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Gleanings

OF THE HISTORIES OF

HOLYWELL,

FLINT, SAINT ASAPH,

AND

RHUDDLAN,

THEIR ANTIQUITIES AND SURROUNDING SCENERY;

WITH A

*STATISTICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL*

ACCOUNT OF

**NORTH WALES IN GENERAL.**

BY J. POOLE.

G.C.

942.93502

H761p

HOLYWELL:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY JAMES DAVIES.

SOLD ALSO BY WHITTAKER & CO. AVE-MARIA-LANE, LONDON;

R. TAYLOR, CORNER CHURCH STREET, LIVERPOOL;

POOLE & BOULT, AND EVANS & SON, CHESTER;

AND T. GBE, DENBIGH.

1831.



ST WINEFREDS WELL, HOLYWELL.

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Entered at Stationers'-Hall.

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THE FOLLOWING COMPILATION,

(FORMING A BRIEF LOCAL HISTORY OF AN INTERESTING  
DISTRICT OF THE PRINCIPALITY)

IS MOST HUMBLY DEDICATED

TO THE NOBILITY AND GENTRY OF

NORTH WALES,

BY

THE EDITOR.

SAINT ASAPH,

December 16th, 1831.

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[Note—The preface alluded to in the commencement of the first chapter, has been withheld under an impression, that its insertion, as was at first intended, has become wholly unnecessary in consequence of circumstances having prevented the original plan from being strictly adhered to. ED.]

# HISTORICAL GLEANINGS,

&c.

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## CHAPTER I.

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### INTRODUCTION.

#### NORTH WALES IN GENERAL.

**I**N accordance with the plan already laid down, we proceed to give a brief geographical and statistical view of North Wales in general;—its soil, climate, mineral, and other properties. In doing this, we must in candor acknowledge that we are chiefly indebted for this beginning of our labours to Dr. Davies' "General view of the Agriculture and Domestic economy of North Wales," drawn up and published under the sanction of the Board of Agriculture;—a work that contains much practical information, and, doubtless, has had its share in promoting that mania for improvement, which has been so pre-eminently distinguished during the last twenty years.

The District of North Wales, a territory ascribed, by Roman writers, to the warlike tribe of the Ordovices, comprehending before its union with England, the Kingdom of Gwynedd, and the greater part of the principality of Powys,—is situated on the

North West of London ; and jutting out into the Irish sea, opposite Dublin, it forms the most northern, although the least of the three western promontories of South Britain. In shape it represents a human figure ; of which the Isle of Anglesea forms the head and the promontory of Lleyln the arm, at full length, extended as it were to take hold of Bardsey Island. Its boundaries are, the Irish sea to the North, Cheshire and part of Shropshire to the East, the other part of Shropshire, Radnorshire, and Cardiganshire to the South, and St. George's Channel to the West. Its two greatest dimensions, crossing each other at right angles, are, from Carnel's point in Anglesea, opposite Kerry Island, on the North West to Offa's Dyke, near Bishop's Castle in Shropshire, on the South East, 87 miles, and from Aberdaron point, near Bardsey Island, on the South West, to the estuary of the Dee at Flint, 75 miles.

For the sake of uniformity in the division of the realm, it was shired by Henry the Eighth, into six counties, viz.

*Anglesey*, whose length from Carnel's point to Bangor ferry is 20 miles, and greatest breadth from Llanddwyn Abbey to Penmaen Priory, 17 miles.

*Carnarvonshire*,—from Aberdaron point to Little Orme's head measures 54 miles ; and at right Angles from Carnarvon Town to Ysbyttŷ Evan, 24 miles : across the promontory of Lleyln from Nevin to Pwllheli, it measures only 6 miles.



*Denbighshire*;—from Llanrwst on the river Conway to Holt on the Dee measures 36 miles, and across this line from St. Asaph to Ysbytty Evan, 19 miles,—its narrowest breadth over the Vale of Clwyd is but 9 miles.

*Flintshire*;—from the mouth of the River Clwyd to Caer Gwrle Castle measures 24 miles; and in breadth, from Flint to Nannerch, 5 miles.—Maelor Saesnaeg, a detached part of the county, measures from Bangor to Brick-hill Hall, 9 miles; and from Broughton to Penley, 5 miles.

*Meirionyddshire*,—from Berthgŵlert, near Snowdon, to Bwlch y Vedwen, on the confine of Montgomeryshire extends 43 miles; and from Harlech to the boundary of Llangollen parish, 38 miles.

*Montgomeryshire*,—from the extremity of Llangwrig, on the borders of South Wales to Pistyll Rhaiadr, a noted cataract in the Berwyn Hills, measures 35 miles, and from Montgomery to Machynlleth, 30 miles.

Which Counties may be said to contain 1,974,510 Acres of Land, 314 Parishes, and 33 Market Towns.

**CLIMATE.**—A country whose surface exhibits many different degrees of altitude from the level of the sea, must necessarily have various temperatures; and those diversified by aspect, situation, and other circumstances. The climature of North Wales naturally divides itself into three kinds;—that of the

vales, the hills, and the mountains. The humidity of the atmosphere, on particular seasons, which in the first climate falls in rain, may be observed in the second to be sleet; and, in the third, perfect snow. In some years, snow remains on the higher hills till June: in the vicinity of the sea, and especially, on the Isle of Anglesey, it seldom continues long, even in the depth of winter. The seasons of vegetation in spring, and ripening of grain in harvest must of course be very various. Grain on light soils, and in the lower vales, is ready for the scythe or sickle early in August; in some forward years, the wheat has been all reaped before the beginning of September; which month is said by the peasants, to have lost its name, as being of the same signification as the Messidor of the modern French; that is *Mis Medi*, the reaping month.

The climature is, in general, unfavourable to the production of fruit. Although there are many profitable orchards, and gardens, abounding with wall-fruit, in the vales; in the greater part of Meirionyddshire and Carnarvonshire, all attempts to introduce them have hitherto proved abortive. There, the spring is seldom mild enough to preserve the blossoms from their adversary, frost; and the wetness, or coldness, of summer, soon vitiates the flavour of the most delicious fruit.

The most constant winds are those from the western points of the compass, during long winter frosts, or

backward cold springs. The western winds however have been observed to blow, one time with the other, about nine months in twelve, or three-fourths of the whole year;\* but mostly prevail about the vernal and autumnal equinoxes; at those seasons, they are frequently exceedingly boisterous.

**SOIL AND SURFACE.**—Description with all her eloquence must ever fall short in portraying scenes in which nature has developed so many rare and striking beauties and contrasts—hills—dales—and cataracts—gentle rivulets—the rapid stream and dismal glen, all combine to strike the mind with admiration, awe, and gladness.—

“Smooth to the shelving brink a copious flood  
Rolls fair and placid, when collected all  
In one impetuous torrent, down the steep  
It thundering shoots, and shakes the country round.

At first an azure sheet, it rushes broad,  
Then whitening by degrees, as prone it falls,  
And from the loud resounding rocks below  
Dash'd in a cloud of foam, it sends aloft  
A hoary mist, and forms a ceaseless shower.

\* “The wind blowing for such a great part of the year from that quarter, makes Newfoundland so cold, and Britain, and its sister islands, so warm. Were the east wind to gain the ascendancy, the case would be reversed; Newfoundland would be the warmest of the two.”

This observation was made by a settler in Newfoundland to Francis Lord Bacon.

Bacon's Works, vol. 3. p. 308.

Nor can the tortured here find repose :  
 But raging still amid the shaggy rocks,  
 Now flushes o'er the scatter'd fragments, now  
 Aslant the hollow channel rapid darts ;  
 And falling fast from gradual slope to slope,  
 With wild infracted course and lessen'd war,  
 It gains a safer bed, and steals at last  
 Along the mazes of the quiet vale."

