



# **Camden's Britannia**

## **Volume 4**

### **Wales**

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## WALES

It seems most advisable, before we go to the other parts of England, to take a round into Cambria, or Wales, still possessed by the posterity of the old Britons. Though I cannot look upon this as a digression, but a pursuing of the natural course of things. For this tract is spread out along by the sides of the Cornavii, and seems to have a right to be considered here, as in its proper place. Especially, seeing the British or Welsh, the inhabitants of these parts, enjoy the same laws and privileges with us, and have been this long time as it were engrafted into our government.

Wales, therefore (which formerly comprehended all that lies beyond the Severn, but has now narrower bounds) was formerly inhabited by three people, the Silures, the Dimetae, and the Ordovices. To these did not only belong the twelve counties of Wales, but also the two others lying beyond the Severn, Herefordshire and Monmouthshire, now reckoned among the counties of England. To take them then as they lie: the Silures (as we gather from Ptolemy's description of them) inhabited those countries which the Welsh call by one general name Deheubarth, i.e. The Southern part; at this day branched into the new names of Herefordshire, Radnorshire, Brecknockshire, Monmouthshire, and Glamorganshire; within which compass there are still some remains of the name Silures. As to the derivation of the word, I can think of none that will answer the nature of the country; but as to the original of the people. Tacitus imagines them to have come first from Iberia, upon account of their ruddy complexion, their curled hair, and their situation over against Spain. But Florianus del Campo, a Spaniard, is very positive in that matter, and takes a great deal of pains to find the Silures in Spain, and to obtrude upon us I know not what stories about Soloria and Siloria among the old Astures. However, this country was very large (for it seems probable from Pliny and Tacitus that they were possessed of all South Wales,) and the inhabitants were hardy, stout, warlike, averse to servitude, of great boldness and resolution (termed by the Romans *pervicacia* i.e. obstinacy and stubbornness) not to be wrought upon either by threats or kindness: and their posterity have not degenerated in any of these particulars. When the Romans, out of an itching desire of enlarging their empire, made attempts upon them, they (partly reposing a confidence in the courage and conduct of King Caractacus, and partly incensed by a saying of Claudius Emperor, that they were to be as entirely routed as the Sugambri had been) engaged the Romans in a very troublesome and difficult war. For having intercepted the auxiliary troops, cut off the legion under Marius Valens, and wasted the territories of their allies, P. Ostorius, propraetor in Britain, was quite wore out with all these crosses, and died of grief. Veranius too, who governed Britain under Nero, was baffled in this enterprise against them. For where Tacitus says, *Illum modicis excursibus sylvas populatum esse*, "that he destroyed and wasted the woods with slight excursions;" instead of *sylvas*, with the learned Lipsius only read *siluras*, and all's right. Nor could an end be made of this war before Vespasian's reign. For then Julius Frontinus subdued them, and kept them quiet by garrisons of the legions. A certain countryman of ours has wrested that verse of Juvenal upon Crispinus, to these Silures:

—*magna qui voce solebat*  
*Vendere municipes, fracta de merce Siluros.*  
 —who with hideous cry  
 Bawled out his broken sturgeon in the streets.

As if some of our Silures had been taken prisoners, and exposed to sale at Rome. But take it upon my word, he has mistook the genuine sense of the poet. For anyone that reads that passage with attention, will quickly perceive that by *Siluros* he designs to express a sort of fish, and not a people.

## Pronunciation And Orthography Of The Welsh.

### A Letter from Mr. Llwyd

The following letter I received from Mr. Llwyd, along with his translation of the Welsh counties, and his additions to them. As it contains the method he has observed, with some general rules relating to the orthography and pronunciation of the Welsh tongue, it will be for the reader's advantage to have it entire.

SIR.

I have herewith sent you the translation of that part of the Britannia that relates to Wales; together with some annotations on each county. I was always sensible there were several persons better qualified for this task than myself; and therefore (as you know) for some months declined the undertaking. But finding afterwards, that those gentlemen who were fittest for it, could not have leisure to attend it; I thought it better (with the assistance and advice of friends) to offer my best endeavours, than to leave it wholly to the management of some person less acquainted with the language and country. Thus having not entered upon this province, till such as were more capable had declined it, as inconsistent with their private occasions; I hope what faults I have committed in the performance, may be something more excusable.

In the translation, I have, without favour or prejudice, endeavoured to retain the sense of the author: but whereas I have sometimes differed in writing the Welsh names of persons and places; I presumed few readers would scruple to allow me that liberty. Nor can it derogate anything from our excellent author's character; that a native of that country should pretend to a more comprehensive knowledge of the British than himself. However in this case, as I have not wholly written the Welsh words according to the English custom; so neither have I kept strictly to the common method of writing Welsh; but have used a more general alphabet, whereby such as are unacquainted with that language will pronounce the words much truer; and they that understand it will find no occasion of mistakes. For example, in regard the letter *c*, in the Welsh and Irish, is before all vowels pronounced like *k*. (as *cilcen* is read *kilken*.) but in every other language, obtains that pronunciation only before *a*, *o*, and *u*. I have in such words as are purely Welsh substituted *K* for it; in the pronunciation whereof, all languages agree. Nor can the critics in the Welsh call this an innovation, the letter *k* being common in ancient mss. though never used in printed books. I have also for the like reasons taken the same liberty in writing *v* for *f*, and *f* for *ff*, *lh* for *ll*, and *dh* for *dd*. And whereas the word *lhan* in the names of churches is commonly joined with that which follows; as *lhanelian*, *lhaniestin*, &c. I thought it better orthography to separate it; writing *lhan elian*, which signifies St. Aelian's church; and *lhan iestin*, i.e. St. Justin's. As for the annotations I have added at the end of each county, such as have the letters of direction prefixed, are notes on those places they refer to in the text, with occasional additions. And whereas in some counties I had notes to add which did not refer at all to any part of the text; I have inserted them after the annotations, with this mark ¶ prefixed. What I have added, are generally observations of my own; and where they are not so, I have taken care to inform the reader. I find upon perusal of Cornwall and those other counties you lately sent me, that the additional notes on the English counties are much more complete than these, and somewhat in a different method. But my task was too large to be well performed by one hand, except more time had been allowed. And having received no pattern for imitation, but only some general instructions, I knew not how far I might enlarge; and to have jumped into the same method, must have been a great accident. However, I find the difference is not very material: nor is it of any great moment, what method we use in annotations, so we take care to add nothing but what may seem, to the best of our apprehension, pertinent and instructive. What faults you find in the

orthography, I desire you would be pleased to correct; and also in the phrase, where you suppose it convenient. And where we disagree in the sense, I shall upon notice thereof, either give directions to alter it, or offer some reasons to the contrary.

OXFORD, Sept. 13. 1694.

I am, Sir,

Your obliged friend and servant, Edw. Llwyd.

### **Pronunciation Of Welsh**

*Ch* is pronounced as the English *gh* amongst the vulgar in the North, but more roughly.

*Dh* as *th* in the words this, that, &c.

*G* as the English *g* in the words gain, gift, &c.

*I* as in English, in the words win, kin; but never as in wind, kind, &c.

*Ll* is only a sibilating *l*, and is pronounced in respect of *l* as *th* with reference to *t*.

*U* as the English *I* in the words limb, him, &c.

*W* is always a vowel, and pronounced like the English oo.

*Y* as *i* in the English words third, bird; o in honey, money; u in mud, must, &c.

All the other letters are pronounced as in English, and never alter their pronunciation.

^ denotes a long vowel; as *mân* is pronounced like the English word mane.

' shows only the accent in short vowels.

# Map Of South Wales

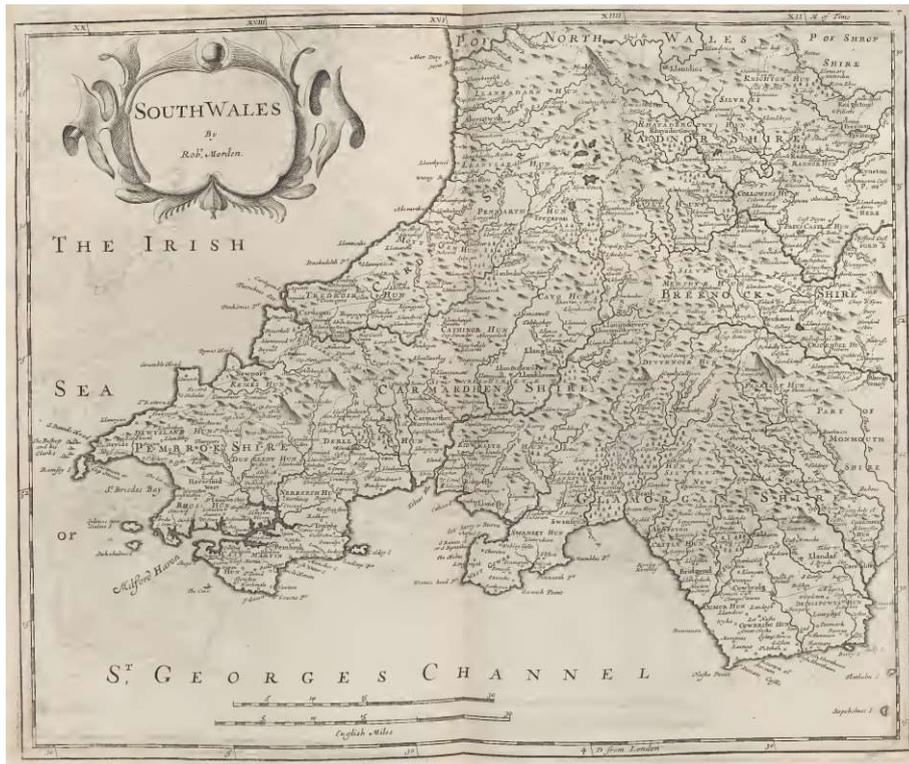


Illustration: South Wales

## Radnorshire.

On the North-west of Herefordshire lies Radnorshire, in British Sir Vaesyved; of a triangular form, and gradually more narrow where it is extended westward. On the South the River Wye divides it from Brecknock, and on the North part lies Montgomeryshire. The eastern and Southern parts are well cultivated; but elsewhere 'tis so uneven with mountains, that it can hardly be manured; though well-stored with woods, and watered with rivulets, and in some places standing lakes.

Towards the East, it hath (besides other castles of the Lords Marchers, now almost all buried in their own ruins) Castell Pain to adorn it, which was built and so called by Pain a Norman; and Castell Colwen, which (if I mistake not) was formerly called Maud Castle in Colwen, for there was a castle of that name much noted, whereof Robert de Todney, a very eminent person, was governor in the time of Edward 2. It is thought to have belonged before to the Breoses lords of Brecknock, and to have received that name from Maud of St. Valeric, a malapert woman, wife of William Breos, who rebelled against King John. This castle being demolished by the Welsh, was rebuilt of stone by King Henry 3 in the year 1231. But of greatest note is Radnor, the chief town of the county, called in British Maesyved, *fair built*, but with thatched houses, as is the manner of that country. Formerly 'twas well fenced with walls and a castle, but being by that rebellious Owain Glyndwr laid in ashes, it decayed daily; as well as Old Radnor (called by the Britons Maesyved Hen, and from its high situation Pencraig) which had been burnt by Rhys ap Gruffydd, in the reign of King John. If I should say this Maesyved is that city Magos which Antoninus seems to call Magnos, where (as we read in the *Notitia Provinciarum*<49>) the commander of the Pacensian regiment lay in garrison under the Lieutenant of Britain, in the reign of Theodosius the Younger; in my own judgment (and perhaps others may entertain the same thoughts) I should not be much mistaken. For we find that the writers of the Middle Ages call the inhabitants of this country Magesetae, and also mention Comites Masegetenses and Magesetenses: and the distance from Gobannium or Abergavenny, as also from Brangonium or Worcester, differs very little from Antonine's computation. About three miles to the East of Radnor, lies Presteigne, in British Llan Andras, or St. Andrews; which from a small village, in the memory of our grandfathers, is now, by the favour and encouragement of Martin Lord Bishop of St. David's, become so eminent a market town, that it does in some measure eclipse Radnor. Scarce four miles hence, lies Knighton (which may vie with Presteigne) called by the Britons, as I am informed, Trebucllo for Trevyklawdh, from the dyke that lies under it, which was cast up with great labour and industry by Offa the Mercian, as a boundary between his subjects and the Britons; from the mouth of Dee, to that of the river Wye, for the space of about 90 miles: whence the Britons have called it Klawdh Offa or Offa's Dyke. Concerning which, Joannes Sarisburiensis, in his *Polycraticon* saith, *that Harald established a law, that whatever Welshman should be found armed on this side the limit he had set them, to wit, Offa's Dyke, his right hand should be cut off by the King's officers.*

All the land beyond this, towards the West and North, called by the natives Melienydh, from the yellowish mountains, is for the most part a barren and hungry soil, which notwithstanding shows the ruins of divers castles, but especially of Kevn Llys, and Tinbod standing on the summit of a coped hill, and was destroyed by Llewelyn Prince of Wales in the year 1260. This country of Melienydh reaches to the river Wye, which crosses the western angle of the county; and having its rapid course

somewhat abated by the rocks it meets with, and its channel discontinued, it suddenly falls headlong over a steep precipice. Whence the place is called Rhaiadr Gwy, which implies as much as the cataract or fall of the river Wye. And I know not whether the English might not from that word Rhaiadr impose the name of Radnor first on the county, and afterwards on the chief town therein. By this cataract there was a castle, which, as we find it recorded, was repaired by Rhys prince of South Wales in the reign of King Richard the First. Near this place there is a vast wilderness, dismal to behold by reason of many crooked ways and high mountains: into which, as a safe place of refuge, that bane of his native country, King Vortigern (whose very memory the Britons curse) withdrew himself, when he had at last seriously repented of his abominable wickedness, in calling in the English-Saxons, and incestuously marrying his own daughter. But God's vengeance pursuing him, he was consumed by lightning, together with his city Caer Gwortigern, which he had built for his refuge. Nor was it far from hence (as if the place were fatal) that not only this Vortigern the last British monarch of the race of the Britons; but also Llewelyn the last Prince of Wales of the British line, being betrayed in the year of our Lord 1282, ended his life. From this Vortigern, Nennius calls that small region Gwortiger Mawr, nor is the name yet lost; but of the city there is not any memorial, but what we have from authors. Some are of opinion that the castle of Gwerthrynion arose out of the ruins of it; which the Welshmen for their hatred to Roger Mortimer, laid even with the ground *an.* 1201. This part of the country hath been also called Gwarth Ennion, as we are informed by Nennius; who writes, that the forementioned Vortigern, when he was publicly and sharply reproved by St. Germain, did not only persist in his obstinacy and wicked practices, but also cast false and malicious reproaches on that godly saint. *Wherefore* (saith Nennius) *Vortimer the son of Vortigern ordained that the land where the bishop had received so great an indignity, should be his own for ever. Upon which, and in memory of St. Germain, it has been called Gwarth Enian, which in English signifies a slander justly requited.*

The Mortimers descended from the niece of Gonora wife of Rich. 1 Duke of Normandy, were the first of the Normans, who, having overcome Edric Sylvaticus a Saxon, gained a considerable part of this small territory. And having continued for a long time the leading men of the county, at length Roger Mortimer Lord of Wigmore was created Earl of March by Edw. 3 about 1328. Who soon after was sentenced to death, having been accused of insolence to the state, of favouring the Scots to the prejudice of England, of conversing over-familiarly with the King's mother; and contriving the death of his father King Edward 2. He had by his wife Jane Jenevil, (who brought him large revenues as well in Ireland as England) a son called Edmund, who suffered for his father's crimes, and was deprived both of his inheritance and the title of Earl. But his son Roger was received into favour, and had not only the title of Earl of March restored, but was also created Knight of the Garter at the first institution of that noble order. This Roger married Philippa Montague, by whom he had Edmund Earl of March, who married Philippa the only daughter of Lionel Duke of Clarence, the third son of King Edward 3. Whereby he obtained the earldom of Ulster in Ireland, and the Lordship of Clare. After his decease in Ireland, where he had governed with general applause, his son Roger succeeded, being both Earl of March and Ulster; whom King Richard designed his successor to the crown, as being in right of his mother the next heir: but he dying before King Richard, left issue Edmund and Anne. King Henry 4 (who had usurped the government) suspecting Edmund's interest and title to the crown, exposed him to many hazards; insomuch that being taken by the rebel Owain Glyndwr, he died of grief and discontent, leaving his

sister Anne to inherit. She was married to Richard Plantagenet Earl of Cambridge, whose posterity in her right became afterwards Earls of March, and laid claim to the crown; which in the end (as we shall show elsewhere) they obtained: and Edward the Fourth's eldest son, who was Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, &c. had also conferred on him as an additional honour the title of Earl of March. As for the title of Radnor, no man ever bore it separately, that I know of.

In this county are 52 parishes.

#### **Additions to Radnorshire.**

The first place of considerable antiquity we meet with in this country is Clawdh Offa, the tracing whereof gives us the exact bounds of the Britons and Saxons. It may be seen on Brachy Hill, and near Ryhd ar Helig, and Leintwardine in Herefordshire: and is continued northwards from Knighton, over a part of Shropshire into Montgomeryshire; and may be traced over the long mountain called in Welsh Kevn Digoll, to Harden Castle, across the Severn and Llan Drinio Common. From whence it passes the Vyrnwy again into Shropshire, not far from Oswaldstry, where there is also a small village called Trevyrclawdh. In Denbighshire 'tis visible along the road between Rhywabon and Wrexham; from whence being continued through Flintshire, it ends a little below Holywell, where that water falls into Dee, at a place formerly the site of the castle of Basingwerk. This limit seems not afterwards well maintained by the English: for although we find that the British tongue decreases daily on the borders of Wales; yet not only that language, but also the ancient British customs and names of men and places remain still for some space on the English side, almost the whole length of it.

The word *Gwy* or *Wye*, though it be here the name of a river, seems to have been anciently an appellative word either for river or water. For although it be not used at present in that sense, nor yet preserved in any glossary, or other books; yet I find it in the termination of the names of many of our rivers: e.g. Llugwy, Dowrdwy, Y Vyrnwy, Edwy, Conwy, Elwy, Hondhwy, Mynwy, Mowdhwy, Tawy, Towy, &c. Now that this final syllable *wy* in these names of rivers, is the same with *Gwy*, seems more than probable; in that we find the river Towy called in the book of Llandaff *Tiugui (ab hostio Taratir super ripam Gui, usque ad ripam Tiugui, &c.*<332> and also the river Elwy called Elgui. And that *Gwy* or *Wye* signified water, seems also confirmed from the names of some aquatic animals, as *gwyach*, *giach*, *eog* alias *oiog*, &c. This being granted, we may be able to interpret the names of several rivers which have hitherto remained unintelligible: as Llugwy, clear water; from *llug*, which signifies light or brightness: Dowrdwy, loud water, from *dwradh*, noise: Edwy, a swift or rapid stream; from *ehed*, to fly, &c.

As for *Rhaiadr Gwy*, several places in Wales are thus denominated; all which have cataracts near them: and the word is still used appellatively among the mountains of Snowdon in Carnarvonshire, where such falls of water are very frequent. *Rhaiadar* Castle (whereof not the least ruins are now remaining) was very advantageously situated in a nook of the river, close by this cataract. But what seems very remarkable, is a deep trench on one side of the castle yard, cut out of an exceeding hard and solid rock. About two furlongs below this place where the castle stood, I observed a large tumulus or barrow, called from a chapel adjoining, Tommen Llan St. Fred: and on the other side, at a further distance, there are two more, much less than the former, called *Krigeu Kevn Keido*, viz. The barrows of Kevn Keido, a place so called; where 'tis supposed there stood heretofore a church; for that a piece of ground adjoining is called *Klyttieu'r Eglwys*.

On the top of a hill, called Gwastedin near Rhaiadr Gwy, there are three large heaps of stones, of that kind which are common upon mountains, in most (if not all) counties of Wales, and are called in South Wales *carneu*, and in North Wales *carneddeu*. They consist of any such lesser stones from a pound weight to a hundred &c. as the neighbouring places afford; and are confusedly piled up without any further trouble than the bringing them thither, and the throwing of them in heaps. On Plymlimon mountain, and some other places, there are of these *carneddeu* so considerably big, that they may be supposed to consist of no less than a hundred cartloads of stones; but generally considered, they are much less. They are also found in the North, and probably other parts of England; and are frequent in Scotland and Ireland, being called there by the same British name of *cairn*: whereof I can give no other account to the curious reader, than that it is a primitive word, and appropriated to signify such heaps of stones. That most of these *Carneddeu* (not to say all) were intended as memorials of the dead, I am induced to believe, for that I have myself observed near the summit of one of them, a rude stone monument (which I shall have occasion to prove sepulchral hereafter) somewhat of the form of a large coffer or chest; and have received unquestionable information of two more such monuments, found of late years in the like places. But what removes all scruple, and puts this question beyond further debate, is that 'tis still the custom in several places, to cast heaps of stones on the graves of malefactors and self-murderers. And hence perhaps it is, since we can assign no other reason, that the worst of traitors are called *carn-vradwyr*, the most notorious thieves *carn-lladron*, &c. That this was also the custom amongst the Romans, appears from that epitaph ascribed to Virgil, on the infamous robber Balista:

*Monte sub hoc lapidum tegitur Balista sepultus,  
Nocte, die, tutum carpe, viator, iter.  
Under this stone Balista lies interred,  
Now (night or day) no danger need be feared.*

But that it was nevertheless usual among the Britons, before they were known to the Romans, seems evident, for that they are common also in the highlands of Scotland, and in Ireland, where their conquests never reached.

Now if it be demanded whether malefactors only, were thus served in ancient times; or whether other persons indifferently had not such heaps of stones erected to them, as sepulchral monuments: I answer, that before Christianity was introduced, men of the best quality seem to have had such funeral piles: and such I take to have been the largest of them, those especially that have the monuments above mentioned within them. But since the planting of Christianity, they became so detestable and appropriated to malefactors, that sometimes the most passionate wishes a man can express to his enemy is, *that a carn be his monument*: and (as we have already observed) the most notorious and profligate criminals are distinguished by that word.

## Brecknockshire.

On the South of Radnor lies Brecknockshire, in British Brycheinog, so called, as the Welsh suppose, from Prince Brechanius, who is said to have had a numerous and holy off-spring, to wit, twenty-four daughters, all saints. This is considerably a larger county than Radnorshire, but more mountainous, though in many places 'tis adorned with fruitful and pleasant vales. It is bounded on the East with Hereford, on the South with Monmouth and Glamorgan, and on the West with Carmarthenshire. But since nothing can be added in the describing of this small province, to what the industrious Giraldus Cambrensis hath already written, (who was arch-deacon hereof four hundred years since) I may do well for some time to be silent, and call him to my assistance.

*Brechiniauc (saith he in his Itinerary of Wales) is a land sufficiently abounding with corn, whereof if there be any defect, 'tis amply supplied from the borders of England; and is well stored with woods, pastures, wild deer, and herds of cattle. It hath also plenty of river-fish from Usk and Wye, both abounding with salmon and trout, but the Wye with a better sort called umbrae. It is enclosed on all parts, except the North, with high mountains: having on the West the mountains of Cantre-Bychan; and towards the South, the Southern Hills, whereof the chiefest is called Cader Arthur, or Arthur's chair; from two peaks on the top of it, somewhat resembling a chair. Which in regard 'tis a lofty seat, and a place of strength, is ascribed in the vulgar appellation of it, to Arthur the most puissant and absolute monarch of the Britons. A fountain springs on the very top of this hill; which is as deep as a draw-well, and four-square, affording trouts, though no water runs out of it. Being thus guarded on the South with high mountains, 'tis defended from the heat of the sun with cool breezes; which by an innate salubrity of air, renders the country exceeding temperate. On the East it hath the mountains of Talgarth and Ewyas.*

On the North (as he saith) 'tis a more open and champaign<sup><146></sup> country; where 'tis divided from Radnorshire by the river Wye: upon which there are two towns of noted antiquity, Builth and Hay. Builth is a town pleasantly seated, with woods about it, and fortified with a castle; but of a later building by the Breoses and Mortimers, when as Rhys ap Gruffydd had demolished the old one. At present 'tis noted for a good market; but formerly it seems to have been a place very eminent: for Ptolemy observes the longitude and latitude of it, and calls it Bullaeum Silurum. From this town the neighbouring part (a mountainous and rocky country) is called Builth, into which upon the incursion of the Saxons, King Vortigern retired. And there also by the permission of Aurelius Ambrosius, his son Pascentius governed; as we are informed by Nennius, who in his chapter of wonders, relates I know not what prodigious story of a heap of stones here, wherein might be seen the footsteps of King Arthur's hound. Hay, in British Tregelli (which in English we may render Haseley or Hasleton) lies on the bank of the river Wye, upon the borders of Herefordshire: a place which seems to have been well known to the Romans, since we often find their coins there, and some ruins of walls are still remaining. But now being almost totally decayed, it complains of the outrages of that profligate rebel Owain Glyndwr, who in his march through these countries, consumed it with fire.

As the river Wye watereth the northern part of this county, so the Usk, a noble river, takes its course through the midst of it, which falling headlong from the Black Mountain, and forcing a deep channel, passes by Brecknock, the chief town of the county, placed almost in the center thereof. This town the Britons call Aberhondhy, from the confluence of the two rivers, Hondhy and Usk. That it was inhabited in the time of the Romans, is evident from several coins of their Emperors, sometimes found

there. Bernard Newmarch, who conquered this small county, built here a stately castle, which the Breoses and Bohuns afterward repaired; and in our fathers' memory, King Henry the Eighth constituted a collegiate church of 14 prebendaries (in the priory of the Dominicans) which he translated thither from Aber-Gwily in Carmarthenshire.

Two miles to the East of Brecknock, is a large lake, which the Britons call Llyn Savedhan and Llyn Syfaddon. Giraldus calls it *clamosum*, from the terrible noise it makes, like a clap of thunder, at the cracking of the ice. In English 'tis called Brecknockmere. It is two miles long, and near the same breadth, well stored with otters, and also perches, tenches and eels, which the fishermen take in their coracles. Lleweni, a small river, having entered this lake, still retains its own colour, and as it were disdaining a mixture, is thought to carry out no more, nor other water than what it brought in. It hath been an ancient tradition in this neighbourhood, that where the lake is now, there was formerly a city, which being swallowed up by an earthquake, resigned its place to the waters. And to confirm this, they allege (besides other arguments) that all the highways of this county tend to this lake. Which if true, what other city may we suppose on the river Lleweny, but Loventium, placed by Ptolemy in this tract; which though I have diligently searched for, yet there appears no where any remains of the name, ruins, or situation of it. Marianus (which I had almost forgotten) seems to call this place Bricenaumere; who tells us that *Edelfleda the Mercian lady entered the land of the Britons anno 913 in order to reduce a castle at Bricenaumere; and that she there took the Queen of the Britons prisoner*. Whether that castle were Brecknock itself, or Castell Dinas on a steep tapering rock above this lake, remains uncertain; but its manifest from the records of the tower, that the neighbouring castle of Blaen Lleweny, was the chief place of that barony which was the possession of Peter Fitz-Herbert, the son of Herbert Lord of Dean Forest, by Lucy the daughter of Miles Earl of Hereford.

In the reign of William Rufus, Bernard Newmarch the Norman, a man of undaunted courage, and great policy, having levied a considerable army both of English and Normans, was the first that attempted the reducing of this country. And having at length, after a tedious war, extorted it from the Welsh, he built forts therein, and gave possession of lands to his fellow-soldiers; amongst whom the chiefest were the Aubreys, Gunters, Haverds, Waldebeofs, and Prichards. And the better to secure himself amongst his enemies the Welsh, he married Nest, the daughter of Prince Gruffydd; who being a woman of a licentious and revengeful temper, at once deprived herself of her own reputation, and her son of his inheritance. For Mahel the only son of this Bernard, having affronted a young nobleman with whom she conversed too familiarly; she (as the poet saith)

— *iram atque animos a crimine sumens*  
spurred on by lust to anger and revenge

deposed before King Henry the Second, that her son Mahel was begotten in adultery. Upon which, Mahel being excluded, the estate devolved to his sister Sibyl, and in her right to her husband Miles Earl of Hereford; whose five sons dying without issue, this country of Brecknock became the inheritance of Bertha his daughter, who had by Philip de Breos a son, William de Breos, Lord of Brecknock; called also Braus and Breus. Upon whom the seditious spirit and shrewish tongue of his wife drew infinite calamities. For when she had uttered reproachful language against King John, the King strictly commanded her husband, who was deep in his debt, to discharge it. Who after frequent demurrings, at last mortgaged to the King his three castles of Hay, Brecknock, and Radnor, which yet soon after he surprised, putting the garrisons to the

sword: he also burnt the town of Leominster; and thus with fire, sword, and depredations, continued to annoy the country, omitting nothing of the common practice of rebels. But upon the approach of the King's forces, he withdrew into Ireland, where he associated with the King's enemies: yet pretending a submission, he returned, and surrendered himself to the King, who had intended to follow him; but after many feigned promises, he again raised new commotions in Wales. At last being compelled to quit his native country, he died an exile in France: but his wife being taken, suffered the worst of miseries; for she was starved in prison, and thus did severe penance for her scurrilous language. His son Giles, Bishop of Hereford, having (without regard to his nephew, who was the true heir) recovered his father's estate by permission of King John, left it to his brother Reginald; whose son William was hanged by Llewelin Prince of Wales, who had caught him in adultery with his wife. But by the daughters of that William, the Mortimers, Cantelows, and Bohuns, Earls of Hereford, enjoyed plentiful fortunes. This country of Brecknock fell to the Bohuns, and at length from them to the Staffords; and upon the attainder of Edward Stafford Duke of Buckingham, considerable revenues were forfeited to the crown, in this county.

This county has 61 parishes.

#### **Additions to Brecknockshire.**

Upon the river Wye is Builth, whereof in the year 1690 a considerable part, being that side of the street next the river Wye, was by a casual fire totally consumed.

Whether this town of Builth be the ancient Bullaeum, or whether that city or fort (allowing it to have been in this county) was not at a place called Kaereu, some miles distant from it, may be questioned. At leastwise 'tis evident there hath been a Roman fort at Kaereu: for besides that the name implies as much (signifying strictly the walls or rampart, and was prefixed by the Britons to the names of almost all Roman towns and castles) they frequently dig up bricks there, and find other manifest signs of a Roman work. 'Tis now only the name of a gentleman's house; and not far from it, there is also another house called Castellan. If it be urged in favour of Builth, that it seems still to retain its ancient name, which Ptolemy might render: it may be answered, that Builth, which I interpret *colles boum* [ox-cliff or oxen-holt] was the name of a small country here, from whence in all likelihood the ancient Bullaeum (if it stood in this tract) was denominated: but that being totally destroyed, and this town becoming afterwards the most noted place of the country, it might also receive its name from it, as the former had done. But (that I may dissemble nothing) since the congruity of the names was the main argument that induced our learned author to assign this situation to the ancient Bullaeum Silurum; we shall have occasion of hesitating, if hereafter we find the ruins of a Roman fort or city in a neighbouring country of the Silures, the name whereof may agree with Bullaeum no less than Builth.

Of the famous Owain Glyndwr, I find the following account in some notes of the learned and judicious antiquary Robert Vaughan of Hengwrt Esq. "*Sir Davidh Gam was wholly devoted to the interest of the Duke of Lancaster; upon which account it was, that Owen ap Gruffydd Vychan (commonly called Owain Glyndwr) was his mortal enemy. This Owain had his education at one of the inns of court, and was preferred to the service of King Richard 2. Whose scutifer<333> (as Walsingham saith) he was. Owain being assured that his King and master Richard was deposed and murdered, and withal provoked by several affronts and wrongs done him by the Lord Grey of Ruthin his neighbour, whom King Henry very much countenanced*

against him; took arms, and looking upon Henry as an usurper, caused himself to be proclaimed Prince of Wales. And though himself were descended paternally but from a younger brother of the house of Powys, yet (as ambition is ingenious) he finds out a way to lay claim to the principality, as descended (by a daughter) from Llewelyn ap Gruffydd the last prince of the British race. He invaded the lands, burnt and destroyed the houses and estates of all those that favoured and adhered to King Henry. He called a parliament to meet at Machynlleth in Montgomeryshire: whither the nobility and gentry of Wales came, in obedience to his summons; and among them the said David Gam, but with an intention to murder Owain. The plot being discovered, and he taken before he could put it in execution, he was like to have suffered as a traitor: but intercession was made for him by Owain's best friends and the greatest upholders of his cause; whom he could not either honourably or safely deny. Yet notwithstanding this pardon, as soon as he returned to his own country, where he was a man of considerable interest, he exceedingly annoyed Owain's friends. Not long after, Owain entered the marches of Wales, destroying all with fire and sword; and having then burnt the house of Sir David Gam, 'tis reported he spake thus to one of his tenants:

*O gweli di wr coch Cam,  
Yn ymofyn y gyrrnigwen;  
Dywed y bod hi tan y lan,  
A nod y glo ar ei phen."*<334>

The British name of this river is *Wysk*, which word seems a derivative from Gwy or Wye, whereof the reader may see some account in Radnorshire. At present it is not significative in the British; but is still preserved in the Irish tongue, and is their common word for water. There were formerly in Britain many rivers of this name, which may be now distinguished in England by these shadows of it, *Exe, Oxe, Uxe, Ouse, Eske*, &c. But because such as are unacquainted with etymological observations, may take this for a groundless conjecture; that it is not such will appear, because in Antonine's itinerary we find Exeter called *Isca Danmoniorum* from its situation on the river Exe, and also a city upon this river Usk (for the same reason) called *Isca Leg. II.*

We find the tradition of cities being drowned applied to many other lakes in Wales; as *Pwll-Kynffig* in Glamorganshire, *Llyn Llan Llŵch* in Carmarthenshire, *Yllyngwyn* in Radnorshire, *Llyn Dekwyn Ucha* in Merionethshire, and *Llyn Llyngklys* in Shropshire. All which I suspect as fabulous, and not worth any further notice, than as one of those erroneous traditions of the vulgar, from which few (if any) nations are exempted. It cannot be denied but that in Sicily, the Kingdom of Naples, and such other countries as are subject to violent earthquakes and subterraneous fires, such accidents have happened: but since no histories inform us that any part of Britain was ever sensible of such calamities; I see no reason we have to regard these oral traditions. As for Ptolemy's *Loventinum* of the *Dimetae*, which our author suspects to have been swallowed up by this lake; I shall have occasion to offer some conjectures relating thereto in Cardiganshire.

Bernard Newmarch having discomfited and slain in the field *Bledhyn ap Maenyrch*, seized on the Lordship of Brecon, and forced his son and heir *Gwgan* to be content with that share of it he was pleased by way of composition to appoint him. He gave him the Lordship and manors of *Llan Vihangel Tal y Llyn*, part of *Llan Llyeni* and *Kantrev Seliv*, with lodgings in the castle of Brecknock; where, in regard he was the rightful Lord of the country, there was such a strict eye kept over him, that he was

not permitted at any time to go abroad without two or more Norman knights in his company.

At a place called Y Gaer near Brecknock, there stands a remarkable monument in the highway, commonly called Maen y Morynnion, or the Maiden Stone. (See figures at end of Wales, [no. 6](#)) It is a rude pillar, erected in the midst of the road, about six foot high, two in breadth, and six inches thick. On the one side, where it inclines a little, it shows the portraiture of a man and woman in some ancient habit. It seems to have been carved with no small labour, though with little art; for the figures are considerably raised above the superficies of the stone, and all that part where they stand is depressed lower than that above their heads or under their feet. That 'tis very ancient, is unquestionable; but whether a British antiquity, or done by some unskilful Roman artist, I shall not pretend to determine; but recommend it (together with the tradition of the neighbours concerning it) to the further disquisition of the curious.

At Pentre Yskythrog in Llan St. Aered Parish, there is a stone pillar erected in the highway, about the same height with the former, but somewhat of a depressed cylinder form; with this mutilated inscription to be read downwards.



I suppose this inscription (notwithstanding the name Victorinus) to have been somewhat of a later date than the time of the Romans; and that 'tis only a monument of some person buried there, containing no more than his own name and his father's; *N. — filius Victorini.*

But this upon a cross in the highway at Vaenor Parish is yet much later; the inscription whereof, though it be entirely preserved, is to me unintelligible; for I dare not rely on a slight conjecture I had at first view of it, that it might be read; *In Nomine Domini Jesu Christi, Tilus*: Tilaus or Teilaw being an eminent saint, to whom many churches in Wales are consecrated.



In Llan Hammwlch Parish there is an ancient monument commonly called Ty Iltud or St. Iltut's Hermitage. It stands on the top of a hill, not far from the church; and is composed of four large stones somewhat of a flat form, altogether rude and unpolished. Three of which are so pitched in the ground, and the Fourth laid on the top for a cover; that they make an oblong square hut, open at the one end; about eight foot long, four wide, and near the same height. Having entered it, I found the two side-stones thus inscribed with variety of crosses.



I suppose this cell, notwithstanding the crosses and the name, to have been erected in the time of paganism; for that I have elsewhere observed such monuments (to be hereafter mentioned) placed in the center of circles of stones, somewhat like that at Rollright in Oxfordshire. And though there is not at present such a circle about this; yet I have grounds to suspect they may have been carried off, and applied to some use. For there has been one removed very lately, which stood within a few paces

Camden's Britannia

of this cell, and was called Maen Illtud; and there are some stones still remaining there.

James Butler, afterwards Duke of Ormond, was created Earl of Brecknock, Jul. 20, 1660.

## Monmouthshire.



Illustration: Monmouthshire

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The county of Monmouth, called formerly Wentset or Wentsland, and by the Britons Gwent (from an ancient city of that name) lies southward of Brecknock and Herefordshire. On the North 'tis divided from Herefordshire by the river Mynwy (Monnow); on the East from Gloucestershire by the river Wye; on the West from Glamorganshire by Rhymni; and on the South 'tis bounded by the Severn Sea, into which those rivers, as also Usk (that runs through the midst of this county) are discharged. It affords not only a competent plenty for the use of the inhabitants, but also abundantly supplies the defects of the neighbouring counties. The East part abounds with pastures and woods; the western is somewhat mountainous and rocky, though not unserviceable to the industrious husbandman. The inhabitants (saith Giraldus, writing of the time when he lived) *are a valiant and courageous people; much inured to frequent skirmishes; and the most skilful archers of all the Welsh borderers.*

In the utmost corner of the county southward, called Ewyas, stands the ancient abbey of Llanthony, not far from the river Mynwy (Monnow), amongst Hatterel Hills; which because they bear some resemblance to a chair, are called Mynydd Cader. It was founded by Walter Lacy, to whom William Earl of Hereford gave large possessions here; and from whom those Lacys, so renowned amongst the first conquerors of Ireland, were descended. Giraldus Cambrensis (to whom it was well known) can best describe the situation of this small abbey. *In the low vale of Ewyas (saith he) which is about an arrow-shot over, and enclosed on all sides with high mountains, stands the church of St. John Baptist, covered with lead; and considering the solitariness of the place, not unhandsomely built with an arched roof of stone: in the same place where formerly stood a small chapel of St. David's the Archbishop, recommended with no other ornaments than green moss and ivy. A place fit for true religion, and the most conveniently seated for canonical discipline, of any monastery in the island of Britain: built first (to the honour of that solitary life) by two hermits,*

*in this desert, sufficiently remote from all the noise of the world, upon the river Hodeni, which glides through the midst of the vale. Whence 'twas called Llan Hodeni, llan signifying a church or religious place. But to speak more accurately, the true name of that place in Welsh is Nant Hodeni; for nant signifies a rivulet: whence the inhabitants call it at this day Llan-Dhewi yn Nant-Hodeni, i.e. St. David's church on the river Hodeni. The rains which mountainous places always produce, are here very frequent; the winds exceeding fierce, and the winters almost continually cloudy. Yet notwithstanding that gross air, this place is little obnoxious to diseases. The monks sitting here in their cloisters, when they chance to look out for fresh air, have a pleasing prospect on all hands of exceeding high mountains, with plentiful herds of wild deer, feeding aloft at the Arthest limits of their horizon. The body of the sun surmounts not these hills, so as to be visible to them, till it be past one o' clock, even when the air is most clear. And a little after—The fame of this place drew hither Roger Bishop of Salisbury, Prime Minister of State; who having for some time admired the situation and retired solitariness of it, and also the contented condition of the monks, serving God with due reverence; and their most agreeable and brotherly conversation; being returned to the King, and having spent the best part of a day in the praises of it, he at last thus concluded his discourse: what shall I say more! All the treasure of your majesty and the kingdom would not suffice to build such a cloister. Whereupon both the King and courtiers being astonished, he at last explained that paradox, by telling them he meant the mountains wherewith 'twas on all hands enclosed. But of this enough, if not too much.*

On the river Mynwy (Monnow) are seen the castles of Grosmont and Skenfrith, which formerly by a grant of King John belonged to the Breoses, but afterwards to Hubert de Burgh, who (as we are informed by Matthew Paris) that he might calm a court-tempest of envy, resigned up these and two other castles, to wit, Blank and Hanfeld, to King Edward the Third.

In another corner North-eastward, the river Mynwy (Monnow) and Wye meeting, do almost encompass the chief town of this county, which is thence denominated; for the Britons call it Mynwy (Monnow), and we Monmouth. On the North side, where it is not guarded with the rivers, it is fortified with a wall and a ditch. In the midst of the town, near the market-place, stands the castle, which (as we find in the King's records) flourished in the time of William the Conqueror; but is thought to have been re-built by John Baron of Monmouth. From him it devolved to the house of Lancaster, when King Henry the Third had deprived him of his inheritance, for espousing so violently the barons' interest against him: or rather (as we read in the King's prerogative) for that his heirs had passed their allegiance to the Earl of Brittany in France. Since that time this town has flourished considerably, enjoying many privileges granted them by the house of Lancaster. But for no one thing is it so eminent, as the birth of King Henry the Fifth, that triumphant conqueror of France, and second ornament of the Lancastrian family: who by direct force of arms subdued the kingdom of France, and reduced their King, Charles the Sixth, to that extremity, that he did little better than resign his title. Upon whose prosperous success, John Seward a poet in those times, and none of the lowest rank, bespeaks the English nation in this lofty style:

*Ite per extremum Tanain, pigrosque Triones,  
Ite per arentem Libyam, superate calores  
Solis, & arcanos Nili deprendite fontes.  
Herculeum finem, Bacchi transcurrere metas;*

*Angli juris erit quicquid complectitur orbis.  
 Anglis rubra dabunt pretiosas aequora conchas,  
 Indus ebur, ramos Panchaia, vellera Seres,  
 Dum viget Henricus, dum noster vivit Achilles:  
 Est etenim laudes longe transgressus avitas.*  
 March on, brave souls, to Tanais bend your arms,  
 And rouse the lazy North with just alarms.  
 Beneath the torrid zone your enemies spread;  
 Make trembling Nile disclose its secret head.  
 Surprise the world's great limits with your hast,  
 Where nor Alcides nor old Bacchus past.  
 Let daily triumphs raise you vast renown,  
 The world and all its treasures are your own.  
 Yours are the pearls that grace the Persian sea,  
 You rich Panchaea, India and Cathay<335>  
 With spices, ivory barks, and silk supply.  
 While Henry, great Achilles of our land,  
 Blessed with all joys extends his wide command.  
 Whose noble deeds and worthy fame surpass  
 The ancient glories of his heavenly race.

Monmouth also glories in the birth of Galfridus Arthurius, Bishop of St. Asaph, (Geoffrey of Monmouth) who compiled the *British History*; an author well experienced in antiquities, but as it seems not of antique credit: so many ridiculous fables of his own invention hath he inserted in that work, insomuch that he is now amongst those writers that are censured by the Church of Rome.

The River Wye (wherein they take salmon plentifully from September to April) is continued from hence southward with many windings and turnings. It's now the limit between Gloucestershire and Monmouthshire; but was formerly the boundary betwixt the Welsh and English; according to that verse of Necham:

*Inde vagos Vaga Cambrenses, hinc respicit Anglos.*  
 Hence Wye the English views, and thence the Welsh.

Near its fall into the Severn Sea, it passes by Chepstow, which is a Saxon name, and signifies a market or place of trading. In British 'tis called Kaswent or Castell Gwent. 'Tis a town of good note, built on a hill close by the river; guarded with walls of a considerable circumference, which take in several fields and orchards. The castle is very fair, standing on the brink of a river: and on the opposite side there stood a priory, whereof the better part being demolished, the remainder is converted to a parish church. The bridge here over the Wye is built upon piles, and is exceeding high; which was necessary, because the tide rises here to a great height. The lords of this place were the Clares Earls of Pembroke; who from a neighbour castle called Striguil, where they lived, were entitled Earls of Striguil and Pembroke: of whom Richard the last Earl, a man of invincible courage and strength (surnamed Strongbow from his excellency in archery,) was the first that made way for the English into Ireland. By his daughter it descended to the Bigods, &c. And now it belongs to the Earls of Worcester. This place seems of no great antiquity; for several do affirm, and that not without reason, that it had its rise not many ages past, from the ancient city Venta, which flourished about four miles hence in the time of Antoninus, who calls it Venta Silurum, as if it had been their chief city. Which name neither arms nor time have consumed; for at this day 'tis called Caer-Went, or the city Venta. But the city itself is so much destroyed by the one or the other, that it only appears to have been, from the ruinous walls, the checkered pavements, and the Roman coins. It took up

about a mile in circumference: on the South side is a considerable part of the wall yet remaining, and more than the ruins of three bastions. What repute it had heretofore, we may from hence gather; that before the name of Monmouth was heard of, this whole country was called from it Wentset or Went's-Land. Moreover (as we read in the life of Tathaius a British saint) it was formerly an academy, or place dedicated to literature, which the same Tathaius governed with commendation, and also founded a church there, in the reign of King Kradok Ap-Ynyr, who invited him hither from an hermitage.

Five miles to the West of Caer-Went is seated Striguil Castle at the bottom of the hills; which now we call Strugle, but the Normans Estrig Hill, built (as we find in *Domesday Book*) by William Fitz-Osborne Earl of Hereford; and afterwards the seat of the Clares, Earls of Pembroke, whence they have been also commonly called Earls of Striguil.

Beneath these places upon the Severn Sea, not far from the mouth of the river Wye, lies Portskewett, called by Marianus Port Skith, who informs us that Harold built a fort there against the Welsh in the year 1065. Which they immediately, under the conduct of Caradoc, overthrew.

Near Caldicot, where the River Throgoy enters the Severn Sea, I observed the wall of a castle which formerly belonged to the High Constables of England, and was held by the service of Constablership of England.

Not far from hence are Undy and Penhow, the seats formerly of the illustrious family of St. Maur, now corruptly called Seymour. For we find that about the year 1240 (in order to wrest Undy out of the hands of the Welsh) G. Marescal Earl of Pembroke was obliged to assist William of St. Maur. From whom was descended Roger of St. Maur Kt. who married one of the heiresses of the illustrious J. Beauchamp, the noble Baron of Hatch; who was descended from Sibyl one of the co-heiresses of that most puissant William Marshal E. of Pembroke, and from William Ferrars Earl of Derby, Hugh de Vivon and William Mallet, men of eminent worth in their times. The nobility of all which, as also of several others, have (as may be made evident) concentrated in the right honourable Edward de St. Maur or Seymour, now Earl of Hereford, a singular encourager of virtue and learning; for which qualification he's deservedly famous.

The fenny tract, extended below this for some miles, is called the Moor; which at my present reviewing these notes, has suffered a most lamentable devastation. For the Severn Sea after a spring-tide, being driven back by a Southwest-wind (which continued for 3 days without intermission) and then again repulsed by a very forcible sea-wind, it raged with such a tide, as to overflow all this lower tract, and also that of Somersetshire over against it; undermining several houses, and overwhelming a considerable number of cattle and men.

In the borders of this fenny tract, where the land rises, lies Goldcliff; *so called* (saith Giraldus) *because the stones appear, when the sun shines, of a bright gold colour. Nor can I be easily persuaded* (saith he) *that nature hath bestowed this colour on the stones in vain; or that this is merely a flower without fruit; should some skilful artist search the veins and bowels of this rock.* In this place there remain some ruins of an old priory, founded by one of the family of Chandos.

From hence we come through a fenny country to the mouth of the river Isca, called by the Britons Wysk, in English Usk, and by others Osca. This river (as we have already observed) taking its course through the midst of the county, passes by three small cities of noted antiquity.

The first on the northwest borders of the county, called by Antoninus Gobannium, is situate at the confluence of the rivers Usk and Govenni; and thence denominated. It is at this day (retaining its ancient appellation) called Abergavenny, and by contraction Abergaenni; which signifies the confluence of Gavenni or Gobannium. It is fortified with walls and a castle, which (as Giraldus observes) has been oftener stained with the infamy of treachery, than any other castle of Wales. First by William son of Earl Miles, and afterwards by William Breos; both having upon public assurance, and under pretence of friendship, invited thither some of the Welsh nobility, and then basely murdered them. But they escaped not God's just punishment; for Breos having been deprived of all his effects, his wife and son starved with hunger, died himself in exile. The other having his brains dashed out with a stone, while Breulas Castle was on fire, suffered at length the due reward of his villany. The first Lord of Abergavenny, lords of Abergavenny. That I know of, was one Hamelin Balun, who made Brien Wallingford, or Brient de L'Isle (called also Fitz-Count) his executor. And he having built here an hospital for his two sons, who were lepers, left the greatest part of his inheritance to Walter the son of Miles, Earl of Hereford. This Walter was succeeded by his brother Henry, whom the Welsh slew, and invaded his territories; which the King's lieutenants defended, though not without great hazard. By Henry's sister it descended to the Breoses; and from them in right of marriage, by the Cantelows and Hastings to Reginald Lord Grey of Ruthin. But William Beauchamp obtained it of the Lord Grey, by conveyance: and he again in default of issue male, entailed it on his brother Thomas Earl of Warwick, and on his heirs-male. Richard son of William Beauchamp, Lord of Abergavenny, for his military valour created Earl of Worcester, being slain in the wars of France, left one only daughter, who was married to Edward Neville. From henceforth the Nevilles became eminent, under the title of Barons of Abergavenny. But the castle was a long time detained from them, upon occasion of the conveyance before mentioned. The fourth of these dying, in our memory, left one only daughter Mary, married to Sir Thomas Fane; Between whom and Sir Edward Neville the next heir-male (to whom the castle and most of the estate had been left by will, which was also confirmed by authority of parliament) there was a trial for the title of Baron of Abergavenny, before the House of Lords, in the second year of King James; which continued seven days. But in regard the question of right could not be fully adjusted; and that each of them seemed to all (in respect of descent) very worthy of the title; and that moreover it was evident, that both the title of Baron of Abergavenny, and that of le Despenser, belonged hereditarily to this family: the peers requested of His Majesty, that both might be honoured with the title of Baron; to which he agreed. It was then proposed to the peers by the L. Chancellor, first, whether the heirs-male or female should enjoy the title of Abergavenny; upon which the majority of voices gave it the heir-male. And when he had again proposed, whether the title of Baron le Despenser should be conferred on the female and her heirs, they unanimously agreed to it; to which His Majesty gave his royal assent. And Edward Neville was soon after summoned to parliament by the King's writ, under the title of Baron of Abergavenny. And being according to the usual ceremony, introduced in his parliament-robe between two barons; he was placed above the Baron de Audley. At the same time also, the King's patent was read before the peers, whereby His Majesty restored, raised, preferred, &c. Mary Fane, to the state, degree, title, style, name, honour, and dignity, of Baroness le Despenser; and that her heirs successively should be Barons le Despenser, &c. But the question of precedency being proposed, the peers referred the decision thereof to the commissioners for the office of Earl Marshal of England, who signed their verdict for the barony of le Despenser. This was read

before the peers, and by their order registered in the parliament diary; out of which I have taken this account in short. What ought not to be omitted, is that John Hastings held this castle by homage, ward, and marriage. *When it happens* (as we read in the inquisition) *and if there should chance any war between the King of England and Prince of Wales; he ought to defend the country of Over-Went at his own charges, to the utmost of his power for the good of himself, the King, and kingdom.*

The second town, called by Antoninus Burrium, (who places it 12 miles from Gobannium,) is seated where the river Berthin falls into Usk. 'Tis called now in British, by a transposition of letters Brynbiga for Burenbegi, and also Caer-Wysk, by Giraldus Castrum Oskae, and in English Usk. It shows now only the ruins of a large strong castle, pleasantly seated between the river Usk, and Olway a small brook, which takes its course from the East, by Raglan, a stately castle-like house of the Earl of Worcester's, and passes under it.

