TOPOGRAPHY

OF

Great Britain,

OR,

BRITISH TRAVELLER'S

POCKET DIRECTORY;

BEING AN ACCURATE AND COMPREHENSIVE

TOPOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION

OF

ALL THE COUNTIES

IN

England, Scotland, and Wales,

WITH THE

ADJACENT ISLANDS:

ILLUSTRATED WITH

MAPS OF THE COUNTIES,

WHICH FORM

A COMPLETE BRITISH ATLAS.

BY G. A. COOKE, ESQ.

VOL. XIV.

CONTAINING

MONMOUTHSHIRE AND SOUTH WALES.

London:

Printed, by Assignment from the Executors of the late C. Cooke,

FOR

SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES, PATERNOSTER-ROW;

AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

A

TOPOGRAPHICAL

AND

STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION

OF THE

COUNTY OF MONMOUTH;

Containing an Account of its

Situation,	Mines,	Canals,
Extent,	Fisheries,	Curiosities,
Towns,	Manufactures,	Antiquities,
Roads,	Commerce,	Biography,
Rivers,	Agriculture,	History,

Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions, &c.

To which are prefixed,

The Direct and Principal Cross Roads, Distances of Stages, Inns, and Noblemen and Gentlemen's Seats.

ALSO,

A List of the Markets and Fairs;

AND AN INDEX TABLE,

Exhibiting at one View, the Distances of all the Towns from London, and of Towns from each other:

With an Account of the Wye Tour.

THE WHOLE FORMING

A COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY.

BY G. A. COOKE, ESQ.

Illustrated with
A MAP OF THE COUNTY, VIEWS, &c.

SECOND EDITION.

London:

Printed, by Assignment from the Executors of the late C. Cooke,
FOR
SHERWOOD, JONES, AND CO. PATERNOSTER-ROW;
AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

B. M'Millan, Printer,
Bow-Street, Covent-Garden.

INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH.

Bounded by	Extent.	Contains	Sends to Parliament	Produce & Manufactures.
Herefordshire on the north; By Gloucestershire on the east; By the river Severn on the south; And by Brecknock and Glamorgan, in Wales, on the west.	Its length, from north to south, is 33 miles. Its breadth, from east to west, is 26 miles. Its circumference 110 miles.	6 Hundreds. 7 Towns. 13,211 Houses. 71,833 Inhabitants.	3 Members.	The chief produce of this county consists in corn, fine oxen, and sheep. The trade consists in flannels, coarse cloths, woollen stockings, and knit caps. There are large manufactures of iron and japanned wares.

Monmouthshire is in the Diocese of Llandaff, except six parishes, four being in the Diocese of Hereford, and two in that of St. David's: it is in the Province of Canterbury.

INDEX OF COMPUTED DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN,

In the County of Monmouth.

The Names of the respective Towns are on the top and side, and the square where both meet, gives the distance.

	Abergavenny ..... distant from London ..... Miles 145									
Caerleon	23	Caerleon 148								
Chepstow	32	15	Chepstow 133							
Christchurch	20	3	15	Christchurch 150						
Magor	25	7	13	5	Magor 140					
Monmouth	15	23	15	23	24	Monmouth 128				
Newport	21	5	20	8	8	28	Newport 147			
Pontypool	10	13	12	12	18	18	11	Pontypool 150		
Usk	9	14	9	9	12	17	10	7	Usk 144	

On R. *a* T. R. *to Thame.*			*Thame-park, Miss Wickham,* R. Inn: *Plume of Feathers.*
Tetsworth	1¾	41¼	Inns: *Royal Oak, Swan.*
The Three Pigeons *On* R. *a* T. R. *to Thame; on* L. *to Wallingford.*	2½	43¾	*Great Hastey,* — *Blackall, esq.* L.; *Ricot-park, Earl of Abingdon; and half a mile beyond the Three Pigeons, at Waterstock, W. H. Ashurst, esq.*
Wheatley-bridge .. *Cross the Thame,* R.	2¾	46½	*Holton-park, Elisha Biscoe, esq.* R. Inn: *Crown.*
Wheatley ..... *Over Shotover-hill, on* L. *a* T. R. *to Oxford; three quarters of a mile farther, on* R. *to Islik.*	1	47½	*Cuddesden-palace, Bishop of Oxford,* R.; *one mile beyond Wheatley, on* L. *Shotover-house, George Schutz, esq.*
Headington ..... *On* L. *a* T. R. *to Wheatley, by Shotover.*	3½	51	*Sir Joseph Lock; Edw. Latimer, esq.; and the Rev. T. Horwood,* R. Inn: *Catherine Wheel.*
St. Clement's Turnpike ..... *On* L. *a* T. R. *to Henley. Cross the Charwell,* R.	1½	52½	
Oxford ..... *Cross the Isis,* R.	½	53	Inns: *Angel, King's Arms, Mitre, Roe-Buck, Star.*
Botley-hill, *Berks* *On* R. *a* T. R. *to Farringdon.*	1¾	54¾	*Beyond, see Wytham Abbey, Earl of Abingdon.*
Eynsham-bridge .. *Cross the Isis,* R.	3¼	58	
Eynsham, *Oxford*	¾	58¾	*Eynsham-hall, J. Buxton, esq.*
Newland Turnpike *On* R. *a* T. R. *to Woodstock. Cross the Windrush,* R.	5	63¾	

WITNEY ..... *On* L. *two T. R.'s to Bampton.*	½	64½	*Staple-hall Inn.*
BURFORD ..... *On* R. *a T. R. to Chipping Norton & Stow; on* L. *to Farringdon and to Cirencester.*	7	71½	*The Priory, W. J. Lenthall, esq.* R.; *two miles and a half distant, on* L. *at Bradwell, Bradwell-grove house, W. Hervey, esq.*
Little Barrington, *Gloucestershire*	2¼	73¾	Inns: *Bull, and George.* *Barrington-park, Lord Dynevor,* R.; *beyond Little Barrington, on* L. *are Dutton-lodge, unoccupied, and Barrington-grove, E. Greenway, esq.*
NORTHLEACH .... *On* R. *a T. R. to Stow; on* L. *the footway to Cirencester.*	6¾	80½	*Beyond, see Stowell-park, Mrs. Hambridge.* Inns: *King's Head, Sherborne Arms.*
Frogmill Inn .... *On* R. *a T. R. to Gloucester, through Whitcombe; on* R. *to Stow.*	6¾	87¼	*See from the hill a fine prospect over the rich Vale of Evesham, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, and Worcester, bounded by the Malvern-hills, Frogmill Inn.*
Dowdeswell	2	89¼	*Sandywell-park, Miss Timbrell,* R.
Charlton Kings ..	2½	91¾	*Charlton-park, Mrs. Prinn,* R.
Cadnall ..... *On* L. *a T. R. to Stroud.*	¾	92½	
CHELTENHAM ..	1	93½	*Georgiana-house, E. B. Lind, esq.* R.; *& on the hill Hewlets, James Agg, esq.* Inns: *Fleece, George Hotel, Lamb, London Hotel, Plough Hotel.*

Bedlam	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$95\frac{1}{4}$	
On R. *a T. R. to Tewkesbury; on* L. *to Heyden's Elm; and again, on* L. *to Cirencester.*			
GLOUCESTER	$7\frac{3}{4}$	103	*A little before, see Margaret and Magdalen hospitals; at Maston, Maston-house, Mrs. Niblett,* L.
On R. *a T. R. to Tewkesbury; on* L. *to Bath and Bristol. Cross the Severn,* R. *and the Gloucester Canal, to*			Inns: *Bell, Booth Hall, King's Head.*
Highnam	$2\frac{1}{4}$	$105\frac{1}{4}$	*Highnam-court, Sir R. W. Guise, bart.* R.; *beyond, in the road to Chepstow, High-grove, Mrs. Evans,* L.
On R. *a T. R. to Newent; on* L. *to Chepstow.*			
Churcham	$1\frac{3}{4}$	107	
Huntley Turnpike	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$110\frac{1}{4}$	
On L. *a T. R. to Mitchel Dean.*			
Durley-cross	$1\frac{3}{4}$	112	
Longhope	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$113\frac{1}{2}$	
On L. *a T. R. to Mitchel Dean.*			
Lea	$1\frac{1}{2}$	115	
Ritford, *Herefordshire*	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$116\frac{1}{2}$	
Weston	1	$117\frac{1}{2}$	
Ross	2	$119\frac{1}{2}$	Inns: *King's Head, King's Arms, Swan.*
On R. *a T. R. to Ledbury. Cross the Wye,* R.			
Wilton	$\frac{3}{4}$	$120\frac{1}{4}$	
On R. *a T. R. to Hereford.*			
Upper Wear	$\frac{3}{4}$	121	
Lower Wear	$\frac{1}{2}$	$121\frac{1}{2}$	
Pencraig	$1\frac{1}{2}$	123	*On* L. *at Glowston,* C.

Goodrich-cross ..	1	123½	*Ballenger, esq.; on* L. *the Rocklands; and* W. *Foskett, esq.; and see the remains of the ancient castle. Two miles beyond, is Court-field,*
Old Forge	½	124	*W. Vaughan, esq.*
Cross the river Guran.			
Whitchurch	1¼	125¼	*One mile from Whitchurch, on* R. *Fort-house, H. Barnes, esq.; near it the Lays; and one mile further, Newton-court,*
Ganarew	1	126¼	*Mrs. Griffin.*
Enter Monmouthshire.			
Dixton	2	128¼	
MONMOUTH	1	129¼	Inns: *Beaufort Arms, King's Head.*

MONMOUTH TO ABERGAVENNY;

THROUGH RAGLAND.

Monmouth to *On* R. *a T. R. to Hereford and Abergavenny, (by the upper road); on* L. *to Coleford. Cross the Munnow,* R.			
Wonastow		2	*Near is Milbourn-court, T. Swinnerton, esq. One mile and a half beyond, see Dynaston-castle.*
Ragland	6	8	*See the ruins of the ancient castle.*
On R. *a T. R. to Chepstow and Usk.*			Inn: *Beaufort Arms.*
Clytha	2	10	*Half a mile from Clytha, on* R. *see Llanach, John Jones, esq.*
Llanvihangel	1	11	

Llangattock .... *A mile before, Abergavenny, L. to Pontypool, Newport, and Usk.*	1	12	*A mile and a half beyond Llangattock, on L. a farm-house, in form of a castle; two miles further, Colebrook-house, J. Hanbury Williams, esq.; half a mile from Llangattock, Pempergwin-house, Rev. J. Lewis.* Inns: *Angel, Greyhound.*
ABERGAVENNY ..	4	16	*On R. of Abergavenny, Hill-house, Thos. Morgan, esq.; on L. Llanfoist-house, F. Chambre, esq.*

MONMOUTH TO ABERGAVENNY;

THROUGH LLANDILO CRESSENY.

Monmouth to Rockfield		2	*Two miles from, on R. Perthyr, J. Powel Lorymer, esq.*
Llandilo Cresseny	5¼	7¼	*Llandilo-house, R. Lewis, esq.; on L. Bryn Derry, Rev. Dr. Nicholas; and about one mile, on R. White-castle.*
Llanvapley	1¾	9	
Kevenaendagar ..	2¼	11¼	*About half a mile, on R. of Wernddu, Ambrose Goddard, esq.*
ABERGAVENNY ..	1¾	13	*One mile from, on R. is Twydee, Thos. Ellis, esq.; north of Abergavenny is Llantony-abbey, W. S. Llandee, esq.*

ABERGAVENNY TO NEWPORT.

ABERGAVENNY to *On* R. *a T. R. to Crickhowell; on* L. *to Monmouth; beyond, on* L. *to Monmouth and Usk. Cross the Usk,* R.			*On* R. *of Abergavenny is Llanfoist-house, Major Chambre; one mile from Abergavenny, on* L. *Colebrooke-house and park, F. Williams, esq.*
Llanellen ..... *On* L. *a T. R. to Usk. Cross the Brecon canal.*		2	*About 1 mile & a half beyond Llanover-house, Benjamin Waddington, esq.; beyond which, Pant-y-goytre, W. V. Bary, esq.*
Mamhilade ..... *One mile beyond, on* L. *a T. R. to Usk.*	4½	6½	
Llanvihangel .... *Cross the Brecon canal. One mile beyond, on* R. *a T. R. to Pontypool. Cross the Brecon canal.*	1¾	8¼	*Llanvihangel-court, Hugh Powel, esq.; and Pontypool-park, C. H. Leigh, esq.* R.
Panteague	2	10¼	Inn: *The New Inn.*
Cross-y-Ceilog .. *Half a mile beyond, on* L. *a T. R. to Caerleon. Cross the Avon Llywd,* R.	1¾	12	
Llantarnam	2	14	*Near, on* L. *is Llantarnam-abbey and park, Edward Blewitt, esq.*
Malpas ..... *Cross the Monmouth canal, to*	1	15	*Near, on* R. *is Malpas-house, Sir J. A. Kemeys; and half a mile beyond is Crynda-lodge, — Hodgkinson, esq.*
NEWPORT	1½	16½	Inn: *The King's Head.*

CAERLEON TO MONMOUTH;

THROUGH USK.

Monmouth to Wonastow		2	*Near is Milbourn-court, T. Swinnerton, esq.*
Ragland ..... *On* R. *a T. R. to Abergavenny; on* L. *to Chepstow.*	6	8	Inn: *Beaufort Arms.*
Usk ..... *Cross the Usk,* R.; *and on* R. *a T. R. to Abergavenny.*	5	13	*Between Usk & Llanhenock are Llangibby-castle, W. A. Williams, esq.; Pen-park, — Williams, esq.; and Carigweth-house, J. Morgan, esq.*
Llanbadon	½	13½	
Llangibby	1¼	14¾	Inn: *Three Salmons.*
Llanhenock ..... *Cross the Torvaen,* R.	¾	15½	*Half a mile on* R. *is Llantarnam-abbey. E. Blewitt, esq.*
Carleon	2¾	18¼	Inn: *Hanbury Arms.*

MONMOUTH TO CHEPSTOW;

THROUGH ST. ARVAN'S.

Monmouth to The Redwern		2¾	*Within one mile, on* L. *Troy-house, Duke of Beaufort.*
Trelleck ..... *On* R. *a T. R. to Abergavenny.*	2½	5¼	Inn: *The Lion.*
Llanvihangel Tor-y-Mynydd ..... *A T. R. on* R. *to the New Passage; on* L. *to Monmouth.*	4	9¼	
St. Arvan's ..... *On* R. *a T. R. to Cardiff.*	2¼	11½	*About two miles, on* L. *see the beautiful ruins of Tintern-abbey.* Inn: *The Squirrel.*
Chepstow	3½	15	*One mile and a half before*

			Chepstow, on L. *is Piercefield, the seat of N. Wells, esq.; about three miles, on* R. *Itton-court, W. Currie, esq.; three miles, on* R. *of Chepstow, is St. Pierre, Charles Lewis, esq.*
			Inns: *Beaufort Arms, and Three Crowns.*

THE NEW PASSAGE TO NEWPORT.

New Passage to *Cross the Severn,* R. *to*			
Black-Rock Inn .. *On* R. *a T. R. to Chepstow.*		3	Inn: *The Black-Rock Inn.*
Portes-cauet	1	4	*Crick-house, N. M. Pleydell, esq.; near which are Barnsvilla, Sir H. Cosby; and Grandra, John Proctor, esq.*
Crick ..... *On* R. *a T. R. to Monmouth.*	1½	5½	
Caerwent ..... *On* R. *a T. R. to Usk.*	1	6½	
Penhowe	3½	10	*Wentwood-lodge, Duke of Beaufort,* R.; *Pencoydcastle, Sir M. Wood, bart.* L.
Cat's Ash ..... *Half a mile forward, on* R. *a T. R. to Caerleon.*	1¾	11¾	*Near, on* L. *is Llanwerne, Sir T. V. Salusbury, bart.*
Christchurch .... *Beyond, on* R. *a T. R. to Usk.*	3¼	15	*Between Christchurch and Newport, on* L. *are Belmont, G. Hall, esq., and Mount St. Alban's, Jas. Thomas, esq.; five miles*

			beyond is Wilston-house, Wm. Phillips, esq.
NEWPORT	2¾	17¾	*One mile before, on* L. *Maindee, G. Jones, esq.*

CHEPSTOW TO RUMNEY;

THROUGH CHRISTCHURCH AND NEWPORT.

Chepstow to St. Pierre		3½	
Crick ..... *On* R. *a T. R. to Monmouth.*	1	4½	*Crick-house, N. M. Pleydell, esq.; near which are Barnsvilla, Sir H. Cosby; and Grandra, John Proctor, esq.*
Caerwent ..... *On* R. *a T. R. to Usk.*	1	5½	
Penhowe	3½	9	*Wentwood-lodge, Duke of Beaufort,* R.; *Pencoyd-castle, Sir M. Wood, bart.* L.; *near, on* L. *is Llanwerne, Sir T. V. Salusbury, bart.*
Cat's Ash ..... *Half a mile, on* R. *a T. R. to Caerleon.*	1¾	10¾	
Christchurch .... *Beyond, on* R. *a T. R. to Usk. Cross the Usk,* R.	3¼	14	*Between Christchurch and Newport, on* L. *Belmont, G. Hall, esq.; & Mount St. Alban's, James Thomas, esq. Five miles beyond is Wilston-house, Wm. Phillips, esq.*
NEWPORT ..... *On* R. *a T. R. to Pontypool & Caerphilly. Cross the Monmouth canal, about one mile from Newport. Cross the iron rail-way.*	2¾	16¾	*One mile before Newport, on* L. *see Maindee, G. Jones, esq.; one mile beyond Newport, on* L. *are Belle Vue, Mrs. Huntley; and Friars, Thos. Protheroe, esq.*
Caer-bridge .... *Cross the Sotwy,* R.	1½	18¼	*Beyond, on* L. *Tredegar, Sir Chas. Morgan, bart.*

Castle Town	3	21¼	
St. Mellon's	2	23¼	*Three miles, on* R. *Ruppera-house, C. Morgan, esq.; a quarter of a mile further, on* R. *Cafn Mabley, J. H. Tynte, esq.* Inn: *The Blue Bell.*
Rumney	1½	24¾	*Llanrumney, David Richards, esq.* R.

END OF THE ITINERARY.

LIST OF FAIRS IN MONMOUTHSHIRE.

Abergavenny.—May 14, for cattle; June 24, linen and woollen cloth; September 25, for hogs, horses, and flannel.

Caerleon.—May 1, July 20, September 21, cattle.

Chepstow.—Friday in Whitsun week, cattle; Saturday before June 20, for wool; August 1, Friday se'nnight after St. Luke, October 18, for cattle; Last Monday in the month, ditto.

Christchurch, near *Caerleon.*—Cattle, &c.

Crismond, near *Abergavenny.*—April 4, August 10, and October 9, for cattle, &c.

Magor.—Two last Mondays in Lent, for cattle.

Monmouth.—June 18, wool; Whit-Tuesday, September 24, ditto; November 22, horned cattle, fat hogs, and cheese.

Newport.—Holy Thursday, Whit-Thursday, August 15, November 6, for cattle; third Monday in the month, cattle and sheep.

Pontypool.—April 22, July 5, October 10, for horses, lean cattle, and pedlary; last Monday in the month, ditto.

Trullick, five miles from *Monmouth.*—Horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs.

Usk.—Trinity Monday, October 18, for horses, lean cattle, and pedlary.

BANKING HOUSES.

Place.	Firm.	On whom they draw in London.
Monmouth	J. P. Jones & Co.	Pole, Thornton and Co.
Monmouth	Bromage and Co.	Masterman & Co.
Abergavenny	Hills and Co.	Esdaile and Co.
Abergavenny	J. P. Jones & Co.	Pole, Thornton and Co.
Chepstow	Buckle and Co.	Cox and Co.
Newport	Forman and Co.	Pole, Thornton and Co.

TITLES CONFERRED BY THE COUNTY.

The county town, *Monmouth*, gives that of Earl to the Mordaunt family;—*Abergavenny*, that of Earl and Baron to the Nevilles;—*Chepstow*, that of Baron to the Somerset family;—*Lanthony* gives the title of Baron to the Buller family;—*Ragland* and *Gower*, the same to the Somersets;—and *Grosmount*, that of Viscount to the same family.

QUARTER SESSIONS.

These are holden at Monmouth and Usk on January 11, April 11, July 11, and October 17.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF

THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH.

NAME, AND ANCIENT HISTORY.

THIS county was formerly called Wentset and Wentsland, and by the Britons Gwent, from an ancient city of that name. The modern name of the shire is taken from the county town. The people inhabiting this and the neighbouring counties of Hereford, Radnor, Brecknock, and Glamorgan, were the ancient Silures, of whom Tacitus the Roman historian says, "The Silures were a fierce and warlike people," whom neither clemency or severity could subdue. This character so enraged the Emperor Claudius, that he gave orders to Ostorius Scapula, then Roman Governor of Britain, to conquer or extirpate the Silures. Ostorius immediately endeavoured to make a conquest of this brave and valiant people, who had hitherto supported with honour their native independence, and defied even the power of the Roman eagle. The Silures were at this time under the government of the celebrated Caractacus. This heroic prince, after successfully resisting the attacks of the Roman general, was unfortunately taken prisoner, and conducted to Rome, to grace the triumph of his victorious antagonist. It was under such circumstances that Caractacus preserved a calm, but dignified temper of mind. Though led captive amidst the shouts of hostile multitudes, his demeanour was such, as to gain him the admiration of his conquerors. His speech to the Emperor Claudius and Roman Senate, made a strong impression on all who heard him, and there were many among the auditory who, "albeit unused to the melting mood," wept for the misfortunes of this great and illustrious prince.

The Romans occupied the country of the Silures, from their full establishment in the reign of Vespasian, to the period of their final departure from Britain, when the mighty empire of Rome was fast approaching its dissolution. During the Roman dynasty, this county was in the province of "Britannia Secunda," and the stations were "Blestium," at Monmouth; "Burrium," at Usk; "Venta Silurum," at Caerwent; "Gobannium," at Abergavenny; and "Isca Silurum," at Caerleon, the head-quarters of the second legion, and seat of government for "Britannia Secunda." Considerable remains of the three last-mentioned stations are still visible. The grand Roman road, according to the best accounts, led from "Aqua Solis" (the water of the sun) Bath, in Somersetshire, to Menevia St. David's, in a direction through the counties of Pembroke, Monmouth, Carmarthen, and Glamorgan.

Various aqueducts, baths, tesselated pavements, columns, statues, urns, and altars, have been dug up in different parts of this county; an undeniable evidence of the Romans having occupied it. Archdeacon Coxe, the author of many celebrated works, says, in his "Historical Tour in Monmouthshire," that a square or parallelogramical form, is the only *indubitable* mark of Roman origin. According to the criterion of this sagacious traveller, most of the Roman encampments and fortifications in this county are of this form; four only being rectangular.

In 1602 there was discovered at Caerleon a chequered pavement, and a statue in a Roman habit, with a quiver of arrows; but the head, hands, and feet were broken off. From an inscription found adjacent, it proved to be a statue of Diana. At the same time the fragments of two stone altars were dug up, one of which was erected by Hæterionus, general of Augustus, and proprætor of the province of Cilicia. There was also a votive altar dug up, from which the name of the Emperor Geta appeared to have been erased.

Long before the Saxons came into this county there were three churches at Caerleon, one of which was dedicated to St. Julian, another to St. Aaron, who both suffered under the Dioclesian persecution, and the third had monks, and was the metropolitan church of Wales. Near Caerleon, in 1654, a Roman altar of free-stone was found, inscribed to Jupiter and Juno. Towards the end of the 17th century, in the church of a village called Tredonnock, a fair and entire monument of a Roman soldier of the second legion, called Julius Julianus, was dug up, and near this place were also found other Roman antiquities.

SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT.

This county is situated on the north shore of the Bristol channel, or Severn sea, and is bounded on the west by the river Rumney, separating it from Glamorganshire; on the north, small brooks and land-marks divide it from Brecknock and Herefordshire; on the east, it is bounded by Gloucestershire, from which it is separated by the river Wye from Redbrook to the Severn.

The situation of this county is picturesque, and particularly delightful. The eastern parts are woody, and the western mountainous; a diversified and luxurious scenery of hill and dale. Here the eye is enchanted with Sylvan shades, impervions woods, fields enriched with the finest corn, and meadows enamelled with flowers; there lofty mountains, whose summits reach the clouds, form a sublime and majestic view, highly awful and deeply impressive. Nor will the climate of this county be found inferior to its local beauties. It is salubrious, and friendly to convalescence and longevity. The air is pure, and if it is found in the mountainous regions of a bleak and piercing nature, yet it tends greatly to strengthen and brace the animal system, and precludes those disorders which prevail in a moist and milder atmosphere.

This county in length, from north to south, is thirty-three miles; its breadth, from east and west, twenty-six miles, and its circumference 110 miles. Usk is

nearer the middle of it than any other market town. It comprises an area of 550 square miles.

The churches in Monmouthshire, from their situation, mode of architecture, and general appearance, constitute unique and picturesque objects. Situated either on the banks of rivers, large streams of water, or else embosomed in trees, bursting upon the view, they create in the traveller the most delectable and pleasing sensations. The beauty of these picturesque objects, it has been remarked, can only be surpassed by a church situated at the back of the Isle of Wight, at the village of Thorley, the scenery surrounding which is inexpressibly charming. Mr. Britton, whose taste and judgment in the architecture of churches is unquestionably pre-eminent, thus expresses himself as to the style of architecture of the churches in Monmouthshire.

"Many of them, particularly in the mountainous parts, are very ancient. A few may be referred to the British and Saxon periods, and several to the early Norman æra, which is evident from the circular arch, and the crenellated, billetted, and other mouldings, characteristic of those styles of building; but the larger portion are subsequent to the introduction of the pointed arch.

"Those assignable to the earliest period appear like barns, are of small dimensions, without collateral aisles, or any distinction of height or breadth between the nave and the chancel, and are destitute of a steeple. Those of the second epoch have the chancel narrower, and less lofty than the nave; and a small belfry, consisting of two arches, for hanging bells, is fixed over the roof at the western end of the church. The third class consists of a nave, chancel, and tower, which in some instances is placed in the centre, in some at the side, and in others at the western extremity.

"A few in the eastern parts of the county have spires, and do not appear of earlier date than the thirteenth century. Few of the churches in this

county have undergone much alteration since the Reformation, still exhibiting vestiges of the Catholic worship; such as rood-lofts, niches for saints, auricular recesses, and confessional chairs."

A whimsical custom is yet prevalent in Monmouthshire, of white-washing the churches; and though such a practice produces no unpleasant effect, yet it assuredly, in the *opinion* of the author above quoted, "takes off that venerable aspect so impressively assumed by weather-beaten stone."

Usually the body of the church is white-washed, and sometimes that high honour is conferred upon the tower also; the brush sometimes lightly skims over the battlements and parapets. Mr. Essex, in his remarks on ancient brick and stone buildings in England, thus accounts for this singular custom: "The Normans frequently raised large buildings with pebbles only, or with pebbles and rag-stones intermixed; as these materials made a very rough surface, the whole was generally covered, both internally and externally, with plaster and white-wash."

Many remains of Popish superstition are visible throughout all the principality of Wales, in this county peculiarly. A custom prevails among the poor and lower class of inhabitants, both Catholics and Protestants, of begging bread for the souls of the departed, on the first day of November, or All Saints day; the bread thus distributed is denominated "dole bread."

A very ancient and pious custom is still prevalent in Monmouthshire, viz. that of strewing the graves of the departed and the church-yards with flowers and evergreens, on festivals and holidays. The lower order of people and farmers are fond of conversing in Welsh, though they all understand English.

In some of the churches the service is performed alternately in the Welsh and English languages.

The county of Monmouth, though appertaining to England, yet, as having been formerly within the circle of the Welsh principality, some of the inhabit-

ants are like their brethren inclined to credulity and superstition; hence the Catholic priests have been enabled to gain many proselytes to the doctrines of the church of Rome. But we observe with great pleasure, that this delightful county is in a progressive state of improvement. Many public-spirited gentlemen have introduced into it a taste for general science, and encouraged a sedulous attention to the grand interests of commerce, &c.

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

This county is divided into six hundreds, viz. Skenfreth, Abergavenny, Wentloog, Usk, Ragland, and Caldicot; which comprehend 120 parishes, besides chapelries, and seven market-towns, viz. Monmouth, Chepstow, Abergavenny, Caerleon, Newport, Usk, and Pontypool. This county is now in the province of Canterbury, and in the diocese of Llandaff; except three parishes in that of Hereford, viz. Welsh Bicknor, Dixon, and St. Mary's; and three in St. David's, viz. Old Castle, Llanthony, and Cwmyoy.

CLIMATE AND SOIL.

The climate is mild in the vales and southern parts, and gradually colder as we ascend the hills towards the confines of Breconshire, where the snows sometimes remain on the ground till a late period of the spring. The general humidity of the western districts of the kingdom is felt in this county, where the rains are frequently of long continuance. This moisture, however, is beneficial to the grazing parts of the county; and where the occupiers of farms, consisting of low and high lands, have the convenience of maintaining their cattle upon dry soils during the falls of rain, they are greatly benefited by the wet weather, which would be deemed an injury in tillage counties.

The great estuary of the Severn attracts the clouds of the western ocean, and causes torrents of rain to fall on the north and south shores much more frequently than on the inland parts of Wales, and the west of England; and this is one of the principal causes of producing such vast droves of horned cattle

every year from the counties of Pembroke, Carmarthen, Glamorgan, and Monmouth, the whole range of country being fitter for pasture than tillage, by reason of the moisture of the climate.

The soil is of various kinds, but generally productive and fertile. The peculiarity of the county arises from its woodlands, forests, and chaces, some of which are of great extent, and do not appear to have been private property. The dimensions of those woodlands and chaces have been, however, gradually and regularly diminished by grants, and the intermixture of industry and negligence. Nearly one-third of the county is a rich plain, or moor, upon the shore of the Severn; one-third is made up of beautifully variegated ground, watered by considerable rivers, the hillocks cultivated or woody, and one-third assumes the mildest character of mountain, abounding with lovely vallies.

POPULATION.

That of Monmouth, according to the returns of 1821, consisted of 37,278 males, and 34,555 females, making a total of 71,833 persons, occupying 13,371 houses.

RIVERS.

The principal in the county are the Wye, which enters it two miles above Monmouth, and in passing that town and Chepstow, falls into the Severn sea three miles below the latter. The Usk enters the county near Clydach, passes Abergavenny, Usk, Caerleon, and Newport, and falls into the Severn sea three miles below the latter. The Rumney forms the western boundary of the county.

Monmouthshire is abundantly watered with fine streams, as the Avon, Llwyd, Beeg, Berddin, Carn, Cledaugh, Ebwy fawr and fach, Fidan, Gavenny, Gruny, Houddy Kebby, Lumon, *Monow*, Morbesk, Mythix Nedern, Olwy, Organ, Pill, Port-Meyric, Rhyd-y-mirch, *Rumney*, *Severn*, Gorwy, Tilery, Troggy, Trothy, *Usk*, *Wye*, Ystwyth.

The *Mynow*, or Monow, rises in Brecknockshire,

pursues its course south-east, and dividing this county from Hereford, falls into the river Wye at Monmouth.

The *Rumney* rises in Brecknockshire, and shaping its course south-east, divides this county from Glamorganshire.

The *Usk* rises also amidst the black mountains of Brecknockshire, and, with a south-east direction, separates Monmouthshire into nearly two equal parts; it then falls into the Severn near Newport.

The *Ebwy* has its source also in Brecknock, and passing under the Beacon mountain, flows through the wild valley of Ebwy, and falls into the Usk below Newport.

The river *Wye*, which separates this county from Gloucestershire, rises in Radnorshire. It is navigable for large barges to Monmouth, and ships of 800 tons burthen come up to Chepstow, where the tide rises with great rapidity.

CANALS.

The Monmouthshire canal, began in 1792 and completed in 1798, is on the west side of the town, having a basin connected with the river Usk, and crosses the Chepstow road; from thence to Malpas, it pursues its route parallel to, and near the river Avon, by Pontypool to Pontnewidd, being nearly eleven miles, with a rise of twelve feet in the first mile, the remaining ten miles have a rise of 435 feet. From nearly opposite Malpas a branch takes its course parallel to the river Ebwy to near Crumlin-bridge. The Abergavenny canal communicates with the Brecon.

ROADS AND TRAM-WAYS.

Connected most essentially with the agricultural state of a county, is the condition of its roads. So singularly bad were the roads in Monmouthshire, antecedent to the turnpike act, that Valentine Morris, then representative for the county, being examined and interrogated what roads there were in Monmouthshire, replied "None." "How then do you travel?" "In ditches," replied the proprietor of

Piercefield. The roads were so wretched as to become proverbially bad: a Monmouth road implying one scarcely passable. They were simply hollows formed by the action of water between the hills, with large banks, and lofty hedges thrown up on each side to prevent trespass. "In these Alpine gutters, for by no other more appropriate term can they be designated, the centre is invariably the lowest part, and frequent transverse channels run across, to prevent the too rapid descent of carriages, or to convey the water to some adjacent ponds.

"Since the construction of turnpike roads, however, considerable amelioration has taken place in this department, and excepting those imperfections which arise from the natural inequalities of surface, the principal turnpike roads are as good as most in England, especially those from Newport to Caerdiff, from the New Passage to Usk, and from Usk to Abergavenny; the mode of specifying the distances, and pointing the traveller to the direct road, is peculiarly eligible."

The miles are developed by stones, having on each "London," inscribed above; below, the names of the parish, and the distance in Arabic numerals, placed between. The right and left corners of the upper part of the stone being taken off, form two other faces; on each is the initial of the place it inclines to, and the distance in numbers.

Directing posts are also set up in various places, which are highly requisite, in consequence of the sinuous course many of the provincial roads take, especially among the mountains.

FARM-HOUSES AND COTTAGES.

The farm-houses and buildings in this county are of two sorts: the old timber buildings covered with thatch, are still seen upon many farms; but the scarcity and dearness of timber preventing the repair and preservation of many of them, they have fallen into decay and disuse. Parts of the timbers have been employed in erecting stone-walled houses. Tile-

stone, a heavy but substantial covering, has been much in use, but it required strong timbers to support the weight of the stones laid in lime mortar, and sometimes in moss gathered from the neighbouring woods and morasses. This moss is preferred by many for barns and out-houses, where the natural moisture of the stone keeps it alive, and in a manner cements the stones together.

Thatched roofs have long been on the decline, on account of requiring so much straw to keep them in repair. Farm-yards, properly speaking, are scarce in this county. The farm-buildings, instead of being constructed in a square, so as to include a good warm farm-yard for cattle to winter in, are too frequently found in a scattered and random figure, affording the cattle neither shelter in winter or shade in summer.

Many plans of farm-yards have been published; but too many of them are so fantastically planned in sweeps, semi-circles, octagons, pentagons, and all the figures of geometrical construction, that it is irksome to see them on paper, and truly ridiculous to see them when built. A great deal of difficulty occurs in roofing them, and a deal of room is thrown away. The best form of a farm-yard, is considered to be that of a square or oblong, according to the circumstances of the ground. The whole should be so formed as to receive the most sunshine in the early part of the day. Farmers are too apt to covet a vast extent of barn-room, and even the hay has sometimes claimed the protection of a slated roof. Repairs of farm-buildings are done, or ought to be done, by the landlord; but these are generally best attended to by the tenants, when leases are granted.

COTTAGES.

There is nothing peculiar in the construction of cottages in this county, so far as regards those inhabited by farm-labourers. They are generally built upon the most frugal plans, and garden attached to them sufficient to supply the family with common vegetables. The addition of a cow leaze, or summer-

keep, is seldom desired, or even thought of, as the difficulty of keeping a cow in the first instance is almost insurmountable. A plan for building cottages adopted among the collieries and iron-works, has procured the double advantage of saving timber and preventing fires They are built in a row, to any number wanted, and contain one tier of cottages over another. The ground-tier are arched, and a strong party-wall runs between every two dwellings. The roof of the upper tier is covered with tile-stone or slate, and the whole has a firm and neat appearance.

RENT, AND SIZE OF FARMS.

The rent, and consequently the size of farms, vary considerably; and there are not many that would be deemed very large in the eastern parts of the kingdom. From sixty acres to 300, may be taken as the extent of farms throughout this county; but the lesser quantity predominates in point of numbers, and about 140 acres is, perhaps as near an average of the whole as may be.

LEASES.

The rapid advance in the value of land of late years, ought to have induced many landlords to have granted them of reasonable length, much more generally than they have been; for no extensive or permanent improvement can possibly be expected from a tenant at will. A lease for twenty-one years would, on the contrary, encourage the farmer to advance his capital with confidence, in draining, manuring, and otherwise improving the lands; and if the life of himself, his wife and child, were added, it would prove a still stronger stimulus to his spirit and industry. This would also add greatly to the landlord's importance at a county election, by giving him a preponderance of freeholders, and thus rendering him less dependent on the inferior class of voters.

TITHES.

These are mostly commuted: some instances occur, of their being paid in kind, but not many. A modus of twopence per acre for hay ground, prevails in the parishes of Magor, Redwick and Undy. The lands in

the level are titheable, and the value of the tithes is generally paid in money by the occupiers. Taking tithe in kind (though undoubtedly the right of the church), has been accompanied with much animosity between incumbents and parishioners; and has in no small degree been the occasion of the churches being so thinly attended.

IMPLEMENTS.

The variety of these in this part of the country, does not appear to have been very great till of late years, during which they have been introduced through the many persons who have come to settle here from different parts. Many of them were proprietors of iron-works, and others have bought estates in the county, and judiciously improved them. Since this period, the long Herefordshire plough has been generally set aside, and the Rotherham swing-plough adopted in its room.

CATTLE.

The best bred in the Vale of the hundred of Abergavenny, are of the Hereford kind, and much pains have been taken to procure bulls and heifers from that county, where the breed has been very highly improved, by the selection of the finest sorts under the care of intelligent breeders. "The fashion of blood," as it has been technically called, of the Herefordshire cattle, has long since been brought to such excellence, that extraordinary prices have been given for the hire of bulls only for one season, nearly equal to what the celebrated Mr. Bakewell obtained in the days of his famous stock of bulls.

Among the breeders of the Vale of Abergavenny, Major Morgan of Hill-house has been conspicuous for his cows, bulls and heifers. The oxen are bought in at three years old, and worked till six or seven by some farmers; others have preferred buying in the spring, and after working them during the summer on the farm, have sold them again in the autumn to the dealers, who drive them into the counties eastward of the Severn for sale. Glamorgan cows are preferred

by the women, as most profitable for the dairy; and the ploughmen approve of the Glamorgan oxen for team-labour, and for turning the quickest at the land's end in ploughing.

HORSES.

The breeding of horses is still necessary and profitable; and during the late war, there was a continual supply of them wanting for the cavalry, artillery, &c. This tempted farmers on tolerably roomy farms to breed colts for saddle and draught. The latter are most of the Herefordshire breed, strong, short, and compact in their make. There are but few horses reared in Ragland hundred, owing to the general wetness of the soil. The horse-teams in Abergavenny and Usk hundred, are good strong cattle, mostly black, and of the Hereford breed; some very good colts of the draught kind are seen in the vale; the native breed of the county is meagre, light, and uncompact, little adapted to the labours of the field, or to travelling.

MULES.

Before the formation of the numerous rail-ways and canals in this county, the services of mules in the hilly districts were invaluable. The breed of this animal is still kept up, mules are now chiefly employed in carrying charcoal from the woods to the iron-works. They will carry 300 weight, and follow their labours all the year round every day in the week; which constant work is found too laborious for horses to perform. Mules will also generally sustain these hard services for twenty-five years, whilst horses rarely continue them more than twenty years.

ASSES.

The town of Abergavenny has furnished employment for a considerable number of asses, and poor boys and girls to drive them; by which most of the inferior class of housekeepers in that town have been supplied with fuel, from the collieries on the hills to the westward of it.

SHEEP.

The sheep of Monmouthshire are in general very

small, and partake of the properties of the South Wales breed. They are slender in the bone, long in the leg, light in the carcass; the wool of a coarse but rather short staple, the flesh fine in its grain and of delicate flavour. Monmouthshire mutton is in high estimation in the metropolis, for its superior delicacy. The characteristic qualities of this species of cattle arises from the "migratory mode of feeding, and continual exposure to the vicissitudes of the weather."

This peculiar breed is chiefly prevalent in the hilly parts of the county: in the middle and lower districts are found some of the true Ryeland breed, and numerous crosses have recently been tried with the Coteswold, South Down, and Dorset. The spirit of improvement in this respect has been kindled, and since the establishment of provincial societies, for promoting improvements in agriculture, we trust that greater exertions will still be made in the cultivation of the fine and rich soil of Monmouthshire, as also in the breeding of the cattle.

WASTES.

Wentloog Hundred.—In the parishes of Bedwelty and Aberystwith, many extensive tracts of open commons have proved very unproductive, and unenclosed tracts of waste have been long complained of in Mynddyslywn, Risca, and Bedwas. The waste lands on this range of hills, at one period amounted to between fifteen and twenty thousand acres; this was some years previous to the enclosure act for the waste lands in the parish of Bedwelty. The parish of Trelleck, in the Ragland hundred, was much in the same predicament, and Caldicot-moor contained one thousand acres.—Earlswood-common, in the parish of Newchurch, was another valuable waste of about five hundred acres. The level of Wentloog is a tract of excellent fen land, about five thousand acres, extending along the coast from the mouth of Rumney river to the mouth of the Usk. Several other districts like this, previous to the recent acts of enclosure, were

almost wholly occupied in pasture and meadow, the plough being very little used in them.

EMBANKMENTS.

These upon Caldicot and Wentloog levels are perhaps peculiar to this part of the island. They are generally kept in good repair, and require a less degree of masonry work than others. Violent inundations have formerly covered the levels from Magor to Cardiff. In 1606, a flood rose five feet above the levels, drowning sheep, cattle, and some of the inhabitants. This is recorded by an inscription on the walls of St. Bride's church.—The embankments of Caldicot level are faced on the outside with stone, and so are many parts on the inside. The shape of these embankments are the reverse of what we see in Lincolnshire, and other fen countries; the steepest side being next the sea; and the longest slope towards the land. The sea face of the bank is very upright, nearly a perpendicular, and the original earth bank has been faced with a strong walling of stone work, in which the best cement has been used, to enable the wall to resist the force of the sea in high tides and stormy weather.

The land side of these embankments are faced with stone, to secure them from being washed away by the water which dashes over and falls in great bodies upon the inner face. Some parts are faced with sod within, and where a proper slope has been preserved, these sod facings are very firm, and are less expensive than those made of stone. It is very likely that the first proprietors of the embankments, left a large foreground between them and the sea, upon which the waves were broken before they arrived at the foot of the bank. Thus an embankment with a steep facing might resist the weight and force of the tides. The sea, however, has greatly encroached on these shores, and having washed away all the foreground, and arrived at the bank, which it began to undermine, the application of stone-work became indispensable; and thence arose the stone walls which now protect this

level from the ocean. Tradition says, that these marshes once extended to Denny, a little island lying three miles from the coast opposite Undy and Rogiet. In the memory of several persons lately living, the sea has gained upon the land at Goldcliff nearly half a mile. A facing of stone-work was made some years since, but it fell to pieces, owing to the workmen not having sunk a sufficient quantity of foundation for the wall. The priory of Goldcliff stands upon an eminence about forty feet higher than the coast east and west of it.

These sea-walls are maintained by the occupiers of the levels, by a prescriptive tax laid upon the lands in early times; but not in equal proportions to their value, &c. This has arisen from the landholders selling off parcels of land from time to time, and leaving the burthen of repairing the embankments upon those that remained unsold. Hence many small parcels have been forfeited to the Court of Sewers, as the land is forfeited whenever an owner has neglected to repair his portion of the sea-walls, and his rents are applied to defray the expence of repairs; if these are inadequate, the surplus charge is defrayed out of the general fund of the level, which is raised by an acre tax, in the same manner as in Wentloog level. Goldcliff is the property of Eton-college, and in a bright sun shiny day it appears illuminated. The stones of the cliff being covered with a yellow mundick, probably occasioned its name. The sluice-gates are hung by their sides, and are said to be frequently kept open by sticks, rushes, and other things carried down by the floods. The outfalls of the fens in Lincolnshire are guarded by flood-gates hung by the top, which are found to answer better than otherwise.

NATURAL PRODUCE, TRADE, AND MANUFACTURES.

The chief produce of Monmouthshire is iron-ore, coal, copper, limestone, free-stone, corn, oak and beech timber, oxen, sheep, mules, fine fish, particularly salmon, sewin and trout.

The trade consists in cloths, excellent flannels, and woollen stockings.

The extensive and valuable coal-mines in this county, were in a great measure shut up from general use until the year 1798. The exportation of coals from Newport to Bristol, Bridgewater, and the west of England, is now very considerable, and this branch of commerce is increasing every year.

The iron-works are the glory and pride of this county. The enterprising spirit of speculation is sufficiently displayed in the great works at Blaenavon, and other establishments on the north-western hills, which, owing to peculiar circumstances, and the local advantages of this county, are peculiarly great, as the district abounds in iron ore, coal, lime, numerous streams of water, and every requisite proper for this branch of business. These have been powerfully aided by mechanical powers, the use of the steam-engine, the improvements in hydraulic machinery, and the adoption of rollers instead of forge-hammers, called the "puddling process," by which bar-iron is formed with a degree of dispatch and exactness previously unknown. The extent and importance of these manufactories may be estimated by the following list.

Tredegar works, four blast furnaces worked by pit-coal and cokes, S. Homfray and Co.—Sirhowy works, two blast furnaces, pit-coal and cokes, Monkhouse and Co.—Rumney works, two blast furnaces, pit-coal or cokes, Hall and Co.—Union works, two blast furnaces, pit-coal or cokes, Hall and Co.—Beaufort works, two blast furnaces, pit-coal or cokes, Kendalls and Co.—Ebbwy works, two blast furnaces, pit-coal or cokes, Harfords, Crocker and Co.—Nant y glo works, two blast furnaces, pit-coal or cokes, Hill and Co.—Blaenavon works, four blast furnaces, pit-coal or cokes, Hill and Co.—Clyduch works, two blast furnaces, pit-coal or cokes, Frere and Co.—Abercarn works, furnace, forge and wireworks, charcoal, Hall and Co.—Machen works, Gellygwasted works, Bassaleg works, charcoal forge, &c. Partridge and Co.—Newport works, charcoal forge, &c. Jones and Co.—Caerleon works, charcoal forges and tin mills, Butler, Jenkins and Co.—

Abbey Tintern works, charcoal furnace, forges and wire works, Thomson and Co.—Pontypool works, charcoal furnaces, forges, &c. &c. Capel Leigh, esq.—Trostre works, charcoal forge, &c. Harvey and Co.—Monmouth works, charcoal forge, &c. Partridge and Co.—Llanvillis on the Monow works, charcoal forge, &c. Harfords and Co.

The principal articles of manufacture in this county are conveyed by the Monmouthshire canal, namely, coals, timber, manure, pig and different sorts of manufactured iron. The nature, extent, and importance of this canal, may be estimated by a reference to the most recent account of its tonnage, published by the canal company.

Within these twenty years iron rail-ways and tram-roads have been constructed on the most approved methods, in every part of the county, to communicate with the canals. Nearly 300 boats of burthen are at present employed on the canals, and the number of waggons used on the public tram-roads is very great indeed, when we consider the extent of the different branches to the collieries, furnaces, forges, iron mines, limestone and freestone quarries, &c.

The commercial importance of this county may be expected to increase for many years to come, by reason of the extension of the old canals and the establishment of new ones from the ports of Bristol to the centre of the kingdom, and from Bridgewater to the interior of Somersetshire, Wiltshire, Dorsetshire, Devonshire, &c.

Considerable tracts of land near the iron-works, are improved by the ashes therefrom, and the use of it is extending in every direction, as the facility of conveyance by the rail-roads affords opportunities of procuring it on moderate terms.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Mr. Hassal observes, with respect to this county, &c. "That an attempt to equalize weights and measures have generally failed, owing to the prejudices of the lower orders of the people. It is *quantity* that most of the

labouring poor look for in the market; they can exercise their own judgment as to *quality*, and therefore expect to see the grist-bag always filled up to its usual height.

"The difficulty of convincing the labouring poor, that buying and selling by weight, would greatly benefit them, has hitherto impeded the general introduction of weights in corn dealing; and it has always been found, at least wherever I have seen it tried, that the lower class of buyers, and especially the women, have raised clamours and riots against the introduction of weights. These riots have in some instances got to such a height, that even magistrates have been insulted in the open market, when in their official capacity, giving their aid and protection to the people who were exposing their articles to public sale according to rules prescribed by the laws of the land. Such being the case, the old and uncertain mode of selling by measure only, still prevails in this county and South Wales."

The measure of Monmouth market varies according to the district of country the corn is brought from. On the Herefordshire side, the measure is barely ten gallons; on the west side of the town the measure is ten and a half, or near eleven gallons. It is probable that when the Welsh grain was of inferior quality to that of their neighbours from Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, who were their rivals in the Monmouth market, the Welsh, in order to be upon a level with them, made up in quantity what they wanted in quality.

AGRICULTURE, AND LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Within half a century, more has been achieved in promoting an improved system of agriculture, than the wisdom of ages past had effected. In the mechanical as well as theoretical parts of this noble science, discoveries have been made of the most important nature. The old system of agriculture was not set aside until the immense advantages arising

from the improved plan of rural economy were forcibly impressed upon those most interested in the cultivation of land.

A farmers' club is held at Chepstow, and they meet once a month. The good effects of such clubs are felt locally, but cannot extend to any great distance from the places where they are held. Their funds too are so limited, as not to be capable of doing much in the way of premiums, and other such acts as mark the exertions of a well-regulated agri cultural society. Why such an institution has been so long delayed in the county of Monmouth, is a question to which it would be difficult to give a favourable and satisfactory answer.

Monmouth has, however, made rapid strides to improvement; as the establishment of canals and iron railways has given fresh life and vigour to every department of commerce and agriculture in the county. New companies have been formed; and old ones revived; agriculture is now assisted by the very great facility of conveying manure to the lands, and the produce to the markets, whilst an increased and increasing population establishes a certain demand for every kind of landed produce of this county. In some parts hops are grown; and in the hundreds of Ragland, Skenfreth and Abergavenny, the farmers make excellent cyder for home consumption, as well as for sale. The fisheries in the river Wye, Usk, and Rumney, produce a great annual supply of salmon, which are sent to Bath, Bristol, &c. for sale. Beech, elm, oak, and walnut trees, thrive uncommon well in this county, but the stock of large timber is much diminished, owing to the vast sums offered during the last war by merchants, for oak-bark and timber of every description.

During the sudden transition from war to peace, in 1814, and subsequent to that period, the oppressive operations of the poor laws were less felt in this county than perhaps any part of the kingdom.

Several friendly societies have been at different times enrolled at the Quarter Sessions, pursuant to acts of parliament thereunto relating.

The wages given to servants used in husbandry are as follows: first ploughmen, 7*s.* to 9*s.*; second 6*s.* a week each, with meat, drink and lodging; labourers 12*s.* a week in winter, 15*s.* a week in summer, finding themselves; and from 4*l.* to 8*l.* a year for women servants, according to their strength and abilities.

EMINENT OR LITERARY CHARACTERS.

This county has not produced many persons of eminence. Geoffrey of Monmouth was a native of this town. He was a learned monk of the Benedictine order, and wrote a translation into Latin of a British history, entitled, "*Brut y Breninodd*," or, The Chronicles of the Kings of Britain, &c. &c. He lived in the twelfth century.—Henry V. King of England, was also born in the town of Monmouth. It would be an act of the highest degree of injustice to literary genius and talents, to elaborate researches of antiquarian and historical information, not to pay a tribute to the unwearied exertions of the Rev. Archdeacon Coxe, in exploring this county. Scarcely ever has a British traveller acquired such just and well-merited renown as Mr. Coxe; his eulogium is, the approbation of the inhabitants of Europe and the world. Nor should we refuse the palm of merit to that pleasing and interesting tourist, Captain Barber. —And, finally, the late Rev. David Williams, the historian of Monmouthshire, the founder of the Literary Fund, has been eminently successful in developing the *arcana* of historical events, and adding to the stock of British literature an invaluable acquisition.

We have also to add our grateful acknowledgments to Mr. E. F. Barrett, for the liberal communications and corrections which he has furnished for the present work. Our apology for a partial deviation from his proposed arrangement of the materials, is only that of preserving the uniformity of the method pursued in

the other English counties. Besides the additional sheet of thirty-six closely-printed pages, not calculated upon by Mr. E. F. Barret, he has compelled us to enlarge many of his *abbreviations*, and to adopt other alterations, necessary in this improved edition.

However, "places commonly visited by tourists, or worthy of remark, have been generally described in the pages subsequent to those which contain an account of the towns near which such places are situated; it is obvious that such an arrangement is more useful and convenient to the reader, than the old method of describing the hundreds at the end of the Itinerary. The New Passage road, which is *the mail route*, and *principal road* in Monmouthshire, was omitted in Mr. Cooke's work. It is now described."

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF

THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH.

Monmouth is the county-town of the shire, and is situated on the rivers Monow and Wye. Leland and Camden derive its modern name from its local situation, as being placed near the confluence of these rivers. Monmouth, when a Roman station, was called "Blestium;" the Saxons afterwards occupied it, to secure the conquests between the Wye and Severn from the incursions of the Welsh. The castle was subsequently rebuilt by John, Baron of Monmouth, whence, in failure of issue, it was aliened to Prince Edward (afterwards King Edward I.) in 1257, and devolved to John of Gaunt by marriage with Blanch, daughter and heiress of Henry, Duke of Lancaster. It was long the residence of John of

Gaunt, whose son, Henry IV., was father of the illustrious hero, Henry V., the conqueror of Agincourt, who was born in Monmouth-castle, August 13, 1387, and from this circumstance was surnamed Henry of Monmouth. Edward IV. granted it to the Herberts, with whose other possessions it has devolved to the Dukes of Beaufort. Monmouth-castle, during the civil wars, was frequently the subject of contest. In 1646, Oliver Cromwell took Monmouth-castle, together with that of Ragland. While Cromwell was at Monmouth, a person of the name of Evans attempted to shoot him, in the parlour of a house then occupied by Mr. Fortune, at whose house the general was entertained. Evans was prevented from perpetrating this act by some by-standers, who were apprehensive that Cromwell's soldiers would burn the town, and destroy the inhabitants.

The houses are almost all white-washed, which gives this town a singular appearance to an English traveller. Monmouth was formerly moated and walled; only a part of the moat remains, stretching to the ruins of an old gateway near Ross-turnpike. Parts of two round towers which flanked the entrance of the south gate are visible, and the Monow gate is entire. Some vaults near the house of Mr. Cecil, of the Duffryn, are attributed to Anglo-Saxon, or earlier times.

The venerable remains of this fortress are so environed by other buildings as to be scarcely visible; yet many vestiges are to be discovered amidst tenements, stables, and barns. The chamber where King Henry was born, pertained to an upper story, and the beams which support the floor still project from the side walls, by which it appears to have been fifty-eight feet long by twenty-four broad; it had pointed arch windows, some of which yet remain. Within the site of the castle, or rather in the midst of this pile of ruins, is a handsome domestic edifice, constructed of stone, taken from the adjacent frag-

ments, which appears to have been an occasional residence of the Beaufort family.

Among the ancient edifices of this town was an alien priory, founded by Hamelin Balon, or Baladun, who came over with the Conqueror; one of his posterity, in the reign of King John, sent for a convent of Benedictine monks to be established here.—The site of the priory church occupied the space on which stands the present parish church; and the tower, with the lower part of the spire, are all the remains of the original edifice. It is said that Geoffrey of Monmouth, the celebrated English historian, belonged to this monastery. Part of this ancient priory forms the residence of Daniel Williams, esq. There was formerly an abbot and monks of the Cistertian order, whom King John privileged by freeing them of paying toll at Bristol.

Monmouth is in the hundred of Skenfreth, and contains 769 houses, and 3503 inhabitants. The town stands low among hills, pleasantly situated, and is neatly built; it is extensive, and contains some good buildings, but only one principal street, which runs east and west, is well-built, long, and spacious, terminating at the west at an old gate and bridge over the Monow. There are two other bridges; that over the Wye is built of stone, consists of several arches, and commands a beautiful view of sylvan scenery on its opposite bank.

St. Mary's church belonged to the priory, but the tower and lower part of the spire are all that remain of the monastic structure; the body of the church is extremely light and well-proportioned, and the range of columns separates the nave from the aisle, and supports an horizontal entablature. — St. Thomas's church, now a chapel to St. Mary's, is a small and ancient structure, near the foot of Monow-bridge; "the simplicity of its form, (says the Rev. Mr. Coxe), the circular shape of the door-ways, of the arch separating the nave from the chancel, and the style

of their ornaments, which bear a Saxon character, seem to indicate that it was built before the conquest."

There is also a chapel, once belonging to the makers of Monmouth caps, mentioned by Fluellen in Shakspeare's play of Henry V., the manufacture of which was afterwards removed to Bewdley, on account of a plague.

Here is a free-school, an excellent building, which was founded by William Jones, esq. in the reign of James the First, for the education of youth. Mr. Jones was an haberdasher and merchant of London, and acquired great opulence by trade, which enabled him to establish this meritorious institution. A singular story, relative to the founding of this school, is recorded in Coxe's History of Monmouthshire. Jones was a native of Newland, in Gloucestershire, but passed the early period of his life in a menial capacity at Monmouth; from thence he removed to London, and became shopman to one of the principal traders: he acquitted himself with such ability and fidelity in this situation, that he was admitted to the compting-house, and in this new capacity was equally acceptable to his employer, who sent him as his agent abroad, and then took him into partnership. Having realized an ample fortune, he quitted the metropolis, and returned to Newland, with the apparent exterior of great distress, and as a pauper applied to the parish for relief: being sarcastically advised to seek relief at Monmouth, where he had resided many years, he repaired thither, and experienced the charity of several inhabitants of that town. In gratitude for this philanthropic attention, he founded a free-school on a liberal plan, assigning to the master a house, with ninety pounds per annum salary; to the usher a salary of forty-five pounds yearly, with a house; and to a lecturer, for reading prayers, and preaching a sermon weekly, and inspecting the alms-houses which he had also established, an excellent house and garden, with a salary of one hundred guineas per annum.

These alms-houses were for twenty poor people, with a donation of three shillings and sixpence a week.

Without the north or Monk-gate, was Herchinfield, which Leland translates "*Campus Erinaceus*," a small tract belonging to the Earl of Shrewsbury. A broad and handsome street leads from Monowbridge to the market-place, which is decorated with a new town-hall, erected on columns, forming a noble colonnade. This hall is embellished with a most elegant whole-length figure of King Henry the Fifth, in compliment to the memory of that prince. This statue stands seven feet two inches high, and represents his majesty in armour, in resemblance of the dress the royal hero had on at the battle of Agincourt. This piece of sculpture was executed by Mr. Peast, of Fitzroy-street. The corporation of Monmouth, in commemoration of a prince born in the town, whose actions stand distinguished in the annals of English history, caused this statue to be erected at their own expence. On a marble tablet, underneath, is this inscription:

"Henry the Fifth, born at Monmouth,
August 13, 1387."

"The county gaol is a new, compact, massive building; its plan, which is visible in the airiness of the apartments, &c. reflects great credit on the magistrates."

The philanthropic Mr. Nield, the Howard of the nineteenth century, gives an interesting account of this prison, in a letter to Dr. Letsom. Mr. Nield visited this prison in 1806. The salary of the gaoler (says Mr. Nield) is one hundred guineas, *fees* and *garnish* abolished, yet the under sheriff demands half a guinea for his liberate, and the debtor is detained until it is paid. This gaol, which is also the county bridewell, has much the appearance of a castle; it is situated on a fine eminence; the boundary wall incloses about an acre of ground, built by the Duke of Beaufort. The outer gate has on one side the

turnkey's lodge, and a small room; on the other side is the wash-house and oven, and cistern for soft water. Up stairs are three cells for prisoners under sentence of death, seven feet six inches by six feet six, and nine feet high, well lighted, and ventilated; over these is a flat roof, where criminals are executed. The county allows to the common side debtors, a plank bedstead, a straw in sacking bed, a pair of sheets, a blanket, and a rug, and in the winter an additional blanket. There are five cells for solitary confinement, and two totally dark, for the refractory.

Mr. James Gabriel, of this town, who died March 26, 1754, bequeathed one hundred pounds, from which each prisoner receives, four times a year, a sixpenny loaf. The court yards, not being paved or gravel bottomed, are, from the nature of the soil, very damp, dirty, and almost useless. In the centre of the building is the chapel: in the attic story are also two good-sized infirmaries, one for men, the other for women. The act for the preservation of health, and clauses against spirituous liquors, are not hung up. Such is the account Mr. Nield gives of the county gaol of Monmouth. Of Monmouth town gaol he speaks very different: he observes that there is no chaplain or surgeon from the town if wanted; he describes it as very dirty, and abominably offensive; and this philanthropic traveller concludes with saying, "this wretched gaol is rendered additionally offensive by adjoining a manufactory for candles." (See Mr. Nield's letter, Gentleman's Magazine, November 1809).

The town of Monmouth is governed by a mayor, recorder, two bailiffs, fifteen common-council men, a town-clerk, and two serjeants at mace. The Duke of Beaufort is considered as the patron and leader of this town, and his interest is powerful in parliamentary elections. This town was once the barony of John Lord Monmouth. In 1625 the title of Earl of Monmouth was conferred on Robert Lord Carey, of Leppington; but was extinct upon the death of Henry

Carey, his son. King Charles the Second erected Monmouth into a dukedom in the person of James Fitzroy, his natural son, who, being attainted of high treason, was beheaded, by order of James the Second, on Tower-hill, July 15, 1685, in the 36th year of his age. Soon after the Revolution, the title of earl was renewed, in the person of the Right Honourable Charles Mordaunt, since which time it has been united to that of Peterborough.

The chief trade of Monmouth is with Bristol, by the river Wye, the picturesque scenery of whose banks has been charmingly delineated by the late Rev. W. Gilpin, of Boldre, New Forest, Hampshire. The trows, or trading vessels, sail regularly every fortnight (which is called spring week) from Monmouth to Bristol and Gloucester, by which conveyance goods are forwarded to every part of the kingdom.

The iron-works are the boast, and are the most important objects of trading consideration in every part of this county.—At Monmouth there are capital charcoal forges and iron works.

This town has a good and plentiful market on Saturdays, for corn and provisions of all sorts. The post goes out for London every morning, Sunday excepted. The London Royal Mail arrives at Monmouth every evening, and returns every morning at half past five. An annual race-meeting is held in the month of October, and is extremely well attended. The town is also enlivened by frequent assemblies and theatrical entertainments. The best inns are the Beaufort Arms, and the King's Head.

Some idea may be formed of the hospitality of the inhabitants of this town, from the provisions made for the Mayor's feast in 1820, as follows:

Presents already received for the Mayor's Feast in the Town-hall, on Wednesday, August 9th, 1820.

A BARON OF BEEF,

Hogshead of fine old cider—a whole sheep, and two

geese—three bushels of flour—rump of beef, and two ducks—loin of veal, and two fowls—forty gallons of cider—six bottles port wine—gammon of bacon—two bushels green peas—six dozen dinner rolls—leg of mutton—loin of veal—four ducks—lump of loaf sugar—a salmon—rump of beef, and dozen bottles of perry—four ducks—couple of fowls, quart of cream, basket of peas—rump of beef, vegetables, plumb pudding, and dozen bottles of cider—gammon of bacon—turkey—two bottles of rum—20*s.* in bread—gammon of bacon, and two fruit pies—two ducks—bushel of potatoes—two ducks—two dozen jellies, two dozen custards—four moulds blomonge, and biscuits—four fowls, bushel of peas—quarter of lamb, fruit pie—three bottles port wine—fourteen pounds of raisins and currants, seven pounds of sugar—bushel of flour—two tongues, two fowls, fruit pie.

Gammon of bacon, ducks and fowls—six bottles port wine—two pound-cakes—two bushels potatoes—round of beef—twelve fruit pies, twenty dozen of biscuits—two fowls and two ducks—four bottles port wine—two ducks—10*s.* in money—six dozen rolls—two ducks—leg of mutton—goose and two ducks—a turbot with lobsters—turkey, and six pounds of cherries.

A bushel loaf of the finest wheat flour—four fowls—two ducks—two hogsheads of fine cider, the subscription of twenty friends—quarter of lamb—loin of veal—

A NOBLE BARON OF BEEF,

voted at their annual meeting, on Thursday last, by the "Lantillio Cressenny Association."

One hundred loaves of bread—two fowls—cash 10*s.* 6*d.*—cash one guinea—cash one guinea—cash 5*s.*

Monmouth, July 29, 1820.

Additions from Saturday to Wednesday Evening.

Leg of mutton—cash 5*s.*—two tons of coal—gammon of bacon—rump of beef—two ducks—cash 5*s.*—

cash 5*s.*—two bottles port wine—half bushel green peas—two ducks—two bottles of rum—two bottles of rum—dozen bottles of wine—cash 10*s.*—gammon of bacon, four fowls, fruit pie—two tongues—gammon of bacon, and six bottles of wine—dozen bottles of wine—two bottles of wine—two fowls—four fowls—two bottles of rum—two bottles of rum—dozen lemons, four fruit pies—two fowls—leg of mutton, two fowls—haunch of mutton.

Additions from August 2, to August 7.

Threedozen hampers of superior port wine—three pints of rum—leg of mutton—gammon of bacon—hamper of wine (two dozen port, one dozen sherry)—six bottles of wine—fifteen friends, (to fill the bushel of punch), five guineas—twelve bottles of wine—two bottles of rum—cash one guinea—

A WHOLE BUCK,

six bottles of wine—sirloin of beef—leg of mutton, and sage cheese—cash 10*s.*—cash 5*s.*—cash one guinea—cash one guinea—six dozen dinner rolls, and bushel of potatoes—gammon of bacon, and two fowls—six bottles of wine—two bottles of rum—bushel of potatoes—cash 20*s.*—cash 20*s.*—cash 10*s.*—bottle of brandy—gammon of bacon, two fowls—cash 10*s.*—cash two guineas—cash one guinea.

Subscriptions on Monday, August 7.

Cash 20*s.*—*baron of veal*—leg of mutton, two bottles of rum—cash one guinea—four bottles of wine—ham and vegetables—

A WHOLE BUCK,

dozen bottles fine old port wine—dozen of fine old sherry—two whole lambs—two bottles of rum—six bottles of wine, two bottles of rum.

Eight o'clock, Monday evening.

From August 8, to August 9.

Six bottles of wine—six bottles of wine—three bottles of rum—two gin—two bottles of rum—two bottles

of rum—piece of old cheese, one bottle of brandy, one rum—four bottles of wine—fine turbot—two bottles of rum—leg of veal—two bottles of rum—one bottle of rum—goose—two fowls—two bottles of rum—peck of peas—haunch of venison—two ducks—six bottles of wine—cash 10*s.*—four fowls—basket of French beans—one bottle of brandy—ditto—bottle of brandy, six fruit pies—two bottles of brandy, two bottles of rum—four bottles of wine—six bottles of port—three bottles of port—two bottles of rum—gallon of brandy—two bottles of rum—dozen lemons—two bottles of rum—cash 10*s.*—two bottles of rum—two bottles of brandy—cash 10*s.* 6*d.*—cash 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*—cash 10*s.*—two bottles of rum—dozen bottles of claret wine—four bottles of fine wine—cash 10*s.*—roasting pig—ditto—cash 5*l.*—two large salmon.

CHARLES HEATH, *Mayor.*

In the gardens of the Rev. Mr. Crowe, head-master of the free-school at Monmouth, were found in 1767, two coins of Constantine the Great, with this inscription:

Imp. Constantinus. P. F. Aug.
Marti, Patri, Propugnatori. T. F. P. T. R.
Mars Gradivus: dextra hasta, Sinistra Scutum.

The other had the following:

Imp. Constantinus. Aug.
Soli Invicto.

This town, as we have before observed, is aggrandised by being the birth-place of King Henry the Fifth. The very earliest part of his life was spent in this county. The juvenile character of this prince is well known, and has been delineated in glowing colours by our immortal bard. His conduct after his accession to the crown, was as meritorious as it had previously been irregular, when heir-apparent: he discarded all his former acquaintance, and devoted

himself to sedulous attention to the important duties of his royal and august function. He raised this country to the highest pitch of glory, and in the field of battle covered himself with never-fading laurels. He was a great prince, and a mighty warrior; but there was one circumstance which tarnished the glory of his reign; namely, his ungrateful conduct to the brave and excellent Sir John Oldcastle, Lord Cobham, whom he ungenerously sacrificed to gratify the sanguinary desires of a proud and tyrannical clergy.

Monmouth, as before remarked, has also to boast of an eminent and ancient English historian, who, like the royal personage we have just mentioned, was named from being born in the town, namely, Geoffrey, or Jeffrey of Monmouth. He was a Benedictine monk, archdeacon of Monmouth, and bishop of St. Asaph, 1151; being obliged to quit Wales in consequence of existing circumstances, the guardianship of Abendon Abbey was committed to him by King Henry the First; but, resigning his bishopric with a view to that abbey, he lost both.

Of Geoffrey it has been judiciously observed, "that he seemed in this country to have been the founder of a sect that has since flourished to a great degree, we mean that of those ingenious persons who, in weaving the tissue of history, have considered truth as the *warp*, and fiction as the *shoot*, and have blended them together in such a manner that it is impossible for any labour to *unravel*. His invention seems to have been amazingly fertile, for he is the first author that mentions Brute, and the prophecies of Merlin. For these excursions into the regions of fancy he was severely censured by the *matter of fact* writers of his age. His history is full of legendary tales, which, however, have been adopted by several subsequent historians, amongst whom our Milton stands in the foreground." All these writers, it may be added, have been infinitely surpassed in the art of mixing truth with fiction, by the celebrated Sir Walter Scott.

Monmouth is 129 miles from London, by way of Colford, and 131 by Ross. On the right is a road to Ross and Hereford; and on the left to Chepstow. On the right is Lynmore-lodge, late the seat of Earl Powis. A mile before, on the left, across the river Wye, is Troy-house, the seat of the Duke of Beaufort, which is again seen about a mile beyond Monmouth, on the left. This house is situated in the parish of Mitchel Troy, watered by the small rivulet Trothy. Old Troy was for a long time the seat of the Herberts. It afterward came into that of the Somersets. Of the ancient mansion only an old gateway with a pointed arch, is left standing. The present edifice was built by Inigo Jones; the apartments are well proportioned, convenient, and not devoid of splendour. There were formerly very fine gardens and orchards attached to this house. King Charles the First being on a visit to the Marquis of Worcester, Sir Thomas Somerset, brother to the Marquis, sent a present from Troy-house, for his Majesty, consisting of the fairest and ripest fruits. The Marquis gave this present to his Majesty, saying, "Here I present your Majesty with that which came not from Lincoln that was, nor London that is, nor York that is to be: but from Troy." The King smiled, and said to the Marquis, "Truly, my Lord, I have heard that corn grows where Troy town stood; but I never thought there had grown any apricots before."

In Troy-house there was to be seen the cradle, said to have been that in which Henry the Fifth was nursed, and the armour he wore at the battle of Agincourt. In the same road is Lydart-house, a seat of the late Colonel Evans, who was mortally wounded before Valenciennes.

The walks and rides in the environs are singularly beautiful, and afford the most enchanting, and diversified prospects.

Near Monmouth stands a very lofty hill called the "Kymin." It is a favourite resort of the inhabitants. Here is a naval temple in honour of Lord Nelson,

and our other marine heroes; from thence is a most superb view of the banks of the Wye from the New-Weir to Monmouth. On the south-east you see in front of an eminence not a mile distant, the "Buck-stone" (vulgarly so called, from a silly legend about a buck) a famous rocking stone of the Druids. In ancient times the priests delivered the oracles, according to the vibrations of the stone. The form of the Buck-stone is an irregular square inverted pyramid, ten feet in height.

Two miles and a half from Monmouth is Wynastow, or Wonastow, a small parish in the lower division of Skenfreth hundred, distant from London 133 miles. Wynastow-court, situated on a rising ground, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth was the seat of Sir Thomas Herbert, and was afterwards the property of the Milborne family, but is now the residence of Thomas Swinnerton, esq. On the left of the village is a turnpike road to Usk. A mile and a half beyond is Dynastow-place, a seat of the late James Duberly, esq. Mr. Duberly leaving no son at his decease, his estates were sold and disposed of, viz.. Stanmore Priory, Middlesex, to the Marquis of Abercorn, Enshamhall, Oxon, to Col. Power, and Dynastow, to Samuel Bosanquet, esq. the present proprietor.

Proceeding on, we arrive at the village of Raglan, or RAGLAND, which gives name to the hundred. It is chiefly celebrated on account of its castle, which Leland calls "A fayre and pleasant castle, with two goodly parks." This castle, says Gough, is one of the finest remains in any part of Wales. Some antiquarians have asserted, that there is no part of this castle anterior to the reign of Henry V.; but it is evident that the keep-tower, a large hexagon, defended by bastions, and surrounded with a moat and raised walks, is an indubitable Norman single fortress, resembling Berkeley, and many others built in the reign of Henry II.

Dugdale, in his Baronage, and Smythe in his M. S. lives of the Berkeleys, says, "Richard Strongbowe

(temp. Hen. II.) gave the domains and castle of Ragland to Sir Walter Blewitt, whose descendant, Sir John Blewitt, (temp. Hen. IV.) gave his only daughter and heiress, Isabel, in marriage to Sir James Berkeley. On the death of Sir James Berkeley, Isabel, Lady of Ragland, espoused Sir William ap Thomas, (temp. Henry V.) from whom the castle devolved to the Herberts, Earls of Pembroke, and afterwards by marriage to the Somersets, Earls of Worcester, ancestors of his Grace of Beaufort, the present proprietor.

In the 14th 15th and 16th centuries, were added to the old Norman keep, the range of buildings which form the two grand courts and banquetting-hall. In 1648, Henry, first Marquis of Worcester, defended Ragland-castle with the most heroic loyalty for King Charles I., being the last that held out for his sovereign in the kingdom. He surrendered it only upon honourable terms to General Fairfax, after sustaining a siege of three months. It was probably reduced to its present state by this siege; but it still retains many traces of its former magnificence. The great hall, 65 feet by 28, is entire, except the roof. The arch of the great kitchen chimney, which is hexagonal, consists of two stones, and measures twelve feet.

"Of these noble ruins," says Mr. Coxe, "the grand entrance is the most magnificent; it is formed by a Gothic portal flanked with two massive towers; the one beautifully tufted with ivy, the second so entirely covered, that not a single stone is visible. At a small distance on the right appears a third tower, lower in height, and presenting a highly picturesque appearance. The porch, which still contains the grooves for two portculisses, leads into the first court, once paved, but now covered with turf, and sprinkled with shrubs. The eastern and northern sides contained a range of culinary offices." The stately hall which separates the two courts, seems to have been built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and contains the reliques of ancient hospitality and splendour: the

ceiling has tumbled into ruins, but the walls yet remain. This was the great banquetting-room of the castle. At the extremity are placed the arms of the first Marquis of Worcester, surrounded with the garter, and underneath is the family motto—*Mutare vel timere sperno*—" I scorn to change or fear."

The stone frames of the windows of the state apartments, observes Mr. Wyndham, would not be considered as inelegant even at present. The western door of the hall led into the chapel, which is now dilapidated, but its situation is marked by some of the flying columns rising from grotesque heads which supported the roof. At the upper end are two rude whole length figures in stone, which Mr. Heath the bookseller, of Monmouth, recently discovered under the thick clusters of ivy."

