ———." There is no table of charitable donations here, nor do we find that any lands or sums of money have been given or bequeathed towards the support of the poor of this parish.

THE PEYTINS AND THE GAMS.

The whole of Garthbreny at one time or other, and indeed (as before observed) the whole of the county has been in the possession of the family of the Gams, but the mansion and principal residence of the valorous ancestor, from whom they derive their name, was at Peytyn Gwin, in this parish, although upon his being obliged to quit Breconshire, it is probable his younger brother Gwilym, purchased it from him, and his descendants, for some generations, inherited it, until it afterwards returned to Sir David Gam's, as will be seen by and bye. This tenement, together with two others adjoining, called Peytyn du and Peytyn gläs were purchased, say our heralds, by Llewelyn, the father of Sir David Gam, for three hundred marks, from William Peyton, descended from the knight of that name, to whom Bernard Newmarch gave the manor from him called Peyton, and corruptly, *Peytyn* gwyn, du, and gläs, signifying white, black and green, and being intended to describe the three farms by some variation in the colour of the soil, either real or imaginary. That Sir David's father purchased the Peytyns is almost certain, but if it was from one of the Peytons, the latter had long before this parted with his patronymic surname. Sir Richard Peyton, as far as appears by the short and imperfect pedigree of this family now remaining, had issue only one son, William Peyton, the last who retained that name, his son, being called Morgan *William* of Devynock. It is impossible that this William Peyton could have sold these farms to Llewelyn, as he lived near three hundred years before him: it is true another William Peyton, or Gulielmus Pictaviensis, occurs about the middle of the twelfth century as a witness to a grant of one of the Baskervilles to the Priory of Brecon, but still he is much too early to be the vendor of this property, and we are inclined to think either that he was of a branch of this family, who settled in Herefordshire soon after Bernard's expedition into Wales, or else that he was of a different stock, and that Pictaviensis Poicetevn, or de Poicotu, was only descriptive of the country from whence both came; for it is clear, from the difference of the

¹ Collectanea curiosa, vol. II. p. 183.

arms, that the present Peytons, baronets of Isleham, in Cambridgeshire, are not from the same *stirps* with our Peytons, the one bearing immemorably, sable, a cross engrailed *Or*, whereas our Welsh adventurer and his posterity always bore vert, a hind lodged argent.

The probability is, that one of the Havards of Pontwylm, the powerful neighbours of the Peytons, obtained the property from the latter, either by intermarriage or purchase, or perhaps by violence, for we find by the MS. genealogies in our possession that Howel fychan of Ffrwdgrech married Joan the daughter of William Havard, and their grandson is described as Howel of Peytyn glâs, as is also his son Gwilym, whose daughter Jennet married John Gwyn Griffith, one of the descendants of Einon Sais, the ancestor of Llewelyn and Sir David Gam.

SIR DAVID GAM.

Hence, then, it appears, that one of the Peytyns at least was in the possession of this family long prior to the birth of Llewelyn, who therefore must either have purchased the Peytyns from one of his own relations, or else if any one of the descendants of Sir Richard Peyton sold them, he must have taken a Welsh name and had long lost his Norman appellation; be this as it may, David ap Llewelyn, though the third son of the purchaser, certainly resided during the early part of his life at Peytyn Gwin: the precise year of his birth cannot be ascertained. Pennant says his competitor Glyndwr was born in 1350: Sir David was probably some years his junior, or he would have been of too advanced a period in life to have appeared as a warrior at Agincourt in 1415, when personal strength was of essential consequence in battle. At the same time it must be observed that it is probable he could not have been under fifty-five or sixty years of age at this memorable victory, for he had several children and even grandchildren at the time he embarked in the expedition to France. He was athletic in person, his hair red, and he squinted, from whence he was called Dafydd Gam. Gam generally means crooked,¹ but from long habit and a perversion of the language, when applied to the person, it implies any defect in the limbs or features. Powel, in his *History of Wales*, has taken care not only to record this deformity, but he wishes his readers to believe that nature has perpetuated it, and that all his family continue to squint to this day!! It is unnecessary to deny so absurd an assertion; from portraits of some of the family still remaining, it appears that so far from being distinguished by this unfortunate obliquity of vision, many of them were remarkably handsome and their features perfectly regular. It is, however, not a little extraordinary that the Welsh should, in this instance, as they have in many others, seize upon this peculiarity, and preserve it as a memento in the family, of the imperfection of the person of their ancestor; yet thus it is perpetually, and while the common names of Morgan, Thomas, Gwilym, &c., are ringing the changes and shifting places continually, the names of Gwyn, Llwyd, Coch, Cam, fair, grey headed, red headed, squinting, &c., remain steadily in the respective families to which they have been applied, as long as they remain. Nay, we have an instance where even a filthy disease has conferred a surname which the descendants of the person afflicted seem to feel no anxiety or wish to conceal.²

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE OWEN GLYNDWR.

Mr. Carte correctly observes that Sir David Gam held his estate of the *honor* of Hereford, that he had long been in the service of Bolingbroke and was firmly attached to his interest; when it is recollected that Henry the Fourth was earl of Hereford and lord of Brecon in the time of Sir David Gam, we shall not be at a loss to discover the motives which governed his political conduct, but the first public act of his life consigns to his memory a load of infamy, which his death will barely remove. Instead of attacking the enraged lion of Gwynedd in the field, instead of hurling defiance against his adversary, in audible language and in open day, he came like a midnight assassin to the court of Glyndwr, and sought to serve his employer by removing a troublesome insurgent at the expense of his own character and future happiness.

This iniquitous attempt was made in 1402, when Owen was holding his parliament at Machynlleth in Montgomeryshire. "At this meeting (says Mr. Pennant) he narrowly escaped assassination. Among the chieftains who came to support his title was a gentleman called David Gam or the *one eyed*; notwithstanding he had married a sister of Glyndwr, yet such a furious hatred had he conceived to his cause that he appeared at the assembly with the secret and treacherous resolution of murdering his prince and brother-in-law. Carte says he was instigated to it by Henry, but gives no authority; party zeal or hopes of reward, probably determined him to so nefarious a deed: he was a fit instrument for the purpose, a man of unshaken courage, which was afterwards put to the proof, in the following reign, at the battle of Agincourt."

¹ From hence (probably) the vulgar English phrase of Game Leg, meaning a crooked or bandy leg.

² Thus Llewelyn, the son of William, the son of Howel, surnamed the *scabby*, subscribes himself Llewelyn ap Gwilym ap Hywel y *grach*, and Sir David Gam's wife is always called, in the pedigrees, Gwenllian the daughter of Hywel y *grach*, by which no mark of disrespect is intended to the memory of her father.

In this account there is too much truth, and the tale, unfortunately for the fame of Sir David Gam, is too well attested by Powell and other authors to be denied, but Pennant is incorrect, when he says he had but one eye, and as we should give even the devil his due, he is equally mistaken, when he tells us that Glyndwr was his prince or his brother-in-law; he owed him no allegiance, nor was he in anywise of affinity or connected with him: his journey to Machynlleth, therefore, must have been to offer assistance and not to do homage. Sir David Gam married a daughter of a gentleman of considerable landed property, resident in Elvel, on the banks of the Wye, in Radnorshire; Glyndwr's wife was a daughter of Sir David Hamner, whose only sister, Morfydd, married *David ap Ednyfed Gam*, a North Wales nobleman, descended from Tudor Trevor. The courage of Sir David Gam is unquestionable, yet Mr. Pennant was wrong when for that reason he supposed him a fit instrument for the purposes of assassination, and though Sir David was prevailed upon to debase himself by this dark design, in general a brave man, who trembles only at the thoughts of a cowardly act, is very ill calculated to assist in the perpetration of a midnight murder.

RELEASE OF DAVID GAM FROM PRISON.

That this foul plot was discovered no one will lament. David was seized, imprisoned, and would have met with the fate he deserved, if he had not been saved by the intercession of some of Owen's best friends: he continued in confinement until 1412; upon the 14th June, in which year, a commission issued from the crown, directed to the king's well beloved esquire, Llewelyn ap Howel, father of his Majesty's well beloved esquire, "David Gamme," holding of the crown in the lordship of Brech., John Tiptoft, then seneschal of Brech, and William Botiller, receiver, reciting his having been taken prisoner, "by Owen de Glendourdy, rebel and traitor," empowering them or either of them to treat for his ransom and to exchange for him any *Welshmen*, adherents, favourers, succourers or assistants of the said Owen.¹ The commissioners, it appears, succeeding in releasing the king's well beloved esquire, David Gamme, upon his engaging (as it is said) not to bear arms or oppose the measures of Owen. For this favour he showed the same sense of gratitude as criminals frequently entertain for those who have saved their lives; attacking the partizans of that chieftain wherever he met them, and betraying his designs to the English monarch whenever he could discover them. This conduct drew down upon him the vengeance of his insulted and abused adversary, who, entering Breconshire with a body of his troops, would probably have prevented David Gam from molesting him in future if he had met him; fortunately for the lord of Peytyn gwin he was not at home when the enemy arrived. As a punishment for repeated injuries received from him, Owen burnt his house to the ground; after which, meeting with one of David's tenants on the road in his return, he tauntingly told him,

O' well di wr coch gam,
Yn 'mfodyn ei gynigwen,²
D'wed y bod hi dan y lan,
A nod y glo ar ei phen.

If a squinting red hair'd knave,
Meet thee, and perchance should crave
To know what fate his house befell,
Say that the cinder-mark will tell.

DAVID KILLS RICHARD FAWR OF SLWECH.

David Gam had no sooner procured his liberty, and been released from one prison, than he seems anxious to deserve commitment to another; for shortly after he was liberated by Owen, Hugh Thomas³ tells us (though he places this event at too early a period) "he slew his kinsman Richard fawr, lord of Slwech, in an unhappy quarrel in the *high street* of Brecon, for which he was obliged to leave this country." From this time forward we know nothing further of the lord of Peytyn gwin, except that notwithstanding the crime he had committed, the authority of the house of Lancaster was sufficient to protect him for a short time in Breconshire, while he raised a body of men for the service of his sovereign, when he embarked with him in 1415, in his expedition to France, and here such a blaze of glory bursts around him as he resigns his boisterous existence, that the English historians are dazzled with its lustre, and the Welsh have agreed to wink at his vices. Sir Walter Raleigh has an eulogium upon his bravery and exploits in the field of Agincourt, in which he prefers his greatness of soul to that of Mago, and compares him to Hannibal; while his countrymen, in consideration of this day's good services, have unanimously determined to forget his treachery towards Glyndwr, and to pardon the murder of Richard fawr.

KNIGHTED ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

His reply to the king, on reviewing the French army, his courage and gallantry in the battle, in which he is said to have saved the king's life by the loss of his own, his son in law's, and his

¹ Rymer, Fœd. tom. VIII. fo. 753.

² Gynigwen, literally the white horned, it is generally given as the description of a sheep; here, perhaps, it alluded to the external appearance of the house, the roof of which, like that of Newton, formed a kind of cone, with a stack of white chimnies at the apex, which may be supposed to have some resemblance to an exalted horn.

³ MS. essay towards the History of Breconshire. Bodl. Lib. Oxon.

kinsman's death, are so well known, that it would be superfluous to repeat them. Hugh Thomas says he was knighted for his exploits after the battle, but that he soon died of his wounds; the general opinion is, that he died during the heat of the action, and that the king knighted him as he was expiring in the field.¹ His own companions, in glory and in death, were Roger Vaughan of Bredwardine in Herefordshire, and Walter Lloyd, more correctly Watkin Llwyd of Brecknock, by which the lordship or territory and not the town is meant. Sir Roger Vaughan had married Gwladis, the only daughter of Sir David Gam, by whom he had eight children, one of whom, Sir Roger Vaughan of Tretower, the third son, though very young, was, we are inclined to think, in this battle, not only because he alone, of all the children, received the honour of knighthood, but his connexions in life shew him to have associated with the heroes of Agincourt, for he married for his second wife Margaret, daughter of James Lord Audley, slain at Bloreheath in 1458, who was certainly in this expedition. The grandfather of this Margaret, Dugdale tells us in his *Baronage*, was associated in 5th Henry Fourth for one year with Richard Beauchamp earl of Warwick, in the defence of the castle, town and lordship of Brecon against Glyndwr, having one hundred men at arms and three hundred archers on horseback assigned him for that service, the men at arms being each paid twelve pence a day, and the archers six pence.²

FIRST EARL OF PEMBROKE.

Sir Roger Vaughan of Bredwardine's widow, Gwladis, married secondly Sir William Thomas of Raglan, another of the combatants at Agincourt, whom the king created a knight banneret for his bravery, by whom she had issue William, who took by royal command the surname of Herbert, first earl of Pembroke, Sir Richard Herbert and other children.

The other companion of Sir David Gam in this fight was Watkin Llwyd of Marchogtir, now called Ynis y marchog, the knight's land or the knight's Isle near Trecastle; he married Agnes daughter of John or Jenkin³ ap Walter Sais or Walter hen, the grandfather of Sir Roger Vaughan of Bredwardine, who was therefore first cousin to the wife of Watkin Llwyd. They were also descended from the same common ancestor, Cradoc Fraich fras, through the line of Bledin ap Maenarch and his grandson Trahaern fychan, lord of Llangorse, who was murdered by William de Breos in 1197. Watkin, the son of David, the son of Rhys, the son of Hywel, the son of Trahaern fychan, is described as of Marchogtir, and married Elizabeth the daughter of Philpot Walbeoff of Llanhamlach, by whom he had issue Jeuan, the father of Watkin, the hero of Agincourt, called Llwyd from his grey hair, but who otherwise, according to the common custom of Wales, would have been known by the name of Watkin ap Jeuan or Watkin Bevan.

SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE FAMILY OF GAM.

Whether Henry the Fifth rewarded the family of Sir David Gam with something more substantial than this title, which fled almost as soon as it was conferred, does not appear, it is however probable that the king did not forget his obligations to his gallant subject and defender, and that he either granted his descendants territorial possessions or bestowed a sum of money upon them adequate to their wants; for they are immediately seen rising in importance, increasing opulence and numbers for several succeeding centuries. But the anecdotes preserved of them will with greater propriety be introduced in the several parishes where the principal branches settled after their dispersion from the Peytyns, which continued in the descendants of Gwilym, a younger brother of Sir David, for some generations. Evan, the great grandson of this Gwilym, is described to have been of Peytin gwyn, and is said, together with William Powel dew of Castlemadoc, to be the only persons resident in Breconshire in the latter end of the fifteenth century, who were possessed of lands to the value of one hundred pounds per annum. He had issue two daughters, Jane married first Watkin Vaughan of Clás, who had issue by the above Jane, William Vaughan of Tregunter and Peytin gwyn, sheriff of Breconshire in 1577, and described of the latter place; he had issue one son and one daughter, the latter of whom was the second wife of Thomas the son of Edward Gwyn of Glyntawe.

By the marriage of Edward Games of Newton with Anne, daughter of Sir William Vaughan of Porthaml, son of Watkin Vaughan of Talgarth above named, upon failure of Jane's male issue by the second husband, the estate of Peytin gwyn as well as Peytin du, by some family arrangements and settlements, became the property of the Gameses of Newton, the lineal descendants of Sir David Gam,

¹ Theo. Jones says he had hoped to have given the public a print of Sir David Gam, from a picture which the tradition of the family pronounced to be his portrait; but, unfortunately, it turned out to be a portrait of Sir John Games, the sixth in descent from him.

² John, Lord Audley, had the castle of Llandrovry assigned to him for the same purpose, in the preceding year, as will be seen by reference to the first vol. It is difficult to comprehend why there should be the inequality above stated, in the pay of the soldiers, and why the foot should have a larger remuneration than the horse.

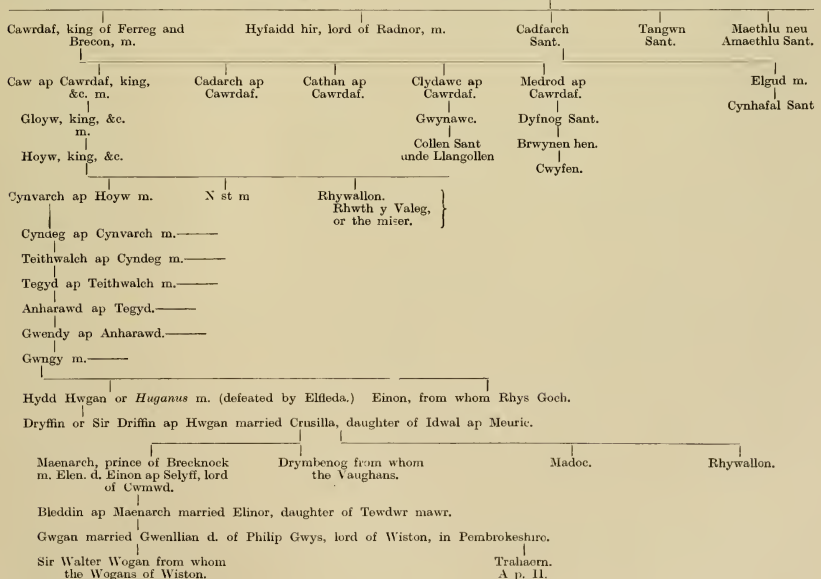
³ This John or Jenkin is omitted in some pedigrees.

and from them the latter came to the possession of Miss Walker, who married Richard Jenkins of Hensol, the grandfather of the late Lord Talbot, who sold it to Mr. Longfellow¹ of the Lion Inn, in Brecon, who likewise purchased Peytyn gwyn from Mr. Awbrey, to which family we presume it came by marriage. Peytyn glâs had been long alienated by one of the family, and of late years it has belonged to the Prytherchs of Llandeivaioig, one of whom devised it to Thomas Price of Builth, esq, who possessed it about 1810. Talwen fawr and Talwen fach, two farms in this parish, which it is remarkable are copyholds and subject to the jurisdiction of the hallmote court, of the manor of Brecon, likewise continued with the house of Newton until Hoo Games mortgaged and afterwards surrendered them to Jane, widow of Thomas Davies, alderman of Brecon, who was the mother of Maudlen, the wife and afterwards the widow of Thomas Penry of Brecon, which Maudlen in 1673 devised them to her son Rees Penry, who had issue a son and two daughters; he died in 1683, and gave his lands in Garthbreny to trustees to be sold for raising portions for his daughters. The Talwens are afterwards found in the beginning of the seventeenth century in the possession of the Awbreys, how or in what right does not appear, but we are inclined to think that under the will of this Mr. Penry they were sold to Rowland Hughes, who married Mariana, the daughter of Dr. Timothy Awbrey, the issue of this marriage died young; their mother married secondly John William Awbrey, to whom she brought (we presume, under the settlement on her first marriage) these farms. William Awbrey, clerk, their son, sold them to Walter Jeffreys of Brecon, esq.

I.

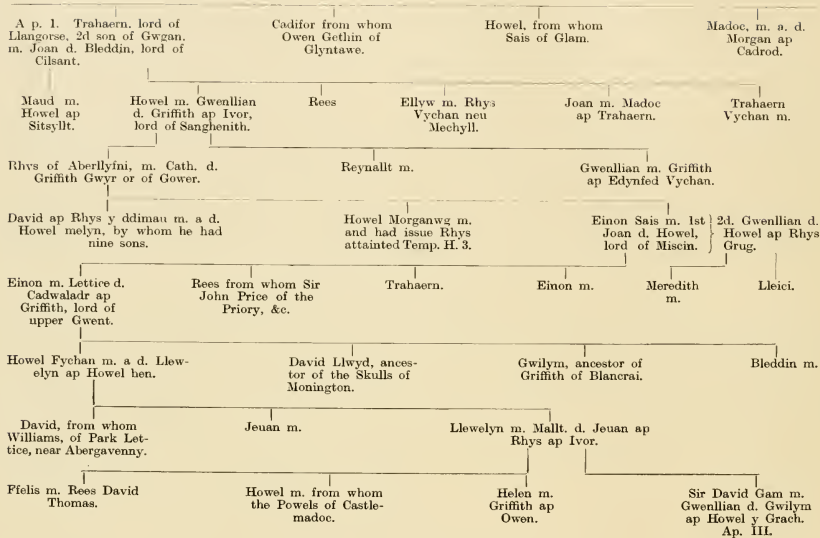
GAMES OF PEYTIN, NEWTON, ABERBRAN, BUCKLAND, &c.

CRADOC FRAICH-FRAS or Cradoc of the strong arm, lord of Gloucester, knight of the dolorous tower and of the round table, to king Arthur, son of Ller Merini or Molwynen, by Gwen or Gwennlian, daughter of Brychan Brecheiniog m. Tegau'r Vron, daughter of king Pelynor (fortasse Pyll Mawr).



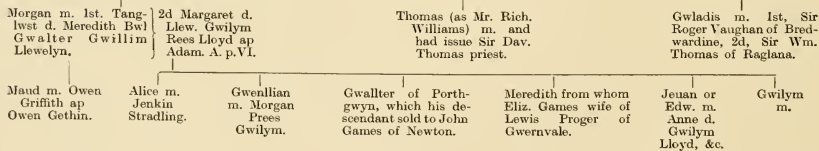
¹ The great and small tithes of Garthbreny were in 1805 offered in the *Cambrian* newspaper for sale for the term of three young lives; and these tithes were then rented at £94 10s. 6d. yearly by Mr. Thomas Longfellow.

II.



III.

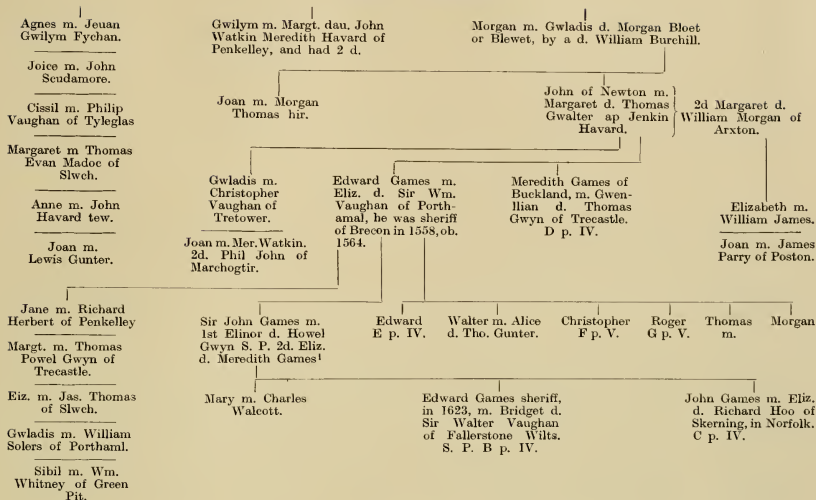
A p. II.
SIR DAVID GAM.
m. as before.



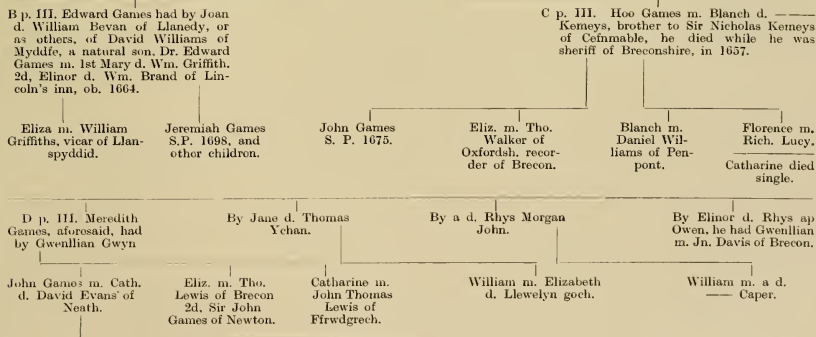
(See next page.)

Sir David Gam had also, besides those mentioned on preceding page, five junior brothers. Roger, who married, but does not appear to have left issue; Griffith, from whom are descended the BOWENS of Llywel; Richard, Gwilym, from whom the VAUGHANS of Petyin Gwyn and Howel; he is also said by some pedigrees to have had an elder brother next to Helen, who was ancestor to Jones, of Llangatock, Crickhowell.

(Continued from previous page.)



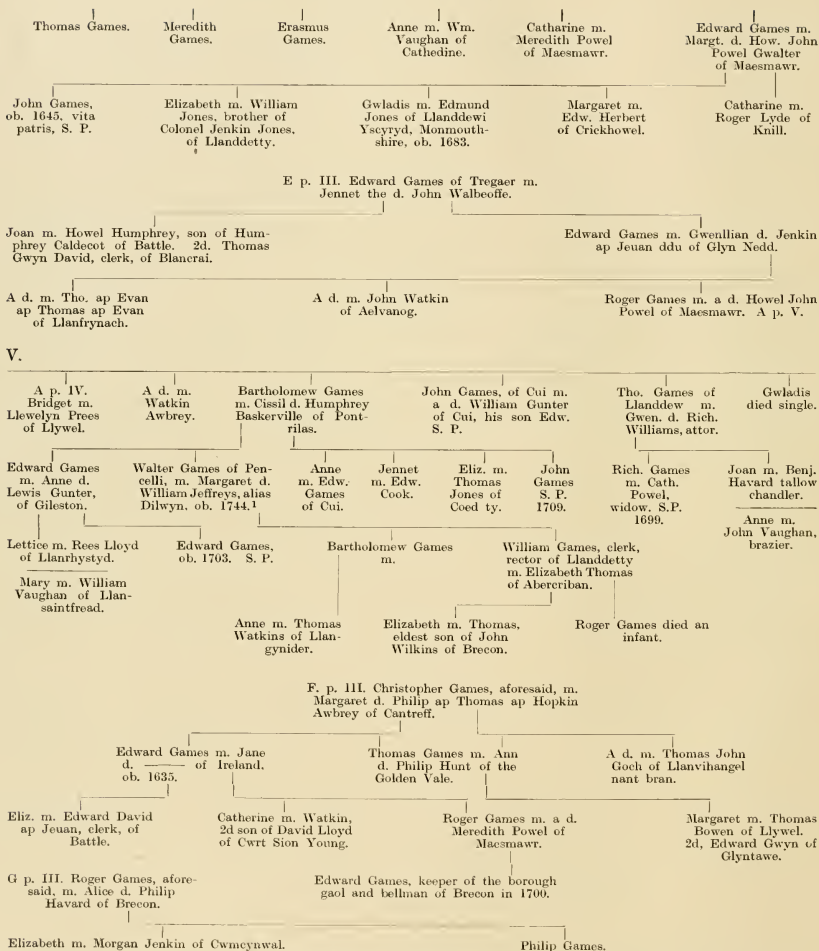
IV.



(See next page.)

¹ He was appointed escheator for the Crown of Breconshire, 1625. (Rymer's Fadera, tom. 18). He married, thirdly, Catharine Bradshaw of Prestegne, by whom he had no issue.

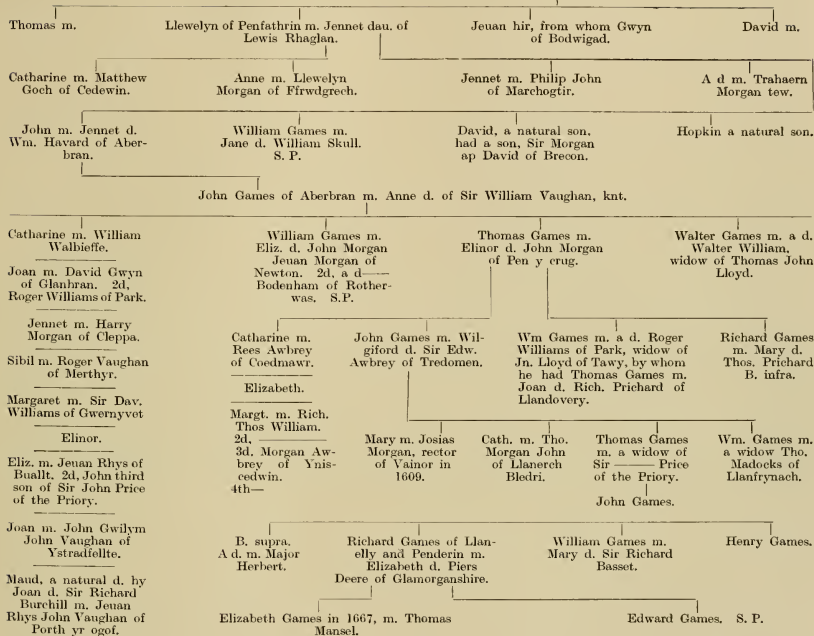
(Continued from previous page.)



¹ Walter Games of Pencelli had, besides the above, four daughters, Jennet married Edward Havard of Pen y goffordd; Margaret and Anne died single, and Gwladis m. Howel Jones of Coedty.

VI.

A p. III. Morgan ap Sir David Gam had by his second wife,



Jones, in his corrections, writes "The fifth of the Games pedigree, Lettice the daughter of Edward Games of Tregær is said to have married Rees, instead of Richard Lloyd of Mabws. The abbreviations of Rees and Richard in Welsh MSS. are nearly similar."—EDWIN DAVIES.

Pant y cored, or the Dingle of the Weir, was another part of the property of the Gameses. Upon the second marriage of Thomas Gwyn, son of Edward Gwyn of Glyntawe, with a daughter of Thomas Vaughan of Peytyn glâs,¹ she brought with her Pant y cored, which has continued in this branch of the Gwyns ever since, and upon failure of the male line, it came to Mrs. Llewelyn of Ynis y gerwn, and from her to her son, Mr. Llewelyn of Penlle'r-gaer.

The Gwyns of this house, as well as of Glyntawe, always wrote their names with a single *n* and without the *e* final; this addition was made, it is said, by Judge Gwyn of Garth, between whom and the first Gwyn of Pant y cored a violent quarrel arose: the former bore as his arms, sometimes those of Elystan Glodrydd, gules, a lion rampant, regardant *Or*, and sometimes those of Cadwgan his son, argent, three boar's heads erased sable, the crest always a lion rampant regardant, supporting between his four paws a boar's head all *Or*; motto, in a scroll on both sides of the wreath, *Fortitudo animi prudentia in periculis*. Gwyn of Pant y cored, upon some affront or insult from his opponent, thrust the sword or dagger of Brychan through the head of Cadwgan, assuming for his crest a sword in pale, with the point upwards, piercing a boar's head, and adopting the motto of *Vim vi repellere licet*. Upon the marriage of Howel Gwyn of Brynoie with the judge's daughter, the dispute was forgotten, and the latter used his father in law's mode of spelling the name, and his adversary's crest and motto, which have been borne and taken by all the family ever since.

The Peytyns, as well as Pant y cored, are now converted into farm houses: there are two or three situations upon the former tenements, which, according to the late Brunonian phrase, have great *capability* for building and improvements, and the woody gnolls rising above the banks of the Honddu, make, even in their present state a very picturesque appearance; this river bounds the parish through its whole length on the westward, and for the principal part of its course here, is adorned with what a tourist calls a *stripe* of vegetation, which in common parlance means meadow land; indeed there is throughout this parish rather a larger proportion of pasture than in the adjoining one of Llanddew; at the same time, that by far the greatest part of the cultivated land is arable, and though some butter and cheese be made here and a few calves reared, the principal dependence of the farmer is upon his corn and his sheep.

The prebendary of the prebend of Garthbrenny, in the collegiate church of Christ in Brecon, nominates as we apprehend to this perpetual curacy, augmented by Queen Anne's Bounty; at the same time it will be seen in the list of incumbents that the bishop of the see has frequently exercised that right; the prebendary has also the tythes of this parish, which he demises at the reserved rent of ten pounds per annum. There is no parsonage house or glebe here. It is called Karpngy in Pope Nicholas's taxation, and valued at £3 6s. 8d. per annum, tenths 6s. 8d.

Certified value, in the time of Queen Anne, £10 0s. 0d. The register book commences in 1653 and the curacy is not in charge.

LATER PARTICULARS.

From a large board, now lying loose in that portion of the tower used as a vestry, we learn that the church was "re-built in the years 1833 and 34," when it contained 165 sittings, of which, in consequence of a grant from the "Incorporated Society for promoting the enlargement, building, and repairing of churches and chapels," 85 of that number were declared "free and unappropriated for ever." The board gives the "Rev. David Price, minister, and William Powell, Panty-cored and John Williams, Drainduon, churchwardens." At this period the aisle on the north referred to by Jones, was not rebuilt, but the arches were allowed to remain; nor was the tower restored.

Previous to 1874, the church had again fallen into disrepair, and another restoration was effected. The present church consists of a chancel and nave, with south porch and tower. The arches are still visible, and windows have been inserted in the recesses. None of the windows are of stained glass. The chancel is tiled, and in the centre of the floor space in the choir is a fine monumental stone; it is to the Gwyns, and is referred to by Jones, but the inscription is not correctly given by him. The inscription reads: "Here lyeth the body of Anne Gwyn, the wife of Thomas Gwyn of Pantycorred, gent., and daughter of Lewis Havard of Senni, in the parish of Devynock, gent. They had issue Thomas, Samuel, and Edward. She dyed September the 29th Ano. Dni. 1725, aged 46. Under the left stone lyeth the body of Ann Gwyn, daughter of the above named Thomas by Margaret his wife; she dyed Augt. 27th, 1757, aged 29." It may be interesting to note that this stone was carved by "I. Gwyn, Brecon," sculptor. There are no other stones now to be seen to the memory of the Gwyn family.

¹ This marriage is omitted in the pedigree of Brychan in the first volume. It was discovered by the perusal of some papers in the register office, which lately come into our hands.

On the south interior wall are several monumental stones, some of which are very thick, and all of them deep cut. First stone, "Underneath lie the body of Anne wife of William Powell of Dan-yr-eglws, in this parish, who died January 7, 1788, aged 52 years. Also of Jennett, daughter of William Powell, she died July 29, 1802, aged 49 years. Also of the above named William Powell, he died Jan. 6, 1810, aged 88." And on the other half of the same, "Underneath lie the body of John Powell, of Glandwr, in this parish, who died July 23, 1826, aged 61 years. Also of William Powell, of Dan-yr-eglws, he died June 19, 1829, aged 67 years. Also of Mary wife of William Powell, she died Sept. 26, 1831, aged 84 years." Next stone, "John Jones of this parish, and son of the late Thomas Jones of Pitingwyn, who died May 12, 1835, aged 68; David Jones, saddler, who died at Brecon, March 7, 1845, aged 67 years; Anne Powell, of Glandwr, daughter of the said Thomas Jones, died Oct. 16, 1845, aged 84." Also another, "Underneath lie the remains of Thomas Jones, late of Pityngwyn, in the parish of *Llandevalog-fach*, who died Oct. the 1st, 1808, aged 76. Also of Magdalen, relict of the said Thomas Jones, who died June the 24, 1809, aged 74.⁵⁵ The same stone commemorates the death of Mary wife of William Mott, and daughter of Thos. Jones; she died July 27, 1813, aged 45. Beside this is another, "Opposite are deposited the remains of Mary Williams, wife of John Williams, of Drainduon in this parish (*His remains are interred inside the church*); she died June 8, 1849, aged 78;"—and as the adjoining inscription records John Williams of Drainduon as dying on April 7, 1806, aged 56, we know therefrom that the "pernicious habit" of burial within the church, condemned by Jones, was practiced at that date.

Over the font on the west wall is another stone inscribed, "Near this place lieth the body of Richard Watkins of this parish, also ye remains of Joan his wife and three of his children, viz., Thomas his son departed this life January ye 30th, 1772, aged 22; Elizabeth his daughter and wife of Edward Prytherch, died December ye 18th, 1773, aged 30; and William his son died June the 11th, 1777, aged 30. Also Richard Watkins died September ye 20, 1780, aged 66; Joan his wife d'd Feb. the 17th, 1782, aged 68." On the same wall, "In memory of Isabella, relict of David Thomas late of Glan-dwr in this parish, who died Oct. 7, 1808, aged 80,"—and on this stone we are further reminded: "Who can withstand God's dreadful hand, He spares not young nor old; All living must return to dust, Thou reader art but mould!" Near this is a marble slab, the work of J. Thomas and Son, sculptors, of Brecon, upon which is: "This tablet is erected to the memory of Thomas Davies, late Collector of Excise for Wales, East Collection, grandson of William Powell the elder of Danyreglws, in this parish, he died at Brecon Feb. 26, 1832, aged 53." The last stone to be noticed is one inscribed, "Underneath lie the remains of Mary the relict of Evan Price of Lechach Village in this parish, she died Nov. 3, 1836, aged 74 years. Also of John Price, son of the above named who died Jan. 11, 1836, aged 54."

There are no inscriptions upon the floor of the church. The tower, which was restored in 1901, at a cost of £320, contains four bells; three are inscribed thus: (1) "Si Deus Nobis, cum quis contra nos 1709 (If God for us—then who against us)—David Watkins alder Williams C & W." (2) "Thomas Gwyn, gent., w.l.t.t.c.w. 1675 d.w.r.w." (3) "D.U.G.R.L.D. I.D.V.R.R.T.R."

The 1874 restoration cost £750, and it was raised by a public subscription. When Bishop Thirwall died, the Rev. Canon Basil Jones, D.D., was appointed to succeed him, and this church was the first re-opened by him after his consecration as bishop. He attended the ceremony with befitting dignity, and was met at the entrance to the churchyard by a large number of his clergy, and the white-robed choir-boys of the church of St. John's, Brecknock. The service was attended by large congregations from Garthbreyngy and neighbouring parishes, and the Bishop preached in the morning. The afternoon service was made memorable by a remarkable sermon preached by the Rev. D. Parker Morgan, a young clergyman whose family was of the adjoining farm Pantycorred. This gentleman, later, went out to America, where he soon acquired great distinction as a preacher, received the degree of D.D., and became Rector of the Church of the Heavenly Rest in Fifth Avenue, New York. His brother, James Morgan, Esq., J.P., became manager of Lloyds Bank, Brecon.

The church is the only public place of worship in the parish. There is a handsome vicarage house, built by subscription in 1884.

The parish is purely agricultural, there being no resident country squires. The people speak both English and Welsh; by old people Welsh is preferred, but the children use English entirely. In the north of the parish is a farm called Court yr Abad (the Abbot's Court), and a mile eastward is a small village with old ruins called Court bach (the tithe court)—the name relics of a time when possibly the Abbot acted as local magistrate, Pantycorred farm house has a stone in a wall of one of its out buildings, inscribed "1775, I.G. MAXIMUS MAJOR MINIMUS."

On August 27, 1842, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners granted to Garthbreyngy an annual payment of £3 augmentation from Queen Anne's Bounty; 1740, by Lot, £200; 1767, by Lot, £200;

1810, Parliamentary grant, £200; 1825, by Lot, £200; 1826, by Lot, £200. The value of the living was in 1895, £110 (of this £87, with four acres of glebe), but it was returned as being worth, with Llanfihangel-fechan, the net sum of £190 in 1905.

Garthbrenny is in the Brecknock Poor Law Union. Its population is about 150, which is double that of 1800. There is an acreage of 2,001, and the rateable value is £1,320. The parish is in the petty sessional division of Merthyr, the polling district of Lower Chapel, and the Electoral division of Battle.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1234.—	Milo was <i>rector</i> of this parish		1739.—	Mrs. Margaret Gwyn.	Morgan Powel, curate.
1397.—	John Fairford, Prebendary.		1740.—	The bishop of Saint David's.	Walter Williams, curate.
1487.—	Bishop of Saint David's	Richard Langeshaw, prebendary.	1766.—		Thomas Lewis, curate.
1637.—		Evan Price, curate. ¹	1778.—	David Griffiths, prebendary.	Samuel Evans, curate.
1661.—	Hugh Powel, esq.	Thomas Powel, curate.	1812.—	Bishop of St. David's	*Samuel Evans.
1662.—	The bishop of Saint David's.	Thomas Parget, A.M. prebendary.	1826.—		Thomas Price.
1688.—		Walter Jones, curate.	1834.—		*David Price, per. pet. curate.
1719.—		John Rice, curate.	1860.—		Roger Williams, curate.
1730.—		Lewis Morgan, curate.	1867.—		William Howells, vicar.
		Jenkin Williams, curate.	1904.—		Alfred Edward Evans, vicar.

The Patronage was in 1905 returned as being in the hands of the Bishop of St. David's and the Rector of Llandefaelog-fach.

LLANDEVAILLOG, or LLANDEFALLOG FACH.

THIS church, according to Ecton, is dedicated to Saint Tyfailog; no such name appears in the British calendar; the holy man to whose memory it is consecrated, was Maelog,² who however is not known to English martyrologists. He was of royal extraction, being a younger son of Caw, the son of Cawdrif ap Cradoc Fraich-fras, prince of Brecknock, in the beginning of the sixth century, and it is by no means improbable that this tract as well as Llandefalle, which is probably a corruption of Llanmaelog, or Llan y Faelog, formed part of his patrimony. The mutation of the initial letter *m* into *f* or *v*, is according to a rule well known in Welsh orthography, and the phrase of *y Faelog*, or the Faelog, corrupted into Llandevaillog fach, or the lesser, is frequently heard in common conversation. That Llandefalle was the greater Saint Maelog's, is confirmed by a very old MS. which fell into our hands some years back, in which the arms and an inscription commemorating the conquest of part of this country by de Bois, one of Bernard Newmarch's knights, were said to be placed on the south wall of *Llandevaillog* church; whereas the quaint lines hereafter noticed which are no longer visible, were unquestionably placed in the wall of Llandevalle church, where the property of the family of de Bois lay. Besides if Llandevaillog took its name of the little or the lesser, as some have thought, to distinguish it from another parish of the same name in this county, it would be an egregious blunder, as Llandevaillog tre'r graig does not comprehend an extent of ground equal to one half of the former, which is placed by Adams in latitude 52 3, longitude 3 22, but perhaps 3 21 would be more correct: it is upon the bank of the Honddu, two miles on the road from Brecon to Builth, to which the churchyard adjoins.

THE CHURCH AND ANCIENT MONUMENTS.

The church, like most other religious edifices in this county, is barn roofed and unceiled; it seems formerly to have been of greater height than it is at present, as part of the stairs ascending

¹ During the time of the civil war, in the time of Charles the First, Walker, in his Sufferings of the Clergy, tells us this curacy was vacant for several years.

² *Boneddy Sant, Myf. Arch. vol. II.* (Owen's Biography). Three other churches are dedicated to this Saint, Llanuvalog Anglesa, Llandevaillog near Carnarthen, and Llandevaillog tre'r graig in Breconshire.

to the rood loft, still remain, which are considerably higher than the pulpit; it consists of nave only, with a tower at the west end, in which are four bells; it is but indifferently paved, the stones being broken and loose in several places, the pews are decayed and not perfectly regular. Under and near the communion table are several gravestones to the memory of the Powels of Castlemadoc, particularly of Master William Powel, eldest son of Hugh Powel, who died 9th February 1673. Another, "Here lyeth the body of William Powel of Castlemadoc, gent., who married Anne, daughter to Rees Kemis to Llanvair is coed, esq., they had issue nine children, living seven, viz. Hugh, Elizabeth, Margaret, Bridget, Anne, and Joan, he died 28th March 1687." And on a third, "Here lyeth the bodies of Thomas Powel and Griffith Powel, both sons to William Powel of Castlemadoc, esq., this Thomas married first Rowland daughter to Lewis Gwyn of Bishop's Castle, no issue; secondly, he married Jane, daughter to William ap Jeanu Jenkin of Troestre, no issue; he died 14th May 1518." Neither of these inscriptions are now legible, the stones being broken and defaced. On the north wall is a marble monument erected in 1793 which professes to *perpetuate* the memory of several of the family of Prytherch of this place, whose names are already nearly forgotten, and though this frail memento erected at the desire of one of the last of them, may preserve the dates of their births and deaths for a few years, if it should escape accidents, all that the next century will learn, is that such persons *have been*; that William Prytherch of Llandeavlog, esq., died April 18, 1776, aged 73, Mary his wife, November 18, 1768, aged 63, William his son, December 3, 1772, aged 45, Margaret Prytherch their daughter, September 22, 1785, aged 51, and Sarah Prytherch their daughter, February 8th, 1793, aged 65. Above the inscription in a shield are their arms, consisting of sixteen quarterings, most of which a Breconshire herald will recognise, though most erroneously blazoned; they are 1 argent, a wolf saliant proper, 2 the field as 1, a buck tripping proper, 3 as 1, three bulls' heads cabossed sable, 4 azure, 3 lions rampant, *Or*, 5 sable, a chevron between three spear's heads argent, 6 argent, a Wyverne's head, vert bearing a bloody hand, 7 gules, a chevron ermine, 8 argent, 3 cocks gules, 9 sable, a chevron between three fleurs de lis argent, 10 sable, three chevrons, *Or*, 11 sable, 3 fleurs de lis argent 12 gules, a fess between two swords in pale, the points up and down, *Or*, 13 argent, a lion rampant, gules, 14 azure within a bordure argent, a lion rampant, regardant *Or*, 15 azure, a lion rampant, regardant argent, 16 gules, a bull's head cabossed, argent, between three besants, crest on a wreath, argent and gules, a wolf passant proper.