The third city, called by Antoninus Isca and Legio Secunda, (seated on the other side of the river Usk, and distant, as he observes, exactly 12 Italian miles from Burrium) is called by the Britons Caer Lleion and Caer Lleion ar Wysk (which signifies the city of the legion on the river Usk) from the Legio Secunda Augusta, called also Britannica Secunda. This legion, instituted by Augustus, and translated out of Germany into Britain by Claudius, under the conduct of Vespasian, (to whom, upon his aspiring to the empire, it proved serviceable, and also secured him the British legions,) was placed here at length by Julius Frontinus (as seems probable) in garrison against the Silures. How great a city this Isca was at that time, our Giraldus informs us, in his itinerary of Wales. *A very ancient city this was* (saith he) *and enjoyed honourable privileges; elegantly built by the Romans with brick walls. There are yet remaining many footsteps of its ancient splendour: stately palaces which formerly with their gilded tiles emulated the Roman grandeur, for that it was at first built by the Roman nobility, and adorned with sumptuous edifices: an exceeding high tower, remarkable hot baths, ruins of ancient temples, theatrical places, encompassed with stately walls, which are partly yet standing. Subterraneous edifices are frequently met with, not only within the walls, but also in the suburbs, aqueducts, vaults, and (which is well worth our observation) hypocausts or stoves, contrived with admirable artifice, conveying heat insensibly through some very narrow vents on the sides. Two very eminent, and (next to St. Alban and Amphibalus) the chief protomartyrs of Britannia Major, lie entombed here, where they were crowned with martyrdom; viz. Julius and Aaron; who had also churches dedicated to them in this city. For in ancient times there were three noble churches here. One of Julius the martyr, graced with a choir of nuns devoted to God's service; another dedicated to St. Aaron his companion, ennobled with an excellent order of canons; and the third honoured with the metropolitan see of Wales. Amphibalus also, teacher of St. Alban, who sincerely instructed him in the faith, was born here. This city is excellently well seated on the navigable river Usk; and beautified with meadows and woods. Here the Roman ambassadors received their audience at the illustrious court of that great King Arthur. And here also the Archbishop Dubricius resigned that honour to David of Menevia, by translating the archiepiscopal see from this city thither.*

Thus far Giraldus. But in confirmation of the antiquity of this place, I have taken care to add some ancient inscriptions lately dug up there; and communicated to me by the right reverend father in God Francis Godwin, Lord Bishop of Llandaff, a lover of venerable antiquity, and all other good literature. In the year 1602 some labourers digging in a meadow adjoining, found on a checkered pavement, a statue of a person in a short-trussed habit, with a quiver and arrows; the head, hands, and feet,

broken off: and also the fragment of an altar with this inscription of fair large characters about three inches long: erected by Haterianus lieutenant-general of Augustus, and propraetor of the province of Cilicia.



Illustration: Fragment of an Altar

The next year was discovered also this inscription, which shows the statue before mentioned to have been of the goddess Diana; and that Titus Flavius Posthumius Varus, perhaps of the fifth cohort of the second legion, had repaired her temple.

T. FL. POSTVMIVS VARVS  
V. C. LEG. TEMPL. DIANAE  
RESTITVIT.

Also this votive altar, out of which the name of Emperor Geta seems to have been razed when he was deposed by his brother Antoninus Bassianus, and declared an enemy; yet so as there are some shadows of the letters still remaining.

PRO SALVTE  
AVGG. N. N.  
SEVERI ET ANTONINI ET GETAE CAES.  
P. SALTIVS P. F. MAECIA THALAMVS HADRI.  
PRAEF. LEG. II. AVG.  
C. VAMPEIANO ET  
LVCILIAN.

And this fragment of a very fair altar; the inscription whereof might perhaps be thus supplied.

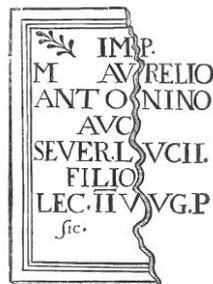


Illustration: Fragment of an Altar

Together with these two fragments.

7. VECILIANA.

And

VIII.  
7. VALER.  
MAXSIMI.

Here also, about the time of the Saxon Conquest, *was an academy of 200 philosophers, who being skilled in astronomy and other sciences, observed accurately the courses of the stars, as we are informed by Alexander Elsebiensis, a very scarce author; out of whom much has been transcribed for my use by the learned Thomas James of Oxford, who may deservedly be styled philobiblos, as one that is wholly*

intent upon books and learning; and is at present (God prosper his endeavours) out of a desire of promoting the public good, busily employed in searching the libraries of England, on a design that is like to be of singular use to the commonwealth of learning.

In the time of K. Henry 2 when Giraldus writ, this city seems to have been a place of considerable strength. For we find, that Yrwith of Caer Lleion, a courageous Britain, defended it a long time against the English forces; till at last being overpowered by the King, he was dispossessed of it. But now (a fair instance that cities as well as men have their vicissitude and fortune) that is become an inconsiderable small town, which once was of so great extent on each side the river, that they affirm St. Gilian's (the house of the honourable Sir William Herbert, a person no less eminent for wit and judgment, than noble extraction) to have been in the city: and in that place the church of Julius the Martyr is said to have stood; which is now about a mile out of the town.

From the ruins also of this city, Newport had its beginning, seated a little lower, at the fall of the river Usk. By Giraldus 'tis called Novus Burgus. It is a town of later foundation, and of considerable note for a castle and a convenient harbour: where there was formerly some military way, mentioned by Necham in these verses:

*Intrat, & auget aquas Sabrini fluminis Osca  
Praeceptis; testis erit Julia Strata mihi.*  
Increased with Usk does Severn rise,  
As Julia Strata testifies.

That this Julia Strata was a way, we have no reason to question: and if we may be free to conjecture, it seems not absurd to suppose it took its name from Julius Frontinus who conquered the Silures. *Not far from this Newburgh (saith Giraldus) there glides a small stream called Nant Penkarn, passable but at some certain fords, not so much for the depth of its water, as the hollowness of the channel, and deepness of the mud. It had formerly a ford called Rhyd Penkarn, now of a long time discontinued.* Henry 2 King of England having by chance passed this ford; the Welsh (who rely too much upon old prophecies) were presently discouraged; because their oracle Merlinus Sylvester had foretold, that whenever a strong prince, with a freckled face (such as King Henry was) should pass that ford, the British forces should be vanquished.

During the Saxon heptarchy, this county was subject to the mountain Welsh, called by them Dunsettan; who were yet under the government of the West Saxons, as appears by the ancient laws. At the first coming in of the Normans, the lords marchers grievously plagued and annoyed them: especially the above-mentioned Hamelin Balun, Hugh Lacy, Walter and Gilbert de Clare and Brien of Wallingford. To whom the kings having granted all they could acquire in these parts, some of them reduced by degrees the upper part of this county, which they called Over-Went, and others the low lands, called Nether-Went.

Parishes in this county, 127.

#### **Additions to Monmouthshire.**

Mynydh Cader (mentioned by our author) is the name of many mountains in Wales thus denominated: as Cader Arthur, Cader Verwin, Cader Idris, Cader Dhinmael, Cader yr Ychen, &c. which the learned Dr. Davies supposes to have been so called, not from their resemblance to a *kadair* or chair; but because they have been either fortified places, or were looked upon as naturally impregnable, by such as first

imposed those names on them. For the British *kader* (as well as the Irish word *cathair*) signifying anciently a fort or bulwark; whence probably the modern word *Caer* of the same signification, might be corrupted.

Llan properly signifies a yard, or some small enclosure; as may be observed in compound words. For we find a vineyard called *gwin-llan*; an orchard, *per-llan*; a hay-yard, *yd-llan*; a churchyard, *korph-llan*; a sheep-fold, *kor-llan*; &c. However (as Giraldus observes) it denotes separately, a church or chapel; and is of common use, in that sense, throughout all Wales: probably because such yards or enclosures might be places of worship in the time of heathenism, or upon the first planting of Christianity, when churches were scarce.

That this Geoffrey of Monmouth (as well as most other writers of the monkish times) abounds with fables, is not denied by such as contend for some authority to that history: but that those fables were of his own invention, seems too severe a censure of our author's, and scarce a just accusation: since we find most or all of them, in that British history he translated; whereof an ancient copy may be seen in the library of Jesus College at Oxford, which concludes to this effect: *Walter arch-deacon of Oxford composed this book in Latin, out of British records; which he afterwards thus rendered into modern British.* We find also many of the same fables in Nennius, who writ his *Eulogium Britanniae* about three hundred years before this Galfridus Arturius composed the British history. As to the regard due to that history in general, the judicious reader may consult Dr. Powel's epistle *De Britannica Historia Recte Intelligenda*; and Dr. Davies's preface to his *British Lexicon*; and balance them with the arguments and authority of those that wholly reject them.

Near Monmouth stands a noble house built by his grace Henry Duke of Beaufort, called Troy; the residence of his eldest son Charles Marquess of Worcester, who is owner of it, and of the castle and manor of Monmouth, settled upon him with other large possessions in this county, by the Duke his father.

As a confirmation of what our author observes, in the year 1689 there were three checkered pavements discovered here in the garden of one Francis Ridley; which being in frosty weather exposed to the open air, upon the thaw the cement was dissolved, and this valuable antiquity utterly defaced. So that at present there remains nothing for the entertainment of the curious, but the small cubical stones whereof it was composed; which are of various sizes and colours, and may be found confusedly scattered in the earth, at the depth of half a yard. Checkered pavements consist of oblong cubical stones, commonly about half an inch in length; whereof some are natural stones, wrought into that form; and others artificial, made like brick. These are of several colours; as white, black, blue, green, red, and yellow; and are close pitched together in a floor of fine plaster, and so disposed by the artist, with respect to colour, as to exhibit any figures of men, beasts, birds, trees, &c. In one of these pavements, as the owner relates, were delineated several flowers, which he compared to roses, tulips, and fleurs-de-lys; and at each of the four corners, a crown, and a peacock holding a snake in his bill, and treading it under one foot. Another had the figure of a man in armour from the breast upward. There were also imperial heads, and some other variety of figures, which had they been preserved, might have been instructive, as well as diverting to the curious in the study of antiquities. In their gardens, and elsewhere in this village, they frequently meet with brass coins; which an ingenious and worthy gentleman of that neighbourhood has for some years collected. In his collection I observed an adulterated coin of Antoninus Pius, which seemed to have been counterfeited not of late, but anciently, when that Emperor's coins were current money. 'Tis a brass piece, of the bigness of a denarius, covered with a very thin leaf of

silver, which when rubbed off, the letters disappear. Also Julia Maesia of embased metal, not unlike our tin farthings. Others were of Valerianus, Gallienus, Probus, Dioclesianus, Constantius Chlorus, Constantinus Magnus, Julius Crispus, Constans, and both Valentinians. This present year (1693) one Charles Keinton showed me part of a Roman brick-pavement in his yard: the bricks were somewhat above a foot long, nine inches broad, and an inch and a half thick; all marked thus: .

The English names of Went-Set and Wents-Land have their origin from the British word Gwent; whereby almost all this country, and part of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire were called; till Wales was divided into counties. But it seems questionable, whether that name Gwent be owing to the city Venta; or whether the Romans might not call this city Venta Silurum, as well as that of the Iceni, and that other of the Belgae, from the more ancient British names of part of their countries. Had the country been denominated since the Roman Conquest, from the chief city, it had been more properly called Gwlad Gaer-Lleion, than Gwlad Gwent. But of this enough, if not too much.

In the year 1654 some workmen discovered at St. Julian's near Caerleon, a Roman altar, the inscription whereof was soon after copied by the learned and ingenious John Aubrey Esq. a true lover and promoter of real knowledge, and a person of equal industry and curiosity. The altar, he says, was of free-stone, four foot in length, and three in breadth: the inscription he is pleased to communicate out of his excellent collection of British monuments, to be published on this occasion.

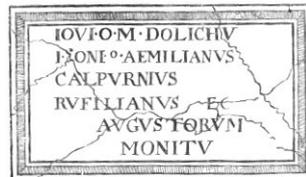


Illustration: Dedication to Jupiter Dolichenus

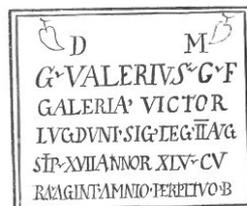
It seems worth the enquiry of the curious, upon what occasion Jupiter is here styled Dolichenus; for that I take to be the meaning of this word *Dolichv*. To me it seems somewhat probable, that this altar was erected to implore his tuition of some iron mines, either in the Forest of Dean, or some other place of this country. The grounds of which conjecture I take from this inscription in Reinesius: *Jovi optimo maximo Dolycheno, ubi ferrum nascitur, C. Sempronius Rectus, cent. Frumentarius D.D.<336>* For unless Caius Sempronius, who dedicates this altar *Jovi Dolicheno*, makes his request to Jupiter that he would either direct them to find out iron mines, or be propitious to some they had already discovered, I cannot conjecture why he should add the words *ubi ferrum nascitur*; which were not only superfluous, but absurd, if they implied no more than barely that iron-ore was found at Doliche, a town of Macedonia whence Jupiter was called Dolichenus. *Augustorum monitu* is a phrase we find parallel instances of in Reinesius, p. 42, where he tells us, *ex monitu dei, imperio deorum deorumque, ex jussu numinis, quicquid facerent, facere videri volebant pagani.<337>*



Illustration: Monument of a Roman Soldier

At Tre-Dyno Church about three miles distant from Caerleon, is preserved this fair and entire monument of a Roman soldier of the second legion. The stone is a kind of blue slate: the four oblique lines are so many grooves or *canaliculi*; and the small squares without the lines are holes bored through the stone; whereby it was fastened with iron pins to the ground-wall of the church on the outside; and discovered by the sexton about twenty years since, at the digging of a grave. Considering that this was the monument of a heathen, and must be about fourteen or fifteen hundred years standing; it seems strange it should be repositied in this place, and thus fastened to the foundation of the church: unless we suppose it laid there by some pious Christian in after ages, or rather that the church was built on some old Roman burial-place. But however that happened, that it was there found is most certain, and testified by a worthy gentleman of the neighbourhood yet living, who was present at the discovery of it, and took care to preserve it.

Very lately also was discovered, in ploughing, near Caerleon, on the bank of the river, a stone with the following inscription:



At Caerleon they frequently dig up Roman bricks with this inscription.  
LEG. II. AVG.

The letters on these bricks are not inscribed (as on stone) but stamped with some instrument; there being a square cavity or impression in the midst of the brick, at the bottom whereof the letters are raised, and not insculped. One of these bricks may be seen (together with Mr. Camden's inscriptions) in the garden wall at Moinscourt, the seat of the worshipful Thomas Lyster Esq., and some others at Caerleon.

In the year 1692 a chequered pavement was discovered in the grounds of the honoured Henry Tomkins of Caerleon Esq. the present high sheriff of this county. 'Twas found by workmen a-ploughing, in a field close adjoining to his house. And here we may observe, that these ancient pavements are not buried so deep in this county, as that in the churchyard at Woodchester in Gloucestershire. For whereas that lies at about 3 foot depth, this at Caerleon (as also some others formerly discovered,) lay no deeper than the plough-share; and that abovementioned at Caerwent not much lower. Mr. Tomkins has taken all possible care, to preserve what the servants had not spoiled of this valuable antiquity; by removing a considerable part of the floor in the same order it was found, into his garden; and was pleased to communicate a draft of

the whole to be published upon this occasion. (See at end of Wales, [no. 7](#)) The diameter of it is about 14 foot. All the arches, and that part of the border they touch, were composed of white, red, and blue stones, varied alternately. The bills, eyes, and feet of the birds were red, and they had also a red ring about the neck; and in their wings, one or two of the longest feathers red, and another blue. The inside of the cups were also red; and elsewhere, whatever we have not excepted of this whole area, is variegated of umber or dark coloured stones and white.

About forty years since, some labourers digging in a quarry betwixt Caerleon bridge and Christchurch (near a place called Porth Sini Cran) discovered a large coffin of free-stone; which being opened, they found therein a leaden sheet, wrapped about an iron frame, curiously wrought; and in that frame a skeleton. Near the coffin they found also a gilded alabaster statue of a person in a coat of mail; holding in the right-hand a short sword, and in the left a pair of scales. In the right scale appeared a young maiden's head and breasts; and in the left (which was out-weighed by the former) a globe. This account of the coffin and statue I received from the worshipful Captain Matthias Bird, who saw both himself; and for the further satisfaction of the curious, was pleased lately to present the statue to the Ashmolean repository at Oxford. The feet and right-arm have been broken some years since, as also the scales; but in all other respects, it's tolerably well preserved; and some of the gilding still remains in the interstices of the armour. We have given a [figure](#) of it, ([no. 5](#)) amongst some other curiosities relating to antiquity, at the end of these counties of Wales: but must leave the explication to some more experienced and judicious antiquary; for though at first view it might seem to be the goddess Astraea, yet I cannot satisfy myself as to the device of the globe and woman in the scales; and am unwilling to trouble the reader with too many conjectures.

Amongst other Roman antiquities frequently dug up here, we may take notice of some curious earthen vessels; whereof some are plain, and the same with those red *patellae* or earthen plates often discovered in several parts of England; but others adorned with elegant figures; which were they preserved, might be made use of for the illustration of Roman authors, as well as their coins, statues, altars, &c. that whereof I have given a figure, ([No.9](#)) represents to us, first, as an emblem of piety, the celebrated history of the woman at Rome, who being denied the liberty of relieving her father in prison with any food, yet obtaining free access to him, fed him with the milk of her own breasts. I am sensible that in Pliny and most printed copies of such authors as mention this history, we are informed she exercised this piety to her mother: but this figure (though it be somewhat obscure) seems to represent a bearded man: however, whether I mistake the figure, or whether we may read with Festus, *patre (not matre) carcere incluso*; <338> or rather suppose the tradition erroneous (in some provinces at least) amongst the vulgar Romans; that the same history was hereby intended, is sufficiently evident. In the second place we find an auspex or soothsayer looking upwards to observe the motion of a bird; or rather perhaps a cupid (according to the potter's fancy) performing the office of a soothsayer. And in the third, a woman sacrificing with vervain and frankincense: for I am satisfied, that the plant on the altar is no other than vervain; and that the woman reaching her hand towards the altar, is casting frankincense on the vervain, seems very probable; for we find that women, a little before their time of lying in, sacrificed to Lucina with vervain and frankincense. Thus the harlot Phronesium in Plautus, (*Trucul. Act 2. Scen. 5.*) pretending she was to lie in, bid her maids provide her sweet-meats, oil of cinnamon, myrrh, and vervain.

*Date mihi huc stactam atque ignem in aram ut venerem lucinam meam:  
Hic apponite atque abite ab oculis,—*

*Ubi es, Astaphium? Fer huc verbenam mihi, thus & bellaria. <338>*

We may also collect out of Virgil *Eclogue* 8. v. 64., that women sacrificed with vervain and frankincense upon other occasions.

*Effer aquam & molli cinge haec altaria vitta:  
Verbenasque adole pingues & mascula thura,  
Conjugis ut magicis sanos avertere sacris  
Experiar sensus. —*

Bring running water; bind those altars round  
With fillets; and with vervain strew the ground  
Make fat with frankincense the sacred fires;  
To reinflame my Daphnis with desires.

As for the naked person on the other side the altar, I shall not pretend to determine whether it be her husband, or who else is intended thereby. In regard we find the other figures repeated alternately; I suppose there were no other delineations on the whole vessel, than what this piece included within the crack (which is all I have of it) represents. By the figures on this vessel we might conjecture it was a bowl used in those feasts they called *Matronalia*, observed on the kalends of March; when the married women sacrificed to Juno, for their happy delivery in childbirths, the preservation of their husbands, and the continuance of their mutual affections. And from its form, I should guess it was that sort of vessel they called *phiale*: because in Welsh the only name we have for such vessels is *phiol*; which is doubtless of the same origin with the Greek and Latin *phiale*, and is very probably one of those many words left amongst us by the Romans, which we may presume to be still preserved in the sense they used them.

I shall only mention two other curiosities found here, and detain the reader no longer in this county: the first is, a ram's horn of brass, much of the bigness and form of a lesser ram's horn; broken off at the root, as if it had been formerly united to a brass head. One of these heads and horns (though somewhat different from ours) may be seen in Lodovico Moscardo's *Museum*, pag. 83, who supposes such heads of rams and oxen to have served at once both as ornaments in their temples, and also religious types of sacrifice.

The other is a very elegant and an entire *fibula vestiaria*, <196> whereof (because it would be difficult to give an intelligible description of it) see at end of Wales, [no. 16 & 17](#). I have given 2 figures, one being not sufficient to express it. It is of brass, and is curiously chequered on the back part, with enamel of red and blue. It should seem that when they used it, the ring at the upper end was drawn down over the *acus* or pin; and that a thread or small string tied through the ring, and about the notches at bottom, secured the *acus* in its proper place. Such a *fibula* in all respects, but that it is somewhat less, was found *an.* 1691 near Kingscote in Gloucestershire; where they also frequently meet with Roman brass coins, which they call chesle money, a name probably of the same signification with castle or Chester money. They that would be further satisfied of the various forms and matter of these Roman *fibulae*, and the several uses they were applied to, may consult amongst other authors, the learned and ingenious Joannes Rhodius de *Acia*, and Smetius's *Antiquitates Neomagenses*.

In the first of Charles 1 Robert Lord Carey was created Earl of Monmouth, and was succeeded by Henry of the same name. *an.* 15 Car. 2. James Fitz-Roy, among

other honours, was created Duke of Monmouth; and at present the right honourable Charles Mordaunt takes the title of Earl from this place.

## Glamorganshire.

The farthest county of the Silures seems to be that we call Glamorganshire; the Britons Morganwg, Gwlad Morgan, and Gwlad Vorganwg, which signifies the county of Morganwg; and was so called (as most imagine) from Morgan a prince; or (as others suppose) from an abbey of that name. But if I should deduce it from the British *mor*, which signifies the sea, I know not for certain whether I should deviate from the truth. However, I have observed that maritime town of Armorica, we call now Morlais, to have been called by Ptolemy and the ancient Gauls Vorganium, or Morganium (for the letters *m* and *v* are often counterchanged in this language:) and whence shall we suppose it thus denominated but from the sea? And this our Morganwg is also altogether maritime; being a long narrow country, wholly washed on the South side by the Severn Sea. As for the inner part of it, it is bordered on the East with Monmouthshire, on the North with Brecknock, and on the West with Carmarthenshire.

On the North it is very rugged with mountains, which inclining towards the South, become by degrees more tillable; at the roots whereof we have a spacious vale or plain open to the South sun; a situation which Cato preferred to all others, and for which Pliny does so much commend Italy. For this part of the country is exceeding pleasant, both in regard of the fertility of the soil, and the number of towns and villages.

In the reign of William Rufus, Jestin ap Gwrgant Lord of this country, having revolted from his natural prince Rhys ap Tewdwr and being too weak to maintain his rebellion, very unadvisedly, which he too late repented, called to his assistance (by mediation of Enion ap Kadivor a nobleman, who had married his daughter) Robert Fitz-Haimon, a Norman, son of Haimon Dentatus Earl of de Corbeil, who forthwith levied an army of choice soldiers, and taking to his assistance twelve knights as adventurers in this enterprise, first gave Rhys battle, and slew him; and afterwards being allured with the fertility of the country, which he had before conceived sure hopes to be Lord of, turning his forces against Jestin himself, for that he had not kept his articles with Enion, he soon deprived him of the inheritance of his ancestors, and divided the country amongst his partners. The barren mountains he granted to Enion; but the fertile plains he divided amongst these twelve associates, (whom he had called peers) and himself; on that condition, *that they should hold their land in fee and vassalage of him as their chief Lord, to assist each other in common; and that each of them should defend his station in his castle of Cardiff, and attend him in his court at the administration of justice.* It may not perhaps be foreign to our purpose, if we add their names out of a book written on this subject, either by Sir Edward Stradling, or Sir Edward Maunsel (for 'tis ascribed to both of them) both being very well skilled in genealogy and antiquities.

William of London, or de Londres.

Richard Granvil.

Pain Turbervil.

Oliver St. John.

Robert de St. Quintin.

Roger Bekeroul.

William Easterling, (so called, for that he was descended from Germany) whose posterity were called Stradlings.

Gilbert Humfraville.

Richard Siward.

John Fleming.

Peter Soore.

Reginald Sully.

The river gliding from the mountains, makes Rhymney the eastern limit of this county, whereby it is divided from Monmouthshire; and in the British, *remny* signifies to divide. In a moorish bottom, not far from this river, where it runs through places scarce passable among the hills, are seen the ruinous walls of Caerphilly Castle, which has been of that vast magnitude, and such an admirable structure, that most affirm it to have been a Roman garrison; nor shall I deny it, though I cannot yet discover by what name they called it. However, it should seem to have been re-edified, in regard it has a chapel built after the Christian manner, as I was informed by the learned and judicious Mr. J. Sanford, who took an accurate survey of it. It was once the possession of the Clares Earls of Gloucester; but we find no mention of it in our annals, till the reign of Edward the Second. For at that time the Spensers having by underhand practices set the King and Queen and the barons at difference, we read that Hugolin Spenser was a long time besieged in this castle, but without success. Upon this river also (but the place is uncertain) Nennius informs us that Faustus a pious godly son of Vortigern a most wicked father, erected a stately edifice, where, with other devout men, he daily prayed unto God, that he would not punish him for the sins of his father, who committing most abominable incest, had begotten him on his own daughter; and that his father might at last seriously repent, and the country be freed from the Saxon war.

A little lower, Ptolemy places the mouth of Rhatostabius, or Rhatostibius, a maimed word, for the British Traeth Tav, which signifies the sandy firth of the river Taff. For there the river Taff gliding from the mountains falls into the sea at Llandaff, that is, the church on the river Taff, a small place seated in a bottom, but dignified with a bishop's see (in the diocese whereof are 154 parishes) and adorned with a cathedral consecrated to St. Teiliau bishop thereof. Which church was then erected by the two Gallic bishops Germanus and Lupus, when they had suppressed the Pelagian heresy that prevailed so much in Britain: and Dubricius a most devout man they first preferred to the bishopric, to whom Meuric a British prince granted all the lands between Taff and Ely. From hence Taff continues its course to Cardiff, in British Caer Dydh corruptly I suppose for Caer Dyv, a neat town considering the country, and a commodious haven; fortified with walls and a castle by the conqueror Fitz-Haimon, who made it both the seat of war, and a court of justice. Where, besides a standing army of choice soldiers, the twelve knights or peers were obliged each of them to defend their several stations. Notwithstanding which, a few years after, one Ivor Bach, a Briton who dwelt in the mountains, a man of small stature, but of resolute courage, marched hither with a band of soldiers privately by night, and seized the castle, carrying away William Earl of Gloucester, Fitz-Haimon's grandson by the daughter, together with his wife and son, whom he detained prisoners till he had received satisfaction for all injuries. But how Robert Curthose, eldest son of William the Conqueror (a man in martial prowess, but too adventurous and fool-hardy) was deprived by his younger brothers of all hopes of succession to the crown; and bereft of both his eyes, lived in this castle till he became an old man; may be seen in our English historians. Whereby we may also learn, that to be born of the blood-royal, does not ensure us of either liberty or safety.

Scarce three miles from the mouth of the river Taff, in the very winding of the shore, there are two small, but very pleasant islands, divided from each other, and also from the mainland, by a narrow firth. The hithermost is called Sully, from a town opposite to it; to which Robert de Sully (whose share it was in the division) is thought

to have given name; though we might as well suppose he took his name from it. The furthestmost is called Barry, from St. Baruch who lies buried there; who as he gave name to the place, so the place afterwards gave surname to its proprietors. For that noble family of Viscount Barry in Ireland, is thence denominated. *In a maritime rock of this island, saith Giraldus, there is a narrow chink or chest, to which if you put your ear, you shall perceive such a noise as if smiths were at work there. For sometimes you hear the blowing of the bellows, at other times the strokes of the hammers; also the grinding of tools, the hissing noise of steel-gads, of fire burning in furnaces, &c. These sounds I should suppose might be occasioned by the repercussion of the sea-waters into these chinks, but that they are continued at low ebb when there's no water at all, as well as at the full tide.* Nor was that place unlike to this which Clemens Alexandrinus mentions in the seventh book of his *Stromata*. *Historians inform us, that in the Isle of Britain there is a certain cave at the root of a mountain, and at the top of it a cleft. Now when the wind blows into the cave, and is reverberated therein, they hear at the chink the sound of several cymbals; for the wind being driven back makes much the greater noise.*

Beyond these islands the shore is continued directly westward, receiving only one river; upon which (a little more within the land) lies Cowbridge, called by the Britons, from the stone bridge, Y Bont Vaen; a market town, and the second of those three which the conqueror Fitz-Haimon reserved for himself. In regard Antoninus places the city Bovium (which is also corruptly called Bomium) in this tract, and at this distance from Isca, I flattered myself once with the conjecture that this must be Bovium. But seeing that at three miles distance from this town we find Boverton, which agrees exactly with Bovium, I could not without an injury to truth, seek for Bovium elsewhere. Nor is it a new thing, that places should receive their names from oxen, as we find by the Thracian Bosphorus; the Bovianum of the Samnites; and Bauli in Italy, so called *quasi Boalia*, if we may credit Symachus. But let this one argument serve for all: fifteen miles from Bovium, Antoninus using also a Latin name hath placed Nidum, which though our antiquaries have a long time searched for in vain, yet at the same distance we find Neath [in British Nedh] a town of considerable note, retaining still its ancient name almost entire. Moreover, we may observe here, at Llantwit or St. Iltut's, a village adjoining, the foundations of many buildings; and formerly it had several streets. Not far from this Boverton, almost in the very creek or winding of the shore, stands St. Donat's Castle, the habitation of the ancient and noble family of the Stradlings; near which there were dug up lately several ancient Roman coins, but especially of the 30 tyrants, <339> and some of Aemilianus and Marius, which are very scarce. A little above this the river Ogmor Ogmor river. Falls into the sea, which glides from the mountains by Coity Castle, the seat formerly of the Turbervilles, afterwards of the Gamages, and now (in right of his lady) of Sir Robert Sidney Viscount L'Isle; and also by Ogmor Castle, which devolved from the family of the Londons to the Duchy of Lancaster.

There is a remarkable spring within a few miles of this place (as the learned Sir John Stradling told me by letter) at a place called Newton, a small village on the West side of the river Ogmor, in a sandy plain about a hundred paces from the Severn shore. The water of it is not the clearest, but pure enough and fit for use: it never runs over; insomuch, that such as would make use of it must go down some steps. At full sea, in summer time, you can scarce take up any water in a dish; but immediately when it ebbs, you may raise what quantity you please. The same inconstancy remains also in the winter; but is not so apparent by reason of the adventitious water, as well from frequent showers as subterraneous passages. This,

several of the inhabitants, who were persons of credit, had assured me of. However being somewhat suspicious of common report, as finding it often erroneous, I lately made one or two journeys to this sacred spring, for I had then some thoughts of communicating this to you. Being come thither, and staying about the third part of an hour (whilst the Severn flowed, and none came to take up water) I observed that it sunk about three inches. Having left it, and returning not long after, I found the water risen above a foot. The diameter of the well may be about six foot. Concerning which my muse dictates these few lines:

*Te Nova-Villa fremens, odioso murmure Nympha  
Inclamat Sabrina: soloque inimica propinquo,  
Evomit infestas ructu violenter arenas.  
Damna pari sentit vicinia sorte: sed illa  
Fonticulum causata tuum. Quem virgo, legendo  
Litus ad amplexus vocitat: latet ille vocatus  
Antro, & luctatur contra. Namque aestus utrique est.  
Continuo motu refluus, tamen ordine dispar.  
Nympha fluit propius: fons defluit. Illa recedit.  
Iste redit. Sic livor inest & pugna perennis.  
Thee, Newton, Severn's noisy Nymph pursues,  
While unrestrained th' impetuous torrent flows.  
Her conquering surges waste thy hated land,  
And neighbouring fields are burdened with the sand.  
But all the fault is on thy fountain laid,  
Thy fountain courted by the amorous maid.  
Him, as she passeth on, with eager noise  
She calls, in vain she calls, to mutual joys.  
He flies as fast, and scorns the proffered love,  
(for both with tides and both with different move.)  
The Nymph advanceth, straight the fountain's gone,  
The Nymph retreats, and he returns as soon.  
Thus eager love still boils the restless stream,  
And thus the cruel spring still scorns the virgin's flame.*

Polybius takes notice of such a fountain at Cadiz, and gives us this reason for it; viz. that the air being deprived of its usual vent, returns inwards; by which means the veins of the spring being stopped, the water is kept back: and so on the other hand, the water leaving the shore, those veins or natural aqueducts are freed from all obstruction, so that the water springs plentifully.

From hence coasting along the shore, you come to Kenfig, the castle heretofore of Fitz-Haimon; and Margam once a monastery, founded by William Earl of Gloucester, and now the seat of the noble family of the Mansels, knights. Not far from Margam, on the top of a hill called Mynydd Margam, there is a pillar of exceeding hard stone, erected for a sepulchral monument, of about four foot in height, and one in breadth; with an inscription, which whoever happens to read, the ignorant common people of that neighbourhood promise he shall die soon after. Let the reader therefore take heed what he does; for if he reads it, he shall certainly die.



Illustration: Mynydd Margam Pillar

Which reads

BODOCUS HIC JACIT, FILIUS CATOTIS,  
IRNI PRONEPOS, ETERNALI VE DOMAU.

The last words I read, *aeternali in domo*; for in that age sepulchres were called *aeternales domus*. <340>

Betwixt Margam and Kenfig also, by the way side, lies a stone about four foot long, with this inscription:



Illustration: Stone between Margam and Kenfig

Which the Welsh (as the right reverend the Bishop of Llandaff, who sent me this copy of it, informs me) by adding and changing some letters, do thus read and interpret PVMP. BVS CAR A'N TOPIVS. i.e. "The five fingers of our friend or kinsman killed us." They suppose it to have been the grave of Prince Morgan, from whom the county received its name, who they say was killed eight hundred years before the birth of our saviour; but antiquaries know, these letters are of much later date.

From Margam the shore leads Northeastward, by Aberavon, a small market town, at the mouth of the river Avon (whence it takes its name) to Neath, a river infamous for its quicksands; upon which stands an ancient town of the same name, in Antonine's itinerary called Nidum. Which, when Fitz-Haimon subdued this country, fell in the division to Richard Granville; who having built there a monastery under the town, and consecrated his dividend to God and the monks, returned to a very plentiful estate he had in England.

All the country from Neath to the river Loughor, which is the western limit of this country, is called by us Gower, by the Britons Gwyr, and by Nennius Guhir: where (as he tells us) the sons of Keian a Scot seated themselves, until they were driven out by Kynedhav a British prince. In the reign of King Henry the First, Henry Earl of Warwick subdued this country of Gower; which afterwards by compact betwixt Thomas Earl of Warwick and King Henry the Second, devolved to the crown. But King John bestowed it on William de Breos, *to be held by service of one knight, for all service*. And his heirs successively held it, till the time of Edward the Second. For at that time William de Breos having sold it to several persons; that he might ingratiate himself with the King, deluded all others, and put Hugh Spenser in possession of it. And that, amongst several others, was the cause why the nobles became so exasperated against the Spensers, and so unadvisedly quitted their allegiance to the King. It is now divided into East and West Gowerland. In East Gowerland the most noted town is Swansea, so called by the English from porpoises or sea-hogs; and by the Britons Abertawi (from the river Tawi, which runs by it) fortified by Henry Earl of Warwick. But a more ancient place than this, is that at the river Loughor which Antoninus calls Leucarum, and is at this day (retaining its ancient name) called Loughor [in British Casllwchwr] where, about the death of King Henry the First, Howel ap Mredydh with a band of mountaneers, surprised and slew several Englishmen of quality. Beneath this lies West Gower, which (the sea making creeks on each side it) is become a peninsula; a place more noted for the corn it affords, than towns. And celebrated heretofore for St. Kynedhav, who led here a solitary life; of whom such as desire a further account, may consult our Capgrave, who has sufficiently extolled his miracles.

From the very first conquest of this country, the Clares and Spensers Earls of Gloucester (who were lineally descended from Fitz-Haimon) were lords of it. Afterwards the Beauchamps, and one or two of the Nevilles; and by a daughter of Neville (descended also from the Spensers ) it came to Richard the Third King of England, who being slain, it devolved to King Henry the Seventh, who granted it to his uncle Gasper Duke of Bedford. He dying without issue, the King resumed it into his own hands, and left it to his son Henry the Eighth; whose son Edward the Sixth sold most part of it to William Herbert, whom he had created Earl of Pembroke, and Baron of Cardiff.

Of the offspring of the twelve knights before-mentioned, there remain now only in this county the Stradlings, a family very eminent for their many noble ancestors; with the Turbervilles, and some of the Flemings, whereof the chiefest dwells at Flemingstone, called now corruptly from them Flemston. But in England there remain my Lord St. John of Bletso, the Granvilles in Devonshire, and the Siwards (as I am informed) in Somersetshire. The issue male of all the rest is long since extinct, and their lands by daughters passed over to other families.

Parishes in this county 118.

#### **Additions to Glamorganshire.**

In our entrance upon this county, we are presented with Caerphilly Castle, probably the noblest ruins or ancient architecture now remaining in Britain. For in the judgment of some curious persons, who have seen and compared it with the most noted castles of England, it exceeds all in bigness, except that of Windsor. That place which Mr. Sanford called a chapel, was probably the same with that which the neighbouring inhabitants call the hall. It is a stately room about 70 foot in length, 34 in breadth, and 17 in height. On the South side we ascend to it by a direct stair-case, about eight foot wide; the roof whereof is vaulted and supported with twenty arches, which are still gradually higher as you ascend. The entry out of this stair-case, is not into the middle, but somewhat nearer to the West end of the room; and opposite to it on the North side, there is a chimney about ten foot wide. On the same side there are four stately windows (if so we may suppose them) two on each side the chimney, of the fashion of church-windows; but that they are continued down to the very floor, and reach up higher than the height of this room is supposed to have been; so that the room above this chapel [or hall] had some part of the benefit of them. The sides of these windows are adorned with certain three-leaved knobs or husks, having a fruit or small round ball in the midst. On the walls on each side the room, are seven triangular pillars, like the shafts of candlesticks, placed at equal distance. From the floor to the bottom of these pillars, may be about twelve foot and a half; and their height or length seemed above four foot. Each of these pillars is supported with three busts, or heads and breasts, which vary alternately. For whereas the first (for example) is supported with the head and breast of an ancient bearded man and two young faces on each side, all with disheveled hair; the next shows the face and breasts of a woman with two lesser faces also on each side, the middlemost or biggest having a cloth close tied under the chin, and about the forehead; the lesser two having also forehead-cloths, but none under the chin, all with braided locks. (See the figures in *Curiosities of Wales*, below, [No. 3 and 4.](#)) The use of these pillars seems to have been for supporting the beams; but there are also on the South side six grooves or channels in the wall at equal distance, which are about nine inches wide, and eight or nine foot high: four whereof are continued from the tops of the pillars; but the two middlemost are about the middle space between the pillars, and come down lower than the rest, having neat

stones jutting out at the bottom, as if intended to support something placed in the hollow grooves. On the North side, near the East end, there's a door about eight foot high; which leads into a spacious green about seventy yards long and forty broad. At the East end there are two low-arched doors, within a yard of each other; and there was a third near the South side, but much larger; and another opposite to that on the West end. The reason why I have been thus particular, is, that such as have been curious in observing ancient buildings, might the better discern whether this room was once a chapel or hall, &c. And also in some measure judge of the antiquity of the place; which, as far as I could hitherto be informed, is beyond the reach of history.

That this castle was originally built by the Romans, seems indeed highly probable, when we consider its largeness and magnificence. Though at the same time we must acknowledge, that we have no other reason to conclude it Roman, but the stateliness of its structure. For whereas most or all Roman cities and forts of note, afford (in the revolution at least of fifty or sixty years) either Roman inscriptions, statues, bricks, coins, arms, or other utensils, I could not find, upon diligent enquiry, that any of their monuments were ever discovered here. I have indeed two coins found at this castle; one of silver, which I received amongst many greater favours from the right worshipful Sir John Aubrey of Llantrithyd, baronet; and the other of brass, which I purchased at Caerphilly of the person that found it in the castle. (See the table of Welsh Curiosities, [no. 25 & 26.](#)) Neither of these are either Roman or English, and therefore probably Welsh. That of silver is as broad, but thinner than a sixpence, and exhibits on one side the image of our saviour with this inscription,

**GLORIA TIBI K.**

and on the reverse 2 persons, I suppose saints, with these letters

**MVAVNTIR..... ON \* \***

the meaning whereof I dare not pretend to explain; but if any should read it *moneta veneti regionis*, the money of the country of Gwynedd in North Wales, or else Gwent or Went Land, it might perhaps pass as a conjecture something probable, though I should not much contend for it. The brass coin is like the French pieces of the middle age, and shows on the obverse a prince crowned, in a standing posture, holding a sceptre in his right hand, with this inscription

**AVVAVD \* KSA Ave Maria, &c;**

and on the reverse a cross florée with these letters,

**\* \* \* \* \* Ave.**

Taking it for granted that this place was of Roman foundation, I should be apt to conjecture (but that our learned and judicious author has placed Bullaeum mentioned by Ptolemy, in another county) that what we now call Caerphilly, was the Bullaeum Silurum of the Romans. Probably Mr. Camden had no other argument (since he produces none) to conclude that Builth a town in Brecknockshire, was the ancient Bullaeum, but from the affinity of the names; and for that he presumed it seated in the country of the Silures. If so, we may also urge, that the name of Caerphilly comes as near Castrum Bullaei, as Builth. For such as understand the British tongue, will readily allow, that Bullaeum could not well be otherwise expressed in that language, that Caer Vwl, (which must be pronounced *Caer vyl*) or (as well as some other names of places) from the genitive case, *Caer-vyli*. That this place was also in the country of the Silures, is not controverted: and further, that it has been a Roman garrison is so likely, from the stately ruins still remaining, that most curious persons who have seen it, take it for granted. Whereas I cannot learn that anything was ever discovered at Builth, that might argue it inhabited by the Romans; much less a place of note in their time, as Bullaeum Silurum must needs have been.

On a mountain called Cefn Gelli-gaer, not far from this Caerphilly, in the way to Marchnad Y Wayn; I observed (as it seemed to me) a remarkable monument, which may perhaps deserve the notice of the curious. It's well known by the name of y Maen Hir, and is a rude stone pillar of a kind of quadrangular form, about 8 foot high; with this inscription to be read downwards:



It stands not erect, but somewhat inclining; whether casually, or that it was so intended, is uncertain. Close at the bottom of it, on that side it inclines, there's a small bank or entrenchment, enclosing some such space as six yards; and in the midst thereof a square area, both which may be better delineated than described.

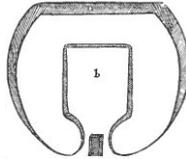


Illustration: Cefn Gelli-gaer enclosure

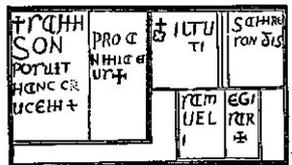
I suppose that in the bed or area in the midst, a person has been interred; and that the inscription must be read *tefro i ti*, or *deffro i ti*; which is Welsh, and signifies *mayst thou awake*.

As to the subterraneous noises mentioned by our author: What such soever might be heard in this island in Giraldus's time; 'tis certain (notwithstanding many later writers have upon this authority taken it for granted) that at present there are no such sounds perceived here. A learned and ingenious gentleman of this country, upon this occasion writes thus: *I was myself once upon the island, in company with some inquisitive persons; and we sought over it where such noise might be heard. Upon failure, we consulted the neighbours, and I have since asked literate and knowing men who lived near the island; who all owned the tradition, but never knew it made out in fact. Either then that old phenomenon is vanished, or the place is mistaken.*

*I shall offer upon this occasion what I think may divert you. You know there is in this channel, a noted point of land, between the Nash Point in this county, and that of St. Govan's in Pembrokeshire; called in the maps and charts Worm's Head Point, for that it appears to the sailors, like a worm creeping, with its head erect. From the mainland, it stretches a mile or better into the sea; and at half-flood, the isthmus which joins it to the shore is overflown; so that it becomes then a small island. Toward the head itself, or that part which is farthest out in the sea, there is a small cleft or crevice in the ground, into which if you throw a handful of dust or sand, it will be blown up back again into the air. But if you kneel or lie down, and lay your ears to it, you then hear distinctly the deep noise of a prodigious large bellows. The reason is obvious: for the reciprocal motion of the sea, under the arched and rocky hollow of this headland or promontory, makes an inspiration and expiration of the air, through the cleft, and that alternately; and consequently the noise, as of a pair of bellows in motion. I have been twice there to observe it, and both times in the summer season, and in very calm weather. But I do believe a stormy sea would give not only the forementioned sound, but all the variety of the other noises ascribed to Barry; especially if we a little indulge our fancy, as they that make such comparisons generally do. The same, I doubt not, happens in other places upon the sea-shore, wherever a deep water, and rocky concave, with proper clefts for conveyance, do concur: in Sicily especially, where there are moreover fire and sulphur for the bellows to work upon; and chimneys in those volcanos to carry off the smoke. But now that this Worm's Head should be the intended Isle of Barry, may seem very uncouth.*

*Here I consider, that Burry is the most remarkable river (next that of Swansea) for trade, in all Gower; and its Ostium is close by Worm's Head, so that whoever sails to the NE of Worm's Head, is said to sail for the river of Bury. Worm's Head again is but a late name; but the name of the river Bury is immemorial. Now he that had a mind to be critical might infer, either that Worm's Head was of old called the island of Bury; or at least, that before the name of Worm's Head was in being, the report concerning these noises might run thus: that near Burry, or as you sail into Bury, there is an island, where there is a cleft in the ground, to which if you lay your ear, you'll hear such and such noises. Now Barry for Bury is a very easy mistake, &c.*

In the churchyard at Llantwit Major, or Llan Illtud Vawr, on the North side of the church, there are two stones erected, which seem to deserve our notice. The first is close by the church wall, and is of a pyramidal form, about seven foot in height. It is adorned with old British carving, such as may be seen on the pillars of crosses, in several parts of Wales. It is at three several places, at equal distance, encompassed with three circles. From the lowest three circles to the ground, it is ingrailed or indented; but elsewhere adorned with knots. The circumference of it at the three highest circles, is three foot and a half; at the middlemost, above four foot, and the lowest about five. It has on one side, from the top (which seems to have been broken) to the bottom, a notable furrow or canaliculus about four inches broad, and two in depth. Which I therefore noted particularly, because upon perusal of a letter from the very learned and ingenious Dr. James garden of Aberdeen, to Mr. J. Aubrey RSS. I found the doctor had observed that amongst their circular stone-monuments in Scotland, (such as that at Rollright, &c. In England) sometimes a stone or two is found with a cavity on the top of it, capable of a pint or two of liquor; and such a groove or small chink as this I mention, continued downwards from this basin: so that whatever liquor is poured on the top, must run down this way. Whereupon he suggests, that supposing (as Mr. Aubrey does) such circular monument to have been temples of the druids, those stones might serve perhaps for their *libamina* or liquid sacrifices; but although this stone agrees with those mentioned by Dr. Garden, in having a furrow or cranny on one side; yet in regard of the carving, it differs much from such old monuments; which are generally, if not always, very plain and rude: so that perhaps it never belonged to such a circular monument, but was erected on some other occasion. The other stone is also elaborately carved, and was once the shaft or pedestal of a cross. On the one side it hath an inscription, showing that one Samson set it up, *pro anima ejus*; and another on the opposite side, signifying also that Samson erected it to St. Illtutus or Illtud; but that one Samuel was the carver. These inscriptions I thought worth the publishing, that the curious might have some light into the form of our letters in the middle ages.



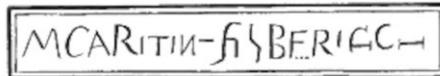
In old inscriptions we often find the letter V where we use O. As in the Mynydd Margam Pillar above, *pronepvs* for *pronepos* so that there was no necessity of inventing this character  $\theta$  (made use of in the former editions) which I presume is such, as was never found in any inscription whatever. In Reinesius *Syntag. Inscriptionum* p. 700, we find the epitaph of one Boduacus, dug up at Nîmes in France. Whereupon he tells us that the Roman name Betulius was changed by the Gauls into Boduacus. But it may seem equally probable, if not more likely, since we

also find Bodvoc here; that it was a Gaulish or British name: and the name of the famous Queen of the Iceni, Boadicea, seems also to share in the same original. Sepulchres are in old inscriptions often called *domus aeternae*, but *aeternalis* seems a barbarous word. The last words I read *Aeternalis in Domo*, for in that age sepulchres were called Aeternales Domus, or rather Aeternae, according to that distich,

*Docta lyra grata & gestu formosa puella,  
Hic jacet aeterna Sabis humata domo.*<342>

The other inscription mentioned by him (See above, Stone between Margam and Kenfig) is also at this day in the same place, and is called by the common people Bedh Morgan Morganwg, viz. *The sepulchre of prince Morgan*: which (whatever gave occasion to it) is doubtless an erroneous tradition; it being no other than the tomb-stone of one Pompeius carantopius, as plainly appears by this copy of it I lately transcribed from the stone. As for the word *Pumpeius* for *Pompeius*, we have already observed, that in old inscriptions, the letter *v* is frequently used for *o*.