Beyond the foundations of the chapel is the area of the second court, skirted with a range of buildings, which, at the time of the siege, formed the barracks of the garrison. Not the smallest traces remain of the marble fountain which once occupied the centre of the area, and was ornamented with the statue of a white horse.

The strength of the walls is so great, that if the parts yet standing were floored and roofed in, this castle might even now be formed into a splendid and commodious habitation. From the second court, a bridge thrown across the innermost moat, leads to the platform or terrace, which almost surrounds the castle. It was greatly admired by King Charles the First. It forms a noble walk of sixty feet in breadth, and three hundred in length, commanding a delightful and extensive prospect. Churchyard the poet, describes, in his obsolete and peculiar language, the grand appearance of this citadel in the reign of Queen Elizabeth:

" Not far from thence a famous castle fine,
That Ragland hight, stands moted round,
Made of free stone, upright, and straight as line,
Whose workmanship in beauty doth abound.

The curious knots wrought all with edged toole,
The stately tower, that looks o'er pond and poole,
The fountain trim that runs both day and night,
Doth yield in shew a rare and noble sight."

The Worthiness of Wales.

In 1469 Lord Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, then owner of this castle, raised an army of Welshmen in favour of Edward IV. against the Lancastrians, under the command of the Earl of Warwick. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Danes-moor, and was beheaded at Banbury. As he was laying his head on the block, he gave a memorable instance of fortitude and fraternal affection. He said to a knight who superintended the execution, "Let me die, for I am old; but save my brother, for he is young, lusty and hardy; mete and apt to serve the greatest prince in Christendom." The Earl of Pembroke was one of the richest and most powerful nobles in the kingdom.

When this castle was surrendered to Sir Thomas Fairfax, there were among the besieged the Rev. Dr. Bailey, youngest son of Lewis, Bishop of Bangor, and author of that celebrated work, "The Practice of Piety." Dr. Bailey was educated at Cambridge, but took his diploma at Oxford. He was made sub-dean of Wells, and, strange to relate, he afterwards acted as a commissioned officer in the defence of Raglan-castle. He framed the articles of capitulation, and attended the Marquis of Worcester until his death. Having severely reprobated the measures of the Commonwealth, he was imprisoned in Newgate. Escaping from his confinement, he repaired to Holland, and while there, embraced the Roman Catholic religion. From that time the career of this singular man was marked with obscurity; he enlisted in the army as a common soldier, and died in an hospital at Bononi.

The grand establishment of the first Marquis of Worcester appeared like the retinue of a sovereign prince: he supported a garrison of 800 men; and on the surrender of his castle, there were, besides his family and friends, no less than four colonels, eighty-

two captains, sixteen lieutenants, six cornets, four ensigns, four quarter-masters, and fifty-two esquires and gentlemen. The parliament acted in the most dishonourable manner to this great and gallant nobleman, who did not long survive this treatment. He was buried in his family vault in Windsor-chapel.

In the church are some mutilated monuments of the Earls and Marquisses of Worcester. Here was interred Edward, second Marquis of Worcester, who had been created during his father's lifetime Earl of Glamorgan. He devoted his life to the promotion of science, and was author of "A Century of the Names and Scantlings of Inventions;" from the 68th article of which, it is supposed that Captain Savary took the first hint of the steam-engine. The marquis died in 1667.

Ragland gives title of baron to the descendants of Charles Earl of Worcester, natural son of Henry Duke of Somerset, (who had been beheaded by order of Edward IV. 1463), of whom Henry was by King Charles II. advanced to the title of the Duke of Beaufort; and his great-grandson Henry, now enjoys this honour, being the fifth duke.

The village of Ragland contains about 125 houses, and 633 inhabitants. The inn here is the Beaufort Arms. On the right is a road to Chepstow and Usk.

Leaving Ragland, about two miles and a half beyond, on the right of the road, is Llanarth-court, the seat of John Jones, esq. the representative of an ancient Roman Catholic family. The old mansion of Llanarth-court was pulled down by the present proprietor, and a handsome house built on its site; the front of which is decorated with an elegant Doric portico, similar to that of a famous Greek temple at Pæstum in Italy. It stands on a gentle ascent, from which the eye alone may discern a verdant vale without a single hill or mountain; a view singularly the reverse of every other in this county.

Three miles from Ragland is Clytha, and near this, the castle of Clytha, the seat of William Jones, esq.

A mile from Clytha, we arrive at Llanvihangel juxta Usk, a parish in the lower division of Abergavenny hundred, containing about 76 houses, and 360 inhabitants. A little on the right is Llansanfraed-court, originally the seat of Thomas ap Gwillim, who was allied to the illustrious families of Pembroke, Caernarvon, and Powis. Ap Thomas dying in 1460, it passed, on the extinction of the male line of his descendants, to the family of Rickards of Bredon's-Norton, Worcester. The view from the lawn before the house, is peculiarly pleasing; it commands a fine undulating tract rising from the banks of the Usk, and crowned by the Coed y Bunedd; from thence a lower ridge gradually descending, terminates in a rich knoll of wood at Pant-y-goitre. To the north-west appears the Blorenge; on the north, the elegant cone of the Sugar-loaf towers above the knoll of the Little Skyrrid; and to the east, rises the broken ridge of the Great Skyrrid. Llansanfraed church is of great antiquity, but formed like a barn, with a small belfry, the ropes of which descend into the church. It has been recently repaired by Mr. Rickards, the patron of the living. There is a curious monument here, with an inscription closing with the following lines:

"For an eternal token of respect
To you, my sires, these stones I doe erect.
Your worthy bones deserve of me, in brass,
A rarer tomb than stately Hatton has.
But sithe my means no part of such affords,
Instead thereof accept this tombe of words."
14. Sept. 1624.

This is supposed to contain a pedigree of the Herbert family. In the vicinity of Llansanfraed are several country seats, which form an agreeable neighbourhood, and add to the beauty of the surrounding scenery, by the improved state of their cultivation.

In the parish of Llanvihangel Tavarn-bach, about three miles west of Monmouth, was a small Cistertian abbey, called "*Grace Dieu:*" the remains of this mo-

nastery are situated upon the banks of the Trothy. A farm on the opposite side of the river, was the park belonging to the abbey, and hence it is called "Park Grace-Dieu Farm;" the house of which is built on the site of the anterior lodge. This abbey was founded 1226, by John of Monmouth, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It was destroyed by the Welsh in 1233, but afterwards rebuilt. Leland mentions it as "an abbey of White Monks, standing in a wood, and having a rill running by it."

From Llanvihangel we proceed to Llangattock, a village consisting of about 48 houses, and 298 inhabitants, in the hundred of Abergavenny, and 142 miles from London. After having passed Colebrooke-house, the seat of John Hanbury Williams, esq. a mile and a half before we arrive at Abergavenny, is a road to Pontypool, Newport, and Usk. Llangattock-house is the seat of the Rev. M. Lucas. The country here still exhibits an unique and pleasing assemblage of diversified objects.

Abergavenny is divided into higher and lower divisions. It is 145 miles from London, and contains 695 houses, and 3471 inhabitants. It is a large and flourishing town, and derives its name from being at the confluence of the Gavenny with the Usk. A more beautiful position than this town occupies, can rarely be found: bold projecting hills form on every side a natural basin of no small extent; and the two rivers unite their streams amidst a most verdant range of meadows. Its Gothic bridge, a venerable church, and the slender remains of its castle, are objects that claim pre-eminence in the landscape. The castle was a very strong hold in feudal times, and was enlarged, if not built, by Hamelin de Baladun, a Norman chieftain, who came over with William the Conqueror. It was held successively by the De Lisles, the Braoses, the Cantalupes, the Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick and Worcester; De Hastings, Earls of Pembroke and Huntingdon; and, lastly, the family of the Nevilles, whom the possession of it now ennobles. In 1172 it

was taken by Systylt ap Dyfnwald, a Welsh prince, but afterwards restored by him to William de Braos, who invited Systylt and his son Geoffrey to conclude a treaty of amity at this place, when, a dispute ensuing, the two latter were both barbarously murdered. This castle now gives title to the Right Hon. Henry Viscount Neville, Earl and Baron of Abergavenny. This title is the only one remaining of those numerous baronies conferred by the kings on the great Norman chieftains, and, like the earldom of Arundel, is a feudal honour or local dignity enjoyed by possession or inheritance of Abergavenny castle, without any other creation.

The town was formerly walled, and the western entrance, called "Tudor's-gate;" a strong Gothic portal, still exists, through the arch of which is a much-admired perspective view of the adjacent scenery.

Abergavenny appears to have been the Gobannium of Antoninus; and several Roman bricks and coins have been found in a field near the bridge. Soon after the Conquest, an alien priory of Benedictine monks was founded here by Hamelin de Baladun, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. William de Braos (temp. Joh.) gave all the tithes of his castle to this priory, upon condition that the monks of St. Vincent's abbey, in France, (to which this convent was a cell), should daily pray for the soul of himself, his wife, and King Henry the First. Here, at the dissolution, were a prior and four monks; and "their revenues amounted," says Dugdale, "to 129*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*" Some few traces of the priory exist. St. Mary's, now the principal church, was also the collegiate chapel of the priory. It is a handsome and spacious Gothic structure, and was originally built in the shape of a cathedral. In the interior are some very curious ancient monuments —the cemetery of the Herberts, and tombs of some barons of Abergavenny. The choir retains its original state, with stalls on each side, of oak rudely carved. In this church were buried, among other worthies of old, the Earl of Pembroke, and his brother, Sir Ri-

chard Herbert, who were both taken prisoners whilst fighting for the House of York at the battle of Danesmoor, and afterwards beheaded. Here also are the monumental effigies of their parents, Sir William ap Thomas, and his wife Gladys, daughter of Sir David Gam, and widow of Sir Roger Vaughan: the two latter fell in defending the person of Henry V. at the memorable battle of Agincourt. On the north side of the church are two very ancient recumbent figures of knights completely armed, the one in stone, the other in Irish oak, supposed to be memorials of two barons of Abergavenny.

St. John's was formerly the parish-church, but at the dissolution, it was appropriated by Henry VIII. to the free school which he then endowed. Being in a state of decay, it was taken down about sixty years ago, and rebuilt in its present form, with a handsome embattled tower. The master of the free school is, in case of a vacancy, nominated by the warden and fellows of Jesus college, Oxford.

At Abergavenny are several meeting-houses, and one Roman Catholic chapel. Here is carried on some trade in flannels, which the country-people manufacture at home, and bring to this town to sell. The adjacent mountains abound with iron-ore, coal, and lime, and there are several iron-founderies in the vicinity; the most celebrated of which are the Blaenavon works, Messrs. Hill and Co. These establishments are daily increasing, and afford full occupation to the poor in the neighbouring parishes.

This town, on the whole, is handsome and well built, and is governed by a bailiff, recorder, and twenty-seven burgesses. It is a great thoroughfare from the western parts of Wales to Bristol and Bath, by Chepstow; and to Gloucester, by Monmouth, crossing the river, through Colford and the Forest of Dean. The traveller should notice the curious old Gothic bridge of fifteen arches over the Usk river. Society is here very agreeable, and there are some elegant country-seats in the environs. The enchanting sce-

nery and salubrity of the air, cause this place to be much frequented by invalids and strangers in the summer-time. At Abergavenny are occasionally public balls and theatrical performances. The post-office opens every morning at eight o'clock, and shuts every evening at ten. The London mail arrives every evening at half past nine, and returns at half past two in the morning. The market-day is Thursday. The best inns are the Angel, and the Greyhound.

Objects in the Environs and Vicinity of Abergavenny.

The traveller who is fond of extensive prospects and romantic views, will not fail to visit the summits of the Blorenge—the Skyrridd-vawr, or St. Michael's-mount; the Skyrridd-vach, and the Sugar-loaf mountains. Coldbrook-park, in the neighbourhood of Abergavenny, is delightfully situated at the foot of the Skyrridd-vach, in the midst of grounds well wooded and tastefully variegated. The ancient mansion is an irregular structure, with a square tower at each end; the north front, with an elegant Doric portico, was erected by Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, K. B. The portraits of Major Hanbury and Sir Charles Hanbury Williams have been engraved in Mr. Coxe's historical tour. Besides the family pictures, here are original portraits of Henrietta, wife of King Charles the First, by Vandyke; a head of Oliver Cromwell; William the Third, and Queen Mary; George the Second; the Duke of Cumberland; Sir Robert Walpole; Lord Harvey; Lord Carteret; Signora Frasi, the celebrated singer; Mrs. Woffington; Mrs. Oldfield, and General Churchill. Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, who resided at this mansion, and who was so famous for his wit, his poetry, and diplomatic talents, was born in 1709, and educated at Eton college. Having made the tour of Europe, he assumed the name of Williams, in consequence of immense property left to his father, and in 1732 married Lady Frances Coningsby, daughter of the Earl of Coningsby. He was member for the county

of Monmouth, and uniformly supported the measures of Sir Robert Walpole. Sir Charles was in peculiar habits of intimacy with the first literary characters of the age. At this time he amused himself with writing several severe *jeu d'esprit;* one of which was on the marriage of Mr. Hussey with Isabella, daughter of the Duke of Montague; another pasquinade on the Irish nation, gave great offence to various individuals of that country. The offensive couplets were these:

> "Nature indeed denies them sense,
> But gives them legs and impudence,
> That beats all understanding."

Several Irish gentlemen sent challenges to the writer; in fine, to avoid a constant succession of duels, Sir Charles was obliged to retire into Monmouthshire. In 1746 Sir Charles was made a Knight of the Bath, and appointed envoy plenipotentiary to the court of Dresden; he afterwards was sent to the courts of Berlin and St. Petersburgh. In 1759 Sir Charles unfortunately became insane, and died two years after, in the 59th year of his age.

Werndee, about two miles from Abergavenny, was originally a seat of the Herberts. The illustrious progenitor of this noble family was Henry de Herbert, chamberlain to King Henry I. The last lineal male descendant of the elder branch of this family, was Mr. Proger, who resided here, and died about thirty years ago, leaving an only daughter, a nun.

Of this gentleman Mr. Coxe relates an amusing incident, illustrative of this gentleman's pride of ancestry: "Mr. Proger accidentally met a stranger near his house, who was making various inquiries relative to the mansion and its vicinity. "Pray," said the gentleman to Proger, "whose is this antique mansion before us?"—"That, Sir," replied the proprietor of Werndee, "is Werndee, a very ancient house; for *out of it* came the Earls of Pembroke, of the first line, and the Earls of Pembroke, of the second line; the Lords Herbert of Cherbury; the

Herberts of Coldbrook, Rumney, Cardiff, and York; the Morgans of Acton; the Earl of Hunsdon; the Jones's of Treowen and Lancaster, and all the Rowells: but of this house also, by the female line, came the Duke of Beaufort."—"And pray, Sir, who lives there now?"—"I do, Sir."—"Then pardon me, Sir, do not lose sight of all these prudent examples; but come *out of it* yourself, or it will tumble and crush you."

There was another family-seat of the Herberts at Penthir, near Grosmont. The extensive manors that were attached to it, extended to Ross. A curious anecdote is related of a contest for precedence between the houses of Penthir and Werndee. This dispute was carried on with as much inveteracy as the civil wars between the Houses of Lancaster and York.

"Mr. Proger of Werndee, in company with a friend, returning from Monmouth to his mansion, was suddenly overtaken by a violent storm; and unable to proceed, he groped his way to find an asylum from the pelting pitiless storm at his cousin Powell's at Penthir. The family had retired to rest, but the weather-beaten travellers thundered again and again at the doors of the castellated mansion, and soon awoke them from their slumbers. Cousin Powell, petrified with astonishment, threw open the window, and demanded with a loud and sonorous voice, to be informed what was the cause of his being thus disturbed at so unseasonable an hour. He was soon made acquainted with the predicament of the travellers, and having heard their request, replied, "What! is it you, cousin Proger? You and your friend shall be instantly admitted; but upon one condition, that you will never dispute with me hereafter, upon my being the head of the family."—"No, Sir," returned Mr. Proger—"were it to rain swords and daggers, I would drive this night to Werndee, rather than lower the consequence of my family." A long series of arguments was now brought forward to defend the

pedigree and rights of ancestry on each side. The discussion of the subject led to fierce and hostile language, and cousin Powell and cousin Proger, and his friend, parted in the bitterest animosity—Proger braving the fury of the elements, sooner than renounce the honours of his house."

Werndee is a poor patched-up house, though once a most magnificent mansion. Llanfoist church, in this hundred, contains a monument erected to the memory of Mrs. John Hanbury Williams, with the following pathetic poetical inscription, expressive of conjugal affection.

Stranger or friend, with silent steps and slow,
Who wand'rest pensive thro' this hallow'd gloom,
Muse on the fleeting date of bliss below,
And mark, with rev'rence due, Eliza's tomb;

For 'tis not pride that rears this sculptured stone,
To spread the honours of heraldic fame!
Here Love connubial pours the plaintive moan,
And dews, with bitter tears, Eliza's name.

Here sad Remembrance fondly loves to dwell,
And wrings with woe a widow'd husband's breast,
While aye she points to the dark narrow cell
Where the cold ashes of Eliza rest.

Stranger or friend! hast thou a partner dear?
Go—press her closer to thy aching heart;
With silent wing the moment hastens near,
The dreadful moment, when ye too must part.

At the distance of three miles from Llangwa, where formerly there was an alien priory of Black Monks, is the site of an ancient Roman encampment, called Campston-hill. An adjoining house, called Campston-lodge, was once honoured by the presence of that unfortunate monarch, King Charles I., who dined there.

The hundred of Abergavenny is the most mountainous district of the county. Mr. Britton describes this tract as an " Alpine concatenation of contracted

and extended chains, isolated mountains, steep ridges, and abrupt crags." From the foot of the lofty hill called the Gaer, an old military station, rises near the oblong-shaped, heath-covered mountain of Brynaro; opposite to which, on the east, rises the Skyrridd-vawr, called also the Great Skyrridd, or St. Michael's-mount; near which is the Skyrridd-vach, or Little Skyrridd. To these succeed the four Pennyvale hills, surmounted by the Sugar-loaf, so named from its curious conical form. North of the Brynaro, are those sombre, dark-looking hills, called the Black Mountains, as also the Hatterel hills. "A principal excursion from Abergavenny," says the intelligent Captain Barber, "is that which leads northward to the ruins of Llanthony Abbey and Ewia's Vale. The first part of the route lies through a romantic pass, between the Skyrridd and Sugar-loaf mountains. Proceeding about two miles, the church of Llandilo Bertholly appears on the right; and not far from it, an antique mansion, called White-house. From this spot a ditch-like road, almost impracticable for carriages, strikes off among the mountains,

"Through tangled forests, and through dangerous ways,

carried upon precipices impendent over the brawny torrent of Honddy. Sometimes the road opens to scenes of the most romantic description, and, at an immense depth beneath, the impetuous torrent is seen, raging in a bed of rocks and mountains of the most imposing aspect, rise from the valley—

"The nodding horrors of whose shady brows,
Threat the forlorn and wand'ring traveller."

Immediately to the left rises the Gaera huge rocky hill, crowned with an ancient encampment. On the opposite side of the river, fearfully hanging on a steep cliff, beneath a menacing hill, bristled with innumerable crags, is the romantic village of Cwmvoy.

Landscapes of the boldest composition would be

continual, but that the road, formed into a deep hollow, and overtopped by hedge-row elms, excludes the traveller from almost every view but that of his embowered tract. The pedestrian, however, is at liberty while ranging among heaths and fields above the road, to enjoy the wild grandeur of the country, which will hardly fail to repay him for his additional toil."

The secluded Vale of Ewias is situated amidst the Black mountains, and is watered by the Honddy. Giraldus Cambrensis, a writer of the twelfth century, whose works have been recently republished and translated by Sir Richard Hoare, thus describes Ewias Vale: "A deep valley, quiet for contemplation, and retired for conversation with the Almighty, where the sorrowful complaints of the oppressed are not heard, nor the mad contentions of the froward disturb, but a calm peace and perfect serenity invite to holy religion. But why (exclaims Giraldus), do I describe the situation of the place, when all things are so much changed since the primitive establishment? The broken rocks were traversed by herds of wild and swift-footed animals. These rocks surrounded and darkened the valley, for they were crowned with tall towering trees, which yielded a delightful prospect at a distance to all beholders both by sea and land.

"The middle of the valley, although clothed with wood, and sunk into a narrow and deep abyss, was sometimes disturbed by a strong blighting wind; and at other times, obscured with dark clouds and violent rains, incommoded with severe floods, or heaped up with snow, while in other places, there was a mild and gentle air.

"The large and plentiful springs from the neighbouring mountains fell with a pleasant murmuring into a river, in the midst of the valley, abounding with fish. Sometimes, after great rains, which were extremely frequent, the floods, impatient of controul, inundated the neighbouring places, overturning rocks, and tearing up great trees by the roots. These spacious mountains,

however, contained fruitful pastures and rich meadows for feeding cattle, which compensated for the barrenness of other parts, and made amends for the want of corn. The air, though thick, was healthful, and preserved the inhabitants to an extreme old age; but the people were savage, without religion, vagabonds, and addicted to stealth; they had no settled abode, and removed as wind and weather induced them."

Such is the account of the Vale of Ewias, and its inhabitants, by Giraldus Cambrensis.

In this vale are the ruins of the once famous abbey of Llanthony. Here, according to tradition and ancient legends, was the hermitage of St. David, the patron saint of Wales, where, says Drayton,

" He did only drink what crystal Honddy yields,
" And fed upon the leeks he gathered in the fields;
" In memory of whom, in each revolving year,
" The Welshmen on his day that sacred herb do wear."

The following interesting inscription for a monument in the Vale of Ewias, is by R. Southey, esq.

Here was it, stranger, that the patron saint
Of Cambria, pass'd his age of penitence,
A solitary man; and here he made
His hermitage; the roots his food, his drink
Of Honndy's mountain stream. Perchance thy youth
Has read with eager wonder, how the knight
Of Wales in Ormandine's enchanted bower,
Slept the long sleep; and if that in thy veins
Flows the pure blood of Britain, sure that blood
Hath flow'd with quicker impulse at the tale
Of Dafydd's deeds, when through the press of war,
His gallant comrades followed his green crest
To conquests—Stranger! Hatterel's mountain heights,
And this fair Vale of Ewias, and the stream
Of Honndy, to thine after-thoughts will rise
More grateful, thus associate with the name
Of Dafywdd, and the deeds of other days.

A person belonging to the Earl of Hereford's family

pursuing a deer through the Vale of Ewias, was so deeply impressed with the awful solitude of the place, that on perceiving the old hermitage, he determined to relinquish all secular concerns and devote himself to piety and religion.

Sir Robert Atkyns, in his History of Gloucestershire, has recorded a curious anecdote of the change which instantaneously took place in this stranger:—"He laid aside his belt, and girded himself with a rope; instead of fine linen, he covered himself with hair-cloth; and instead of his soldier's robe, he loaded himself with weighty irons; the suit of armour which before defended him from the darts of his enemies, he still wore as a garment to harden him against the soft temptations of his old enemy Satan; that as the outward man was afflicted by austerity, the inner man might be secured for the service of God. That his zeal might not cool he thus crucified himself, and continued this hard armour on his body, until it was worn out with rust and age."

This ascetic was soon joined by a companion, Ernesi, chaplain to Queen Matilda, wife of Henry I. and from the combination of these two religious, Hugh Lacy, the Earl of Hereford, was induced to found the abbey. William (for that was the name of this religious recluse) had frequent donations sent to him, which he as well as his colleague refused accepting of; he affirmed that "he was determined to dwell poor in the house of God."

"Queen Matilda (as the legends relate) not sufficiently acquainted with the sanctity and disinterestedness of William, once requested him to let her put her hand to his bosom, which with great modesty he assented to; the queen by that means conveyed into his pocket a large purse of gold, between his hair shirt and iron boddice, and thus administered to his relief; but William would not receive the money for his own benefit, but requested the queen to expend it in adorning the church."

A new church was in consequence erected, which

was costly and magnificent, and the monks who subsequently were cloistered in this abbey soon became attached to the pomps and vanities of this wicked world; the outward man got the better of the inward: the vale, so well adapted for religious contemplation, was found to be gloomy and unbearable: nay, impiously indeed did the monks exclaim, that they "wished every stone of the foundation a *stout hare*," and that "every stone was at the bottom of the sea." The monastery was removed near Gloucester, where the fat monks of the Severn regaled themselves with all the hidden luxuries of a convent.

The revenues of the first abbey were at the dissolution valued at 87*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* annually. The site was granted to Richard Arnold; was afterwards the property of the Harleys, and subsequently purchased by Walter Landee, esq.

The area of the abbey church is not very extensive; its dimensions are in length 212, breadth fifty, transept 100 feet. The roof has long since fallen in, and great part of the south wall is dilapidated: the view afforded of the interior is impressive and picturesque, a double row of pointed arches, resting on singly constructed columns.

"The character of the ruin of this abbey (says Mr. Britton) consists in the great and solid, as that of Tintern does in the light and beautiful; but these present a different appearance from most other ruins of this description."

"Not a single tendril of ivy (says Capt. Barber), decorates the massive walls of the structure, and but a sprinking of shrubs, and light branching trees, fringe the high parapets or shade the broken fragments beneath; but

"Where reverend shrines in Gothic grandeur stood,
The nettle or the noxious nightshade spreads;
And ashlings wafted from the neighbouring wood,
Through the worn turrets wave their trembling heads."

On the side of one of the Black Mountains, is the

village of OLDCASTLE, where, according to Dr. Gale and Dr. Stukely, was the Roman station, called "Blestium," in the itinerary of Antoninus. Near the church are slight vestiges of circular entrenchments. But the village of Oldcastle has acquired its greatest celebrity by being the birth-place and chief residence of Sir John Oldcastle, Lord Cobham. This illustrious man was once the gay and dissipated companion of Prince Henry, afterward Henry V.

When calm and sober reflection had succeeded to the violent ebullition of the youthful passions, Lord Cobham hearkened to the voice of religion, and from a firm conviction of sentiment, embraced the opinions of Wickliffe. The accession of so powerful a nobleman to the Lollards, as the reformers were then called in derision, excited great alarm among the clergy.

Thomas Arundel was at this time metropolitan of all England. He was of illustrious birth; and when extremely young, was made Bishop of Ely, by Edward the Third. He was then translated by the Pope to the Archbishopric of York, made Lord High Chancellor, and then Archbishop of Canterbury. This was during the imbecile reign of Richard the Second. Arundel was an inveterate enemy to the seceders from the Church of Rome, and he had the base ingratitude to engage in a conspiracy against his royal master, from whom he had received many favours; he was disgraced, and banished the realm; but upon the deposition of King Richard and the usurpation of the House of Lancaster, he was recalled and placed in the archiepiscopal see. The archbishop directed his resentment chiefly against Lord Cobham. Having called an assembly of the clergy, at St. Paul's, he descanted on the necessity of immediate exertions to suppress the new heresy. Twelve priests were appointed, as inquisitors, to inquire who were the aiders and abettors of the heretics, in consequence of which an information was filed against Lord Cobham.

He was accused of maintaining Lollards in various parts of the kingdom: it was also asserted that he had

protected the Lollards by force of arms, which was entirely false; finally, he was charged with being an heretic himself, with respect to the doctrines of the real presence, penance, image-worship, pilgrimages, and ecclesiastical power. Arundel and the clergy resolved to proceed against Sir John Oldcastle; but as he was a great favourite with his sovereign, and had performed deeds of military renown, it was determined to acquaint the king of the charges alleged against him.

Henry was at this time meditating his proposed invasion of France, and he wished to secure the favour of the clergy, that they might grant him those large subsidies which would enable him to defray the enormous expences of such an expedition. The king informed the archbishop that he would himself converse with Cobham on the subject, and reclaim him, if possible, from his errors; at the same time conjuring him to pay due respect to the rank, power, and eminent services of this nobleman, and treat him with gentleness. His majesty accordingly sent for Lord Cobham, and admonished him to submit as an obedient child to his holy mother the church.

It is rather singular to contemplate Henry in this scene with Lord Cobham: to find a prince who was but a little time since frolicking in every species of debauchery, drinking sack with the jolly knight at the Boar's Head in East Cheap, now talking about the holy mother church, acting the part of a friar, and exhorting a nobleman, illustrious for his rank, but still more for his splendid services to his country, to change his religious opinions. "It may be said (observes a modern writer) Henry acted thus out of kindness, wishing to prevent him falling into the hands of the clergy. But was there no other mode of protecting this nobleman from the rage of the ecclesiastics, but by exhorting him to deny his faith? Could not this monarch, nay, was it not his bounden duty, to have been a fortress, a strong tower, a shield and a buckler to this amiable nobleman? How did the illustrious

Duke of Lancaster shelter Wickliffe from the conspiracy against his life! Had Henry acted in a similar manner he would have merely performed his duty."

Lord Cobham boldly affirmed the sentiments which were imputed to him, and told the king that he was ready and willing to obey him in every thing that did not interfere with the dictates of his conscience; that he was willing to lay down his life in defence of his person and government: but with respect to the pope and his clergy, he would never be obedient to them, for they had no right to exercise dominion over the consciences of men. He also observed, that he viewed the pope as Antichrist, the son of perdition, the adversary of God, and the abomination and hireling of the holy place.

Henry was no way impressed with this candid declaration of Cobham; he was mortified to find his endeavours frustrated; he presumed that this nobleman would, like the generality of courtiers, be supple and pliant: in fine, from mingled emotions of ambition, cowardice, superstition, pride, and vain glory, Henry the Fifth of Monmouth sold the blood of Lord Cobham, to procure a subsidy from the clergy in his invasion of France. This action is a stain upon his character, which the trophies of victory gained at Agincourt will never efface.

The archbishop was soon apprised that he might act towards Sir John Oldcastle as he pleased. In an assembly of the clergy it was resolved that an apparitor should be sent with a summons to Cowling-castle, Kent, where Lord Cobham then was. When the officer arrived at the place, he was afraid to enter the premises belonging to so noble a person without licence, and therefore returned without executing his commission. The archbishop then persuaded the doorkeeper of the king's privy chamber to go to Lord Cobham as if he came on business from the king; the stratagem was not successful, as his lordship sent a message saying, that "he would have nothing to do with the hellish practices of the priests."

The primate immediately ordered letters to be fixed upon the church doors of the cathedral of Rochester, which was but three miles from Cowlingcastle, charging him to appear before him personally. This citation Cobham refused to comply with, in consequence of which he was declared contumacious.

His lordship was then publicly excommunicated, and a proclamation issued for apprehending him. Cobham sent a letter to Henry, but the ungrateful monarch would not even deign to cast his eye upon it, but told him to lay it before the clergy. He was now arrested, and sent close prisoner to the Tower.

A few days after, Sir Robert Morley, lieutenant of the Tower, brought his lordship before a full convocation of the clergy, at St. Paul's. In answer to the charges made against him by the archbishop, Lord Cobham pulled a paper out of his pocket, containing his confession of faith, in which he declared his belief in transubstantiation, but denied the chief of the doctrines of the Romish church.

This paper having been read, Arundel told him that he had better recant his errors, else he would have the censure of the holy mother church, and be adjudged to die as an heretic. Lord Cobham replied, that they might do with him as they pleased.

He was again brought before the clergy, when, after some exhortations to induce him to submit, the archbishop pronounced the dreadful sentence upon Lord Cobham that he should be burnt alive. Upon hearing this sanguinary sentence, he replied, "You may do with this poor perishing body as you please, but you cannot injure my soul; he that created it, will in his infinite mercy save it, and of that I have no manner of doubt; and for the articles I gave you I will stand by them to the last, and they shall contain my faith before the eternal God." He then turned himself round to the spectators, and desired them to beware of false doctrines; to search the scriptures, and find out the truth. Falling down

upon his knees, he prayed that God would forgive his persecutors, if it was his will.

After returning to the Tower, his lordship found an opportunity of escaping, and retired to the Continent. Henry issued a proclamation, offering a handsome reward to any person who should apprehend him. Lord Cobham most unfortunately returned to England, and remained concealed in Wales for some time; but Lord Powis, a neighbouring nobleman, caused him to be apprehended. The turpitude of this treacherous act was enhanced by Lord Powis having received numerous favours from the persecuted baron.

December 14, 1449, while the parliament was sitting at Westminster, Lord Cobham was brought before it as a person who had been excommunicated. He said little in reply, and he was ordered to be conveyed to St. Giles's in the Fields, there to be hanged and burnt. This cruel sentence was executed with circumstances of peculiar barbarity, for his lordship was absolutely roasted alive. "Thus (says the author we have above quoted) perished by the hands of the men, the merciless banditti of Rome, Sir John Oldcastle, a nobleman of high rank, who had obtained the laurels of victory; a nobleman who rendered the peerage illustrious by his piety and his virtues, dragged before an infernal tribunal of priests, condemned by a monarch whom he had faithfully served, and a parliament, the servile instrument of the pope's power, to be burnt alive."

Mr. Hume has made an unjust attack upon the character of this nobleman; in one place he styles him "a bold heresiarch;" in another he observes, "The bold spirit of the man, provoked by persecution, and stimulated by zeal, was urged to attempt the most criminal enterprises; and his unlimited authority over the new sect, proved that he well merited the authority of the civil magistrate." Had Lord Cobham been inclined to have been a rebel to

his king, he would have adopted a more sagacious plan than arming a few Lollards, and attempting to seize the king's person. His rank and power might soon have combined a powerful army to rally round the standard of the deposed monarch, Richard the Second. The statement therefore is false and insidious. The Rev. Mr. Coxe has paid a just tribute to the memory of this great man: "His martyrdom (he observed) forms an eminent epoch in the English church; for the Reformation, like a phœnix, sprung from his ashes.

Old-court was the principal seat of Dafydd ap Llewellyn, generally called David Gam, or Squinting David. He was the fourth in descent from Einion Sais, who served in the battles of Cressy and Poictiers. The life of David was disgraced by violence and rapine, and above all, by his attempt to assassinate the brave Owen Glendower; but his heroic behaviour at Agincourt atoned for all his crimes, and has rendered his memory perpetual. When sent to reconnoitre the French army, he brought back the memorable report, that "there were enow to be killed, enow to be taken prisoners, and enow to run away!" and when Henry was stunned by a blow from the Duke d'Alençon, Gam interposed, and received in his own bosom the sword intended for his king's. Sir David Gam and his son-in-law Sir Roger Vaughan, were both knighted, whilst lying in the agonies of death on the field of battle, by Henry V. whose life they had preserved.

About four miles east of the Gaer, is Llanvihangel Crucorney, an old mansion belonging to the Earl of Oxford. It contains antiquated furniture, and some old family pictures, and is surrounded by some noble avenues of Scotch firs, said to be the largest in England.

Adjacent to this mansion is the famous mountain of the Skyrrid Vawr. "This mountain," says Mr. Britton, "is a singular geological phenomenon:" it is isolated, and rises almost abruptly from the plain;

the north-east side is a barren ridge of russet hue; towards the south the declivity is less, and towards the bottom terminates in a gentle slope; the foot is embellished with luxuriant corn-fields and rich pastures. It varies its appearance as viewed from different parts. In one point of view it appears globular, and from others like a truncated cone.

The north-east extremity is the highest part of the mountain; and its height, according to the barometrical admeasurement of General Roy, is 1498 feet. Near the verge of a precipice is a small cave, supposed to be the site of a chapel dedicated to St. Michael. This spot was much venerated in ancient times; the earth around it was considered efficacious in the cure of diseases, and promoting fecundity in females: it is still resorted to on Michaelmas eve by the Roman Catholics, through motives of devotion.

The same absurd idea of religious veneration has made it conjectured that the vast chasm in this mountain was occasioned by the earthquake at the crucifixion of our Lord. The Skyrrid Vach, or Little Skyrrid, has been beautifully apostrophized in the following lines:

"Skyrrid! Remembrance thy loved scene renews;
Fancy yet ling'ring on thy verdant brow,
Beholds around the lengthened landscape glow;
Which charmed, when late the day-beam's parting hues
Purpled the distant cliff."

The mountain called the Sugar Loaf, from its pyramidical form, according to General Roy's admeasurement, is 1852 feet perpendicular. Notwithstanding this height, Mr. Coxe observes that it is accessible without much fatigue or difficulty; and he recommends travellers who wish to obtain the magnificent prospect which its summit commands, to ascend by the Derry, from the Hereford road, and to descend on the side of the Robben.

"The sides of the mountain (says this intelligent

traveller) are covered with heath, whirtle-berries, and moss, to the height of a foot, which renders the ascent so extremely easy, that a light carriage might be drawn to the base of the line, not more than 100 paces from the summit. I dismounted near a rock, which emerges from the side of the ridge, forming a natural wall, and reached the top without the smallest difficulty. This elevated point, which crowns the summit of the four hills, is an insulated ridge, about a quarter of a mile in length, and 200 yards in breadth, with broken crags starting up amid the moss and heath with which it is covered. The view from this point is magnificent, extensive, and diversified: it commands the counties of Radnor, Salop, Brecknock, Monmouth, Glamorgan, Hereford, Worcester, Gloucester, Somerset, and Wilts."

At Blaenavon, in the vicinity of Abergavenny, are the famous iron works, which constitute an interesting object in the tour of Monmouthshire. The description of these we shall extract from the interesting account of Mr. Coxe.

"From Abergavenny, in company with Sir Richard Hoare, I passed over the stone bridge of the Usk, along the plain, between the river and the Blorenge, and went up the steep sides of the mountain, in a hollow way, inclosed between high hedges, with occasional openings, which admit different views of Abergavenny, and the circumjacent country. Emerging from the thickets of wood which clothe the lower and middle parts, we ascended a common, strewed with vast masses of rocks, from whence a dreary mood leads to the summit, overlooking the works of Blaenavon, situated in the hollow of the mountain, near the source of the Avon Lwyd, from which the place derives its appellation.

"At some distance the works have the appearance of a small town, surrounded with heaps of ore, coal, and limestone, enlivened with all the bustle and activity of an opulent and increasing establishment. The view of the buildings, which are constructed in

the excavations of the rocks, is extremely picturesque, and heightened by the volumes of black smoke emitted by the furnaces. While my friend Sir Richard Hoare was engaged in sketching a view of this singular scene, I employed myself in examining the mines and works.

"This spot and its vicinity produce abundance of iron, with coal and limestone, and every article necessary for smelting the ore; the veins lie in the adjacent rocks, under strata of coal, and are from three and a half to seven or eight inches in thickness, they differ in richness, but yield, upon an average, not less than forty-four pounds of pig iron to one hundred weight of ore. The principal part of the iron, after being formed into pigs, is conveyed by means of the rail-road and canal to Newport, from whence it is exported.

"The shafts of the mines are horizontal, penetrating one below the other, and under the coal shafts iron rail-roads are constructed, to convey the coal and ore, which are pushed as far as the shafts are worked, and gradually carried on as the excavations are extended; the longest of these subterraneous passages penetrates no less than three quarters of a mile. The coal is so abundant as not only to supply the fuel necessary for the works, but large quantities are sent to Abergavenny, Pontypool, and Usk.

"The hollows of the rocks and sides of the hills are strewed with numerous habitations, and the heathy grounds converted into fields of corn and pasture. Such are the wonder-working powers of industry, when directed by judgment!

"The want of habitations for the increasing number of families, has occasioned an ingenious contrivance; a bridge being thrown across a deep dingle, for the support of a rail-road leading into a mine, the arches, which are ten in number, have been walled up, and formed into dwellings; the bridge is covered with a pent-house roof, and backed by perpendicular rocks, in which the mines are excavated. Numerous

workmen continually pass and repass, and low cars, laden with coals and iron ore, roll along with their broad-grooved wheels; these objects losing themselves under the roof of the bridge, again emerging, and then disappearing in the subterranean passages of the rocks, form a singular and animated picture, not unlike the moving figures in a camera obscura."

Twenty years ago the quantity of pig iron made in this district was inconsiderable, and there was no bar iron manufactured; the quantity of each kind now sent to market is immense. The works are still rapidly increasing in importance and extent, and seem likely to surpass the other iron manufactories throughout the kingdom.

Nine miles west by south from Abergavenny is Bydwelty, situated among the mountains. The parish is very extensive. Near the church are remains of a strong entrenchment: half a mile beyond are striking appearances of the old Roman road, called by the natives "Sarnhîr," or the causeway; and not far distant are Mynydd-y-Slwynn coal mines, and Abercarn iron-works.

The whole of the hundred of Abergavenny comprises "a highly diversified tract of country: hills and vallies, intersected with rivers and streams, open to the view prospects of the most pleasing nature, displaying a picturesque wildness, and a luxuriant fertility. Being bounded on the north by the fine county of Hereford, it acquires a rich embellishment, and having the county of Brecon to the west, it assumes additional beauty when compared with that rugged county. The rivers Gavenny, Monow, and Usk, fertilize the soil; and throughout the district the most pleasing and sublime landscapes burst upon the view.

Journey from Monmouth to Abergavenny; through Llandilo Cresseny.

Leaving Monmouth, we pursue our journey to Rockfield, two miles distant, a village, on the right

of which is Perthyr, the ancient seat of the Powells, now in the possession of J. Powell Lorymer, esq.

From Rockfield we proceed on the road to LLANDILO CRESSENY. This parish is in the hundred of Skenfreth. In the village are the magnificent ruins of White Castle, which was called in old records, Lantielo Castle; this, with some other fortresses, formed part of the possessions of Brian Fitzcourt, Earl of Hereford, who came to England with William the Conqueror. It afterwards came into possession of the respective families of the Cantalupes, and the Braoses, and then to Hubert de Burgh, chief justice of England; it was then annexed to the duchy of Lancaster, to which it is still attached.

The remains occupy the ridge of an eminence, and are surrounded by a deep foss or moat, 236 yards in circumference; the walls are of considerable thickness, and faced with hewn stone of a brown colour. The figure is of an irregular oblong shape, similar to an oval. The works, which are both straight and curvilinear, are strengthened with six round towers, standing without the walls, which were well contrived to resist a siege.

"The principal entrance (says Mr. Coxe) is towards the north; it consists of a gateway, which was defended by a portcullis and drawbridge, flanked by two high massive towers; there is another entrance, to the south-west, on the opposite side." The greater portion of the area, according to Mr. Britton, is covered with grass and weeds, cropped by the cattle that find shelter here in hot or stormy weather. The length of the area is 145 feet, and the greatest breadth 106.

Outside the foss, and before the principal entrance, are the remains of a barbican, that formed a kind of *tête du pont*, with which it was connected. The walls of this outwork were very thick, flanked also by several towers, and encompassed by a deep foss. "The massive remains of this castle, (adds the illustrious traveller of the north of England), the height of the towers, the extent of the outworks, the depth of

the fossa, indicae a place of considerable strength andimportance, which probably insured for several ages the dominion of this part of the country. From the style of the architecture it appears to have been constructed either before the Conquest, or at the latest in the early times of the Norman era."

In ancient documents this castle is called "Castele Blaunch," or Blanch. In Latin records it is termed Album Castrum. By the Welsh it was denominated Castell Gwyn. Leland says, "this castle standeth on a hill, and is drye moted."

The church of Llandilo Cresseny is a spacious handsome stone structure, in the pointed style, having its tower surmounted by a lofty spire, covered with shingles. "The latter (observes Mr. Britton) forms a striking object from every part of the surrounding country, and stands upon an artificial mound of earth, that forms part of an entrenched camp, extending into the pleasure grounds belonging to Llandilo-house." This was formerly the seat of the Powells, but now of Richard Lewis, esq.

About a mile on the right of White Castle is a famous Lancastrian fort of great strength and extent.

Two miles from hence is Kevenpendegar; half a mile to the right of which is Werndee, once the splendid residence of the Herberts, now a farm-house. We may now return to Abergavenny, which place, and its charming environs, we have already described.

Journey from Abergavenny to Newport; through Pontypool.

Leaving Abergavenny on the right, there is a road to Crickhowell; on the left to Monmouth. Two miles beyond we pass through Llanellan, which is situated in the higher division of the hundred of Abergavenny, containing about 63 houses and 293 inhabitants. Here we cross a bridge thrown over the Usk river, which is occasionally subject to violent inundations. Mr. Coxe (the ingenious historian of

this county, and the celebrated tourist of Switzerland and the north of Europe) relates, that "During the rainy autumn of 1799, he crossed it one evening in his way to Abergavenny; the water was then confined to a deep and narrow channel, but on his return the following morning the stream had risen to so great a height, that he passed the bridge with the utmost difficulty: the current poured with violence through the hollow roads in the vicinity, overflowed the hedges, and spread its devastation far and wide. This inundation, though terrible to the inhabitants, adds greatly to the beauty of the scenery, as the Usk then appears swollen into an expanse of waters as broad as a lake, and with a current as impetuous as that of the Rhine or Danube issuing from the mountains of Helvetia."

Two miles and a half from Llanellan, the traveller arrives at LLANOVER, a very extensive parish; the village contains 341 houses, and 1863 inhabitants. The church commands a delightful prospect, being situated on the banks of the river; it is a fine Gothic building, with an embattled tower, a nave, and chancel. The church is kept in an admirable state of neatness by Benjamin Waddington, esq. the patron of the living, whose seat at this place commands a most charming view. In the front the meadows are formed into an oval vale, intersected by the meandering Usk, and skirted by a range of gentle elevations; dotted with numerous seats, churches, and hamlets; beyond these rise in grand succession undulating hills and rugged mountains, which combine the varieties of light and shade, and vie in the contrast and singularity of their forms. In the church is a monument of the Pritchard family, which represents them as descended from Cradocke, a Welsh chieftain surnamed Vreich Vras, which signifies "the Fat Arm."

In the environs of Llanover, to the west, is a chain of hills which appear to form one uniform and continued ridge; but in reality are a series of eminences, separated from each other, clothed with hanging

wood, and watered by fertilising streams. Three miles from Llanover is Manhilad, a village, the church of which lies in the lower division of the hundred of Abergavenny. Half a mile from hence is Llanvihangel Pontymoyl; here there is only a church and bridge on the road.

Upon quitting this village, there is a division of the road: one mile on the right leads to PONTYPOOL. This is a market-town, 153 miles from London. It is situated between two hills, and is a small place; but it has acquired great celebrity by a considerable manufacture of japanned ware, to which it gives its name, and which was established by the family of the Hanburys, who were originally settled in Worcestershire. Thomas Allgood, in the reign of Charles II., invented the method of lacquering iron plates with a brilliant varnish, in the same manner as the Japanese lacquered wood; this invention was distinguished by the name of Pontypool ware. The late Major Hanbury, by the means of his ingenious agent Edward Allgood, discovered the secret of making the leys, the principal ingredient in giving a more brilliant polish to iron wire. The major made several improvements in machinery, and first introduced into England the art of coating iron plates with tin; and he was enabled to prosecute his useful discoveries, by the unexpected bequest of 70,000*l.* from Charles Williams, esq., the founder of the free-school at Caerleon, who died in the year 1720.

Pontypool was of little note before the last century, when its peculiar branch of manufacture was much called for, and the trade was brisk and flourishing. The demand, however, for the japanned wares of this place has been declining for many years, as it has to contend with those powerful rivals, Birmingham and Sheffield. But it is still a place of commercial consideration, owing to the vast mineral treasures which lie concealed in the surrounding country. Great quantities of iron ore and coal are dug up, and there are several forges continually at work.

The town consists of two irregular streets, and contains (including Trevethin) 700 houses, and 3931 inhabitants. Trevethin is the parish church of Pontypool. On the pulpit is inscribed, "1637. God save the king. C. R." In the church-yard is a monument, with a beautiful inscription, to the memory of Mr. Thomas Cooke, director of the iron-works, who died 1739.

The market-day is Saturday. There is no post-office; but the letters are conveyed to and from Newport every day by a man on horseback. The inn is the Red Lion. The numerous boats, horses, waggons, and men, frequently employed on the tram-roads, and the fine canal in the vicinity, give this town a very lively appearance.

Objects in the Vicinity of Pontypool.

Near Pontypool is Pontypool-park, the elegant seat of Capel Hanbury Leigh, esq. The mansion-house contains some family portraits, and original pictures, among which are Sarah, the celebrated Duchess of Marlborough, with her daughter Anne, afterwards Countess of Sunderland; John, Duke of Marlborough; Frederick the Great, King of Prussia; Wentworth, Earl of Strafford; and Sir Robert Walpole. There are also two pictures by the Spanish painter Murillo, in his best style; and Æsculapius writing, by Vandyke. The gardens and park are pleasing, luxuriant, and diversified, situated partly in a rich vale, partly on an eminence, from which there is an extensive and romantic prospect.

Near to Pontypool is the valley of Ebwy Vach, or the Vale of the Little Ebwy. It is called by the natives "the Valley of the Church." Upon entering, it appears very contracted, but gradually expands; several neat farm-houses make a pleasing and interesting appearance; the whitened walls and brown stone roofs of these dwellings, add gaiety to the landscape.

Towards the extremity of the vale, crossing the Ebwy over a stone bridge, we arrive at the village of

ABERYSTWITH. The church is a fine structure, in the Gothic style, with a square tower, and affords a pleasing appearance from its sequestered situation. The outside of the body and chancel, with the lower part of the tower and its battlements, are white; the remaining part of the tower is of hewn stone. The inside consists of a nave and northern aisle, separated by fine pointed arches on octagon piers.

Edmund Jones, a native of Aberystwith, and minister of a congregation of Independents, published in 1779, an account of this village, which he styles "Aberystruth." Of this absurd and eccentric work, the following interesting analysis is given by Mr. Coxe. "His book contains a short but clear topographical description of the vallies of the two Ebwys, and of the Tilery; the state of the Independent congregations; a few biographical notices of some gifted persons, of his father and mother, and others who were "converted unto God." He speaks of his own conversion, and boasts with affected humility of his own "instrumentality" in the revival of religion. But the most curious part of this singular work, is a rhapsody "on the apparition of fairies, and other spirits of Hell." Like a company of children, with music and dancing, he asserts that they visited the parish of Aberystwith, as much or more than any parish of Wales; and were particularly fond of light, dry, and pleasant places, where they were often seen leaping and making a waving path in the air. He seriously warns his countrymen not to think them happy spirits, because they delight in music and dancing, or because they are called in Monmouthshire "mothers' blessing, and fair folks of the wood." He narrates several childish stories of people who heard them sing, but could never learn the tune; who heard them talk, but could seldom distinguish the words; of many who were tormented and wounded by them; and of others who were transported through the air. He also gives an instance of their apparition, from his own experience, and of one who resembled a fair

woman, with a high crown hat, and a red jacket; the male fairies wore *white cravats.*"

Such are the wonderful tales of goblins, wood gods, fairies, elfs, and fiends, interwoven with Mr. Edmund Jones's "Geographical and Historical Account of Aberystwith."

In the vicinity of Aberystwith are several coal-mines and iron-works.

From hence the tourist, passing an elevated tract of moor, and traversing the Beacon mountain, arrives at the vale of the Great Ebwy. This vale is, like the smaller, bounded by ridges of hills feathered with trees, and watered by a mountain torrent; but the scenery is more wild, the wooded glens are more romantic, and there are fewer habitations. The Beacon mountain is a narrow and elevated ridge, stretching between the two branches of the Ebwy, and terminating near the point of their junction.

About three miles west of Pontypool is the village of LLANHIDDEL, or Lanhileth. The parish church is a small Gothic edifice, situated on a steep acclivity. It is dedicated to St. Ithel, a saint "with whose merits (Mr. Coxe pleasantly observes) and genealogy I am wholly unacquainted." The church-yard is planted with large yew trees. On the north-western side of the church are the remains of an ancient fortification, of a small tumulus and circular entrenchment; within the latter are the vestiges of subterraneous walls, faced with hewn stone, nine feet high. At a little distance is a larger barrow or mound.

Near the extremity of the chain of hills which extend from Pontypool to the Blorenge, is the "Folly," a semi-circular summer-house, built by the late Major Hanbury.

Here we may observe, that the indefatigable Archdeacon Coxe, who left no district in Monmouthshire unexplored, penetrated into the remoter parts of the vallies of the Ebwy and Sorwy. Under this description, may be included the mountainous region watered by the Avon Llwyd, Ebwy, Sorwy, and Rumney,

called the wilds of Monmouthshire, a district seldom visited, except for the purpose of grouse shooting. Impressed with the general prejudice, Mr. Coxe had neglected this district even to his third tour. But when from the top of Twyn Barlwn he had seen the populous district of Cross pen Main, and the vales of Ebwy and Sorwy, his curiosity was excited. He was moreover assured by a friend, that in these wilds he would find some Swiss scenes; and he was not disappointed.

In his first excursion he rode along the side of the canal to Pont Newynydd; quitted the rail-road to Blaenavon, and passed up a steep and paved ascent, which led through thick coppice woods to the moors. Continue along the level surface of the summit, over a boggy district. At the extremity of this moor, approach the descent leading to Cwm Tilery. In this descent is presented a district, well-peopled, richly wooded, and highly cultivated. The numerous vallies below abounded with romantic scenery. Pass several rills, bubbling from the sides of the hill, and swelling the Tilery. Beneath, at a distance, bursts the Little Ebwy, through a deep, narrow, and woody glen, visible only by its foam glistening through the thick foliage. Crossing this torrent over a stone bridge at the bottom of the descent, pass along a narrow and rugged path, winding round the precipitous sides of the Brecon mountain, which are thickly clothed with underwood, and occasionally tufted with hanging groves of oak, beech, ash, and alder; the wild raspberry twining in the thickets, and the ground overspread with the wood strawberry. This valley is bounded on the east by a ridge called Milfre-hill, which separates it from the parishes of Llanfoist and Trevethin, and on the west by the Brecon mountain, which divides it from the valley of Ebwy Fawr. Towards the extremity of the vale, cross the Ebwy Vach, over another stone bridge, to the church, situated in the midst of fields, upon a gentle rise overhanging the torrent. In this track pass

the Istwyth, a lively rill which descends from a wooded dingle, and in a few paces falls into the Ebwy Vach. This stream gives the name of Aberystwith to the scattered village, which is likewise called Blaenau Gwent. The church is a handsome building, in the pointed or Norman style, with a square tower. The inside consists of a nave and north aisle, separated by five arches. As there is no chancel, the communion table is placed in a small recess, at the extremity of the nave; over it is a whimsical group, carved in wood, and painted; two angels are represented, sounding brazen trumpets, and between them a clergyman in his robes, holding an enormous trumpet in his hand. The service is performed in Welsh, the English language being little understood. The church-yard contains eleven yews; the largest is twenty-four feet in circumference, the smallest eleven and a half. The natives wear flannel shirts, some white, and others red. In ascending the north extremity of this delightful vale, gradually advance into a wild, dreary, and almost uninhabited district, among bleak hills and barren moors. From the top appears Nant y glo. In descending, cross a small stream, which forces its way through a deep channel worn in the rocks, and falls into Ebwy Vach. Mr. Hertford, son of one of the proprietors of the works at Nant y glo, is settled with his family in this sequestered spot. These works belong to Hill, Hertford, and Co., and are held under a long lease from the owners of Blaenavon works; they were finished at a vast expence in 1795, and after being wrought a year, were discontinued, on account of a dispute among the proprietors. They consist of two furnaces, several forges, a steam engine, and the necessary buildings and machinery for smelting and forging iron ore. Cross an elevated tract of moor, and pass round the north extremity of a mountain, under a tumulus which crowns its summit, called the Beacon. The Beacon mountain, sometimes called the Blaenau-hill, is a narrow and elevated ridge,

which stretches between the two branches of the Ebwy, and terminates near the point of their junction. The road already traversed from Cwm Tilery to Nant y glo, runs along the east side of the ridge of Blaenau-hill; and that now entered upon near the works of Hertford, Partridge, and Co., passes under its west side, through Cwm Ebwy Vawr.

"In a general description," says Mr. Coxe, "this vale would appear similar to that of the Little Ebwy; it is bounded by ranges of hills feathered with trees, and traversed by a mountain torrent. Yet nature always presents a different aspect, and from rocks, woods, and waters, forms endless combinations, which, though similar in description, are varied in appearance. The scenery here is wilder and more romantic, the plain narrower, the acclivities steeper, the torrent more rapid and confined, the woods more gloomy and impervious; the streams pour through the glens, and rush down the hills in greater abundance, and there are fewer habitations. Art has also introduced a striking difference: in the other vale, the path continually ascending and descending, ran along the rugged sides of the Brecon mountain; here the road is a railway, carried over an artificial terrace, in a waving line, near the edge of the banks overhanging the torrent. Continue along the road five miles passing on the left, two beautiful cwms opening upon the west side of Blaenau-hill, watered by rills which fall into Ebwy Vawr. The first is called Cwm Mythfe, the other Cwm Beeg. A neat farm-house called Aberbeeg stands in a romantic position at the extremity of the glen, where the foaming torrent rushes from Cwm Beeg into the Ebwy Vawr. A little beyond the vale terminates, and the two branches of the Ebwy unite. The scenery at the junction is most delightful; upon one side the great Ebwy rushes through the vale just traversed; on the other the Ebwy Vach, foaming through a hollow and narrow glen, emerges from a thick wood; these two branches dash round the south extremity of the Brecon mountain, and unite at its

foot. Two stone bridges are thrown over the Little Ebwy, within a few paces of each other; one supports the rail-road; the other was the common pass before its construction. Cross the latter, near which stands a stone cottage with a group of trees overhanging its roof, and pass through a grove of alders to another bridge over the Great Ebwy, whence a path leads up the woody side of the mountain which bounds the valley. I remained, says Mr. Coxe, for a considerable time leaning on the parapet of the bridge, absorbed in contemplation of the picturesque objects around me; objects which recalled to my recollection the milder cast of mountain scenery, which I formerly so much admired in the Alps of Switzerland, and drew a tear of sympathy and regret for the fate of that once happy and delightful country." Mounting a steep ascent to Llanhiddel, a narrow plain of rich meadows, divided into small farms, stretches upon each side of the rapid Ebwy, bounded by abrupt and wooded declivities.

In another excursion Mr. Coxe, with the civil and intelligent landlord of the Red Lion as a guide, rode across the canal, and ascended by the side of a torrent along a rail-road, leading to some iron-works belonging to Mr. Leigh, situated in the midst of a wood, reached a small lake which forms the reservoir of the canal, from which the torrent issues. This lake is two miles in circumference, and stretches along the foot of the north-east extremity of Mynydd Maen. A road broad enough for carriages runs along a narrow and level defile, between Mynydd Maen and Cefn y Crib, amid wild and romantic scenery enlivened by ripling streams. Two miles from the entrance into the defile, the bleak mountain of Mynydd Maen trends to the south, succeeded by a range of lower, but more fertile and wooded hills, broken by narrow dingles. In this sequestered route a single cottage only occurred until ascending a gentle rise, reach a second reservoir, which supplies the Crumlin branch of the canal. Descending from the brow of this elevated ground, cross a torrent, and follow the course of the stream, which issues from

the reservoir, down a gentle declivity, through fields to Crumlin-bridge, where the second branch of the canal commences. From this place Mr. Coxe continued along the side of the canal to Risca. The road is a towing-path. On the left the canal winds at the foot of overhanging rocks, fringed with wood; the Ebwy is seen below from an elevation of forty or fifty feet. At Newbridge large quantities of coal are brought down a rail-road, from the mines of Mynydd-yslwyn, and conveyed by canal to Newport. Pass on the left several cwms, rapid torrents, rushing down their hollows; one of these, called Carn, which descends from Mynydd Maen, gives the name of Abercarn to the place where the principal iron-works are. Risca is a village situated at the extremity of the Vale, under the precipitous crags of Twyn Barlwm. Mr. Coxe here dismissed his guide, and continued his journey hence to Careau, near Newport, where he slept. Early next morning, in company with his friend Evans, he returned to Risca, where they breakfasted, and then sallied out to explore the Valley of the Sorwy. Pass along the Vale, and cross the Ebwy near the influx of the Sorwy, over Pont-y Cymmer. Soon after ascend the side of the hill which bounds the Vale, and continue along an elevated ridge, through thickets, corn-fields, and meadows, sprinkled with hamlets, watered by numerous torrents, and overlooking the Sorwy. The features of this Vale are more wild and romantic than those of the Ebwy; it is narrower and deeper. Pass under Caerllwyn, or the high place of the encampment, descend to the banks of the Sorwy, cross over a stone bridge, and up a steep road to Penllwyn, whence is a pleasing view of the Vale. Penllwyn-house, the ancient mansion of a collateral branch of the Morgan family, is delightfully situated upon a brow of the eminence overhanging the Sorwy. The last male of this line was Henry Morgan, who died without issue in 1757. His name is still mentioned with endearment. The mansion is at present a farm-house,

with few traces of its former occupants. Some tall sycamores which shade this old mansion, seem coeval with the building. From Penllwyn walk across some pleasant meadows to Bydwellty-place, a seat belonging to that collateral branch of the Morgan family which was settled at Caerleon. This also is converted into a farm-house, containing some pointed arches and door-ways. Bacon seems almost the only kind of flesh-meat used in this district: this, with vegetables, and the productions of the dairy, forms their diet. Thin oat-cakes are their common bread. Their favourite liquor is cwrw, dignified by classic writers with the name cerevitia, which in common language is new ale in a turbid state, unclarified by fermentation. "To persons accustomed to clear and old malt liquor," says Mr. Coxe, "this beverage is extremely forbidding to the sight, and nauseous to the taste; but I had so much of the blood of the ancient Britons in my veins, that I soon became accustomed to their cwrw, and preferred it to our Saxon beer." From Bydwellty-place, Mr. Coxe and his companion walked through the fields, till they remounted their horses, and continued along a straight broad road, which was in many parts pitched or paved with large flag-stones, exhibiting vestiges of an ancient causeway; which leads along the level summit of the mountain to Bydwellty-church, situated upon an eminence overlooking a fruitful expanse of hill and dale, in the counties of Monmouth, Glamorgan, and Brecon; comprehending the rich Vale of Carno; the districts fertilized by the Rumney; the romantic vallies of the Ebwy and Sorwy; and the whole of the beautiful and undulating country visited in these excursions. The church is an ancient structure in the pointed style; the square embattled tower is built with brown rubble, and coigned with hewn stone. The inside consists of a nave, a north aisle, and chancel. A lane winds down the steep sides of a rugged declivity to the banks of the Sorwy, where a bold stone bridge of a single arch is thrown over its rocky channel. The

view from the bridge is peculiarly wild. Mount the opposite eminence, and pass through the district of Cross pen main. In the midst of the hamlet is a small but neat public-house. About half a mile further the road divides near the brow of the eminence overlooking the Ebwy; one on the left, leads by Newbridge to Risca; that on the right, down a steep road, covered with loose stones, towards Crumlin-bridge, including a prospect of the Vale, from Newbridge to the junction of the two rivers. Mr. Coxe crossed Crumlin-bridge, and continued to Pontypool, along the same defile which he had before traversed.

Leaving Pontypool, and pursuing our journey to Newport, we cross the Brecknock canal to New Inn, half a mile beyond which, on the left, is the village and church of Panteague. A mile further is a turnpike and division of the road—left to Caerleon. Making a turn to the right, we descend a steep hill, and cross a stone bridge thrown over the torrent of the Avon Llwyd, or "Grey river." From hence to Llantarnam, a village, four miles before you arrive at Newport. About half a mile on the left is the ancient mansion of Llantarnam-abbey, the seat of Edward Blewitt, esq. The site of the house was an abbey of the Cistertian order, founded in the reign of Richard I.; at the dissolution there were in this monastery an abbot and six monks, whose yearly revenues, says Tanner, amounted to 71*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* In the reign of Henry VIII. the present mansion was finished out of the old materials of the abbey; there otherwise are no remains of the first monastic structure. The house is a large Gothic edifice, built of free-stone, and contains some painted glass. Besides family portraits, there are in the great hall fine original whole-lengths of Henry VIII.; an Earl of Leicester (temp. Eliz.); James I. and his queen, Anne of Demark; Thomas Earl of Salisbury; an Earl of Pembroke; and Charles the First, when Prince of Wales. In Queen Elizabeth's reign Sir Thomas Morgan was proprietor of Llantarnam; his descen-

dants were created baronets; the last of whom, Sir Edward Morgan, dying without male issue in 1681, the estates passed to his daughter, who had espoused Sir Edmund Blewitt of Saltford, and the baronetcy became extinct. "The park (says Mr. Coxe) is extensive and diversified, swelling into gentle undulations of rich pasture, watered by a fine meandering stream, and interspersed with dark groves of oaks, beeches, and Spanish chesnuts, which make a conspicuous feature in the adjoining landscape."

Proceeding on the high road to Newport, we arrive at MALPAS, a village and parish in the hundred of Wentloog, containing about 40 houses, and 200 inhabitants. At this place there was a cell of Cluniac Monks, belonging to the priory of Montacute in Somersetshire; founded (temp. Henr. I.) and valued at the dissolution at 14*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* per annum. The antiquary will not fail to visit the chapel of this cell, now the parish-church: it is a small building of rough stone, having a western door-way, window-frames, and arch decorated with ornaments peculiar to Saxon and Norman architecture. Near Malpas, about a mile from the high road on the left, is Kilsaint, or Pentrubach, an old seat of the Blewitt family, part of which was built in the reign of Henry II. It is now a farm-house.

Two miles from Malpas is the town of NEWPORT, which is situated in the hundred of Wentloog, and is twenty-six miles from Bristol; from Caerdiff twelve; from Chepstow seventeen; and from London 148 miles. This place, with St. Woollos, contains 445 houses, and 2346 inhabitants; it was formerly called in Welsh, Castel Newydd," or New-castle, to distinguish it from Caerleon, which was in ancient times the old port and grand fortress of the Usk.

This town is neatly built and well paved, consisting of one long principal street and several cross streets, the carriage-ways of which are kept in good repair, with flagged foot-paths on each side. Newport offers a cheerful contrast to what it was twenty years ago,

when Mr. Coxe visited it; who describes it as a "narrow, straggling, gloomy town." Commerce, and its magic attendant, wealth, has wrought a pleasing change. The port has the sole trade of three different vallies intersecting the mineral district, viz. from Pontypool to Blaenavon; from Beaufort to the canal at Risca; and from Sorewy or Sirhowy to Pillgwenly.

The numbers of shipping required to convey the vast quantities of pit-coal, pig-iron, bar-iron, bloomeries, castings, and other articles, conveyed from the western mountains by the numerous tram-roads and noble canal to the harbour, occasions a daily increase of inhabitants, and a consequent extension and improvement of the town.

The coasting trade and exportation of pit-coals from Newport to Bristol, Bridgewater, and the western parts of the kingdom, continues to increase. It possesses the local advantages of a fine navigable river, which has hardly its equal in the kingdom, for depth of water at all tides, and facility of ingress and egress; the excellent quality of the coals; the certainty of supply; prompt dispatch, and an exemption from sea-duty east of the Holmes.

The clause in favour of the coal proprietors who ship their coals at Newport, runs thus: "And whereas the proprietors of the said canal have expended very large sums of money in making and completing the said canal, and it is apprehended, that if the said duties of customs so imposed as aforesaid, shall be levied upon coal and culm carried upon the said canal, for the purpose of being afterwards carried to different ports or places on the river Severn, to the eastward of the islands called The Holmes, the same would be a discouragement to the carriage of such articles, and the proprietors of the said canal will lose the benefit they would otherwise derive from such carriage: be it therefore enacted, that no coals or culm which shall be carried on the same canal, and afterwards carried or conveyed from any port or place to the eastward of the islands called The Holmes, to

any port or place upon the river Severn; also to the eastward of the said islands, without passing to the westward of them; shall, after the passing of this act, be subject to the payment of the duties payable in respect of coals or culm carried by sea; provided always, nevertheless, that no such coals or culm shall be so carried as aforesaid from any port or place, in or upon the said river, free of such duties or custom, unless such entries thereof shall be first made, and such documents procured as by law required, in case of coal or culm carried coastwise."

The tram-road from Newport, towards Tredegar iron-works, is double for the space of nine miles, and single from thence to the works, (except at turn-out places); so that all carriages going one way, may pass others travelling in a contrary direction. The weight of tram-plates for a public road is from forty-five to fifty-six pounds each, or about fifty pounds on the average. The width of the road between the plates, is from three feet two inches to four feet four inches, according to the taste of the proprietors; some preferring a narrow long waggon, and others a broad short one. The single tram-road requires frequent turns-out, and in all of them it is very useful to have at the distance of every two or three hundred yards a tram-plate with two turn-up edges, the outer one being the segment of a circle. This plate assists the waggon to regain its proper station on the tram-plates, when thrown off the track by loose stones, &c. lying on the plates, or by the carelessness of the driver, in not keeping the horses in their regular line of drawing.

Besides the tram-roads, there are in several places inclined planes, for letting down the coals by ropes or chains attached to a roller at the top, and to the waggons from collieries in elevated situations, which in fact are double tram-roads. On these inclined planes, the loaded waggon going down, brings the empty one up, and so alternately.

Some of the declivities are so steep, that coals are shot down into the waggons by means of open wooden

troughs; as at Risca, where the coal is skreened at the same time that it is loaded into the waggons. There the small coal has been sold to the Union Copper Company, for their extensive smelting-house very near the coal veins. For this refuse coal the company have only been charged 32*s.* for a Swansey wey of about nine tons and a half; but getting rid of an article at this low price, which must otherwise have been thrown away, could not be otherwise than advantageous to both parties.

A loaded boat performs a voyage from Pontypool to Newport in a day, notwithstanding the great number of locks it has to pass; which, allowing only three minutes to each lock, takes upwards of two hours. A boat carries twenty-five tons, and is drawn by one horse, with a boy to drive it, and a man to steer the boat. The weight generally carried on the public tram-roads, is two tons and a half. Four tolerable horses will draw twenty tons of iron from Sirhowy and Tredegar iron-works to Newport in one day; the distance is 23 miles.

The handsome and substantial stone bridge over the Usk at Newport, was erected in 1800, and cost 10,165*l.* It was built by David Edwards, the son of the far-famed architect of Pont-y-Pridd, in Glamorganshire. This bridge consists of five arches, surmounted by an elegant parapet. The span of the centre arch is seventy feet, two adjoining sixty-two feet, and the two outward fifty-five feet.

Situated on the west bank of the Usk, near the bridge, are the noble ruins of Newport-castle; an Anglo-Norman fortress, built by Robert Earl of Glocester, natural son of King Henry I. to guard the passage of the river, and protect his possessions in these parts from the incursions of the Welsh. The remains of this castle consist of several massive towers, with Gothic door-ways and windows, and a few traces of the baronial-hall and state apartments. It is in figure a right-angled parallellogram, measuring about forty-six yards by thirty-two, the greatest length

from north to south, in a direction parallel to the course of the river; towards the town it has only a common wall, without any flanks or defences. To Robert Earl of Glocester, (celebrated for his patronage of literature, and his military skill and valour in the cause of his half-sister the Empress Maud), Geoffrey of Monmouth dedicated his history.

The successive noble owners of this fortress, after the Earl of Glocester's death, were his son William; his son-in-law Richard de Clare, Earl of Hertford; and his grandson, Earl of Stafford, who performed great military enterprizes in France during the warlike reign of Edward III. The Earl of Stafford, at the battle of Cressy, greatly distinguished himself in the van of the army, under the Black Prince, and for these services was created Earl of Hereford, and the king's captain-general of Aquitain. The earl's body-guard in this battle was formed of sixty men with lances, who were impressed out of his lordships of Newport and Netherwent in Wales. On the attainder of the earl's descendant, Edward Duke of Buckingham, this castle was granted to the Herberts of St. Julian's, and now belongs to the Duke of Beaufort.

In 1173, near Newport, Owen ap Caradock, Prince of Wales, whilst proceeding unarmed to meet Henry II. under the faith of a safe conduct granted to him, was treacherously murdered.

Newport was once surrounded by walls, and had three gates in Leland's time, but no vestiges at present remain.

There is only one church, which is dedicated to St. Woollos, (or Gunleius, or Gwnlliw), a British saint, said to have been buried here. It is a handsome Anglo-Saxon edifice, consisting of a lofty square tower, a small chapel, a nave with two aisles, and a chancel. The western door-way, with a semicircular arch and hatched mouldings, are worthy of notice, as is the interior, containing fine Saxon columns, three ancient dilapidated monuments, and some neat modern sepulchral tablets. As the church is built on an

eminence, it commands an extensive prospect, which is much admired by travellers.

Here is an excellent national school, on Dr. Bell's system; a handsome Roman Catholic chapel; and two meeting-houses.

At Newport were formerly two religious houses of Friars preachers; but few traces of them are now to be seen.

The market is held on Saturday. The London and Milford royal mail arrives every evening at Newport at six o'clock, and returns every morning at five. The post-office is open from eight in the morning till ten at night. Several stage-coaches pass through the town, which is a great thoroughfare from Bath to London, to South Wales, and Ireland. The inns are the King's Head, West-gate-house, &c. In the winter there are public balls at the Assembly-rooms, and theatrical performances occasionally in the summer.

Objects in the Vicinity of Newport.

The environs of Newport are pleasing and diversified. The antiquarian, and traveller who has leisure, will not fail to make some excursions in the vicinity. Leaving Newport, and following the upper road to Caerdiff, enter Tredegar-park near the second milestone, and ascend the "Gaer," an old Roman encampment, easily traced on the brow of an eminence near the river Ebwy. Hence proceed to Bassaleg, a small village, situated near the falls of the Ebwy. Bassaleg has a neat Gothic church, with an embattled tower, an ancient chapel, and stone bridge over the river. These objects, when seen from the park on the opposite side of the torrent, have a truly picturesque appearance. This village derives its name from St. Basil, to whom was dedicated at this place a Benedictine priory, of which no remains are now existing. A mile from Bassaleg is an ancient encampment, called "Craeg-y-Saesson," or "the Saxon Fortress;" and also a pleasant meadow, still called "Maes

Arthur," or the Field of Arthur, so denominated from the renowned hero of British fable.

A mile further, at Pen-y-pare Newydd, is a circular encampment with a rampart of earth. "This spot," says the Rev. Mr. Coxe, "commands a superb view; on the east the high and woody ridge, crowned by the Penamawr, stretches along the midland parts of Monmouthshire, and terminates in the bare tops of the Treley-hills: to the north-east is a lower chain of fertile eminences, backed by the Gray and Ganowby, near the frontiers of Herefordshire. The view towards the north is distinguished by the Great Skyrridd, towering like the point of a volcano; the long range of the Mynidel Maen, with Twyn Barlym rising like a vast excrescence on its southern extremity. Nearly north is Mynydd Machen, under which expands the beautiful vale of Machen, sprinkled with white cottages. To the north-west, the castellated mansion and rich groves of Rupersa, connected with the chain of hills in Glamorganshire. The view to the south-west is closed by the low and narrow promontory of Pen Arth, and the mouth of the Taaf, crowded with shipping. Southwards extends the Levels of Caldicot and Wentloog, watered by the Usk, and bounded by the Bristol Channel, with the flat and steep Holmes, appearing like points in a vast expanse of water."

Half a mile beyond Pen-y-pare Newydd, striking into the lower road, we pass on the left Marshfield church, and a village on the right, and arrive at St. Melon's, where the upper and lower roads from Newport to Caerdiff unite. St. Melon's church is built of rag-stone, and consists of a nave, a chancel, a tower, a cemetery, and a porch. St. Melo, to whom the church is dedicated, was a native of Caerdiff. He was bishop of Rouen, in Normandy, and planted Christianity in Wales about the third century.

A little to the right of the high-road is the church of Llanvihangel Vedew, a handsome Gothic edifice. Three miles from St. Melon's is the church of Rum-

ney, dedicated to St. Augustin; a very spacious structure, being 180 feet from the western extremity of the tower to the end of the chancel. The windows have painted glass, with heraldic embellishments. The Earl of Glocester granted this church to Bristol abbey, and it is now in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of that see. This church is about a quarter of a mile from the bridge over the Rumney, (anciently called Elarch, or the Swan river), which here separates the county of Monmouth from Glamorganshire.