There is no table of charitable donations in this church, nor can we learn that any sums have been given for the support of the poor of this parish, except £10 per annum bequeathed by the late Miss Sarah Prytherch for that purpose, charged upon a tenement called Peytyn Glàs, and paid by Thomas Price of Builth, esq., to whom she devised the principal part of her property.

THE MISSING CATTW STONE.

On a stone which forms the threshold entering this church, are the following letters rudely sculptured C A T V C; from whence it was brought or when it was placed in its present situation is uncertain, but it has been evidently removed and has been laid, as it should seem, to accommodate the building, though how Cadoeus or Cattw was connected with this parish does not appear. Adjoining the wall of the steeple of this church, in an horizontal position, is another relic¹ of early days, which we fear will continue to puzzle antiquaries to the end of time. This stone, copied with great accuracy by Gough in his edition of Camden's *Britannia*, has been called Roman, British, and Saxon; certainly the interlacing wreaths have a strong resemblance to the works of the latter, but though tradition has placed it on the grave of Brochvel Yscythrog, if the legend in the Cottonian Library, called Cognacio Brychan, preserved in the appendix, be correct, we think it more likely that it is the place of interment of Rhain or Drem Dremhudd, one of the sons of Brychan Brecheiniog. It is two yards and a half in length, and in breadth four feet three quarters at the middle, where it is broadest; the inscription upon it we shall not attempt to decipher, for though the characters have *something* of the appearance of the Saxon, that language will not assist us either in reading or explaining them.

THE CHAPEL OF EASE.

To this church belongs a chapel of ease, probably erected at first, as it has been rebuilt of late, principally at the expense of one of the Powels of Castlemadoc; this also is situated upon the rood side to Builth, about three miles northward of Llandeavlog, and is called Llanvihangel fechan, St. Michael's the lesser,² to distinguish it from Llanvihangel nant bran in the neighbourhood. It has been augmented by Queen Anne's Bounty and the rector of Llandeavlog nominates to the curacy, but there is nothing here deserving of notice, unless it should be thought necessary to state that the chapel is a light neat ciled structure, the floor well flagged, the seats regularly arranged, and

¹ See plate VI. figure I.

² And sometimes the Lower Chapel.

surrounded by a walled cemetery, within which are interred the late Charles Powel of Castlemadoc and his only surviving daughter Catherine Powel, with whom the name in this respectable family became extinct.¹

The same mortifying instance of the vicissitudes, the changes, and chances of this life will occur, and the same humiliating lesson continue to wound the feelings of the genealogist, when he views the fate of the two other houses formerly of repute within this parish.

GWENFFRWD AND THE GWYNS.

"Gwenffrwd" or "Waun y frwd," means the white torrent or the meadow of the torrent. Which-ever way it is written, it is by no means descriptive of the situation of this mansion, now a farm house; a little rill it is true runs near it, but has no pretensions to the appellation of a cataract, which *frwd* imports, and even if it be dignified with the name of stream, it has not that rapidity of current which the word in another sense conveys. Thus, however, has this house been immemorally denominated: it is situated upon the boundary line of the parishes of St. John the Evangelist and Llandeavlog, by which the farm is intersected. It continued in the possession of the descendants of Bleddin ap Maenarch for several centuries, the younger branches of the house of Gaer being frequently owners and occupiers of Gwenffrwd. In 1542 and 1560, Lewis Gwyn, esq., high sheriff of the county, is described as resident here; whether he was one of the above family, or of a new *dynasty*,² we know not, but we are inclined to think that Gwyn was only descriptive of his fair complexion and assumed as a surname, as was frequently done in those days, and that his children (if he had any) for once deviated from their usage, as before stated, by reverting to the custom of their ancestors in common cases, in taking the christian name of the father, preceded by an *ap*; for we find no family of Gwyns afterwards settled here. On the contrary, in 1585, Thomas Powel ap John was of Gwenffrwd, and died in that year; by his will of this date he devises this his capital mansion, in as large and ample a manner as he received it from his father Howel ap John, to his eldest son *Lewis* Thomas, in fee, so that here some recollection of the sheriff of Breconshire seems to remain in the family, though if these were his lineal descendants, he must have been the great grandfather of the testator, Thomas Powel ap John.³ This man had very large territorial possessions, as well as a considerable personal estate, which he divided among his children, to whom he appoints Richard Price of the Priory of Brecon, esq., David Williams, esq. (afterwards Sir David Williams), the judge who is buried at the Priory, and others, to be guardians, and directs that four of his tenants should pay them their rent, their cheeses, and their capons annually, for their trouble during his eldest son's minority.

SIR LEWIS GWYN'S WILL.

It is not a little extraordinary, that though the name of Gwyn appears at Gwenffrwd, and vanishes thus suddenly, both Christian and surname occur again in a few years in this parish, though it is doubtful whether there was any relationship or affinity whatsoever between the two persons. Sir Lewis Gwyn, who styles himself parson of Llandeavlog and vicar of Nantmel in 1584, was of Bishop's Castle, his daughter, as has been seen, married Thomas, son of William Powel, of Castle-madoc, by whom she had no issue; by his will he bequeaths his books to his nephews, Sir Griffith Gwyn, who succeeded him as vicar of Nantmel, and to Sir Robert Lloyd ap Wyn, to be divided among them on condition they each enter into a bond of 20*l.* to Griffith Lloyd ap John Wyn, not to sell or lend anyone them for four years next after the testator's death; "and yf (says he) in ffour yeaeres they fynd not comoditie, use and pleasure in them, then, and note before, they maye bestowe them as they shall think good." He gives to his brother Thomas ap John Wyn various articles of household furniture, and one of his best horses, "after my lord bushoppe of St. David's have had choice of his mortuary," he also gives to his brother Griffith Gwyn all debts due to him from William Powel and others, for the tythes of the parsonage of Llandeavlog, "to Alban Stepney, esq., his ring of gold, wishing it were better worthe for him,"⁴ and to his brother and nephew several estates in Radnorshire,⁴ but no mention is made of Gwenffrwd or any other lands in this parish, so that this mansion house and desmesne probably continued in the possession of the descendants of Thomas Powel John, until by purchase or intermarriage it came to the Lewises of Pennant, from whom it

¹ A marble monument has been lately erected here to Mr. Charles Powel's memory, under the will of his daughter, and another in the Priory Church, by which it appears, he died May 24. 1796, aged 84.

² The English reader will hardly believe that *dynasty* is a Welsh word without the alteration of a single letter, and has precisely the same meaning as the English.

³ It is not unlikely that Lewis Gwyn may have left an only daughter and heiress who married Howel John Prosser of Gaer.

⁴ He was archdeacon of Caerigan in 1571, according to Brown Willis, who supposes he died in 1586; from a codicil to his will in 1588, it appears he lived at least 2 years longer.

descended to the late Mr. Owen Evans of that place, who mortgaged it, among his other lands, to Michael Cope Hopton, esq., the proprietor in 1800.

THE PRYDDERCH FAMILY.

The family of Prydderch, late of this parish, are descended from Rhydderch ap Gwilym of the line of Cradoc ap Gwilym, lord of Tallyn; instead thereof of the wolf saliant, the arms of Tydwal glóff, lord of Caeridgan, to which they have no pretensions, they should bear azure, a stag tripping attired and unguled, and bearing a royal crown between his horns, *Or*, which were intended by the second quartering in the monument, though wrongly blazoned. The first we find who endeavoured to *perpetuate* the surname of Prydderch, and who settled in a mansion about one hundred yards from the church, on the road to Brecon, was William Prydderch, who died in 1614, leaving issue Lewis and a daughter, Lewis Prydderch was in the law, and like his neighbour, Gwyn of Pant y cored, a violent presbyterian and republican: in the beginning of the civil wars, in the time of Charles the First, he acted sometimes as deputy and sometimes as principal registrar of the archdeaconry of Brecon during part of that boisterous period, and died in 1643, having by his will bequeathed, among other things, to three of his servants, the following articles, to one, "a russet shurte with silk points," to another, "two falling bands and a deulas shurte," and to the third, "a little sun diale set in bone." He left issue William, who died single, David, and two daughters. David married and had issue William Prydderch, who married Mary Price of Llangynidr (of the family of Prices, now of Ffordlas in Talgarth parish), Gwennlian, who married David Evans of Gwaravog, father of the late Samuel Evans of that place, Rachael, who died single, and Margaret, who married Jeffrey Jones of Bwysta, one of the Baillie family, in Llywel; David, William, Sarah, Margaret and Anne, the latter of whom married Jonathan Dixon; the children of the above named William by Mary Price, all died without issue. Sarah Prydderch, who died in 1793, having the power of disposal of this property, gave the principal part of it to Thomas Price, of Builth, esq., grandson of her aunt, Gwennlian, and son of her cousin, Rachael, the wife of Mr. Richard Price of Rhosforloe in Llanfechan, in the hundred of Builth.

THE POWELS OF CASTLE MADOC.

The only family in this parish, now remaining to be noticed, are the Powels, late of Castle-madoc; which should be written, either in English or Welsh, Madoc's Castle or Castell Madoc: it was so called either from Madoc, the third brother of Bleddin ap Maenarch, or from Madoc, third son of David ap Rhys y ddimau; we are rather inclined to think from the latter, as the former settled at or near Edwinstford in Caermarthenshire. The issue of Madoc ap Rhys y ddimau failed in the male line in the third generation, when it went probably to one of the descendants of the elder branch of the family of Bleddin, with whom it continued until the marriage of Watkin Vaughan, grandson of Sir Roger Vaughan of Tretower, with Joan, daughter of Evan ap Gwilym fychan ap &c. ap &c. One of their daughters, Margaret, married Thomas Powel, who built the present house in 1588; before this time it was a castellated mansion with a keep for prisoners upon an elevated artificial mound, the latter of which still remains adjoining the farm yard. Before the time of Thomas Powel, this family were of Argoed in Talachddu, and Howel the father of Thomas Powel is so described in most MSS. but in one, in the British Museum, he is called Howel Gwilym of Brecon, esq. William Powel of Castlemadoc is said by Owen, in his *Cambrian Biography*, to have been a poet, and to have flourish between 1580 and 1620; if so, this must have been William, the eldest son and heir of Thomas Powel, but we have unfortunately never read or heard of any of his works: his descendants continued to reside here for the three or four last generations, and were in the habit of ringing the changes of Hugh Powel, Charles Powel, and Hugh Powel and Charles Powel, until the year 1796, when the last Charles died about the age of eighty-four, leaving issue three children, who all died single. Catharine, his daughter, survived her brother and sister, and devised the property, charged with annuities, to the Reverend Hugh Price, son of her aunt, Penelope, the wife of Roger Price of Maes yr Onn, for his life, and afterwards to his son, Mr. Hugh Price, a student in the university of Oxford, for his life, with several remainders over, not necessary to be stated in a work of this kind. The distinguishing characteristic of this family, for several generations, has been that of plain unaffected country gentlemen, hospitable to strangers, neighbours, and friends, and charitable to the poor, but the last Charles Powel 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. His daughter, Catherine, erected a cenotaph in the northern cross aisle of the cathedral at Hereford, to the memory of her grandfather and great grandmother (for we do not believe either of them were buried there) on which is the following inscription,

H. S. E.

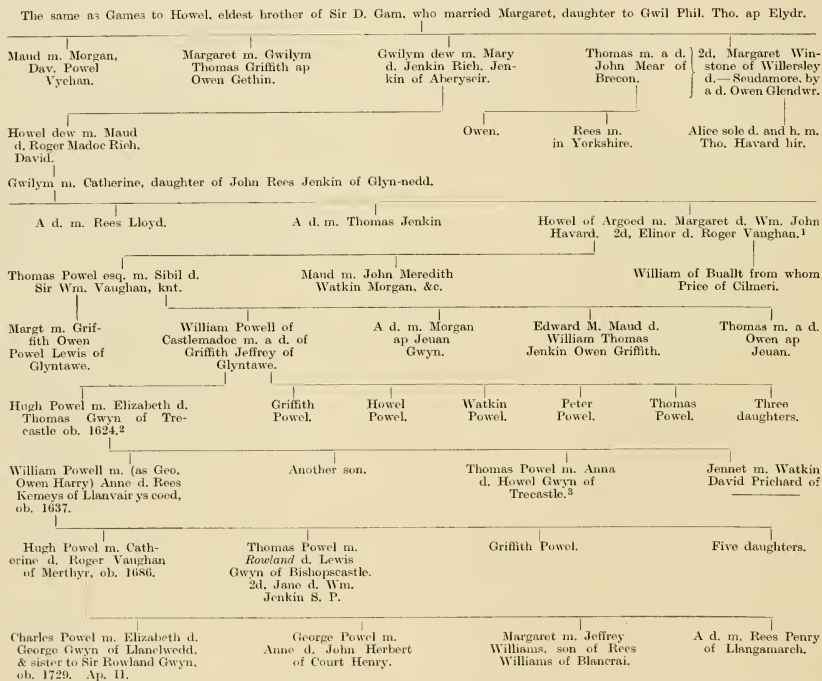
Hugo Powel, De Castello-Madoc In agro Radnorensi armiger Nec non Elizabetha mater ejus Filia Georgii Gwynno de Llanelweth In Agro Radnorensi armigeri Hac obiit April 4, 1729, etat 73, Ille 18 August 1749, etat 66.

Arms, 1 Bleddin ap Maenarch, the field azure, 2 Brychan, 3 Elystan Glodrydd, 4 as 1, crest Rhys Goch, the Wyverne's head argent.

The late Mr. Powell bore his paternal arms properly blazoned, except that the points of the spears' heads, whether by design or by accident, we know not, were *gutte de sangc*, instead of being imbrued; this difference would pass unnoticed by an inattentive observer, but a herald of the seventeenth century would have loudly inveighed against this innovation, as being more appropriate to a surgeon or a sempstress who had pricked her finger with a needle, than to a warrior who had fleshed his weapon in the body of his adversary.

I.

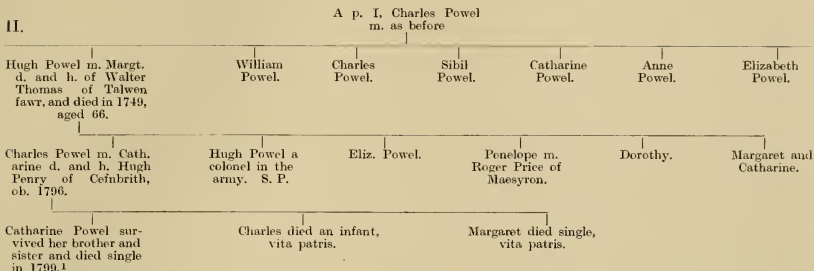
POWEL OF CASTLEMADOC.



¹ In another pedigree, in the British Museum, he is described as Howel Gwilym of Brecon, esq. His eldest son Thomas married Margaret, daughter of Watkin Vaughan of Merthyr; but it does not appear he had any issue by her.

² All the pedigrees agree in calling the wife of this Hugh Powel Elizabeth, but it is singular that Elizabeth, the widow of William Powel who died in 1637, by her will gives her daughter in law Anne Gwynne, "her bigest brasse panne and her best gowne."

³ This Thomas Powel left one daughter, Mary, married to Captain Thomas Price of Devynock.



CONTINUATION OF POWELL-POWEL OF CASTLE MADOC PEDIGREE.

PENELOPE POWEL, dau. of Hugh Powel, of Castle Madoc, married ROGER PRICE, of Maesyron, Llangammarch, and had issue,

1. Roger of Maesyron, capt. in the army, died unmarried in 1805, buried at Llandevelog.
2. HUGH of Castlemadoc, M.A. Oxon, in Holy Orders, died Rector of Retterdon and Little Ifford, Essex, 1803, buried at Llandevelog Churchyard; for many years held preferment in Gloucestershire, where he enjoyed the friendship of the celebrated Bishop Wachtoun, married Sarah dau. of —Turner, of King Stanley, Glas., leaving issue.—(besides one son Charles who died unm., 4 daus. who died unm. and one dau. Elizabeth who married R. Hughes of Cheltenham and d.s.p.)
 1. HUGH of Castle Madoc, m. Sophia, youngest dau. of Francis Brodie; she died 1845; he died issue (both buried in Llanfihangel fechan Churchyard). They had issue,
 1. Charles Powel, died 1830.
 2. HUGH POWELL, born 1822 (assumed the name of Powel 1875), m. 1845 Maria Alicia youngest dau. of David Thomas of Welfield, Radnorshire; she died 1880; married 2ndly Selina second dau. of the late Thomas Frewen of Birkwell, Sussex, formerly M.P. for So. Leicestershire, and widow of Charles Vickers, of Wormstall, Berks, Esq. By the first marriage, Mr. Powell-Powel had issue,
 1. HUGH PENRY POWEL, born 1853, married 1884 Margaret Grizel, youngest dau. of Basil Cochrane, Esq., and has issue,
 1. Hugh Evan Price, born 1887.
 2. Eleanor Mary, born 1890.
 3. Charles Vaughan, born 1894.
 4. Dorothy Grizel, born 1897.
 2. Annette Powel, born 1848, died 1873.
 3. Grace Powel, died unmarried 1829.
 4. Elinor Powel, died unmarried, at Ventnor 1849.

Penelope and her husband Roger Price of Maesyron died *circa* 1800. They were buried in Llangammarch Church where their names and date of death are recorded on tablets. They left three sons and some daughters, who all died *s.p.*, except the second son, the Rev. Hugh Price, M.A., Oxon, Rector of Retterdon and Little Ifford, Essex, who inherited Castle Madoc on the death of his cousin Catharine Powel in 1798. He left an only son Hugh Price, who succeeded to Castle Madoc. Hugh Price was a magistrate and deputy lieutenant for the County of Brecknock, and served the office of High Sheriff in 1813. He entered the army and served with his regiment, the 11th Light Dragoons (now Hussars), in the Peninsular War; was present at the battle of Salamanca and other engagements, receiving a medal with two clasps. His name is honorably mentioned with the 11th Hussars, having been thanked by General Ponsonby for conspicuous courage during the retreat from Burgos; by the check he then gave to the French he saved possible catastrophe. This short record is due to the memory of a man of modest character, who would never allude to his own military deeds. He married in 1818 Sophia, daughter of Francis Brodie, barrister at law; she died in 1845. Hugh Price died in 1856, leaving one son and two daughters. The son Hugh Powel Price (see pedigree) of Castle Madoc (born 1822) resumed the name of Powel, and became known as Powell-Powel of Castle Madoc. He died on Sunday, May 26, 1907, at the age of 85, and was buried at St. Michael's, Lower Chapel. (*See List of High Sheriffs.*) His second wife died a year later and was buried in the same place.

Castlemadoc is situate on the northern extremity of Llandevelog, on the boundary of Merthyr Cynog, and, like Gwenffrwid, part of the farm is in one and part in the other parish. On the western part of Llandevelog near the commencement of its southern boundary, and from thence in a line to the north is a common or waste land, near which is a tenement called Sarnau, from whence as well as from the appearance of the ground, we conjecture that the Sarn Helen pursued its course from Gaer to Cwm in Llanyre along this ridge, entering the parish of Merthyr Cynog, leaving the summit of the mountain as it rises, and the Vale of Honddu to the right hand, or the east, and so

¹ She left the principal part of her property to her cousin Hugh Price, clerk, eldest son of her aunt Penelope, by Roger Price, and after his death, to his son Hugh Price, the present (1809) proprietor of Castlemadoc.

on in a direction nearly from north to south until it crossed the river and the road from Brecon to Maes y genffordd, about one mile beyond the Upper Chapel, where we think its remains are still visible, running in a straight line towards Maesmynis. But to return to Llandevaiog, the soil, while it continues west of Honddu, is chiefly covered by underwood or laid down in arable, when it is interrupted by Merthyr, which crosses the river near Castlemadoc; some good meadows appear on its bank.

The advowson of the rectory was formerly in the lords of Brecon: upon the attainder of Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, it vested in the Crown: the parsonage house, which is situated near the church, has a glebe of about thirty acres attached to it. Value in Pope Nicholas's taxation *8l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, tenths 16*s.* Charge in the king's books *£13* 0*s.* 6*d.*, tenths, *£1* 6*s.* Procurations to the archdeacon of Brecon annually *7*s.* 5*d.** The parish register book commences in 1715.

LATER PARTICULARS.

The church was rebuilt in the year 1831, of stone raised on the glebe land, and given for that purpose by the Rector. This erection cost a little more than *£200*, raised by subscription, and aided by a sum of *£60* from the Society for the Erection and Enlargement of Churches, in consideration of 55 out of 150 sittings being declared free. This building contained a nave and chancel, having a boarded floor, raised on dwarf walls, and was fitted up with every regard for comfort. There was a neat porch, and the old tower, a rude edifice of much more recent date than the ancient church, was allowed to remain in its original state. But notwithstanding this restoration of 1831, we find the church a few years later described as being "dark, damp, and greatly dilapidated," and probably was allowed to remain in this state until 1878-90, when it was restored by private subscriptions at a cost of *£1,877* 12*s.* 10*d.* The church was re-seated in oak in 1894, with a dado of ceramic mosaic above the seats, and the floor was laid with oak blocks. The porch was also rebuilt from the foundations, and covered with an oak roof; the tower was repaired and re-pointed. The bells, five in number, were re-cast, and a sixth added; the whole cost was *£563*, and this was raised by subscription. The inscriptions read: No. 1, "1898, William Williams, rector. Once a peal of five—Henceforth we six shall be—In Joy and Sorrow—Ever in sympathy." No. 2, "A.D. 1718. Hugh Powell, church warden. Re-cast A.D. 1889, John Douglas Dickinson; David Prothero, churchwardens." No. 3, "1718, Henry Thomas, rector." No. 4, "1718, Thomas Williams, gent, churchwarden." Nos. 5 and 6: These two bells are evidently of earlier date, and the inscriptions are so obliterated that they cannot be deciphered.

There is an east window of stained glass, and a screen divides the chancel from the nave; this is to the memory of Elizabeth Lewis-Lloyd. The lectern is of brass, and there is a marble pulpit. The reredos is of marble, and the chancel floor is laid with mosaic. A west window of stained glass was put in to the memory of the Rev. Prebendary William Williams, R.D., and the inscription declares that it was "dedicated as a lasting expression of their loss by his parishioners and friends by whom he was beloved and greatly mourned. He died January 2nd, 1902."

On the walls of the church inside are several slabs, bearing inscriptions. The first noticed reads, "This simple tablet is erected to remind those near and dear, in some silent hour, of Penoyre Watkins, Esq., a good and a great man, who lived from 1721 to 1792, known and respected in this his native country. Of Pen'awr his grandson, who died in 1812, at 17, before succeeding years had made him what his superior talents and learning so amply justified. And finally of Julia Sarah, the youngest child of the Rev. Thomas and S. E. Watkins of Penoyre; this fair creature, most dear to her parents, and her surviving brothers and sisters, was both in person and disposition the delight of all. Oh, Reader! imagine then the loss. She was unexpectedly removed, as a pure and spotless spirit, to a better world at the early age of 12, on the 8th September, 1818."

Adjoining this is the Prytherch slab already referred to, and it only remains to add in regard to this that it was erected pursuant to the will of Sarah Prytherch by her executor Thomas Price, gent, in May 1793. The bodies of this family, we learn from the monument, were interred in the chancel; and from a brass plate we find that "By an indenture enrolled in chancery on the 25th October, 1787, Sarah Prytherch of Llandefaelog House, charged the lands of Pytinglas with the sum of ten pounds yearly to be paid to the churchwardens and overseers of the parish and to be distributed by them among such poor persons of this parish not receiving parish relief as the owner of Llandefaelog estate for the time being may appoint." This charity is still being faithfully applied.

The church also contains the Castle Madoc memorials referred to by Jones.

THE CHURCHYARD, AND FAMILY VAULTS.

The lych-gate at the main entrance to the churchyard was erected in 1897, from designs by Mr. F. R. Kempson, of Hereford, by Mr. John Griffiths, builder, of Brecon, at the expense of William

Powell, gent., of the Struet House, Brecon, and a slab let into the wall bears this inscription: "To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Edward Powell, born 21 December, 1858, died 5 October, 1894." This was Mr. Powell's only son, and he came to his death by an accident on the Llandover Road near to Cefn Parc, where he died; he was for many years cashier and subsequently accountant at the Brecon Branch of the National Provincial Bank, and with his father held some property in the district; the whole family lie buried in the churchyard.

There are two family vaults here. The first in size is that of the Penoyre Watkins family. It is a large square building, surrounded by a high wall, and the whole presents at this period a desolate appearance, being overgrown with trees; some distant kinsfolk of this family are still living, but have long left the county, and the property has passed into the hands of strangers. Over the door entering the mausoleum are carved these words "WE DIED TO LIVE FOR EVER." The coffins are placed to rest on strong iron trestles above the ground. A reference to the monumental inscriptions in our account of the Brecon Priory will give particulars of the persons buried here, the last being Colonel Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, lord lieutenant for the county, and for some time M.P. for the borough; as he was at the head of the county military organisation the occasion of his funeral was one of considerable pomp and ceremony, and was attended by a large body of the Militia and Volunteers, together with many county and borough citizens.

The other vault is the burying place of the Dickinsons of Glanhonddu; and above this is a tall and chaste cross upon which are several carved figures. The inscriptions on this read: "Sacred to the Memory of John Jones, esquire, of Glanhonddu, in this parish, chairman of Quarter Sessions for the County of Brecknock during a period of seventeen years. This is erected by his sorrowing widow and surviving family. He died on the 4th August, 1847, in his 71st year." Catherine Jones, his widow, died October 9, 1862, aged 62. And by the next inscription we note the transfer of the property to the Dickinsons, "Catherine Mary Dickinson, only child of John Jones, Esq., of Glanhonddu, died 8 March, 1863, aged 45." Hereafter we find only the Dickinsons buried here, viz., Frank, eldest and beloved child of Douglas and Catherine Mary Dickinson, born July 25, 1846, died April 17, 1847. Edith Dickinson, born April 25, 1852, died Jan. 10, 1861. Louisa Dickinson, born Jan. 26, 1859, died April 3, 1861. Douglas John Dickinson, J.P., D.L., Colonel Royal Brecknock Rifles, died March 23, 1865, aged 47. Mary Emily Dickinson, born Dec. 18, 1851, died Dec. 26, 1868. John Douglas Dickinson, Esq., J.P., 24th Regiment, died Dec. 14, 1900, aged 51. He inherited the property after his father the Colonel; it descended to his son, who, in less than two years, as the following inscription testifies, followed him to the tomb, "Douglas John Dickinson, South Wales Borderers, eldest son of John Douglas Dickinson of Glanhonddu, born Jan. 2, 1878, died Oct. 7, 1902." The estate was then inherited by the second son, who likewise followed the profession of a soldier.

OTHER MEMORIALS.

Near to the Penoyre vault, and beneath one of the fine yew trees, is a massive granite monument to the memory of Prebendary Williams, the late Rector for 30 years, and who died 1902 aged 76, and also of his wife Elizabeth, who died Nov. 1906, aged 75; she was a daughter of Thomas Lewis Lloyd of Nantgwilt, Esq. Facing the entrance to the church is a box tomb to the memory of the Rev. Hugh Price, M.A., of Castle Madoc in this parish and Rector of Retterdon and Little Iford, Essex, who died 13th June 1805, aged 66 years; and to Roger Price of Maesyrnon in this county, who died March 15, 1805, aged 68.

The Morgans of Pantycorred have many memorials here. Among them, Anne, wife of William Morgan, junr, of Pantycorred, in the parish of Garthbreny, died Nov. 28, 1869, in her 31st year. Rees Morgan, their son, died 1860, and Margaret Anne their daughter, who died 1862. William Morgan, of Pantycorred, died Dec. 31, 1853, aged 65; Margaret his relict died Nov. 12, 1877, aged 71. John Morgan, son of William Morgan, died Jan. 5, 1859, aged 19.

There is a stone in memory of "Francis Malet, Esq., born at Cork, 1797, died at Glanhonddu Sept. 11, 1864," and also one to "Ellen Georgina Harries, born Nov. 10, 1856, died Sept. 22, 1857"—a daughter of a former rector. The Davises of Tynllwyn, and of Pannau, Llanfrynach, and also of the Coed, bury here; and several other farmers of the district. There is a stone to Harriett, wife of W. Dalton, Esq., who died at Brecon, 8 June, 1857, aged 61, and also of Harriett Martha daughter of the above, who died Nov. 15th, 1888. Lying loose, near the Penoyre vault is a stone to John Bowcott and Elizabeth his wife, of this parish; he died Feb. 6, 1795.

WESTWOOD'S DESCRIPTION OF THE ANCIENT STONES.

The old stone which in Jones's time he described as being fixed against the wall of the steeple is now built into the west wall at the entrance to the Penoyre vault, and, in consequence of the

expansion of the wall, through the growth of trees, is in some danger of being damaged. It may be well to quote the description of this stone given by Mr. J. O. Westward, M.A., F.L.S., who writes: "Llandfaelog stone is one of the most interesting of the early sepulchral incised slabs in Wales. About 7 feet long, by rather more than one foot wide . . . it may be described as consisting of four several compartments, (1) the top of the stone, being occupied by an incised ornamental cross, followed by (2) the figure of a warrior, whose right shoulder has been cut away with a portion of the stone, the figure being surrounded by interlaced ribbon-patterns, (3) a square space bearing an inscription preceded by a cross, and (4) an oblong space with a double interlaced ribbon-pattern, of which I believe the lower part is cut away. Being bedded into the wall I cannot state the thickness of the stone, and cannot consequently judge whether it could ever have stood upright, or was originally intended to be laid flat on the ground, on fixed upright, as now, in a wall. With the exception of the space containing the inscription, the letters of which are incised, the surface of the whole stone is sunk, leaving the ornamental pattern and figure in relief. The incisions forming the design are but of moderate depth, and it is therefore really surprising how well, in so exposed a situation, it has been preserved, notwithstanding the action of the elements for at least a thousand years. The cross at the top of the stone is of calvary form, formed of two parallel raised bands, interlaced at the junction of the limbs, the ends of the limbs forming dilated triangular knots, the basal knots being increased in size to give greater apparent support by the band being doubled. The spaces within the angles formed by the arms of the cross are filled in with interlaced ribbons, which are either doubled or trebled: the middle band of the lower left hand space appears to have been left entire, instead of being trebled by incision, like the other ribbons in that part of the design. The warrior in the next compartment is as rude an attempt at delineation as could well be imagined. It is 2½ feet high, with a most ill-shaped head, and disproportionately large left shoulder and small legs. There is no attempt at rounding the limbs, the surface of the stone being left flat, and the parts indicated only by incised lines. In his right hand he bears a thick straight weapon resting on his right shoulder, but of which the upper end has been cut away; in his left hand he also bears a short weapon, slenderer than the other, and which is evidently extended into the ribbon pattern at his left side. The pattern on the right side of the stone, at the side of the head, is a double interlaced ribbon, which is not quite regular in its lower part; the ornament on the lower part of the compartment to the right of the figure is a modification of the Z-pattern, which bears so great a resemblance to Chinese work. The left-hand side of the figure is occupied with a single interlaced ribbon-pattern, in which independent circles have been introduced to fill up the design. The square space below the figure is surrounded by a narrow cable-like moulding, the upper line being bent upwards, following the position of the feet. The inscription consists of two lines of letters, which are to be read—

+ briamail
Flou

The bottom compartment is occupied by a bold diaper-pattern formed of double interlaced ribbons. The design is irregular at the top right-hand corner, and the bottom has apparently been cut off. The present is almost the only instance occurring in Wales of the figure of the deceased being represented on one of these early slabs, and is valuable, rude as it is, as affording some slight indication of the dress and weapon of a British warrior. It has struck me as possible that the sculptor of the stone might have been led to introduce the figure of the deceased warrior, from the circumstances of the Roman invasion in the vicinity, commonly known under the name of the Maen y Morwynion, having full-length figures of the deceased and his wife sculptured upon it."

THE CATTUC STONE.

The same writer, alluding to this, and which is still missing, says that in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, for 1862, pp. 52 and 156, there are statements, anonymously made, that the stone had been inadvertently built with the letters inwards into the arch between the nave and tower of the church.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

This parish is in the Poor Law Union of Brecknock, and its population was in 1891, 183, but it had decreased to 169 in 1901. The rateable value is £1,550, and the area 2,000 acres. It is in the Petty Sessional division of Merthyr and the Polling district of Lower Chapel, but in the Electoral division of Battle.

The language of the adult people is Welsh and English, but the children invariably use English only. The population is entirely engaged in agriculture, and there is a flour mill on the banks of the Honddu a little distance from the church.

There was a Wesleyan Chapel in the parish, but this was closed about 1886, and the ruins since removed. The Baptist Chapel was re-built on a new site by subscription in 1855; there is no endowment.

In 1871 a small inconvenient building in the churchyard, used as a school, was removed, and a new schoolroom and premises erected adjoining the teacher's residence, which had been built a few years previously. These premises were erected at a cost of £400 by the parishioners of Llandefaelog-fach and Garthbrenny, the money being raised partly by voluntary rate and partly by subscription, there is no endowment.

Overlooking the Church, on the opposite side of the road, is Llandefaelog House, now the residence of Dumaresq Thomas, Esq., a son of the late David Thomas, Esq., of Watton House, Brecon, and of Welfield (*whose pedigree see*). Glanhonddu House, the property of the Dickinson family, has been for some years, and is now, in the occupation of Arthur Chamberlain, Esq., a brother of the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., Secretary for the Colonies in the late Conservative and Unionist Administration. The Vicarage House is pleasantly situated on the same side of the road, and overlooks the Vale of Honddu.

The living of Llandefaelog-fach was augmented by Queen Anne's Bounty between 1751 and 1793 to the extent of £800. The value in 1905 was returned as £251 net.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1400.—		Hugh Peynter. ² Philip Buntan.	1630.—The bishop, by lapse. 1661.—The Crown. 1694.—Crown.		Thomas Edwards. ⁶ William Prydderch. William Lewis. ⁷ Henry Thomas. Gregory Parry. John Williams. ⁸ Tho. Watkins.
1493.—	{ Margaret Countess of Richmond and Derby. }	Jeffrey Thomas. ³	1714.—Ditto. 1759.—Ditto. 1776.—Ditto. 1799.—Ditto.		Thomas Vaughan. Gilbert C. F. Harris. Thomas Butterfield Hosken. Williams Williams. D. L. Marsden.
1514.— 1553.—	The Crown.	Thomas ap Griffith. William Lewis. Rico Price.	1829.—The Lord Chancellor. 1855.—Ditto. 1863.—Ditto. 1871.—Ditto. 1902.—Ditto.		
1568.	Ditto.	Thomas Price. ⁴ Sir Lewis Gwynne. ⁵ David Waters. Thomas Edwards.			
1612.— 1621.— 1624.—	The Crown. Ditto. Henry Vaughan, esq. ¹	Lewis Thomas.			

LLANFIHANGEL FECHAN.

The church of Llanfihangel-fechan stands in the hamlet of the same name in the parish of Llandefaelog-fach. It was restored in 1864, partly by private subscription, with £100 borrowed on the rates and since re-paid; new choir seats and pulpit were provided in 1894, and in 1905 the roof was panelled. The church is surrounded by a walled cemetery. In the chancel are three small stained windows erected to the memory of Mary Alicia Powell, by her neices A. E. Budworth, Amy Thomas, Sister Rosamira, G. Newnham-Smith, and S. Bennett; and a brass tablet in the chancel states "The Beautifying of this Sanctuary is done as an humble offering to Almighty God by Hugh P. Powell, of Castle Madoc, in loving memory of Mary Alicia his wife, who entered into Rest on the xxxi. day of January A.D. 1880."⁷ On the east wall, facing the nave, is a marble tablet "To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Eliza Anne Howell, second daughter of the Rev. W. Howell, vicar of the parish, who fell asleep Dec. 2, 1901, aged 34 years."

In a recess near the chancel, used as a vestry, are memorials to Sybil wife of Thomas Watkins of Lloegr, in this parish, who died 25th March, 1824, aged 67; to Thomas Watkins of the same

¹ Harry Vaughan of Moccas, esq., appointed Lord Lieutenant of the county and governor of the castle of Brecon, in the reign of Elizabeth.

² A family of this name were settled in Brecknock in 1583. Hopkin Peincter is mentioned in the will of Thomas Lewis of that town, he is also named in the will of Rees Thomas Hanor or Barven of that place, about the same time.

³ On the resignation of Philip Buntan, the date of whose presentation is uncertain.

⁴ The same observation as the preceding.

⁵ He was rector in 1577, and died in 1588, but when presented is uncertain.

⁶ He is erroneously, as we apprehend, called William Edwards by Walker, in his sufferings of the clergy, who informs us that he was D.D. and that he was ousted by the propagators of the gospel in Wales, about the year 1650, and was succeeded by David William Probert, a yeoman or ploughman.

⁷ He was domestic chaplain to Sir Edward Mansel, bart., and resided at Margam.

⁸ He resigned the living in exchange for the vicarage of Laugharne in Carmarthenshire, where he resided.

place, esquire, who died 28th January, 1834, aged 80; to Thomas Watkins, Esq. (the 8th in direct succession), of Lloeger, who died June 25, 1859, aged 80, and to Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Evan Bevan, of Wernfawr, Talgarth, who died Oct. 25, 1854, aged 70.

In the opposite recess there are tablets "To the memory of Charles Powell, of Castle Madock, in this parish, Esq., who died 24th day of May, 1796, aged 84 years, and of Catherine Powell, spinster, his daughter, who died the 27th of September, 1798, aged 63. Their bodies are interred in the churchyard adjoining, and a tomb placed over their remains." This was "Erected pursuant to the will of the above named Catherine Powell, by her trustee and executor Jonathan Dixon, Esq." Beneath, is a small granite cross on which is inscribed "Mary Alicia Powell, January 31, 1880."

The three-light window descriptive of the adoration of the Child Christ is in memory of Mary Davies, who bequeathed funds for that purpose.

Upon a marble tablet is this inscription; "Sacred to the memory of Roger Thomas Watkins, Solicitor, Registrar of County Court, and Town Clerk of Brecon, fourth son of Thomas Watkins, of Lloeyr, in this parish, Esquire, who expired January 18, 1858, aged 46 years. The urbanity, fidelity, and success with which he discharged the duties of his public offices were generally acknowledged, while in his profession his sagacity and sound judgment were highly appreciated. Kind, humane, charitable, and possessing, in unison with a singularly gentle disposition and unobtrusive deportment, a proper sense of honour and integrity, he had attached to himself a large circle of friends. Also in memory of his brother John Watkins, surgeon, R.C.S., who died at Bombay June 30, 1836, aged 29 years." The burial ground of this family is to the left of the porch, within iron railings, and on the opposite side of the porch are buried Charles and Catherine Powell.

Near the entrance to the churchyard is the burial ground of the Castle Madoc family. The inscriptions recorded here are "In memory of Hugh Price, of Castle Madoc, Esq., who died August 29, 1856, aged 70. He was a magistrate and deputy lieutenant of this county, and served with honour in the 11th Dragoons at the Battle of Salamanca, and other engagements, in the Peninsula War. Also of Sophia his wife who died May 5, 1845, aged 53." Also, "In loving memory of Annetta, the only and deeply mourned daughter of Hugh and Mary Powell Price, of Castle Madoc; she died September 23, 1873, in the 25th year of her age." And "To the beloved memory of Hugh Powell Powell, of Castle Madoc, born 28 April, 1819, died 26 May, 1907;" and to "Mary Alicia, wife of Hugh Powell Powell, of Castle Madoc, born 28 April 1819, died 31 January, 1880." Selina, second wife of H. Powell, Esq., has recently been buried here.

A monument at the west end is to the memory of John Clay of Castle Madoc farm, who died in 1841, aged 58, and of his only son John who was mortally wounded in the trenches before Sebastopol and died 29th July, 1855, aged 27. There is also one to the Rev. David Price, late incumbent of Llanfihangel-fechan, who died July, 3, 1861, aged 60, and to his wife and child.

There are several monuments to the Bevans of Lower Chapel, the Davieses of Coigen and Cimanharen-fawr, Prices of Llanthwy; Mary widow of Thomas Davies of Glannant, aged 80, who died 1906, "A faithful friend of the Castle Madoc family throughout her long life;" the Prices of Gwenffrd; and John Jones, Esq., who died at Scethrog House, January 14, 1826, aged 65, and John Jones his youngest son who died Dec. 17, 1874, aged 70.

The value of the living of Llanfihangel-fechan is £94, being the interest of lands sold and money invested in Consols. There is no vicarage, the living being held with that of the parish of Garthbreny. The patron is the Rector of Llandefaelog-fach; the curates in charge since 1800 have been as follows: 1819, Thomas Price; 1826, David Price; 1828, John Davies; 1831, William Williams; 1834, David Price; 1860, Roger Williams; 1867, William Howells; 1904, A. E. Evans. A sum of £50 was received from the Church Building Society—90 seats being declared free. The oak pulpit was the gift of Mrs. Selina Powell, of Castle Madoc, A.D. 1884.

There is a Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, built in 1857. The British School was built in 1852, with accommodation for 60 children; it was erected chiefly at the charge of Hugh Powell Powell, Esq., the trustees being the owner of Castle Madoc, the vicar, and others. All the bridges in the Vale of Honddu, except one in this parish, were swept away by a flood in 1859. Formerly there was a flourishing flannel factory here, but it has ceased working.

Near the mansion of Castle Madoc, of which we give an illustration, are the ruins of the castle already referred to. The population is roughly 100, of which number some few adhere to Welsh, the others speaking English.

MERTHYR CYNOG, or SAINT CYNOG the Martyr,

BEARS within itself its own explanation and unequivocally imports to whom the parish is dedicated. Cynog (called in English Martyrologies *Canoc*.) as has been seen in the first volume, was the eldest but illegitimate son of Brychan Brycheiniog. He was slain or murdered in one of the early eruptions of the Saxons into Wales in the fifth century, on the summit of the hill in this parish, nearly opposite Castlemadoc, called Vanoleu, and, according to Owen, was buried in Merthyr church, but probably he was interred where he fell, for the church, which was dedicated to his memory, cannot be supposed to have been erected prior to his death. The edifice now remaining, though certainly very old, does not appear to be earlier than the Norman era, though some of the materials of the original building, or at least of the crosses, marking the interment of the saint and his companions, may have been used in the present structure, particularly one five feet in length and nearly one in thickness, in an horizontal posture, in the middle of the eastern pine end wall. In the church porch is another, about the same length.

THE CHURCH AND ITS INSCRIPTIONS.

Both of these were undoubtedly formerly placed in other situations, from whence they were removed when the church was re-built or repaired. It is situated upon a lofty ridge or eminence, between the two vales of Escir fawr and Escir fechan, in nearly the centre of the parish. This church, like most of the other country churches in Breconshire, and we fear in Wales, resembles a large barn, into which something like pens for sheep have been thrown in disorderly regularity to rot when they become unfit for use; here and there one of them may seem to have been consigned to its cold damp situation before its time, and the proprietor may endeavour to fix it firmly to the soil and to repair its defects, but in general the doors are dropping off, boards are wanting on the sides, the benches are tumbling, and the floor is uneven. In this church the floor is partly of earth and partly flagged, the seats and benches are decayed and broken, the pulpit is old and crazy, what is called the communion table nearly rotten, and the windows are frequently broken. At the western end of the nave is a heavy, clumsily built steeple, containing four bells; in the body of the church there are no gravestones or inscriptions worth noticing. Within the communion rails, "Here lieth the body of David ap David Morgan, paternally descended from Owen Gethin, he departed this life *Anno Domini* 1602." (Arms, per pale, baron not legible, femme, a buck tripping, with a coronet between his horns; these last are the arms of Cradoc ap Gwilym, and therefore probably the sculptor has committed an error by placing them in the sinister, instead of dexter side of the shield.) Near this stone is another, "Here lyeth the body of Roger ———, sonne to John ap Llew ap Morgan ap Sir David Gam of Peyton, knight, he had issue ——— children, now living VIII, Watkin, John, Rowland, William, Margaret, Anne, Elizabeth and *Roland*, he died ——— 1600"; round the margin the words "the daughter of John Games of Aberbran," are legible: on this stone are the outlines of a man in armour in profile, on his head the helmet of an esquire, and in his hand a sword; on the right side of the stone (looking downwards upon it) a female, her hands in the attitude of supplication, between both figures the letters I H S, and above them a shield, in which are 32 armorial quarterings, among them Vaughan, Bleddin ap Macnarch, Brychan, Rhys Goch, &c. &c., but many of them are so defaced as not to be legible. It is difficult to fill up the whole of the first blank; this tombstone certainly covers the remains of Roger Vaughan, a great grandson of the first Watkin Vaughan of Merthyr; he married Sibil, the daughter of John Games of Aberbran, son of Llewelyn ap Morgan ap Sir David Gam. On the eastern pine end wall, near the communion table, are the arms of Vaughan, quartering several others, nearly rubbed out, or rather *rubbed over* with white lime.