There is also another monument, which seemed to me more remarkable than either of these, at a place called Panwen Berthin, in the Parish of Kadokston or Llangadog, about six miles above Neath. It is well known in that part of the county by the name of *Maen Dau Lygadyr Ych*, and is so called, from two small circular entrenchments, like cock-pits: one of which had lately in the midst of it a rude stone pillar, about three foot in height, with this inscription, to be read downwards.



Which perhaps we must read *marci* (or perhaps *memoriae*) *Caritini filii Bericii*. But what seemed to me most remarkable, were the round *areae*; having never seen, nor been informed of such places of burial elsewhere. So that on first sight, my conjecture was, that this had happened on occasion of a duel, each party having first prepared his place of interment: and that therefore there being no stone in the centre of the other circle, this inscription must have been the monument of the party slain. It has been lately removed a few paces out of the circle, and is now pitched on end, at a gate in the highway. But that there never was but one stone here, seems highly probable from the name *Maen Dau Lygadyr Ych*: whereas had there been more, this place, in all likelihood, had still retained the name of *Meneu Llydaidyr Ych*.

On a mountain called *Mynydd Gellionnen* in the parish of *Llangyfelach*, I observed a monument which stood lately in the midst of a small cairn or heap of stones, but is now thrown down and broken in three or four pieces; differing from all I have seen elsewhere. 'Twas a flat stone, about three inches thick, two foot broad at bottom, and about five in height. The top of it is formed as round as a wheel, and thence to the basis it becomes gradually broader. On one side it is carved with some art, but much more labour. The round head is adorned with a kind of flourishing cross, like a garden-knot: below that there is a man's face and hands on each side; and thence almost to the bottom, neat fretwork; beneath which there are two feet, but as rude and ill-proportioned (as are also the face and hands) as some Egyptian hieroglyphic.

Not far from hence, within the same parish, is *Carn Llechart*, A monument that gives denomination to the mountain on which it is erected. 'Tis a circle of rude stones, which are somewhat of a flat form, such as we call *llecheu*, disorderly pitched in the ground, of about 17 or 18 yards diameter; the highest of which now standing is not above a yard in height. It has but one entry into it, which is about four foot wide: and in the center of the area, it has such a cell or hut, as is seen in several places of Wales, and called *cist vaen*: one of which is described in Brecknockshire, by the name of *St. Itut's Cell*. This at *Carn Llechart* is about six foot in length, and four wide, and has no

top-stone now for a cover; but a very large one lies by, which seems to have slipped off. Y Gist Vaen on a mountain called Mynydd Drumau by Neath, seems to have been also a monument of this kind, but much less; and to differ from it, in that the circle about it was mason-work, as I was informed by a gentleman who had often seen it whilst it stood; for at present there's nothing of it remaining. But these kind of monuments, which some ascribe to the Danes, and others suppose to have been erected by the Britons before the Roman Conquest, we shall have occasion to speak of more fully hereafter. Another monument there is on a mountain called Cefn Bryn, in Gower, which may challenge a place also among such unaccountable antiquities, as are beyond the reach of history; whereof the same worthy person that sent me his conjecture of the subterraneous noise in Barry Island, gives the following account:

As to the stones you mention, they are to be seen upon a jutting at the northwest of Cefn Bryn, the most noted hill in Gower. They are put together by labour enough, but no great art, into a pile; and their fashion and posture is this: there is a vast unwrought stone (probably about twenty ton weight) supported by six or seven others that are not above four foot high, and these are set in a circle, some on end, and some edge-wise, or sidelong, to bear the great one up. They are all of them of the *lapis molaris*<343> kind, which is the natural stone of the mountain. The great one is much diminished of what it has been in bulk, as having five tuns or more (by report) broke off it to make mill-stones; so that I guess the stone originally to have been between 25 and 30 tuns in weight. The carriage, rearing, and placing of this massy rock, is plainly an effect of human industry and art; but the pulleys and levers, the force and skill by which 'twas done, are not so easily imagined. The common people call it Arthur's Stone, by a lift of vulgar imagination, attributing to that hero an extravagant size and strength. Under it is a well, which (as the neighbourhood tell me) has a flux and reflux with the sea; of the truth whereof I cannot as yet satisfy you, &c. There are divers monuments of this kind in Wales, some of which we shall take notice of in other counties. In Anglesey (where there are many of them) as also in some other places, they are called *krom-lecheu*; a name derived from *krwm*, which signifies crooked or inclining; and *llech* a flat stone: but of the name more hereafter. 'Tis generally supposed they were places of burial; but I have not yet learned that ever any bones or urns were found by digging under any of them.

Edward Somerset Lord Herbert of Chepstow, Ragland, and Gower, obtained of K. Charles 1 the title of Earl of Glamorgan, his father the Lord Marquess of Worcester being then alive; the succession of which family may be seen in the additions to Worcestershire.

### **Dimetae.**

The remainder of this region which is extended westward, and called by the English West Wales, comprehending Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, and Cardiganshire, was thought by Pliny to have been inhabited by the Silures. But Ptolemy to whom Britain was better known, placed another nation here, whom he called Dimetae and Demetae. Moreover, both Gildas and Nennius used the word Demetia to signify this country; whence the Britons call it at this day Dyfed, changing the *m* into *v*, according to the propriety of that language.

If it would not be thought a strained piece of curiosity, I should be apt to derive this appellation of the Demetae, from the words *deheu meath*, which signify the Southern plain; as all this South Wales has been called *deheu barth*; i.e. the Southern part. And I find that elsewhere the inhabitants of a champaign<sup><146></sup> country in Britain were called by the Britons themselves *Meatae*. Nor does the situation of this country contradict that signification; for when you take a prospect of it, the hills decline gently, and it dilates itself gradually to a plain.

## Carmarthenshire.

The county of Caer Vyrddin, called by the English Carmarthenshire, is a country sufficiently supplied with corn, very well stocked with cattle; and in divers places affords plenty of coal. It is bounded on the East with Glamorgan and Brecknock shires; on the West with Pembroke, on the North divided from Cardiganshire by the river Teifi, and on the South with the main ocean, which encroaches on the land here, with such a vast bay, that this country might seem out of fear to have withdrawn itself. In this bay Kidwelly first offers itself, the territory whereof was possessed for some time by the sons of Keianus a Scot, until they were driven out by Kynedhav a British prince. But now it is esteemed part of the inheritance of Lancaster, by the heirs of Maurice of London, or de Londres, who removing from Glamorganshire, after a tedious war, made himself master of it, and fortified old Kidwelly with walls, and a castle, now decayed with age. For the inhabitants passing over the river of Gwendraeth Vechain, built new Kidwelly, invited thither by the conveniency of a haven, which yet at present is of no great use, being choked with shelves. When Maurice of London invaded these territories, Gwenllian the wife of prince Gruffydd, a woman of invincible courage, (endeavouring to restore her husband's declining state) entered the field with displayed banner, and encountered him. But the success not being answerable to her courage, she with her son Morgan, and divers other noblemen (as Giraldus informs us) were slain in the field.

By Hawis the daughter and heiress of Thomas de Londres, this fair inheritance, with the title of Lord of Ogmore and Kidwelly, descended to Patrick Chaworth, and by a daughter of his son Patrick, to Henry Earl of Lancaster. The heirs of Maurice de Londres (as we read in an old inquisition) *were obliged by this tenure, in case the King, or his Chief Justice should lead an army into these parts of Kidwelly, to conduct the said army, with their banners, and all their forces, through the midst of the country of Neath to Loughor.*

A little below Kidwelly, the river Towy, which Ptolemy calls Tobius, is received into the ocean, having passed the length of this county from North to South. First by Llandovery (so called as is supposed from the confluence of rivers) which out of malice to the English, was long since demolished by Howel ap Rhys. Afterwards, by Dinefwr Castle, the royal seat of the princes of South Wales, whilst they flourished, situated aloft on the top of a hill. And at last by Carmarthen, which the Britons themselves call Caer-Vyrddin, Ptolemy Maridunum, and Antoninus Muridunum, who continues not his journeys any further than this place, and is here by negligence of the copyists ill handled. For they have carelessly confounded two journeys: the one from Galena to Isca; the other from Maridunum to Viroconovium.

This is the chief town of the county, pleasantly seated for meadows and woods, and a place of venerable antiquity; *fortified neatly* (saith Giraldus) *with brick-walls partly yet standing, on the noble river of Towy: navigable with ships of small burden; though the mouth of it be now almost stopped with a bed of sand.* Here our Merlin, the British Tages, was born: for as Tages was reported to have been the son of a genie, and to have taught the Tuscans sooth-saying; so our Merlin, who was said to have been the son of an incubus, devised prophecies, or rather mere phantastical dreams, for our Britons. Insomuch, that in this island he has the reputation of an eminent prophet, amongst the ignorant common people.

Soon after the Normans entered Wales, this town fell into their possession, but by whose means I know not; and a long time it encountered many difficulties: having been often besieged, and twice burnt; first by Gruffydd ap Rhys, and afterwards by

Rhys the said Gruffydd's brother. At which time, Henry Turberville, an Englishman, relieved the castle, and cut down the bridge. But the walls and castle being afterwards repaired by Gilbert de Clare, it was freed from these miseries; so that being thus secured, it bore the tempests of war much easier afterwards. The Princes of Wales, eldest sons of the Kings of England, settled here their chancery and exchequer for South Wales. Opposite to this city, towards the East, lies Cantref Bychan, which signifies the lesser hundred (for the Britons call such a portion of a country as contains 100 villages, *cantref*) where may be seen the ruins of Castle Carreg Cennen, which was seated on a steep, and on all sides inaccessible rock; and several vast caverns, now all covered with green turf (where, in the time of war, such as were unfit for arms, are thought to have secured themselves:) *a notable fountain also, which (as Giraldus writes) ebbing and flowing twice in twenty four hours, imitates the sea-tides.*

On the North is extended Cantref Mawr, or the *great hundred*; a safe retiring place heretofore for the Britons, as being very woody and rocky, and full of uncouth ways, by reason of the winding of the hills. On the South, the castles of Laugharne and Llansteffan stand on the sea-rocks, and are ample testimonies of warlike prowess, as well in the English as Britons. Below Laugharne, the river Taff is discharged into the sea: on the bank of which river, was famous heretofore Ty Gwyn Ar Dav, which signifies, the white house on the river Taff; so called, because it was built of white hazel-rods for a summer-house. Here, in the year of our redemption 914 Howel, surnamed the good, Prince of Wales, in a full assembly (there being besides laymen, 140 ecclesiastics) abrogated the laws of his ancestors, and gave new laws to his people; as the preface before those laws testifies. In which place a small monastery was built afterwards, called Whitland Abbey. Not far from hence is Kilmain Lwyd, where some countrymen lately discovered an earthen vessel, that contained a considerable quantity of Roman coins of debased silver: from the time of Commodus (who was the first of the Roman Emperors that debased silver) to the fifth tribuneship of Gordian the third; which falls in with the year of Christ 243. Amongst these were Helvius Pertinax, Marcus Opellius, Antoninus Diadumenianus, Julius Verus, Maximus the son of Maximinus, Caelius Balbinus, Clodius Pupienus, Aquilia Severa the wife of Elagabalus, and Sall. Barbia Orbiana: which (as being very rare) were coins of considerable value amongst antiquaries.

It remains now, that I give some account of Newcastle; a small town seated on the bank of the river Teifi, which divides this county from Cardiganshire; for so they now call it, because it was repaired by Rhys ap Thomas, a stout warrior (who assisted Hen. 7. in gaining his kingdom, and was by him deservedly created Knight of the Garter,) whereas formerly it was called Elmlyn, which name, if the English gave it from elm-trees; their conjecture is not to be despised, who are of opinion it was the Loventium of the Dimetae mentioned by Ptolemy: for an elm is called in British *llwyven*. Seeing we find it not recorded, which of the Normans first extorted this country out of the hands of the princes of Wales; order requires that we now proceed to the description of Pembrokeshire.

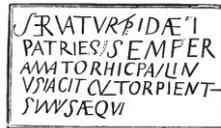
This county has 87 parishes.

#### **Additions to Carmarthenshire.**

Merlin, or Merdhin Emrys (for so our writers call him) flourished *an.* 480. The first of our historians that mentions him is Nennius, who supposes he was called Embreys Gleutic. He says nothing of his being the son of an incubus; but on the contrary tells us expressly, his mother was afraid of owning the father, lest she should be sentenced to die for it: but that the boy confessed to King Vortigern, that his father

was by nation a Roman. The same author informs us, that King Vortigern's messengers found him *ad campum electi in regione quae vocatur Glevising*; <344> which whether it were at this town or county, or in some other place, seems very questionable; no places (that I can hear of) being known by such names at present. All the monkish writers that mention him, make him either a prophet or magician. But H. Llwyd, a judicious author, and very conversant in British antiquities, informs us he was a man of extraordinary learning and prudence for the time he lived in; and that for some skill in the mathematics, many fables were invented of him by the vulgar; which being afterwards put in writing, were handed down to posterity.

These caverns (taken notice of by our author) are supposed, by some inquisitive persons who have often viewed them, to have been copper mines of the Romans. And indeed, seeing it is evident (from some antiquities found there) that *Caer Gai* in Merionethshire was a Roman town or fort; and that the place where these caves are, is also called *Kaio*; I am apt to infer from the name, that this place must have been likewise well known to the Romans. And that I may note this by the way, I suspect most names of places in Wales that end in *i* or *o*. Such as *Bod-Vari*, *Kevn Korwyni*, *Caer Gai*; *Llannio*, *Keidio*, and *Kaio*, to be Roman names; such terminations being not so agreeable with the idiom of the British. But for the antiquity of this place, we need not wholly rely upon conjectures: for I have lately received from Mr. Erasmus Saunders, a. B. of Jesus college, Oxon. These following inscriptions; which he copied from two stones at a place called *Pant y polion*, in this Parish. The first, which I suppose to be Roman, lies flat on the ground, and is placed cross a gutter::



*Servator fidei, patriae semper amator, hic Paulinus jacit, cultor pientissimus aequi.* <345>

The other, which seems to be of somewhat a later date, is pitched on end, and is about a yard in height; the inscription whereof is to be read downwards:



I cannot conjecture what might be the original signification of this word *tav*: but it may be worth our observation, that the most noted rivers in South Wales seem to have been thence denominated: for besides that there are three or four rivers of that name; the first syllable also in *Tawy*, *Towy*, *Teifi*, and *Dyvi*, seems to me but so many various pronunciations of it: and for the latter syllable, I have elsewhere offered my conjecture, that it only denotes a river, or perhaps water. Nor would it seem to me very absurd, if any should derive the name of the River *Thames* from the same original. For since we find it pretty evident, that the Romans changed *Dyved* (the ancient name of this country) into *Dimetia*, and *Kynedhav* (a man's name) into *Cunotamus*: and also that in many words where the Latins use an *m*, the Britons have an *v*. As *firmus*, *firv*; *terminus*, *tervin*; *amnis*, *Avon*; *lima*, *lliv*; &c., it seems not unlikely, (considering we find the word *tav*, usual in the names of our rivers) that the Britons might call that river *Tav*, *Tavwy*, or *Tavwys*, before the Roman Conquest; which they afterwards called *Tamesis*.

An ancient MS. Copy of the laws mentioned by Mr. Camden, may be seen at Jesus College library in Oxford, fairly writ on parchment; the preface whereof does not inform us that Howel Dha abrogated all the laws of his ancestors; but expressly tells us, that *according to the advice of his council, some of the ancient laws he retained, others he corrected, and some he quite disannulled, appointing others in their stead.*

Anno 1692, there were about 200 Roman coins found not far from hence, at a place called Bronyskawen in Llanboidy Parish. They were discovered by 2 shepherd boys, at the very entry of a spacious camp called Y Gaer; buried in 2 very rude leaden boxes (one of which I have caused to be figured in the table, [nos. 10, 11, 12](#)) so near the surface of the ground, that were not wholly out of sight. They were all of silver, and were some of the ancientest Roman coins we find in Britain. of about 30 I have seen of them, the latest were of Domitian Cos. XV. *An. Dom.* 91. But perhaps a catalogue of them may not be unacceptable to the curious; though I have only those in my possession which are thus distinguished with an asterisk \*.

1. Ant. Aug. III VIR r. P. C. *Navis praetoria.*
- ☿. Ns leg. V.. *Duo vexilla castrensia, cum tertia in medio longe breviori, in cujus summo, aquila alis altius erectis.*
2. Ant. Aug. *Navis praetoria.* Leg. X. *Duo signa castrensia cum aquila legionaria* \*.
3. Ant. Aug. III VIR R. P. C. *Navis praetoria.* Leg. XIII. *Tria vexilla castrensia.*
4. — *Caput forte Neptuni cum tridente a tergo.* Ins. Cuc. Re. *Victoria in dorso delphini. Hic nummus etiam M. Antonii videtur.*
5. Q. Cassius vest. *Imago virginis vestalis.* Ac. *Templum vestae cum sella & urna.* \*.
6. Q. Cassius libert. *Imago libertatis.* Ac. *Templum vestae cum sella curuli & urna.* \*.
7. Geta 111vir. *Imago Dianae.* — *nummus serratus.*
8. C. Hosidi C. F. *Aper venabulo trajectus cum cane venatico.* GETA III VIR. *Imago Dianae cum pharetra & arcu* \*.
9. Marc \* *caput romae.* Roma. *Quadriga.*
10. C. 111. Nae. B. *Victoria in trigis. Deae cujusdam imago.*
11. L. Procili F. *Juno sospita in bigis: infra serpens lanuvinus. Junonis sospitae imago. Nummus serratus* \*.
12. M. Thoriv. Balbu. *Taurus decurrens.* I S. M. R. *Sospita Juno.*
- 13... tori. *Victoria in quadrigis.* Sc. R. *Caput romae. Nummus serratus* \*.
14. Caesar. *Elephas cum dracone. Capeduncula, Aspergillum, Securis, & Albogalerus: signa Pontificis Maximi & Dialis Flamini* \*.
15. *Caput augusti, sine inscriptione.* CAESAR Divi F. *Figura stolata, dextra ramum, sinistra cornu copiae* \*.
16. Ti. Caesar divi Aug. F. Aug. *Figura sedens, dextra hastam, sinistra ramum.*
17. T. Claud. Caesar Aug. Germ. Trib. Pot. P. P. Agrippinae Augustae. *Caput Agrippinae.*
18. Nero Caesar Augustus. Jupiter custos. *Jupiter sedens, dextra fulmen tenens, sinistra cathedrae innixa* \*.
19. Nero Caesar Augustus. Salus. *Figura cathedrae insidens, dextra pateram.*
20. Imp. Ser. Galba caes. Aug. Salus gen.. *mani [forte generis humani] figura stans coram ara accensa, sinistra temonem, dextro pede globum calcans.*
21. Imp. M. Otho Caesar Aug. Tr. P. Securitas P. R. *Figura stans, dextra corollam, sinistra bacillum* \*.
22. Imp. Caesar Vespasianus Augustus. Pont. Max. Tr. P. Cos. V. *Caduceum alatum.*
23. Caesar Aug. Domitianus. Cos.. *Pegasus.*

24. Imp. Caes. Domit. Aug. Germ. Tr. P. Imp. XXI. Cos. XV. Cens P. P. P. *Pallas navi insistens, dextra jaculum, sinistra scutum.* <346>

The camp where these coins were found, is somewhat of an oval form, and may be at least 300 paces in circumference. The bank or rampart is near the entry, about three yards in height; but elsewhere 'tis generally much lower. At the entrance (which is about four yards wide) the two ends of the dyke are not directly opposite; the one (at the point whereof the coins were found) being continued somewhat further out than the other, so as to render the passage oblique. On each side the camp, there is an old barrow or tumulus; the one a small one, somewhat near it; the other, which is much bigger, at least 300 yards distant: both hollow on the top. The leaden boxes wherein these coins were preserved, are so very rude, that were it not for what they contained, I should never imagine them Roman. For they appear only like lumps of lead ore, and weigh about 5 pound, though they contain scarce half a pint of liquor. They are of an orbicular form, like small loaves; and have a round hole in the middle of the lid, about the circumference of a shilling.

The old British name of Emlin is Dinas Emlin; the most obvious interpretation whereof (though I shall not much contend for it) is Urbs Aemiliani. I cannot find that ever it was called Elmlin, either in Welsh or English; and therefore dare not subscribe to our author's conjecture, that the Lovantium of the Dimetae, mentioned by Ptolemy, was at this place; nor yet that it perished (which he also proposes as probable) in the lake Llyn Syfaddon in Brecknockshire. Indeed the footsteps of several towns and forts that flourished in the time of the Romans, are now so obscure and undiscernable, that we are not to wonder if the conjectures of learned and judicious men about their situation, prove sometimes erroneous. I have lately observed in Cardiganshire, some tokens of a Roman fort, which I suspect to have been the Lovantium or Lovantium of Ptolemy; for which I shall take the liberty of offering my arguments, when we come into that county.

Besides the inscriptions we observed at Kaio, there are three or four others in this county which may deserve our notice. The first is not far from Carmarthen town in Llyn Newydd parish; which by the names therein should be Roman; though the form of some letters, and the rudeness of the stone on which they are inscribed, might give us grounds to suspect it the epitaph of some person of Roman descent, but that lived somewhat later than their time. The stone is a rude pillar, erected near the highway; somewhat of a flat form, five or six foot high, and about half a yard in breadth, and contains the following inscription, not to be read downwards, as on many stones in these countries, but from the left to the right.



SEVERINI  
FILI SEVERI

The second is in the Parish of Henllan Amgoed, in a field belonging to Parkeu, and is almost such a monument as the former. At present it lies on the ground; but considering its form, 'tis probable it stood heretofore upright; and if so, the inscription was read downwards.



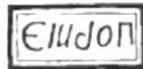
CMENVENDAN  
FILI BARCVN

Both these names of Menvendan and Barcvn, are now obsolete; nor do I remember to have read either of them, in any genealogical MS. But near this monument there is a place called Cevn Varchen, which may seem to be denominated,

either from this Barcun, or some other of the same name. The third and fourth inscription was copied by my above-mentioned friend Mr. Erasmus Saunders, from a polished free-stone at the West end of the church of Llanfihangel-ar-Arth.



The fourth (which seems less intelligible than the rest) was also communicated by the same hand. The stone whence he copied it, is neatly carved, about 6 foot high, and 2 foot broad, and has a cavity on the top, which makes me suspect it to have been no other than the pedestal of a cross. It may be seen at a place denominated from it, Caermain, not far from Aber-Sannan; but for the meaning of the inscription, if it be any other than the stone-cutter's name, (though I confess I know no name like it) I must leave it to the reader's conjecture.



In the parish of Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn, we find manifest signs of a place possessed by the Romans. For not far from the East end of the church, labourers frequently dig up bricks, and meet with some other marks of Roman antiquity; and there is a very notable Roman way of gravel and small pebbles, continued from that church to Llanbran, the seat of the worshipful Sackville Gwyn Esq. which (as I am told) may be also traced betwixt this Llanfair, and Llandeilo Fawr, and is visible in several other places.

This country abounds with ancient forts, camps, and tumuli or barrows, which we have not room here to take notice of. I shall therefore mention only one barrow, called Crûg-y-Deyrn, in the Parish of Trelech, which seems particularly remarkable. The circumference of it at bottom may be about 60 paces, the height about 6 yards. It rises with an easy ascent, and is hollow on the top, gently inclining from the circumference to the center. This barrow is not a mound of earth, as others generally are; but seems to have been such a heap of stones, as are called in Wales *Carneddeu* (whereof the reader may see some account in Radnorshire) covered with turf. At the center of the cavity on the top we find a vast rude *llech* [or flat stone] somewhat of an oval form, about three yards in length, five foot over where broadest, and about ten or twelve inches thick. A gentleman, to satisfy my curiosity, having employed some labourers to search under it, found it after removing much stone, to be the covering of such a barbarous monument as we call *kist-vaen*, or stone-chest; which was about four foot and a half in length, and about three foot broad, but somewhat narrower at the East than West end. 'Tis made up of 7 stones, viz. The covering-stone already mentioned, two side-stones, one at each end, and one behind each of these for the better securing or bolstering of them; all equally rude, and about the same thickness, the two last excepted, which are considerably thicker. They found as well within the chest as without, some rude pieces of brick (or stones burnt like them) and free-stone, some of which were wrought. They observed also some pieces of bones, but such as they supposed only brought in by foxes, but not sinking to the bottom of the chest, we know not what else it may afford.

Crûg-y-Deyrn (the name of this tumulus) is now scarce intelligible; but if a conjecture may be allowed, I should be apt to interpret it *King's barrow*. I am sensible that even such as are well acquainted with the Welsh tongue, may at first view think this a groundless opinion, and wonder what I aim at; but when they consider that the

common word *teyrnas*, which signifies a kingdom, is only a derivative from the old word *teyrn*, (which was originally the same with tyrannus, and signified a king or prince;) they will perhaps acknowledge it not altogether improbable. And considering the rudeness of the monument described, and yet the labour and force required in erecting it, I am apt to suspect it the barrow of some British prince, who might live probably before the Roman Conquest. For seeing it is much too barbarous to be supposed Roman; and that we do not find in history that the Saxons were ever concerned here, or the Danes any further than in plundering the sea-coasts, it seems necessary to conclude it British. That it was a royal sepulchre I am apt to infer, partly from the signification of the name; which being not understood in these ages, could not therefore be any novel invention of the vulgar; and partly for that (as I hinted already) more labour and force was required here than we can suppose to be allowed to persons of inferior quality. That 'tis older than Christianity, there's no room to doubt; but that it was before the Roman Conquest, is only my conjecture, supposing that after the Britons were reduced by the Romans, they had none whom they could call *teyrn* or king, whose corpse or ashes might be repositied here.

Gwal-y-Filiast or Bwrdd Arthur in Llanboidy Parish, is a monument in some respect like that we have described at this barrow, viz. A rude stone about ten yards in circumference, and above three foot thick, supported by four pillars, which are about two foot and a half in length.

But Buarth Arthur or Meini Gwyr, on a mountain near Kil y Maen Llwyd, is one of that kind of circular stone monuments our English historians ascribe to the Danes. The diameter of the circle is about twenty yards. The stones are as rude as may be, and pitched on end at uncertain distances from each other, some at three or four foot, but others about two yards; and are also of several heights, some being about three or four foot high, and others five or six. There are now standing here fifteen of them; but there seem to be seven or eight carried off. The entry into it for about the space of three yards, is guarded on each side with stones much lower and less than those of the circle, pitched so close as to be contiguous. And over against this avenue, at the distance of about 200 paces, there stand on end three other large, rude stones, which I therefore note particularly, because there are also four or five stones erected at such a distance from that circular monument they call King's Stones near Little Rollright in Oxfordshire. As for the name of Buarth Arthur, 'tis only a nickname of the vulgar, whose humour it is, though not so much (as some have imagined) out of ignorance and credulity, as a kind of rustic diversion, to dedicate many unaccountable monuments to the memory of that hero; calling some stones of several ton weight his quoits, others his tables, chairs, &c. But Meini Gwyr is so old a name, that it seems scarce intelligible. *Meini* is indeed our common word for large stones; but *gwyr* in the present British signifies only *crooked*, which is scarce applicable to these stones, unless we should suppose them so denominated, because some of them are not at present directly upright, but a little inclining. It may be, such as take these circular monuments for druid temples may imagine them so called from bowing, as having been places of worship. For my part I leave every man to his conjecture, and shall only add that near Capel King in Carnarvonshire, there is a stone pitched on end, called also Maen Gwyr; which perhaps is the only stone now remaining of such a circular monument as this. At leastwise it has such a *kist vaen* by it (but much less) as that we observed in the midst of the monument described in Glamorganshire, by the name of Carn Llechart.

Of late, Carmarthen hath given the title of Marquess to the right honourable Thomas Osborne, Marquess of Carmarthen, Earl of Danby; upon whose advancement

## Camden's Britannia

to the dukedom of Leeds, the honour of Marquess of Carmarthen is now descended to his eldest son and heir.

## Pembrokeshire.

The sea now winding itself to the South, and by a vast compass and several creeks rendering the shore very uneven, encroaches on all sides on the county of Pembroke (commonly called Pembrokeshire, in ancient records the Legal County of Pembroke, and by some, West-Wales) except on the East, where it is bounded with Carmarthenshire, and the North, where it borders on Cardiganshire. 'Tis a fertile country for corn, affords plenty of marl and such like things to fatten and enrich the land, as also of coal for fuel, and is very well stocked with cattle. *This country (saith Giraldus) affords plenty of wheat, is well served with sea-fish and imported wine; and (which exceeds all other advantages) in regard of its nearness to Ireland, enjoys a wholesome air.*

First, on the Southern coast, Tenby, a neat town, strongly walled, beholds the sea from the dry shore; a place much noted for the ships that harbour there, and for plenty of fish, whence in British it's called Dinbych-y-Pysgod; governed by a mayor and a bailiff. To the West of this place are seen on the shore the ruins of Manorbier Castle, called by Giraldus Pyrrhus's Mansion; in whose time (as he himself informs us) *it was adorned with stately towers and bulwarks, having on the West side a spacious haven, and under the walls, to the North and Northwest an excellent fish-pond, remarkable as well for its neatness, as the depth of its water.* The shore being continued some few miles from hence, and at length withdrawing itself, the sea on both sides comes far into the land, and makes that port which the English call Milford Haven; than which there is none in Europe, either more spacious or secure, so many creeks and harbours hath it on all sides; and to use the poet's words,

*Hic exarmatum terris cingentibus aequor  
Clauditur, & placidam discit servare quietem.  
Here circling banks the furious winds control,  
And peaceful waves with gentle murmurs roll.*

For it contains sixteen creeks, five bays, and thirteen roads, distinguished by their several names. Nor is this haven more celebrated for these advantages, than for Henry the Seventh of happy memory landing here; who from this place gave England (at that time languishing with civil wars) the signal of good hopes.

At the innermost and eastern bay of this haven, *a long cape (saith Giraldus) extended from Milver-Dyke with a forked head, shows the principal town of this province, and the metropolis of Dimetia, seated on a rocky oblong promontory, in the most pleasant country of all Wales, called by the Britons Penfro, which signifies the cape or sea-promontory, and thence in English, Pembroke. Arnulph de Montgomery, brother to Robert Earl of Shrewsbury, built this castle in the time of King Henry the First, but very meanly with stakes only and green turf. Which upon his return afterwards into England, he delivered to Giraldus of Windsor, a prudent man, his constable and lieutenant general, who with a small garrison was presently besieged therein, by all the forces of South Wales.* But Giraldus and his party made such resistance (though more with courage than strength) that they were forced to retire without success. Afterward, this Giraldus fortified both the town and castle; from whence he annoyed the neighbouring countries a great way round. And for the better settlement of himself and his friends in this country, he married Nest, the sister of prince Gruffydd, by whom he had a noble offspring; *by whose means (saith Giraldus, who was descended from him) not only the maritime parts of South Wales were retained by the English, but also the walls of Ireland reduced.* For all those noble families in Ireland called Gerald's, Geraldine's, and Fitz-Gerald's, are descended from

him. *In regard of the tenure of this castle and town, and the castle and town of Tenby, of the Grange of Kingswood, the Common of Croytarath and Manor of Castlemartin and Tregoir*, Reginald Grey at the coronation of Henry the Fourth, claimed the honour of bearing the second sword, but all in vain; for 'twas answered, that at that time those castles and farms were in the King's hands, as also at this day the town of Pembroke, which is a corporation, and is governed by a mayor and two bailiffs.

On another bay of this haven we find Carew Castle, which gave both name and original to the illustrious family of Carew, who affirm themselves to have been called at first de Montgomery, and that they are descended from that Arnulph de Montgomery already mentioned.

Two rivers are discharged into this haven, almost in the same channel, called in the British tongue Cleddau, which in English signifies a sword, whence they call it Aber-Daugleddau, i.e. *the haven of two swords*. Hard by the more easterly of them, standeth Slebech, once a commandery of the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, which, with other lands, Wizo and his son Walter settled upon that holy order; that they might serve as the champions of Christ, in order to recover the Holy Land.

That part of the country which lies beyond the haven, and is watered only with these two rivers, is called by the Britons Rhos; a name derived from the situation of it, for that it is a large green plain. This part is inhabited by Flemings, who settled here by the permission of King Henry the First; when as the sea, making breaches in their fences, had drowned a considerable part of the Low Countries. They are at this day distinguished from the Welsh by their speech and customs: and they speak a language so agreeable with the English (which indeed has much affinity with Dutch) that this small country of theirs is called by the Britons Little England beyond Wales. *This (saith Giraldus) is a stout and resolute nation, and very offensive to the Welsh by their frequent skirmishes: a people much skilled in clothing and merchandise, and ready to increase their stock at any labour or hazard, by sea and land. A most puissant nation, and equally prepared, as time and place shall require, either for the sword or plough. And that I may add also this one thing, a nation most devoted to the kings of England, and faithful to the English;* and which, in the time of Giraldus, understood soothsaying, or the inspection of the entrails of beasts, even to admiration. Moreover, the Fleming Way, which was a work of theirs, (as they are a nation exceeding industrious,) is seen here extended through a long tract of ground. The Welsh endeavouring to regain their old country, have often set upon these Flemings with all their power, and have ravaged and spoiled their borders; but they always with a ready courage defended their lives, their fortunes, and reputation. Whence William of Malmesbury writes thus of them, and of William Rufus; *William Rufus had generally but ill fortune against the Welsh; which one may well wonder at, seeing all his attempts elsewhere proved successful. But I am of opinion, that as the unevenness of their country and severity of the weather favoured their rebellion, so it hindered his progress. But King Henry, that now reigns, a man of excellent wisdom, found out an art to frustrate all their inventions, by planting Flemings in their country, to curb and continually harass them.* And again in the fifth book; *King Henry often endeavoured to reduce the Welsh, who were always prone to rebellion: at last very advisedly, in order to abate their pride, he transplanted thither all the Flemings that lived in England. For at that time there were many of them come over on account of their relation to his mother, by her father's side; insomuch that they were burdensome to the kingdom: wherefore he thrust them all into Rhos, a province of Wales, as into a common shore, as well to rid the kingdom of them, as to curb the obstinacy of his enemies.*

On the more westerly of these two rivers called Cleddau, in a very uneven situation, lies Haverford-West, called by the Britons Hwlffordd: a town of good account, as well for its neatness as number of inhabitants. This is a county of itself, and is governed by a mayor, a sheriff, and two bailiffs. It is reported, that the Earls of Clare fortified it on the North side with walls and a rampart; and we have it recorded, that Richard Earl of Clare made Richard Fitz-Tancred governor of this castle.

Beyond Rhos, we have a spacious promontory, extended far into the Irish sea; called by Ptolemy Octopitarum, by the Britons Pebidiog and Cantrev Dewi, and in English St. David's Land. *A land (saith Giraldus) both rocky and barren, neither clad with trees, nor distinguished with rivers, nor adorned with meadows; but exposed continually to the winds and storms:* however the retiring place and nursery of several saints. For Calphurnius a British priest, (as some have written, I know not how truly) begat here, in the vale of Rhos, St. Patrick the apostle of Ireland, on his wife Concha, sister of St. Martin of Tours. And Dewi, a most religious bishop, translated the archiepiscopal seat from Caerleon to the utmost corner of this place, viz. Menew or Menevia, which from him was afterwards called by the Britons Ty Dewi i.e. David's House; by the Saxons Dauyd-Mynster, and by our modern English St. David's. St. David's for a long time it had its Archbishops; but the plague raging very much in this country, the pall was translated to Dol in Little Britain, which was the end of this archiepiscopal dignity. Notwithstanding which, in the later ages, the Britons commenced an action on that account, against the Archbishop of Canterbury, metropolitan of England and Wales; but were cast. What kind of place this St. David's was heretofore, is hard to guess, seeing it has been so often sacked by pirates: at present it is a very mean city, and shows only a fair church consecrated to St. Andrew and St. David. Which having been often demolished; was built in that form we now see it, in the reign of King John, by Peter then bishop thereof and his successors, in the vale (as they call it) of Rhos, under the town. Not far from it is the bishop's palace, and very fair houses, of the Chanter (who is chief next the bishop, for here is no dean) the Chancellor, the treasurer, and four archdeacons, who are of the canons (whereof there are twenty one,) all enclosed with a strong and stately wall.

This promontory is so far extended westward, that in a clear day we may see Ireland: and from hence is the shortest passage into it; which Pliny erroneously computed to be thirty miles distant from the country of the Silures; for he thought their country had extended thus far. But we may gather from these words of Giraldus, that this cape was once extended further into the sea; and that the form of the promontory has been altered. *At such time as Henry 2 (saith he) was in Ireland, by reason of an extraordinary violence of storms, the sandy shores of this coast were laid bare, and that face of the land appeared which had been covered for many ages. Also the trunks of trees which had been cut down, standing in the midst of the sea, with the strokes of the axe as fresh as if they had been yesterday: with very black earth, and several old blocks like ebony. So that now it did not appear like the sea-shore, but rather resembled a grove, by a miraculous metamorphosis, perhaps ever since the time of the deluge, or else long after, at leastwise very anciently, as well cut down, as consumed and swallowed up by degrees, by the violence of the sea, continually encroaching upon, and washing off the land.* And that saying of William Rufus shows that the lands were not here disjoined by any great sea; who when he beheld Ireland from these rocks, said, he could easily make a bridge of ships, whereby he might walk from England into that kingdom.

There are excellent and noble falcons that breed in these rocks, which our King Henry 2 (as the same Giraldus informs us) was wont to prefer to all others. For

(unless I am deceived by some of that neighbourhood) they are of that kind which they call peregrines. For according to the account they give of them, I need not use other words to describe them, than these verses of that excellent poet of our age, Augustus Thuanus Esmerius, in that golden book he entitles *Hieracosophion*:

*Depressus capitis vertex, oblongaque toto  
Corpore pennarum series, pallentia crura,  
Et graciles digiti ac sparsi, naresque rotundae.*

Flat heads, and feathers laid in curious rows  
O'er all their parts, hooked beaks, and slender claws.

The sea now with great violence assails the land, receding from this promontory; which is a small region called the Lordship of Cemais. The chief place in it is Fishguard, seated on a steep rock, and having a convenient harbour for shipping: so called by the English from a fishery there; and by the Britons Abergwaun, which signifies the mouth of the River Gwaun. The next is Newport on the River Nevern, called in British Trefdraeth, which signifies *the town on the sand*. This was built by Martin of Tours, whose posterity made it a corporation, granted it several privileges, and constituted therein a port-reeve and bailiff; and also built themselves a castle above the town, which was their chief seat. They also founded the monastery of St. Dogmael on the bank of the river Teifi, in a vale encompassed with hills, from which the village adjoining (as many other towns from monasteries) took its beginning. This barony was first wrested out of the hands of the Welsh by Martin of Tours, from whose posterity (who were from him called Martins) it descended by marriage to the barons de Audley. They held it a long time, until the reign of King Henry 8, when William Owen, descended from a daughter of Sir Nicholas Martin, after a tedious suit at law for his right, at last obtained it, and left it to his son George; who, (being an exquisite antiquary) has informed me, that there are in this barony, besides the three boroughs, (Newport, Fishguard, and St. Dogmael) 20 knights-fees and 26 parishes.

More inward on the river Teifi already mentioned, lies Kilgaran; which shows the ruins of a castle built by Giraldus. But now being reduced to one street, its famous for no other thing than a plentiful salmon fishery. For there is a very famous salmon-leap where the river falls headlong; and the salmon making up from the sea towards the shallows of the river, when they come to this cataract bend their tails to their mouths; nay sometimes, that they may leap with greater force, hold it in their teeth; and then upon disengaging themselves from their circle, with a certain violence, as when a stick that's bent is reflected, they cast themselves from the water up to a great height, even to the admiration of the spectators: which Ausonius thus describes very elegantly:

*Nec te puniceo rutilantem viscere, salmo,  
Transierim, latae cujus vaga verbera caudae,  
Gurgite de medio summas referuntur in undas.*

Nor thou, red salmon, shalt be last in fame,  
Whose flirting tail cuts through the deepest stream,  
With one strong jerk the wondering flood deceives,  
And sporting mounts thee to the utmost waves.

There have been divers Earls of Pembroke descended from several families. As for Arnulph of Montgomery, who first conquered it, and was afterwards outlawed; and his castellan Gerald of Windsor whom King Henry 1 made afterwards president over the whole country; I can scarce affirm that they were earls. King Stephen first conferred the title of Earl of Pembroke upon Gilbert Strongbow son of Gislebert de

Clare. He left it to his son Richard Strongbow, the conqueror of Ireland; who was (as Giraldus has it) *a clara Clarensium familia oriundus*, "descended from the famous family of the Clares." Isabella the only daughter of this Earl, brought this title to her husband William Marshal (so called for that his ancestors had been hereditary marshals of the King's palace) a very accomplished person, well instructed in the arts of peace and war. of whom we find this epitaph in Rudburn's annals:

*Sum quem Saturnum sibi sensit Hibernia, solem  
Anglia, Mercurium Normannia, Gallia Martem.  
Me Mars the French, their sun the English owned,  
The Normans Mercury, Irish Saturn found.*

After him his five sons were successively Earls of Pembroke; viz. William, called the younger; Richard, who having rebelled against Henry 3 fled into Ireland, where he died in battle; Gilbert, who at a tournament in war was unhorsed, and so killed; and Walter and Anselm. All these dying in a short space without issue, King Henry 3 invested with the honour of this earldom William de Valentia, of the family of Lusignia in Poitiers, who was his own brother by the mother's side; and married Joan, the daughter of Gwarin de Mont Chensey by a daughter of William Marshal. To William de Valentia succeeded his son Audomar, who was governor of Scotland under K. Edw. 1. His second sister and coheiress Elizabeth, being married to John Lord Hastings, brought this title into a new family. For Lawrence Hastings his grandchild by a son, who was Lord of Abergavenny, was made E. of Pembroke by a rescript of K. Edward 3. A copy whereof it may not be amiss to subjoin here, that we may see what right there was by heirs-female in these honorary titles. *Rex omnibus ad quos, &c. Salutem. Know ye, that the good presage of wisdom and virtue, which we have conceived by the towardly youth and happy beginnings of our most well beloved cousin Lawrence Hastings, deservedly induce us to countenance him with our especial grace and favour, in those things which concern the due preservation and maintenance of his honour. Whereas therefore, the inheritance of Aymer of Valence, sometime Earl of Pembroke, deceased long since without heir begotten of his body, hath been devolved upon his sisters, proportionably to be divided among them and their heirs: because we know for certain, that the foresaid Lawrence, who succeedeth the said Aymer in part of the inheritance, is descended from the eldest sister of Aymer aforesaid, and so by the avouching of the learned, whom we consulted about this matter, the prerogative both of name and honour is due unto him. We deem it just and due, that the same Lawrence claiming his title from the elder sister, assume and have the name of Earl of Pembroke, which the said Aymer had whilst he lived. Which, as much as lieth in us, we confirm, ratify and also approve unto him: willing and granting, that the said Lawrence have and hold the prerogative and honour of Earl-Palatine in those lands which he holdeth of the said Aymer's inheritance; so fully and after the same manner as the same Aymer had and held them, at the time of his death, &c. Witness the King at Montmartin, the 13th day of October, and the 13th year of his reign.*

This Lawrence Hastings was succeeded by his son John, who being taken by the Spaniards in a sea-fight, and afterwards redeemed, died in France in the year 1375. To him succeeded his son John, who was killed in a tournament at Woodstock *anno* 1391. And it was observed of this family (I know not by what fate) that no father ever saw his son for five generations. He leaving no issue, several considerable revenues devolved to the crown: and the castle of Pembroke was granted to Francis Atcourt, a courtier of that time in great favour; who upon that account was commonly called

Lord of Pembroke. And not long after, John Duke of Bedford, and after him his brother Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, the sons of K. Hen. 4, obtained the same title. After that, William de la Pole was made Marquis of Pembroke; upon whose decease K. Hen. 6 created Jasper de Hatfield his brother by the mother's side, Earl of Pembroke; who being afterwards divested of all honours by K. Hen. 4 [*sic*] was succeeded by William Herbert, who was killed in the battle at Banbury. To him succeeded a son of the same name, whom Edw. 4, having recovered his kingdom, created Earl of Huntingdon, conferring the title of Earl of Pembroke, on his eldest son Edward Prince of Wales. A long time after that, King Hen. 8 entitled Anne of Boleyn, (whom he had betrothed) Marchioness of Pembroke. At last King Edw. 6 in our memory, invested William Herbert, Lord of Cardiff, with the same title. He was succeeded by his son Henry, who was President of Wales under Queen Elizabeth. And now his son William, a person in all respects most accomplished, enjoys that honour. This family of the Herberts is very noble and ancient in these parts of Wales. For they derive their pedigree from Henry Fitz-Herbert, Chamberlain to K. Hen. 1, who married that King's concubine, Reginald Earl of Cornwall's mother, as I am informed by Mr. Robert Glover, a person of great insight in genealogies; by whose untimely decease, genealogical antiquities have suffered extremely.

Parishes in this county 145.

#### **Additions to Pembrokeshire.**

That our author hath justly represented the Flemings to be a warlike and industrious nation, is very evident, as well from the account we have of them in history, as that they have maintained their territories to be distinguishable from the Welsh even to this day. But that all Wales with united forces, hath several times invaded their country, and that without success, seems a more honourable character of them, than we find in other historians. I shall therefore transcribe what Dr. Powel hath delivered upon this occasion, in his *History of Wales*.

*In the year 1217 Prince Llewelyn ap Iorwerth marched to Dyfed, and being at Kevn Kynwarchan, the Flemings sent to him to desire a peace; but the prince would not grant them their request. Then young Rhys was the first that passed the river Kledheu, to fight with those of the town of Haverford: whereupon Iorwerth Bishop of St. Davids, with all his clergy, came to the prince, to intercede for peace in behalf of the Flemings, which after long debating was thus concluded.*

*First, that all the inhabitants of Rhos, and the land of Pembroke should become the prince's subjects, and ever from thence-forth take him for their liege Lord.*

*Secondly, that they should pay him 1000 marks toward his charges, before Michaelmas next coming.*

*Thirdly, that for the performance of these, they should deliver forthwith to the prince twenty pledges of the best in all the country, &c.*

and again,

*In the year 1220 Llewelyn Prince of Wales led an army to Pembroke against the Flemings, who contrary to their oath and league had taken the castle of Aber Teifi, which castle the prince destroyed, putting the garrison to the sword, razed the castle, and went thence to the land of Gwys, where he razed that castle, and burned the town. Also he caused all Haverford to be burned to the castle-gates, and destroyed all Rhos and Daugleddau; and they that kept the castle sent to him for truce till May, which was concluded upon conditions, and so he returned home.*

As to the ancient name of St. David's, there is not far from it a place at this day called Melin Meneu; wherein is preserved the old denomination. But the original

signification of the word Meneu is now lost, and perhaps not to be retrieved. However, I would recommend it to the curious in Ireland and Scotland (where the names of places agree much with those in Wales) to consider whether it may not signify a firth or narrow sea; for we find the channel betwixt Carnarvonshire and the Isle of Anglesey to be called Abermeneu; and that there is here also a small fretum<350>, called the sound, betwixt this place and the Isle of Ramsey; and another place called Meney, by a firth in Scotland, in the county of Buchan.

Besides the instance of the sea-sands being washed off, we find the same to have happened about the year 1590. For Mr. George Owen, who lived at that time, and is mentioned by our author as a learned and ingenious person, gives us the following account of it in a manuscript history of this county.

*About twelve or thirteen years since, it happened that the sea-sands at Newgale, which are covered every tide, were by some extraordinary violence of the waves so washed off, that there appeared stocks of trees, doubtless in their native places; for they retained manifest signs of the strokes of the axe, at the falling of them. The sands being washed off, in the winter, these butts remained to be seen all the summer following, but the next year the same were covered again with the sands. By this it appeareth that the sea in that place hath intruded upon the land. Moreover, I have been told by the neighbours of Coed Traeth near Tenby, that the like hath been seen also upon those sands, &c.* To this an ingenious and inquisitive gentleman of this country, adds, that the same hath been observed of late years near Capel Stinan or St. Justinian's; where were seen not only the roots or stocks of trees, but also divers pieces of squared timber. As for roots or stumps, I have often observed them myself at a low ebb, in the sands betwixt Borth and Aberdyfi in Cardiganshire; but remember nothing of any impression of the axe on them; but on the contrary, that many of them, if not all, were very smooth; and that they appeared, as to substance, more like the coal-black peat or fuel-turf, than timber.