A line commencing at Pumlumon, on the south-eastern boundary of the district, and running north-westernly between Llanbryn-mair and Carno, to Llyn Gwyddor lake ; then to Bwlch y Groes, near Aran Vowddwg to Drws y Nant, between Bala and Dolgelleu ; and crossing the mountains to Llyn Trywern and Llyn Morwynion ; and terminating near the valley of Festiniog ; may be called the *Back-bone* of the counties of Montgomery and Meirionydd. A person may walk this line, of 50 miles extent, without crossing a rivulet ; as it is the parting ridge of the eastern and western streams. The main streams on the western side of the ridge, are, 1. The Dovey, passing through the valley of Machynlleth ; 2. the Maw, watering the valley of Dolgelleu ; and 3. the Traethbach river, flowing through the valley of Festiniog.

On the eastern side of the Back-bone, are the sources of the Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, Ceiriog, Dee, and several other secondary streams ; taking in general a parrallel course towards the plains of Salop and Cheshire. On both sides the ridge, the southern vallies are more extensive, and consist of better soil than

the northern : The reasons are obvious. Vallies were originally excavated by the irresistible force of water ; and the present soils which cover their primitive surfaces, to various depths, were deposited, primitive to time, by the more gradual and milder agency of the same element. It is moreover evident, that vallies are fertile, or otherwise ; have depth of soil, or not ; according to quality, and distance, of the hills from which their respective rivers flow. Limpid streams issuing out of primitive mountains, consisting of silicious masses, cannot be expected to deposit much sediment to enrich the dales through which they run.

The substance of the Pumlumon, or Severn range of hills is chiefly, an homogeneous shale, becoming friable on the air, and easily abraded by water, and in all probability contains but few ores of metals ; therefore when held in solution, and afterwards deposited, by water, it becomes the genial matrix of vegetation. Northward from the Severn vale, the mountains retain their shale and friable character,—a few insulated rocks excepted, quite up the Vale of Vyrnwy ; where, on the north side, the grey, semi-indurated mountain rock commences, and continues still northward, to the Vale of Tanat, which received its soil by deposition from the Berwyn range of mountains, consisting of argillaceous schistus. Thus it may be seen that not only the fertility of the soil, but also the extent of a vale, depends upon the nature and quality of the mountains and rocks by which they are surrounded. The Severn Vale acquired its present

superiority of extent and fertility, to the more northern, from the facility with which the deluvian tides excavated the friable shale of its surrounding eminences, This hypothesis will bear also on the western side of the Back-bone ridge; the mountains consist of harder species of rock, and the vallies are narrower, and less fertile; the valley of the Maw is inferior to that of the Dovey, &c.

All vallies, at their sources, where the streams flow rapidly, have invariably a light gravelly soil; and the longer and wider the vale extends, and the nearer a level the waters flow, the richer and more loamy will be the sediment.

This subject may be farther illustrated by tracing another line, from south to north, across the whole of the district, from Cardigan Bay to the Irish Sea. Begin the line at the estuary of the Dovey;—follow that river up to its source, near Aran Vowddwy;—then take the Twrch from its spring to Bala-lake;—then the Dee to its confluence with the Trywerin;—then that river to its head at Trywerin-lake; then Conway from its source at Llyn Conway, during its whole course through the Vale of Llanrwst, to its estuary near Orme's head. To the west of this line, the Meirionyddshire and Caernarvonshire mountains are, in general, of the primitive silicious kind, rugged, steep, and barren: to the east, the Montgomeryshire, Meirionyddshire, Denbighshire, and Flintshire mountains, are chiefly argillaceous, excepting the eastern

and northern outskirts, which abound with calcareous rocks, freestone, and chert; these, however, are generally covered with grasses, fur, or heath.

The valley of Conway, like that of the Vyrnwy, is of a secondary character; having the steep primitive rocks of Caernarvonshire to the west, and the sloping hills of Denbighshire on the east. Its parallel in point of bearing is the Vale of Clwyd; both running in a transverse direction to those of Montgomeryshire, from south-east to north-west. It is, however, inferior in extent and fertility to the Vale of Clwyd, for the same reasons as have been already given, why the Vale of Severn excels those of the Vyrnwy and Tanat.

Anglesey is the only county in the district that has any claim to uniformity of surface, and general character; the whole of its circumference is washed by the briny wave; its surface is gently undulated, having, comparatively with other counties, but few swellings that merit the appellation of hills. It has, however, varieties of soil.

*Mountains.*—The Snowdon range commences in a most tremendous precipice overhanging the sea at Penmaen Mawr; and in a south-west direction takes in its course Carnedd Llywelyn, the peak of Snowdon, a long tract of mountains to the south of Llanllyfni, and terminates in the lofty and triple-peaked Reivel,\* whose base is washed by the waves of the Caernarvon Bay.

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\* In Welsh, Yr Eifr; in allusion to its furcated outline.



The geometrical length of this range, following the zig-zag directions of its summits, is 40 miles: the distance between its extreme points in a straight line, about three eighths less. Upon this range, the Wyddva, commonly called the peak of Snowdon, is the highest; its altitude above the level of the sea, according to the mensuration of Mr. Evans, being 3568 feet. The second in height is Carnedd Llywelyn, 3520 feet. The loftier summits of this range are composed of various primitive aggregates of the silicious class, forming several varieties of granitines and porphyrics; these are again abutted, on both sides, by immense beds of slate. The skirts of the granitose mountains also frequently abound in chert, quartz, and in some places with burr-stones, serpentine, &c. Of ores, this range seems to contain more copper than lead. Neither rain, frost, nor any atmospheric agent, being able to decompose these rocks, their sterility can induce no wonder. The hollows and slopes, upon peat or clay, are the chief spots upon this range which produce any herbage for the support of the hardy race of sheep and cattle, which have their summer runs upon this alpine tract.

The Berwyn range takes its rise near Chirk Castle, in Denbighshire; takes a parallel course with the Snowdon range towards the south-west; proceeds to the lofty summits of Cadair Verwyn, Trum y Sarn, Aran Vowddwy, and Cadair Idris; it then makes a rapid descent of 2850 feet, within the space of twelve



miles, and plunges into Cardigan Bay, at Sarn y Bwch.

The geometrical length of this range is 54 miles; and a straight line from point to point would measure 49 miles.

The elevation of Aran Benllyn, from Dolgelleu, is 2760 feet; of Cadair Idris, 90 feet more.

The Severn, or Pumlumon range, commencing at Breddin Hill, on the boundary of Shropshire, and comprising the Long Mountain to Nant-Cruba; then extending from Montgomery Castle along the Kerry Hills, whose summit-line is the boundary of North and South Wales, to the Llangurig Mountains,—terminates at the sources of the twin-rivers, Severn and Wye. The two extremities of this range are 37 miles distant, but the line of the summit, curving towards the south, forms an arc of a circle, 49 miles in length.

In elevation, the three ranges observe due subordination. Majestic Snowdon, and its granitine tribe, takes the lead;—then Cadair Idris, and its connected subjects, occupy the centre; and lastly, humble Pumlumon, and its extensive train bring up the southern rear.

To complete the whole mountainous tracts of the District, another range must be described, viz. the CLWYDIAN and HIRAETHOG range. It forms the shape of the Roman letter U, the two wings or sides

running parallel, though in a transverse direction to that of the other three ranges, from south-east to north-west. The Clwydian, or north eastern wing commences at Diserth, in Flintshire; proceeds through Cwm, Dymeirchion, Caerwys, Ysceifiog, to the valley of Nannerch; forms a curve at Bryn Eglwys, proceeds to Denbigh, Henllan, Llysvaen and the two Ormes Head, over-hanging the sea. Heath, or *lîng*, is the general covering of this vast tract. The former wing is chiefly noted for its limestone,—the latter for limestone and grey mountain rock.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Llandigai, in his observations on the Snowdon mountains (which, from his having been a resident on the spot, may be considered as entitled to the greatest credit,) makes the following remarks on the customs and manners of their inhabitants:—

“ NATIVES OF ERYRI.