There is no table of benefactions hung up in the church, nor do we find that any donations have been received for the repairs of the church or the use of the poor, although in 1640 Jenkin John of this parish, by his will, proved in the register office at Brecon about 1800, gave ten pounds to be laid out at interest for the repairs of the church, and ten pounds to be laid out at interest for the benefit of the poor of this parish; he likewise gave five pounds for the maintenance of the prisoners in the county gaol of Brecon, to be paid them on the feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle, and as late as the year 1760, Mr. Edward Gwyn of Pant y cored or Pant y corred, by his will, proved in the same office, gave to his brother Thomas Gwyn, in fee, among other lands, a tenement

in this parish called Dolwydd, chargeable with an annuity of forty shillings for the use of the poor there, payable to testator's trusty friend, John Bevan of Pantgriffith, "as a person in trust to receive the said annuity for the use of the poor for ever, to be by him and his heirs, with the assistance of the vicar and churchwardens, distributed on the 20th of December yearly." The first donation, if it has been neglected for some years, is perhaps irrecoverably lost, but there is an apparent inattention in the guardians of the interest of the poor in not enforcing the payment of the latter bequest.

DESCRIPTION OF PARISH IN 1809.

About two miles eastward of the mother church, and adjoining the road from Brecon to Builth, at the distance of eight miles from the former place, is a chapel called Capel Dyffryn Honddu or Capel ycha, Honddu vale or Upper Chapel, to the curacy of which the vicar of Merthyr nominates; it has been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty, and may perhaps hereafter exceed the vicarage in value. Its present appearance is that of a stable or small outhouse, not being surrounded by any wall or fence, as no persons are interred there.

We do not know that there are any remains of Roman or British encampments in this parish, except one of the latter description on the hill above Alltarnog, facing the vale of Honddu, the entrenchments round which are perfect on most sides. This we believe to have been formed and occupied by Madoe ap Maenarch and his descendants before the building of the castellated mansion of Castlemadoc.

AN ANCESTOR OF SIR JOHN LLEWELYN, BART.

There have been but few families of even transient celebrity within this parish. On the east, after passing Castlemadoc, about two miles further on the road to Builth, is Baily-brith, the variegated fold, either from its being partly covered with verdure and partly gravel or pebbles, or else from the domestic animals of various colours frequently seen within it: in which case it should more properly be written Bu-le or Buw-le the kine-fold or place for kine, as a farm in Carmarthenshire is called. This tenement continued in the possession of the descendants of Bleddin ap Maenarch until the beginning of the seventeenth century, when Mary the daughter and heiress of Thomas Llwyd, as some, of David Thomas, as others, married Henry Williams, otherwise Harry ap Gwilym ap Harry of Battle, of what tribe we know not, but their posterity bore the surname of Williams. Thomas Williams, their son, married a sister of James Watkins of Tregoe, esquire, after whom followed in succession two of the name of Henry Williams, the latter of whom was sheriff of Breconshire in 1716, and married Elinor the daughter of Lewis Havard of Devynock, by whom he had issue Catherine, who married Samuel Gwyn of Pant y cored, and Mary, who married John Llewelyn of Ynis y gerwyn, esquire, from whom the estate has descended to Mr. Llewelyn, the proprietor, in 1800.

Northward of this mansion, about a mile, but on a different side of the Honddu is Mynachty or Monachty, the monastery, once the residence of those monks from the Priory of Malvern, who were employed to superintend the temporal concerns of that religious house, and to collect their dues in this parish, now a miserable hovel, with a small farm attached, without the smallest vestige of its former magnificence, for such we must conclude it possessed when the Priory to which it belonged became affluent, though it was not of sufficient consequence to be noticed in Tanner's *Notitia Monastica*.

THE VAUGHANS OF ESCIR FECHAN.

Crossing from the vale of Honddu to that of the Escir, we come to the only remaining house of note and distinguished family in this parish, though the name has already been changed by marriage, and the line will be extinct with the present Mrs. Chabert, the last of the race of Vaughan of Escir fechan, a house situate on the western side of that river, which has undergone the fate of most of our mansions by its conversion into a farmer's dwelling: this estate also continued in the descendants of Bleddin ap Maenarch until the before mentioned marriage of Watkin Vaughan, grandson of Sir Roger Vaughan of Tretower, sometime during the reign of Henry the Eighth, with the heiress of Peytyn Gwyn, who brought him this tenement, nearly the whole of the parish of Merthyr, and also the Peytyns and other property in the adjoining parishes, and from them descended not only the Vaughans of Escir fechan, but also those of Trebarried, as will be seen by the genealogy of these branches of this family, who as they were so numerous, so opulent, and of such celebrity, deserve particular attention here.

The ancestor of the house of Vaughan, and with whom their pedigree generally commences, was first cousin to the unfortunate Bleddin ap Maenarch, the last lord of Brecon. He was known by the names of Moreiddig Warwyn, the first appellation (the mighty jealous one) being undoubtedly descriptive of his mind, and the next (Whitnape or white shoulder), of some singularity of mark

upon his body: tradition indeed tells us that he was born with a snake round his neck, from whence the place of his nativity, *Llechryd* in Radnorshire, abbreviated from *Lle dychrynlyd*, the place of horror, was so called, and from this supposed event his posterity took their arms, sable three boys' heads couped at the shoulders, each having a snake wreathed round his neck proper.

He lived in the beginning of the twelfth century, but of his exploits or the time of his death, history has not afforded us the smallest information, his descendant in the fourth generation was of *Llechryd*, and called *Rosser fawr* or *Roger the great*, and his son again, *Rosser Bychan*, *Fychan* (since corrupted into *Vaughan*), or *Roger the little*. In his time, from their connections, they seem to have been in opulent circumstances, but the founder of the family in point of wealth was *Gwalter y Sais*, or *Walter the Englishman*, a contemporary and perhaps a companion of *Eimon Sais*, in the wars in France, in the time of *Edward the Third*.

Upon his return home, this *Gwalter Sais* married *Florence*, daughter and heiress of *Sir Walter Bredwardine* a lineal descendant of *Sir Piers Bredwardine*, who lived in the time of *Edward the First*, and was elder brother of *Sir Roger Bredwardine* of *Crickhowel*, and as the adventures of this *Walter*, in the services of the king of England, increased the wealth of the family, his grandson was born to distinguish himself and to throw a lustre on his descendants by the gallantry of his conduct on the plains of France, where the exploits of his grandsire have been forgotten.

ISSUE OF SIR ROGER VAUGHAN.

Sir Roger Vaughan, one of the heroes of *Agincourt*, left three legitimate and one natural son and several daughters. From the first son of *Sir Roger Vaughan*, sprung *Vaughan* of *Penbrey* in *Carmarthenshire*, afterwards (by marriage with an heiress of the junior house of *Tretower*), of *Porthaml*, from whom the first *Lady Ashburnham*. A second brother of this branch of *Penbrey* was of *Wilts*, and a still younger son was the paternal ancestor of *Jenkins* of *Pant y nawel* in *Glamorganshire*.¹

The descendants of the second son, were the *Vaughans* of *Hergest*, who terminated in the male line with the father of *Frances*, who married *Vaughan* of *Trebarried*, and *Vaughans* of *Clyro*, now of *Courtfield* in *Monmouthshire*. *Sir Roger Vaughan* of *Tretower*, the third son, is almost entitled to be considered as the head of a tribe; for his issue by different women, whether wives or concubines, is by no means clear, nor does it seem to have been very material in his time; they were so numerous that they are with difficulty followed. The eldest shoot was preserved in the house of *Tretower*, and afterwards of *Scethrog*, from whence two slips sprouted, the one planted at *Llangwynne* and the other at *Newton* in *Llansaintfread*, both of which soon withered; the second son of *Sir Roger* was ancestor of the first *Vaughans* of *Porthaml*, whose heiress married *Vaughan* of *Penbrey* as before mentioned, a junior son of this line was *Vaughan*, ancestor of the house of *Merthyr*, whose descendants again were the *Vaughans* of *Trebarried*, who terminated with the father of *Mrs. Harley*, and the second branch of the *Merthyr Vaughans* ended in the male line with the father of *Mrs. Chabert*.

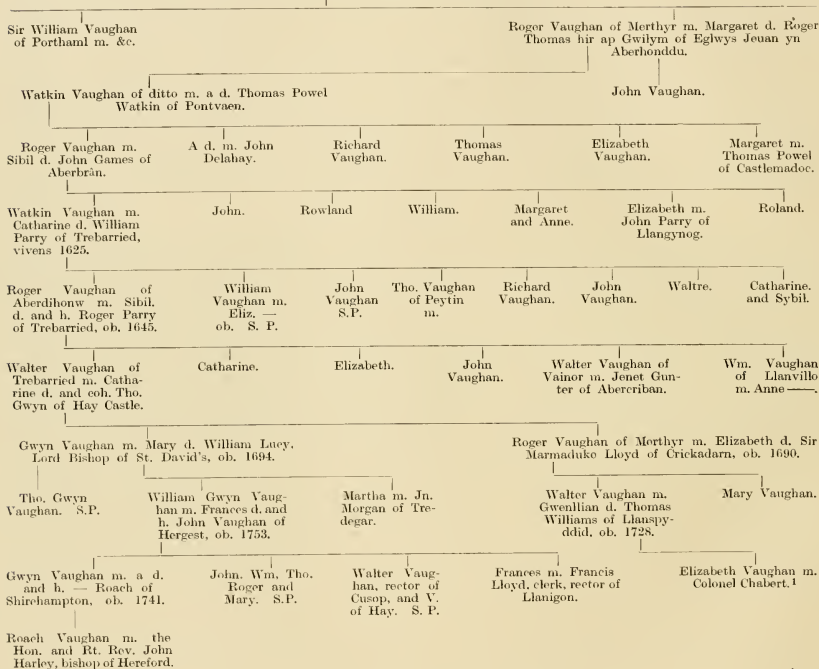
The issue of a fourth son of *Sir Roger Vaughan* were the *Vaughans* of *Cathedine*, *Penkelley* and *Llanvillo*. The descendants of a fifth son, were sometime of *Trebarried*, so called from them, and took the surname of *Parry*, as did also the posterity of the sixth son, *Sir Thomas Vaughan*, beheaded in the time of *Richard the Third*, of which family, the last named in the pedigrees is *Sir Thomas Parry*, chancellor to the exchequer in the time of *Elizabeth*.

We have here endeavoured to give a delineation of the genealogical tree, with the branches, as they appear to spring from the trunk or radix. The pedigrees in this volume will be given as they occur in the order of the parishes wherein they were settled, among which, the first is *Vaughan* of *Yscir fechan*.

¹ Among the sons of this *Watkin Vaughan* must be reckoned (according to *Griffith Owen Hiraethog*, a Welsh herald, in the beginning of the sixteenth century) *Watkin*, who had issue *John Vaughan*, whose son, *Sir Hugh Jones* knight, lies buried in the chancel of *Saint Mary's* at *Swansea*, having the following inscription in the old law character upon his tomb:—"Pray for the soule of *Sir Hugh Johnys*, knight and *Darne Mawde* his wife, which *Sir Hugh* was made knight of the holy sepulchre of our Lord *Ihu Crist*, in the city of *Jerusalem* the xliiii. day of *August*, in the yere of oure Lord God, *MCCXXLI*. and the said *Sir Hugh* had continued in the *Werris* ther long tyme before by the space of fyve yere, that is to say, agens the *Turkis* and *Saracyns* in the ptis of *Troy*, *Greece* and *Turky*, under *John yt tyme* *Emperowre* of *Constantynople*, and aftyr that was knight *Marshal* of *Frawnce* under *John Duke* of *Somerset* by the space of fyve yere, and in likewise aftyr that was knight *Marshal* of *England* under the good *John Duke* of *Norfolke*, which *John* gave unto hym the maner of *Lioldymor*, to him and to his heyrts for ever more, upon whose soullis *Ihu* have mercy. *Fiat* *Mia* *tua* *Dne* *super* *nos*."

VAUGHAN OF YSCIRFECHAN AND TREBARRIED.

See Vaughan of Bredwardine and Tretower to Watkin Vaughan (grandson of Sir Roger Vaughan of Tretower) inclusive; he married Joan, daughter of Gwilym fychan, &c.



THE WILL OF WATKIN VAUGHAN.

Watkin Vaughan the grandson of the first Watkin, and father of Roger, whose tombstone in Merthyr church has been just noticed, died in 1577; by his will it appears that the portion of his daughter Elizabeth was £40, and to his daughter Margaret Vaughan, afterwards Margaret the wife of Thomas Powel of Castlemadoc, he gives only twenty lambs, from whence it should seem that either some partition of his estate had taken place in his lifetime, by which she was to inherit the lands about Castlemadoc, or else that her brother settled them upon her upon her marriage: he appoints "Mr. William Games and Mr. Richard Pryse, esqrs., to be overseers to see his will fulfilled to the welthe of his soule," and recites a debt of 33s. 4d. to be due to him from Thomas de le Haia. Both the elder and junior lines of this family have terminated in females: the Trebarried branch

¹ Mrs. Chabert's mother, when she married Mr. Vaughan, was widow of Hugh Penry of Cefnbrith; she married thirdly Edward Jones vicar of Merthyr, by whom she had two children, Thomas and Elizabeth.

continues in Mrs. Harley, but upon the death of the present Mrs. Chabert, widow of the late Colonel Chabert, without issue, the Vaughans of Merthyr, in the junior line, will be extinct.

ECCLESIASTICAL, AND THE JEFFREYS CHARITY.

The tythes and advowson of Merthyr Cynog formerly belonged to the Priory of Malvern, to whom they were given by Milo Fitzwalter, earl of Gloucester; this grant, in which it is called by the abominably corrupted name of Marte conot, was afterwards confirmed by *inspeximus* of Henry the First.¹ For some time after the dissolution of the monasteries these tythes were in the possession of the Crown; in the middle of the reign of James the First, they were conveyed to trustees, for the purpose of sale. To whom they were first disposed of we know not, but in the reign of Charles the First they are found in the possession of Sir Francis Fane, from whom they were taken by the Propagators of the Gospel in Wales, but restored to him upon the return of Charles the Second: soon after this event Sir Francis sold them to John Jeffreys of the Llywel family, father to the late Mr. John Jeffreys of West Sheen, and in a short time after the death of the latter they were purchased, under a decree of the Court of Chancery for a sale of a great part of his property, by the late Mr. Pennoyre Watkins. By one of the family of Jeffreys the tythes were charged jointly with a tenement in Llywel, with £5 per annum to the poor of the latter parish. His youngest son, the Reverend Thomas Watkins, is under his will (as we apprehend) entitled to the advowson as impropiator, unless the right of presentation was expressly reserved at the sale. This vicarage has a parsonage house, but no glebe belonging to it, and though now augmented by Queen Anne's Bounty, is one of the poorest in point of value of any in the county; it was estimated at thirty pounds per annum in Pope Nicholas's taxation, but at that time Llandilo'r fan and Llanfihangel nant bran formed part of the parish, and indeed as late as 1646 they were so considered; for in a MS. book of orders made in Parliament in the time of Charles the First, in the Bodleian library, we find the following entry, dated November 4, 1646, "Merthir Kennogg, by virtue of and order of both houses of parliament of the second of May last; is ordered that the yearly sume of fifty pounds be allowed and paid out of the impropriate *Rectorie* of Merthir Kennog, in the countie of Brecknock, sequestered from Sir Francis Ffan² knight, delinquent, to and for the increase of the maintenance of the minister of the parish church of Merthir Kennogg aforesaid his present maintenance being but 20tee marks per ann. and it is further ordered that the said sum of forty pounds be paid out of the profits of the said rectorie towards the maintenance of such minister as shall officiate in the chapel of Llanvihangel nant bran, the present maintenance being only 20tee nobles p. ann., and it is likewise ordered that the further yerely sum of forty pounds be allowed and paid out of the profits of the said rectorie towards the maintenance of such minister as shall officiate in the chappell being only six pounds p. ann., and it is further ordered that the like yerely sum of ten pounds be allowed and paid out of the profits of the said rectorie towards the maintenance of the minister of the chappell of Cappel Dyffryn honthi, the present maintenance belonging to the said chappell being only four pounds p. ann., all which said chappells are within and belonging to the said parish of Merthir Kennog, and the segrs. of the premises are required to allow and paie the same accordinglie at such times and seasons of the year as the profits shall grow due and payable."

The present produce of the living to the vicar after deducting the curate's salary is little more than the valuation in 1288. It was certified in the time of Queen Anne to be worth ten pounds per annum, it pays 15s. 0½d. tenths, 9s. 7d. per annum, synodals and procurations, and 2s. 8d. annually for archidiaconal procurations. The register commences in 1721, and the living is discharged.

LATER PARTICULARS.

The church remained in the pitiable condition described by Jones until the year 1862, when it was restored at a cost of £787 11s. 7d. Four years later (1866) the tower was re-roofed at a cost of about £120. The expenses attending the restoration were met by voluntary contributions, the chief subscribers being the late Colonel Watkins, M.P., £133 8s. 4d., Lord Camden, £75, and Mr. John Llewellyn of Penllergare, Swansea, £75. The timber of the belfry, which had suffered sadly from exposure to the weather during very many years, was in 1901 in too rotten a condition to bear the strain of ringing the bells, of which there are four, one being cracked.

¹ Dugd. Monast. vol. I. p. 366.

² We are at a loss to account how this rectorie could have been in the possession of Sir Francis Fane, unless it was by purchase from the trustees, or perhaps under a grant, among other possessions, by Charles the First, with whom he was deservedly a favorite.

Sir Stephen Glynne, Bart, who visited the church in 1865 remarks: "This church, within a spacious churchyard, has been lately very nicely restored, and partly rebuilt. It has the common arrangement, a nave and chancel undivided, a western tower, and south porch. The tower, low, plain, and strongly built, is of an essentially Welsh make; almost a military character. It has no buttress, nor stringcourse, nor doorway. All the openings are mere narrow slits. The battlement is rude, and under it is a Corbel-table. The roof is painted and covered with tiles. It opens to the nave by a pointed doorway. The windows of the chancel, on the north, are single trefoil-headed lancets; on the south one single and one double lancet; at the east end a triplet; in the nave double lancets with trefoil heads. Some of the windows are new, but done quite in the spirit of the ecclesiology of the district. The rood-screen remains between the nave and chancel; it has plain, arched compartments, and the vine-cornice has been restored. There is a rude, arched piscina south of the altar. Near the north door is a large stone stoup. The sacarium is large and laid with new tiles; the chancel stalled; the new seats of the nave are open, and very neat; all the new arrangements are praiseworthy. The font has a circular bowl on cylindrical stem. In the churchyard are fine yew trees."

ECCLESIASTICAL.

The augmentations from Queen Anne's Bounty, from 1723 to 1792, amount to £1,000. Previous to 1845 some connection existed between Merthyr Cynog and Llanfihangel nant bran; entries are frequently found in both registers by T. Price, the incumbent of the latter place. He seems also to have held Dyffryn Honddu, a chapel of Merthyr Cynog; since 1814 Dyffryn Honddu has been held by the incumbent of Merthyr Cynog. The patrons of the living of Merthyr Cynog are the Marquis of Camden and the Evans of Ffrwdgrech family alternately; the latter family possess the lay tithes. The gross income of Merthyr Cynog in 1901 was £91; of this, £10 was received from the tithes impropriator; £55 from Bounty lands; and £26 from Government Stock, being the product of Bounty lands sold. The gross income of Duffryn Honddu was £97, and of this, £55 came from Bounty farms and £42 invested money, the product of Bounty lands sold. Duffryn Honddu church was restored about 1850, and there are seats for 80 persons.

POPULATION, EDUCATION, &c.

Merthyr Cynog had in 1891 a population of 659; in 1841 it had 815. Its area is about 21,278 acres, and the rateable value £4,933. It is in the rural district of Brecknock, and Petty Sessional division of Merthyr, the Polling District of Lower Chapel, and the Electoral Division of Battle.

There are no local trades, the parish being purely agricultural. Nearly all the people speak Welsh and English, but the former is losing ground, especially amongst the young. Services in both church and chapels are chiefly in English. The literature read is chiefly English, and the children almost without exception speak English at play and attend English classes at Sunday school.

The education of children was provided for and controlled by a School Board until the abolition of these bodies. There are three schools at different centres, viz., Merthyr Cynog village, Pontfaen, and Upper Chapel; the number of children being about 90. Before the formation of the Board in 1878, the work of education was carried on at the National Schools situate at Merthyr Cynog and Upper Chapel; the latter was built in 1855, the former probably a little later. Previously a part of the parish church had been partitioned off for a schoolroom, and Duffryn Honddu church was utilized for the same purpose. The Merthyr Cynog school was leased to the board, by which body the other schools were erected. There are no school endowments.

There are within the parish two Calvinistic Methodist and two Independent Chapels. One Methodist is at Pontfaen; the other, Tydu or Siloah, near Merthyr Cynog village. The latter has some historical interest, being one of the foundations of the Rev. John Wesley. The two Independent Chapels, Ebenezer and Bethania, are in Upper Chapel.

EDWARD GWYN'S CHARITY.

By his will dated January 10th 1729, and proved at Brecon 24th April, 1760, Edward Gwyn (probably of Pantycorred) gave to the poor of Eskirfawr and Eskirfechan, an annuity of 40s. out of the rent charge of Dolwydd, a farm and lands situate in Merthyr Cynog, the said sum to be distributed every year by John Bevan, of Pantgriffith, whom he appointed trustee, on Christmas Eve, with the assistance of the Vicar and Churchwardens. The farm charged in 1836 was the property of William Diiwyn, Esq., who was M.P. for Glamorgan County, and it consisted of 30 acres. The money was to be distributed in sums of not less than 4s., according to the circumstances and wants of the recipients.



THE ROMAN STONE AT PENOYRE.

This Stone was dug up in a field near Cradoc, and was placed upon a heap of stones in the road-way to be broken up. Mr. JOHN GRIFFITHS, builder, of Brecon, fortunately saw it, and conveyed the stone to Brecon. The late BARON CLEASBY was communicated with, and it was then removed to its present position at Penoyre.



A SET OF BRECONSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S "BUTTONS."

(From Photograph of a set of them in the possession of Edward J. Jewer, J.P., of Forest Legionin.)

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1574.—		Sir Thomas James.			
1580.—Richard Price of the Priory of Brecon, esq.		Sir Hugh Evans.			
1583.—Richard Price, esq.		Richard Lloyd, ¹	1758.—Mary Jeffreys, a committee of Jeffrey Jeffreys, a lunatic.		David Griffiths, held also the Vicarage of Llanfihangel near Bran, where he resided, the duties of Merthyr Cynog being done by Curates: they were, David Price, Morgan Jones, and T. Price. The latter succeeded to Llanfihangel next bran.
1604.—The Crown by lapse.		Thomas Lewis, ²			Ch. Griffith (died 1821.)
1662.—		David John Gwilym. ⁴	1817.—		Rees Jenkins (died 1828.)
1670.—The Crown <i>pro hac vice</i> .		Sammel Jones.	1821.—		Rees Williams (died 1845.)
1713.—		Thomas Herring, ⁵	1828.—		Thomas Jones (died April 1900.)
1714.—The Crown by lapse.		Rice Williams.	1843.—John Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, esq.		
1736.—Nicholas Jeffreys, esq.		Edward Jones, ⁶	1900.—Marquis Camden and J.D. Evans, esq., F.R.W.Grech, alternately.		David Lewis Thomas (instituted July 16.)
1741.—Nicholas Jeffreys of Bedford Row, esq.		Thomas Williams, A.M.			
		Joshua Thomas. ⁷			

BATTLE.

ACCORDING to Ecton, is dedicated to Saint Cynog, but of this we entertain considerable doubts. It has been already seen that the district now called the parish of Battle, anciently formed part of, and was a hamlet of Saint John the Evangelist's in Brecon, in which church the inhabitants of the former precinct have a chapel called by their name, where they resorted to hear divine service before the present fabric in the country was built, and in which they continue occasionally to bury their dead to this very day, so that what is now called Battle chapel, was evidently built by the Normans after the conquest of Breconshire, either by one of the lords of Brecon or more probably by the prior and convent of Brecon, who gave this district the name of Battle, in compliment to the abbey to which the whole parish was attached; in either of these cases we conclude that the patron Saint was Saint Martin or Saint John, but as we have no authority for this conjecture, we shall not absolutely contest the title of the British saint to the district, but leave him from henceforward in the undisturbed possession of it, hoping that those who feel for his honour will excuse our scepticism, and in return we consign them to his protection, wishing them a participation in the benefits of his bracelet whenever it shall fortunately be recovered.

The chapel or church called Battle, is *now* parochial to all intents and purposes, the inhabitants appoint their own officers, maintain their own poor, pay no tythes to the minister or impropiator of Saint John's, nor does the vicar of that parish nominate to this augmented curacy; in short they are so completely torn or divorced from each other, that no remains of their former connexion can be discovered. The building is situated upon an eminence three miles from Brecon, in the road to Merthyr Cynog, to which parish it adjoins. It is a small low edifice surrounded by a cemetery,

¹ He resigned in 1583, but when presented is uncertain; he must have been vicar but for a short time, as Hugh Evans had the living in 1580.

² He was the brother of Watkin Lewis y bolydd or the baker, who died in Brecon in 1587.

³ He died in 1647, possessed of a very considerable estate in this parish, part of which he describes as having been bought of John Delahay and Thomas Delahay; he seems to have died without issue as he leaves several tenements to his nephew Philip Prosser, clerk, and Troharno Watkin; gives pecuniary legacies to half the parish, and a cow to Morodith Price for making his will. His widow was Marslie, to whom he devised lands "provided she made no claim to the three *principals* of his stuff," which he gave to another person; this custom of bequeathing the three most valuable articles of the household furniture frequently occurs in old wills, either from some mystical allusion or in compliance with a provincial regulation or obsolete law. These three *principals* were anciently, in all probability, the only property which the testator could dispose of, the remainder being, before the statute of Williams and Mary, mentioned in the former volume, the *rationabilis pars honorum* claimed by the widow and children, or if they claimed the three most valuable articles, the testator could dispose of the rest; and in this case the widow seems to have had an option.

⁴ When presented is uncertain, he was one of the Gwilyms of Garreg fawr in Ystradavellto, and is described as vicar of Merthyr in a M.S. pedigree in our possession, which as usual has no date; he must have lived between 1604 and 1643.

⁵ Curate of Battle in 1602, his eldest son and grandson took the surname of Thomas, but one of the junior branches of the family retained the appellation of Herring, which still continues in the parish.

⁶ He was of the family of Jones, of Cilvach yr heddwch, near Llandovery, and married the widow of the late Mr. Vaughan, of Esceir fechan.

⁷ On the resignation of Mr. Williams.

about which is a wall not always preserved in the best state of repair; a few straggling houses near it give this place the name of a village, but there is no parsonage or glebe attached to the curacy. We do not find that any benefactions to the poor or donations to pious uses have been bequeathed to this parish except *twelve pence* given in 1573, by a testator towards glazing the great window of the chapel, which has frequently since required a similar or rather greater expenditure.

History as well as tradition has fixed this as the scene of action where the fate of Brecknoche was decided, upon its attack by Bernard Newmarch, but except the well called Pfynon Pen Rhys, the lane called Heol y Cymri, and a Maen hir, or long upright stone, below the church on the south side, no vestige remains to recall this event to recollection or to confirm the tale; the probability however of this battle having been fought here, and the supposed points of attack and defence are stated shortly, but sufficiently at length for conjecture, in the first volume.

THE ANCIENT FREEHOLDERS.

The freehold in the greatest part, if not the whole, of the lands in this parish, formerly belonged to the monastery of Brecon; upon the dissolution, Sir John Price added them to his other possessions. They were disposed of by his posterity, and those claiming under conveyances from them at different times, but the manor, which is co-extensive with the parish, remained with the family of Jeffreys of Abercynrig and descended to Lord Ashbrook, who sold it to the Reverend Thomas Watkins of Pennoyre House, in this parish. The impropriate tithes, together with the mansion and demesne, the residence of the late family of the Mitchels, on the north west boundary of the parish, were purchased from Mr. John Jeffreys of the Priory of Brecon, by one William David of this parish, who left issue three sons, David Williams, Howel Williams and John Williams. David had a son, William Williams, who was in the law, in the Six Clerks' Office, considerably improved his patrimony, and died unmarried, leaving three sisters. Hester, the eldest, married Thomas Mitchel in 1702, to whom she brought this estate; Henry, their son, married Margaret the daughter of Thomas Penry of Llywncyntefn, and left only one son, the late Thomas Mitchel; his widow possessed it for her life. Upon failure of their issue, it was necessary to resort to the descendants of one of the daughters of David Williams, from whom this property was derived, and in that line was found Catherine, the wife of Evan Brown, late of Brecknock, whose eldest son, Henry Brown, late agent to Sir Charles Morgan of Tredegar, would have succeeded to this part of the estate, as heir at law: but his title to the reversion, after the death of Mrs. Mitchel, was confirmed by the will of her deceased husband, by whom it was devised to him; he is since dead, and his brother, John Brown of London, or his children, become the proprietors of the estate upon the above event.

COLONEL PETER CHABERT.

About one mile to the south east of this house, in the road to Brecon, is the mansion of the late Peter Chabert, esq., major of brigade and aide de camp to Lord Waldegrave, at the battle of Minden, and afterwards lieutenant colonel in the 108th regiment of foot, and after of his widow, Mrs. Chabert, built about forty years ago (1769), when there was hardly a tree near it. It is now protected by what may be almost called a grove of wood, serving for ornament as well as shelter, but how long they may be permitted to constitute either, when the rage for cutting down and the consequent demand for timber increases, time only can determine.

PENNOYRE, AND THE WATKINS FAMILY.

Advancing still towards Brecon, on the boundary of the parish of Saint John, appears the stately residence of the Reverend Thomas Watkins, vicar of Llandeavall, with the rectorial tythes annexed, and rector of Llandeavall fach in this county. The first stone of this house was laid in 1799, as appears by the following inscription in the wall of an inner court.

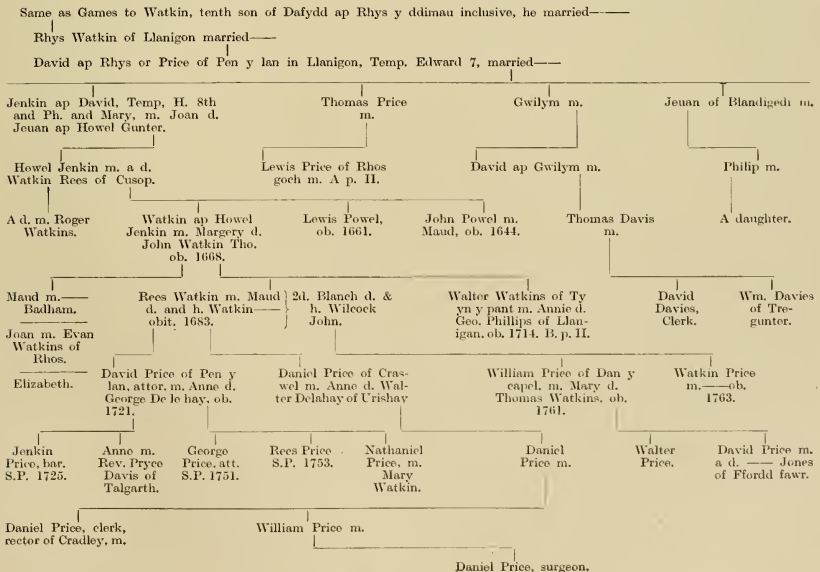
PENNOYRE WATKINS, ARMIGER,
PATER ILLE OPTUMUS ET VIR VENERANDUS,
TERRAM CIRCUMJACENTEM EMIT ET EXCOLUIT,
DOMUM EDIFICAVIT
FILIIUS IPSIUS THOMAS, A.M., F.R.S., F.A.S.
NEPOTULUS ILLE CHARISSIMUS PENAUR,
FUNDAMENTUM JECIT
ANNO CHRISTI 1799.
EHEU? SICUT OMNE HUMANUM PERIBIT.
T. WATKINS.

From the windows of this house are three most beautiful views: on the east, through a small vista, are seen the village of Llanthw and Pety'n gwyn, the residence of Sir David Gam in the early

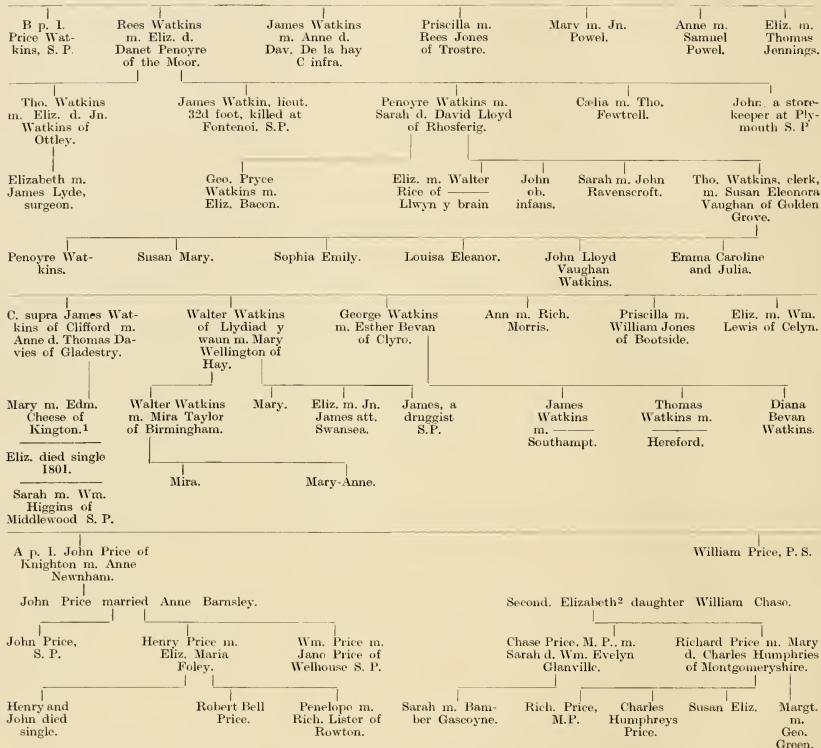
part of his life, and in the back ground, the black mountains beyond Talgarth; from the library, in which is a capital picture of our Saviour bearing the cross, by Correggio, looking westward, is the Vale of Usk, with the highly ornamental grounds above Penpont, beyond which is Abercamlais, and the mountains in Llywel and Devynock close the scene. Both these landscapes, though differing materially in their features, are extremely picturesque, but that from the south is sublime. Nearly opposite is the gradually rising knoll of Benni, covered to the top and on all sides with wood, beyond which appear the precipitous and majestic summits of the beacons, and a considerable length of the range shewn under our map; the pen, however, in vain attempts to describe subjects of this nature, recourse must be had either to actual views of them, or to the assistance of the pencil.

The family of Watkins, from the beginning of the reign of Henry the Seventh, to the end of the seventeenth century, were settled at Llanigon, when they removed to Hay and the neighbourhood. The late Pennoyre Watkins resided at Brecon, where by the practice of the law and by fortunate purchases, he accumulated a very considerable property. The Broadway estate near Laugharne in Caermarthenshire, bought of a descendant of Judge Powel, so well known for his conduct in favour of the bishops, in the time of James the Second, he devised to his eldest son, George Pryse Watkins, esq., and principal part of the Breconshire estate to his son Thomas. The names most familiar in this family formerly were Rees, Watkin and Jenkin. Thomas, the younger son of David Price of Pen y lan in Llanigon took the name of Price in the time of Henry the Seventh, by order of the President of the Council and Court of the Marches, where he practised as an advocate, and from him is descended the member for the borough of New Radnor in 1799. Watkin, the grandfather of David Price, is the last in most of the pedigrees preserved in Wales, but in one in the British Museum, by Hugh Thomas, the line is continued to the beginning of the eighteenth century, to which we have added such names in the later generations as we have been enabled to collect from tomb-stones, wells in the register office, and information from the family.

I. WATKINS OF BRECON, AND OF BROADWAY, PENOYRE, &c.



II.



In the cursory view we took of the aspect and soil of the parish of Merthyr, we noticed the beauty of the vale of Escir, which continues to be equally picturesque while we follow that river, until we come opposite Mrs. Chabert's, where a common intervenes and intersects this small parish, running across it from north-east to south-west; from the village southwards, except the meadows and pastures under Penoyre and near Gliwdy, the cultivated lands are chiefly arable, as indeed they are at the other extreme of the parish, though their contiguity to the common or mountain, to which a right of commonage usually attaches, becomes particularly estimable to the farmer.

The impropriator of the tythes nominates to the curacy.

The certified value of which in the time of Queen Anne was £5 5s. according to Ecton, but according to the printed return to the Commons in that year, it was only £5 per annum. The register book commences in 1270, and the curacy is not in charge in the king's books.

¹ From whom Mr. Edmund H. Cheese, Solicitor, of Hay, Brecknockshire, who married and has issue two daughters, one of whom married Mr. Cope-Proctor, and has issue one son.

² From whom the Green-Price family of Knighton, Radnorshire, the head of the family being Sir R. D. Green-Price, Bart., a sister of whom married Sir Powlett C. Milbank, Bart., lord lieutenant of Radnorshire.

LATER PARTICULARS.

This living was in 1850 a perpetual curacy, endowed with £600 Royal bounty and £200 Parliamentary grant, net income £73; the patrons and impropiators being the trustees of the late John Browne, Esq. The tithes were afterwards commuted for a rent-charge of £135. In 1889 the living was set down as £175 gross; it was £150 net in 1907.

In 1850 the church was described as being a small unadorned edifice; the east window was in the later style of English architecture; and the sacramental cup was engraved W.P.D. with the date 1576. In 1880 the church was restored at the sole expense of Lady Cleasby, of Pennoyre, whose husband, Sir Anthony Cleasby, Baron of the Court of Exchequer, bought the Pennoyre mansion and estate, and died there in 1879. The architect was Mr. J. Bacon Fowler. The church consists of chancel, nave, porch, and a one-bell turret.

The oak reredos was erected "To the beloved memory of Sir Anthony Cleasby, Knight, of Pennoyre, one of the Barons of Her Majesty's Court of Exchcquer from the year 1868 to 1878, who died Oct. 6, 1879, aged 75 years. This tablet is erected by those who best knew his worth as a husband a father, and a brother."

Another tablet "Is erected sacred to the memory of Henry Mitchell, Esq., of Battle House, in this parish, Esq., who departed this life June 4, 1782, aged 77 years. Also Margaret wife of the above named Henry Mitchell, who departed this life September 28, 1788, aged 84; and also to Thomas Mitchell, Esq., son of the above Henry and Margaret Mitchell, who departed this life January 21, 1805, in the 68th year of his age, *who are all buried in the Battle Chapel in the Priory Church, Brecknock.* Also of Ann, wife of the above named Thomas Mitchell, who departed this life the 17th of May, 1814, aged 77 years, who is also buried in the Priory Church, Brecknock." There is also one to Howell Powell, of Battle Fawr, who died 4 June, 1858, aged 79, and also to his wife Jane, who died 1876, aged 81.

Also, "Sacred to the memory of John Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, of Pennoyre, lord lieutenant of the county, and Member of Parliament for the Borough of Brecon for many years. Born Feb. 22, 1802, died Sept. 28, 1865." There is also a tablet to the Kirkby family, who resided at Battle House; David Kirkby, Esq., died 20th March, 1860, aged 56, and the last recorded on the tablet is a daughter who died 1877.

The church contains, for so small an area, a large number of sepulchral monuments. At the east end is the Cleasby burial place, and besides the Baron already mentioned, Lucy Susan, Lady Cleasby, is commemorated by an inscription which gives her death as occurring on April 12, 1887, aged 75. Within a railed space is a tomb to the memory of Emma Caroline, wife of George Thomas Louth, Esq., and daughter of Rev. Thomas Watkins of Penoyre, who died April 23, 1861. The district must be conducive to long life, for of 15 inscriptions casually copied, the ages were 96, 91, 84, three 83, 82, two 81, 79, two 77, and three 75.

There is an old wooden chest, and iron box, in the vestry; the font is modern; and there is a holy water stoup.

During many years this living was held in conjunction with that of Llanddew by the late Rev. J. Lane Davies, but upon his death it was proposed to appoint the Vicar of St. John's and St. Mary's to hold it jointly with those parishes, but some difficulty arising, it was got over by inducting the Senior Curate of St. Mary's, the Rev. H. J. Church Jones, M.A., who now holds it as well as the curacy, and the parish is served by the curates of the town parishes mentioned.

THE DEATH OF COLONEL LLOYD WATKINS.

The Pennoyre mansion and part of the estate was purchased by Baron Cleasby about 1895, another portion of it having been sold in 1869. The purchase price was £45,500. The magnificent mansion was built by the late Colonel Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, M.P., at a cost of about £100,000, to replace the older family seat. Colonel Watkins, in his private diaries, several of which the writer has had access to, gives many interesting details as to the progress made in the building, and even totalled up the number of bricks, &c., brought into the work. The grounds he laid out with great care, and bestowed much attention upon the ornamental lakes, which he stocked plenteously with fish. His diaries give accounts of large catches made by himself and the numerous guests he from time to time entertained. Alas! in a few years the owner of this palatial residence, by the vicissitude of fortune, was compelled to seek asylum in one of the inns of Brecon, the old Bear Hotel in Ship Street, where he died bereft of the bulk of his fortune, but carrying with him to the grave the affectionate regard of the people of Brecon, whose benefactor he was, and whom he diligently represented in the House of Commons. And with his death, his family influence practically died in the town and county, although there are some distant connections still living in England, and elsewhere outside Breconshire.

THE ROMAN STONE.

There is (or was) preserved at Penroyre Mansion one of the finest Roman stones found in this country. It was ploughed up in a field at Battle in 1877, about half a mile from the Roman Camp at Bannium. Its height is 2 feet, and broken length 22 inches. Letter D $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; N $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. (*See illustration*). The date is suggested as the end of the first or beginning of the second century. Professor Hubner and the Rev. J. Wordsworth suggest the following reading :

DIS. [MANIBUS C JULI]
 CAN [AIDI TANCII]
 NI-FILLI [EQ[UITIS] (ALOE)]
 HISP [ANORUM] VETTON[UM] CIVIUM ROMANORUM JVLIVS
 CLEM[ENS] DOM[ITIVS] VALENS HEREDES FECERUNT]
 ANN[ORUM] XX. STIP[ENDIORUM]. III. H[IC SITUS EST.]

For some years, there was a day school at Battle supported by Colonel Watkins, who gave the schoolmaster £20 a year. This sum was augmented by fees amounting to about £8. Subsequently Battle School Board took over the educational affairs of this and a neighbouring parish.

The population here in 1891 was 126, and in 1831 it was 192. Battle is in the rural district of Brecknock, the petty sessional division of Merthyr, and gives the name to the Battle Electoral Division, in which it is placed.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1624.—		William Davies.	1730.—		David Morgan.
1629.—Evan Evans.			1739.—		Jchn Williams.
1662.—		Thomas Herring.	1756.—		Howel Powel.
1685.—		Howel Thomas.	1794.—Thomas Mitchel esq.		Joshua Davies.
1699.—		William Watkins.	1840.—Trustees of late John		
1713.—		Howel Powel.	Browne, esq.		
1720.—		Lewis Jones.	1864.—Doubtful.		Rev. J. Lane Davies.
1725.—		Theophilus Evans.	1904.—The Bishop.		Rev. H. J. Church Jones, M.A., curate of Brecon.

ABERESCIR or ABERYSCIR ;

SO called from the Aber or fall of the Escir into the Usk, near which the church is situated, may be written either way, without subjecting the scribe to the imputation of ignorance or inattention, the former is certainly the ancient and classical way of spelling it, but the pronunciation of the present day is with the latter, which in an English dress we would read Aberuskir.¹ Escir is derived from Esgaidd, brisk or nimble, or Esg, what diverges or shoots out ; both the smaller and greater rivers of the name uniting at Pontfaen, have their sources on the Epynt hills, and abound as we are informed, with a species of trout whose flesh is red, and resembles in colour and flavour those of the Usk more than the same fish in other small rivers in this county. The church is close upon the western bank, and is dedicated, according to Ecton, to St. Mary, but from the register of Bishop Morgan, otherwise Young, at Abergwili, in 1497, the patron saint, as before observed, was Cynidr or Cenedd, of Llangenith, in Glamorganshire. This church has been already described, it is a miserable little building with a shed at one end, in which the floor within is of earth, and when we saw it, it resembled what the heralds call a *Jess vary*. The pulpit, for instance, may be of a size sufficient to accommodate the minister, but neither the extent of its circumference or the decayed state in which it is in, would suit the author's ease or convenience or promote his devotion. Most of our country churches are less comfortable than the worst rooms or apartments in a gaol, the dungeons and cells excepted, and while our churches are thus permitted to have the appearance and inconveniences of gaols, the inevitable consequence will be that the one will be empty while the others are crowded. True policy consists neither in the punishment or mitigation of the sufferings of offenders, but in the prevention of crimes ; and this system cannot be more effectually supported than by a due attention to the morals of the community, and by holding out every proper inducement to that part of the people who are not totally depraved, to habitate themselves to an observance of the duties and ceremonies of religion, which in due time will have their effect upon the most callous and unthinking.