The village of Rumney is situated in the mail-road, on the borders of Wentloog Level, which is also denominated Rumney-marsh. Wentloog Level presents the singular appearance " of a plain divided into fields of pasture, intersected with drains, and dotted with a few white cottages; among which the ancient towers of St. Bride's, Peterston, and Marshfield churches, rise conspicuous; beyond these, the waters of the Bristol Channel seem like a continuation of this level surface."

The tourist will now return to Newport by the high road, or make a *detour* to that town, visiting St. Bride's and Peterston. Peterston church is situated about half a mile from the sea walls. It is a spacious structure, built of hewn stone, and has a Gothic tower. The interior is much dilapidated. This church was built in the twelfth century, by Mabile, daughter and heiress of Robert Fitzhammon, a puissant Norman baron. From the top of the tower a pleasing and impressive prospect may be viewed, bounded on one side by the undulating billows, on the other by "an amphitheatre of wooded eminences, backed by ranges of hills towering in succession one above another."

Six miles from Peterston is the church of St. Bride's; it is about three miles and a half from Newport; the tower is a fine building of Gothic architecture. There is an elevated Gothic arch at the west end of the church, and two low pointed arches on clustered pillars.

On the south wall of the church, within a porch, is an inscription carved in freestone:

Te. Great FLVD
20 IANVARIE
In Te Morning,
1606.

Another inundation, in 1608, covered the level from Mayor to Caerdiff; a third happened a few years since. The Level of Wentloog is that district which stretches from east to west, between the rivers Rumney and Usk; and from north to south, between the Bristol Channel and the gentle ridge of Tredegar-park, Gwern-y-Cleppa, Castleton, Rumney, and St. Melon's.

This tract of land, like Caldicot Level, is preserved from the devastations of the sea by a line of embankments, or walls constructed of earth. In Caldicot Level, however, there are several parts of the embankments faced with stone, both on the inside and outside.

Caldicot and Wentloog Levels are both subject to the jurisdiction of a "Court of Sewers," which appears to have been established in Henry the Third's reign by Henry de Bathe, a justice itinerant. The Court of Sewers makes all orders relative to the scouring of drains, repairs of embankment, sluices, and flood-gates. This tract of land was undoubtedly rescued from the sea, by the wonder-working powers of human industry. The length of the walls in Wentloog Level, as stated by Mr. Coxe, may serve to give some idea of the undertaking.

	Perch.	*Ft.*	*In.*
Rumney parish	909	16	0
Peterston	769	9	6
St. Bride's	824	18	5
Bassaleg	725	17	0
St. Woollos	1676	5	0
	4906	5	11

Quitting the village of St. Bride's, and following the cross-road, we again enter the lower road from Caerdiff to Newport, at Gwern-y-Cleppa corner in Tredegar-park. Continuing his progress towards Newport, the traveller will observe on the right the spacious mansion of Tredegar-hall, the seat of Sir Charles G. Morgan, bart. The house was built in the reign of Charles the Second, and being constructed of red brick, without projections, is more remarkable for size than elegance.

There was a mansion here in Leland's time, who mentions Tredegar, "As a fair place of stone." The apartments are decorated with family portraits of the old Morgans of Tredegar, lineal descendants from Cadiver Vawr, who was Prince of Gwent and Glamorgan, and died in 1084. "The brown drawing-room is floored and wainscotted from the planks of a single oak tree! The dimensions of this apartment are forty-two feet in length, and twenty-seven in breadth. John Morgan, esq. the last of the old family of Tredegar, having no surviving children, bequeathed the noble and ancient domains of Tredegar to Judge Gould, created a baronet in 1792, who on becoming proprietor, assumed the name and arms of Morgan. The grounds are extensive, but are capable of great improvement. The park is well wooded, and most abundantly stocked with deer.

Leaving Tredegar, and pursuing our route, diverge from the high road, and visit the remains of Castel Glâs, or Green-castle, once a celebrated Lancastrian fortress. It is situated on the left bank of the Ebwy, in the level of Mendalgyf, about two miles from Newport. Churchyard the poet, in his "Worthinesse of Wales," thus describes it:

"A goodly seate, a tower, a princely pyle,
Built as a watch, or saftie for the soyle,
By river stands, from Newport not three myle.
This house was made, when many a bloodie broyle,
In Wales, God wot, destroyed that publicke stable;
Here men with sword and shield did braules delate,

Here saftie stood, for many things in deede,
That sought safeguard, and did some sucker neede.
The name thereof, the nature shews a right,
Greenfielde, it is full, gay, and goodly sure.
A fine sweet soyle most pleasant unto sight,
That for delight, and wholesome ayre so pure,
It may be praisde, a plot sought out so well
As though a king should say here will I dwell.
The pastures greene, the woods and waters cleere,
Sayth any prince may buyld a pallace here."

The remains of this once famous castle consist of a building, now used as a stable for cattle; a square tower, with a spiral staircase; a stone edifice, containing several apartments, in one of which is a large fire-place, with a large Gothic entrance.

This estate was once the property of the Dukes of Lancaster, but now belongs to the family of the Morgans.

Twyn Barlwm hill, is a subject justly worthy the notice of the tourist. Mr. Coxe has given so animated a description of his excursion to Twyn Barlwm, that we shall here give his pleasing account of the "hill of other times."

Quitting the upper Caerdiff road, at the hand-post, he continued three miles along the turnpike road leading to Risca, passing through a beautiful wooded country of hill and dale, diversified with enclosures of corn and pasture. Leaving the Risca road, he ascended a steep pitch to the canal, crossed it over a bridge, and in a short time came to a cottage, about two miles from the village of Henleys. Here Mr. Coxe, and his companions, quitting the chaise, rode up a gentle acclivity, clothed with copses and underwood, along a narrow and stony path, and in three quarters of an hour reached the bottom of the swelling hill. Skirting its base, over some heathy and boggy ground, they ascended to the top.

"The eminence of Twyn Barlwm is a swelling height, about six miles in circumference at its base, rising on the south-western extremity of Mynydd

Maen, and is covered with coarse russet herbage, moss, and heath, without a single tree. The summit is a flat surface, of an oval shape, and on the highest part is covered with a circular tumulus, or artificial mound of earth and stones, eighteen yards in height, and surrounded with a deep foss. The entrance is north-east, from which a trench, about three feet in depth, is carried round the brow of the eminence, and returns to the upper side of the tumulus.

"Being situated on the highest point of the chain which bounds the rich vallies watered by the Usk, it commands one of the most singular and glorious prospects in Monmouthshire. To the south the Levels of Caldicot and Wentloog, with the broad Severn, losing itself in an expanse of sea, seemed to stretch at the bottom of its sloping declivity; the town of Newport, and the tower of Christ-church, rising in the midst of hills and forests. To the east appear the cultivated parts of Monmouthshire, swelling into numerous undulations fertilized by the meandering Usk. These rich prospects are contrasted on the north and west with a waving surface of mountains, that stretch beyond the confines of Glamorganshire and Brecknockshire. The beautiful vallies of the Ebwy and Sorwy, appear in the hollows between the hills, deeply shaded with trees and watered by torrents, which faintly glimmer through the intervening foliage."

Mr. Coxe thinks that Twyn Barlwm was originally one of those places of sepulture called "Carns," which were in common use among the Britons, who were accustomed to bury their leaders on the highest eminences. This was once a celebrated place for holding the Esteddfod, or Bardic meetings.

Returning from Twyn Barlwm to Newport, the tourist will diverge from the high road near Risca, turning to the right, and visit Bedwas and Machen.

Machen-place, once a splendid seat of the Morgan family, is now a farm-house. It exhibits a few traces of past grandeur: a handsome circular apartment called the Hunting-room, and iron implements formerly

used for roasting an ox whole, with a large oak table on which it was served, convey a recollection of former times and former hospitality—now no more!!

Bedwas-church contains nothing worth notice, but the view from the church-yard is delightful. "On one side stretch the wild hills of Monmouth; on the other the fertile vallies of Glamorgan, with the majestic battlements of Caerphilly-castle, appearing like the ruins of a vast city, and towering above the swelling and wooded eminences with which they are surrounded."

Two roads lead from Newport to Caerleon: the one by Malpas is four miles and a half; the other, the most frequented (by Christ-church) is three miles. Between Newport and Christ-church, on the right, we pass a small Saxon encampment situated in the grounds of Mayndee-house, the seat of Col. Sir Robert Kemeys. Christ-church is a small village, standing on an eminence, half a mile south-east of Caerleon, which from its commanding situation and curious sepulchre, attracts the notice of the antiquary and tourist. The church is an ordinary edifice, chiefly in the Gothic style: over the southern entrance is a Saxon arch, with low columns and hatched mouldings. The inside consists of a nave, two aisles, a cross aisle, and chancel. A pretended miraculous sepulchral monument, which is reported to have effected great cures on children on the eve of circumcision, is worthy of notice. It formerly attracted numerous devotees, who simply agreed to remain in contact with the stone all the dull and dreary night.

The custom of planting ever-greens over the graves of departed friends, and bedecking them with flowers at certain seasons of the year, is attended to in Wales with peculiar care. Shakespeare thus refers to this pleasing tribute of affection:

"With fairest flowers, while summer lasts,
I'll sweeten thy sad grave; thou shalt not lack
The flower that's like thy face, pale primrose, nor
The azure harebell, like thy veins; no, nor
The leaf of Eglantine, whom, not to slander,
Outsweetened not thy breath."

David ap Gwillym also beautifully alludes to this practice: "O! while thy season of flowers, and thy tender sprays thick of leaves remain, I will pluck the roses from the brakes, the flowrets of the meads and gems of the woods; the vivid trefoils, beauties of the ground, and the gaily smiling bloom of the verdant herbs, humbly will I lay them on the grave of Ivor."

A similar subject produced the ballad from which the following pathetic stanzas are taken, written originally by the unfortunate Dr. Dodd.

"Whither away, fair maid," I cried,
As on old Brecknock's bank I lay,
When passing by me, I espied
A modest maid in neat array.

Upon her red, but well-turn'd arm,
A little wicker-basket hung,
With flowers of various hues replete,
And branches, ever-green and young.

The fragrant bay, the mournful yew,
The cypress and the box were there;
The daisy pied, the violets blue,
The red pink and the primrose fair.

"And why that basket on your arm,
With all those fragrant sweets supplied?"
With blushing look and pensive air,
And voice of meekness, soft, she sigh'd—

"To yonder church-yard do I haste,
To dress the grave where Henry sleeps;
No maid a truer lover bless'd,
No maid more faithful lover weeps;

"Stern death forbade us to unite,
And cut him down with ruthless blow,
And now I speed to deck his grave,
As we are weekly wont to do."

There kneeling on her Henry's grave,
Adorn'd with all her basket's store,
The rural maiden sighing hung,
Her eyes with tender tears ran o'er.

The melancholy custom pleas'd,
I left her wrapt in pensive thought;
Ideas sad, but soothing, rose,
When my slow steps the church-yard sought.

The romantic view from hence is thus delineated by Capt. Barber:

"Arriving at Christ-church, and looking over a hedge opposite to it, a prospect burst upon us with an electric suddenness, grandly extensive and delightful. From the foreground descended a succession of bold knolls, or gentle swells, clothed with ornamental plantations, in a wide display of sylvan beauty, to Caldicot Level, whose uniform, though fruitful plain, was in a great measure concealed by the intervention of contrasting heights. Beyond this the majestic Severn's

"fresh current flow'd,
Against the eastern ray translucent, pure,
With touch ætherial of Heav'n's fiery Rod."

"Numerous barks diversified its surface, and a large fleet of ships, anchored at King's Road, became a striking object."

Descending Christ-church hill, we arrive at CAERLEON. "The name of this town in the ancient British language, according to Camden, signifies "the Town of the Legion;" it derived this name from having been the station of the "Legio Secunda Britannica," or Second British Legion, in the time of the Romans. It was once the metropolis of all Wales, and called by the Romans, "Isca Silurûm."

For beauty and extent it ranked the third city in the kingdom, being next to London and York. An archbishop had his see here, from the first establishment of Christianity in Britain, until A. D. 521, when the see was translated, by St. David, to Menevia in Pembrokeshire, since called from him St. David's.

In the time of the Romans it was considered as the principal Roman station of the island. Here the

renowned King Arthur chiefly kept his court, and here he instituted that celebrated order of knighthood, styled the order of the Round Table. Even after the usurpation of the Saxons, there was an university at Caerleon, wherein philosophy, astronomy, and other sciences were professed and studied.

The walls were built by the Romans, with brick, and it is affirmed that they were three miles in circumference. There were also three churches, exclusive of the university, and many elegant structures, besides baths. Caerleon is said formerly to have extended to St. Julian's, and was a place of considerable strength in the reign of Henry the Second; for the valiant Jorwerth ap Owen ap Caradoc, lord of Caerleon, defended it a long time against the king's forces, though he was at last vanquished, and deprived of his seignorial territory.

The name of this ancient, splendid, and magnificent city signifies, The Fortress of Lleon upon Usk, being so named from Lleon, a very ancient British king, who, as the Cambrian historians inform us, was the son of Brutus Darianlus. These writers flatly contradict the statement of Camden, as to the derivation of its name, which, as we have before observed, it derives from a Roman legion being stationed there. The suburb still bears the classical appellation of Ultra Pontem. This city was greatly improved and enlarged by Dunivallo Moel Mutius, the father of Behnus and Brellus, about 400 years before the Christian æra. This prince has ever since been esteemed as the founder of this city (now a town), and from his time it became, for many centuries, the seat of royal residence, and the burial-place of the British kings. Geoffrey of Monmouth relates, that in his time there were many remains of the ancient splendour of this city, such as theatres, stately palaces, very high towers, ruins of temples, hot baths, aqueducts, vaults, and sudatories; yet even in his time Caerleon was so far diminished, as scarcely to occupy one-sixth of the area within the ancient

Roman walls. This town continued in a declining state in the fourteenth century, as appears from the account given by Giraldus, who relates, that "many remains of its former magnificence are still visible; splendid palaces, which once emulated with their gilded roofs the grandeur of Rome, (for it was originally built by the Roman princes, and adorned with stately edifices), a gigantic tower, numerous baths, ruins of a temple and a theatre, the walls of which are partly standing. Here we still see, both within and without the walls, subterraneous buildings, aqueducts, vaulted caverns, and stoves, so excellently contrived, as to convey their heat through secret and imperceptible pores." Such was the account of Caerleon by Giraldus Cambrensis, in the fourteenth century.

The ancient churches of Caerleon, before-mentioned, were very magnificent; one of which, dedicated to the martyr Julius, had a convent of religious virgins; another, dedicated to his fellow-martyr, St. Aaron, had a choir of canons; and the third had monks, and was the metropolitan church of all Wales. After the Conquest there was an abbot and monks of the Cistertian order, whom King John, whilst Earl of Morton, privileged to be free of paying toll at Bristol.

Caerleon is now shorn of its beams of ancient splendour. "Alas! (says Captain Barber, in his interesting tour through South Wales), it exhibits a melancholy reverse. The town is a poor straggling place; and vestiges of its former magnificence must be curiously sought after to be seen at all. Statues, altars, columns, elegant friezes, sarcophagi, coins, and intaglios have been making their appearance during several ages; but they are immediately carried away by curious persons, or more frequently applied to domestic uses.

"An altar, with a Roman inscription, had been dug up just before our arrival, and we were conducted by an obliging gentleman of the town, to the garden in which it was found, where we saw the venerable

monument of antiquity just finished slicing into half a dozen slabs for paving. The Roman fortification forms an oblong square, with the corners a little rounded, and unfurnished with towers. Many fragments of the walls appear in large masses of stones, broken tiles and bricks, promiscuously bedded in cement. The remains are no more than 14 feet high; their circumference does not exceed 1800 yards. The Roman citadel stood between the walls and the river, of which some small vestiges appear at the Hanbury Arms, the only inn in the town. The house of Miss Morgan, formerly a Cistertian abbey, has been entirely new faced with square stone, collected from the ruins of Caerleon. The four Tuscan pillars which support the roof of the market-house of Caerleon, were taken from the ruins of a Roman edifice. Of the gigantic tower mentioned by Giraldus, no remains of the masonry exist, but the mound on which it was constructed is still entire. It is an artificial eminence of considerable height, 300 yards in circumference at the base, and 90 at the summit. Churchyard, who wrote in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, thus describes it:

> "A castle very old,
> That may not be forgot;
> It stands upon a forced hill,
> Not far from flowing flood."
> *Worthinesse of Wales.*

From the top of this eminence the wild and beautiful environs of Caerleon are seen to the greatest advantage.

Immediately without the town is the Roman amphitheatre, commonly called Arthur's Round Table. It is an oval concavity, seventy-four yards by sixty-four, and six deep, in which are ranges of stone seats, though now covered with earth and verdure. This amphitheatre, with a statue of Diana, and two ornamental pedestals, were discovered in 1706.

In 1692 a chequered pavement was discovered

near this town, about fourteen feet long. It was composed of cubical stones of various colours, and formed into divers shapes of men, beasts, birds, and cups.

In the neighbourhood of this town have been likewise discovered several ancient earthen vessels, on one of which was represented, in curious figures, the story of the Roman Charity, a lady nourishing her father, who had been condemned to be starved to death, with the milk of her breasts, through the grate of the prison in which he was confined.

Our limits will not here admit a fuller detail of the numerous Roman relics discovered at Caerleon and in the environs; but we cannot help expressing a wish that the modern town belonged to some individual of immense property, whose *hobby* was the study and discovery of antiquities. If such a man made excavations judiciously in this place, the discovery of numerous Roman and British remains would doubtless be the result.

Caerleon, as we have said, after the dominion of the Romans, became the British capital, and was the residence of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table, of whose existence no one can entertain a doubt, notwithstanding the fabulous tales invented by historians, and by them added to the real history of this prince. The Round Table, doubtless gave rise to the 'Table Rounde' of Charlemagne, the Garter, and the other orders of knighthood established in Europe.

Most of the ancient relics found here, have been purchased, and carried away by travellers, or applied to domestic purposes. In the house of Miss Morgan may be seen a small collection of coins, a sculpture in basso-relievo, and an antique intaglio, representing Hercules strangling the Nimean lion.

Caerleon is now but a poor straggling town; the whole number of inhabitants, including the suburb, scarcely amounts to 800. It is situate in the hundred of Usk, lower division, and is twenty miles from Monmouth, fourteen from Chepstow, twenty-six from

Bristol, and 151 miles from London. There is a post-office. The letters to and from this place, go first to Newport by the London and Milford mail-coach. A regular trading vessel from this town to Bristol, sails every Tuesday, and returns every Friday.

The dangerous old wooden bridge over the Usk river, has been removed, and its place substituted by a most elegant one of stone, erected at the expence of the county.

The Free-school of Caerleon, for twenty boys and ten girls, was founded and endowed by Charles Williams, esq. a native of this town. Mr. Williams resided at Caerleon, until an unfortunate duel, which terminated in the death of his antagonist, compelled him to fly his country. He went to Smyrna, and having acquired an immense fortune by trade, returned to England, and lived *incognito* in London. He died at the advanced age of 87, in 1720, leaving the bulk of his fortune to the family of Hanbury, and considerable legacies for the improvement of his native town.

There are no remains of the ancient cathedral or churches; the present parish church was constructed in the Norman era, and dedicated to St. Cadoc, the first abbot of Llancarvan's-abbey, in Glamorganshire. Caerleon-church has a high and massive tower, and consists of a nave, two aisles, and chancel. There are also in this town, two meeting-houses.

The market is held on Thursday. The inn here is the Hanbury Arms.

Objects in the Environs and Vicinity of Caerleon.

As it was the invariable custom of the Romans to construct fortified camps near their principal stations, for divers purposes, we should expect to find traces of their ancient encampments in the vicinity; four are yet visible in the neighbourhood of this town.

The most considerable of these is the encampment of the Lodge in the old park of Llantarnam-abbey. It is about a mile to the north-west of Caerleon, and

was called by the Britons, Caer-wysc; by the Saxons and Normans, Bellingstocke; and it receives its present denomination from being placed near the old lodge-gateway (now in ruins) of Llantarnam-park. According to Harris, and other antiquarian writers, this was first the site of a British town; afterwards used by the Romans as the Æstiva, or summer camp of the second legion. It was again occupied by the Britons, and subsequently by the Saxons, who deepened the foss, and raised the vallum. The Normans likewise did not omit to seize this post (called by Churchyard, in his Worthinesse of Wales, "Caerleon's Hope,") during the numerous assaults which Caerleon sustained in feudal times. It is of an elliptical shape, and surrounded with double ramparts, excepting on the south, where there is a double line of ramparts and ditches. The entrenchments are in some places thirty feet in depth. The entrance is to the west, and defended by a tumulus twelve yards in height, which is placed on the inner rampart. The other encampments are not so remarkable or extensive; there is one at Penros, another at Maindee, and a fourth in the wood of St. Julian's.

One mile to the south-west of Caerleon, is the venerable mansion of St. Julian's, once the residence of Lord Herbert of Cherbury, the historian of Henry VII., and the biographer of his own life. This celebrated nobleman was born in 1581; he was early distinguished for his valour, accomplishments, and personal beauty, but still more for his love of science. He was an eminent diplomatist, and was the author of many celebrated works, being considered as the first Deistical writer in this island, and a decided champion in the cause of natural religion, excluding the Christian revelation. A finely-engraved portrait of this nobleman is to be found in Archdeacon Coxe's Historical Tour.

Lord Herbert died in his own house in Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, aged 67, and was buried in the chancel of St. Giles's in the Fields.

His grave was covered with a flat marble slab, containing the following inscription, written by himself: "Huic inhumatur corpus Edvardi Herbert, equites Balnei, Baronis de Cherbury et Castle Island, auctoris libri, cui titulus est De Veritate, reddor ut herbæ vicessimo die Augusti, 1648." *i. e.* Here lies the body of Edward Herbert, Baron of Cherbury and Castle Island, and author of a book entitled De Veritate, withered like the grass, August 20, Anno Domini, &c.

In an unfrequented cross-road from Caerleon to Usk, which leads along the banks of the river, are two old farm-houses, called Great and Little Bull Moor; according to tradition, the latter is situated on a Roman station. About thirty years since there was discovered here the massive foundation of an immense building, consisting of hewn stones, each weighing from half a ton to a ton. Among these fragments was a large free-stone, six or seven feet in height, and four wide, in which an arched recess was excavated, containing the figure of a man in a sitting posture, the left hand resting on a globe, the right mutilated. It appeared to have been the statue of an emperor.

Not far from hence is the village of KEMEYS, with an old mansion that formerly belonged to the family of that name. The summer-house, called "The Folly," was erected by George Kemeys, esq. Boasting to his uncle one day, that he had constructed a building from which eleven counties could be seen, his uncle replied, "I am sorry, nephew, eleven counties can see thy folly;" hence it was called Kemeys' Folly.—Leaving Kemeys, the antiquary will visit the church of Tredonnoc, and view the Roman inscription which was discovered near the foundations of the church. It is affixed to the north wall, and is a monument to Julius Julianus, a soldier of the second Augustan legion. Near Kemeys is the village of LLANTRISAINT, chiefly noticeable for its church, a Gothic edifice, with a square tower of hewn stone.

Two miles east of Caerleon is Llanwerne-house, a

seat of the late Sir Robert Salusbury, bart. Sir Robert was the fellow-collegian and most intimate friend of the late William Pitt, of immortal memory. Sir Robert represented the county of Monmouth in one parliament, and sat in the house many years as member for Brecon. He will long be remembered in parliamentary annals, as having voted the committal of a popular patriot to the Tower, when he thought the liberties of the House of Commons infringed: The memory of Sir Robert Salusbury will long be cherished in this county, as he was a benefactor to the poor, a hospitable friend to his equals, and a public spirited magistrate. Sir Robert Salusbury died at Canterbury, November 18, 1817.

A little beyond Llanwerne we enter the district called Caldicot Level, and sometimes denominated the Moors, and pass the principal drain, to this day termed Monk-ditch, from having been excavated "*in days o' lang syne*" by the monks of Gold-cliff priory.

Gold-cliff is a peninsulated rocky hill, rising abruptly from the shore, about three quarters of a mile in circumference: it consists of stratifications of limestone, and siliceous crystallisations with pyrites, and beneath an immense bed of glittering mica, from which the cliff derives its name. The brow of the cliff was formerly dignified with an opulent priory, founded by Robert de Chandos in 1113. It was first given to the abbey of Bee, in Normandy, then to Tewksbury-abbey, and afterwards by Henry IV. to Eton-college, to which it still belongs. The revenues of the priory in the reign of Henry VIII. were valued at 144*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* per annum. Some few remains of this monastic foundation are to be met with in the appurtenances of a barn, and other buildings to a farm-house.

Returning to Caerleon, the traveller will visit the ruins of an ancient Roman fort in the suburb of Ultra Pontem; and if he is curious in those matters, the tin-works and forges of Messrs. Jenkins and Co. and the

wire manufactory of Messrs. Parry and Co. both which are in the neighbourhood of this town.

Journey from Caerleon to Monmouth; through Usk.

Leaving Caerleon, we follow the upper road, cross the Avon Lluyd, over Pont Saturn, leaving Penros-house at a little distance on the left. The road gently ascends for the space of three miles, to the top of an eminence which overlooks on one side the old avenues and rich groves of Llantarnam-park; on the other, the beautiful vale watered by the Usk, and bounded by the wooded acclivities of Kemeys and Bertholly. The country is broken into inequalities of hill and dale, till the view is closed by the dusky mass of mountains that overhang Abergavenny. Thence descending, we arrive at LLANGIBBY, which takes its name from the church dedicated to St. Cibby, or Kebbius. Here is Llangibby-house, the seat of W. A. Williams, esq. The mansion is said to have been built by Inigo Jones, but contains nothing remarkable in the architecture.

Adjacent to the house are the ruins of Langibby-castle, which consist of a square tower, the walls of some of the apartments, the part of the roof, and some of the columns which supported it. Mr. Coxe supposes that this citadel was erected probably by the Norman chieftains. This castle was originally in the possession of the Earls of Gloucester; afterward it came to the Earls of March, and finally into possession of the family of Williams. Sir Trevor Williams greatly distinguished himself in the Civil Wars, as a zealous partisan for the parliament, and was very active at the siege of Ragland-castle; but, disgusted afterward with the measures of the Commonwealth, and the usurpation of Cromwell, he fell under the suspicion of the Protector; but surviving him, he cordially concurred in the restoration of monarchy. Sir John Williams, his grandson, having deceased 1738, without issue, his daughter Ellen conveyed the estate of Langibby to her husband, William Adams, esq. of

Monmouth, who assumed the name and arms of Williams.

About a mile from Llangibby we are presented with a most agreeable prospect of the bridge, church, and castle of Usk; we then descend to the church of Llanbaddoc, pass along a road which occupies the whole space between the river and a wooded precipice, and cross over a stone bridge to the town of USK.

Usk gives name to a hundred which is divided into upper and lower divisions; the town is situated in the upper. It contains 207 houses, and 989 inhabitants. It is situated in the centre of the county, on the river Usk, where it is joined by the Berddin. Over the river is a handsome bridge of five arches, but the floods in winter threaten its stability.

Usk is undoubtedly a place of great antiquity: here was the Roman station called "Burrium," mentioned by Antoninus.

At this place was a priory of Benedictine nuns, founded before the year 1236, by Gilbert de Clare, Earl of the Marches. At the dissolution the revenues were valued at 55*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* per annum. The priory-house is now occupied by a farmer; it has of course been frequently altered and repaired: an apartment on the first floor is worthy of notice, as the frieze is ornamented with numerous heraldic embellishments.

The church is large and commodious, and has a large square embattled tower. It exhibits several kinds of architecture. The earliest is the Anglo-Norman. In this church is an ancient inscription, written in the Gwentian dialect of the Welsh; but though the best Cambrian antiquaries have turned their attention to this relic, none of them have been able to decypher the meaning. Usk is a corporate town, and, in conjunction with Newport and Monmouth, sends one member to the British senate. The original charter granted by Mortimer Earl of March, conferring certain privileges on the mayor and burgesses, was burnt during the sacking and conflagration

of the town by Owen Glendower. This is a post-town, and has a weekly market on Monday. The market-place and town-house have a very neat appearance. The sessions for the county are held at this place. The inn is the Three Salmons.

Environs and Vicinity of Usk.

Usk Castle.—An agreeable walk leads under the first arch of the bridge, through a meadow planted with large walnut trees by the side of the limpid and murmuring river, under the ruins of the castle and its high ponderous and ivy-mantled tower, which are here seen to the best advantage. The ruins of this fine fabric are very considerable. No castle in Monmouthshire has been subject to more frequent assaults; it suffered, as well as the town, from the ravages of Owen Glendower, who was afterwards defeated by the royal troops at the battle of Usk, and driven back in disgrace to his native mountains. The proprietors of Usk-castle successively, were the De Clares, Earls of Gloucester and Hereford, the De Burghs, Earls of Ulster, the Mortimers Earls of March, Richard Duke of York, Henry VII. and the Herberts Earls of Pembroke. The present proprietor is the Duke of Beaufort. Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, and Lord of Usk, was born here 1374, and declared by the parliament in 1381 heir-apparent to the crown. Usk-castle was a favourite residence of Richard Duke of York, and is distinguished by the birth of his two sons, who afterwards became Edward the Fourth, and Richard the Third. From the terrace under the ivy-mantled tower there is a fine view of the adjacent scenery.

In the vicinity are several salmon-weirs worth notice. Great quantities of salmon and sewin are taken and sent to London, Bath, and Bristol. In the year 1782 a salmon was caught which weighed sixty-eight pounds and a half.

Several weirs, or salmon traps, are to be found on the river in this vicinity. One at Trostrey, is thus

described: "An embankment of stakes and stones is thrown diagonally across this stream, between two and three hundred yards in length; in the middle of the weir is a vacancy provided with an iron grate, through which a considerable body of the river rushes with great impetuosity. At the lower part of the weir, on one side of this stream, is a large wooden box, perforated with holes to admit the water and air, with an aperture, to which is affixed a long round wicker-basket, resembling a tunnel. This aperture is closed with a small iron grate, which opens within the box like a trap-door, and falls to its original position by its own weight. A square wooden frame, similar to those used at mills for catching eels, extends nearly across the whole of the stream below the large iron-grate, leaving only sufficient room for the salmon. The fish, in his migration, is obliged to ascend this narrow opening; and having passed the wooden frame, is stopped by the grate. Instead of retreating down the narrow pass by which he ascended, he turns sideways, and, hurried by the rapidity of the stream along a narrow current leading through the tunnel, forces open the trap-door, which immediately falls down behind him, and he is thus secured in the box."

Besides the weirs on the river Usk, another method is adopted for governing its current by *cribs*. These are made of common poles of any coarse and cheap wood, formed of uprights, of four, five, and six feet long, as may be needful. The length may be proportioned to the size of the poles procured for the purpose, and the breadth of the *crib* within, is generally about three or four feet.

These *cribs* being constructed near the place to be protected, are easily placed in their proper situations. They are then to be filled with loose stones, having wattles made of the branches of the poles, placed next the outsides of the cribs before they are deposited in the river, which prevents any disappointment from stones getting out of the crib after it is filled.

Near Usk is LLANHOWELL, a village celebrated as having given birth to Blethyn Broadspear, Lord of Beachley and Llanhowell.

Between Usk and Llanover is the hamlet of GOYTRE. The scenery around this place so much resembles the romantic scenes of North America, that a gentleman, who had passed many years across the Atlantic, fixed upon this spot, on his return to Europe, as most analogous to the objects he had been familiar with. Goytre consists of a number of scattered cottages, at a considerable distance from each other. The situation of the church is picturesque, standing on an eminence and embosomed in a wood; it is without a tower, and is built in the Gothic style.

In this neighbourhood are three ancient encampments. Two miles north-west of the town is Craig-y-Gaercyd, a Roman camp situated on the right bank of the river, having wide entrenchments and many curious lofty "tumuli." There are two others on the opposite side of the Usk, viz. a small one at Campwood, and a very strong position at Coed-y-Bunedd.

From Usk the traveller can, if he wish, pursue his route to Monmouth by Ragland, which places we have before described.

The scenery, which every where abounds in this hundred, we shall describe, as delineated by the elegant pen of Captain Barber:—"We traversed a bold undulating country, of uncommon richness, where the luxuriance of the soil was alike auspicious in impervious woods, or teeming orchards, weeping over the hills, and verdant meadows neatly carpeting the vallies.

"When Morn, her rosy steps in th' eastern clime
Advancing, sow'd the earth with orient pearl,"

we began our journey, and this range of fertility but disclosed itself in partial gleams through the exhaling dew, as we ascended a hill from Usk. Advancing, the mists disappeared, and we quickly found ourselves in a sequestered valley, whose high encircling hills

were variously decorated with a profusion of woods. The morning sun brilliantly shone on the dewy verdure; and we were admiring the charming scenery, while our spirits partook of its cheerfulness, when a huntsman's horn resounded from a neighbouring thicket, and echoed through the hills, a deep-mouthed pack joining in full chorus announced a throwing-off.

"The concert continued, though the performers remained unseen, as we anxiously sported the dale, but our road soon took an ascent in the precise direction of the hunt; and gaining an eminence, a new vale and its accompaniments opened to us, yet without the hunting party. However, we had not long gazed in disappointment, when from the dark umbrage of a thick wood, the hounds rushed forward like a wave, over the meadows; the men and horses were not far behind; but scouring a descent, that would have scared a lowland sportsman, pursued the train, which continued out of sight.

"But at length we saw reynard skulk from a ditchy fence in a field before us, and dash across the meadows; the hounds and hunters were close at his heels. A loud shout from the party, and a superior yell in the dogs, and the strained exertions of the animal, proclaimed a general view. We heartily joined in the halloo; and even our sorry jades displayed unusual spirit, for they pricked up their ears, and absolutely began a gallop to join in the chace; but a gate near a yard high, opposed an insurmountable obstacle to that intention, and obliged us to remain inactive spectators while the party veered up a wooded hill, and finally disappeared from us."

Journey from Monmouth to Chepstow.

The first place we arrive at, worthy of notice in this route, is the village of Trellich, or Treley, distant from Monmouth five miles. This village is supposed to have derived its name from three Druidical stones, standing in a field adjoining the road near the church. These stones are of varied altitudes,

and their positions also vary, some being placed upright, and others inclining. They appear to be formed of a concretion of siliceous pebbles in a calcareous bed, commonly called pudding-stone, and of which some neighbouring rocks consist. In this village is also a mound, forming part of a Roman entrenchment, and which afterwards became the site of a castle belonging to the Earls of Clare. There is also a chalybeate well, formerly in high estimation. The church at Treleck is a Gothic building, and has a handsome spire; and near the church is a pedestal, with a sun-dial, and a Latin inscription, commemorating Harold's victory over the Britons. It is conjectured a Roman bloomery was established near this spot. The church steeple of Trelech fell to the ground, August 1, 1778.

Four miles and a half from Trelech, we pass through Penterry, a small village in the hundred of Caldicot. Thence we proceed to St. Arvan's, a delightful village, containing about forty-eight houses, and 315 persons. At this place is Piercefield, now the residence of N. Wells, esq. which is one of those spots on the banks of the Wye, visited by every traveller of taste, and every admirer of the picturesque. The reader can not conceive the effect produced here, from the extraordinary combination of woods, rocks, and waters. The wildness of forests blended with rich cultivation, and the neat dwellings of modern industry, contrasted with the majestic ruins of edifices that were famous "in days o'lang syne!" Piercefield grounds are open to the public on Tuesdays and Fridays; a guide attends to point out the views: the principal objects to notice are called, 1. The Lover's-leap;—2. Paradise-seat;—3. The Giant's-cave—4. The Half-way Seat;—5. The Double View;—6. Prospect above Pierce-wood;—7. The Grotto;—8. The Platform;—and, 9. The Alcove. The house is a modern building, and though not very extensive, is elegant, and splendidly furnished. The original proprietor was Valentine Morris, esq. member for the

county of Monmouth. Mr. Morris first called into notice the latent beauties of Piercefield.

For the information of the reader who may not have an opportunity of visiting this delightful spot, we shall extract the following delineation of it from Burlington's British Traveller.

"The access to this luxuriant spot is through a garden, consisting of slopes and waving lawns, with shrubby trees scattered tastefully about. Striking down to the left, is a sequestered part, shaded by a fine beech tree, which commands a most beautiful landscape. That part over which the beech tree spreads, is levelled in the vast rock which forms the shore of the river Wye, through Piercefield grounds. This rock, which is totally covered with shrubby underwood, is almost perpendicular from the water to the rail which encloses the point of view. One of the sweetest vallies ever beheld, lies immediately beneath, but at such a depth, that every object is diminished, and appears in miniature.

"This valley consists of a complete farm, of about forty enclosures, grass and corn fields, intersected by hedges, with many trees; it is a peninsula, almost surrounded by the river, which winds directly beneath, in a manner enchantingly romantic; and what constitutes the beauty of the whole is, its being environed by vast rocks and precipices, thickly covered with wood, down to the edge of the water. The whole is a magnificent amphitheatre, which seems dropt from the clouds, complete in all its beauty.

"Turning to the left is a winding walk, cut out of the rock, but with wood enough against the river, to prevent the danger which must otherwise attend treading on such a precipice.

"After passing through a hay-field, and upon entering the woods, is a bench, enclosed with Chinese rails, in the rock, which commands the same valley and river, all fringed with wood. Some stupendous rocks are in front, and just above them the river Severn appears, with a boundless prospect beyond it.

"A little further on is another bench, enclosed with iron rails, on a point of the rock, which is here pendant over the river; a situation full of the terribly sublime. A vast hollow of wood is beneath all, surrounded by the woody precipices, which have a peculiar fine effect. In the midst appears a small but neat building, namely, the bathing-house, which from this enormous height appears but as a spot of white, in the midst of the vast range of green. Towards the right is seen the winding of the river.

"From this spot, which seems to be pushed forward from the rock by the bold hands of the genii of the place, we approach a temple, a small neat building, on the highest part of these grounds; and imagination cannot form an idea of any thing more beautiful, than what appears full to the enraptured eye from this amazing point of view.

"You look down upon all the woody precipices as if placed in another region, terminated by a wall of rocks; just above them appears the river Severn, in so peculiar a manner as if it washed them, and the spectator naturally supposes the rocks only separate him from that river; whereas, in fact, the Severn is four or five miles distant.

"This *deceptio visus* is exquisitely beautiful; for viewing first the river beneath, then the vast rocks rising in a shore of precipices, and immediately above them the noble river Severn, and finally, all the boundless view over Gloucestershire and Somersetshire, form together such an incomparable groupe of romantic prospects, with such an apparent junction of detached parts, that imagination can scarcely conceive any thing equal to it: the view on the right, over the park, and the winding valley at the bottom of it, would from any other spot than this be viewed as highly romantic.

"The winding road down to the cold bath is cool, sequestered, and agreeable. The building itself is very neat, and well constructed, and the spring which supplies it, plentiful and transparent. You wind from

it up the rock. This walk from the cold bath is rather dark and gloomy; breaks and objects are rather scarce in it. On the left, towards the valley, there is a prodigious hollow, filled with a thick wood.

"Passing on, there are two breaks from this walk, which open to a delightful prospect of the valley: these breaks lead through an extremely romantic cave hollowed out of the rock, and opening to a fine point of view.

"At the mouth of this cave some swivel guns are mounted, upon the firing of which a repeated echo is reverberated from rock to rock with the most awful, impressive, and astonishing effect on the auditors.

"In this walk also is a remarkable phenomenon of a large oak, venerable for its age, growing out of a cleft in the rock, without the least appearance of any earth.

"Pursuing the walk, as it rises up the rocks, and passes by the point of view first mentioned, we arrive at a bench, which commands a most picturesque and luxuriant prospect. On the left you look down upon the valley, with the river winding many hundred fathoms perpendicular beneath the whole, surrounded by the vast amphitheatre of wooded rocks, and to the right, full upon the town of Chepstow; beyond it the vast Severn's winding, and an immense prospect bounding the whole.

"From hence an agreeable walk, shaded on one side with a great number of fine firs, leads to an irregular junction of winding walks, with many large trees growing from the sequestered lawn, in a manner highly tasteful, and presenting a striking contrast to what immediately succeeds; for to the left appears the valley beneath, in all its beautiful elegance, surrounded by the romantic rocky woods. In the front rises, from the hollow of the river, a prodigious cluster of formidable rocks, and immediately above them, in breaks, winds the Severn. On the right is Chepstow town and castle, amidst a border of wood, with the Severn above them, and over the whole, as far as the

eye can command, an immense prospect of distant country.

"The sloping walks of evergreens which lead from hence are remarkably beautiful, and the prospect delectable; for the town, and the country beyond it, appear perpetually changing their appearance—each moment presenting a new picture, until by descending, the whole disappears. These walks lead to a grotto, which is a small cave in the rock, adorned with stones of various colours and kinds, copper and iron cinders, &c. From the seat in this grotto you look down a steep slope, to a hollow of wood, bounded in front by the craggy rocks, and a view of the distant country, interspersed with white buildings, the whole forming a landscape as beautiful as any in the world. The winding walk which leads from the grotto, varies from any of the former; for the town of Chepstow, and the various neighbouring objects, burst upon the view in every direction as you pass along.

"Passing over a little bridge, which is thrown across the road, in a hollow-way through the wood, are various openings, which present the most delightful pictures of rural scenery. Here you behold a hollow of wood bounded by a wall of rocks; there you have in one small view, all the picturesque beauties of a natural camera obscura; here you behold the town and castle of Chepstow rising from the romantic steeps of wood in a manner inexpressibly beautiful; there you look down upon a fine bend of the river winding to the castle, which appears most romantically situated.

"The last point of view, equal to most of the preceding, is from the alcove. From this there is a prospect down perpendicularly on the river, with a fine cultivated slope on the other side; to the right is a prodigious steep shore of wood, winding to the castle, which, with part of the town, appears in full view. On the left is seen a fine bend of the river for some distance; the opposite shore of wild wood, with

the rock appearing at places in rising cliffs, has a grand effect.

"About a mile from these walks is a romantic cliff, called the Wind Cliff, from which there is an unbounded prospect. Upon firing a pistol or gun, the echo is sublimely grand; the explosion is repeated five times very distinctly from rock to rock, and sometimes seven, and if the weather is calm and serene, nine times.

"Beyond the cliff at some distance is the abbey, a venerable ruin, situated in a romantic hollow, belonging to the Duke of Beaufort. In point of picturesque scenery of nature in her wild attire, the beauties of Piercefield are inexpressibly charming. The cultivated enclosures forming the bottom of the valley, with the serpentine course of the river, the vast amphitheatre of rocks and pendant woods which environ it to a stupendous height, form a conspicuous trait of beauty. The elegant proprietor placed benches in those points of views most peculiarly striking; nor can any thing be more picturesque than the appearance which the Severn takes in many places, of being supported and bounded by the rocks, though actually four miles distance. In respect to the extensive prospects, the agreeable manner in which the town and castle are occasionally introduced to view, with the rocks, woods, and river, form a landscape inimitably beautiful.

"The river Wye, which runs at the bottom of the walks, is an infinite advantage; but it is in many respects inferior to a fresh-water river which keeps a level, and does not display a breadth of muddy bank at low water. The Wye also has not that transparent sombre, that silver-shaded surface, which is of itself one of the greatest beauties of nature, and would render the delectable prospects of Piercefield still more delectable."

This enchanting retreat is now in the possession of Colonel Wood. The Rev. Mr. Coxe and Captain Barber have each recently visited this delightful spot. We

shall give the very pleasing description of the latter tourist, in addition to the account we have already inserted.

"We rode up an embowered lane to the village of St. Arvan, and leaving our horses at the blacksmith's, entered Piercefield grounds at a back gate. Here, commencing a walk of three miles in length, we passed through agreeable plantations of oak, ash, and elm, to the edge of a perpendicular cliff, called the Lover's-leap, overlooking an abyss-like hollow, whose fearful depth is softened by a tract of forest extending over the surrounding rocks.

"High above competition, at the northern extremity of the scene, rises Wynd-cliff; a dark wood fringes its lofty summit, and shelves down its sides to the river Wye, which urges its sinuous course at the bottom of the cliff. In one place the river, gently curving, appears in all the breadth of its channel; in another, projecting rocks and intervening foliage conceal its course, or sparingly exhibit its darkened surface.

"Following the bend of the river on its marginal height, a range of naked perpendicular cliffs, the Banagor rocks, appear above the woody hills that prevail through the scenery, of so regular a figure, that one can scarce help imagining it the fortification of a town, with curtains, bastions, and demi-bastions.

"But a very leading figure is the peninsula of Llanicul; the hills of Piercefield here receding into a semicircular bend, watered by the rivers immediately beneath, are opposed by a similar concavity in the Banagor rocks, the whole forming a grand amphitheatre of lofty woods and precipices.

"From the opposite ground descends a fertile expanse, or tongue of land, filling up the area of the circle. This singular valley is laid out in a compact ornamented farm; the richly verdant meadows are intersected by flourishing hedge-rows, while numerous trees diversify the tract, and embower the farm-house; a row of elms shadows the margin of the

river, which skirting the base of the hills, nearly surrounds the valley.

" These subjects disclose themselves in different combinations through intervals in the shrubbery, which encloses the walk; and which, although selected from the nicest observations, are managed with so just an attention to the simplicity of nature, as to appear the work of her plastic hand.

" The Giant's-cave, a little further, is a passage cut through a rock. Over one of the entrances is a mutilated colossal figure, which once sustained the fragment of a rock in his uplifted arms, threatening to overwhelm whoever dared enter his retreat; but some time since the stone fell, carrying the giant's arms along with it; yet he continues to grin horror, although deprived of his terrors.

" From this place a path, traced under the woods, descends to the Bath; a commodious building, concealed from outward view by impending foliage.

" Deserting for a while the course of this river, we ascend a superior eminence, called " the Double View," whence the different scenes that have presented themselves in detail, appear in one comprehensive range. Here too a new field of prospect discloses itself much more extensive than the former, and beautifully picturesque. The mazy Wye, with all its interesting accompaniments, passes from beneath us, through a richly variegated country, to its junction with the Severn, beyond whose silvery expanse the grand swelling shores of Somersetshire form the distance. A curious *deceptio visus* occurring here, must not be past over: it arises from a coincidence in the angle of vision between the embattled rocks already mentioned, and a part of the Severn, which appears to wash their summit, although in reality many miles distant. But the subject of the prospect from this spot, is seen more picturesquely combined as we continue our walk on a gentle descent, and catch the varying scene through apertures in the foliage: yet there is something that one would

wish to add or remove, until we reach the Grotto, when a picture is exhibited in the happiest state of composition. In this charming view from the Grotto, a diversified plantation occupies the foreground, and descends through a grand hollow to the river, which passes in a long reach under the elevated ruin of Chepstow-castle, the town, and bridge, towards the Severn.

"Rocks and precipices, dark shelving forests, groves, and lawns, hang on its course; and, with a variety of sailing vessels, are reflected from the liquid mirror, with an effect that I cannot attempt to describe, and at which the magic pencil of a Claude would faulter. The distant Severn and its remote shores form an excellent termination, and complete the picture.

"On our visit the rich extent of variegated woods that mantle this charming domain received an additional diversity in the endless gradations of autumnal tints that chequered their surface, while in a few places the still uniform sombre hue of the pine and larch was admirably relieved by the silvered verdure of the lightly-branching ground ash and witch hazel.

"Highly gratified with this delightful scenery, we returned by another track through tangled shrubberies, open groves, and waving lawns, to the mansion. This edifice is constructed of free-stone, and has had two handsome wings lately added to it by Colonel Wood. Although not very extensive, it has, nevertheless, an elegant external appearance, and is fitted up internally with a taste and splendor little inferior to any of our first-rate houses in England."

This luxurious spot was created about sixty-five years since by Valentine Morris, esq. This gentleman, by the exercise of the most munificent liberality, the most unbounded hospitality, by making his mansion the refuge of the poor and distressed, and by keeping an open and amply-furnished table, was greatly reduced in his finances, and, alas! obliged to part with this paradise, and find an asylum from the ingratitude

of mankind, from the cruel malignancy of his creditors, in the West Indies.

Before he left this country he gave a last, a sad farewell to the enchanting groves of Piercefield; the delectable scenery of which had been delineated by his creative genius. He saw the sublime landscape vanishing from his view, but he sustained the shock with that magnanimity so characteristic of Valentine Morris.

Far different were the emotions of the neighbouring poor: those children of misfortune, penury, and distress, who had been fed by his bounty, and clothed by his benevolence: they sorrowfully deplored the loss of their beloved benefactor; they clung around him, bathed his feet with their tears, implored Heaven to bestow its choicest blessings upon him, who had scattered plenty around them.

Mr. Morris sympathized with their distress, but preserved great firmness of mind, until a circumstance occurred which penetrated his soul with grief, and overwhelmed his feelings. As his chaise was proceeding on the road to London, on crossing Chepstow-bridge, the *bells were muffled*, as is usual in cases of public calamity, and they rung a solemn mournful peal. This unexpected tribute of real and profound veneration deeply affected his mind, and he burst into tears.

In contemplating the events of human life, we generally observe that the most generous and philanthropic persons are the most unfortunate: such was the melancholy fate of Mr. Morris. The genius of evil was ever at his elbow; and from the affecting period of his departure from Piercefield, a regular and cruel series of calamities attended him.

Being appointed to the government of the Island of St. Vincent's, his excellency expended the residue of his much-impaired fortune in promoting the prosperity of that island, cultivating the colony, and improving its fortifications. The reward of his patriotic researches was cold neglect, and an unjust refusal to

reimburse his expences. The fatal consequences may easily be conjectured. His creditors became clamorous for their debts, and he who had created and enjoyed the elysium of Piercefield, was immured within the gloomy walls of the King's Bench. Here, to the disgrace of the ministry who had solicited his services, and benefited by them; to the disgrace of his creditors, and the country at large, he was suffered to remain a *prisoner seven years.* He had married the niece of the Earl of Peterborough, and of all the multitude who had basked in the sunshine of his prosperity, one friend only endeavoured to alleviate his distress or sympathise in his misery. His amiable lady was unremitting in her affectionate attention to her unfortunate and much injured husband. Her clothes and trinkets she sold to provide him *bread!* But unable to behold the miseries of her consort, grief deprived her of reason, and she became insane. Mr. Morris, after being released from prison, did not survive many years; he died in 1789.

Such were the unmerited sufferings of Valentine Morris; a man of sublime taste and elevated genius, whose soul was ever tremblingly alive to distress, who soothed the sorrows of the poor, ameliorated the sufferings of the unfortunate, and possessed the fairest virtues of humanity.

Peace to thy shade, thou best of men!—And ye who range the hills and dales of Piercefield, who with enraptured eye contemplate its sublime and picturesque beauties, think of him who formed the scenes you now behold; and, while the melancholy tale of his misfortunes excites the tear of sensibility, reflect on the mutability of all events in this chequered state.

Leaving Piercefield, we pursue our route along the high road, and enter CHEPSTOW.

Chepstow lies about three miles from the passage over the Severn at Aust Ferry; five from the New Passage, or Black Rock; fifteen from Monmouth;

sixteen from Bristol; twenty-eight from Gloucester, and 131 from London. It is situated near the mouth of the river Wye, over which it has a very elegant and substantial bridge. It is in the higher division of the hundred of Caldicot, and contains 429 houses, and 2346 inhabitants. The name of this town is of Saxon original, and signifies a place of trade and commerce. It was formerly of great eminence, and much frequented. It is a sea-port for all the towns situate on the banks of the Wye, and where their commerce seems to centre. At Chepstow the tide is said to rise higher than any part of the known world. In January 1768, it attained the height of seventy feet; its greatest rise of late years has been fifty-six feet. During the period above mentioned, the river overflowed the adjacent meadows, swept away several herds of cattle, and considerably injured the bridge.

Ships of from six to eight hundred tons burthen are built at this town; and of late it has become so flourishing, that the merchants import their wines direct from Oporto, and deals, battens, hemp, flax, pitch, and tar, &c. from Norway and Russia. This town has also considerable trade with Bristol, and the western ports of England.

Chepstow-bridge is a very curious and handsome structure, and consists of five iron arches on stone piers; its dimensions are, length 532 feet, width 20, span of centre arch 112, two adjoining arches 70, two outward arches 54; it was finished in 1816. Half this bridge is in Monmouthshire and half in Gloucestershire, and the repairs are consequently defrayed at the joint expence of the two counties.

The position of Chepstow and its port is in an abrupt hollow, enclosed by considerable heights in every direction. It possesses every recommendation for salubrity of climate, respectability, and elegant mansions. The town was anciently walled round, and the remains are considerable, including within their circuit the modern town, with several fields and

orchards. The cliffs on each side the river have a most beautiful and romantic appearance.

The church, situated at the extremity of the town, near the bridge, is a fine specimen of the early Norman architecture. The massive arches resting on pillars; the interior and western entrance is embellished with richly ornamented mouldings; the tower was erected in the last century. This church formerly belonged to a priory of Benedictine monks, founded in the reign of King Stephen; it contains a monument of Henry, second Earl of Worcester. There are traces of St. Kynemark's priory near Piercefield-lodge; vaults and old buildings near the Beaufort Arms, and under Trydell's long room; and a chapel of St. Anne in Bridge-street, and another adjoining Powis's Almshouse. The old gate has a very venerable appearance. Here are two meeting-houses.

The Duke of Beaufort is lord of the manor of Chepstow and its neighbourhood, and is also proprietor of the fisheries in the river Severn, from Cone Pile to the New Passage, and in the river Wye from Brookwear to the mouth of that river. Great quantities of salmon are sent from Chepstow to London, Bath, Bristol, Oxford, and Gloucester.

Chepstow has a weekly market on Saturday, and five annual fairs.

The London mail arrives at five in the afternoon, and returns in the morning at seven. The inns are the Beaufort Arms, and Three Cranes. The assembly-rooms and corn-market are worth notice.

King Edward the First once visited Chepstow, at which time Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, being on the other side of the ferry, the King invited him to come over to confer with him, respecting some differences between them. The Prince refused; upon which King Edward crossed over to him in a boat, and Llewelyn in a rapture of generosity leaped into the water to receive the King in his boat, exclaiming to the English monarch, "your humility has overcome my pride; your wisdom has triumphed over my folly."

Chepstow is thought to have arisen from the ruined suburbs of an ancient Roman city, called Caerwent, or Venta Silurum. The Castle of Chepstow is a venerable relique of antiquity; it lines the whole length of a lofty projecting rock, that overhangs the Wye's meandering stream; its lofty turrets and massive battlements form a sublime and interesting object. It was built in 1070, by William Fitz-Osbert, Earl of Hereford, and afterwards altered and considerably enlarged by Walter Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, who also built the grand church of Tintern Abbey in the early part of the thirteenth century. It underwent some partial alterations in the fifteenth century, by William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, who was deeply engaged in the wars of York and Lancaster. In 1645 this castle, under Colonel Fitzmorris, surrendered to the Parliamentarians, under Colonel Morgan. In 1648 Chepstow Castle was surprised by the Royalists, under Sir Nicholas Kemeys, but on May 25, it was retaken by assault by the Parliamentarians, under Colonel Ewer, when Sir Nicholas and thirty more of its brave and loyal defenders were slain. Subsequently, after a long siege, conducted by Cromwell, it was taken by storm, and all the garrison put to the sword. The grand entrance is by a Norman arch flanked with circular towers. The old gates remain, consisting of oak planks (covered with iron plates) laid upon a strong lattice, and fastened by iron bolts. Within one door is the original wicket, about three feet high, and only eighteen inches broad, and is cut out so as to leave a very high step. Grooves for a portcullis, and two large round funnels, appear in the arch of this gateway, evidently used for pouring down melted lead and boiling water on the heads of the besiegers. On the left of the gate runs a wall, with a round tower and staircase turret at the corner: the whole aspect of this entrance figures the repulsive gloom of feudal grandeur and reserve.

From this you enter the second court, consisting entirely of the ancient offices and apartments of the

modern keeper. On the right hand is the vassal's hall and kitchen. There are several courts and numerous shells of apartments, the principal of which is a very fine building, having a beautiful oriel window towards the Wye, with niches and vestiges of a gallery. This is supposed by some antiquarians to have been the castle chapel; by others, the grand banquetting-hall.

There are said to have been sixteen towers. An ancient terraced walk runs inside the outer wall, along the whole building, ascending by steps from tower to tower. A subterraneous chamber beneath the ruins opens to the overhanging brow of the precipice. Here several old ivies dart from stony fissures, binding the mouldering summit of the cliff in their sinewy embrace, and flinging their light tendrils round the cavern, embower its aperture as they aspire in frequent volitions to the loftiest turrets of the pile. From several points in the perambulation of the ruins, you look down on the rapid Wye rolling its swelling tide at an immense distance perpendicularly beneath you; and at other times the green waving hills of Piercefield rise in all their peculiar grandeur to the view, darkening the river with their widely projected shadows.

A tower at the south-east of the castle was that in which Henry Marten, one of the regicides who signed the death-warrant of Charles I. was confined. Marten was a strenuous advocate for a republican government, and during the Civil Wars was one of the first who assisted in bringing that monarch to the block. On the usurpation of Cromwell he did not appear among the number of his friends; but after the Restoration effected by General Monk, surrendered on the proclamation, and was tried as a regicide at the Old Bailey. He confessed the fact of attending the trial, and signing the death-warrant of the king, but denied any malicious intention. He rested his defence on the necessity of supporting the existing government, allowing that his majesty had the best

title under heaven to the dignity of king, being called thereto by the representative body of the people. He was however found guilty, but petitioned for pardon, which he obtained upon condition of perpetual imprisonment. He was first confined in the Tower of London, but soon removed to the Castle of Chepstow, where his wife was permitted to reside with him. According to Southey, he was in other respects a close prisoner; he says,

"For twenty years, secluded from mankind,
Here Marten lingered: Often have these walls
Echoed his footsteps, as with even tread
He pac'd around his prison. Not to him
Did nature's fair varieties exist;
He never saw the sun's delightful beams,
Save when through yon high bars he pour'd a sad
And broken splendour."

Marten lived to the age of 78, and died by a stroke of apoplexy in 1680. He was buried in the chancel of the parish church of Chepstow. Over his ashes was placed a stone, with an inscription, which one of the vicars ordered to be removed into the body of the church. His epitaph, an acrostic, was composed by himself, in the following quaint phrases of the times:

Here,
September 9, in the year of our Lord 1680,
Was buried a true Englishman,
Who in Berkshire was well known
To love his country's freedom 'bove his own;
But living immured full twenty year,
Had time to write, as does appear,

HIS EPITAPH.

H ere, or elsewhere (all's one to you, to me),
E arth, air, or water, holds my ghostless dust;
N one knows how soon to be by fire set free.
R eader, if you an oft-tried rule will trust,
Y ou'll gladly do and suffer what you must;

M y life was spent in serving you, and you,
A nd death's my pay (it seems), and welcome too;
R evenge destroying but itself, while I,
T o birds of prey leave my old cage, and fly;
E xamples preach to th' eye, care then, mine says,
N ot how you *end*, but how you *spend* your days.

Of the whole number of regicides condemned, *ten* only were executed; *eighteen*, besides Marten, were dispersed into different prisons. His portrait is still preserved in the house of St. Pierre, the seat of Charles Lewis, esq.

Chepstow Castle is the property of his Grace the Duke of Beaufort, who pays particular attention to the preservation of this and the other ancient edifices in his possession.

Objects in the Vicinity of Chepstow.

Piercefield we have already mentioned.

Five miles from Chepstow is the parish of Tintern; it is in the higher division of the hundred of Ragland, and contains about fifty houses, and 320 inhabitants. This place is celebrated for its abbey, which Mr. Nicholson observes is a highly beautiful and interesting ruin, which was founded by Walter de Clare, in 1131, for Cistertian monks, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

Such even in ruins (says an elegant writer) is holy Tintern; what would it be if entire, and "with storied windows richly dight!" The changes of the day and season would vary the effect, and give a new aspect to the objects of illumination. The rays of the sun at noon streaming through the stained glass, would communicate its vivid tinge to the rude effigies in marble and heraldic distinctions with which the tombs and monuments were decorated. The approach of evening would deepen this visionary tone, and night add an indescribable solemnity. The moon in a cloudless sky, shedding her beams through the painted glass on the dim shrines and memorials of the

dead, in the immense nave, would form an imposing combination with the glimmering altars of the Deity and a martyrdom, or mournful story of the passion, vividly depicted in an elevated compartment of the window. The whole would acquire a nameless character, from the stillness of an hour broken only by the echoes of a solitary foot-fall, or the melancholy cry of the bird of night. In the dark ages, when the mind was more open to notions of preternatural agency, and the imagination less under the controul of reflection, the effect of such a scene must have been incalculable. A monk, or "pale-eyed virgin" at their orisons, or even a steel-clad knight of the cross, pacing the cold stone floor at midnight, in performance of his vow, might well raise their eyes to the lofty casement, in expectation that some sainted figure would descend from its station on the glass, and reveal a messenger from another world; for even an ordinary mind might think

"In such a place as this, at such an hour,
If aught of ancestry can be believed,
Descending angels have conversed with man,
And told the secrets of the world unknown."

This flattering and partial picture of monastic seclusion, is too often held up to veneration, from deceptive feelings and false views of mankind. Mr. Shenstone, in his "Ruined Abbey; or, The Effects of Superstition," with more reason and less partiality, presents the other side of this ancient picture; speaking of the Reformation, under a Tudor, he says,

"Then from its tow'ring height, with horrid sound,
Rush'd the proud abbey. Then the vaulted roofs,
Torn from their walls, disclos'd the wanton scene
Of monkish chastity! Each angry friar
Crawl'd from his bedded strumpet, mutt'ring low
An ineffectual curse. The previous nooks
That ages past convey'd the guileful priest
To play some image on the gaping crowd,
Imbibe the novel day-light, and expose

Obvious, the fraudful engin'ry of Rome.
Nor yet supine, nor void of rage, retir'd
The pest gigantic; whose revengeful stroke
Ting'd the red annals of Maria's reign.
When from the tenderest breast th' wayward priest
Could banish mercy, and implant a fiend!
When cruelty the funeral pyre uprear'd,
And bound religion there, and fir'd the base.
But now——th' mouldering wall, with ivy crown'd,
Or Gothic turret, pride of ancient days,
Is but of use to grace a rural scene;
To bound our vistas, and to glad the sons
Of George's reign, reserv'd for fairer times."

Of the scattered fragments, many fine capitals of rich foliage and beautiful mouldings, with quarterfoils, rosettes and ogies, are interesting to the antiquary. There are also broken effigies of Gilbert Strongbow, in chain mail, with a pavache shield, and crossed legs as a Crusader; another of an image of the Virgin Mary, and a third of some saint or abbot.

In Tintern-abbey, at the dissolution, were thirteen monks, whose revenues were rated at 192*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* per annum. The site was granted to Henry Earl of Worcester.

Mr. Eustace, in his "Tour of Italy," concludes a well-turned period in favour of the Catholic religion, by saying that "the candid Protestant must own, that a congregation of monks would improve the now deserted silent solitudes of Tintern."

Mr. Eustace, we suppose, never visited Tintern, or he would have heard, within a quarter of a mile of the abbey, the busy sounds and bustle of modern industry; as the village of Tintern is famous for its iron-works, where the old method of forging ore by means of charcoal furnaces, is adopted; the manufacture is also engaged in forming fine wire and iron plates. The ground about these works consists of grand woody hills, sweeping and intersecting each other in elegant lines.

The neighbourhood which has arisen round the abbey, is called Abbey Tintern, to distinguish it from the village of Tintern.—The inn at this place is the Beaufort Arms.

Mr. Edmund Butcher, late of Sidmouth, thus describes Chepstow and its charming vicinity:

"Chepstow is the first place of any consequence though which we passed, and it is so curiously situated, that for above a mile, while it is seen in a deep valley, the road has all the appearance of leaving it on the left hand: all of a sudden it begins an abrupt, winding descent, and the broad ivy-crowned walls of its ancient and ruined castle appear full in front, almost nodding over the river Wye, which washes the rock upon which they are erected. Below lies the bridge, and behind it the town rises upon the opposite steep. Scarcely any thing in nature can be more beautiful than the steep banks of the Wye at this place: they give us the rocks of St. Vincent upon a smaller scale, with this difference, that the greater part of them are clothed with wood from the surface of the water to their summits. Here and there a rocky cliff protrudes its naked head, and contrasting the grey stone with the rich foliage wrapping about it, produces a fine effect.

"Chepstow stands near the mouth of the Wye, and the considerable trade that it carries on, gives it, at the entrance, some of the animation and bustle of a sea-port. It is the centre of commerce for all the towns on the Lug and the Wye, and it sends some of its ships to the Baltic and Oporto. Several of its vessels trade with London, and a market-boat sails regularly to Bristol every Tuesday, and returns on Thursday. Great quantities of salmon are caught in the Wye and the Severn, and sent, not only to Bath, Bristol, and their vicinity, but even to London.

"The bridge is a long handsome wooden structure; and to guard against the tide, which rises from thirty to sixty feet, and runs with great rapidity, the planks

which go across it are only pinned down in such a manner that they will easily yield to any extraordinary rise of the water; this precaution has been adopted since January 1768, when the tide rose upwards of seventy feet, and considerably injured the bridge. When the water is out, the distance between the surface and the bottom of the bridge is seventy feet, and it rests upon a stone pillar in the middle. Though Chepstow is by no means of the consequence it once was, it is still a populous place. It is a place of great antiquity; the relics of the walls with which it was once surrounded are still visible in several places.

"The castle seems to have been coeval with the town, but the lapse of time has swept away every information concerning the founders of either the one or the other. Camden thought that in his time it was of no great antiquity, and that it had risen from the ruins of the ancient Venta Silurum, which are about four miles from it. It is obvious to remark, that if in his time its origin was all conjectural, it is in vain for us to expect to trace it. A beautiful Roman pavement was discovered here in 1689. Several fields and orchards are within the walls of the place.

"The castle stands on an almost perpendicular cliff on the west side of the river, and commands both the town and the port: even in its ruins it is a magnificent object. The area on which it stands occupies five acres, and its principal division into three courts is yet discernible. The second of these is now a kitchen-garden. A room is shewn in which Henry Marten was confined for many years, and in which he died. Marten was one of the judges of Charles I. and one of the twenty-nine, who, after the restoration, being convicted of regicide, owed his life to the clemency or policy of Charles II.: his sentence of death, however, was only changed into that of perpetual imprisonment. Of the whole number condemned, ten only were executed; eighteen, besides Marten, were dispersed into different prisons. Great attention seems to have

been bestowed in fortifying the entrance into this castle. The principal gateway, though of Norman origin, and the oldest part of the building, is still nearly perfect. It stands betwixt two lofty towers. Besides a strong latticed door, the crossing of which is fastened with iron bolts within, and covered with iron plates on the outside, there was a portcullis, the groove of which still remains, and two large round funnels in the top of the arch for pouring down melted lead or scalding water; add to this a projecting arch beyond all, and a chink on a small projection, about six feet from the ground.

"This place formerly belonged to the Clares, earls of Pembroke, who were likewise called earls of Strygill, from a neighbouring castle of that name which they inhabited. Richard, the last of these, and who was surnamed Strongbow on account of his skill in archery, was the first of the English who gained footing in Ireland. He was a man of considerable influence in Wales, but of broken fortune, and, notwithstanding a positive command from Henry II. to desist from his enterprize, on pain of forfeiting his lands and honours, he entered Ireland as an ally of Dermod King of Leinster, who found the utmost difficulty in supporting himself against Roderic, who at that time held the precarious sceptre of Ireland, and whose supremacy Dermod himself had acknowledged.

"The force that Strongbow carried with him upon this occasion was 200 knights, and 1200 infantry, all chosen and well appointed soldiers: their first exploit was the siege of Waterford, which they took by storm, and made a dreadful massacre of the inhabitants. Dermod had the merit of putting an end to this; and the marriage of Eva, Dermod's daughter, to Richard, being immediately solemnized, a scene of joy and festivity followed the calamities of war. A number of sanguinary events soon obliterated this gleam of sunshine. Roderic had influence enough to unite almost the whole force of Ireland against Dermod and

his English allies. They were closely pressed on all sides, and Strongbow himself shut up in Dublin. Here he endeavoured to enter into a treaty with Roderic, but being able to obtain no other terms than being permitted to depart unmolested, upon condition of renouncing for ever all claims to any part of Ireland, despair gave him and his associates courage, and they determined to make one desperate effort for their delivery. A body of the townsmen being persuaded to join them, they sallied out, found the besiegers secure in the confidence of success, and obtained a most complete victory. The Irish, amongst whom a terrible slaughter was made, fled on all sides; Roderic himself escaped only by mingling half naked with the crowd. The panic seized even those who were not attacked, and the victors returned from their pursuit to plunder the abandoned camps. Strongbow now exercised for some time a regal authority, but was ultimately obliged to procure his pardon for formerly disobeying the express orders of his sovereign, by surrendering to Henry the city of Dublin and a large territory adjacent, together with all the maritime towns and forts which he had acquired in Ireland.

"It cannot be supposed that a place of so much consequence as Chepstow, and particularly its castle, should appear an object of indifference to either of the parties into which, in the time of Charles I. our country was unhappily divided. Like several other places, it was, at different times, in the hands of each of the contending parties. It was early garrisoned for the king, and commanded by Colonel Fitzmorris. In the beginning of October, 1645, Colonel Morgan, who governed Gloucester by a commission from the parliament, appeared before Chepstow with a party of 300 horse and 400 foot, besides a body of men from Monmouthshire. He had but little difficulty in making himself master of the town. The castle was immediately summoned, and, after a siege of four days, Fitzmorris and his garrison surrendered prisoners of war.

"In the year 1648 a last effort was made by the royal party in several places at once. The Welsh were the first that ventured to appear in arms; they were conducted by Langhorn, Poyer, and Powell, who, after being very active Parliamentarians, now declared for the king; they soon found themselves at the head of a formidable body, and got possession of several castles, of which that of Chepstow was one. The indefatigable Cromwell was sent against the insurgents. Colonel Horton, whom he sent before him, defeated Langhorn's army. Fifteen hundred fell in the field, and three thousand were taken prisoners. Cromwell himself invested Chepstow, but left the conduct of the siege to Colonel Ewer. Sir Nicholas Kemish, who commanded for the king, being killed, and the garrison greatly reduced by death and famine, the place was again surrendered to the victorious republicans. Chepstow-castle is now the property of the Duke of Beaufort.

"TINTERN ABBEY, five miles north of Chepstow, is the other remarkable object in this neighbourhood, of which I must not avoid giving you an account. The extent and beauty of these venerable ruins force upon the mind the magnificence and splendour which adorned the complete edifice. It is impossible not to think of the proud piety with which, in the year 1131, Walter de Clare, its princely founder, joined in the first sacred rites to which it was a witness. Surrounded by the monks of the Cistertian brotherhood, methinks I now see him, divested of all his warlike "panoply," kneeling probably, on an embroidered cushion, at the altar, and reciting the prayer of dedication. The gallant devotion of that barbarous period, perhaps, suggested the patroness, and in conformity to a taste which was pretty general in Europe, imposed the name of the Virgin Mary upon a building professedly erected to the honour of the Deity himself. Of this noble edifice time has devoured every thing but some fragments of the church; what remains, however, is so valuable, as to make us regret that so beautiful a

specimen of Gothic taste should ever have been defaced.

"The original construction of the church is perfectly marked. The walls are almost entire; the roof only is fallen in, but most of the columns which divided the aisles are still standing: of those which have dropped the bases remain, every one exactly in its place; and in the middle of the nave four lofty arches, which once supported the steeple, rise high in the air, each reduced now to a narrow rim of stone, but completely preserving its form. The shapes of the windows are little altered, but some of them are quite obscured, others partially shaded by tufts of ivy, and those which are most clear are edged with its slender tendrils and lighter foliage, wreathing about the sides and divisions: it winds round the pillars, it clings to the walls, and, in one of the aisles, clusters at the top in bunches so thick and large as to darken the space below. The other aisles, and the great nave, are exposed to the sky. The floor is entirely overspread with turf; monkish tomb-stones, and the monuments of heroes and benefactors long since forgotten, appear above the green sward, the bases of the fallen pillars rise out of it, and maimed effigies, and sculpture worn with age and weather, Gothic capitals, carved cornices, and various fragments, are scattered about, or lie in heaps piled up together. Other shattered pieces, though disjointed and mouldering, still occupy their original places; and a stair-case much impaired, which led to a tower now no more, is suspended, at a great height, uncovered and inaccessible. Nothing is perfect, but memorials of every part still subsist; all certain, but all in decay, and suggesting at once every idea which can occur in a seat of devotion, solitude, and desolation. Great praise is due to the Duke of Beaufort, to whom Tintern belongs, for the manner in which this and other remains of antiquity in his possession are kept. There are some considerable iron-works in the neighbourhood of these splendid ruins.

"In the middle of the principal street of Chepstow,

just at the point where it divides in the form of the letter Y, our driver, and an old conductor of a loaded waggon, as they impeded each other's passage, began a combat with their tongues, which we were afraid would have ended in one with their whips: as our vehicle was by far the lightest, I interposed, and desired that it might be backed a few steps, and drawn up on the left, while the canvass-covered mountain on the right moved slowly and safely by us. We now drove up the narrowest branch of the Y, followed the right-hand road, and had for a long way different views of the romantic scenes we were quitting. The castle and bridge, the rocks and the river, in a multitude of different situations and degrees of visibility, formed, for a considerable time, parts of the constantly changing landscape.

"Trelagh-Grainge, Trelagh, and Goghekes, are parishes through which our road to Monmouth carried us. The orthography of these places is very strange, but the inhabitants contrive to give them more *euphony* than from such a combination of letters could be expected. At the second of them, which they pronounced Trollop, our horses were refreshed at the door of a very humble house of entertainment, the sign of which, however, was a diadem. The most rigid republican could not desire to see a crown in a more distressed condition than that which now fixed our attention; a wide perpendicular fissure divided it nearly in halves, and the colours which once described this image of regal dignity, by the united operation of time, wind, and sun, were so completely scaled off, that it was with some difficulty that enough of the outline could be traced to determine what it was intended to represent. Trollop, I apprehend, consists of about fifty houses, most of them small and shabby. The church, which seemed in good repair, stands at the north end of the place, and the cemetery, which is proportioned to it in size and appearance, is shaded by some characteristic yew-trees.

"It was with great joy that we discovered, about a

mile and half before we reached the place, the lofty and light spire of the church, and, soon after, the houses, and the two rivers and bridges of Monmouth. The situation of this place is truly delightful; it stands in a fertile valley, and at the confluence of two rivers, the Monow and the Wye, over each of which it has a stone bridge: indeed it is almost surrounded with water, for another small river, the Trothy, here falls into the Wye. It is a large, handsome town. The ruins of the castle, which still remain in the centre of the place, shew it to have been very strong. Near it are the market-place and the town-hall. In our way to the Beaufort Arms, the inn at which we changed horses, we passed close by this edifice, over the front of which has lately been erected, at the expence of the corporation, an elegant whole length figure of Henry V. who, being born in the castle of this place, has been commonly called Harry of Monmouth. He is represented in complete armour, with his shield on his left arm, and a general's truncheon in his right hand. The martial attitude in which he is placed, and the stern animation of his countenance, seem to indicate the conqueror of Agincourt. Often, I have no doubt, will the youth of Monmouth point out to each other the statue of this favourite English monarch, and ask, whether the descendants of those warriors, who, four centuries ago, seized even the capital of France, and beheld an English youth invested with the Gallic regalia, shall suffer for a moment the idea of Frenchmen landing on their shores, and marching, as conquerors, through their country? No, my friend, it cannot be borne! If we must oppose force to force, let the pictures of Harry of Monmouth and Edward of Windsor be painted on our banners, and if God for our crimes do not utterly forsake us, we must be victorious.