“The inhabitants of the British mountains, are so humane and hospitable, that a stranger may travel amongst them without incurring any expense for diet or lodging. Their fare, an Englishman may call coarse; however, they commonly in farm-houses have three sorts of bread, namely, wheat, barley, and oat-meal; but the oat-meal they chiefly use; this, with milk, butter, cheese, and potatoes, is their chief summer food. They have also plenty of excellent trout, which they eat in its season. And for the winter they have dry salted beef, mutton, and smoked rock venison, which they call *Côch-ar-Wyden*, i. e. *The Red upon the*

*Withe*, being hung by a *withe*, made of a willow or hazel twig.

“They very seldom brew ale, except in some of the principle farm-houses; having no corn of their own growing, they think it a superfluous expence to throw away money for malt and hops, when milk, or butter-milk mixed with water, quenches the thirst as well.

“They are hardy and very active; but they have not the perseverance and resolution which are necessary for laborious or continued undertakings, being, from their infancy, accustomed only to ramble over the hills after their cattle.

“In summer they go barefoot, but seldom barelegged, as have been lately asserted by a traveller. They are shrewd and crafty in their bargains, and jocular in their conversation; very sober, and great economists; though a late tourist has given them a different character. Their greetings, when they meet any of their acquaintances, may to some appear tedious and disagreeable: their common mode of salutation is “How is thy heart? how the good wife at home, the children, and the rest of the family?” and that often repeated. When they meet at a public house, they will drink each other’s health, or the health of him to whom the mug goes, at every round. They are remarkably honest.

“Their courtships, marriages, &c. differ in nothing from what is practised on the occasions among the

lowlanders or other Welsh people; but as there are some distinct and local customs in use in North Wales, not adopted in other parts of Great Britain, I shall, by way of novelty, relate a few of them:—When Cupid lets fly his shaft at a youthful heart, the wounded swain seeks for an opportunity to have a private conversation with the object of his passion, which is usually obtained at a fair, or at some other public meeting; where he, if bold enough, accosts her, and treats her with wine and cakes. But he that is too bashful will employ a friend to break the ice for him, and disclose the sentiments of his heart: the fair one, however, disdains proxies of this kind, and he that is bold, forward, and facetious, has a greater chance of prevailing; especially if he has courage enough to steal a few kisses: she will then probably engage to accept of his nocturnal visit the next Saturday night. When the happy hour arrives, neither the darkness of the night, the badness of the weather, nor the distance of the place, will discourage him, so as to abandon his engagement. When he reaches the spot, he conceals himself in some out-building, till the family go to rest. His fair friend alone knows of and waits his coming.

“After admittance into the house a little chat takes place at the fire-side, and then, if every thing is friendly, they agree between themselves upon a bed, if there is an empty one in the house; when Strephon takes off his shoes and coat, and Phillis only her shoes; and covering themselves with a blanket or two,

they chat there till the morning dawn, and then the lover steals away as privately as he came. And this is the bundling or *courting in bed*,\* for which the Welsh are so much bantered by strangers.

“ This courtship often lasts for years, ere the swain can prevail upon his mistress to accept of his hand. Now and then a pregnancy precedes marriage; but very seldom, or never, before a mutual promise of entering into the marriage state is made. When a matrimonial contract is thus entered into, the parents and friends of each party are apprised of it, and an invitation to the wedding takes place; where, at the appointed wedding-day, every guest that dines drops his shilling, besides payment for what he drinks: the company very often amounts to two or three hundred, and some times more. This donation is intended to assist the young couple to buy bed-clothes, and other articles necessary to begin the world. Nor does the

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\* “ The Cambrian fair would blush as much at the term courting in bed as any other modest female would, that has never heard of this custom before. It is not expressed, *Caru yn y Gwely*, which means *courting in bed*; but *Caru ar y Gwely*, *courting on the bed*. Should the lover offer any indecency, his mistress would not only fly from him with the velocity of lightning, but he would be fortunate if she would so leave him without giving him a bloody nose at parting. In a few days also, the tidings of his impudence would reach the ears of every lass in the neighbourhood; his company would be shunned with the greatest caution: and were he so successful as to prevail upon a young woman to accept of his visits, her continency would be considered as doubtful.

friendly bounty stop here: when the woman is brought to bed, the neighbours meet at the christening, out of free good-will, without invitation, where they drop their money; usually a shilling to the woman in the straw, sixpence to the midwife, and sixpence to the cook; more or less, according to the ability and generosity of the giver.

#### “MODE OF BURYING.

“When the parish bell announces the death of a person, it is immediately inquired upon what day the funeral is to be; and on the night preceding that day, all the neighbours assemble at the house where the corpse is, which they call *Ty Corph*, i. e. the corpse’s house. The coffin with the remains of the deceased, is then placed on the stools, in an open part of the house, covered with black cloth; or, if the deceased was unmarried, with a clean white sheet, with three candles burning on it. Every person on entering the house falls devoutly on his knees before the corpse, and repeats to himself the Lord’s Prayer, or any other prayer that he chooses. Afterwards, if he be a smoker, a pipe and tobacco are offered to him. This meeting is called *Gwylnos*, and in some places *Pydreua*. The first word means Vigil; the other is, no doubt, a corrupt word from Paderau, or Paderëuau, that is, Paters, or Paternosters.

“When the assembly is full, the parish clerk reads the common service appointed for the burial of the dead: at the conclusion of which, Psalms, Hymns,

and other godly songs are sung; and since methodism is become so universal, some one stands up and delivers an oration on the melancholy subject, and then the company drop away by degrees. On the following day the interment takes place, between two and four o'clock in the afternoon, when all the neighbours assemble again. It is not uncommon to see on such occasions an assembly of three or four hundred people, or even more. These persons are all treated with warm spiced ale, cakes, pipes and tobacco; and a dinner is given to all those that come from afar: I mean that such an entertainment is given at the funerals of respectable farmers.\* They then proceed to the church; and at the end of that part of the burial service, which is usually read in the church, before the corpse is taken therefrom, every one of the congregation presents the officiating Minister with a piece of money: the deceased's next relations usually drop a shilling each, others sixpences, and the poorer sort a penny, and the sum amounts sometimes to eight, ten, or more pounds at a burial. The parish-clerk has also his offering at the grave, which amounts commonly to about one fourth of what the clergyman received. After the burial is over, the company retire to the public-house, where every one spends his sixpence for ale; † then all ceremonies are over."

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\* "Assembled there, from pious toil they rest,  
And sadly share the last sepulchral feast."

*Pope.*

† This last custom is not in use in Anglesey.



[Mr. W. then proceeds to explain the good and ill resulting from the prevalence of methodism, and those fanatics termed Ranters, &c. and states, that the mountain-people preserve themselves, in a great measure, a distinct race from the low-landers: they but very seldom come to the low-lands for wives; nor will the low-lander often climb up the craggy steps, and bring down a mountain spouse to his cot. Their occupations are different, and it requires that their mates should be qualified for such different modes of living.]

“I will not scruple to affirm, (continues Mr. Williams) that these people have no strange blood in their veins—that they are the true offspring of the ancient Britons: they, and their ancestors, from time immemorial, have inhabited the same districts, and, in one degree or other, they are all relations.”

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**MINERALS.** Ores of tin, lead, and iron have been raised in this island from very remote antiquity by the native Britons. The ores of copper and zinc were probably the discoveries of the more skilful Romans after their conquest of the island, and with both united, they made brass.

The ancient British smelting-hearths, where the ore and the wood-fuel were intermixed, are still discovered by their slag contents in different parts of the country; having acquired a surface of soil and



some of them covered with trees and underwood. They are sometimes found in parts where no other traces of mining now appear. That the ore was conveyed to be smelted there, from distant parts, equally as well supplied with fuel along bad roads, and over high hills, cannot be credited. The conclusion then is, that the ore must have been raised near the spot; and wherever these ancient hearths are found, the vicinity is a favorable field for adventurers. The scorïæ of some of the hearths are more perfectly reduced than those of others. The slags are found not worth the re-smelting; but the spots where the ores were deposited ready for the smelter's use, frequently contain fragments of lead ore, in such quantities, as to have encouraged washers of ore to collect them. By this means, scores of tons have been recovered in Flintshire, and at Dol y felin blwm, near Llanfyllin, in Montgomeryshire. The Romans improved upon British smelting, by erecting furnaces for the purpose. The scite of one of them is supposed by Mr. Pennant to be at Pentre Ffwrn-dan, near Flint.