There are in this county several such circular stone monuments, as that described in Carmarthenshire by the name of Meineu Gwyr, and Cairn Llechart in Glamorgan. But the most remarkable is that called Y Cromlech, near Pentre Ifan in Nevern Parish, where there are several rude stones pitched on end in a circular order; and in the midst of the circle a vast rude stone placed on several pillars. The diameter of the area is about fifty foot. The stone supported in the midst of this circle is 18 foot long, and 9 in breadth; and at the one end its about three foot thick, but thinner at the other. There lies also by it a piece broken off, about ten foot long, and five in breadth, which seems more than twenty oxen can draw. It's supported by three large rude pillars, about eight foot high; but there are also five others, which are of no use at present, as not being high enough, or duly placed to bear any weight of the top-stone. Under this stone, the ground is neatly flagged, considering the rudeness of monuments of this kind. I can say nothing of the number and height of the stones in the circle, not having seen this monument myself, but given this account of it out of Mr. George Owen's manuscript history above-mentioned, which was communicated to me by the worshipful John Lewis of Manor Nowen Esq. And I have also received a description of it from a person, who at my request lately viewed it, not differing materially from that we find in the manuscript. The name of this monument seems much of the same signification with Meineu Gwyr, for *crwm* (in the feminine gender *crom*) signifies as well as *gwyr*, *crooked* or *bending*; and *llech* a stone of a flat form, more or less, whether natural or artificial. And as we have observed another monument in Carnarvonshire, called Llech or Maen Gwyr, so we meet with several in Anglesey, and some in other parts of Wales called Cromlecheu. Now that these monuments have

acquired this name from *bowing*, as having been places of worship in the time of idolatry, I have no warrant to affirm. However, in order to further enquiry, we may take notice, that the Irish historians call one of their chiefest idols Cromcruach; which remained till St. Patrick's time in the plain of Magh Slécht in Breffni. This idol is described to have been *auro & argento caelatum*,<sup><347></sup> and said to be attended with twelve other idols much less, all of brass, placed round about him. Cromcruach, at the approach of St. Patrick, fell to the ground, and the lesser idols sunk into the earth up to their necks: the heads whereof (says one of the authors of the *Life of St. Patrick* cited by Colganus) are in perpetual memory of this miracle, still prominent out of the ground, and to be seen at this day. Now although we should question the authority of this writer, as to these miracles; yet if we may be allowed to make any use at all of such histories, we may from hence infer that this circle of stones (which are here mentioned by the name of idol's heads) was before the planting of Christianity in this country, a place of idolatrous worship. And if that be granted, we shall have little reason to doubt but that our cromlech, as well as all other such circular stone-monuments in Britain and Ireland (whereof I presume there are not less than 100 yet remaining) were also erected for the same use. But to proceed further; this relation of idolatrous worship at Crumcruach, seems much confirmed by the general tradition concerning such monuments in Scotland. For upon perusal of some letters on this subject, from the learned and judicious Dr. James Garden, professor of divinity at Aberdeen, to an ingenious gentleman of the Royal Society<sup><348></sup> (who, for what I can learn, was the first that suspected these circles for temples of the druids) I find that in several parts of that kingdom, they are called chapels and temples; with this further tradition, that they were places of worship in the time of heathenism, and did belong to the Drounich. Which word some interpret the Picts; but the Dr. suspects it might denote originally the druids: in confirmation whereof, I add, that a village in Anglesey is called Tre'r Dryw, and interpreted the town of the druid. Now the diminutive of *dryw* must be *drewyn* (whence perhaps Caer Drewyn in Merionethshire) and *ch* is well known to be an usual Irish termination in such nouns.

As for such as contend that all monuments of this kind, were erected by the Danes, as trophies, seats of judicature, places for electing their kings, &c. they'll want history to prove, that ever the Danes had any dominion, or indeed the least settlement in Wales or the highlands of Scotland; where yet such monuments are as frequent, if not more common, than in other places of Britain. For although we find it registered that they have several times committed depredations on our sea-coasts, destroying some maritime places in the counties of Glamorgan, Pembroke, Cardigan, and Anglesey; and sometimes also making excursions into the country: yet we read they made no longer stay than whilst they plundered the religious houses, and extorted money and provisions from the people. Now if it be demanded, why they might not in that short stay, erect these monuments; I have nothing to answer, but that such vast perennial memorials, seem rather to be the work of a people settled in their country, than of such roving pirates, who for their own security must be continually on their guard, and consequently have but small leisure or reason for erecting such lasting monuments. And that we find also these monuments in the mountains of Carnarvonshire, and divers other places, where no history does inform us, nor conjecture suggest, that ever the Danes have been. To which may be added, that if we compare strictly the descriptions of the Danish and Swedish monuments in Saxo Grammaticus, Wormius, and Rudbeckius, with ours in Britain, we shall find considerable difference in the order or structure of them. For (if we may place that here) I find none of them comparable to that magnificent, though barbarous

monument, on Salisbury plain; nor any that has such a table in the midst, as the cromlech here described; whereas several of ours in Wales have it, though it be usually much less; and very often this table or a *cist-vaen* is found without any circle of stones, and sometimes on the contrary circles of stones without any *cist-vaen* or other stone in the midst. But this we need not so much insist upon; for though they should agree exactly, yet are we not therefore obliged to acknowledge our monuments were erected by the Danes. For as one nation since the planting of Christianity hath imitated another, in their churches, chapels, sepulchral monuments, &c., so also in the time of paganism, the rites and customs in religion must have been derived from one country to another. And I think it probable, should we make diligent enquiry, that there may be monuments of this kind still extant in the less frequented places of Germany, France, and Spain; if not also in Italy. But I fear I have too long detained the reader with probabilities, and shall therefore only add, that whatever else hath been the use of these monuments, its very evident they have been (some of them at least) used as burial places; seeing Mr. Aubrey in that part of his *Monumenta Britannica* he entitles *Templa Druidum*, gives us some instances of human skeletons, found on the outside of one or two of them in Wiltshire. And Dr. Garden in his forementioned letters, affirms that some persons yet living have dug ashes out of the bottom of a little circle (set about with stones standing close together) in the center of one of those monuments near the church of Keig in the shire of Aberdeen; and adds further, that in the shire of Inverness, and parish of Enerallen, there is one of these monuments, called the chapel of Tullochgorum, alias Capel Mac-Mulach, which is full of graves, and was within the memory of some living an ordinary place of burial, at least for poor people, and continues to be so at this day for strangers, and children that die without baptism.

We have not room here to take notice of the other monuments of this kind, which this county affords; and shall therefore only observe, that in Newport Parish there are five of these tables or altars (that we may distinguish them by some name) placed near each other, which some conjecture to have been once encompassed with a circle of stone pillars, for that there are two stones yet standing near them. But these are nothing comparable in bigness to the cromlech here described, and not raised above three foot high; nor are they supported with pillars, but stones placed edgewise; and so are rather of that kind of monuments we call *cistieu-maen* or stone-chests, than *cromlecheu*.

I had almost forgot to acquaint the reader, that there is also in Nevern-Parish, besides the cromlech, another monument called commonly Llech y Drybedh (i.e. *Tripod*) and by some the altar-stone. It's somewhat of an oval form, and about twelve yards in circumference, placed on four stones (whereof one is useless as not touching it) scarce two foot high. At the South end, 'tis about four foot and a half in thickness, but sensibly thinner to the other end, where it exceeds not four inches; at which end there is cut such a ductus or conveyance, as might serve to carry off any liquid that should run down, but to what purpose it was designed, I shall not pretend to conjecture.

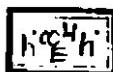
Y Maen Sigl, or the rocking-stone, deserves also to be mentioned here; although (having never seen it myself) I am not fully satisfied, whether it be a monument, or as Mr. Owen seems to suppose, purely accidental. But by the account I hear of it, I suspect it rather an effect of human industry, than chance. This shaking stone (says he) may be seen on a sea-cliff within half a mile of St. David's; its so vast, that I presume it may exceed the draught of an hundred oxen; and altogether rude and unpolished. The occasion of the name is, for that being mounted upon divers other

stones, about a yard in height; its so equally poised, that a man may shake it with one finger, so that five or six men sitting on it, shall perceive themselves moved thereby. But I am informed, that since this worthy gentleman writ the history of this country, (viz. In the late civil wars) some of the rebel soldiers looking upon it as a thing much noted, and therefore superstitious; did with some difficulty so alter its position, as to render it almost immoveable. There is also a rocking-stone in Ireland in the county of Donegal, and Parish of Clonmany, no less remarkable than this, called by the vulgar Magairle Fhionn Mhic Cuill, which is described to be of a vast bigness, and somewhat of a pyramidal form, placed on a flat stone, the small end downward, but whether by accident or human industry, I must leave to further enquiry.

In the churchyard at Nevern on the North side, I observed a rude stone pitched on end, about two yards in height, of a triquetrous form, with another smaller angle; having on the South side this inscription, which seems older than the foundation of the church, and was perhaps the epitaph of a Roman soldier: for I guess it must be read *Vitelliani Emeriti*.<349>



In the same churchyard, on the South side, is erected a very handsome pillar, as the shaft or pedestal of a cross. It is of a quadrangular form, about two foot broad, eighteen inches thick, and thirteen foot high; neatly carved on all sides with certain endless knots, which are about one and thirty in number, and all different sorts. The top is covered with a cross stone, below which there is a cross carved on the East and West sides, and about the midst these letters:



Which perhaps are no other than the initial letters of the names of those persons that erected this cross. But whatever they may signify, the second character is such as I have not met with elsewhere, and therefore thought worth the publishing.

There is also an inscription within this church, which to me is equally obscure, and seems more like Greek than Roman characters; whereof the following copy was sent me by Mr. William Gambold of Exeter College, Oxon, who, I presume, hath transcribed it with due exactness.



The stone is pitched on end, not two foot high, and is round at top (about which these letters are cut) like the monument described at Mynydd Gellionnen in Glamorganshire.

I received also from the same hand the following inscription, copied from a stone amongst the ruins of the abbey of St. Dogmael; which he describes to be seven foot in length, two in breadth, and six inches thick.



The latter of these words [Cunotami] I take to be a British name, and the same with what we call Cynedha or Cynedhav; but the former is a name I cannot parallel with any now used, or extant in our genealogical manuscripts. In this county there are divers ancient tumuli, or artificial mounts for urn-burial, whereof the most notable I have seen, are those four called Crigeu Cemais, or the barrows of Cemais. One of which, a gentleman of the neighbourhood, out of curiosity, and for the satisfaction of

some friends, caused lately to be dug; and discovered therein five urns, which contained a considerable quantity of burnt bones and ashes. One of these, together with the bones and ashes it contained, was lately presented to the Ashmolean repository at Oxford, by the worshipful John Philips of Dol Haidh, esquire. I shall not pretend to determine what nation these barrows did belong to; though from the rudeness of the urns, as well in respect of matter as fashion, some might suspect them rather barbarous than Roman. But we know not how unskilful some artists amongst the Romans might be, especially in these remote parts of the province, where probably not many of them, besides military persons, ever settled. Another urn was found not many years since, in a barrow in the Parish of Meline, and one very lately on a mountain not far from Kil Rhedyn.

But seeing our author confines himself not always to antiquities and civil history, but sometimes for the reader's diversion, takes notice likewise of such occurrences in natural history, as seemed more especially remarkable; I hope it may be excusable if I add also some observations in that kind: and shall therefore communicate part of a letter from my ingenious friend, the reverend Mr. Nicholas Roberts A. M. Rector of Llanddewi Velfrey, which contains an account of some migratory sea-birds that breed in the Isle of Ramsey, with some other relations that seem remarkable.

*Over against Justinian's chapel, separated from it by a narrow fretum<350>, is Ramsey Island, (called formerly Ynys Dewi from a chapel there dedicated to that saint, now swallowed up by the sea) which seems by the proverb Stinan a Devanog dau anwyl gymydog ("Justinian and David are two near neighbours") to have been once part of the continent, if I may properly call our country so, when I speak of such small insulets. In it there is a small promontory or neck of land, issuing into the sea, which is called Ynis Yr Hyrdhodid whence I presume the name of Ramsey. To this island, and some rocks adjoining, called by the seamen The Bishop and his Clerks, do yearly resort about the beginning of April such a number of birds of several sorts, that none but such as have been eye-witnesses can be prevailed upon to believe it; all which after breeding here, leave us before August. They come to these rocks, and also leave them, constantly in the night-time: for in the evening the rocks shall be covered with them, and the next morning not a bird to be seen; so in the evening not a bird shall appear, and the next morning the rocks shall be full. They also visit us commonly about Christmas, and stay a week or more, and then take their leave till breeding-time. Three sorts of these migratory birds are called in Welsh, mora, poethwye, and pal; in English, eligug, razorbill, and puffin; to which we may also add the harry-bird; <351> though I cannot at present assure you, whether this bird comes and goes off with the rest.*

*The eligug lays but one egg; which (as well as those of the puffin and razorbill) is as big as a duck's, but longer, and smaller at one end. From this egg she never parts (unless forced) till she hatches it, nor then till the young one be able to follow her; being all the while fed by the male. This and the razorbill breed upon the bare rocks, making no manner of nest; and sometimes in such a place, that being frightened thence, the egg or young one (which before was upheld by the breast, upon a narrow shelving rock) tumbles into the sea. The puffin and harry-bird breed in holes, either those of rabbits (wherewith Ramsey is abundantly furnished, all black) or such as they dig with their beaks. The harry-birds are never seen on land but when taken; and the manner of taking these and the puffins, is commonly by planting nets before their burrows, wherein they soon entangle themselves. These four sorts cannot raise themselves upon the wing, from the land; but if at any distance from the cliffs,*

*waddle (for they cannot be well said to go, their legs being too infirm for that use, and placed much more backward than a duck's, so that they seem to stand upright) to some precipice, and thence cast themselves off, and take wing: but from the water they will raise to any height. The puffin lays three white eggs; the rest but one, speckled, &c.*

He adds much more, not only of the other birds that frequent these rocks, but also gives a short account of several things remarkable in this county; but being confined within narrow limits, I shall only select two of them. The first is of a narrow deep pond, or rather pit, near the seaside; and some cliffs which by their noise presage storms, &c., whereof he gives the following relation.

*Near Stackpole Boshier, otherwise Boshierston, upon the seaside, is a pool or pit called Boshierston-Mere; the depth whereof, several that have sounded have not yet discovered. This pit bubbles and foams, and makes such a noise before stormy weather, that its heard above ten miles off. The banks are of no great circumference at the top, but broader downwards; and from the bottom, there's a great breach towards the sea, which is about a furlong distant. So that considering the bubbling, and extraordinary noise this pit makes against stormy weather, I am apt to suspect it may have a subterraneous communication with the sea-water. But there's much more talked of this place than I shall trouble you with at present, because I take some relations of it for fabulous; and living remote from it myself, I have had no opportunities of being satisfied of the truth of others. Its noise is distinctly known from that of the sea; which also on these coasts often roars very loud. And the neighbouring inhabitants to the sea can give a shrewd guess what weather will ensue by the noise it makes. For when it proceeds from such a creek or haven, they will expect this or that sort of weather will follow. And by these observations, I have been told the evening before, what weather we should have next day; which has happened very true; and that not once as by chance, but often.*

The other is a sort of food, made in several parts of this county, of a sea-plant, which by the description I hear of it, I take to be the oyster-green or sea-liverwort. This custom I find obtains also in Glamorganshire (where 'tis called laverbread) and probably in several counties of England.

*Near St. David's (says he) especially at Eglwys Abernon, and in other places, they gather in the spring-time a kind of alga or sea-weed, wherewith they make a sort of food called llavan or llawvan, in English black butter. Having gathered the weed, they wash it clean from sand and slime, and sweat it between two tile-stones; then shred it small, and knead it well, as they do dough for bread, and make it up into great balls or rolls, which some eat raw, and others fried with oatmeal and butter. It's accounted sovereign against all distempers of the liver and spleen: and the late Dr. Owen assured me, that he found relief from it in the acutest fits of the stone.*

Upon the death of William Herbert, the last Earl mentioned by our author, the honour of Earl of Pembroke descended to Philip Herbert, who was also Earl of Montgomery, and was succeeded by Philip his son. After whose death, William his son and heir succeeded; and upon his death, Philip Herbert, half-brother to the last William. At present, Thomas of the same name enjoys the titles of Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery.

## Cardiganshire.

The shores being obliquely driven back towards the East, from Octopitarum or St. David's promontory, receive the sea into a vast bay, much of the form of a half-moon; on which lies the third region of the Dimetae, called by the English Cardiganshire, in British Sir Aber Teifi, and by Latin writers, Ceretica. If any suppose it denominated from King Caractacus, his conjecture may seem to proceed rather from a fond opinion of his own, than any authority of the ancients. And yet we read, that the same renowned prince Caractacus ruled in these parts. On the West, towards the sea, it is a champaign country; as also to the South, where the river Teifi divides it from Carmarthenshire. But towards the East and North, where it borders on Brecknock and Montgomeryshire, there is a continued ridge of mountains, but such as afford good pasturage for sheep and cattle; in the valleys whereof are spread several lakes or natural ponds. That this country was peopled formerly, not with cities but small cottages, may be gathered from that saying of their prince Caractacus, who when he was a captive at Rome, having viewed the splendour and magnificence of that city, said; *Seeing you have these and such like noble structures, why do you covet our small cottages?* However, let us take a slight view of such places as are of any noted antiquity.

The river Teifi, called by Ptolemy Tuerobius, corruptly for Dwr Teifi which signifies the Teifi Water, springs out of the lake Llyn Teifi, under the mountains already mentioned. At first, 'tis retarded by the rocks; and rumbling amongst the stones without any channel, takes its course through a very stony country (near which the mountaineers have at Rhos a very great fair for cattle) to Stratfleur, a monastery heretofore of the Cluniac monks, encompassed on all sides with high mountains.

From hence, being received into a channel, it runs by Tregaron, and by Llanddewi Brefi, a church dedicated to the memory of St. David Bishop of Menevia, and thence denominated. Where in a full synod he confuted the Pelagian heresy, at that time reviving in Britain; and that not only out of sacred scripture, but likewise by miracle: for 'tis reported, that the ground on which he stood preaching, mounted up to a hillock under his feet.

Thus far, and further yet, the river Teifi runs southward to Llanybydder, a small market town. From whence directing its course to the West, it makes a broader channel, and falling over a steep precipice, near Kilgaran, makes that salmon-leap I have already mentioned in Pembrokeshire. For this river abounds with salmon, and was formerly the only river in Britain (as Giraldus supposed) that bred beavers. A beaver is an amphibious animal, having its fore-feet like a dog's, but footed behind like a goose; of a dark grey colour; and having an oblong flat cartilaginous tail, which, in swimming, it makes use of to steer its course. Giraldus makes several remarks upon the subtlety of this creature; but at this time there are none of them found here.

Scarce two miles from this Kilgaran, lies Cardigan; called by the Britons Aber Teifi, i.e. Teivi Mouth, the chief town of this county; fortified by Gilbert the son of Richard Clare: but being afterwards treasonably surrendered, it was laid waste by Rhys ap Gruffydd, and the governor Robert Fitz-Stephen, whom some call Stephanides, taken prisoner: who after he had remained a long time at the devotion of the offended Welsh, for his life, was at length released; but compelled to resign into their hands, all his possessions in Wales. Whereupon, he made a descent into Ireland, though with a small army, yet very successfully; and was the first of the Normans, who by his valour made way for the English conquest of that kingdom.

From the mouth of Teifi, the shore, gradually retiring, is washed by several rivulets. Amongst them, that which Ptolemy calls Stuccia, at the upper end of the county, deserves our notice; the name whereof is still preserved by the common people, who call it Ystwyth. Near the source of this river, there are lead mines; and where it is discharged into the sea, is the most populous town of this whole county, called Aberystwyth: which was also fortified with walls by the above-mentioned Gilbert Clare, and defended a long time by Walter Beck an Englishman, against the Welsh.

Not far from hence lies Llanbadarn Fawr, i.e. Great St. Patern's, who (as we read in his life) was an Armorican, and governed the church here by feeding, and fed it by governing. To whose memory a church and bishop's see was here consecrated: but the bishopric (as Roger Hoveden writes) fell to decay long since: for that the people had most barbarously slain their pastor.

At the same place the river Rheidol also casts itself into the ocean; having taken its course from that very high and steep hill Plynlimon; which terminates the North part of the county, and pours forth, besides this, those two noble rivers we have already mentioned, Severn and Wye.

Not very far from Aberystwyth, the river Dyfi, the boundary betwixt this county and Merionethshire, is also discharged into the ocean.

The Normans had scarce settled their conquest in Britain, when they assailed this coast with a navy; and that with good success. For in the time of William Rufus they wrested the sea coasts, by degrees, out of the Welshmen's hands: but granted most part of it to Cadwgan ap Bleddyn, a most prudent Briton, a person of great interest throughout Wales, and at the same time in much favour with the English. But his son Owain proving a rash young man, and a hater of peace, and annoying the English and Flemings, who had lately settled there, with continual excursions; the unhappy father was deprived of his inheritance, and forced to suffer for the offences of his son, who was also himself constrained to leave his native country, and to flee into Ireland. King Henry the First granted this county of Cardigan to Gilbert Clare, who planted garrisons therein, and fortified several castles. But Cadwgan, with his son Owain, being afterwards received into favour by the English, had all his lands restored to him. Notwithstanding this, Owain returning again to his old bias, and raising new troubles, was slain by Gerald of Pembroke, whose wife Nesta he had carried away. His father being carried prisoner into England, expected for a long time a better change of fortune; and being at last in his old age restored to his own, was unexpectedly and on a sudden stabbed by his nephew Madoc. After that, Roger de Clare received Cardiganshire, by the munificence of King Henry the Second: but Richard Earl of Clare (his son, if I mistake not) being slain whilst he was coming hither by land; Rhys, prince of South Wales, having with his victorious army made a great slaughter of the English, reduced it at last under his subjection. However, it fell afterwards by degrees, without any blood-shed, into the hands of the English.

It contains 64 parish churches.

#### **Additions to Cardiganshire.**

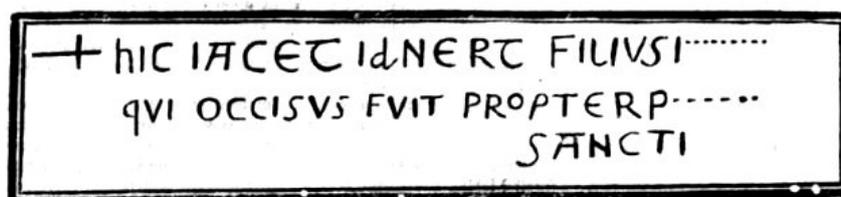
That this country was subject to King Caractacus, seems not evident from any place in Tacitus or other author. For we find no mention of the names of those countries under his dominion, unless we may presume the Silures, his subjects, from these words of Tacitus *Itum inde in Siluras, super propriam ferociam Caractaci viribus confisos: quem multa ambigua, multa prospera extulerant, ut caeteros Britannorum imperatores praemineret, &c.* i.e. "From thence to the Silures, who

besides their own natural fierceness, relied on the strength of Caractacus, who had had many doubtful combats and many successes, so that the rest of the Britons regarded him the leading commander." Moreover, though we should grant him to have been King of the Dimetae, yet such as are concerned for the ancient reputation of this county, may fairly urge, that though they accept of the authority of Zonaras, who lived a thousand years after, yet nothing can be collected from that speech of Caractacus, that may prove this county to have been more poorly inhabited in those times, than other provinces, seeing he only speaks in general of the countries in his dominion, and that we find by his speech in Tacitus, that he was *plurium gentium imperator*, prince or sovereign of many countries.

The synod for suppression of the Pelagian heresy, was held about the year 522. For we find in some British records, that St. Dubricius Archbishop of Caerleon, having assisted at the synod, and resigned his bishopric to St. David, betook himself that year (together with most of the clergy that had convened on that occasion) to a monastery at Ynys Enlli or Bardsey Island, where being free from the noise of the world, they might with less interruption, devote the remainder of their lives to God's service. Of this retirement of St. Dubricius and his followers, mention is made also by an eminent poet of that age, in these words:

*Pan oedh Saint Senedh Bhrevi,  
Drwy arch y prophwydi,  
Ar ol gwiw bregeth Dewi,  
Yn myned I ynys enlli, &c.*  
When Saint Senedh Bhrevi was,  
By the ark of the prophets,  
After David's sermon,  
Going to the island of Enlli, &c  
— Aneurin the Satirist, King of the Bards

At this church of Llanddewi Brefi, I observed an ancient inscription on a tombstone, which is doubtless removed from the place where 'twas first laid, it being placed now above the chancel door; but the mason that laid it there, had so little regard to the inscription, that two or three words are hid in the wall, which renders the epitaph not wholly intelligible. However, it may not perhaps be amiss if we take notice of what remains of it in sight, seeing its probably such an epitaph as might become that martyred Bishop of Llanbadarn, who as Giraldus informs us, was barbarously murdered by some profane wretches of his diocese. For I am apt to conjecture it may bear this sense; *hic jacet idnert (alias idnerth) filius I... Qui occisus fuit propter pietatem & sanctitatem.*<352> But I had rather such as have opportunity of doing it, would satisfy their curiosity, by causing some stones under it to be removed, and so reading the whole inscription, than that they should rely on my conjecture.



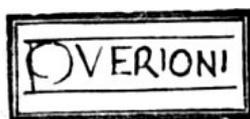
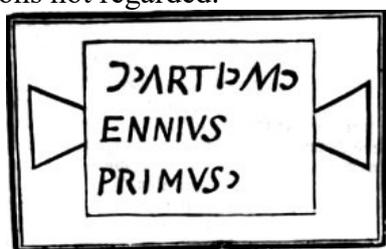
There is also another old inscription on a stone erected by the church door, on the outside; which seems (as well as some others on crosses) to consist wholly of abbreviations. What it may import, I shall not pretend to explain; but shall add nevertheless a copy of it, leaving the signification to the reader's conjecture.



The sexton of this place showed me a rarity by the name of *matkorn yr ych bannog*, or *matkorn ych dewi*; which he told me had been preserved there ever since the time of St. David, adding the fabulous tradition of the oxen called *ychen bannog*, which I shall not trouble the reader with, as being no news to such as live in Wales, nor material information to others.

This *matkorn*, however, seemed to me a very remarkable curiosity. For if it be not really (as the name implies) the interior horn of an ox, it very much resembles it; and yet is so weighty that it seemed absolutely petrified. It's full of large cells or holes, and the circumference of it at the root is about 17 inches.

Whilst I was copying the inscriptions above-mentioned, a countryman told me there was another at a house called Llannio Isav, in this Parish, distant about a mile from the church. Being come thither, I found these two inscriptions, and was informed that several others had been discovered by digging, but that the stones were applied to some uses, and the inscriptions not regarded.



The first I read *Caij Artij Manibus* [or perhaps *Memoriae*] *Ennius Primus*. From which name of Primus, I take I take the church of Llanddewi to have received the addition Brefi, seeing the Latin word *primus* is commonly expressed in Welsh by *prif*; and so, *forma*, *fyrf*; *turma*, *twrf*; *terminus*, *terfyn*, &c. Another Roman epitaph, circumscribed with lines, in the same manner as this is, may be seen in Reinesius. The letter *C* reversed (as in the first place of this inscription) denotes frequently Caia, but sometimes also Caius, as may be seen in the same author, p. 722.

▷ SEMPRONIO

This note or character [ ▷ ] added to the first, fifth, sixth and last letters, is sometimes observed in other Roman inscriptions. As for the second letter of this inscription, we have frequent examples on stones and coins, of that form of the letter *A*. In Reinesius p. 3. We find this inscription:

HERCVLI. L. ARTIVS. &c.

which that learned critic directs us to read *Herculi Lartius*; but seeing we find here also the name of *Artius*, peradventure that correction was superfluous.

Besides Roman inscriptions, they find here some times their coins, and frequently dig up bricks and large free-stone neatly wrought. The place where these antiquities are found, is called Caer Cestill, which signifies Castle Field, or to speak more distinctly, the field of castles; though at present there remains not above ground the least sign of any building: nor were there any (for what I could learn) within the memory of any person now living in the neighbourhood, or of their fathers or grandfathers. However, seeing it is thus called, and that it affords also such manifest

tokens of its being once inhabited by the Romans, we have little or no reason to doubt, but that they had a fort or garrison, if not a considerable town at this place. And that being granted, it will also appear highly probable, that what we now call Llannio, was the very same with that which Ptolemy places in the country of the Dimetae, by the name of Lovantinum, or (as Mr. Camden reads it) Lovantium. If any shall urge, that to suppose it only a castle, and not a city or town of note, is to grant it not to have been the old Lovantium; I answer, that perhaps we do but commit a vulgar error, when we take all the stations in the itinerary, and buroughs of Ptolemy, for considerable towns or cities; it being not improbable, but that many of them might have been only forts or castles with the addition of a few houses, as occasion required.

As to the beavers, though we may not rely on the authority of Giraldus in many things he relates, (as one who writ in an age less cautious and accurate, and when nothing pleased so much as what excited the admiration of the reader) yet in this case I see but little reason to question his veracity. Moreover, that there were formerly beavers in this kingdom, seems much confirmed; in that there are two or three ponds or lakes in Wales, well known at this day, by the name of Llyn-yr-Afanc i.e. Beaver-pool. The vulgar people of our age, scarce know what creature that *afangc* was; and therefore some have been persuaded, that 'twas a phantom or apparition which heretofore haunted lakes and rivers. As for the name, I take it for granted that 'tis derived from the word *avon*, which signifies a river, and suppose it only an abbreviation of the word *avonog*, i.e. Fluviatilis; as *llwynog*, [a fox] signifies *sylvaticus*, from *llwyn*, *sylva*. And for the signification, 'tis not to be controverted; some old poets so describing it, that I doubt not, but that they meant a beaver.

Besides the beaver, we have had formerly some other beasts in Wales, which have been long since totally destroyed. As first, wolves; concerning which we read in this author, in Merionethshire, as also in Derbyshire and Yorkshire. Secondly, roebucks, called in Welsh *iyrchod*; which have given names to several places; as Bryn yr Iwrch, Phynon yr Iwrch, Llwyn Iwrch, &c. Thirdly, the wild boar, whereof mention is made by Dr. Davies, at the end of his dictionary. And lastly, I have offered some arguments to prove also that bears were heretofore natives of this island, which may be seen in Mr. Ray's *Synopsis Methodica Animalium Quadrupedum*, &c.

There have been, since our author writ this history, several other lead mines, discovered in this part of the county; but the most considerable that has been found out in our time (either here, or in any other part of the kingdom) is that of Bwlch-yr-Eskir-hir, discovered *anno* 1690, which was lately the possession of the right worshipful Sir Carbury Pryse of Gogerddan, baronet, who dying without issue, and the title being extinct, was succeeded in this estate of Gogerddan, by the worshipful Edward Pryse, the son of Thomas Pryse of Llan Vred, Esq. who is the present proprietor of these mines. The ore was here so nigh the surface of the earth, that (as I have been credibly informed) the moss and grass did in some places but just cover it; which seems to add credit to that place of Pliny—*nigro plumbo ad fistulas laminasque utimur, laboriosius in hispania eruto: sed in Britannia summo terrae corio, adeo large, ut lex ultro dicatur, ne plus certo modo fiat.* i.e. "We use black lead for pipes and plates, it is dug up in Spain with great labour, but in Britain it lies on the surface of the earth; so plentifully that there is a law, that no more than a certain prescribed quantity shall be made." But because there is a map of these leadmines, published by the steward Mr. William Waller, together with a far better account of them than may be expected here, it seems needless to add any more on this subject.

There are also in this country, several such ancient stone-monuments as we have observed in the preceding counties, whereof I shall briefly mention such as I have seen, because they may differ in some respect from those already described.

Llech Yr Ast, in the Parish of Llangoedmor, is a vast rude stone of about eight or nine yards in circumference, and at least half a yard thick. It is placed inclining, the one side of it on the ground, the other supported by a pillar of about three foot high. I have seen a monument somewhat like this, near Llan Edern in Glamorganshire, called also by a name of the same signification Gwal y Vilast, which affords no information to the curious, signifying only the bitch-kennel, because it might serve for such use. That Gwal y Vilast, is such a rude stone as this, but much longer, and somewhat of an oval form, about four yards long, and two in breadth, supported at one end by a stone about two foot high, somewhat of the same form (though much more rude) as those we find at the head and feet of graves in country churches. There is also by this Llech yr Ast, such another monument, but much less and lower; and five beds (such as we call *cistieu maen*, but not covered) scarce two yards long, of rude stones pitched in the ground; as likewise a circular area of the same kind of stones, the diameter whereof is about four yards; but most of the stones of this circle are now fallen: and about six yards from it, there lies a stone on the ground, and another beyond that, at the same distance, which doubtless belong to it.

Meineu Hirion near Neuadd (the seat of the worshipful David Parry Esq. the present High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire) are perhaps some remaining pillars of such a circular stone-monument (though much larger) as that described in Carmarthenshire, by the name of Menai Gwyr.

Meineu Kyvrivol (or the numerary stones) near the same place, seem to be also the remains of some such barbarous monument. They are 19 stones lying on the ground confusedly, and are therefore called Meineu Kyvrivol by the vulgar, who cannot easily number them; whereof two only seemed to have been pitched on end.

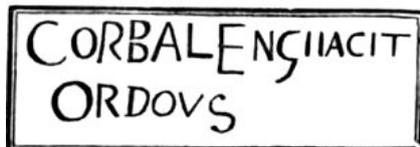
Llech Y Gowres i.e., *Saxum Foeminae Giganteae*, <353> (a monument well known also in this neighbourhood) seems much more worth our observation; being an exceeding vast stone, placed on four other very large pillars or supporters, about the height of five or six foot. Besides which four, there are two others pitched on end under the top-stone, but much lower, so that they bear no part of the weight. There are also three stones (two large ones, and behind those a lesser) lying on the ground at each end of this monument: and at some distance, another rude stone, which has probably some reference to it. This Llech y Gowres stands on such a small bank or rising, in a plain open field, as the five stones near the circular monument called Rollright stones in Oxfordshire.

*Hir-vaen gwydhog* i.e., *colossus conspicuus*, is a remarkable pillar about 16 foot high, 3 foot broad, and 2 thick. It's erected on the top of a mountain, in the confines of the parishes of Kellan and Llan Y Krwys, and is at present (whatever it was put up for) the mere-stone or boundary betwixt this county and Carmarthenshire. Not far from it, is Maen y Prenvol, which I have not seen, but suppose from the name to be a monument of that kind we call *cistvaen*; for *prenvol* in this country (in North Wales *prennol*) signifies a small coffer or chest.

Gwely Taliesin, in the Parish of Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, by its name, and the tradition of the neighbours concerning it, ought to be the grave of the celebrated poet Taliesin Ben Beirdh, i.e. Taliesinus Protovates who flourished about the year 540. This grave or bed (for that's the signification of the word *gwely*) seems also to be a sort of *cistvaen*, 4 foot long, and 3 in breadth; composed of 4 stones, 1 at each end, and 2 side-stones; whereof the highest is about a foot above ground. I take this, and all

others of this kind, for old heathen monuments, and am far from believing that ever Taliesin was interred here.

But to proceed from these barbarous monuments (which yet I take to be no more rude than those of our neighbour nations before they were conquered by the Romans) to something later and more civilized; I shall here add an inscription I lately copied from a large rude stone in Penbryn Parish, not far from the church. It stood not long since (as I was informed) in a small heap of stones, close by the place where it lies now on the ground. The stone is as hard as marble, and the letters large and very fair, and deeper inscribed than ordinary; but what they signify, I fear must be left to the reader's conjecture.



I must confess, that at first view, I thought I might venture to read it, *Corbalencii jacit ordous*; and to interpret it, *The heart of Valentius of North Wales lies here*; supposing that such a person might have been slain there in battle. In old inscriptions we often find the letter *b* used for *v*, as *Balerius* for *Valerius*, *bixsit* for *vixsit*, *militabit* for *militavit*, &c. And the word *ordous* I thought not very remote from *Ordovices*. But I am not satisfied with this notion of it myself, much less do I expect that others should acquiesce therein.

In this same Parish of Penbryn, was found some years since, a British gold coin, weighing (I suppose) above a guinea; which is now in the possession of the worshipful John Williams esquire of Abernant Bychan, who was pleased to send me the figure of it, inserted now amongst some other antiquities at the end of these counties of Wales. ([No. 21](#))

From this, and many others found in several places of this kingdom, ([Nos 22-24](#)) it's manifest the Britons had gold and silver coins of their own, before the Roman Conquest; unless such as contend for the contrary, can make it appear that these coins were brought in by the Phoenicians, or some other trading nation, which I think no man has yet attempted. For seeing such of these coins as want inscriptions are always a little hollow on the one side, and have also impressions or characters (if I may so call them) different from those of Roman and all other coins; its very plain the art of coining them was never learned of the Romans; for if so, we had never met with these unintelligible characters on them, but Roman letters, such as, by some coins of Cassivellaun and Cunobeline, we find they made use of after their Conquest.

Since Mr. Camden's time, Thomas Brudenell, Baron Brudenell of Stoughton, was created Earl of Cardigan by K. Charles 2, Apr. 20, 1661; upon whose death Robert his son succeeded in his estate and titles.

## Map Of North Wales



Illustration: North Wales  
Click [here](#) for larger version

## Ordevices.

Those countries of the Silures and Dimetae we have last surveyed, were in after-times, when Wales became divided into three principalities, called by the natives Deheubarth (or the right-hand part) and in English, as we have already observed, South Wales. The other two principalities (which they call Gwynedd and Powys, we North Wales and Powisland) were inhabited by the Ordovices, called also Ordevices and Ordovicae, and in some authors (though corruptly) Ordolucæ. A courageous and puissant nation these were, as being inhabitants of a mountainous country, and receiving vigour from their native soil; and who continued the longest of any, unconquered, by either Romans or English. For they were not subdued by the Romans, till the time of Emperor Domitian; when Julius Agricola reduced almost the whole nation: nor were they subjected by the English before the reign of Edward the First. For a long time they enjoyed their liberty, confiding as well in their own strength and courage, as the roughness and difficult situation of their country: which may seem, in a manner, as if nature had designed it for ambuscades, and prolonging of war.

To determine the limits of these Ordevices, is no hard task; but to render a true account of the name, seems very difficult. However, I have entertained a conjecture, that seeing they are seated on the two rivers of Defi, which springing not far asunder, take their course different ways; and that *ar-dhyvi* in the British language signifies, upon the rivers of Defi; they have been thence called Ordevices. So the Arverni received their name from their situation on the river Garumna; the Armorici from inhabiting a maritime country, and the Horesci from their bordering on the river Esk.

Nor is the name of the Ordevices so entirely extinct in this country, but that there remain some footsteps of it. For a considerable part of it, which lies on the sea, is at this day called by the inhabitants Ardudwy; out of which the Romans, by a softer pronunciation, may seem to have coined their Ordovices and Ordevices. But now this whole tract, one small county excepted, is called in Latin Gwynedhia, and Venedotia, and in British Gwynedd, from the Veneti in Armorica as some suspect, who (as Caesar writes) were used often to sail into Britain. And if it were allowable to change but one letter, I might suppose this name also not unknown to the Greeks and to Pausanias, who in his *Arcadia* informs us, that Antoninus Pius had sufficiently chastised our Brigantes, for making inroads into Genounia, a Roman province in Britain. Now if we may be allowed to read *Genouthia* for *Genounia*, that word comes so near Guinethia, and this Guinethia [or Gwynedd] borders so much on the country of the Brigantes, that unless Pausanias understood this region, let Sibylla herself discover what country he meant. To the Ordovices belonged those countries which are now called in English by new names, Montgomeryshire, Merionethshire, Carnarvonshire, Denbighshire, and Flintshire.

## Montgomeryshire.

Montgomeryshire, in British Sir Drefaldwyn, from its chief town, is bounded on the South with Cardigan and Radnor shires; on the East with Shropshire; on the North with Denbigh, and on the West with Merionethshire. This county, though it be mountainous, is yet in general a fertile country, having fruitful vales as well for pasture as arable land: and was formerly a breeder of excellent horses; *which* (as Giraldus informs us) *were much esteemed, as well for their shape and stateliness as incomparable swiftness.*

At the utmost limit of this county, westward, where it ends in a cone or sharp point, lies Machynlleth; the Maglona perhaps of the Romans, where in the time of Honorius Emperor, the prefect of the Solensians lay in garrison under the Dux Britanniae, in order to keep in subjection the inhabitants of that mountainous tract. And at 2 miles distance, near Penallt, i.e., *the back of a city*, we find a place called Cefn-Caer where they sometimes dig up Roman coins; and where are seen the footsteps of a round wall of considerable extent.

Five miles hence, that mountain of Plynlimon, I mentioned, rises to a great height; and on that side where it limits this county, sends out the River Sabrina, called by the Britons Havren, and in English Severn; which, next to Thames, is the most noted river of Britain. Whence it acquired that name, I could never learn; for, that a virgin called Sabrina was drowned therein, seems only a fable of Geoffrey's invention; on whose authority also a late poet built these verses:

— *in flumen praecipitatur Abren,  
Nomen Abren fluvio de virgine; nomen eidem  
Nomine corrupto, deinde Sabrina datur.*  
Headlong was Abren thrown into the stream,  
And hence the river took the virgin's name,  
Corrupted thence at last Sabrina came.

This river has so many windings near its fountain-head, that it seems often to return; but proceeds nevertheless, or rather wanders slowly, through this county, Shropshire, Worcestershire, and lastly Gloucestershire; and having throughout its whole course enriched the soil, is at last discharged into the Severn Sea. In this county, being shaded with woods it takes its course northward by *Llanidloes*, *Drenewydd* or *Newtown*, and *Caersws*, (which is reported to be both ancient, and to enjoy ancient privileges;) and not far from its bank on the East side, leaves *Montgomery*, the chief town of this county, seated on a rising rock, having a pleasant plain under it. 'Twas built by Baldwin, lieutenant of the marshes of Wales, in the reign of K. Will. 1. Whence the Britons call it *Trefaldwyn*, i.e. Baldwin's town; but the English, *Montgomery*, from Roger de Montgomery, E. of Shrewsbury, whose inheritance it was, and who built the castle, as we read in *Domesday Book*: though *Florilegus* fabulously tells us, 'twas called *Mons Gomericus* (from its situation) by King Henry 3 after he had rebuilt it; for the Welsh had overthrown it, putting the garrison to the sword, in the year 1095. After which it lay a long time neglected. However, certain it is, that King Henry 3 granted, *anno 11*, *That the borough of Montgomery should be a free borough, with other liberties.*

Near this town *Corndon Hill* rises to a considerable height; on the top whereof are placed certain stones in form of a crown (whence the name) in memory perhaps of some victory.

A little lower, the river Severn glides by *Trallwng*, i.e. the town by the lake, whence the English call it *Welshpool*. Near unto which on the South side, is a castle,

called from the reddish stones whereof 'tis built, Castell Coch, where, within the same walls are two castles; one belonging to the Lord of Powys, the other to Baron Dudley. Cadwgan ap Bleddyn, that renowned Britain mentioned in the last county, whilst he was intent on the building of this castle, was slain by his nephew Madoc, as we find in the abridgment of Caradoc of Llancarfan. Opposite to this, on the other side the river, lies Buttington, a place noted for the Danes wintering there: whence Marianus tells us they were driven out by Adheredus Duke of Mercia, in the year 894. The river Severn having left these places, winds itself by degrees towards the East, that it may the sooner receive a small river called Tanat (Myrnwy), wherewith being united, it enters Shropshire.

I am fully persuaded (because it seems a certain truth) that the Mediolanum of the Ordovices, celebrated by Antoninus and Ptolemy, stood in this country, the footsteps whereof I have diligently endeavoured to trace out, though with no great success; so far doth age consume even the very skeletons and ruins of cities. However (if we may conjecture from its situation, seeing those towns which Antoninus places on each side, are well known; viz. On one side Bonium, called now Bangor, by the River Dee, and on the other Rutunium, now Rowton castle, for he places it twelve Italian miles from this, and from the other, twenty) the lines of position (if we may so term them) or rather of distance, cross each other betwixt Mathrafal and Llanfyllin, which are scarce three miles asunder, and in a manner demonstrate to us the situation of our Mediolanum. For this method of finding out a third from two known places, cannot deceive us, when there are neither mountains interposed, nor the turnings of roads discontinued. This Mathrafal lies five miles to the West of Severn, and (which in some degree asserts the antiquity of it) though it be now but a bare name, 'twas once the royal seat of the princes of Powys; and is also noted in authors, who tell us, that after the princes left it, Robert Vipont an Englishman built a castle therein. But Llanfyllin i.e. The church of Myllin,) a small market town, though in respect of distance it be further off, is yet, as to affinity of name much nearer Mediolanum. For the word *fyllin* is by a propriety of the British, only a variation of *myllin*; as *Caervyrddhin*, from *caer* and *myrddhin*, and Arvon from *armon*. Nor is this name of Myllin more remote from Mediolanum, than either Milano in Italy, Le Million in Santoigne, or Mechelen in the Low Countries; all which (as is generally allowed) were formerly known by the name of Mediolanum. Now whether of these conjectures comes nearer the truth, let the reader determine, for my own part I only deliver my opinion. If I should affirm that this our Mediolanum, and those other cities of the same name in Gaul, were built either by Duke Medus or prince Olanus; or that whilst it was building, *sus mediatim lanata* [a sow half clad with wool] was dug up, should I not seem to grasp at clouds and trifles? And yet the Italians tell all these stories of their Mediolanum. But seeing it is most evident that all these were founded by people who spoke the same language (for we have shown already, that the Gauls and Britons used one common tongue;) it seems highly probable, that they had their denomination from one and the same original. Now our Mediolanum agrees in nothing with that of Italy, but that each of them are seated in a plain between two rivers; and a learned Italian has from thence derived the name of his Mediolanum, for that it is seated *media inter lanas*, which he interprets betwixt brooks or small rivers.

This county has dignified no Earl with its name and title, till very lately, *an.* 1605, King James created at Greenwich, Philip Herbert, a younger son of Henry Earl of Pembroke by Mary Sydney, at one and the same time Baron Herbert of Shurland and Earl of Montgomery, as a particular mark of his favour, and for the great hopes he conceived of his virtuous qualifications.

The princes of Powys, descended from Roderic the Great, possessed this county with some others in a continued series, till the time of Edward the Second. For then Owain the son of Gruffydd ap Gwenwynwyn the last Lord of Powys of British extraction (for the title of prince was discontinued long before) left only one daughter, called Hawise, who was married to John Charlton an Englishman, the King's valet, and he thereupon created Earl of Powys by King Edward the Second. His arms (as I have observed in several places) were *or, a lion rampant gules*. He was succeeded in this title by four barons, until the male-line became extinct in Edward; who by Eleanora, daughter and one of the heiresses of Thomas Holland Earl of Kent, had two daughters, viz. Jane married to Sir John Grey, and Joyce the wife of John Lord Tiptoft, from whom descended the barons Dudley, and others. This Sir John Grey by his own martial valour, and the munificence of King Henry the Fifth, received the earldom of Tancarville In Normandy, *to him and his heirs male, delivering one bassinet at the castle of Rouen, yearly on St. George's day*. His son was Henry Lord Powys, in whose family the title of Powys continued honourable to Edward Grey, who not long before our time, died without lawful issue.

There are in this county 47 parishes.

#### **Additions to Montgomeryshire.**

Cefn Caer, though it be here mentioned, lies in the county of Merioneth; concerning which a gentleman who has lived there many years, adds this further account.

The main fort which was on the highest part of the hill, was built quadrangularly, and encompassed with a strong wall and a broad ditch, of an oval form; excepting that towards the valley, 'twas extended in a direct line. On the outside of the great ditch next the River Dyfi, the foundations of many houses have been discovered; and on a lower mount there stood a small fort, which may be supposed to have been built of bricks, for that they find there plenty of them. All the out-walls were built of a rough hard stone, which must have been carried thither by water, there being none such nearer than Tal y Gareg, distant from this place about seven miles. From the fort to the waterside, there's a broad hard way of pitched pebbles and other stones, continued in a straight line through meadows and marsh-grounds, which may be about two hundred yards long, and ten or twelve in breadth. It is very evident, this fort hath been demolished before the building of the church of Penallt, for that we find in the walls of that church, several bricks mixed with the stones, which were doubtless brought thither from this place. Roman coins have been found here since Mr. Camden's time; particularly some silver pieces of Augustus and Tiberius: and near the main fort, in a field called Cae Llwyn Y Neuodh (i.e. The court or palace-grove) a small gold chain was found, about four inches long; and another time a sapphire-stone neatly cut. Some other things of less note have been discovered in the same place; as a very large brass cauldron, used since as a brewing vessel at Cae Berllan; several pieces of lead; and some very odd glasses of a round form like hoops, which were of several sizes, some of them being about twenty inches in circumference, others much less, &c. These hoop-glasses were curiously listed, of divers colours; some of which being broke, 'twas observed that variety proceeded from sands or powders of the same colours, enclosed in several cells within the glass.

Caersws was anciently a town of considerable note, as may be concluded from the street there, and the lanes about it. I cannot learn that any Roman coins have been discovered at this place; however that it was of Roman foundation seems highly probable, for that there have been lately (besides some neat hewn stones for building)

several bricks dug up there, of that kind we frequently meet with in such ancient cities as were possessed by the Romans. It has had a castle and at least one church, and is said to have been heretofore the seat of the Lords of Arwystli; but how far this town extended, seems at present altogether uncertain. It has had encampments about it at three several places, viz. first, on the North side, on a mountain called Gwyn y Vynydh. Secondly, eastward, near a place called Rhos Ddhiarbed, in the Parish of Llandinam, where, besides entrenchments, there's a very large mount or barrow. And thirdly, at a place called Cefn Carnedd, about a quarter of a mile on the West side of the town. Moreover, about half a mile southward from this Cefn Cardnedd, on the top of a hill above Llandinam church, there's a remarkable entrenchment called Y Gaer Vychan, which name may signify either the lesser city, or the lesser fortification, but is here doubtless put for the latter.

The stones on the top of Corndon Hill, are no other than four such rude heaps as are commonly known on the mountains of Wales, by the name of *carneu* and *carneddeu*, whereof the reader may find some general account in Radnorshire. And to me it seems very probable (seeing these stones can in no respect be compared to a crown) that the name of Corndon is derived from this word *carn* (the singular of *carneu*) with the addition of the English termination *don*, signifying mountain or hill, as in Snowdon, Huntingdon, &c. Which conjecture is much confirmed, when we consider there are many hills in Wales denominated from such heaps of stones; as Carn Llechart in Glamorganshire, Carnedd Dafydd, Carnedd Ugain, and Carnedd Llewelyn in Carnarvonshire, with many more in other counties.

Trallwng from Trer Llyn, is an etymology agreeable enough with the situation of this place; otherwise I should be apt to suspect the word Trallwng might be the name of a place near this pool, before the town was built, and that the town afterwards took its name from it. For in some parts of Wales 'tis a common appellative, for such soft places on the roads (or elsewhere) as travellers may be apt to sink into, as I have observed particularly in the mountains of Glamorganshire. And that a great deal of the ground near this place is such, is also very well known. As for the etymon of the appellative Trallwng, I suppose it only an abbreviation of *traeth lyn*, i.e. a quagmire.