"Monmouth is the capital of the county in which it stands; it is populous, and has all the marks of a flourishing trade; its market is well supplied with corn and provisions of all sorts. The intercourse with

Bristol is constant and considerable, and is carried on with great facility by the Wye, which at Chepstow falls into the Severn.

"Monmouth is a very ancient place, and has made a figure in our history ever since the Norman invasion. It had a castle in the time of the Conqueror; but that, of which some of the fortifications still remain, is thought to have been built by John, Baron of Monmouth, who took part with the barons against Henry III. and in consequence lost his castle. It afterwards became the property of the House of Lancaster. Its present lord is the Duke of Beaufort.

"The town had anciently four gates and a suburb, in which was a chapel dedicated to St. Thomas. Formerly this formed a distinct parish, but now it is united with that within the walls. The present church, except the square tower, is a modern building; it is particularly curious at the east end.

"On the north side of the town is a ruinous building, supposed to be part of a priory founded by Wilkenoc de Monmouth in the reign of Henry I. originally a cell to the Benedictine abbey of Saumur in France, but afterwards made independent. Here were also two hospitals, founded about 1240, by John of Monmouth.

"About a mile from the town, the Duke of Beaufort has an ancient seat, which bears the name of Troy-house. Amongst other curiosities, it possesses the cradle in which Henry V. was rocked, and the armour which he wore at the famous battle of Agincourt. Cynics may perhaps pity the mind which can derive any pleasure from the view of such relics of celebrated characters as these; and it is admitted that there is nothing more in the cradle of Henry, than in the cradle of any other infant; and that a good modern coat and waistcoat are more intrinsically valuable than the old iron jacket of the second monarch of the House of Lancaster; but when all this is granted, where is the mischief which results from that pleasurable sensation which, in such an infinite majority of

cases, has been felt by the human heart when contemplating such objects? Is any virtuous sentiment weakened? Are any unworthy desires or propensities roused into action? Who that ever possessed a slip of the mulberry-tree of Shakspeare, or that has gazed with delight on the willow of the bard of Twickenham, could think it a reproach, either to his head or his heart, to have felt the innocent gratification which such circumstances afforded. A ring that has circled a beloved finger, a lock of hair that was once the ornament of a beloved head; a portrait, the faithful resemblance of an endeared object, are relics which affection, esteem, or gratitude, have in all ages delighted to honour; these are limited and individual efforts of the same sentiment which, in the case of illustrious and public characters, takes a wider range, and feels a diminished, but still a very perceptible gratification in seeing, and, if the object permit, handling what was once theirs. In short, it seems an effort of the mind to pass over ages that are gone, and to associate itself with characters and times in which it feels a deeper or a fainter interest. It is almost an unperceived, but not on that account a less positive effort, to emancipate ourselves from the shackles of our present condition, and to become, even now, sharers in that immortality which we expect will one day unite us to all that already have, and to all that are yet to exist.

"The same sentiment, operating in a somewhat different manner, induces us to read with so much avidity the annals of former ages, and particularly the biographical notices of distinguished characters which are handed down to us. I scarcely ever enter a town or a public building, but the thought occurs. Here such an event took place; there this or the other celebrated man or woman was born, lived, or died.

"Monmouth, as well as several of the neighbouring towns and castles, bore witness, in the year 1646, to the triumphs of Oliver Cromwell; but the leaf that he there added to his laurel had like to have cost him

dear. The general was then entertained at the house of a Mr. Fortune, and while he was there a hot-headed royalist, of the name of Evans, attempted to shoot him through the parlour window. The prudence of the bystanders, fearful that the destruction of the town would be the inevitable consequence, prevented the accomplishment of this rash design, and I apprehend that Evans was permitted to escape.

"This extraordinary man had, in the course of his perilous career, many narrow escapes. One of them is thus related by the late Professor Anderson of Glasgow, upon the credit of Mr. Danziel, a merchant in the High-street of Glasgow, who died the beginning of the last century:

"A short time before the battle of Dunbar, as Cromwell was viewing the ground, accompanied by a few cavalry, a soldier of the Scottish army, prompted by his own zeal, concealed himself behind a wall which inclosed a field, and fired his musket at Cromwell; the ball went very near him; the cavalry seemed to be alarmed; but Oliver, who was going at a round trot, never altered his pace nor tightened his rein, and only looking over his shoulder to the place from whence the shot came, called out, 'You lubberly rascal, were one of my men to miss such a mark, he should certainly be tied up to the halberts.'

"When Cromwell entered Glasgow," said Danziel, "at the head of his victorious army, I was standing in the street called Bell's-wynd, at the end of it which joins the High-street, with a good many young lads, and a shoemaker, who was well known to us all by his drollery, and by the name of London Willie. As we were silently admiring the order of the troops, Cromwell happened to cast his eye upon us, and cried out, 'Hah, Willie! come hither, Willie!' If we were surprised at this, we were more surprised to see Willie retire into Bell's-wynd, and one of Cromwell's attendants go after him, who brought him to the general, at whose stirrup he not only walked, but went in with him to his lodging for

some minutes. My companions and I waited till Willie came out, anxious to know why one of his station was taken notice of by the famous Cromwell. Willie soon satisfied our curiosity, by informing us, that his father, being a footman to James VI. had accompanied him to London at the union of the crowns: that he himself was bred a shoemaker, and wrought in a lane through which Cromwell often passed, to a school, as he supposed; that Oliver used to stop at the work-shop to get his ball and play-things mended, and to be amused with his jokes and Scotch pronunciation; that they had not met from that time till now; that he had retired into Bell's-wynd, lest it should be remembered that his father had belonged to the royal family; that he had no reason, however, to be afraid, for the general had only put him in mind of his boyish tricks, had spoken to him in the kindest manner, and had given him some money to drink his health, which he was going to do with all expedition."

Next Sunday Cromwell went to the inner church in Glasgow, (St. Mungo's) and placed himself, with his attendants, in the King's seat, which was always unoccupied except by strangers. The minister of the church was Mr. Durham; he was a great presbyterian, and as great an enemy to Cromwell; because he thought, and early said, that Cromwell and his friends would be forced, by the convulsion of parties, to erect an absolute government, the very evil they meant to remedy. The text was taken from Jeremiah, and the commentary upon it, by allusion, was invective against Cromwell and his friends, under scriptural language and history. During this satire, they saw a young man, one of Cromwell's attendants, step to the back of his chair, and with an angry face whisper something to him, which, after some words, was answered by a frown; and the young man retired behind the chair, seemingly much disconcerted. The cause of this was unknown to the congregation; afterwards it

came out that the following words had passed between them: "Shall I shoot the fellow?—"What fellow?"—"The parson."—"What parson?"—"That parson."—"Begone, sir; he is one fool, and you are another." The very next morning Cromwell sent for Mr. Durham, and asked him why he was such an enemy to him and his friends? declared that they were not enemies to Mr. Durham; drank his health in a glass of wine; and afterwards, it was said, prayed with him for the guidance of the Lord in all their doings.

"When Charles I. was in Scotland, in 1633, a subscription was set on foot for building a new hall and library to the university of Glasgow; and the king's name appears at the head of the subscribers for 200*l.* The king, however, was not able, I suppose, to pay that sum, and he contracted some debts at Perth which were never paid. When Cromwell was at the summit of his power, he sent 200*l.* to the university; and there is below the king's subscription, "*Solvit Dominus Protector:*" Paid by the Lord Protector.

"One of the magistrates of Edinburgh hearing of this, thought it entitled him to ask payment of the sum which the king had borrowed when in that city. Cromwell did not listen to the petition: and when it was urged again and again, said with vehemence, "Have done, sir; I am not the heir of Charles Stuart." To which the other replied with equal warmth, "I wot well then you are his *intromitter;* shall I say *a vicious intromitter?*" In the law of Scotland, *intromitter* signifies one who takes upon himself to manage the estate of a deceased person, and by that act renders himself liable to all his debts; and *vicious,* is when it is done without any right. Cromwell, though absolute, did not even chide him for this freedom; but declared that he would never pay the money; "because," said he, "I will do things for a learned society, which I will not do for other societies; and I would have you know this."

"Another trait of Oliver's character is to be found in the following letters:

"*To his Highness the Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England.*

"THE HUMBLE PETITION OF MARGERY, THE WIFE OF WILLIAM BEACHAM, MARINER,

"*Sheweth,*

"That your petitioner's husband hath been active and faithful in the wars of this Commonwealth, both by sea and land, and hath undergone many hazards by imprisonments and fights, to the endangering of his life, and at last lost the use of his right arm, and is utterly disabled from future service, as doth appear by the certificate annexed; and yet he hath no more than 40*s.* pension from Chatham by the year:

"That your petitioner having one only sonne, who is tractable to learn, and not having wherewith to bring him up, by reason of their present low estate, occasioned by the publique service aforesaid:

"Humbly prayeth, That your highness would vouchsafe to present her said sonne, Randolph Beacham, to be scholer in Sutton's-hospital, called the Charter-house."

"OLIVER P.

"We referre this petition and certificate to the commissioners of Sutton's-hospital.

"*July* 28, 1655."

"*Copy of a Letter sent by Oliver to his Secretary, on the above Petition.*

"You receive from me, this 28th instant, a petition of Margery Beacham, desiring the admission of her son into the Charter-house. I know the man, who was employed one day in a very important secret service, which he did effectually, to our great benefit, and the Commonwealth's. The petition is a brief relation of a fact, without any flattery. I have wrote

under it a common reference to the commissioners; but I *mean* a great deal more; that it *shall* be *done*, without *their debate*, or *consideration of the matter*, and so do you privately hint to * * * *.

"I have not the particular shining bauble or feather in my cap for crowds to *gaze* at, or *kneel* to; but I have power and resolution for *foes* to *tremble* at; to be short, I know how to *deny* petitions; and whatever I think proper, for outward form, to refer to any officer or office, I expect that such my compliance with custom shall also be looked upon as an indication of my will and pleasure to have the thing done. See therefore that the boy is admitted.

"Thy true friend,

"OLIVER P.

"*July* 28, 1655."

"I make no apology for this long digression. Anecdotes of distinguished characters are always entertaining, and they mark their temper and genius better than a character drawn by the ablest historian.

"Charles II. created his son, James Fitz James, Duke of Monmouth. He perished in the unsuccessful attempt to wrest the crown from his uncle James II. He was a favourite with the people, and there is no doubt but the extreme rigour with which his partizans were treated, rendered the success of the Prince of Orange more rapid and certain.

"We left Monmouth between five and six o'clock in the afternoon; the oppressive heat of the day was over; good horses, a roomy chaise, and an attentive driver, whirled us along both with speed and pleasure."

Two miles south-west of Chepstow, is the village of MATHEN, or Mathern. Here was formerly a palace appertaining to the Bishop of Llandaff. This building, in its present state, affords but a very imperfect idea of its original magnificence. The north and north-east parts, comprising the tower, porch, &c.

are supposed to have been built by John de la Zouch, 1408. Dr. Miles Salley, Bishop of Llandaff in 1504, erected the chapel, hall, and other apartments. This ci-devant episcopal palace is now only occupied as a farm-house. On the north side of the chancel of the church is an epitaph, composed by Bishop Godwin, which is as follows:

"Here lyeth entombed the body of Theodorick, King of Morganuch, or Glamorgan, commonly called St. Thewdrick, and accounted a martyr, because he was slain in a battle against the Saxons, being then Pagans, and in defence of the Christian religion. The battle was fought at Tintern, where he obtained a great victory. He died here, being in his way homeward, three days after the battle, having taken order with Maurice his son, who succeeded him in the kingdom, that in the same place he should happen to decease, a church should be built, and his body buried in the same, which was accordingly performed in the year 600."

The stone coffin which contained the remains of this royal saint, was discovered some time since; upon removing the lid the skeleton was found nearly entire. There was a fracture on the skull, supposed to have been received in battle, and which occasioned his death.

The ancient castellated gateway of St. Pierre-park, the seat of Charles Lewis, esq. is well worthy the notice of the tourist. In St. Pierre's church are two sepulchral stones, lately discovered in repairing that edifice.

Six miles west of Chepstow is the parish of CALDICOT, which gives name to the hundred; it contains about 85 houses, and 500 persons.

Here are the remains of a famous castle, supposed to have been built by Harold. Its principal entrance is remarkably fine. Some fragments of the baronial hall remain, and the foundation of other buildings appear in the area. It is situated at the extremity of

some marshy plains, about a mile from the Bristol channel; the yellow tints of the stone, contrasted with the thick foliage of the ivy which surrounds it, produce a very pleasing effect. A ridge of land connects the western side of the castle with the village. The castle is surrounded by a moat, which assumes a quadrangular shape, but in reality is an irregular polygon. The area, in its greatest length, is 100 yards, the width 75; the walls, which are from five to nine feet in thickness, are framed of common materials, but the towers are faced with hewn stone, of neat and compact workmanship.

The castle bears the semblance of Norman architecture. The doorway of the round tower has a rounded arch; the porches and the windows are pointed. The principal entrance is to the south-west, by a grand arched gateway, which formerly had portcullises and massive turrets. A tower at the southern angle is almost dilapidated. There is a breach in the walls, which opens a prospect of the area with the citadel. A highly-finished view of this castle was delineated by the exquisite pencil of Sir Richard Hoare. Mr. Coxe observed, in one of the chimnies of this castle, "traces of the species of masonry called Herring Bone, which was used in buildings of an early period." Caldicot-castle was long in the possession of the family of the Bohuns. This castle is now held by Capel Hanbury Leigh, esq.

Caldicot-church is dedicated to St. Mary; it has a nave, a side aisle to the north, a massive tower in the middle, and a chancel. It is of Gothic architecture; the nave is parted from the side aisles by fine pointed arches on clustered piers. The windows are adorned with painted glass, exhibiting the armorial bearings of various families. On the outside of the wall, over the southern door, is a small figure of the Virgin in a niche; and in a recess is the figure of a man reposing, without his head, sculptured. The living is a vicarage, the patron of which is Mr. Johnson.

DINHAM, a hamlet, near to Caerwent, is celebrated for being the residence of a Welsh bard, named Caruth. We shall insert, as a specimen of the Welsh bards, his simple and pleasing lay to the memory of Caractacus:—"A lay of softest melody to the memory of Caractacus! Soft notes of mourning die gently away upon mine ear. I weep to the soft notes of mine harp, and a sadly pleasing anguish steals upon my soul. First known of British slaves, valiant Caractacus! Thy name steals upon the senses, and as the dew of heaven is gracious: 'tis but to read of thee and we are brave. Thy blood now circulates within these veins: 'tis not debased; each generation but ennobles it: and though in Gwent (Monmouthshire) no longer we are kings, yet kings shall wonder at us. I feel thy fierce, thy bold, thy daring spirit. Who shall confine my soul? I sing as in my youth; the mighty one has weakened my strength, but God alone can bring my spirit low.

"There is Llewellin, my son, first-born of love; Lena Loria, in whose praise the bards of Gwent have tuned their youthful lays. Unto thee, O Llewellin, 'tis given to shine in arms! Unto thee belong the mysteries of war! Oh, my country! dear lost Siluria, how art thou fallen! Where now the simple hut, where brave Caractacus gave audience to men of might! Where now the clay-built shed, where sung the bards of Gwent of nought but love and liberty! Lovers of strife, fierce haughty Romans! why invade our peaceful, rude, uncultivated isle? why bid us quit our clay-built cots for stately palaces and lofty domes?

"Oh, my forefathers, lovers of simplicity! But with your lives you lost your liberty! Curst be the foe who fought for nought but strife, and immortal be the name of Caractacus! Where died Caractacus? where rest his manes? sacred is the spot that holds his dust. On the legends of the bards of other days, in the learned lore of ancient Britons, it is written; and shall the unlearned read of it? shall the invaders

of Gwent disturb his sacred dust? The castle of Dinham is consecrated to his memory; it riseth near his grave; in the ancient lore of the learned thus it is written: 'On the mount which lieth north of the great city (Caerwent), there sleeps Caractacus, till God, the God of Bran, appears on earth.' But the deadly foe advanceth, and the lays of Caruth are ended."

Six miles west by south from Chepstow, are some fine remains of Llanvair-castle, with three round towers; and nine miles west, are the scanty vestiges of Striguil, or Estbrighoel-castle, on the borders of Wentwood-forest.

Near Chepstow-park is the Gaer-hill; we need not add, that the term Gaer implies it has been a fortress.

Benchley, or Aust-ferry, commonly called the Old Passage, is situated near this town; it is in the parish of Tidenham, Gloucestershire.

Journey from the New Passage (or Black Rock), to Newport (by the mail road).

This is the most frequented route into Monmouthshire and South Wales from London, Bristol, and the western parts of England; mail and stage-coach passengers, and all travellers, cattle, horses, and carriages, are here conveyed in sloops and small boats across the Severn, to or from the shores of Gloucestershire and Somersetshire. The distance of the passage is three miles and a quarter at high water, which is the best time for crossing.

The shores of Gloucester and Somerset are flat; but the coast of Monmouth has a gentle rise, and is finely diversified.

The Black Rock Inn (Monmouthshire side) is built on the summit of the cliff overhanging the Severn. This ferry is of great antiquity; it was suppressed by Oliver Cromwell, in consequence of the Protector discovering that King Charles had crossed here, and escaped from some soldiers of the Parliament, through the loyalty of the boatmen of this Passage. The New-

passage was renewed in 1718 by its old proprietors, the Lewis family of St. Pierre.

Quitting the Black Rock Inn, on the right is a road to Chepstow, five miles. A mile further, we arrive at PORTSKEWIT, or Porthskewydd, a village in the marshy level of Caldicot. This was anciently the only port in this part of Wales, before the building of Chepstow; and here is generally allowed to have been the first camp of the Romans, after their landing in Wales.

The traveller should visit this ancient encampment, the interior of which is in high preservation. Lofty triple ramparts of earth, twenty feet high, and three fosses, have the form of a bow, apparently to defend the vessels in the pile beneath. British bricks and Roman coins have been found. Near this spot is the small Gothic chapel of Sudbrook in ruins, supposed to have been attached to the magnificent palace built by Harold the Saxon, who held his court here, and entertained the native chieftains, after some partial victories in Wales. In this chapel divine service was occasionally performed as late as sixty years ago. The harbour was used in the Civil Wars.

One mile and a half from Portskewit, we pass through the neat village of CRICK; on the right is a road to Monmouth, through Chepstow. Proceeding on, the traveller arrives at CAERWENT, on the left of which is a road to Caldicot; on the right to Pontypool, through Usk. Caerwent was the "*Venta Silurum*" of the Romans, and under their government a city of great extent and magnificence: it is now a straggling village, with but few traces of its ancient state. All the visible remains are the walls of the station, with octangular bastions. "The remains of the fortifications," says Captain Barber, "form an oblong parallelogram, whose width is equal to two-ninths of its length, with the corners a little rounded; a frequent figure in Roman military works, called Terriata castra."

In cultivating the adjacent fields, several coins,

chiefly of Q. Severus and Pertinax, pedestals, and tesselated pavements, have been discovered. A Mosaic pavement found some years ago, is described by Wyndham, who saw it in its perfect state, as being equal, both in colours, pattern, and workmanship, to the ancient specimens still preserved in Italy. But now, alas! through the mutilating hand of the too curious traveller, and culpable neglect in the proprietor, this curious relic is destroyed. It was found near the south-west angle. In tracing the circuit of the Roman fortress, the walls, mantled with ivy, and fringed with shrubs, present a singular and picturesque appearance. Caerwent-church consists of a nave, chancel, and a lofty embattled tower. From the church-yard is a fine view, agreeably diversified with hill and dale, and bounded by the two oblong hills which rise above the mouldering towers of Llanvair-castle.

Two miles from Caerwent, we arrive at the Rock and Fountain Inn. Near this place the road runs in a romantic valley, bounded by ridges of wooded eminences, which converge a little beyond the inn, and form a pass formerly commanded by Penhow-castle. This was in feudal times held by the Norman family of St. Maur, or Seymour. Part of the castle is now converted into a farm-house; of the old structure, there remain a square tower with some Gothic doorways and porches. Penhow-church adjoins it, and was also built soon after the Conquest: it contains a monument to the memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Jamplin, who died July 5, 1753, aged 111 years.

Two miles further we pass the Unicorn Inn, near which is the hunting-lodge of Wentworth Forest, belonging to the Duke of Beaufort. A little on the left is the old castle of Pencoed, now used as a farm-house. This is the most ancient of the six Agrarian fortresses built within the limits of Wentworth-chase soon after the Conquest. In Queen Elizabeth's reign Sir Thomas Morgan, Knight of the Garter, and Lord of Caerleon and Llantarnam, resided here. The re-

mains of the castle are, an elegant Gothic porch, a gateway with circular arches, two pentagon turrets, and a round embattled tower; some carved ceilings are also worthy of notice.

Proceeding on two miles, we arrive at Cat's-ash hill, on the right of which is Llanwerne-hall, the seat of Sir Thomas Salusbury, bart.; a mile and a half beyond, is a road to Caerleon. A short distance from this turning, we pass Christchurch, a village half a mile south-east of Caerleon, which we have before described. Two miles and a half from Christchurch we cross the Usk river, and arrive at Newport, which town and vicinity we have already described.

THE WYE TOUR.

As the tour of the Wye is universally allowed to be one of the most picturesque excursions in the kingdom, every traveller of taste who visits this county, will of course embark on its smooth surface, and survey the beauties of "Vaga through her winding bounds."

The Wye takes its rise near the summit of Plinlimmon, and dividing the counties of Radnor and Brecknock, passes through the middle of Herefordshire, and then becomes a second boundary between Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire, and falls into the Severn a little below Chepstow. To this place it flows in a gentle uninterrupted stream, and adorns through its various reaches a succession of the most enchanting scenes. The beauty of these scenes arises chiefly from the *mazy course* of the river and its *lofty banks*, which are diversified with every kind of ornament that can be desired by an admirer of the romantic, or a lover of the picturesque.

The river towards Hereford and its source being, comparatively speaking, tame, parties usually take a boat from Ross to Monmouth and Chepstow.

Ross is a market-town in the county of Hereford. The fine elevation on which the town stands, and the fertility of the adjacent soil, induced Robert de Betun

to procure the incorporation of the town in the reign of King Stephen. The visitable objects at this town are the monuments in the church, the prospect, and the residence of the "Man of Ross." The church has a tower and lofty spire, the effect of which, as seen from the outskirts of the town, combined with the winding road, spreading trees, and adjoining landscape, is much admired.

Adjoining the church-yard is a field called the Prospect; here was anciently the palace of the Bishops of Hereford. The view from this spot is charming: the principal objects are, the "horse-shoe curve of the river, the expanded green meadow, the light bridge, and the ivied tower of Wilton-castle."

John Kyrle (whose noble character has been faithfully delineated by Pope, our immortal bard), was born in this neighbourhood, passed the greater part of his life in Ross, and died here in the month of November 1720.—The inns are the Swan, Lamb, and George.

The grandest scenes on the Wye are, 1. Goodrich-castle—2. Coldwell Rocks—3. New Weir—4. Distant view of Tintern Abbey—5. Wyndcliff.

Those who wish for ample details of this delightful excursion, will procure Gilpin's excellent work, and local guides. Boats may always be obtained at the principal inns at Ross, Monmouth, and Chepstow.

The scenery of the river from Plinlimmon, Hay, Hereford, &c. to Ross, is not destitute of good landscape; but it is not Wye scenery, which is "fine landscape; park scenery, or embellished landscape; and then the grand, or rock, wood, and water; lastly, the sublime, or the ground accompaniment soaring into mountainous elevation, with wild outline; and all these with every addition of grouping, tinting, and exquisite delicacy of detail, occur in the dell of the Wye—*The British Tempe*."

Mr. Nicholson, who published his observations on the Wye in 1813, thus explains the *deceptio visus* mentioned in page 132: "It rises from a coincidence

in the angle of vision between the embattled rocks, and a part of the Severn, which appears to wash their summit, although it is many miles distant. The subject of the prospect from this spot, is seen more picturesquely combined, as we continue our walk on a gentle descent, and catch the varying scene through apertures in the foliage: yet there is something which one would wish added or removed, till we reach the grotto, when a picture is presented in the happiest state of composition. In this charming view from the grotto, a diversified plantation occupies the foreground, and descends through a grand hollow to the river, which passes in a long reach under the elevated ruin of Chepstow-castle, the town and bridge, towards the Severn. Rocks and precipices, dark shelving forests, groves and lawns, hang on its course, and with a variety of sailing vessels are reflected from the liquid mirror, with an effect I cannot attempt to describe, and at which the magic pencil of a Claude would falter. The distant Severn and its remote shores, form an excellent termination and complete the picture. Remounting our horses at the village of St. Arvan's, a steep ascent led over some out-grounds of Piercefield to the summit of Wyndcliff, where a prodigious extent of prospect bursts open, comprehending a wonderful range over nine counties. Since these delightful productions were aided and embellished by Valentine Morris, a professed improver has been let in, who with his shears and his rollers has substituted some insipid uniformity for the wildness of nature."

To enjoy the scenery of the Wye, it is always preferable to pass through the village of St. Arvan's to the upper part of the grounds, and descend from the Lover's Leap to the Alcove; thus the entire prospect will be seen in proper succession and to the greatest advantage. Mr. Coxe remarks, "that the walk is carried through a thick mantle of forests, with occasional openings, which seem not the result of art or design, but the effect of chance or nature, and seats are placed

where the spectator may repose, and view at leisure, the scenery above, beneath, and around. This bowery walk, Mr. Coxe adds, "is consonant to the genius of Piercefield; the screen of wood prevents the uniformity of a bird's eye view; and the imperceptible bend of the amphitheatre conveys the spectator from one part of this fairy region to another without discovering the gradations. Hence the Wye is sometimes concealed or half obscured by overhanging foliage, at others wholly expanding to view, is seen sweeping beneath a broad and circuitous channel: thus at one place the Severn spreads in the midst of a boundless expanse of country, and on the opposite side of the Wye. Hence the same objects present themselves in different aspects and with varied accompaniments: hence the magic transition from the impervious gloom of the forest, to open groves; from meadows and lawns to rocks and precipices; and from the mild beauties of English landscape to the wildness of Alpine scenery."

On the highway, the Rev. Edmund Butcher has remarked, in his journey from Sidmouth to Chester, that, taking the road for one part of the figure, the Wye inclosed a portion of country resembling in shape the Delta of Egypt. Leaving the Wye upon the right, and the Monow on the left, a chain of hills on each side shuts both these rivers from the view; but the vallies are rich, and the slopes of many of the hills are clothed with wood. At the sixth mile we may cross the Garren, and observe the sheltered vale through which the Monow passes, till it pours its tributary waters into the Wye, about a mile below Goodrich-castle. Pass the little village of St. Weonard's, and proceed upwards of two miles on the lower left-hand slopes of Scudamore-hill. Soon after, on the left hand, opens the extensive and beautiful flat through which the Worm directs its serpentine course to the Monow. Parks, gentlemen's seats, and villages, ornament the picture.—From Redhill, the towers, bridge, and spire of Hereford may be seen.

Mr. Coxe appears to have been much gratified in performing the navigation of the Wye: "The banks," he says, "for the most part rise abruptly from the water, and are clothed with forests broken into cliffs. In some places they approach so near, that the river occupies the whole immediate space, and nothing is seen but wood, rocks, and water; in others, they alternately recede, and the eye catches an occasional glimpse of hamlets, ruins, and detached buildings, partly seated on the margin of the stream, and partly on the rising grounds. The general character of the scene, however, is wildness and solitude; and if we except the populous district of Monmouth, no river perhaps flows for so long a course, through a well-cultivated country, the banks of which exhibit so few habitations. Convenient vessels for holding eight persons, besides the boatmen, provided with an awning, have long since been had at Hereford and Monmouth."—Mr. Coxe dwells much on the description of the Coldwell Rocks, and Symonds'-Gate, or Yat. The river here makes a singular turn; for though the direct distance by land is not more than 600 yards, the course by water exceeds four miles.

The romantic village of Redbrook, and the church and castle of St. Briavel's, before the latter became a complete ruin, with the beautiful hamlet of Llandogo and Brooks Weir, have been much admired. At the latter place the river exhibits the appearance of trade and activity, and is the point where the maritime and internal navigations form a junction.

The ferry at the New Passage, as before observed, is the principal entrance into Monmouthshire, from the south west counties. The New Passage Inn is upon the south or Gloucestershire side of the Severn. A most enchanting landscape is presented from the windows of this inn, which opens towards the Severn, disclosing the beautiful and diversified shores of Monmouthshire, with part of Gloucestershire. Hills and mountains compose the back ground. From a walk extending in

front of the house see King-road, Portshead Point, and the Isle of Denny. The times when the great boat departs from the Bristol coast is nearly on the slack of the flux and reflux of the tide. As the course of the river stretches nearly from east to west, while the tide is on the flood an east wind is most favourable, while on the ebb a west wind. But should the wind be from the north or south points, it will be necessary for the traveller to be at the Passage an hour previous to those times. The state of the tides may always be known by enquiry at Bristol, where it is nearly half an hour later. The rates are, four-wheeled carriages, 12*s.* two-wheeled 6*s.* a man and horse, 1*s.* 6*d.*, a horse alone, 1*s.*, a foot passenger 9*d.* Small boats, capable of carrying a private party, are always ready, at the rate of 5*s.* besides 9*d.* for each person. If the traveller be necessitated to pass over this ferry at low water, he will have to disembark at a short distance from the usual landing-place, and subjected to a very slippery walk over the surface of the rocks, covered with confervæ, fuci, and other marine plants. There are two shelving rocks connected with the main land. The contiguous inn on the north side of the river, is hence called the Black Rock inn, but more properly St. Andrew's. This, as well as the AUST, or OLD PASSAGE ferry, is a monopoly, and, like all monopolies, hostile to the interest of the public. The boatmen are of course rude in their manners, indifferent to the accommodation of the passengers, and practised in the arts of extortion. The shore of Monmouthshire rises from the edge of the water in gentle acclivities, richly wooded, and interspersed with fields of corn and pasture; above, are extensive ridges of hills, which commence with the Wyndcliff, and are succeeded by the wooded eminences of Piercefield, and the two grey hills above Llanfair. To the west towers the Pencamawr; and the eye catches a distant view of Twyn Barlwm, and the Machen-hill, terminating in the eminences beyond Newport, in the

county of Glamorgan. About half a mile from the Monmouthshire shore, is a rocky islet, called Charstone Rock, on which Roman coins have been found. The boatman can pass close to these craggy rocks, if desired, and in the humour to be civil. The stone is used for building. This ferry is memorable for the escape of Charles I., who being pursued by the republican soldiers, crossed the Severn to Chisell Pill, on the Gloucestershire side.

From the New Passage inn may be visited Sudbrook encampment, at the distance of one mile on the shore to the west, crowning the brow of an eminence which rises in an abrupt cliff from Caldicot Level. This remnant of ancient dissention, consisting of three ramparts and two ditches, forms a semicircle, the chord of which is the sea-cliff; but it is evident, that part of the eminence has mouldered away; and most probably the figure of the fortification was once circular. East of this encampment is Sudbrook-chapel, a small Gothic ruin, which was formerly attached to a mansion of Norman foundation, of which no traces appear; its remains have probably been swept away by the encroachment of the sea. Some piles of hewn stones near the ramparts may be its relics.

The vicinity of Chepstow abounds with numerous curiosities. St. Pierre's, Moin's-court, and Mathern-place, have claims to attention, and may be visited in the way. A foot-path, running mostly upon an embankment, leads from the New Passage, across the fields, to St. Pierre, an ancient seat of the Lewis family, descended from Cadifor the Great. This mansion exhibits an incongruous mixture, in which the modern sashed window is patched upon a Gothic structure upwards of 400 years old! An embattled gateway, flanked with pentagonal towers, is still more ancient. In the porch of the church are two sepulchral stones, which have attracted the notice of antiquaries; one of them bears the following inscription, and is supposed to be the tomb of Urien de St. Pierre, who lived in the reign of Henry III.

Ici git le cors v de sene pere,
preez par li en bop manere;
qu Jesu pur so pasiun,
de phecez li done pardun.
Amen. R. P.

i. e. Here lies the body of Urien de St. Pierre; pray devoutly for his soul, that Jesus for his passion's sake, would give him pardon for his sins.

Nearly opposite this spot is the great estuary of the Bristol channel, contracting in width, and taking the name of the Severn, from the well-known story of the British princess Sabrina. See Milton's Comus, beginning at "There is a gentle nymph not far from hence." Crossing the grounds at St. Pierre, and passing Pool Meyric, a brook falling into the Severn, to the right stands Mathern-palace, formerly the episcopal seat of the bishops of Llandaff. The structure, which surrounds a quadrangular court, raised by different bishops, is situated in a gentle hilly country, pleasingly diversified with wood and pasturage. Some specimens of dilapidated grandeur appear in the east window; and the entrance was through a lofty ornamented porch, which has been destroyed, and the building occupied as a mere farm-house. The farmer who inhabits this house is a pleasant guide.

"That court contains my cattle; swine are there;
Here fowls and fuel; underneath is beer.
Snug, in that chamber, sir, my corn is kept;
My clover yonder, where a king has slept;
My dame, her curds does in the chapel squeeze;
In chancel salts her chines; the font holds cheese.
There died a bishop; here his ghost walk'd since,
Until our Joan did fairly scold it thence.
Oft rosy churchmen, here to ease resign'd,
On that great dough-trough, then a table, din'd."

The principal hall is thirty-two feet by sixteen, and twenty high; the chapel, when undivided, was thirty feet by ten. The wrecks of a library belonging to the see, yet remain. The road to Chepstow lies upon

inclosed lands; from one part, the Severn appears as two spacious lakes. Hardwicke-house, on the right, stands upon an eminence commanding a view of the interesting country around. There is a chapel, dedicated to St. Treacle, near the mouth of the Wye, said to have been erected in the year 47. It has been covered by the sea, but its remains are yet visible, at some distance below the high-water mark; an instance that the sea encroaches on the Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire coasts; while on the Flintshire and Cheshire shores, much land has been gained from the sea.

There is an inscription to the memory of Thomas Hughes, esq. of Moin's-court, clerk of the crown for the counties of Monmouth, Glamorgan, Brecon, and Radnor, who died in 1667. Upon a brass are the effigies of Philip Williams, and Alicia his wife, kneeling upon each side of an altar, inscribed as follows:

O Christ oure God, sure hope of healpe,
Besyde ye have we none;
Thy truth we love, and falsehode hate,
Be thowe our gyde alone.

In molten mettall or carved stone,
No confidence we have;
But in thy deathe and precious bloode,
Or sowles fro' hell to save.

Veribus hic donor, et sic ostendere donor,
Hic veluti ponor, sic erit orbis honor—
Ornata p Henricum Williams,
Eorum filium, Anno Dom. 1590.

Within a short distance from Mathern is Moin's-court, another deserted ecclesiastic mansion. Its foundation is attributed to Bishop Godwin; occupied also as a farm-house. A handsome Gothic porch, defended by two lofty turrets, is presented. Within the court-yard are two Roman inscribed stones, said by Gibson to have been brought from Caerleon. One appears to have been a votive altar; the other records the repairing or rebuilding of

the Temple of Diana by T. H. Posthumius Varus. Mr. Wyndham says, the most curious of the inscriptions have been removed to the house at Moin's-court. In the orchard adjoining is the ground plot of a court of large dimensions, anciently called Monk's-court. Mathern palace lies about two hundred paces from this place. From Mathern, Mr. Coxe entered the high road to Chepstow, and turned to the left, proceeding straight till he came to the gateway leading into the park of St. Pierre. At this point three roads diverge; one goes through Caerwent to Newport; the second to Caldicot; and the third leads to Portskewit and the New Passage. Opposite to the back road leading to St. Pierre, he turned near a farm-house, called Hyer's-gate; and passing a narrow lane to Broadwell farm, ascended to Runston, once a place of magnitude, now in ruins, which occupy an eminence upon the side of the road leading to Shire Newton, in the midst of a thick and solitary wood. An old barn only remains, and dilapidated chapel. This chapel is annexed to Mathern. The estate belongs to that of St. Pierre. From Broadwell farm, a narrow and hollow way, somewhat resembling a ditch, leads into the high road from Chepstow to Newport, at the village of Crick.

On the road to Chepstow, through the village of St. Pierre, a range of naked cliffs appears to rise from a tract of verdure; a venerable wood shadowing the brow of the rocks, in front of which often rises a forest of masts with waving pendants. This singular combination results from the position of Chepstow and its port, in an abrupt hollow inclosed by considerable eminences in every direction. The whole of this scenery seems to unfold itself like a map, beneath the view of the advancing traveller.

There is a foot-path to Chepstow from the Old Passage Inn, commanding several good prospects. The Wye is often seen amid a pleasing variety of wood and culture. A mile on this side of Chepstow, the town and castle appear to great advantage. The Wye

flows close to the town; the houses rise irregularly one above the other, backed by rich lands and thick woods. Approaching nearer, the prospect is entirely shut out by a high wall; after descending by its side for a quarter of a mile, Chepstow-castle unexpectedly appears in sight.

On the road to Caldicot-castle are the remains of an ancient encampment, called Porthskewydd encampment, which is supposed to have been formed by the Romans to cover their landing in Siluria; but is also attributed to Harold, during his invasion of Gwent. The village of Porthskewydd, though now nearly one mile from the shore, was once washed by the sea, and probably the port to Caerwent, as its name, Port is Coed, seems to imply; but the deviations of the Severn current have reduced this once busy place to a little creek, scarcely ever used, except in imminent danger, by the small craft that navigate the Severn and the Wye. Leaving the Black Rock Inn, says Mr. Donovan, our route conducted us through a fine open country of singular beauty; ascending gradually for miles into hills and gentle eminences on the right; and sloping into a most extensive sweep of low but fertile land, to the broad bosom of the Severn on the left. Those travellers who wish to avoid Chepstow, on their way to Milford, might walk half a mile to Portskewit, and there meet horses and attendants.

As persons who make the tour of South Wales frequently commence by the navigation of the Wye, and proceed through Monmouth and Chepstow, a recent tourist advises them, after visiting Piercefield, to return to Chepstow, and then, by making a digression, to inspect the remains of the once famous Caerwent. Crossing Penmaen Mawr, descend into the Vale of Usk, and after visiting that town, proceed through Ragland, remarkable for its castle, &c. Reach the town of Abergavenny, and thence make an excursion to Llanthony Abbey, part of which is still in tolerable preservation. From this sequestered spot travel along

an excellent road to Crickhowel, two miles and a half from which stands a stone called the County Stone, to mark the entrance into Wales. The first house in the principality from this approach, is called Sunny-bank. Pass through the village of Bwlch to Brecknock, where there is a collegiate church on the ruins of a Benedictine priory. Leaving Brecknock, pass through Merthyr Tydvil, and after visiting the celebrated Pont y Pridd, or New-bridge, proceed to Caerphilly, remarkable for its castle, the work of Edward I.; one of the towers of which has long declined eleven feet from the perpendicular, and yet remained entire.

From Caerphilly proceed to Cardiff, the capital of Glamorganshire, and one of the neatest towns of South Wales. Its ancient castle has been modernised, and has been the occasional residence of the Marquis of Bute, who is Baron of Cardiff. Directing our course towards Llandaff, an ancient episcopal see, now reduced to a village, pursue the road to Lantrissent; and thence turn towards Cowbridge; visit St. Donat's-castle, Pyle, Margam, Aberavan, and Neath; inspect the mouldering remains of Neath Abbey, and then travel to Swansea, which, for beauty and extent, exceeds all the towns of South Wales.

From Swansea cross the country to Tenby, and visit Pembroke, in the castle of which Henry VII. was born. Reach Milford-haven, capable of accommodating all the navies of Europe. Haberston Haiken, near its centre, forms the port; and at the extremity of one of the creeks, are the magnificent remains of Carew-castle. Visit Picton-castle, the ancient seat of Lord Milford; five miles from which stands Haverfordwest, a large town with a ruined fortress. Proceed over a dreary country to St. David's, which, on account of its cathedral, ranks as a city, though it is now a village inhabited by fishermen. Here, however, are some good houses belonging to the local clergy. Make an excursion from thence to Fishguard, a miserable port; and taking an inland direction, pass through the town of Narbeth to CARMARTHEN, a large and populous

town, boasting of high antiquity, being connected with classical history as well as with British superstition. Here the Romans had a station, and here the princes of South Wales formerly kept their court. It was once fortified, and had its castle, situated on a rock commanding the river Towy. Visit Dynevor-park, and the proud ruins of its castle. At a distance in the vale, take a view of Grongar-hill, immortalized by Dyer. After seeing Llandeilo, visit the cataract of Glenkier, and the ruins of Castle Careg Cennin, rising 400 feet perpendicular above the plain. Proceed to Llanymdovery, cross the Towy by a bridge of a single arch, and over a long range of steeps and declivities, arrive at Newcastle, where the Teivi assumes the appearance of a river. Directing your course to the sea-coast, you will reach the pleasant town of CARDIGAN; near to this is Kilgerren, and some noble remains of its castle. Taking the Aberystwyth road, Cader Idris and several of the Merioneth mountains open successively, and beguile the dreary road. The sea views, however, are very fine, and towards Aberystwyth, the country becomes more fertile.

Having now reached the boundary of North Wales, take an eastern direction through the Vale of Rheidol, and view, in advancing, the stupendous scenery of Cwym Ystwyth and Plinlimmon. Cross the Monach, over the devil's-bridge, when, after visiting Hafod, you may pass through the wretched village of Cwm Ystwyth, when having gained the summit of Cymwythen-hill, obtain an uninterrupted retrospect of the dreary tract behind. Soon, however, a glorious prospect opens upon the spacious plain through which the Wye flows, by the town of Rhaidergwy; at which place pass the Wye, by a bridge of a single arch, and proceeding towards Pen y bont, cross the Ithon, and pursue a rugged track over a wild range of hills, the scenes of many memorable exploits: here the camp of Caractacus, and other antiquities, are seen in high preservation.

Reaching Presteign, the modern capital of Radnor-

shire, a place which has still an air of neatness and comfort, visit New Radnor; in the vicinity of this place is that remarkable cataract, called Water Breakneck. Proceed to Bualt, and thence to Hay, a small market-town, remarkable for the ruins of its ancient castle. Pass through the romantic village of Clyro; and here may terminate the tour of South Wales.

It is almost impossible to point out any spot in particular, where the beauties of nature are pre-eminent, so generally are they distributed through the principality. In fact, the diversified objects of pleasure, taste, genius, or simple curiosity, could not be exhausted in this beautiful southern, or in the more sublime parts of the northern districts. So redundant are the sports of nature, that solicit the feelings and engage the fancy, that with a slight change in the point of view, the same spot of ground might afford to a painter a complete set of landscapes. Taken from the top of a mountain, the valley might be sketched apart; and taken from the valley, a noble separate picture might be drawn of the mountain and its appropriate objects. Their several beauties might be joined, by selecting a middle direction; and the painter would soon feel, that it was quite unnecessary, to quit his native soil, to acquire the glories of his art.

INDEX.

Page

Abergavenny, 60—castle, 60
environs and vicinity of 63, 64
Aberystwith, 87; account of, by Edmund Jones 87
Agriculture 39
Anecdotes, apology for 158
Antiquities and anecdotes, apology for 152-158
Arthur's Round Table 111, 113, 114
Ascetic, a singular 70
Banking-houses 20
Bassaleg, village of 101
Bedwas church, views from 108
Benchley, or Aust Ferry 162-170
Black Rock Inn, the 162
Blaenavon works 79-81
Blestium, a Roman station 72
Brooks Weir 169
Buckstone, the 54
Bydwellty 81
Caerleon, town of, 110—once a city 111
——— ancient splendour of 111, 112-115
Caermarthen 176
Caerwent 163
Caldicot Level 102-159
Camps, Roman 123
Campston-hill, and lodge .. 66
Cardiff 176
Cardigan 177
Castel-glas, or Green Castle 105
Cattle 32
Characters, eminent and literary 41, 42
Chepstow, 135—antiquity of. 137—Castle 138
——— vicinity of 141
Christchurch, village of 107, 108
Churches in Monmouthshire 21, 25
Climate and soil 26, 27
Clytha, and Castle 58, 59
Coal-mines 37-80
Cobham, persecution of Lord 72, 73
County Stone 176
Cribs, description of 125

Page

Custom, a whimsical 25
——— a very ancient and pious 25
David ap Gwillym 109
Dinham 161
Divisions, Civil and Ecclesiastical 26
Dodd, Dr., ballad by 109
Dynastow-place 54
Ebwy, the Great 88
Embankments 35, 36
Encampments, ancient .. 67, 163
Ewias, the secluded Vale of 68, 69
Fairies, wonderful tales of .. 87
Fairs, list of 19
Farmers' club, a 40
Farms and cottages 29, 30
——— rent and size of 31
Flowers used to deck graves 108
Folly, the 88
Fort, a Lancastrian 83
Geoffrey of Monmouth 52
Goytre 123
Haberston Haiken 176
Harry of Monmouth 151
Kemeys, village of 117
Landscapes, the boldest .. 67, 68
Llanarth-court 58
Llandillo Cresseny 82, 83
Llanellan 83
Llanfoist Church 66
Llangattock, and house 60
Llangibby, and house 119
Llanhiddel 88
Llanhowel 123
Llanover 84
Llansanfraed 59
Llantarnam, and Abbey 95
Llanthony, Abbey of 69-71
Llantrissaint 117
Llanvihangel Crucorney .. 77
——— juxta Usk .. 59
——— Tavarn bach 59
——— Vedew 102
Llanwerne-hall 165
——— house 117
Machen-place 107
——— Vale of 102

INDEX.

Page

Malpas, village of 96
Mamhilad, village of 85
Man of Ross, (John Kyrle).. 166
Manufactures 38
Marten, Henry, the regicide 145
Mathen, or Mathern, village, 158; palace 172
Measures, variety of 39
Milford Haven 176
Moin's-court 171
Monastic life, lines on, by Shenstone 142
Monmouth, 42, 43-48—Mayor's feast at, 48—vicinity of 53
Morris, Valentine, esq. account of 134, 135
Mynydd y Slwyn, mines at 81
Mynidel Maen 93
New Passage Inn, the 169
Newport, town of, 96, 97—castle, 99, 100—vicinity of 101
Oldcastle, village of, 72—account of Sir John 72-74
Old Court, the seat of David Gam 77
Oliver Cromwell, anecdotes of 154-158
Owen ap Caradoc murdered 100
Passage road, the New 42
Penterry, village of 125
Peterston 103
Piercefield. beauties of 125-135
Pig-iron, quantity of manufactured 81
Pontypool, town of, 85, 86—
———— vicinity of 86
Portskewit 163
Produce, natural 36
Proger, Mr., amusing anecdotes of 64, 65
Ragland, and Castle 54-58
Redbrook, village of 169

Page

Rivers and canals 27, 28
Roads and tram-ways 28. 29
Rockfield 81
Roman remains 22
Rumney, village of 103
Rupersa 102
St. Arvan's, village of 125
St. Briavel's Castle 169
St. Bride's 103
St. Julian's, mansion of 116
St. Melon's 102
St. Pierre's 171
St. Pierre's park 159
St. Treacle, Chapel of 173
Skyrrid Vawr 77, 78
Sudbrook Encampment 171
Sugar-loaf mountain, the .. 78
Sunny-bank 176
Table, the Round, of King Arthur 113
Tintern Abbey 141-144, 148, 149
Tithes 31, 32
Tour of South Wales, directions for 175-178
Trade and manufactures .. 36
Tram-roads, utility of 38
Tredegar-hall 98
Trellich, or Treley, village of 124
Troy-house 152
Twyn Barlwm hill 106, 107
Valley of the Church 86
View, romantic 110
Usk, and Castle 120
Water Breakneck 178
Weights and measures .. 38, 39
Weirs, or salmon-traps 121, 122
Wentloog Level 103
Wernddee, a very ancient house 64-66
White-castle 82
Wye tour, the 165-169
Wynastow-court 54

B. M'Millan, Printer,
Bow-Street, Covent-Garden.

TOPOGRAPHICAL
AND
STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE
PRINCIPALITY OF WALES.
PART II.
SOUTH WALES;

Containing an Account of its

Situation,	Mines,	Agriculture,
Extent,	Minerals,	Fairs,
Towns,	Fisheries,	Markets,
Roads,	Manufactures,	Curiosities,
Rivers,	Trade,	Antiquities,
Lakes,	Commerce,	Natural History,

Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, &c.

To which is prefixed,

A COPIOUS TRAVELLING GUIDE,

Exhibiting

The Direct and principal Cross Roads, Inns, and Distances of Stages, and Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats;

WITH

A LIST OF THE FAIRS,

And an Index Table,

Shewing, at one View, the Distances of all the Towns from London, and of Towns from each other.

BY G. A. COOKE, ESQ.

Illustrated with

A MAP OF THE PRINCIPALITY.

London:

Printed, by Assignment from the Executors of the late C. Cooke,

FOR

SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES, PATERNOSTER-ROW,

AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

B. M'Millan, Printer,
Bow-Street, Covent-Garden.

INSPECTION TABLE FOR SOUTH WALES,

Including the Counties of Brecknock, Caermarthen, Cardigan, Glamorgan, Pembroke, and Radnor.

Bounded by	*Extent.*	*Contains*	*Sends to Parliament*	*Produce and Manufactures.*
Hereford, Monmouth, and Shropshire, on the east; The British Channel, and Caermarthen Bay, on the south; St. George's Channel, or the Irish Sea, and Cardigan Bay, on the west; And the counties of Merioneth, Montgomery, and Shropshire, on the north.	Its length, from north to south, is about 99 miles; Its greatest breadth, from east to west, is about 68 miles; Its circumference is about 350 miles; Containing about 2,470,400 acres.	6 Counties, 1 City, 2 Boroughs, 26 Market Towns, 42 Hundreds, 527 Parishes, 65,581 Houses, And 311,794 Inhabitants.	11 Members, viz. 2 for Brecon, 2 for Caermarthen, 2 for Cardigan, 3 for Pembroke, And 2 for Radnor.	South Wales, though not very productive in grain, &c. can boast the richness of its mineral productions. These principally consist of copper, calamine, iron, lead, tin, stone of various kinds, lime-stone, pit-coal, &c. The manufactures of this part of the principality chiefly consist of iron and tin plates; various woollen manufactures, particularly whittles or shawls, blankets, flannels, stockings, &c. Swansea contains manufactories of earthen-ware and soap.

South Wales is in the province of Canterbury, and in the dioceses of St. David and Llandaff.

AN INDEX TABLE,

Shewing the Distances from Town to Town in South Wales.

For Example, to find the Distance from Neath to Crickhowel, look at Neath, on the side or left hand; and then for Crickhowel, on the top or left hand; and the square where both lines meet, gives the distance, viz. 45 miles.

	Abergwyli	Aberystwyth	Arberth	Brecknock	Bridgend	Buallt	Caermarthen	Cardiff	Cardigan	Cowbridge	Crickhowel	Haverfordwest	Hay	Knighton	Kydweli	Llandaff	Llandovery	Llandeilo	Llangadoc	Llanpetr	Llantrisaint	Neath	Newcastle	Newport	Pembroke	Presteign	Radnor	Rhayader	Swansea	Tenby	Tregaron	distant from London Miles,
Abergwyli																																216
Aberystwyth	42																															208
Arberth	25	68																														254
Brecknock	47	60	73																													168
Bridgend	48	85	72	48																												179
Buallt	52	45	76	19	65																											173
Caermarthen	3	45	24	48	53	55																										173
Cardiff	78	104	93	45	24	63	71																									160
Cardigan	31	37	28	70	80	68	25	97																								223
Cowbridge	66	92	81	45	11	62	60	8	90																							172
Crickhowel	62	75	90	16	45	35	64	38	80	52																						154
Haverfordwest	35	63	11	80	77	84	30	103	30	90	95																					264
Hay	64	62	88	17	64	19	65	58	83	59	20	97																				157
Knighton	75	60	96	44	88	28	85	78	92	82	42	112	28																			156
Kydweli	15	57	25	63	44	63	9	66	33	57	73	27	75	93																		226
Llandaff	75	102	93	43	24	61	70	3	99	12	38	106	50	83	63																	162
Llandovery	28	40	50	22	56	23	31	64	48	60	37	60	40	52	40	65																184
Llandeilo	12	38	38	34	32	38	16	65	43	54	48	45	50	66	27	64	17															202
Llangadoc	24	47	49	24	54	37	25	64	52	64	37	55	40	66	37	72	10	10														185
Llanpetr	21	24	43	40	58	40	23	82	30	72	53	50	54	64	28	77	18	17	27													204
Llantrisaint	68	96	80	35	12	52	62	12	90	8	38	95	53	70	57	9	57	54	57	73												147
Neath	39	64	53	30	17	48	34	40	63	27	45	67	47	70	27	37	41	37	37	43	28											179
Newcastle	19	45	32	55	70	59	15	90	9	77	73	27	83	81	23	88	37	32	40	20	80	55										216
Newport	36	50	24	73	87	76	32	107	12	93	86	20	95	96	40	103	53	47	55	35	95	70	16									244
Pembroke	38	80	15	83	76	85	34	97	44	86	95	15	97	115	30	95	64	47	60	60	88	63	47	33								250
Presteign	78	58	103	34	82	23	80	71	88	79	38	109	23	7	94	80	47	65	60	60	77	66	80	97	112							151
Radnor	67	53	90	40	79	15	67	77	80	77	46	97	20	14	75	75	36	55	50	56	67	62	75	93	102	10						159
Rhayader	56	32	80	32	79	13	59	77	67	76	47	85	33	27	70	77	37	50	54	37	66	61	57	73	94	23	20					178
Swansea	29	60	44	38	24	55	26	47	52	35	52	60	55	77	20	44	39	20	34	37	35	10	42	58	48	77	65	65				206
Tenby	28	74	9	40	68	78	25	92	37	78	87	25	90	110	23	85	58	40	50	50	80	54	44	42	10	102	95	84	44			250
Tregaron	32	17	54	50	70	30	35	95	42	84	68	61	50	50	45	96	30	30	38	10	80	56	30	47	68	48	45	25	50	60		204

A TABLE

OF THE

PRINCIPAL TOWNS

In the Southern Division of the Principality of Wales;

Their Distance from London, Number of Houses and Inhabitants, and the Time of the Arrival and Departure of the Post.

Towns.	Dist.	Counties.	Markets.	Houses.	Inhabitants.	Post arrives.	Departs.
Abergwyli	216	Caerm.	—	312	1789	8 m.	4½ aft.
Aberystwyth ..	208	Card.	—	477	2264	5 aft.	4 mor.
Arberth	254	Pemb.	Wed.	388	1779	1 aft.	10 mor.
Brecknock	168	Brecon.	W. F.	718	3196	1 aft.	10 aft.
Bridgend	179	Glam.	Sat.	—	—	8 m.	5 aft.
Buallt	173	Brecon.	Mon.	182	815	9 m.	5 aft.
Caermarthen ..	217	—	W. S.	1139	7275	9¼ m.	3 aft.
Caerfili	160	Glam.	Thur.	188	1013	—	—
Camros	267	Pemb.	—	187	953	—	—
Cardiff	160	Glam.	W. S.	472	2457	8 aft.	3 m.
Cardigan	223	Card.	Tu. S.	442	2129	6 aft.	4 m.
Caeo	194	Caerm.	—	335	1696	—	—
Cowbridge	172	Glam.	Tuesd.	158	850	10½ aft.	2 m.
Crickhowel	154	Brecon.	Thur.	137	611	—	—
Dyfryn	162	Glam.	—	136	643	—	—
Haverfordwest ..	264	Pemb.	Tu. S.	630	3093	2¾ aft.	8 m.
Hay	157	Brecon.	Sat.	231	1099	11 aft.	4 m.
Kilgeraint	231	Pemb.	—	107	769	—	—
Knighton	156	Radnor.	Thur.	224	952	—	—
Kydweli	226	Caerm.	Frid.	329	1441	—	—
Llandaff	162	Glam.	—	103	504	—	—
Llandeilo	202	Caerm.	Sat.	184	776	6¾ m.	4¾ aft.
Llandovery	184	Caerm.	W. S.	—	800	4½ m.	6½ aft.
Llandysul	212	Card.	—	156	983	—	—
Llangadoc	185	Caerm.	Thur.	378	1891	8 m.	6 aft.
Llannon	219	Caerm.	—	238	1199	—	—
Llanpetr	204	Card.	Tuesd.	128	692	10 m.	2 aft.
Llantrisaint	147	Glam.	—	246	2122	—	—
Llanwenog	209	Card.	—	153	621	—	—
Neath	179	Glam.	Sat.	580	2740	2¾ m.	8¾ aft.
Newcastle	216	Caerm.	Frid.	125	679	5 aft.	6 m.
Newport.....	244	Pemb.	—	350	1433	6¼ aft.	4¾ m.

Towns.	Dist.	Counties.	Markets.	Houses.	Inhabitants.	Post arrives.	Departs.
Pembroke	250	Pemb.	Sat.	481	2415	7½ aft.	6 m.
Presteign	151	Radnor.	Sat.	231	1114	10 aft.	10 aft.
Radnor	159	Radnor.	Sat.	372	1917	12 nig.	8 aft.
Rhayader	178	Radnor.	Wed.	95	446	5 aft.	3 aft.
Swansea	206	Glam.	—	163	867	3¾ m.	7 aft.
Tenby	250	Pemb.	W. S.	234	1176	7 aft.	7 m.
Tregaron	204	Card.	Tues.	242	1133	—	—

The price of postage throughout South Wales, varies from 9d. to 11d. for a single letter.

AN ITINERARY

OF ALL THE

DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS ROADS

IN

SOUTH WALES:

IN WHICH ARE INCLUDED

THE STAGES, INNS, AND GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

N. B. The first Column contains the Names of Places passed through, and the Inns; the Figures that follow, shew the Distances from Place to Place, Town to Town, and Stages; and in the last Column are the Names of Gentlemen's Seats. The right and left of the Roads are distinguished by the letters R. *and* L.

FROM LONDON TO MILFORD HAVEN.

Kensington ..	1¾	1¾	*On* R. *the palace, Duke of Kent; Holland House, Lord Holland.*
Hammersmith .. *Windsor Castle Inn.*	1¾	3½	*Margravine of Anspach,* L. R. *Ricardo, esq.* R. *W. Hunter, esq.* L.
Turnham Green *Old Pack Horse.*	1½	5	*Fairlawn House,— Thompson, esq.* R.
London Stile .. *At Star & Garter, on* L. *a T. R. to Kew and Richmond.*	1	6	
BRENTFORD .. *Cross the Grand Junction Canal and the Brent, whose course on* R. *is from Hendon; thro' Brent-*	1	7	*Entering Brentford on* L. *see Kew Bridge, and the new palace built by His Majesty; through Brentford, on* L. *Sion House, Duke of Northumberland; on* R. *Sion Hill,*

ford; on L. a T. R. to Hampton Court			*Duke of Marlborough; opposite Sion Lodge, Miss Batten; Osterley Park, 1 mile to R. Earl of Jersey.*
Smallberry Green	1¼	8¼	*Spring Grove, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Banks, bart.*
HOUNSLOW .. *George. Thro' on L. a T. R. to the Land's End; cross Hounslow Heath.*	1	9¼	*One mile on L. Whitton Place, G. Gostling, esq.*
Cranford Bridge *White Hart.*	3	12¼	*One mile before, on R. Easton Place, Col. Nesbit; ½ mile from, on R. Cranford Park, Countess Berkley.*
Sipson Green .. *Magpies.*	1¼	13½	
Longford .... *King's Head. Cross the old and new roads at a small distance; cross 2 branches of the Colne, and at about 1 mile, again cross the Colne.*	1½	15	*Near on L. Stanwell House, Sir E. F. Stanhope, bart. and Stanwell Place, Sir J. Gibbons, bart. At about 2 miles on R. Fysh de Burgh, esq.*
Buckinghamshire.			
Colnbrook .... *One mile beyond on L. a T. R. to Windsor.*	1¾	16¾	*Near on R. Riching's Park, Rt. Hon. John Sullivan; 1 mile on L. Horton House.*
Langley Broom	1½	18¼	*Ditton Park, Lord Montague, L. Langley Park, Sir R. Bateson Harvey, bart.*

Tetsworth Water	1	19¼	
Slough ..... *On* L. *a T. R. to Windsor.*	1¼	20½	*H. Dawes, esq.* R. *Sir W. Herschell,* L. *Between Slough & Salt Hill, on* R. *Baylis, Marchioness of Thomond. On* L. *see Windsor Castle, Eton College, & Cranbourn Lodge. See also Clewer spire, Sophia Farm, and St. Leonard's Hill, Earl Harcourt.*
Salt Hill ..... *Castle Inn.*	¾	21¼	*See from Castle Inn, Stoke spire, and the seat of J. Penn, esq. Farnham Royal Church; Britwell House, Hon. Geo. Irby; Dropmore Hill, Lord Grenville, and Burnham church and village; and from the Castle Inn Gardens a grand view of Windsor Castle, Eton College, &c.*
Maidenhead Bridge ..... *Cross the Thames, and enter Berkshire.*	4	25¼	*Near on* R. *at Taplow, Ld. Riversdale. On the top of the hill, Countess of Orkney, and Taplow Lodge, P. C. Bruce, esq. On* L. *see Monkey Island, P. C. Bruce, esq.; opposite, Water Oakley, — Harford, esq.; Filbert, C. Fuller, esq. and the Retreat; 1 mile on* R. *Cliefden, and the beautiful woods belonging to the Countess of Orkney.*
MAIDENHEAD *On* R. *a T. R. to Great Marlow.*	¾	26	*A little before, on* R. *Lady Pocock; opposite, Sir W. Hearne.*

The Folly .... *Fleece Inn. On* R. *a T. R. to Henley and Oxford.*	$\frac{3}{4}$	$26\frac{3}{4}$	*At on* L. *is Ive's House, — Wilson, esq.; on* R. *Hall Place, Sir Wm. East, bart. and Bisham Abbey, G. Vansittart, esq.*
Maidenhead Thicket	$1\frac{1}{4}$	28	*Near the entrance on* L. *at a distance from the road, Heywood Lodge, — Sawyer, esq.; near the end of the Thicket on* L. *Woolley Hall, and opposite, Stubkins, Lady Dorchester.*
Kiln Green	3	31	*Scarlet, L. Perrott, esq.*
Hare Hatch....	1	32	*Bear Place, Sir Morris Ximenes,* R. *and Hare Hatch, — Dalton, esq.; on* L. *Ruscombe House, — Blake, esq.*
Twyford, *Wilts Cross the Loddon* R. *Re-enter Berkshire four miles from Twyford; on* L. *a T. R. to Oakingham.*	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$33\frac{3}{4}$	*One mile from, on* R. *Shiplake Hill, Mrs. Newell, on* L. *Skanlake, Sir N. Dakenfield, bart.*
READING .... *Bridge over the Kennet; on* R. *a T. R. to Henley and Wallingford, on* L. *to Basingstoke.*	5	$33\frac{3}{4}$	*Three miles on* R. *Sunning, R. Palmer, esq.; Early Court, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Scott; and a little beyond, Woodley Lodge, J. Wheble, esq. On* R. *Caversham House, Major Marsack; half a mile beyond Reading on* L. *Coley Park, Berkeley Monck, esq.*
Calcot Green	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$41\frac{1}{2}$	*Calcot Park, J. Blagrave, esq.* R. *half mile further, Tyler's Parsonage, Rev. Dr. Routh.*

Theal ..... *One mile from a T. R. on* R. *to Wallingford, and a little before, Woolhampton on* L. *to Basingstoke and Whitchurch.*	2	43½	*On* L. *Sulhampstead, W. Thoytes, esq.* 1 *mile from on R. Englefield House, R. Benyon, esq.*
Woolhampton	5½	49	*Before, on* L. *Padworth House, R. Clarke, esq.* 1 *mile on* L. *Wasiny House; and* 2 *miles further on* R. *Medgham House, W. S. Poyntz, esq.*
Thatcham .... *King's Head. At about two miles cross the Lamborne road.*	3¾	52¾	
Speenhamland *George and Pelican. Adjoining Speenhamland on* L. *is* NEWBURY	3	55¾	*Shaw House, Sir Joseph Andrews, bart.*
Speen Hill .... *Castle Inn.*	½	56¼	*On* L. *Goldwell Hall, G. Canning, esq.; further on, R. Doddington, or Chaucer's Grove, J. Bebb, esq. and Donnington Castle House, Col. Stead.*
Speen	½	56¾	
Benham Park ..	¾	57½	*Benham Park, Anthony Bacon, esq. end of Benham Park on* L. *Hemstead Lodge, Earl of Craven.*
Half-way House *Cross the Ken-*	2	59½	*On* L. *Barton Court, C. Dundas, esq.*

net R. and before you enter Hungerford, cross it again.			
Hungerford .... *On* R. *a T. R. to Oxford.*	4½	64	*Hungerford Park, J. Wilks, esq.* L.; *on* R. *of Hungerford Bridge, Chilton Lodge, J. Pearce, esq.; half a mile from Hungerford on* R. *Littlecott Park, Gen. L. Popham.*
Troxfield, *Wilts* *Cross the Kennet. Entrance of*	2¾	66¾	
Marlborough Forest	4¼	71	*Savernake Lodge, Earl of Aylesbury.*
End of the Forest	1½	72½	
MARLBOROUGH *On* R. *a T. R. to Swindon, on* L. *to Andover.*	1½	74	*Through, on* L. *the Castle Inn, formerly a seat of the Duke of Somerset.*
Manton	1½	75½	
Fifield	1¼	76¾	
Overton	1	77¾	*Lockridge House, J. Burton, esq. and Kennet Hall, — Mathews, esq.*
West Kennet .. *Cross the Kennet R.*	1½	79¼	*Half a mile beyond, on* R. *Silbury Hill, a remarkable barrow; at some distance on* R. *is Avebury or Abury, noted for the stupendous remains of a Druid's Temple, and Aubery House, — Jones, esq.*
Silbury Hill ..	¾	80	
Beckhampton Inn ..... *On* R. *a T. R. to Higharth; on*	¾	80¾	

L. *to Devizes. Cross the Downs to*			
Cherril	3	83¾	*On* L. *a white horse cut out on the hill, a remarkable landmark; further on* R. *Compton Bassett House, Mrs. Heneage, and on* L. *Blackland House, J. Merewether, esq.*
Quermerford .. *Bridge over a branch of the R. Marden.*	2¼	86	
CALNE ..... *About one mile from Calne, cross a branch of the Wilts and Berks Canal, and the Calne R.; on* R. *a T. R. to Wotton Basset; on* L. *to Devizes.*	1	87	*Castle House, Mrs. Bendry,* L.
Studley	2¾	89¾	*On* L. *the beautiful seat of the Marquis of Lansdown.*
Derry Hill .... *On* L. *a T. R. to Devizes; cross the Wilts and Berks Canal, and a branch of the Avon.*	¼	90	
CHIPPENHAM *Cross the Avon* R. *on* R.; *a T. R. to Malmsbury, Sodbury, and Marshfield,*	2¾	92¾	*Through on* L. *Ivey House,* R. *Humphreys, esq.*

beyond on L. *to Melksham.*			
Pickwick *On* L. *a* T. R. *to Devizes.*	$4\frac{1}{4}$	97	*Within one mile on* L. *Corsham House, (containing a superb collection of paintings),* P. C. *Methuen, esq.; at on* R. *Hartham Park,* — *Jay, esq.; and Pickwick Lodge,* C. *Dickenson, esq.*
Box	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$99\frac{3}{4}$	*One mile from on* R. *Shockerwick,* F. *Wiltshire, esq.*
Ashley Green *Entrance of Bath Easton; on* L. *a* T.R. *to Devizes.*	$\frac{1}{2}$	$100\frac{1}{4}$	
Bath Easton, Somersetshire	3	$103\frac{1}{4}$	*Bath Easton Villa, Brodbelt;* R. *Hampton House,* G. *Allen, esq.; and Lambridge House,* Dr. *Gaygarth* L.; *Bailbrook Lodge,* Col. *Tuffnell,* R.
Walcot	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$104\frac{1}{2}$	
Bath ..... *Situated on the Avon.*	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$105\frac{3}{4}$	
Twiverton .... *George. One mile beyond on* L. *a* T. R. *to Wells and Frome.*	2	$107\frac{3}{4}$	*One mile beyond, on* L. *Newton St. Loe Park,* W. G. *Langton, esq.*
Keynsham	$5\frac{3}{4}$	$113\frac{1}{2}$	*Through on* R. *Hanham Hall,* — *Crisick, esq.*
Brisslington .. *White Hart.*	3	$116\frac{1}{2}$	*One mile on* L. *Half-way House,* — *Mackay, esq.; and Arno's Vale,* J. *Maxie, esq.*

BRISTOL .... *Gloucester Inn. Cross the Avon. On* L. *a T. R. to Shepton Mallet, Wells, and Bridgewater; on* R. *to Marshfield, Sodbury, and Gloucester.*	2¼	118¾	*Near on* L. *Red Lodge,* — *Townsend, esq.; the Hot Wells are one mile below the city, close by the river.*
Westbury	3¾	122½	*Cole House, J. Wedgwood, esq.* L.; *and further, Blaze Castle.*
Compton Greenfield ..... *Two miles beyond, a T. R. to the Old Passage.*	3½	126	*Over House, J. Gordon, esq.* R.; *and further, Knowle, S. Worrall, esq.*
New Passage .. *Cross the Severn R.*	3½	129½	
Black Rock Inn, Monm. .... *From Black Rock Inn, a T. R. to Chepstow.*	3	132½	
Portescauet ..	1	133½	
Crick ..... *On* R. *a T.R. to Monmouth.*	1½	135	*Crick House, Maj. M'Bean.*
Caerwent .... *On* R. *a T. R. to Usk.*	1¼	136¼	
Penhowe	3½	139¾	*Wentwood Lodge, Duke of*
Cat's Ash	1¾	141½	*Beaufort,* R.; *Pencoyd*

1½ mile from on R. a T. R. to Caerleon.			*Castle, Sir M. Wood, bart.; Llanwarran, Sir R. Salusbury, bart.* L.
Christ's Church *On R. a T. R. to Usk; cross the Usk R.*	3¼	144¾	*Between and Newport on* L. *Maindee, G. Jones, esq.*
NEWPORT .... *On R. a T. R to Pontypool and Caerphilly; cross the Monmouth Canal. About one mile from Newport, cross the iron railway, and ½ mile further the Ebwy.*	2½	147¼	
Castle Town ..	4½	151¾	
St. Mellon's .. *Blue Bell.*	2	153¾	
Rumney .... *Royal Oak.*	1½	155¼	
Roath ..... *Glamorgan.*	1¾	157	
Cardiff ..... *Angel Inn.*	1½	158½	

From Cardiff to Arberth, 94¾ miles, see page 24; and from Arberth to Milford Haven, p. 22, 23, 18 miles and one quarter, making from London to Milford Haven, 271½ miles.

FROM ABERYSWYTH TO PRESTEIGN,

THROUGH RHAIADERGWY.

ABERYSTWYTH *At Aberystwyth on R. T. R's. to Caermarthen and Cardigan.*			*About three miles from Aberystwyth, on R. Nanteos, W. E. Powell, esq.; and on* L. *Y Vronvraith House, J. J. Bonsall, esq.*

Piccadilly	2	2	
Esgynallt .... *Four miles farther, on* L. *a T.R. to Devil's Bridge, on* R. *to Tregaron, by Yspytty Ystwyth.*	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$	*Crosswood, — Vaughan, esq.* R.
Cwm Ystwyth *Cross the river Wye.* *On* L. *a T. R. to Llanidloes, on* R. *to Buallt.*	$6\frac{3}{4}$	$15\frac{1}{4}$	*Between Cwm Ystwyth and Rhaiadergwy is Rhydolog, or Rhydoldog, John Oliver, esq.*
Rhiadergwy	$14\frac{1}{2}$	$29\frac{3}{4}$	
Pen-y-bont ..	10	$39\frac{3}{4}$	*The mineral wells of Llandrindod,* R.
Llandegle .... *Four miles beyond Llandegle, on* R. *a T. R. to Buallt.*	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$41\frac{1}{2}$	
Llanvihangel Nant Melan.	$4\frac{1}{2}$	46	*On* R. *a mineral well, called Bluenedw, and between the mountains a fine waterfall, called Water-break-its-neck.*
New Radnor *On* R. *a T. R. to Kington.*	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$49\frac{3}{4}$	
Kennerton	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$52\frac{1}{2}$	*Grove Hall, John Boddenham, esq.* L. *and at Evenjob, Hon. Mrs. Harley,* R.
Beggar's Bush	3	$55\frac{1}{2}$	
Presteign .. *On* L. *a T.R. to Ludlow & Knighton, and thence to Shrewsbury; on* R. *to Kington.*	2	$57\frac{1}{2}$	

RHAIADERGWY TO CARDIFF,
THROUGH BRECON.

RHAIADERGWY			
Keep the river Wye on the R. *to*			
Ithon Bridge ..	9	9	
Cross the Ithon river.			
Near Buallt cross the river Wye.			
BUALLT	5	14	*Before Buallt, Llanelwedd Hall, M. T. H. Gwynn, esq.; half a mile to the left of which is Wellfield House, D. Thomas, esq.*
At Buallt on R. *a T. R. to Llandovery; on* L. *to Hay.*			
Upper Chapel	7½	21½	
— — —			*Castle Maddock, Rev. H. Price,* L.
Lower Chapel	3¾	25¼	
Llandyveilog ..	2¼	27½	
BRECON	2¾	30¼	
At Brecon, on L. *a T.R. to Abergavenny and Hay.*			
Cross the Usk river.			
On R. *a T.R. to Llandovery, Llangadoc, and Neath.*			
Capel Nant Tav	11¾	42	
Coed y Cummer	4½	46½	
MERTHYR TYDVIL	2	48½	*Near Merthyr Tydvil, on* R. *Cyvarthva,* R. *Crawshay, esq.; and beyond, ½ mile on* L. *Pen y Daran, W. Tait, esq. and — Thompson, esq.*
Quaker's Yard Tavern	8	56½	
Near the Duke of Bridgewater's Arms, on R. *a T. R. to Lantrisaint.*			

Bridgewater's Arms ..... *Cross the Cardiff Canal.*	5	61½	*Near Bridgewater's Arms, a fine bridge of a single arch, across the Tav river; the span is 140 feet.*
Whitchurch ..	7¾	69¼	
CARDIFF .... *At Cardiff, on* R. *a T. R. to Cowbridge; on* L. *to Newport.*	3¼	72½	

HAY TO MILFORD,
THROUGH LLANDOVERY.