Ores are discovered at various depths, and in various positions. *Float* ore, called by miners gravel ore, consists, generally, of nodules of lead ore, from the size of a small nut, to blocks of 30 and from that to forty tons weight; dispersed irregularly near the surface, in gravel, loose earth, or clay. It is the more profitable of any, as long as it continues; the expense of obtaining it, comparatively, small; and the nodules are frequently of pure ore.

*Veins* are of various kinds. The most common are the *rake* veins, which are fissures of various breadths, generally running across the strata of the rock; though sometimes parallel to them; and, most commonly, of an unknown depth. The Llangynog vein was worked profitably to the depth of ninety yards and upwards: some in Flintshire to one hundred, and from that to one hundred and fifty yards, and the barren fissures still continuing open. *Gash veins*, whose sides converge from the surface downwards, must close at a given distance; the above hypothesis relates to veins whose sides diverge from the surface downwards; and are the richest, as well as the most common. Sometimes, in the language of miners, veins "crop out to the day;" and a rustic, by chance, may discover them. Llangynog vein is said to have been discovered by a shepherd, running after his flock, and treading upon a slippery surface of a flate of ore: the moss giving way under his wooden shoe, the glossy ore appeared. The great *Grosvenor* mine, at Halkin, is reported to have been discovered by a peasant cutting a ditch-fence.

*Pipe veins* are of two kinds, vertical, and horizontal. The *ogo*, or ancient level, at Llanymynech, is of the latter description. It consists of caverns of unequal size and shape, connected, originally, by strings of ore, which served as guides for the miners to pursue the ore from one cavern to another.

In point of importance, the Copper mines of Anglesey claim the earliest notice; they are denominated

the *Mona* and the *Parys*; though in fact they are but one mine, but are so distinguished on account of the different properties in them. The former is the entire property of the Marquis of Anglesea; the latter is divided into shares.

The mountain has been worked with varied success for about sixty-five years; it is now believed to be under the average; but whether that arises from the low price of the article, or the mine being exhausted, is uncertain: for a considerable period, it produced 20,000 tons annually. One bed of ore was upwards of sixty feet in thickness. In the blasting the rock, to procure the ore, from six to eight tons of gunpowder are yearly consumed.

“This celebrated mountain,” says Mr. Evans, “is easily distinguished from the rest; for it is perfectly barren from the summit to the plain below: not a single shrub, and hardly a blade of grass being able to live in its sulphurious atmosphere.

“No grassy mantle hides the sable hills,  
No flow’ry chaplet crowns the trickling rills;  
Nor tufted moss, nor leathery lichen creeps  
In russet tapestry, o’er the crumbling steeps.

*Darwin.*

Flintshire next claims attention for its *lead* mines. —It is said to produce more lead than all Wales besides; at least this observation was made by Mr. Edward Lhwyd, who wrote his *Itinerary* in the close

of the last century, and most probably it will hold good to this day. The process of extracting lead from flint has turned out so profitable as to create baronets, give rise to esquires, and add grandeur to the equipages of noblemen. The Halkin mines principally belong to the Earl of Grosvenor; Diserth to the Bishop of St. Asaph for the time being.

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## CHAP. II.

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# HOLYWELL,

AND THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOOD.

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*History and antiquity of Holywell—Modern improvements—State of Society—Public institutions—Basingwerk Abbey—St. Wenefrede's Well—Sketches of surrounding Country and Gentlemen's Seats—Llanasa—Talacre—Downing—Gyrn—Golden Grove, &c. &c. &c.*

VARIOUS are the opinions respecting the antiquity of Holywell. The lovers of legendary lore date its origin as early as the seventh century, while the less scrupulous of the "learned" deny it the merit of having found a place in the *Doomsday Book*. Be it however as it may, the word *Haly-well* or *Hali-well* is evidently Saxon, and hence Mr. Pennant infers that the place was known long before we find it mentioned

in any document now extant; the learned Bishop Fleetwood\* maintains the contrary opinion; and considers the non-mention of it in doomsday book a kind of negative argument, that it was not then a parish or place of any note. The first time the name of *Haly-well* has been discovered to occur, is in the charter of confirmation made to “*God, St. Mary, and the monks of Basingwerk, in Flyntshire,*” by Henry the III. There is also mention made of *Hali-well* in the charter of confirmation made by the same monastery by *Leweline*, Prince of Wales, and David his son, in 1240.—From these authorities, even, the place is of great antiquity, but the ancient British name of *Treffynnon*, which in English means *Well-town*, augurs that it has a much earlier date than the data just quoted, would lead us to infer. There can be no doubt but that it owes its *origin* to its far-famed *Well*, although its rise and progress from a place of insignificance to a town of immense wealth and population, are attributable to other, and far more important causes. A rich mineral district—a stream of water adapted for every purpose of manufacture—contiguity to the sea for the export of the various produce of labour—a plentiful supply of fuel of every description, and an intelligent and enterprising population, are causes of celebrity, in reference to this town, far more interesting than that which it has acquired by its *Well*. Up to the commencement of the last century, *Holywell* had made little progress towards its pre-

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\* Bp. of St. Asaph—1708.

sent extent and greatness; it then relied chiefly on the “thousands who resorted with painful yet cheerful steps to the *Holy-spring*, where the devout of all ranks mixed with the rapid current warm tears of perfect contrition; and, shivering in the stream, looked up to that Omnipotent Power which raised *St. Wenefrede* to such eminent sanctity and glory.”\*

The Town of Holywell is situated on the estuary of the Dee nearly opposite to Parkgate. It lies in about  $53^{\circ} 30''$  N. Lat. and  $3^{\circ} 20''$  W. Long. It is built on the declivity of a hill gradually extending to the sea, the surrounding hills, forming a kind of amphitheatre. The streets, though much improved of late years, are still irregular. High-street is very spacious, and contains many excellent houses and elegant shops. The population is computed at from 8 to 10,000 souls, of whom are numerous poor very properly regulated and provided for.

The town of Holywell ranks the first in the principality of Wales, both in a commercial and manufacturing point of view. Its inhabitants are intelligent and enterprising, and few places can boast of society being better cemented, or good cheer and hospitality more uniformly practised. There are two Banking establishments, both situated in High-street, Messrs. R. & C. Sankey's, and Messrs. Douglas, Smalley & Co's. It has Reading Societies, Libraries, and

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\* Life of St. Wenefrede.

most excellent Inns; the *White Horse* kept by Mr. Richard Mansell, and the *King's Arms* by Mr. Thomas Jones, fully deserve the high reputation they have acquired, both for the civility of the worthy proprietors, and the general regulations of the establishments.

An admirer of the works of art may, at this place, find his taste amply gratified by viewing the numerous works of lead, calamine, copper, brass, and cotton. The parish church is situated at the foot of a hill at one end of the town, and so low that the prayer bell can be heard only at a very little distance. This defect is remedied by a person, hired by the inhabitants, who has a leathern strap fastened round his neck, at the end of which is suspended a bell of tolerable weight, and over one of his knees is buckled a cushion; thus accoutred, he sets out just before the hour of prayers, and walks round the principal parts of the town, jingling the bell every time his cushioned knee comes forward.

The present church was rebuilt in 1769, on the site of the old one, and of the same length and breadth, *viz.* the length, sixty-eight feet, the breadth, fifty-six. It is difficult to ascertain the ancient architecture of this church. Near the entrance, at the west-end, is a doorway, with an obtuse *gothic* arch. The pillars which support the gallery on each side of the nave, are original; and, by the specimens given by Dr. Ducarel, in his *Norman Antiquities*, tab. xiii. appear to have been in use among the Saxons and the Normans. The



arches, which might have confirmed our suspicion that the church was built in the Norman reign, are taken away, but the style continued till about the year 1200. The church has a nave and two aisles, over which are two handsome galleries; and the whole, it is supposed, will contain three thousand people. It is plain and neat, and has within these few years undergone considerable improvements, and has an excellent organ, which is done ample justice to by the organist, Mr. Edward Randles, son of the late Mr. Randles of Wrexham, and brother of the late celebrated Miss Randles, who had the honor of playing, on the *Piana forte*, before her late Majesty Queen Charlotte, when only 3 years old.