Concerning the situation of the old Mediolanum, our author seems to discourse with that judgment and modesty as becomes the character he justly bears in the world: and since his time, I cannot learn that any Roman monuments have been discovered at either of the places he mentions, that might remove his scruples, and fully determine the position of that city. His arguments for the agreeableness of the names of Mediolanum and Myllin [though he writes it Methlin] are so valid, that I know not what can be objected to them. However, it seems observable, that we do not find it was customary among the Britons, to prefix the word Llan (i.e. Church) to the name of Roman cities; but if any word was prefixed, 'twas generally Caer (i.e. a fort or fence) as Caerleon, Caerwent, Caerfyrddin, &c. And though we should allow the invalidity of this objection, and suppose the word *llan* might be introduced in latter times; yet considering that a learned and inquisitive gentleman of this town (who amongst his other studies, has always had a particular regard to the antiquities of his country) has not in the space of forty years met with any coins here, or other tokens of a place inhabited by the Romans; nor yet discovered the least signs that this town was anciently of any considerable note; I think we cannot safely (barely on account of its name and vicinity to the situation required) conclude it the old Mediolanum. Therefore it seems convenient to have recourse to the situation assigned this city by Dr. Powel, before our author writ his Britannia; who in his learned annotations on Giraldus's *Itinerary* assures us 'twas not only the opinion of some antiquaries, that the

ancient Mediolanum was seated where the village of Meifod stands at present; but also that the same village and places adjoining afforded in his time several such remarkable monuments, as made it evident, there had been formerly a considerable town at that place. This Meifod is seated about a mile below Mathrafal, on the North side of the river Myrnwy; and three miles southward of Llanfyllin, at the situation our author requires. At present there remains only a church and a small village, but several yet living have seen there the ruins of two other churches. I am informed that about a mile from the church there's a place called Erw'r Porth, i.e. the gate-acre, which is supposed to have taken its name from one of the gates of the old city, and that in the grounds adjoining to this village, causeways, foundations of buildings, floors and hearths are often discovered by labourers; but whether any such monuments as we may safely conclude Roman, as coins, urns, inscriptions, &c. are found at this place, I must leave to further enquiry. Meifod (as bishop Usher supposes) is called by Nennius Cair Meguid, and in other copies Cair Metguod; but what the word *meguid* or *metguod*, or yet Meifod or Mediolanum might signify, is hardly intelligible at present; at leastwise I cannot discern that the modern British affords us any information concerning the origin of these names.

Mathrafal mentioned here as formerly the seat of the Princes of Powys, shows at present no remains of its ancient splendour, there being only a small farm-house where the castle stood. Llanfyllin is a market town of considerable note, first incorporated by Llewelyn ap Gruffydd Lord of Mechain and Mochnant, in the time of Edward the Second. It's governed by two bailiffs, chosen annually, who besides other privileges granted to the town by King Charles the Second (bearing date March 28, *Anno reg.* 25.) were made justices of the peace within the corporation during the time of their being bailiffs.

The Lordship of Powys was afterwards purchased by Sir Edward Herbert, second son of William Earl of Pembroke; to whom succeeded his eldest son Sir William Herbert, created Lord Powys by King James the first, whom his son Percy succeeded in the same title. But his son William was first made Earl of Powys by King Charles the Second, and afterwards Marquess of Powys by King James.

Since Philip Herbert, second son of Henry Earl of Pembroke, was created Earl of Montgomery (3 Jac. 1. May 4) the same persons have enjoyed the titles of Pembroke and Montgomery, and at present both are joined in the right honourable Thomas Baron Herbert of Cardiff, &c.

## Merionethshire.

Beyond the county of Montgomery, lies Merionethshire, which the Britons call Sir Feirionnydd, in Latin Mervinia, and by Giraldus, *Terra Filiorum Conani* i.e. the land of the sons of Conan. It reaches to the crooked bay I mentioned, and is washed by the main ocean on the West side with such violence, that it may be thought to have carried off some part of it. On the South (for some miles) 'tis divided from Cardiganshire by the river Dyfi; and on the North, borders on Caernarfon and Denbighshire.

This county hath such heaps of mountains, that (as Giraldus observes) *'tis the roughest and most unpleasant county of all Wales. For the hills are extraordinary high, and yet very narrow, and terminating in sharp peaks; nor are they thin scattered, but placed very close, and so even in height, that the shepherds frequently converse from the tops of them; who yet, in case they should wrangle and appoint a meeting, can scarce come together from morning till night.*

Innumerable flocks of sheep graze on these mountains; nor are they in any danger of wolves, which are thought to have been then destroyed throughout all England, when King Edgar imposed a yearly tribute of three hundred wolves skins on Ludwal prince of these countries. For (as we find in William of Malmesbury) *when he had performed this for three years, he desisted the fourth, alleging he could not find one more.* However, that there remained some long after, is manifest from unquestionable records.

The inhabitants, who apply themselves wholly to the breeding of cattle, and who feed on milk-meats, viz. butter, cheese, &c. (notwithstanding that Strabo formerly derided our Britons as ignorant of the art of making cheese) are scarce inferior to any people of Britain, in stature, clear complexion, comeliness, and due proportion of limbs; but have an ill character amongst their neighbours for incontinency and idleness.

It hath but few towns. On the East where Dyfi runs, Cwmmwd Mawddwy is a place well known; which was formerly the inheritance of William, otherwise called Wilcock Mawddwy, a younger son of Gruffydd ap Gwenwynwyn, and by his son's daughter it descended to Hugo Burgh, and again by daughters of that house, to the honourable families of Newport, Leighton, Lingen and Mitton.

Where the River Avon runs more westerly, lies Dolgellau, a small market town, so called from the valley wherein 'tis seated. And close by the sea in the small country of Ardudwy, stands the castle of Harlech (called heretofore Caer Collwyn) on a steep rock, which, as the inhabitants report, was built by Edward 1. And took its name from the situation; for *ar-lech* in the British signifies on a rock; though some call it Harlech *quasi Hardh-Llech*, and interpret it, a rock pleasantly situated. When England was embroiled in civil wars, Davidd ap Jenkin ap Einion, a British nobleman, who sided with the house of Lancaster, defended this castle stoutly for a long time against Edward 4, until William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, forcing his way thorough the midst of the Alps of Wales, though a very toilsome journey, stormed it with that vigour, that it was surrendered into his hands. It's almost incredible what great difficulties he struggled with in this troublesome journey; when in some places whilst he ascended the mountains, he was forced to creep; and elsewhere in descending, to tumble down in a manner, together with his soldiers: whence that way is called by the neighbours at this day, Lle Herbert i.e. Herbert's Way.

Higher up, in the confines of this county and Carnarvonshire, two notable arms of the sea encroach on the land, called Y Traeth Mawr and Y Traeth Bychan, that is, the greater wash or firth, and the lesser. And not far from hence, near a small

village called Ffestiniog, there is a high road or military way of pitched stones, which leads through these difficult and almost unpassable mountains; and seeing it is called in British Sarn Helen, or Helen's Way, it is but reasonable that we suppose it made by Helena the mother of Constantine the Great; whose works were many and magnificent throughout the Roman Empire.

Nor is *Caer Gai*, i.e. Caius's castle, far from this place, built by one Caius a Roman; of whom the common people of that neighbourhood report great things, and scarce credible.

In the East part of the county, the the River Dee springs from two fountains, whence 'tis supposed it derived its name; for they call it *dwy*, which also signifies the number two; though others contend it took the name from the word *duw*, as if a sacred river; and some from *du*, which denotes black, from the colour of the water. This river, after a very short course, passes entirely, and unmixed, through a large lake, called *Llyn Tegid*, in English *Pemle Mere*, and *Plenlyn Mere*,<sup><354></sup> carrying out the same quantity of water it brought in. For neither are the *gwyniad*, which are a fish peculiar to this lake, found in the Dee; nor any salmons taken in the lake, though commonly in the river: but, if you please, take here an accurate description of this lake, by an antiquarian poet.

*Hispida qua tellus Mervinia respicit eurum,  
Est lacus antiquo Penlinum nomine dictus,  
Hic lacus illimeis in valle Tegeius alta  
Late expandit aquas, & vastum conficit orbem.  
Excipiens gremio latices, qui fonte perenni  
Vicinis recidunt de montibus, atque sonoris  
Illecebris captas demulcent suaviter aures.  
Illud habet certe lacus admirabile dictu,  
Quantumvis magna pluvia non aestuat: atqui  
Aere turbato, si ventus murmura tollat,  
Excrescit subito rapidis violentior undis,  
Et tumido superat contemptas flumine ripas.*

Where eastern storms disturb the peaceful skies,  
In Merioneth famous Penllyn lies.  
Here a vast lake which deepest vales surround,  
His watery globe rolls on the yielding ground.  
Increased with constant springs that gently run  
From the rough hills with pleasing murmurs down,  
This wondrous property the waters boast,  
The greatest rains are in its channels lost,  
Nor raise the flood; but when loud tempests roar  
The rising waves with sudden rage boil o'er,  
And conqu'ring billows scorn th' unequal shore.

On the brow of this lake lies Bala, a small privileged town, having but few inhabitants, and the houses rudely built; which yet is the chief market of these mountaineers.

Hugh, Earl of Chester, was the first Norman that seized this country, and planted garrisons in it, whilst Gruffydd ap Cynan was his prisoner: but he afterwards recovering this land with the rest of his principality, left it to his posterity, who possessed it till their fatal period in Prince Llewelyn.

There are in this county 37 parishes.

#### **Additions to Merionethshire.**

This country (as Giraldus observes) generally considered, is the most mountainous of all the Welsh counties; though its mountains are not the highest; those of Snowdon in Carnarvonshire exceeding them in height, and being at least equal to them in rocky precipices. But whereas Giraldus calls it the roughest and most unpleasant country in all Wales; it may be answered (if that be worth notice) that for the pleasing prospect of a country there is hardly any standard; most men taking their measures herein, either from the place of their own nativity and education, or from the profit they suppose a country may yield. But if (as some hold) variety of objects make a country appear delightful, this may contend with most; as affording (besides a sea-prospect) not only exceeding high mountains, and inaccessible rocks; with an incredible number of rivers, cataracts, and lakes: but also variety of lower hills, woods, and plains, and some fruitful valleys. Their highest mountains are Cader Idris, Aran Fawddwy, Aran Benllyn, Arenig, Moelwyn, Manod, &c. These maintain innumerable herds of cattle, sheep, and goats; and are (in regard they are frequently fed with clouds and rains, and harbour much snow) considerably more fertile (though the grass be coarse) than the hills and ridges of lower countries. Cader Idris is probably one of the highest mountains in Britain; and (which is one certain argument of its height) it affords some variety of alpine plants: but for mountains so high, and their tops notwithstanding so near, that men may converse from them, and yet scarce be able to meet in a whole day; I presume there are none such in nature: and am certain there are not any in Wales, but men conversing from their tops, may meet in half an hour.

Dolgellau or Dol Gellen, is so called from its situation in a woody vale, for that's the signification of the name; the word *dol* being much the same with the English dale, so common in the North of England and Scotland: and *celle* (in the Southern dialect *celli*) signifying strictly a wood where much hazel grows, and sometimes used for any other wood; though at present there are not so many woods about this town as were formerly. What antiquity this place is of, or whether of any note in the time of the Romans, is uncertain: however, some of their coins have been of late years dug up near a well called Ffynnon Fair, within a bow-shot of the town; two whereof were sent me by the reverend Mr. Maurice Jones the present rector; which are fair silver pieces of Trajan and Hadrian: viz.

1. IMP. TRAIANO AVG. GER. DAC. P. M. TR. P.  
COS. V. P. P. S. P. Q. R. OPTIMO PRINC.  
*Trophaeum de Dacis.*
2. IMP. CAESAR TRAIAN HADRIANVS AVG. P. M. TR. P. COS. III.  
*Mars Gradivus cum hasta & spoliis.*

Harlech: This place, in all likelihood, is denominated (as our author supposes) from its situation on a rock; though its never called Arlech but Harlech. It was once called Twr Bronwen, and afterwards received the name of Kaer Kollwyn from Kollwyn ap Tagno, who lived there in the time of Prince Anarawd, about the year 877, and was Lord of Ardudwy and Evionydh, and some part of Llyn; which countries are yet for the most part possessed by his posterity. His arms were, *Sable, a chevron arg. betwixt three fleurs-de-lys.* notwithstanding that Harlech might receive this name of Kaer Kllwyn from Kollwyn ap Tagno, yet it seems probable that this place, or some other near it, was called Kaer before his time. For I am assured, that in the memory of some persons yet living, several Roman coins have been found

hereabouts; and that the Britons prefixed the word Kaer to most places fortified by the Romans, is well known to all antiquaries.

In the year 1692 an ancient golden torque was dug up in a garden somewhere near the castle of Harlech. It's a wreathed bar of gold (or rather perhaps three or four rods jointly twisted) about four foot long; flexible, but bending naturally only one way, in form of a hat-band; hooked at both ends exactly (that I may describe it intelligibly, though in vulgar terms) like a pair of pot-hooks; but these hooks are not twisted as the rest of the rod, nor are their ends sharp, but plain, and as it were cut even. It's of a round form, about an inch in circumference, weighs eight ounces, and is all over so plain, that it needs no further description. It seems very probable, Roman authors always intended an ornament of this kind by the word *torques*, seeing its derived from *torqueo*; <355> and not a chain (composed of links or annulets) as our grammarians commonly interpret it, and as Joannes Schefferus supposes, who in his learned and curious dissertation *De Torquibus* tells us; *Torques erant mobiles & ex annulis; circuli solidi & rotundi; monilia paulo latiora, &c.* <356> Moreover, the British word *torch*, which is doubtless of the same origin as well as signification with the Latin *torques*, is never used for a chain, but generally for a wreath, and sometimes, though in a less strict sense, for any collar, or large ring; our word for a chain being *cadwen*, which agrees also with the Latin. Whether the torque here described was British or Roman, seems a question not easily decided; seeing we find, that anciently most nations we have any knowledge of, use this kind of ornament. And particularly, that the Britons had golden torques, we have the authority of Dio Cassius, *Hist. Rom. Lib. 62.*, who in his description of Boadicea, or Bunduica, Queen of the Icenii in the time of Nero, tells us, she wore a large golden torque, that her garment was of divers colours, &c. If it be objected, that though she wore such an ornament, yet it might be in use amongst the Britons only since the Roman Conquest; it may be answered, that this seems not to have been the sense of the author, but that he thus describes her for the strangeness of her habit; adding, that her yellow hair hung loose, and reached down to her hips, &c. A further confirmation, that the Britons used golden torques, is, that they were so common among their neighbour nation (and probably their progenitors) the Gauls. For Livy *lib. 36. C. 40.* tells us, that Publius Cornelius, when he triumphed over the Boii, produced, amongst other spoils, 1470 golden torques. And Britomarus, a commander amongst the Gauls, whom Mr. Camden presumes to have been a Briton, wore such an ornament; as we find in Propertius:

— *vasti parma relata ducis*  
*Viridomari.* —  
*Illi virgatis jaculantis ab agmine brachis,*  
*Torquis ab incisa decidit unca gula.* <357>

If any shall urge further, (notwithstanding this authority of Dio Cassius, which with me is sufficient) that seeing there's no British name for this ornament, (the common word *torch*, being derived from the Latin *torquis*;) it should follow, the Britons knew no such thing: I answer (though we need not much insist on that objection) that to me it seems very suspicious the word was Celtic before 'twas Roman. For though I acknowledge it derived from *torqueo*, yet we have also the verb *torchi* in the same sense: and seeing that both the British words *torch* and *torchi* are in all appearance derived from the common word *troi*, i.e. to turn; and also that grammarians know not well whence to derive *torqueo*; I know not but we may find the origin of it in the British *torch*. Nor ought anyone to think it absurd, that I thus endeavour to derive Latin words from the Welsh; seeing there are hundreds of words

in that language, that agree in sound and signification with the Latin, which yet could not be borrowed from the Romans, for that the Irish retain the same, who must have been a colony of the Britons, long before the Roman Conquest: and also that the Welsh or British is one dialect of the old Celtic; whence, as the best critics allow, the Roman tongue borrowed several words; and I presume, by the help of the Irish, which was never altered by a Roman Conquest, it might be traced much further. For instance; we must acknowledge these British words, *tir, awyr, mor, avon, llwch, &c.* to have one common origin with those of the same signification in the Latin, *terra, aer, mare, amnis, lacus*; but seeing the Irish also have them, its evident they were not left here by the Romans; and I think it no absurdity to suppose them used in these islands before Rome was built.

But that we may not digress too far from our subject, its manifest from what we have alleged, that golden torques were much used by the Gauls; and I think not questionable, but they were in use also amongst the Britons before the Roman Conquest; but whether this we now speak of, were Roman or British, remains still uncertain. To which I can only say, that it seems much more probably to have been British. For whereas 'tis evident from the examples of Boadicea, Britomarus, the champion that fought with T. Manlius Torquatus, &c. that the great commanders amongst the Gauls and Britons wore them; I do not know that it appears at all that the Roman officers did so; and unless that be made out, I think we may safely pronounce it British; for no other Roman but a soldier could ever lose it here. As for those honorary rewards presented to soldiers of merit, we may presume them not to have been Roman, but rather spoils from the barbarous nations they conquered. The use of this ornament seems to have been retained by the Britons long after the Roman and Saxon conquests; for we find that within these few centuries, a Lord of Ial in Denbighshire, was called Llewelyn Aur-Dorchog, i.e. *Leolinus torqui aureo insignitus*:<358> and 'tis at this day a common saying in several parts of Wales, when anyone tells his adversary, he'll strive hard, rather than yield to him; *mi a dynna'r dorch a chwi*; i.e. "I'll pluck the torque with you."

This we have here described, seems by the length of it to have been for some use as well as ornament, which perhaps was to hold a quiver; for that they were applied to that use, seems very plain from Virgil's description of the exercises of the Trojan youth:

*Cornea bina ferunt praefixa hastilia ferro:  
Pars laeves humero pharetras: & pectore summon  
Flexilis obtorti per collum circulus auri.*<359>

But I fear I have dwelt too long on this one subject, and shall therefore only add (for the satisfaction of such as may scruple this relation) that this valuable monument of British nobility and antiquity is now fitly reposed in the hands of the right worshipful Sir Roger Mostyn of Mostyn, Baronet.

We must not here forget to transmit to posterity some account of that prodigious fire or kindled exhalation which has annoyed this neighbourhood these eight months, and still continues so to do. There is already a short relation of it, published in the *Philosophical Transactions* Num. 208., in a letter from my abovementioned friend Mr. Maurice Jones; but those pieces coming to few hands, I shall make bold to insert it here, with some additions.

SIR,

This letter contains no answer to your queries about the locusts, for I am wholly intent at present upon giving you the best account I can, of a most dismal and prodigious accident at Harlech in this county, the beginning of these holy-days. It is

of the unaccountable firing of sixteen ricks of hay, and two barns, whereof one was full of corn, the other of hay. I call it unaccountable, because 'tis evident they were not burnt by common fire, but by a kindled exhalation which was often seen to come from the sea, of the duration whereof I cannot at present give you any certain account, but am satisfied it lasted at least a fortnight or three weeks; and annoyed the country as well by poisoning their grass, as firing the hay, for the space of a mile or thereabouts. Such as have seen the fire, say 'twas a blue weak flame, easily extinguished, and that it did not the least harm to any of the men, who interposed their endeavours to save the hay, though they ventured (perceiving it different from common fire) not only close to it, but sometimes into it. All the damage sustained, happened constantly in the night. I have enclosed a catalogue of such as I have received certain information of; and have nothing to add, but that there are three small tenements in the same neighbourhood (called Tydhin Sion Wyn) whereof the grass is so infected, that it absolutely killed all manner of cattle that feed upon it. The grass has been infectious these three years, but not throughly fatal till this last. Pray send me with all convenient speed your friends thoughts and your own of the causes, and if possible also the remedy of this surprising phaenomenon, &c.

DOLGELLAU, Jan. 20. 1691.

**The enclosed catalogue.**

Decemb. 24. Richard Gruffydd of Llechwedh Du, Humphrey Owain of Garreg Wen, and Richard Davidh of Erw Wen, had each of them one rick of hay burnt.

Decemb. 27. John Philips of Ynys Llan Vihangel y Traethau, lost one rick of hay; Gruffydd John Owen of Cefn Trevor Bach, two ricks; and Katharine William, widow, of Cefn Trevor Mawr, two more.

Decemb. 29. Francis Evans of Glas-Vryn lost one rick; and Richard Davidh of Erw Wen, had a barn full of hay of three bays of building, burnt to the ground.

Thus far Mr. Jones's account of this surprising and unparalleled meteor; since which time I received information from him and others, that it continued to the seventeenth of this present month of August; so that we know not the end of it. It has done no great damage by consuming their hay and corn, besides those above-mentioned; but the grass or air, or both, are so infected with it, that there has been all this while a great mortality of cattle, horses, sheep, goats, &c., and I pray God grant men may escape it. For a long time they could not trace this fire any further than from the adjoining sea-shores: but of late, those that have watched it (as some have done continually) discovered that it crosses a part of the sea, from a place called Morfa Bychan in Carnarvonshire, distant from Harlech about 8 or 9 miles, which is described to be a bay both sandy and marshy. Last winter it appeared much more frequent than this following summer: for whereas they saw it then almost every night, it was not observed in the summer above one or two nights in a week; and that (which if true, is very observable) about the same distance of time, happening generally on Saturday or Sunday nights: but of late it's seen much oftener, so that 'tis feared, if it continues this winter, it may appear as frequently as ever. They add that it's seen on stormy as well as calm nights, and all weathers alike; but that any great noise, such as the sounding of horns, the discharging of guns, &c. does repel or extinguish it; by which means 'tis supposed they have saved several ricks of hay and corn, for it scarce fires anything else.

This phenomenon I presume is wholly new and unheard of, no historian or philosopher describing any such meteor; for we never read that any of those fiery exhalations distinguished by the several names of *ignis fatuus*, *ignis lambens*, *scintillae volantes*, &c. have had such effects, as thus to poison the air or grass, so as to render it infectious and mortal to all sorts of cattle. Moreover, we have no examples

of any fires of this kind, that were of such consistence as to kindle hay and corn, to consume barns and houses, &c. Nor are there any described to move so regularly as this, which several have observed to proceed constantly to and from the same places for the space of at least eight months. Wherefore seeing the effects are altogether strange and unusual, they that would account for it, must search out some causes no less extraordinary. But in regard that may not be done (if at all) without making observations for some time upon the place; we must content ourselves with a bare relation of the matter of fact. I must confess, that upon the first hearing of this murrain amongst all sorts of cattle, I suspected those locusts that arrived in this country about two months before, might occasion it, by an infection of the air; proceeding partly from the corruption of those that landed, and did not long survive in this cold country; and partly of a far greater number which I supposed drowned in their voyage, and cast upon these coasts. For though I know not whether any have been so curious as to search the sea-weeds for them in this county, yet I am informed a gentleman accidentally observed some quantity of them on the shores of Carnarvonshire near Aberdaron; and that others have been seen on the sands of the Severn Sea. Now that a considerable quantity of these creatures being drowned in the sea, and afterwards cast ashore, will cause a pestilence, we have many instances in authors; and particularly one that happened in the year 1374, when there was a great mortality of men and cattle, on the coasts of France, occasioned by locusts drowned in our English Channel, and cast upon their shores. But whether such a contagious vapour, meeting with a viscous exhalation, in a moorish bay, will kindle; and so perform in some measure, such a devastation of hay and corn, as the living creatures would do, (where we may also note that Pliny says of them, *multa contactu adurunt* i.e. "they burn many things by their touch") I must recommend to further consideration. I know there are many things might be objected, and particularly the duration of this fire; but men are naturally so fond of their own conjectures, that sometimes they cannot conceal them, though they are not themselves fully satisfied.

About two miles from Harlech there's a remarkable monument called Coeten Arthur. It's a large stone-table somewhat of an oval form, but rude and ill shaped, as are the rest of these heathen monuments, about ten foot long, and above seven where 'tis broadest; two foot thick at one end, but not above an inch at the other. It's placed on three rude stone-pillars, each about half a yard broad; whereof two that support the thick end are betwixt seven and eight foot; but the third, at the other end about three foot high.

This way which we call Sarn Helen, was probably of a very considerable extent; unless we should suppose the same Helen was author of several other highways in Wales. For besides the place here mentioned, its also visible at one end of Craig Berwyn, where 'tis called Fordh Gam Helen Luedhog, i.e. The crooked road of Helen the Great, or puissant. And I observed a way called Fordh [or Sarn] Helen, in the Parish of Llanbadarn Odyn in Cardiganshire; as also that a great part of the road from Brecknock to Neath in Glamorganshire, is distinguished by the same name. At this Parish of Ffestiniog, it's called otherwise Sarn y Dhual (a name whereof I can give no account) for the space of three miles, viz. From Rhyd yr Halen to Castell Dolwyddelan; and some presume that Pont Aber Glaslyn, and Y Gymwynas in Carnarvonshire, is a continuation of the same road.

On a mountain called Mikneint near Rhyd Ar Halen, within a quarter of a mile of this road, there are some remarkable stone monuments, called Beddau Gwyr Ardudwy, i.e. the graves of the men of Ardudwy. They are at least thirty in number; and each grave is described to be about two yards long; and to be distinguished by

four pillars, one at each corner of a grave; which are somewhat of a square form, about two or three foot high, and nine inches broad. The tradition is, that these are sepulchral monuments of some persons of note slain here, in a battle fought betwixt the men of Dyffryn Ardudwy, and some of Denbighshire. That they are indeed the graves of men slain in battle seems scarcely questionable; but when, or by what persons, &c. is wholly uncertain. One of the next neighbours informs me, that about twelve years since, he saw amongst other stones brought hence to mend the walls of Ffestiniog churchyard, one with an inscription; but at present there remains no account of it. By the description he gives of it, I suppose it Roman. For he says 'twas a polished stone, about two foot long, half a yard broad, and three or four inches thick: whereas all the later inscriptions I have seen in Wales, are on large pillars, which are generally rude and unpolished. I am told there are also a considerable number of graves near this causeway, on the demesne of Rhiw Goch, in the Parish of Trawsfynydd: and in the year 1687 I copied this inscription from a stone called Bedh Porws, or Porus's Grave, near Llech Idris in the same Parish.

*PORIVS*  
*HIC IN TVMVLO*  
*JACIT*  
*HOMO — RIANVS*  
*FVIT.*

I found afterwards 'twas generally understood, as if this had been the grave of one of the first Christians in these parts; and that they read it, *Porius hic in tumulo jacit: homo Christianus fuit.* Being at that time wholly unacquainted with any studies or observations in this kind; perhaps I might not transcribe it, with that accuracy I ought; but if it be thus on the stone (which I must recommend to further examination) it can never bear that reading, unless we suppose the letters *STI* omitted by the stone-cutter after *RI* in the last line; which would be such a fault as we have scarce any instance of in those many hundreds of inscriptions which authors have published. But howsoever we read the word, —*RIANVS*, I suppose this inscription to have been the epitaph of some Roman, about the second or third century.

The word *gwiniad* [in Bala Lake] might be aptly rendered in English a *whiting*; but the fish so called is very different from it, being of the trout kind. A description of it may be seen in Mr. Willoughby's *Ichthyology*, who supposes it the same with that they call (by names of the like signification) *ein albelen*, and *weissfisch* in some parts of Switzerland, and the *ferra* of the lake of Geneva. And here we may observe the natural agreeableness of those alpine lakes with these in our mountains, in affording the same species of fish, as well as of our high rocks in producing some variety of alpine plants. They are never taken by any bait, but in nets; keeping on the bottom of the lake, and feeding on small shells, and the leaves of Water Gladioli, a plant peculiar to these mountain lakes. That they are never taken in the Dee, is no argument for that frivolous opinion of the vulgar, that this river passes unmixed through the lake; since we find that fish as well as birds and beasts have their stations providentially assigned them, and delight in such places as afford them agreeable feeding, &c.

The word *Bala*, though it be now very seldom (if at all) used as an appellative, denotes, as the author of the *Latin-British Dictionary* informs us, the place where any river or brook issues out of a lake; as *aber* signifies the fall of one river into another, &c.; and hence Dr. Davies supposes this town denominated. In confirmation whereof I add, that near the outlet of the river Seiont, out of Llyn Peris in Carnarvonshire, there's a place called Bryn y Bala. Others contend that *bala* in the old British, as well

as Irish, signifies a village. I incline to the former opinion, and imagine that upon further enquiry, other instances besides these two might be found out, which would make it evident. The round mount or barrow at this town, called Tomen y Bala, as also that other about half a mile from it, called Brynllysk, and a third at Pont Mwnwgl y Llyn, in the same neighbourhood, are supposed by their names, form, and situation, not to have been erected for urn burial, but as watch-mounts to command the road and adjacent places, upon the Roman Conquest of this country.

Not far from hence in the parish of Llanuwchllyn, we find the ruins of an ancient castle, whereof no author makes mention. It's called Castell Carndochan, a name whereof I can give no account; and is seated on the top of a very steep rock, at the bottom of a pleasant valley. It shows the ruins of a wall, and within that of three turrets, a square, a round, and an oval one, which is the largest. The mortar was mixed with cockle-shells, which must have been brought hither by land-carriage, about 14 miles. It seems probable that this castle, as also such another (but much less) in Trawsfynydd Parish, called Castell Prysor, were built by the Romans, but nothing certain can be affirmed herein.

We have not room here to take notice of several other places remarkable, and shall therefore only mention a gilt coffin and some brass arms, found there of late years. The coffin was discovered about the year 1684 in a turbarry<sup><361></sup> called Mownog Ystratgwyn near Maes y Pandy, the seat of the worshipful John Nanney Esq. It was of wood, and so well preserved, that the gilding remained very fresh; and is said to have contained an extraordinary large skeleton. This is the only instance I know of burying in such places: and yet they that placed this coffin here, might have regard to the perpetual preservation of it; seeing we find by daily examples of trees found in turbaries, that such bituminous earth preserves wood beyond all others.

The brass arms were found in the year 1688 in a rock called Carreg Ddiwyn, in the Parish of Beddgelert. They seem to be short swords or daggers, and to have been all cast in molds. They were of different forms and sizes; some of them being about two foot long, others not exceeding twelve inches: some flat, others quadrangular, &c. (See the figures at the end of Wales, [Nos. 14, 15](#)) About fifty of them were found by removing a great stone; so near the surface of the ground, that they were almost in sight. I have been informed, that several were gilt: but twenty or thirty that I saw of them when first found, were all covered with a bluish scurf. Their handles probably were of wood, for they were all wasted: and there remained only (and that but in very few) two brass nails that fastened them, which were something of the form of chair-nails, but headed or riveted on each side; so that they could not be taken out without breaking out the round holes wherein they were placed; which they did not fill up, but hung loose in them. Such weapons have been found elsewhere in Wales; and they were probably of this kind, which were found at the foot of St. Michael's Mount in Cornwall, and are in that county mentioned by our author, who supposes them British.

## Carnarvonshire.

Above Merionethshire, lies that county which the Britons call Sir Caernarfon, and the English Carnarvonshire, from the chief town; and before the division of Wales into counties, Snowdon Forest; whence in Latin historians 'tis called Snaudonia; as also Arvonnia, because it lies opposite to the island Mona or Anglesey. The North and West parts of it border on the sea; the South on Merionethshire; and on the East the River Conwy divides it from Denbighshire. The maritime part of it is fertile enough, and well-peopled; especially that South-west promontory that opposes its crooked shores, to St. David's Laid in Pembrokeshire.

But for the inner parts, nature hath raised them far and wide into high mountains (as if she would condense here within the bowels of the earth, the frame of this island;) and made a most safe retiring place for the Britons in time of war. For here are such a number of rocks and craggy places, and so many valleys encumbered with woods and lakes, that they are not only unpassable to an army, but even to men lightly appointed. We may very properly call these mountains the British Alps; for besides that they are the highest in all the island, they are also no less inaccessible for the steepness of their rocks than the Alps themselves: and do all of them encompass one hill; which far exceeding all the rest in height, does so turn the head aloft, that it seems, I shall not say, to threaten the sky, but even to thrust its head into it. And yet it harbours snow continually, being throughout the year covered with it; or rather with a hardened crust of snow of many years continuance. And hence the British name of Creigiau Eryri, and that of Snowdon Hills in English; both which signify snowy mountains: so Niphates in Armenia, and Imaus in Scythia, as Pliny informs us, were denominated from snow. Nevertheless, these mountains are so fertile in grass, that it's a common saying among the Welsh, *that the mountains of Eryri would, in a case of necessity, afford pasture enough for all the cattle in Wales*. I shall say nothing of the two lakes on the tops of these mountains; (in one of which there floats a wandering island, and the other affords plenty of fish, each whereof has but one eye;) lest I might seem to countenance fables: though some relying on Giraldus's authority, have believed both. However, that there are lakes and standing waters on the tops of these mountains, is certain: whence Gervase of Tilbury, in his book entitled *Otia Imperialia*, writes thus: *In the land of Wales within the bounds of Great Britain, are high mountains, which have laid their foundations on exceeding hard rocks; on the tops whereof the ground is so boggy, that where you do but just place your foot, you'll perceive it to move for a stone's cast. Wherefore upon a surprisal of the enemy, the Welsh by their agility skipping over that boggy ground, do either escape their assaults, or resolutely expect them, while they advance forward to their own ruin.*

Joannes Sarisburiensis, in his *Polycraticon*, calls the inhabitants of these mountains by a new-coined word Nivi Collinos; of whom he wrote thus in the time of Henry 2 *Nivicollini Britones irruunt, &c. i.e. the Snowdon-Britons make inroads; and being now come out of their caverns and woods, they seize the plains of our nobles; and before their faces, assault and overthrow them, or retain what they have got; because our youth, who delight in the house and shade, as if they were born only to consume the fruit of the land, sleep commonly till broad day, &c.*

But let us now descend from the mountains to the plains; which seeing we find only by the sea, it may suffice if we coast along the shore.

That promontory we have observed already to be extended to the South-West, is called in the several copies of Ptolemy, Canganum, Canga Janganum, and Langanum. Which is truest I know not; but it may seem to be Langanum, seeing the

inhabitants at this day call it Llyn. It runs in with a narrow peninsula, having larger plains than the rest of this county, which yield plenty of barley.

It affords but two small towns worth our notice: the innermost at the bay of Pwllheli, which name signifies the salt pool; and the other by the Irish sea (which washes one part of this peninsula,) called Nefyn: where, in the year 1284 the English nobility (as Florilegus writes) triumphing over the Welsh, celebrated the memory of Arthur the Great with tournaments and festival pomp. If any more towns flourished here, they were then destroyed, when Hugh Earl of Chester, Robert of Rutland, and Guarin of Salop (the first Normans that advanced thus far) so wasted this promontory, that for seven years it lay desolate.

From Nefyn the shore indented with two or three promontories, is continued northwards; and then turning to the North-east, passes by a narrow firth or channel called Menai, which separates the Isle of Anglesey from the firm land.

Upon this fretum<350> stood the city Segontium, mentioned by Antoninus; of the walls whereof I have seen some ruins near a small church built in honour of St. Publicius. It took its name from a river that runs by it, called to this day Seiont, which issues out of the lake Llyn Peris, wherein they take a peculiar fish, not seen elsewhere, called by the inhabitants from its red belly, *torgoch*. Now seeing an ancient copy of Ptolemy places the haven of the Setantii in this coast, which other copies removed much further off; if I should read it Segontiorum Portum, and should say it was at the mouth of this river, perhaps I should come near the truth; at least a candid reader would pardon my conjecture. Nennius calls this city Caer Cystenydd, and the author of the life of Gruffydd ap Cynan, tells us, that Hugh Earl of Chester built a castle at Hen Gaer Cystenin; which the Latin interpreter renders, the ancient city of Emperor Constantine. Moreover, Matthew of Westminster hath recorded (but herein I'll not avouch for him) that the body of Constantius, the father of Constantine the Great, was found here in the year 1283, and honourably interred in the church of the new town, by command of King Edward 1, who at that time built the town of Caernarfon out of the ruins of this city, a little higher, by the mouth of the river; in such a situation, that the sea washes it on the West and North. This, as it took its name from its situation opposite to the island Mona, so did it communicate that name to the whole county: for thence the English call it Carnarvonshire. This town is encompassed with a firm wall, though of a small circumference, almost of a circular form; and shows a beautiful castle, which takes up all the West side of it. The private buildings, for the manner of the country, are neat; and the civility of the inhabitants much commended. They esteem it a great honour, that King Edward 1 was their founder; and that his son Edward 2 the first Prince of Wales of English extraction, was born there; who was therefore styled Edward of Carnarvon. Moreover, the princes of Wales had here their chancery, their exchequer, and their justiciary for North Wales.

In a bottom seven miles hence on the same fretum<350>, lies Bangor, enclosed on the South side with a very steep mountain, and a hill on the North; so called *a choro pulchro*, or as others suppose, *quasi locus chori*;<362> which is a bishop's see, and contains in its diocese 96 parishes. The cathedral is consecrated to Daniel, once bishop thereof: it's no very fair building, having been burnt by that most profligate rebel Owain Glyndwr, who designed no less than the destruction of all the cities of Wales. 'Twas afterwards restored in the time of Henry 7 by the bishop thereof, Henry Deny; but hath not yet recovered its ancient splendour. 'Tis now only a small town, but was heretofore so considerable, that for its large extent, it was called Bangor Vawr, and was fortified with a castle by Hugh Earl of Chester, whereof (though I made diligent enquiry) I could not discover the least ruins. 'Twas seated at

the very entrance of this fretum<sup><350></sup> or channel, where Edward 1 attempted in vain to build a bridge, that his army might pass over into the island Mona or Anglesey; whereof next in order. At this place also, as we find in Tacitus, Paulinus Suetonius passed over with the Roman soldiers; the horse at a ford, and the foot in flat-bottomed boats.

From hence the shore with a steep ascent passes by a very high and perpendicular rock called Penmaenmawr, which hanging over the sea, affords travellers but a very narrow passage; where the rocks on one hand seem ready to fall on their heads; and on the other, the roaring sea of a vast depth. But having passed this, together with Penmaenbychan, i.e. *the lesser rocky promontory*, a plain extends itself as far as the river Conwy, the eastern limit of this county. This river is called in Ptolemy, *Toisovius*, for *Conovius*, which is only an error crept into copies from a compendious way of writing Greek. It springs out of a lake of the same name, in the Southern limit of the county; and hastens to the sea, being confined within a very narrow and rocky channel, almost to the very mouth of it. This river breeds a kind of shells, which being impregnated with celestial dew, produce pearls. The town of Conovium, mentioned by Antoninus, received its name from this river: which though it be now quite destroyed, and the very name (in the place where it stood) extinct; yet the antiquity of it is preserved in the present name: for in the ruins of it we find a small village called Caerhun, which signifies the old city. Out of the ruins of this city, King Edw. 1 built the new town at the mouth of the river; which is therefore called Aberconwy: a place that Hugh Earl of Chester had fortified before. This new Conwy, both in regard of its advantageous situation, and for its being so well fortified, as also for a very neat castle by the river-side, might deserve the name of a small city, rather than a town, but that it is but thinly inhabited.

Opposite to Conwy on this side the river (though in the same county) we have a vast promontory with a crooked elbow (as if nature had designed there a harbour for shipping) called Gogarth; where stood the ancient city of Deganwy. On the sea of Conwy, which many ages since, was consumed by lightning. This I suppose to have been the city Dictum, where under the later Emperors, the commander of the Nervii Dictenses kept guard. As for its being afterwards called Deganwy: who sees not that Ganwy is a variation only of Conwy; and that from thence also came the English Ganoc? For so was that castle called, which in later times was built by Henry 3.

Soon after the Norman Conquest, this country was governed by Gruffydd ap Cynan, who not being able to repel the English troops which made frequent inroads into Wales, was constrained sometimes to yield to the storm: and when afterwards by his integrity he had gained the favour of King Henry 1, he also easily recovered his lands from the English, and left them to his posterity, who enjoyed them till the time of Llewelyn ap Gruffydd But he having provoked his brothers with injuries, and the neighbouring English with incursions, was at length brought to that strait, that he held this mountainous country (together with the Isle of Mona or Anglesey) of King Edward 1 as tenant in fee; paying a thousand marks yearly. Which conditions when he afterwards would not stand to, but (following rather his own and his perfidious brother's obstinacy, than led on with any hopes of prevailing) would again run the hazard of war; he was killed, and so put an end to his own government, and that of the Britons in Wales.

This county contains 68 parishes.

#### **Additions to Carnarvonshire.**

The British name of these mountains Creigiaur Eryri, signifies Eagle Rocks, which are generally understood by the inhabitants to be so called from the eagles that formerly bred here too plentifully, and do yet haunt these rocks some years, though not above three or four at a time, and that commonly one summer in five or six; coming hither, as is supposed out of Ireland. Had they been denominated from snow, the name must have been Creigiaur Eiral, whereas we always call them Eryri. Nor do the ancientest authors that mention them, favour Mr. Camden's etymology; for Giraldus Cambrensis writes it Eryri (which differs nothing in pronunciation) and Nennius, who writ *Heriri*. However, seeing the English call it Snowdon, the former derivation was not without good grounds; and 'tis possible the word *yrau* might be either the ancient pronunciation, or a corruption of *eira*; and so these rocks called *Creigiau Yr Yrau*, which might afterwards be written *Creigiau Eryri*.

Amongst these mountains the most noted are Moel Yr Wyddfa, Y Glyder, Carnedd Dafydd, and Carnedd Llewelyn; which are very properly called by our author the British Alps. For besides their extraordinary height, and craggy precipices, their abounding with lakes and rivers, and being covered with snow for a considerable part of the year; they agree also with the Alps in producing several of the same plants, and some animals; as particularly *Merula saxatilis aldrovandi*, called here, and in Merionethshire, *mwyalchen y graig*, i.e. Rock Ouzel, and in Switzerland, *berg-amzel*, or Mountain Blackbird; and the *torgoch*, a fish which Mr. Ray supposes to be the same with the *Roetel* of the Alpine lakes.

In these mountains (as probably in the Alps also, and other places of this kind) the greatest variety of rare plants are found in the highest and steepest rocks. The places here that afford best entertainment for botanists, are, Clogwyn Carnedd y Wyddfa, called commonly Clogwyn y Garnedh (which is probably the highest rock in the three kingdoms,) Criby Diskil, Trig Bylchau, and Y Clogwyn du Ymhen y Glyder, which are all near Llanberis, and well known to the shepherds. Such as have not seen mountains of this kind, are not able to frame an idea of them, from the hills of more champaign<sup><146></sup> or lower countries. For whereas such hills are but single heights or stories, these are heaped upon one another; so that having climbed up one rock, we come to a valley, and most commonly to a lake; and passing by that, we ascend another, and sometimes a third and a fourth, before we arrive at the highest peaks.

These mountains, as well as Cader Idris and some others in Merionethshire, differ from those by Brecknock, and elsewhere in South Wales, in that they abound much more with naked and inaccessible rocks; and that their lower skirts and valleys are always either covered, or scattered over with fragments of rocks of all magnitudes, most of which I presume to have fallen from the impendent cliffs. But of this, something more particular may be seen in Mr. Ray's *Physico-Theological Discourses*. Wherefore I shall mention here only two places, which seemed to me more especially remarkable. The first is the summit, or utmost top of the Glyder (a mountain above-mentioned as one of the highest in these parts) where I observed prodigious heaps of stones, many of them of the largeness of those of Stonehenge; but of all the irregular shapes imaginable; and all lying in such confusion, as the ruins of any building can be supposed to do. Now I must confess, I cannot well imagine how this hath happened: for that ever they should be indeed the ruins of some edifice, I can by no means allow, in regard that most of them are wholly as irregular as those that have fallen to the valleys. We must then suppose them to be the skeleton of the hill, exposed to open view, by rains, snow, &c. But how then came they to lie across each other in this confusion? Some of them being of an oblong flat form, having their two ends (e.g) East and West; others laid athwart these: some flat, but many inclining, being

supported by other stones at the one end; whereas we find by rocks and quarries, the natural position of stones is much more uniform. Had they been in a valley, I had concluded, they had fallen from the neighbouring rocks, because we find frequent examples of such heaps of stones augmented by accession of others tumbling on them; but being on the highest part of the hill, they seemed to me much more remarkable.

The other place I thought no less observable, though for contrary reasons; that being as regular and uniform, as this is disordered and confused. On the West side of the same hill, there is amongst many others one naked precipice, as steep as any I have seen; but so adorned with numerous equidistant pillars, and these again slightly crossed at certain joints; that such as would favour the hypothesis of the ingenious author of the sacred theory, might suppose it one small pattern of the antediluvian earth. But this seemed to me much more accountable than the former; for 'twas evident that the gullets or interstices between the pillars, were occasioned by a continual dropping of water down this cliff, which proceeds from the frequent clouds, rains and snow, that this high rock, exposed to a westerly sea-wind, is subject to. But that the effects of such storms are more remarkably regular on this cliff than others, proceeds partly from its situation, and partly from the texture or constitution of the stone it consists of. However, we must allow a natural regularity in the frame of the rock, which the storms only render more conspicuous.

That these mountains are throughout the year covered either with snow, or *a hardened crust of snow of several years continuance*, &c. was a wrong information our author probably received from some persons who had never been at them. For generally speaking, there's no snow here from the end of April to the midst of September. Some heaps excepted, which often remain near the tops of Moel y Wyddfa and Carnedd Llewelyn, till the midst of June, ere they are totally wasted. It often snows on the tops of these mountains in May and June; but that snow, or rather sleet, melts as fast as it falls; and the same shower that falls then in snow on the high mountains, is but rain in the valleys. As for an incrustation of snow or ice of several years continuance, we know not in Wales what it means: though Wagnerus tells us they are common in the Alps of Switzerland. — *tempore aestivo quoque suprema alpium culmina aeterna ac invicta glacie rigent, perpetuisque nivibus sunt oblecta*, that is, *in summer-time the tops of the Alps have perpetual frost, and perpetual snow*, and adds, *there are mountains crowned with hillocks or vast heaps of such ice, called by them firn or gletscher, which may be presumed to have continued for two or three thousand years, insomuch that for hardness it may seem to be rather crystal than ice*, &c.

The number of lakes in this mountainous tract, may be about fifty or threescore. I took a catalogue of fifteen, visible from the top of Moel y Wyddfa. These are generally denominated either from the rivers they pour forth, or from the colour of their water; amongst which I observed one, under the highest peak of Snowdon, called Ffynnon Las that signifies the green fountain, which I therefore thought remarkable, because Mr. Ray observes that the waters of some of the alpine lakes, are also inclined to that colour. Others receive their names from some village or parish church adjoining, or from a remarkable mountain or rock under which they are situated; and some there are (though very few) distinguished by names scarce intelligible to the best critics in the British, as Llyn Teyrn, Llyn Eigiau, Llyn Llydaw &c. Giraldus Cambrensis (as our author observes) informs us of two lakes on the highest tops of these mountains; one of which was remarkable for a wandering island; and the other no less strange, for that all the fish in it (though it abounded with eels, trouts, and

perch) were monocular, wanting the left eye. To this we must beg leave to answer, that amongst all the lakes in this mountainous country, there is not one seated on the highest part of a hill, all of them being spread in valleys either higher or lower, and fed by the springs and rivulets of the rocks and cliffs that are above them. The lake wherein he tells us there's a wandering island, is a small pond, called Llyn y Dywarchen, (i.e. *Lacus cespitis*,<sup><363></sup>) from a little green patch near the brink of it, which is all the occasion of the fable of the wandering island; but whence that other of monocular fish (which he says were found also at two places in Scotland) took beginning, I cannot conjecture. Most of these lakes are well stored with fish, but generally they afford no other kinds than trout and eel. The *Torgochiaid* or Red Chars (if we may so call them) are found in some other lakes of this county and Merioneth, besides Llyn Peris; but this lake of St. Peris affords another kind of alpine fish; and by the description I hear of it, I suspect it to be the gelt or gilt char of Windermere in Westmorland, which Mr. Willoughby and Mr. Ray conclude to be the same with the *Carpio lacus benaci* of Rondeletius and Gesner. The season here for catching both, begins about the eleventh of November, and continues for a month. These fish, as well as the guiniad of Llyn Tegid in Merionethshire, are never taken by bait, but in nets, near Pontfawr, in the river Seiont, which issues out of this lake, and is called now corruptly Avon y Sant, from St. Peris.

I observed that the inhabitants of these mountains call any low country *hendrev*, which signifies the ancient habitation; and that 'tis a common tradition amongst them, as also amongst those that inhabit the like places in Brecknock and Radnorshire, that the Irish were the ancient proprietors of their country; which I therefore thought remarkable, because 'tis impossible that either those of South Wales should receive it from these, or the contrary, seeing they have no communication, there being a country of about fourscore miles interposed.

The river Conwy is probably one of the noblest streams of the length in Europe; for whereas the whole course of it is but twelve miles, it receives so many brooks and rivulets from the bordering mountains of Snowdon, that it bears ships of burden. And hence, if I may be free to conjecture, it received its name; for supposing that *gwy* (or *wy*) signifies a river, Cynwy or Conwy (for in etymologies we regard the pronunciation, not the orthography) must denote an extraordinary great or prime river: the particle *cyn* prefixed in compound words, being generally augmentative, or else signifying the first and chief. As *cyn-kan*, extraordinary white; *cyndyn*, very stiff or obstinate; *cynvid*, the antediluvian world; *cynddydd*, the dawning of the day; *cynferthyr*, a proto-martyr, &c. And (that we may note this by the way) I suspect the word *cyn* to have been the same originally with the Irish *ceann*, i.e. head; whence *cyntav* signifies the first, quasi *pennav* the chiefest; and Dr. Davies supposes the word *cynddaredd*, i.e. megrim or vertigo, to be equivalent in signification with *penharedd*. If this may be allowed, I know not but these proper names, Cuntegorix, Cunobelinus, Cuneglasus, and Cunotamus (called in British Cyntwrch, Cynfelyn, Cynglas, and Cyneddav) might bear the interpretation of *choerocephalus*, *flavicomus*, *canus* and *capito*, or *bucephalus*;<sup><364></sup> since we find that persons of the greatest dignity, were styled by such surnames, not only among the Britons, but the Romans also, and probably most nations in these parts of Europe.

The pearls of this river are as large and well coloured as any we find in Britain or Ireland, and have probably been fished for here, ever since the Roman Conquest, if not sooner. For 'tis evident that pearls were in esteem amongst the Britons before that time, seeing we read in Pliny that Julius Caesar dedicated a breast-plate to Venus Genitrix, placing it in her temple at Rome, all covered or studded over with British

pearls: which must have been received from the Britons, and not discovered here by his own soldiers, for he advanced not much nearer than 100 miles of any river that affords them.

The British and Irish pearls are found in a large black mussel, figured and described by Dr. Lister, under the title of *Musculus niger omnium crassissima & ponderosissima testa*,<sup><365></sup> whereby it's sufficiently distinguished from all other shells. They are peculiar to rapid and stony rivers; and are common in Wales, in the North of England and Scotland, and some parts of Ireland. In this country they are called by the vulgar Cregin Diliw, i.e. Deluge-shells; as if nature had not intended shells for the rivers: but being brought thither by the universal deluge, had continued there, and so propagated their kind ever since. They that fish here for pearls, know partly by the outside of these mussels, whether they contain any; for generally such as have them, are a little contracted or distorted from their usual shape. A curious and accomplished gentleman lately of these parts, Robert Wyn of Bodd y Callen, Esq. (whose untimely death I have reason, amongst many others, to bewail) showed me a valuable collection of the pearls of this river; amongst which I noted a stool-pearl, of the form and bigness of a lesser button-mould, weighing 17 grains; distinguished on the convex side with a fair round spot of a cornelian colour, exactly in the centre.