Hay ..... *At Hay, on* R. *a T. R. to Kington.*			
Glasbury .... *Beyond Glasbury, on* R. *a T. R. to Buallt; on* L. *to Crickhowel.*	4	4	*Within a mile of Glasbury, on the north bank of the Wye, Maeslwch Hall, W. Wilkins, esq. Near Glasbury, Tregoed, Lord Viscount Hereford. A mile to the* L. *of Glasbury, Gwernallt Lodge, H. Allen, esq. Farther to the* L. *see Talgarth Church, Hill, and Forest, where are the remains of an ancient castle. Four miles to the* R. *of Glasbury, Langoed Castle, J. Macnamara, esq.*
Brwynllys, or Brynllys, ..	4	8	*On* L. *Tregunter House, Mrs. Hughes. Through Brynllys, on* R. *Pontwell Hall, T. Phillips, esq. About a mile on* L. *of Brynllys, Aberenyg Place, the late H. Allen, esq.*
Melinvach	3	11	

BRECON	4¼	15¼	*At Brecon, the castle and priory.*
At Brecon, on R. *a T. R. to Buallt; on* L. *to Merthyr Tydvil, and Neath.*			
Cross the Usk river.			
Llanyspydded	2¼	17½	
Penpont	3	20½	*P. Williams, esq.* R.
Cross the Usk river to			
Rhyd-Briw	3¼	23¾	*Dyvynoc, or Devynock, Rev. H. Peyne,* L.
Trecastle	2¼	26	
At Trecastle, on L. *a T. R. to Llangadoc and Llandeilo; on* R. *to*			
Llywel	1	27	
Y Velindre ..	1	28	
LLANDOVERY ..	7¼	35¼	
At Llandovery, on L. *a T. R. to Llangadoc; on* R. *to Buallt.*			
A mile beyond Llandovery, cross the Towi river.			
On R. *a T. R. to Llanbedr; on* L. *to*			
Llwynhowel ..	1¾	37	
Croesycerlog ..	3½	40½	*— Rice, esq.* R.
Maesgoed Inn	2	42½	
— — —			*Taliaris, Lord Robert C. Seymour,* R. *and on* L. *Richard Foley, esq.*
Abermarlais ..	1	43½	
Pencevnglasvryn	1	44½	
Cledvwlch	2	46½	
One mile and			

a quarter beyond Cledvwlch, on R. *a T. R. to Llanbedr; on* L. *to* Rosmana	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$48\frac{1}{4}$	
LLANDEILO VAWR ..... *At Llandeilo, on* L. *a T. R. to Swansea.*	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$49\frac{1}{2}$	*Gurry, W. Jones, esq.* R.; *Tregib, W. Hughes, esq.* L. *Three miles on* L. *of Llandeilo Vawr, in the road from Llangadoc, Manoraban, S. Hemming, esq. Beyond Llandeilo Vawr, on* L. *Dinevor Castle and Newton Park, Lord Dnievor. Dinevor Castle was generally the residence of the princes of South Wales.*
Rhaiader	$2\frac{1}{2}$	52	*On* L. *near the village of Llangathan, Berithlandwall, a fine seat of Richard Jones Llwyd, esq., also Aberglasne, Capt. Dyer; and farther to the* L. *Golden Grove, Lord Cawdor.*
Cross Inn ...	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$54\frac{1}{2}$	*Courthenay, — Dyer, esq.* R. *and at a distance, on the summit of a hill, Pen-y-lan, Wm. Davies, esq. Between Cross Inn and Cothi Bridge, Dryslwyn Castle is a conspicuous object on the* L. *for two miles.*
Cothi Bridge ..	$3\frac{1}{2}$	58	
White Mill ..	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$60\frac{3}{4}$	
Abergwyli	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$62\frac{1}{4}$	*Merlin's Cave,* R.; *the Palace of the Bishops of St. David's,* L.; *also Clistandy, R. Thomas, esq.; and Castle Piggin, Thomas Blome, esq.*

CAERMARTHEN *On* R. *a T. R. to Newcastle; on* L. *to Kydweli.*	2	64¼	*At the entrance of Caermarthen, on* L. *iron & tin mills, belonging to J. Morgan, esq. and the smelting house belonging to Lord Cawdor.*
Stony Bridge ..	1½	65¾	
St. Clare's Bridge *On* R. *a T. R. thro' Whitland, to Haverfordwest. Cross the Tav river.*	8	73¾	
On L. *a T. R. to Llaugharn.*			
Llandyvror	2	75¾	
Tavernspite ..	5	80¾	
Prince's Gate .. *On* L. *a T. R. to Ludchurch.*	3	83¾	
Cold Blow .... *On* L. *a T. R. to Templeton.*	1	84¾	
ARBERTH	1¾	86½	*Famed in British history for being the residence of Pwyll, chieftain of Dyved, a principal hero in the ancient romances, called the* Mabinogion.
Robbeston .... *On* R. *a T. R. to St. Clare's Bridge —on* L. *to*	1¾	88¼	
Caniston Bridge *Cross the river Cleddyv.*	1	89¼	*Half a mile on* R. *Ridgway, J. H. Foley, esq.; and a mile further, on* R. *Llawhaden House, F. Skyrme, esq.*
Mid County House ..... *Within a mile of Haverfordwest, on* R. *a T. R. to Kilgeraint, Cardigan, Newport,*	2¾	92	*A mile beyond, on* L. *Picton Castle, Lord Milford; and half a mile further, on* R. *at Wiston, Lord Cawdor.*

and Abergwaen, or Fiscard. *Cross the Cuch river.*			
HAVERFORD-WEST	$5\frac{1}{4}$	$97\frac{1}{4}$	
At Haverford-west, on R. *a T.R. to St. David's.*			
Merlin's Bridge	1	$98\frac{1}{4}$	
On R. *a T. R. to Tiers Cross, thence to Hubberstone, and thence to Hakin on Milford Haven; on* L. *to Pembroke, cross the Ferry. The middle road leads to*			
Johnston	3	$101\frac{1}{4}$	*On* L. *Lord Kensington, and between that and Stainton, Harmestone, D. Hughes, esq.*
Stainton	2	$103\frac{1}{4}$	*At Robbeston, H. Scourfield, esq.* R.
MILFORD	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$104\frac{3}{4}$	

NEW RADNOR TO TREGARON,

THROUGH BUALLT.

NEW RADNOR ..			
Llanvihangel Nant Melan ..	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{3}{4}$	*Two miles off, on* L. *a mineral well, called Blaenedw, and between the mountains a fine waterfall, called Water-break-its-neck.*
Half a mile farther, on R. *a T.R. to Aberystwyth.* *Near Buallt, on* R. *a T. R. to Llandrindod, Wells, and Rhaiadergwy.*			

Cross the river Wye, and enter Brecknockshire.			
BUALLT	11¼	14	*Llandrindod Wells*, R.
On L. *a T. R. to Hay and Brecon.*			
Llanavan	4½	18½	
Llangammarch	3¾	22¼	
On L. *a T. R. to Llandovery; on* R. *to*			
Bryngwyn	3¾	26	
Llanvihangel Abergwesin ..	2½	28½	
Dol Goch	6	34½	
TREGARON	11	45½	

CARDIFF TO ARBERTH,

THROUGH CAERMARTHEN.

Cardiff			*The Castle, Earl of Dumfries. A mile from Cardiff, on* R. *Llandaff, Court, — Jones, esq.*
On R. *a T. R. to Merthyr Tydvil.*			
Cross the Tav river.			
On R. *a T. R. to Llandaff, thence to Llantrisaint; on* L. *to Dinas Powis.*			
Elai Bridge	2½	2½	
Cross the Elai river.			
St. Nicholas ..	3½	6	*Coitredy, Miss Gwynnett,* R. *Dyfryn House, Hon. B. Grey,* L.
Bolvinston, or Tresimon ..	2	8	
— — —			*Llantreuthid, or Llanrithid Park, Sir John Aubrey, bart.*

Staten Down ..	2	10	
COWBRIDGE, or *Pont y Von* .... *At Cowbridge, on* R. *a T. R. to Llantrisaint; on* L. *to St. Athan's and Gilston.*	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	*Beyond, on* L. *St. Lythian Castle; and half a mile farther, on* R. *Pen Lin Castle, Miss Gwynnett.*
Corntown .... *A quarter of a mile beyond Corntown, on* L. *a T. R. to St. Athan's and Gilston.*	$5\frac{1}{4}$	$17\frac{3}{4}$	
Ewenni Bridge *Cross the Ewenni river.* *On* R. *a T. R. to Brigend.*	1	$18\frac{3}{4}$	*Ewenni Abbey, P. Turbeville, esq.* R.
Newbridge .... *At the 9th milestone from Cowbridge, on* R. *a T. R. to Bridgend, through Laleston.*	2	$20\frac{3}{4}$	*Across the Ogwr, or Ogmore river, Ogmore Castle.*
Pyle Inn	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$25\frac{1}{4}$	
Margam Park ..	$1\frac{3}{4}$	27	*Margam House, — Talbot, esq.*
Taibach, *Somerset House* .. *Cross the Avon river.*	$3\frac{3}{4}$	$30\frac{3}{4}$	*Near Taibach are extensive works of coal and copper.*
Aberavan	1	$31\frac{3}{4}$	
— — —			*Baglan Hall, — Franklin, esq.* R.
Briton Ferry ..	3	$34\frac{3}{4}$	*Earl of Jersey.*
NEATH ..... *On* R. *a T. R. to Brecon.*	3	$37\frac{3}{4}$	*On an eminence near Neath, Gnoll Castle, Henry J. Grant, esq. Within about*

Cross the Neath river. *On* R. *a T. R. to Brecon; and a mile beyond Neath, on* R. *to Llandeilo Vawr, and to Caermarthen, through Bettws; and* ¼ *of a mile farther, on* L. *to Swansea Bar.*			*half a mile of the town of Neath, on the* L. *of the Swansea road, are the ruins of its once splendid Abbey, built by Laley, an architect brought over by Richard Cour de Lion, on his return from the Crusades, and who gave his name to the village of Laleston, near Bridgend.*
Morriston Bridge	5½	43¼	*Clasemont, Sir John Morris, bart.* R.
Cross the Swansea Canal. *Forward to Croes Einon, through Llangevelach. Leaving Swansea on the* L. *on* L. *to* SWANSEA, or			
Aber Tawe ..	3	46¼	*In and near Swansea are many elegant houses, as Belvue, Cuthbert Johnson, esq.; Heathfield Lodge, Sir Gabriell Powell; St. Helen's, Captain Jones; Marino, Edward King, esq.; Sketty Lodge,—— Phillips, esq.; and Oystermouth Castle, the property of the Duke of Beaufort.*
On L. *a T. R. to Rosilly. Returning from Swansea, on* R. *to Llandeilo Vawr, through Llangeveloch; and a little farther, on* L. *to Llychor Ferry; forward to*			
Cadley	3½	49¾	
Croes Einon ..	1½	51¼	*Pentregaer, G. Llewellyn, esq.* R.
On R. *a T. R. to Neath.*			
Pont ar Dulas, or			

Pont ar dulas ·	4	55¼	
Cross the Llychor river, and enter Caermarthenshire.			
On L. *a* T. R. *to Llanelli.*			
Ceubren Llwyd	1¼	56½	*Forest Hall, Arthur Davis, esq.* R.
Brynmain · · · ·	¾	57¼	
Llannon · · · · · ·	2½	59¾	
Pontyburem · ·	3½	63¼	
Llangyndeyrn · ·	4	67¼	
Three miles beyond Llangyndeyrn, on L. *a* T. R. *to Llanelli.*			
CAERMARTHEN	5¼	72½	*At the entrance of Caermarthen, on* L. *iron and tin mills belonging to J. Morgan, esq.; and the smelting house, the property of Lord Cawdor. One mile from Caermarthen,* R. *Job's Well, D. Edwardes, esq.*
On R. *a* T. R. *to Llandeilo Vawr, on* L. *to Kydweli.*			
Stony Bridge · ·	1½	74	
St.Clare's Bridge	8	82	
On R. *a* T. R. *thro' Whitland, to Haverfordwest.*			
Cross the Tav river.			
On L. *a* T. R. *to Llaugharn.*			
Llandyvror · · · ·	2	84	
Tavernspite · ·	5	89	
Prince's Gate · ·	3	92	
On L. *a* T. R. *to Ludchurch.*			
Cold Blow · · · ·	1	93	
On L. *a* T. R. *to Templeton, thence to Tenby.*			
ARBERTH · · · ·	1¾	94¾	

LLANDOVERY TO ST. DAVID'S,
THROUGH CARDIGAN.

LLANDOVERY			*Henlys, Captain D. Williams,* R.
Pumsant	11	11	*Dol Cothi, John Johnes, esq.* R. *and* $\frac{3}{4}$ *of a mile beyond Brunant, Rev. J. Lloyd.*
Llanbedr Mountain	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$15\frac{1}{2}$	
On L. *a T. R. to Llandeilo Vawr, by Llansawell.*			
Cross the Teivi river.			
LLANBEDR	4	$19\frac{1}{2}$	
On L. *a T. R. to Caermarthen; on* R. *to Aberystwyth, and to Tregaron.*			
Rhydowen	$9\frac{1}{2}$	29	
Four miles and 3 *quarters farther, on* R. *a T. R. to Cardigan; on* L. *to*			
NEWCASTLE IN EMLYN	$9\frac{1}{2}$	$38\frac{1}{2}$	
On L. *a T. R. to Kilgeraint.*			
CARDIGAN	10	$48\frac{1}{2}$	*Within two miles of Cardigan, at Llangoedmor, or Llangadmore, Rev. Mr. Millingchamp.*
At Cardigan, on R. *a T. R. to Aberystwyth; on* L. *to Haverfordwest.*			
St. Dogmael's	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$49\frac{3}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$ *mile from, is Castle Malgwyn, late J. Hammet, esq.*
Y Velindre ..	$6\frac{1}{4}$	56	
NEWPORT	3	59	

FISCARD, or ABER GWAEN *At Fiscard, on* L. *a T. R. to Haverfordwest.*	7	66	
Merthyr	6	72	
Gwrid Bridge ..	$8\frac{1}{4}$	$80\frac{1}{4}$	
ST. DAVID'S ..	$1\frac{3}{4}$	82	

MERTHYR TYDVIL TO COWBRIDGE,

THROUGH LLANTRISAINT.

MERTHYR TYDVIL			
Quaker's Yard, *Tavern*	8	8	
New Bridge .. *Cross the river Tav.*	$4\frac{1}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{4}$	
Pont Routha ..	$\frac{1}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	*Castella, E. Treharne, esq.* R.
— — — *Over the mountains to*			
LLANTRISAINT *At Llantrisaint, on* L. *a T. R. to Cardiff, and a mile and a half farther, on* R. *to Bridgend.*	$4\frac{3}{4}$	$17\frac{1}{4}$	
Ystradowen ..	$4\frac{3}{4}$	22	*Ash Hall, R. Aubrey, esq.*
Aberthin	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$23\frac{1}{2}$	R. *On* L. *Hensol, S. Richardson, esq. Between Ystradowen & Aberthin, on* R. *Newton House, W. Gibbon, esq.*
COWBRIDGE ..	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$24\frac{3}{4}$	*Llantreuthid Park, Sir J. Aubrey, bart.* L.

ABERYSTWYTH TO CAERMARTHEN,
THROUGH LLANBEDR.

ABERYSTWYTH to Piccadilly	2	2	
On L. *a T. R. to Rhaiadergwy. Cross the Ystwyth river.*			
Llanrhystyd ..	7½	9½	*Ystrad Teilo, Rev. Isaac Williams, L.; near which, Mabwys, J. Lloyd, esq.*
On R. *a T. R. to Cardigan.*			
Pontyperris	1½	11	
Dyfryn	2½	13½	
Talsarn	4¼	17¾	*Abermenick, D. Edwards, esq.* L.
King's Head ..	1	18¾	
Fos Gwy	3½	22¼	
LLANBEDR	2¾	25	
On R. *a T. R. to Cardigan. Cross the Teivi river. On* L. *a T. R. to Llanymdovery and Llandeilo Vawr.*			
Pencareg	3½	28½	
— — —			*Llanvaughan, J. Thomas, esq.*
Llanbyther	¾	30¼	
Plagebach	3	33¼	
Troed y Rhiw ..	2	35¼	*Perth y Berllan House, Thos. Saunders, esq.* L.
Gwyrgrug	1¾	37	
Brechva	1	38	
Langwyli	3	41	
Rhydgaeo	2½	43½	
CAERMARTHEN	4½	48	

END OF THE ITINERARY.

FAIRS IN SOUTH WALES.

BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

Brecknock.—First Wednesday in March, May 4, July 5, September 9, November 16, for leather, hops, cattle, and all sorts of commodities.

Buallt.—June 27, October 2, December 6, for sheep, horned cattle, and horses.

Capel Coch.—Sept. 28.

Crickhowel.—January 1, May 12, for cattle, sheep, goats, and horses. August 21.

Dyvynog.—April 16, May 9, August 12, October 6, December 5.

Hay.—May 17, August 10, October 10, for sheep, horned cattle, and horses.

Llangynud.—April 20, October 7, December 1, Wednesday before Christmas.

Talgarth.—February 9, March 12, May 31, July 10, September 23, November 2, December 3, for cattle, sheep, and horses.

Pont Nedd Vechan.—First Saturday after March 12, Saturday before May 12, Saturday before July 5, Saturday before August 26, September 21, November 14.

Penderyn.—April 15, November 12, 13.

Trecastle.—January 17, April 5, May 21, August 14, October 14, November 13, December 14, for sheep, cattle, hogs, and horses.

CARDIGANSHIRE.

Cardigan.—February 13, April 5, for small horses and pedlar's ware; August 26, September 8, December 19, ditto and cattle.

Aberaeron.—November 13.

Aberarth.—July 5, December 11.

Aberystwyth.—Monday before January 5, Palm-Monday, Whit-Monday, May 14, June 24, September 16, Monday before November 11.

Capel St. Silin.—February 7, for pigs and pedlar's ware.

Capel Cynon.—Ascension day, Thursday after St. Michael, September 29, for cattle, horses, sheep, &c.

New Quay.—November 12.

Llanwyddelus.—May 9, for pigs and pedlar's ware.

Llanpetr.—Whit-Wednesday, July 10, October 19.

Llandewi Brevi.—May 7, July 24, October 9, November 13.

Llandysul.—February 11, Palm Thursday, small horses, sheep, and pedlary; September 19, cattle, horses, and sheep.

Llanarth.—January 12, March 12, June 17, September 22, for horses, cattle, &c. Octber 27.

Llangaranog.—May 27.

Llanrhystyd.—Thursday before Easter, Thursday before Christmas.

Llanwynon.—December 13, cattle, horses, cheese, and pedlary.

Llanwenog.—January 14, for cattle, horses, and pigs.

Lledrod.—October 7.

Llucst Newydd.—September 23, October 8, second Friday after October 10.

Rhos.—Whit-Thursday, August 5 and 26, September 25, for cattle, horses, wool, and pedlary.

Talsarn.—September 8, November 7, for cattle, horses, and pedlary.

Tregaron.—March 16, for horses, pigs, stockings, cloth, flannel, wool, and pedlary.

Trevrhedyn in Emlyn.—June 22, July 1, November 22.

Ystradmeirig.—July 2, for pigs, wool, and pedlary.

CAERMARTHENSHIRE.

Abercynnen.—May 5, November 22.

Abergwyli.—June 23, October 2 and 27, for cattle, horses, and pedlary.

Bol y Castell.—June 24.

Caermarthen.—June 3, July 10, August 12, September 9, October 9, November 14, 15, for cattle, horses, and pedlary.

Caeo.—May 10, August 21, October 6, cattle, horses, and pedlary.

Cynwyl Elved.—November 21.

Cross Inn.—March 23, 24.

Dryslwyn.—July 1, August 13, for cattle, horses, and sheep.

Llanbeudy.—September 18.

Llanborn.—May 6.

Llandarog.—Monday after May 20, September 27.

Llandeusant.—October 10.

Llanarthne.—Monday after July 12.

Kydweli.—May 24, August 1, October 29, for cows, calves, cattle, and pedlary.

Llanedi.—November 8, for cattle, horses, and pedlary.

Llanelli.—Ascension-day, September 30, for cattle, horses, and pedlary.

Llandybie.—Whit-Wednesday, cattle, horses, and pedlary; July 16, December 26.

Llandovery.—Wednesday after Epiphany, Wednesday after Easter week, Whit-Tuesday, July 31, Wednesday after October 10, November 26, for cattle, pigs, stockings, &c.

Llandeilo Vawr.—January 8, February 20, Palm-Monday, June 4, cattle, horses, sheep, and wool.

Llandeilo Vach.—June 12.

Laugharn.—May 6, called St. Mark's Fair, September 28.

Llangadoc.—March 12, horses and pedlary; last Thursday in May, July 2, first Thursday after 11th of September, cattle, horses, and sheep; second Thursday after old Michaelmas, cattle and pedlary.

Langyndeyrn.—August 5, for cattle, horses, and pedlary.

Llangenych.—October 23, for cattle, horses, and pedlary.

Lannon.—July 6, December 12, for cattle, horses, and pedlary.

Llanvynydd.—May 6, July 5, September 28, November 19.

Llangathen.—April 16, September 22.

Llangynin.—January 18.

Llanllwch.—September 29.

Llansawel.—First Friday after May 12, cattle and pedlary; July 15, October 23, cattle, horses, and pedlary; first Friday in November.

Llanvihangel.—May 12, October 10, cattle, horses, and sheep.

Llanybydder.—June 21, July 17, for pedlar's ware; November 1 and 21, for cattle, sheep, horses, and cheese.

Meidrim.—March 12, for cattle, horses, and flannel.

Newcastle in Emlyn.—March 23, May 10, June 22, July 20, August 20, September 10, November 22.

Myddvai.—October 18.

Newcastle in Rhos.—June 22, for cattle, horses, and sheep.

New Inn.—January 10, June 2, July 21, August 19.

Penybont.—December 5, for cattle, tallow, and pedlary.

Rhos Cil Maen Llwyd.—May 17, July 19, September 27, October 30.

Tal Ychain.—June 22, September 20.

Ty Gwynar Dav.—February 13, April 3, August 28, September 19, December 19.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.

Aberavan.—November 10.

Brigor by Ewenni.—October 16.

Bridgend.—Ascension day, November 27, for cattle, sheep, and hogs.

Capel Creunant.—Whit-Mond. September 29, November 20.

Cardiff.—July 10, August 26, September 19, December 11, for cattle.

Caerfili.—April 5, June 6, July 19, August 25, October 9, November 16.

Cowbridge.—May 4, June 21, September 29.

Dyfryn Golych.—August 21, cattle.

Elai.—July 22, cattle, December 11.

Llancarvan.—Wednesday before Easter.

Llancyvelach.—March 1.

Llancynwyd.—May 1.

Llanrydan.—Palm-Monday.

Llandaff.—February 9, Whit-Monday, for cattle and stockings.

Lantrisaint.—May 21, August 12, October 28, for cattle.

Llychor.—October 10, for cattle, sheep, and hogs.

St. Mary's Hill, near Cowbridge.—August 26, cattle.

Merthyr Tydvil.—May 14.

Neath.—Trinity Thursday, July 31, September 12, for cattle, sheep, and hogs.

St. Nicholas.—December 8, for cattle.

Penrice.—May 17, June 20, July 17, September 17.

Penrhyn.—December 11.

Y Waen.—May 13, June 2, July 1, September 2, November 20.

Swansea.—May 2, July 2, August 15, October 3, and the two following Saturdays, for cattle, sheep, and hogs.

PEMBROKESHIRE.

Aberarth.—March 21, June 4, July 5, August 10, September 26, December 11.

Aberdaw.—April 1 and 16, August 10, September 13.

Camros.—February 13, cattle, horses, sheep, &c.

Eglwyswrw.—Ascension-day, first Monday after November 22, for cattle, horses, sheep, &c.

Fisgard.—February 5, Easter-Monday, Whit-Monday, July 23, August 28, November 17.

Henveddau.—May 13, September 17, October 30.

Herbranston.—August 12.

Haverfordwest.—May 12, June 12, July 18, September 23, October 18, for cattle, horses, sheep, &c.

Kilgeraint.—August 21, November 12, for cattle, horses, and pedlary; a large fair.

Llanhuaden.—October 23, November 22, for cattle, horses, sheep, &c.

Maenclochog.—March 10, May 22, August 5, Monday before October 29, for sheep, a few cattle, &c.

Mathri.—October 10, for cattle, horses, and pedlary.

Monckton.—May 14, November 22.

Newcastle in Cemaes.—May 6, July 10.

Newport.—May 14, June 27, cattle, horses, and sheep.

Pembroke.—May 14, Trinity Monday, July 16, September 25, cattle, horses, sheep, and cloth.

St. David's.—August 9, December 11.

Tenby—Whit-Tuesday, May 4, July 1, October 2, December 1, cattle, horses, and sheep.

Trev Bevared.—August 12.

Trevin.—November 22.

Wiston.—Oct. 20, for cattle, horses, and sheep.

RADNORSHIRE.

Castell y Maen.—July 18, November 13.

Hawau.—Saturday before February 11, Saturday before May 11, and Saturday before November 11, sheep, horned cattle, and horses.

Knighton.—Thursday before Easter, May 17, October 2, last Thursday in October, Thursday before November 12, sheep, horned cattle, and horses.

Pain's Castle.—May 12, September 22, December 15, sheep, horned cattle, and horses.

Pont Rhyd y Cleivion.—May 12, September 27, October 26, for sheep and horned cattle.

Presteign.—June 25, December 11, for sheep, horned cattle, and horses.

Radnor.—Tuesday before Holy Thursday, August 14, October 25, for sheep, horned cattle, and horses.

Rhaiader.—August 6 and 27, September 26, December 3, commonly called Dom Fair, for sheep, horned cattle, and horses.

END OF LIST OF FAIRS.

TITLES CONFERRED BY THIS PART OF THE PRINCIPALITY.

Caermarthen gives the title of Marquis to the Osborne family. The village of Brewse gives the title of Baron to the families of Howard and Bulkeley, and Dinevor the same dignity to the De Cardonnel, late the Talbots. Pembroke gives the title of Earl to the Herberts, and Haverfordwest and Castle Morton that of Baron to the Beresfords and Campbells. The family of Pleydell Bouverie derive their title of Earl from Radnor, and the Lennox's that of the Earl of March, from the Marches in South Wales: the Brudenells derive their title of Earl, from the county town of Cardigan.

QUARTER SESSIONS,

Are held at Caermarthen twice in the year, with the Great Session, for the trial of felonies, &c. At Cardiff, the Epiphany Quarter Sessions, and the County Assizes. At New Radnor, in the second week after Epiphany; at Easter, on the 7th of July, and at Michaelmas. At Neath, on Tuesday and Wednesday after the translation of Thomas à Becket. At Cardigan twice in the year. At Swansea, the Michaelmas Quarter Sessions are held; and at Presteign the Assizes for the county.

SEATS AND VIEWS IN SOUTH WALES.

Aberystwyth.
Abbey Cwmhir.
Bishop Gower's Palace.
Bridge Castle.
Briton Ferry.
Cardigan, Carew Castle, Cardiff, Caermarthen, Caerphilly Castle, Careg Cennen, Crag y Dinas, Coetty Castle.
Dinevor Castle, Devil's Bridge, Dyndryvan.
House, Fishguard.
Havod, Haverfordwest.
Kydweli Castle, Knoll Castle.
Llangattock Place, Llanstephan Castle.

Llyn Savaddan, New Radnor New Bridge, Margam Abbey, Merthyr Tydvil, Morelai Castle, Offa's Dyke, Neath Abbey, Ogmore Castle, Oystermouth Castle.

Pembroke.

Penlin Castle, Picton Castle.

Plas Grug, Pumlumon.

Pont y Pridd.

Presteign.

Radnor, New and Old.

Rhaiader.

St. David's.

Stackpool Court.

Swansea.

Tenby.

Water-break-its-neck, Ystrad Flur Abbey, Ystradmeirig.

GLOSSARY OF WORDS

That occur most frequently in the construction of Welsh Names of Places;

From the Cambrian Traveller's Guide.

Aber, the fall of a lesser water into a greater.
Avon, a river.
Al, power, very, most.
Allt, the side of a hill, a woody cliff.
Ar, upon; bordering.
Aren, a high place, an alp.
Bach, little; small.
Ban, high; lofty, tall.
Banau, eminences.
Bedd, a grave, a sepulchre.
Bettws, a station; a place between hill and vale.
Blaen, the end or extremity.
Bôd, an abode, a dwelling.
Bôn, the base.
Braich, an arm.
Bron, a breast, a swell.
Bryn, a mount or hill.
Bwlch, a hollow or break.
Bychan, little, *fem.* Bechan; if following a vowel, Fechan.
Cad, defending.
Cader, a fortress, or stronghold, a chair.
Cae, a hedge, a field.
Caer, a wall or mound for defence, a fort or city.
Cantrev, a division of a country.
Capel, a chapel.
Carn, a prominence, a heap.
Carnedd, a heap of stones.
Careg, a stone.
Cevn, the back, the upper side, a ridge.
Ceryg, stones.
Castell, a castle, a fortress.
Cil, a retreat, a back, a recess.
Ciliau, recesses.
Clawdd, a dike, ditch, or trench.
Clogwen, a precipice.
Coch, red.
Coed, a wood.
Cors, a bog.
Corsydd, bogs.
Craig, a rock.
Creigiau, rocks.
Croes, a cross.
Cwm, a dale or glen.
Cymmer, a confluence.
De, the south.
Dol, a holme, a meadow.
Dau, two.
Dinas, a city or fortified hill.

Du, black.
Dwr, fluid, water.
Drws, a door, a pass.
Dyfryn, a valley or plain.
Eglwys, a church.
Erw, a slang of arable land, an acre.
Esgair, a long ridge.
Fynnon, a well or spring.
Gaer, see Caer.
Gallt, a woody cliff.
Garth, a mountain, or hill that bends.
Gelli, the grove.
Glan, a brink, a side or shore.
Glás, blue, grey, green, verdant.
Glyn, glen, a valley.
Gwaelod, a bottom.
Gwern, a watery meadow.
Gwydd, wood, woody, or wild.
Gwyn, white, fair, clear.
Havod, a summer dwelling.
Hen, old.
Hendrev, the old residence.
Hir, long.
Is, lower, inferior.
Isav, lowest.
Llan, a church, an enclosure.
Llech, a flat stone or flag, a smooth cliff.
Lle, a place.
Llwyd, grey, hoary, brown.
Llwyn, a wood or grove.
Llyr, the sea water.
Llys, a palace, hall, or court.
Mach, a place of security.
Maen, a stone.
Maenor, a manor.
Maes, a field.
Mall, bad, rotten.
Mawr, great, large.
Melin, a mill.
Moel, a peak, naked, bald.
Moned, an insulated situation.
Mynach, a monk.
Mynydd, a mountain.
Nant, a brook, river, ravine, glen.
Newydd, new, fresh.
Or, border, the edge, seats, views, &c.
Pant, a hollow.
Pen, a head, top, or end.
Penmaen, the stone end.
Pentrev, a village, a suburb.
Pistyll, a spout or entrance.
Plas, a hall.
Pont, a bridge.
Porth, a gate.
Pwll, a ditch, a pit.
Rhaiadyr, a cataract.
Rhiw, an ascent.
Rhos, a moist plain or meadow.
Rhûdd, red.
Rhyd, a ford.
Sarn, a causeway.

Tavarn, a tavern.
Tal, the head, the front.
Tal, a towering.
Tir, the earth, land.
Tomen, a mound.
Traeth, a sand.
Trev or tre, a house, a home.
Tri, three.
Troed, a foot.
Trwyn, a point.
Twr, a tower.
Ty, a house.
Tyddyn, a farm.
Tyn, a stretch.
Tywyn, a strand.
Uwch, upper, higher.
Uchav, highest.
Y, of, on, the.
Ym, in or by.
Yn, in, at.
Ynys, an island.

LITERATURE, AND LEARNED MEN.

Giraldus Cambrensis was born at Manorbeer, about the year 1146. In his studies he was favoured by his uncle, David Fitz Gerald, then Bishop of St. David's. The writings of this zealous churchman are numerous, and his Itinerary has been much admired. Caradox, the Welsh Annalist, was born at Llancarvan, in Glamorganshire, and flourished about the middle of the twelfth century; his Chronicle is continued from A. D. 686, to his own time. Passing by the rest of the ancient Bards, &c. we must notice, that John Dyer, the author of "Grongar Hill, the Fleece, &c." was born at Aber Glasney, in 1700. Vavasor Powell was born at Cwmclas, in Radnorshire. Edwards, the self-taught architect, was also a native of South Wales; as was Howel Harris, and many others, whose memory is recorded in the "Cambrian Biography," and other works. The first Welsh Magazine was published in 1770, by the late Rev. Josiah Rees, of Gelligron. Two newspapers are printed in South Wales, "The Cambrian," at Swansea; and at Caermarthen, "The Caermarthen Journal."

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF

SOUTH WALES.

SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT.

SOUTH WALES is situate between 51° 18′, and 52° 25′ of northern latitude, and 3° and 5° 30′ of western latitude from Greenwich: it forms the most central of the three grand western promontories of South Britain; being separated from those of Devon and Cornwall on the south-east, by the Bristol Channel; and from the promontory of Lleyn, in Caernarvonshire, on the north-west, by that part of St. George's Channel, called Cardigan Bay. In shape it is somewhat triangular, similar to that of North Wales, having the land mere on the east for its base, the sea coasts of the two channels for its sides, and St. David's Head on the west for its apex. On the east, it is bounded by the counties of Monmouth, Hereford, and Salop; on the north by Montgomeryshire, and part of the river Dyvi separating it from Merionethshire. The length of this land boundary, from the mouth of the Romney, near Cardiff, to the Kerry hills, on the confine of Montgomeryshire, and from thence to the sea, at the mouth of the Dyvi, is estimated at about 120 miles; and its marine boundary from thence to St. David's Head, tracing the zigzag windings of the coast, is about 350 miles. Its area, as estimated by Templeman, is 3860 square miles, or 2,470,400 acres.

CLIMATE AND SOIL.

The Vale of Glamorgan having the Bristol Channel to the south, and being screened from the north by the high mountainous coal tract; and having a good sound soil upon a bottom of limestone, is consequently highly salubrious: hence the size and deli-

cacy of its native domestic animals, sheep and cattle, and the frequent longevity of its inhabitants. Pembrokeshire being more exposed to the south-western winds of the Atlantic, than any other Welsh county, is more humid, and severe frosts are seldom experienced. The Vales in the counties of Caermarthen and Cardigan experience a variety of weather: hence the complaint of farmers of their crops of grain. The open counties are more exposed, than mountain valleys, to those easterly and north-easterly winds in winter, usually attended with frost; but lying open fully to the sun, they have a warmer and more genial summer. With respect to soil, South Wales is divided into four tracts: slate, red soil, limestone, and coal.

NAME AND ANCIENT HISTORY.

South Wales comprehends the modern counties of Brecknock, Caermarthen, Cardigan, Glamorgan, Pembroke and Radnor.

The territory now included under this name, though with some difference in its boundaries, &c., was anciently denominated *Gwent* and *Dyved*, subdivided into *Upper* and *Lower Gwent*, *Morganwg*, *Esyllwg*, and *Seisyllwg*, or *Garth Madryn*. The Roman Generals having subdued a large proportion of the population of England, first of all directed their forces to the conquest of the Britons, who inhabited South Wales; but the Roman legions were baffled in this quarter, till the hopes of the Britons had received their death-blow, by the defeat and capture of their celebrated leader Caractacus, who effectually defied the Roman generals for nine years. South Wales was subsequently invaded by the Saxons, the Normans, and others, with various success; but the greatest settlement was made by the Normans, and the country was also a prey to its own intestine divisions, for several ages, till the whole principality came under the dominion of England.

POPULATION.

This, according to the official returns from the six counties, in the year 1811, was three hundred and twenty-eight thousand nine hundred and eighty-one.

RIVERS AND CANALS.

The navigable rivers are not numerous; but among these Milford-Haven is reckoned the first, its Welsh name being *Aber-dau-gleddau*, the mouth or estuary of the two Cleddau; the two principal rivers composing it being so called. The western branch, called Cleddau *wen*, or white, fair, &c., rises near Fishguard, and runs southward about 13 miles to Haverfordwest, where it becomes navigable, and continues so for 21 miles, to St. Andrew's Point. The eastern branch, Cleddau *Dhu*, or the black, rises in the Pencelli mountains, and for some space serves as the boundary of the counties of Caermarthen and Pembroke. The Towy (Tywi) rises in the wildest part of Caermarthenshire, and after a course of about 27 miles, reaches the metropolis of the county, where it becomes navigable. From Caermarthen it winds more southward, and arrives at the grand reservoir of all rivers, near Llanstephan. The Towy abounds with salmon, sewin, trout, &c. *Llychor* rises from a spring, issuing out of a limestone rock, near the eye of Llychor, and is a good channel for the transit of coal, iron, &c. The Teivi rises out of a small lake, called Llyn Teivi, north of the Abbey of *Strata Florida*, and is navigable from Cardigan Bar, to Llechryd bridge, about seven miles. The fish of the Teivi are salmon, sewin, trout, &c.

RIVERS.

The Dyvi rises in Merionethshire; at Llyfnant it becomes a semi-South Wales river, and from thence to its outlet at Aberdyvi: it is the boundary between Cardiganshire and Merionethshire.

The Romney runs on the eastern limit of Glamorganshire, and enters the Bristol Channel east of the town of Cardiff. The *Tav*, little and great, rise in

the most elevated mountains of South Wales, and enters the Bristol Channel at Penarth.

The river *Elai* contributes with the Tav, to form the harbour at Penarth. The *Daw* or *Dawon*, rises north of Llansannwr March, and runs through Cowbridge into the sea at Aber Ddaw.

The Ewenni runs into the Ogmore, near their joint entrance into the sea, near Ogmore Castle: the river Ogmore is much commended by dyers for its remarkable softness. The *Avan* rises near the Ogmore, and falls into the sea at Aber Avan, near the Margam copper works. The *Neath* and the *Tawy* both rise in Brecknockshire and fall into Swansea Bay. The rivulets of *Gower*, a dry and limestone tract, are few and small, viz. *Penarth Pill* and *Burry*.

In Caermarthenshire are the *Gwendraeths*, which rise in the lime and coal tract, and fall into the Bay of Caermarthen; and the *Tav*, rising in the Llanvernach mountains; that after a course of 24 miles, forms a good port at Llaugharne.

In Pembrokeshire we meet with Newgall, a rivulet separating the *Englishery and Welshery*, &c.: the *Solva* forming a harbour for coasting vessels, of 100 or 150 tons, and both falling into St. Bride's Bay. The Gwaen rises in the mountains, and after a course of about 20 miles, falls into the Irish Channel at Fishguard, or Aber Gwaen. The Nevern, after running 15 miles, falls into the channel at Newport.

In Cardiganshire, we meet with the Aeron flowing through a beautiful valley, and falling into the sea at Aber Aeron; the *Arth*, the *Gwyre*, the *Ystwyth*, and the *Rheidiol*.

In Radnorshire, the Wye: the subject of romance, painting, and poetry, enters this county from Montgomeryshire, and becomes the boundary of Radnor and Brecon, for 30 miles, down to the Hay, where it enters Herefordshire. Here is also the *Tame*, the *Lug*, and the *Somergill*; the latter rising in the

Forest of Radnor; escaping thence forms a cascade, called *Water-break-its-neck.*

In Brecknockshire, we meet with the *Usk*, which receives a number of tributary streams. The continuous range of the Eppynt, on the north of the Usk, turns all the water of the hundred of Buallt into the Wye.

Besides the salmon, &c., these rivers produce cod, mullet, whitings, flat-fish, turbot, bret, samlets, soles, flukes, &c. Shell-fish and oysters are most abundant on the southern and south-western coasts of the limestone tract. Swansea is supplied with the following varieties: turbot, bret, soles, plaise, flounder, skate, doree, oysters, lobsters, crabs, salmon, sewin, mackarel, cod, hake, basse, whiting, horn-fish, mullets, gurnard, dog-fish, conger eel, and trout.

River fences are made by jetties. A jetty is a strongly planked timber frame, filled with stones. The torrent in meeting such an obstruction, generally undermines the projecting end, unless it rests upon a rock: the jetty is placed so as to form an obtuse angle across the near side of the stream, and the more obtuse the angle, the less is the resistance given to the torrent, and consequently the less it will undermine. Some proprietors, when the waters come down, curse the streams, and leave them to take their course; others erect jetties, and turn the torrent like a battering ram against their neighbour's land on the other side, who in his turn erects other jetties to turn back the stream: so that, in time of flood, the torrent is buffetted alternately from one side to the other; but in general it takes ample revenge on both parties.

The canals of South Wales are owing entirely to its productive mines of coal and iron, and within 24 years during the late war, upwards of six score miles of canals were completed within it. Kydweli canal was made by the late Thomas Kymer, esq., with railways and wharfs. Cremlyn canal, is also private property, made to expedite the conveyance of coals from the pits to the mouth of the river Neath. The

Monmouthshire canal commences on the river Usk, at Newport, and in less than a mile divides into two branches. The Brecon and Abergavenny canal runs through the red sand-stone tract, from Clydach to Llangynydr bridge, and from thence to Brecon. This canal has only one tunnel; 62 stone, and 14 wooden bridges, and 11 aqueducts. Swansea and Neath canals run parallel, from south-west to north-east. The Aber Dar, Penclawdd, and Llanelli canals, have their uses in commerce.

LAKES AND FISHPONDS.

Small lakes are numerous in the mountainous parts, forming the sources of rivers, as Llyn, Tawy; and the highest summits of mountains have frequently lakes at their base. The most extensive lake, and the second in Wales, is Llyn Savaddan, in the parish of Llanvihangel, in Brecknockshire. This lake, different from the others, which are in dreary situations, is surrounded with beautiful prospects. It is about two miles long, one broad, and from five to six in circumference. Its general depth is from four to five yards; and its greatest depth, from twelve to fifteen yards. The pike in this lake weigh from 30 to 40lbs.; the perch weigh from a few ounces to 3lbs.; and the eels are of such an enormous size, as to give rise to the adage, " as long as a Savaddan eel."

ROADS, BRIDGES, &c.

The first act of parliament for the repairing of roads, about the middle of the sixteenth century, did not affect Wales, where the roads were then of two kinds, deep in the centre of the plain, or valley, and steep up the brow of the hill; in the former case, they were *ditches*, and in the latter, *step-ladders*. Many of the first improvements in South Wales, originated in the exertions of the Agricultural Society, in Brecknockshire, about 1755, and measures similar to these have been since carried on with very little intermission, the county of Radnor excepted. However, the public are much indebted to the proprietors of iron works, for a considerable number of

improved roads, through the coal and iron tract, in the counties of Monmouth, Glamorgan, and Brecon; among others, a shorter cut from Abergavenny and the northern part of Monmouthshire, to Swansea, has been opened with a good carriage road. This new road to Merthyr Tydvil, is 20 miles; from Merthyr, through the picturesque Valley of Neath, to Swansea, is 31 miles, in all 51. The old road, through Brecon, over a rugged hilly course, to Pont Nedd Vechan, was 57 miles: the circuitous road, through Newport and Cardiff, is scarcely less than 78 miles. These new roads are the more grateful to strangers, as they intersect a most romantic tract, interesting to the admirers of nature, in its wildest forms. To these we may add scores of miles of iron rail-roads, made in different parts of South Wales. The Great Mountain, and the Black Mountain, being intersected by new roads, the communication will be opened between the Vale of Towy and the navigable river Lloughor, or Burry, throughout a mineral tract, abounding with lime or coal. The new road from the confines of Brecknockshire to the Llandovery road, and from Pont ar Lechau to the lime kilns, on the Black Mountain, and from thence to the collieries on the west of the Tawy, to the canal, and by that to Swansea, and the Bristol Channel, is, in an agricultural point of view, one of the most profitable roads ever proposed. The new road from Caermarthen to the confine of Glamorganshire, on the river Lloughor, avoids every hill, and saves four miles. Another road from Caermarthen to Fishguard, proposes a saving of ten miles, besides several leagues of sailing across the channel. A rail-way from Swansea to the Mumbles, along the sea-shore, the distance of five miles, serves for the carriage of coals, manure, and limestone. A car upon tram wheels, carrying about 16 or 18 persons, goes and returns twice every day during the summer, from Swansea down to the Mumbles, each passenger paying 1s. fare. In about seven or eight years after the first introduction of rail-roads

into South Wales, they were superseded by others, that by way of distinction, are called *tram* roads.

The best formed bridges are in the southern parts, where freestone quarries occur. William Edwards was the *Pontifex Maximus* of his day: his segment arches have been imitated by other masons, who succeed well, where the materials are appropriate. In Glamorgan, bridges are still wanting. Between Llandaff and Newbridge, the Tav flows ten miles without any means of crossing it on foot; but upon the Teivi there are thirteen bridges, from Strata Florida to Cardigan.

CATTLE.

The present stock in South Wales are divided into four kinds; three apparently native, and one foreign, viz. the coal blacks of Pembrokeshire, the brownish blacks, or dark browns of Glamorgan; the black runts of Cardiganshire, Caermarthenshire, and the western parts of the counties of Brecon and Radnor; and lastly, the introduced breeds from Herefordshire and Shropshire. The sheep are also divided into four classes: the mountaineers are said to turn out very profitable to the buyers.

HORSES.

Under the Welsh laws, horses were allowed to harrow, but not to plough, which was exclusively the province of oxen. The value of every article in rural and domestic economy, was fixed by law: that of a stallion was 1*l.*; a pack-horse 10*s.*; and a palfrey 13*s.* 4*d.* These *palfreys* composed formerly the cavalry of Wales; for it should be known, that the Welsh had cavalry as well as infantry, during their hard-fought struggles for independence. General Elliot was the first officer who saw the advantages arising from employing squadrons of light horse. The palfreys were light and exceedingly active, and many a time did they lead the heavy dragoons of the invaders of their pastures into bogs and swamps, never to be seen any more. The Cardigan Society give premiums to the breeders of the best horses of the cart kind.

FARM HOUSES, BUILDINGS, AND COTTAGES.

Farm houses and offices of *recent erection*, are well planned, and built in every part of the district; and those of late years have been upon a progressive increase: a minute description of them would be useless, as they are erected on plans and principles known and adopted in every part of the kingdom, where improvement has taken place. However, the situation of farm houses, in the counties of Caermarthen and Pembroke, is frequently very bad. Gentlemen's seats are mostly distinguishable from cottages, not only by their sizes or plans, but also by their colours. In Glamorganshire, where the cottagers generally whitewash their dwellings, gentlemen mix ochre with lime, to make their seats of Isabella yellow. In the north of Pembrokeshire, the taste is reversed, the cottages are of a very dingy colour, and gentlemen's houses whitewashed!

Cottages in South Wales are divided into three sorts: the cottages of the Vale of Glamorgan, those of the Fleming race in Pembrokeshire, and those of the Welsh Dimetæ, in the three counties of West Wales. The antiquity of the cottages is a strongly marked feature in Glamorganshire. There is little doubt that many of them are as ancient as the castles to which they were attached. The pointed doorways and windows sufficiently evince their date; and though Welsh towns are censured for the inelegance, and inconvenience of their houses, the direct reverse is the fact, with respect to the habitations of the peasantry here. The ancient Gothic cottages have a venerable exterior, and a portion of interior room, with comfort, and security from the elements, rarely enjoyed by their equals in any other part. In many cases, it may be truly said, the labourer is better lodged than his employer. These cottages are constructed of stone, well laid in mortar, and universally thatched with wheat straw. The continuing predilection of the Flemish cottage builders for mud walls,

after a lapse of 600 years, with round wattles, and daub chimneys, is really surprising; and these generally start up from the front wall close to the door. The inhabitants of Gower, though of the same Netherland race as their neighbours in Pembrokeshire, have well-built houses of stone, regularly white-washed; and they are besides cleanly and neat in their persons, and cheerful in their demeanour. The Dimetian cottages are known by the mud wall, about five feet high, a hipped end, low roofing of straw, with a wattle daub chimney, kept together with hay rope bandages, and not unfrequently in a declining posture.

RENT, AND SIZE OF FARMS.

Few very large farms are to be met with in South Wales: there are some from 800 to 1000 acres. From 500 to 300 acres, they are numerous; and from 200 to 100 acres still more so. The general run of the smaller farms is, from 30 to 100 acres, and the size of the latter is reckoned the most beneficial. A farm of 50*l.* a year is too small for any regular system. The rents of the larger farms are not so high in proportion as the smaller; the latter having always the greatest number of bidders. Farms on the best soils let from 1*l.* to 35*s.* per acre, lowering as the soil and situation decrease in value, down to 10, 7, and 3*s.* per acre.

TITHES.

Tithes in this quarter are the property of lay impropriators, corporate bodies, rectors, vicars, &c. Where tithes are farmed out by whole or entire parishes, they are generally re-let very high; but this is seldom the case where the resident clergy are concerned. In some places they are raised in kind; in others, a composition or modus is paid, as 1*d.* for hay, 1*d.* for garden, &c. Commutation is the general cry, and it is a consummation devoutly to be wished. A rector or vicar, it has been observed, exacting nearly his due, will find his church deserted without any communicants, or at least very few.

LEASES.

Not to grant leases to good tenants of an industrious, improving turn, betrays a tyrannical disposition; while at the same time, by granting leases to tenants of a contrary character, the landlord must have the mortification of seeing his estate diminish in value; and that he has so far alienated his own property, as not to have it in his power to improve it. Upon the whole, the general granting of leases would be an evil; but granting none at all would be a greater: where tenants keep their farms in good order, and their soil in proper condition, upon the expiration of their leases, it is an act of equal justice and policy to give them a substantial proof of the preference they hold in the landlord's esteem, and if larger offers are made for the farm than it may fairly be deemed worth, they ought *not* to be listened to. The man who has improved the farm, is more likely than any other to set a proper value upon his former labours, and to keep the lands up to what he has brought them to. The best lease is that for one life only. The common covenants and restrictions in leases vary little in general.

IMPLEMENTS.

The ploughs may be divided into three classes: The old Welsh plough, the old Welsh, or long plough improved, and modern ploughs of all descriptions. The first are still in use in a great part of the Dimetian counties of Cardigan, Pembroke, and Caermarthen. Since the introduction of the modern short ploughs, the long plough has been generally considered as a sure mark of either ignorance or obstinacy in those who persist in using it. It has, however, its use, and those among impartial judges, use both kinds occasionally on their farms, as circumstances require. Of modern ploughs, that which has obtained the earliest trial, the greatest circulation, and the most general credit, is the well known implement, called the *Rotherham Swing*; and with little or

no variation of construction, it goes by different names in different parts, as the *North Patent*, the *Whitchurch*, and the Crickhowel plough.

HARROWS.

There are no implements of greater variety, with so many of them nearly useless here, as harrows. In harrowing, the drag is generally drawn by oxen, and the finishing harrow by two horses a-breast, with a boy mounted on one of them. The horses are frequently of very unequal size, so that the harrows, instead of steadily working the ground and covering the seed, are continually thrown about by the alternate jerks of the angles. Gentlemen in every part of the district have a variety of the modern advertised harrows; some performing their work well; others of the nick-nack kind, that make their exit almost as soon as their entry, upon experimental utility.

For weeding, bended hooks about two inches long with wooden forks, are used; wooden pinchers to draw up root and all, with the well known pronged lever to eradicate docks; chaff-cutters of various kinds are used. There is one at the Pendaron iron-works, worked by a large water-wheel, supplying with provender seventy horses working in the mines of coal and iron. The more peculiar implements of Glamorganshire are, the *rakes* and *shovels*. The tine are double the length of those of common rakes, being driven through the head, so as to be of equal length of each side. The head makes a bevel with the angle, and not a right angle, like the common rakes of other countries. At work, the acute angle formed by the head and handle, is always next the person using it; and the advantage of it is, that he need not step his foot backward at every reach, &c. The *pala* of the Romans is still preserved in the Welsh *pál*, from the verb *palu*, to dig. It consists of a cleft of tough wood, formed into a handle, and a square head edged with steeled iron. The iron tined rakes, that cost about 10*s.* 6*d.*, are called *Hell rakes*: some say, because they *devilishly* rob the poor.

CARRIAGES, CARS, CARTS, &c.

The primitive vehicles without wheels are still in being, in the steep mountainous parts, where no wheel carriages can possibly approach; these consist of two kinds of cars, the *sliding*, and the *dorsal;* the latter is the most common, with the shaft upon one horse, and the heels sliding along the ground. The first improvement upon these vehicles, is the *wheeled* car. Its fore part slides along the ground, and under its middle is a pair of low wheels. The Welsh cart, Mr. Hassall says, is a bad one; but, owing to the general narrowness of the bye roads, they are confined in the length of the axle tree. This cart carries about 16 bushels, and is drawn by two oxen, and two horses a-breast. Irish cars are common in Brecknockshire. The old carts have the sides of the base frame of one piece with the shaft. Of late the shafts are detachable parts, like those of tumbrils or dung carts; the body being fastened by means of hasps or staples, are let loose at once, to tumble out loads of stone, lime, or coal.

WASTES.

That six or eight millions of acres of waste lands should remain in an uncultivated state, without the least improvement, from the invasion of Julius Cæsar, it has been observed, would have been scarcely credited, if told to a stranger coming into Wales; more especially when he was told the prices we pay for all the necessaries of life, and that thousands of people were starving for want of employment, and these men of a mechanical genius; but who, from the great decay of trade, are put out of all manner of means of acquiring food and raiment for themselves. It is still hoped, that a *General Enclosure Bill* may again be presented, and that every county in the kingdom, without one exception, will petition for its success.

ENCLOSURES.

The enclosed tract includes the counties of Brecon, Caermarthen, Glamorgan, and Radnor, with

the more eastern parts of the counties of Cardigan and Pembroke. The fences are of three kinds: quick hedges; stone walls; and naked sod fences; or stones and sods in alternate layers, called *bald fences*. Staggard fencing is the most common method in the woody tracts of North Wales; in the counties of Radnor, Brecknock, and the mountainous parts of Glamorganshire, and in Caermarthenshire. Dry stone walls are most common in the red sand-stone and coal tracts.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

The Brecon Agricultural Society, is the earliest institution of the kind in Wales, their articles being printed in 1755; their first medal was distributed in 1759. The second Society, in point of time, was that of Glamorgan, some years subsequent to that of Brecon. The Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture and Industry, for the county of Caermarthen, offered several premiums in 1802, as did also that for Cardiganshire in 1813; this was founded in the year 1784. The Farmers' Club, or Sheep-Shearing, annually held several years at Arberth, at length gave way to "The Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture and Internal Improvement, in the county of Pembroke." Another agricultural society commenced in Radnorshire several years since, but has been since transferred to Presteign and Pen y bont.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Native commodities are only bought and sold by the provincial weights and measures. Of wool, half a todd, or the English stone, with 1 lb. ingrain, is the most common stone of wool, sold to staplers and others; but the home dealers buy and sell wool by the several provincial stones of 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, and 26 pounds. Salted butter in firkins, tubs, &c., is sold by the pound avoirdupoise of 16 ounces. Fresh butter varies from 16 to 24 ounces in different markets. Coal is sold by the ton, or barrel measure. The most common stone of butchers' meat, 12 lb. The provincial mea-

sures for corn, is the bushel of 40 quarts; the llestraid of 80; the teal 160. In Montgomeryshire and Radnor, the provincial bushel is called a *strike*; in Brecon it varies in its subdivisions from those of North Wales.

Land measure, owing to its almost infinite variety, is still more perplexing than the corn measure, as in some parishes there are no less than three in use. The chain acre, the *cyvar y brenin*, the king's plough acre, as the statute measure is called by the common farmers, is coming gradually more into use; most of the tenantry take their farms by it; the agricultural societies regulate their premiums by it, and most gentlemen use it in setting their task-work, in mowing, reaping, and threshing. The perch, rod or rood, is six yards in the north of Pembrokeshire, seven in Brecknock, and eight in Cardigan.

MINERALS.

The metallic ores in this district are principally lead and iron; iron in the coal tract, and lead in the slate and white limestone tracts. Though there is no iron ore, strictly speaking, in South Wales, there is *iron stone* apparently, in inexhaustible abundance. The iron mines of the northern and eastern sides of the mineral basin, are chiefly worked; on the southern side of the basin, the iron-stone, &c. are equally good, if not superior, to those of the northern side; but, owing to circumstances, have been neglected, excepting at Neath and a few other places.

Copper ores are neither frequent nor plentiful in South Wales. The only one at present at work, is that of Ynys Cynvelyn, which yields lead ore, copper, and quartz, in the proportion of one part of lead for every ten parts of quartz, and one hundreth part of copper. Escair hir, consists of lead ore, hard spar and quartz, one tenth of lead ore, one tenth of spar, and the rest quartz; Allt y Crib yields lead ore with little quartz. Among the *silver mines*, Cymsymlog claims priority of notice, from its connexion with the name of Sir Hugh Myddelton. Every ton of ore

raised here yields thirteen hundred weight of lead, and every ton of lead, forty ounces of silver; two-thirds of the whole is quartz. A ton of ore from Llanfair, yields twelve hundred and a half of lead, and a ton of lead produces one hundred ounces of silver: this is an old mine.

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

The Ecclesiastical Division is in two dioceses, St. David's and Llandaff, both subject to the Metropolitan See of Canterbury. The dioceses are subdivided into deaneries, and these again into parishes.

The Civil Division by Henry VIII. was into six counties, each county having a Lord Lieutenant, and other inferior officers of the crown. The counties are divided into hundreds, hundreds into parishes, and these again into townships, hamlets, parcels or petty constablewicks. Parishes are of very unequal extent, some below 300 acres, and several from 400 to 800; whilst others are from ten to twenty, and even thirty thousand acres.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF

SOUTH WALES.

RADNORSHIRE.

THIS county, called in Welsh, *Swydd Maesyved*, is bounded on the north by Montgomeryshire, on the east by Shropshire and Herefordshire, on the south and south-west by Brecknockshire, and on the north by Cardiganshire. Its form is nearly triangular, growing narrower southwards, where it is about twenty-six miles broad, and from east to west thirty-one long; divided into six hundreds, which contain four market towns, fifty-two parishes, within the diocese of St. David's, and about 21,050 inhabitants.

The county of Radnor has proportionally more cultivated land than many of the Welsh ones; particularly the eastern and southern parts, which being tolerably level, are more productive of corn, and good pastures; but the remainder is rude and mountainous, therefore chiefly devoted to the rearing of cattle and sheep. The latter are remarkably numerous, and very beneficial to the county, being the chief support of the industrious poor, who are mostly employed in manufacturing coarse cloth and flannels. The north-west angle of this county is an absolute desert, and almost impassable, so that the inhabitants are scarcely able to raise a small produce of rye, barley, and oats, for their immediate use. Still Radnorshire possesses every advantage of water, particularly the rivers Wye, Tame, Ithon, and Somergill; likewise several copious streams, as the Dulas, Clywedog, Marteg, and Cymaron, which run nearly through the centre of the county, and are much praised by the angler and epicure, for an abundance of excellent salmon, trout, and grayling; also several standing lakes, particularly Llyn Gwyn, near Rhaiader and Glanhilyn, on Radnor Forest, both of which afford plenty of fish.

In the Vale of Radnor are numerous lime kilns, supplied with an abundance of calcareous stone; but coals are not found any where in the county, though at Llandrindod, a brown or blackish earth, plentifully mixed with a mineral bitumen, the certain effect of coal, is very conspicuous, but no attempt has ever yet been made to discover that valuable fossil.

In this district are many mineral springs of great celebrity. The woods and hills are not less celebrated for game.

Two members represent this county and borough in the imperial parliament.

Journey from Rhaiader to Presteign; through New Radnor.

Rhaiader, or Rhaiadr-Gwy, is situated 178 miles

from London, on the river Wye, near a cataract, from whence it takes its name, Rhaiadr, signifying a cataract, and Gwy, the name of the river, in the Welsh language. It was formerly the chief village in Maelienydd, but at present is a considerable market town, divided into four streets like a cross; a plan common to most towns in North Wales. At this place the quarter sessions were held in the time of Henry VIII., according to an act of parliament passed in that reign; but soon after repealed, on account of its poverty, or inability to afford the necessary accommodation and dignity required by the judges, who then resided at an old house, called Pen-y-Porth. The county gaol, since erected in Presteign, was also kept here, on the site of the present meeting-house, as appears by some massive stone pillars, and iron rings found on the spot. In the centre of the town stands the hall, a handsome, modern, square building, erected about 1768. The church is likewise a modern structure, built in the form of an oblong square, with a quadrangular stone tower and turrets: the latter rebuilt in 1783. The internal part consists of a nave and chancel.

In ancient times, Rhaiader derived considerable importance from its castle, which stood on a nook of the river Wye, at the extremity of Maes-bach, a small common near the town, and close to the river Wye. Of the superstructure nothing remains, but the original foundation may be traced, especially on the south-east, where it has still a deep trench cut out of a hard rock, leading to the river. There is another trench more to the south, forming three sides of a quadrangle, and about eight feet deep: there also appears to have been left originally, between the two trenches, a narrow space, by which the town might hold a communication with the castle, and is at present the only entrance.

Immediately below the latter is a deep foss, about sixteen feet deep, and twelve wide, running along the foundation of the old fortress, until it communi-

cates with a steep precipice, the bottom of which is even with the bed of the river. Adjoining this foss, at irregular distances, are several barrows for purposes unknown; and at the distance of two furlongs below the site of the castle, there is a large tumulus, called Tomen Llan St. Frêd, and near it, on the other side, are two more, but smaller, called Cevn Ceido, where it is supposed a church formerly stood, from an adjoining piece of ground, named Clydwr Eglwys. To elucidate the form and strength of its primitive fortress is impossible at this remote period, when not even a stone remains, to assist our conjectures; however, we are enabled to fix its origin as a military station in A. D. 1177, and to ascertain its having been first built by Rhys, prince of South Wales, as a check to the depredations and cruelties of his Norman neighbours, who were very troublesome to the Welsh at that period. Caradoc of Llancarvan, in his Chronicle of Wales, briefly mentions, that it was completed in the same year; but in 1178, we find the sons of Conan (the latter an illegitimate son of Owen Gwynedd), having joined their forces, marched to attack this castle, but without success, as they raised the siege, and returned to North Wales greatly disappointed.

In 1192, Maelgon formed a conspiracy against his father, and burnt this castle, which prince Rhys rebuilt in 1194; but soon surrendered to Cadwallon, who after several battles was defeated by Roger Mortimer, and dispossessed of all his estates in Maelienydd.

From this period, hostilities appear to have ceased, and no mention is made of Rhaiadr castle, until the time of Henry the Third, when it was burnt to the ground, by Llewelyn ab Iorwerth, and probably not since rebuilt.

About four miles westward from Rhaiadr, is Cwm-Elan, the seat of Thomas Grove, esq. of Fern, in Wiltshire, who some years since purchased 10,000 acres of land, called the Grange of Cwm-Deuddwr, then a rude uncultivated waste; but is

now, under the direction of its proprietor, brought into a good state of agriculture.

The name of Cwm-Elan is derived from the little torrent Elan, which runs through the cwm or valley, in which Mr. Grove has erected his elegant mansion, in the modern style of architecture, and defended on all sides by hills, some of which are wooded to the very water's edge. The approach to the house is over a handsome wooden bridge, leading to a fine verdant lawn, which expands itself from the house to the bridge, and forms a curve with the river Elan, uniting a singular combination of natural and artificial beauties, of wild scenery and elegant ornament, of a foaming river and rugged rocks, perpendicular precipices and lofty mountains, contrasted with rich meadows, neat enclosures, leaving apparently nothing deficient to complete this singular and romantic scene.

In following the course of the Elan through Mr. Grove's estate only, we are often struck with its numerous beauties, particularly one mile from the house, where the pedestrian crosses a rude alpine bridge, formed of the branches of trees thrown from rock to rock over the Elan, dashing between them, at the depth of thirty feet.

At this place, the bed of the river is a schistus rock, full of huge excavations of every conceivable shape and magnitude, of a milk-white hue, rendering the profound gulph of water which they contain more dark and horrible; particularly after rain, when swelled with the mountain torrent, its fury is terrible, as it rolls through a channel which offers so many obstacles to the progress of its impetuous course. The Elan preserves this wild and irregular channel for several miles, confined within a rocky chasm, the sides of which are perpendicular, and at times of great height, discoloured with drippings, tinted with mosses, and crowned with mountain ash, birch, and wych-elms; the whole forming a more wild and grotesque appearance than can be described.

Abbey Cwmhir, the only religious house of this kind in the county, is situate in a delightful bottom, seven miles north-east of Rhaiadr-Gwy, on a fertile bank of the Clywedog. The hills appear extremely grand, forming an amphitheatre round its fertile bottom, wherein this venerable monastery stood, in a situation well calculated to inspire devotion. The stupendous hill to the north is 1511 yards high, with a gradual ascent on one side, called the Park, which was formerly nine miles in circumference, and stocked with above 300 deer. The foundation of two deer houses are still visible.

According to Leland, Abbey Cwmhir was founded by Cadwallon ab Madawc, in 1143, for sixty Cistertian monks, but never finished. The walls remaining are very considerable, and shew an area of 255 feet long and 73 broad, which is certainly very disproportionate to the length; but what the superstructure might have been is impossible to discover from the remaining walls, only a few feet above the surface, composed of some common stone, from a quarry in the Great Park, without a single mark of the chisel. This renders it difficult to determine of what species of architecture this great monastery was originally composed, having neither door, window, arch, nor column now remaining: yet the refectory may be traced, with a few square apertures in the north side, about two feet from the ground, but for what purpose these were originally designed is very uncertain, being too low and small for windows, though possessing every requisite for the admission of air. Amid the fallen fragments, on the north-east side, the monks' habitations are supposed to have been, and is probably the same which Leland calls the third part, but never finished.

" How many hearts have here grown cold,
  That sleep these mould'ring tombs among;
How many beads have here been told,
  How many matins here been sung.

On these rude stones, by time long broke,
I think I see some pilgrims kneel,
I think I see the censer smoke,
I think I hear the solemn peal.

But here no more soft music floats,
No holy anthems chaunted now;
All hush'd, except the owl's shrill note,
Low murm'ring from yon broken bough."

It is much to be regretted, that we have such an imperfect account of this place, which Leland briefly mentions, was destroyed by Owen Glyndwr in 1401, in his rebellion against Henry the Fourth. In the reign of Henry the Eighth, the revenues of Abbey Cwmhir were 28*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* per annum, which, according to Tanner, were granted to Henley and Williams; but how it descended, or by what means it came to the family of Sir Hans Fowler, bart. are unknown; but it continued in his possession till 1771, when the baronet dying without issue, the title became extinct, and the greater part of the estate, which formed the revenue of this abbey, was sold, except what belonged to Thomas Hodges Fowler, esq. a descendant, and the possessor of Abbey Cwmhir, where the few fragments that have escaped the ruthless hand of time may be seen. The antiquary (if we may admit the tradition of the country) will find some specimens of the architecture of this abbey, still in good preservation, in Llanidloes church, consisting of six arches, surrounded with small columns, ending in capitals of palm leaves, which, according to a date on the roof, were brought from Abbey Cwmhir, in 1542, and which corresponds with the general dissolution of monasteries in this kingdom*. Some mutilated specimens are likewise

* In Llangynllo is an antique farm-house, called Monachty, or Monk's house, which tradition distinguishes as having been a monastic habitation, and some years ago, stone coffins were dug up in the ground adjoining, but they bore no inscription. The

to be found about the dwelling and outhouses on the farm, particularly the chapel* contiguous, founded by Sir William Fowler, in 1680, and endowed with a small charge on each of his tenants in Llanbister, whose church is also reported to have been erected with the stones purloined from the old abbey: so is Y Vaner, or Devanner, one mile from the latter, as the building will testify. This place was many years the residence of the Fowlers, commencing in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, as appears by the style of building. The former importance of that family cannot be better expressed, than by introducing the subsequent adage:

There's neither *park* or *deer*, in Radnorshire,
Or a man worth five hundred a year,
Except *Sir William Fowler* of Abbey Cwmhir.

Carn, Carneddau, or Carnedd, are heaps of stones common on the Radnorshire mountains, and many other places in Wales. The most perfect that are to be seen in this county, is one on Camlow, near Abbey Cwmhir, and another on Gwastadwyn Hill, near Rhaiadr-Gwy. These consist of stones to

---

date of the present structure is uncertain, but evidently is not so remote as the religious institutions of those times, being chiefly composed of timber and lath, the interstices filled up with mortar. Its secluded situation and name renders it probable, that when Henry VIII. dissolved the monastic establishments of the kingdom, a number of the Cistertian monks, from Abbey Cwmhir, transferred their establishment to Monachty, and maintained privately their former religion and habits, in opposition to the recent innovations of Luther and Calvin. A colony from Cwmhir, according to Mr. Vaughan of Hengwrt, founded the Abbey of Cymmer ,in Merionethshire.

* A chapel of ease to Llanbister, and only remarkable for a small monument, erected to the memory of Sir Hans Fowler, bart.

the amount of 30 or 40 cart loads, thrown down promiscuously to form what is termed a carn. The origin and use of such memorials have often been discussed, and generally admitted to have been sepulchral monuments, erected by the Britons, in commemoration of their hero, or chieftain, who fell in battle. For those unaccustomed to see these little memorials of the dead, a more general description may be useful and satisfactory. These heaps are found in various situations, and of different dimensions; but the largest does not much exceed 60 feet in diameter, and about seven feet deep in the middle, where the carn is always most protuberant, to conceal the chest, or stone coffin, which is usually found in this part, covered with a large stone. It frequently happens, that a circular range of large stones are pitched an end on the outside of the heap, while the stones contained within are piled loosely in circles about the tomb, and the interstices filled up with lesser stones. Some of the carns are covered with earth, almost conical, and approach near the form of a tumulus. In many of these carns, the stones bear marks of ignition, being remarkably red and brittle, by the action of fire, which appears to have been so vehement in some, that the stones are in a great measure vitrified. To a perfect carn, there is always a large stone, placed endwise, within 10, 20, 30, 40, or 50 yards of it, and such as want them at present, may be supposed to be deprived of them since their first erection. There is likewise some small distinction to be observed; for instance, the tumulus and carn appearing together, prove the interred to be some ancient chief; while the sepulchres of the commonalty are always found on the hills, where there is a small declivity and hollow to be seen, of an oblong form, with the earth heaped like a small hillock. When these are opened, a stratum of ashes, blackish, or red burnt earth, is discovered; but in digging a little deeper, we soon perceive a difference, and come to the native soil.

Returning from this digression, on leaving Rhaiadr, we proceed in an easterly direction, and at the distance of about nine miles, pass through Pen-y-bont, formerly called Rhyd-y-Cleivion, a small hamlet, by the side of the river Ithon, which takes its course from Llanbadarn Vynydd, and passes by this place. The houses are few and small, excepting two recently erected; one by H. Severn, esq., and the other by Middleton Jones, esq.; particularly the latter, which is situated on a fine ascent, facing the hamlet; and does, with its lawn and young plantations, form its principal beauty. Here is likewise a good inn, built by the late Mr. Price, which affords excellent accommodation, and better than is to be found at some places in this county.

Three miles north from Pen-y-bont, is LLANDEWI YSTRADENNY, a small village, situate in a narrow vale near the river Ithon, containing a few straggling houses; and the church, a tolerable structure, consisting of a nave and chancel, with two small tablets, in commemoration of Philips and Burton; the latter of whom, an eccentric character, resided in a large old house here, and possessed a considerable estate in the neighbourhood; which, to the exclusion of his relatives, because they were poor, he devised to a wealthy provincial. In this district are several vestiges of antiquity, particularly the Gaer, or fortification, which occupies the summit of a high hill, close to the village, and apparently a camp of great extent, being inaccessible on the Ithon side; the remainder is defended by two parallel intrenchments, probably the work of some of the Mortimers, or Cadwallon, in the twelfth century. On a hill opposite is Bedd Ygre, or Ugre's Grave, a large mound or tumulus of earth, encompassed by a small moat like Caersws. Of this description were all the monuments which the Ancient Britons erected in honour of their chiefs or great men; and these continued many ages after the introduction of Christianity; but when the custom of burying in churches and church-

yards became general, they were condemned, and afterwards chiefly used for criminals.

Two miles hence, on a small elevation, stood Castle Cymaron, of which not a fragment of the superstructure remains; the site and moat are still visible. This fortress is supposed to have been erected by the Normans, in the eleventh century, but soon after destroyed by the Welsh, and again rebuilt by Hugh, the son of Randolph, earl of Chester, in 1142, when all Maelienydd became subject to the Normans.

In 1174, Cadwallon ab Madawc obtained this castle and lordship, for which he did homage to Henry; but Roger Mortimer, having raised a considerable force in 1194, entered Maelienydd, and after various battles dispossessed Cadwallon of all his lands in this district, and fortified the castle of Cymaron.

In this family it evidently continued for ages, as we find, near two centuries after Roger Mortimer, in 1360 died, possessed of the castles of Cruclas, Gwyrthrynion, Cwmdeuddwr, Maelienydd, and Pilleth, in the same lordship, which perhaps, on the demise of Prince Llewelyn, in 1282, Edward the First confirmed as a legal inheritance. Henry the Eighth, however, being of a Welsh extraction, curtailed the power and ambition of the provincial lords, and redressed many grievances to which the Welsh were before subject:—he divided the principality into counties and hundreds, with the same laws and privileges as his English subjects; since which the Cambrians have proved themselves peaceable and loyal; and as zealous in defence of their liberties and country, as the best of their fellow subjects.

About four miles southward from Pen-y-bont is Llandrindod Wells, situate on a common, five miles in length, and one broad. The country adjoining this place is rural, and gradually ascending, till it encompasses a spacious plain, with moderate high and steep hills, so that the air cannot stagnate, nor the plain be incessantly watered with a deluge of rain. The soil, or surface of the earth, about

these wells, is of a blackish brown, particularly rich; and on examination, is found to be plentifully mixed with a mineral bitumen, which is certainly the effect of coals, and an evidence that they exist here; yet no attempt has hitherto been made to discover that valuable fossil, though much wanted here, and in the vicinity of Llandrindod.

When these waters were first used for their medical virtues is uncertain, but are generally believed to have been introduced to public notice about 1670, and then used indiscriminately: however, at all times since 1750, a great number of people have resorted here to use the waters, on many occasions, and with success.

The increasing fame of Llandrindod Wells, ultimately induced a Mr. Grosvenor, of Shrewsbury, in 1749, to make some alterations and improvements, for the reception of the annual visitors. For that purpose, he took a lease of several houses, and repaired them, adding other buildings, particularly one, spacious enough to contain several hundred visitors, besides affording them every accommodation and amusement that could be wished, during a residence at this place.

The waters, three in number, are all within a short distance of each other, yet without either participating in the qualities of the other, and are thus distinguished: 1. The rock-water; 2. Saline pump-water; and 3. Sulphur-water, of which a brief account, and their medicinal characteristics, may be useful to the traveller. The rock-water issues out of a slate rock, which contains a vast quantity of iron earth, salts and sulphur. A glassful of this water, taken from the rock on a clear day, appears like common spring water, and as clear as crystal, without the appearance of any mineral particles in it; but after standing a short time, it changes into a pearl colour; before this change, a chalybeate taste and smell are very predominant. In many diseases this water has had a beneficial effect, but is usually prescribed in

chronical diseases, which proceed from a weakness in the fibres; also in scorbutic eruptions, weak nerves, palsies, or a laxity of the whole frame, and in agues, where bark proves ineffectual; likewise diseases in women, and seminal weakness in both sexes. The best time for drinking the rock-water is between six and seven in the morning, before breakfast, or the sun gains too great an ascendancy, and in the following quantities:—three quarters of a pint is enough to begin with, adding each morning another quarter, until it comes to a quart, which is the utmost, and ought to be drank within two hours. After this a gentle walk is advisable, with another glass of water before dinner, and two more on going to bed.

The saline pump-water is about 100 yards north of the sulphurous water. This lay many years after its discovery useless, being unfit for domestic purposes, and not being known to possess any medicinal quality. About 1736, it began gradually to be introduced into notice in the county, and since that period has been of great service in various diseases, particularly in the scurvy, and other eruptions; in hypochondriac disorders, proceeding from too great a quantity of the juices; also fevers, particularly those that affect the spirits, and in stone or gravel. Those who wish to benefit by the saline water, should drink it from about the middle of March to November, it being then in its greatest perfection. Bleeding is generally recommended previous to using this water, which is prescribed in the following quantities, viz. half a pint before breakfast, half a pint between breakfast and dinner, and another on going to bed.

The sulphur-water, or black water, so named from the strong smell it emits, and the black dye of the current in its passage through; if taken up immediately at the spring it is as clear as other water, and 25 grains lighter in a pint than common water. When thrown on hot iron it emits a blue flame, and smells like brimstone. Silver leaves have been

changed in less than six minutes into a fine yellow gold colour.