¹ Ecton writes Aberiskor or Aber Esgair; if he had stumbled upon Aber Esgaidd he would have been correct as to its ancient name, but Esgair which signifies a long ridge or hill, cannot be applied to a river.

ANCIENT MONUMENT.

The tombstones in Aberyscir church are few, and most of them broken. On one near the chancel, "_____ David Thomas _____ descended from Richard Madox lord of Cwmwd, who had issue Thomas, Margaret, _____ ob. 1638." (Arms, quarterly, Brychan and Awlach impaling Herbert.) On another, "Howel ap Howel ap Watkin ap Howel _____." According to a MS. in the Harleian collection in the British Museum, the following inscription was found in this church, but it is no longer seen here:—

"HERE LIETH RICHARD AP JENKIN AND CECILIA HIS WIFE UPON WHOSE SOUL
GOD HAVE MERCY, AMEN."

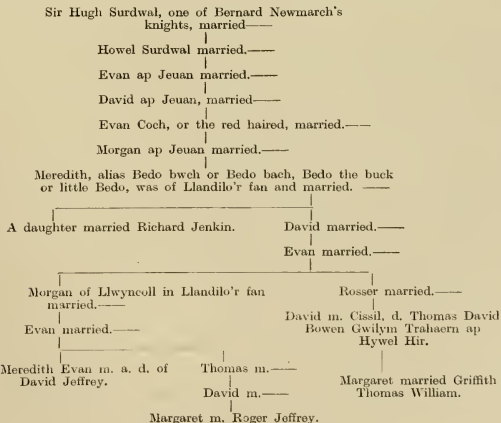
The Sarn Helen, in its progress from Gaer to Neath, here united itself with the Via Julia, and crossed the river Escir a little higher up the stream than the church, from hence it proceeded along the present road, or nearly parallel with it to Aberbran, where it crossed the Usk, pursued the turnpike road to within a few yards of Bettws or Penpont chapel, where the two ways separated and diverged, one south south west to Neath, and the other nearly due west to Caermarthen.

THE SURDWAL FAMILY.

The mesne manor of Aberyskir, formerly held by knight's service, under the lord of Cantreff-selyff, as well as the fee, in the lands throughout the whole parish, was bestowed by Bernard Newmarch on Sir Hugh Surdwal, or Sir Hugh of the gloomy or solitary vale: this translation is, we fear, not perfectly classical, certainly not literal, but, as we have heard of "pensive plains," we see no objection to *deaf* dales. With the embers of Caerbannau before his eyes and glowing at his door, surrounded by heights, at that time clothed with wood, the Norman must have found himself suddenly restored to his native soil; now, however, the ruthless axe, which has generally denuded the country, has here so far spared the appearance and situation of the mansion, that it has dissipated the gloom without injuring the picture.

The family of Surdwal soon left this parish or changed their surnames after the Welsh manner, so that they cannot be followed. The imperfect pedigree here given, fixes them in Llandilo'r vān in the beginning of the eighteenth century, where they still remain, though their names may now be Evan, Thomas, David, or in short, any other common appellation of the present day. According to Matthew Paris, one of the name of Robert Surdwal or de Surda Valle, accompanied the lord Beaumont in a crusade in the time of Henry the Second; but whether this was an ancestor, a cotemporary or relation of Sir Hugh Surdwal, is not as clear as it is that one of the Welsh house, Hywel Surdwal, was employed with others in the time of Edward the Fourth, to inquire into and certify the pedigree of William Herbert, first Earl of Pembroke, upon his advancement to that title and instalment at Windsor. He was one of the Arwydd feirdd, or Heraldic bards of Wales, and flourished, according to Owen, in his *Cambrian Biography*, between 1460 and 1490,¹ but his fame was established long prior to the former æra: he has left several poems still preserved in the principality.

PEDIGREE OF SURDWAL OF ABERYSIR.



¹ Humphrey Llwyd has a poet of the name of Jeuan ap Hywel Swardwal in this period; if this be not an error, he was the son of the heraldic bard.

In 1711, a tenement in this parish called Tyr Howel Surdwal, together with Tyr gwengad, Tyr veurig, and Clos dan y park, were devised by Rice Jones of Aberyscir, gent., to his eldest son John Jones, with remainders over: this was a branch of a family of the same name settled at Brecon; he bore, Rhys Goch, impaling Williams of Gaer, but how they were connected or what is now become of them, we know not. Though this tenement, called Howel Surdwal's land, seems to place the residence of one of the family near the centre of the parish, the tradition of the country is, that the manor house and residence of the lord always was on the site of the present mansion, now converted into a farmer's dwelling near the Aber. This, together with the demesne and manor, was purchased very early in the seventeenth century, by one of the Bouleots of Brecon, from whom we know not; it continued several years in this family, until upon failure of the male line, it came by intermarriages to the Williamses of the Bulwark in Brecon, the last of whom, Miss Mary Williams, devised this and other tenements in Breconshire to Mrs Hughes of Tregunter, and the Reverend William Wynter. By a friendly partition or division of the property, afterwards agreed to, this fell to Mr Wynter's share, which family lately possessed it, but it has been since sold, and having some very luxuriant and productive meadows on the Usk side, it is considered as a very valuable farm.

The whole of the lands in this parish, up to the Brân, and Cwmgwengad, or rather Cwmgwern y gad, (which has been already explained), another farm in this parish, were sold by Mr Jeffreys of Brecon in 1662 or 1663, to Daniel Wynter of Brecon, gent., with whose descendants it continued in 1800. Those bordering upon the river Usk are estimated at a high annual rent per acre; as we ascend and proceed northwards, the grounds are chiefly arable, the soil deteriorates, and at last terminates in commons and mountains. There are three bridges within this precinct, the bridge over the Escir, west of Battle, called Pont ar Escir, Pont ar fran in the road to Trallong, by whom repaired is doubtful; and Aberbran bridge over the Usk, repaired at the joint expense of the inhabitants of the Hundreds of Devynock and Merthyr.

The advowson of the vicarage was formerly in the priory of Malvern; upon the dissolution it vested in the Crown, by whom it was granted to Richard Price, son of Sir John Price, from whom it came in the same manner as other possessions, before mentioned, to Lord Ashbrook, who sold it. Upon the death of the Rev. John Jones, incumbent in 1792, his curate, the Reverend D. Jones, of Pont ar fran, became intitled to it, but there was no parsonage or glebe attached.

In Pope Nicholas's taxation this living is valued at £5 6s. *Sol.*, but whether by this is meant Llangynidr in the hundred of Crickhowel, or Aberyscir, is not perfectly clear; it should seem that the latter is intended, for Eglwys Iail (another name for Llangynidr) is taxed at £4 6s. *Sol.*, and if Aberyscir is not St. Cenedd this parish is omitted. Its certified value in the king's books is £40 tenths 6s. 7½*d.* Prox. and Synod. Ss. 9*d.* archidiaconal procurations 7s. 5*d.* annually.

The register book commences in 1720, and the vicarage, now endowed with the impropriate tythes, is discharged from the payment of first fruits.

LATER PARTICULARS.

The living is now a rectory, as it was in 1850, when the church was returned as a mean-looking building possessing no claim to architectural notice. The church was restored in 1860, and a vestry added in 1884; it now contains chancel and nave, with porch and a bell-turret with two bells; there is accommodation for 120 persons. The ancient stone cross alluded to by Jones as missing in his day, appears to have been discovered at the restoration; it is now placed on the floor at the west of the church, near to the wall, behind the door. So far as it is possible to read it, the inscription is "HIC JACET RICHARDVS AP JENKIN ET CECILIA UXOR EJVS DAVID _____"; the cross is an ancient one, but there is no trace of date. There is also the remains of an old stone near the pulpit, but nothing can be made of it. A sum of £60 was obtained in 1866 from the Church Building Society on condition that seats were declared free. In 1900 the sum of £120 was obtained from Queen Anne's Bounty, to meet £200 subscriptions, for addition to permanent capital endowment. The living is now returned at £135 net, with a rectory house, built in 1891, and one acre of glebe land.

About 1850 there was, close to the church, a farm of about 35 acres, with a house, barn, and out-buildings, then in a dilapidated state, called "The Parsonage." There are still some ruins of these, now grown over with grass, but whether or not they ever belonged to the church at any time has not been ascertained, although some inquiries have been made.

THE INSCRIPTIONS IN CHURCHYARD.

The burial ground is surrounded by a wall, which cannot be said to be in a satisfactory condition. There are numerous burials of the Williamses of Aberyscir Court, and they are commemorated by several substantial monuments. Hannah, wife of Evan Williams, of Aberyskir Court, Esq., died 9 May, 1869; Evan Williams, born 1789, died 1879. Rachel, daughter of Evan Williams, of Aberyskir fawr, died 1846, aged 19; Margaret, another daughter, died 1851, aged 22. Daniel Williams, of Aberyskir, died March 9th, 1847, aged 87; Margaret, his wife, died January 9, 1854, aged 92. Evan Williams, died

April 21, 1826, aged 69. Elizabeth, wife of John Williams, of Abercynrig, born 1798, died December 10, 1878. John Williams, of the same place, and son of Daniel Williams, of Aberyskir, gent., died 1846, aged 54; there were several children, also buried here. Rees Williams, of Glansykir, in this parish, gent., son of Daniel Williams, of Aberyskir Court, and Margaret his wife, died Sept. 30, 1856, aged 62. Catherine Williams, of Glansykir, daughter of Daniel Williams and Margaret his wife, died 15th March, 1891, aged 93.

Affixed to the outside wall at the east end of the church are stones to Elizabeth wife of John Jones, gent., who died August 2nd, 1783, aged 81, also of the said John Jones, who died aged 81 on December 10, 1784; also of Watkin, son of John Jones, junr., gent., of Pontarfran, and grandson of the above, who died November 25, 1774, young; and of Margaret Davies, daughter of John Jones, who died August, 1825, aged 81 years. Also of John, eldest son of John Jones of Pontarfran, gent., died March 11, 1797, aged 28; and John Jones, father of above, of Pontarfran, gent., who died 28 June, 1799, aged 62. Ann his wife died May, 1801, aged 56. There is also a broken stone to Griffith Jones, of Aberyskir, gent., who died 1789, aged 44, and Elizabeth his daughter, who died 1789, young; and John his son, died May 8, 1859, aged 74.

There is a tomb to the memory of the Rev. David Jones, of Pontarfran, a late rector of the parish, who died 1859, aged 85, and Margaret his wife, who died 1868, aged 74; also stones to William Awbrey, of Vennyfach, died April 2, 1892, aged 66; Rees Price, of Gaer, Parish of St. John, died July 21, 1831, aged 66; and the Powells of Cwmwengad, Lloegr, and Cusop; Watkins of Llywel (1700—1785); and a very handsome marble monument to the memory of Elizabeth wife of Philip Thomas Williams of Cwmwysk ganol, who died July 1902, aged 26.

There are two very fine yew trees in the churchyard.

ABERYSCIR COURT, AND PONTARFRAN.

Near to the church is Aberyscir Court, a handsome residence built in 1837, on the site of an older house, by Evan Williams, Esq., and there are also some very extensive farm buildings belonging to this house, in the grounds of which, on the banks of the Usk, and moated, is what appears to be a keep, probably some part of the ancient mansion of the Surdwals. Aberyscir Court and estate is the property of Rees Williams, Esq., J.P., (late in the Breconshire Volunteers and also the Mounted Infantry, in which he held a commission), having inherited it from his uncle Evan Williams, Esq. For many years the family farmed this extensive property, but of late the grass lands have been let by public auction, and the mansion rented. For several years, it has been in the occupation of Frank Dickinson, Esq., J.P., a son of the late Colonel Dickinson, of Glanhonddu, who married a daughter of Edward Jones, Esq., of Velindre, Llandovery, and by whom he has issue.

Pontarfran, another residence in this parish, the property of Mrs Anne Davies, lady of the manor and patron of the living, was for some years the abode of John Hotchkis, Esq., D.L., J.P., but is now in the occupation of the Misses Evans, daughters of the late Rev. J. J. Evans, rector of Cantref (and related to the Ffrwdgrech Evanses), who died lately, leaving to his two sons and two daughters a very considerable fortune.

There is an Independent Chapel in the parish, lately rebuilt. This parish is within the Rural District of Brecon, at which town the Parliamentary electors record their votes; it is in the petty sessional division of Merthyr, and the electoral division of Batle. The population in 1891 was 159, and 160 in 1801. Its area is given at 1,918 acres, and rateable value about £1,464.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1490.—The bishop of St. David's, p.h.v.		Dewros ap Jenkin.	1713.—Wm. Flower of Abercynrig, esq.		William Jeffreys.
1512.—The prior and convent of Malvern.		Thomas Gethin.	1763.—Lord Ashbrook.		Richard Williams.
1530.—		John ap Griffith Peyntor.	1792.—Lord Ashbrook.		Morgan Powell.
1570.—Richard Pryce, esq. of the priory of Brecon.		Morgan ap Thomas.	1827.—		John Jones.
1621.—Thomas Pryce, esq.		Walter David.	1865.—		Lewis Price Jones.
1630.—Ditto.		William Davies.	1876.—Rev. W. Lewis, vicar of Billingsley, Salop.		John Williams, vicar of Trallong.
1684.—John Jeffreys of the priory of Brecon, esq.		Evan Bowen.	1883.—		Richard Lewis Morgan.
		Griffith Hestoy. ¹	1897.—Mrs. Ann Davies.		Joshua Davies.
		Thomas Herring.			

¹ He died without issue, in 1684, and was buried in Christ's College, in Brecon. During the civil war he was ousted by the propagators of the gospel in Wales, about the year 1651, when the living became vacant for nine years, after which it was restored to him, and he continued in possession of it to the time of his death.

TRALLWNG, or TRALLONG,

In the *corsned* or morsel of excretion to British etymologists. Richards of Coity, no contemptible authority upon this subject, whatever Goronvy Owen and others may affect to say to the contrary, pronounces it to be "a soft place on the road or elsewhere that travellers may be apt to sink into; a dirty place." He adds that Edward Llywyd supposes it to be only an abbreviation of *Traeth lyn*, i.e., a quagmire. It will not however apply to the situation of this church, or the greater part of this parish, in which there is neither a Traeth, a Llyn, or a Llwnge. Traeth does not imply a particle of sand, but the aggregate or surface of those particles upon the sea shore; the definition therefore of this parish, so far removed from the ocean, must be sought for elsewhere: Tre llon or Trellyn will not help us; we are therefore inclined to think, from its contiguity to Bannio or Gaer, that the present name is a corruption of Tre'r llyng, *Oppidum legionis*, and that there must have been a *campus astivus* or summer camp of the second legion of Augustus, at *Twyn y gaer*, a hill so called in this parish, where an artificial mound or barrow is still seen.

THE ANCIENT CHURCH AND ITS INSCRIPTIONS.

The church, dedicated to Saint David, is situated half way up an ascent from the Usk rising northward, and presenting an aspect to the south, which the greatest part of the parish bears; it is small, but sufficiently large for the use of the parish, the roof is not ceiled. Under the tile are wooden arches or transverse ribs resting upon the side walls, as frequently seen in churches in this country; the pulpit is the very reverse of that at Aberyscir, it takes up too much room, and being placed opposite the window, it obstructs the light, which as usual, is to the clergyman's back while he officiates. On the west is what is called the steeple, in which there is one small bell. The seats belonging to the houses of Penpont and Abercamlais are in the chancel; under one of them, "Here lyeth the body of John Lloyd — Lloyd ap Rhys ap Richard fawr, they had issue William, Gwladis, Elizabeth, Margaret, Jonet, Juan and Sarah, he died 14th December, 1623." A MS. enables us to supply the defects, which the ravages of time or accident have here produced; John Lloyd was the son of William Lloyd or Llywyd, the son of Richard Llywyd, the son of David Llywyd (by his second wife), the son of Rhys Llywyd, the son of Rhys of Llywncyntefin, ap Richard Fawr of Swebh and Garreg fawr. Henry Lloyd, a descendant of this John Lloyd, resided in this parish in 1800, but we are totally at a loss to account why the herald should wish to derive this family from Morciddig, the son of Drymbenog the second brother of Bleddin ap Maenarch, and not from the elder branch. Nearer the wall is another tombstone to the memory of one of this house, John Lloyd, son of William Lloyd, ob. 1756. It should not be omitted, because it is to the credit of the Reverend Thomas Williams of Abercamlais, formerly vicar of Llywel and Llanspyddid, or of those who succeeded him, that he and his wife, Elizabeth the daughter of Henry Penry of Llywncyntefin, are both interred in the churchyard, he died in 1750. Near this tombstone is another, to the memory of Anne the daughter of the Archdeacon Williams of Abercamlais, who died in 1787. The only family of note who have resided in this parish, were Games of Parc, and they only remained there for a short time; John Games (grandson of the first John Games of Aberbrân) who married Wilgiford, the daughter of Sir Edward Awbrey of Tredomen, lived there, as did his widow, after his death, they left issue male and female, consequently the brother of Richard Games or his son Richard Games of Penderin and Llanelly, must have purchased it; for his daughter and heiress Elizabeth, who married Thomas Mansel, brought it into that family, from whom it has descended to Lord Vernon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PARISH.

The greatest part of the parish is arable land, and without that proportion of wood with which our vales are (or rather were) generally ornamented. Near the eastern boundary the river Brân empties itself into the Usk at Aberbrân, and the Cilieni on the west. The other stream is Cilieni, and on this river is a bridge called Abercilieni bridge, of the liability to repair which doubts have arisen; the inhabitants of the county were once indicted for not attending to its defects, but upon a traverse acquitted, so that it is probable upon the hundreds of Devynock and Merthyr, here divided by this rivulet.

A narrow slang of land on the borders of this river and the Usk, anciently called Bran, and since Aberbrân fash and mill, formerly belonged to the Bishops of St. David's; it was bran a manor, though its extent comprehended only a few acres, without a manse upon it, nor would it have been here noticed had it not served to introduce an extract from the statute book of St. David's, dated

10th March, 1379, in the time of Bishop Houghton, in confirmation of our opinion as to the original name Llanddew, which did not occur while that parish was under review. Among the possessions of the prelates of the see in that statute are "*Manerium exile de Braan tantum pro agricultura et Manerium de Landewy in partibus Brecon;*" and among the chattels which every bishop was to transmit to his successor were "*In Manerio de Braan unam carucam et octo boves in Manerio Landewy 2 carucas et 16 boves.*" The little manor of Braan (as it is here called) was sold about 1890 to Mr. Williams of Penpont for the redemption of the land tax charged upon the episcopal possessions in Breconshire.

This is a perpetual augmented curacy, to which the prebendary of the same name in the college church of Brecon nominates. It has now neither parsonage or glebe, although in 1711 the churchwardens presented that the former was in decay; no attention was paid to their complaint, and the consequence was that the building tumbled down, and its site is at this time scarcely known.

LATER PARTICULARS.

The living, now a vicarage, has received several augmentations by lot from Queen Anne's Bounty, viz., 1747, £200; 1763, £200; 1802, £200; 1827, £200. The value as given in the Clergy List is £250 net, without residence, but with half an acre of glebe. In 1850 the church was described as a plain ancient edifice about 120 feet long by 20 broad, and containing 38 pews, twelve of which were free. This building was restored in 1861, and new roofed in 1885; it is composed of chancel and nave, and has accommodation for 115 persons. There is but one bell. The Registers date from 1752.

CANON WALTER'S FAMILY.

There are some service books in the church dated 1819, given by the late Rev. John Williams of Abercamlais, and also several older books not now in use. A portion of the West End is railed off and used as a vestry. There is a fire-place here, and formerly this part of the church was the village schoolroom; it now contains a very large oak chest and the parish bier dated 1792.

In the chancel is a marble tablet to the memory of Anne wife of Watkin Walters of this parish who was born August 2nd 1791 and died January 10th, 1844, and also of the said Watkin Walters, born April 10, 1793, and died February 10, 1860. This was erected by their son, the Rev. Thomas Walters, D.D., vicar of Llansamlet, Canon of St. David's, and a Justice of the Peace for Breconshire; who was justly celebrated as a zealous clergyman and an eloquent preacher. He died on August 17, 1892, aged 69. His son went into the church and became Vicar of St. David's, Carmarthen. This family is still represented in the parish of Trallong.

THE WILLIAMSES OF ABERCAMLAIS.

The churchyard, which appears to be over planted with trees, requires some attention from the parish authorities. This was formerly the burying place of the Williamses of Abercamlais. The inscriptions upon their monuments are to the memory of Elizabeth, daughter John Williams, LL.B., of Abercamlais, and Ann his wife, who died May 26, 1787, aged 11; Ann, eldest daughter of the same, who became archdeacon of Cardigan, who died March 11, 1838, aged 66; also Sarah, second daughter, who died March 2nd, 1839, aged 65; Ann, wife of Archdeacon Williams, died Sept. 15, 1812, aged 68; the Rev. John Williams, the archdeacon, who was also Canon of St. David's, died March 8, 1814, aged 68. Also of John Phillips, Esq., of Haverford, Pembrokeshire, who died at Abercamlais, 4th December, 1835, aged 55. And of Rev. John Williams, of Abercamlais, Canon of St. David's, who died October 29, 1841, aged 66; Rev. Thomas Williams, vicar of Llanspydded and Llywel, who died March 9th, 1750, aged 69; Elizabeth, widow of the above, and daughter of Hugh Penry, Esq., of Llwynycntefn, who died May 6, 1760, aged 82 years; and of John Penry Williams, Esq., who died March 4, 1861, aged 36.

At the west end of the church, is the old vicarage house, now occupied as a cottage; the new house wherein the Vicar is located is large and commodious, but this is not the property of the church. The living is set down as being worth 250*l* net, with about half an acre of glebe.

There was a day school in connection with the church as far back as 1850, and still continues, subject to the changes established by law; the building, with master's house, is near to the church.

THE OGHAM STONE.

Upon the re-building of the church, or about 1856, a stone was found at the side of one of the windows of the old church, bearing an inscription with a cross and a series of Oghamic characters on one of its edges. The inscription had been built inwards, and consequently its existence was unknown

until thus suddenly brought to light. One end of the stone had been broken off, and some of the Ogham letters injured, but on the whole it was in an excellent state of preservation. In the Cambrian Archaeological Society's records for 1862, it is stated that the stone had been carefully placed within the church in that part at the west end screened off as a vestry. In the same work (1872, page 389), it is mentioned that the stone was moved by the Rev. Garnons Williams to his grounds at Abercamlais for the convenience of the members of the Cambrian Association, who visited the Brecon meeting in 1872. The stone is about 6 feet long and 18 inches wide at the upper part, but tapering down to a point at the lower, uniformly about 6 inches thick, and is from one of the hardest beds of the Old Red or Silurian series. The cross within a circle, with the lower limb extending downwards to about the length of the cross itself, is formed of double fine incised lines cut with great precision, and still quite sharp, as is also the inscription—

CYNOCENNI FILIUS
CYNOCENI Hic Jacit.

The identical name of the father and son does not appear to occur in the Welsh records, but the late Rev. H. L. Jones considered it to be connected with CYNOG, who is said to have met his death at Merthyr Cynog, a few miles off. The bilingual character of the stone renders it of great interest with reference to the question of the origin and date of the Ogham letters. The stone is now fixed to the right hand wall of the porch, which is a large structure with seats.

There used to be, on a hill on the eastern extremity of the parish, the remains of a British fortification, called Twyn-y-gaer, overlooking the Usk, on the other side of which was another of the same appellation, crowning a hill in the parish of Llanspyddid.

The Calvinistic Methodists have had a chapel here for about 60 years.

It is said, but with what authority we cannot learn, that Owain Iolo Gôch was buried in a field in this parish, which used to bear his name; and that T. J. Llewelyn Prichard, the author of *Twm Shon Catti*, was born in the parish of Trallong.

The area of the parish is about 3,437 acres, and its rateable value £2,221; the population in 1901 was 205.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1497.—The Bishop of St. David's.		Wm. Edmund.	1699.—		James Woodlar, curate.
1523.—		Hugh Brecknock, ¹	1703.—		Peregrine Stockos, curate.
1554.—		John Morgan.	1706.—		Thomas Williams, curate.
		John ap Hywel Gwyn, prebendary.	1778.—		Rice Jones, curate.
1562.—The bishop of St. David's.		John Butler, prebendary.	1731.—The Bishop of St. David's.		Thomas Williams, prebendary.
1570.—Ditto.		Henry Aldriche, prebendary.	1736.—Ditto.		John Williams curate and prebendary.
1594.—Ditto.		Thomas Williams, prebendary.			John Williams, curate.
		Robert Brooke, prebendary.	1780.—The bishop of St. David's.		Benjamin Newton, prebendary
1636.—Ditto.		David Evans, curate.	1780.—Ditto.		John Williams, canon of St. David's.
1665.—		Philip Lewis, curate.	1813.—Ditto.		Walter Williams.
1678.—		Edward Wood, curate.	1859.—Ditto.		John Harries.
1682.—		Thomas Morgan, curate.	1871.—Ditto.		John Williams.
1687.—		Thomas Morgan, curate.			
1694.—		James Harris, curate.			

This curacy was vacant for several years during the civil wars. Temp. Charles I.

LLANVIHANGEL NANT BRAN.

ST. Michael's Brânbrook or St. Michael's on the brook of Brân, is situated in latitude 52 5, longitude 3 28. The church is in the middle of a small village in a narrow vale, and not far from the source of the river; and here again we are doomed to enter a miserably dilapidated and gloomy edifice, the floor of earth and uneven, the tile generally in bad repair, the chancel small and made still smaller and more inconvenient by having an old decayed coffer thrust into it, the

¹ On the resignation of Wm. Edmund. This is the entry in the bishop's register, but it was probably Hugh or Hywel of Brecknock.

bells cracked, the benches—for there are only two seats in the church and they hardly deserve the name), are irregularly placed, and describe all sorts of geometrical angles and figures except a parallélogram.

A ROMAN CATHOLIC ENDOWMENT.

There is not in the church or church-yard even one inscription or tombstone which can interest the moralist or genealogist, though we find in a MS. in the British Museum that the following was formerly seen here,

"Subtus jacet Paulus Briggs. Omni major titulo; Nantbrania Silurum natus, at orindum Whistonensi Ex Aula majori Brigantium, familia Tam nobili quam honesta Obijt 18 die Maii, Anno .Etatis 46, salutis 1695. I quere lector An non sit laerum mori Cum moriens vitam Dat et accepit."

What inducement this Yorkshire family had to settle in Llanvihangel nant bran we know not; Paul Briggs left issue Frances, an only daughter and heiress, who married Jeffrey Jeffreys of the Llywel family; he bore, argent, three inescutcheons, charged with a bend of first, crest on a wreath of his colours, and a helmet befitting his degree, a hand and arm vambraced proper, holding a bow and arrow, the bow gules, stringed sable, the arrow argent. In this parish is a tenement called Pwll y llacca belonging to Jesus College at Oxford, now let at 20*l.* per annum, though worth considerably more; this was undoubtedly part of the possessions of Hugh Price, the founder, or purchased with his money, for the benefit of the college. The vale runs from north east to south west about four miles in length, and on the summits on each side are extensive sheep walks, on which the farmers principally depend for their rents; and in this parish also is another small tenement called Bola maen, the rent of which is paid annually to the Roman Catholic minister officiating at Brecca, how or by whom given is unknown.

This is a perpetual curacy, augmented by Queen Anne's bounty, and annexed to or consolidated with the adjoining parish of Llandilo'r fan, to which Mr. Walter Jeffreys of Brecon nominates; it had formerly a parsonage house, but it was suffered to fall into decay, and fell down during the commotions in the time of Charles the First. The register book commences in 1749.

LATER PARTICULARS.

Sir Stephen Glynne appears to have visited the church when he came to Breconshire. His description is thus given: "This church, in a remote and picturesque valley, but on rising ground, presents as lamentable an appearance as can be conceived. It is a rude building, was always devoid of architectural grace, and is in a state of neglect and dilapidation which will soon render it untenable. The plan is a nave and chancel without architectural distinction, and a western tower. The walls are whitewashed externally. The windows are generally maulled or modern, but that on the east end is a square-headed perpendicular one of two lights, cinquefoiled, and one at the south-east has two trefoiled lights. There is a rude porch on the south, with plain, pointed doorways. The tower is low, massive, and very rough, without buttresses or stringcourse, except one at the base. At the south-east is a square turret with slit lights; the tower has a low pointed roof of tiles, the few openings are plain slits, except the belfry windows on the north and east, which are square-headed, and of two lights. The tower is open from the ground to the roof, without floors; has no bell, and opens to the nave by a plain, pointed door. Within, the church has a most wretched appearance. The roof is full of holes, and open to the tiles, but has arched timbers with foliation above. There is a strange rude gallery at the west end, enclosed like a room. The floor is only partly paved; the benches, however, are all open. There is a priest's door on the south of the chancel. The altar is a small confined enclosure of rails, curiously entered by a high, arched doorway; there is a square opening in the south wall near the altar; near the priest's door is a stoup, and a kind of rail parts of the chancel. The font has a small octagonal bowl on a stem." Such was the state of the church in 1865.

Some efforts were made, from time to time, to improve the state of the building, but it was not until 1882 that a restoration was effected, at a cost of £1,300, of which sum the Church Building Society gave £50. Amongst the principal subscribers to this purpose was Captain de Winton of Walsworth Hall, Gloucester, a brother of the late Archdeacon de Winton, who gave £500 towards restoring this and Llandilo'r fan. The tower has one bell, and there are 143 sittings in the church.

The living is now a vicarage of the net value of £220, inclusive of Llandeilorfan, with which it is held. Between 1742 and 1804, the living was augmented by £600 from Queen Anne's Bounty.

The population of the parish in 1901 was 292; in 1891, 317, and in 1801, 518. Its rateable value is given at £2,485, and area 9,161 acres. It is situated in Brecknock Rural District, Merthyr Petty Sessonal division, and Llandilo'r fan Electoral division. The whole district is devoted to agricultural pursuits, and the population, in the majority of cases, speak English and Welsh, but the children generally favour English.

A British Camp, "Clawdd" (an embankment) is marked on the ordnance map, near the county boundary.

LLANDEILO'R FAN.

AS the former parish, united to this, is described to be dedicated to Saint Michael on the Brân, so this commemorates the memory of Saint Teilaw upon a brook called Mawen, changing the initial and abbreviated into fân or vân, according to the Welsh orthography.¹ Teilaw, Teiliaw or Teilo, was one of the early bishops of the see of Llandaff and successor of Saint Dubricius. His good works, his fame, and his piety were not confined within his own diocese, but were known and felt throughout the whole of South Wales, where many churches bear his name. Cressy says, that when the *yellow plague* infested this kingdom, he went into remote parts, but returned with his companions after it had ceased, and died in his own country on the fifth day before the ides of February, in the year 519. "After he was dead, the inhabitants of three several places contended earnestly which of them should enjoy his body, those of *Pennalun*, where his ancestors had been buried, those of Lantilio vaur, where he dyed, and those of Llandaff, 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 so by that means the controversy ended;" but (says Cressy, speaking of bishop Godwyn), that author, in favour of his own church of Llandaff, adds, "that by frequent miracles at his tomb, it appeared that the inhabitants of Landaff possessed the true body." We are not concerned for Landaff or Pennalun, but on the part of Llandilo vaur, we object to this transaction, as a fraud upon them, and with this protestation, we return to his church in Breconshire, situated near the conflux or *aberoedd* of three brooks, the Mawen, the Ethrym, and Cileni, the latter of which takes the name from thenceforward to its fall into the Usk. There is nothing interesting in this fabric, which is in somewhat better repair than Llanvihangel, nor does this parish furnish matter for the historian or the antiquary. Being considerably higher than the vale of Usk, the soil is poorer and the atmosphere colder. The right of common here, as in most other places adjoining the hills, is the privilege to which the farmer annexes the greatest value. The north western extremity of this parish, adjoining the hundred of Builth, was formerly called Monksland or Tyr yr Abad, and was parcel of the possessions of the abbey of Strata Florida in Caerdiganshire. In this tract in 1800, were found about twenty pieces of silver coin, of Edward the First, wrapped up, and either lost or concealed in a bog. There is one stone bridge within this district, called Pontrhyd y cwm, repaired by the inhabitants.

Mr. Walter Jeffreys of Brecon nominates to the curacy of this parish, united with that of Llanvihangel nant bran, which, in the time of Queen Anne, were certified to be of the annual value of nine pounds, and are not in charge in the king's book. The register book commences in 1760.

LATER PARTICULARS.

The population of this parish in 1901 was 300; in 1891, 382, having decreased since 1800 from 545. Its area is given as 10,491 acres, of which much is mountain, and its approximate rateable value is £2,179. Llandeilo'r fan is in the Brecknock Rural District, and Defynock Petty Sessional Division, and gives its name to the Llandilo'r fan Electoral Division, in which it is placed.

There are two Calvinistic Methodist Chapels in the parish.

Llandeilo'r fan, then called Llangurnart, was "restored to God" in perpetual consecration, by Aust, King of Brecknock, one of the witnesses being Bishop Cadocucus (A.D. 566), according to *Liber Landavensis*. And during the Commonwealth, the living was endowed with £40 per annum out of the sequestered rectory of Merthyr Cynog, which arrangement, however, ceased at the time of the Restoration. The church, which now consists of chancel, nave, and a belfry with one bell, was in 1875 restored by subscription at a cost of £800.

The chancel contains several monuments to the Lloyds of Aberllech, to one of the Bevans, formerly of the Priory House, Brecon, which family still holds property in this parish; and to the Jones family of Velindre, one of whom, the late Colonel D. E. Jones, was of the Brecknockshire Militia.

Richard David, who was instituted to the living of this parish in 1580, is commemorated by a stone dated 1614; the inscription is cut around the stone, up the centre of which is carved a floreated cross. At present this monument is affixed to a buttress at the west end, but its original site was no doubt inside the building.

¹ Some have supposed that the name of this parish is Llandilo fan, Saint Teilaw the lesser, to distinguish it from Llandeilo fawr in Carmarthenshire, the greater Saint Teilaw's, but the evidence (if necessary) of such a man as Moses Williams, one of the most learned *Britons* of his day, is conclusive. In the register book of Defynock, while he was vicar of that parish, is the following entry, "*Sivean Morgan de Nant y Schon in Llan Deilo ar Fawen, sepulta est at. 96, 26 Octobris. 1726.*" We have also many other documents in which it is thus written.

The churchyard has several fine yews, and the graves are very numerous, and many of them old; but we did not notice anything which called for special mention.

The church is well lighted with nine windows; and the roof appears to possess much of the ancient timber. Some portion of what may have been a rood screen remains. There is no porch and the entrance is from the south. The floor is plain flagged, but the chancel is tiled; the walls plastered. A holy water stoup is fixed inside near the entrance.

Between 1732 and 1794 the parish received £600 from Queen Anne's Bounty, and in 1816, £1,000 as a Parliamentary grant, and the living is now set down as worth £200 a year, with Llanvihangel nant bran. The Registers now in use are dated 1809 and 1813 respectively.

There are two elementary schools providing accommodation for 90 children.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1573.—		Sir Rhys ap Harry.	1735.—		John Lewis.
1580.—		Richard David.	1739.—		Perry Bailey.
1586.—		Sir Robert.	1740.—	The bishop of St. David's.	Thomas Williams.
1639.—		Evan David.	1759.—	John Jeffreys, esq.	David Griffiths.
1644.—		Christopher Williams.	1805.—		R. Jenkins.
1662.—		Evan Watkin (died 1689).	1813.—		J. D. Morgan.
1694.—		Lewis Powell.	1851.—		William Winstone.
1707.—		John Jones.	1871.—		Bickerton A. Edwards, M.A.
1718.—		Edward Jones.	1878.—		J. J. Powell, B.A.
1722.—		Samuel Jones.	1890.—	Trustees of Roger Jeffreys Powell.	Philip Morgan.
1725.—		Lewis Lewis.			

TYR YR ABAD, or THE ABBOT'S LAND.

THIS parish, commonly called Tyr Abot, otherwise Newchurch, otherwise Llandulas, and sometimes Aberdulas, is situated at the western extremity of the county of Brecknock, and adjoins Carmarthenshire: the whole of it, together with parts of those adjacent, were granted by Rhys ap Griffith, prince of South Wales, to the monastery of Ystradflur or Strata Florida in Caerdiganshire, founded by him in the year 1164: the document by which they are conferred upon that house is preserved in the *Monasticon*, but the names of places are dreadfully mangled and disfigured by the monk who copied the original grant.

From the names of places, with some difficulty reducible into Welsh, we find that the possessions of the monastery of Strata Florida comprehended Cwmytoiddwr in Radnorshire, and all the lands between Towy and Elan to the borders of North Wales, Llanwrthwl, part of Llanavan vawr, the whole of Llanvihangel Abergwessin, Llanddewi Abergwessin and Llanwrtyd, part of Llanganmarch, crossing the Irvon at the fall of the Canddwr, the whole of the present parish of Tyr yr Abad and part of Llandilo'r fan in Breconshire; but much of this territory was lost, either in consequence of intestine commotions or by exchange, so that only a comparatively small number of acres remained on the South of the Irvon, and on the borders of Carmarthenshire. These not being worth the attention of Sir John Pryce, continued with the crown from the time of the dissolution of religious houses until Edward the Sixth, in the sixth year of his reign, granted nearly the whole of this tract, (demised to John Lewis of Harpton, esq.) by the description of the "Grange of *Habertoneth*," to William, earl of Pembroke and William Clerk, in fee, to hold as tenants in capite.¹ Though this conveyance seems intended for the benefit of the grantees, it does not appear that they took possession under it; or at least part of it was reserved, for by a deed dated in 1588, Queen Elizabeth demised to Edward Wynark and his heirs for ever, lands, called Tyr Glandilas, Kaer Kerdill, (perhaps Cae'r cenfydd) parcel of the *Grange of Aberdeonyth*, abutting certain lands called Pell Borro² and Llidiade reollydd (Llydiad yr heolydd), on the north, and certain lands called Keven yeoly

¹ Records in the Augmentation Office.

² Pwll berw the watercess pool; Aberberwll is the name of a farm in this parish, not far from the confines of Carmarthenshire.

(Cefn Joli), on the west, to land called Pant y broynsson, and the river Nant y chure on the south, and to Blan hijgoome, (Blaenhirgwm) on the east, to be holden as of the manor of East Greenwich in socage, and not by knight's service, rendering a small annual rent. Wymark, by deed, conveyed his interest to John Lewis of Old Radnor: one of the descendants of this Lewis of Harpton, his great grand-daughter, Margaret, married John Gwyn of Llanelwedd, and their son, David Gwyn, married another of the same family; by these marriages, the estates came to the Gwyns of Ty mawr, and now of Glanbran: Sackville Gwynne of the latter place, possessed the whole parish, as three or four of his ancestors had done before him.

SACKVILLE GWYNNE OF GLANBRAN.

The situation of the old church is not known, but we apprehend that by the "Rhayader chapel to Llangamarch" of Ecton, corruptly for Rhandir, the boundary, was meant the antient fabric, situate on the borders of Caermarthenshire. The present church is in latitude 52 10, longitude 3 34, and was built in 1716, by Sackville Gwynne of Glanbran, esq., who gave the estate to the present (1800) branch of the family, and who also in 1726, upon Queen Anne's bounty being extended to it, added two hundred pounds more, and charged his lands in this parish with the payment of twenty pounds annually to the minister officiating in the church. It is a small edifice, but fully sufficient for the size of the parish, consisting only of seventeen or eighteen farms, in the most mountainous part of the county. The parishioners and the clergyman of the parish claimed a right of exemption from episcopal jurisdiction and visitation, a privilege by which (to use an Irish phrase) they would have gained a loss if they could have established it. They, however, very prudently did not insist upon it too strenuously, and proved wills and took out letters of administration from the register office of Brecon; the clergy exhibited their nominations to the curacy at visitations there, and they submitted to return a warden to appear as others at Brecon, and lodged a transcript of the register book in the proper office. If this had not been done, the consequence would have been, that as there was no parsonage, or indeed any other decent residence for a clergyman, as there was no fund raised, or which perhaps could have been legally recovered for the purpose of repairs, and as it was no longer likely to continue the burying place of the family of Glanbran, in another century inquiries may or might have been made as to the situation of the present church, and "the sad history of the pensive plain" might have found some difficulty in pointing out the spot whereon it stood.

In the chancel are the following inscriptions:—

Hæc Ædes dicta ecclesia sive capella nova de Tir Abbat extracta fuit impensis Sackville Gwynne de Glanbran armigeri; fundatoris, A.D. 1716, a quo CC. quibus additis erant CC. alios ex beneficentia Regine Anne data fuit in perpetuum; Curavit incipio fundator ut a reverendo admodum in Christo patre Ricardo Episcopo Menevensi in puro religionis culta Deo Opt. Max. solenni more dedicaretur 26 die mensis Augusti A.D. 1726."

S. M.

Near this place lyeth the body of Sackville Gwynne of Glanbran, in the county of Carmarthen, esq., a gentleman not more distinguished by a lineal descent from the most ancient of the British kings, than ennobled by his own personal virtues and intrinsic merits. Viewed in a moral light, he was inflexibly just, upright and sincere; in his civil character, equally a loyal subject and a zealous patriot; in a religious respect exemplary, pious and diffusively charitable; his affection to the Church of England and to the cause of pure christianity, lives in this sacred place, built entirely at his own expense, and for ever endoved by him jointly with the bounty of Queen Anne; in his private conduct, regular without austerity, easy without affectation, and cheerful without levity.

As an economist, discreet;
As a master, kind;
As a neighbour, obliging;
As a friend, faithful;
As a relation, affectionate;

Possessed of every useful, and adorned with every amiable, quality, he died a bachelor, the 9th day of April, 1734, in the 64th year of his age. In grateful regard to whose memory, this monument was erected by Roderick Gwynne of Glanbran, esq., second son of Howel Gwynne of Brynnyoe, in the county of Brecon, esq., cousin to the said Sackville Gwynne, Esq.

Underneath lie interred the remains of Catherine, wife of Sackville Gwynne of Glanbrane, in the county of Caermarthen, esq., who departed this life the 28th day of December, 1787, aged 43 years.

The above named Roderick Gwynne and his eldest son, Sackville, the husband of Catherine Gwynne, are also buried here.

A ROMAN ROAD.

The Roman road, which might with propriety be termed another branch of the Via Helena or Via Leona, as it led from Caeryrddin to Caerlleon Gawr or Chester, ran through this parish and over the common called Llwydlo fach. Though no longer visible, tradition, however, preserved the recollection of it until the beginning of the 18th century; or at least several old persons used to assert that they heard their parents say they had seen it and pointed out its tract. In 1800 the inhabitants, owing to a disagreement about their rents with their former landlord, were so completely changed, that it was vain to inquire for it from them; a farm in this parish, through which it

passed, is called Sarn y Cyrtieu. Sarn is a hard stony road or causeway, and was the appellation by which the Britons always described the Roman military ways; Cyrtien is the plural of Cwrt Cwrdd, to meet, or substantively a meeting or assembly, for the *t* and the *dd* have frequently changed places, and are written indiscriminately, as Ymlat for Ymladd. The Cwrrdd is now always a religious assembly, and the Cwrt is used for a fold or a farm yard, as well as a court of justice.

SUSPECTED COURT OF JUSTICE.

Llwydlo fach is a wet boggy and bare common in this parish, over which passes the road from Llandovery to Builth: different are the opinions as to the definition or meaning of Llwydlo, some derive it from Llwyd le, a bare place or spot, which is certainly sufficiently descriptive of this bleak and unproductive tract, where,

Far as the eye can reach no tree is seen,
Earth clad in russet, scorns the lively green.

In confirmation of this, they shew a waste of the same appearance and name in the high lands in Llanelly, in the hundred of Crickhowel, others say Llwydlo is Ludlow Welshified, and that a court was formerly held here, by deputation under the president and council of the marches.

We have been informed, writes Jones, by a person now living, that his father, about eighty years ago, copied this inscription upon a brass plate, theretofore affixed over the door of a public house on the common,

1540, 31 H. 8. *Sir John Gower.*
Fiat Justitia ruat mundus.

This certainly indicates, though not conclusively, that this place was at one time the seat of justice, though we are ignorant of the authority or nature of the court, yet upon the other hand, we are not aware that history will furnish us with any instances of a delegation of their power by the court of the marches, and the period is not so distant, if such had been held here, as to have totally destroyed every trace of the proceedings, the nature of the causes or questions decided, and the names of those employed here, or appointed for the administration of justice. Upon the whole we cannot help thinking that the old public house, situated upon the boundary line, so that two persons might enter the door, and as they frequently did, as it is said, to drink and converse together, though sitting in different counties, was the place where the magistrates of Caermarthenshire and Breconshire met to decide differences between the borderers, and that from the concourse of people generally attending on these occasions, the house, as well as the common, took its name (if it did at all) from a supposed resemblance to the court of Ludlow; these meetings of the magistrates, indeed, continued to be held here, until the beginning of the last century, when the publican having lost or removed the plate, substituted the following Latin phrase in its stead, which, being written or painted on a board, composed of the service or wych tree, produced the Welsh satirical lines from a wit, as he passed by:

Festiva lente paulisper,
Siste Viator;
Car delassatum,
Pocula plena levat.
Pwy oeddi y dyn ysgymyn,
A ddodoedd ar breu cerdin,
Ar ben Llwydlo, llwan yw'r lle mor llydan.
Eiriau Lladin.