The small village mentioned here by the name of Caerhun, lies three miles above Conwy (or Aber Cynwy) and is now called Caer Rhun, which was also the vulgar name of it in our author's age, as appears by some writings of that time. Nevertheless I incline to his conjecture, that Caer Rhun is only a corruption of Caer Hen, i.e. The Old City: unless we should rather suppose it called Y Gaer Hyn, which signifies the elder town or city, with reference to the town of Conwy; which as our author informs us, was built by King Edward the first out of the ruins of it. The common tradition of this neighbourhood is, that it received its name from Rhun ap Maelgwn Gwynedd, who lived about the end of the sixth century; for his father, whom Gildas calls Maglocunus (which word I suppose some copyist writ erroneously for Maelocunus) and invectively *Draco Insularis*,<sup><366></sup> died about the year 586. This I suspect was at first no other than the conjecture of some antiquary, conceived from the affinity of the names, which being communicated to others, became at length a current tradition, as we find too many more have, on the like occasion: but whether Rhun ap Maelgwn gave name to this place or not, 'tis certain 'twas a city long before his time, there being no room to doubt but this was the old Conovium of the Romans mentioned in the itinerary.

Not many years since there was a Roman hypocaust discovered at this place, agreeable in all respects (by the account I hear of it) with those found at Caer Lleion ar Wysk, mentioned by Giraldus; and near Hope in Flintshire, described by Mr. Camden. So that in all places in Wales, where any legions had their station, such stoves or hot vaults have been discovered: those at Caer Lleion ar Wysk being made by the legion *Secunda Augusta*, that near Hope by the twentieth legion, entitled *Britannica Valens Victrix*, which lay at Caer Lleion ar Deverdoeu, or Westchester; and this by the tenth. For I find in some notes of Mr. William Brickdale, late rector of Llanrwst, that he had seen several brick tiles, found near this church of Caer Hyn, inscribed Leg. X. And as those two places above-mentioned were called Caer Lleion (i.e. *Urbs Legionum* <sup><367></sup>) from the legions that had their stations there, with the addition of the names of the rivers on which they were seated, so I suspect this place might be called anciently Caer Lleion ar Gynwy, because we find a hill near it, called at this day Mynydd Caer Lleion, i.e. Caer Lleion mountain. The late Sir Thomas Mostyn baronet, who (without complement to his worthy successor) may be justly

styled a gentleman of exemplary qualifications, showed me amongst his valuable collection of antiquities, some curiosities he had received from this place. Amongst which I noted a hollow brick, from the hypocaust above-mentioned, thirteen inches long, and five and a half square, having a round hole in the midst, of about two inches diameter, the thickness of the brick not exceeding  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch. But of this I thought a figure might be acceptable to the curious, and have therefore added one at the end of these Welsh counties ([fig. 8](#)); as also of a round piece of copper found here, and preserved in the same collection, which I thought very remarkable. It's somewhat of the form of a cake of wax, even or flat on one side, and convex on the other, about eleven inches over, and forty pound weight. It's uneven in the margin or circumference, and some what ragged on each side; and on the flat side, hath an oblong square sunk in the midst, with an inscription as in the figure ([fig. 19](#).) This he supposed to have been a piece of rude copper or bullion; and that the inscription was only the merchant's stamp, or direction to his correspondent at Rome: adding, there were some signs of a Roman copper-work near Trefriw, about three miles hence, and elsewhere in this neighbourhood, whence 'twas probable they had dug it.

In the year 880 a memorable battle was fought near Aber Cynwy, betwixt Anarawd prince of North Wales, and Eadred Duke of Mercia, whereof that judicious antiquary Mr. Robert Vaughan of hengworth, gives the following account, in some notes he writ on Dr. Powel's history of Wales.

*After the death of Roderic the Great, the northern Britons of Strathclyde and Cumberland, were (as Hector Boethius and Buchanan relate) much infested and weakened with the daily incursions of Danes, Saxons, and Scots; which made many of them (all that would not submit their necks to the yoke) to quit their country, and seek out more quiet habitations. Under the conduct of one Hobert they came to Gwynedd, North Wales, in the beginning of Anarawd's reign; who commiserating their distressed condition, gave them the country from Chester to the river Conwy to inhabit, if they could force out the Saxons, who had lately possessed themselves thereof. Whereupon these Britons first engaged the Saxons; and necessity giving edge to their valour, soon drove them out thence, being yet scarce warm in their seats. About three years after this, An. Dom. 880, Edryd Wallthir i.e., Longhaired, King of the Saxons, (called by the English historians Eadred Duke of Mercia) made great preparations for the regaining of the said country; but the northern Britons, who had settled there, having intelligence thereof; for the better securing of their cattle and goods, removed them over the river Conwy. In the meantime, P. Anarawd was not idle; but gathered together all the strength he could make. His army encamped near Conwy, at a place called Cymryd, where he and his men making resistance against the assaults of the Saxon power, at length, after a bloody fight, obtained a complete victory. This battle was called Gwaeth Cymryd, Comwy, because it was fought in the township of Cymryd, hard by Conwy; but Anarawd called it Lial Rodhri, because he had there revenged the death of his father Rodhri. In this battle, Tudwal the son of Rodhri Mawr received a hurt in the knee, which made him be called Tudwal Glof, or the lame, ever after. His brothers, to reward his valour and service, gave him Uchelogoed Gwynedd. The Britons pursuing their victory, chased the Saxons quite out of Wales into Mercia; where having burnt and destroyed the borders, they returned home laden with rich spoils. Anarawd, to express his thankfulness to God for this great victory, gave lands and possessions to the church of Bangor, as the records of that see do testify; and likewise to the collegiate church of Clynnog in Arvon, as we read in the extent of North Wales. After this, the northern Britons came back from beyond the river Conwy, and possessed again the lands assigned them between*

*Conwy and Chester, which for a long time after, they peaceably enjoyed. Some English writers, as Mat. Westm. &c. Not considering probably, that the Britons had lands in Lloegria and Albania, after King Cadwaladr's time, take those of Cumberland and Strathclyde for the Britons of Wales. Asser Menevensis, who lived A.D. 875 says, that Halden the Dane marched into Northumberland, which he subdued, having before conquered the Picts and Britons of Strathclyde.*

About ten years since, there were found at this castle of Deganwy (or very near it) several brass instruments somewhat of the shape of axes; but whether they were British or Roman, or what use they were designed for, I must leave to be determined by others. There were about 50 of them found under a great stone, placed heads and points; whereof some are yet preserved in the collection abovementioned. These have been also discovered in several other parts of Wales; and that whereof I have given a figure ([fig. 13](#)) is one of seven or eight that were found of late years at the opening of a quarry on the side of Moel yr Henllys in Montgomeryshire. Dr. Plot, in his *Natural History of Staffordshire* mentions such brass instruments found at four several places in that county; which though they differ something from ours, were yet in all likelihood intended for the same use. But that they were bolt-heads of Roman catapults (as that learned and ingenious author supposes) seems to me somewhat questionable: not only for that we find no mention of brass arms amongst the Romans; but partly because they seem not large enough for that use, nor well contrived either for flight or execution: and partly because antiquaries take it for granted, the Britons had no walled towns or castles before the Roman Conquest; so that such machines as catapults and ballistae were unnecessary in this island. If it be urged, they might be of use to cover the passes of rivers or firths, as that into Anglesey out of this county; 'tis evident they were not used here on that occasion: for if so, the British army had not been posted on the opposite shore to receive the Romans (as Tacitus *Annal.* 14. expressly tells us they were) but had been compelled to a further distance. It seems very probable, that the brass axes found at St. Michael's Mount in Cornwall, were of this kind; because there were found with them certain arms of the same metal, like short swords or daggers, such as we find also in these parts, and have mentioned in the last county. Of those, Mr. Camden's opinion was, that they were British: and indeed its not to be doubted but that they were so, if the brass arms he mentions were really swords (as he supposes,) for no man will imagine that the Romans used swords of that metal: and that being granted, 'twill be scarce questionable but the axes and spear-heads he mentions to be lodged with them, belonged to the same nation. For my own part, I must confess, that for a long time I suspected these instruments Roman, supposing them too artificial to have been made by the Britons before the Romans civilized them; and that they were not swords, &c., but intended for some other uses. But seeing they had gold and silver coins before that time (as all antiquaries allow) and that 'tis scarce questionable but the golden torque described in the last county was theirs; and also that Pliny tells us the druids cut down their mistletoe with golden sickles: I know not but they might have more arts than we commonly allow them, and therefore must suspend my judgment.

There are in this county (as also in the other provinces of North Wales) several remarkable old forts, and such stone-monuments as we have noted in the counties of Carmarthen, Pembroke, and Cardigan; whereof because I have taken no description myself, I shall here insert for the satisfaction of the curious, some short notes on this subject out of a MS. written by a person of quality in the reign of King Charles 1, and communicated to me by my worthy friend Mr. Griffith Jones, school-master of Llanrwst.

*On the top of Penmaen stands a lofty and impregnable hill called Braich-y-Dinas; where we find the ruinous walls of an exceeding strong fortification, encompassed with a treble wall, and within each wall the foundation of at least a hundred towers, all round and of equal bigness, and about six yards diameter, within the walls. The walls of this Dinas were in most places two yards thick, and in some about three. This castle seems (when it stood) impregnable, there being no way to offer any assault to it; the hill being so very high, steep, and rocky, and the walls of such strength. The way or entrance into it ascends with many turnings; so that a hundred men might defend themselves against a whole legion; and yet it should seem that there were lodgings within these walls for 20000 men. At the summit of this rock, within the innermost wall, there's a well, which affords plenty of water, even in the driest summers. By the tradition we receive from our ancestors, this was the strongest and safest refuge or place of defence the ancient Britons had in all Snowdon to secure them from the incursions of their enemies. Moreover, the greatness of the work shows it was a princely fortification, strengthened by nature and workmanship; seated on the top of one of the highest mountain of that part of Snowdon, which lies towards the sea.*

About a mile from this fortification, stands the most remarkable monument in all Snowdon, called Y Meineu Hirion; upon the plain mountain, within the Parish of Dwygyfylchi, above Gwdhw Glas. It's a circular entrenchment, about 26 yards diameter; on the outside whereof, there are certain rude stone-pillars pitched on end; of which about 12 are now standing, some 2 yards, others 5 foot high; and these are again encompassed with a stone wall. It stands upon the plain mountain, as soon as we come to the height, having much even ground about it; and not far from it there are three other large stones pitched on end in a triangular form.

About three furlongs from this monument, there are several such vast heaps of small stones as we call *carneddeu*; concerning which, the tradition is, that a memorable battle was fought near this place betwixt the Romans and Britons; wherein, after much slaughter on both sides, the latter remaining conquerors, buried their dead in heaps, casting these stones on them; partly to prevent the wild boars (which in those times were common in these parts) from digging up their bodies; and partly as a memorial to posterity, that the bodies of men lay there interred. There are also about these heaps or *carneddeu*, several graves, which have stones pitched on end about them, and are covered with one or two large ones. These are presumed to be the monuments of the commanders or greatest persons then slain in battle; but having nothing to inform us herein, we must rely on tradition and conjecture, &c.

At present this county gives the title of Earl to the right honourable Charles Dormer.

## Anglesey.

We have already observed, that the county of Carnarvon, which we last surveyed, derived its name from the chief town therein, and that the town borrowed that name also from the island Mona, which lies opposite to it. It remains now, (whereas we formerly, not so properly, placed it among the islands) that we restore that tract to its right place, and describe it in order; seeing it enjoys also, and not undeservedly, the title of a county. This island was called by the Romans Mona; in British Mon and Tir Mon, i.e. The land of Mon, and Ynys Dywyll or the shady island; by the old Saxons Moneg, and in latter times, when reduced by the English, Englesea and Anglesey, i.e. The English island. 'Tis divided from the continent of Britain by the narrow firth of Menai; and on all other sides, washed by that raging Irish sea. It is of an irregular form, and extended in length from East to West 20 miles, and where broadest about 17. *This land (saith Giraldus) although as to outward appearance it may seem a dry, rocky, and unpleasant country, not unlike that of Pebidiog near St. David's; is yet, as to the quality of the soil, much otherwise; for 'tis incomparably the most fruitful country for wheat in all Wales: insomuch that in the Welsh language, its proverbially said of it, Mon mam Cymru, i.e. "Mon the nursery of Wales:" because when other countries failed, this alone, by the richness of the soil, and the plentiful harvests it produced, was wont to supply all Wales.* it is also at this time very rich in cattle, and affords millstones; in some places also a kind of alum-earth, of which they lately began to make alum and copperas<133>; but the project not succeeding, they have now desisted.

This is that celebrated island Mona; anciently the seat of the druids, attempted first by Paulinus Suetonius, and reduced under the Roman yoke by Julius Agricola. *In the reign of Nero, this Paulinus Suetonius (as we read in Tacitus) prepared for an attempt on the island Mona, a very populous country, and a receptacle of deserters; and to that end, built flat-bottomed vessels, because the shores were but shallow and hazardous: thus the foot passed over; and the horse followed, either at a ford, or else in deeper waters (as occasion required) swam their horses. On the opposite shore stood the enemy's army, well provided of arms and men; besides women running about with disheveled hair like furies, in a mournful habit, bearing torches in their hands. About the army stood the druids, who (with hands lifted up to heaven) pouring forth dreadful imprecations, so terrified the soldiers with the novelty of the sight, that (as if their limbs had been benumbed) they exposed their bodies, like so many stocks, to the strokes of the enemy. But at last, partly by exhortation of the general, and partly by encouraging each other not to stand amazed at the sight of distracted women and a company of frantic people; they advance their ensigns, and trample down their enemies, thrusting them into their own fires. They being thus conquered, a garrison was planted there, and their groves cut down, which were consecrated to their cruel superstitions. For they held it lawful to sacrifice with the blood of captives; and by inspection into human entrails to consult their gods. But while these things were in agitation, a sudden revolt of the whole province, recalled him from this enterprise. Afterwards, as the same author writes, Julius Agricola resolved to reduce the island Mona; from the Conquest whereof Paulinus was recalled (as we have already observed) by a general rebellion in Britain: but being unprovided of transport vessels, as it commonly happens in doubtful resolutions, the policy and courage of the general found new means of conveying over his army. For having first laid down their baggage, he commanded the choicest of the auxiliaries (to whom the fords were well known, and whose custom it was in their country, so to swim as to be able to guide themselves and their arms and horses) to pass over the channel. Which was done in*

*such a surprising manner, that the enemies, who expected a navy, and watched the sea, stood so much amazed; that, supposing nothing difficult or invincible to men of such resolution, they immediately supplicated for peace, and surrendered the island. So Agricola became famous and great.*

Many ages after, when it was conquered by the English, it took up their name; being called formerly by the Saxons Engles-Ea, and now Anglesey; which signifies the English island. But seeing Humphrey Llwyd, in his learned epistle to that accomplished scholar Ortelius, has restored the island to its ancient name and dignity, it is not necessary we should dwell long upon this county.

However we may add, that about the decline of the Roman government in Britain, some of the Irish nation crept into this island. For besides certain entrenched banks, which they call Irish cottages; there is another place well known by the name of Yn Hericy Gwidil, from some Irish, who under the conduct of one Sirigi, overcame the Britons there, as we read in the *Book of Triads*. Nor was it afterwards harassed by the English only, but also by the Norwegians: and in the year 1000, a navy of King Ethelred sailing round the island, wasted and consumed it in a hostile manner.

Afterwards, two Normans of the name of Hugh, the one Earl of Chester, and the other of Salop, oppressed it; and to restrain the inhabitants, built the castle of Aberlleiniog. But Magnus the Norwegian coming thither at the same time, shot Hugh Earl of Chester through the body with an arrow, and pillaging the island, departed. The English having afterwards often attempted it, at last brought it under their subjection in the time of Edward the First. It contained formerly 363 villages; and is a very populous country at this time. The chief town is Beaumaris, built in the East part of it, in a moorish place, by King Edward the First, and called by the name of Beau Marish from its situation, whereas the place before was called Bonover. He also fortified it with a castle, which yet seems not to have been ever finished; the present governor whereof is the right worshipful Sir Richard Bulkley knight, whose civility towards me, when I surveyed these counties, I must always gratefully acknowledge.

Not far from hence lies Llanfaes, a famous cloister heretofore of the Friars Minor; to which the kings of England have been bountiful patrons, as well on account of the devoutness and exemplary lives of the friars who dwelt there, as (that I may speak out of the book of records) *because there were buried at that place, a daughter of King John, a son of the King of Denmark, the bodies of the Lord Clifford, and of other lords, knights, and esquires, who were slain in the wars of Wales, in the times of the illustrious kings of England.*

The town of Newborough, in British Rhosyr, is esteemed next best to Beaumaris, distant from it about twelve miles westward; which having struggled a long time with the heaps of sand cast against it by the sea, has now lost much of its former splendour.

Aberffraw, not far from thence, though at present but a mean place, was yet heretofore of much greater repute than any of the rest, as being the royal seat of the kings of Gwynedd, or North Wales, who were thence also styled kings of Aberffraw.

Near the western cape of this island, which we call Holyhead, there's a small village called in Welsh Caergybi; which received its name from Kybi (a devout man, and disciple of St. Hilary of Poitiers) who led here a religious life: from whence there is a common passage into Ireland. The other places of this island are well planted with villages, which seeing they afford little worth our notice, I shall now pass over into the continent, and take a view of Denbighshire.

There are in this island 74 parishes.

**Additions to Anglesey.**

Being wholly unacquainted in this country myself, I shall insert here an extract of a letter from my ingenious friend, the reverend Mr. John Davies rector of Newborough, concerning the place where the Romans are thought to have passed the firth of Menai, and some monuments in this island, which seem particularly remarkable.

'Tis supposed the Romans passed the fretum<350> of Menai, betwixt a place called now Llanfair in Carnarvonshire, and Llanidan in this county. Opposite to this supposed passage, there is a hill called Gwydryn (a name corrupted perhaps from gwydd-urn, i.e. conspicuous hill) which having two summits or tops; one of them shows the ruins of an ancient fort; and on the other I observed a round pit sunk in a rock, of about nine foot diameter, filled up with pure sand. What may be the depth of it, I cannot at present inform you; some that have sounded it for three yards, having discovered no bottom. I have had some suspicion this might be the place where the druids offered their cruel sacrifices with the blood of captives; but having nothing out of history to confirm my conjecture, I shall not much contend for it, but leave it to you and others to consider what so odd a contrivance was designed for.

About a mile from the place where we suspect the Romans landed, we find Tre'r-dryw, which doubtless took its name from some druid, and may be interpreted druids' town, seeing we find the adjoining township is called Tre'r-Beirdd, i.e. Bards town. And this puts me in mind of a place called Maen y Dryw, i.e. Druid-stone, within the Cwmwd of Twrcelyn in Llaneilian Parish; where we need not much question, but there was formerly a sepulchral monument of a druid, though now it be only the name of a house.

Upon the confines of the townships of Tre'r-dryw and Tre'r-Beirdd, we meet with a square fortification, which may be supposed to be the first camp the Romans had after their landing here; and opposite to it westward, about the distance of three furlongs, there's another stronghold, of a round form and considerable height, which probably was that of our ancestors. Further westward, under this fort's protection, there are stones pitched on end, about twelve in number, whereof three are very considerable, the largest of them being twelve foot high, and eight in breadth where 'tis broadest; for 'tis somewhat of an oblong oval form. These have no other name than Cerig y Bryngwyn (or Bryngwyn Stones) and are so called from the place where they are erected. On what occasion they were raised, I cannot conjecture, unless this might be the burial place of some of the most eminent druids. In Bodowyr, which lies on the northside of the same round fort, at a further distance, we find a remarkable cromlech, which several, as well as myself, suppose to be another kind of sepulchral monument since the time of heathenism. These (for we have several others in the island) are composed of three or four rude stones, or more, pitched on end as supporters or pillars, and a vast stone of several tons laid on them as a covering; and are thought to have received the name of cromlecheu, for that the table or covering stone is on the upper side somewhat gibbous or convex: the word crwm signifying (as you know) crooked or hunch-backed, and Llech any flat stones. This cromlech at Bodowyr, is more elegant than any monument I have seen of its kind: for whereas in all others I have noted, the top-stone as well as the supporters, is altogether rude and unpolished; in this it is neatly wrought, considering the natural roughness of the stone, and pointed into several angles, but how many I cannot at present assure you. We have a tradition, that the largest cromlech in this county, is the monument of Bronwen, daughter to King Llyr or Leirus, who you know is said to begin his reign an. Mundi 3105. But of this, and the rest of our cromlecheu, take here the words of an ingenious antiquary whilst living, Mr. John Griffith of Llanddyfnan, in a letter to Mr. Vaughan of Hengwrt. —*Bronwen Leiri filiam quod attinet; cellula lapidea curvata, ubi sepultam tradunt, non procul a fluvio Alaw cernitur, ex parte occidentali. Sed an rex ille perantiquus, unquam in rerum natura fuerit, dubitant Camdeniani; quam recte, ipsi viderint. Ejusmodi aediculae quae apud nos frequentes sunt, cromlechau,*

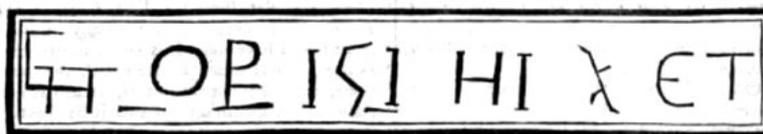
*nomine (ut scis) non inepto vocitantur. Denique insula haec, quae sylva erat iis temporibus. Fere continua, & druidum sedes quasi propria, magnatum tumulis abundat. Loci scilicet reverentia optimates quosque huc duxit sepeliendos, &c.* That is, "As to Bronwen the daughter of Leir; there is a crooked little cell of stone not far from Alaw, to the West, where, according to tradition, she was buried. But whether there ever was such a king in being, is doubted by many; how justly, will rest upon them to show. Such little houses, which are common in the country, you know are called, by an apposite name, cromlechau. Lastly, this island which in those days, was almost one continued wood, and as it were, appropriated to the druids, abounds with the graves of noblemen, who were induced by a reverence for the place, to be buried here."

I know there are some who suppose these monuments, and such like, to have been federal<368> testimonies; but that I take to be a groundless conjecture: and the opinion of their being places of interment seems much confirmed, for that a gentleman of my acquaintance remembers that an odd kind of helmet was discovered, by digging about a rude stone, which together with some others, is pitched on end at a place called Cae y Maes Mawr in the Parish of Llanrhwydrys. Of these stones there are but three now standing; and those in a manner triangularly. One of them is eleven foot and a half high, four foot broad, and fourteen inches thick; another about three yards high, and four foot broad; and the third ten foot high, eight in breadth, and but six inches thick.

As for inscribed stones; I have noted only two in this county: one whereof was a kind of square pillar in the Parish of Llanbabo, of about ten foot in height, one in breadth, and near the same thickness. I never was so curious as to copy the inscription; and I am told its now too late, it being broken in several pieces. The other is in my neighbourhood, but is so obscure, that I scarce think it worth while to trouble you with a copy of it. I could read only — *filius ulrici erexit hunc lapidem.*<369> This monument was perhaps erected by some Dane or Norwegian, Ulricus seeming to be rather a Danish name than British.

I can give you no certain information of any coins found here, except a large gold medal of Julius Constantius figured [num. 20.](#), which was found on the ploughed land at a place called Trefarthen, about the year 1680, and was afterwards added by the late Sir Thomas Mostyn, to his curious collection of antiquities, &c.

Thus far Mr. Davies; since the date of whose letter I received a copy of the inscription he mentions at Llanbabo, from the reverend Mr. Robert Humphreys, rector of Llanfechell. For though the stone be (as he mentions) broken in two pieces, and removed from the place where it stood; the inscription, whatever it may import, is yet preserved; which though I understand not myself, I shall however insert here, because I know not but it may be intelligible to several readers, and so give some light towards the explaining of other inscriptions.



This monument is called Maen Llanol, corruptly I suppose for Maen Llineol, i.e. *Lapis insculptus sive lineolis exaratus*: ["a stone carved as with a ruler"]for there's such another, known by that name, at Penbryn Parish in Cardiganshire. It seems scarce questionable but this stone, as well as those others above-mentioned, was a sepulchral monument; and that the words *hic jacet* ["here lies"] end the inscription.

The words *yn hericy gwidil*, I suppose to have been erroneously printed for *cerig y Gwyddel*, i.e. Irish stones; for we find a place so called in the Parish of Llangristiolus. But I think we may not safely conclude from that name, either that the

Irish had any settlement in these parts, or that there was any memorable action here betwixt that nation and the Britons; seeing it relates only to one man, who perhaps might be buried at that place, and a heap of stones cast on his grave, as has been usual in other places. I also make some doubt, whether those monuments our author mentions by the name of *Hibernicorum casulae*, or Irish huts, be any proof that ever the Irish dwelt there; for they are only some vast rude stones laid together in a circular order, enclosing an area of about five yards diameter, and are so ill-shaped, that we cannot suppose them the foundations of any higher building: and as they are, they afford no shelter or other conveniency for inhabitants. Those I meant, are to be seen in a wood near Llygwy, the seat of the worshipful Pierce Lloyd Esq. and are commonly called *cillieur gwydhelod*, i.e. Irish cotts; whence I infer they must be the same which Mr. Camden calls *Hibernicorum casulas*.

A monument of this kind, though much less, may be seen at Llech yr Ast in the Parish of Llangoedmor near Cardigan, which was doubtless erected in the time of heathenism and barbarity; but to what end, I dare not pretend to conjecture. The same may be said of these *cillieu'r gwydhelod*, which I presume to have been so called by the vulgar, only because they have a tradition, that before Christianity, the Irish were possessed of this island, and therefore are apt to ascribe to that nation, such monuments as seem to them unaccountable; as the Scottish Highlanders refer their circular stone pillars to the Picts. For we must not suppose such barbarous monuments can be so late as the end of the sixth century; about which time the Irish commander Sirigi is said to have been slain by *Caswallawn Law Hir* (i.e. Cassivellaun Longimanus) and his people forced to quit the island. We have many places in Wales besides these denominated from the Irish; as *Pentre'r Gwydhel* in the Parish of Rhosgolin in this county; *Pont y Gwyddel* in Llanfair, and *Pentre'r Gwyddel* in Llysfaen Parish, Denbighshire; *Cerig y Gwyddel* near Ffestiniog in Merionethshire; and in Cardiganshire we find *Cwm y Gwyddel* in Penbryn Parish, and *Carn Philip Wydhil* in Llanwenog; but having no history to back these names, nothing can be inferred from them.

About the year 945, there was a battle fought for the Isle of Anglesey, betwixt Hywel Dda King of Wales, and Cynan ap Edwal Foel, wherein Cynan fell. Afterwards Gruffydd his son renewing the war, was likewise overcome; and Cyngar a potent man, being driven out of the isle, Hywel kept quiet possession thereof.

The Welsh name of Newborough is so variously written, that its doubtful which is the right. In the description of Wales inserted before Dr. Powel's history, its called Rhossyr, and in another impression of the same (which was never published, because not completed) its written Rhos Ir, which either alters the signification, or makes it more distinct. In a MS. Copy of the same its called Rhosfir, which we are to read Rhosvir; but Mr. Davies above-mentioned, now rector of the place, informs me, it ought to be Rhos-Vair; in confirmation whereof he adds this *Englin*:

*Mae Llys yn Rhos-Vair, mae llyn,  
Mae eur-gluch, mae Arglwydd Llewelyn,  
A Gwyr tal yn ei ganlyn,  
Mil myrdd mewn gwyrdd a gwyn.*

There is a court in Rhos-Vair, there is a lake,  
There is a gold bell, there is Lord Llewelyn,  
Tall men follow him,  
A thousand myriads in green and white.

In Mr. Aubrey's *Monumenta Britannica*, I observed a note of some remarkable monument near Holyhead, in these words: there is in Anglesey, about a mile from Holyhead, on a hill near the way that leads to Beaumaris, a monument of huge stones.

They are about twenty in number, and between four and five foot high; at the northern end of it there are two stones about six foot high. They stand upon a hillock in a farm called Trevigneth, and have no other name than Llecheu, i.e., *flat stones.*, whence the field where they are raised is called Caer Llecheu.

The first who took the title of Earl from this island, was Christopher Villiers, Brother of George Duke of Buckingham, created Sept. 24. 1623; who was succeeded by Charles his son and heir. But he dying in the year 1659 without issue male, it was conferred on Arthur Annesley, created Lord Annesley of Newport Pagnell (in the county of Bucks) and Earl of Anglesey, Apr. 20. 1661. At present it is enjoyed by the right honourable James Annesley.

## Denbighshire.

On this side the river Conwy, Denbighshire, called in British Sir Ddinbych, retires in from the sea, and is extended eastward as far as the river Dee. It is encompassed on the North for some space by the sea, and afterwards by the small county of Flint; on the West by Merioneth and Montgomery, and on the East by Cheshire and Shropshire.

The western part of it is somewhat barren; the middle, where it falls into a vale, exceeding fruitful; the eastern part next the vale not so fertile; but towards Dee much better. Towards the West, but that it is somewhat more fruitful by the seaside, 'tis but thinly inhabited, and swells pretty much with bare and craggy hills: but the diligence and industry of the husbandmen hath long since begun to conquer the barrenness of the land on the sides of these mountains, as well as other places of Wales. For having pared off the surface of the earth, with a broad iron instrument for that purpose, into thin clods and turfs, they pile them up in heaps, and burn them to ashes; which being afterwards scattered on the land thus pared, does so enrich them, that its scarce credible what quantities of rye they produce. Nor is this method of burning the ground any late invention, but very ancient, as appears out of Virgil and Horace.

Amongst these hills is a place called Cerrigydrudion, or druid-stones; and at Foelas there are some small pillars, inscribed with strange letters, which some suspect to be the characters used by the druids. Not far from Clocaenog we read this inscription on a stone.

AMILLINI  
TOVISAG.

Towards the vale, where these mountains begin to be thinner, lies Denbigh, seated on a steep rock, named formerly by the Britons Cled-Fryn yn Rhos, which signifies the craggy hill in Rhos; for so they call that part of the county, which K. Edw. 1 bestowed, with many other large possessions, on Davidd ap Gruffydd, brother of prince Llewelyn. But he being soon after attainted of high treason and beheaded, King Edward granted it to Henry Lacy Earl of Lincoln, who fortified it with a very strong wall (though of a small circumference,) and on the South side with a castle, adorned with high towers. But his only son being unfortunately drowned in the castle-well, he was so much grieved thereat, that he desisted from the work, leaving it unfinished. After his decease, this town, with the rest of his inheritance, descended by his daughter Alice to the house of Lancaster. From whom also, when that family decayed, it devolved first, by the bounty of King Edw. 2 to Hugh Spenser, and afterwards to Roger Mortimer, by covenant with King Edw. 3, for his arms are seen on the chief gate. But he being sentenced to die, and executed, it fell to William Montague Earl of Salisbury; though soon after restored to the Mortimers; and by these at length came to the house of York. For we read that out of malice to K. Edw. 4 (who was of that house) this town suffered much by those of the family of Lancaster. Since which time, either because the inhabitants disliked the situation of it (for the declivity of the place was no ways convenient,) or else because it was not well served with water; they removed hence by degrees: insomuch, that the old town is now deserted, and a new one, much larger, sprung up at the foot of the hill; which is so populous, that the church not being large enough for the inhabitants, they have now begun to build a new one, where the old town stood; partly at the charges of their Lord Robert Earl of Leicester, and partly with the money contributed for that use by several well-disposed persons throughout England. This Robert Earl of Leicester was created

Baron of Denbigh by Queen Elizabeth in the year 1566. Nor is there any barony in England that hath more gentlemen holding thereof in fee.

We are now come to the heart of the county, where nature having removed the mountains on all hands (to show us what she could do in a rough country) hath spread out a most pleasant vale; extended from South to North 17 miles, and about 5 in breadth. It lies open only to the ocean, and to the clearing North wind, being elsewhere guarded with high mountains, which (towards the East especially) are like battlements or turrets; for by an admirable artifice of nature, the tops of these mountains seem to resemble the turrets of walls. Amongst them, the highest is called Moel Fenlli: at the top whereof I observed a military fence or rampart, and a very clear spring. This vale is exceeding healthy, fruitful, and affords a pleasant prospect: the complexion of the inhabitants bright and cheerful; their heads of a sound constitution; their sight very lively, and even their old age vigorous and lasting. The green meadows, the corn-fields, and the numerous villages and churches in this vale, afford us the most pleasant prospect imaginable. The river Clwyd, from the very fountain-head runs through the midst of it, receiving on each side a great number of rivulets. And from hence it has been formerly called Ystrad Clwyd; for Marianus makes mention of a King of the Strad-Clwd-Welsh: and at this day 'tis called Dyffryn Clwyd, i.e. The vale of Clwd; where, as some authors have delivered, certain Britons coming out of Scotland, planted a kingdom, having first driven out the English which were seated there.

In the South part of this vale, on the East side of the river, lies the town of Ruthin, in Welsh Rhuthun; the greatest market in the vale, and a very populous town; famous not long since, for a stately castle, which was capable of a very numerous family. Both the town and castle were built by Roger Grey, with permission of the King, the Bishop of St. Asaph, and the rector of Llan Rhudd, it being seated in that parish. To this Roger Grey, in consideration of his service against the Welsh, King Edward 1 granted almost the whole vale; and this was the seat of his posterity (who flourished under the title of Earls of Kent) till the time of Richard Grey Earl of Kent and Lord of Ruthin; who dying without issue, and having no regard to his brother Henry, sold this ancient inheritance to King Henry 7. Since which time the castle has daily decayed. Of late, through the bounty of Queen Elizabeth, it belonged to Ambrose Earl of Warwick, together with large revenues in this vale.

Having ascended eastward out of this valley, we come to Ial, a small mountainous tract, of a very high situation, if compared with the neighbouring country. For no river runs into it from any other country, though it pours out several. Upon account of this high situation, 'tis a very rough and bleak country; and much subject to winds. I know not whether it might receive its name from the small river Allen, which springing up in this country, by undermining the earth hides itself in one or two places. These mountains are well stored with oxen, sheep, and goats; and the valleys in some places are pretty fertile in corn; especially on the East part, on this side Allen: but the western is somewhat barren, and in some places mere heath and desert. It hath nothing in it memorable, except the ruins of a small monastery; seated very pleasantly in a valley, which amongst woody hills, is extended in the form of a cross: whence it had the name of Vale-Crucis; whereas in British 'tis called Llan Gwest. Eastward of Ial, the territory of Maelor Gymraeg or Welsh Maelor, called in English Bromfield, is extended to the river Dee; a pleasant small country, and well stored with lead, especially near Mwyn-Glodd, a small village, denominated from the lead mines.

In this part lies Wrexham, called in Saxon Writtleham, remarkable for a very neat tower, and the organ there: and near this place is Leonis Castrum, so called perhaps from the Legio Vicesima Victrix; which kept garrison a little higher, on the other side Dee. 'Tis now called Holt, and is supposed to have been more lately repaired by William Stanley, and formerly by John Earl of Warren, who being guardian in trust to one Madoc a British prince, seized for his own use this province, together with that of Ial. From the Earls of Warren, it descended afterwards to the Fitz-Alans, Earls of Arundel; and from them to William Beauchamp Baron of Abergavenny: and afterward to William Stanley; who being beheaded, this, as well as the rest of his estate, was forfeited to the crown.

Southward of Bromfield, lies Chirk, called in Welsh Waun, a country also pretty mountainous, but honoured with two castles; viz. Chirk, whence it received its name; which was built by Roger Mortimer: and Castell Dinas Bran, seated on the highest top of a sharp hill, whereof there remain at present only some ruinous walls. The common people affirm, that this was built and so called by Brennus General of the Gauls; and some interpret the name, the King's palace: for *bren* in British signifies a King; (from whence possibly that powerful prince of the Gauls and Britons was called by way of eminency; Brennus:) but others will have it derive its name from the situation on a hill, which the Britons call *bryn*: and this, in my opinion, is the seat of Gruffydd ap Madoc, who when he sided with the English against the Welsh, was wont to secure himself here. But upon his decease, Roger Mortimer, who was appointed guardian to his son Llewelyn, seized this Chirk into his own hands; as John Earl of Warren, mentioned before, had usurped Bromfield.

When the dominion of the Welsh, by factions among themselves, and invasions of the English, fell to decay, and could now subsist no longer; the Earls of Chester and Warren, the Mortimers, Lacy, and the Greys (whom I have mentioned) were the first of the Normans that reduced, by degrees, this small province, and left it to be possessed by their posterity. Nor was it made a county before the time of King Henry 8 when Radnor, Brecknock, and Montgomery, were likewise made counties by authority of parliament.

It contains 57 parishes.

#### **Additions to Denbighshire.**

That Cerig y Drudion was so denominated from druids, seems highly probable, though not altogether unquestionable: for that the word *drudion* signifies druids, is, for what I can learn, only presumed from its affinity with the Latin *druidae*; and because we know not any other signification of it. In the British lexicon we find no other word than *derwyddon* for druids, which may be fitly rendered in Latin *quercetani*; *derw* signifying in Welsh, *oak-trees*; which agreeing in sound with the Greek, might occasion Pliny's conjecture (who was better acquainted with that language than the Celtic or British) that *druides* was originally a Greek name. The singular of *derwyddon* is *derwydd*, which the Romans could not write more truly than *deruida*, whereof *druida* seems only an easier variation. The word *drudion* might likewise only vary in dialect from *derwyddon*, and so the name of this place be rightly interpreted by our countrymen and Mr. Camden, *druid-stones*; but what stones they were that have been thus called, is a question I could not be thoroughly satisfied in, though I have made some enquiry. The most remarkable stone-monuments now remaining in this Parish, are two of that kind we call *cistieu maen* or stone-chests; whereof some have been mentioned in other counties, and several omitted as not differing materially from those I had described. These I have not seen myself; but find

the following account of them, in a letter from an ingenious gentleman of this neighbourhood.

As for ancient inscriptions either of the druids or others, I believe its in vain to glean for them in these parts after Mr. Camden. Nor can those he mentions at Foelas in our neighbourhood (as we may collect from their characters) boast of any great antiquity: for that they are so obscure and intricate, I impute to the unskilfulness of the stone-cutter, supposing they were not plainly legible in those times that first saw them. Yet that grave and learned antiquary (as is commonly incident to strangers in their perambulation) hath either forgotten, or not observed, the most remarkable pieces of antiquity in this parish of Cerig y Drudion: I mean those two solitary prisons which are generally supposed to have been used in the time of the druids. They are placed about a furlong from each other, and are such huts, that each prison can well contain but a single person. One of them is distinguished by the name of Carchar Cynrik Rwth, or Cenric Rwth's prison; but who he was, is altogether uncertain. The other is known by no particular title, but that of *cist-vaen* or stone-chest; which is common to both, and seems to be a name lately given them; because they are somewhat of the form of large chests, from which they chiefly differ in their opening or entrance. They stand North and South, and are each of them composed of seven stones. Of these, four being above six foot long, and about a yard in breadth, are so placed as to resemble the square tunnel of a chimney: a fifth, which is not so long, but of the same breadth, is pitched at the South end thereof, firmly to secure that passage. At the North end is the entrance where the sixth stone is the lid and especial guard of this close confinement. But in regard 'twas necessary to remove it when any person was imprisoned or released, its not of that weight as to be alone a sufficient guard of the prisoner, and therefore on the top-stone or uppermost of the four first mentioned, lies the seventh, which is a vast stone, that with much force was removed towards the North end, that with its weight it might fasten, and as it were clasp the door-stone. These, and the name of our parish, are all the memorials we have of the residence of those ancient philosophers the druids, at leastwise all that tradition ascribes to them, &c."

Thus far the letter: which makes it very probable that these are some of the stones (if not all) whence this parish received the name of Cerig y Drudion; and adds not a little to Mr. Aubrey's conjecture, that those rude stones erected in a circular order, so common in this island, are also druid-monuments: seeing that in the midst of such circles we sometimes find stone chests, not unlike those here described; as particularly that of Carn Llechart, mentioned in Glamorganshire; which without all doubt was designed for the same use with these. But that any of them were used as prisons in the time of the druids, does not at all appear from this account of them; there being no other argument for it, than that one of them is called Carchar Cynrik Rwth; whereas that Cynric Rwth, as I find in an anonymous Welsh writer, was only a tyrannical person in this neighbourhood (of no antiquity in comparison of the druids) who shutting up some that had affronted him in one of these cells, occasioned it to be called his prison ever after. What use they were of in the time of the druids, we must leave to further enquiry; but that they really are some of their monuments, I scarce question. Whether they were ever encompassed with circles of stones like Carn Llechart above-mentioned, or with a wall as the *cistvaen* on Mynydd y Drum in the same county, is altogether uncertain. For in this revolution of time, such stones might be carried off by the neighbours, and applied to some use; as we find has been lately done in other places.

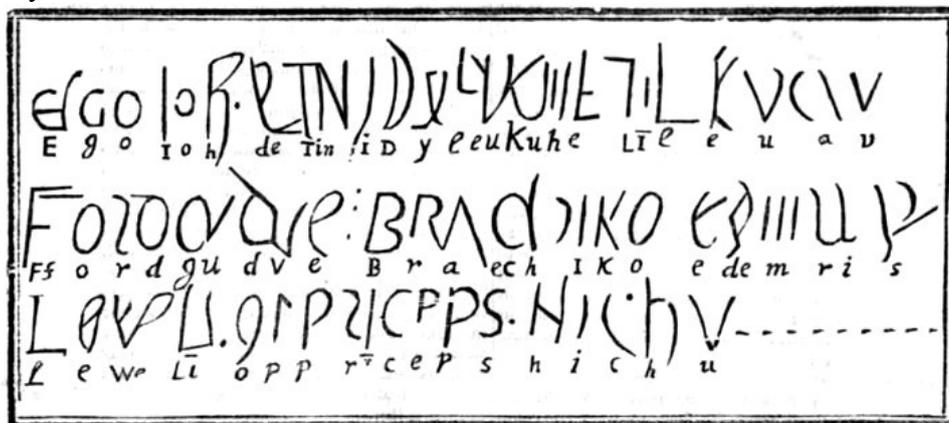
These druid-stones put me in mind of a certain relic of their doctrine, I have lately observed to be yet retained amongst the vulgar. For how difficult it is to get rid of such erroneous opinions as have been once generally received (be they never so

absurd and ridiculous) may be seen at large in the excellent treatise written upon that subject by Sir Thomas Browne. In most parts of Wales we find it a common opinion of the vulgar, that about midsummer-eve (though in the time they do not all agree) 'tis usual for snakes to meet in companies, and that by joining heads together and hissing, a kind of bubble is formed like a ring about the head of one of them, which the rest by continual hissing blow on till it comes off at the tail, and then it immediately hardens, and resembles a glass ring; which whoever finds (as some old women and children are persuaded) shall prosper in all his undertakings. The rings they suppose to be thus generated, are called *gleineu nadroedd*, i.e. *Gemmae anguinae*,<sup><372></sup> whereof I have seen at several places about twenty or thirty. They are small glass annulets, commonly about half as wide as our finger-rings, but much thicker; of a green colour usually, though some of them are blue, and others curiously waved with blue, red, and white. I have also seen two or three earthen rings of this kind, but glazed with blue, and adorned with transverse streaks or furrows on the outside. The smallest of them might be supposed to have been glass-beads worn for ornament by the Romans; because some quantity of them, together with several amber-beads, have been lately discovered at a stone-pit near garvord in Berkshire, where they also find some pieces of Roman coin; and sometimes dig up skeletons of men, and pieces of arms and armour. But it may be objected, that a battle being fought there betwixt the Romans and Britons, as appears by the bones and arms they discover, these glass-beads might as probably pertain to the latter. And indeed it seems to me very likely that these snake-stones (as we call them) were used as charms or amulets amongst our druids of Britain, on the same occasions as the snake-eggs amongst the Gaulish druids. For Pliny, who lived when those priests were in request, and saw one of their snake-eggs, gives us the like account of the origin of them, as our common people do of their *gleineu nadroedd*, which being but short, may be added, that the reader may with less trouble compare them—*Praeterea est ovorum genus in magna Galliarum fama, omissum Graecis. Angues innumeri aestate convoluti, salivis faucium corporumque spumis artifici complexu glomerantur; anguinum appellatur. Druidae sibilis id dicunt in sublime jactari, sagoque oportere intercipi, ne tellurem attingat. Profugere raptorem equo: serpentes enim insequi, donec arceantur amnis alicujus interventu. Experimentum ejus esse si contra aquas fluitet vel auro vinctum. Atque ut est magorum solertia occultandis fraudibus sagax, certa luna capiendum censent, tanquam congruere operationem eam serpentium, humani sit arbitrii. Vidi equidem id ovum mali orbiculati modici magnitudine, crusta cartilaginis, velut acetabulis brachiorum polypi crebris, insigne druidis. Ad victorias litium ac regum aditus mire laudatur: tantae vanitatis ut habentem id in lite in sinu equitem romanum e vocantiis, a divo claudio principe interemptum non ob aliud sciam, &c.*<sup><373></sup>

Thus we find it very evident, that the opinion of the vulgar concerning the generation of these adder-beads or snake-stones, is no other than a relic of the superstition, or perhaps impostor of the druids. But whether these we call snake-stones, be the very same amulets the British druids made use of; or whether this fabulous origin was ascribed formerly to something else, and in after times applied to these glass-beads, I shall not undertake to determine; though I think the former much more probable. As for Pliny's *ovum anguinum*, it can be no other than a shell (either marine or fossil) of that kind we call *Echinus marinus*,<sup><374></sup> whereof one sort (though not the same he describes) is called at this day in most parts of Wales where they are found, *wyau mor*, i.e. *sea-eggs*. I had almost forgotten to add, that sometimes these glass annulets were struck through a larger ring of iron, and that again through another much larger of copper, as appears by one of them found in the river Cherwell

near Hampton Gay in Oxfordshire, and figured and described by Dr. Plot in his *Natural History* of that county. (See the figures at end of Wales, [A-D](#)) To these amulets (but whether British or Roman I know not) that small brass head figured [numb. 18](#) must be referred; which was found in a well somewhere in this country, together with certain brass snakes, and some other figures now lost, all hung about a wire.

I doubt not but our author has excited the curiosity of most lovers of antiquity, in mentioning small pillars inscribed with strange characters, supposed to be those used by the druids. But if the following inscription be one of those he meant, 'twill scarce be allowed to be half so old as their time. The pillar whence 'twas copied is a hard, rough stone, somewhat of a square form, about ten foot in length; and is now to be seen at Foelas, the place where he informs us those pillars were erected. The copy here inserted was sent me by my worthy friend Mr. Griffith Jones, school-master of Llanrwst, who I doubt not hath transcribed it from the monument, with great accuracy.



This inscription is so very obscure and different from all I have seen elsewhere, that it seems scarce intelligible. However, I shall take the liberty of offering my thoughts, which though they should prove erroneous, may yet give some hint to others to discover the true reading. I have added under each character the letters I suppose to be intended; which if I rightly conjecture make these words:

*Ego Joh de Tin I Dyleu Kuheli leuav*

*Fford cudve Braech I Koed Emris*

*Leweli op princeps hic hu—*

Which I suppose, according to our modern orthography, might be written thus:

*Ego Johannes de Tyn Y Dylau gwyddelen leuaf,*

*[ar] ffordd gyddfau braich y coed Emris—*

*Levelinus optimus princeps hic humatur*

The meaning whereof is, that one *John, of the house of Dyleu Gwyddelen, &c. on the road of Ambrose-wood hill, erected this monument to the memory of the excellent prince, Llewelyn.* But who this Llewelyn was, I must leave to be determined by others. If any of the three princes of that name recorded in the annals of Wales, it must be the first, or Llewelyn ap Seisyll, who was slain, but where is not mentioned, by Hwyl and Maredudd the sons of Edwyn, in the year 1021. For we find that *Llewelyn ap Iorwerth was honourably buried in the abbey of Conwy, anno 1240,* and his stone-coffin removed upon the dissolution, to the church of Llanrwst, where 'tis yet to be seen. And that Llewelyn ap Gruffydd the last Prince of Wales of the British race, was slain near Builth in Brecknockshire; so that his body was in all likelihood interred somewhere in that country, though his head was fixed on the Tower of London.

The other inscription, our author mentions at Clocaenog, is doubtless an epitaph of some soldier of note, who can be but very little, if at all later than the Romans. This stone being yet preserved in the same place, I have procured a copy of the inscription from my singular friend the reverend Mr. John Lloyd, school-master at Ruthyn, which is here added because somewhat different from that of Mr. Camden.

AIMILINI  
TOVISAG.

The name Aimilinus, we are to understand, as the same with Aemilinus, and that no other than Aemilianus. Thus amongst Reinesius's *Inscriptions*, we find M. AIMILIVS for M. Aemilius. And in the same author, we have two or three examples of the letter A in the same form with the first character of this inscription. As for the second word, I am in some doubt whether we ought to read it *tovisag* or *tovisaci*: if the former, 'tis British, and signifies a leader or general: and if the latter, it seems only the same word Latinized. Mr. Lloyd adds, that the place where this stone lies is called Bryn y Beddau, which signifies the hill of graves, and that there is near it an artificial mount or tumulus, called Y Crig-Vryn, which may be Englished Barrow Hill: also that on the hills adjoining there are several circles of stones; and in the same neighbourhood a place called Rhos y Gadfa, or Battle Field.

There are divers old forts or entrenchments in this county, that seem no less remarkable, than that our author observed at Moel Enlli; some of which are mentioned in Mr. Lloyd's letter. As first, Pen y Gaer Fawr on Cader Dimael, distant about a mile from Cerig y Drudion; which is a circular ditch and rampart of at least 100 paces diameter. But what seems most remarkable, is, that 'tis presumed to have had once some kind of wall; and that the stones have been long since carried away by the neighbours, and applied to some private uses. Secondly, Caer Dynod, or as others, Caer y Dynod, which lies (as also Pen y Gaer) in the Parish of Llanfihangel. This is situate close by the river Alwen, and is rather of an oval form than circular. The dyke or rampart consists of a vast quantity of stones, at present rudely heaped together, but whether formerly in any better order, is uncertain. On the river side its about 300 foot high perpendicularly, but not half that height elsewhere. On the other side the river we have a steep hill, about twice the height of this Caer Dynod; on which lies Caer Forwyn, i.e. Maiden-fort, a large circular entrenchment, and much more artificial than the former. This Caer Dynod (as Mr. Lloyd supposes) was in all likelihood a British camp, seeing it agrees exactly with Tacitus's description of the camp of King Caractacus, when he engaged Ostorius Scapula somewhere in this country of the Ordovices—*Sumpto ad praelium loco, ut aditus, abscessus, cuncta nobis importuna, & suis in melius esset: tunc montibus arduis, & si qua clementer accedi poterant, in modum valli saxa praestruit: & praefluebat amnis vado incerto, &c.*<375> Thirdly, Dinas Melin-y-Wig, which he supposes to have been a British *oppidum*, it being much such a place as Caesar informs us they called so, in these words: *Oppidum Britanni vocant cum sylvas impeditas vallo atque fossa munierunt, quo incursionis hostium vitandae causa, convenire consueverunt.*<376> This place, as the word gwyg implies, is full of woods, dingles, &c. The fortification rises about fifteen or twenty yards where lowest; and is faced for the most part with a craggy rock, and encompassed with a deep trench, having two entries called Y Porth Ucha and Porth Isa, or the Upper and Lower Gates.