This water is best adapted for an artificial bath, or any external use designed for the relief of chronic diseases; it is likewise very beneficial when used as an internal medicine, but is chiefly recommended in the subsequent cases: viz. venereal diseases, old sores, diseases of the head, stone and gravel, rheumatism, and gouty complaints. The scrophula has often been cured by an internal and external use of the sulphureous water. Whoever wishes to drink this water medically, should remember that it is a purgative, therefore some preparation is necessary; for this, like other mineral waters, must be drank in the morning upon an empty stomach, or else between breakfast and dinner; on no account in the afternoon, unless used at meals, mixed with brandy or rum, or about half a pint when going to bed. Indeed the dose cannot be well ascertained, without a previous knowledge of the patient's disease; therefore it is best to begin taking from a pint to a quart in the morning, at short intervals; and in moderate draughts, gradually increasing the quantity as the constitution will permit; but walking far, or riding much after drinking this water, should be avoided.

Returning to our road, at the distance of about three miles, we pass through the village of LLANDEGLE, or LLANDEGLEY, remarkable for its antique church, and its rural situation. Contiguous to this place is Blaen Edw Wells, containing a sulphurous vitriolic water, which rises in a field near the road. The spring is conducted into a dilapidated building, which serves also for a bath; the water is covered with a brown scum, appears rather blackish, and emits an abominable stench, but has not an unpleasant taste.

At the distance of four miles beyond Llandegle, is the village of Llanvihangel. About two miles beyond which is NEW RADNOR, or Maesyved-newydd, situate near the head of the Somergill, at the narrow

entrance of a pass, between two high pointed hills, called Radnor Forest, and covered with verdure to the very summit, which is the characteristic of this district.

New Radnor was formerly the chief place in the county, and is at present the borough town, consisting of a few miserable houses, forming an irregular street, without a single object to attract the notice of a traveller, excepting an old building like a barn, for the county hall, where the borough election and county courts are held, with a court of pleas for all actions, without being limited to any particular sum. The church, a respectable edifice, extending 114 feet in length by 33 in width, with a large square tower at the west end, stands on an eminence above the town. In ancient times this place was evidently of greater importance than it is at present, being originally enclosed by a square wall, with four gates, which appear to be Roman, from the similarity they bear to the stations at Caerlion and Caerwent. Here was also a castle, built on an eminence above the town, probably a fortress of considerable strength, having an entire command of the town, besides defending a narrow pass leading to it between two hills. Owen Glyndwr, according to Caradoc, defaced the town in the reign of Henry IV. and burnt the castle; he afterwards ordered sixty of the garrison to be immediately beheaded in the yard. Camden mentions, that the castle was in ruins in his time; and much neglected, except a piece of the gate, which was then repaired. Some of the walls still remain resting upon rows of small Gothic arches.

Near New Radnor, but in a very obscure situation, is a cataract called "Water-break-its-neck," so nominated on account of its precipitous descent into a vast hollow, surrounded by craggy declivities of loose fragments of schistus, which are frequently set in motion by the wind, and roll down in all directions, making the amazed spectator almost tremble for his safety. This cataract would appear to

much greater advantage if it was in the vicinity of good plantations, with rich and verdant prospects; instead of this, the whole has a poor barren appearance. New Radnor still retains its corporate privileges. The corporation consists of a bailiff, twenty-five capital burgesses, two aldermen, a recorder, coroner, town clerk, sergeants at mace, &c. The bailiff and aldermen are elected annually out of the capital burgesses, and while in office, are justices of the peace, within the jurisdiction of the borough: the bailiff retains his commission as justice, for one year after he goes out of office. The qualification for a burgess of New Radnor, is a *boná fide* residence within the jurisdiction at the time of his election. The whole number of burgesses, with those of the contributory boroughs, is from 12 to 1400.

At the distance of about six miles from New Radnor, we arrive at PRESTEIGN, or Llan-Andrew, once a small village, but by the countenance of Martin, Bishop of St. David, it rose to such a degree of elegance as to eclipse the borough town of Radnor.—It was in Leland's time noted for a good market of corn, where many from the Cantrev of Maelienydd resorted to buy and sell. The town is pleasantly situated near the river Lug, and may be properly called the modern capital of Radnorshire; and here the county gaol is situated. This place likewise exhibits strong marks of having been formerly of much greater extent; indeed the few streets it now contains are neat and well formed From here the little vale inclosing Presteign, and watered by the river Lug, may be seen to great advantage; as may also Stapleton Castle, an ancient Gothic mansion, rising from a rock in its centre.

The chief object is the parish church, which contains a few tablets for the families of Owen, Price, and Davies, with an altar-piece of tapestry, representing Christ's entry into Jerusalem.--The walls are decorated with figures of Moses, Aaron, Time, and Death, all of which are well executed. On the west

of the town is a beautiful little eminence, or site of an ancient castle, now called Warden Walk, a donation of Lord Oxford to the inhabitants. From here an agreeable walk leads to the summit of a bowling-green, on which is erected a neat pavilion. A small bridge over the Lug, close to the town, connects the counties of Hereford and Radnor.

Journey from Knighton to Pain's Castle; through Old Radnor.

KNIGHTON, or Trev y Clawdd, is so called from Offa's Dyke, which runs below it, raised to separate the Britons from the Saxons, A. D. 760, and extends from the mouth of the Dee to that of the Wye, being an extent of eighty miles, of which Joannes Sarisburcensis, in his Polycraticon, says, Harold made a law, that if any Welshman passed this boundary, the king's officer should cut off his right hand.

At certain distances there are still marks or sites of forts, forming a boundary between the Welsh and English. Camden and other authors have confounded this celebrated boundary with Watt's Dyke, which runs parallel to it in North Wales. The utility of the latter is very uncertain, unless it was made by the Danes in time of peace, for purposes of traffic; hence the space between the dykes might have been considered neutral ground.

Knighton is situated at the head of a deep vale, and is the handsomest town in the county, descending in several steep streets, which present very picturesque objects to the adjacent country. The inhabitants of Knighton are estimated at 952, and the petty sessions for the hundred are held here. This romantic vale is surrounded by high hills, and well clothed with wood and verdure; likewise considerably enriched by the winding course of the river Teme.

A little to the north of Knighton is Caer Caradoc, a hill much honoured in former times, as the place

which Caractacus fortified in A. D. 53, with a rampart of stones, against the Romans, under Ostorius, (whose camp is visible opposite) till the rude mass was broken through, which compelled the Britons to retreat, when their leader, betrayed by Queen Cartismandua, was carried in chains to Rome.

On Bryn Glas, a mountain near Pilleth, a little south-west of Knighton, a bloody battle was fought in 1402, between Sir Edmund Mortimer and Owen Glyndwr, in which the former was defeated, with the loss of 1100 men. Beyond Knighton on the left, is *Dol y Velin*, late the seat of John Pritchard, esq. deceased. And about two miles above Knighton, on the banks of the Teme, is the little borough of *Cnwclas*, which formerly had its castle, built by Roger Mortimer, and it was also the birth-place of the celebrated Welsh Non-conformist, the Rev. Vavasor Powel.

About nine miles to the north-west of Knighton, is Castell Timboth, or Daybod; situated on a steep hill called Crogen, above the river Ithon, in the parish of Llananno. The situation is extremely wild and elevated, but the site is naturally strong, and almost inaccessible on all sides but one, where entrenchments are still visible. Of the old structure little remains, except a confused heap of thick walls; still the site and a piece of the keep may be traced, having a deep moat round the whole. Of its history nothing is known, except that it was destroyed by Llewelyn ab Gruffydd, Prince of Wales, in the year 1260.

Cevn Llys Castle, is situated in the borough of that name, and stands on a bank of the river Ithon, which almost surrounds it, except on one side, where it communicates with the common. The site of this castle appears strongly fortified by nature, and so admirably situated for a place of defence, as to be almost invulnerable before the invention of artillery, except on the north side, where one hundred men might defend it against a thousand.

In the year 1262 a detachment of Prince Llew-

elyn's men took this fortress by surprise, and made the governor prisoner; but most of the garrison were put to the sword. The same year Sir Roger Mortimer retook it, when he repaired it, and appointed a garrison for its defence. Camden describes it as in ruins in his time.

Returning to our road, at the distance of about twelve miles from Knighton, after passing through the villages of Norton and Kinnerton, we arrive at OLD RADNOR, or Maesyved Hen, frequently called Pen-craig, from its situation on the summit of a high rock. This castle was entirely demolished by Rhys ab Gruffydd, in the reign of King John.

This was probably the city Magos, called by Antoninus, Magnos; and where the Notitia Provinciarum inform us, the commander of the Pacensian regiment lay in garrison, under a lieutenant of Britain, in the reign of Theodosius the younger. Most writers of the middle age call the inhabitants of this county Magaseta. Charles the First, after the battle of Naseby, and during his flight from the parliament forces, slept, on the sixth of August, 1645, at the priory-house in Brecon, and dined with Sir Henry Williams of Gwernyved; hence he continued his route to Old Radnor, where he supped on the seventh, and was perhaps the only royal guest who sought accommodation in this ancient city.

This, like many Welsh towns, must be respected more for what it has been, than any thing it can at present boast of: for at this time the houses are few and mean. The church, however, certainly has the appearance of some antiquity. It is a large stone building, consisting of a nave and chancel, with monuments for the family of Lewis of Harpton Court, whose seat lies contiguous.

Calcareous stone is very plentiful in this neighbourhood, and many kilns are continually burning, to supply the county with this valuable species of manure.

On leaving Old Radnor, we proceed, in a southerly

direction, and, at the distance of about seven miles, arrive at Pain's Castle, situated in a small hamlet of that name, containing a few good houses, and where an annual fair is held. It is supposed to have received its name from Paganus, or Paine, a Norman, who built the castle, which was besieged and taken by Prince Rhys, in the year 1196, and kept until William de Bruce humbly desired of him peace and the castle: which Prince Rhys granted. In 1198, Gwenwynwyn besieged this castle, and after laying before it three weeks, was obliged to raise the siege. In 1215, according to Caradoc, Giles de Bruce, Bishop of Hereford, bestowed the castle on Walter Vychan, the son of Einion Glyd; and this is the last account we have of it in history.

The remains are very inconsiderable, being little more than the site, and a few loose fragments of its outer walls, which shew that there was formerly a building on the spot; but as to its form or extent, we have neither history nor tradition, to assist our conjectures upon the subject.

About four miles to the north-west of Pain's Castle, is Castle Collwyn, or Maud's Castle; it is situated in Colwent, and stands on the Forest Farm, south-east of Aberedw, in the parish of Llansaintfred. This castle was anciently very famous, and belonged to Robert de Todney, a man of considerable rank in the time of Edward the Second. It is supposed to have taken its name from Maud de St. Valery, the wife of William Breose, who rebelled against King John, it was afterwards destroyed by the Welsh, but rebuilt in 1231, by Henry III. on his return to England, after a fruitless attempt against the Welsh. Of the original fortress nothing now remains to shew its situation, except a grass plat, the site of the old castle. There is also a tradition, that Vortigern had a fortress here, where he resided, when his castle caught fire, or as the monks have rendered it, was destroyed by lightning, in which he is said to have perished. This legend is not worthy of any serious regard.

Camden says, this prince terminated his existence in a fortress in Radnorshire, which is clearly a mistake, as will appear to the reader, by referring to an account of Nant Gwrtheyrn, or Vortigern's Valley, in the county of Caernarvon.

BRECKNOCKSHIRE,

An inland county, the Welsh name of which is *Swydd Brycheiniog*, is bounded on the north by Radnor, with the counties of Cardigan and Caermarthen on the west, Hereford and Monmouth on the east, and Glamorganshire on the south. Its form is irregularly triangular, narrowing northwards; in length, twenty-nine miles, the breadth of its southern basis thirty-four, containing 900 square miles, and near 600,000 acres. It is also divided into six hundreds, four market-towns, and sixty-one parishes, in the diocese of Saint David, with 37,735 inhabitants. Brecknockshire is a very mountainous country, affording a variety of sublime scenes, being every where interspersed with hills, cultivated to their very summits. The soil on the hills is for the greater part barren and stony; however, there are numerous springs that issue from the rocks in such plenty, as to render the vallies abundantly fruitful in grass and corn.

Upwards of five hundred years ago, Giraldus Cambrensis, who was archdeacon of Brecon, said, "It is a land abounding in corn, pastures, woods, wild deer, and fish of a superior sort, particularly trout, in the Usk, called Umbræ."

It is enclosed on all sides, except the north, by high hills, having on the West Cantrev Bychan, and on the south Cader Arthur, which has a noted spring on the summit.

The most considerable rivers are the Usk, Honddu, Irvon, and Wye. These, and all its rivulets, abound with fish of various kinds; but the Wye and Usk, are particularly noted for fine trout, and the best of salmon. The principal commodities of the

county, are cattle, sheep, wool, and corn, with considerable manufactures of coarse cloth and stockings. This county returns two representatives to the British senate, viz. one for the county, and one for Brecon.

Journey from Brecon to Hay; through Glasbury.

BRECON, or Brecknock, is the chief town in this county, situated 168 miles from London, in a very romantic place, abounding with broken grounds, torrents, dismantled towers, and ruins of various kinds. It was formerly well walled, with four gates, namely High-gate, West-gate, by the Blackfriars, Water-gate, and East-gate. Beside these, there was one without, in the suburb, called Porthene S. Mariæ. At present it consists principally of three handsome streets, in the most spacious of which stand the county-hall and market-place. Its compact form and neatness gives it an advantage over most towns in Wales, while its interior beauty renders it not less striking. The Welsh call it Aber Honddu.

Several good private houses here are occupied by very respectable and opulent families. The public walks hold a principal rank among the accommodations of the place. One lies along the shore of the Usk, under the old town wall, and commands a fine view to the southward of that river: the other is of a more sequestered character, being laid out with great taste through the priory woods, which overhang the Honddu, and add greatly to its romantic beauties. The town contains three parishes: St. John the Evangelist and St. Mary; and on the opposite side St. David's, where the Usk is crossed by a long narrow bridge. According to the returns of 1811, the number of houses was 757, and that of the inhabitants 3196. Hats, and some inferior cloth, are the chief articles manufactured here; but the new canal promises to give fresh life to the place, by opening new markets. Brecknock also possesses some noble ruins of a castle, which stand on a hill to the east, commanding the

whole town. Leland says, part of the castle was built by Lady Marabrune; but it is more probable that Bernard de Newmarch, a Norman nobleman, who won the lordship in 1090, built it himself, to secure his new conquest. The castle is divided from the town by the river Honddu.

There are still some remains of the keep and Ely tower, so named from Dr. Morton, bishop of Ely, who was confined here by order of Richard the Third, and committed to the custody of Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, who some time before procured the crown for Richard; but the Duke being disappointed in his expectations of reward from the king, in concert with the bishop, his prisoner, planned, within the walls of this castle, the famous union of the two houses of York and Lancaster, which afterwards brought Henry the Seventh to the throne of England. The castle has been very large.

On an ascent close to the Usk is the priory, situate amid the gloom of trees, exhibiting a profusion of rich Gothic workmanship, and forming a pleasing contrast with the feathering foliage that float around the ruins, chiefly composed of the grey stone of the country. The approach to the venerable remains of this priory is over a good stone bridge, almost joining an embattled wall, formerly belonging to this edifice.

The priory was originally founded for Benedictines, by Bernard Newmarch, in the reign of Henry the First, and valued at 112*l.* 14*s.* The mansion-house, now called the priory, belongs to the Marquis of Camden, who makes it his occasional residence. The south and east sides of the cloisters, with the refectory, are still entire, with other offices. The church of St. John the Evangelist occupies a part of the same eminence, and once appertained to the priory. The present edifice owes its erection to Bernard Newmarch, but from the Saxon font, and some other relics of the same character, which are still preserved, this has been conjectured to have been built on the site of another church which had fallen into decay.

The church, when first constructed, was most probably exactly cruciform, but has been considerably disfigured by Guild chapels in the interior, and private oratories on the outside. The nave measures 137 feet in length, by 29 in breadth. At the western end, the transept is divided into two chapels, called the chapel of the Men of Battle, and the chapel of the Red-haired Men, (the Normans). The chancel is now divided from the body of the church, by a gallery, formerly the rood loft. This and the nave are ceiled, and divided into compartments, adorned with paint. On each side the chancel are three rows of light, beautifully clustered columns, broken off just above the corbels, though they shew parts of the ribs springing to support the roof. The steeple, which is a lofty and massive structure, ten yards square within the walls, is raised over the centre or intersecting point of the cross, and contains six bells. This fabric is near 200 feet high, and 60 broad. On the north side is a paved cloister, which opens into the church, and joins it to the priory-house and refectory. East of the church is the ambulatory, where the monks used to walk, now called the Priory Walks, which are shaded by noble trees, and watered by the river Honddu, which rolls at the feet of them, but almost hidden by the thick wood on each side. The most remarkable part of this structure is the steeple, more ancient than the body of the church, 90 feet in height.

The college, once a Dominican priory, stands at the east end of the town, and apparently by the present remains, both within and without the chapel, is as old as the time of Bernard de Newmarch, who is said to have been the founder.

There still remains part of its old gateway, built in a quadrangular form; likewise a cloister, and the refectory of St. Mary's chapel, with the ancient choir, and nave for burying. Henry the Eighth converted this place into a college, by the name of the "College of Christ Church, Brecknock," and joined

to it the college of Abergwyli. It still remains, and consists of the bishop of St. David, who presides as dean, a precentor, treasurer, chancellor, and 91 other prebendaries.

Here were buried three bishops of St. David's, namely, Mainwaring, Lucy, and Bull. In the town, and fields contiguous to the castle, have been found several Roman coins, and there are now several large entrenchments to be seen on the hills about Brecknock; but the most remarkable is Y Gaer, or fortification, two miles north-west from the town. This is indisputably of Roman origin, and situate on a gentle eminence, near the river Wysg. Part of the walls still remain; and within the camp some square Roman bricks were found, all inscribed LEG. II. AUG. corresponding with those discovered at Caerleon. Close to this camp, in the middle of a highway, is a remarkable monument, called Maen-y-Morwynion, a rude pillar, about six feet high.

About eleven miles north-east from Brecon, in our road, is the small village of Glasbury, in the neighbourhood of which are the following gentlemen's seats: Tregoed, Lord Visc. Hereford; Maeslough Hall, W. Wilkins, esq.; Gwernallt Lodge, Sir Edward Williams, bart.; Gwernoved Lodge, H. Allen, esq.; and between the village and Buallt, is Derw House, Sir C. Morgan, bart; and on the left is Langoed Castle, J. Macnamara, esq.; beyond which is Pen Careg, T. Thomas, esq.

At the distance of about four miles from the village of Glasbury, we arrive at Hay, or Tregelli, called also Haseley, a small town, built in a pleasant situation, near the river Wye, and seems to have been well known to the Romans, whose coins are frequently found here, and some remains of walls. It gradually fell into decay about the time of the rebellious Owen Glyndwr, who, amid the devastations committed on his country, burnt this place; but Leland says, there was in his time the remains of a

strong wall, with three gates. Here was formerly a very superb castle, but by whom built is uncertain. We find in the year 1215, that Llewelyn ab Gruffydd dispossessed Giles de Bruce, Bishop of Hereford, of it, in consequence of his conspiracy against him; but when Llewelyn, in the year 1216, refused King John his assistance against the French, he marched from Hereford here and destroyed the castle. This fortress was composed principally of Norman architecture, and occupied the highest land of the river's bank, near the parish church; and since its first erection, was removed to near the centre of the town: a Gothic gateway here is very perfect; but a large house, of the reign of James the First, occupies the ancient site of the castle, and the few remains are converted into a modern house belonging to the Wellington family. Within the town were the remains of a gentleman's residence, called Wallwine, by whose means it is said Llewelyn was taken in the neighbourhood of Buallt. The whole of this small town formerly belonged to the Duke of Buckingham. Hay suffered a great loss in the winter of 1794, when the resistless torrent of the Wye carried away its handsome stone bridge. The view from the church-yard is extremely grand and beautiful.

Dinas Castle, situated on the top of a high hill, one mile from Blaen Lleveni, and about nine south from Hay, is now entirely in ruins, and almost level with the ground; yet there are the appearance of three wards walled about. Contiguous were three parks and a forest; the former is down, but had formerly a great number of red deer. The people about Dinas burnt the castle, to prevent its falling into the enemy's hands, and so becoming expensive and troublesome to the country, as a regular fortress.

Journey from Buallt to Crickhowel; through Brecon.

BUALLT* is a neat market town, pleasantly situated on a little plain, surrounded by wood, and mountains, with a handsome stone bridge, which divides it from Radnorshire. This small town is singularly built, having two parallel streets, which form irregular terraces on the side of a deep declivity. The principal of these streets is very near the river Wye, but extremely narrow, and ill shaped; and the houses, for the greater part, mean and irregular. Still Buallt has long been extolled for the salubrity of its air, and the singular beauty of its position on the banks of one of the finest rivers in South Wales, and encompassed by such magnificent scenery, that many gentlemen have been induced to fix their residence in its vicinity, as some good houses lately built will testify: it has beside the benefit of Llandrindod Wells, only seven miles off. This town has also a claim to great antiquity, being the same that Ptolemy calls the Ballæum Silurum of the Romans. In the neighbourhood are several entrenchments, in which, we are informed, have been found Roman bricks with this inscription: LEG. II.; but the most remarkable and best preserved of entrenchments in these parts, is near the road leading from Buallt to Brecon. In recurring to the Chronicle of Caradoc, we find this place suffered considerably by the Danes in 893, who, being persecuted by Alfred, sailed to Wales; and after destroying the country about the coast, advanced to Buallt, which they likewise demolished. The same fatal consequences happened in 1216; for when Reynold de Bruce peremptorily broke off his alliance with Llewelyn ab Iorwerth, to make peace with Henry the Third, the former destroyed all Buallt, except the castle. This castle was built by the Bruces or Mortimers;

* Signifying *Ox-cliff*, or *Oxen-holt*.

but, being out of repair in 1209, Gilbert, Earl of Gloster, fortified it for his own use. About 1215, we find it in the possession of Giles de Bruce, bishop of Hereford; but when he formed a conspiracy against Llewelyn ab Gruffydd, the latter came in person to Buallt, and had the castle delivered to himself; however it reverted again to Reynold Bruce, who was besieged in it by some Welsh barons in 1220, but before it could be taken, Henry the Third raised the siege.

In 1256 we find it in the possession of Rhys Vychan, whom Llewelyn ab Gruffydd defeated, and forced out of Buallt; he afterwards conferred the same on Meredith ab Rhys, but he was soon dispossessed of it by Roger Mortimer, with whom it continued till 1260, when Llewelyn retook it without opposition, and found within a plentiful magazine. Of the town and castle nothing more is mentioned, till the unfortuate event which put a period to the independency of the Welsh, and their royal line of princes, occasioned by the death of Llewelyn ab Gruffydd, who was here basely betrayed by the inhabitants of Buallt, on Wednesday, December the 11th, 1282.—The minute circumstances preceding and following this great event are no where recorded, except in the following account, preserved by tradition among the inhabitants of this place.

Llewelyn had posted his army on a hill near Llechryd, a village below Buallt, on the south side of the Wye. On the north side of the river, two miles below Buallt, the prince had a house, called Aberedw, to which he came for the purpose of conferring with some chieftains of the country. During his stay there, he was alarmed by the approach of some English troops, who probably had intelligence of his situation. The prince, to extricate himself from the danger that threatened, caused his horse's shoes to be reversed, to deceive his pursuers, as the snow was on the ground: but this cir-

cumstance was made known to the enemy, through the treachery of the smith; and they followed so closely, that Llewelyn had but just time to pass the draw-bridge at Buallt, which being drawn up secured his retreat. In the mean time, the English troops posted at Aberedw, had information of a ford a little lower down, called Cavn Twm Bach, which they crossed, and by that means came between Llewelyn and his army stationed at Llechryd. The only means of safety that now offered was to secrete himself; but the enemy were so diligent in their pursuit, that the Welsh prince was soon found in a narrow dingle, in which he had concealed himself, three miles north of Buallt, and about five miles from his army; which place, from this event, was called Cwm Llewelyn. After Llewelyn was killed, they cut off his head, and buried his body in a field, called Cafan, about two miles from Buallt; and at some subsequent period, a farm house was erected over his grave, which goes by the name of Cevn-y-Bedd.

A little below Buallt are the remains of Aberedw Castle, having only a stone wall, now overgrown with ivy, but one of the residences of Llewelyn the Great. Two miles further is Cevn-y-Bedd, in Cafan Field; and contiguous, Llechryd, with its ancient castle, now a modern house, surrounded by a moat; but this place and its vicinity is chiefly rendered remarkable, by being the sacred ground where Llewelyn, the last Welsh prince, lineally descended from the Cambro-Britons, lost his principality and his life.

At Buallt they preserve several traditions concerning the death of Llewelyn, prince of Wales, in the year 1282. He considered his position on the west side of the Wye, above Buallt, as secure, so long as the bridge at the town was defended; but when the ford was treacherously pointed out to the enemy, the prince was unexpectedly attacked, and he, taken by surprise, fell by the hands of one Adam Franck-

ton. A descendant of this A. Franckton, and of the same name, now, or lately lived at Salop, who preserves the memorial of this deed.

About one mile north-west of Buallt, are some saline springs, called Park Wells; and about six miles from Garth, is Llanwrtyd Well, situate in a parish of that name. It was first discovered by a clergyman, about one hundred and fifty years ago, who, it is said, wrote a tract on its virtues. Its situation is between two hills, in a romantic vale, which the river Irvon meanders through, with a picturesque view of hanging woods, impending rocks, contrasted with rich land and barren hills. It has also veins of lead ore, from which some tons have been formerly dug, and sold for 12*l.* per ton. About three hundred yards from Dol-y-Coed, or the house of accommodation, is this remarkable spring, called in Welsh, Fynnon Drewllyd, or fœtid well, which smells strongly of sulphur, and changes silver almost instantaneously into a gold colour. This well was opened in 1774, to investigate its source, and after removing the stones and rubbish which covered its channel, some black turf, twelve inches thick, and a stiff clay of a very dark colour, mixed with marl, were discovered; and under the latter a light gravel. The water does not spring from under the gravel, as at first supposed, but flows perpendicularly from a bog, or morass. The water is very transparent, and never loses its taste or smell, nor is it ever 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 disseminated through the whole, and remain so for hours.

This water is very light and perfectly soft, for when you wash your face and hands in it, you feel the same sensation as when soap and common water are used. It sits easy in the stomach. The efficacy of Llanwrtyd Wells has been proved in various

cases, particularly in gravel, nervous affections, and scorbutic eruptions.

Returning to Buallt, we proceed in a southerly direction, and at the distance of about eleven miles pass through Brecon; three miles to the south-west of which, on the left of our road, is LLYN SAVADON, generally called Llangors Pool, or Brecknock Meer, called by Giraldus, Clamosum, from the terrible noise it makes, like thunder, upon breaking of the ice in winter. This lake is two miles broad, about the same in length, and thirteen fathoms deep. In this meer have been found otters, eels, pikes, and perches, in great numbers, also trout from the Lleveni. Llyn Savadon is described by Giraldus as surrounded by houses, with gardens, corn-fields, and orchards. On the river Lleveni, Ptolemy places Lovintium, of which there are, however, no remains.

Marianus calls this place Bricenaic Mere, which was reduced by Edelfleda in 913; but whether he means this or Blaen Lleveni Castle, in the neighbourhood, is uncertain; however, the latter appears to have been the chief fortress in this barony. A good view of this lake may be had from a hill above Buallt.

About eleven miles to the west of Brecknock is TRECASTLE, a miserable village, enclosed by wild mountains at the upper vale of the Wysg, which soon expands itself, after passing the groves of Dyvynog and Lluchyn Tiron, or Llwchyn Tyron. Trecastle was formerly a large borough and market town, but is now fallen into decay; still it shews the ruins of a castle. On the top of a hill, near this place, was dug up a stone, containing an inscription, which shews it to have been a military way.

This village is now chiefly distinguished for a good inn, and a number of gentlemen's seats in its neighbourhood.

Returning to our road, at the distance of thirteen miles from Brecon, after passing through the village

of Llansaintfred, we arrive at CRUGHYWEL, or Crickhowel, a small market-town, pleasantly situated on the river Usk, over which there is a bridge of fourteen arches. The town is in the direct road from London to South Wales and Milford-Haven; it is supposed to have been built in the time of Howel Dda, who flourished about the year 940.

The Town-hall here is over the market-place, but this has been sometimes degraded, being used as a prison. The parish church is cruciform, having a chancel, nave, and two transepts, named after two estates in the vicinity. The rood loft is still entire, but the church has been considerably reduced from its original size. Two side aisles, pulled down in 1765, were ornamented with the insignia of several trading companies, carved in wood. A lancet window remains with three divisions, over the principal entrance at the west end. The tower, containing five bells, is remarkable, as being the only one in the county surmounted by a spire. The chancel contains some ancient monuments of illustrious families, the mutilated figure of a knight, &c. The old custom of singing carols in the church at cock-crowing, or the earliest dawn of the morning, on Christmas-day, is still continued here, but is more entitled to any other appellation, than to a *religious* rite.

The river here abounds with excellent fish, and the neighbouring hills with game; it is also in high repute for goats' whey, and much resorted to by valetudinarians.

Of the castle the remains are few, yet its original plan may be easily traced, and much of its ancient architecture found in the neighbouring cottages, whose stones are evidently purloined from the old castle. The keep appears to have been a very secure building, seated upon a lofty artificial elevation, and displaying the foundation, a thick substantial wall.

Near this place are the remains of an ancient encampment, with a double ditch, called by Leland, Cragus Hoelinus. Opposite is the pleasant village of

Llangattock, and the elegant seat of the late Admiral Gell; and three miles north-west is Tre Twr, a neat town, situated among lofty hills, with the remains of a round tower.

The houses in the neighbourhood of Llangattock are particularly entitled to notice, from the beauty of their situation, and their prospects are, Glanwysg, the seat of Frederick Fredericks, esq. Tan y Park, and Tan y Graig, situated still farther down the vale. The Brecknock canal is carried over the river Clydach, by an aqueduct of a truly tremendous appearance, being no less than eighty feet in height above the level of the stream. In ascending this vale, we meet with the cataract or fall, named Y Pistyll Mawr, or the great cascade. It is romantically embosomed in a luxuriant wood, and exhibits some of the most beautiful features of this class of picturesque objects. The parish of Llangattock has acquired some historical celebrity, from the great battle fought on the hills of Carno, in the year 728, between the Saxons and the Welsh. This spot is marked by two large collections of stones, or *carnau*, in one of which was found a *cist vaen*, or stone chest, that probably contained the body of some British leader, who fell in that conflict. These cist vaens consist of four upright stones, placed at right angles, with a fifth laid over them as a cover.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.

This county is called by the Welsh, *Morganwg*, and Gwlad Morgan; it is bounded on the north by Brecknockshire, on the east by Monmouthshire, on the south by the Bristol Channel, and on the west by Caermarthenshire; it is about forty-eight miles from east to west, and twenty-seven from north to south.—The greater part of the sea coast forms a semicircular sweep, the western extremity being formed into a narrow beak between the open chan-

nel on the one hand, and an arm running round to the Caermarthenshire coast on the other. In the time of the Romans this county was part of the district inhabited by the Silures, and had several Roman stations; as Boverton, a few miles south of Cowbridge, which is supposed to be the Bovium of Antoninus, Neath to be his Nidum, and Llacharn, to the west of Swansea, to have been his Leucarum. On the north and north-east sides, this county is very mountainous, and the soil of the hills extremely varied. In some parts they are absolute rocks, in others full of coal and iron. The surface over these mines produces plenty of fine wood. What corn grows in the county is principally between the south side of the mountains and the sea, in a spacious vale, or plain, open to the latter. The roads over the mountains are excessively steep, stony, strewed, as well as the heaths on each side of them, with stones of various sizes, detached from the rocks by the winter rains. The air on the north side is sharp, occasioned by the long continuance of the snow on the hills; but on the south side mild and temperate, improved by the sea breezes. Such is the profusion of coal and limestone, that lime is the general manure of this county. The plenty of coal, and the convenience of exportation, brought a large copper work to Swansea; the soil near which is likewise rich in other mineral treasures and good pastures.

The principal rivers are the Tav, the Nedd, or Neath, the Tawe, the Ogmore, and the Rumney. The least considerable streams are the Elai, Ewenni, Melta, Trawgath, and Twrch, all of which produce an abundance of excellent fish, particularly salmon, sewin, and trout, of a peculiar fine flavour. Glamorganshire is divided into ten hundreds, or 118 parishes, containing 17,017 houses, which are occupied by 85,067 inhabitants, viz. 41,365 males, and 43,702 females. Two members are returned to the British parliament; viz. one for the county, and one for the town of Cardiff.

Journey from Swansea to Merthyr Tydvil; through Cowbridge.

Swansea is a pleasant well-built town, on the river Tawe, and situated near the centre of a most beautiful bay, on an angle between two hills, which defend it from the north-west to the north-east, while the southerly winds, blowing over a vast expanse of sea, render the air mild; besides, having a gravelly soil for a considerable depth, makes its situation not only pleasant, but extremely healthy. The town has a very handsome appearance, from the road approaching to it being built on a semicircular rising bank near the mouth of the Tawe. It is populous, has good houses, wide streets, and apparently considerable trade. The market-house, which is very commodious, is said to be covered with the lead from St. David's cathedral, given by Cromwell to a gentleman of this town. The old mansion-house of the lord of the manor, built round a quadrangle, and standing near the castle, has been used as a warehouse and stables, and had over the gate the arms of William Earl of Pembroke, in the time of Henry VIII. The castle is situated on an eminence in the middle of the town; a lofty circular tower is all that is not concealed by houses, and this is surmounted by an elegant parapet, with arched openings, commanding a fine view. The apartments, yet habitable, are converted into a poor house, and a gaol, principally used for the confinement of debtors. Among the improvements here, a street has been opened through the court, and part of the buildings of the old manor house, and forms the communication between Castle Bailey and Goat street.

The whole of Swansea is comprised in one parish. The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is a handsome modern edifice, with a middle aisle, and two side aisles, separated from it by two rows of pillars, with a large square tower at one end, being in length 72 feet, by 54. Of the old church, which

fell in the year 1739, some remains are visible, north-east of the church-yard. In the new church are most of the monuments that were in the former edifice. One of the altar-kind, richly decorated, but now much mutilated and defaced, commemorates Sir Matthew Cradock and his lady. In the chancel is a curious brass tablet to the memory of Sir Hugh Johns, with the figures of himself, his wife, five sons, and four daughters. Near the upper end of the town, is another small church, dedicated to St. John, having formerly been a chapel belonging to the Knights of Jerusalem. Here are several places of worship belonging to various denominations of dissenters; and the Presbyterian meeting-house is one of the oldest in South Wales.

Swansea at this period enjoys many advantages not to be found in any other part of Wales. Here the tide ebbs and flows a considerable way over a flat sandy shore, and up the river Tawe, which runs through the town, and is navigable for vessels of considerable burden for about two miles. This place has also, within these twenty years, become a considerable mercantile town, particularly in copper, coals, lime, iron, brass, spelter, tin, and earthenware, which employ no less than 1,900 sail of vessels annually. The quantity of coals only, that is on an average exported yearly, amounts to upwards of 114,000 chaldrons. Exclusively of its intercourse with London, Bristol, Cornwall, and Ireland, it has had of late years a considerable share of foreign trade to the Baltic and West Indies, from which, perhaps, it might appear that few places in this kingdom have had so great and rapid an increase of trade as Swansea in a few years, as will appear by the following statement made from their books:

Years.	*Vessels.*	*Tons.*
1768 employed	694 consisting of	30,631.
1798 - - - - - -	2021 do.	120,713.
1800 - - - - - -	2590 do.	154,264.
1810 - - - - - -	2717 do.	177,672.

But since the peace of 1814, the trade of this town has suffered some diminution.

In 1791 a bill passed, empowering the corporation to repair and enlarge the harbour of Swansea, by turning the river through the western channel; by which the entrance into the harbour has been rendered shorter, safer, and deeper. The corporation has likewise expended a considerable sum of money in enlarging, and making the bathing-house commodious for company resorting annually to Swansea for the benefit of sea-bathing, which at present affords every thing that is necessary for the comfort or amusement of the stranger. Here are many good lodging-houses, pleasantly situated, particularly Mr. Sardon's, which is neatly fitted up, with an excellent warm sea-water bath.

Half a mile from the town is another, on the beach, rendered very commodious for visitors, with an excellent ball-room, from which is a fine view of the bay. Near the Cambrian pottery is Mr. Hayne's cold and hot sea-water baths, with pump and shower baths for temporary bathing, on very reasonable terms. The only mineral spring in the county is at Swansea, which has an acid styptic taste like alum, though the predominant salt is a vitriol. It turns blue with vinegar, but will not curdle with milk. A gallon of this water yields forty grains of sediment, of a highly acid, styptic, vitriolic taste, and light brown colour, which will ferment with spirit of harsthorn, and oil of tartar. It is recommended in a diarrhœa, and will stop blood externally, when applied to wounds. The vicinity of Swansea affords a number of agreeable walks and rides, while the bay, which may be regarded as one of the finest in Europe, furnishes the means of abundant gratification to those who prefer aquatic excursions. For some unaccountable reason, the corporation have deprived the inhabitants and visitors of one of the pleasantest promenades belonging to the place, by enclosing the burrows with a lofty wall. In the midst of improvements,

which the corporation have been prosecuting with great spirit, this measure appears the more surprising.

North of Swansea is the canal. There are no less than 36 locks on this canal, in the space of 16 miles, from an elevation of 372 feet, and several aqueducts. Adjoining are some smelting copper-works, the iron forge, brass and tin works, a fine copper rolling mill, iron furnaces, and foundry, and a most stupendous steam engine at Glandwr, which cost the proprietors upwards of 5000*l.* to complete. This machine throws up from a vast depth, 100 gallons of water each stroke, which is repeated twelve times a minute, making 78,000 gallons an hour. This was made by Messrs. Bolton and Watts, of Birmingham.

The town-hall is a spacious and handsome modern edifice, built on a part of the castle enclosure. A few years since a very commodious theatre was erected in one of the principal streets, which is well attended during the summer season. It was built by tontine shares of ten pounds each, the survivor of the holders to become the sole proprietor. Some public rooms have been since erected upon a similar scheme, but the taste of the architect appears to have been justly censured. A respectable weekly newspaper has for several years been published here by Mr. Jenkins. The public library has also proved a great acquisition.

The mail-coach from London to Milford passes through Swansea every morning at six, and goes from Milford to London every evening at the same hour. Two other coaches run from hence to Bristol and Gloucester on alternate days. The Mackworth Arms inn, is one of the best in the principality.

The free-school at Swansea was endowed by Dr. Hugh Gore, bishop of Waterford and Lismore, in 1684. The corporation have added 20*l.* a year to the endowment. The mastership is in the presentation of Lord Jersey, as the holder of the Briton Ferry estate. Here are also several Lancasterian and other schools,

that cannot fail to be eminently beneficial in their effects on the morals of the rising generation among the lower orders.

Swansea shares the privilege of Cardiff, as a contributory borough in the return of the member for that place. The corporation consists of a portreeve, twelve aldermen, two common attornies or chamberlains, and two sergeants at mace. By its charter it is empowered to hold two markets every week, though in fact it has but one, which is held on a Saturday, and is one of the best attended in the principality.

In a conspicuous situation, about three miles from Swansea, on the Tawe, is Morris Town, a newly-created village; and on the summit of a steep hill is the castle, a quadrangular building, which owes its origin to Mr. Morris, a proprietor of the leading works at this place.

Oystermouth Castle is a bold and majestic ruin on the coast, about five miles north from Swansea, near the promontory of Mumbles Head, which, terminating in high hills, and stretching out far into the bay, affords a safe anchorage to ships passing up and down the channel. It is situated on an eminence, having its principal walls but little injured, and most of the apartments may be yet easily distinguished. The general figure is polygonal; the ramparts lofty, but not flanked with towers, except just at the entrance. This building is ascribed to the Earl of Warwick, in the reign of Henry the First.

The grand gateway is still nearly perfect, and other parts of the building are in good preservation. The castle is at present the property of the Duke of Beaufort. The village of Oystermouth is pleasantly situated on the sea shore within the Mumble Point, a bold rocky projection running some distance into the sea. An excellent light-house, built at the extremity, has been essentially serviceable to the navigation of the Bristol Channel. At a short distance

from Oystermouth, are some remains of Penarth Castle, supposed to have been another of the Earl of Warwick's fortresses.

About eight miles west from Oystermouth is PENNRICE, a sea-port, seated on the Bristol Channel. It has a good harbour for ships, and carries on a small trade in exports and imports for country purposes. Its ancient castle has been a superb edifice, defended by bastions and turrets. The market is well supplied with provisions at a moderate price, and it has four annual fairs for cattle and sheep.

Returning to our road, on leaving Swansea, we proceed, in an easterly direction, and at the distance of about seven miles arrive at NEATH, a market-town, seated at the bottom of a valley, on the banks of the river Nedd. The streets are extremely irregular and narrow, and the houses, with few exceptions, ill built, and incommodious. The town used to be covered with the smoke of the copper works in its neighbourhood; a circumstance which must render it a very unhealthy place of residence, though its population is estimated at near 3000 inhabitants.

The church is a large and handsome structure, divided into two aisles by a range of pillars, which support the arches of the roof, having a chancel at one end, and at the other a substantial square tower, surmounted by an embattled parapet.

A few ruins of its old castle, built probably by Richard de Granville, a Norman, still remain, comprising part of the walls, and one of the gateways, which has a massive round tower on each side. In 1231 Llewelyn ab Iorwerth, being offended at Hubert Burgh's conduct on the marches, burnt this castle to the ground. There is no manufactory here entitled to notice; the copper works at Melin Crythan, about a mile from Neath, are discontinued, and the collieries have long lain in a state of inactivity. However, the mineral treasures of the adjacent county, still create a considerable trade here, much promoted by the construction of a navigable canal from the up-

per part of the vale, to a shipping place at Briton Ferry, and communicating with the iron works at Aberdare. The country about Neath is enlivened by several gentlemen's seats, and among these one of the principal is Gnoll Castle, the ancient residence of the Mackworths, but now that of H. J. Grant, Esq.

About one mile west of the town of Neath, near our road, stands Neath Abbey, called by Leland the fairest in all Wales. It is styled by the Welsh, *Abatty Glyn* Nedd, or the Abbacy of the Vale of Neath; for Nedd is properly the name of the river running through it, being descriptive of the gentle course of its stream, compared with most of the neighbouring waters. This abbey was founded for Cistertians, by Richard de Granville, and Constance his wife, who gave their chapel in Neath Castle, likewise the tithes belonging to it, and a large tract of waste land, with other possessions in *temp.* Henry I. to endow the same, which was dedicated to the Holy Trinity. About the time of the dissolution it contained only eight monks, and valued at 132*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* per annum; but, according to Speed, 150*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* and granted 33 Henry VIII. to Sir Richard Williams, alias Cromwell. The ruins are on the west side of the river, with lancet windows, which form the north side of a quadrangle. The gates, hall, and gallery, still remain, having in front of a contiguous room, in stone, the arms of England and of John of Gaunt, with three chevrons quartering three horsemen's crests—Granville. In this abbey the unfortunate Edward II. sheltered himself till he was taken. The remains of it were inhabited by some poor families belonging to the workmen employed in the neighbouring metal works. The ichnography of the old church, which was of excellent architecture, and immense size, may easily be traced.

The great western window of the Abbey Church, fell down within these few years, and a large part of the side walls have since shared the same fate. No adequate idea can be formed from the present remains, of the original extent and magnificence of this edifice.

Foundations of buildings are to be traced in the adjacent grounds for a considerable distance, and some of the houses in the village were evidently connected with the main building.

A navigable canal has been made to communicate with all the interior parts of the county to Pont Nedd Vechan, in Breconshire, about twelve miles off. A little north of Neath is a beautiful cataract, falling nearly 150 feet perpendicular.

About four miles southward from Neath is ABERAVAN, a small village, situated at the mouth of the river Avan. It is governed by a portreeve, and has 40 burgesses, who have votes for parliament. Here is a small haven for light vessels, which carry on a considerable trade in the iron, copper, and tin works in the neighbourhood.

LLYCHWR, a poor village, eight miles from Neath, is situated on a river of the same name, which is fordable at low water. It has the ancient or outward walls of a square castle, which was fortified by a treble trench, but destroyed by Rhys ab Gruffydd in 1215, when he brought this county into subjection.

The ancient town and church are supposed to have stood near the river, on the other side of the castle. On the north-east of the town, at a place called Cevn-y Bryn, is a vast stone of 20 tons weight, commonly called Arthur's Stone, said to be fixed there by that hero. There is a tradition, that a well under this stone ebbs and flows with the sea. From here are numerous collieries, and a ford to Llanelli, a small irregular town, containing an old seat of Sir John Stepney, which having been long deserted by the family, was converted into habitations for numerous poor tenants, falling fast into decay. The church has a high square embattled tower, remarkable for being wider at its base than upwards, forming a cone.

This district is very picturesque and fertile, having adjacent the base of Margam Hill, which is beautifully shaded with groves of majestic oaks.

Contiguous is Briton Ferry, remarkable for the

elegant seat of the Earl of Jersey, which is environed by fertile land, and spacious plantations.

Margam Abbey, situated about four miles southward from Aber-avan, was founded by Robert Earl of Gloucester, in 1147, for white monks, and valued at 181*l*. The house appears to have been one side of a quadrangle. Among the offices are some remains of a beautiful circular chapter-house, fifty feet by twelve diameter, with twelve pointed windows, the roof resting on a single central clustered column; But in January 1799, the dome fell in, and the whole building became a ruin. Behind it are the cloisters, which joined it to the abbey, now serving for the parish church; but which if it had not been repaired by the late Mr. Talbot, would have shared the fate of the chapter-house.

The stables and offices retain many marks of antiquity, particularly the doors. In 1761 the tomb of an abbot was to be seen here, which then laid over a drain. The park, which is well wooded, and abundantly supplied with deer, is still preserved, and considerable attention is paid to the pleasure-gardens, and ornamental part of the grounds. In the midst of the park stands an elegant Doric edifice, built by Mr. Talbot, in 1787, for a green-house, or conservatory, for the reception of a large collection of orange trees. It is 327 feet in length, by 81: a square room has been parted off at each end, containing some curious cork models of remarkable buildings in Italy, and several fine statues and other antiquities of exquisite workmanship. In summer the orange trees, one hundred and ten in number, are removed to the lawn, exhibiting a rich and luxuriant grove, several of the trees being eighteen feet in height, and remarkably handsome.

A good specimen of the Anglo-Norman architecture appears on the west front of the church, but the inside is plain and unadorned, except a few marble monuments for the Mansell family, and one for Sir Lewis Mansell, dated 1638, which is well executed.

There is also in the village, a curious stone cross

about eight feet high, richly carved and ornamented with fret work. By the road side, and forming the foot bridge over the brook that issues out of the park, near the old entrance, are two other relics of the same kind, the crosses being circumscribed by a circle. The inscriptions upon these crosses have been nearly obliterated.

On the top of an adjoining hill is a stone, mentioned by Camden, called Maen Llythyrog, and on the west of Margam Hill is a Roman camp, and many old entrenchments lie contiguous to it and the abbey.

Resuming our road, on leaving Aber-avan, we proceed in an easterly direction, and at the distance of about eleven miles, we arrive at BRIDGEND, Pen-y-Bont, a populous town, situated on the river Ogmore. The town is divided into three parts, called Old Castle, New Castle, and Bridgend, the two first having the remains of castles. The soil around is exceedingly fertile and well cultivated, and the town is in a state of considerable improvement. The river Ogmore, divides the town into two parts, which are joined by a good stone bridge.

A woollen manufactory here produces annually considerable quantities of flannel and Welsh shawls. Bridgend contains a large proportion of good houses, occupied by families of great respectability. The division called Old Castle, derives its name from an ancient fortress which stood near the chapel. The present tithe-barn, is built on a part of the ruins.

Two miles east of Bridgend is the village of Coetty, where are the remains of a castle, built by Paganus de Sourberville, in 1091. The Earl of Leicester, by marriage with Barbara, heiress of John Gamage, Esq. lord of Coetty, came possessed of this castle, and his estate in Wales. The ruins of Coetty Castle are among the most extensive and magnificent of any in South Wales; the present walls are probably the remains of the edifice built by Sir Payne Turberville, to whom this lordship was assigned, in the Norman Fitzhamon's division of the county.

At a small distance from Bridgend is Ogmore Castle, situated on a plain ground near the road, and one mile above the mouth of the rivers Ogmore and Ewenni. It is undoubtedly of considerable antiquity, being mentioned by Caradoc, as early as the reign of William Rufus, where it is recorded that the manor and castle were bestowed by Robert Fitzhamon on William de Londres, one of the twelve Norman knights who, in the year 1091, assisted him in the conquest of Glamorganshire. It appears to have been entire when Leland wrote his Itinerary; but at present only the keep and some outer walls remain; the former has a great resemblance to the keeps at Rochester, Dover, and the Tower of London. A small distance south-east of the castle are several pits, or shallows, filled with water, said to have sunk spontaneously. One of them is deemed unfathomable, being circular, and seven feet in diameter, with a railing, to prevent accidents.

Newton, a small village near Bridgend, and situate north-west of the Ogmore, has lately been exalted into the rank of a watering-place.

The bathing-house is small and incommodious, situate very low on the beach, with sand hills in almost every direction, which prevent a view of the water; still it is become a place of fashionable resort, with a bathing-machine about a mile below the house. The beach is well sheltered by limestone cliffs, but the walks, over coarse drifting sands, render it extremely upleasant, and destitute of walks or verdure for pleasure or repose, presenting a continual sameness and sterility.

The shore is curved, and forms a small bay, where ships in distress, often shelter. The inhabitants of this village are chiefly employed in raising limestones, which are carried in small vessels to the opposite coast, and sold on the spot.

Returning to our road, on leaving Bridgend, we proceed in a north-easterly direction, and at the distance of six miles, pass through the town of

Llantrisaint, or the church with three saints, situated near the summit of a cleft, in one of the high hills which bounds the Vale of Glamorgan. It is an ancient borough, abounding in lead ore, the property of the late Marquis of Bute, who enclosed the manor. Here was a castle, now nearly destroyed, excepting a fragment of its lofty round tower, and the vestiges of outworks, which are nearly concealed by numerous shrubs. A new market-house and town-hall were erected by that nobleman, within the precincts of the old castle. The streets are steep and narrow. The church is a large Norman edifice, on a situation which commands a delightful prospect of the surrounding country, in one of the finest situations in South Wales, being placed on the brow of a lofty hill, overlooking an extensive range of the most beautiful and fertile parts of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Two miles south-east, are the remains of Castell Crug.

A good road has lately been made from this place to the famous Pont-ty-Pridd, or the New Bridge, which is only a few miles distant, and situate in a beautiful vale, with very extensive views. It is a stupendous arch thrown across the river Tav. This extraordinary structure is a perfect segment of a circle, the chord of which is one hundred and forty feet, and the height, from the key-stone to the spring of the arch, thirty four.

The bridge was undertaken at the expence of the county, by one William Edwards, a common stone-mason of Glamorganshire, who likewise contracted to ensure its standing for a certain number of years. From the width and rapidity of the river, he failed in his first attempt; for, after completing a bridge with three arches, a flood, with the natural impetuosity of the river, carried it away completely.—He then conceived a noble design of raising a single arch over this ungovernable stream, which he accordingly completed; but the crown of the arch being very light and thin, it was soon forced upwards by

the heavy pressure of the butments, which were necessarily loaded with an immense quantity of earth, that the ascent of the bridge might be more practicable. Not yet discouraged by these failures, he again, in 1750, boldly dared to improve on his second plan, and executed the present surprising arch, in which he lightened the butments, by making three circular tunnels through each of them, which effectually answered the purpose, besides giving a lightness and elegance to the structure, that may now bid defiance to the most unruly floods that can possibly rise in this river, and seems calculated to endure for many ages. To view this arch as an external object, it can scarcely be sufficiently admired, as crossing the vale abruptly it appears to connect the opposite hills, while with its light and elegant curve, it does in a manner almost produce the effect of magic, and will be a lasting monument of the abilities and genius of its untutored architect. The bridge, on account of the high ground on each side, is not visible from the turnpike, and many travellers have in consequence passed by it unawares. In ascending the vale, it is approached by a road which turns abruptly to the left, over the canal, a short distance from the Bridgewater Arms, a comfortable inn, about midway between Cardiff and Merthyr.

About twelve miles beyond Pont-ty-Pridd, after crossing the Cardiff canal, we arrive at MERTHYR TYDVIL, situated near the borders of Brecknockshire. The spot on which the town stands, and the immediate neighbourhood, was the fortunate purchase of Mr. Crawshay, and cost him only 800*l.*, which in ground rents alone has increased more than the yearly rent of 1000*l.*

The whole district, abounding with coal and ore, extends about eight miles in length, and four in breadth. Two ranges of hills bound this place, with a valley between them, in which stands the town of Merthyr.

Scarcely any thing can be conceived more awfully grand, than the descent on a dark night into the Vale of Merthyr, from any of the surrounding hills, where on a sudden, the traveller beholds as it were numberless volcanoes breathing out their undulating pillars of flame and smoke, while the furnaces below emit through every aperture a vivid light, which makes the whole country appear in flames; nor do the immense hammers, the wheels, the rolling mills, the water-works uniting together their various sounds, add a little to the novelty and magnificence of the scene. The number of workmen employed by the different iron masters is very great. Mr. Crawshay has employed between two and three thousand men, and the other gentlemen an equal proportion; so that the whole population of this town has been estimated at ten thousand persons.

Here are four establishments on a large scale, viz. Pendarren, having three blast furnaces; Dowlais, having four blast furnaces; Plymouth, having also four blast furnaces; and Cyfartha, having six blast furnaces. It seldom happens that all the furnaces are in blast at the same time, one at least being usually extinguished and under repair. One furnace will commonly yield about fifty tons of iron in a week; and instances have occurred, in which, from favourable circumstances, a single furnace has produced a hundred tons in that interval. The furnaces at the Cyfartha works, are blown by means of a steam-engine of fifty horse power, and by the overshot water-wheel of equal power. This wheel was formed by Mr. Watkin George, formerly a mechanic employed about the works, but since deservedly rewarded for his talents. It consumes twenty-five tons of water in a minute; it is above fifty feet in diameter, and made entirely of cast-iron, and cost above 4000*l.* The water that turns it is brought from a stream in the hills about five miles off, on a platform of wood, supported chiefly by stone pillars, except in one place, where it crosses a bridge on supporters of wood, for the

space of about three hundred yards, and elevated eighty feet above the bed of the river, the whole of which forms a very singular appearance.

To avoid interruption in the transportation of the produce of the Merthyr works in dry seasons, when the canal is scantily supplied with water, a rail-road has been constructed at the upper end, for the distance of about eight miles, along which the iron is conveyed in waggons constructed for the purpose. It was once intended to continue this rail-road the whole length of the canal. Glamorganshire is intersected by a number of good roads, which afford easy and convenient communications between the different towns and villages. The high road to Milford runs through its whole extent, in an east and west direction, from Rumney Bridge to Pont Arddulais, on the river Loughor. A mail coach to and from the metropolis passes this way daily; and two other coaches, one from Gloucester, the other from Bristol, proceed as far as Swansea on alternate days. Stage waggons are unknown in the country.

Journey from Bridgend to Cardiff; through Cowbridge.

On leaving Bridgend, which we have already described, our road lies in an eastward direction, and at a short distance we pass through Ewenni, a cell founded by John Londres, lord of Ogmore Castle, but formerly belonging to Gloucester Abbey.

This place appears to have been founded about the year 1140, and valued at 87*l.* per annum. The church, from the solidity of its structure, has not suffered from time so much as might have been expected, as it is indisputably of greater antiquity than any other building in Wales. It is said to have been finished before the year 1100, or soon after the conquest of this county. The arches are all circular, the columns short, round and massive, with the capitals simple, but corresponding. The tower is of a moderate height, and supported by

four fine arches, upwards of twenty feet in the cherd, from their respective springs. The roof of the east end of the choir is original and entire, not diagonal, but formed of one stone arch, from wall to wall, with a kind of plain fascia, or bandage of stone, at regular distances, crossing and strengthening the arch.

Under this roof, and against the north wall in the chancel, lies an ancient monument of stone, with an ornamental cross raised on it, by which it appears, from an inscription, to be the sepulchre of Maurice de Londres, grandson to the founder, and a kinsman of Payne Turberville, conqueror of Glamorganshire, who has likewise a monument here. This family long inhabited the mansion-house, an ancient building in this county, remarkable for its large and spacious hall.

This old mansion has lately been thoroughly repaired by the present proprietor, R. Turberville, esq., and converted into a comfortable residence. On the same side of the river Ewenni, lower down the stream, at its junction with the Ogmore, stand the remains of Ogmore Castle.

Two miles eastward from this place, on the left of our road, is Penline Castle, an ancient structure, but by whom built is uncertain; however, like some other elevated spots, it affords a kind of prognostic for the weather, and is thus described by Iolo Morganwg.

When the hoarse waves of Severn are screaming aloud,
And Penline's lofty castle's involv'd in a cloud,
If true the old proverb, a shower of rain
Is brooding above, and will soon drench the plain.

Adjoining are the ruins of an old mansion, not inhabited since the Revolution.

About three miles to the south of Penline Castle is Llanilltyd, or Llanwit, in British and Norman times a town of great consequence.

Here are the remains of the celebrated school

founded by St. Illtyd, A. D. 508, in which many nobles are said to have been educated; the ruins of other buildings, and several streets, in different directions, still retain the names of former ages, though the houses on each side are now demolished. An old building of stone yet remains, called the Hall of Justice, wherein the lords' court was held, or the Norman Judicial Rights (the jura regalia) exercised, which made the nobles thus privileged almost independent of the crown. Under the Hall of Justice is a strong arched chamber, which seems to have been destined to receive prisoners, who were tried and condemned in the apartment above. The tradition of the village is, that Llanilltyd owed its origin to the Flemings, who settled along the coast of Glamorganshire, in the early part of the reign of Henry II., and that one of their chiefs made this his place of residence.

The monastery or college founded here by St. Illtyd, received at one time seven sons of British princes, besides five bishops afterwards. The students of this college had for their habitations four hundred houses and seven halls; in fine, it was the principal university in Britain till the Norman Conquest. In two mandates from Pope Honorius to Urbanus, 1125, and a decree of Pope Calixtus in 1118, it is denominated among the first churches, which continued in high repute till, probably, superseded by the English universities.

The walls of the school are still standing behind the church, and the remains of the monastery are yet visible north-west of the school. By the ruins of the eastern door is the vestibule of the church, now roofless, also a considerable burial place, but now in a state of slovenly disorder. Amid the fragments are two monuments, the one in relief, of an ecclesiastic reclining on a cushion, with his feet resting on two globes, containing an inscription for William de Richelieu, a Norman; the other, a small

figure, is broken in the middle. The church, from its style of architecture, is very ancient, though much of the present appears of Norman origin. In a niche of the east wall, are the broken remains of a statue of the Cambrian legislator, Howel Dda, and under it the figure of a woman in basso-relievo.

The town of Lantwit exhibits numerous vestiges of its ancient extent and consequence. Several streets and lanes may be traced by foundations and ruinated buildings, and are still known by their ancient names. Its former populousness is also indicated by its spacious church and cemetery; the latter of which, from the number of human bones dug up in the adjacent fields and gardens, appears to have been of very large extent. The Town Hall is yet standing, and the gaol has not been demolished many years. From the name of *Gallows Way*, given to a road leading from the town, this is thought to have led to a place of execution. The town lost its corporate privileges in the reign of Henry VIII. The ruins of the College House are situated in a garden adjoining the church-yard on the north.

In the church-yard, on the north side, are two remarkable stones. The first, close by the church wall, a pyramidal, seven feet long, adorned with ancient British carvings. On one side, from top to bottom, it has a remarkable furrow or groove, about two inches deep and four wide, which seems plainly to have been a cross. The other stone is curiously carved, and serves as a pedestal to a cross. On one side is an inscription, shewing that one Samson erected it for his soul: on the other it appears Samson dedicated it to St. Illtyd. Against the wall of the porch is another for Ithiel, abbot of Llanilltyd, in the sixth century.

One mile hence is St. Dunawd, or Donat's Castle, situated within 300 yards of the shore. The castle is a large irregular pile, bearing many marks of ancient magnificence, and still in some degree inhabited; but most of the state apartments are in a very decayed

condition. It was defended by a ditch, and in some places by a triple wall: it had also a park, well stocked with deer, and gardens with terraces to the Severn. The present building seems to have been erected by the Stradlings, about 1091, or the fifth year of William Rufus, and was the family seat six hundred and forty-eight years; but on the extinction of that family, it came to Bussey Mansel, esq. in 1740. The castle is a large turreted edifice, but built on a very inelegant plan. What has been added to the original structure at different periods, forms an irregular whole, whose parts are dissimilar, unconnected, and every way displeasing. The greatest curiosities here are in the principal court, which is of a polygonal shape, and disproportionately low, and ornamented with a few small round recesses in the walls, having within them the busts of Roman emperors and empresses, which appear to have been formerly sumptuously painted and gilt. The state apartments are much ornamented, and contain several specimens of heavy wood work, greatly in vogue during the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. The view from its principal room in the tower is really magnificent, looking straight across the channel, which is near twenty miles broad, to the hills of Somersetshire above Minehead.

In the park are the ruins of a watch-tower, for the observation of distressed vessels during stormy weather, for the purpose of securing their cargoes for the lord, in the event of their being driven on shore.

A few miles from the last-mentioned place is Din Dryvan House, or Castle, situated on a headland, jutting into the sea, and forming a point, nine miles from Cowbridge. The present mansion, raised on the site of the ancient edifice, is elegant and spacious, but built in the pointed style, by Thomas Wyndham, esq. the present proprietor.

Dunraven, called *Dindryvan* in Welsh history, is probably the oldest residence in Wales. It is certain that Caradoc, the celebrated Caractacus of British and

Roman history resided here, as did also his father Brân ab Llyr. After the capture of the British hero, the Lords of Glamorgan continued to reside here occasionally, till the conquest of this part, in the time of Iestyn ab Gwrgant.

Returning to our road at the distance of about three miles from Penline, we arrive at Cowbridge, being a translation of its Welsh name of Pont-y-Von. It is seated in a low bottom, but the soil is remarkably fertile. The streets are broad and paved. It has a good market, well supplied with corn, cattle, sheep, and other provisions; here is likewise a handsome church and town-hall, where the quarter sessions are held.

Cowbridge is governed by two bailiffs, twelve aldermen, and twelve common council, and sundry other inferior officers. The neighbourhood is remarkable for a number of castles, and the town for an excellent grammar school, where many literary characters were educated, particularly the late Dr. Price, and others much celebrated in the republic of letters. The school is at present well supported, and in great repute.

Three miles from Cowbridge is LLANCARVAN, where St. Cadoc, or Catwg, is said to have founded a monastery, about A. D. 500. Here Caradoc the historian, and cotemporary with Geoffrey of Monmouth, it is said was born. His "History of Wales," or rather the Chronicle, was translated into English by Humphrey Llwyd, and published with additions by Dr. David Powel, in quarto, 1634; by Wynne, 1697; 1704, in octavo; and afterwards by Sir John Price, knight, in 1774, with a description of Wales prefixed.

Trev Walter, or Walterston, was the residence of Walter de Mapes in the twelfth century. He built the present church of Llancarvan, and also the village of Walterston, with a mansion for himself. Though his father was one of the Norman invaders, the son, by an act of unusual generosity, restored a considerable proportion of his lands to the native proprietors.

Morlai Castle, near Morlai Brook, is situate in a very fruitful valley for grass and corn. Amid the ruins

of the castle was discovered an entire room, circular, and about thirty feet in diameter, the sides adorned with twelve flat arches for doors and windows, and the roof supported by a central pillar, like the chapter-house in Margam Abbey.

This room, although one of the greatest curiosities, on this side of the country, is so buried in the ruins, as to leave scarcely any appearance of it above ground. Llewelyn granted this castle to Reginald de Bruce, in 1217, who committed it to the care of Rhys Vychan, but it was destroyed soon after by order of Llewelyn. It was in ruins in Leland's time, and belonged to the king.

Resuming our road, at the distance of eleven miles from Cowbridge, we arrive at Cardiff, or Caerdyv, so called from its situation on the junction of two rivers, the great and little Tâv, and the plural of Tâv being Tyv, hence Caerdyv, and which united stream runs along the west side of it, and falls into the Severn, three miles below. It is handsome and well built, enclosed by a stone wall, in which were four gates, and a deep ditch or mound, with a watch-tower still to be seen. The town is pleasantly situated on a fertile flat, two miles and a quarter from the eastern extremity of the county, where it is joined by Monmouthshire. There is a good bridge of five arches over the river Tav, and vessels of two hundred tons burthen come up to the town. Between the town and the Severn is a fine level tract of moor land, which used to be frequently overflowed with spring tides; but now well secured by a sea wall, which has turned an extensive piece of salt marsh into fresh land. The town-hall, a respectable modern erection, stands in the middle of one of the principal thoroughfares, and near it is the county gaol, built upon the plan of the late Mr. Howard. Since the completion of the canal to Merthyr, the town has been increased by several handsome houses. Three miles below the town is a harbour called Penarth, which is very commodious for ships and vessels detained in the Bristol channel by westerly winds. The inhabitants of this town and neigh-

bourhood carry on a considerable trade to Bristol, and send thither great quantities of oats, barley, salt butter, and poultry of all kinds; beside exporting annually not less than eight thousand seven hundred and eighty tons of cast and wrought iron for London and other places; the bulk of it made at Merthyr Tydvil, and brought down from thence by a curious navigable canal, the head of which, at Merthyr Bridge, is five hundred and sixty-eight feet five inches higher than the tide lock at Cardiff.

The only manufacture here consists of iron hoops; however, in consequence of the numerous collieries up the vale, the iron works at Merthyr, Melin Gruffydd, &c. the produce of which is conveyed here for importation to Bristol, with shop goods, the trade here is considerable. The new cut to the town quays on the canal, admits ships of 200, and 300 tons to take in their loadings, and complete their cargoes by means of barges. The mail coach for Milford arrives here from Bristol every evening, about eight, and the mail for the metropolis passes through Cardiff about six in the morning. The inns are numerous; but the two principal are the Cardiff Arms and the Angel.

Cardiff contains two parishes, St. John's and St. Mary's, though at present there is but one church; for, by a great inundation of the sea, in 1607, the church of St. Mary, with many buildings in that parish, were undermined and swept away. The church of St. John stands near the middle of the town, in a street of the same name. It is a plain Norman structure, supposed to have been erected in the thirteenth century. The arch of the west door is rich and handsome. The tower, of more modern date than the body, is a lofty square building of great beauty, having at the corners, open pinnacles or lantherns, greatly admired for their elegance, and exquisite workmanship; these have been lately repaired in a manner highly creditable to the artist. Here are no objects of antiquarian interest in the interior of the church.

The castle still forms an interesting object: the

western front has a remarkably fine appearance from the road approaching the town on that side. The interior was repaired and modernized some years since for the residence of Lord Mounstuart, Lord Bute's eldest son, when the accidental death of that nobleman put a stop to the design; but the additions do not harmonize with the ancient architecture. The Black Tower had been assigned as the prison of Robert Curtoise, under Henry I. The ditch that formerly surrounded this building has been filled up, and the whole of the ground laid out in a fine level lawn. The rampart, within the external wall, has been planted with shrubs, and on the summit a terrace-walk extends the whole length, affording a delightful prospect.

In the reign of Charles the First, Cardiff espoused the cause of that injured king, and was closely besieged by Oliver Cromwell in person, with a strong party, who bombarded the castle from an entrenchment something better than a quarter of a mile to the west of the town. The cannonade was kept up for three days successively; and Oliver, in a book of his own writing, called the Flagellum, says, "He should have found greater difficulty in subduing Cardiff castle, had it not been for a deserter from the garrison, who conducted his party in the night-time through a subterraneous passage into the castle." The lordship and castle of Cardiff then belonged to the Earl of Pembroke, and from that family by intermarriages it devolved, with many castles and lordships in Glamorganshire, to that of the Windsors.

In this town Robert, Earl of Gloucester, who died in 1147, founded a priory of White Friars, and another of Black ones, which continued till the general dissolution of religious houses by Henry the Eighth, in 1536. A great part of the shell of the White Friars is now to be seen, and the Black Friars' house is inhabited by fishermen.

Near Melin Gruffydd, in the neighbourhood, is Castell Coch, consisting of a circular tower and a few entrenchments, on the brow of a perpendicu-

lar rock, supposed to have been a fortress of the Britons.

Three leagues south of Cardiff are two islands, called the Flat, and the Steep Holmes; on the former is a lighthouse, and a good dwelling, where pilots frequently wait to conduct ships up the Bristol Channel; this island contains 60 acres of land, and is well cultivated.

A little to the westward of these are Sully and Barry islands, situated scarcely three miles from the mouth of the river Tav, in the winding of the shore, divided from each other, and also from the land, by a narow frith. Sully is so denominated from Robert de Sully; the other called Barry, from St. Baruch, who lies buried there.

On a gentle elevation, about two miles north-west of Cardiff, is Llandaff, which is called by the Welsh Llandav, from its situation on the Tav. This is at present a miserable village of mean cottages, with the exception of a few gentlemen's houses. It depends mostly for the supply of its necessaries from Cardiff, only two miles distant: of course here is no market. Still the great object here is the cathedral, partly Saxon, and partly Norman, though the prevailing style is, what is commonly called Gothic. The western front is remarkably handsome, being ornamented with lancet windows of various sizes. Immediately over the principal entrance, and underneath the arch, is the figure of a Bishop, with one hand moderately raised, the other holding the pastoral staff. Above, over the upper range of windows, near the centre of the building, is another carved figure, in a sitting posture, holding a book in one hand. The whole is surmounted by a very ancient cross. On the north side is a very rich Saxon door-way. At the west end were formerly two magnificent square towers, of which that at the north angle alone remains. This was built by Jasper Duke of Bedford, in 1485; the pinnacles were damaged by a storm, in 1703. Two sides of this tower are raised on two light arches, which spring from a single pillar. In the interior some elegant

Gothic arches separated the nave from two side aisles. The entire length of the church is 300 feet, and the breadth 80. At the west end is a chapel, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and on the south side stands the chapter-house. The ancient structure having fallen into decay, a new edifice was raised within the old walls, about the year 1751. The body of this is in length, from east to west, two hundred and sixty-three feet, the distance from the west door to the choir is one hundred and ten, and the length from the latter to the altar seventy-five; the body of the church sixty-five, and the height, from the floor to the top of the compass-work of the roof, the same. The choir is very neat, but there is no cross aisle, although common to almost every other cathedral in England and Wales. The new addition, on which large sums have been expended, is a mixture of Grecian and Gothic, and the portico of a Grecian Temple projects over the altar. The building is upon the whole ridiculously disfigured with Venetian windows, Ionic pillars, and almost every imaginable impropriety. The modern church noticed separately is singularly situated, and formed mostly within the walls of the old cathedral. In the midst of these defects in architecture, the neatness in which the church is kept, however, deserves no small portion of commendation, particularly the great care apparently taken of the numerous remnants of antiquity, monuments, &c. that are to be found in this ancient edifice. Near the cathedral are some remains of the ancient castellated mansion of the Bishop. The destruction of this building, with the principal portion of the church, is attributed to Owen Glyndwr. The early history of this see is involved in considerable obscurity. St. Tewdric the Martyr, who lived in the fifth century, and was the grandfather of the celebrated Arthur, seems to have been the builder of the first church, and Dubricius, the golden-headed, the first Bishop in the sixth century.

About five miles north from Llandaff, and seven from Cardiff, is Caerfili Castle, situated among a row

of hills that run through the middle of Glamorganshire towards Brecknockshire. The town is neat and clean, with many respectable houses; but the castle is the chief building, and probably one of the noblest remains of antiquity in the kingdom, situate on a small stream which runs into the Rumney.

It consists of one large oblong court, with an entrance by a gateway, and two round towers to the east and west. On the north is a dead wall, with loop holes, and on the south a magnificent hall. At each angle was a round tower of four stories, communicating with others by a gallery in the second story. The south-east tower, next what is called *the Mint*, stands eleven feet out of its perpendicular, resting only on one part of its south side; it is seventy or eighty feet in height.

The hall is a stately room, about seventy feet by thirty, and seventeen high, the roof of which is vaulted, and supported by twenty arches. On one side are two stately windows, continuing down to the floor, and reaching above the supposed roof of the room: the sides are ornamented with double rows of triple leaved knobs or husks, bearing a fruit like a round ball, and in the centre, an ornament common in buildings of the fourteenth century. On the side walls of the room are seven clusters of round pilasters, about four feet long, each supported by three busts, varied alternately. In the south, at equal distances, are six grooves, about nine inches wide, and eight high, intended to place something, of which nothing remains. The doors are placed on the east end, eight feet high, opening into a court or castle yard, which is seventy yards by forty, with another on the south side; on the east are two more, bow-arched, and within a yard of each other. The inner buildings, or main body of the castle, is entirely surrounded by an immense wall, supported by strong buttresses, and defended by square towers, communicating with each other by an embattled gallery, and over it a pleasant walk. In the east end gate of the

castle are two hexagonal towers, and at right angles with this gate, is a square tower, with three grooves for portcullises, and an oven.

Between the outer wall and the moat were the offices: the mill-house is still remaining. Without the walls of the castle are several moated entrenchments, with bastions at the angles. The origin of this noble fabric cannot be traced. Some Flemish pieces have been discovered here with an image of our Saviour; and about the same time, coins resembling the Venetian, with a brass one, like those of the middle ages, but without a syllable of inscription to assist our conjectures in endeavouring to elucidate the origin of one of the largest buildings in Britain.

This castle formerly belonged to the Clares and Earls of Gloucester, then the Earl of Pembroke. On a mountain called Cevn y Gelli Gaer, near the castle, on the road to Marchnad y Waen, is a remarkable monument, known by the name of Y Maen Hir, consisting of a rude stone pillar of a quadrangular form, and eight feet high, with an inscription inserted in Camden. Close at the bottom is a small entrenchment.

But amongst the various conjectures as to the origin of this castle, the greatest probability is, that the first Norman settlers, Lords of Glamorgan, enlarged and strengthened the edifice which had previously stood on this site, and gradually raised it to that splendour and magnificence, which yet excite our wonder and admiration. It is obvious, that even the principal buildings of the interior were erected at different periods; the two grand entrances, the gates on the east side, being the work of a different age from that on the western side.

CAERMARTHENSHIRE.

This county, called by the Welsh *Swydd Caervyrddin*, is bounded on the north by Cardiganshire, on the east by Brecknockshire, on the west by Pembrokeshire, and on the south by Glamorganshire, and part of

the sea. It extends from east to west above 45 miles, but in the contrary direction little more than 20. The general surface of Caermarthenshire is hilly; and in the northern and eastern parts the hills rise into mountains. The vales for the most parts are narrow, and the hills rise abruptly from the skirts of small vallies, with which this district is almost every where intersected; but the vale of Tywi is the principal of the level tracts, extending 30 miles up the country, with a breadth of two miles, and abounds in picturesque beauties. The principal rivers are the Tywi and Tav; the former rises in Cardiganshire, and enters Caermarthenshire at its north eastern-corner, and takes its course to the south. The climate of Caermarthenshire is not favourable to wheat, barley succeeds better; but the most profitable crop is oats, of which large quantities are exported annually to Bristol and other places.

Numbers of black cattle are bred in the county, and much butter exported yearly. It has been extremely well wooded, but great waste has of late years been made of the timber; coals and limestone are plentiful, with a few lead mines.