There are several monuments and tablets in the church, and amongst them one, by Westmacott, erected to the memory of Paul Panton, Esq. on the right side of the altar, claims attention on account of the neatness of the design, and elegance of its execution.

Under the chancel are the vaults of the *Mostyns* of *Talacre*, the *Pennants* of *Bagillt*, and the *Pantons* of *Bagillt*. In the chancel is a neat *Cenotaph*, in memory of *Mary*, mother to the late Edward Pennant, Esquire, with the following inscription;—

“She was prudent, pious, and charitable; in the midst of misfortunes shewed a great example of meekness and humility, of patience and resignation to the will of God.”

On the wall, at the end of the same aisle, is a flat



stone with twelve quarterings, all correctly copied from those over the chimney piece in the dining room at Mostyn.

On the wall of the south aisle is a small monument in memory of the reverend Robert Edwards, a younger son of Brynford, rector of Halkin, who died May 13th, 1694.

A fourth mural tablet, smaller than the preceding, is placed in the wall of the north aisle; on it is inscribed the following epitaph;—

Resurrectio mea XTUS.

Hic jacet corpus *Johannis Pennant*, de *Holywell*, Armigeri;  
qui obiit xxx. die *Augusti*, 1623.

In rebuilding the church was found the headless figure of a priest, in his sacerdotal habit, and with a chalice in his hand. He is supposed to have been *Thomas*, second son of *Thomas ap David*, Abbot of *Basingwerk*. This headless trunk the sexton invariably exhibits as the image of the blessed St. Wenefrede! Very apropos truly, but the ruse succeeds to the no small satisfaction of the curious, and, without doubt, to the profit of the antiquarian sexton.

The Steeple is plain and square, embattled at top; very strongly built, but without any mark to denote the era of its erection.

The living before the dissolution belonged to the

abbey of Basingwerk. It is a vicarage in the right of Jesus College, which nominates, and of the lay rector, who presents. The right of presentation since the year 1626, has been in the Davies' of Llannerch, and continues in that family to the present time. The present incumbent, the Rev. J. Jones, was inducted in the year 1807. The service is alternately, english and welsh; at night there are Lectures. The sacred duties attached to this populous parish, are performed in the most exemplary manner, by the reverend vicar, assisted by the Rev. J. Blackwell, as his curate. The tithes attached to the living are principally engrossed by lay impropriators, consequently, the value thereof is quite inadequate to the duties to be performed. The offerings, however, considerably assist the amount of the annual income. The reverend vicar is a zealous promoter of the prosperity of the town, and an enlightened commissioner of taxes, roads, &c.

In so large a parish as Holywell, extending from north to south, seven miles, and from east to west, four miles, and throughout very thickly populated, it is a matter of surprize that there is only one church; but such is the fact, and hence the rapid spread of sectarianism in the parish may be readily accounted for. There are here five places of worship for the dissenters, and the roman catholics, of the latter persuasion, there is a considerable number residing in the neighbourhood, amongst whom are several eminent and wealthy families, not less distinguished for their private virtues, than public patriotism.

A Dispensary was also established here in the year 1825, which is supported by a very liberal subscription among the inhabitants of the town, the nobility, gentry, and clergy of the county of Flint; as also, a savings' bank, which from the number of the depositors, and the amount of money received, does infinite credit to the industry, sobriety, and economy of the inhabitants.

Above the church is a hill called Bryn y Castell, or Castle Hill, narrow and very steep on the sides, projecting at the end over a little valley. On this might have stood the castle of Treffynnon, or St. Wenefrede, built by Randle the third, Earl of Chester, in the year 1210. There are not at present any vestiges left. On the summit of this hill is situated the admired residence of the late Christopher Smalley, esq.

At the foot of the steep hill, beneath the town, is situated the wonderful spring, which forms the far-famed

### ST. WENEFREDE'S WELL.

The history of this extraordinary spring may be regarded as being of two kinds—the one its REAL HISTORY, the other its LEGENDARY one. In the present succinct account, an attempt will be made to place its history in those distinct points of view; in doing so, however, it is wished to be understood, that the writer has only one object, namely, *that of distinguishing truth from error*; or in other words,

attributing to the MOST HIGH that glory which to HIM alone is due. We shall, therefore, proceed to give the first of these accounts, and conclude the narrative with the legend of the well, as taken from the Life of the patron Saint.

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The well is approached by the descent of a flight of steps, and is a beautiful polygonal fountain, six feet deep; the water however is so clear that a pin may be seen at the bottom. The spring is certainly the finest in the kingdom, and the water is considered to be endowed with every good quality; the sanative-ness thereof is said to be unequalled.

By the gauge, the bason will hold about two hundred and forty tons of water, which when emptied, is filled again in less than two minutes. This experiment was tried on the 12th of July, 1731; Mr. Price, the rector of Holywell, Mr. Williams, Mr. Wynne, Dr. Taylor, and several other gentlemen being present; which proves that the spring then raised more than one hundred tons of water in a minute.

Mr. Pennant however under-rates this calculation. He says, that by two different trials made for his information, it was found to fling out about twenty-one tons of water in a minute. It never freezes, and scarcely ever varies in quantity, either in draughts, or after the greatest rains. The well is covered with a rich arch supported by pillars. The roof is most ex-

quisitely carved in stone. Immediately over the fountain is the legend of St. Wenefrede, on a pendant projection, with the arms of England at the bottom. This however is so defaced by the ravages of time, as to be hardly decipherable. Numbers of fine ribs or groins secure the arch; between them are either a sculpture or some emblematical devise. Several have a reference to the Stanley family, who erected the building and chapel over it. On the right side, on entering, is seen the profiles of Margaret, countess of Derby, mother of Henry the 7th, and a portrait of the earl, her husband, is engraved on the same stone. The arms of the Stanley family are detached over several parts of the roof. That part which is devoted to Sir William Stanley, who was a knight of the garter, bears a wolf's head (the arms of the earls of Chester) *enclosed with a garter*. Sir William was chamberlain of Chester, and justiciary of North Wales, in the latter end of the fifteenth century.

The tun with a plant issuing out of it, is a *rebus*, being the arms of his wife Elizabeth Hopton, and allusive to her name (*Hop-tun.*) The other badges of the same house, are, the stag's head, the eagle's leg, and the three legs, the arms of the Isle of Man. We find also the arms of Catherine of Arrogan, widow to prince Arthur, and afterwards the unfortunate wife of Henry VIII. three pomegranates in a shield, surmounted with a crown. Over one of the lesser arches, on each side of the well, are the dragon and grey-hound, the supporters of the arms of England during the reign of

Henry the 7th, and part of that of Henry the 8th. Henry the 7th bore them as a badge of the house of Tudor, which its illustrious founder, the great Welsh prince and chieftain, Owen Tudor of Anglesea, derived from Cadwaladr, last king of Britain.

Over the well is a chapel, now converted into a School, of the same date with the other building; a neat piece of gothic architecture. The east end is a pentagon, and had five windows with elegant tracery. The top arched, and crossed with neat slender ribs. It had been open to the body of the chapel; but the fine arch which formed the division, was bricked up many years ago. On one side is an oblong recess, formed by supported pillars; and within is a window impending over the well. Under the centre window must have stood the altar. The whole length of the chapel is fifty-two feet; the breadth is twenty. The recess is twenty-six feet long, and eight broad. The roof is neat wood-work. This was a free chapel, in the gift of the bishop, with a reserve of a stipend to the chapter; but the rest of the offerings were to be expended on the chapel. In the reign of Richard the 3rd, the abbot and convent had from the crown ten marks *yerely, for the sustentacione and salarie of a prieste at the chapelle of St. Wynefride.* The chapel is now private property, belonging to the Llannerch family, but the well in consequence of a decree in chancery, is open to the public at large.