What foolish wight,
On wych did write,
To make the people stare,
A Latin phras
In such a place
As Llwydlo bleak and bare.

The landlord attempted a reply, retorting the poverty and barrenness of the country at Aber-gwessin, the residence of the supposed poet, but the composition had neither point or poetry in it.

At a place called Pyllau Da Probert, part of a tenement called Trelath, nature, as a compensation for the barrenness of the surface of the soil, and in compassion to the inhabitants, who were occasionally affected by a malady engendered by poverty and filth, caused a well to flow strongly saturated with sulphur similar to that at Llanwrtyd, but this, like many other of her bounties, is overlooked.

The nomination to this augmented curacy, is in Sackville Gwynne of Glanbran, esq.; it is mentioned in the return to the governors of Queen Anne's bounty, but as that was made prior to the augmentation, it was then certified to be of no value; the register book commences in 1726, But no transcripts of it are yet brought into the office; the curacy is of course not in charge.

LATER PARTICULARS.

The curacy of Tyr-abad has received the following benefactions and augmentations: 1725, Sackville Gwynne's rent-charge of £10 per annum: 1726, £2.00 to meet benefactions; 1771 by lot, £200; 1793, £200; 1813, £200; 1824, £200; 1828, £200. No incumbent has been appointed since about 1860, the endowments being too small; it has therefore been held as a curacy by some of the neighbouring clergy.

The church, situated some four miles from Llanwrtyd railway station, is a building without ornamentation. Some repairs are stated to have been made to the edifice in 1871, costing £200, but dilapidations are apparent, due probably to the damp within and the storms without. The church is entered through a porch and west door, which superceded a doorway formerly on the north. Besides the Gwynne monuments, already quoted, there is nothing worth recording here. The cemetery presents a miserable appearance, and there is a custom here of paving the graves with cobbles and covering the stones with white-wash. In another part of the county this practice is varied, and the grave-stones are coloured black.

There are twenty voters in this parish, and the population was 88 in 1901. The area is 3486 acres, and the rateable value £579. It is in the Builth Poor Law Union, and in the Llanwrtyd petty sessional division; the district is mountainous, and is on the Carmarthenshire boundary.

The living is a vicarage in the gift of Messrs. Jones and Hill of Worcester, and worth £54 net.

There is a Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, and a public elementary school with accommodation for 40.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1726.—Sackville Gwynne, esq.		Theophilus Evans. ¹	— Trustees of late J. Jones Esq., Worcester.		Thomas Rogers.
1739.—Roderick Gwynne, esq.		Joshua Thomas. ²			J. Westley Rees.
Ditto.		Thomas Davies.			G. Lloyd Isaac.
1792.—Sackville Gwynne, esq.		Thomas Morgan.			B. Williams.
		Rees Williams.			W. Tudor Thomas.

Curates
in charge.

LLANWRTYD, or LLAN WRTH Y RHYD.

THE church by the ford, or, as a church in a similar situation in Herefordshire, Byford, is so called, because it is situated on an eminence near the bank of the river Irvon, where there was formerly a ford, over which there is now a bridge: this is a parochial church or chapel appendant to the vicarage of Llangammarch, and is dedicated, according to Etton, to Saint David. There is nothing deserving notice in this miserable fabric, unless it be an inscription on the wall, to the memory of an old woman of the name of Jones, who, with the cautious prudence of a tradeswoman, and as if she were again about to *open shop*, informs us, she was heretofore of No. 27, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London. There is no table of benefactions hung up here, but eight pounds a year were given by the will of the above Mrs. Jones, and paid to a schoolmaster, who teaches poor children to read and write. Many of the graves in this churchyard, as well as in Llangammarch, instead of "heaving in mouldering heaps," are paved like the streets of a town, with river stones, kept together by kerb stones on the ends and sides, which resemble coffins in their outlines or shape.

Not far from the church is an ancient mansion called Dinas, which has been in the possession of a family of the name of Lloyd, for several generations; they are undoubtedly descended from Rees Lloyd, who married Jane, the daughter of Sir William Herbert of Colbrook, eldest son of Thomas Lloyd, lord lieutenant of Breconshire, and half brother of John Lloyd of Porthcrwys, whose effigy is in Builth church. Rees Lloyd, one of the descendants of the first named Rees Lloyd, lived in Llanwrtyd in Edward Llywd's time, and sold a great part of the paternal estate in Llanddewi Aber-gwessin. In 1670, there were two brothers of this family of the same name, who were called Rees Lloyd David, the elder, and Rees Lloyd David, the younger, a circumstance not uncommon in Wales, but in general they are described not by their ages, but their sizes, as Rees Lloyd fwy, and Rees Lloyd leia, Rees Lloyd the greater or taller and Rees Lloyd the lesser or shorter. The present (1900) possessor of this mansion (of whose early history, notwithstanding its princely appellation we are entirely ignorant) is John Lloyd of Brecknock, esq., late captain of the Manſhip East Indiaman, and eldest son of

¹ He was the first minister who officiated here and preached the consecration sermon, but he held the curacy for a very short time; who succeeded him we know not, the reader will hear more of him when we come to Llangammarch.

² He exhibited his licence to Tyr abot, at a visitation held in 1743, and again in 1751.

Rees Lloyd, gentleman, who lived at Dinas, and died in 1785. The house is pleasantly situated, being upon an eminence, yet protected from the storm, which is very material in this generally bare and cold country; on the north, and within a few yards of it, rises a nearly precipitous, but beautiful knoll, whose summit (to borrow the tourist's *courtly* phrase) is capped with feathering wood, the country indeed from hence upwards, for two or three miles on the sides of the narrow vale of Irvon, is romantic and picturesque beyond description, and is by no means deficient in this necessary ornament; but one half, if not two parts out of three of the parish, consist of hills and commons. On the former are depastured sheep of small size, the flavour of whose flesh, equals, if it does not excel any in the kingdom, if not in the universe. The commons are boggy turbaries, from whence they dig peat or turf, the only fuel used in this part of the country, and in the summer a few ponies and small cattle feed upon the short and scanty herbage they produce.

DISCOVERY OF THE WELLS.

About one mile below Dinas, and on a different side of the Irvon is Dôl y coed, once the residence of a family of the name of Jones, now a public house, to which company resort in the summer season for the benefit of the water of a well called Ffynnon drewllyd, or the stinking well; it was discovered in 1732 by the Reverend Theophilus Evans, formerly vicar of Llangamarch, who, in 1738 or 1739, gives the following account of it, in a letter to the editor of the *St. James's Chronicle*. After explaining the meaning of the Welsh name, as above, he proceeds to say, that "it has much the same gusto as a gun newly discharged. It undoubtedly runs over a rich bed of sulphur, being strongly impregnated therewith, and has all the properties of sulphur in a higher perfection, as being distilled from it by a natural chemistry, which herein exceeds that of art. In a word, it is a noble tincture of sulphur, concocted and perfected in the bowels of the earth, which no art of man can imitate; it drinks as soft as milk, and is not at all nauseous¹ but is generally grateful to the taste.

"It was discovered in the year 1732, in the following manner: the writer hereof being then almost worn out by a radiated scurvy, of many years continuance, and very near a leprosy, so that his blood and juices were all tainted, 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 to do, a frog popped out of the bottom, looked cheerfully, and as it were invited him to taste of the water: he then immediately concluded that the water could not have any poisonous quality, because of that creature's living so comfortably there, and took a moderate draught, about half a pint or more, without any concern or dread of danger, repeated the same in about half an hour's time, and it had this effect upon him, as to create a keen appetite. This is the first origin of its discovery, though there is a tradition that about two or three hundred years ago it was in greater repute, especially in all scorbutic cases, than the Bath; but how it came to be neglected so long a time, I cannot account for, unless for the want of accommodation to entertain the valedudinarian sick, which at present is in a good measure remedied, but much more in expectation.

"This water is thought by some able judges, who have examined it, to be inferior to none of its kind in Europe. Dr. Edward Brown, son of the famous Sir Thomas Brown, in his travels, mentions divers hot baths in Hungary, the water whereof is very clear, and smells of sulphur, the sediment green, and doth but slowly change the colour of metals, but the sediment of this is milk white, and changes any silver coin or piece of plate in a minute or two into a dark copper colour, which is a demonstration that it partakes more strongly of sulphur, and as to the nature of the hot waters at Aix la Chapelle, according to the Reverend Mr. Dorrington's account, they are of a *sulphureo-salsonitrous* quality, but this is judged to be *sulphureo* chalybeate.

"But I have no leisure at present, had I been capable of such an agreeable work, to make any farther philosophical disquisition about the texture of it, there having been, as far as I can find, no chymical analysis made of its constituent principles: sulphur, undoubtedly, is the predominant, and as far as I am able to judge, from some experiments of the Honorable Robert Boyle, it partakes also of a chalybeate,² and consequently 'tis a specific to be depended upon if managed with discretion and prudence, in all scorbutic and cutaneous cases, relaxation of the fibres of the stomach, and in a word in all stubborn and chronic distempers where salt and acidity ever abound.

"As to my own case it was thus: I mentioned before, my being reduced to a most deplorable condition by an inveterate scurvy which yielded to no medicines commonly prescribed, so that I looked upon myself to be in a desperate condition; but the happy discovery of this well infused fresh courage in me. I knew very well that violent purgatives are always attended with mischievous consequences, and so I prepared my body before I drank the water with the following lenitive bolus;

¹ Some persons will perhaps disagree with Theophilus Evans upon this part of the subject.

² This water also contains a very small quantity of marine salt.

take lenitive electuary an ounce and a half, powder of diasenna, flour of brimstone, of each one drachm and a half, tartar vitriolate one drachm, syrup of roses solutive, as much as is sufficient to make it into an electuary every second day for two weeks. It requires no confinement if the weather is fair, only taking care not to catch cold. I then begun to drink the water, viz., about half a pint or more at a time, after each dose of the following antiscorbutic electuary every morning fasting, and about four or five o'clock in the afternoon; take Æthiop's mineral, cinnabar of antimony, of each one ounce, orange peel candied, conserves of scurvy grass, of each half an ounce, gum guaiacum six drachms, Chymical oil of sassafras eight drops, syrup of elder berries what is sufficient to make it into an electuary: The dose is the quantity of a nutmeg.

"By the use of this for about two months, and washing my body every day with the water, for then there was no conveniency of bathing, as there it at present, I was by God's blessing, made perfectly whole, though my ease was adjudged by a great many to be incurable; and I question not but others, in a like condition, will receive the same benefit, as indeed abundance have done already, which is the sole motive that induced me to publish this for the public good."

Dr. Blenkinsop, a physician, formerly resident at Abergevenny, has also published a paper in the *Gentleman's Magazine* on the virtues of this spring. He had (he says) the well opened to investigate its source, and after removing the stones which covered its channel, a black turf was perceived, twelve inches deep or better, then a stiff clay of a very dark colour mixed with marl, and under this a very light gravel. The water did not rise from under the gravel, as was expected, but was still running in a stream; he therefore dug further, when it was observed to boil up, "I was then (he adds) certain that the head of its spring was not far distant, but as the earth and stones from the covering were likely to fall in, we could not proceed, for fear of stopping its course at that time, which would have been a great detriment and disappointment to the many objects in waiting for its salutary effects, and also because proper workmen could not be procured to secure it again."

"I am of opinion (he adds) that it flows up perpendicularly through a bog or morass; the water is very transparent and *never* loses its taste or smell,¹ nor is it impregnated with rain water, even in the wettest season. As soon as it is received into a glass, it sparkles and you may see the air-bubbles rise gradually till they are gradually disseminated through the whole, and remain so for hours. I kept a quart bottle in my room all night, uncorked it, and its smell and taste were *very little* impaired. It is a very light water and perfectly soft, for when you wash your face and hands in it, you feel the same sensation as when you use soap and water. It dissolves soap immediately and intimately unites with it, it sits easily on the stomach, and passes quietly through the kidneys. I saw a trial of it, when nothing but this water would remain on a stomach impaired by drinking spirituous liquors. It was mixed with a little brandy at first, and in a few days drank alone, and the person is perfectly recovered. It is a fine diuretic, because its effects are the same with every person who drinks it, even in the smallest quantity, and in consequence it must be useful in nephritic complaints, where a stone is not confirmed, and by its natural saponaceous quality, must, I think, prove a dissolvent for sabulous matter either in the kidneys or bladder, which is the foundation of the stone;" he then proceeds to give an instance of its efficacy in this complaint, as well as in a case of *lowness of spirits* and inveterate scurvy, and concludes with recommending it to the attention of the chymist and the valetudinarian, and it is added that hot and cold baths, with dressing rooms attached and other conveniences have been lately erected by the proprietor of the land from whence the spring rises to which these lines allude.

LEAD ORE DISCOVERED.

A small quantity of lead ore was discovered in this parish, but this mineral is so very anomalous in its dip and progress, and the carriage over bad roads and lofty mountains is so very expensive, that the search for it was abandoned; and several unsuccessful attempts were also made to procure coal: black jack indeed and a kind of blackish slate, strongly resembling coal was found here, which, it is said, has all its qualities, *except combustibility*. Mineralogists who know the course of the veins through South Wales, and the direction of the dip, when they learn that the lime, which is the bed or lap of coal, and iron, bursts out at Llanygider, and in the range of the hills westward, laugh at the idea of finding coal in the hundred of Bultih, and consider the efforts now and then made to dig for it there, either as tricks of impostors, or the fruitless exertions of ignorance.

Four rivers fall into the Irvon within this parish, Henog, Lledviall, Cledan and Cerdin. The bridge over the Irvon, near the church, is repaired by the parish, that of Pontrhydvere, lower down, (which gives name to the village adjoining it) by the hundred.

¹ The doctor is not correct in this assertion, the sulphurous particles soon evaporate, and the water, when carried a few miles, loses much of its taste, smell, and effect.

The certified value of this curacy, in the time of Queen Anne, which has neither parsonage or glebe, was 1*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* the vicar of Llangammarch nominates to it; the parish register is of a late date, but we know not precisely how far back it goes. The curacy is not in charge in the king's book.¹

LATER PARTICULARS.

The population of this parish in 1901 was 854, being an increase of 42 over that recorded in 1891, and almost double that given for the year 1801. Since the making of the railway the town has been frequented by large numbers of people, who drink the mineral waters, and it is said that at least 12,000 visitors annually attend here for this purpose; the season lasts from April till October. The Dolycoed Hotel, in the grounds of which one of the springs rises, is a convenient and comfortable place for visitors, and they are allowed a free use of the springs and the highly attractive grounds. There are also three mineral springs in the Victoria Wells grounds, which were discovered by the divining rod. There are several commodious hotels and houses for the reception of visitors, and a large lake upon which pleasure boats have been placed; this lake is fed from the Irvon. A pavilion has also been erected to hold 400 people.

Llanwrtyd and Llandulas were formerly in the Carmarthen Union of Llandovery. In February, 1897 they were transferred to Builth Union and Rural District. Llanwrtyd gives the name to the polling district and Electoral division in which it is placed. The area of the parish is given as 11,335 acres, of which much is mountain. The rateable value is about £3,800.

Llanwrtyd was made a separate parish from Llangammarch in 1871. The church of St. David near the hamlet of Clawdd Madoc was restored in 1862 at a cost of £600 or £800; it now consists of chancel, nave, south porch, and a turret containing one bell. Near to the chancel is a marble monument, erected to the memory of Commodore Lloyd. The inscription, which is from the pen of his son John Lloyd, a distinguished scholar and poet (who died 1875), is as follows: "Sacred to the memory of John Lloyd, eldest son of Rees Lloyd, of Dinas, and Captain of the Honourable East India Company's ship *Manship*; who left this his native parish at the age of 16 without friends or interest; but by good conduct and perseverance acquired both; and after thirty years of active naval service, and twelve voyages to India, in the course of which he twice suffered shipwreck, and a cruel imprisonment at the hands of Tippu Sultan, of Mysore, returned to display the same active and enterprising spirit in promoting the welfare and cultivating the resources of his native country. He died February, 1818, aged 70."

The church of St. James, situate in the village, was built in 1897 at a cost of £1,600, and consists of chancel, nave, south porch, and a turret with one bell. The value of the living, which is in the gift of the Bishop of St. David's, is £130 net. In 1899 it was augmented, the Diocesan Society giving £100, private subscriptions £100, and Queen Anne's Bounty £200.

The vicars of Llanwrtyd have been: 1870, Henry Miles; 1877, William Tudor Thomas.

The Mrs. Margaret Jones's bequest, already referred to, was made by will dated 22nd May, 1782. She gave the interest of £300 Consols to keep a free school of Llanwrtyd for ever, and appointed the Curate and Churchwardens and Overseers, trustees; she also gave £200 consols for bed clothes for the poor, £50 for her trustees to make themselves a feast on November 1st in each year, and the interest of £100 to clothe the poor children at Llangammarch and Llanwrtyd.

Beside the church there is a Congregational Chapel, first founded in 1693; the present building, erected in 1868, is an edifice of native stone with brick dressings, and has sitting accommodation for 260. The Calvinistic Chapel, first erected in 1808, was re-built in 1867, with accommodation for 350 persons. There is also a Baptist Chapel.

Llanwrtyd and its district are noted for the long residence therein of the Rev. Kilsby Jones, and the Rev. David Williams, of Troedyrhiwdalar, both eminent as preachers in the Nonconformist body to which they belonged. The latter died in 1874, aged 95 years and seven months, and the former survived Williams for some years.

¹ The list of incumbents here, as well as at Llanddewi Abergwessin, is reserved till Llangammarch, the mother church is reached.

LLANDDEWI ABERGWESSIN.

WE are now travelling into the wildest, most uncultivated, and uninhabitable parts of Breconshire, "where the gilt chariot never marked the way." And where no other carriage, unless it be the small wheel cart and sledge, can pass with safety; a few narrow glens (where small inclosures, low cottages, and one mansion house only excepted, are interspersed here and there), intersect the dreary waste: man seems doomed here to surrender these regions to the sheep, and to those of his own race only who are accustomed to collect the produce, watch the habits, and occasionally protect these useful and profitable little animals from the perils of the storm or snow.

JOHN LLOYD OF TOWY.

The parish and chapel of Llanddewi Abergwessin is appendant and appurtenant to Llangamarch, and is dedicated to Saint David, as its name (Saint David's on Gwessin-fall) clearly indicates. Llanvihangel Abergwessin is placed with tolerable accuracy, by Adams, in latitude 52 16, longitude 3 34; he has omitted Llanddewi Abergwessin, but the churches are so near one another, the latter being a few yards westward of the Irvon, and the former on the other side, just on the junction of the Gwessin, that the above distances will apply to both, as the space between is so small that it is hardly worth noticing. There is nothing worthy of remark or observation in the church or church yard, or indeed within this parish. Nant y Flaiddast, or the brook of the she wolf, one of the Termini, mentioned in the charter of Rees ap Griffith to the monks of Ystradfflur, is the name of a rill, and also of a small farm within its precinct. On the western boundary was formerly the mansion of John Lloyd, who described himself of Towy, but who very sensibly changed his residence and removed to a more sheltered spot; 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 Caerdiganshire, on his march to the battle of Bosworth Field; as a reward for his services, he had ample possessions bestowed 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 Scotch wars, under Henry the Eighth; he was afterwards, as the inscription on a plate of brass in Builth church informs us, *Squer to the bodie* (Esquire 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 and Earl Marshal of Ireland, who was buried at Carmarthen.

The public are indebted to the writer of this epitaph, whoever he may have been, for the account of the appointment or grant by the crown to the Earl of Essex, of this manor, which has escaped the notice of historians, as well as antiquaries, and of the indefatigable and learned Dugdale among the rest. Upon the attainder of the gallant but eccentric and unfortunate Robert, Earl of Essex, we presume, the lordship reverted to the crown.

Sometime previous to his decease, which happened in 1585, he resided at his mansion of Porth y crwys, or the gate of the cross, in Llanynis; no vestige of this house now remains, but its situation in a field, being part of a farm called Cefnllys gwin, is very well known, and here a difficulty occurs which we know not well how to solve. By his will in the register office, proved soon after his death, wherein he still described himself as "John Lloyd of Towy, esquier," though then living in a different parish, he gave his soul to God and his body to be buried in the parish church of Llanynis, yet the inscription in Builth church asserts that he lieth there. On the one hand it is hardly to be supposed that his son would have disobeyed an injunction thus solemnly imposed upon him, and in those days always religiously observed, and on the other, we are loath to disbelieve the assertion in his epitaph; upon the whole we incline to think that it was a mere inaccuracy, that instead of "here lieth," *memoriæ sacrum*, or sacred to the memory, was only intended, and that this monument of gratitude to a benefactor to the town and country, was placed there at the expence of the inhabitants and his friends, as being a more public place than the church of Llanynis, where he was actually buried.

HIS WILL.

This John Lloyd proceeds, by his will above noticed, to give his second son, John Lloyd, Tyr Jeanu ap Gwilym Jeanu dew yn y Felindre, Tyr Brithwernydd, Tyr Jeanu with hir, Cae Jeanu Llwyd, Gardd Meredith ap Morgan, Gardd Hugh ap Rhys, in the Castle street, Ty Madoc David Morgan at

Bridgend, Ty yn y Fynwent, alias Ty Robert Dio ap Howel, Ty Howel Madoc, Ty Mallt verch Jenkin Owen, and Ty John Bannor,¹ all in Builth, to be holden for twenty one years, provided he gave his elder brother, David Lloyd, a band² to surrender it up at that time, he also gives his son, John, his dyrie (dairy) cattle and chattels, at Cae du, to Gwenllian, vz. William, his *woyre*,³ twelve heifers, to Robert John, his woyre, and to his other grandchildren, other legacies. In his inventory, is a debt due from Robert Toy of Carmarthen, merchant, of forty marks, given into the hands of Robert Kerver, his man, to be delivered over to him at a daic long past, and another from David ap Meredith, esq., recovered at the last assizes for the county of Radnor, being nineteen pounds and six shillings, whereupon he says he had "tow capiases, one upon his bodie and the other upon his goods." The pedigree of this John Lloyd will appear in that of Lloyd of Rhosferig, from which it will be seen that his male issue failed with his grandson.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PARISH IN 1809.

Notwithstanding the distance from markets, the badness of the roads, and the inclemency of the climate during the greatest part of the year, a gentleman of the name of Jones, possessed of considerable property, real and personal, and a magistrate in the commission of the peace for the county, has built a handsome house, called Llwynderw, or the oak grove, in this parish, where he resides, and pays his attention principally to rearing sheep, of which he is supposed to be the greatest proprietor in South Wales, if not in the principality; he is said to have upwards of ten thousand, worth upon an average ten or twelve shillings each; the Leicestershire farmer will smile at the individual value of each of these diminutive animals, but let him introduce his rank, overgrown stock, to these mountains, and see what his profit will amount to at the end of the year.

The river which gives name to this and the adjoining parish, should correctly be written Gwesin, a streamlet, being the diminutive of Gwês, that which moves on or goes (Owen sub verb.), as the Welsh seldom if ever double the letters which always bear a hard sound. We have, however, to accommodate English eyes, written it Gwessyn or Gwessin; after running a very few miles it loses itself in the Irvon.

The nomination to this curacy, to which there is neither augmentation, parsonage house, or glebe, is in the vicar of Llangamarch.

There are, as we apprehend, errors both in Ecton and the printed return of the commissioners in the time of Queen Anne, as to the certified value of the curacy. In the latter, Llanvihangel Abergwessin is said to be of the annual value of £18 and Llandewi Abergwessin is omitted. In Ecton, Llanddewi Abergwessin is said to be of £18 and no value is annexed to Llanvihangel Abergwessin, and in both Llanddewi'r cwm is said to be of the annual value of five pounds, though the united curacies of Builth and Llanddewi'r cwm are valued in one sum at ten pounds per annum, so that probably for Llanddewi'r cwm, thus separately calculated at five pounds, we should read Llanddewi Abergwessin.

The register commences in 1740, and the curacy is not in charge.

LATER PARTICULARS.

The parishes of Llanddewi and Llanvihangel Abergwessin were united into one benefice by an order in Council dated May 18, 1865 (Llanddewi-Abergwessin being separated from Llangamarch by the same process in November, 1860.) The dilapidated church of Llanddewi Abergwessin was pulled down under a faculty dated January 29th 1886, and the church of Llanvihangel Abergwessin constituted the parish church of the united parishes. Mr. E. D. Thomas conveyed four acres of land for a vicarage house in 1886; the vicarage was built in 1868 at the charge of the late Mrs. Henry Thomas and Bishop Thirdwall. The Rev. John Jones was appointed first vicar.

The population of Llanddewi Abergwessin in 1901 was 69; in 1891, 83; and in 1801, 118. The area is 10,511 acres, and the rateable value only £694. It is in Builth Rural District and Llanwrtyd Polling District and Electoral Division. The district is entirely devoted to sheep farming. Llwynderw is the residence of Mrs. Myra Elizabeth Roberts, it having been bought in 1889 from the son of the late Mr. Jones by Thomas Turner Roberts, Esq.; for some years previously it had been let as a by-take to a neighbouring farmer.

¹ Corruptly for Barwn, a surname.

² A bond, thus written in the reign of Elizabeth and the Welsh still pronounce it band.

³ Wyr, a grandson. This Welsh word continually occurs in old wills, the remainder of which are written in English.

LLANVIHANGEL ABERGWESSIN,

Or ST. MICHAEL'S on the FALL OF GWESIN.

THE situation of this church has been before described; the dedication is obvious, it contains nothing interesting: there is no table of benefactions here, although a farm in this parish, called Cefenfaes, of the annual value of 3*l.* 18*s.* by the will of William Thomas in 1709, and another donation of £5 per annum by the will of the late Evan Thomas, esq., are devised and paid every year towards the support of the poor. Within this parish are many commons and much mountainous ground, where sheep and small wild horses and cattle are depastured; it is intersected with a few more picturesque vales than the preceding parish.

THE LLWYNMADOC MANSION.

That in which Llwynmadoc, the mansion of the late Evan Thomas, and of Henry Thomas and David Thomas, esqrs., is situated, is remarkably romantic and beautiful. This family is descended from one of the younger branches of the house of Elystan Glodrydd; they have been possessed of a tenement called Llwynmadoc, in this parish, for some centuries, but prior to the increase of fortune by the late Mr. Evan Thomas, which was acquired by industry and application to business, as well as by marriage, they were not of sufficient importance to be noticed by the heralds: the first we find is Evan Thomas ap Meredith, who died in 1676, and who left issue Meredith Bevan, Thomas Bevan, and Rees ap Jean: Thomas purchased Llwynmadoc, from his eldest brother, and died in 1695, leaving Edward Thomas (who married Winifred Evans of *Blan y cwm*) to whom he devised Llwynmadoc; Mauld, of whom we know nothing; William Thomas, to whom he devised *Tyr yr Dryscwl*, and whose child, William, died without issue, Meredith and David. Edward Thomas left issue the late Evan Thomas, esq., many years agent to Lord Weymouth, since marquiss of Bath; he married a daughter of Thomas Waters, and secondly Miss Jones of Cribarth. Edward Thomas, who married Catherine Davies of *Sarn y geifr*, Mary who married Evan Lloyd of *Cwmemliw*, and Anne married to John Price of *Castell bach*. Evan Thomas, the eldest son of the first Edward, had issue Henry Thomas, living about 1800, who married Miss Gwynne of *Glynaïron*, and Thomas Thomas, who died without issue. Edward Thomas the second had issue Edward Thomas, esq., deceased, who married, first Letitia Price of *Maes yr onn*, and secondly Anne Evans, widow, sister of David Jones of *Llwynderw* and daughter of Peter Jones of *Dugoedy*,¹ David Thomas of the *Pay Office London*, and Evan Thomas who died without issue. Henry Thomas had issue, Evan, Mary and Anne; and Edward, his first cousin had issue by his first wife, Evan Thomas, who died without issue, and by his second wife, Anne, married to David Prichard, the younger, of *Builth, gent.*, and David Thomas married to Catherine Jones of *Ystradwalter*. Llwynmadoc may perhaps have been the mansion or temporary residence of Madoc ap *Bleddin ap Cynfyn*, prince of *Powys*, upon the expulsion of *Rhys ap Tewdwr* into Ireland, until the defeat at *Lechryd* with his brothers, *Ryrid* and *Cadwgan*, upon his return, but this is given merely as conjecture and not history.

THE PARISH RIVERS.

To the westward, and in the county of Cardigan, is the lake of *Llyngynon*, near the junction of this and the preceding parish, from whence springs a brook called *Brywno*, or rather *Brwynog* the rushy, dividing the counties and running into the *Claerwen* after it has reached the *Claerddu*, soon after which the united streams fall into the *Elan*. This pool, and the rill that flows from it, would not have deserved notice, if Edward Richards, the sweet swan² of *Ystradmeurig*, had not preserved the names of them as long as the British language remains.

Heddyw'n clodfwr a'n tafod Llyn Teifi
Y for'n llon ganu Llyngynon.
Dewiwsach it oesu rhwng Claerwen a chlaerddu.³
Na phlygu ag hyderu ar gwd arall.

To day we praise our Towy's stream,
Next day Llyngynon claims the theme.
Oh! rather starve on Claerwen's side,
Or on the banks of Claerddu hide,
Than on another's purse depend,
Or penniless intreat a friend.

But while the poet warms, the country chills us, we therefore hasten from it with all convenient despatch.

¹ Darkwood lodge or house.

² Few know how well this appellation applies to the poet; he predicted in one of his pastorals that he should die deserted and abandoned by all his relations and friends. Extraordinary as it may appear, we are informed that he was found dead in his bed, his doors locked, but without keys, and no human being within the house.

³ *Clair wen*, the clear white, *Clair ddu*, the clear blackish, (water).



LLWYNMADOC—SEAT OF MISS THOMAS.



EGLWYS OEN DUW FROM THE S.W.

The nomination to the curacy, which has no parsonage or glebe, and is not in charge or augmented, is in the vicar of Llanafan fawr, and the certified value has been already ascertained. The parish register goes back to 1730.

LATER PARTICULARS.

The union of this and the preceding parish for ecclesiastical purposes has already been explained. A Celtic cross of Radyr stone in the churchyard marks the last resting place of Henry Thomas, Esq., Llwynmadoc, for 12 years chairman of Quarter Sessions for Glamorganshire, and of Evan Llewellyn Thomas, his son, whose death followed within a few months that of his father. There is no record of the original building of Llwynmadoc; it was added to in 1747, according to the only inscribed date. Up to the year 1851 it was used as a shooting box, and in that year was altered into a more convenient house by Mr. Thomas, who from that time made it his residence. He was much interested in the then greatly needed improvement of roads in this neighbourhood. The roads from Garth to Beulah, from Beulah to Llanwrtyd, and from Beulah to Abergwessin were, by his influence and assistance, diverted where it was possible, so as to avoid the worst gradients (the first-named being for the most part new); the neighbouring landowners, Mr. Fuller Maitland, of Garth, Mr. Allen of Oakfield, and Mr. Thomas of Welfield contributing in land or money.

The first elementary school under Government inspection in the district lying between Llandoverly and Builth, now called Llwynmadoc School, was provided mainly by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas—the foundation stone was laid in 1850 by Evan Llewellyn Thomas who died 1864—with the support and assistance of the neighbouring landowners and farmers; whilst the maintenance of the school in the iron room at Abergwessin, and the erection and maintenance of the school at Llanafan fawr were mainly due to the liberality of Mr. Thomas's widow. Some years after her death a permanent school building was erected by public subscription at Abergwessin on a site given by Mr. E. D. Thomas of Welfield. Mr. Thomas also built and endowed the vicarage of Llanvihangel Abergwessin, which was consolidated with Llandewi Abergwessin, having been hitherto held as a curacy under Llanafan fawr.

The Llwynmadoc property devolved, on the death of Evan Llewellyn Thomas, upon his sister Clara, the present owner. The church at Abergwessin was built by her in place of the two barn-like structures then standing, and also by her the new church and district of Eglwys Oen Duw were respectively built and endowed and provided with a vicarage house; the district being carved out of the parish of Abergwessin, in which the church stands; of Llanganmarch, in which the vicarage stands; and of Llanlleonfel and Llanafan fawr.

THE CHURCHES.

The two former churches in the two Abergwessins were served by a monk from the Abbey of Strata Florida, during the existence of that community. On the mountain road from Strata Florida to Abergwessin, the point where Abergwessin first comes in sight is called Cae Pader, and believed to be the spot whereon the said monk began to recite his paternosters on approaching the church.

The present Abergwessin church is cruciform, and early English in style; the architect was Mr. J. R. Withers. It has one stained glass window by Burlison and Gylls. The tower contains a peal of six bells cast by Warner, and are inscribed "Llanvihangel Abergwessin 1871." Eglwys Oen Duw church consists of a nave, chancel, and vestry, with central timber spire containing a peal of four bells by Warner. The style is early English, and Mr. John Norton was the architect. There is stained glass in eight windows by Clayton and Bell. The west window of five lights was put up by Mrs. Alicia Thomas, widow of Mr. Evan Thomas, in memory of her son Henry Thomas and her grandson Evan Llewellyn Thomas; the east window of three lights was put up by Mrs. Henry Thomas.

The church and burial ground were consecrated September 14, 1875. The first incumbent was the Rev. M. E. Welby, who was succeeded by the Rev. W. Gethin Griffith, M.A., upon whose pre-ferment to Llandefalle, the Rev. Thomas Jones was in 1902 appointed vicar. The joint living is worth £200 a year net with residence and four acres of glebe. The population in 1901 was 247; the rateable value £1,358, and the area 11,626 acres.

In the parish of Abergwessin there are two Nonconformist chapels, one in the village, "Moriah," built by the Independents in 1826, rebuilt 1867; and one in the Cnyfiad Valley, "Pantycelyn," founded by the Baptists in 1806.

THE PRESENT CHARITIES.

Tyr-y-cnfas, the property devised by William Thomas as a charity, was in 1873 let on lease to Miss Clara Thomas for 14 years at the rent of £34 a year. This charity—(by some confusion

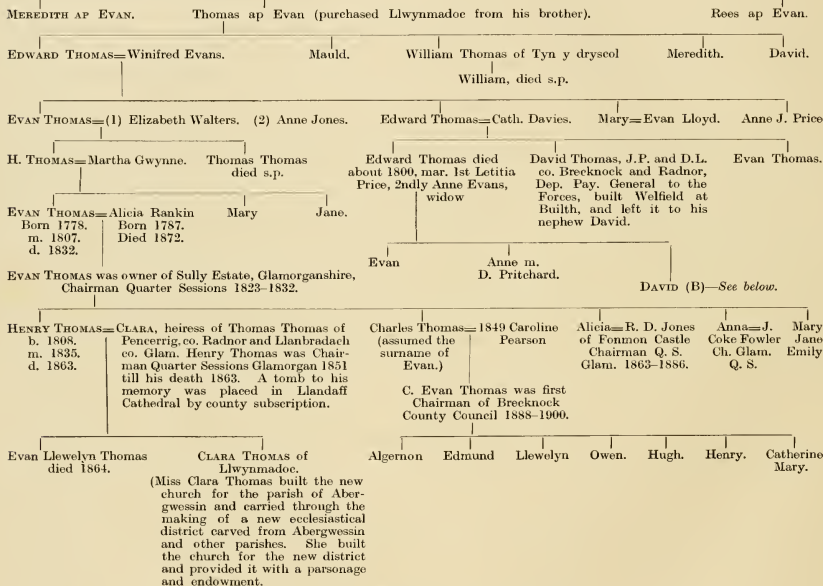
described in the 1869 Commissioners Report as the "Ricketts" Charity)—is for the benefit of the poor and to be distributed by the vicar and wardens of the parish. The will was proved in the Consistory Court at Brecon on the 18th July, 1709, and the distribution was to take place on Christmas Day and the 25th day of March yearly for ever.

The Evan Thomas of Llwynmadoc Charity is a sum of £5 yearly divided between ten poor persons on Christmas Day annually.

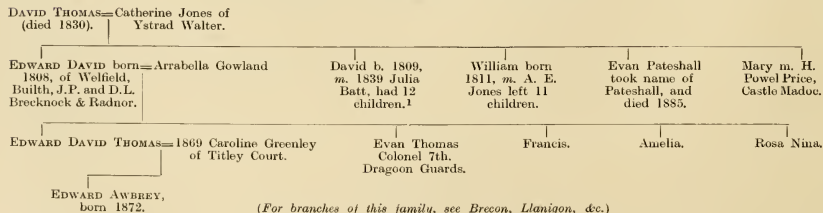
PEDIGREE OF THOMAS OF LLWYNMADOC.

(See Jones's notes on this family.)

EVAN THOMAS AP MEREDITH died 1676—



PEDIGREE OF THOMAS OF WELFIELD.



¹ See "Mayor of Brecknock," for year 1876, in this work.

LLANWRTHWL.

THIS parish extends to the boundary of Breconshire on the north and north east, adjoins Caerdynganshire on the west, projects at one point to within two or three stone-throws of Montgomeryshire, and has the Elan and the Wye, separating the counties of Brecon and Radnor on the east and north east.

It is dedicated, according to Ecton, to Mwrthwl. Where he or Brown Willis found out this Saint we know not; from his garb he should seem to be British, but the Welsh will not acknowledge him: in the *Triads* indeed, we have a personage to whom our very early ancestors own themselves indebted for the art of building in stone and mortar, but he is supposed to live so soon after the deluge that nothing but absolute necessity, and the want of an *accredited*, patron for the parish would induce us to drag him from his obscurity. He is called Morddal Gwr Gweilgi, or Morddal the man of the ocean, and though it would be too much to insist with pertinacity upon the existence of such a person, it is by no means improbable that a stranger from the continent might have taught the Britons masonry, that out of gratitude for the comforts he conferred, his memory may have been revered, and that even a church was dedicated to him, though he lived before the Christian era. From Morddal to Mwrthwl, a hammer, the transition is easy, and we then have a Saint for this parish; in what degree of estimation he is now held by the inhabitants, we have no authority to state.

THE CHURCH AND ANTIQUITIES.

The church is situated near the river Wye, not far below the Aber of the Elan, in latitude 52 20, longitude 3 22, though not noticed by Adams. This is a dark low fabric, indifferently seated, and not ceiled: in the church yard is a large stone about two yards in height, whether a Maen hir, or the shaft of a cross, the top being broken off, is uncertain. A great part of this parish consists of lofty hills, bogs and commons; among the first is the Drygarn or Derwydd garn, (Mount Druid or Druid's rock), part of which is in Llanvihangel Abergweissin, and may be seen from the Brecknock beacons on a clear day. On the top of this are many Carnau or Carneddau, large heaps of stones, as there are also upon a less elevated eminence not far from hence, called Gemrhiv.

On the road from Llandovery and Llangamarch to Rhayader, are seen stones placed irregularly in the ground, which have given a common, partly in this parish and partly in Llanafan, the name of Rhôs saith maen, or Seven-stone common; whether they are sepulchral, military or druidical remains, is not known, but from the name of Rhos y beddau, the common of the graves, not far from hence, nearer to the river Wye, it should seem they commemorate a battle, most likely that of Llechryd and the slaughter in the flight of Riryd and Cadwgan.

THE RIVERS.

Descending from these mountainous regions and approaching the banks of the Elan and the Wye as they skirt this parish, the soil improves very much and some fertile and productive meadows adorn their course, and we have here a continued succession of pictures than which nothing can be more beautiful.

The river Elan which is lost in the Wye on the north eastern boundary of this parish, is nearly as large as that into which it falls; the name is indicative of the swiftness of its course, and signifies a hind or fawn. Not far from the banks of this river, on the Breconshire side and near a farm called Nant y car, some lumps of copper were discovered a few years prior to 1800, and many attempts have been made to follow the metal but in vain; its vagaries mock the efforts of art or science, and have no similitude to the steady and uniform progress of the iron vein, consequently the project, after much labour and considerable expense, at different periods, was at last abandoned.¹

THE AP BEDO COCH FAMILY.

The will of Jeuan Philip ap Bedo coch, of this parish, dated in 1576, is curious, insomuch as it describes the customary mode of conveyance in the country previous to the general use of deeds. "I give (says he) Tyr yn y gro issa, which I bought three score and two years ago of one Rees

¹ Notwithstanding the ill success of mineralogists in 1800, the veins in this country, in the time of Edward the First and Second, were thought of very considerable importance; in the seventh of the first named monarch's reign, a commission issued, "*De minera infra Ballyvum de Buill commissa Hoelo filio Meuric*;" and in the same year, Howel ap Meuric, then being the king's bailiff, and having the castle and manor of Buill, demised to him at one thousand pounds a year, and had the care of the minerals in the county for the king's use; similar commissions follow in the succeeding reigns.—Ayliffe's *Antient Charters*; *Rolls* in the Tower, &c.

David ap Gwylm, after the maner accustomed in the sayed time, in the presence and oversight of foure neighbours, namely John Bedo ap David, Morgan David ap Morgan, Bedo ap Rhys Chwith and Philip David ap Meredith Goch, to my oldest son, John ap Evan Philip, &c." The name of Bedo, which was formerly frequently heard in this parish, is a synonym or abbreviation of Meredith, and was afterwards altered or anglicised by those who went to reside to England, into Bedoes and Bedward, though this latter word is sometimes from ap Edward. In 1612, Owen ap Jean Bedo, one of the descendants of the above testator, gives Troed Rhiw'r Aethnen or aspen-tree-hill foot, to his brother, Hugh Bedoes of Stretton, in the county of Hereford, clerk. Lelo was also a common name here, if not peculiar to this parish, it was a cant term for a fool or an idiot, but as we have before observed, this was no objection to its adoption or continuance; on the contrary they retained it with an unaccountable pertinacity. In 1626, Evan Meredith ap Lelo gives lands to his son in law, John Storre, clerk, then vicar of Llanwrthwl. Here the grandson preserves the name, but this is nothing; in a few years afterwards, Thomas David ap Evan Meredith Lelo occurs, where the favourite appellation follows to the fifth generation. It is still known in Herefordshire and is sometimes altered into Lilwall. There were no families of note or considerable wealth in this parish in 1800, but a few years before that, William Povel, esq., who was sheriff for the county in 1775, resided at Ystrad, a house pleasantly situated on the banks of the Wye, but there being no bridge over the river near it, he was drowned in attempting to cross the ford in a flood; his son soon dissipated the property and sold Ystrad to Mr. Penry Price, from whom it was purchased by James Watt, esq., one of the partners in the opulent and enterprising firm of Bolton and Watt of Birmingham.

ECCLLESIASTICAL.

This vicarage, which has been once augmented by Queen Anne's bounty by lot, 1870, £200, but has neither parsonage or glebe attached, is in the collation of the bishop of Saint David's; the impropriate tythes belong to the prebendary of Llanwrthwl, in the college church in Brecon, the present (1800) lessee is the heir or devisee of the late Michael Cope Hopton, esq., who had them with the rest of the Pennant property, with the owners of which estate the lease has continued, being renewed at the usual periods from the year 1559, when Meredith Morgan, chancellor of Saint David's, before named, was prebendary of Llanwrthwl, who first demised them to his son and grandson, from the latter of whom they were obtained by the same fraud that his mother got possession of Pennant for her second husband, Meredith Lewis.

This living is called Lanuehul in Pope Nicholas's taxation, and is valued at 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, tenths 10*s.* 8*d.* The annual value, certified in the time of Queen Anne, was 20*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*: it remains charged in the king's book at 9*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*; pays to the archdeacon 3*s.* 4*d.* annually for procurations, and the register goes back to 1713.

LATER PARTICULARS.

According to Rees, in his *Welsh Saint's*, Llanwrthwl is dedicated to Gwrthwl, a saint of the latter part of the 7th century, as to whom he gives no further information. The church was rebuilt in 1875 by subscription at a cost of £1,880, and is a small plain edifice of stone, consisting of a chancel, nave, and a one-bell turret. The font is said to be of the 12th century. There is a memorial window to the memory of Rev. John Eagles, M.A., and this was erected about 1874 by his daughter, Mrs. Graham-Clarke, of Frocester Manor, Gloucestershire. The "Maen hir" in the churchyard is said to weigh upwards of six tons.

The area of the parish is 20,168 acres, of which 123 acres are water; and the rateable value, £3,532: the population in 1901 was 1785.

At Nant y Car there was a lead mine on the mountain land, and a considerable plant was erected and the mine worked until 1890, when it was sold by the Lord of the Manor of Builth to the Birmingham Corporation, to be discontinued, in order to insure the purity of the water henceforth to be obtained from this valley for the use of the City of Birmingham.

Doldowlod Hall, the magnificent seat of James Miller Gibson-Watt, Esq., J.P. (see *History of Radnorshire*), stands in extensive grounds, and commands splendid views of the neighbourhood. Another seat is Glanrhôs, the property of Leonard J. Graham-Clarke, Esq., M.A., J.P.