Caermarthenshire is divided into six hundreds, containing six market-towns and 87 parishes, within the diocese of St. David, and the province of Canterbury, with 77,217 inhabitants. It returns two members to the Imperial parliament; one for the county, and one for Caermarthen.

Journey from Llandovery to St. Clare; through Caermarthen.

LLANDOVERY, or Llanymddyvri, is situated on a bank of the river Tywi, over which is a handsome bridge. The town is rather a mean, straggling place, and very irregularly built, encompassed by streams in almost every direction. It lies near the head of the upper vale of Tywi, and is bounded by a range of wild hills, which divide it from Cardiganshire. In Leland's time it had but one street, and that poorly built of thatched houses, with the parish church on a hill, near which, several roman bricks have been found.

On a mount between Boran river and Ewenni brook, are the remains of a small castle, consisting of two sides, and a deep trench, but by whom built, is uncertain. In 1113 we find it in the possession of Richard de Pws, and about that time besieged by Gruffydd ab Rhys, who, after burning the outworks, raised the siege, and retired with considerable loss. Subsequent to this, many trifling circumstances occurred, but the last action, mentioned by Caradoc took place in 1213, when Rhys, the son of Gruffydd ab Rhys, with an army of Welsh and Normans, encamped before this place with an intention to besiege it; but the governor thought it more prudent to surrender, on condition that the garrison should be permitted to march out unmolested, which was granted.

On leaving Llandovery, our road lies in a south-westerly direction, and at the distance of about eight miles, we pass on our left the town of LLANGADOC, situate between the rivers Bran and Cothi. The town is small, but lately much improved in its buildings: it is said to have been once a large town, and Thomas Beck, bishop of St. Asaph, attempted to make its church collegiate in the year 1233. In this parish is an iron manufactory, called The Beaufort Works. Here are four blast-furnaces and forges; about 250 people have been generally employed at a time. The ore is raised at the distance of half a mile, and conveyed thence by tram-roads.

Most of the neighbouring farmers and cottagers clothe themselves, with their home-made woollen cloths, striped and plaided, and woollen stockings, and have a great deal to spare to sell to more indolent counties. In the neighbourhood was an ancient castle, now entirely demolished.

About twelve miles from Llandovery, in our road, is LLANDEILO, a considerable market-town, pleasantly situate on a rising ground by the river Tawy, over which is a handsome stone bridge.

In 1213 Rhys Vychan, being fearful that Faulke, lord of Cardigan, would dispossess him of this town,

caused it to be burnt to the ground, and then had himself recourse to the woods and desert places in its vicinity.

A decisive battle is said to have been fought here in 1281, between Edward I. and Llewelyn the Great, in which, by Mortimer's manœuvre, the Welsh were defeated.

Dinevwr Castle, one mile from Llandeilo, is the grand seat of the Rice family, lately ennobled by the title of Lord Dinevor. It occupies an eminence immediately above the town, covering several undulating hills with its rich groves and verdant lawns. The castle was built by Rhys ab Theodore, in the time of William the Conqueror, who removed hither from Caermarthen, the former residence of the princes of South Wales. Its original form was circular, fortified with a double moat and rampart, having on the left side of the ascent a bulwark, with a large arch, which fell down many years ago. South of the castle are shewn the ruins of a chapel, between two round towers, and on the east side a dungeon, at the bottom of a ruined tower.

In the year 1145, Cadell, the son of Gruffydd ab Rhys, took this fortress from Gilbert, Earl of Clare. Giraldus mentions it being demolished in 1194, but soon after rebuilt with its ruins, only made to occupy a smaller extent of ground. After this, in 1205, we find it in the possession of Rhys, the son of Gruffydd ab Rhys; but in 1257, Rhys Vychan, having procured assistance, marched with an English army from Caermarthen against this fortress, which valiantly held out until Llewelyn ab Gruffydd came to its relief, when a battle ensued, wherein the English lost 2000 men, besides many barons and knights who were taken prisoners. But the demolition of this castle was completed in the Civil Wars, though not till after two batteries failed to make any impression on its garrison; a third being erected, it was reduced. The ruins were granted to Sir Rice ab Thomas, by Henry VII. for the great assistance given him on his landing

at Milford Haven, and Bosworth Field, which procured Henry the crown of England. Henry VIII. on a false charge of treason, seized this castle, but again restored it to Rhys, an ancestor of the present Lord Dinevor, who is a lineal descendant from the princes of South Wales.

In the centre, amidst rich groves and verdant lawns, stands the house, a plain modern structure; but the scenery about it is beautiful, consisting of a profusion of woods, principally of the finest oak, with some large Spanish chesnuts, descending abruptly to the bed of the river Tywi, where all the striking beauties of this enchanting tract may be enjoyed in full display of romantic scenery, while the high chain of rude unequal mountains, crossing the road at right angles, form three separate vales, widely differing from each other in form and character.

Three miles eastward from Llandeilo is Careg Cennin Castle, strongly situated on the point of a high craggy insulated rock, three sides of which are wholly inaccessible, and surrounded at moderate, but equal distances, with mountains, and roads leading to it, scarcely passable. The fortress, of which a great part is still extant, does not occupy an acre of ground, the rock scarcely admitting of that extent; but the ruins, when seen from the road between Bettws and Llandeilo, appear uncommonly singular.

This was doubtless an ancient British building; and a proof of its great antiquity may be deduced from its plan, for approaching it from the east side, we do not find the gateway, as is usual, between two towers in front; but a strong covered-way on the brink of the rock, which leads to the gates on the south side. The well in this castle is also of a singular kind; for, instead of a perpendicular descent, here is a large winding cave bored through the solid rock, with an arched passage on the northern edge of the precipice, running along the outside of the fotress, with an easy slope, to the beginning of the perforation, which is in length 84 feet. This perfo-

ration is of various dimensions; the breadth of it at the beginning is twelve feet, and in some places less than three; but at a medium, it may be estimated to be from five to six, and the height of the cave ten feet, but varying, that the whole descent through the rock is 150 feet.

There is no account or mention of this castle till 1284, when, according to Caradoc, Rhys Vychan won it from the English, to whom a short time before it was privately delivered by his mother. In 1773, some coins were turned up here by the plough, of the reigns of Elizabeth, James, and Charles I., probably concealed during the civil dissentions of the latter reign. In this neighbourhood are some remains of Llangadog and Llanymddvri Castles, frequently mentioned in British history.

At the distance of fifteen miles from Llandeilo, after passing through Abergwyli, we arrive at Caermarthen, or Caervyrddin, from its being situated on the conflux of a brook, called Byrddin, and the Tywi, on the western bank of the Tywi; and being partly on a considerable elevation, it has a striking appearance, and a commanding prospect. All the principal streets contain a large proportion of good houses, and though the streets are not regular, it is not a whit more objectionable on this ground than many of the old towns. The principal thoroughfare in the middle of the town, besides being very steep, is exceedingly narrow. The actual length of the town is about three-fourths of a mile, and about half a mile wide; it was formerly surrounded by a high wall, with fortified gates, &c. The communication with the country, on the eastward, is formed by a substantial stone bridge, of several arches, over the Tywi. A beautiful public walk at the upper end of the town, is called the Parade, which commands an extensive view of the vale. The Guildhall is situated in the middle of the town; it has a grand staircase in the front, which is highly ornamental to the structure. The county gaol occupies a part of the site of the castle, and was built on the well-intended,

but injudicious plan of the philanthropic Howard. The excellent market-place is, with great propriety, placed a small distance from the town. Since the year 1803, water has been conveyed in iron pipes into the town, from some excellent springs in the neighbourhood. There are here no manufactories of consequence, though in the vicinity are some iron and tin works on a tolerably extensive scale. Besides a fabrication of coarse hats, Caermarthen supplies the neighbouring country with shop goods of various descriptions, to a very large annual amount, and carries on an extensive export trade in corn, butter, &c. to Bristol and other ports: vessels of about 300 tons burden, are admitted to the town, and a very handsome and substantial quay has lately been built. The inns here are numerous, and some of them very good. The Ivy Bush, formerly a gentleman's residence here, may be ranked among the best inns in the principality. A very respectable newspaper has been published here for some years past. Caermarthen is a borough-town, and sends one member to parliament. Some of its privileges are very ancient, and of unknown origin, and no doubt derived from the Welsh princes, who had their chancery and exchequer here.

Caermarthen contains but one parish, and the church is dedicated to St. Peter. It is a large plain edifice, consisting of two aisles and a chancel, with a lofty square tower at the western end. The neatness of the interior is greatly improved by a handsome, fine-toned organ. The most remarkable monument here, is that of Sir Rhys ab Thomas, and his lady, on the north side of the chancel, though they were buried in the adjacent priory, where this monument was originally erected. Nearly opposite to this is another monument, bearing a most grotesque figure of a female, in the act of kneeling, and underneath a singular inscription.

Sir Richard Steele was buried in the cemetery of the Scurlocks, with whom he had been connected by marriage. His want of a monument is said to have

been owing to his dying request. Caermarthen contains several places of worship, belonging to different classes of Dissenters, and the Presbyterians have here a very respectable collegiate institution for the education of young men, for the ministry, supported by a public fund in the metropolis. Dr. Abraham Rees, the learned editor of the New Cyclopædia, has for a long period been one of the visitors. The priory here, was situated north-east of the church, in a part which formerly constituted a township of itself, called Old Caermarthen. The house stood in a large quadrangular court, entered on the north by an arched gateway, part of which still remains in Priory-street; but though this Priory existed before 1148, neither date nor founder is known. At the other end of the town, stood a house of Grey Friars; and behind the Guildhall was a church or chapel, dedicated to St. Mary, not used since the dissolution of monasteries. The remains of the castle are very inconsiderable; being taken in the civil wars, by the parliament forces under General Langhorne, it was suffered to go to decay, though till about twenty-five years ago, a part of it was used for the common gaol.

Antiquaries have generally agreed in fixing the Roman city of Maridunum here, from the junction at this point of the two grand branches of the Julian way. Caermarthen is also the reputed birth-place of the supposed Magician, and prophet Merlin. The return of the population of this place in 1811, is estimated at 7275.

About seven miles beyond Caermarthen is the village of St. Clare, where was anciently a castle. Here was likewise a priory of monks, cell to the Cluniac abbey of St. Martin de Campis in Paris, founded in the year 1291, and given by Henry VI. to All Soul's College, Oxford.

Five miles from St. Clare, stood Ty Gwyn, or White House, the ancient palace of Howel Dda, the first sovereign of all Wales. Here, in 942, he sent for the archbishop of St. David, with the rest of the

bishops and principal clergy, to the number of 140, beside the barons and principal nobility. Thus collected, in the palace of Ty Gwyn, they passed the Lent in prayer and fasting, imploring divine assistance in the design of reforming the laws. At the close of the season, the king chose twelve of the gravest and most experienced men of this assembly, who, in concert with Blegored, a very learned man, and able lawyer, he commissioned to examine the old laws, in order to retain the good, and abrogate those that were improper or unnecessary.

The commission being executed, the new laws were publicly read and proclaimed: three copies were accordingly written; one for the king's own use, the second to be laid up in his palace of Aberfraw, in North Wales, and the third at Dinevwr, in South Wales, that all the Welsh provinces might have access to them; and, as a farther confirmation of the whole, the king, with the archbishop, went to Rome, and obtained of the Pope a solemn ratification of the same, which continued in force till the conquest of Wales, in 1282, by Edward I.

Three miles south from St. Clare is LACHARN, a small village, situated at the mouth of the river Tav. It is irregularly built on a low bank of the estuary, with a ferry to Llanstephan.

Llacharn Castle was built by the Normans, before the year 1214; but fell afterwards into the possession of Llewelyn the Great. It still exhibits the fragments of an ancient keep, situated on an elevation, and surrounded by a deep moat.

Here is supposed to have been the *Lucarium* of Antoninus, called by some ancient authors Loughor, or Larn.

About three miles eastward from the last mentioned place, is Llanstephan Castle, which crowns the summit of a bold hill, whose precipitous base is washed by the sea. Its broken walls enclose a large area, and is encircled with several ramparts, appearing to have possessed considerable strength. The whole

affords a very picturesque appearance, exhibiting a wide estuary, with a rocky promontory opposite, and the boundless sea. This castle is supposed to have been built by Uchtryd, prince of Meirion, in 1138. The village is neat, and well situated in a woody valley, commanding an extensive view of the neighbouring estuary of the Tav, near its junction with the sea.

The castle was built, probably by the Normans, before 1215, and afterwards fell into the possession of Llewelyn.

Journey from Kydweli to Newcastle; through Caermarthen.

KYDWELI is a small but neat town, at a little distance from the coast, and 12 miles from Llychwr, in Glamorganshire. It is divided into what is called the Old and New Town, and only separated by a bridge over the Gwendraeth. The parish church stands in New Kydweli: it is a plain structure, consisting of only one aisle, and two ruined transepts, with a tower at the western end, surmounted by a handsome spire 165 feet in height. Over the entrance is a figure of the Virgin Mary; and in the interior a sepulchral effigy of a priest, with an illegible inscription. On the same side of the river was a priory, founded by Roger, bishop of Salisbury, for Benedictine or Black Monks, subject to the Abbey of Sherborne in Dorsetshire.

The old town, in Leland's time, was well walled, with three gates, having over one the town wall, and under it a prison. In 990 this place was almost destroyed by Edwin ab Einion, and afterwards, in 1093, it suffered considerably by the Normans, who destroyed some of the principal houses, and made a dreadful massacre of the inhabitants. The town is very much decayed, but the castle is well worthy of observation; which occupies a bold rocky eminence on the western side of the river. The exterior is still grand and imposing; the ground plan is nearly square. At each of the angles is a strong round tower; and the walls forming the enclosure, are defended by

other towers of smaller dimensions. Several of the apartments are entire, with their arched roofs unimpaired, and some of the staircases are in tolerable preservation. The principal entrance was from the west, beneath a magnificent gateway between two round lofty towers, which still remain Caradoc says, the first castle erected here, was built by William de Londres, one of the Norman Knights, who assisted Robert Fitzhamon, who in 1094 led a powerful force into Gower, Kydweli, and Ystrad Tywi. Twenty years afterwards, this castle was taken by Gruffydd, ab Rhys, who invaded the territories of the Norman lord, and made a valuable booty. A few years after, while Gruffydd was in North Wales, his wife Gwenlluant, attended by her two sons, led in person a body of troops into this neighbourhood, where she was defeated and taken prisoner, by the great grandson of William de Londres. After the engagement this heroine and several of her followers were cruelly put to death. In the course of a few years more, 1190, Rhys ab Gruffydd, after winning the castles of Abercorran, St. Clare's, and Llanstephan, made the castle of Kylweli handsomer and stronger than any of his other fortresses.

By the New Town is an ordinary harbour, nearly choaked with sand, so that only small vessels are able to approach its quay. The principal trade is coals and culm.

On leaving this town we proceed northerly, and at the distance of eight miles pass through Caermarthen, 20 miles beyond which we arrive at NEWCASTLE-IN-EMLYN, or Dinas Emlyn, on the river Teivi. It contains nothing remarkable, except the site of an ancient castle. In 1215, Llewelyn ab Iorwerth having won the castle, subdued Cemaes. The situation of this town, and the road to it from Caermarthen, is in general dreary and mountainous, which subjects the traveller to considerable danger, particularly from the numerous and interceptible turf pits with which this district abounds.

Crug-y-Dyrn, is a remarkable tumulus in Trelech parish, being in circumference sixty paces, and in height about six yards. It rises from an easy ascent, and is hollow on the top, gently inclining from the circumference to the centre.

This heap is chiefly formed of small stones covered with turf, and may properly be called a carnedd. On the top, in a small cavity, is a large flat stone, of an oval form, about three yards long, and twelve inches thick. On searching under it was found a cist vaen, or stone chest, four feet long and three broad, composed of seven stones, two at the end, and one behind. About the outside, and within the chest, some rough pieces of brick were found, also pieces of wrought freestone, with a great quantity of human bones. It is supposed to have been the burial place or sepulchre of some British chief, before the Roman conquest.

Bwrdd-Arthur, or Arthur's Tables, is on a mountain near Cil-y-maen-llwyd, consisting of circular stone monuments*. The diameter of the circle

---

* In the year 1179, the sepulchre of the celebrated King Arthur, and Gwenhwyvar his queen, were found by means of a Welsh bard, whom King Henry II. heard at Pembroke, relate, in a song, the mighty actions of that great prince, and the place where he was buried, which was found in the isle of Avalon, without Glastonbury Abbey. According to the bard, their bodies were found, laid in a hollow elder tree, interred fifteen feet in the earth. The bones of King Arthur were of a prodigious and almost incredible magnitude; having ten wounds in the skull, one of which being considerably larger than the rest, appeared to have been mortal. The queen's hair appeared quite fresh, and of a yellow colour, but when touched fell instantly to dust.

Over the bones was laid a stone, with a cross of lead, having on the lower side of the stone, this inscription:

is about 20 yards, and composed of extraordinary rude stones, pitched on their ends, at unequal intervals, of three, four, six, and eight feet high. There were originally 23 in number, but now there are only 15 standing, eight of the smallest being carried away for private purposes. The entrance, for above three yards, is guarded on each side by small stones, contiguous to each other, and opposite to this passage, at the distance of about 300 yards, stand three more, considerably larger, and more rude than the preceding.

PEMBROKESHIRE.

This county, the most western of South Wales, is bounded on the north-west by Cardigan Bay, on the north-east by the county of Cardigan, on the east by the county of Caermarthen, on the south by the Bristol Channel, and on the west by the Irish Sea. It is called by the Welsh, *Dyved* or Diametia, and *Penvro*, or the Headland. Its extent, from north to south, is about 35 miles, and from east to west 29; comprehending about 35,600 acres. It is divided into seven hundreds, containing seven towns, and 145 parishes. It is in the province of Canterbury, and diocese of St. David. The surface is, for the most part, composed of swells, or easy slopes, but not mountainous, except a ridge of hills, which runs from the coast, near Fisgard, to the borders of Caermarthenshire. These hills are called the moun-

---

"HIC JACET SEPULTUS INCLYTUS REX,
ARTHURUS IN INSULA AVALONIA."
OR,
"*Here lies buried the famous King Arthur, in the Isle of Avalon.*"

King Arthur was slain in the battle of Camlan A. D. 540.

tains, and the people distinguish the country with reference to the hills; the north side being called above the mountains, and the south side below.

The county is well watered by springs rising in the slopes, so as to give a convenient supply to the adjacent lands in general; but some parts of the coast are in want of water in the summer season, particularly where limestone is found at a moderate depth. The climate is temperate, and it rarely happens that frost continues with severity for any considerable time; nor does snow lie long upon the ground, but generally dissolves the second or third day after its fall. The prevailing state of the air is moist; and there is, probably, more rain here than in any other part of the kingdom, owing to the insular situation, and the high mountains of Caermarthenshire and Breconshire, lying eastward, which stop the current of the clouds brought by the westerly winds from the Atlantic Ocean, and occasion thereby torrents of rain to descend in Pembrokeshire whenever those winds prevail. Woods are rather scarce; particularly towards the western coast. The interior part of the country is better wooded, but the growth is for the most part slow, and the oak remarkably full of heart. The commerce of this county is very trifling, and cannot be said to have any influence on its agriculture, unless we allow the exportation of corn when it is cheap, and the importation when it is dear, to be commerce. Upon the occasion of the arrival of some respectable persons at Milford, a few years since as settlers there, some enquiry after the people, called the Welsh Indians, was excited, and the following account of their origin was referred to:

On the death of Owen Gwynedd, prince of North Wales, in 1170, there arose an alarming contention about the succession to the principality between his sons, which involved Wales for some years in a civil war. But Madawg, being of a more pacific disposition than his brothers, perceiving his inability to terminate this hostile disposition, determined to try his

fortune abroad, therefore left Wales in a very unsettled condition, and sailed with a small fleet, which he had prepared for the purpose, to the westward, leaving Ireland upon the north, till he came to an unknown country, where most things appeared to him new, and the manners of the natives different to what he had been accustomed to see in Europe. This country, says the learned H. Llwyd, must have been some part of that vast continent, of which the Spaniards, since Hanno's time, boast themselves to be the first discoverers, and which, by the order of Cosmography, seems to be some part of Nova Hispania or Florida, therefore it is evident that this country was discovered by the Britons near 329 years before the time of Columbus, or Americus Vesputius.

After divesting the subsequent part of some absurd traditions, it is manifest, says the same author, that Madawg, on his arrival, seeing the fertility and pleasantness of this new country, thought it expedient to invite more of his countrymen out of Britain, therefore left those he had brought with him, and returned for Wales.

Having arrived, he began to acquaint his friends with what a fair and extensive land he had met with, and void of inhabitants, while they at home employed their time and skill to supplant one another for a small portion of rugged rocks and sterile mountains, therefore recommended them to exchange their present state of dangers and continual warfare for one with more peace and enjoyment. By such persuasion he procured a considerable number of Welsh to emigrate with him, so gave a final adieu to his native country, and sailed back with ten ships. It is supposed that Madawg and his people inhabited part of that country, since called Florida, as the inhabitants were Christians, and worshipped the cross, before the arrival of the Spaniards, as appears by Francis Loves and Acusanus, authors of no small reputation. The learned Dr. Powell conjectures Madawg landed in a part of

Mexico, for the Spanish chronicles of the conquest of the West Indies, record a tradition of the inhabitants of that country,—that their rulers descended from a strange nation, and came there from a foreign country, which was confessed by King Montezuma, in a speech at his submission to the King of Castile, before Hernando Cortez, the Spanish general. As an additional testimony, many British words might be produced, and names of places, as, Gorando, to listen; a certain bird called Penguin; the island of Cooroso, Cape Bryton, river Gwyndor, and the white rocks of Pengwyn, which manifestly shew it to have been inhabited by Madawg and his Britons. An adtional proof is:

The purport of a letter, to Dr. Jones of Hammersmith, from his brother in America.

In the year 1797, a Welsh tradesman on the river Monangahala, near Petersburg, went down the Ohio, and from thence up the Mississippi to within sixty miles of the Missouri, to a town called Mazores.

In the month of April, as he chanced to be out among some Indians, he overheard two conversing about some skins they had to sell or exchange, and from a word or two, conceived their language to be Welsh; he listened for a few minutes, and became convinced, though much corrupted from its primitive purity.

Notwithstanding, he resolved to endeavour to converse with them, and to his great astonishment, found themselves mutually understood, with the exception of some words either original, or obsolete in Wales. He describes them to be of a robust stature, and dressed from head to foot, in the skins of some animals, but no kind of shirt. Their complexion was of a copper colour, similar to other Indians, with strong black hair, but no beard, except about the mouth.

By them he understood they came from a long way up the Missouri, and had been about three months coming to the place where he found them. In conse-

quence of the preceding, John Evans, a young man, well acquainted with the language, has been in quest of the Welsh Indians, but without success, not having penetrated more than 900 miles up the Missouri before compelled to return, in consequence of a war among the natives. It is conjectured that our Cambro-Indians inhabit a territory nearly 1800 or 2000 miles up that river. A second trial was meditated, but before executed John Evans died, consequently no new discovery has been attempted. A great number of additional particulars, however, are constantly received, proving the existence of the Welsh Indians.

The principal river is the Cleddau, east and west, which, rising in the northern part, unite at a small distance from Milford Haven.

It sends three members to the Imperial parliament, viz. one for the county, and two for the towns of Pembroke and Haverfordwest.

Journey from Pembroke to Fisgard; through Haverfordwest.

Pembroke, the borough town, consists principally of one long street, reaching from the east gate to the west, with a short cross street leading to the north gate. It was once surrounded by a lofty wall, in which were three gates; one at each end of the main street, and one on the north, which alone remains with a portion of the wall, flanked with several bastions of very solid masonry. The town stands on an arm of Milford Haven, and built on a rocky situation. The castle was built by Henry the First, and covers the whole of a great mount, which descends in a perpendicular cliff on each side, except towards the town, where it is almost encompassed by one of those winding estuaries, which being fed by some small rivers, penetrate into the county towards Milford Haven. The castle stands near the wall, on a rock, and is very large and strong, besides double warded. In the outer ward is the chamber where Henry the Seventh was born, in remembrance of which a chim-

ney is now built, with his arms and badges. In the bottom of the large round tower, in the inner ward, is a vault, called the Hogan. The top of this tower is gathered with a roof like a cone, and covered with a mill-stone, but the greater part is now in ruins or decay.

The remains are of Norman architecture, mixed with early Gothic, and the principal tower, which is uncommonly high, has still its stone-vaulted roof remaining. The walls of the tower are four feet thick, and the diameter of the space within 25, the height from the ground to the dome 75 feet; but it appears, that its height was originally divided by four floors.

In 1648, Colonels Langhorne, Powell, and Poyer, being displeased with the parliament, declared for the king, and held this town and castle four months; but Cromwell obliged them to surrender, and afterwards dismantled the castle. Some round stones fired for the purpose of shivering the pavement, have been found in the area, now a bowling-green. Many bones of the besiegers, killed in a pursuit, and buried on St. Cyrian's Hills, two miles from Tenby, were found in 1761.

Here was a priory, founded for Benedictines, by the Earl of Pembroke in 1093, afterwards a cell to St. Alban's, and at its dissolution, valued at 57*l.*

There are here two churches, St Michael's, near the eastern extremity of the town, and St. Mary's, in the vicinity of the northern gate. They are both of them ancient structures, but are distinguished by no peculiarity or excellence. In the suburb of Monkton, to the westward of Pembroke, stands the church of St. Nicholas, the oldest religious edifice probably belonging to the place. Pembroke boasts no manufactory, and notwithstanding it possesses many local advantages for trade, its commercial importance is at this time extremely insignificant. It is perhaps the dullest town in South Wales, and the effect of this on the public accommodations of the place, is sensibly felt by all casual visitors, who have looked in

vain in the metropolis of the county, for a comfortable bed and board for a night.

Pembroke contained in 1811, 501 houses, with a population of 2415 persons. It is a borough town, having separate jurisdiction, and in conjunction with Tenby and Wiston, returns one member to parliament. The mayor is the returning officer, besides whom, the corporation consists of a council, two bailiffs, and sergeants at mace, and about 1500 burgesses. The petty sessions for the hundred are held here.

Near this town is Stackpool Court, the elegant mansion of Lord Cawdor, surrounded with fine plantations; and on the coast contiguous, is the chapel and legendary well of St. Govin, reputed to be miraculous for the cure of various diseases incident to man.

Two miles off is LAMPHEY, a pleasant village, situate on a gentle ascent, but chiefly noticed for the ancient palace of the bishop of St David's, afterwards a seat of the Earl of Essex, and at present tolerably entire, with some features of Gothic elegance.

MILFORD HAVEN appears like an immense lake, formed by a great advance of the sea into the land, for the space of about ten miles from the south to Pembroke, beyond which the tide comes up to Carew Castle. It is sufficiently large and capacious to hold the whole British navy; while the spring tides rise 36 feet, and the neap above 26. Ships may leave this harbour in the course of an hour, and in eight or nine more reach Ireland or the Land's End, and this with almost any wind, day or night.

There is no place in Great Britain or Ireland where nature has bestowed more conveniences for the building of ships of war, and for erecting forts, docks, quays, and magazines than Milford, being of greater extent and depth of water than any port in the kingdom. There are, besides, several places where forts might be erected at a very small expence,

which would render it secure from any attack of an enemy, as on Stack Rock Island, situate near the middle of the entrance, on each side of which the landing is bad, except at high water. This rock may be made impregnable against cannon or bombs, being 30 feet at least above high water. And on Rat Island a small battery would render it impossible for an enemy's ship of war to enter. For his majesty's fleets, cruisers, trading ships, and packet-boats to the West Indies and North America, this harbour is undoubtedly the most proper in Great Britain, because they may go to sea at almost any wind, and even at low water, by the help of the tides of the two channels, and weather Scilly or Cape Clear, when ships cannot come out of the British Channel, nor out of the French ports of Brest and Rochefort.

Another great advantage might be made of this harbour, by a few small transports of 120 or 150 tons burthen, running occasionally from thence to the bay, with live horned cattle, hogs, sheep, and fowls; potatoes, vegetables, and good wholesome beer, plenty of which is to be had in this port, for the use of fleets. This will appear more eligible when it is known to be fact, that the live stock may be conveyed to such fleets in less than one half the time they are driven from Wales to Sussex, and in better condition.

This vast harbour appears perfectly land-locked on all sides, except towards its mouth, where the shores contracting the channel, and turning abruptly to the south-east, present an aperture that might be well defended by judicious planned fortresses.

The first attempt to fortify this harbour was made by Queen Elizabeth, early in the year 1588, to protect this part of the kingdom from the threatened Spanish invasion: two forts were then erected, one on each side of the mouth of the harbour. They were dug in the cliffs, not far above the high water mark, the ruins of which are still visible, and are called Angle and Dale Blockhouses, from where

tradition says, strong chains were thrown across the entrance of the harbour, a distance of about 300 yards.

Since a royal dock-yard, &c. have been formed at Milford Haven, there can be no doubt that government will amply avail themselves of all the advantages of this excellent situation in due time. As for the possibility of an enemy's landing, concerning which, some writers have entertained very alarming apprehensions, they seem to forget, that whilst England maintains her wonted superiority at sea, these, instead of being indulged, ought to vanish "into air, into thin air."

Returning from this digression, on leaving Pembroke, we proceed in a north-easterly direction, and at the distance of four miles, pass Carew Castle, situate on a gentle swell above an arm of Milford Haven. Its remains indicate it to have been a stately fortress, and the work of different ages. The north side of the castle exhibits the mode of building in the time of Henry VIII. but scarcely castellated. From the level of this side the windows are square, and of grand dimensions, projecting in large bows, and internally richly ornamented with a chimney-piece of Corinthian columns, which appears among the latest decorations of this magnificent edifice. The great hall, built in the decorated Gothic style, measuring 80 feet by 30, is much dilapidated, but still a noble relic of antique grandeur. Other parts of the building are of a more remote date, and most of the walls seem remarkably thick, and of solid masonry. It was formerly the property of Girald de Carrio, and his descendants, until Edmund mortgaged the castle to Sir Rhys ab Thomas. It was afterwards forfeited to Henry the Eighth, who granted it to Sir John Perrot, but soon after purchased by Sir John Carew, in whose family it still remains. It was, according to Leland, rebuilt by Rhys ab Thomas, in the reign of Henry the Seventh, consisting of a range of apartments, erected round a quadrangle, with a round

tower at each corner. The north has a noble hall, 102 feet by 20, built by Sir John Perrot, who entertained here the Duke of Ormond, in the year 1553, and afterwards retired to it at the expiration of his deputyship in Ireland. On the west side of the gateway are the arms of England, Duke of Lancaster, and Carew, with an elegant room contiguous.

About one mile south-west from Carew is the village of LAMPHEY, or Llanfai, where, among some pleasant fields, may be seen the ruins of a palace, which formerly belonged to the Bishop of St. David; but the greater part was built by Bishop Gower in 1315, and destroyed in the civil wars.

Here is a great hall, 76 feet by 20, ascended by steps from without, and another beyond it, 60 feet by 26, with the chancel of the chapel, and a round tower. The whole had a moat round with a bridge, but now, only the south gate remains. Adjoining this place is a fine deer park, belonging to the Lord Marcher, but since, the property of the Owen family of Orielton.

About three miles south-east from Carew is the ruins of Maenorbyr Castle, wildly situate between two hills, whose rocky bases repel the fury of an angry sea. It appears to have been of Norman erection, and fell to the crown in the reign of Henry the First, but granted by James the First to the Bowens of Trelogne; from them it descended by marriage to the family of Picton Castle, and in the year 1740, was the property of Sir Erasmus Philips, Bart. The ponderous towers and massive fragments of the castle, denote its original strength and importance to have been considerable

Seven miles south-east of Carew is the town of TENBY, or Dinbych, from its being singularly situate on the steep ascent of a long and narrow rock, with the bay on one side, and the western coast on the other, being only divided by a narrow tract of sand, occasionally overflowed by the sea. The extraordinary intermixture of wood, rocks, and houses, together with the lofty

spire of its church, give the place a very romantic appearance; but the extensive sea-views have a still more pleasing effect. The beauty of its situation, and its fine sands, have exalted Tenby from an obscure sea-port into a considerable town, where the influx of company is often very great; in consequence of which it has received great improvement, and is embellished with several good modern buildings, and a commodious hotel.

This town has been well walled, with strong gates, each having a portcullis; but that leading to Caermarthen is the most remarkable, being circled on the outside with an embattled but open-roofed tower, after the manner of Pembroke. It has of late years become a place of considerable resort as a watering-place. During the summer months the convenience for bathing is great, and the accommodation good, which, with the reasonableness of the terms, will not fail to ensure a regular succession of company. The beach is covered with a fine sand, and sheltered by cliffs behind and in front by high rocks, rising out of the sea, affording a desirable seclusion to persons bathing, while it protects the machines in boisterous weather. The public boarding tables and lodgings are better and much cheaper than at Swansea.

Here are public assemblies once a week, balls frequently, with cards, bowling, fishing, and aquatic excursions daily, with a public promenade round the castle, and another called the Croft. The port is small, defended by a short pier, built a few years since, for the defence of fishing smacks, and other small craft moored within it.

In the extremity of the town, stands the castle, which has more the appearance of a nobleman's residence than a place of defence. The walls are very thick, and built with stones of a large size.

The church is a large handsome edifice, of very ancient appearance. The western door exhibits a very curious mixture of the Gothic or Sarcenic style of architecture, and is perhaps one of the largest

buildings in the principality, consisting of three broad aisles, nearly of the same dimension, except the nave, which is rather higher, and prolonged beyond the former two.

A carved ceiling, formed of wood, ornamented at the intersection of the ribs, with various armorial bearings, and supported by human figures springing from pillars of wood, is a remarkable singularity in this edifice. Here are several fine old monuments, particularly two of gypsum, with the sides highly ornamented with good basso-relievos, and at the west end is another, erected to the memory of John Moore, in 1639.

Near Tenby shore are the small islands of St. Catharine and Caldy.

Resuming our road, at a distance of about eight miles from Carew Castle, we arrive at Arberth, or Narbeth, which Leland calls "a little place, a little pretty pile of old Sir Rhys, given unto him by King Henry the Eighth." It is a poor little village, and by it is a small forest.

On entering Arberth, the old castle stands on an emince on the right, which affords a fine object for the artist. As a piece of romantic scenery, it affords considerable pleasure to the contemplative antiquary, while the turrets which separate the keep from its exterior, evince it to have been extremely grand and cumbrous in its ancient state. By whom or when this castle was erected, is uncertain; but Leland describes it to be in ruins, in his time. From here to Caermarthen the roads are very good; but extremely bad to Kydweli, Llanstephan, and Tenby.

About one mile from Arberth, we take a westerly direction, and at the distance of about eight miles we pass through HAVERFORDWEST, or in Welsh, Hwlffordd, a large town, descending in several steep streets from the top of a high hill to a branch of the haven, from whence it derives its commercial importance, and might be properly called the modern capital of the

county; it is also become, from its great extent and superior decorations, the seat of the grand sessions, besides having the appearance of greater opulence and trade than falls to the lot of most Welsh towns.

The streets are in general very narrow and crooked, and some of them so exceedingly steep, that they cannot be traversed on horseback or in carriages, without danger. There are here a considerable number of good houses occupied by substantial tradesmen, opulent professional men, and families of fortune; these in some measure compensate for the inconvenience of avenues almost uniformly steep and slippery, with the ground floors in some parts overlooking the neighbouring roofs.

The principal public building is the Guildhall, a modern erection situated in the upper part of the town. Here is also a good quay, a custom-house, free school, charity school, and alms-house. Of its three churches, that of St. Mary is the most elegant. There is here no manufacture entitled to particular notice, though the population amounts to upwards of 3000 persons, occupying 652 houses.

The town was formerly fortified by a strong wall or rampart, having on the western summit the shell of an extensive castle, commanding the town, and built by Gilbert Earl of Clare, in the reign of Stephen: a great part is still remaining, lately converted into a gaol. It had formerly an outer gate and two portcullises, and an inner one. The walls were fortified with towers, supposed to have been destroyed in the civil wars. A good parade here commands an extensive view of the neighbouring county, and the ruins of the ancient abbey, extending a considerable way by the side of the hill. At the extremity of this walk are the ruins of an ancient priory of Black Canons, erected before the year 1200, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Thomas, the martyr, endowed, if not founded, by Robert de Haverford, lord of this place, who bestowed on it several churches and tythes within the barony, afterwards confirmed by Edward

the Third. The remains are now very considerable, particularly the chapel, which has still one arch in good preservation, and beautifully inwreathed with a rich drapery of ivy, and some fine specimens of Gothic workmanship.

The river Cleddau, the western stream of that name on which the town is built, is navigable as high as the bridge for ships of small burden. Other commercial facilities are afforded by the situation of the town on the great western road, having the London mail coach passing through it every day. On the northern side of the river lies the suburb of Prendergast, containing the remains of an ancient mansion, formerly occupied by a family of that name: Maurice de Prendergast, who went with Earl Strongbow into Ireland, was the last who held the property. Henry the First gave to a number of Flemish emigrants the headland of Gwyr, in Glamorganshire, and parts of the county of Pembroke adjoining to Tenby.

Four miles south of Haverfordwest are the remains of a priory called Pilla, or Pille Rose, situate in the parish of Stanton, and founded by Adam de Rupe, about the year 1200, for monks of the order of Trione, afterwards Benedictines. At the dissolution it was granted to R. and T. Barlow.

At the distance of five miles south-east is Picton Castle, the seat of Lord Milford, whose extensive domains cover a great tract of country. This residence was built by William Picton, a Norman knight, in the reign of William Rufus. During the civil wars, Sir Richard Philips made a long and vigorous defence in it for Charles the First. The extensive plantations which environ this seat, render the whole a beautiful retreat.

Three miles north from Picton Castle is Weston, a small corporate town, with a good market for corn and other provisions. It was formerly defended by a magnificent castle; but many years neglected, though now rendered habitable, and the internal part mo-

dernised, which renders the whole an agreeable residence.

This little territory, together with Gwyr, or Gower, a headland of Glamorganshire, the English often call "Little England beyond Wales," because their language and manners are still distinguishable from the Welsh; for, in point of speech, they assimilate with the English.

The descendants of the west of Pembrokeshire used seldom to intermarry with the Welsh. The short cloak used, called the *whittle*, is said to have originated here.

Returning to our road, on leaving Haverfordwest, our route lies in a northerly direction; and, at the distance of about eleven miles, we arrive at Abergwaen, or FISGARD, which stands on a steep rock, with a convenient harbour, formed by the Gwaen river, and overhanging an exceeding high mountain, along the side of which is cut a narrow road, scarcely wide enough to admit two horses a-breast, and without any fence between it and the sea.

This port, excepting Holyhead, is the only one from the Mersey to the Severn, whose entrance is bold and safe, not obstructed by shoals or bars, and has been proved to be an object of national attention. Mr. Spence, an engineer from the board of admiralty, has surveyed the bay and harbour, and made an estimate for building a pier, as a means of protecting the trade of the Irish Channel, and much approved of by the Dublin and Liverpool merchants. Fisgard road lies within the Irish Channel, and is the next northernmost place of safety to Milford, except Studwall's Road, which is seventeen leagues farther to the north; but Fisgard is safe from all winds and weather. The extent of the bay, from east to west, is about three miles, and from north to south one and three quarters, and the general depth of water from thirty to seventy feet, according to the distance from the shore. The bottom of the bay is sand mixed with mud, so that

ships of the largest size may anchor in all parts of it in perfect safety, to the number of one hundred sail, large and small. The harbour is of an irregular form, but capacious and easy of access, having neither bar nor rock at its entry, which is about eleven hundred and sixty feet wide, and about two thousand four hundred in length, and only requires a pier to render it commodious and secure.

The principal exports are oats and butter. The imports are shop goods from Bristol, culm, coal, lime, and timber. Here is carried on a general fishery, but not to the fullest extent of which it is capable.

Fisgard is properly divided into the upper and lower town. The upper is situated on a considerable eminence above the harbour, containing the church, market-place, shops, and inns; the lower occupies the eastern side of the river and port, in a single and double row of buildings of a considerable length, from south to north, and bounded by the pier, possessing all the advantages for trade, with about 400 houses, and 2000 inhabitants.

The appearance of this place is very unprepossessing; the houses are generally of a very mean description, and ill constructed, and the streets formed with so total a disregard to symmetry and plan, that they are seriously inconvenient, being scarcely passable for carriages of any description. The road leading from the upper to the lower town, is however an object of some curiosity, being cut in a winding direction along the edge of a precipitous hill, and affording a fine view of the bay and harbour. The church is small, without spire or steeple. The population has been increased by the advantages of the port for fishing, particularly in herrings, which furnishes the major part of them with the means of subsistence.

It has still the ruins of an old castle, built by the descendants of Martin de Tours, wherein Rhys ab Gruffydd, prince of South Wales, was confined.—The castle was demolished by Llewelyn, when in the

possession of the Flemings, and has now only the gateway left. Between the church and the river is a vast stone of nine tons weight, and about nine feet diameter, resting on others, forming a cromlech. In the neighbourhood are several of the latter, or cist-vaens, contained within the circuit of sixty yards, and standing near the road side.

Fisgard is rendered memorable, likewise, by the French invasion, near Llananno church, where they landed on February 22, 1797, to the number of about fourteen hundred men. On this occasion the greatest exertions were used by the chief men of the county, to collect what small force they could, which arrived at Fisgard the same evening; consisting of as under:

The Pembrokeshire fencibles	100
Part of the Cardiganshire militia	200
Fisgard and Newport fencibles	300
Lord Cawdor's troop of cavalry	60
	660

These men, though properly trained to the use of the musquet, had never seen one fired in anger, but many of the officers had been long in the service, and were experienced in the art of war. To these must be added a great many gentlemen volunteers and colliers, and the common people of all descriptions, armed and unarmed; the whole of which were very judiciously placed on Goodick Sands, under Fisgard. Fortunately, on the following evening, about ten o'clock, a French officer arrived, with offers to surrender in the morning, which they punctually did, and gave up their arms; from hence they were marched to Haverfordwest, and confined in different places, as the castle, church, and store-houses, but soon after removed to Milford, and put in prison ships. Thus ended this singular expedition, the object of which remains enveloped in mystery; but it is evident something more was intended than effected, by the quantity of powder brought with them, amounting to about

seventy cart-loads, and a great number of hand-grenades.

About six miles east from Fisgard, is NEWPORT, a small corporate town, seated at the foot of a high hill, near the sea-shore.

It contains about two hundred houses, and good paved streets; and the church is a decent structure. Here the river Nevern is navigable, and runs by one end of the town, afterwards empties itself into the Bristol Channel; but the trade of this place is very inconsiderable. In the church-yard and near the town are several Druidical sepulchres and altars, one of which is above nine feet in diameter, of a conical form, and well-preserved, considering in what period it was probably erected.

The castle is an interesting ruin rising in baronial pomp above the town. It was entered by a grand gateway placed between two bastions on the north side; the whole was surrounded by a deep moat. The lord of Cemaes held his courts here, and the town had its corporate privileges, being governed by a mayor, aldermen, recorder, bailiffs, and other inferior officers.

Ten miles east from Newport is Kilgeran, or Cilgeraint, which consists of one irregular street; it stands on a steep hill, at the extremity of a remote corner of Pembrokeshire, and has some remains of an old castle at the extremity of a long street, projecting proudly over the river, which winds beautifully between the steep banks, thickly fringed with wood, and interspersed with rocks, while the opposite seat and groves of Coedmor, add considerably to the natural beauty of the prospect.

The chief remains of this fortress consist of two round towers of large proportions and great strength; there are also fragments of several massive bastions, connected by curtain walls, the direction of which is regulated by the form of the rock on which the castle stands. The inner ward is of great extent, and parts of it are in tolerable preservation. The prevalence

of the circular arch bespeaks the Norman origin of the edifice. History is silent respecting the first construction of this place; but it has been generally supposed that Gilbert Strongbow, on his conquest of Dyved, about the year 1109, raised a fortress here for the defence of his newly acquired possessions.

When this became a military station is not known; but Rhys, prince of South Wales, took the castle in 1164, and razed it to the ground; afterwards rebuilt it in 1165, wherein he was besieged by a numerous army of Normans and Flemings, without success. In 1205 it was surrendered to William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, and restored to Llewelyn ab Iorwerth in 1215; but on the defeat of Gruffydd, the son of Llewelyn ab Iorwerth, near Kydweli, the Earl again took possession, and began to build a very strong castle: but being recalled to London by Henry the Third, before the completion, it was never finished.

By this village runs the river Teivi, which generally affords the traveller some curious observations, particularly upon the numerous coracles, which stand at almost every door. The construction of this little water conveyance is remarkably simple, and intended solely for the use of fishing. A thick skin, or coarse pitched canvas, stuck over a kind of wicker basket, forms the boat, which one man manages with the greatest adroitness imaginable, using his right hand to the paddle, his left in conducting the net, at the same time holding the line with his teeth. Two of these coracles generally co-operate to assist each other in fishing. These usually measure about five feet long, and four broad, rounded at the corners, which, after the labour of the day, are carried on the fisherman's back to his little cot, and deemed a necessary and respectable ornament to the cottage door.

About seven miles west from Kilgeran, and one mile north-west from Newport, is NEVERN, a small village, possessed of nothing remarkable, except a very curious British cross noticed by Camden, being a single stone of a square form, two feet broad, eighteen

thick, and thirteen high; the whole richly decorated with knots and fretwork, not unlike the cross at Carew. The top is circular, charged with a cross; below it, on the east and west, arc crosses; and about the middle an inscription.

On the north side of the same church-yard was another rude, irregular-shaped stone, about two yards high, with the following inscription:

VITATIANI EMERITI.

This evidently belonged to some Roman veteran; but this and the other stone have been removed. The church at Nevern is a venerable pile of building, and one of the largest in the county.

Near Pentre-Evan, in the same parish, is a remarkable cromlech, with many other curiosities of less notice.

Two miles north from Nevern is St. Dogvael Abbey, founded in a vale encompassed by hills, for Benedictines, in the time of William the Conqueror, and valued at 37*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* Some ruins of the chapel remain. In the latter was found a stone with an unintelligible inscription, but by the characters thought to be British. In the neighbourhood are many barrows, with urns, &c. The most remarkable are in Cemaes barony, and on a mountain, called Kil Rhedyn.

About fifteen miles south-west from Fisgard, and the same distance from Haverfordwest, is the city of St. David's, situate in a deep hollow, and well sheltered from the winds which ravage this stormy coast.

However, such is the situation of this place, that in approaching from the eastward, none of the buildings are to be seen at any distance; and while the traveller, calculating his progress by the mile-stones he has passed, is anxiously looking for the object of his search, he finds himself unexpectedly in the middle of the principal street. But as he has on each side of him, only a broken row of miserable cottages, with here and there a structure of more respectable ap-

pearance, he would scarcely suspect that he had reached his destination, were he not presented in front with a glimpse of the top of the cathedral tower, rising from the narrow and concealed valley in which the venerable edifice is situated. Whoever visits St. David's, with such expectations as the ideas usually associated with the title of a city, are calculated to excite, will be sure to experience a most grievous disappointment; for no collection of houses, aspiring to the rank of a town, can exhibit a more wretched and squalid appearance; nevertheless, it still bears marks of its former extent in the names of several streets and lanes that may yet be traced out by the ruins of the houses and the foundations of walls. The modern city, without the cathedral precincts, is principally composed of the High Street, which is one of considerable width. In an open space, near its western extremity, stands an ancient cross, around which the market was held while it lasted. Fairs are still held here annually; but the want of an inn has been generally complained of by travellers, till this was happily remedied in the year 1811, when a neat and comfortable house of entertainment was opened, and provided with the valuable appendage of stabling.

The ground occupied by the Cathedral, the houses of the resident ecclesiastics, with the cemetery, gardens, &c. was enclosed by a lofty wall of nearly a mile in circuit, and was entered by four strong and handsome gateways. The East Gate stands at the bottom of the High-street, and corresponds with its Welsh name of *Porth y Tŵr*, the tower gate being placed between two high towers. One of these was an octagon about sixty feet, the interior divided into stories. The other tower is thought to have been appropriated to the town corporation. From this spot a delightful view embraces the whole of the Cathedral precincts, with St. Mary's College, the Bishop's palace, &c. The Cathedral is a large Gothic structure, built in the form of a cross, and having a lofty square tower, surmounted by handsome pinnacles at each corner,

rising from the middle at the intersection of the north and south transepts. The common entrance is through a porch on the south side; but the principal one is through a grand door-way at the west end, called the Bishop's door, only used on occasions of ceremony. There is another door-way of Saxon architecture, on the north side at the west-end of the cloisters. The interior comprises a nave, and two side aisles, the choir and chancel: the former is divided from these, by a row of handsome columns alternately round and octagon, five in number, with corresponding pilasters at each end, supporting six elegant Saxon arches. Over these is a range of smaller Saxon pillars supporting other arches of less dimensions, reaching to the roof. The ceiling of the nave is of Irish oak, divided into square compartments, and justly admired for the elegance of its workmanship. The entire length of this part of the church is one hundred and twenty-four feet; the width of the nave between the pillars thirty-two; and the side aisles, eighteen. At the upper end of the nave a flight of steps conduct to the choir, which is entered by an arched passage under the rood loft. The screen is of irregular Gothic architecture, and very beautiful. The choir is placed immediately under the tower, which is supported by four large arches, three Gothic and one Saxon, but all of them springing from Saxon pillars. The west and south arches are now walled up. The organ, instead of being as usual placed on the rood loft, under the western arch, is placed under the northern. The Bishop's throne is near the upper end of the choir on the right-hand side, and is of exquisite workmanship. The stalls, twenty-eight in number, are placed on the north, west, and south sides. The floor is formed of small square tiles of variegated colours. The chancel is separated from the choir by a low screen. On the north side is the shrine of St. David, having four recesses in which the votaries used to deposit their offerings. The north transept was occupied by St. Andrew's chapel, and the south by the Chanter's Cha-

pel. Behind the stalls in St. Andrew's Chapel is a dark room, supposed to have been a penitentiary; in the wall are small holes, probably to enable the culprits to hear the voices of the officiating priests. Adjoining to it, on the east, is the old Chapter House, and over it the public school-room. The aisles north and south of the chancels are roofless, and in a ruinous condition. Beyond the chancel, to the eastward, is the chapel of Bishop Vaughan, built by him in the reign of Henry VIII., and exhibiting a striking specimen of the florid Gothic. St. Mary's Chapel, at the extreme eastern end of the Cathedral buildings, has been roofless some years. This Cathedral is enriched by a considerable number of ancient monuments; some of them curious in their kind, as specimens of art. Bishop Vaughan was buried in the chapel that bears his name; and in St. Mary's chapel, under a rich Gothic canopy, is the tomb of its founder, Bishop Martin; and opposite to this, a monument assigned to Bishop Houghton; but, like several others, they are in a ruinous state.

All that is left of St. Mary's College, on the north side of the Cathedral, is the chapel, sixty-nine feet in length, and about twenty-four in width. The windows were originally ornamented with painted glass; but the chapel being built over a vaulted apartment of the same dimensions, was converted into a charnel-house, which at present wears a most gloomy appearance. At the west end is a square tower, seventy feet high. The houses belonging to the establishment occupied the ground on the north and west, on both sides the river Alan, which washes the western end of the chapel. This collegiate institution was founded in 1365, by John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and Adam Houghton, then bishop of the diocese, for a master and seven fellows.

The bishop's palace, to the south-west of the Cathedral on the opposite shore of the Alan, seems originally to have formed a complete quadrangle, enclosing an area of one hundred and twenty feet square; but only

two of the sides remain. The grand gateway is now in ruins. The hall was sixty-seven feet long, by twenty-five; and at the north end was a large drawing-room, and beyond this a chapel. At the south-end of the hall stood the kitchen; in the middle of which was a low pillar, from which sprang four groins, which were gradually formed into chimnies. This curious work is now a heap of ruins. A noble apartment on the south-west side of the palace, was called King John's Hall, being ninety-six feet long, and thirty-three wide. In the east end of this was a circular window of singular and curious workmanship. Above an arched door-way which was the entrance, are the statues of Edward the Third and his Queen. A chapel attached to the hall stood at the north-west corner; and a small portion of one of the bishop's apartments, covered by a temporary roof, inhabited by some poor people, heightened the picture of desolation which the place exhibits. This palace was erected by Bishop Gower, about the year 1328, and was a noble monument of his taste and liberality. To the west of the large cemetery is a fantastical building, fitted up some years since for a chapter-house, and audit room, and which obstructs one of the finest views of the church. The houses of the resident clergy, are within the precincts; and that of the archdeacon of Brecknock is of an ancient date.

The precise origin of this city, and its cathedral, cannot be ascertained, but it appears to have been of considerable importance in the time of the ancient Britons. The first account of this cathedral commences in 911, when the Danes, under Uther and Rahald, destroyed it, and slew its defender, Peredur Gam. It was soon rebuilt, but again much defaced by Swaine, the son of Harold, in 993, who likewise slew Morgenau, then bishop of that diocese. This appears to have been the last transaction of importance till 1079, when William the Conqueror, entering Wales with a great army, marched, after the manner

of a pilgrimage, as far as St. David's, when having made an offering, and paid his devotion to that saint, he received homage of the princes of the country.

In 1087, a most daring sacrilege was committed at St. David's; all the plate, with other utensils, belonging to the shrine, being stolen.

It is only necessary to add to the history of this celebrated place, that after Bishop Vaughan's death, and his successor, Rawlins, Bishop Barlow, who followed him, commenced a system of dilapidation merely for the purpose of furnishing himself with reasons to lay before the King, to induce him to consent to his removing the see to Caermarthen. With this view he alienated the church lands, stripped the lead from the castle of Lawhaden, and the palace at St. David's, besides other acts of spoliation. The unroofing of St. Mary's chapel was the work of the fanatics in the seventeenth century. Though some of Bishop Barlow's successors have felt properly zealous for the honor of the diocese, there has been ample room for more exertions of this kind. In consequence of the foundation of the north wall giving way, it was some years since found necessary to support it, on the outside, by strong abutments of masonry. The west front of the cathedral was, by order of Bishop Horsley, taken down and rebuilt under the direction of Mr. Nash, the architect. Under the succeeding diocesan, the nave has been new flagged and new paved, and the beauty of the front of the rood loft, greatly improved, by restoring a part that had been concealed by boards. Some curious fragments of antiquity also discovered in removing the old pavement of the nave, have been carefully preserved.

CARDIGANSHIRE.

THIS county, called by the Welsh, *Caredigion*, and now more generally *Swydd Aber Teivi*, is bounded on the north by the counties of Merioneth and Montgo-

mery, on the east by Radnor and Brecknock, on the south by Caermarthen and Pembroke, and on the west by the Irish Sea; being about 40 miles in length, 20 in breadth, and 100 in circumference; containing five hundreds, six market towns, and 64 parishes, in the diocese of St. David, with 50,260 inhabitants.

The sea has made great encroachments on this county, even within the memory of man, and tradition speaks of a well inhabited country, stretching far into the Irish channel, which has been overwhelmed by the sea. Of an extensive tract, formerly *Cantrev Gwaelod*, or Lowland Hundred, nothing now remains but two or three miserable villages, and a good deal of ground, in high estimation for barley.

On the shore, between Aberystwyth and the river Dee, after stormy weather, the trunks of large groves of trees are frequently discovered. In many places the roots appear so thick and uniformly planted in circles, and parallel lines, that the shore resembles much an extensive forest cut down, though black, and hard as ebony. This has been at least a well-wooded and fertile country.

Sea-weed is the manure made use of, and the quality of the grain is such, that it is sent to the adjacent counties for seed-corn. This county may be properly divided into two districts, the Lower and the Upland. Of the lower district, the higher grounds are in general a light sandy loam, varying in depth, from a foot to four or five inches; the substratum, a slaty kind of rock, however, produces when judiciously treated, good crops of turnips, potatoes, barley, and clover; the ground in the vallies is very deep, and, with some few exceptions, very dry; yielding good crops of hay for many years, without surface manure, which is scarcely ever thought of until it is exhausted and becomes mossy, and then it is turned up. The climate is much more mild than the midland counties of England; snow seldom lies long. The soil of the upper district is various, owing to the unequal surface; in the vallies it is chiefly a stiff clay, with a mixture of a

light loam. Barley and oats are the principal grain of the county. Wheat is commonly sown; but in a less proportion than the other two. The exports of Cardiganshire are black cattle, taken to Kent and Essex, pigs and salt butter, besides barley and oats, to Bristol and Liverpool. Of its rivers, the principal are, the Rheidiol, Ystwyth, Clywedog, and Teivi. It also abounds in river and sea fish, of several kinds, and the Teivi is famous for a great plenty of excellent salmon.

These streams, with many others in the mountainous tracts of Wales, are in dry weather mere shallow brooks, yet by rains are often swelled to furious torrents, bearing down every thing before them, and tearing up even the soil of the vallies, which they fill with gravel and stones. Several of them rise in the sides of Pumlumon.

Coals, and other fuel, are extremely scarce; but in the northern parts, and near Aberystwyth, are several rich lead mines, and some silver ore.

Journey from Cardigan to Aberystwyth; through Llansanfraid.

Cardigan, or in Wesh, Aberteivi, is pleasantly situate near the mouth of the river Teivi, and protected from the sea by a long projecting hill. The town is tolerably well built, and bears a neat aspect, notwithstanding the declivity of its streets, which are connected with the opposite bank of the Teivi by a handsome stone bridge, where large vessels can easily approach its quay. The town may be called large and populous, and regularly built. At the end of the bridge is a chapel, said to be erected on the spot where Giraldus preached the crusade.

The Town-hall, where the assizes for the county are held twice a year, is a handsome modern edifice, built in the year 1764. In 1793, a new county gaol was erected by Mr. Nash; a very excellent structure, in all respects well adapted for its purpose. Here is also a free grammar school, endowed by Lady

Letitia Cornwallis, who married for her second husband, John Morgan, esq. of this town. The church is a venerable substantial building, with a handsome square tower at the west end. The interior consists of a spacious nave, with an elegant chancel, of considerable older date than the body of the church. It contains no monuments of consequence. Near the eastern end of the church stood the Priory, of which Leland observes, there were only two religious men in it, black monks. It was a cell to the abbey of Chertsey, in Surrey. Its revenues were about 13*l.* 4*s.* and 9*d.* An elegant modern mansion now occupies the site of the house, which in the reign of Charles I. had been the residence of Mrs. Catherine Philips, the celebrated Orinda.

Cardigan Castle, built by Gilbert de Clare, in the reign of Henry the Second, on an eminence near the Teivi, seems to have been an extensive building, and of great importance in the time of our Welsh princes. "In 1176, at Christmas, Prince Rhys, of South Wales, made a great feast at Cardigan Castle, which he caused to be published through England, Scotland, and Ireland, some time previous; accordingly many hundreds of English and Normans came, and were courteously entertained. Among other tokens of their welcome, Rhys made offers of reward to all the bards in Wales who would then attend; and for the better diversion of the company, he provided chairs for them in the hall, in which the bards being seated, were to answer each other in rhyme, and those that did acquit themselves most honourable, were to receive proportionate rewards. In this poetical contest the North Wales bards obtained the victory, with the applause and approbation of the whole company, particularly the minstrels, among whom there was no small strife; but the prince's own servants were observed to be the most expert."

This castle, like many more, suffered considerably at different periods, from the vindictive disposition of our princes, and the ambition of provincials. In

1222, we find it in the possession of William Marshall Earl of Pembroke; but in 1231, Maelgon, the son of Maelgon ab Rhys, having by force entered the town, put all the inhabitants to the sword, and then laid siege to the castle, with an intention to destroy it; but the walls appeared so strong, and the gates so well defended, that it seemed impracticable to reduce it for a considerable time, which would have been the case, had he not fortunately been soon after joined by his cousin Owen ab Gruffydd ab Rhys, and some of Prince Llewelyn's most experienced officers, who directed him to break down the bridge over the river Teivi, which enabled him to invest the castle more closely, so as to batter and undermine the fortifications, which soon gave possession of the whole; however, Gilbert Marshall won it back from Davydd ab Llewelyn in 1234.

During the civil wars, Cardigan Castle was garrisoned for the king, and sustained a regular siege; but at last surrendered to the parliament forces under General Langhorne. The ground is now the property of John Bowen, esq. who has erected an elegant mansion on the site of the keep, the dungeons of which he has converted into cellars. The rest of the remains are not considerable, consisting chiefly of the wall on the river side, and a portion of two towers, by which this part was protected. Though evidently a place of great strength before the use of artillery, it does not seem to have covered much ground. A considerable coasting trade is carried on here; but there is no manufactory for the employ of the poor.

One mile east of Cardigan, at Llan Goedmor, is an ancient monument, consisting of a stone of a prodigious size, half a yard thick, and eight or nine yards in circumference. It is placed inclining; one side on the ground, and the other supported by a pillar of about three feet high. Near it is another of the same kind, but much less. About six yards from it, lies a stone on the ground, and another beyond that, at the same distance.

Meini Cyvrivol, or the numerary stones, near Neuadd, in the neighbourhood of Cardigan, seem to be the remains of some barbarous monument; they are nineteen in number, and lie confusedly on the ground, deriving their names from the vulgar, who cannot easily numerate them.

In the neighbourhood is Llech-y-gawres; that is, the stone of a gigantic woman, which is exceedingly large, placed on four very great pillars, or supporters, about the height of five or six feet, and two others near, pitched endwise under a top stone, but much lower, so that they bear no part of the weight; also three more adjoining, two of which are large, lying on the ground at each end, and are indisputably ancient British monuments.

On leaving Cardigan, our road lies in a north-easterly direction, and at the distance of about twenty-five miles, after passing through the villages of Tremain, Llanarth, and Aberaeron, we arrive at LLANSANFRAID, situate near the sea, and chiefly remarkable for its old church, and a few remains of great buildings, where it is supposed once stood the Abbey of Llanfred, mentioned in a book entitled, "De Dotatione Ecclesiæ S. Davidis." And about three miles north-east stood an old monastery or castle, called Llanrustyd, erected by Cadwalader, brother to Owen Gwynedd, in the year 1148. The village is composed of miserable cottages; but the church, situated on an elevation near, is a neat building.

Seven miles beyond the last-mentioned place, we arrive at the town of ABERYSTWYTH.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, a company of Germans reaped a considerable fortune in working the silver mines in the vicinity of this town. Sir Hugh Middleton, after them, was equally successful, and accumulated 2000*l.* a month, out of one silver mine at Bwlch yr Esgair, which enabled him, in 1614, to bring the New River to London. He was succeeded by Mr. Bushell, who also gained such im-

mense profits, that he made King Charles a present of a regiment of horse, and clothed his whole army.

Aberystwyth is situated on that part of the Welsh coast, nearly opposite the centre of Cardigan bay, at the confluence of the rivers Ystwyth and Rheidiol, which here discharge themselves into the Irish sea, or Saint George's channel, and from the first of which rivers the town derives its name; though the greater number of buildings on the side of the Rheidiol might authorize historians to name it from the river last mentioned.

It is said, the present town of Aberystwyth was anciently called Llanbadarn Gaerog; or, The Fortified Llanbadarn, and that the small village of Aberystwyth stood to the westward of the castle. This seems countenanced by the charter, in which it is several times called Llanbadarn, and not once Aberystwyth; when the name was changed, does not appear: but in the grant of the office of weights and measures, in the reign of Elizabeth, to M. Phillips, Esq. Aberystwyth, by the mayor and burgesses, it is every where termed Aberystwyth. Part of the walls are still standing, and may be seen between the house of the late Lady Caroline Price and the Custom-House, and again near the House of Correction. There were many gates; one of which stood in the street leading to Llanbadarn, called Great Dark-Gate; another in the street leading to the Baptist-chapel, called Little Dark-Gate; and another opposite the bridge. The walls formerly went from this last to the lime-kiln, near the castle, where it joined it on the other side of the gate by the mill stream to Great Dark-Gate, thence to Little Dark-Gate, and from thence to the site of the Custom-House and Lady Price's, and thence to the castle.

The buildings are constructed with great durability, and many among them extremely neat and commodious, though mostly devoid of such ornaments of architecture as embellish other more favoured spots

in England and Wales; and which are better visited from being better known.

The streets are tolerably well laid out, and paved with the stones supplied in abundance from the shore;—and the turnpike roads leading to the town much better than the Welsh roads are generally described to be.

The surrounding country is more romantic, and exhibits far greater natural beauties than any other watering place in England or Wales, however well attended, could yet boast of.

The very extensive quarries surrounding the town in its present enlarged state, and from which builders are so amply supplied with slate and stone, furnish the means of erecting additional accommodations with greater facility:—and the industry of the inhabitants appears commensurate with the advantages and encouragement they receive from their yearly visitors, in return for the accommodations afforded them.

The progressive improvement of the place for the last twenty-five years, notwithstanding the pressure of warfare, the scarcity of specie, and the dearth of provisions, has been equalled by few towns, maritime or inland, in the united kingdom,—surpassed by none.

The great concourse of summer visitors, which it is now capable of accommodating, and the increasing number of lodging-houses appropriate for the reception of such votaries of health, pleasure, or fashion, as have already selected this improving spot for their residence, or those who may hereafter be led to experience the salubrious effects of this delightful summer retreat, cannot fail to render it, in course of time, the resort of public estimation, while the acknowledged satisfaction of former visitants must more strongly recommend it to others.

The suburbs adjoining are, by nature, fertile, and exhibit all the variegated charms of hill and dale, wood, and water; whether viewed from the lofty mount or flowery slope, characterizing the delightful

prospect, with views alternate ascending, pre-eminently beautiful, while its extensive mineral productions and health-inspiring springs, afford abundant means of observation and study for the meditation and employment of the mineralogist, the chymist, the physician, or philosopher.

The castle, of which there now remains little more than a confused heap of ruins, is still perhaps one of the most striking objects of attention, to a stranger of contemplative mind. It is stated to have been originally founded by Gilbert de Strongbow, son of Richard de Clare, in the reign of Henry I. A. D. 1107; and to have been also the residence of Cadwalader.

In the reign of Charles I., it was permitted by the then parliament, to be used for the purposes of a mint, by Mr. Bushel: and some of the pieces of money said to be coined therein, are said to have been in the possession of the late Col. Johnes, M. P. of Havod Ychdryd.

During the period here alluded to, Aberystwyth Castle was considered a place of much more estimation and resort than any other in Wales. During all the Welsh wars, it was deemed a fortress of the very first consequence: and even so late as the civil wars, by which this country was distracted, Aberystwyth Castle was regarded as a place of considerable strength.

The last and most destructive blow it experienced, and from the effect of which it has never recovered, was during the protectorship, when Oliver Cromwell, from a battery erected on Pendinas-hill, a very high mount immediately opposite the site of the castle, the vestiges of which battery are still perceptible, effectually bombarded this ancient pile, and in a few days succeeded in demolishing the works of many years: ever since which bombardment, it has continued in a state of decay and deterioration.

Mr Meyrick states this castle to have been situated on a rock, jutting out into the sea, and having a most romantic appearance. Its situation was well chosen before the invention of gunpowder made elevated

places of more consequence to protect the town from invasion by sea.

The motives by which Oliver was urged to this act of destruction, are said to have been, to extirpate a banditti, who took up their residence within the castle, from a supposition, possibly, that their abode was more secure, their habitation being rendered by art and nature almost impregnable. These marauders, by continual depredations, having infested the town of Aberystwyth, then in its infancy, excited the vengeance of Oliver, who took this method of evincing his resentment, and displaying his authority, by levelling with the ground the more considerable part of this venerable fortress.

Since that time, it has remained in a state of decay, a picturesque heap of ruins; the gateway, and several towers in the walls, alone marking its former extent.

On the north-west is part of a tower about forty feet high, and an arched doorway is still preserved. A round tower is also existing. Another tower has been repaired, and converted into a kind of observatory.

Round the hill on which it stands, a variety of walks have been cut out and gravelled; near which, Mr. Uvedale Price, of Foxley Hall, Herefordshire, has erected a singularly handsome building, for his summer residence: it is in the Gothic style, and castellated form, consisting of three octagon towers, with a balcony towards the sea.

There is no situation south of Caernarvonshire, from which the Welsh Alps may be seen so advantageously as from this castle, and the surrounding cliffs. The lofty hills rising above the Cardigan rocks, are surmounted by Cader Idris, and its subject cliffs; these are over-topped by the giant mountains of Caernarvonshire; amongst which, in clear weather, the sharp peak of Snowdon itself, may be discerned pre-eminent above the surrounding crags. On the south of Aberystwyth, the coast of Pembroke being less curved,

and not so lofty at the north limit of the bay, appears more uniform.

The remains of Aberystwyth Castle, and the ground on which they stand, are said to belong to the late much lamented Colonel Johnes, of Havod, whose death will be long and sincerely regretted, and his loss severely experienced by hundreds of his countrymen. In his life-time, a lease of the castle-ground was granted to a Mr. Probert, of Shrewsbury, who has since permitted it to be converted into a public promenade. The town of Aberystwyth has therefore most unquestionably been improved by Mr. Price's summer-residence, in addition to many other buildings lately erected: and the inhabitants are not a little indebted to Mr. Probert, for a most delightful walk, pleasant at almost all times of the year, and particularly healthful to many constitutions, from the invigorating sea-breeze continually floating in the atmosphere around.

The beach north of the castle, and near which the several bathing-machines are in use, is composed of loose stone and pebble of various sizes and colours. Hence the water, from being less impregnated with sand, or disturbed by the influx of the tide, more particularly in rainy or tempestuous weather, is of course freed from impurities, and in mild weather, at the distance of several feet from the surface, the bottom is clearly discernable to the eyes of the bather, who can thus select any depth for immersion: while the sloping declivity, down which the bathing-machines may be safely conveyed at the desire of those who make use of them, is free from the tedious descent at other sea-ports of many hundred feet on a sandy shore, before the temporary inhabitants, who hire them for the purpose of receiving benefit from sea-bathing, can possibly arrive at a sufficient depth of water. At the beach of Aberystwyth, during those periods when the tide is in, the longest distance requisite to roll the machine, exceeds not three yards, and even at low water the bathers may here always be accommodated,

at the short distance of five or six yards from the edge of the shore.

The church of Aberystwyth in the year 1787, dedicated to St. Michael, was erected within the precincts of the castle by subscription, at the head of which appears the name of the Rev. Richard Lloyd, to the amount of 100*l.* as a legacy from the late Mrs. Jones. The church is a plain unadorned structure, containing in length from east to west, sixty feet; and in breadth, twenty-six. It is capable of accommodating from seven to eight hundred persons, when the pews are occupied by the owners or by strangers. The church is separated from the walks and ground about the castle by a stone wall, erected and heightened by the inhabitants. The morning service is delivered in the English language, in the afternoon the service is performed in Welsh; and during the summer months, when the town is more full of company, prayers are again read, and service performed in the English language by the vicar of Llanbadarn Vawr, or some other gentleman of the established church.

The gallery erected at the west end of the church, was built at the sole expence of Mrs. Margaret Pryse, in the year 1790, and cost 104*l.* 14*s.* It bears an inscription commemorative of Mrs. Pryse's donation.

The other places of worship in Aberystwyth are Meeting-houses, or Chapels for congregations of Baptists, Independents, Wesleyan, or Arminian Methodists, and Whitfieldian or Calvinistic Methodists; sometimes sarcastically denominated Jumpers. The latter are said to be more numerous than any sect in Wales, and frequently excite the curiosity of strangers to witness their performances. They justify the custom of jumping from the example of David, who danced before the ark; and of the lame man restored by our Saviour at the gate of the temple, who leaped for joy. But the practice is by no means so prevalent, or so generally adopted as heretofore: it seems daily losing ground; is wholly discontinued among the rational members of the society, as an unnecessary form, and

only perceptible in the conduct of the most ignorant and illiterate enthusiasts, who form part of such congregations.

The bathing machines at Aberystwyth are constructed on the same plan as those of Tenby and Swansea, and are by no means inferior to similar vehicles used on the coasts of Kent or Sussex. Nor is the town void of *warm* sea water baths; besides which bountiful Nature has supplied it with a chalybeate spring, in its virtues resembling the waters of Tunbridge.

The mines in the neighbourhood of Aberystwyth were once considered inexhaustible, and calculated to produce 100 ounces of silver from a ton of lead, and to have created a profit of £2000 sterling per month.

Of late years, Mr. Lewis Morris worked many of the Cardiganshire mines, and was of opinion, that if he could have raised sufficient money for carrying on the works, it was in his power to have drawn from them an annual profit of 12,000*l.* In a letter written to his brother about the year 1757, he speaks of Cardiganshire as the richest county he ever knew, with the fewest people in it of ingenuity and talent.

The mines more immediately in the vicinity of Aberystwyth, are Cluernog, Cwmsymlog, and Cwmystwyth.

Great quantities of herrings have been taken here several years since, and cod and mackarel have been sent hence as far as Shrewsbury.

Aberystwyth imports for the use of the country, cast iron goods from Coalbrook Dale, shipped at Bristol, and groceries and grain from Ireland; coals from the southern ports of Wales, and much porter from Bristol. There is here no manufacture entitled to notice, but a considerable coasting trade is carried on with Liverpool, Bristol, and other parts of England. The exports are principally lead, calamine, &c. from the mines; with corn, butter, and oak bark.

The manners of the resident inhabitants of Aberystwyth may be said to have improved, certainly not to

have degenerated, from their more frequent intercourse with strangers; a connection which other towns in Cardiganshire, situated more inland, have not the opportunity of experiencing.

The late Mr. Curran, the celebrated Irish orator and advocate, and universally acknowledged as one of the brightest ornaments of the Irish Bar, in speaking of his own countrymen, characterizes them in terms that are not altogether inapplicable to the people of Wales*. But the town of Aberystwyth, from its locality and diversity of occupants, differs as widely in manners and behaviour, and in some respects in their language, from the people in other parts of Wales, as the inhabitants in the east and west of England, or the east and west ends of the metropolis of England differ from each other in these respects.

The harbour, with respect to vessels, even of middling size, whether outward or homeward bound, is neither sufficiently capacious, nor has it as yet been rendered so commodious, as from the nature of the place it might be.

The marine prospect from the shore is equally fine, with all other sea ports, where the view is bounded only by sea and sky. The rocks on each side, nature's strong bulwarks to the mountains right and left, are in some places very high, of a blackish hue, and excavated towards the bottom from the continued strength of the sea; dashing, with undiminished force and foam, against those flinty barriers of Merionethshire, Cardiganshire, and Pembrokeshire. The view of those mountains from the sea is alike grand, and exhibits a line of natural fortifications to the Welsh

---

* The hospitality of an Irishman is not the running account of posted and ledgered courtesies; it springs like all his other qualities, his faults, his virtues, directly from the heart. The heart of an Irishman is by nature bold, and he confides; it is tender, and he loves; it is generous, and he gives; it is social, and he is hospitable.

land, drawn with that exquisite sublimity of design, that mark it at once the work of nature's great architect. But the bar at the entrance of the harbour has barely sufficient water at spring tides to permit the passage of vessels of any considerable tonnage, from which many seafaring men and skilful mariners seek freight and employment, on other coasts, though allied by birth, kindred, friends, and family, to the town of Aberystwyth.

Ship-building has been carried on with all the spirit of emulation and industry that could be expected from such resources as are here afforded. Still the want of a sufficient harbour depresses the exertions of individuals, which would otherwise operate as a source of wealth and improvement to their own shore.

The *Custom-House* was erected about the year 1773, near the beach; and the business thereof removed from the port of Aberdyvi.