In the year 1622. William Viscount Fielding, Lord St. Liz, and Baron of Newnham Padox, was created Earl of Denbigh, and was succeeded by Basil his son. To whom succeeded William Fielding Earl of Desmond, his nephew; and at present it gives the same title to the Right Honourable Basil Fielding.

## Flintshire.

On the North of Denbigh lies Flintshire, a very small county, of an oblong form; washed on the North by the Irish sea, or rather by a branch of it being the channel of the Dee; bounded on the East by Cheshire, and elsewhere by Denbighshire.

We cannot properly call it mountainous, for it only rises gently with lower hills, and falls by degrees into fertile plains; which (towards the sea especially) every first year they are ploughed, bear in some places barley, in others wheat, but generally rye, with at least twenty-fold increase; and afterwards oats for four or five years. On the West it descends to the maritime part of the Vale of Clwd, and takes up the upper end of that vale.

In the confines of this county and Denbighshire, where the mountains with a gentle declivity seem to retire, and afford an easier pass into the Vale, the Romans built, at the very entrance, a small city, called Varis; which Antoninus places 19 miles from Conovium. This, without the least diminution of its name, is called at this day Bodfari, which signifies the mansion of Varus; and shows the ruins of a city, on a small hill adjoining, called Moel y Gaer, i.e. the City Hill. What the name signifies, is not evident. I have formerly supposed that *varia* in the old British signified a pass, and accordingly have interpreted *Durnovaria*, and *Isannaevaria*, the passage of the water, and of Isanna. Nor does the situation of this town contradict my conjecture, it being seated at the only convenient pass through these mountains.

Not three miles hence lies Caerwys; which name though it savour much of antiquity, yet I observed nothing there either ancient, or worth notice.

Below this Varis, the river Clwd runs through the vale, and is immediately joined by Elwy, at the confluence whereof there's a bishop's see, called in British from the name of the river, Llanelwy; in English from the patron, St. Asaph, and in historians *Episcopatus Asaphensis*. Neither the town is memorable for its neatness, nor the church for its structure or elegance; yet in regard of its antiquity, it is requisite we should mention it. For about the year 560 Kentigern Bishop of Glasgow fleeing from Scotland, instituted here an episcopal seat and a monastery, placing therein six hundred and sixty three monks; whereof three hundred being illiterate, were appointed for tilling the land; the same number for other employments within the monastery; and the rest for divine service: and all these he so distributed into convents, that some of them attended at prayers continually. Upon his return afterwards into Scotland, he appointed Asaph, a most upright and devout man, governor of this monastery; from whom it received its present name. The Bishop of this diocese has under his jurisdiction about 128 parishes; the ecclesiastical benefices whereof (in case of vacancy in the see,) until the time of Henry the 8 were in the disposal of the Archbishop, by the archiepiscopal right, which is now a prerogative of the crown. For so we find it recorded in the history of Canterbury.

Higher up, Rhuddlan, so called from the reddish bank of the river Clwd where 'tis seated, shows a very fair castle, but almost decayed with age. 'Twas built by Llewelyn ap Seisyll, Prince of Wales; and first wrested out of the Welshmen's hands by Robert de Ruthlan, nephew of Hugh E. of Chester) and fortified with new works, by the said Hugh's lieutenant. Afterwards as the Abbot de Monte informs us, King Henry the Second having repaired this castle, gave it to Hugh Beauchamp. Below this castle, the river Clwd is discharged into the sea, and though the valley at the mouth of this river, does seem lower than the sea, yet it is never overflown; but by a natural, though invisible impediment, the water stands on the very brink of the shore, to our just admiration of divine providence.

The shore descending gradually eastward from this place, passes first by Dyserth Castle, so called from its steep situation, or (as others will have it) *quasi* Desert, and thence by Basingwerk, which also Henry the Second granted to Hugh Beauchamp.

Under this place I viewed Holywell, a small town where there's a well much celebrated for the memory of Winefride, a Christian virgin, ravished here, and beheaded by a tyrant; as also for the moss it yields of a very sweet scent. Out of this well a small brook flows (or rather breaks forth through the stones, on which are seen I know not what kind of blood red spots:) and runs with such a violent course, that immediately it's able to turn a mill. Upon this very fountain there's a chapel, which with neat workmanship, was hewn out of the live rock; and a small church adjoining thereunto, in a window whereof is painted the history and execution of St. Winifrid. Giraldus writes that in his time there was not far from hence *a rich vein of silver*, where (says he) *in search of that metal they broke up the bowels of the earth*. That part of this country, because it affords the most pleasant prospect, and was long since reduced by the English, was called by the Britons *Teg-Eingl*, which signifies Fair England. But whereas a certain author has called it *Tezenia*, and supposes the Igeni dwelt there, let the reader be cautious how he assents to it. For that worthy author was deceived by a corrupt name of the Iceni.

From the shore at this place, we see Flint Castle, which gave name to this county; begun by King Henry 2 and finished by Edward 1. Beyond that, on the eastern limit of the county, next Cheshire, lies Hawarden Castle, near the shore, called commonly Harden; out of which when Davidd, brother of prince Llewelyn, had led captive Roger Clifford justiciary of Wales; he brought a most dismal war on himself and his countrymen, whereby their dominion in Wales was wholly overthrown. This castle, which was held by seneschalship of the Earls of Chester, was the seat of the barons of Mounthault, who became a very illustrious family; and bore *azure a lion rampant argent*: and also increased their honour, by marriage with Cecilia one of the daughters of Hugh D'Albany Earl of Arundel. But the issue male being at last extinct, Robert, the last Baron of this family (as we have mentioned already) made it over to Queen Isabella, wife of King Edw. 2. But the possession of the castle was afterwards transferred to the Stanleys, who are now Earls of Derby.

Below these places, the South part of this country is watered by the little river Alyn, near which, on a mountain at a village called Cilcain, there's a spring which like the sea ebbs and flows at set times. On this river Alyn lies Hope Castle, called in Welsh Caergwrle, (into this King Edward 1. retired when the Welsh had surprised his army:) near which there are millstones hewn out of a rock: and likewise Mold, called in British Yr Wyddgrug, the castle formerly of the barons of Monthault; both which show many tokens of antiquity. Near Hope, whilst I was drawing up these notes, a certain gardener digging somewhat deep, discovered a very ancient work; concerning which, several have made various conjectures: but whoever consults M. Vitruvius Pollio, will find it no other than the beginning of a hypocaust of the Romans, who growing luxurious as their wealth increased, used baths very much. It was five ells long, four broad, and about half an ell in height; encompassed with walls hewn out of the live rock. The floor was of brick set in mortar; the roof was supported with brick pillars; and consisted of polished tiles, which at several places were perforated: on these were laid certain brick tubes, which carried off the force of the heat; and thus, as the poet saith, *olvebant hypocausta vaporem*.<sup><377></sup> Now who can suppose but that they were such hypocausts, which Giraldus so much admired at Caerleon in Monmouthshire; when he writ thus of the Roman works there: and which seems more

particularly remarkable, you may see there several stoves, contrived with admirable skill, breathing heat insensibly through small pipes, &c. Whose work this was, appears by this inscription on some tiles there, *LEGIO XX*. For the twentieth legion which was styled *VICTRIX*, as we have shown already, lay in garrison at Chester, scarce six miles hence.

Near unto this river Alyn, in a narrow place beset with woods, lies Coleshill, called by Giraldus *Collis Carbonarius*, or a Coal Hill, where when King Henr. 2 had made all diligent preparation to give battle to the Welsh; the English, by reason of their disordered multitude, were defeated, and the King's standard was forsaken by Henry of Essex, who, by right of inheritance, was standard-bearer to the kings of England. Whereupon being charged with treason, and overcome by his adversary in a duel, and his estate forfeited to the crown; he was so much ashamed of his cowardice, that he put on a hood, and retired into a monastery.

There is another small part of this county, on this side Dee, in a manner wholly divided from the rest, called English Maelor; whereof we have taken notice in Cheshire, when we gave some account of Bangor, and therefore need not repeat here what we have written already. Nor remains there anything to be mentioned except Hanmer, seated by a lake or mere; whence that ancient and honourable family that dwells there, took the name of Hanmer.

The Earls of Chester, by light skirmishes with the Welsh as occasion and opportunity offered, were the first Normans that subdued this county. Whence in ancient records we read, that the county of Flint appertaineth to the dignity of the sword of Chester: and the eldest sons of the kings of England, were formerly styled Earls of Chester and Flint. But when it was added to the crown, King Edward 1 supposing it very advantageous, as well to maintain his own, as to bridle the Welsh; kept this and all the maritime parts of Wales in his own hands; and distributed the inland countries to his nobles, as he thought convenient: imitating herein the policy of Augustus Caesar, who himself undertook the charge of the outward and most potent provinces; permitting the rest to the government of proconsuls by lot. And this he did with a show of defending his empire, but in reality, that he might keep the armies under his own command.

This county hath only 28 parishes.

**Additions to Flintshire.**

Whether the ancient *Varis* was seated at the same place we call Bodfari, I shall not dispute: but the name of *Moel y Gaer* (which our author interprets the City Hill) seems but a slender confirmation of it. For we cannot doubt but that place received its name from the fortification or entrenchments that are yet to be seen there; the word *Caer* (as we have already hinted) signifying strictly, only a wall, fortress, or enclosure; which being prefixed to the names of Roman towns, because fortified, has occasioned several to suppose the genuine signification of it to be a town or city. We have divers camps on our mountains called *Caerau*, where we have not the least grounds to suspect that ever any cities were founded; and in some places I have observed the churchyard-wall to be called *Caer y Fynwent*: nor does it seem improbable that this *Caer* was derived originally from *cai*, which signifies *to shut up*, or *enclose*. This fortification is exactly round, and about 160 paces over: we may frame an idea of it by supposing a round hill with the top cut off, and so made level. All round it, the earth is raised in manner of a parapet, and almost opposite to the avenue there is a kind of tumulus or artificial mount.

At this *Moel y Gaer*, *Hywel Gwynedd* (who sided with *Owain Glyndwr* against King Henry 4) was beheaded. He was one who for a long time annoyed the English of his neighbourhood; but being taken at length by his enemies of the town of *Flint*, and beheaded at this place, his estate was disposed of to one *Saxton*. Before him, one *Owain ap Aldud* had also opposed the English in these borders; who by force of arms kept all *Tegaingl* under his subjection for about three years, until such time as he had obtained full pardon.

I can add nothing in confirmation of our author's conjecture, that the word *varia* signified anciently a passage; nor can I perceive on what grounds he first suspected it, unless he supposed the Romans might coin it out of the British *fordd*, which signifies a way: but it seems a little too hard the letter *d* should be wholly omitted; for in such British names as they latinized, we find they generally either retained the consonants, or changed them for letters of the same organ. However, though I cannot acquiesce in this etymology of *Varis*, yet I dare not assign any other, as not knowing any British word that comes near it, except *gwair* (for 'tis a rule confirmed by at least forty examples, that where the Romans use the letter *v* the Britons have *gw*.) which having no other signification than hay, makes little to our purpose.

At *Rhuddlan* (though it be now a mean village) we find the manifest signs of a considerable town: as, of the abbey and hospital; and of a gate at least half a mile from the village. One of the towers in the castle is called *Twr y Brenin*, i.e. King's Tower; and below the hill, upon the bank of the river, we find another apart from the castle, called *Twr Silod*. *Offa* King of Mercia, and *Meredyth* King of Dyfed, died in the battle fought at *Rhuddlan*, in the year 794.

The water of *Holywell* breaks forth with such a rapid stream, that some ingenious persons have suspected it to be rather a subterraneous rivulet which the miners might have turned to that channel, than a spring; it being their common practice, when they meet with underground currents in their work, to divert them to some swallow. And this suspicion they confirm with an observation, that after much rain the water often appears muddy, and sometimes of a bluish colour, as if it had washed some lead-mine, or proceeded from tobacco-pipe clay: adding further, that this seems to have happened since the time of *Giraldus Cambrensis*, it being not likely that so noble a fountain would have escaped his observation, had it then existed. But though we should grant that *Giraldus* might neglect the taking notice of so

extraordinary a current; yet we have good grounds to assent to Dr. Powell's opinion, that 'twas not frequented by pilgrims at that time, nor at all celebrated for miraculous cures, or the memory of St. Beuno and Winefride, who yet lived above five hundred years before. For seeing we find that author, throughout the whole course of his journey, was particularly curious and inquisitive about miraculous fountains, stones, bells, chains, &c. we have no reason to presume, had this place been noted at that time for Winefride's being restored to life by St. Beuno, and the miraculous origin of the fountain thereupon; or for any sovereign virtue of the water in healing diseases; but he would take care to deliver some account of it to posterity: especially considering that he lodged one night at Basingwerk, within half a mile of this place. From hence Dr. Powel very rationally infers, that the monks of Basingwerk, who were founded above one hundred years after, were (for their own private ends) the first broachers of these fabulous miracles. For (says he) before the foundation of that abbey (which was in the year 1312.) no writer ever made mention of the romantic origin and miracles of this fountain. But I refer the reader to his own words, more at large, in the place above-cited; being for my own part, of their opinion who think such frivolous superstitions, are too much honoured, when we use arguments to confute them.

Of this St. Beuno, who was founder of the abbey of Clynnog Fawr in Carnarvonshire, as also of Ennian who built the church of Llan Ennian Vrenin in the same country, I find some account in Mr. Vaughan's annotations on the history of Wales, which though not so pertinent to this place, I shall add here however, as being willing to make use of the least occasion of publishing any notes of an author so well acquainted with the antiquities of his country.

*St. Beuno, to whom the abbey of Clynnog was dedicated, was the son of Hywgi ap Gwynlliw ap Glywis ap Tegid ap Cadell, a prince or Lord of Gledwisig, brother's son to St. Cadoc ap Gwynlliw, sometime Bishop of Beneventum in Italy: he was by the mother's side, cousin german to Laudatus the first Abbot of Enlli (in English, Bardsey) and to Kentigern Bishop of Glasgow in Scotland, and of Llanelwy in Wales. The said Kentigern's father was Owen Regent of Scotland, and son of Urien King of Cumbria. Beuno having raised to life, as the tradition goes, St. Winefride (who was put to death by one Caradoc a Lord in North Wales, because she would not yield to his unchaste desires) was much respected by King Cadvan, who gave him lands, whereon to build a monastery. Cadwallon Cadvan's son bestowed also other lands on him, called Gwareddog; where having begun to build a church, a woman came to him with a child in her arms, and told him those lands were the inheritance of that infant. Whereat Beuno being much concerned, gave orders she should follow him to Caer Seiont (called by the Romans Segontium, and now Caernarfon) where King Cadwallon resided. When he came before the King, he told him with a great deal of zeal, he had done ill, to devote to God's service such lands as were not his own lawful possessions, and demanded he would return a golden sceptre he had given him as a consideration for the said lands; which when the King refused, he was excommunicated by him. Beuno having pronounced his sentence against him, departed; but Gwyddaint, who was cousin german to this prince Cadwellon, being informed of what had happened, followed after him; and overtaking him, gave him (for the good of his own soul and the King's) the township of Clynnog Fawr, which was his undoubted inheritance; where Beuno built a church about the year of our Lord 616. About which time Cadvan died, leaving his son Cadwallon to succeed him. Some tell us Beuno restored St. Winefride to life in the year 644. But (whatever we may think of the miracle) that time is not reconcileable to the truth of history.*

*Not long before this time, Eneon Bhrenin or Anianus Rex Scotorum, a prince in the North of Britain, leaving his royalty, came to Llyn in Gwynedd, where he built a church, which at this day is called from him Llan Eingan Bhrenin, where he spent in God's service the remainder of his days. King Eneon was the son of Owain Danwyn ap Eneon Yrth, ap Cunedha Wledig King of Cambria, and a great prince in the North. He was cousin german to Maelgwn Gwynedd King of Britain, whose father was Caswallon Law Hir brother to Owain Danwyn. The said Maelgwn died about the year of our Lord 586. Medif, daughter to Foylda ap Talw Traws of Nanconwy, was Maelgon's mother, &c.*

Concerning Fynnon Leinw, or the ebbing and flowing well, mentioned by our author to be near Cilcain; a worthy gentleman I consulted on this occasion, informs me that 'tis indeed in the Parish of Cilcain, but nothing near Cilcain church or the River Alyn; and that it neither ebbs nor flows at present, though the general report is that it did so formerly. But whereas Dr. Powel (whom our author and others seem to have followed) supposes this to be the fountain to which Giraldus Cambrensis ascribed that quality; he is of another opinion, suspecting rather that Giraldus meant Fynnon Assaf, a noble spring, to which they also attribute the same phenomenon. But seeing that author (though a learned and very curious person for the time he lived) is often either erroneous or less accurate in his physiological observations, its but seldom worth our while to dispute his meaning on such occasions.

The present name of Mold I suppose to be an abbreviation of the Norman Mont-Hault, and that no other than a translation of the British name Gwyddgrig, which signifies a conspicuous mount or barrow; for though the word *gwyddh* be not used in that sense at present, yet that it was so anciently is manifest from some names of places, the highest mountain in Wales being called Yr Wyddfa, and the highest stone-pillar or monument I have seen there, called Hirfaen Gwyddog; so that there being a considerable *crig* at this place (for so they call artificial mounts or barrows in South Wales) we may safely conclude it thence denominated.

Near this town, as the learned Ussher supposes, was that celebrated victory (which he calls *Victoria Alleluatica*, for that the pagans were put to flight by the repeated shouts of *alleluia*) obtained by the Britons under the conduct of Germanus and Lupus, against the Picts and Saxons. Adding, that in memory of that miraculous victory, the place is called at this day Maes Garmon, or St. Germain's field. And whereas it may be objected, that seeing 'tis allowed St. Germain died in the year 435, 'twas impossible he should lead the Britons in this island against the Saxons, for that Hengist and Horsa arrived not here till 449, He answers that long before their time (as appears from Ammianus Marcellinus, Claudian, &c.) the Saxons made frequent inroads into this island.

It will not perhaps be unacceptable to the curious, if we take notice here of some delineations of the leaves of plants, that are found upon sinking new coal-pits in the township of Leeswood in this Parish. These (though they are not much minded) are found probably in most other parts of England and Wales, where they dig coal; at leastwise I have observed them at several coal-pits in Wales, Gloucestershire, and Somersetshire; and have seen considerable variety of them, in that excellent museum of natural bodies, collected by Mr. William Cole of Bristol, as also amongst Mr. Beaumont's curious collection of minerals. They are found generally in that black flat, or (as the workmen call it) the slag or cleft which lies next above the coal; so that in sinking new pits, when these mock-plants are brought up, they are apt to conclude the coal not far off. These are not such faint resemblances of leaves, as to require any fancy to make out the comparison, like the *pietra imboschata*, or landscape-stone of

the Italians; but do exhibit the whole form and texture more completely than can be done by any artist, unless he takes off their impressions from the life, in some fine paste or clay. I say, resemblances of leaves, because amongst all the stones I have seen of this kind, I have hitherto observed none delineated with any roots or flowers, but always either pieces of leaves or whole ones; or else (which happens but seldom) some singular figures, which I know not what bodies to compare to. Such as those I have seen from these coal-pits (and the same may be said of others in general) do for the most part resemble the leaves of capillary plants, or those of the fern-kind: but our observations in this part of natural history, are as yet in their infancy; and we know not but the bowels of the earth, were it possible to search them, might afford as great variety of these mock-plants, as the surface contains of those we esteem more perfect. However, this I shall venture to affirm, that these plants (whatever may be their origin) are as distinguishable into species, as those produced in the surface. For although we find (as yet) no resemblance of flowers or seeds, yet the form and texture of these leaves, which are always constant and regular, will soon discover the species to such as have any skill in plants, or will take the trouble to compare them nicely with each others. For example; I have observed amongst the rubble of one coalpit, seven or eight species of plants, and of each species twenty or more individuals.

Whoever would prove these subterraneous leaves an effect of the universal deluge, will meet with the same difficulties (not to mention others,) as occur to those who assign that origin to the fossil shells, teeth and vertebrae of fish, crabs' claws, corals and sea-mushrooms, so plentifully dispersed, not only throughout this island, but doubtless in all parts of the world. For as amongst the fossil shells of England, we find the greatest part, of a figure and superficies totally different from all the shells of our own seas; and some of them from all those, the most curious naturalists have hitherto procured from other countries: so amongst these plants, we find the majority not reconcilable with those produced in this country, and many of them totally different from all plants whatever, that have been yet described. But that the reader may not wholly rely on my judgment herein, I have included three figures of such leaves, out of a coal-pit belonging to the domains of Eaglesbush near Neath in Glamorganshire.

[Fig. 27.](#) Represents a leaf of a plant which I presume totally different from any yet described. It's about six inches long, but seems to be broken off at each end, and almost two in breadth. The four ribs are a little prominent, somewhat like that of hart's-tongue; as are also the three orders of characters, betwixt those ribs, which seem in some sort to answer the seeds of such plants as are called dorsiferous, <378> as those of the hart's-tongue or fern-kind.

[Fig. 28.](#) Resembles a branch of the common female fern, and agrees with it in superficies and proportion, as well as figure.

[Fig. 29.](#) Expresses the common polypody, though not so exactly as the 28th imitates the female fern. This is an elegant specimen, having the middle rib very prominent, and that of each leaf raised proportionably; four inches long, and an inch and a quarter broad.

I find these mineral leaves are not only produced in the coal-slats, but sometimes in other fossils; for I have formerly observed of them in marl-pits near Caerwys in this county, which in some measure resembled oak-leaves: and amongst that valuable collection of minerals repositied in the Ashmolean museum, by Dr. Robert Plot, I find a specimen of iron ore out of Shropshire, delineated with a branch of some undescribed plant, which from the texture of the leaves I should be apt to

refer to the capillary tribe; though the figure (as the doctor observes in his catalogue) seems rather to resemble box-leaves. But I shall add no more on this subject, as expecting shortly a particular treatise of the origin of formed stones and other fossils, from an ingenious person, who for some years has been very diligent in collecting the minerals of England, and (as far as I am capable of judging) no less happy in his discoveries.

I find some mention of this Bangor Is-Coed (for so 'tis generally called to distinguish it from Bangor in Carnarvonshire) in that manuscript of Mr. Robert Vaughan of Hengwrt, so often quoted in these Welsh counties. Bangor Monachorum (saith he) so called from the famous monastery that was once there, lies situate in Maelor Seising, or Bromfield, not far from Caerleon, or West-Chester. Both town and monastery hath so felt the injuries of time, that at this day there are hardly any ruins of them remaining. For we find now only a small village of the name, and no footsteps of the old city, except the rubbish of the two principal gates Porth Cleis and Porth Wgan; the former looking towards England, and the latter towards Wales. They are about a mile distant from each other, whence we may conjecture the extent of the city, which lay between these two gates, the River Dee running through the midst of it. The old British triades tell us, that in the time of the British kings there were in the monastery of Bangor 2400 monks, who in their turns (viz. a hundred each hour of the 24) read prayers and sung psalms continually, so that divine service was performed day and night without intermission, &c.

It remains now that we make some mention of that remarkable monument or carved pillar on Mostyn mountain, Maen Y Chwyvan, represented in the plate by the [first and second figures](#). It stands on the evenest part of the mountain, and is in height eleven foot and three inches above the pedestal; two foot and four inches broad; and eleven inches thick. The pedestal is five foot long, four and a half in breadth, and about fourteen inches thick: and the monument being let through it, reaches about five inches below the bottom; so that the whole length of it is about thirteen foot.

The first figure represents the East side, and that edge which looks to the South; and the second the western side with the North edge; though the sculptures on these edges are graved as if they were no part of the stone.

When this monument was erected, or by what nation, I must leave to further enquiry; however, I thought it not amiss to publish these drafts of it, as supposing there may be more of the same kind in some parts of Britain or Ireland or else in other countries; which being compared with this, it might perhaps appear what nations used them, and upon what occasions. Dr. Plot in his history of Staffordshire, gives us the drafts of a monument or two which agree very well with it in the chequered carving, and might therefore possibly belong to the same nation. Those he concludes to have been erected by the Danes, for that there is another very like them at Bewcastle in Cumberland, inscribed with runic characters, which is presumed to have been a funeral monument. But the characters on the East side of ours, seem nothing like the runic, or any other letters I have seen, but resemble rather the numeral figures 1221. Though I confess I am so little satisfied with the meaning of them, that I know not whether they were ever intended to be significative. Within a furlong or less of this monument, there is an artificial mount or barrow (whereof there are also about twenty more in this neighbourhood, called *y gorseddeu*) where there have been formerly a great many carcasses and skulls discovered, some of which were cut; and one or two particularly had round holes in them, as if pierced with an arrow: upon which account this pillar has been suspected for a monument of some signal victory; and the rather

for that upon digging five or six foot under it, no bones were discovered, nor anything else that might give occasion to suspect it sepulchral.

This monumental pillar is called Maen y Chwyvan, a name no less obscure than the history of it; for though the former word signifies a stone, yet no man understands the meaning of *chwyvan*. Were it *gwyvan*, I should conclude it corrupted from *wyddfaen*, i.e. The High Pillar; but seeing 'tis written Maen y Chufan in an old deed bearing date 1388. (which scarce differs in pronunciation from Chwyvan) I dare not acquiesce in that etymology, though at present I can think of none more probable.

### **Princes of Wales.**

As for the ancient princes of Wales of British extraction, I refer the reader to the annals of Wales already published: but for the later princes of the royal line of England, it seems pertinent to our design, that we add here a short account of them.

Edward the First, (to whom, during his minority, his father Henry the Third had granted the principality of Wales) having (when Llewelyn ap Gruffydd the last prince of the British blood was slain) cut off in a manner the sinews of the government, or sovereignty of that nation, united the same to the kingdom of England in the 12th year of his reign: and the whole province swore fealty and allegiance to his son Edward of Caernarfon, whom he constituted Prince of Wales. But this Edward the Second conferred not the title of Prince of Wales on his son Edward, but only the honour of Earl of Chester and Flint; as far as I could yet learn out of the records of the kingdom. Edward the Third, first solemnly invested his son Edward, surnamed the Black, with this title; who, in the very height of grandeur, died an untimely death. After that he conferred the same on his son Richard of Bordeaux, heir to the crown; who being deprived of his kingdom by K. Hen. 4 died miserably, leaving no issue. The same Henry the Fourth conferred the principality of Wales on his eldest son, who was that renowned prince Henry the Fifth. His son Henry the Sixth, whose father died whilst he was an infant, conferred that honour; (which he never received himself) on his young son Edward; who being taken in the battle of Tewkesbury, had his brains dashed out cruelly by the York party. Not long after, K. Edward the Fourth being settled in the throne, created his young son Edward (afterwards Edward the Fifth) Prince of Wales. And soon after, his uncle Richard, having dispatched him away, substituted in his place his own son Edward, created Earl of Salisbury before by Edward the Fourth, but died soon after (which I have but lately discovered). Afterwards Henry the Seventh constituted first his son Arthur Prince of Wales, and after his decease, Henry, famous afterwards under the title of Henry the 8. On all these the principality of Wales was conferred by solemn investiture, and a patent delivered them in these words; *tenendus sibi & haeredibus regibus Angliae, &c.* For in those times the kings would not deprive themselves of so fair an opportunity of obliging their eldest sons, but thought it prudence to engage them with so great an honour, when it seemed most convenient.

Mary, Elizabeth, and Edward, the children of Henry the Eighth, although they received not the investiture and patent, were yet successively styled princes of Wales. For at that time Wales was by Act of Parliament so united and incorporated with England, that they enjoyed the same laws and privileges. But now let us return out of Wales into England, and proceed to the country of the Brigantes.

### Welsh Curiosities

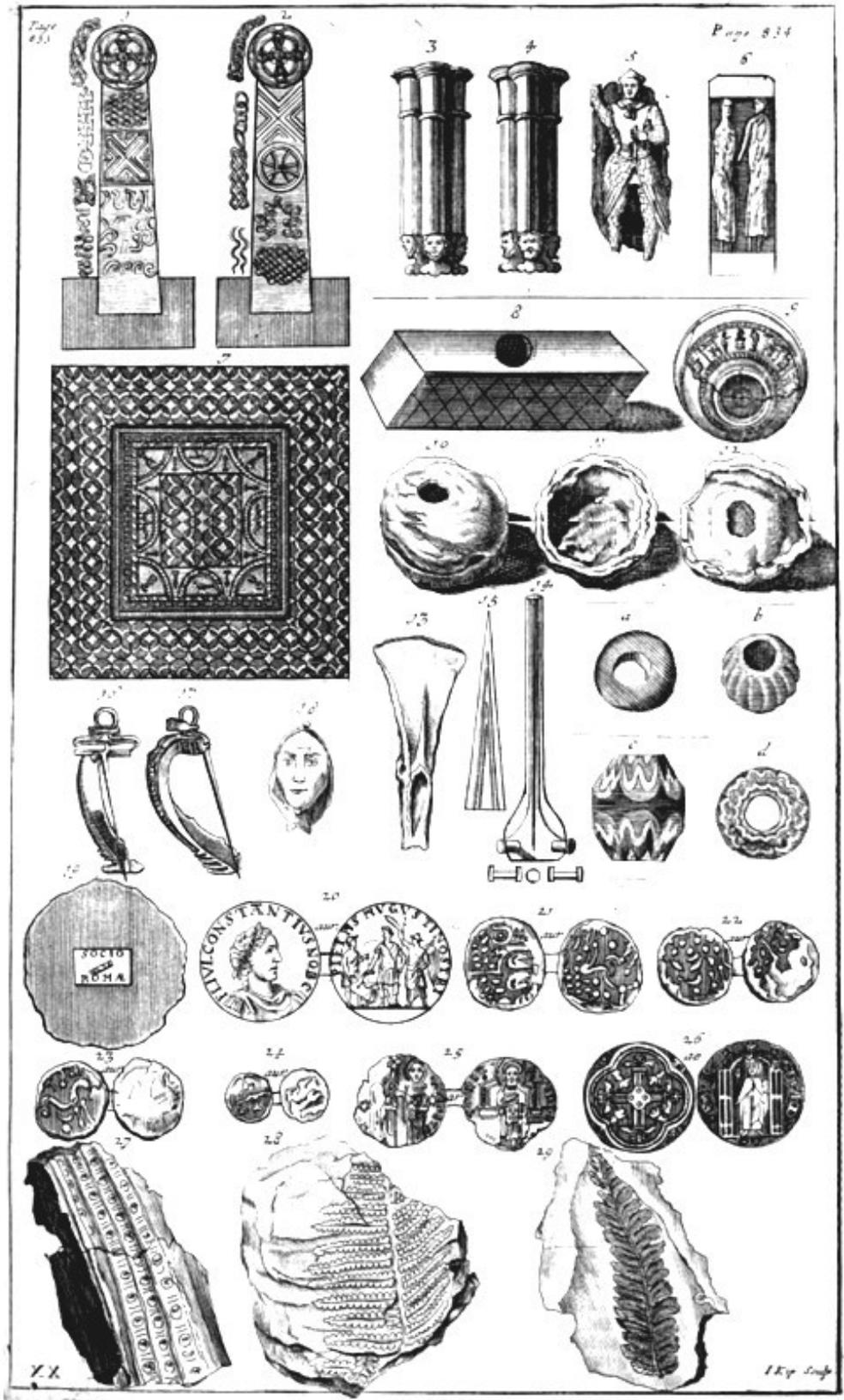


Illustration: Table of Curiosities

**An index of the curiosities represented in the table,**

- Fig. 1, 2. The carved pillar or monument called Maen y Chwyvan in Flintshire.  
Fig. 3, 4. The pillars described in the hall at Caerphilly castle in Glamorganshire.  
Fig. 5. The alabaster statue, found near Porth Sini Cran in Monmouthshire.  
Fig. 6. Maen y Morynnion at Gaer near Brecknock.  
Fig. 7. The chequered pavement discovered *anno* 1692 at Caerleon in Monmouthshire.  
Fig. 8. A hollow brick out of a Roman hypocaust at Caerhun in Carnarvonshire.  
Fig. 9. The phiala or bowl described at Caerleon in Monmouthshire.  
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Fig. 11, 12. The same opened.  
Fig. 13. A brass axe found at Moel yr Henllys in the Parish of Derowen in Montgomeryshire.  
Fig. 14. Part of one of the brass daggers (if we may so call them) found at Carreg Diwin in Merionethshire: with the nails that fastened it to the handle.  
Fig. 15. The point of such a dagger, found at the same place.  
Fig. 16, 17. The Roman fibula, described at Caerleon in Monmouthshire.  
Fig. 18. A brass amulet dug out of a well somewhere in Denbighshire. The other side differed not from that which is engraven.  
Fig. 19. A cake of copper described at Caerhun in Carnarvonshire.  
Fig. 20. A gold medal of Julius Constantius, found at Trefarthin in Anglesey.  
Fig. 21. A British gold coin (such as they used before the Roman Conquest) found at Penbryn Parish in Cardiganshire.  
Fig. 22, 23, 24. Other British coins of gold, kept in the Ashmolean repository at Oxford.  
Fig. 25, 26. The coins described at Caerphilly castle in Glamorganshire.  
Fig. 27, 28, 29. Mock plants out of a coal-pit near Neath in Glamorganshire. See a description of them in Flintshire.

**On the left-hand of the table.**

- A. An adder-bead or *glain neidr* of green glass, found at Aberffraw in Anglesey.  
B. Another of earth, enamelled with blue; found near Dolgellau in Merionethshire.  
C. A third of glass, undulated with white, red, and blue; found near Maes y Pandy in the same county.  
D. Represents one end of the same. Of these adder-beads, which are supposed to have been druid-amulets, some account is given in Denbighshire, on Cerig y Drudion.

## Rare Plants Growing in Wales.

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*Acetola cambro-britannica montana*. Park. *rotundifolia repens eboracensis, foliis in medio eliquium patientibus* Moris. Hist. Mountain Round-Leaved Sorrel of Wales. On moist high rocks, and by rivulets about Snowdon in Carnarvonshire almost everywhere; as also by rivulets among the broken rocks of Cader Idris above a certain lake called Llyn Cau.

*Argemone lutea cambro-britannica* Park. *Papaver luteum perenne, laciniato folio cambro britannicum*. Yellow Wild Bastard Poppy. About a mile from a small village called Aber, and in the midway from Denbigh to Guidar; also near a wooden bridge over the river Dee, near to a village called Bala; also going up the hill that leads to Bangor near to Anglesey, Park. p. 270. But more certainly to be found on Clogwyn y Garnedd, Yscolion Duon, Dygvylche, as you ascend the Glyder from Llanberis, and several other places about Snowdon, most commonly by rivulets, or on moist rocks: also beyond Pontfawr very near the bridge, among the stones. Mr. Llwyd.

*Alsine myosotis lanuginosa alpina grandiflora, seu auricula muris villosa flore amplo membranaceo*. An *Caryophyllus holosteus alpinus angustifolius* C.B. *Prod.*? Hairy Mountain Mouse-Ear Chickweed with a Large Flower. On the rock called Clogwyn y Garnedd, the highest of all Wales, near Llanberis in Carnarvonshire plentifully.

*Adiantum nigrum pinnulis cicuturiae divisura*. An *Ad. album tenuifolium rutae murariae aecedens* J.B.? Fine-leaved White Maidenhair divided like Bastard Hemlock. On Snowdon Hill.

*Bistorta minima alpina, foliis imis subrotundis & minutissime ferratis* D. Llwyd. *alpina pumila varia* Park. *pumila foliis variis rotundis & longis* Moris. The Least Mountain Bistort, with round and long leaves. In the steep pastures of high rock called Crib Goch above the lake or pool called Ffynon Brech near Llanberis. Whether this be specifically different from the Westmorland *Bistorta minor*, I leave to others, upon comparing the plants, to determine.

*Bugula caerulea alpina*. Park. *Consolida media caerulea alpina*. C.B. Mountain Bugle or Sickwort. Found on Carnedd Llewellyn in Carnarvonshire by Dr. Johnson.

*Caryophyllata montana purpurea* Ger. *Emac. montana seu palustris purpurea* Park. *aquatica nutante flore* C.B. *Aquatica flore rubro striato* J.B. Purple Mountain Avens or Water Avens. On Snowdon and other mountains.

*Cirsium britannicum clusii repens* J.B. *aliud anglicum* Park. *singulari capitulo magno vel incanum alterum* C.B. The Great English Soft or Gentle Thistle, or Melancholy Thistle. As you ascend the Glyder from Llanberis, and in many other mountainous pastures about Snowdon.

*Cirsium montanum humile cynoglossi folio polyanthemum*. An *Carduus mollis helenii folio* Park? On Clogwyn y Garnedd, and most other high rocks in Carnarvonshire about Snowdon.

*Cirsium montanum polyanthemum salicis folio angusto denticulato*. By a rivulet on Gallt yr Ogof near Capel Curig, and in other places with the precedent, of which perhaps it may be only a variety.

*Chamaemorus cambro-britannica sive lancastrense vaccinium nubis* Park. The Welsh Knoutberry: said to be found in Wales by Dr. Lobel. We met not with it there.

*Cochlearia minor rotundifolia nostras* &c. Parkinson. Small Round-Leaved Scurvy-Grass. The lower leaves from the root are round: those on the stalks angular. On the coast of Carnarvonshire, and likewise of Anglesey, about Beaumaris.

*Cotyledon hirsuta* P. B. *Saniculae alpinae aliquatenus affinis* J.B. forte. Hairy Kidney-Wort. By the hills and on the moist rocks of many mountains in Wales, as Snowdon, Cader Idris, Carnedd-Llewelyn, &c. abundantly.

*Filix alpina pedicularis rubrae foliis subtus villosis* D. Llwyd, *pumila*, *Lonchitidis marantha species cambro-britannica*, an *Lonchitis aspera ilvensis* Lugd.? D. Plukenet. *Phytograph*. Stone-Fern with Red Rattle Leaves, Hairy Underneath. On the moist rocks called Clogwyn y Garnedd, near the top of the mountain Wyddfa the highest in all Wales. It is a rare plant even at Snowdon.

*Filicula petraea florida perelegans seu adiantum album floridum*. An *Adiantum alpinum crispum schwenckfeldii* J.B.? Small flowering stone-fern. On Clogwyn y Garnedd, and most other high rocks.

*Filix montana ramosa minor argute denticulato* D. Llwyd. *alpina myrrhidis facie cambro-britannica* D. Plukenet. *Phytograph*. Small-Branched Mountain-Fern, with finely indented leaves. On the top of the mountain Glyder, where it overhangs the lake or pool called Llyn Ogwan.

*Filix marina anglica* Park. *Chamaefilix marina anglica* J.B. *Filicula petraea foemina* seu *Chamaefilix marina anglica* Ger. Emac. *Filix petraea ex insulis stoechadibus* C.B. Dwarf Sea-Fern. On the rocks about Priestholm Island near Beaumaris, and at Llandwyn in the Isle of Anglesey.

*Filix saxatilis tragi* J.B. Park. *Adiantum furcatum* Thal. *Filix corniculata* C.B. On the top of Carnedd-Llewelyn near Llan Llechyd in Carnarvonshire. Horned or Forked White Maidenhair.

*Gnaphalium maritimum* C.B. *maritimum multis* J.B. *marinum* Ger. *marinum* sive *cotonaria* Park. Sea Cudweed or Cottonweed. On the sand near Abermenai ferry in the Isle of Anglesey plentifully, where the common people call it *Calamus aromaticus*, from its sweet scent.

*Gramen sparteum montanum spica foliacea graminea* P. B. Grass-upon-Grass. On the tops of the highest mountains, Snowdon, Cader Idris, &c. Among the stones and moss, where no other plant grows.

*Hipposelinum* Ger. Emac. *Hippos.* seu *Smyrnum vulgare* Park. *Macerone*, *quibusdam smyrnum*, *semine magno nigro* J.B. *Hipposelinum theophrasti* sive *smyrnum dioscoridis* C.B. Alexanders. On the rocks about Priestholm Island near Beaumaris plentifully.

*Hyacinthus stellatus fuchsii* Ger. *stellatus vulgaris* sive *bifolius fuchsii* Park. Parad. *stellatus bifolius* & *trifolius vernus dumetorum flore caeruleo & albo* J.B. *stellaris bifolius germanicus* C.B. Small Vernal Star-Hyacinth. On the coasts of North Wales among the bushes, and in the adjacent islands, Bardsey, &c. Plentifully.

*Juncus acutus maritimus anglicus* Park. English Sea Hard Rush. On the Southern sea-coast of Wales.

*Juncus acutus capitulis sorghi* C.B. *maritimus capitulis sorghi* Park. *pungens*, seu *acutus capitulis sorghi* J.B. Pricking Large Sea-Rush, with heads like Indian Millet. On the sandy hills on the western shore of North Wales, Merionethshire about Harlech.

*Juniperus alpina* J.B. Clus. Park. *alpina minor* Ger. Emac. *minor montana folio latiore, fructuque longiore* C.B. Mountain Dwarf Juniper. On Snowdon hill. The country people call it Savine, and use the decoction of it to destroy the bots in horses.

*Lamium montanum melissa folio* C.B. *Melissa fuchsii* Ger. *Melissophyllum fuchsii* Park. *Melissa adulterina quorundam, amplis foliis, & floribus non grati odoris* J.B. Balm-Leaved Archangel, Bastard Balm. In the woods about Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire.

*Leucoium maritimum sinuato folio* C.B. *maritimum camerarii* J.B. *marinum maximum* Park. *Ut & majus* ejusdem. *marinum purpureum lobelii* Ger. Emac. Great Sea Stock-Gillyflower, with a Sinuated Leaf. On the sandy shores about Abermenai ferry in the Isle of Anglesey, and at Aberdaren in Carnarvonshire.

*Lychnis alpina minima. Caryophylleus flos 9 clusio, Caryophyllum pumilio alpinus* Ger. Emac. *Lychnis alpina pumila folio gramineo, seu muscus alpinus lychnidis flore* C.B. *Muscus alpinus flore insigni dilute rubente* J.B. *Ocymoides muscosus alpinus* Park. The Least Mountain-Campion or Moss-Campion. On the steep and higher rocks of Snowdon Hill in Carnarvonshire almost everywhere.

*Lychnis sylvestris viscosa rubra angustifolia* C.B. Park. *odontidi sive fiori cuculi affinis lychnis sylv. 1. Clusii in Pannon. 4 in Hist.* J.B. *Muscipula angustifolia* Ger. Emac. Narrow-Leaved Red Catchfly. On the sides of Carreg Breiddin hill in Montgomeryshire.

*Alsines myosotis facie Lychnis alpina flore amplo niveo repens* D. Lloyd. Mountain-Campion with a large white flower, resembling Mouse-Ear Chickweed. By the water-courses on the sides of Snowdon Hill plentifully.

*Lonchitis aspera* C.B. *aspera major* Ger. *aspera major matthiolo* Park. *altera cum folio denticulato, sive Lonchitis altera matthioli* J.B. Rough spleenwort with Indented Leaves. It springs out of the rifts and chinks of the rocks, in the high mountains of Snowdon. V. G. Clogwyn y Garnedd, y Grib Goch Dygvylche.

*Lithospermum majus dodonaei, flore purpureo, semine anchusae* J.B. *majus* Ger. *vulgare majus* Park. *minus repens latifolium* C.B. The Lesser Creeping Gromwell. On the top of a bushy hill on the North side of Denbigh town.

*Malva arborea marina nostras* Park. English Sea Tree-Mallow. On the rocks of Caldey Island in South Wales plentifully.

*Muscus clavatus sive lycopodium* Ger. Park. Clubmoss or Wolf's-Claw. On the mountains everywhere.

*Muscus terrestris foliis retro reflexis* J.B. *Lycopodium elatius abieti-forme julo singulari apode* D. Llwyd. Club-moss with Reflected Leaves, and Single Heads, without Foot-Stalks. It grows together with Cypress Moss on the mountains of Carnarvonshire; but more rarely. We found it plentifully on the mountain called Rhiw'r Glyder above the lake Llyn y Cwn, and elsewhere on the said mountain.

*Muscus clavatus foliis cupressi* Ger Emac. C.B. Cypress Moss or Heath Cypress. On Snowdon, Cader Idris, and most other of the high mountains among the grass.

*Muscus erectus abieti-formis, terrestris rectus* J.B. *Selago tertia* Thal. Upright Fir-Moss. On Snowdon, Cader Idris, and other high mountains.

*Muscus terrestris repens, clavis singularibus foliosis erectis.* Creeping Club-Moss with Erect Heads. On moist and watery places about springs; and in meadows about Capel Curig.

*Muscus terrestris erectus minor polyspermos.* Seeding Mountain Moss. In moist places and about springs on Snowdon and other mountains.

*Muscus trichomanoides purpureus, alpinis rivulis innascens.* Purple Mountain Water Moss resembling Black Maidenhair. In the mountainous rivulets.

*Muscus croceus saxigena holosericum referens*, seu *Byssus Petraeus*. An *Muscus saxatilis serico similis commelini* in *Cat. Plant.* Holland? Saffron-Coloured Silken Stone-Moss. Under high rocks where they are prominent.

*Orchis pusilla alba odorata radice palmata*. White-handed Musk Orchis. On the sides of Snowdon by the way leading from Llanberis to Caernarfon.

*Orobus sylvaticus nostras*. English Wild Wood-Vetch or Bitter Vetch. Below Brecknock Hills in the way to Cardiff: and in Merionethshire not far from Bala.

*Plantago angustifolia montana*. An *alpina angustifolia* J.B.? Narrow-Leaved Mountain Plantain. On the rocks of Dygvylche above the lake Llyn Bochlwyd, near the church of St. Peris.

*Polypodium cambro-britannicum pinnulis ad margines laciniatis*. Lacinated Polypody of Wales. On a rock in a wood near Dinas Powys Castle, not far from Cardiff in Glamorganshire.

*Ranunculus globosus* Ger. Park. Parad. The Globe-Flower or Locker-Goulons. In the mountainous meadows, and on the sides of the mountains plentifully.

*Rhodia radix omnium autorum*. Rosewort. On the rocks of the high mountains of Snowdon and Cader Idris, &c. plentifully.

*Sedum alpinum ericoides caeruleum* C.B. J.B. Mountain Heath-Like Sengreen with Large Purple Flowers. On the steep and higher rocks of Snowdon almost everywhere.

*Sedum alpinum trifido folio* C.B. Small Mountain Sengreen with Jagged Leaves. On Snowdon and other high mountains, chiefly by the rivulets' sides.

*Sedum serratum flosculis compactis non maculatis*. Indented Mountain Sengreen with Unspotted Flowers Growing Close Together. On the highest mountains, it springs out of the chinks and commissures of the rocks; as in Clogwyn y Garnedd, Crib y Ddysgl, Clogwyn du Ymhen y Glyder, near Llanberis.

*Thalictrum montanum minus foliis latioribus*. The Lesser Meadow-Rue with Broader Leaves. On the steep sides of the mountain called Cader Idris by Dolgellau in Merionethshire, out of the clefts or chinks of the rocks.

*Thalictrum minimum montanum, atro-rubens, foliis splendidibus*. The Least Mountainous Meadow-Rue, with Shining Leaves and Dark Red Flowers. On the moist rocks, and by the rivulets in the mountains of Carnarvonshire. Mr. Llwyd. There are two varieties of this, the one with broader, the other with narrower leaves.

*Thlaspi sive lunaria vasculo sublongo intorto*. Lunar Violet with a Wreathen Cod.<379> On the mountains of North Wales, observed by Mr. Llwyd. Who also found another plant there on the high rocks called Hysvae, hanging over the valley Nant Ffrancon in Carnarvonshire, which he intitled *Paronychia similis sed major perennis alpina repens*, of which, having not seen it in the seed, he was in some doubt whether it might not be the same with the precedent.

*Thlaspi vaccaria incano folio perenne*. Perennial Mithridate-Mustard. In the mountainous part of North Wales.

*Nasturtium petraeum Johnsoni* Merc. Bot. Part. Alt. Dr. Johnson's Rock-Cress. On the high mountains of Carnarvonshire and Merionethshire, as Moelyn Rudh near Ffestiniog, Clogwyn Du'r Arddu and Clogwyn y Garnedd near Llanberis.

*Bulbosa alpina juncifolia pericarpio unico erecto in summo cauliculo dodrantali*. A certain rush-leaved bulbous plant, having one seed-vessel on the top of an erect stalk about nine inches high. On the high rocks of Snowdon, viz. Dygvylche y Clogwyn du Ymhen y Glyder, Clogwyn yr Arddu Crib y Crib y Ddysgl, &c. Mr. Llwyd. It hath three or four more narrow and short leaves upon the stalk.

*Subularia lacustris* seu *calamistrum herba aquatico-alpina*, *S. aizoides fusiforme alpinorum lacuum* D. Llwyd. A spindle-leaved water-sengreen-like plant, growing in the bottom of a small lake near the top of Snowdon hill, called Ffynnon Frech, &c.

*Graminifolia plantula alpina capitulis armeriae proliferae*, D. Llwyd. A mountain grass-leaved plant with heads like the cluster-Pink. In the pastures at the foot of a certain high rock called Clogwyn du Ymhen y Glyder in Carnarvonshire.

*Gladiolus lacustris dortmanni* Clus. Cur. Post. *Glad. lacustris chusii*, sive *leucoium palustre flore caeruleo bauhini* Park. Water Gladiolus. In most of the lakes in North Wales.

*Graminifolia lacustris polifera*, seu *plantulis quasi novis hinc inde cauliculis accrescentibus*. A grass-leaved childing water-plant, having young plants springing from the stalks.

*Veronica spicata latifolia* C.B. Ger. *major latifolia, foliis splendentibus & non splendentibus* J.B. *spicata latifolia major* Park. Great broad-Leaved Spiked Speedwell or Fluellin. On the sides of a mountain called Careg Breiddin in Montgomeryshire.

*Auricula muris pulchro flore, solio tenuissimo* J.B. Small Fine-Leaved Mountain Chickweed with a Fair Flower. On most of the high and steep rocks about Snowdon.

*Trichomanes ramosum* J.B. Aliud, *foliis mucronatis profunde incis* Sibbald. Prod. Scot. Branched English Black Maidenhair. On the high rocks about Snowdon plentifully.