The benefactions to this parish include the following: Edward ap Evan by will dated 1648 gave to the poor of this parish for ever, a message called Caer-llan, to be distributed on October 24 annually; this is of the yearly value of £8. Hugh Phillips, by will, charged his property Tydden a Thir Isson Milo, and Tydden a Thir y Talwyn Yoldoge (as given in the Charity Commissioners Report),

with the payment of £3 yearly to the poor; this property is now called Bronviddie, and forms part of a farm called Llanerch fallen. Owen's charity is the interest of £100 left by Margaret Owen to be divided amongst the poor.

A public elementary school was built in 1880. The parish is on the Radnorshire border, and is half a mile north from Doldowlod railway station, and two and a half miles from Rhayader.

The living is a rectory in the gift of the Bishop of St. David's, and in 1895, the Rev. John Y. Evans was instituted to it. In 1900 it was valued at £100 gross or £85 net, but in 1906 it was returned as of the net yearly value of £200 with residence.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INCUMBENTS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1569.—	Bishop of Saint David's	William Huet.	1715.—	Ditto.	Charles Williams.
1578.—	—	Hugh ap Meredith.	1732.—	Ditto.	Jacob Wood.
1613.—	Bishop of Saint David's.	Meredith Harris.	1789.—	Ditto.	Rice Price.
1626.—	—	John Storre. ¹	—	—	—
1646.—	Bishop of Saint David's.	James Thomas. ²	1886.—	Ditto.	J. H. A. Griffiths.
1682.—	—	Evan James.	1895.—	Ditto.	John V. Evans, B.A.
1713.—	Bishop of Saint David's.	David Williams.			

LLANAFAN FAWR or LLANAVAN VAWR.

Llanafan llain ofer,
Fynidd-dir,
Graig cleu
A'r grug a welir,
A llywyl tew yn llanw'r tir.

Llanavan full of hills, whose plains
Are trod by none but idle swains
On high, grey rocks and heath are found
Below, thick brakes conceal the ground.

THUS sung the wags of former days, but if the satire was ever just, the face and appearance of the country has since materially altered for the better and cultivation, though it cannot remove the hills, has cleared many of the brakes in the valleys.

The church is situated upon an eminence, and is dedicated to Avan or Avanus, a bishop and martyr unknown in the English church history, but acknowledged and noticed in all the MS. pedigrees of the Welsh saints; according to some he was the grandson or great grandson of Cynedda Wledig king of Britain, and as others, the first cousin of Saint David. Geraldus Cambrensis relates a miracle which happened on the profanation of his church: "In the time of Henry the First (he says) one of the lords of Radnor, coming into this country to hunt, placed his dogs in the church of Saint Avan, called in the British language Llanavan, for a night, and he also most irreverently slept in the church with them; but when he got up early in the morning, as hunters are accustomed to do, the dogs were mad, and he being blind was led out by the hand. He lived many years in this state, but upon making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem he was restored to sight; whereupon he went into the holy wars, and in battle with the enemies of the Christian faith, he spurred his horse and rushed boldly into their thickest ranks, thus honourably concluding his life."

AVANUS THE BISHOP.

Whether this signal interposition of providence, in punishing a conduct, certainly highly reprehensible, and the subsequent restoration to sight, be true or not, it seems to be clear that in very early days a bishop called Afan, Ifan, or Jean (for the word is written thus differently) gave name to this parish, yet the difficulty is to ascertain the period in which he lived. Cynedda Wledig who is said to have been a nephew, a sister's son of Helen, the wife of the Emperor Constantius, must have lived about the year 330 or 340; the see of Saint David's was not formed until about the year 577. Now this leaves a period of upwards of two hundred years for three or four lives at most;

¹ William Storre, clerk, was promoted to the rectory of All Saints in the pavement in the city of York, by Queen Elizabeth, in 1594, and died in 1606.—Drake's *Hist. of York*.

² He was ousted by the *saber* propagators of the gospel, for the alleged crimes of drunkenness and simony, after which the living was vacant for eight years; he was restored in 1660.—Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy*.

the same objection lies to the accuracy of those MSS. as to Saint David, who must have been a contemporary, if not of one generation later than Avan, so that probably the names of several of his ancestors have been lost or omitted in his genealogical table, yet even this will not remove the difficulty as to Avamus the *bishop*, whose see either consisted of his parish alone, or it must have been in *nubibus*. Neither history or tradition have placed him as the predecessor or coadjutor of Saint David, nor is he named, to the best of our recollection, in any list of British bishops of that time; he must therefore in our opinion, however it may detract from his antiquity, submit to be brought down several centuries lower, and be considered as the bishop Jean,¹ in Brown Willis's *List of the Prelates of Saint David's* during the tenth century, who was preceded by Nathan and followed by Angustell or Arwystl: he is there said to have been bishop for one day only, and is supposed to have been murdered by the Danes in one of their irruptions into Wales, in a meadow on the Whefri side, not far below the vicarage house, where a maen hir of about six feet high was placed and still continues to preserve the memory of that flagitious deed.

The church is of considerable length, and consists of one aisle or nave not ceiled, partially flagged and irregularly seated; on the west end is a heavy tower, containing five bells; there are no curious or ancient inscriptions within the walls, though several of the vicars of Llanavan are said to be buried under a tombstone below the communion table. In the church yard is the tombstone of the saint, on which are the following letters or characters cut in the stone,

"HIC JACET SANCTUS AVANUS EPISCOPUS."

This stone is of an extremely hard and durable texture, the surface does not appear at all worn, nor does it scale off in lamina, and the letters are deeply cut into it and perfect. It is an oblong square, six feet ten inches by two feet eight, and about six inches in thickness; a dry wall has been built under it which is occasionally repaired, and at present (1800) it looks like what are called the altar tombs, commonly seen in churches and cemeteries, so that it may be doubted whether this was the precise spot, as it certainly was not the manner, in which it was originally placed.²

RHOS Y CAPEL RUINS.

Between two and three miles north of this church, on a boggy common called Rhôs y capel, was formerly a chapel, probably appurtenant to this parish, which appears in Saxton's maps published between 1574 and 1579, said to have been then known by the name of Kethitalgarth or rather Gelli Talgarth, the forest of Talgarth, and in the ancient surveys of the manor, the forest of Tal Ifan or Tal-Avan; though a MS. pedigree of the descendants of Elystan Glodrydd, seen by Theo. Jones, describes Owen ap Jean Bedo, who lived in the beginning of the seventeenth century, to be of Gelli Talgarth in Lanfihangel bryn pabuan, from the boundary of which parish it certainly was not very far distant, and perhaps part of the forest may have extended to the latter precinct. Among the appurtenances of the church of Llanddewi'r cwm, granted by Peter de Leia to the priory of Brecon, is a field in this parish near the church, where there is a small mound, perhaps the ruins of a mansion, called Lle'r prior, the Prior's place, and a tenement called Wern y mynach or Monk's wood. In the same map of Breconshire by Saxton, the chapel of Llysdinam, in the parish of Llanavan vawr, nearer the Wye, and about one mile further to the north east, that of Gelli Talgarth appears to have been in his time standing, though both of them now (1800) are entirely dilapidated; the same fate seems to threaten the mansions in this parish, formerly the residence of opulence, the seats of hospitality, the never failing resources of comfort to the stranger and the traveller, the plentiful granaries of the indigent; and if the shades of the possessors of Ty mawr and Brynioiau, two or three hundred years ago, were now permitted to revisit their dwellings, they might be supposed to exclaim, in the pathetic language of Llywarch hên,

Ystafell Cynyddylan ys tywyll heno
Heb dan heb ganwyll!

Cold and gloomy is the hall of Cynyddylan to night
Without fire without candle!

EVILS OF THE WINDOW TAX.

Cribarth also, which about a century ago, was inhabited by a family of some note, of the name

¹ Jean has been since corrupted into Evan, Ivan and John; the latter sound is peculiarly offensive to the ears of Welshmen, who pronounce the I when it occurs, as in John, George, &c., by Si, Sion, Siors, &c., the name of the Evangelist, is not sounded in Welsh, as in the English name of a female, but as I-o-an.

² Mab y Clochdydya or the Sexton's son, a poet who flourished in the latter end of the fourteenth century, is said in a MS. of Llywd's, in the Ashmolean museum, (as we are informed by Mr. Edward Williams of Flemingstone) to have been of this parish, and to have been the same with Macclaf ap Llywarch, though he has given the two names in his catalogue of British writers. Mab y Clochdydya wrote a poem in praise of Gwenhyfar, wife of Hywel ap Tydyr ap Gryffith, inserted in the first vol. of the *Myl. Arch.* p. 510.

of Jones, now extinct like the two former, has long ago been converted into a farm house, the buildings decaying, the garden and courts before the houses neglected, and above all, more than half the windows stopped up. Whenever this melancholy mark of poverty, this too public and certain memento of fallen opulence, or the desertion of proprietors, this wretched but too frequently requisite expedient to avoid the scourge of the tax gatherer occurs, and unfortunately it occurs nine times out of ten when we view our old mansions in the country, and even the farm houses above the size of cottages, we cannot help lamenting that some *succedaneum* has not been found for an impost so grating to the feelings of every human being, so detrimental to health, and the duration of the fabric, in its consequences, and which ceases to be effective in proportion as the mischief increases, but while the necessities of the State continue, and indeed augment in an alarming degree, we must be satisfied to deplore the ills we are unable to remedy, and patiently submit to those burdens which cannot be avoided.

SOME OLD MANSIONS.

Ty mawr in Llysdinam, the mansion first above mentioned, was built by Thomas Huet¹ præcentor of Saint David's, rector of Cefnlllys, and of Diserth, in the county of Radnor, who died August 19th, 1591, and was buried in the chancel of Llanavan church: his niece, we believe, and daughter and heiress to his brother Rees Huet, married Richard Jones of Brynioiau, whose son Samuel Prichard, esq., married Jane or Janet, daughter of Matthew Towers of Brecon, esq., who died in 1614. They had issue one daughter, Anne, who married Roderick Gwynne of Llanfaircylydyin, in the county of Monmouth, by whom she had Howel Gwynne of Brynoie, who married the daughter of Judge Gwynne of Garth, and united both the estates, but in consequence of some arrangements and family settlements, the latter only remained with the Garth family, and Ty mawr and the remainder of the Llysdinam property possessed by the Glanbran line, in which it continued in 1800.

The district of Llysdinam at the same period, was called a hamlet of Llanavan fawr, yet it is to many purposes a separate and distinct parish, maintains its own poor, appoints its own officers, and repairs its own highways.

Since the church fell into ruins,² it pays a contribution of a sixth of the assessments towards the repairs of Llanavan church, and one third to Llanvihangel bryn pabuan, the latter being the usual place of worship, to which the inhabitants resort, but there is great reason to believe that this payment was at first voluntary, though prescription has now established it and made it compulsory. Besides the decay of the church, Llysdinam has undergone several other vicissitudes in the course of time, which have probably much changed the face of the country, as well as the population, the wealth, employments, habits, and manners of the inhabitants.

AN ANCIENT HIGH COURT.

In the old surveys of the manor of Bulth, and in ancient presentments, the weavers of Inam are considered as a body corporate, and are assessed and pay their chief rents to the lord, separately from the neighbouring inhabitants. A tenement in this hamlet is called Penllys, the high court of justice, and the proprietors of this land also formerly were so named, as Jean Penllys, Evan of the high court, or it may with equal propriety be translated, Evan the head of the court, or chief justice, so that here the law was probably administered for the government of the manufacturers, under regulations of their own, and subject to charters of their own adoption, or by grants from the lords under whose protection they resided, but the shuttle has been exchanged for the mattock, and the seat of justice is now perhaps converted into a beast house.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PARISH IN 1809.

As this slang continues to approach the banks of the Wye, between Llanwrthwl and Llanvihangel bryn pabuan, vegetation and the appearance of the country improve, but where it joins Llanavan, it is principally mountain ground and wastes. The general appearance of the mother parish is that of a tempestuous ocean, instantaneously arrested in its progress, and converted from solubility into a solid mass or substance, though the waves sometimes cross their general flow through the country, which, from the appearance from the Brecknock beacons, is in undular lines from west to east, as if impelled by the south west winds (on which latter side they present a more gradually rising surface), towards the north east, where their front becomes more precipitous, and resembles the break of the wave on the shore: in Llanavan the swells of what we call the cross waves, are nearly equal on both sides, or at least have no general characteristic difference like the general aspect we have

¹ Thomas Huet was one of the translators into Welsh of the New Testament, published 1567. He was assisted by Bishop R. Davies, William Salesbury. (See *History of Radnorshire*).

² This chapel was erroneously marked in Theo. Jones' county map as then standing; it had been in ruins then for above one hundred years.

described, and intersect the parish from north to south, but even this appearance may be attributed to a contrariety of winds or currents, as we frequently observe in the sea, or on the meeting of tides at the mouths of large rivers. The rivers which run through this parish are the Dulas, flowing through the centre of it, and Chwefri on the east. Over each of these is a small stone bridge within this parish repaired by the hundred, besides several Pontydd pren or Pont prenydd.

The living is in the collation of the bishop of the see, but the inappropriate tithes belong to the chapter of Saint David's, though in 1662 we find them in the possession of the learned serjeant Lytleton, not as lessee, but as impropiator. The vicarage house is called Persant, corruptly for Berth y Sanct, the saint's hedge, or the hedge near which the saint was murdered. It is thus written in an old deed. There is no glebe, but the vicar now (1800) resides there, as his predecessors have successively done for time immemorial: it is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Chwefri, about a quarter of a mile below the church, and there was formerly a good Latin grammar school kept here, but the health of the present vicar will not permit him to attend to that avocation.

The living is valued in Pope Nicholas's taxation at £13 6s. 8d. Tenth's £1 6s. 8d. In the Liber Regis at only £9 8s. 9d. Tenth's 18s. 10½d. Pays 7s. 11d. archidiaconal procurations annually and remains in charge. The parish register book goes back to the year 1720.

LATER PARTICULARS.

An ancient Register, formerly in the possession of Miss Clara Thomas, of Llwyn-madoc, but restored by her in 1875 to the parish, gives some interesting details. The book, which for the most part is in Latin, commences with the year 1633. The title page has a rude drawing of a cross with the motto "*Baptismus in hoc signo vince*"; a drawing of two joint hands. *Matrimonium*, with the motto "*Duo jungit in unum.*" A third drawing and motto, apparently referring to death, has been obliterated.

EXTRACT FROM ANCIENT REGISTER.

In the year 1650 is the following note: "After this time there was a general cessation of officiating in church, either for baptisms, marriage, or burial. The then vicar, William Williams, Master of Arts, being ejected by the Act of Propagation 1645, and none officiating unless some 'curat' did it in private or buried upon their peril. In 1649 one Evan Bowen, a mason by his trade, and a [soldier] in ye garrison of Red Castle by his profession, being an illiterate man that could neither read write nor speak English, was by the Commissioners made vicar of the parish, who also did not at all officiate, nor could he wot how to do it, and that while the church and chappells belonging to Llanafan-fawr were without prayer or preaching or officiating, unless in some of them some interants came once in a month or quarter or year, and in some not at all during that time or as yet in 1659 and preached as they [called] it, taught say some, but how to call it for certaine none did know, neither could they throughout agree upon the name. Some said preaching, some said [teaching], some said speaking, and it may as truly said of some as it was not only said of Paul, 'What doth this babler say' (Acts 17-18), or more truly as in Acts 29, 22, 'Some cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was out of order, and the most part knew not wherefore they were come together.' In the latter end of 1658 the former incumbent William Williams took liberty and began privately to officiate in Llanafan fawr and fach to such as came unto him." This register was regularly kept until 1694.

Llanafan fawr is in the Builth Rural District and Petty Sessional Division. It contributes the name of Llanafan to the Polling District and Electoral Division in which it is placed. The population in 1901 was 457, the rateable value £3,050, and the area 12,097 acres.

The church, which is a building of stone containing chancel, nave, porch, and a tower with 5 bells, was restored in 1886 at a cost of £1,462 and provides sitting accommodation for 200 persons. The living is returned as of the value, with Llanfihangel bryn pabuan, of £150 net with some 20 acres of glebe, and a residence. The public elementary school was built in 1867.

There is a Congregational Chapel at Troedyrhiwdalar, and this was founded in 1590, and has been made famous by reason of the connection with it of a famous Welsh preacher known as "Williams, of Troedyrhiwdalar," and a small chapel at Capel-y-Rhos.

LLYSDINAM PARISH.

The hamlet of Llysdinam and the village of Newbridge on Wye were in the year 1882 created an ecclesiastical parish, carved out of Llanafan fawr in Brecknock, and Llanyre in the county of Radnor.

Newbridge Church was built chiefly at the charge of the Rev. Lister Venables, and Mr. George Venables, Q.C., of Llysdinam, at a total cost of £5,160; an endowment fund of £3,000 was added. The church was consecrated on July 12, 1883, is dedicated to All Saints, and is a fine building of native stone in the early English style, consisting of apsidal chancel, nave, south porch, and a tower, with lofty spire, and four bells. There are three stained windows, one of which is a memorial of Admiral Lord Lyons who died 1858, and to his sister Catherine (died 1857), and was erected by their niece Agnes Minna Venables. The others are in memory of Joseph Henry Venables and Henry George Lister Venables. There is an organ, added in 1894 by Mrs. Lister Venables. Surrounding the church which is near to the Newbridge on Wye Railway Station, is a large and well kept burial ground, and at the east end of the church is the burial ground of the Venables family.

A vicarage was built by Mr. Henry Venables, but this was not conveyed to the church; it being let to the incumbent for one shilling a year.

The new district contains 550 persons, of whom 200 reside in Llysdinam. Newbridge and Llysdinam are connected by a bridge over the Wye. At the former place is a railway station on the Cambrian Railway, and the village is a local centre of some importance, a considerable trade being carried on there, and horse fairs held. The church of Llanyre is three miles from Newbridge, and that of Llanafan fawr in the opposite direction.

There are at Newbridge, Baptist and Wesleyan Chapels, and an excellent National School, not parochial, established for the benefit of all persons residing within three miles of Newbridge.

In 1870, pecuniary arrangements having been made to enable the vicar to keep a curate at Llanyre, the schoolroom was licensed, and services performed there on Sunday. In 1875 an iron church was erected by Mrs. Venables of Llysdinam, and her brother in law, Mr. George Venables, Q.C. In June, 1881, Mr. G. Venables offered to build a church and endow it with £100 a year; the Ecclesiastical Commissioners offered an additional £50. The widow of the late Sir Henry Venables had already built a small house as a residence for the curate; this house she offered to enlarge to make it suitable for the incumbent of the new church. After communication with the Bishop, the benevolent intentions of Mr. George Venables were entirely fulfilled to the great benefit of the neighbourhood. The family of Venables might have stipulated for the patronage, but it was determined to vest it in the Bishop of the Diocese. The church was erected by Mr. Stephen Williams, of Rhayader, architect, and was made to hold 240 persons.

THE VENABLES OF LLYSDINAM.

Llysdinam Hall was built by Rev. Richard Venables, Archdeacon of Carmarthen, in 1829, having in 1823 and 1827 purchased the surrounding property in Brecknock and Radnor. He died 1858 leaving (by his wife Sophia, daughter of George Lister, Esq., of Grimshy) three sons—Richard Lister (in holy orders), George Storin, Q.C., and Joseph Henry Barrington. Henry died in 1866, leaving a widow Sophia Catharine daughter of John Redley of Park End, Northumberland, Esq., they had no issue. George died in 1888 unmarried. The Rev. Lister Venables married first Augusta widow of Francis Ailam, Esq., by whom he had no issue, she died in 1865; secondly, in August, 1867, Agnes Minna, daughter of the late Henry Shepherd Pearson, Esq., of the Indian Civil Service, by whom he had two daughters, Katharine Minna and Caroline Emily. His only son died in infancy. Katharine Minna Venables married Charles, son of Sir John Dilwyn Llewelyn, Bart, of Penllengare, and he assumed the name of Venables in addition to his own, and is known as Charles Venables-Llewelyn. The family name is derived from "Venables," a small town in Normandy, situate on the Seine near the Chateau Galliard of King Richard Cœur de Lion. The house at Llysdinam, which stands on an eminence, has been enlarged on more than one occasion, the principal alterations taking place in 1781, when its size was more than doubled.¹

The living of Newbridge on Wye was returned in 1906 as being worth £300 a year gross; and as being held by the Rev. James Herbert Alexander Griffith, M.A., who succeeded the Rev. D. E. Lloyd, to whose memory a drinking fountain was erected in the village. The register dates from 1883.

¹ For some further particulars of this family, and complete pedigree, see the *History of Radnorshire* (Compiled by Edwin Davies of Brecon).

LIST OF INCUMBENTS OF LLANAFAN FAWR.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1486.—		John ap Morgan.	1720.—The Bishop.		Samuel Griffiths.
1491.—The Bishop of Saint David's		Lewis ap Meredith ¹	1759.—Ditto.		Richard Lewis.
1554.—Ditto.		William Powel.	1763.—Ditto.		Morgan Jones.
1578.—Rees Huet, gent. <i>pro hac vice</i> ²		Richard Meredith ³	1781.—Ditto.		Henry Beynon.
1610.—John Williams of Builth, Ditto. ⁴		Richard Morris.	1825.—Ditto.		Isaac Davies.
1623.—The Bishop of Saint David's		William Williams. ⁵	1826.—Ditto.		Daniel Evans.
1670.—Ditto.		William Williams.	1865.—Ditto.		Thomas Lewis.
1694.—Ditto.		Hewel Griffiths ⁶	1883.—Ditto.		John Rees.
			1893.—Ditto.		William Jones, B.A.

LLANVIHANGEL BRYN PABUAN.

SAINT Michael Pope John, say the neighbours, because it was built in the time of a pope of that name; this definition is obvious, literal, and saves a great deal of trouble and conjecture, yet it will not assist us in ascertaining the date of its erection, because there were twenty-two popes who either bore or assumed that name at different and distant periods, but they probably had no more to do with this Llanvihangel or Saint Michael than Pope Joan; correctly it should be written Llanvihangel bryn ty buan or ty Juan, Saint Michael's on the hill in Saint Afan's or Jean's,⁷ as it always has been considered as a parochial chapel annexed and appartenant to Llanavan wavr.

The church is a small building situate on a hill, near the road side from Llanafan to Newbridge upon Wye, in latitude 52 15, longitude 3 23, has the same defects as most of our country churches, and therefore is equally undeserving of notice.

ELYSTAN GLODRYDD'S MANSION.

In this parish are the mansion houses of Rhosferig and Parc ar irvon; the first was part of the possessions of Elystan Glodrydd, Prince of Ferlix or Fferreg, from whence this family seat took its name, though the demesne so far from being a rhôs or barren common, is one of the most highly cultivated farms in the hundred; the situation of the dwelling house is beautiful beyond description, the clear stream of the 'Whefri runs below in a narrow but picturesque dingle; on the banks are very productive though not extensive meadows; beyond these, on the south side of the river, is the woody knoll of Parc, whose outline forms an *arc* of almost geometrical accuracy, which is again contrasted in the back ground and on the north east by the irregular and fantastic shapes and projections of the rocks of Llanedwedd, assuming all forms but such as science describes. The old house has sunk under the weight of time, and whether it was precisely on the same spot where the present was built we know not, but certain it is that there are here many situations admirably calculated for the erection of a country residence. The present (1800) proprietor, John Lloyd, the last lineal descendant of the eldest line of Elystan, has resided for many years at Abercraell in Llangamareh, another of his mansions, commanding very many picturesque views, but to which, from its distance from market, the general want of wood, and the barrenness of the neighbouring country (his own farm and the little dingle wherein the Cammarch runs near Llwynmadoc only excepted), Rhosferig, if a good house were built there, seems to be far preferable, but as Mr Lloyd is advanced in years and unmarried, we fear

¹ On the resignation of John ap Morgan, to whom he was to pay four marks per annum out of the produce of the living, 'till he obtained some other ecclesiastical preferment.

² He was administrator to his brother, Thomas Huet, the precentor of Saint David's, who subsequently died without issue, and to whom, his heirs, executors and administrators, the bishop had granted the next presentation.

³ His daughter and heiress married Richard Williams of Parc ar irvon, &c., executor to his will, proved in 1620.

⁴ By grant from the bishop of Saint David's.

⁵ Upon the resignation of Richard Morris. This living during the civil war, in the time of Charles the First, was worth according to Walker, in his *Sufferings of the Clergy*, 110*l.* per annum. Mr. Williams was succeeded by Evan Bowen, a mason, so ignorant (says the same author) that he confessed he never read his *primer* in English.

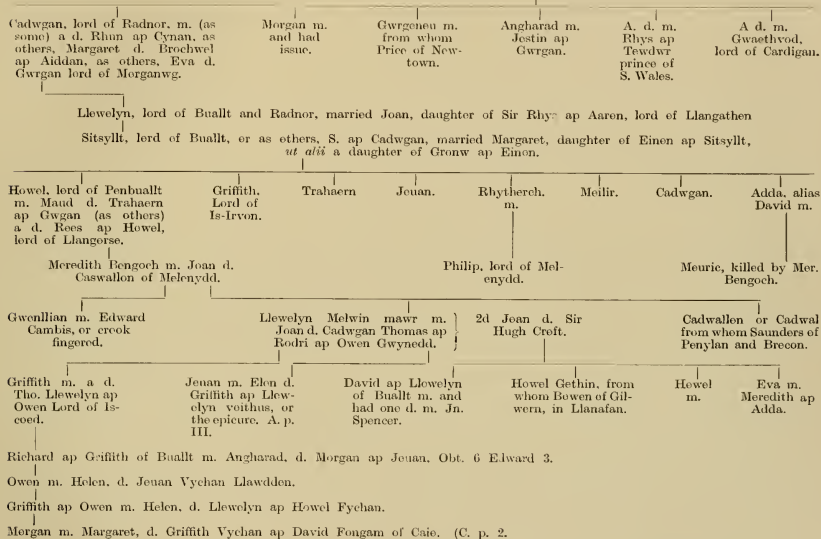
⁶ He was of Brynnoek, and his son succeeded him.

⁷ Ty sometimes means a church or place of worship, as well as a dwelling house, as Ty Delwri, Saint David's, we also frequently, though figuratively, call the church in English the *house* of God. In 1572, a testator at Brecon translates literally, "I give to the *house* of Saint David's 3*s.* 4*d.* and desire my wife to fulfill all things that lyeth on the part of an executrix to the *praise* of the commonwealth."

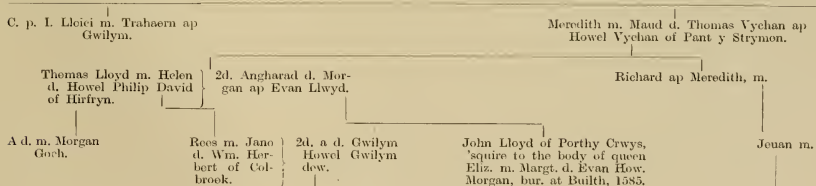
the hall of Elystan will no more resound with the voice of festivity, though at present the occupier is of considerable opulence, and is not accustomed to shut his doors to the stranger or the poor.² To preserve the memory of this ancestor of most of the inhabitants of the hundred of Builth, we here introduce the pedigree of many of his descendants and particularly of the Rhosferig family.

I. LLOYD OF RHOS-FFERREG. NOW CALLED RHOSFERIG AND ABERANELL.

Elystan Glodrydd, Athelstan the famous or praiseworthy, prince of Ffiorreg or Fferlex, circa 1010, married as some, Gwennlian, daughter of Eimon ap Hywel Dda, as others, Gwladis, daughter of Rhyin ap Edinwen, prince of Tegengl.



II.

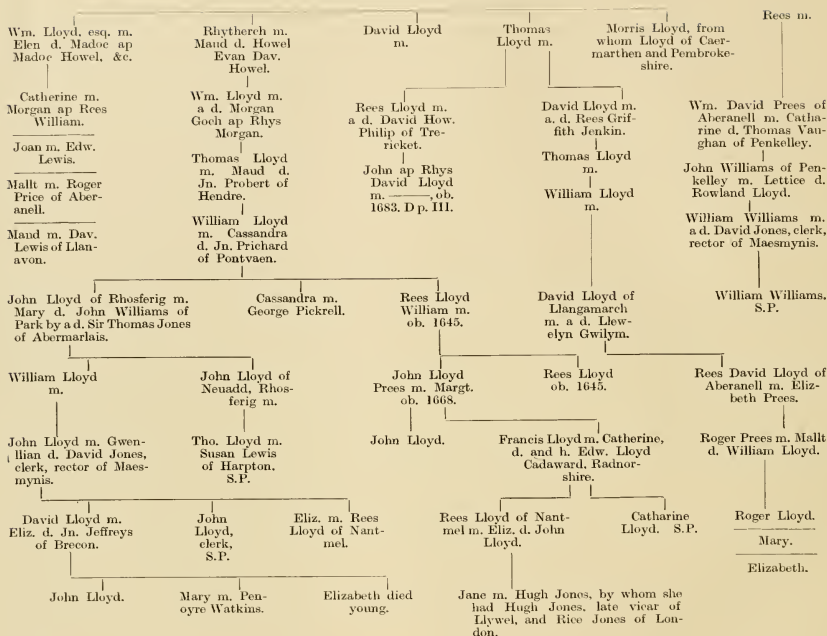


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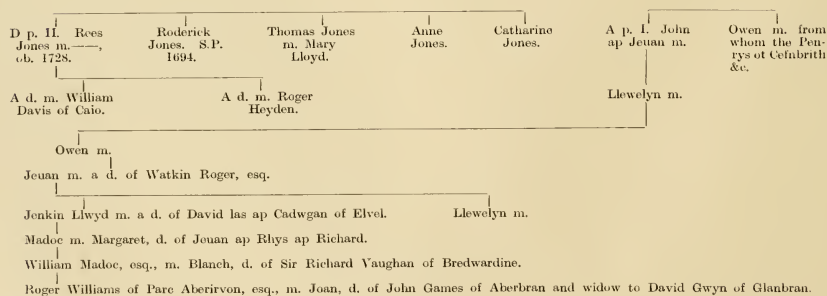
² Alas! how many are the changes and chances of this mortal life; since we wrote the above and since indeed this sheet went to press, writes Jones, the farmer to whom we alluded is no more; having been drowned in crossing the Wherri near his own house.

We have hinted at the eligibility of Rhosferig for building, but we learn from good authority that there is a serious objection to the present situation, namely the want of water; to remedy this inconvenience the beauty of prospect must be forgotten.

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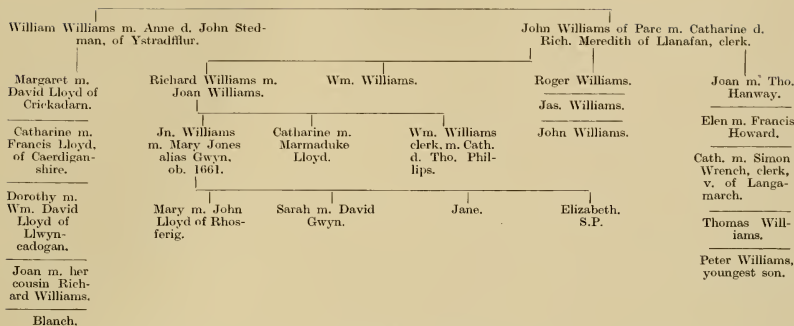


III.



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(Continued from previous page.)



MINERAL SPRINGS.

Parc ar Irvon, situated not far from the fall of the Chwefri into the former river, was the seat of a family who for four or five generations before they became extinct, assumed the surname of Williams; their genealogy appears above. It is now (1809) a farm house, and the property of Mr. Marmaduke Gwynne of Garth and Llanellwedd. On this tenement, near Parc wood, flow three mineral springs, within so small a distance of each other, that in attempting to cover them in, for the benefit of valetudinarians resorting thereto, it is said the labourers or masons employed in the building have caused them to run into and intermix with each other, so that it will be difficult again to separate them, the first was saline, the second sulphurous, and the third chalybeate. We know not the proportion of the particles they hold in solution, but they are not equal in efficacy to Llandrindod waters, and the sulphurous spring is far less impregnated with that mineral than the well at Llanwrtyd. It is not fashionable in the *beau monde* to fly to these waters for relief in their complaints, real or imaginary, probably from the contiguity of the town of Builth. Lodging is not so expensive as in the generality of watering places, perhaps from their comparative inefficacy, but they would probably be equally sanative with more celebrated springs, in the cases of one half of those who are in the habit of resorting to the latter to dissipate their property and waste their time.

The river Chwefri is remarkable for the abundance of its trout, which far exceed those of the Wye or Irvon in firmness and flavour; it empties itself into the latter a little below Parc house, after rising near Varlyn pool on the borders of Llanwrthwl, running through Llanavan, and skirting the southern boundary of Rhosferig. It has been derived from Chwe dwr fri, six waters above, because six streams unite in it not far from its source. Chwefri is from Chwefr, swift, and Wy, water, a compound appellation peculiarly characteristic of the general rapidity of its current; we do not know that it has any bridge over it within this parish: in the upper district is Newbridge over Wye, repaired partly at the expense of the county of Brecon, and partly of the county of Radnor.

The curacy is in the nomination of the vicar of Llanavan, has no parsonage or glebe, is not in charge, and was certified in the time of Queen Anne to be of the annual value of sixteen pounds.

"The parish register goes back to 1720, in which there is the following entry, "1719, *Evanus fil Johis Jones y major* (the major) *sepu't fuit 5 May.*"

LATER PARTICULARS.

For local government purposes, Llanfihangel Bryn Pabuan is in the rural district and petty sessional division of Builth, and in Llanafan polling district and electoral division. It had in 1891 a population of 190, which was reduced to 180 in 1901. The area is 3,395 acres, and rateable value about £1,078.

There is a Baptist chapel named Pïsgah.

In the Parliamentary return of 1786, a charity of ten shillings per annum is recorded to have been given by Rhys Price, but nothing is now (1900) known about this.

A writer in 1840 states that during the Parliamentary war in the reign of King Charles I., the parish suffered greatly from the violence of contending parties; the church was converted into a stable, and the font removed to a farm house, where it was used as a pig-trough. The minister was expelled from his living and for many years remained in retirement in Llanafan-fawr, but was ultimately restored to it. He also states the living was in 1840 a perpetual curacy attached to Llanafan-fawr; the tithes, including the hamlet of Rhosferrig, having been commuted for a rent charge of £203, of which two-thirds were payable to the Dean and Chapter of St. David's, and one-third to the incumbent. With regard to the mineral springs, he says "there is a neat pump-room for the accommodation of persons resorting to the place to drink the waters, which are raised from the springs by three pumps, each inscribed with the property of its respective water; and adjoining the room are some small apartments for the reception of visitors."

The present church consists of a nave of some length; there is no chancel arch, but only an ascent of one step marks the place reserved as a chancel. Nearly hidden by the choir seats is a small window, a little over a foot above the floor level, and there are also the east window and two smaller ones here. The west window is somewhat pretensions. Inside the entrance door is a holy water stoup with a quaintly carved figure above it. The ceiling is of oak, and the walls plastered. There is one bell in the turret on the west end. There is accommodation for about 60 persons, and the church was restored in 1886 at a cost of £500.

LLANGANTEN.

THIS church is dedicated to Saint Catherine according to Ecton, but in the pedigree of Brychan Brecheiniog we find a saint of the name of Cannen or Canten, as in the *Bonedd y Sant*, who was the grandson of Brychan, son of his daughter Gwladis, by Gwnlliw or Gunleus, prince of Gwleisig and brother to Canwce, or rather Cattwe and Cammarch, to whom of course the church is dedicated. It is situated in latitude 52 11, longitude 3 21, in a small dell near the south bank of the 'Whefri. Upon entering the church it resembles an ill-swept barn, but that it might not be mistaken for a building of that description, we observed at the west end a small bell hung up and a rope appendant to it, while below was a *memento mori* not painted or daubed on the wall, as too common in country churches, but taken *after the life*: in plain English, one or two human skulls were thrown upon the ground with apparent inattention, but perhaps designedly to remind the thoughtless stranger that he was near a place of interment, and to inspire the audience during the time of divine service with greater awe and devotion. The seats and benches are here miserably decayed and broken. What is called the communion table is couped up like a small pew without a door, so that a stall fed prebendary can hardly turn round, though a lean curate may perhaps squeeze himself into it.

PRICE OF KILMERY FAMILY.

There is no table of benefactions hung up in this church, although three pounds are paid to the poor at Christmas yearly, and ten shillings towards preaching a sermon annually on the same day, but whether from the estates of Rees Price of Kilmeri, esq., or William Price, who died in 1718, we know not. Mrs Parry, formerly Gunter of Gilston, also by her will in 1721, charged her teneement in Llanddedy with the payment of twenty shillings annually to the poor of this parish, to be paid on Thursday before Easter, in each year, with power of distress in case of neglect.

On two stone tablets affixed to the eastern pine end are the following inscriptions:

R. P.

1. Here lieth interred the body of Rees Price, of Kilmery, esq., coroner of this county, he departed this life the 13th day of January, 1690. (Arms, Bleddin ap Maenarch impaling Elystan Glodrydd. Crest, on a wreath, &c., Rhys Goeh.)

P. P.

2. Here lieth interred the body of Posthuma, the daughter of Rowland Gwynne, of Glanbrân, esq., and wife to William Price of Kilmery, esq., and justice of the peace, she departed this life the 22nd day of April, 1712. (Arms, quarterly, 1 Bleddin ap Maenarch, 2 Brychan, 3 sable, a fess between three martlets Or, 4 as 1. Crest as above.)

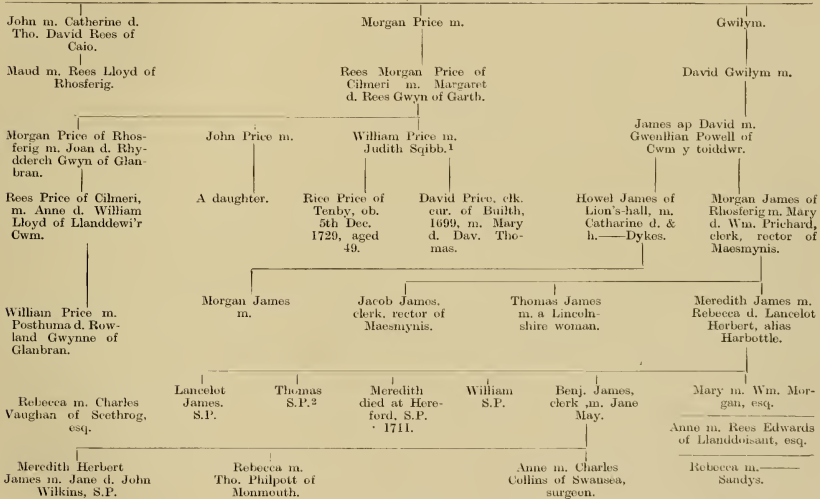
This family in the elder line is extinct; Charles Vaughan of Seethrog, who married Rebecca the daughter and heiress of William and Posthuma Price, sold the mansion and demesne of Cilneri, in this parish, together with the remainder of the estate to Thomas Price of Builth esq., the present (1809) proprietor. As however the surname of James, which the second branch assumed, is still known in Brecon, and as it is probable some of the family, who went into Herefordshire and other counties in England and Wales, still survive, we give the pedigree.

JAMES OF BRECKNOCK.

The same as Powel of Castlemadoc to Howel of Argoed, (who married first Margaret, the daughter of William John Havard) inclusive.

William ap Howel of Builth, son of Howel of Argoed, by his second wife, daughter of Morgan David Lloyd.——

Rees ap Gwilym of Cilneri married.——



PLACE OF LLEWELYN'S DEATH.

In this parish is Cwm Llewelyn or Llewelyn's dingle, where the great and gallant Llewelyn ap Griffith was slain, as related in the first volume; the fall on each side to a small rill called Nant Llewelyn, running through it and emptying itself into the Irvon, is so very trifling and inconsiderable that it hardly deserves the name of *Cwm*, it should with more propriety be called *Pant*, the one meaning in general a deep valley, and the other a smaller depression of the surface of the ground.³

The friends and adherents of the English monarch and the lords marchers in the hundred of Builth, not satisfied with betraying their unfortunate countryman, have endeavoured to blast his memory

¹ Judith Squibb was the daughter of Robert Squibb of Staunton, St. John, Oxon, by Frances his wife. Mrs. Price died there, and was buried in that church, near her mother's grave, Oct. 7, 1709. (Le Neve's *Monumenta Anglicana*.) On the mural monument to her son at Tenby, she is noticed, and the following inscription is added, which alludes to some anecdote or circumstance now forgotten, "*Aqua nulla nequeunt extinguere nec possunt quidem flumina inundare Amorem.*"

² He left his estate on failure of the issue of his nephew Meredith Herbert James, to the younger sons in succession, of his nephew, William Morgan, clerk, taking the name of James upon their becoming possessed of the property under the will.

³ There has been erected here, within recent years, a small stone obelisk at the expense, we believe, of Mr. Bligh, to mark the supposed spot of Llewelyn's death.

with the imputation of cowardice, for the tradition among some in the neighbourhood is, that instead of being slain at the head of his troops, or (as was probably the case) being killed by surprise, while reconnoitring the motions of the enemy on the other side of the river, he was found ingloriously lying at full length in a field of broom, and that on receiving his death's wound, he cursed the treacherous plant for not concealing him more effectually, since which time none will grow there; the execration and its effect are no doubt equally true with the prior part of the story.

CASTELL CAE BERIS.

About a mile or two below this spot, on a high precipitous bank, close to the river where it begins to take a circular curve, is a mound, partly natural and partly artificial, on which it is said stood a castle, called Castell Cae beris. Who this Peris was we know not, nor will any of the English writers upon ecclesiastical affairs assist the reader in discovering him, although Owen says he was the son of Helig ap Glanog, and that he was a saint and a *cardinal*, to whom the church of Llanberis in North Wales was dedicated; we lay no claim to the cardinal, nor can we admit him ever to have been a parishioner of Llanganten, and if he lived, as Owen says, in the sixth century, we are inclined to think this fortress was long prior to his time. From the natural strength and inaccessible approach to it on the south, assisted by the labour of man, in rendering it equally unassailable on the north and east, before the use of gunpowder was known, and from the appearance of the soil at the top of the mound, which for some inches on the surface resembles burnt wood, we believe it to be an ancient British tower or castle constructed entirely of wood, perhaps the only one of which any vestige is left in Breconshire, and here we think it is probable Llewelyn must have stationed a few of his troops to prevent the enemy from crossing the river below him, and to guard the pass on the banks on the other side, for both of which purposes it was admirably calculated; having thus far, however, indulged in conjecture, it must be reserved for the discoveries of future historians to confirm or confute those opinions or *probabilities*.

The soil of this parish, where it is cultivated, is principally argillaceous, and the practice of husbandry much the same as in Rhosferig, but there are also several boggy and unproductive commons, intermixed with and intersecting the inclosed lands. The banks of the Irvon are in general well wooded, and several picturesque views are seen on its borders. Over this river, about half a mile above its *aber* is a neat stone bridge, erected about 1785 at the expense of the hundred, the inhabitants of which district are liable to its repairs.

This together with Llangynog, is a perpetual curacy, to which the lessee of the prebendary of Llandarog in Christ's College in Brecon nominates, the latter has the inappropriate tythes of both parishes. Llanganten has been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty but it has neither a parsonage house or glebe belonging to it. It was valued in Pope Nicholas's taxation at £4 6s 8d; tenths 8s 8d; and in Queen Anne's time at £5. The register book goes back to 1769, and the curacy is not in charge in the Liber Regis.

LATER PARTICULARS.

A mineral spring was discovered in 1831 on the banks of the Whevri; it is covered when the water of the river is high, a circumstance which may account for its having remained unnoticed before that time. In 1840 the living was described as a perpetual curacy endowed with £1,000 Royal bounty, net income £64, in the patronage of the Bishop. There were also four acres of glebe, but no parsonage house.

The church of St. Cannen is now (1905) a building of stone and consists of chancel, nave, porch, and a turret with one bell. It was restored in 1880, and there is accommodation for 100. Llanganten has received from Queen Anne's Bounty, by lot, augmentations, each of £200, in the years 1739, 1767, 1786, 1790, 1809, and 1827; and since that time further augmentations to meet benefactions, viz.,

1895.	Subscriptions	£100	Diocesan Society	£100	Queen Anne's Bounty	£200
1899.	Ditto	£100	Ditto	£100	Ditto	£200
1903.	Ditto	£100	Ditto	£100	Ditto (parsonage)	£120

The vicarage is now of the value (with Llanafanfychan annexed) of £129 net, with residence, and is in the Bishop of St. David's gift.

The bequest by Rees Price of Cilmery now realises £2 10s. 0d. annually for the poor, and 10s. annually for a sermon.

The population in 1891 was 187, and this had increased in 1901 to 205. The area of the parish is 2,258 acres, and its approximate rateable value £1,300. It is in the rural district and petty sessional division and polling district of Bulth, and in the electoral division of Rhosferig.