The room has been used for the hall, as holding

both the great and the quarter sessions, properly fitted up for the purpose. But the distance from the centre of the county was found so inconvenient, they were removed to Flint, and finally to Mold, where they still continue.

The window in this chapel impends a vast height over the bathing well; several persons have leaped therefrom into the water, without receiving any other injury than the proper reward of their folly.

The bathing-well is an oblong, thirty-eight feet by sixteen, with commodious steps for descent into the bath. Near the steps, two feet beneath the water, is a large stone, called the *wishing-stone*. It has received many a kiss from the faithful, who were supposed never to fail in experiencing the completion of their desires, provided the wish is delivered with full devotion and confidence. In this bath grows the *Sweet moss*, or moss called *Jungermannia Asplenioides* and the *Violet smelling*, or *Byssus Jolithus* of *Linnæus*. The latter is considered by the *faithful* as the bloody stains of the holy virgin, and the former as having had its oderiferous quality conferred upon it by the saint herself. Mr. Pennant says, that the sweet moss is far from being confined to this fountain, and that it is to be found in another *holy* well in Carnarvonshire, called *Ffynnon Llanddeiniolen*; he also says, that the *Byssus* is also common to Lapland, and to other countries besides our own. *Linnæus* says, that "the stone to which the *Byssus* adheres easily betrays itself



by the colour, being as if smeared with blood; and if rubbed, yields a smell like violets.

The Holy Fathers gave all encouragement to pilgrims to frequent this fountain. Pope *Martin V.* in the reign of Henry V. furnished the Abbey of *Basingwerk* with pardons and indulgences, to sell to the devotees. These were renewed again in the reign of queen *Mary*, by the interest of *Thomas Goldwell*, bishop of *St. Asaph*, who fled into *Italy* on the accession of *Elizabeth*.

The resort of pilgrims of late years to these *Fontanalia*, has considerably decreased; the greatest number are from Lancashire. In the summer, still a few are to be seen in the water in deep devotion up to their chins for hours, sending up their prayers, or performing a number of evolutions round the polygonal well; or threading the arch between well and well a prescribed number of times.

King James II. visited this well August 29th, 1686. He gave, in the course of his progress, as marks of his favor, golden rings, with his hair platted beneath a crystal. Mr. Pennant saw one, which he had bestowed on a roman catholic priest of a neighbouring family. The well was also visited by his royal highness prince Leopold, accompanied by earl Grosvenor, viscount Belgrave, and others, on the 21st of October, 1819; in 1828, it was visited by his royal highness the duke of Sussex, as, also, by the duke and



duches of St. Albans; and in 1829, by the duke de Chartres and suite.

The following order for putting the chapel over the well into possession of a clergyman of the church of Rome, was addressed to sir Roger Mostyn, baronet, by the Queen of James II.

“ SIR ROGER MOSTYN.

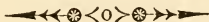
“ It having pleased the king, by his royall grant, to bestow upon me the antient chappell adjoining to St. *Winifride's* well; these are to desire you to give present possession, in my name, of the said chappell, to Mr. *Thomas Roberts*, who will deliver this letter into your hands. It being also my intention to have the place decently repaired, and put to a good use, I further desire, that you will affoord him your favour and protection, that he may not be disturbed in the performance thereof. You may rest assured, that what you do herein, according to my desire, shall be very kindly remembered by

Your good frind,

May the 8th, 1687.

WHITEHALL.

MARY: REGINA.



Having thus concatenated such *facts* of interest relating to this well, as came within our power, and the object of this work, we shall now proceed to detail the miraculous

LEGEND OF ST. WINEFREDE,\*

which obtained implicit credence from the *faithful*

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\* Abridged from the Life of the Saint, Ed. 1635, republished in 1712.

for a series of centuries, and which at this moment is the foundation of festivals, observed and relied on, as necessary for the salvation of man.

“*St. Wenefride*, the glory of West Britain, was born in the troublesome reign of *Cadwallawn*; and *St. Beuno*, her uncle, who had assumed the monastic habit and retired to *Clynnog*, in Carnarvonshire, where he built a church and founded a convent, made a visit to the house of the virgin’s father, whose wife’s brother *St. Beuno* was. The venerable monk having with much humility and great modesty, made himself known to his relatives, told them that he was sent by *Almighty God* to honor him there, as he had done in other places, and that he neither expected, nor craved any other favour, than a small parcel of *Thewith’s* (*St. Wenefride’s* father) territories, sufficient to build a church on.

*Thewith* having joyfully acceded to this pious request, and the church being made fit to offer in it the “*Divine Sacrifice*,” *Thewith* and his spouse, with their only child, were daily present at “*Holy Mass*.”

“It was her parents’ intention to marry her to some nobleman of the country, and to bestow on her a most plentiful fortune; but her own blessed redeemer, in those tender years, was disposing her sweetly for his service. By *St. Beuno’s* frequent discourses, she understood how great, how good, and how glorious, the heavenly spouse was. Wherefore she resolved to consecrate herself to the Lord of heaven and earth.

“The implacable enemy of mankind, suspecting that such high beginnings of perfection in tender years, might prove a powerful invitation to other noble virgins of despising themselves and the world, employed one of his incarnate Emissaries to defeat the design of the *Holy Ghost*. As the *Devil* put into the heart of *Judas Iscariot* to betray the *Son of God*, so he cast an impure flame into the heart of *Cradocus*, king *Alen*’s son, to commit a sacrilegious rape upon *Christ*’s lovely spouse; he, therefore, waited for an opportunity to gratify his passion, which thus happened:—One *sunday*, *St. Wenefride*’s parents being gone to church before her, and she for a short space detained at home on a charitable account, soon to follow after; the Prince having intelligence, entered the house, under the pretence of business with the lord *Thewith*. At first the holy maid, not at all suspecting his insincerity or design, received him very courteously, with the humble apology of her unworthiness to entertain one of his royal birth: ‘*but if you please*’ (said she) ‘*to repose yourself in a more convenient room till divine service is ended, my father will be at liberty to serve you.*’ To this candid and obliging answer of the bashful virgin, *Cradocus* replied, that nothing could be more agreeable than to stay in her company, since it was then solely in her power to make him happy. If she complied with the ardent desires of a passionate lover, she might expect all the happiness his power and quality was capable of bestowing upon her.

“Although the virgin blushed and trembled at this

strange proposal, yet being perfectly present to herself in the dangerous occasion, and fortified with divine grace, and light from heaven, she answered, that there was not the least doubt to be made of enjoying honours, wealth, and worldly happiness, by being espoused to so noble a prince; that she was in great confusion to be so suddenly surprised in such mean attire, not becoming his presence: *'wherefore permit me'* (said she) *'to enter my chamber, adjoining to this, to better my dress.'* Cradocus, unwillingly gave ear to the virgin's petition, yet could not refuse a request, accompanied with so much modesty, and seeming deference to his quality. She no sooner got clear of so unpleasant a guest, but slipping out privately by another door, she immediately ran towards the church, sure of meeting with protection there. Mean time, the prince, impatient of so long a delay, and not without some suspicion of what had happened, rushed into the room to which she retired; not finding her there, he pursued her so eagerly, that he overtook her on the descent of the hill, before she could gain the church. There, with a drawn sword in his hand, and with fury in his face, he threatened to separate her head from her body, unless she quickly consented to his proposal; to which she undauntedly and heroically replied, how, by her parents' approbation, she was holily espoused to *the Son of God*, who infinitely exceeded all power and beauty upon earth, that she would be faithful and constant in her pure affections, and rather lose her life, than to admit any rival in his love. *'Neither shall your menaces and terrors'* (said she) *'draw*

from the sweet intercourse with him, nor so overawe me, as to make me recede, in the least, from executing what I have promised'. As it happens sometimes, that despised love turns into rage, so it fared with barbarous *Cradocus*, who, seeing himself scorned, gave such a deadly blow to the *Virgin's* neck, that the first stroke severed the head from the body; which falling upon the descent of the hill, rolled down to the church, where the congregation was kneeling before the altar. As they were terrified with the bloody object of her head, so they were astonished to behold a clear and rapid spring, gushing out of that spot of ground her head had first fallen upon. The place of her martyrdom had, before her death, the name of the *Dry Valley*, or *Barren Bottom*, which was changed into the title of *Finhon*, which in old *Welsh* signifies a fountain or well. It was also observed, that the stones of the well were tinctured with drops, as it were, of blood, to perpetuate the memory of what she had shed for the love of *Christ*; and in process of time, it was taken notice of, that the moss growing round the well had a very fragrant smell, as an emblem of the odour of her angelical virtues.