The *Market*, which formerly used to be held at Llanbadarn, has been removed to the lower part of the Town-Hall, at Aberystwyth; it is sufficiently supplied on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, with all kinds of butcher's meat, poultry, bacon, eggs, cheese, butter, &c. on reasonable terms. The mutton, though small, is particularly fine and sweet flavoured; poultry very plentiful, and of course much cheaper than in the country towns of England. Fish is by no means so plentiful as might be expected from the situation of Aberystwyth. Though the bay is so well known to abound with a variety of the finny tribe, and the adjoining rivers afford sufficient sport to those who are fond of the amusement of angling with fly or worm, yet the little encouragement given to fishermen of the place induces them to prefer the coasting service to any speculation.

As food for the mind, in the summer season, the town is enlivened by dramatic representations and assemblies.

A new theatre has been proposed to be built; and a

race course talked of: both of which must convey additional attractions, and by many, be regarded as additional improvements to the town.

Here is also a good grammar-school, with other schools for the education of boys, and female schools, where the children of parents, in whatever sphere they may move, may receive the first rudiments of learning, and imbibe the first lessons of scholastic lore, thereby laying the foundation for the display of future genius in a wider field, assisted by more scientific instruction.

Here, though there is no regular establishment of a poor-house, mendicity is seldom seen.

When paupers become old or infirm, they are relieved either at their own dwellings, or sent to board with some person of their own age and sex, the expence of which is defrayed by a rate on the inhabitants, collected and distributed by the overseers of the poor for the time being. The number so relieved are but small; the hospitality of some, and benevolence of others, added to the innate pride of such applicants for parochial relief, who have seen better days, prevent the necessity of any very large establishment for the relief of the poor.

The manner of attending funerals, and paying that last respect to the memory of the deceased, is much more commendable in Wales, than in other countries, where parade and affectation are oftentimes the substitutes for affection, where the semblance of woe too often mocks the reality. A Welsh funeral is much more decent than the hasty interment of the dead in many parts of England, attended by two, three, or half a dozen followers.

Among the poorer orders, it is customary for the friends of the deceased to assemble together on the day of interment, or the night preceding, and to give the relatives a piece of money, according to their circumstances; thus consoling and assisting, when assistance is most wanted.

By the contributions of friends and guests at their

weddings, or biddings, (as they are termed), a young couple, not overburthened with Fortune's store, however rich in that which Fortune cannot always bestow, are enabled, from the gifts and loans of acquaintance and neighbours, to begin the world, in fervent hopes of better days, and ready at a future period in returning such loans, to encourage others entering into the matrimonial state.

These customs, however ludicrous to the eye of fashion, tend to unite the lower orders of society in bonds of amity and love; and whether adopted from the manners of the Flemings, the Normans, or the Saxons, by which Wales has from time to time been governed, they are not less worthy of imitation, encouragement, or reward, and if not immediately conducive to the amelioration of the condition of the people, cannot be supposed as tending in the smallest degree to vitiate their morals or corrupt their hearts.

The costume of both sexes preserve a great degree of similarity in all weathers, and very little variation is made in their dress, either in summer or winter. The women continue to wear mob-caps, chin-stays, and silk handkerchiefs, with black beaver hats, whether in hail, rain, or sunshine, and not unfrequently an extra handkerchief, serves as an additional ornament to their head-dress. The men in general evince by their dress, the same independence of seasons.

The Welsh ladies, however, though they may not be quite so tractable as females of other countries, it must be acknowledged, are not deficient in constancy, affection, or fidelity, or at all inferior in their conjugal and maternal duties to others who may be, or may fancy themselves to be, more polished.

The old-fashioned prejudice and prepossessions, noticed in former days by Cambrian travellers, as springing from the pride of birth or title, or emanating from any other capricious source of Fortune, seems fast approaching to a decline in Wales.

Exclusive of a Circulating Library of many hundred volumes, which are let out to read on the usual terms,

monthly, quarterly, or yearly, there is a Subscription Reading-room, regularly supplied with London and provincial newspapers; and piano-fortes may also be hired for any specified time at the library.

Rules and Regulations for the Observation and Government of the Members of the Reading-room, at Cox's Library, Aberystwyth.

1. That every yearly subscriber pay the sum of one guinea at the time of entrance, (the year to be computed from the 5th day of July), and the like sum per annum, during such time as he shall continue a member.

2. That two London daily newspapers, and at least three provincial weekly papers, viz. the Hereford Journal, Caermarthen Journal, and Shrewsbury Chronicle, be taken for the use of the subscribers to the reading-room exclusively, and not to be taken out of the room on any pretence whatever.

3. That every subscriber shall have the privilege of introducing a friend (being no subscriber) to the rooms, twice, if a stranger to the town; and once, if a resident, but not oftener.

4. That persons visiting Aberystwyth, who may wish to subscribe for a short period, be eligible to become subscribers for three months, on payment of 10*s.* 6*d.* or for one month, on payment of 5*s.*

5. That all the papers taken be filed (separately), and deemed the property of the subscribers, until six months after the end of every year.

6. That a monthly Navy and Army List, and an annual Court Calendar, be regularly purchased, and kept for the use of the subscribers.

7. That any person taking a paper or book out of the reading-room, do forfeit 5*s.* for each time offending.

8. That the hours of attending the room, be from eight o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock in the evening.

9. That a quarterly meeting of the annual sub-

scribers be held, for the better regulation of the rules of this society, whenever found necessary, viz. on the first Tuesday in the months of September, December, March, and June, in each year, between the hours of twelve and two o'clock; and that no alteration whatever be made in any of the rules, without the consent of a majority of the subscribers present at some or one of such quarterly meetings.

A coach to and from Aberystwyth, goes from the Gogerddan Arms, every Monday and Friday mornings at four o'clock, and returns on the same evening at nine, during the summer season; and in the other times of the year, it leaves Aberystwyth every Friday morning only, by way of Machynllaith, Mallwyd, Can-Office, Llanvair, Welshpool, and Shrewsbury.—Another goes from the Old Black Lion every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at four in the morning; returns the same evening about nine, by way of the Devil's Bridge, Llanidloes, Newtown, Welshpool, and Shrewsbury. Those two coaches go from Aberystwyth to Shrewsbury, where they meet the London and other coaches.—A third goes from the Talbot and Royal Hotel every Wednesday and Sunday mornings at seven; returns the same evening about six, by way of Devil's Bridge, Rhaiader, Pen-y-bont, Kington, Leominster, and Worcester; meets the London, Bristol, and Bath coaches.

Waggons go every week alternate to Shrewsbury, where they meet the waggons to London and elsewhere. One goes to Caermarthen every week.

Letters from London arrive every day except Tuesday, about twelve o'clock in the forenoon.

Letters to London are dispatched every day except Friday, at half past three in the afternoon.

There is a south post departs every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday, at four in the morning, which returns the same days, at seven in the evening. The north post goes out every morning at twelve, and returns at seven in the evening.

The Post-office is in Great Dark-gate street.

The following descriptive analysis of the chalybeate spring, was written by Mr. Richard Williams, of Aberystwyth, Honorary Member of the Physical Society, London, and of the "London Vaccine Institution."

Exclusive of the convenience and goodness of the bathing at Aberystwyth, it possesses, like Scarborough and Brighton, an advantage over many other places on the coast, that of having in its immediate vicinity a fine chalybeate spring, the use of which is applicable to, and will much assist in the cure of many diseases for which the sea is visited. This well was discovered by accident about the year 1779, and is situated a few hundred yards east of the town, upon a common close to the river, and not far distant from a stone quarry.

Some years ago, when the water was directed from the river, for the purpose of clearing away the weeds which had collected there, the well became dry, and a small stream proceeding from the north was observed rising from the bed of the river. Upon covering this over, the flow returned at the usual place.

The neighbouring country abounds in springs of a ferruginous nature, and traces of sulphur have been lately discovered at Penglaise, the beautiful villa of Roderick Richardes, esq.

This spa yields about one gallon in a minute. After rain it runs much faster, and its specific gravity at the temperature of 56 is equal to that of distilled water. During the months of March and April, the temperature varied from 46° to 50°, and did not rise higher when that of the atmosphere was above 60°*.

Before sun-rise, when the degree of heat was 42, that of the well continued 47, Fahrenheit.

Its sensible properties, when first taken up from the well, are—it is quite clear, colourless, and bright; it exhales a chalybeate smell, does not sparkle in the glass, but slowly separates a few bubbles, some of which ascend to the top, and make their escape, while

* In July it reached 53.

others adhere to the sides of the vessel in larger quantities than in common water.

To the taste, it is neither acidulous or saline (except after high tides, when it has been mixed with sea water), but simply chalybeate, and is by no means unpalatable.

When the water has rested for some time exposed to the air, it becomes turbid throughout; an irridescent pellicle encrusts the surface, and in a few hours a brown precipitate falls to the bottom, the water having lost its mineral properties. The same effects take place more rapidly when assisted by heat.

With different re-agents, the following appearances are manifested:

Tincture of galls affords a fine purple approaching to black, but not after it has stood long, or been boiled.

Solution of silver in nitric acid, gives first a pale white, which becomes blue on exposure to the light.

Lime water renders it immediately turbid; and tincture of litmus becomes changed to a light red colour.

Syrup of violets, after standing for some time, becomes very slightly green.

Concentrated sulphuric acid produces no sensible disengagement of bubbles.

Oxalic acid evinces no change.

A solution of soap is curdled both before and after it has been boiled, therefore it may be called a hard water.

Nitrate of barytes does not indicate the presence of sulphuric acid.

Solution of blue vitriol causes a green colour.

Volatile caustic ammonia, and caustic potash, occasion yellowish sediments.

By a careful evaporation, a wine gallon of this water will afford eight grains of solid matter, and occasionally a larger proportion.—The residue has a salt taste; and, by the addition of sulphuric acid, evolves muriatic acid gas.

A small portion being mixed with cold spring water, suffered to rest for two or three hours, then filtered through paper, and a little of the nitrate of silver dropped into the solution, a white cloudiness takes place. This is followed by a blue precipitate, which is not re-dissolved by the nitric or acetic acids.

This water has been supposed to contain a small portion of sulphur, but as yet, I have not been able to ascertain its existence. The acetate of lead, when employed in solution, assumes a faint blue, with a tinge of brown, which is probably owing to the presence of muriatic acid.

From the above experiments, it is evident that this water contains calx of iron, which is suspended by the medium of carbonic acid gas and marine salt; in other respects, I do not find that it differs materially from pure spring water; therefore, it may be termed a simple carbonated chalybeate, and much resembles the Tunbridge waters.

The track over which it flows, is marked by an ochery deposition, and no frogs or small fish are seen within the influence of the fixed air; it being destructive to animal life when respired, and in some instances capable of producing effects similar to those of intoxication.

The medicinal virtues of this spa depend on the carbonic acid, and oxyd of iron, the salts being too inconsiderable to deserve any particular attention.

By proper regulation, it will be found very salutary in all relaxations of the stomach, and intestinal canal, as well as general debility, stimulating the action of the heart and arteries, and increasing the florid colour of the blood;—by perseverance in its use the appetite becomes excited, and the spirits improved.

And in a variety of disorders, where steel may be required, it will prove of considerable service.

On commencing a course of this water, the bowels should be attended to, and an aperient medicine administered, or a small quantity of sulphate of magnesia occasionally combined with it.—The constitution of

the patient should likewise be considered; and if there is any tendency to inflammatory complaints, determination of blood to the head, or pulmonary affection, its use must be either laid aside, or continued with caution.

To persons of a delicate habit, the fresh drawn water may, from its low temperature, occasion an unpleasant sensation in the stomach, which may be prevented by adding a little tincture of cardamoms, or any other cordial, which I think preferable to warming it:* for the carbonic acid is in the latter method too often suffered to escape.

A quarter of a pint should be taken two or three times a day, and it would be most advantageous, for obvious reasons, to drink it at the well about eight o'clock in the morning, and again between breakfast and dinner, gradually increasing the dose according to the age and habits of the invalid.

Chalybeate waters, when first employed, frequently evacuate the bowels, especially if there is any accumulation of bile in them; but their operation ceases so soon as the intestines are restored to their natural state, and the opposite effect is apt to occur.

The requisite duration of a course of steel water extends from three to eight or nine weeks; when it agrees, the whole frame becomes strengthened: the urinary and cuticular excretions augmented, the fæces become of a dark colour, a circumstance generally accompanying a course of chalybeate waters, and which it may be proper, the patient should be aware of. When assisted by the warm bath, its power over chlorosis, and other obstructions, will be much more perceptible; but if in this time it fails to regenerate health, a further trial would not be desirable, as little or no advantage could be expected from it.

As a topical application, it has been resorted to,

---

* This is done by filling a bottle, corking it well, and immersing it in hot water for ten minutes.

with success for various species of ulcers, and sometimes given relief in chronic ophthalmia.

The roads from Aberystwyth to Machynlleth, through Talybont, and from Aberystwyth to Cardigan, by the way of Aberayron, are kept in as good order, for equestrian or pedestrian travellers, as the generality of roads throughout England, and exhibit as great a diversity of rural and marine prospect, as can possibly be discovered in such extent in any other part of the principality, or in any part of the united kingdom.

One mile to the north-east of Aberystwyth is LLANBADARN-VAWR, anciently called Mauritanea, and supposed to be one of the earliest bishoprics in Wales. Here Paternus, in the sixth century, founded a monastery, and an episcopal see, afterwards united to St. David's.

The church was given, in the year 1111, to St. Peter's, at Gloucester, and some time after to Vale Royal, in Cheshire. The present structure has many traces of great antiquity, being large, and built in the form of a cross, with a door of early Gothic architecture, and by its style, was probably erected previous to the itinerary of Giraldus, in whose time the place was an abbey, under the jurisdiction of a layman, the enormity of which he very pathetically lamented.

Its external appearance is large and ancient, erected of common stone. The interior consists of a nave and chancel, formed of rough materials, with a few modern monuments, particularly one for Lewis Morris, well known among his countrymen for a profound knowledge of British history and antiquities, besides the author of a valuable work, entitled "Celtic Remains."

Among the antiquities of Llanbadarn, are two ancient stone crosses, ornamented with some rude carvings and emblematical devices. In the middle of the village is a large upright stone, part of which has been broken off, in consequence of a bonfire having been made upon it.

A recent traveller observes of Llanbadarn, "the vicissitude of human affairs, 'the wreck of matter,'

seems strongly exemplified in the declension of this ancient place. Its cruciform church is supposed to be one of the oldest in Wales. The door and chancel are of early Gothic architecture. In the sixth century, a monastery, with an episcopal see, was here founded by Paturnus; which was afterwards united to St. David's. The meat market was formerly kept here, for the supply of Aberystwyth; and the adjoining grounds produced plenty of fruit and vegetables.

"It is now the burying place of several respectable families, and there are a considerable number of marble and other tomb-stones, commemorative of the defunct, in the church and church-yard:—a flat stone in the chancel covers the grave of the late Mr. Lewis Morris, the celebrated antiquarian.

"The remains of former grandeur is but little conspicuous, elsewhere than in the church and churchyard."

Glas-Grug is the site of an ancient British palace, or entrenchment, on the summit of a small hill, in a wide marsh adjacent to Llanbadarn. It was frequently garrisoned by British troops, in their warfare against their Norman and Saxon invaders.

The remains are very considerable, and a square embattled tower appears very perfect, with a narrow passage, leading into another quadrangular division, which has still the outer walls in good preservation. The entrance and hall is immediately opposite the chimney, with a mutilated floor of rough stones, similar to those in its exterior walls. The hearth, and a rustic chimney-piece remaining, afford a good specimen of its antiquity.

The extent of all the original fabric cannot be minutely described; but the apartments have been very spacious and numerous, as the remaining walls are in many places six or seven feet high. A small part of the ruins have been used for a hay-loft; but, like the other parts, has neither a hewn stone or a single letter of inscription.

When this old mansion was erected, is no where to be found in history; yet it appears to have been known to Gruffydd ab Rhys in 1113, when he encamped here, previous to his defeat by the Normans before Aberystwyth Castle. That it has been the residence of our princes, cannot be denied; for it is particularly mentioned by Einion ab Gwgan, who flourished about 1244; for, speaking of Llewelyn the Great, he expresses himself to this purpose:

" His spear flashes in the hands accustomed to martial deeds;
It kills, and puts its enemies to flight by the palace of the Rheidiol."

It appears to have been one of the residences of Owen Glyndwr; it is said that a subterraneous passage led from this mansion to the old sanctuary of Llanbadarn, and another to the castle at Aberystwyth, but notwithstanding repeated trials, the remains of either cannot be discovered.

Gwely Taliesin, or Taliesin's Bed, at Genau y Glyn, in the parish of Llanvihangel, stood by the high road, about four miles from Aberystwyth. Tradition informs us this was the sepulchre of Taliesin, chief bard of Wales, who flourished about A. D. 540. It seems to have been a sort of cist-vaen, four feet long, and three broad, composed of four stones, one at each end, and two side stones, the highest nearly a foot above the ground; but no part of this monument is now remaining, some ruthless hand having broken the stones, and converted them afterwards to gate posts.

Journey from Pont-ar-Vynach to Llanbedr; through Tregaron.

This bridge over the Mynach, on the road leading from Aberystwyth to Llanidloes, is supposed to have been the work of the monks of Ystrad-flur, or Strata Florida Abbey, in the reign of William Rufus; but being of very early, and generally, of unknown date, has been ascribed by popular tradition, to the devil;

but who ought perhaps to be little suspected of a performance of such public utility. The Welsh, however, in their vernacular language, have given it the descriptive appellation of Pont-ar-Vynach, or Mynach a Monk. It consists of two arches, one thrown over the other. The old bridge is the lower arch. Giraldus mentions passing over this bridge when he accompanied Baldwin, archbishop of Canterbury, at the time of the crusades, in the year 1188. The upper arch was built perpendicularly over it, in the year 1753, at the expence of the county, for the greater safety and convenience of travellers. They span a chasm in a tremendous rock, which, when viewed from the dingle where the stream runs, has an appearance awfully sublime: and the rays of the sun being intercepted by the elevated situation of the trees, which grow impending over this impetuous torrent, add greatly to the sublimity. The cleft in the rock has been greatly enlarged, if not originally caused, by the force of the stream, the rapidity of which is increased by its confinement. The depth of the water on the south-west side is in some places upwards of 12 feet, and from the highest arch to the water 99. On the north-east side, close to the bridge, it measures 114 feet; this difference may be ascribed to the declivity under it, which is very considerable.

The river, bursting from its restrained course, through broken rocks and interrupted by fragments, becomes a more even and translucid stream for about 40 yards north-east from the bridge, till within a few yards of the fall, where it is confined to narrow limits by the rocks, from whence, bursting with terrific roar, it is carried about six feet over the craggy ridge, and descending 18, is received into a bason, along which it flows 24, and then rushes with equal impetuosity to a descent of 60 feet. Here the fall is again interrupted by another receiver, which, like the former, appears to have been worn to an amazing depth. The agitation of the water, and the mist occasioned by the fall, which for some time we took for rain, prevented our

sounding its depth. From this bason it hastens to another descent of near 20 feet, but reaching that extent meets with obstructions of massy rocks and stones of a prodigious size; which it encounters with irresistible violence, and forces its way, about 22 feet, to the precipice of the greatest cataract. The water then uniting, passes with an almost inconceivable force over the brink of the rock, and becomes a large sheet. In that state it falls upwards of 110 feet.

"Between two meeting hills, it bursts away,
Where rocks and woods o'erhang the turbid stream;
There gathering triple force, rapid and deep,
It boils, and wheels, and foams, and thunders through."
THOMSON.

The river, for near three miles from this spot, is encircled with hills of prodigious magnitude, some wholly clothed with trees; except an intervention here and there of frightfully projecting rocks, the bottoms of which are very dangerous and difficult of access; but a situation near the brink of the river once obtained, the spectator is amply repaid with a scene the most solemn and beautiful. To describe the various sounds the different breaks in the cataract produce, can best be done by a simile to a variation of the keys in music; and to depict the scenery with which you are here surrounded, elevated woods, rocks, and the rushing of a river, falling more than two hundred and eighty feet, can be more justly done by an accurate drawing, than by the most descriptive pen.

Pont fach ar Fynach a fynwyd,
Uwch eigion, och! agos Gyfarllwyd,
Garwach heb gel ni welwyd,
Oll erioed na'r man lle'r wyd. ANONY.

The Ystwyth, the Rheidiol, and the Mynach, are such interesting rivers, that an account of their rise and meanderings, and the streams connected with them, cannot possibly be uninteresting.

The Ystwyth rises in the mountains, as Leland says, "owt of a mares grounde, caullid Blaine Ustwith, three miles from Llangibike on Wy." The first river it receives is the Duliw, which rises in a mountain about a mile from Llyn Iwan ucha', one of the heads of the Merrin river. It separates part of Montgomeryshire from Cardiganshire, and continues to do so for about seven miles, and then turns inwards to Cardiganshire: here receiving a tributary stream; about a mile and three quarters further on, it falls into the Ystwyth. At the confluence, an elegant stone bridge has been erected, at the expence of the late Mr. Johnes. The Ystwyth continues to flow between tremendous mountains until it reaches Pentre-Briwnant, where it receives the Briw Brook on one side, and another stream on the other. Two streams forming the eastern boundary of Havod fall into it, one on the north, and the other on the south side. In its passage through this terrestrial paradise, it meets with two more streams from the south, the westernmost forming the western boundary of Havod on this side of the Ystwyth. Over this part of the Ystwyth, Mr. Johnes erected another bridge, in the Moorish style. Half a mile below the last-mentioned stream, another from the north flows into the Ystwyth, about half a mile, the other part of the western boundary of Havod. Having now quitted the confines of Havod, it continues its course, overhung by well-wooded mountains, for half a mile further, where a neat stone bridge has been thrown across it, called Pont Rhydygroes; about 200 yards to the west of which, another rivulet falls into the Ystwyth. This comes in a curvilinear course from the north, and has its rise near a village called Blaen Pentre'; a little more than a quarter of a mile before it meets the Ystwyth, another rivulet falls into it, taking its rise not far distant from the other, and curving in an opposite direction, so as to form almost an elipse. This has two tributary streams. The Ystwyth now takes a southerly direction, and then turns again at nearly right angles towards the west. Here

it receives a brook called Nantycwarrel, or quarry brook, which divides its southern bank, and flows in extent about three miles.

The next object of notice on the Ystwyth is the romantic bridge of Llanavan, which, like the others on this river, consists of a single arch, and is built of stone. About a mile and three quarters from this, it receives two brooks, whose mouths are exactly opposite to each other: the smallest comes from the north, the other from the south. This last is called Crognant, and runs down the mountains between Llanwnnws and Lledrod.

The Ystwyth having made an angle just at the stream it met with, after flowing under Llanavan bridge, runs towards the north-west; and the next stream that falls into it after Crognant, comes from the westward. Just below this is a ford called Rhydyceir, used by people coming or going from Llanilar to Llanavan. The northern bank of the Ystwyth is here adorned by the noble park and luxuriant farms of the Honourable Colonel Vaughan's estate, called Cross-wood.

A mile beyond the last stream, comes another rivulet from the north-east, which rising a little above Rhos Rhyd ucha', comes down a valley called Cwm Magwyr; and about a mile from its embouchure, receives a brook about three miles in extent.

About two miles further, the Ystwyth receives another rivulet from the north-east, which rises a little to the north of the high road from the Devil's Bridge to Aberystwyth, between the eighth and ninth milestones. This receives five tributary streams, and flows through the village of Llanvihangel y Creuddin.

The next stream the Ystwyth receives comes from the south, passing by the plantations of Castle Hill, the estate of J. N. Williams, esq. and in a cleft it has made in the mountain by its impetuosity, falls into the Ystwyth just by the village of Llanilar.

About two miles beyond it is reinforced by a trifling stream from the north; and a little further, by a larger one called the Maide, from the south, which has been

made by the union of two smaller. Here stands Abermaide; and here the Ystwyth assumes a most picturesque appearance.

Two miles further it receives another brook called Llolwyn, from the south, over which, as well as the Maide, is a stone bridge of a single arch.

About half a mile further on, the Ystwyth, where its curves, uniting with the well-wooded rocks on its banks, contribute to give it a most romantic appearance, stands Llanychaiarn bridge.

Two trifling streams afterwards empty themselves into the Ystwyth from the south-west, where, winding round the base of Pendinas mountain, it falls into the river Rheidiol, just before that river meets the ocean, and gives name to the town of Aberystwyth.

The Rheidiol rises in a lake called Llyn Rheidiol, in the Pumlumon mountains. About a mile and a half from its source it receives a rivulet from the east, containing the boundary of Cardiganshire from the Pumlumon mountains, being to the north of them, and receiving in its passage a tributary stream running out of them.

A mile further the Rheidiol is increased by another stream, flowing from the westernmost of the Pumlumon mountains, and about a mile and a half in extent.

About a hundred yards further, another rivulet falls into the Rheidiol. This also separates Cardiganshire from Montgomeryshire. It rises about four miles and a half to the northward, and receives a stream coming from the Esgair Vraith copper mines, called Maesnant.

A mile further, the Rheidiol receives a small stream from the south; and not quite a mile beyond, the river Camddwr falls into it from the north, so called from its meandering form. Its course is not quite five miles, during which it receives two other small streams on its eastern side.

Just beyond the Camddwr, another small stream falls into the Rheidiol, which receives no other increase for two miles further; when another brook from the east meets it, into which flows another, called Peithnant.

A mile further, another brook called Hirnant, or "Long brook," falls into the Rheidiol.

Also from the east, a mile and a half beyond, a rivulet from the north-west meets the Rheidiol. This is above four miles in extent, and receives five tributary streams; one of which, from the foaming cataract it possesses, gives the names of Gwenfrwd ucha', and Gwenfrwd isa', to two cottages situated on its sides.

About two hundred and fifty yards further, the Rheidiol receives a trifling supply from the west; but a mile and a half beyond, the Castell River falls into it from the east; this also has its bulk increased by five other streams, and flows nearly five miles in extent. A cross road leads over the Castell and over the Rheidiol by means of two bridges. The bridge over the Rheidiol is called Ponterwyd, and is one arch of stone, about 36 feet in diameter.

The Rheidiol now curves in the form of an S, and receives a rivulet from the west about three miles long, having two streams flowing into it.

Half a mile further the Rheidiol receives a trifling supply from the west, and is again increased by a stream from the east, which runs by the church of Yspytty Cenwyn.

We now approach the grand and tremendous fall of the Rheidiol, the sublime features of which cataract should be viewed, as they cannot well be described. The basin into which it falls is agitated like a sea, by the violence of the shock: the rocks that have planted themselves across the channel are enormous; the hue of the waters is dark; the hills stand upright into the sky; nothing glitters through the gloom but the foam of the torrent; nothing invades the deep silence but its sound. The flashing of the rill from above into the broad cascade adds inexpressible beauty to its grandeur. Opposite to the stupendous object, on a precipice of forests, at the height of more than one hundred and fifty yards, stands the inn called "The Havod Arms." The Rheidiol soon meets with the

Mynach, and their junction may be here traced in this bottom. The cascade on the two rivers are not within sight of each other.

The Rheidiol being now reinforced by the waters of the valley, continues its course along the valley for a quarter of a mile, when it receives a small stream falling down from the south-west; and shortly after, another in the same direction, though a little larger. It continues its course down the vale of Rheidiol, till it receives the impetuous Frwd from the south; and about one hundred and fifty yards beyond, another from the opposite side.

It afterwards meanders for two miles further, and there receives another stream from the north; and two miles beyond, another comes into it, which rises near Penbryn, and is about three miles in extent.

About a mile further on, it receives another in the same direction as the last.

About two miles further, just where it forms a right angle, a stream runs from one part of it, and falls into it again, forming the hypothenuse of this right angle. A house situated on this brook is called Nanteirio. By such a disposition of its waters, the Rheidiol forms a triangular island. It now flows on, sometimes in a right line, and sometimes curving, till it approaches Glas-Grug, where the river separates, forming an island not quite two miles in circumference, called y Morva, or the Marsh, which, during the winter, is mostly overflowed. It thence flows under the bridge of Aberystwyth.

Whatever might have been the origin of the English appellation of the Devil's Bridge, or why his infernal majesty should have been considered the builder, is a point which must be left to others more learned on this head, and better acquainted with his works, to determine. There is, however, one incontrovertible fact attending this structure, that the people who first had the use of it, and experienced the benefit of passing over, must have felt themselves considerably obliged to the architect.

The Mynach, or Monks River, rises on the east side of the mountains to the east of Yspytty Cenwyn, and about half a mile off is replenished by the river Merin, which is formed by the junction of two streams, each issuing from the lakes called Llyn Ivan issa', and Llyn Ivan ucha'. The Rhuddnant is another stream that increases the Mynach, which also receives two small streams from the south, and prepares itself for that astonishing cataract, equalled only by the fall of Narni in Italy. This truly acherontic stream, forces itself through masses and fragments of opposing rocks, hollowing out deep cavities, filled with the awful blackness of unfathomed waters, and thickening the misty gloom of a recess, impervious to sunshine.

At the jut of the lowest fall in the rock is a cave, said to have been once inhabited by robbers, two brothers, and a sister, called *Plant Mat*, or *Mat's Children*, who used to steal and sell the cattle of their neighbours, and whose retreat was not discovered for many years. The entrance being just sufficient to make darkness visible, and admitting but one at a time, they were able to defend it against hundreds. At length, however, they were taken, after having committed murder, for which they were tried, condemned, and executed.

It is however conceived a task nearly impossible for language to describe, or the artist to delineate, the several scenes of this romantic retirement. It must be seen to be understood; every new choice of position rewards the observer with scenes awfully grand and sublime. One excursion (says Mr. Cumberland), to this place, will not suffice common observers, nor indeed many to the lovers of the grand sports of nature. The Mynach coming down from beneath the Devil's Bridge, has no equal for height or beauty, for although a streamlet to the famous fall of Narni in Italy, yet it rivals it in height, and surpasses it in elegance.

After passing deep below the bridge, as through a narrow firth, with noises loud and ruinous into a confined chasm, the fleet waters pour headlong and im-

petuous, and leaping from rock to rock, with fury literally, lash the mountains' sides; sometimes almost embowered among deep groves, and flashing at last into a fan-like form, the fall rattling among the loose stones of the Devil's hole, where, to all appearance, it shoots into a gulf beneath, and silently steals away; for so much is carried off in spray, during the incessant repercussions it experiences, in this long tortuitous shoot, that, in all probability, not half the water arrives at the bottom of its profound and sullen grave.

Mr. Hutton's History of the Lower Bridge, as related by Mr. Nicholson is as follows: "An old woman in search of her strayed cow, saw her on the opposite side of the cleft rock, and in this lamentable case the devil appeared, sympathized with her deeply, and offered to accommodate her with a bridge over the chasm, if she would suffer him to take the first who passed it. Reflecting that, as she must be ruined in the one case, she could but be ruined in the other, she desperately complied. A bridge instantly appeared. What a situation! Her cow was dear to her and valuable, but self-preservation was an impulse superior to every other consideration. Fortunately, however, she had a dog, and in her pocket a piece of bread: a glorious thought occurred, of saving herself and cow by the sacrifice of the cur; she took the piece of bread from her pocket, and threw it on the other side. Her dog darted over the bridge to seize it. Satan looked peevishly askance, galled at the thought of being bit by an old woman, hung his tail, and walked off. It must be acknowledged that Mr. Satan behaved very honourably in this case, for he kept his word, which is more than men always do: whether the wisdom of the old lady, the honour of Mr. Devil, or the active obedience of the dog, was, or is the utmost to be commended, is a question left by Mr. Hutton for others to decide."

Just above the Devil's Bridge Mr. Johnes erected the commodious inn, which he caused to be called the Hafod Arms: here travellers may be supplied with

every necessary accommodation, while they are exploring the wonders of the neighbourhood. The house is situated between the road and the valley, and the back windows command a full view of the great fall of the Rheidiol in the gulph below; but its apparent magnitude is greatly diminished by the distance. The Ystwyth pursues hence a most romantic and impetuous course on the left, rushing in foaming cataracts over successive precipices, and filling the narrow vale with the roaring of its waters. On the right lie the celebrated lead mines of Cwm Ystwyth, which, with the dingy hovels of the miners, first indicate our approach towards the habitations of man. A little way beyond the lead mines, the eye, now fatigued by the perpetual recurrence of naked craggs and the desolation of uncultivated wastes, is agreeably relieved by a small hill, immediately in front, crowned by a flourishing plantation, and nearly at the same spot, a sudden turn of the road opens to the traveller a prospect of undescribable beauty and interest. Directly before him the Vale of Ystwyth, gradually widening, bursts upon the view like a scene of the most delightful enchantment. A small village, in this commanding situation, is called Pentre Briwnant; and a public house here is called *Pentre Briwnant Inn*, where persons, not too squeamish in the article of beds and provisions, may be furnished with temporary board and lodging. About one mile south of Cwm Ystwyth lead mines, is Hafod, or Havod Uchtryd, the justly beautiful seat of the late Thomas Johnes, esq. Lord-lieutenant, and Custos Rotulorum of the county of Cardigan, and also its representative in parliament. The entrance to the grounds is on the left of the turnpike, and is marked by a neat lodge and gateway. The carriage-road winds hence to the right, partly through groves of young trees, and partly through a forest of majestic oak, and nothing is seen of the house till a turn round a projecting rock at the extremity of the wood brings it in full view.

The elegant and hospitable mansion, first built here by Mr. Baldwin the architect, was burnt nearly down in March 1807, when the fire was so rapid, that Mrs. Johnes, with the assistance of a gentleman then upon a visit to the house, with the greatest difficulty saved the contents of four of the book cases, all the rest of the printed books and manuscripts being burnt: the plate, several pictures, and other valuables were rescued. The fire engine on the premises, owing to the frost, was useless; but happily no lives were lost. However, though only 26,000*l.* could be recovered from the insurance offices, Mr. Johnes, with that enthusiasm which led him to devote his life and fortune to the creation of a paradise out of a wilderness, determined him still to inhabit his Eden. Another mansion has, in consequence, arisen out of the ashes of the former, the greater part of the walls being preserved. Several alterations have been made in the interior; but the apartments now shewn to casual visitors, comprise the principal octagon library; a circular library opening into it; another library consisting of a large room; a parallelogram, a spacious dining room, and a drawing room.

The principal paintings and other works of art, saved from the general wreck, are disposed in these apartments. The octagon library contains busts of Mr. and Mrs. Johnes, by Banks, another of Mr. Johnes, by Chauntrey, and one of the late Duke of Bedford, by Nollekens. In the drawing room, over the chimney-piece, is Hogarth's celebrated picture of Southwark Fair; the others, in different apartments, are too many to enumerate here. The whole furniture of these apartments is in a style of elegant simplicity, though some of the marble chimney-pieces, enriched by sculptured devices, touched by a masterly hand, were brought from Font-hill, as were also three magnificent French mirrors in the long library, having been purchased at Mr. Beckford's sale.

Mrs. Johnes established a school at Havod, several years since, for the gratuitous education of poor girls,

who are taught to read and spin. Fine table cloths, used by the family, were at one time made from this home-manufactured thread. In the grounds was also a printing-house; and Mr. Johnes sent from thence his translation of Froissart's and Monstrelet's Chronicles, Joinville, and Le Brocquiere's Memoirs, and some other works.

Leaving the interior beauties of this secluded mansion, we are frequently struck with admiration at the rich plantations round it, and up a great extent of country, which owe their origin entirely to the late Mr. Johnes' industry and particular attention to this department. The trees he chiefly planted were larch and beech, and these with singular success; but he did not confine himself solely to the preceding, as will be shewn. In 1797, the usual number of three hundred thousand was greatly exceeded, which is stated, to give the reader an idea of the Havod plantations, and its annual increase, by a proportionate number.

300,000	Larch from the nursery.
50,000	Birch and Mountain Ash from the woods.
200,000	Larch of different growth from Scotland.
1000	Birch, ditto.
17,700	Alders, ditto.
2000	Mountain ash, ditto.
4000	Beech, ditto.
22,000	Wych elm.
596,700	

The whole number of trees, planted on the estate from October 1795 to April 1801, amounted to two millions and sixty-five thousand, of which one million two hundred were larches, without including the land sown with acorns.

Since this period the plantations have been extended on the same scale with equal spirit, from one to two hundred thousand trees being planted every year.

Upon the whole, many people of the first taste have

considered themselves amply recompensed for the fatigue of long journies, by the delightful prospects they here beheld; and the many elegant descriptions of it given by writers of the first eminence, render it extremely difficult, if not physically impossible, to describe it more emphatically. Those who have yet to see, as well as those who may again review the improvements made by its late owner, must have some estimate of the worth of a man, "whose taste and munificence appreciated and fostered the works of the most exalted genius, while his benevolence stooped to comfort the fire-side of the lowest cottager—the benefits resulting from his designs, his munificence and example will be the living records of him in after times:—while the writings of Mr. Malkin, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Meyrick, Mr. Evans, and others, descriptive of this elegant residence of departed worth, will convey, with all the force of language, the several beauties of nature, embellishments of art, and operations of genius, taste, and science, here combined to captivate, fascinate, and enchant, the spectator.

Mr. Cumberland's masterly hand has furnished the following elegant description: Havod is a place in itself so pre-eminently beautiful, that it highly merits a particular description. It stands surrounded with so many noble scenes, diversified with elegance, as well as with grandeur; the country, on the approach to it, is so very wild and uncommon, and the place itself is now so embellished by art, that it will be difficult, I believe, to point out a spot, that can be put in competition with it, considered either as the object of the painter's eye, the poet's mind, or as a desirable residence for those who, admirers of the beautiful wildness of nature, love also to inhale the pure air of aspiring mountains, and enjoy that "Santo pace" (as the Italians expressively term it), which arises from solitudes, made social by a family circle. From the porticoes it commands a woody, narrow winding vale; the undulating forms of whose ascending shaggy sides are richly clothed with various foliage, broken with

silver water-falls, and crowned with climbing sheep-walks stretching to the clouds.

Neither are the luxuries of life absent; for, on the margin of the Ystwyth, where it flows broadest through this delicious vale, we see hot-houses, and a conservatory beneath the rocks; a bath; amid the recesses of the wood, a flower-garden; and, within the building, whose decorations, though rich, are pure and simple, we find a mass of rare and valuable literature, whose pages here seem doubly precious, where meditation finds scope to range unmolested.

In a word, so many are the delights afforded by the scenery of this place, and its vicinity, to a mind imbued with any taste, that the impression on mine was increased after an interval of ten years from the first visit, employed chiefly in travelling among the Alps, the Appenines, the Sabine Hills, and the Tyrolese: along the shores of the Adriatic, over the Glaciers of Switzerland, and up the Rhine; where, though in search of beauty, I never, I feel, saw any thing so fine—never so many pictures concentred in one spot: so that, warned by the renewal of my acquaintance with them, I am irresistibly urged to attempt a description of the hitherto almost virgin haunts of these obscure mountains.

Wales, and its borders, both north and south, abound at intervals with fine things—Piercefield has grounds of great magnificence, and wonderfully picturesque beauty. Downton Castle has a delicious woody vale, most tastefully managed; Llangollen is brilliant; the banks of the Conway savagely grand; Barmouth romantically rural; the great Pistill Rhaiader is horribly wild; Rhaiader Wennol, gay, and gloriously irregular:—each of which merits a studied description.

But, at Havod, and its neighbourhood, I find the effects of all in one circle; united with this peculiarity, that the deep dingles, and mighty woody slopes, which, from a different source, conduct the Rheidiol's never-failing waters from Pumlumon, and the Mynach, are of an unique character, as mountainous forests, ac-

companying gigantic size with graceful forms: and, taken altogether, I see the sweetest interchange of hill and valley, rivers, woods, and plains, and falls, with forests crowned, rocks, dens, and caves; insomuch, that it requires little enthusiasm there to feel forcibly with MILTON:

> "All things that be, send up from earth's great altar silent praise."

There are four fine walks from the house, chiefly through ways artificially made by the proprietor; all dry, kept clean, and composed of materials found on the spot; which is chiefly a coarse stone, of a greyish cast, friable in many places; and like slate, but oftener consisting of immense masses, that cost the miner, in making some part of these walks, excessive labour; for there are places where it was necessary to perforate the rock many yards, in order to pass a promontory, that, jutting across the way, denied further access, and to go round which, you must have taken a great tour, and made a fatiguing descent. As it is, the walks are so constructed, that few are steep; the transitions easy, the returns commodious, and the branches distinct. Neither are they too many, for much is left for future projectors; and if a man be stout enough to range the underwoods, and fastidious enough to reject all trodden paths, he may, almost every where, stroll from the studied line, till he be glad to regain the friendly conduct of the well known way.

Yet one must be nice, not to be content at first to visit the best points of view by the general routine; for all that is here done, has been to remove obstructions, reduce the materials, and conceal the art; and we are no where presented with attempts to force the untamed streams, or indeed to invent any thing where nature, the great mistress, has left all art behind.

The following lines, neatly illustrative of the sovereignty of nature over the intrusion of art, cannot be more properly introduced than in this place, where

they so happily adorn and strengthen the judicious and very respectable opinion of Mr. Cumberland on this subject:

THE GENIUS OF HAVOD.

Formal Slaves of Art, avaunt!
This is Nature's secret haunt:
The Genius of the Landscape, I
Guard it, with a jealous eye—
Guard it, that no footstep rude
Upon her privacy intrude.
Here, with mystic maze, her throne
Is girt, accessible to none
But to the highly-honour'd few
To whom I deign to lend my clue;
And chief to him, who in this grove
Devotes his life to share her love;
From whom she seeks no charms to hide—
For whom she throws her veil aside,
Instructing him to spread abroad
Scenes for Salvator—or for Claude.
Far, oh far hence, let Brown and Eames
Zig-zag their walks, and torture streams!
But let them not my dells profane,
Or violate my Naiad train;
Nor let their arrogance invade
My meanest Dryad's secret shade,
And with fantastic knots disgrace
The native honours of the place—
Making the vet'ran oak give way,
Some spruce exotic to display:
Their petty labours he defy'd,
Who Taste and Nature would divide!

About six miles south of Havod is Ystrad-flur Abbey, or Strata Florida; it is situate near the source of the Teivi, in the farthest recess of a mountainous semicircle, amid numerous coppices of wood, and cultivated land to the steep declivities, which render the situation very pleasant and desirable. Of this

abbey, called by the Welsh, Mynachlog Ystrad-flur, there are still some remains, but very inconsiderable, and scarcely worth notice, having only a wall on the west end of the church, with a gateway of Saxon architecture, which is of fine proportion, and well preserved. The church is large, with a long and cross aisle, but the foundation appears to have been 60 feet longer than it is at present. Near the large cloister is the infirmary, now in ruins, also a burying-ground, meanly walled with stone, having in Leland's time 39 remarkable large yew trees; but the court before the abbey is spacious and handsome. This abbey was originally founded for Cistertian monks; but Camden says Cluniacs, by Rhys ab Gruffydd, prince of South Wales, in 1164, and burnt down in the time of Edward I. about the year 1294, but soon after rebuilt. At the dissolution of these religious institutions, it was valued at 118*l.* 17*s.* per annum. Within these ancient walls was regularly kept a chronicle of the principal transactions among our British princes; with all the old records complete from 1156 to 1270. It is likewise celebrated as the place of interment of many of our Welsh princes and abbots, but at present not a single fragment of their tombs remains, nor even one solitary inscription any where to be found. Among the illustrious persons interred here, the monk of Llancarvan inscribes the following:

A. D. 1184. Hywel ab Ievan, Lord of Arwystli.
1191. Owen ab Rhys.
1202. Gruffydd, prince of South Wales.
1204. Howel ab Rhys, by the side of Gruffydd, first deprived of his sight, and then treacherously murdered.
Isabel, daughter of Richard Clare, Earl of Hereford, and wife of William Gam, Lord of Gower.
1209. Maude de Bruce, or Breos, wife of Gruffydd ab Rhys.
1221. Rhys ab Rhys Vychan.
1239. Maelgwn, the son of Rhys ab Gruffydd.

A. D. 1235. Cadwallon ab Maelgwn, of Maelienydd.

—— Owen, the son of Gruffydd ab Rhys.

1238. Llewelyn ab Iorwerth, who being indisposed, assembled before him at Ystrad-flur, all the barons and lords of Wales, to do homage to his son David, whom he named his successor.

Near the remains of this Abbey is an old mansion, built by John Stedman, esq. of Staffordshire. William Powell, of Nant Eos, esq. married the heiress and brought the property into that family, who are its present owners.

Some years ago, two of the Abbey seals were found in the adjacent lands. One was circular, about the size of a crown piece, and bore the Abbey arms; the other was an elipse, with a representation of the Madona and Child. The former was sold by the boy who discovered it, to an itinerant jew.

The Teivi, at this place, appears merely as a diminished stream; but, twenty or thirty miles from hence, near Cilgwyn, and in that neighbourhood, its grand woody banks offer some beautiful scenery, much resembling the views near the Wye, at Chepstow, &c.

From Strata Florida Abbey, the visitor will have the option of regaining the post-road to Aberystwyth, by varying the line back, and leaving Havod to the left, which will bring him to the inn at Pentrev, or Cwm-Ystwyth, where he may pass the night; he may pursue a more direct way from the Abbey, if he has time to reach Aberystwyth the same evening, as he will not find any convenient lodging short of that place. By the latter route, a small circuit would include a view of the fine old mansion belonging to Colonel Vaughan, called Cross-wood; and there is also, in this direction, a great variety of delightful scenery, which will yield ample gratification to the admirer of those beauties which so eminently distinguish this district of the principality.

About seven or eight miles from the Devil's Bridge,

the road to Aberystwyth forms a fine terrace nearly all the way to that place, on the side of a chain of mountains, with the charming Vale of Rheidiol on the right, through which the river of the same name is seen winding its course to the sea. This valley presents a very grand and extensive scene, continuing not less than ten miles, among rocks, hanging woods, and varied ground, which in some parts becomes mountainous; while the river is every where a beautiful object, and, twice or three times in its passage through the vale, is interrupted in its course, and formed into a cascade.

The unexpected manner in which this delightful prospect bursts into view, upon gaining the summit of a mountain, naturally arrests the progress of the traveller who is intuitously rivetted to the spot, minutely to admire the fascinating beauty of the opening scene; which continues to attract his attention until he reaches Aberystwyth.

Here it may not be improper to observe, that the principal lakes in Cardiganshire lie near the summit of the hills which divide this county from Radnorshire, and in the vicinity of Ystrad-flur. Of these lakes, six in number, Llyn Tive is the principal. Its circumference may be about a mile and a half, and it is said not to have been fathomed. The following is the enumeration given by Leland, of the lakes which occur on these hills, including several not noticed by Dr. Malkin. Leland travelled over this county in the reign of Henry the Eighth:

"Thence (from Ystrad-flur), I went a good half mile by Tive Vale, and a mile and a half up the craggy mountains to Llin Tive, and two miles beyond it to Cragnaulin. If I had gone thence a mile off by a bye hill, I might have seen Penlimmon, then distant five miles The hills between Llin Tive and Cragnaulin did not appear so stony as those betwixt Ystrad-flur and that place: Llin Tive, in compass, is three quarters of a mile. It is fed from higher places

with a little brook, which issueth out again by a small gut: here are good trout and eels, but no other fish.

From Clarduy to Cragnaulin, is a good mile to the east. Standing by a stone on the top of this hill, I saw five pools, the largest being Llin Helignant, which has no fish but trout and eels; some of the former are as red as salmon, whilst others are white: a brook runs out of this pool into the Tive, half a mile above Ystrad-flur.

Llinher, or the Long Lake, is three quarters of a mile in length, and contains plenty of trout and eels.

Llin Gorlan has no outlet.

Llin Gronn has an outlet, and seemed nearly to join Llyn Gorlan.

Llyn Veryddon Vaur has plenty of trout and eels, but no stream running in or out of it.

Llynnyvigin Velin, or the Quaking Moor, is yellow, from the colour of the moss and the rotten grass about it.

Of all these pools, none stand in such a rocky soil as the Tive: the ground all about Tive, and for a good mile towards Ystrad-flur, is horrible, with the sight of bare stones, like Creygereyri (Snowdon).

Llinllanebeder is within half a mile of Llanbeder, and contains trout and eels.

Llynyrydde, two miles from Ystrad-flur, has a small issue or brook.

Lliny Creghant, is a large pool full of trout and eels. It is three miles west of Ystrad-flur, towards Llandovery.

Llin Duy, or the Black Lake, is very deep; this is three miles south of Ystrad-flur, towards the lordship of Buallt.

Llyn y gorres; gorse in Welsh, and a meer in English, abounds with eels and trout.

Llynngynon is upon a high mountain, three miles from Ystrad-flur, to the south-west. It has an outlet into the brook of Llin Helignant.

Llincreg Cloydon, is five or six miles from Ystrad-

flur, towards Powis land: an outlet from it runs into Elan, or Alan Water. Llin Winge is almost joined to Llincreg Cloydon, but has no outlet. There are, besides these, several small lakes scattered over the high lands in different parts of the country, some of which have been incidentally mentioned as the sources of particular rivers."

The northern districts of Cardiganshire are very mountainous, and detached hills of considerable elevation occur in other parts. The towering summit, which bears the name of Pumlumon, stands in Montgomeryshire; but a large proportion of the lofty hills, which compose its base, spread into Cardiganshire, and bound the Vale of the Teivi on the east, through nearly the whole of its course. On the west, a branch shoots between the Dyvi and the Rheidiol; a third stretches between the Rheidiol and the Ystwyth; another having the Ystwyth on the north-west, and the Teivi on the east, takes a south westerly direction, and terminates at the river Aeron on the south-east; and a fifth runs in nearly a parallel direction with the last on the western side of the Teivi towards Cardigan. The land along the sea-coast, except where the vallies open into the interior, is generally of a very considerable elevation. The Vale of Aeron is the most distinguished in this respect, which spreads, in the neighbourhood of Ystrad, to a tolerable width, containing some rich and well cultivated farms.

Returning to our road, at the distance of seven miles from Pont-ar-Vynach, we pass, on our right, YSTRADMEIRIG, a small village, formerly defended by a castle, which was destroyed in 1136 by Owen Gwynedd, but again rebuilt, in 1150, by prince Rhys, of South Wales. It afterwards suffered considerably, and was probably burnt by Maelgwn ab Rhys, in 1207, to prevent it falling into the hands of Llewelyn ab Iorwerth.

This village, however, is chiefly known for its ancient grammar school, perhaps the best in the prin-

cipality, which, for the knowledge and profound erudition of several of its professors, has justly gained the appellation of the "Welsh College" at Ystradmeirig. Another endowment, granted for a similar school, has been incorporated with it in the adjoining parish of Llanvihangel Lledrod. This has formed, for many years, one of the best classical schools in the principality, and still maintains its reputation. It is one of the schools licensed for the education of young men for the ministry in the Church of England. The school-room is a neat building, of modern erection, in the pointed style; and a library is annexed to it, containing a good collection of books in various languages.

At the distance of five miles from Ystradmeirig, we pass through Tregaron, a poor ill-built straggling town, situated on an abrupt hollow, and watered by an arm of the river Teivi, besides being plentifully interspersed with wood, which forms a pleasing relief to the surrounding dreariness. The church is a respectable old building, and the town boasts the dignity of a mayor; but the general accommodation in this secluded place is very indifferent.

A little to the eastward of the town, once stood a house, called in Welsh, Porth y Ffynnon, or *Fountain Gate*, where was born Thomas Jones, better known in his neighbourhood by the name of Twm Sion Catti. He is said to have been the natural son of Sir John Wynne, of Gwydyr. He flourished about 1590 and 1630, and acquired considerable reputation as a Welsh antiquary and poet: but his fame in the principality is founded chiefly upon a character of a very different nature, and upon pursuits which might be supposed wholly at variance with the cultivation of letters. The traditionary history of the county, represents him as a robber of consummate address, who managed, for a considerable time, to prey upon his neighbours with complete impunity. By marrying the heiress of Ystrad-fîn, in the Vale of Teivi, he acquired a large fortune, which gave him sufficient

consequence in Caermarthenshire, to procure his appointment to the shrievalty for that county; and his title was then changed from Twm Sion Catti, to Thomas Jones, esq. of Fountain-gate.

Three miles from this place, in our road, is a large mound, encircled by a moat; but whether it was the site of an ancient citadel or sepulchre, is uncertain.

We now pass, on the left of our road, the village of LLANDEWI-BREVI, seated on the river Teivi. A horn of an ox was kept in its church, of a very extraordinary size, being at the root seventeen inches in circumference, and as heavy as stone; seemingly petrified, and said to have been preserved there ever since the time of St. David, in the beginning of the sixth century. This horn is represented full of large cells and holes, called in Welsh Matgorn-ych-Dewi; to which is added the common tradition or fable of Ychain Banog.

The church is dedicated to St. David. At this place, Thomas Beck, bishop of St. David, founded a college, dedicated to that Saint, in the year 1187, for a precentor and twelve prebendaries; its value at the dissolution was 38*l.* 11*s.* per annum. A synod was held at this place in 522, and at a full meeting, St. David opposed the opinions of the Pelagians. St. Dubricius, archbishop of Caerlion, having assisted at the synod, resigned his see to St. David, and betook himself to Bardsey island, to spend the remainder of his life in devotion. Of this circumstance particular mention is made by Aneurin, an eminent bard of that period.

Pan oedd saint Senedd Brefi,
Drwy arch y prophwydi,
Ar ol gwiw bregeth Dewi
Yn myned i Ynys Enlli.

In the church of Llan Dewi-Brevi, H. Llwyd, the learned commentator on Camden, tells us, he found above the chancel door an ancient inscription on a tomb-stone, now destroyed, aud likewise the horn.

Roman coins and inscriptions have sometimes been

found here, with bricks and large free-stone, neatly wrought; for which reason, Dr. Gibson thinks proper to fix here Lovantinum, or Levantinum, which Ptolemy places in the country of the Dimetiæ; Mr. Horsley also joins with him in opinion.

At Llan Dewi-Brevi, on a stone near the church-door, on the outside, is an old inscription, perfectly unintelligible, as it seems to consist wholly of abbreviations.

At the distance of six miles from Llan Dewi-Brevi, and nine from Tregaron, we arrive at LLANPEDR, a small town, containing nothing particularly worthy of observation, except the large old seat of Sir Herbert Lloyd, which, built close to the town, exhibits a very striking appearance, with its four great towers, crowned with domes, in the middle of a well-planted enclosure, but it appears to have been long neglected.

Pumlumon, is a dreary mountain, among many others, situate partly in Cardiganshire and Montgomeryshire, about fifteen miles from Aberystwyth. The surface of the lower parts of this mountain is covered with soft mossy turf and low heath, but often broken with rugged and tremendous bogs, or in some places entirely overspread with large loose stones; while in other places the protuberances of white rocks give it a singular appearance on approaching its base. The toil in ascending is very considerable, and generally not advisable, unless the day is remarkably clear and free from fogs.

On ascending the east side of the peak, the view is fine; but the ascent troublesome to a pyramid of loose stones, resembling a carn, with two more on the summit much larger, supposed to have been used formerly as beacons, to give notice of an enemy approaching, by burning a fire on the tops, which might be seen from ten counties.

In a bog, near the first carn, was found, some years since, the blade of a British spear, or pike, called Fonwaew; it was two-edged, and about ten inches long, made of brass, for fastening to the end of a

pole, such, perhaps, as Owen Glyndwr used in 1401, when he posted himself on this mountain, with 130 men, to receive succours from his friends and vassals in North and South Wales. From hence his followers made their plundering excursions, and were the terror of all that refused to espouse his cause. Having attained the summit, on a clear day, the views unfold themselves more wild and extensive than is possible to describe; they exhibit mountains rolling, as it were, over each other, and, under the most sublime forms and beautiful hues imaginable, varying and shifting until they insensibly lose themselves in the horizon: also Cader Idris and Snowdon. After a copious fall of rain, a number of cataracts may be seen beautifully embellishing the sides of this mountain.

The most celebrated characteristic of Pumlumon is, its giving rise to no less than five springs or rivers: and next, that on five of its most conspicuous heights it had so many beacons, whence is derived the name of *Pum-Lumon;* or, Five Beacons.

The Cardiganshire mountains are universally destitute of wood, and exhibit a bleak and dreary appearance. They are, nevertheless, capable of every improvement under judicious management. Philips long ago hazarded this opinion relative to the inhospitable heights of Pumlumon itself.

——Even on this cliffy height
Of Penmaenmawr, and that cloud piercing hill,
Plimlimmon from afar the traveller kens,
Astonished how the goats their shrubby browze
Gnaw pendent; nor untrembling canst thou see
How, from a scraggy rock, whose prominence
Half overshades the ocean, hardy men,
Fearless of rending winds and dashing waves,
Cut samphire to excite the squeamish gust
Of pampered luxury. Then let thy ground
Not be *unlaboured;* if the richest stem
Refuse to thrive, yet who would doubt to plant

Somewhat, that may to human use redound,
And penury, the worst of ills remove?
There are, who fondly studious of increase,
Rich foreign mold on their ill natured land
Induce laborious, and with fattening muck
Besmear the roots; in vain! the nursling grove
Seems fair awhile, cherished with foster earth;
But when the alien compost is exhaust,
Its native poverty again prevails.

The river Wye issues from a spacious hollow in this mountain, where the water falls in a narrow streamlet, several hundred yards, nearly perpendicular, till, meeting with various small currents, it soon forms a cataract, rolling with astonishing rapidity over a rocky course. From the same ridge of mountains, north-east of the top, rises the Severn and Rheidiol; the latter empties itself into the Irish Channel, at Aberystwyth, and the former, after an extent of 200 miles, runs into the sea below Bristol. The Llyvnant and Mynach are also considerable streams, but not so important as the preceding.

This and all the adjacent hills and enclosures are destitute of wood, neither has the hand of cultivation yet approached its vicinity, which gives the whole a wild and solitary gloom. At a hovel, near the bottom of the mountain, a guide is sometimes to be had; the ascent without is very precarious and difficult. At Broginin, in this parish, the celebrated poet, Davydd ab Gwilym, was born in 1340, generally styled the Welsh Ovid.

His parents were nearly allied to some of the principal families in South Wales; but his own origin does not appear to have been very honourably distinguished. His mother proving pregnant before marriage, was expelled from her home by her relations; upon which she was united to her lover. During this rupture with the family, she and her husband, probably with their infant son, sought an asylum in the hospitable mansion of her relation, Ifor Hael, or Ifor,

the generous lord of Tredegar in Monmouthshire, from whose nephew, the Morgans of that house are descended. Upon a reconciliation, Dafydd was placed under his uncle, Lleweylin ab Gwilym, a man of talents and learning, and well qualified for his office: little is known of the youthful history of our bard; but it appears, that some of his earliest productions gave offence to his parents, and obliged him, once more, to seek the protection of Ifor: who, on this occasion, appointed him his steward, and invested him with the office of tutor to his daughter. This gave rise to a mutual passion, which being discovered, the lady was sent by her father to a nunnery in Anglesey. Thither she was followed by her lover, who, in hope of gaining admittance to her, hired himself as a servant to a neighbouring monastery: however, being foiled in all his plans, he retired to the house of his patron, who treated him with unabated kindness; and, during his residence here, he was elected chief bard of Glamorgan, and always came off victorious in the poetical contests in his time. Dafydd's fine person rendered him a great favourite with the fair sex; and, if all the tales related of him be true, his amours were not a little licentious. On one occasion, he made an appointment with each of his mistresses to meet him, at the same hour, under a particular tree, to which none of them was a stranger. In order to witness the event of this congress, he hid himself in the branches, where he could hear and see without being seen. The damsels were not a little vexed and surprized at discovering this trick, of which they had been made the dupes, and immediately determined to put the poet to death the first opportunity that offered; but the bard contrived, by some extempore couplets pronounced from his hiding place, to fire them with jealousy, and to excite them to vent their rage on one another. During the confusion that ensued, he escaped with safety.

Dafydd became enamoured of Morfudd, the daughter of Madog Lawgam, of Anglesey, to whom he was

united in a manner, not uncommon in those days, by a bard under a tree. This ceremony not being considered valid by the lady's friends, she was taken away and married to a wealthy old man, with whom she remained till her former lover caused her to elope with him. Being for this thrown into prison, and unable to pay the fine, the men of Glamorgan liberated him. On the death of Ifor and his family, Dafydd retired to his paternal home at Broginin, where he composed some small pieces, admirable for their sweetness and pathos. He was buried at Ystrad-flur Abbey about the year 1400. A collection of his poems was published in 1789, in one large volume duodecimo, by Mr. Owen Jones and Mr. William Owen, the latter of whom has prefixed a Memoir, and Critical Dissertation on his genius and style; from which most of the preceding facts have been taken. His poems of the amatory kind, are chiefly addressed to some of his mistresses.

We cannot conclude our journies through the principality without referring those, who visit this interesting part of the kingdom, to the mode of travelling recommended by Mr. Nicholson.

The plan which Mr. Malkin adopted was that of walking; but he says, "I took a servant on horseback, for the conveyance of books as well as necessaries, without which convenience, almost every advantage of a pedestrian is lost, except economy, and that is completely frustrated by so expensive an addition." Warner made his tours entirely on foot, and carried his own necessaries. He appears to have often walked thirty miles each day. Walking can only be pleasing to those who have been accustomed to that exercise, and when not limited to time. He who takes a horse and saddle-bags, has certainly much the advantage of a pedestrian in most situations; he passes over uninteresting tracts with celerity; surveys, at ease, the attractions of both near and distant objects, and is received with more cordiality at the inns. The latter, though he be at liberty to scramble up a mountain or

a rock, has to suffer more from that addition to his common fatigue. It is true, that he can step aside to botanize and examine the beauties of nature and art, in situations where a horse would be an incumbrance; walking can also be engaged in whenever a person is ready to start, and is the most independent mode of passing on; but when he arrives wet and weary, at an inn, at ten at night, he has sometimes to suffer the mortification of being received with coldness, treated with subordinate accommodations, if not refused admittance; obliged, perhaps, to accept the necessaries of a mere public house; or proceed further. Dr. Mavor says, "The comforts of a carriage are scarcely compensated for, when the numerous inconveniences are taken into the account. The most independent way of travelling is certainly on foot; but, as few have health and strength for an undertaking of this kind, the most pleasant and satisfactory way of making a tour, is undoubtedly upon a safe and quiet horse, adapted to the country through which we are to pass. I would therefore advise persons, who intend traversing Wales, to perform that part of the journey, which lies through England, in regular stages, and to purchase a sure-footed Welsh poney, as soon as they enter the country. They may thus gain time for their researches in the principality, and be exempted from the delays and fatigues incident to any other plan of journeying." Dr. Mavor travelled in an open carriage and two horses, in company with a female friend, and two gentlemen, but he does not describe the vehicle further. In his remarks, however, at Corwen, he says, "we were assembled and ready to start; and though at six o'clock, a crowd was gathered round our carriage, as usual, admiring its singular construction. I have not often noticed this circumstance; but it was a source of continual amusement to us in every place through which we passed, because it amused others." The editor has hitherto travelled on foot, but he has been, like others, subjected to some unpleasant rebuffs, as at MALLWYD. The principal objection to

walking which he can make, is that of carrying the luggage of a change or two of linen and stockings, a small compass, a prospective glass, Hull's Pocket Flora, a portable press for drying plants, a drinking horn, and occasionally some provision more savory or palatable than a penny roll. Where a guide is employed, he will generally relieve you from the incumbrance of such a package, but the most desirable mode of travelling is certainly upon a strong little horse, which you may relieve by walking at intervals. The Editor once met in *Cwm Glas*, a party of four gentlemen on foot, whom a little boy followed upon a small poney, with the joint conveniences of each, in a large wallet; but then how rarely can two persons be found, whose pursuits are similar, and whose desires are alike! The chance of four being so agreed is proportionably more uncertain. Walking becomes exceedingly painful when blisters upon the feet result from this exercise. But this inconvenience may be prevented by wearing strong, pliant, and easy shoes, or those which are made from two lasts to the shape of the feet, as described by Camper; by wearing fine soft flannel or woollen socks next to the skin, and by washing the feet with water before going to bed. If, for want of such precautions, blisters should arise, let out the serum with a needle, without breaking the skin, bathe the part with equal quantities of vinegar and luke-warm water, and apply a thin liniment of wax and oil, with a little sugar of lead; some apply a compress of brandy, with an equal quantity of vinegar of lead, and anoint with oil. "I would strongly recommend it," says Mr. Malkin, "to the traveller of curiosity and leisure, who may take the direct route from England, east and west, to begin with Rumney, from the sea to its source; then adhering to that method, to pursue the banks of each river as far as they will lead him with tolerable convenience, the regular chain of which a good map will point out."

END OF SOUTH WALES.

INDEX.

Page

ABBEY, CWMHIR .. 63, 64
Aberavan 99
Aberedw Castle 86
Aberfraw 126
Abergwaen 144
Aberystwyth, 159—buildings, 161—quarries, ib.—summer visitors, ib.—suburbs, ib.—castle, 162, 163—church, 165—bathing machines, 166—mines, ib.—manners, 167—harbour, ib.—market, 168--paupers, 169—customs and costume, 170 — chalybeate spring 173
Aeron, Vale of 200
Agricultural Societies 56
Alps, the Welsh 163
Arberth 141
Arthur, sepulchre of the celebrated 129, 130
Arthur's Stone 99
——— Tables 129
Barrows with Urns 149
Beaufort, Works, the 120
Beck, Thomas, Bishop of St. David 202
Bedd Ygre, or Ugre's Grave, 67
Blaen Edw Wells 71
Blaine Ustwith 182
Brecknockshire 78
Brecon, or Brecknock 79 to 82
Brecos, William 77
Bridge End 101
Bridge, in the Moorish style 182
——— romantic of Llanafan, 183
British Cross, a curious .. 148
——— Spear, blade of .. 203
Briton Ferry 99
Broginin 205
Bryn Glas 75
Buallt 84
Building, an ancient British 122
Burdd, Arthur 129
Burton and Philips 67
Cadwallon ab Madawc .. 68
Caer Caradoc 74
Caerdiff, 112—Castle 113
Caerfili Castle 116, 117
Caermarthenshire 119
Caermarthen, 123—the Guildhall, ib.—the gaol, ib.—market-place, 124—inns 124
Camddwr 184
Camlow 65
Caractacus 74, 110
Caradoc of Llancarvan 61, 111
Cardigan, town of, 157—bridge, Town Hall, ib.—Castle 158, 159
Cardiganshire 154
——— mountains in 204
Careg Cennin Castle 122
Carew Castle 138
Carno, hills of 90
Carns, various 65, 66
Carriages and cars 55
Cascade, the great 90
Castell Crug 103
Castell Coch 114
Castell Timboth 75
Castle Collwyn 77
Castle Cymaron 68
Castle Hill 183
Castles belonging to Roger Mortimer 68
Cataract, a beautiful 99
Cattle 50
Celtic remains 177
Cevn Llys Castle 75
Cevn y bed 86
Cevn y Bryn 99
Cevn y Gelli Gaer 118
Chalybeate waters, their effects ..... 173 to 176
Cist vaen, or stone chest .. 90
Clardny 198
Cleddau, the river 143
Coetty, village of, 101—Castle 101
Contest, a poetical 157
Coracles, construction and use of 149
Cowbridge 111
Cragnaulin 198
Cragus Hoelinus 89
Crickhowel ..... ib.
Crogen, the 75
Crognant 183
Cromlech, remarkable .. 149

Page
Crosswood 183, 197
Crug y Dyrn 129
Cumberland, Mr., description of Havod, by ..... 192 to 195
——— on the Genius of Havod 195
Cwm Elan 61, 62
Cwm Magwyr, Valley of .. 183
Cym Ystwyth, lead mines of 189
Dafydd ab Gwilyim 205
David, a Jumper 165
Devanner 65
Devil's Hole, the 188
——— Bridge, origin of the 186
——— history of, by Mr. Hutton 188
Dinas Castle 83
Dinas Emlyn 123
Dindryvan Castle 110
Dinevwr Castle 121
Districts, mountainous 199, 200
Divisions, civil and ecclesiastical 58
Dol y Coed 87
Dubricius, Archbishop .. 202
Duliw, the 182
Dunraven 110
Edwards, William 103
Edwin ab Einion 127
Elan Water 109
Esgair Vraith 184
Ewenni 106
Ewenni and Ogmore rivers 102
Fairs, a list of 31
Farm houses and cottages .. 51
Farms, rent and size of .. 52
Fisgard town, 144—harbour, ib.—church, 146—French invasion, ib.—castle, 147—Druidical sepulchres at 147
Five Beacons, derivation of 204
Funerals, mode of attending 169
Gaer, the 67
Giraldus Cambrensis 78
Glamorganshire 90
Glasbury 82
Glas Grug 178, 186
Glossary of Welsh names . 40
Gnoll Castle 97
Gwely Taliesin 179
Gwenffrwd, the 185
Gwr, or Gower 144
Havod Arms, the 185, 188
Havod, the seat of the late Thomas Johnes, esq., 189—burnt down, 190—paintings, ib.—plantations, 191—Mr. Cumberland's masterly description of 192 to 195
Haverfordwest 141, 142
Hay, or Tregelli 82
Hirnant 185
Holms, the flat and steep .. 115
Horn, the, of an ox 202
Hospitality, Welsh 167
Howel Dha, ancient palace of 125
Illtyd, school of St. 108
——— Norman remains of 109
Implements 53
Island, triangular 186
Islands of St. Catherine and Caldy 141
Jumping justified 165
Kilgeran, or Cilgeraint .. 147
Knighton 74
Kydwelli, 127—Castle .. 128
Lacharn, 126—Castle 126
Lakes and fish-ponds 48
Lakes, various 187
Lakes, principal, in Cardiganshire 198
Lamphey 136
Lantwit, town of 109
Lead mines, rich 156
Leases 53
Lhech y gawres 159
Literature and learned men 42
Llanafan, bridge of 183
Llanarth 159
Llanbadarn Gaerog 160
Llanbadarn Vawr .. 177, 178
Llanbedr 180
Llancarvan 111
Llandaff, 115—Cathedral .. 115
Llandegle, or Llandegley .. 71
Llandelio 120
Llandewr Brevi, 202—church of 202
Llandewi Ystradenny ... 67
Llandovery 119, 120
Llandrindod Wells .. 68, 69, 70
Llanelli 99
Llanfai 139
Llangadoc 120
Llangattock 90
Llan Goedmor 158
Llanilar 183
Llannano 75
Llanpedr 203
Llanruysted 159
Llansaintfred 89
Llansanfraid 159

Page
Llanstephan Castle .. 126, 127
Llanvihangel 71, 183
Llanwnnws 183
Llanwyrtyd Well 87
Llanylted 107
Llwyd, H. the commentator 202
Llechryd 85
Llech y gawres 159
Lledrod 183
Llewelyn 83, 84, 85
Llewelyn ab Iorwerth ... 97
Llewelyn the Great 179
Llevenl Castle 88
Llincreg Cloydon 199
Llin Gorlan ..... ib.
Llin Gronn ..... ib.
Llin Helignant 198
Llinher 199
Llinllanebeder 199
Lliny Cregnant ..... ib.
Llowyn 184
Llychwr 99
Llyn Duy; or, the Black Lake 199
Llyn Rheidiol 184
Llyn Savadan 88
Llyn Teivi 198
Llyn Veryddon Vaur ... 199
Llyn y gorres ..... ib.
Llynrydde ..... ib.
Llynngyon ..... ib.
Llynnyvigin Velin; or, the Quaking Moor ..... ib.
Lovantinum 202
Madawg's expedition to America 132, 133
Maen Lythrog 101
Maenorbyr Castle 139
Maesnant 184
Magos, or Magnos 76
Maide, the 183
Malkin, Mr. on walking . 205
Mallwyd 207
Margam Abbey 100
——— Hill 99
Maridunum, the Roman city of 125
Meini Cyriovol; or, the Numerary Stones 159
Melin Crythan 97
Melin Gruffyd 114
Merthyr Tydvill 104
Milford Haven 136, 137
Minerals 57
Monachty, or Monks House 64

Page
Monuments, ancient ... 158
Morfa, or the Marsh ... 186
Morlai Castle 111
Morris Town 96
Mound, a large 202
Mynach River ... 181, 187
Mynach, beauty of the .. 187
Nanteiro 186
Neath Abbey 97, 98
Nevern 148, 149
Newcastle in Emlyn .. 123
Newport 147
New Radnor 71, 72
Newton 102
Offa's Dyke 74
Ogmore Castle 102
Ovid, the Welsh 205
Owen Glyndwr 179
Owen Gwynedd 131
Oystermouth Castle .. 96
Pain's Castle 77
Park Wells 87
Paupers, how provided for . 169
Penbryn 186
Penguin, the bird so called 133
Penlme Castle 107
Penrice 97
Pentre Briwnant, 189—inn at 189
Pentre Evan 148
Pen y bont 67, 101
Philips, lines by, on Pumlumon 204
Pembrokeshire 130
Pembroke, town of, 134—castle, 135—churches, ib.—why the dullest town in Wales 136
Picton Castle 143
Pilla, or Pille Rose 143
Pits, unfathomable 102
Plant Mat, or Fat Children 187
Pumlumon, where situated 200, 203
——— celebrated characteristic of 204
Pont ar Vynach, or Mynach 180, 200
Ponterwyd 185
Pont Rhydygroes 182
Pont y Pridd 103, 104
Population 45
Presteign, or Llan Andrew 73
Radnor, Vale of 59
Radnor, Old 76
Radnorshire 58

Page
Rees, Dr. Abraham 125
Retirement, romantic 187
Rhaider, and Castle 60
Rheidiol River 181
Rheidiol, the grand fall of .. 185
Rhydyceir 183
Rhys, prince of South Wales 148
Rivers and canals .... 45 to 47
——— interesting 181, 182
Roads and bridges .... 48 to 50
——— good 177
Robber's cave 187
Roman coins and inscriptions 203
Roman stations 91
Sea, encroachment of 155
Severn, rise of the 205
Spring, chalybeate 173
Stackpool Court 136
Stapleton Castle 73
St. Clare, village of 125
St. Cadoc, or Catwyg 111
St. David's, city of, 149—the high street, 150—ancient cross, ib.—cathedral, 150 to 153—bishop's palace, 152—daring sacrilege at, 154—history of, ib.—bishops of 154
St. Dogvael Abbey 149
St. Dunawd, or Donat's Castle 109
Steele, Sir Richard 124
St. Govin, well and chapel of 136
Stone, a vast 99
——— of a gigantic woman 159
——— bridge, an elegant .. 182
Stones, heaps of 65
Strata Florida, Abbey of, 196—church of, ib.—illustrious persons buried at 196
Strata Florida, routes from 197
Stream, acherontic 187
Streams, impetuous 185
Sully and Barry Islands .. 115
Swansea ..... 92 to 96

Page
Taliesin, burial place of .. 179
Teivi, river of 148
——— the beautiful scenery upon 197
Tenby, 139, 140—its beautiful situation, ib.—promenade, ib.—the castle, ib.—the church 141
Tithes 52
Travelling, mode of, recommended 205
Trecastle 88
Tregaron 201
Troy Walter, or Walterstown 111
Tumuli 61
Tumulus, a remarkable 129
Ty Gwynn; or, the White House 125
Twm Sion Catti 201
Vale of Aeron 200
Vale of Rheidiol 197
Vortigern 77
Vortigern's Valley 78
Wales, North and South, fine things in 193
Warden Walk 74
Wastes 55
Water-break-its-neck 72
Watt's Dyke 74
Weights and measures 56
Welsh Alps, the 163
Welsh Indians, the 133
Welsh shawls 101
Weston 143, 144
Whittle, or Welsh cloak .. 144
Wye, the river 205
Y Maen Hir 118
Y Pistyll Mawr 90
Yspytty Cenwyn 187
Ystrad-flur Abbey 196
Ystradmeirig, 200—Welsh college at 200, 201
Ystwyth River 181

London: Printed by B. McMillan,
Bow Street, Covent Garden.