**End of Volume 4**

## Notes

1. *Obiit. Ao. D. 1623. Aetatis Suae LXXIII*: "Died 1623, aged 73"
2. *Omnes sanos a scribendo deterruit*: "He deterred all sensible people from writing." Cicero, *Brutus* 262.
3. *Demy's place*: A scholarship. The stipend was half that of a fellow, hence the name.
4. *Relicta academia, studio incitato satis magnam Angliae partem fide oculata obivi*: "Having left the University, I faithfully observed with my own eyes the greater part of England"
5. *Decem Scriptores*: A collection of ten ancient chronicles on English history edited by Sir Roger Twysden (1597–1672) and published in 1652.
6. *Gul. Camdenus Clarenceux, filius Sampsonis, Pictoris Londinensis, dono dedit*: "Wil. Camden, Clarenceux, son of Sampson, painter of London, gave this gift."
7. *The Mantuan poet*: Virgil.
8. *Lemma*: In this sense, an inscription and signature.
9. *Peireskius*: Nicolas-Claude Fabri de Peiresc (1580–1637), French astronomer, antiquary and savant. His research included a determination of the difference in longitude of various locations in Europe, around the Mediterranean, and in North Africa.
10. *Duchesne*: André Duchesne (1584-1640), French geographer and historian, generally styled the father of French history.
11. *Thuanus*: Jacques Auguste de Thou (1553–1617) French historian, book collector and president of the Parlement de Paris.
12. *Sed valde, &c.*: "I very much believe, that the moderation which you advised him to show, would have saved the story of the Scottish affair (i.e. the story of Mary Queen of Scots)"
13. *Rem, &c.*: "I have taken the words of the Scots who were concerned in the matter, and the letters I asked them for; and I have judged the accuracy of Buchanan's writings against them."
14. *Similitudo studiorum*: "Similarity of studies."
15. *Sennight*: A week.
16. *Norroy*: The Norroy King-of-Arms is the herald who is responsible for the whole of England north of the River Trent.
17. *Nihil aliud &c.*: "Nothing else now remains &c.; I also consecrate something to the almighty, and to venerable antiquity. A vow which I most willingly make."
18. *Cineri supposta doloso*: "Ashes deceitfully presented"
19. *Scruple*: One minute of arc.
20. *Caerulus, -i, -um*: Blue.
21. *Ab aquis*: "From water."
22. *Gades*: Cadiz.

23. *Adelon*: "Unknown."
24. *Istre*: The Danube.
25. *Caius Caesar*: Caligula.
26. *Caius Caligula Pharum Fecit*: "Caius Caligula made the lighthouse."
27. *Liberti*: Freedmen. Much of the imperial civil service was staffed by freed slaves.
28. *Friths*: patches of woodland.
29. *Stanked*: Surrounded.
30. *Lameae Luculleae*: "Lucullus' blades"
31. From *Panegyrici Latinae*, ascribed to Eumenius.
32. From Xiphilin, out of Dio.
33. *Divi*: "Gods"
34. From Herodian, *History of the Roman Empire since the Death of Marcus Aurelius* 4. 2.
35. *Venerabilis & Piissima Augusta*: "The venerable and most pious empress"
36. *Stabularia*: Landlady of the lowest class of inn.
37. Eusebius, *The Life of the Blessed Emperor Constantine*.
38. Gelasius Cizicenus, *Acts of the Council of Nicea*. c. 3.
39. *Gaudium Romanorum*: "The rejoicing of the Romans".
40. *Dominus noster*: "Our Lord."
41. *Catena*: "a chain."
42. Ammianus Marcellinus, *Roman Antiquities*.
43. Sulpitius Severus.
44. Hilary, in his *Epistle to the Bishops*.
45. Prosper Tyro.
46. Zonaras.
47. Gildas.
48. *The Malmesbury historian*: William of Malmesbury (c. 1095 – c. 1143), the foremost English historian of the 12th century, author of the *Eulogium Historiarum*, a universal chronicle from the Creation to 1366.
49. *Notitia*: The *Notitia Dignitatum* ("The List of Offices") or *Liber Notitiarum* is a document of the late Roman Empire that details the administrative organization of the Eastern and Western Empires. It describes several thousand offices from the imperial court to provincial governments, diplomatic missions, and army units.
50. *Ala Britannica milliaria*.: British wing of one thousand  
*Ala iii. Britonum in Egypto*. British wing 4 in Egypt  
*Cohors prima Aelia Britonum*. First Aelian cohort of Britons  
*Cohors iii Britonum*. Cohort 4 of Britons  
*Cohors vii. Britonum*. Cohort 7 of Britons

*Cohors xxvi. Britonum in Armenia.* Cohort 26 of Britons in Armenia  
*Britanniciani sub magistro peditum.* British under the master of foot-soldiers  
*Invicti juniores Britanniciani inter auxilia Palatina.* Undefeated young British men among the Palatine auxiliaries.  
*Excultores jun. Britan. Inter auxilia Palatina.* Young British skirmishers among the Palatine auxiliaries.  
*Britones cum magistro equitum Galliarum.* Britons with the Gaulish Master of Horses  
*Invicti juniores Britones intra Hispanos.* Undefeated young British men among the Spanish  
*Britones seniores in Illyrico.* Older British men in Illyria [The East coast of the Adriatic]

51. Tacitus. Bk. 4.

52. *Centum agnos*; "one hundred lambs;" *pretio argenti*: "pieces of silver;" *centum probatos nummos*: "One hundred good coins"

53. *Forti brachia*: "Stong arms."

54. *Epatica*: Liverwort

55. *Spanhemius*: Ezechiel von Spanheim, (1629-1710) diplomat and scholar, author of *Disputationes de usu et præstantia numismatum antiquorum* ("Discussions of the value and use of ancient coins"), a massive catalogue of all the ancient coins then known.

56. *Erga religionem Christianam bene affectus*: "That he was well disposed to the Christian religion."

57. *Et rate amata titulo salutis*: "And [the Cross will be] your yard-arm, the prescription for salvation." Paulinus of Nola, *Poem 17*.

58. *Crux navigantium gubernaculum*: "The cross is our rudder"

59. *De temone Britanno excidet Arviragus*: "Araviragus will fall from his British chariot" Juvenal, *Satire 4*, l. 126-7.

60. *Ne vel tantillum, &c.*: "So as not to leave so much of the page empty, we have selected the attached from the most learned Bouterove's *Alphabet of Ancient Coins*."

61. *Scythic Vale*: The Irish Sea

62. *A lawless generation, &c.*: *Isaiah 1:4-6*.

63. *And God called them to sorrow, &c.*: *Isaiah 22:12-13*.

64. *They have burnt with fire, &c.*: *Psalms 74:7*

65. *O God, the Gentiles are come into thy heritage, &c.* *Psalms 79:1*

66. *Poenarum gurgitibus*: "from the torturous depths of punishments." *Poenarum* means "of punishments"; *Poenorum* means "of the Carthaginians." – hence the confusion.

67. *Caledonum aliorumque Pictorum sylvas*: "The forests of the Caledonians or Picts."

68. *Castrum alatum*: "Winged Castle."

69. *Ille Britannos, &c.*:

"'Twas he, whose all-commanding yoke,

The farthest Britons gladly took;  
Him the Brigantes in blue arms adored,  
When subject waves confessed his power,  
Restrained with laws they scorned before,  
And trembling Neptune served a Roman Lord."

70. *Caeruleos scuta Brigantes*: "Brigantes with blue shields"; *caeruleos cute Brigantes*: "Brigantes with blue skins".

71. *Browis*: Broth or porridge.

72. *Quoniam ante, &c.*: "because before his time, when they wanted a halfpenny or farthing, they would break a penny in two or four pieces."

73. *Me fecit*: "Made me."

74. *Monetarius*: A maker of coins.

75. *Pallium*: A kind of scarf or collarette worn by Bishops and higher clergy: *Pedum*: A shepherd's crook or crozier.

76. *Indoles*: Innate character.

77. *Sancti Petri Moneta*: "Saint Peter's Mint." York Cathedral (known as the Minster) is dedicated to St. Peter.

78. *Hide*: "As much land as one plough can till in a year, but as others, as much as 4 virgats." [About 120 acres or 50 hectares]. This was used to determine the tax to be paid. Towns would also be assessed to pay the tax due on a particular number of hides. As a verb, to *hide* was to be assessed to pay this tax.

79. *Lay-fee*: A property the income of which goes to a layman, in return for (often nominal) services to the Crown.

80. *Verge*: a staff or rod.

81. *Comes*, plural *Comites*, is Latin for a companion or attendant.

82. *Strigulia*: Chepstow, Monmouthshire (Gwent)

83. *Exercitials*: Goods or money due to be paid to the Lord of the Manor on the death of a serf.

84. *Mancus*: A unit of money of the value of 30 pence.

85. *Mark*: Thirteen shillings and fourpence, or eight ounces of silver.

86. *Equites vexillarii*: "Knights of the banner."

87. *Equites aurati*: "Golden knights."

88. *Librat*: An area of land yielding a rent of a pound a year.

89. *Milites gladio cincti*. "Soldiers girded with the sword."

90. *Baudekin*: A richly embroidered cloth woven of silk and gold thread.

91. *War-horses*: Thus in the source, but glossed as "*dextarios bellicosus*." *Dextarios* is not in any dictionary but would seem to mean "right-hand men:" thus a better translation would be "bodyguards."

92. *Nomina militum, baccalaureorum, & valectorum comitis Glocestriae*: "The names of the knights, bachelors, and squires of Gloucester."

93. *Quasi bas chevaliers*: "As if to say, low knights."
94. *Assizes of novel disseisin*: Hearings of cases where a person claims to have been wrongfully dispossessed of their land.
95. *Harbinger*: A person who goes in advance of an army to arrange lodgings for the troops.
96. *Nunc dimittas servum*: "Now thou dost dismiss thy servant" *Luke 2:29*.
97. *Ex legibus Alamannorum, &c.*: "Out of the laws of the Alamanni; if any marshal who has the care of twelve horses, kill any person, let him pay four shillings."
98. *A potiori*: "As the stronger argument."
99. *Magister equitum*: "Master of horses;" *Tribunus militum*: "Military tribune," the rank above centurion in the Roman army.
100. *Praetor comitatus augustalis*: "Magistrate attending the Emperor"
101. *Regiae procurator aulae*: "Procurer of the King's lodgings."
102. *Vidi plurimos, &c.*: "I saw very many, who reached out a bountiful hand to the Marshals. When they had, with much ado, found a lodging after the fatigue of a long journey, and while their meat was half raw, or perhaps while they were sitting at table, nay, sometimes when they were asleep in their beds; the Marshals coming upon them, would, in a supercilious and abusive way, cut the collars of the horses, and throw out the baggage without distinction and not without damage, and turn the people out of their lodgings in a shameful manner."
103. *Regis avus, &c.*: "The King's grandfather, that is, Henry the First, enfeoffed Wigan, his Marshal, in certain tenements, which he held of him by service of the Marshalcy; and the King restored them to Ralph, son of Wigan, as his Marshal."
104. *Johannes Dei gratia, &c.*: "John, by the grace of God, &c. Know ye, that we have granted, and by this our present Charter, have confirmed, to our well beloved and faithful William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, and to his heirs, the office of Marshalcy, in our Court; which office, Gilbert, Marshal of King Henry our grandfather, and John, son of the said Gilbert, claimed before the said King, in his Court, against Robert de Venois, and William de Hastings, who also claimed the same office; and in this judgment, because they did not make good their claim, at the day which the said King Henry appointed them, as the King's own Charter, which we have seen, witnesseth."
105. *Spoliavit me, &c.*: "Deprived me of the office of Marshal, which belongs to me in right of inheritance, and which I was in possession of; and would by no means restore it to me, when demanded."
106. *Haereditaria successio, &c.*: "This office does not have an hereditary succession."
107. *Multiplicatis, &c.*: "Upon repeated intercessions, the Marshalcy, with the office and honour, was granted to Earl Roger Bigod, in right of his mother, the Countess, who was eldest daughter of the great Earl William Marshal."
108. *De assensu parliament &c.*: "By assent of Parliament, to him, and to the heirs male of his body begotten."
109. *Marescallus meretricum*: "Marshal of whores."

110. *Marescallus de quolibet, &c.*: "The Marshal of every Earl, and Baron holding an entire barony, shall be contented with one palfrey, [small saddle-horse] or with the price of it, such as he hath used to have of old: so that, if he took a palfrey, or the price of one, at the doing of his homage, in form aforesaid, he shall take nothing when he is made Knight: and if he took nothing at the doing of his homage, when he is made Knight he shall take the same. Of Abbots and Priors, holding a whole Barony, when they do homage or fealty for their baronies, he shall take one palfrey, or the price, as afore is said. And this shall also be observed amongst Archbishops and Bishops. But of such as hold but one part of a barony, whether they be religious or secular, he shall take according to the portion of the part of the Barony that they hold. Of religious men that hold in free alms, and not by a barony, nor part of a barony, the Marshal from henceforth shall demand nothing."

111. *Qua faciant herbegeriam*: "What would pay for their lodging."

112. *De officio marescalciae, &c.*: "In the office of Marshalcy, survives William Marshal Earl of Strigal, whose duty it is to appease tumults in the King's House and to make delivery of Lodgings, and to keep the gates of the Royal Palace. He hath, of every Baron who is made Knight by the King, and of every Earl, that day, a horse, with the Saddle."

113. *In marescaugia, & per virgam mareschalliae*: "In marshalcy, and under the rod of the Marshal."

114. *Great meridian*: As defined by Ptolemy, his prime meridian was the longitude of the "Fortunate Isles," which he placed at what is now 20 degrees West or thereabouts.

115. *Precopensian Chersonese*: The Crimean Peninsula.

116. *Sea-holm*: Sea Holly (*Eryngium maritimum*,) gathered for its edible roots.

117. *Chersonese*: A peninsula.

118. *Cinque Ports*: In mediaeval and early modern times, five ports in South-East England which had special status and privileges. They were Hastings, Winchelsea, Hythe, Dover and Sandwich.

119. *Doniert: rogavit pro anima*: "Doniert supplicated for his soul"

120. *Doniert erogavit*: "Doniert paid out."

121. *Lixivium*: A solution made by passing water through a substance which contains both the soluble material and an insoluble residue.

122. This is untrue. In fact, the introduction of the new prayer book in 1549 provoked a serious rebellion in which thousands of Cornishmen were killed. See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prayer\\_Book\\_Rebellion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prayer_Book_Rebellion).

123. *Judaeos, impulsore Chresto, tumultuantes*: "The rebellious Jews, stirred up by Chrestus." Suetonius, *Lives of the Twelve Caesars, Claudius*, section 25.

124. *In commendam*: A diocese or deanery held *in commendam* is one which does not have a bishop or dean of its own but is held by another person, usually the bishop or dean of another diocese.

125. *Geld*: To pay tax. *Gelt*: Taxes.

126. *Peutingerian Table*: a map on parchment of the military roads of the ancient Roman Empire, supposed to be a copy of one constructed about A.D. 226. It was

found in the 15th c. in a library at Speyer, and came into the possession of Konrad Peutinger of Augsburg (1465–1547), in whose family it remained till 1714; it is now in the Austrian National Library at Vienna.

127. *Castle-guard*: A kind of knight-service, whereby a feudal tenant was bound, when required, to defend the lord's castle; the tenure of such service; also, a payment in lieu of this service.

128. *Sæpe etiam steriles, &c.*: Virgil, *Georgics* bk. 1, l. 84 ff.

129. *De laudibus legum Angliae*: "On the Praiseworthy Laws of England" a legal treatise, written c. 1470 for the instruction of Edward, Prince of Wales, son of the deposed king Henry VI of England.

130. *Canutus rex donat hoc manerium eccles. Exon.*: "King Canute gave this manor to the church of Exeter"

131. The abbreviations following each Latin name, give the authority which calls the plant by that name, and are as follows:

Bobart, Bobert, Bob. = Jacob Bobart, *Catalogus Plantarum Horti Medici Oxoniensis* (1658)

Bocc. = Paolo Boccone (1633-1704), author of many botanical works

Bot Monsp. = Pierre Magnol, *Botanicum Monspeliense sive Plantarum circa Monspelium nascentium* (1676)

Cat. Cant., Cat. Cantab., Cambridge Catalogue = John Ray, *Catalogus plantarum circa Cantabrigiam nascentium*. (1660)

C.B. = Caspar Bauhin, *Pinax Theatri Botanici*, (1623)

C.B Prod. = Caspar Bauhin, *Prodromos Theatri Botanici* (1671)

Clu., Clus., Clus. *Hist* = Carolus Clusius, *Rariorum Plantarum Historia* (1601)

Clu. *cur. post.* Carolus Clusius, *Curæ posteriores, &c.* (1611)

Clus. *Pan.* = Carolus Clusius, *Rariorum aliquot stirpium, per Pannoniam, &c.* (1583)

C. Merrett = Christopher Merrett *Pinax rerum naturalium britannicarum* (1666)

Col. = Fabio Colonna (1567 – 1640), author of several works of natural history.

D. Plot = Robert Plot (1640 – 1696) Professor at Oxford and Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, author of *The Natural History of Oxfordshire*. (1671)

D. Lawson = Thomas Lawson (1630–1691); unpublished notes

Dod. = Rambertus Dodonaeus alias Rembert Dodoens (1517-1585), author of a famous *Herbal* first published in 1554.

Ger. = John Gerard, *Herbal* (1597);

Ger. Emac.= John Gerard, *Herbal*, amended and expanded by Thomas Johnson (1633)

Gesn. = Conrad Gesner (1516-1565), *Historia Plantarum* (unpublished at his death but used as source by many subsequent writers.)

H. Reg. Blaes. = Robert Morison, *Hortus Regius Blesensis* (1669)

Hist. Nost = *Historia generalis plantarum*, John Ray(1668)

J.B. = Jean Bauhin, *Historia plantarum universalis* (1651)

Lob. = Mathias de Lobel, *Plantarum Seu Stirpium Historia* (1576)

Lob. Belg. = Mathias de Lobel, *Universis Galliae Belgicae* (1576)

Magnol. = Pierre Magnol, *Botanicum Monspeliense sive Plantarum circa Monspelium nascentium* (1676)

Morison, Moris. Hist. = Robert Morison, *Plantarum Historiae Universalis Oxoniensis* (1680)

Park. = John Parkinson, *Theatrum Botanicum* (1640).

Park Parad. = John Parkinson, *Paradisi in Sole* (1629)  
Phyt. Brit., P. B. = William Howe, *Phytologia Britannica* (1650)  
Plukenet = Leonard Plukenet, *Phytographia* (1691-6)  
Raii = John Ray, *Historia plantarum generalis* (1705)  
Thal. Harcyn = J. Thal, *Sylva hercynia* (1588)  
Trag. = Hieronymus Tragus, *Kreuterbuch* (1539)

Note also that if there is no generic name (capitalized) in a reference, then the authority gives the plant the same generic name as the previous authority. Also, *An* (latin name) ? means "Is this same plant as?" *Sive* or *seu* indicates an alternative name.

132. *Sedge-plat*: an area of flat ground covered in sedge (a coarse kind of grass).

133. *Chalcanthum, copperas*: Copper sulphate.

134. *Juratores, &c.*: "The jurors say, that before the building of the castle of Corfe, the Abbess and nuns of St. Edward at Shaston [Shaftesbury] had the wreck of the sea within their manor of Kingston, without loss or molestation."

135. *Praetorium*: In Roman times, the residence of the governor of a province or military commander.

136. *Agonal*: A book of the lives of martyrs.

137. *Hamfare*: The crime of assaulting a person in his own house or dwelling-place, or the right to try and punish this offence.

138. These verses, with a very little alteration, are in the 4th book of Venantius Fortunatus his poems; partly in praise of the church at Paris, and partly of that of Nantes.

139. *Molae*: Grinding teeth.

140. *Percepier*: Parsley-Piert (*Aphanes arvensis*)

141. *Retrahere ducem*: "To bring back the general."

142. *Lapis calaminaris*: Calamine, an ore of zinc. Chemically it is either zinc carbonate or silicate.

143. *Bolus Armenius*: An astringent clay from Armenia, used as an antidote and styptic.

144. *Menology*: A calendar of the feast days of the different saints in the ecclesiastical year; also often containing notes of significant events which took place on the date.

145. *Fidelis*: Faithful. *Felicitis*: Happy.

146. *Champaign*: Fertile open country.

147. *Touchstone*: A dense-textured black stone. (The font is still (2021) in Preshute church; it is believed to have been made in the 12th Century in what is now Belgium)

148. *Cujus vocabulum temis, &c.*: "Which is called Thames, next to the ford called Summerford."

149. *Graff*: A trench serving as part of a fortification.

150. *Actum publice juxta flumen Badon*: "Officially issued beside the river Badon."

151. *Cauna nunquam geldavit, &c.*: "Calne never paid taxes so it is not known how many hides" [see note 78]."
152. *Ethelmundus fines suos egressus, &c.*: "Ethelmund went past the boundaries, as far as the ford of Chimeresford."
153. *Seized*: Owned or occupied.
154. *Tithing*: a group of ten households.
155. *Quod ad emendationem, &c.*: "That for the benefit of the said city, they change and remove the ways and bridges leading to it, and do therein what to them shall seem appropriate, provided it be done without injury to any person."
156. *Chorea Gigantum; Chorea Nobilis; Chorea Magna*: "Giant's Dance;" "Nobles' Dance;" "Great Dance."
157. *Paganorum Sepulchretum*: "Burial-place of the pagans."
158. *Amblesbury nunquam geldavit, nec hidata fuit*: "Amesbury never paid taxes or had hides" See also note 78 above.
159. *Assumption-Day*: 15th August.
160. *Obruendarium*: A burial urn. *Vascula Cineraria*: A metal vessel for holding ashes.
161. *Palfrey*: A small saddle-horse.
162. *Ventus*: The wind; *vinum*: wine.
163. *Ab Italia Sicilia resecta*: "Sicily is cut off from Italy;" *rejecta*: "thrown off."
164. *In occidentali parte Britanniae*: "In the Western part of Britain."
165. *Georgius Morley Episcopus &c.*: "Bishop George Morley built these buildings at his own expense."
166. *Ade hic, &c.*: "Good folks, in your devotions, pray for the one signed with the cross, who renovated me."
167. *Garumna*: The River Garonne.
168. *Bibracte, Bray*: The modern name is Beuvray.
169. *Tach*: a fastening.
170. *Eadem semper*: "Always the same" -- Queen Elizabeth's motto.
171. *Ferarum statio*: "An abode of wild animals."
172. *Et tenera poneret ossa rosa*: "And tenderly laid roses on your bones." Propertius, *Elegies* Bk. 1.17 l. 22.
173. *Copped*: Having the top cut off.
174. *Delf*: A mine or quarry.
175. *Lusus naturae*: "A freak of nature."
176. *Flashes*: Pools of water; a rush of water caused by opening a sluice gate from one.
177. *Credite operibus*: "Believe in deeds." (shortened from the Latin proverb *Credite operibus et non verbis*. "Believe in deeds and not words.")

*Dilexi decorem domus tuae, Domine*: "I have loved, O Lord, the beauty of thy house."  
Psalm 25.8.

178. *Exploratores*: A special corps of soldiers in the Roman Empire, who acted as spies and watchmen.

179. *Gavelkind*: A law or custom which required that at a man's death his property must be divided between all his sons.

180. *Olim vento, &c.* "The name comes from the former cold and harsh winds from the sea."

181. *Triarii*. In the early (pre 1st c. BC) Roman army, these were an elite section of soldiers in each legion; they were the most experienced and had the best armour and weapons.

182. *Xantoigne*: Also spelled Saintonge, was a French province corresponding to the modern department of Charente-Maritime, the area just north of the mouth of the Gironde.

183. Juvenal, *Satire 4*, l. 140-143.

184. Joseph of Exeter (fl. 1180-1200) took part in the Third Crusade, and on his return wrote an account of it called the *Antiocheis*, of which only fragments survive.

185. *Pharum*: a lighthouse; *phanum*: a lake or swamp.

186. *Turnacenses*: A troop of Roman soldiers from Tournai (Doornik) in present-day Belgium.

187. *Foristell*: Highway robbery.

188. *Holm trees*: Holly trees.

189. *Abulci*: A troop of Roman soldiers from Avila in present-day Spain.

190. *Little Britain*: Brittany.

191. *Henricus Howardus, &c.*: "Henry Howard, son of Henry Count of Surrey; nephew of Thomas, the second Duke of Norfolk; brother of Thomas the third [Duke]; Earl of Northampton; Baron Howard of Marnhull; Keeper of the Privy Seal; Constable of Dover Castle; Warden, Chancellor and Constable of the Cinque Ports; Privy Councillor of James the Great King of Britain; Golden Knight of the Garter; and Chancellor of the University of Cambridge; most learned among nobles; is here laid in the hope of resurrection in Christ.

Died 15th June 1614.

This renowned Earl founded three hospitals, and endowed them with lands; one at Greenwich in Kent, in which a governor and 20 poor men; another at Clun in Shropshire, in which a governor and 12 poor men; a third at Castle Rising in Norfolk, in which a governess with 12 poor women, are maintained for ever."

192. *maison-dieu*: A hospital, hostel or almshouse, founded and supported as a charitable act.

193. *Secus fontes cantianos*: "Opposite the waters of Kent."

194. *Monasticon: Monasticon Anglicanum, or, the history of the ancient abbeys, and other monasteries, hospitals, cathedral and collegiate churches, in England and Wales*, by William Dugdale, 1655; English translation 1693.

195. *Opus musivum*: Mosaics.
196. *Fibulae*: Buckles or brooches used to fasten a garment.
197. *Ad lapidem tituli*: "At the place called the Stone."
198. *Supra ripam Gallici maris*: "On the shore of the English Channel."
199. *In littore oceani ad meridiem*: "On the sea shore towards the South."
200. *Lay*: a pond.
201. *Hanc aulam, &c.*: "Duke Dodo consecrated this royal palace to the church."
202. *Dec. coloniae, &c.*: "Decurion of Colonia Glevum, lived 86 years"
203. *Icre*: Ten bars of iron.
204. *Aestuation*: Foaming or boiling up of water.
205. *Sewer*: The head waiter or steward at a feast.
206. *Mine-Court, Swain-Moot, and Speech-Court*: Courts established in the Middle Ages to try cases occurring in the Forest of Dean, relating to mining; forestry and game; and general crimes, respectively.
207. *Hoc quod digestum, &c.*: "This work which you see, was built and adorned by the labour of Tully, at the command of Abbot Seabrook."
208. *Blue-Coat*: It was standard practice for charity pupils and inmates of other charitable institutions to wear a blue uniform.
209. *Tesseraic*: Mosaic
210. *A boar*: The crest of the family of de Vere.
211. *Parca sylvestris bestiarum*: "A wooded reserve for animals"
212. *Bellositum*: "Beautifully situated."
213. *Sextary*: An ancient liquid measure equivalent to slightly more than a pint i.e. about 600 ml.
214. *Locus celebris*: "A famous place"
215. *De Consolatione Philosophiae*: See <http://www.exclassics.com/consol/conintro.htm>
216. *Scripta fuit, &c.*: "This schedule was written, at the command of the fore-mentioned king, in the royal villa, &c."
217. *Domine pro domino, &c.*: "O our Lord (for the Lord's sake) take care of the Church, which is now in a tottering state. The University of Paris, the mother and mistress of so many holy Prelates, is greatly disturbed. And if the University of Oxford (which is the second school of the Church, yea the very foundation of the Church) be disturbed at the same time, it is much to be feared, that the whole Church will be ruined and undone."
218. *Aula Scholarium Reginae de Oxon*: "The Queen's Hall of scholars of Oxford."
219. *Priories-alien*: Religious houses which were small dependencies of foreign (usually French) mother houses. Because of this French influence, they were dissolved and their property seized during the Hundred Years' War between England and France.

220. *Virgate*: a measure of land, varying considerably but usually about 30 acres (12 hectares).
221. *Yard-land*: an area of land, varying in size according to the locality, but usually about 30 acres (12 hectares).
222. *Locus gelidus*: "A frozen place."
223. *Saltus qui dicitur Clitern*: "The forest called Clitern."
224. *Sinus*: "A curve or hollow."
225. *Vicus*: "A street or row of houses."
226. *Castellum*: "A castle."
227. *Green geese*: Young geese killed and eaten in the summer, before they get fat.
228. *Petryary, Mangonel*: Siege engines which threw large stones at the enemy's fortifications.
229. *Civilian*: An expert in or practitioner of "Civil" (i.e. Roman) law, as opposed to Canon (church) law or Common law.
230. *Hexastich*: A stanza of six lines.
231. *Escheator*: An *escheat* was when a feudal tenant died with no eligible heir; in such a case the land reverted to the crown. The *escheator* was an official who administered escheats.
232. *Rubrum vadum*: "Red ford."
233. *Cross fleury*: A cross with fleur-de-lys-like ornaments at the end of each arm.
234. *Flamen*: The official (pagan) priest of a city.
235. *Vaumure*: A outer wall surrounding a castle or fortification.
236. Rodericus Toletanus, lib. 1
237. *Milliarium*: "A milestone"
238. *Breviat*: A brief account.
239. *Custos rotulorum*: "Master of the Rolls" (records)
240. *Hanaper*: The department of the Chancery, into which fees were paid for the sealing and enrolment of charters and other documents.
241. *Constat out of the Pell-office*: A certificate from the department of the Exchequer.
242. *Lachrymatories*: Small bottles, believed to have been used to hold tears. *Patinae*: Shallow dishes.
243. *Arpeni*: Or arpent, an old French measure of land varying from one-third to half a hectare. *Modius*: A volume equal to a bushel, i.e 8 gallons or about 36 litres.
244. *Stob and stock*: Stump and trunk (of trees)
245. *Racche*: A hunting-dog which pursues its prey by scent.
246. *Camvlo deo sancto et fortissimo*: "To Camulus the holy and most powerful god:"

247. *CN. MVNATIVS, &c.*: "Gnaeus Munatius Aurelius Bassus, son of Marcus of the Palatine Tribe, Procurator of the Emperor, Prefect of the Armourers, Prefect of the Third Cohort of Archers, Prefect again of the Second Cohort of Asturians, Census Officer of the Roman Citizens of Colonia Victricensis, which is in Britain at Camulodunum, Overseer of the Nomentum Road, Patron again of the same municipality, Priest for life, Aedile with magisterial power, Dictator four times"
248. *Ad Ansam*: "To the handle"
249. *Ad columnam, ad fines, ad tres tabernas, ad rotam, ad septem fratres, ad aquilam minorem, ad Herculem*: "To the column, to the boundaries, to the three taverns, to the wheel, to the seven brothers, to the lesser eagle, to Hercules."
250. *Enragled*: Of a cross, or division on a coat of arms, having short oblique projections resembling the stumps of branches cut off close to the stem. (More often called *raguly*.)
251. *Piissima*: Most pious; *Venerabilis Augusta*: Empress worthy to be venerated.
252. *The ingenious epigrammatist*: Martial. The quotation is from *Epigrams*, Bk. 3 Ep. 58.
253. *V. Lapidem*: "At the 5th stone"
254. *Cocilli manibus*: "By the hands of Cocillis"
255. *Sac and soc*: The authority to hold a court to hear cases and try criminals.
256. *Frank-marriage*: "A tenure in virtue of which a man and his wife held lands granted to them by the father or other near relative of the wife, the estate being heritable to the fourth generation of heirs of their bodies, without any service other than fealty." (OED)
257. *Banna Leuca*: The area of jurisdiction of a monastery which exercised a secular authority.
258. *Mark*: Thirteen shillings and fourpence i.e. two-thirds of a pound.
259. *Ductus in Cangos exercitus*: "The army was led into the land of the Cangis."
260. *Jamque ventum haud procul mari, quod Hiberniam Insulam spectat*: "And now not far from the sea, where the island of Ireland is seen."
261. *Facta autem, &c.*: "Being unanimously approved, they brought him unto Suffolk, and, in the village called Burum, made him King; the venerable prelate Hunibert assisting, and anointing and consecrating Edmund to be King. Now, Burum is an ancient royal vill, the known bound between Essex and Suffolk, and situate upon the Stour, a river most rapid both in summer and winter."
262. *Baulk*: A strip of ground left unploughed as a boundary line between two ploughed sections belonging to different people. (OED)
263. *Garienis, &c.*: Nowadays called the River Yare.
264. *Lardiner*: The person responsible for providing the food and drink for a feast.
265. *Portuenses and Lestoffenses*: People of the Cinque Ports, and of Lowestoft, respectively.
266. *Hunc pincerna locum fundavit, &c.*: "The butler founded this place, and lies here; the endowment he gave to it, it holds in perpetuity."

267. *Porta praetoria, porta decumana*: The front and rear gates, respectively, of a Roman fort.
268. *Sepulchrum cespes erigit*: "He erected a tomb of earth."
269. *Fossi*: "Trenches"
270. *Ebulum* or *Danewort/Daneweed*: Dwarf Elder (*Sambucus ebulus*)
271. *Castra &c.*: "He commanded a camp to be made, with a rampart twelve feet high and a ditch eighteen feet deep."
272. *Stat Margareta, &c.*: "The dragon fled, Margaret stood, rejoicing in the cross". Her legend says that she was swallowed by Satan in the shape of a dragon, from which she escaped alive when the cross she carried irritated the dragon's innards.
273. *Terra ecclesiae*: "Church land."
274. *Ensis, &c.*: "This sword was the gift of King John, taken from his own side."
275. *Caeli gravitas e palustri situ*: "Heaviness of air from the marshy situation."
276. *Advowson*: An advowson is the right to appoint a person to be the vicar of a parish or other ecclesiastical position in the Church of England. As a property right, it could be bought and sold, or willed or given away.
277. *Cods*: Seed capsules.
278. *Ferling*: The fourth part of a *hide* (see note 78)
279. *Bordarii*: Cottagers.
280. *Band of Gentlemen Pensioners*: A troop of soldiers made up of former army officers. Originally founded by Henry VIII as a personal bodyguard, they are now called The Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, and their duties are purely ceremonial.
281. *Hythlodæus*: Thomas More's *Utopia* describes an imaginary island where there is an ideal society, as related to More by Raphael Hythlodæus.
282. *Disseised*: Dispossessed.
283. *In capite*: Held as a feudal tenant directly from the King, with no intervening Lord.
284. *Wharling*: Pronouncing the letter *r* with a burr or guttural sound.
285. *Beadhouse*: An almshouse for poor people, who were expected to pray for the soul of the founder. (*Bead* is an old English word meaning *prayer*.)
286. *De Pratis*: "Of the meadows."
287. *De Contemptu Mundis*: "Of the rejection of the world."
288. *Cross-moline*: A cross with two projections curved out like the flukes of an anchor at the end of each arm.
289. *General Tail*: A form of feudal possession of an estate, the inheritance of which is not restricted to particular descendants of the first owner, but designed to pass to all of said owner's descendants so long as such issue is alive.
290. *Gavelkind*: The practice of dividing a man's property, after his death, between all his sons in equal shares.

291. *Com. Roteland. & villam de Rokingham in com. Northampt.*: "The County of Rutland and the villa of Rockingham in the County of Northamptonshire."
292. *Merchant of the staple*: A merchant licensed to export goods (especially wool) from England. There were not many of these, and they were a wealthy and powerful group. A *staple* was a market where these goods were traded.
293. *Ego Robertus comes Rutland*: "I Robert Count of Rutland."
294. *Sac and soc*: The authority to hold a court and execute justice (both civil and criminal) within a defined area.
295. *Amerce, Amercement*: Fine; *Amerced*: fined.
296. *Inspeximus*: A charter beginning with the Latin word *Inspeximus* ('We have inspected'). It is declared in the charter that an earlier charter or letters patent, here quoted or summarized, has been examined and its validity confirmed. (OED)
297. *Eo quod in terra peregrine &c.*: "Because he was a gift of God to console his pious parents in their wanderings in exile in a foreign land."
298. *ab officio*: "From the office"; *a beneficio*: "From the income."
299. *Peculiar*: A parish or church exempt from the jurisdiction of the bishop in whose diocese it lies. *Prebend*: An ecclesiastical position the salary of which was a certain part of the income of the establishment to which it belongs. *Prebendary*: the holder of such an office.
300. *Remigius, &c.*: "Remigius, endowed with a certain innate prudence, and by the grace and help of God, took pains to transfer his cathedral seat, from an exceedingly incongruous and obscure place, to a splendid city, that is, Lincoln, which is convenient to the whole of Lindsey, from the Humber to the River Witham, which passes through Lincoln and waters a great area of land. He did this despite being opposed by the archbishop of York, a powerful adversary."
301. *Ad faciendum pomerium*: "To make an open space outside the walls"
302. *Thrave*: A measure of corn, usually 24 sheaves.
303. *Distaffs*: i.e female relatives.
304. *Deo marti, &c.*: Subsequent to this publication, the inscription has been fully deciphered, and means "Quintus Sittius Caecilianus, prefect of the First Cohort of Aquitanians, fulfilled his vow to the God Mars & [Goddess] Bracacia,."
305. *Dalmatia*: A Roman province on the west coast of the Balkan peninsula, north of Greece.
306. Honorius *Decretals* 3:14.
307. *De auxilio villarum &c.*: "Of the towns and boroughs taxed for the marriage of the King's daughter."
308. *Merciorum Domina*: "Lady of the Mercians"
309. *Trophaeum peccati*: "The monument of a sinner."
310. *Inter puritanos antesignanus*: "A leading warrior among the Puritans."
311. *Arras*: A rich tapestry fabric, in which figures and scenes are woven in colours.
312. *Soli Deo, &c.*: "Glory to God alone. A school for poor boys and girls."

313. *Enfeoff*: To give full ownership of a property.
314. *Salop*: Shropshire
315. *Malvesey*: A strong sweet wine from Crete.
316. *Danegeld*: A tax supposed to be used to pay troops to fight the Vikings, or in some cases just to buy them off.
317. *Strike*: A measure of grain, varying from one place to another, but officially equal to 2 bushels (72 litres)
318. *Septum agresti aggere, &c.*: "Protected by a rustic embankment with a narrow approach, designed to be unpassable by cavalry."
319. *Agger*: A mound formed by the earth thrown up from a trench.
320. *Cottons*: A kind of *woollen* (not cotton) cloth resembling serge.
321. *Long robe*: The legal profession.
322. *Carucate*: An area of land, being as much as one plough team (of 8 oxen) could plough in a year. *Hestha*: A loaf of bread. *Cuna*: A vat of ale. *Rusca*: A tub of butter.
323. *Habergeon*: A sleeveless chain-mail shirt.
324. *Totum hunc dedit &c.*: "He gave all this county to be held to the sword by him and his heirs, so freely as the king of England himself held the crown."
325. *Coram non iudice*: "Not before a judge." A legal term typically used to indicate an invalid legal proceeding that is outside the presence of a judge, with improper venue, or without jurisdiction. [Wikipedia](#)
326. *Quascunque alias libertates &c.*: "All other liberties and royalties whatsoever, belonging to a County Palatine, as freely and entirely as the Earl of Chester is known to enjoy them, within the said County of Chester.
327. *A tempore conquestus & antea*: "From the time of the Conquest and before."
328. *Comitatui singulare est, &c.*: "It is peculiar to the County of Chester, that it enjoys the title of a Palatinate ; a title, not to be found elsewhere, but only among the Germans."
329. *Jovi Optimo Maximo, &c.*: "Titus Elupius Galerius, currently commander of the Twentieth Victorious Valeria Legion, during the consulship of Commodus and Lateranus [154 A.D.] willingly pays deserved homage to Jove the best and greatest." [TN]
330. *Quod ibi emeriti legionum Julianarum resedere*: "Because there the old soldiers of the Julian legions were settled."
331. *Orate pro animabus, &c.*: "Pray for the souls of Roger Legh and Elizabeth his wife; which Roger died the 4th day of November A.D. 1506 and Elizabeth, on the 5th day of October A.D. 1489; to whose souls may God be merciful."
332. *Tiugui, &c.*: "Towy – from Taratir above the bank of the Wye as far as the bank of the Towy."
333. *Scutifer*: Shield-bearer.
334. *O gweli, &c.*: "If you see a red-haired, one-eyed man seeking his lost sheep, say that it is under a hill, and the mark of fire on its head."

335. *Panchaea*: An unidentified island in the Indian Ocean, mentioned by various classical authors. *Cathay*: China.
336. *Jovi optimo, &c.*: "To Jupiter Dolichenus the best and greatest, whence iron is produced. Caius Sempronius Rectus, centurion frumentarius" (a frumentarius was the organizer of provisions for an army. They were also sometimes used as spies.)
337. *Ex monitu dei, &c.*: "Whatever the pagans did, they wished it to be by the advice of god, and the command of gods and goddesses.
338. *Patre (not matre) carcere incluso*: "To the father (*not* the mother) imprisoned in jail."
338. *Date mihi, &c.*: "Bring me myrrh and fire for the altar, that I may pay adoration to my Lucina. Place it here, and go out of my sight. —  
Astaphium, where are you? Bring me vervain, frankincense, and sweetmeats."
339. *Thirty Tyrants*: The group of oligarchs installed by Sparta to rule Athens after its defeat in the Peloponnesian war. Their rule lasted from 404-403 BC.
340. *Bodvocus, &c.*: "Here lies Bodvocus, son of Catotis, Great-grandson of Irnus, eternally in this tomb". This stone is now in the Margam Stones Museum; where the inscription is transcribed as BODVOCI HIC IACIT FILIVS CATOTIGIRNI PRONEPUS ETERNALI VEDOMAVI ("[The stone] of Bodvoc. Here he lies, son of Cattedern [or Cattedirn], and great-grandson of Eternalis Vedomavus").
342. *Docta lyra grata, &c.*: "Sabis, a girl who was beautiful, agreeable, graceful in movement, and accomplished on the lyre, here lies forever buried in this tomb."
343. *Lapis molaris*: Millstone grit.
344. *Ad campum, &c.*: "At the field of Electus, in the country called Glevising."
345. *Servator fidei, &c.*: "Here lies Paulinus, a preserver of the faith, always a lover of his country, a most pious worshipper of justice."
346. In the list the text in roman letters is the inscription on the coin; the text in *italics* is a description of the picture(s), translated as follows:  
No. 1. *Navis praetoria*. "An admiral's flagship of the Roman Navy." *Duo vexilla castrensia, cum tertia in medio longe breviori, in cujus summo, aquila alis altius erectis*. "Two camp flags with a third in the middle, shorter in length, at the top of which is an eagle with its wings held up."  
No. 2. *Navis praetoria*: "An admiral's flagship of the Roman Navy." *Duo signa castrensia cum aquila legionaria*: "Two imperial insignia as used on campaign, with the eagle standard of a legion."  
No. 3. *Navis praetorian*: "An admiral's flagship of the Roman Navy." *Tria vexilla castrensia*: "Three camp flags."  
No. 4. *Caput forte Neptuni cum tridente a tergo*: "The head perhaps of Neptune with a trident behind." *Victoria in dorso delphini*: "Victory riding a dolphin." *Hic nummus etiam M. Antonii videtur*: "Mark Anthony is also seen on this coin."  
No. 5. *Imago virginis Vestalis*: "Image of a Vestal virgin." *Templum Vestae cum sella & urna*: "The temple of Vesta with a stool and water jar."  
No. 6. *Imago Libertatis*. "Image of Liberty" *Templum vestae cum sella curuli & urna*: "The temple of Vesta with a stool, chariot, and water jar."  
No. 7. *Imago Dianae*. — *nummus serratus*. "Image of Diana — a coin with notches round the edge."

- No. 8. *Aper venabulo trajectus cum cane venatico*: "A boar with a spear and a hunting dog." *Imago Dianae cum pharetra & arcu*: "Image of Diana with quiver and bow.
- No. 9. *Caput Romae*: "Roman head" *Quadriga*. "A carriage drawn by four horses."
- No. 10. *Victoria in trigis*: "Victory in a carriage drawn by three horses." *Deae cujusdam imago*: Image of the Goddess
- No. 11. *Juno sospita in bigis: infra serpens Lanuvinus*: "Juno the preserver in a carriage drawn by two horses, below, the dragon of Lanuvinus. *Junonis sospitae imago*: "Image of Juno the Preserver." *Nummus serratus*: "A coin with notches round the edge."
- No. 12. *Taurus decurrens*. "A running bull." *Sospita Juno*: "Juno the Preserver."
- No. 13. *Victoria in quadrigis*. "Victory in a carriage drawn by four horses" *Caput Romae*: "Roman head" *Nummus serratus*: "A coin with notches round the edge."
- No. 14. *Elephas cum dracone*: "An Elephant and a dragon." *Capeduncula, Aspergillum, Securis, & Albogalerus: signa Pontificis Maximi & Dialis Flamini*: "Sacrifice dish, sprinkler, cleaver and white hat: the insignia of the chief priest of Rome and the priest of Jupiter."
- No. 15. *Caput Augusti, sine inscriptione*: "The head of Augustus, with no inscription." *Figura stolata, dextra ramum, sinistra cornucopiae*: "A figure in a long robe, holding a branch in the right hand and a cornucopia in the left."
- No. 16. *Figura sedens, dextra hastam, sinistra ramum*. "A seated figure, holding a staff in the right hand and a branch in the left."
- No. 17. *Caput Agrippinae*: "The head of Agrippina."
- No. 18. *Jupiter sedens, dextra fulmen tenens, sinistra cathedrae innixa* "Jupiter seated, holding a thunderbolt in the right hand and leaning on the chair with the left hand."
- No. 19. *Figura cathedrae insidens, dextra pateram*. "A figure seated in a chair, holding a libation dish in the right hand."
- No. 20. [*forte generis humani*] *figura stans coram ara accensa, sinistra temonem, dextro pede globum calcans*. "A [perhaps human] figure standing in front of a burning altar, holding a pole in the left hand, with the right foot resting on the globe."
- No. 21. *Figura stans, dextra corollam, sinistra bacillum*: "A standing figure, holding a crown in the right hand and a wand in the left"
- No. 22. *Caduceum alatum*: "A winged caduceus [A wand with two serpents twined round it, as carried by an ancient Greek or Roman herald]"
- No. 23. *Pegasus*. "The winged horse."
- No. 24. *Pallas navi insistens, dextra jaculum, sinistra scutum*. "Pallas standing on a ship, holding a throwing-spear in the right hand and a shield in the left."
347. *Auro & argento caelatum*: ""Carved in gold and silver."
348. *Ingenious gentleman*: John Aubrey of Eaton Pierce in Wiltshire.
349. *Vitelliani Emeriti*: "Of the retired Vitellianus."
350. *Fretum*: "A strait."
351. *Eligug*: Guillemot. *Harry-bird*: Shearwater.
352. *Hic jacet, &c.*: "Here is buried Idnert, son of I... who was murdered for his piety and holiness."
353. *Saxum foeminae giganteae*: "The Giantess's stone."
354. *Llyn Tegid, Pemble Mere*: Now called Bala Lake in English.

355. *Torqueo*: "To twist."
356. *Torques erant mobiles, &c.*: "The *torques* were moveable, and made of rings; the circles solid and round; and the *monilia*, a little broader."
357. *Vasti parma, &c.*: "He brought back the great shield of the chief Vidomarus, . . . [who when he] stained his striped trousers with his own blood, the twisted necklace fell, a prize, from his severed throat." Propertius, *Elegies*, Bk. IV.
358. *Leolinus torqui aureo insignitus*: "Llewellyn invested with a golden torque."
359. *Cornea bina ferunt, &c.*: "Each carries two dogwood spears tipped with steel; some have polished quivers on their shoulders; above their breast and round their neck goes a flexible circlet of twisted gold." Virgil, *Aeneid*, Bk. V. l. 556-559.
360. *Porius, &c.*: "Porius is buried in this tomb; he was a Christian man."
361. *Turbary*: Boggy or moorish ground where fuel turfs are dug up.
362. *A choro pulchro*: "From a beautiful choir;" *Quasi locus chori*: "The place of a choir."
363. *Lacus cespitis*: "Lake of the turfs (sods)."
364. *Choerocephalus*: "Pig-headed"; *Flavicomus*: "Yellow-haired"; *Canus*: "White-headed"; *Capito*: "Big-headed"; *Bucephalus*: "Ox-headed."
365. *Musculus niger omnium crassissima & ponderosissima testa*: "The all-black mussel with the fattest and heaviest shell."
366. *Draco Insularis*: "The dragon of the island."
367. *Urbs Legionum*: "City of the legions."
368. *Federal*: Of or pertaining to a covenant or treaty.
369. — *filius Ulrichi erexit hunc lapidem*: " — son of Ulrich erected this stone".
370. *Lapis insculptus sive lineolis exaratus*: "A stone carved or written with small lines."
371. *Legio Vicesima Victrix*: "Victorious twentieth legion."
372. *Gemmae anguinae*: "Snake jewels."
373. *Praeterea est ovorum, &c.*: "There is another kind of egg, held in high renown by the people of the Gallic provinces, but totally omitted by the Greek writers. In summertime, numberless snakes become artificially entwined together, and form rings around their bodies with the viscous slime which exudes from their mouths, and with the foam secreted by them: the name given to this substance is "*anguinum*." The Druids tell us, that the serpents eject these eggs into the air by their hissing, and that a person must be ready to catch them in a cloak, so as not to let them touch the ground; they say also that he must instantly take to flight on horseback, as the serpents will be sure to pursue him, until some intervening river has placed a barrier between them. The test of its genuineness, they say, is its floating against the current of a stream, even though it be set in gold. But, as it is the way with magicians to be dexterous and cunning in casting a veil about their frauds, they pretend that these eggs can only be taken on a certain day of the moon; as though, forsooth, it depended entirely upon the human will to make the moon and the serpents accord as to the moment of this operation.

"I myself, however, have seen one of these eggs: it was round, and about as large as an apple of moderate size; the shell of it was formed of a cartilaginous substance, and it was surrounded with numerous cupules, as it were, resembling those upon the arms of the polypus: it is held in high estimation among the Druids. The possession of it is marvellously vaunted as ensuring success in law-suits, and a favourable reception with princes; a notion which has been so far belied, that a Roman of equestrian rank, a native of the territory of the Vocontii, who, during a trial, had one of these eggs in his bosom, was slain by the late Emperor Tiberius, and for no other reason, that I know of, but because he was in possession of it." [Pliny, *Natural History*, Book. 29 Ch. 12. Translated by John Bostock.]

374. *Echinus marinus*: "Sea-Urchin."

375. *Sumpto ad praelium loco, &c.*: "He chose such a camp to maintain, as, in point of approach, retreat, and in all other respects, was difficult to the enemy, and convenient to themselves: On a high hill, guarded with stones in the nature of a *vallum*, wherever it was accessible; and before it a river with uncertain fords, &c."

376. *Oppidum Britanni vocant, &c.*: "The Britons call an area in impassible woods, enclosed with a bank and ditch, *a town*; where they meet to defend themselves as often as an enemy make incursions."