“To close the last act of this inhuman tragedy, and to relate the dreadful stroke of divine justice on the cruel *tyrant*, we are to premise with brevity, that the just grief of the holy virgin's parents was not to be expressed, on seeing their dear child so villainously butchered, almost before their eyes. *St. Beuno's* virtue was also put to the test, to bear with true resignation the

loss of so devout a creature. Tears came trickling down his cheeks at the sight of the horrid murder. The afflicted people, with united voices called upon heaven for speedy execution against him who had committed the heinous outrage. Indignation accompanied compassion, when they beheld the unrelenting Assassin wiping his bloody sword upon the grass, and glorying in the detestable fact, without any fear of God or man. St. Beuno was preparing to offer the *unbloody sacrifice* of our redemption, but being inspired by him who declared, *Revenge to me, and I will repay it*; he left the altar, and taking the blessed martyr's head into his trembling hands, he mounted the ascent towards Cradocus. He feared not such a blow as was given to the tender virgin; on the same account, for the love of *Christ*, he would have bid it welcome. Being come up to him, he said, '*Thou wicked man, who, without any regard to innocence or beauty, hast massacred a princely virgin, no less nobly born than thyself. Nor dost thou repent, or seem sorry, as thou oughtest to do, for this horrid sacrilege. I here beseech my heavenly Lord, that, for an example to others, he will please to execute his divine judgment against thee, who hast murdered his spouse, troubled his people, violated his sabbath, and besprinkled his holy house with blood, which I consecrated to his service.*' As the earth swallowed up rebellious and perverse *Korah*, so some affirm, that at St. Beuno's last words, *Cradocus* not only dropped down dead, but also, that the earth opened to give passage to the luxurious body to sink towards his monstrous soul, or that the

master whom he had served, *the Devil*, carried it off; for it is certain, that the carcass of the cruel murderer never afterwards appeared.

“The faithful, glorified *God* in his justice, but could not curb their grief; St. Beuno earnestly exhorted the parents and people to turn from lamentations, and to address the *Creator* of souls, and *Raiser* up of dead bodies, that, as he had commanded back *Lazurus* to life, rotting in his monument, so, to his greater honour and glory, and for the comfort of the sorrowful parents, (who had so generously dedicated this darling child to his service,) he would graciously vouchsafe to restore her to life. He then joined the sacred head to the pale body, covering both with his cloak, after which, he offered up the holy sacrifice of our salvation.

“The pious people, (drowned in tears,) having, with sighs and moving sobs, joined with St. Beuno in prayer, the virgin arose, as newly awaked from sleep. She wiped her eyes and face, to clear away that glorious dust, which had settled on her lovely head, when it tumbled towards her dear St. Beuno.

“One particular in this surprising resuscitation is very remarkable, *viz.*—when her parents, and others, fixed their eyes upon her neck, they observed a *pure white circle*, no larger than a small thread, quite round it, denoting the place where the separation had been made, which always after remained. From this time, the great veneration of the people for her, changed her name which was Brewa, into that of Wenefride.”



St. Wenefride survived her decollation fifteen years. She died at Gwytherin, in Denbighshire, where her bones rested till the reign of king Stephen; when, after divine admonition, they were surrendered to the abbey of St. Peter and St. Paul, at Shrewsbury. The memory of the two great events, that of her first death is celebrated on the 22d of June; that of her translation on the 3d of November.

St. Beuno having bestowed the veil on St. Wenefride and departed, "whither the Spirit of God should direct him," left the Saint in charge of his church and convent, then established there. Previous to his departure however, he charged her, amongst other things, to send some letters or tokens to him, at least once a year. I shall, says he, "go to a remote part of this island; God, will give me a cell, near unto the sea shore, so that whenever you send to me, only cast your presents into the stream of this fountain, and they will come safe unto me." So they accordingly did,—for the first present she sent, was an embroidered vestment, which she threw into the water, by the well side, and to the astonishment of the beholders, it passed down the stream, then into the river, and landed near the monastery where St. Beuno dwelt. He was walking on the sea shore, and perceiving a bundle, wondered what it could be, but suddenly recollecting his injunction to St. Wenefrede, he took it up, and found the vestment to be without the least sign of wet or moisture.

After Wenefride's death, says her historian, "her sanctity was proved by numberless miracles; the waters were almost as sanative as those of the pool of



Bethesda, all infirmities incident to the human body, meeting with relief therefrom."

We shall now take leave of St. Wenefrede, by adding another curious life of her, written in old english rhyme. It is to be found in the public library at Oxford, and is supposed to be about 500 years old.

"SEINT VONEFREDE THE HOLI VIRGINE."

- U**nefred was an holy Mayde, so ich ondirstonde,  
 In the tyme tho Syre *Aleyn* was King of *Ingelonde* :  
 This ilke King was a good Man, so God 3ef the Gas,  
 They his Sone was a Fool, thilke tyme nas  
 5 And that Men seth wel ofte, also thinketh me ;  
 Therefore wel is the Child that may I the be Fadir what he be.  
 This holy Mayde lerned here Beleue tho  
 With a Prest of the Contre, that men cleped *Beuno*.  
 This Mayde he tau3t ever wel to slen al Lecherye.  
 10 And to kepe here Body clene fram Synne and fram Folye.  
 And the Mayde him behet myd good wille tho  
 That 3he wolde clene Mayde beleven evermo.  
 In a tyme hit byfil that the deuel alone  
 Acom, after that here Frenedes to Chirche weren agone.  
 15 The Kinges Sone come to Here in his Rebaudye,  
 And gan here bysechen faste, to don his Lecherye.  
 The Mayde him answered and sayde anon ry3t  
 Ich nam nou3t to ben thin Hore nouthe I dy3t ary3t :  
 Ich wole gone to boure, and come to The anon,  
 20 And than with my Body thy wil thou my3t done.  
 For 3he wolde ascapye, the Mayde seyde al this,  
 And for 3he nolde nou3t habbe with him to don I wis.  
 Tho 3he was withinne a Dore 3he ondede anon,  
 And suththe toward Chirche wel 3erne 3he gangon.  
 25 Anon tho this fool Child herof the soth isay,  
 That he was bygylid thorow3 that sayre May.  
 And after here wel quickliche anon he gan to go,  
 And anon drou3 out his Swerd tho he com here to.  
 And faste by the Chirche dore he smot of here heved ;  
 30 And thus was this holy Mayde of here Lyf byreved.  
 God cheued anon that this dede was nou3t gode,  
 Therefore with the dede this 3ong Child worth tho wode :  
 In all his woodhede he lefte tydes thre,  
 And suththe he deyde sodeynliche, so the Bok telleth me.  
 35 The Devel was tho iredy, and Body and Soule nom,  
 So that no Man nyste whodyr that he bycom.