Cilmery Park is now the seat of Stanley Price Morgan Bligh, Esq., J.P., a barrister-at-law, and a member of the Brecknockshire County Council.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1574.—		Blays ap Gwylym, curate.	1740.—	Bishop of Saint David's.	Evan Powel, Llanganten only.
1661.—	The Bishop of Saint David's.	Griffith Hattley called preb. of <i>Llanganten</i> !	1769.—		Rice Williams.
1665.—		John Rubbege, curate.	1775.—	Jane Holcombe, lessee of the tythes.	Thomas Davies, Llanganten only.
1682.—		Walter Bengough, Llanganten only	1789.—		Rice Price.
1695.—		Thomas Jones, ditto.	1807.—		Benjamin Howell.
1699.—		David Price.	1817.—		Isaac Davies.
1720.—		Rees Prothero.	1835.—		Essex Holcombe.
1725.—		Evan Powel, Llanganten only.	1863.—		Edward Jones.
1738.—	Dav. Prichard, lessee of the tythes.	Rice Williams.	1868.—		William Atterbury Thomas.
			1877.—		David Davies.
			1902.—		Herbert Davies, B.A.

LLANVECHAN or LLANAVAN VECHAN,

Or SAINT AVAN'S the Lesser.

IS another parochial chapel attached to Llanavan vawr; this is a small church, partly covered, like several others in this hundred, with small slips of wood resembling tiles called shingles, and partly with stone. It is on the northern side of the road from Buith to Llandovery, at the distance of about six miles from the former town in latitude 52 11, longitude 3 26. There is nothing in the appearance of it to gratify the pious Protestant, or to detain the learned antiquary. In the churchyard, divided from the turnpike road by a very indifferent fence, is an altar tombstone, to the memory of "Samuel Evans de Gwaravog *in hoc Com Ar, ob. XVI. Julii* M.DCC., LXXIX. Æ. LXIII." Near him, "Beatrice relict of Joshua Price of Alltawr, gent. ob. 23 January, 1780, *actat* 59; Richard Price, of Rhosforlo, gent., died 1770, *actat* 59, and Elizabeth his widow died at Bristol, 27th June, 1787, aged 63." This family, now (1809) settled at Buith, were originally of Llanvihangel and Llanddewi Aber-gwessin: they are of the tribe of Elystan Glodrydd, but as they settled at Rhosforlo at a time when the power and consequence of heraldry was expiring, a link or two is wanting to connect them with the ancestors of Lloyd of Rhosferig, Williams of Aberanell, and Williams of Parc-ar-Irwon.

A DORMANT BARONETCY.

In this parish is a tenement called Dol y 'menin, the property of Samuel Price, of Brecon, esq., one of the coroners for the county; of this family, we apprehend, were the baronets Price of Jamaica, now extinct, or at least the title is dormant; the first noticed in Kimber's baronetage is Francis Price who went to and settled in that island in 1655: the last of that house who bore the rank of baronet was Charles Price, who married Mary, daughter of — Sharpe, and left a son, Charles Price, who died without issue; their arms were, sable, a chevron ermineo, between three spears' heads argent, their points embued proper. Crest, Rhys Goch, which proves them to have been descendants of Craodc Fraich fras, and not of Elystan Glodrydd, the general ancestor of the men of Buith. Francis Price, of Ludlow, who was one of the family, died in 1737, and administration of his effects were granted to the late Samuel Price of Dol y 'menin (father of Samuel Price) his cousin german and next of kin.

CWM GRAIG DDU DINGLE.

A narrow slang or slip of this parish crosses the river Irvon to the south, which is united in the assessments to the land and window tax, with the hamlet of Gwarafog, in the adjoining parish of Llanlleonvel. At the extremity of this projection is a tremendous precipice called Cwm graig ddu, the vale of the black rock, terminating a narrow dingle from thence called Cwm graig ddu, the view of which from above or below is equally interesting, though it occasion; very different sensations. Seen

from the road side near the top of the rock, though it is not well clothed with wood, the ideas of comfort and shelter from the storm, which the inhabitants of the valley enjoy, naturally occur, while the almost impending rock when viewed from below, is awfully yet sublimely *terrific*. On the north side of the Irvon, near its banks, are some picturesque groves and fertile meadows within this parish, but the general appearance of the district, as we travel through it, is similar to that of Llanganten, as is also the course of husbandry, though the general nature of the soil certainly does not improve, proceeding upwards against the course of the Irvon.

This curacy, in which the vicar of Llanavan generally officiates, is not augmented, and has no paragon house or glebe; it is not mentioned in Pope Nicholas's taxation, but is certified in the time of Queen Anne to be of the annual value of thirteen pounds. The register book goes back to 1721, and the curacy is not in charge.

LATER PARTICULARS.

The living of Llanafan fechan is a perpetual curacy now annexed to that of Llanganten, and it is of the joint net yearly value of £129. Seventy years ago it was described as a curacy annexed to the living of Llanafan-fawr, the tithes being commuted for a rent charge of £115, of which the vicar of Llanafan-fawr received one third, and the Dean and Chapter of St. David's two thirds, and the church was then in much the same state as in Theo. Jones's time. The church now consists of a nave, porch, and a tower with one bell, and is capable of holding 60 persons.

The population of Llanafanfychan in 1891 was 146, and in 1901 it had decreased to 129. The area is 2,783 acres, the rateable value being about £1,070. It is in the rural district and petty sessional division of Builth, and in the polling district and electoral division of Llanafan.

LLANLLEONVEL.

THE name of this parish is of very doubtful origin and derivation, we shall therefore only hazard a conjecture, with much diffidence, that it may have been Llan leon voel, the church upon the bare tract, through which a vicinal branch of the Sarn Leon or Chester road passed, connecting Muridunum with the station at Cwm, and there uniting with the principal Sarn Helen from Neath to Chester. We do not find that it commemorates the name or seeks the patronage of any guardian saint or protecting angel. Ecton erroneously calls it Llanlowenwell, and observes that it is a chapel to Llanwrthwl; it has been also written Llanlloenfel, but all the names are equally unintelligible. This little church is covered partly with tiles and partly with shingles; it is situated on a small eminence on the north-west side of the river Dulas, in latitude 52 12, longitude 3 28. While the family of the Gwynnes continued to reside at Garth, this fabric was a pattern for imitation to the neighbouring inhabitants, to which, however, they paid little or no attention the moment the esquire quitted the parish, and ceased to recommend and to adopt it. The roof was neatly eiled, the floor well flagged, the seats painted white and regularly arranged, the Garth seat at the west end, was covered with green baize, and the pulpit, though not adorned with costly carving, was plain, neat and convenient, but now (in 1809) the hand of time and the neglect of the guardians of the fabric, proceed with equally systematic certainty to deprive it of its superiority over the other churches; the ceiling is falling, some of the flag stones and tiles are broken, and the windows are out of repair. In a few years the following coats of arms and epitaphs will probably be effaced or obliterated, or, perhaps, washed over with white lime, should an attentive and *beautifying* churchwarden be appointed.

THE GWYNS OF GARTH.

On a stone tablet affixed to the eastern pine end, above the communion table, are the arms borne by Judge Gwyn in a shield on a mantle, 1 Elystan Glodrydd, 2 partie per bend ermine and crmine, a lion rampant sable, armed and langued gules (Gwilym of Glâscwm, descended from Tydr Trevor) 3 Cadwgan ap Elystan, 4 Havard, 5 argent, a lion rampant sable, armed and langued gules, 6 Vaughan of Tyle glâs, 7 Or, a lion passant gules, 8 argent, a lion and griffin combatant, azure, 9 Havard: on a helmet of his degree attached to a shield by two straps and a wreath of his colours is the crest, a lion

rampant regardant holding a boar's head in his paw *Or*, above the motto in a scroll, "*Fortitudo animi prudentia in periculis*," and below, on the same tablet, is the following epitaph :

P. M.

Marmaducæ Gwyn de Garth in Com. Brecon. Armigeri et juris consulti qui propter incorruptam fidem. raramq. (qua fuit) in legibus explicandis dignam Annæ Magnæ Britannicæ, &c. Regine videbatur qui constitueretur iudex qua dignitate ita usus fuit ut dum extiterit sceleris vindex iustissimus non oblitus fuit miserorum patrocinii post nultum tandem res magnas in republica plurimum desideratur obiit anno ætatis septuagesimo, Christi millesimo septingentesimo decimo secundo. Re familiaris ea proleptia qua fuit aucta donata Marmaducæ Gwynne (filio maximo nato Howell Gwynne de Brynaye in Com. prediet. Armigero) cuius impensis gratitudinis ergo conditum fuit hoc monumentum.

On a stone now placed in the eastern window. "Infra conditi sunt cineres Marmaducæ Gwynne filii natu maximi Marmaducæ Gwynne de Garth Armigeri quem ex optima ejus indole nil esset quod non merito expectaret omnes eripuit mors indignum ratus humano generi felicitatem contigisse qualis quantusq. fuit cum pietas recordandum statueret prohibuit netus res tantas recurrere non nimis patriæ lucis renovarent hoc. . . . mihi dicendum liberius iudicari priusq. audent uberiori ingenii quisquam autem . . . doctrinæ moriturus sit fore ita uti ipsa mors moriatur ætatis sue 32." (His father's arms.)

On the same wall southward, arms, in a mantle quarterly Brynch and Marchell, the ree-mice azure, clawed and beaked gules, the field *Or*, crest on a helmet of his degree and a wreath of his colours, a clenched hand, proper, holding a dagger hilted *Or*, piercing a boar's head argent. Motto on a scroll above the helmet, *Vim vi repellere licet*. Beneath the arms is the following inscription :—

Hoellius Gwynne de Brynaye in comitatu Brecon armiger qui splendidissimam sui gentis originem is virtutibus ornavit quæ specialissimum reddere possunt inquilinum, tanta enim erat erga omnes benevolentia, tanto erga patrem officio, tanto erga conjugem amore tanta erga liberos pietate quantum, si ausus sim describere minueram, sufficit ut dicam inter omnes suos sibi devotos habuit inimicum non reliquisse vitam tam bonam tamq. honestam non indigna mors subsecuta est ad repellendam enim mortem cum valueret nec Virtus nec Fortitudo ei animi constantia morbum sustinuit acutissimum quæ apparuit ita se vixisse ut vite non paderet, ita quasi vix metueret moriturum obiit 15mo Feb. A.D. 1708. at 40." 1

On a broken stone below : "Marmaduke Gwynne, Esq., at 37, obiit April 22, 1786." In the church yard, "Mary Leyson, obiit April 12, 1760, at 29." "Rev. Joshua Thomas, vicar of Kerry, obiit _____." "Rev. Joshua Thomas, of Queen's College, Oxford, obiit _____."

FAMILY POSSESSIONS.

The first named Marmaduke Gwynne, who died in 1712, is generally said to have acquired the whole of the property since possessed by this family, and his parents and ancestors are supposed to have lived in a state of poverty, but this is not correct. His ancestor, Rhys ap Jeuan ap Rhys had for his second wife a daughter of Sir William Herbert of Colbrook, and was possessed of more than one half of the parishes of Llangammarch and Llanlleonvel. He died in 1545, and devised Cefallan and Garth to one of his youngest sons; his eldest son, Evan, was the first who took the name of Gwyn, and his son is styled Rees Gwyn, esq. The judge's father was coroner for the county, and he, as well as his progenitors, married into and were connected with the most respectable families in the county, though it is certain that he was not so opulent as his son whom he placed in one of the Inns of Court to study the law, in which he made such progress that he was appointed a judge on the North Wales circuit. His professional talents however are not known or remembered with respect in the Principality, whatever abilities he may have displayed in Westminster Hall; but even if they were equal to those of the great Lord Bacon, he is suspected to have had also similar failings, for it is said that this "most rightful judge, this upright judge, this second Daniel," was not proof against corruption. So much for the impartiality and veracity of panegyrists and epitaph writers; another instance of the kind will occur when we come to Llansaintfredd. Judge Gwyn married a daughter of a Peter Gwilym of Glasewm, who settled as a merchant in London, with whom he had a fortune of twenty thousand pounds; this, together with the profits of his profession, enabled him to purchase or mortgage the greatest part of the hundred of Builth, and at that time a mortgage and purchase meant very much the same thing, as the mortgagor seldom redeemed or recovered his estates. He likewise purchased the manor of Builth from Sir Thomas Williams, the first baronet of the Eltham family; this transaction was conducted in rather a tortuous and circuitous manner. Mr. Gwyn was agent for the estate, and his employer wanting money, was supplied nominally by Mr. Gunter of Trevecca, on mortgage of the manor. During this time the name of Rees Gwyn continually appears as foreman of the jury at the courts leet, protecting and defending the rights of the tenants, and resisting many of the claims of the lord; the value of the property was depreciated, the difficulties of collecting the chief rents exaggerated and the inhabitants represented as turbulent and litigious. By these means Sir Thomas Williams was induced to sell the equity of redemption to Mr. Gunter, who soon afterwards appeared to be only a trustee for Mr. Gwyn, who, when he came into possession, took care rigidly to support his claims and authority.

1 We are not responsible for the *latinity* or *classicality* of these and *all* the other epitaphs in this publication; some of them are so obliterated by time, that they may have been incorrectly copied.

GWYN OF MAESLECH AND GARTH.

The same as Lloyd of Rhosferig to Griffith ap Llewelyn moel-win-mawr, inclusive.

Rees of Dul y gaer, younger son of Griffith m.

Mallt, d. Jenkin Griffith Madoc.

Richard m. Jenet d.
Gwilym ap Henry.

Jeuau m.

Rees m. Tanglwst d. Jeuau Lloyd of Llanfair,
she afterwards m. Morgan Thomas Lloyd of
Llywel.

Jenett m. Howell ap
Meylyr.

David m. from whom Evan
Jones of Southwark.

William m. from whom the
ENGLISH EARL CADOGAN.

Jeuau m. a d. David Lewis ap
Cadwgan of Elvel.

David Lloyd from whom
Lloyd of Cerau.

Margaret m. Madoc ap
Jenkin.

Rees m. Gwennllian d. Tho. hir of Bauli brith,
2d, a d. Sir William Herbert of Colbrook.

Jeuau Gwyn of Maeslech, in Llanlleonvel
m. ob. 1574.¹

Rees Gwyn, esq. m. a d. Rees David Lloyd of All yr hebog.

John Gwyn.

Thomas Gwyn.

Evan married Anne, a daughter of James Penoyre.

Rees Gwyn of Garth married Sibil, daughter of Lewis Lloyd of Criccadarn, secondly Frances, widow of John Vaughan of Penkelly.

Marmaduke Gwyn, a judge on the North Wales circuit, m.
Mary d. and co-heiress Peter Gwilym of Glacwm, in
Radnorshire, ob. 1712.

Margaret m. Rees
Morgaa Price of Cil-
meri.

Marmaduke Gwynne ob. S. P.
vita patris.

Mary d. and heiress m.
Howel Gwynne of
Brynioc.

CUSTOMS OF THE LORDSHIP.

The payments to the lord and the customs in this manor, which is coextensive with the hundred, are some of them singular, and the meaning of *all* of them not clearly comprehensible. The Tâl diestyn, Comortha, Vuwch Larder and Porthant herwyr, known in this hundred, have been before explained and are understood, not so with Maccwyn and Mabryddiaeth. The former we apprehend was a payment to be exempted from rearing and breeding dogs for the lord, *tâl yn lle magu cwn yr arlwydd*: it amounted to two shillings and one penny at Michaelmas yearly, and is only charged upon one tenement called Cefnbrith in Llangammarch. Mabryddiaeth, though not found in any dictionary, we conceive to be synonymous with Mabiliaeth, infancy, and was payment upon the infant heir at law's attaining the age of manhood, and being admitted into possession of his estate; this is charged on lands south of the Irvon, in the district called Trevllys, formerly comprehending parts of the parishes of Llangammarch and Llanwrtyd, and upon Llysdinam, but the township called Brynrhydd, the tenements called Bryncearthog and Cefngast, and the hamlet of Clawddmadoc are by old presentments declared to be exempt from this charge. A certain description of the inhabitants of this hundred are entitled to an exemption, the nature of which as described in old presentments is easily comprehended, though the terms in which it is expressed continue to be unintelligible, notwithstanding the assistance we have sought and received from our most learned countrymen.

A presentment by a jury in 1646, of which Rees Gwyn, father of the judge, was foreman, states that "the customs of the said lordshippe is that noe man's sonne dwelling within the said lordshippe ought to be summoned to doe their fealtie within the said courte as long as their fathers be alive, if their fathers be seized of lands within the said lordshippe; for that sonnes are to be called in

¹ He calls himself Jeuau ap Rhys ap Jeuau in his will. All our pedigrees inform us that he married *Joan*, daughter of John Games of Aberbran, his wife was another daughter of John Games, named Elizabeth, and in the Games's pedigree, this Jeuau is called Jeuau ap Rhys of Bualli.

the Welsh tongue, *Gwrthkynffaid o Ffrain!*—¹ *Al-gi-beronti-phosco-phormio* !!! There are no copyhold tenures in this manor, and the chief rents are collected for the lord by the parish officers.

Marmaduke Gwynne, son of the judge, died in 1702, leaving behind him an honourable name and estimable character, upon the death therefore of the father, the Garth property descended to his daughter, who married Howel Gwynne of Brynioiau, by which event, two estates were united, which have been since divided between the families of Garth and Glanbrân. The mansion of Garth is now (1809) let to an English farmer, whose example and practice will we hope improve the wretched system of husbandry hitherto prevailing in the greatest part of this country.

A MINERAL SPRING.

Not far from this house, after crossing the river Dulas, in a field below the church, is a spring resembling in taste and smell the well at Llanwrtyd, though not so strongly impregnated with sulphur, for which however, it has been frequently substituted, and particularly by the servants of Garth, who, when sent for the Llanwrtyd water, sometimes loitered about the church, and returning with water from this spring, made a merit of their expedition. The northern part of this parish is chiefly a common or Rhôs; on the banks of the Irvon are some cultivated inclosures and meadows, and on the southern side of the river is a mansion called Gwarafof, or summer bank, which is the name of a hamlet in this parish, comprehending all the lands on that side of the water, extending to Epynt, in a narrow slang, and separating the parish of Llanfechan on the east from Llangammarch on the west.

Through this parish, nearly from north to south, and crossing the turnpike road to Llandoverly, passes a highway from Llanvihangel Abergwessin and the wilds of Caerdiganshire to Brecon; a few yards above which, as it crosses by a bridge over the Irvon, the Dulas, rising on the borders of Llanwrthwl and intersecting Llanavan for some miles, empties itself into the former river. Dulas is generally derived from Du and glâs, black and blue, or blackish blue, from the colour of the water; this definition says the etymologist is obvious: admitting that now and then it may be correct, it is not always incontrovertibly so. Clais is a stream, trench, rivulet, or sheltered channel consequently Dulas may sometimes, especially when the water springs from a turbary, mean the black stream.² Over this river are two bridges, and there is also another over the Irvon on the road to Brecon, all of which are repaired by the inhabitants of the hundred.

This parish is a perpetual curacy, to which the lessee of the tithes, under the prebendary of Llanwrthwl, nominates; it has been augmented four times with Queen Anne's bounty, but has neither parsonage or glebe.³ The certified value of the curacy was only £2 13s. 4d. and the register book goes back to 1764.

LATER PARTICULARS.

Seventy years ago Llanlleonfel was described as a perpetual curacy endowed with £800 royal bounty, of the net income of £60, and in the patronage of the Bishop of St. David's; but having neither glebe nor parsonage house. Its present value is £51 gross, net £40, and in the same patronage, but there are four acres of glebe. The vicarage is now held with that of Llangammarch.

The church is an ancient one of stone, with chancel, nave, south porch, and a turret with three bells. In 1873, £900 was spent in restoring the building, which affords accommodation for 60 persons.

In Llanlleonfel are two Nonconformist Chapels, "Salem" Particular Baptists, and "Beulah" Independents, built in 1842, with 300 sittings.

The population of this parish in 1901 was 94; its area 1508 acres of land and water, and rateable value £722.

Gwarafof, a township in this parish, has an area of 1,151 acres, a rateable value of £722, and a population in 1901 of 40.

Llanlleonfel Llwyn Madoc public Elementary School was built in 1865, with accommodation for 100 children.

Garth House is the family mansion of the Maitland family (*See Parliamentary History*), but at the time of writing it was rented to the Hon. Richard Clero Parsons.

¹ In his corrections, Jones remarks:—"Formidable as this phrase appeared to my friends and myself, the whole difficulty vanishes when we reject the *inimical* G and give the *friendly* W the lead, Wrth cyn (neu cynt) piad (neu piawd) baint, by primeval possession of the privilege or exempted by immemorial or prescriptive right. Those who understand the Welsh language will comprehend my meaning in attaching the above epithets to the G and W."

² On the turnpike road, says Jones, leading from Builth to Llandoverly, and near the fall of the Dulas into the Irvon, is a public house called Maes y genffordd, where the magistrates acting for the hundred, hold their meetings, and here, though there is but one house, are seven fairs annually, Sept. 28th, April 18th, May 31st, July 10th, Sept. 23rd, Nov. 2nd and December 3rd.

³ Walker says this living as well as Llanganten was vacant seven years in the time of Charles the First. *Sufferings of the Clergy*, p. 163.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1573.—		Rhys Thomas.	1759.—		Thomas Davis, assistant curate.
1587.—		Morgan Jones.	1759.—		Samuel Thomas, ditto.
1625.—		Rees Meredith.	1767.—	Tho. Evans of Pennant,	Thomas Davies.
1632.—		Rowland Williams.	esq. lessee.		
1681.—	The Bishop of Saint David's.	Evan James.	1792.—	Mich. Cope Hopton, esq. lessee.	Rice Price.
1694.—		Roger Lloyd.	1804.—	Ditto.	Thomas Williams.
1728.—		Theophilus Evans.	1811.—	Ditto.	Rees Williams.
1730.—		Joshua Thomas.	1848.—	Ditto.	Harry Morgan.
1748.—		Theophilus Evans.	1866.—	Ditto.	John Rogers.
1749.—	Owen Evans of Pennant, esq. lessee of the tythes.	Rice Price.	1872.—	Edward Thomas, esq. Wellfield.	Earle Montague Welby, M.A.
1757.—		Joshua Thomas.	1884.—	The Bishop of St. David's	Preb. D. E. Williams, B.A.

LLANGAMARCH or LLANGAMMARCH.

N^{ID} oes on'd glas ffoesydd
A Mawn-dwr y mynydd
I wel'd mewn llwyn gynnydd
Llangamarch.

Nought but the bog's deceitful green,
And black turf-water can be seen,
Llangamarch's barren vales between.

"Having lived in this parish for some years," writes Theophilus Jones, "and possessing a small hereditary property, to which I am very much attached, where neither bog or turf water can be discovered, and where the verdure of the meadows on the side of the Irvon can hardly be excelled in any country, I protest against the poet's satire, and am enraged at his assurance. Indeed I only insert it for the sole purpose of contradicting it; but this will be best done when I come to a brief survey of the soil and aspect of the parish." The church is situated on a projecting rock, covered in some places with a pretty thick layer of earth, between the two rivers Irvon and Camarech, near the fall of the latter, in latitude 52 11, longitude 3 30: it is dedicated (if the name be not from the river and if it do not signify the Church upon Camarech) to St. Cammarch, another of the grandsons of Brychan and of the sons of Gunleus. The building now consists of a nave only, though not many years ago a northern aisle was taken down under faculty from the ordinary, at the petition of the inhabitants; it is covered with shingles, under which are boards and transverse ribs, but the whole is in a wretched state of repair.

Under a *board* upon a decayed wooden frame, which is used as a *communion table*, is a tombstone, the inscription on which is scarcely legible, but by the initials W. Ll., we believe it was meant to commemorate the interment of one of the Lloyds of Caerau, about the year 1600: adjoining it is a tombstone to the memory of Morgan Prosser of Llwyn y fynwent, gent., who died March 5, 1700, he had issue by Sibil his wife (daughter of David Evans, of Corrin), Thomas Roger, David Rees, and John: "Here lieth also the bodies of two of the children of the said Thomas by Mary his wife, daughter of Hugh Penry of Llwynycyntein; here lieth also the body of the said Mary, ob. 1758." leaving issue William, John and Samuel; Roger their son died in Cowbridge. Here lieth the said Thomas Prosser, ob. 1741." (Arms, 1 a lion rampant, 2 three fleur de lis, 3 Vaughan, 4 Bleddin ap Maenarch.)

Near these tombs was another with the following inscription, since effaced: "Here lieth the body of Thomas Meredith Penry, paternally descended from Elystan Clodrydd, prince of Ferlix, who married Gwenllian, daughter of Howel David Thomas, they had issue Meredith, Hugh, Rebecca, Rees, Elizabeth and Nest, he died the 10th day of March, *Anno Domini*, 1620.

In the churchyard Rees Powel, Aberdylas, *obit* 1765, aged 74; Mary his wife, 1743, aged 51. (Arms, 1 three goats' heads erased, 2 Bleddin ap Maenarch, 3 a chevron between three gerbs, 4 Elystan Clodrydd.)

On a tombstone near the stile, entering from the east, "M.S. of the Reverend Mr. Theophilus Evans, late vicar of this parish, and also of Saint David's in Brecon, he died September 11, 1767, aged 73."

There is no table of benefactions here, or *mem.* of any sum received for the use of the poor,

¹ Ho was of Penpio in this parish.

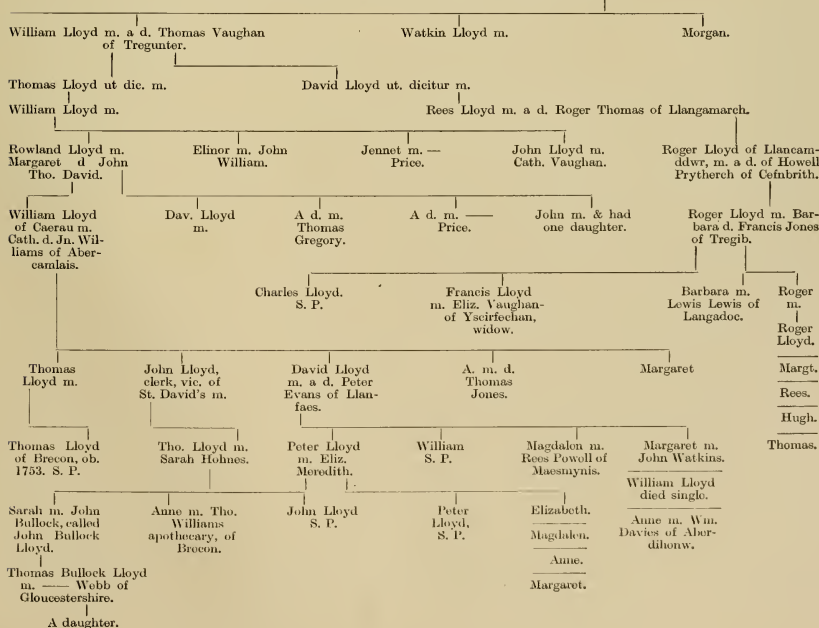
although Hugh Penry of Brecon, gent., by his will, proved in 1730, charged a tenement in this parish, after the decease of his daughter Catherine, with the payment of twenty shillings annually to the poor.

ANTIQUITIES OF THE PARISH.

Within this parish, now in a great measure deserted by the affluent and the liberal proprietors of the soil, there are no less than eight principal mansions, in which, at one time or other, families of opulence and respectability have resided. Caerau is the first deserving of notice, on account of its antiquity and its name. Near the house on the north side is a round artificial mound of earth, about eighty yards in circumference and six in height; from this circumstance, from the discovery of some rubbish and ruins, and from the place called the encampments or fortifications, some have concluded that this was formerly a Roman station, and have converted it into a town and made it the *Bulleum Silurum* of Ptolomy. That this mound was the site of an *arx speculatoria*, or sentinel's watch tower, on the Roman road from Carmarthen to the junction with the Sarn Helen at Cwm in Radnorshire, and that there may have been a much more extensive castellated mansion, while some of the early descendants of Elystan Glodrydd resided there, is very probable, but that it was the station of a legion, cannot be admitted, without much stronger evidence than has been hitherto adduced, and there is no pretence for supposing it to be the British town mentioned by Ptolomy. The late Mr. Powel of Castlemadoc, in a letter to Mr. Strange, published in the *Archæologia*, very properly observes, that no Romans coins or any vestiges of the works of that people have ever been found here, nor are there any remains of a wall or foss to enable us to ascertain the form of the entrenchment, whether it was British or Roman. We must therefore be satisfied in tracing it from the beginning of the eleventh century to the family of Lloyd, the present (1809) possessors, whose genealogy follows:—

LLOYD OF CAERAU, BRECON AND LLANCAMDDWR.

See Gwyn of Garth to David Lloyd, inclusive who married a daughter of Thomas Rhys David.



ANCIENT MANSIONS.

Aberanell at present meets with a fate the reverse of that of most of the other mansions, for instead of being converted into the dwelling of a tenant, as it was four or five generations back, it is become the residence of the proprietor; it takes its name from the fall of the little rivulet, Anell, into the Camarch, and this brook again derives its appellation from *An*, in Irish water, and *Allt*, a cliff, the water from the cliff, corrupted at first into Anellt and since into *Anell*. Before the present possessor Mr. Lloyd, to whom the estate was devised by his relation the late Mr. William Williams, the family here for three generations bore the surname of Williams, though they are of the same tribe as Lloyd of Rhosferig, as will be seen on reference to that pedigree.

At Maes y Onn, or Ashfield, on the south west of this parish, a respectable family of the name of Price have continued to reside, who were in the habit formerly of connecting themselves with the Prossers of Llwyn y fynwent and Penrys of Cefnibrith, for several successive generations, hence the names of Roger or Rosser and Penry continually occur. The male branch of the family of Cefnibrith failed in the father of the late Mrs. Powell of Castlemadoc, and upon the death of her daughter, the late Miss Catherine Powell, the estate was purchased by Mr. Price, who has since sold it. Llwyn y fynwent, or church yard grove, was evidently contiguous to an old church, though no remains of it now appear, this we apprehend to have been the fabric wherein the tenants of the abbey of Strata Florida attended divine service, notwithstanding that it is at present within the parish of Llangamarch; upon the failure of the male issue of Prosser in the last generation, it descended to Thomas Stephens, esq., of Kinnard in Radnorshire, whose mother was of the name and family of Prosser.

Lancamddwr, so called from the windings of the Irvon near this place, was the family seat of a junior branch of the house of Caerau. Upon the death of Francis Lloyd, without issue, it passed to his sister, Barbara, who married Lewis Lewis, the grandfather of the present Mr. Lewis of Gwynfe in Caermarthenshire. Llynceadwgan has been for centuries an insignificant farm house, but it was in the reign of Elizabeth, the paternal inheritance of the ancestor of the present noble family of Cadogan. The reader will see in the pedigree of Gwyn Garth, the descent from Elystan Glodrydd to Rhys ap Richard of Dol y gaer; the names have been horridly mutilated and disfigured by Edmondson, in his *Genealogy of the English Peer*, in which, however he introduces to us a son of this Rhys, omitted in some of our Welsh MSS.; this was William ap Rhys of Dol y gaer, who is said to have married Jane, daughter of William Barrie, by whom he had—

William Cadwgan, or of Llwynceadwgan, married Lucy, daughter and heiress of John Gunter ap Jenkin Gunter.

Griffith Cadwgan married Jane, daughter of William Kemeys.

Philip Cadwgan married Alice, daughter of John Glandon of Llanddewi.

William Cadwgan married Jennet, daughter of Evan Morris.

William Cadwgan of Trostre in Monmouthshire, married Catherine, daughter of Howel——

William Cadwgan married Anne, daughter of George Arnold.

Henry Cadwgan of Trostre, married Catherine, daughter of Thomas Stradling.

William Cadwgan of Dublin married Elizabeth——

Henry Cadwgan or Cadogan of Dublin, died 13th January, 1714, having married Bridget, daughter of Sir Hardress Walker; his son William was created baron Cadogan of Oakley, in the county of Bucks, in 1718; from henceforward we leave this pedigree to the English heralds, who will no doubt take due care of them.

JAMES HOWEL AND BISHOP THOMAS HOWEL.

That voluminous writer and eccentric wanderer James Howel, author of the *Epistole Hoelianna*, *Lexicon*, *Tetraglotton*, *Londinopolis*, Dodona's Grove, &c., &c., was born at Cefn Bryn in this parish, as was his elder brother Thomas Howel, bishop of Bristol. Their father Thomas Howel was curate of Llangamarch from 1576 to 1631, when he was presented to the living of Abernant and Cilvilgao in Caermarthenshire, he married a granddaughter of Chantor Huet of Llanafanfawr.

Thomas Howel entered at Jesus College, Oxford, as a scholar in 1604, at the age of sixteen, he afterwards became a fellow there, took the degree of master of arts; being admitted into holy orders was made a chaplain in ordinary to Charles the First, rector of West Horsley, in Sussex, and of St. Stephen's Walbrook, D.D., and a canon of Windsor in 1636. Being driven from his livings by the puritans, though Wood says he was accounted by some a puritanical preacher, he was nominated by Charles the First to be Bishop of Bristol in 1644, and consecrated at Oxford by Archbishop Usher, Primate of Ireland, and others, after which, according to Walker, he met with most barbarous usage from the rebels; his palace was stripped of the lead that covered it, at the time his wife was in

laurel, converted into a malt-house, and they threatened, as it is said, to put up a furnace for brewing in the cathedral, in the place where the altar was situated. These and other indignities offered to the established religion, as well as to himself, are supposed to have occasioned his death in 1646; he is buried at Bristol cathedral, without any inscription upon his tomb, save the word "*Expergiscar.*" Walker says he was much beloved in his see, that the city took upon them the care of his children; what became of them or whether any of their descendants remain we know not, our pedigrees neither notice his marriage or issue.

James Howel was born in 1594, entered at Jesus College, Oxford, in 1610, having been first taught the rudiments of grammar at a free school at Hereford. "Being a true cosmopolite (says Wood) and not born to land, lease, house, or office," he went abroad to travel, being allowed a little money by his father for that purpose. In 1622 he was sent to Spain to endeavour to recover a rich English ship, seized by the viceroy of Sardinia; what success he had does not appear, but soon after his return he was retained as secretary, by Scrope, Earl of Northumberland, and, through his interest, chosen member for Richmond in 1626, afterwards employed on an embassy to Denmark, and, in the beginning of the civil war, one of the clerks of the council, but being of an extravagant turn he was imprisoned in the Fleet for debt, where he had sufficient leisure to attend to his studies, and to bring out many of his publications, "having nothing to trust to (says the above author) but his wits, and to the purchase of a small spot of ground upon Parnassus, which he held in fee of the muses." In this, however, he seems to be mistaken; for it turns out that he paid rent for it to Cromwell, whom he flattered in hopes of his release, but without success. Upon the Restoration he was appointed historiographer royal, an office first made for him, but without any salary or emolument! He was therefore obliged to have recourse to writing for his bread, at which employment he laboured so hard, that Wood gives us a list of between fifty and sixty of his publications; his motto was *Senesco non segneseo*. He died in the beginning of November, 1666, and was buried in the Temple Church, soon after which a monument was placed near his grave, with the following inscription, which was removed in 1683, when the church was repaired: "Jacobus Howel, Cambro-Britannus, Regis Historiographus in Anglia primus, qui post varias peregrinationes tandem naturo cursum peregit, satur annorum et fame; domi forisque hucusque erraticus his fixus 1666."

FORMER RESIDENCE OF THE STEDMANS.

Dolgaer was the residence of a family of the name of Stedman. The pedigree of this house is disgraceful to the annals of the principality, and the heralds who preserved and copied it servilely from each other. The original ancestor is said to have been *Calcarbus* or *Calcarba*, *duke of Arabia*, who was exiled with his son Stedman and daughter Clarisia by the tyranny of the king of the country! They add that the duke died in the expedition to the holy land in the crusade of Edward the First, and that the son following the fortunes of that monarch, was made knight of the sepulchre, and imprisoned with him on his return home. Part of this tale may be true. Stedman, without the affectation of punning, *may* have received this appellation from his steadiness and fidelity to his sovereign, and *may* have been an Asiatic, and the domestic of the Enthusiastic Richard, during his captivity; if so, we trust that the name of Stedman will be substituted in the drama of *Coeur de Lion*, instead of Blondel. Richard, it is said, gave his faithful adherent for a wife, Joan, daughter of Sir John Tatsall, knight.

I

STEDMAN OF DOL Y GAER.

Stedman served in the Crusades under Richard I., was made knight of the sepulchre, taken prisoner with him by the Archduke Leopold, and afterwards enlarged.

John Stedman of Kent, m. Anne, d. James Foster.

John Stedman of Berkshire, m. Anne, d. James Chetwynd.

William Stedman, m. Frances, d. Sir John Marshal of Yorkshire.

Thomas Stedman, m. Elinor, d. William Wille, lord of Wille.

John Stedman of Staffordshire, m. Margaret, d. Sir William Stafford.

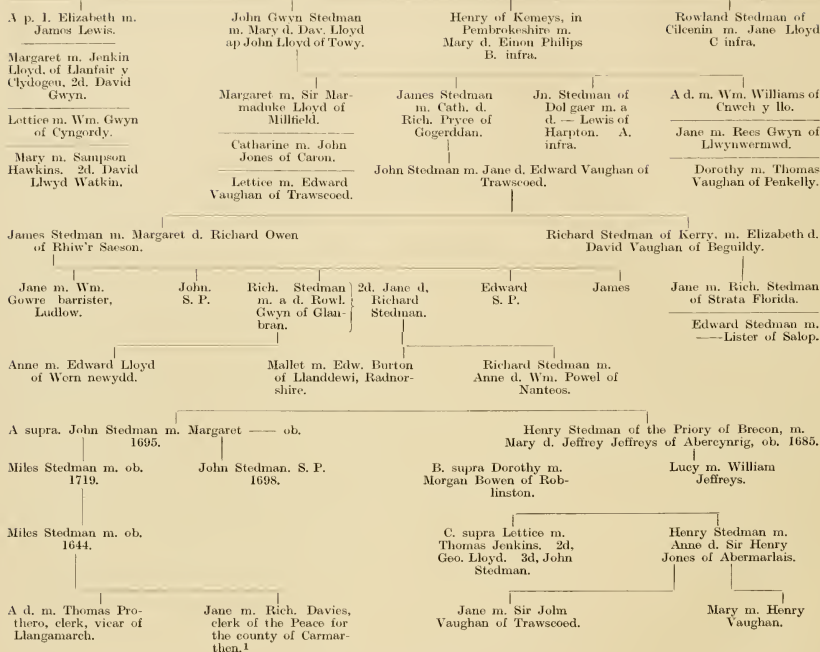
Harry Stedman, m. Margaret, d. Andrew Cotten.

Humphrey Stedman, m. Catherine, d. William Hill of Bickley, Com. Salop: he is the ancestor of Stedman of Berkshire, Staffordshire and Shropshire.

John Stedman, m. Joan, d. of John Lewis of Salop.

John moel Stedman, or J. Stedman the bald, of Ystradllur, or Strata Florida, in Caerdyganshire, m. Anne, d. William Philips of Pant y parc. A p. II.

II.



REV. THEOPHILUS EVANS, AUTHOR.

"I do not presume to rank the farm house of Llwyneion, in this parish, with the mansions before enumerated," writes Jones, "but it will involuntarily intrude itself upon my notice, not only from my prepossession in favour of the place, but as having been the residence of my late revered, learned, and respectable grandfather, Theophilus Evans. He was the fifth son of Charles Evans of Pen y wenallt in Cerdiganshire, and the first child by his second wife, Elinor Beynon of Llangoedmore, widow; he was, I have no doubt, of the tribe of Gwynfardd Dyfed, the general ancestor of the inhabitants of this part of the country, but I have no wish to trace the family higher than Griffith ap Jean Jenkins, who died about the middle of the seventeenth century, at a very advanced period of life. Tradition says, he was upwards of one hundred years old at his dissolution. His son, Evan Griffiths, was a warm and steady adherent of the unfortunate Charles the First, and from that circumstance he was generally known among the puritans, by the name of captain Tory; he is said to have been a man of great stature and personal strength, insomuch that resting upon his hands and knees, applying his back to an axletree, he lifted up a cart fully laden with hay, and a place is still shewn where he threw a leaden plummet, of five or six pounds weight, to the distance of nearly one hundred yards. When the republicans became successful, he was imprisoned in Cardigan castle, for his exertions in favour of his sovereign; hearing, during his confinement, that his wife had been brought to bed,

¹ Their son, Stedman Davies had by Barbara, daughter of William Williams, of Ivy Tower, Richard Stedman Davies and Morgan Davies, the latter died single; the former had by a daughter of Thomas Thomas, two infant daughters, Jane and Elizabeth, who now (1869) inherit part of the Llangamarch property.

without any inquiry as to the sex, he exclaimed, 'The child shall be christened Charles, by G—d.' That child happened to be a boy, and being named according to his father's directions, was the father, by two wives, of five sons and three daughters; by his first wife, who was of Gorslywd in Blán y porth, Cardiganshire, he had Samuel Evans, who was a private tutor in the family of the Rev. Philip Henry, of Broad Oak in Salop, and the early instructor of the learned and pious commentator, Matthew Henry; he died without issue. John Evans had a daughter and heiress, who married John Griffiths, and was the mother of the present (1809) John Griffiths of Pen y wwallt. Jonathan Evans went into America; Josiah Evans left one daughter married to Richard Pritchett, clerk of Richard's castle, Worcestershire; Theophilus Evans married Alice, daughter of Morgan Evan or Bevan of Gelligaled, in Glamorganshire, by whom he had issue three sons and two daughters, one of the latter was my (Theophilus Jones's) mother, married to the late Hugh Jones, vicar of Llywel: the sisters of Theophilus Evans were, Sarah, married to Richard Pritchett of Narberth, surgeon, father of the late subchantor of Saint David's, Margaret married Samuel Jones of Glaspánt, and Charity married ——— Evans of Ponteion.

'Theophilus Evans was born in 1694, ordained deacon in 1718, and priest in 1719, by the then bishop of Saint David's; the intimacy between his countrymen, Lloyd's of Millfield and the Gwyns of Garth, induced him to settle in Breconshire; his first curacy was Tyr yr abad, he then went to Llanleonvel and was domestic chaplain at Garth, to which house he continued warmly attached during the whole of his life. In 1728 the bishop gave him the small rectory of Llanynis, which he held for ten years and resigned upon being presented to Llangammarch. In 1739 he had the living of Saint David's in Llanfaes, which he held to the time of his death. In 1763 he ceded the living of Llangammarch in favour of his son in law and successor Hugh Jones, clerk, who afterwards exchanged it for Llywel. Thus much may suffice for the history of his professional labours and preferments; few are the incidents in general in the life of the divine or the philosopher deserving public attention. However interesting many of them may be to their relatives or connections, the fame of the scholar can only live in his works; that fame is frequently posthumous, and its duration, like the life of man, is almost equally uncertain, subject to be blasted suddenly by the *sirocco* of malicious satire, or to suffer a lingering death from the neglect or versatility of human opinions, or the infatuated pertinacity of popular prejudices.

'The Reverend Theophilus Evans's first publication, in 1739, was in Welsh, and intitled *Pryll i Pader*, &c., being an exposition or comment on the Lord's prayer, in several sermons, after the manner of Bishop Blackall, to which he has prefixed an elegant Latin dedication to Sackville Gwynne of Glanbran, esq., to whom he pays a proper compliment for his zeal in the encouragement and promotion of the worship of God, by the erection of the very neat church of Tyr Abot; he then concludes with a prayer to the Deity, that as his patron had until that day lived in a mansion situated in a rich soil and in the fat of the land, nourished and fertilized by the dew of heaven, after a length of days spent piously and happily in this world, when his eyes were closed in death, he might be awakened by an angel of life in the realms of bliss. In 1739 he published his *Drych y prif oesoedd* or 'A Mirror of Antient Times'; this is a brief chronicle or history of the Britons, beginning with the dispersion of Babel, 'and who do you think (says he) talked Welsh at that time? Why, Gomer, the eldest son of Japhet most assuredly:' from this period he traces them to the arrival of Brutus in England, follows them until the extinction of the line of the British princes, and concludes with a short dissertation upon the British language and a history of the church. This book has been more read and more admired by the inhabitants of South Wales than any other ever published in the language, unless it be *Llyfr y Ficcwr Llandyfri*, and it is still as great a favourite as ever in this part of the principality: a third edition has lately been published at Merthyr Tydvil, in Glamorganshire. It certainly displays much reading and great learning, but it preserves the memory of transactions which may as well be forgotten, brands the character of the Saxons with infamy, in terms which modern amenity of manners has, perhaps very properly, reprobated and almost exploded, and continues to entail upon the Welsh an inveteracy which liberality, as well as sound policy, should induce them entirely to eradicate from their minds.

'His next publication, in 1752, was in English, and entitled, 'A history of the modern enthusiasm;' another edition was published in 1759, both of them are now long out of print. In this work he treats sectaries of all descriptions with great severity, but quotes their own authors and instances their own leaders, for what he conceives, their most objectionable principles and their worst actions. It would not be here pertinent to enter into a discussion as to the prudence or the efficacy of this attack, the motive was undoubtedly good; convinced, as fully and as firmly as he was of his existence, of the orthodoxy of the established church, he felt it his duty, as a member of that establishment, to prevent by timely warning, the repetition of those calamities produced by fanaticism in the generation next preceding him, of the recurrence of which he seems to have been apprehensive from the spread of an enthusiasm equally mischievous, though assuming a different

garb, artfully fomented and encouraged, as he apprehended, by the church of Rome, and appearing to be disseminated widely and with great industry within the principality in his time; on any other subject and on any other cause he may be truly said to have been

— of affections mild,
In wit a man, simplicity a child.

“He had perhaps as much of the milk of human kindness, as any man who ever lived: of the value of money he knew little, books were his only treasures, and employed the greatest 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. Many of the sectaries whom he condemned heard his exhortations with pleasure, if not with improvement, and his sermons are even now recollected with rapture; he had a method of bringing his arguments home to the feelings of his auditors, without descending to low or familiar phrases, which were peculiarly persuasive, as well as impressive upon the memory, but however interesting this well deserved panegyric may be to me, I perceive it may not be equally so to the reader; I therefore hasten to return to the description of this part of the hundred.”

DESCRIPTION OF PARISH IN 1809.

The soil of this parish on the west and south is mountainous and boggy, and here the turbary water may certainly be frequently seen stagnating at first, but running down the steep descents of Epynt in cataracts into the Irvon: unproductive as this tract and these bogs generally are, the inhabitants are indebted to them for the principal part of their fuel. It has been before observed that no coal has been found or probably ever will be discovered in this hundred, when therefore that substance is consumed, they are obliged to send for it to Brecon at the distance of fifteen or twenty miles, over roads so bad and uneven that waggons or carts can scarcely travel upon them. For this reason they are compelled to resort to their turf pits upon Epynt, to which all the householders of the hundred have a right: it is cut and dried in the summer, and then brought down and stacked for winter fuel. Descending from Epynt into the vales of Llangammarch, the northern face of the mountain, as before observed, is extremely steep and somewhat precipitous, but the view from the summit is so far from conveying the idea of the poverty of this country, that it appears, and particularly in the summer time, luxuriant and picturesque; a beautiful verdure and several groves of valuable timber adorn the banks of the Irvon from Llanecamddwr to the fall of the Dulas, near Maes y genffordd. The soil in the vale is chiefly argillaceous, and the stone in this, as well as other parishes in the hundred, very ill calculated for building or repairing the roads. It consists principally of two sorts, one a blue shale, which comes off in thin lamina, the other an ash coloured induration of clay, called rab, which can hardly be said to be stone, for when exposed to the air, it crumbles to dust, and returns to its original particles again, to regain perhaps in the course of ages, its feeble powers of cohesion.

On the south side of the Irvon, Dulas empties itself a mile or two above Llangammarch, and at the village of this name, after a remarkable curve, in which it runs several yards contrary to the course it pursues after it is united with the Irvon, the Camarch comes in on the north. If Cammarch be the patron saint, it has lost its original name, for in all probability the river ran in its present course long before the good man was born, and in that case it may, like a small brook just mentioned above, have been called Camddwr. The present name if spelt with a single *m*, means much the same thing, from *cam*, winding, and *arach*, a channel from the Irish *ar*, to guide or conduct, *arvain*, to lead, *W. ar* and *aru*, to plow, *W* and *I*, i. e. to channel, or form channels, hence *Arroie* or *arwy* in Herefordshire, &c.: over this river there is one bridge, and another over Irvon, both leading from the village of Llangammarch, and both repaired by the hundred. A considerable quantity of sheep and some cattle are annually reared in this parish and the mountains adjoining.

The living is in the collation of the bishop of the see, who as treasurer of Christ's College in Brecon, has the impropriate tithes, granted to him by 12th Anne, in lieu of mortuaries: it has two acres of glebe attached on the north side of the Camarch, about half a mile from the church, but no house, although there was one in 1543; for Rhys ap Jeanu ap Rhys, by his will in that year, gives his wife a mill in Llangammarch and lands “near the vicar his house.” In Pope Nicholas's taxation it is set down at £13 6s. 8d.; tenths, £1 6s. 8d. The certified value, according to the printed return of the commissioners, was £30 0s. 0d.; tenth, 17s. 9d., according to Ecton, £27. Clear yearly value in the king's book £8 14s. 7d. Archdeacon's procurations 7s. 11d.; the living is discharged, and the parish register goes back to 1763.

LATER PARTICULARS.

In 1840, the parish church of Llangammarch was described as being in a very ruinous state. The living was then a discharged vicarage, with the perpetual curacies of Llandewi-Abergwessin and Llanwrtyd annexed, and of the annual net value of £209. A separation from Llanwrtyd took place in 1870. In 1890 there was a restoration at a cost of about £200, and the present church of St. Cadmarch is a building of stone in the modern Gothic style, having a chancel, nave, north aisle,

south porch, and a belfry with one bell. About 1900, a stone was discovered here in one of the walls, with some early carving representing a wheel, an infant with arms extended, and a coiled serpent. The living is now a rectory of the net value of £250, with three acres of glebe and residence, in the gift of the Bishop of St. David's.

The parish churchyard contains the mortal remains of Theophilus Jones the Historian, a biography of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

Llangammarch has its railway station on the Central Wales section of the London and North Western Railway, and is in the Petty sessional Division of Builth. The population in 1901 was 688. The place has now some celebrity on account of its Barium springs, which are said to be the only springs of this kind in the kingdom. The springs rise through clefts in a mass of rock close to the river, into which they formerly ran to waste. A well has been constructed upon the rock and machinery erected for elevating the water into the baths, and to provide a supply for drinking purposes; the flow is equal to 600 gallons per 24 hours. The water possesses a peculiar saline taste, is quite neutral to test paper, very slightly opalescent, and contains practically no carbonic acid in solution. The Lake Hotel, surrounded by ornamental grounds, affords salmon and trout fishing for visitors, and also the privilege of shooting over some thousands of acres of mountain and moorland. The Cammarch Hotel is near to the railway station. The development of the mineral water of this district began some 25 years ago, when the late Mr. William Smith, agent for the Maitland family, interested himself in the matter.

The Report of the Charity Commissioners mentions the following benefactions:—Margaret Jones, by will dated 22nd May, 1782, left the interest of £400 3 per cent annuities, subject to certain life interests, to keep a free school in Llangammarch for ever; also the interest of £200 to clothe the poor; the interest of £50 for an annual dinner for the trustees on November 1st, and the interest of £100 to clothe poor children in the parishes of Llangammarch and Llanwrtyd.

The public elementary school was erected in 1878.

Penbualt is a township on the road from Builth to Llandovery with an area of 11,134 acres, and a rateable value of £1,344; the population in 1901 was 433.

Treflys township is on the river Irfon on the main road from Builth to Llandovery, and had a population in 1901 of 481. Its area is 7,090 acres, and rateable value £2,944.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1410.—Richard Keryr, clerk, Abergwili.		Sir Lewis, or as others, Sir John ap Gwilym Llwyd of Castell Hywel. ¹ Thomas ap Howel.	1661.—The Bishop of St. David's 1678.—Richard Lucy, prebendary, &c. 1685.—The Bishop of St. David's 1709.—Ditto. 1712.—Ditto. 1738.—Ditto. 1763.—Ditto. 1768.—Ditto. 1769.—Ditto. 1773.—Ditto. 1804.—Ditto. —, Ditto. 1833.—Ditto. 1870.—Ditto. 1876.—Ditto.		Thomas Jones, ⁴ Himself. Francis Beal, ⁵ Richard Pritchard, ⁶ David Price, Theophilus Evans. Hugh Jones, ⁷ Thomas Prothero, Samuel Bevan, Richard Davies. Thomas Williams, John Evans, W. Jenkins, David Lloyd Isaac, D. Edward Williams.
1493.—Wm. John, treasurer of Abergwili and prebendary of Llangammarch.		Owen ——— John Morgan.			
1503.—Walter Jones, treasurer, &c.		John Howel.			
1556.—Thomas Huot, p. h. v. 2 1576.—Griffith Toye, prebendary &c.		William Powel. Thomas Howel.			
1583.— 1631.—Elias Wrench, prebendary, &c. ³		Rees Williams. Simon Wrench.			

¹ When or by whom presented is uncertain; he was the eleventh in descent from Tydwal gloff, who was wounded in the siege of Cardigan, circa, A.D. 878. Tydw. Gloff's Book.

² By grant from Walter John or Jones, son of John ap Rhys y Cigwr of Brecon, archdeacon of Brecon, and afterwards chancellor of York. He resigned this prebend, upon which Griffith Toye, who is described as of Cambridge succeeded him.

³ Elias Wrench was B.D., rector of Trent in Somersetshire, of which he was ousted by the Oliverian party in 1657, and one Thomas Barker presented in his stead; he was likewise deprived of the living of Llangammarch by the propagators of the gospel in Wales, about the year 1652, after which it was vacant nine years: (Walker's *Sufferings*.) Simon Wrench was his son.

⁴ Samuel Pryderch subscribes himself as rector of Llangammarch in 1644; he was of the Llandeavlog family, and a presbyterian, we assume he was planted there by the propagators of the gospel in Wales.

⁵ On the resignation of Mr. Lucy.

⁶ He was buried at Carmarthen in the chancel of which church is his bust, which is perfectly grotesque; of what composition it consists, whether stone, wood or marble, we know not; the face is white and his gown and casock painted black, he seems to be leaning over half door of a bookseller's shop, and calling out to his customers, "Walk in gentlemen and see what ye want to buy." Below is an inscription, informing us that he was born in Llangadoc in 1661, of Jesus College in 1677, M.A. in 1685, fellow and preacher of Dulwich five years, chaplain to the Newcastle at the bombardment of Callis in 1690, to the Dredought in 1697, vicar of Llangammarch in 1709, which he ceded on being presented to Carmarthen and Llangadoc, and died in 1730.

⁷ On the resignation of Theophilus Evans, he exchanged, with the consent of his diocesan, Llangammarch for Llywel. Mr. Prothero, who lived at Dolgair, did not survive this event much more than a year.

LLANYNIS.

WE are completely at a loss to define the names of this or the adjoining parish; from the situation of the church in a low and level situation on the south bank of the Irvon, we should have been led to conclude that it might have been once insulated, and that it might have been called Lan yn yr Ynis or Islechurch, but then what becomes of Maesmynis, which being situated on a hill with no river or water near it, can never be supposed to have been an island, so that we must leave this parish without dedication and its name without definition. Adams places Llanynnis in latitude 52 10, longitude 3 22. If he takes his bearing from the church (for there is a building here so called) he is incorrect, as it is very nearly in the same latitude as Bultih, and certainly not half a mile southward of it; if he means from the confines of the parish on Epynt he may be right.

In this parish as before noticed, was Porth y cryws or the Portal of the cross, the residence of John Lloyd, "sqwer to the bodie of Queen Elizabeth" during the latter part of his life; there are now no remains of this house, unless a beautiful Saxon cross,¹ (seen in plate VIII. figure 1.) though now in the wall of another tenement in this parish, called Neuadd Siarnam, once formed part of the Portal of the Cross, or at least stood near it. From Mr. Lloyd this estate descended to his eldest son, whose daughter married John Prichard of Pont faen, in Merthyr: in 1638 it was in the possession of one of the family of Games, of the name of Thomas Games, but how he acquired it we know not, or how it afterwards went to John Davies, sheriff of Breconshire in 1703, who was described as then of Cefnllys gwyn. Some few years before 1800, it was sold by a Brydges of Tibberton to Mr. Evan Thomas of Llwynmadoc.

Part of this parish runs southward and consists entirely of mountain; in the vale below, there is very good arable land, and on the banks of Irvon some fertile meadows with groves of thriving timber intermixed, but unless the attack at Pont y coed, upon Llewelyn, prince of Wales, as related in the first volume, be recollected, there is little in this parish worthy of attention or interesting to the historian or antiquary.

There is no table of benefactions hung up in the church, but a tenement called Tyr Twppa, in Maesmynis, is charged by the will of Howell Lewis of Blan Dihonw, gent., in 1674, with the payment of twenty shillings to the poor of this parish annually.

The rectory, which is of trifling value is in the collation of the bishop. There are about three acres of glebe, and there was a parsonage house in this parish, which was in ruins at the Restoration, and has never since been rebuilt. It is called, in Pope Nicholas's taxation, Lanenus, and is valued, together with Maesmenus or Maesmynis, at £5 0s. 0d.; tenths 10s. The certified yearly value in Queen Anne's time, was £25. Value in the *Liber Regis* £8 14s. 5d.; Syn. and Prox. 5s. 5d.; archdeacon's procurations 1s. 10d. The register book goes back to 1731, and the living is discharged from the payments of first fruits.

LATER PARTICULARS.

Llanynnis had a population of 195 in 1891, and this had been reduced to 136 in 1901. Its area is 2,250 acres and the approximate rateable value £951. The parish is in the Bultih Rural District, Petty Sessional Division, and Polling district, and it forms part of the Rhosferig electoral division. The district is purely agricultural.

The present church of St. Ilyr was rebuilt in 1887 at a cost of £2,000, and it is a small stone edifice in the early English style; there is a chancel, nave, south porch, and a turret with one bell. Accommodation has been provided for about 100.

The living is annexed to that of Maesmynis, and the Rector lives in that parish; the joint net income was £178 in 1905 with three acres of glebe and a substantial vicarage house. Both livings are in the Bishop of St. David's gift.

Tyn y graig is the property of the Woosnam family, and the present house was built in 1890-91, by Bowen Pottinger Woosnam, Esq., J.P.; but it is at the period of writing in the occupation of

¹ In 1900 a writer described this cross as being one of the most elegant in Wales. It was then inserted in the wall of a cottage called Neuadd Siarnam at Llanynnis, 3 miles west from Bultih, south of the road to Llandovery, on the opposite side of the river Wye. The stone is 57 inches long and from 8 to 12 inches wide.

Philip S. Phillips, Esq. J.P. Cefn llys gwynne is the residence of Charles William Woosnam, Esq., J.P. Both houses are very substantial, and nicely situated.

There is a Methodist Chapel here, and a public elementary school was built for 50 children in 1870.

THE WOOSNAM PEDIGREE.

Bowen Pottinger Woosnam, of Tynygraig, J.P. and D.L. for cos. Brecon and Montgomery, high sheriff for the former 1893, B.A. Oxford, member of the Inner Temple, *b.* 30 March, 1850; *m.* 15 Aug. 1876, Kate, dau. of William Evans, of The Fields, co. Monmouth, and has issue,

1. RICHARD BOWEN, *b.* 17 Nov. 1880.
1. Kate Major, *b.* 1 May, 1877; *m.* 19 May, 1900, Randal Plunkett Taylor Hawkley, Lieut. R.E.
2. Mary Dorothy, *b.* 10 April, 1870; *m.* 5 April, 1902, Rhodri Vaughan Lloyd Phillips, of Dale Castle.
3. Florence Gwendolen, *b.* 20 Dec. 1883.

LINEAGE.

The ancestors of this family came to England with WILLIAM III, and settled in the co. Montgomery, where they have been landowners ever since.

RICHARD WOOSNAM, of Tynawr, co. Montgomery, *m.* Anne Bowen, of Tyddyn, Llandinam, who *d.* 15 Aug. 1800. He was buried at Trefeglwys, 17 April, 1781, leaving a son,

BOWEN WOOSNAM, of Glandwr, co. Montgomery, bapt. 5 July, 1771; *m.* 25 Jan. 1805, Elizabeth, dau. of Charles Cole (she was *b.* 10 Jan. 1788, and *d.* 12 July, 1854). He *d.* 3 Sept. 1841, and left issue,

1. Charles Thomas, *m.* Harriett Peale, and *d.s.p.* 28 Jan. 1869.
2. JAMES BOWEN, proceeded in 1828 from the Military Coll. of Addiscombe to Bombay as a Lieut. of Artillery, and in that branch of H.M.'s army he attained the rank of Major-Gen., having chiefly served in the Horse Artillery. He accompanied Lord Keane to Ghuznee and Cabul, and bore the medals granted for the capture of the former place, and also for the taking of Khatat. He was *b.* 28 Jan. 1812; *m.* 1837, Agnes, dau. of William Bell, of Bellevue, Queen's Co. She *d.* 6 April, 1895. He *d.* 14 Oct. 1877, leaving issue,

1. JAMES BOWEN, *b.* 8 Dec. 1853.
2. Charles Maxwell (Ven.), Hon. Canon of Chester Cathedral, formerly Archdeacon of Macclesfield, M.A. Trin. Coll. Camb., Vicar of St. Margaret's, Dunham Massey, late Rector of Kirby-Wiske and Vicar of St. Peter's, Tynemouth, *b.* 6 Aug. 1856, *m.* 3 Nov. 1886, Mary Seeley, dau. of Hilton Philipson, and has issue,

- (1) Charles Hilton, *b.* 19 Jan. 1889.
- (2) Maxwell, *b.* 6 Sept. 1892.
- (1) Monica, *b.* 3 May, 1898.
- (2) Gaynor, *b.* 17 Aug. 1900.

1. Elizabeth.
2. Esther, *m.* 1882, Surg.-Gen. Theobalds, and *d.* 1884.
3. Ellen, *m.* 1877, Rev. J. Lunt, and has issue.
4. Katherine.
5. Amy, *m.* 1875, Rev. D. A. Maxwell, and has issue.
6. Grace, *m.* 1883, Dr. A. P. Wells, and has issue.

3. RICHARD, of Glandwr.

1. Elizabeth Alicia, *m.* Rev. George Fisher, M.A., Chaplain R.N., and to Greenwich Hospital, by whom she had a son, George, and two daus., Alice and Elizabeth.

The 3rd son,

RICHARD WOOSNAM, of Glandwr, co. Montgomery, and Tyn-y-graig, co. Brecknock, J.P. for both cos., *b.* 9 April, 1815; *m.* 25 Nov. 1845, Margaret, dau. of William Bell, of Bellvue, near Abbeyleix, in Queen's Co., and had issue,

1. BOWEN POTTINGER, his heir.
2. Richard Burgess, *b.* 19 Sept. 1851, B.A. Camb.; *m.* 10 Dec. 1874, Harriette Hamilton, dau. of John Partington Gray, of Ballyroan, Queen's Co.
3. Charles William, of Cefnllysgwynne, Buith Wolls, co. Brecon, J.P. cos., Brecon and Montgomery, *b.* 12 Oct. 1853, B.A. Oxford; *m.* 25 April, 1883, Minnie Sophia, dau. of William Allen, of Endcliffe, Sheffield, and has, with other issue, Ralph William, *b.* 1887.
1. Margaret Helena, *b.* 11 Jan. 1847.
2. Caroline Eliza, *b.* 4 July, 1848.
3. Mary Alice, *b.* 11 Sept. 1856.

Mr. Woosnam was M.A. Cambridge, a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, and a Surgeon in the Bombay Army. He accompanied Sir Henry Pottinger on his Special Mission as Plenipotentiary to China in 1841, as Surgeon to the Mission, and he subsequently acted as Secretary of Legation, and was Deputy Colonial Secretary at Hong Kong. He was present at most of the operations of the United Naval and Military Forces, which resulted in the conclusion of the first Treaty with China, which was dictated by Sir Henry Pottinger at Nankin in 1842, and he bore the medal granted for that occasion. On Sir Henry Pottinger being sent to the Cape of Good Hope in 1846, as Her Majesty's High Commissioner, Mr. R. Woosnam was appointed Secretary to that Commission, and he subsequently, in 1848, accompanied Sir Henry Pottinger when he was promoted to Madras, and was his Private Secretary during his government of that Presidency. He died 27 Nov. 1888.

ARMS.—Per pale sa. and az., a lion passant arg., between four pheons three in chief and one in base or. Crest.—In a fern brake ppr., a snake nowed or, thereon perching an eagle also ppr. guttee de larvae.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1408.—The Crown p. h. v.		—ap David.	1728.—Ditto.		Theophilus Evans, <i>ceded</i> .
1555.—The Bishop of St. David's		John Vaughan.	1738.—Ditto.		Jenkin Williams.
1560.—Ditto.		Walter Powel.	1739.—Ditto.		Thomas Pugh.
1594.—Ditto.		Richard Watkin.	1761.—Ditto.		Jeffrey Griffiths.
1601.—Ditto.		Bartholomew Cartor.	1780.—Ditto.		James Evans, <i>ceded</i> .
1604.—Ditto.		Walter Perrott.	1799.—Ditto.		John Williams.
1622.—Ditto.		Thomas Williams.			Thomas Bowen.
1631.—Ditto.		William Prichard.	1807.—Ditto.		Benjamin Howels.
1646.—Ditto.		Samuel Prichard. ¹	1807.—Ditto.		Charles Price (died 1849). ²
1676.—Ditto.		John Williams.	1852.—Ditto.		William Williams. ³
1694.—Ditto.		William Williams.	1902.—Ditto.		Chas. Frederick Harrison.
		David Gwynne.			

MAESMYNIS.

THIS church is situated on an eminence between the rivers Irvon and Dihonw, in latitude 52 9, longitude 3 22, and is dedicated to Saint David. This, like the other churches, is a poor building, but the ceiling of the chancel is interesting; it is divided by cross ribs, and boards are placed under the tile, formed into seventy two panels or compartments, on each of which, in water colours, are the outlines of two lions sejant, with scrolls under them, having the words *Nal* or *Nas*, "is this," in German text.⁴ We have sought in vain for an explanation of these figures and inscriptions, and at last we must leave them to the ingenuity of our readers. The editor of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, in answer to a letter on the subject, refers us to a ring found at Towton Field, and suggests that the words may be "Now thus."⁵ This was certainly the motto of one of the ancestors of Anne Bullen, a collateral branch of which family settled in Breconshire, but independently of their having no property in this part of the country, and the phrase never having been used by the Bulls of Breconshire, the last two words here are evidently "is this," so that we must yet travel further a-field before the meaning of the monk who dedicated them is discovered; for of that description we conceive the limner and writer to have been, from the representation of broad winged angels round the cornice, bearing shields on their breasts, on which are depicted the cross, nails, scourges, &c. Many of these angels have now vanished, and the lions are preparing to pursue them with all possible despatch; indeed, as this work was (as we apprehend) executed some few years before the Reformation, the state of the repairs of the churches in this country must have been more attended to formerly than at present, or they would not have remained so long; for every shower of rain now defaces more or less of one or other of these figures or letters. In this chancel are buried several of the Princes of Aberneiddon. In the pine end wall are their arms, viz., Cradoc Fraich Fras, the chevron gules, empaling Elystan, crest on a wreath, a parrot proper, beaked *Or*, holding a bloody hand in his bill; inscription, Charles Price of Abercnithon, gent. *obit* August 3, 1758; two infant grandchildren, daughters of his son, John Price of Brecon, mercer, are also interred here. On the wall, outside, in the churchyard, David Price, *obit* 1767; Margaret Hurdman, her sister, in 1780, aged eighty two. (Arms, Rhys Goch. Motto, *Modestia vestra notabitur omnibus*.)

The parsonage house and barn adjoin the churchyard. They are miserable thatched buildings, built by Mr. Jacob James, rector of this parish, in the year 1694; to which about seven or eight acres of glebe are attached. There is no table of benefactions hung up in the church; notwithstanding the tenement called *Tyr Twppa*, mentioned in the last parish, is likewise charged by the will of the same Howel Lewis, with the payment of twenty shillings annually to the poor of Maesmynis, as is also *Cwmllywne* and *Cae glas*, in this parish, with the payment of ten shillings annually to the poor, by the will of Rees Meredith, in 1779. The surface of this part of the country is extremely

¹ He was collated by the bishop in the dwelling house of Edward Games of Newton, esq.

² He was grandfather of C. E. Weaver Price, of Brecon (*see pedigree*).

³ This incumbent left £1,000 to augment the living.

⁴ See plate VIII, fig. 6.

uneven, consisting of high hilly ground or deep narrow vales, without much wood, though here and there a grove improves the landscape; one of these vales, running up as far as Cwmawen (correctly we believe, Cwmawel, or windy dingle), is called Cwmbwch, from the little river Bwch, or the buck, which intersects it; another follows the course of the Dihonw, separating as it proceeds downwards this parish from Llanddewi'r cwm.

This small rectory is in the collation of the Bishop of the See, as is indeed every other in the hundred, except the perpetual curacies of Builth and Llanddewi'r cwm. The certified value was forty pounds, *valor in libro regis* £7 ls. 3d. Archidiaconal procurations ls. 10d. The parish register goes back to 1687, and the rectory is discharged from the payment of first fruits.

The rector's house has lately been almost re-built. There is also a sum of money, as we are informed, amounting to £214 5s. 9d., vested in the old South Sea Annuities, the interest of which is directed by an anonymous benefactor to be paid annually to the minister of Maesmynis in augmentation of the living.

LATER PARTICULARS.

The foregoing is Theophilus Jones' narrative of this parish. A few mis-descriptions occur which require adjustment. The arms of the Prices of Abernithon have been erroneously blazoned, and the account of the inscription (hereinafter quoted) on the tombstone respecting the Rev. David Price contains errata which would no doubt be accounted for by a line being dropped in typing from the original manuscript. The last few lines of the first paragraph (as regards arms) should read:— In this chancel are buried several of the Prices of Abernithon (Aberknithon or Aberneiddon); on the North-east wall are their arms, as descendants of Cradoc Fraich Fras, viz., Azure, a Chevron Argent between three spear heads, two and one, points upwards embued gules (Bleddin ap Macnrch); charged with a crescent, argent (Trahaern); impaling, Sable, a Lion rampant regardant Or, (Elystan Clodrydd); Crest on a wreath, vert, a dragon's head erased, holding in its mouth a sinister hand embued gules (Rhys Goch). Motto: "*Modestia Vestra notabitur omnibus.*" Since the History was written, the old church has been demolished and a new and substantial edifice erected on the same site. The stones relating to the Prices, and others, which were formerly in the chancel, have been removed from there and are placed in the porch, the inscriptions upon them being as follows:—

(1) On East side of porch:—"Near this place lies interred the body of Charles Price of Aberknithon, Gent. He departed this life August ye 3rd 1758 aged 59." "Likewise near this place lies interred the body of Anna Maria Price, eldest daughter of John Price of Brecon, Mercer, and granddaughter of the above Charles Price. She died April ye 27th 1761, aged 2 years and 10 months." "Also near this place lies interred the body of Catherine Price, second daughter of ye said John Price; she died June ye 9th 1761 aged 6 months." This stone shews the Arms, Crest and Motto previously described.

(2) On West side:—"Sacred to the memory of John Wr. Price of Tyn-y-graig, Gent., who departed this life ye 4th of June 1803 aged 65 years." "Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Price "wife of the said John Weaver Price who departed this life ye 2nd of Decr. 1819 aged 82 years." This John Weaver Price was a Captain in the Merchant Service, having been on the "Randolph" from 1760 to 1773, and left in the latter year to reside on his estate, and there are a couple of quaint verses inscribed on the stone, which are appropriate to one who "followed the sea." They are as follows:—

Though Gusty winds, and gully waves
Have tost me to and fro,
By God's behest,
The port of rest
I'm laid in here below,
Where I must my moorings make,
Among the mortal fleet,
Till heaven shall hail
Us all to sail
Our admiral Christ to meet.

When God ordains the final blow,
The heart may wish, ye tear may flow,
But can't the dead restore.
Yet comfort dawns from realms above
When kindred souls in endless love
Shall meet to part no more.

Qualis vita finis ita.

(3) On West side:—"Sacred to the memory of John Weaver Price, Gent., of Garthfelin in this parish, who departed this life the 27th of May 1839, in the 66th year of his age."

(4) Over the door of the Church:—"M.S. Of the Revd. Charles Price, Rector of Llanynis and Curate of Maesmynis, and a Magistrate of the County for 28 years. He died March 28th 1849." "Also to the memory of Maria Anne, Relict of the abovesaid, who died February 25th 1863 aged 80 years." This stone also shews the family Arms, Crest and Motto.

(5) On East side:—"Sacred to the pious memory of the Reverend Thomas Bowen, late Rector of Maesmynis and Llanynis, whose mortal remains are deposited in this Churchyard. He exchanged the Troubles of Time for the Treasures of Eternity, on the 23rd of September 1807, in the 56th year of his age." "Likewise to the pious memory of Mary Bowen, Relict of the abovenamed Thomas Bowen, she died ye 17th of April 1831 aged 75 years." "De Morte Mortalibus Loquere Lapis."

JOHN WESLEY AND MAESMYNIS.

On a tombstone now placed on the ground in the churchyard on the north side and close to the North-east corner of the Church is an inscription which reads:—"Here lyeth interred ye body of David Price late of Garthfelin, in this parish, vicr. of Llangammarch, he departed this life Sepr. ye 27, 1738, aged 75." "Also the body of Mary ye widow and relict of Charles Price of Aberknithon, Gent, and daughter of David Price aforesaid, deceased ye 12 day of October 1767 aged 67." "And also the body of Margaret Hurdman, Widow, and daughter likewise of ye said D. Price, who died April ye 10th 1780, in ye 82nd year of her age." Before the rebuilding of the Church this stone was on a tomb, on the same spot, and raised about 30 inches above ground; here it was that John Wesley preached upon his first, or subsequent, visit to the County. It is recorded in his diary thus:—

"May 1743, Wednesday 3rd, came to Builth . . . Mr. Phillips, the rector of Maesmynis, (at whose invitation I came), soon took knowledge of me. . . . I preached on a tomb at the east end of the Church at four, and again at seven. Mr. Gwynne and Mr. Prothero, Justices of the Peace, stood on either hand of me."

John Wesley appears to have paid many visits to Maesmynis and neighbourhood, and in his diary it is recorded:—"1744. April 21.—I rode to Garth and on Sunday preached in the Church there morning and afternoon. Monday 23rd. I preached in Maesmynis Church, and afterwards in the Churchyard at Builth. Tuesday 24th. I preached at Maesmynis again, and about five, in Llanthew Church, near Brecknock."

In the following year (August 22nd, 1745), he preached at Garth, Maesmynis, Builth and Llanthew. Again in "1746. August, Tuesday 12th, and several days were spent at Maesmynis, Builth and Llanisaintfread. On Friday after taking a sweet leave of the loving people of Maesmynis we rode with honest John Price of Mertha to his house."

In August 1747 he called at Garth en route to and from Ireland, and on his return journey visited Builth, Maesmynis and Llanisaintfread. This seems to have been the last time he was at Maesmynis, although he was on several subsequent occasions, between that time and 1788, at Garth, Builth, Brecon and Hay. The following extract from his diary throws a considerable light upon his friendship with the Gwynnes and the many visits to Garth:—"1749. April, Friday 7th.—We reached Garth. Saturday 8th. I married my brother and Sarah Gwynne. It was a solemn day, such as became the dignity of a christian marriage." The Sarah Gwynne referred to was a daughter of Marmaduke Gwynne of Garth, one of the justices of the peace mentioned by Wesley in 1743.

The last of the Price family buried in this parish is recorded on a stone in the South-east end of the church-yard thus:—"Modestia vestra notabitur omnibus. I.H.S. In loving memory of Charles Weaver Price; born at Tynygraig, Llanynis, on the 5th November 1808, died at Garthfelin, in this parish, on the 13th April 1878." "Also of Mary his wife, born at Baileybrith, in this county, on the 15th June 1816, and died at Builth on the 9th April 1895." "Also of Richard Bowcott, their youngest son, born at Tynygraig on the 17th April 1856, died at Pwllhelig on the 10th May 1892, and interred at Llanwonno churchyard Glamorganshire." Another stone near by records: "To the memory of Mary Davies of Persandy in this parish, Relict of Roger Davies, formerly of Baileybrith in this county. She died November 1st 1859, aged 69 years."

PEDIGREE OF PRICES OF ABERCYNON, TYNNGRAIG AND GARTHPELIN.

The following table shews the pedigree of the Prices up to the present time (1908), and in compiling it only the direct line has been taken, all off-shoots and collateral branches having been left out, so as to obviate dealing with an immensity of descendants and intermarriages :—

Gwraldeg, King of Garthmadryn, now Brecknock, about the year of Christ 230. (In a MS. in the British Museum he is said to have lived towards the latter end of 1st Century, and another account says began his reign prior to A.D. 72.)

Morfydd, (or Morvytha), sole heiress m. Teithall (or Tathall) ap Anawn Dhu, (or Antonius Niger,) Circa A.D. 260.

Teithin, (or Tydheim), King of Garthmadryn.

Irith y blawd, King of Garthmadryn.

Toidfallt, (Teithphaltim or Teithwalch), King of Garthmadryn. Circa A.D. 342.

Tydyr, (Tudor or Tewdrig), King of Garthmadryn.

Marchell, (or Marcella,) sole heiress m. Aulach (Anlech, Afalach or Olave), son of Cornach McCarbery, or Cormac MacEurbre Gwyddel, (or, as others called Coronawg, or Corineog,) King of Ireland. (Aulach was buried at Llanspyddid—before the Church door—in 5th century.)

Brychan Brecheiniog (or Brychan Yrth), King of Garthmadryn (since called Brecheiniog or Brecknock after him) began his reign in A.D. 400 and died about 450.

Gwen (or Gwenllian), 16th d. of Brychan, wife of Llyr-merini (or Molwynen), lord of Gloucester.

Cradoc Fraich Fras (or Cradoc of the Strong Arm) lord of Gloucester, Knight of the Dolorous Tower and of the Round Table of King Arthur, m. Tegau's Vron d. of King Polynor (Fortasse Pyl Mawr).

Cawrdaf, King of Ferreg and Brecon, m.

Caw ap Cawrdaf, King of Ferreg and Brecon, m.

Gloyw, King of Ferreg and Brecon, m.

Hoyw, King of Ferreg and Brecon, m.

Cynvarch, ap Hoyw, m.

Cyndeg ap Cynvarch, m.

Teithwalch ap Cyndeg, m.

Tegydd ap Teithwalch, m.

Anharawd ap Tegydd, m.

Gwendy ap Anharawd, m.

Gwngy (or Gwngy ap Gwendy), m.

Hydd Hwgan (or Hugann) elder brother of Einon from whom descended Rhys Goch.

Dryflin (or Sir Drifflin ap Hwgan), m. Crusilla d. of Idwal ap Mouric.

Maenarch (or Maenyrch), Prince of Brecknock, m. Elinor (or Elen) d. of Einon ap Selyff lord of Cwmwd and Cantreff-Selyff, who was 15th from Cradoc Fraich Fras.

Bleddin ap Maenarch (or Bleddin ap Maenyrch), the last independent Sovereign of Brecheiniog, m. Elinor d. of Tewdwr Mawr and sister of Rhys ap Tewdwr, Prince of South Wales, temp. William Rufus.

Gwgan (or Gwrgan), m. Gwenllian d. and heiress of Phillip Gwys, lord of Gwyston (since called Wiston), in Pembrokeshire.

Tralaern, (2nd son of Gwgan), lord of Llangorse, m. Joan d. of Bleddin, lord of Cilsant.

Howel, m. Gwenllian d. of Griffith ap Ivor, lord of Sanghenith.

Rhys of Aberllynfi, m. Cath. d. of Griffith Gwyr (or Gower).

Einon Sais. (or Einon the Englishman) temp. Edward III. (2nd son of Rhys), m. Joan d. of Howel, Lord of Miscin.

Rhys ap Einon Sais, (2nd son of Einon) m. Elen 2nd d. of Llewelyn ap Howel Hen (or the Old), lord of Cwmwd.

Adam of Porth yr Ogof, m. Gladis d. of Llewelyn ap Howel Melin (or the Sallow).

(See next page.)

(Continued from previous page.)

- Rhys Llwyd, m. Lleici d. of Howel Gwalter Rhys ap Rhosser Goch.
- Gwilym ap Rhys Llwyd, m. Marg. d. of John Ieuan.
- Llewel, m. Joan, d. of Rees Jenkin.
- Gwilym Gam, m. Eislil d. of D. Jenkin Awbrey.
- Rhys, m. Gwenllian d. of Howel Madoc.
- Sir John Price (or John ap Rhys) of the Priory, Brecon, knighted in the reign of Henry VIII, m. Joan d. of John Williams of Southwark, died 1553 or 1572 (date uncertain).
- John Price (3rd son of Sir John) m. Elizabeth d. of John Games.
- Thomas Price, of the Priory, Brecon (grandson and heir-male of Sir John Price), m.
- Charles Price, of Builth and Abernithon, Solicitor, m.
- Edward Price of Abernithon, (m. Elizabeth d. of ———) Architect for partial rebuilding of Builth after its being burnt down in 1691.
- Edward Price of Tynygraig, m. Anne d. of John Weaver of Blaenant Bettws.
- John Weaver Price, of Tynygraig (born 1738, died 1803) m. 6th May, 1770, Elizabeth d. of Charles Price of Abernithon, and granddaughter of David Price of Garthfelin, late Vicar of Llangammarch.
- Charles Price (2nd son of Captain John Weaver Price), Rector of Llanynis and Curate of Maesmysyn (born 1775, died 1849), m. 13th July, 1804, Maria Anne d. of Revd. Thomas Bowen, Rector of Maesmysyn and Llanynis.
- Charles Weaver Price, of Tynygraig and Garthfelin (born 1808, died 1878) m. 1st October, 1844, Mary d. of Roger Davies of Baileybrith and had issue:—
 Charles Edward Weaver Price, b. 14th September, 1845, m. (14th September, 1875), Alice Ann eldest d. of the late Richard Fryer of Brecon, and has issue:—
 Charles Weaver, b. 12th June, 1876, m. (27th June, 1906), Rhianedd Mary Gwendolen d. of the late Gwilym Jones of Pwllhelig.
- Thomas Richard Bowcott Price, b. 23rd November, 1846.
- Elizabeth Mary Davies Price, b. 21st February, 1848, m. Gwilym Jones of Ffynonwym and Pwllhelig, Glam., and has issue:—
 Charles Gwilym Thomas, b. 11th October, 1879, m. Gladys Ann, fifth d. of Thomas Harry of Llanwensan Fawr, Glam.
- Rhianedd Mary Gwendolen, b. 24th February, 1881, m. Charles Weaver Price, son of Charles Edward Weaver Price of North House, Brecon.
- Mary Elizabeth Maud, b. 25th October, 1883.
- Joan Margaret, b. 9th December, 1886.
- Mabel Grace, b. 15th June, 1889.
- John Weaver Roger Price, b. 25th November, 1849, m. Mary d. of David Sibbons of Newcastle Mon., and has issue nine sons and daughters.
- Mary Jennett Bowen Price, b. 16th March, 1851, m. Philip Bach of Great Quebb, Eardisley, (died 8th December, 1904), and had issue:—
 Mary Jennette, b. 20th July, 1884.
 Annie Ermira, b. 24th July, 1886.
 David William Bowcott Price, b. 3rd December, 1852.
- Anne Price, b. 26th May, 1854, died (unmarried) 7th May, 1901.
- Richard Bowcott Price, b. 17th April, 1856 died (unmarried) 10th May, 1892.
- Margaret Price, b. 14th November, 1859.
- Jane Maud Price, b. 14th March, 1861.

The Rev. Charles Price referred to herein had one daughter, Maria Ann Bowen, who married Thomas Powell of Builth, surgeon, and had issue Maria Anne Bowen Price (died young); Thomas Bowen Watkin (had issue two sons and died); Charles John Cadogan, who married Elizabeth daughter of William Thomas of Builth, emigrated to New Zealand about 1879 and died there 10th October, 1906; he had three sons and four daughters. The Powells are of the same family as the eminent physician, Sir Douglas R. Powell, one of the physicians in ordinary to King Edward VII., and whose portrait and pedigree is given in the *History of Radnorshire*.

THE CHARITIES.

With regard to the Lewis and unknown charities, applicable to the Parishes of Llanynis and Maesmysyn, the Board of Charity Commissioners, upon application made to them in 1905, by the Rev. Charles F. Harrison, rector, and others the churchwardens of both parishes, made an order, sealed 14th December, 1906, appointing new trustees, &c. From this document we learn that there were to be two ex-officio trustees, four representative trustees, one co-opted, and one nominated trustee so long as the beneficiaries of Llanyis and Maesmysyn remain united. The scheme gives the trustees power to appoint a clerk at a salary of not more than £2 2s. 0d. a year; and to defray all costs of administration out of the funds. The following is the schedule of property: Rent charge issuing

Fig. 1.

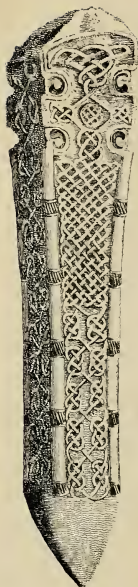


Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

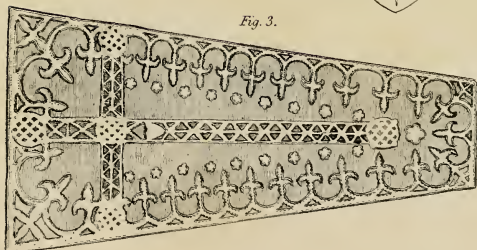


PLATE VIII.

From Drawings by Rev. T. Price ("Carnhuanawc")

Fig. 1. Saxon Cross at Llanynis. Fig. 2. Remains of Panels at Maesmynis.

out of freehold land known as Tyrtwppa in Llanynis, then in the control of Mrs. Jones, and of the value of £2 yearly; £573 11s. 8d. India 3 per cent Stock with the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds, realising £17 4s. 0d.; £20 in the same Stock in the names of Charles William Woosnam and Rev. C. F. Harrison, realizing 12s.; Consols, £225 19s. 9d. in the name of Charles William Woosnam realizing £5 12s. 8d.—a total income in 1906 of £25 8s. 8d. Of this sum £4 was yearly to be devoted to the education of poor children of the two parishes, and the residue of the said income was to be paid for the benefit of the industrious poor of the said parishes, not receiving parochial relief, in any of the under-mentioned ways: Subscriptions to any dispensary, infirmary, hospital, or convalescent home, whether general or special, so that the benefits of those institutions may be obtained for the objects of the charities; any provident club or society established in or near the interested parishes for the supply of coal, clothing or other necessaries; any duly registered Provident or Friendly Society accessible to the inhabitants of the interested parishes; also the travelling expenses of patients to and from such institutions as are mentioned above, and the cost of providing proper care and supervision (including any necessary cost of locomotion) for poor persons requiring temporary change of air or special protection or treatment; or the supply, to an amount not exceeding in either parish £6 in any one year, of (a) clothes, linen, bedding, fuel, tools, medical or other aid in sickness, food, or other articles in kind; (b) temporary relief in money, by way of loan or otherwise, in case of unexpected loss or sudden destitution. But it is expressly stipulated that "The funds of the Charity shall in no case be applied in aid of any rates for the relief of the poor or other purposes, in either parish, or so that any individual or institution may become entitled to a periodical or recurrent benefit therefrom."

Maesmynis—the name should probably be Maesmynydd (the mountain field) or perhaps Maesmynach (Monk's field)—is situated south west of BUILT WELLS, and has a population of 207, its area being 4,012 acres. The approximate rateable value is £1,280. The parish is in the Built Rural District, Petty Sessional division, and polling district, and forms part of Rhosferig Electoral District.

The present church was restored in 1878 at a cost of £850, and affords 80 sittings. It is an edifice of stone, consisting of chancel, nave, porch, and a turret containing one bell. There is a handsome lych-gate, erected in 1903 by the Misses Williams of Trephilip, Defynnock, in memory of their brother, the Rev. William Williams, who was rector of the parish for 50 years. The living is annexed to that of Llanynis the joint net value being £178 yearly, with a rectory house and three acres of glebe. The endowment was added to in 1893, viz., the Bishop £300, Diocesan Society £100, Queen Anne's Bounty £400, and it was also augmented by £1,000 under the will of the late rector (Rev. Wm. Williams).

There is a Congregational Chapel in the parish, and a public elementary school, built in 1878, with accommodation for 60 children, has an average attendance of 31.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1491.—The Bishop of Saint David's has uniformly and invariably presented to this rectory.		Hugh ap Evan.	1633.—		Thomas Perrott.
1554.—		William David Rogers.	1649.—		William Jones. ¹
1574.—		William Meredith.	1661.—		David Jones. ²
1575.—		— Roberts.	1684.—		Jacob James.
1594.—		Bartholomew Carter.	1737.—		David Jones.
1601.—		David Matthew.	1740.—		Edward Philips.
1617.—		Thomas Meredith.	1777.—		Thomas Williams.
			1783.—		James Philips.
			1796.—		Thomas Bowen.
			1807.—		Thomas Williams.
			1852.—		William Williams.
			1902.—		Chas. Frederick Harrison.

¹ He was ousted during the rebellion after which the living was vacant for nine years, and no duty done there, except by one Thomas Evan, a labourer, appointed by the Propagators of the Gospel.

² He was licensed to preach, to practice medicine, and to keep a school.

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