- In the stede that the Mayde so byhevedid was  
 A swythe fayr Welle anon Sprong bycas.  
 And som men told in suththe that therby tho stode,  
 40 That ther bethin Stonys ispringed al with blode.  
 Ther nys so queinte nother more ne lasse  
 That mowe the blodis dropis fram the Stonys wassche.  
 Ae ech Mon bereth wisse that hem up nom,  
 That it is a tokene of here martirdom.
- 45 Tho this holy Prest *Beuno* ihurd of al this fare,  
 Sore him of thou3t that he nadde I ben thare :  
 And for that hit was nou3t the tyme that 3he cholde ben dede,  
 Therefore a Predycacioun to the Peple he hath isede.  
 ¶ And in his Predycacioun Ich wot he seyde this,  
 50 Hit ner nou3t tyme that the Mayde 3it partid fram Us,  
 Ae bende wolde that 3he cholde herafter libbe longe,  
 And wel servy Crist, mede to ondirforge.  
 Therefore ich 3ou bidde, that 3e bidde with Me,  
 To oure Lord Ihu Crist that is so hende and fre,  
 55 That he us sende to day a party of his Grace,  
 And arere this Mayde to lyve in this Place.  
 The heved to this Body this holy Prest gan don  
 And thorw3 his Love ond here, that Mayde aros anon.  
 Ever therafter aboute here Nekke was as they hit were a Threde
- 60 In tokenyng of the marterdom that 3he was onso dede.  
 Whyter thing ne my3te be than the Threde was.  
 The Peple seyde for joye all *Deo gratias*  
 Thorw3 *Beuno* his rede, abyte suththe 3he nom,  
 And ladde swyth hard lif and good Nonne bysom,
- 65 *Beuno* in a tyme to here seyde tho,  
*Woufred*, Ihu Crist it wole that we to party ato.  
 For into another Contre nede ich mot wende,  
 And there nedis to dwellin to my lyves end.  
 Ech 3er thou most sende som presaut, ich the telle,
- 70 And what thou wolt me sende cast hit in the Welle.  
 Of that thou dost therinne ne drede the ri3t nou3t,  
 That hit ne chal thorw3 Goddes grace, to me ben well ibrou3t.  
 And after this, Vij 3er hennes, thou chalt fare,  
 And thy lyf dayis enden Ich wot elleswhare.
- 75 And loke in thynne lyve that thou love Chastede,  
 For nedes ich most henne no long ne man ich her be,  
 At the Welle I of spake the Mayde tho him brou3te.  
 Suththe tornyd here a3en and a Chesible him wrou3te,  
 By here my3t 3he hit made both good and ryche,
- 80 That nas in all the Londe no Chesible here ilyche.  
 Tho hit was iredy, thorw work of here honde,  
 In a whit Mentel the Chesible she hit wonde :  
 3he leyde nit in the Streme, that 3he ifonde ther,  
 And thorw3 Goddes grace the Strem hit forth ber,
- 85 Into that ilke selve stede that *Beuno* woned tho,  
 And they hit was from the Welle thrity myle and mo,

- And therinne my3t wel I se, how good Crist is,  
 And that hit was a Merakle eche man may wite, I wis.  
 After that the Vij 3er wer ibrou3t to ende,  
 90 Nede most *Wonefred* to other Stede wende.  
 And for *Beuno* the holy Prest hit had I seyde before,  
 Nede moste these wordis to soth ben I core.  
 Thennes for to wende 3he gan her dy3ts I wis,  
 Into a swythe wilde Stede that *Veterat* icleped is.  
 95 Both Monkes and Nonnes this Mayde ifounde tho,  
 That ladden good lyue, and clene; so ech man au3t to do.  
*Bulopius* het the Abbot that here Mayster was there,  
 Swythe moche he dede his Wille his Monkes for to lere.  
 A Modir hadde this Abbot that him to man bare,  
 100 Mayster of the Nonnes Ich wot that 3he was thare.  
 By here ry3t name Men cleped here *Eusebie*  
 For moche 3he hatyed Sinne and loved Cortesie.  
 Therefore Women drou3 to here both for add ner,  
 For in alle the Londe 3ho ne hadde no Per,  
 105 Thorw3 red of the Abot *Wonefred* to here drou3  
 Eyther of other is Feléchiye was tho glad inou3.  
 After that *Euzebye*, partyd of this lyve,  
*Wonefrede* dwelled in here Stede 3eres ten and fyve.  
 Mek 3he was, and of fayr Speche, and swyth mylde of mode,  
 110 And thorw here holy Speche 3he brou3te Mony to Gode.  
 Suththe tho God sente his Grace, to Heven 3he gan wende  
 Now lhu for the love of Here, thedir us bringe at oure ende.  
*Amen.*

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VOCABULARY OF THE DIFFICULT WORDS CONTAINED  
 IN THE FOREGOING POEM.

<i>Abyte</i> , Habit of a Nun.	ready; <i>ispringed</i> , sprinkled;
<i>Ascapye</i> , to escape.	<i>ihurd</i> , heard; <i>idy3t</i> , decked.
<i>Behet</i> , promised.	<i>Ich</i> , I. <i>Ilk</i> , the same.
<i>Bidde</i> , pray.	<i>Libbe</i> , live. The v. was written
<i>Byleven</i> , to live.	like a b.
<i>Ch</i> , for Sh, v. 31, 47.	<i>Myd</i> , with.
<i>Fare</i> , go away.	<i>Nom</i> , took; to <i>nim</i> is to steal.
<i>Flen</i> , to flee.	<i>Queint</i> , neat, curious.
<i>Fool</i> , foul.	<i>Nas</i> , was not; <i>nam</i> , am not;
<i>Gangon</i> , went.	<i>nold</i> , would not; <i>nyst</i> , wist
3, for g, v. iii; for y, xxxii; for	not; <i>nadde</i> , had not.
gh, ix; for 5, xii.	o for u, v. l.
<i>3ern</i> , carefully, diligently.	<i>Rebaudie</i> , obscene talk.
<i>Het</i> , was called.	<i>Stede</i> , Place.
<i>Hende</i> , gentle, good.	<i>Tho</i> , when, and then.
<i>Hit</i> , it.	<i>They</i> , altho'
I, added to a word, makes it	<i>Wend</i> , go.
signify no more than it did	<i>Woned</i> , dwelt.
before: <i>Isay</i> , saw; <i>iredy</i> ,	<i>Worth tho wode</i> , for grew mad.

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Proceeding along the side of the stream, issuing from the well just described, for about a mile, and crossing the marsh to the right, ascend to the ruins of

### BASINGWERK ABBEY,

delightfully situated upon a gentle eminence, commanding an extensive prospect of the river Dee, Chester, Parkgate, and the Lancastrian hills. The fragments which remain are scarcely sufficient to indicate what this abbey has formerly been, other than its architecture was a mixture of the saxon and gothic styles. It was founded, according to Bishop Tanner, in 1131, by Randal, earl of Chester; according to Bishop Fleetwood, by Henry 2nd, at a later period. The refectory is tolerably entire, and has on one side a large recess with two round arches. The abbey itself was inhabited about the year 1720, but was afterwards pulled down by order of the proprietor, Lady Mostyn, into whose family it came by the marriage of Anne, only daughter of Henry ap Harry, of the tribe of Ednowain Bendew, with William Mostyn, esq. of Talacre, in the sixteenth century. It is now only the habitation of jack-daws, but its ivy-spread mouldering walls, and finely shaded aspect gives it a beautiful and sombre effect. The revenues of this monastery, at the time of the dissolution, were £.157 ,, 15 ,, 2.

Not far from this place, on the edge of Watt's Dyke formerly stood a strong fort, called *Basingwerk Castle*,

vestiges of which are still to be seen in the foundation of a wall on the road side, near the turnpike gate, opposite to the ruins. This fabric is of a much more ancient date than the abbey, before mentioned, although there is strong reason to believe that, even this, was originally a religious foundation. The first mention we have of it is in *Bradshaw's* life of Saint Werburg, who states the occasion upon which the "abbey" of Basingwerk was first fortified. He informs us, that Richard, son of Hugh Lupus, earl of Chester, on his return from Normandy, in the eleventh century, attempted a pilgrimage to the well of St. Wenefrede, but either on going or returning, was attacked by the welsh, and obliged to take shelter in Basingwerk Abbey. In this emergency, he applied to St. Werburg for advice and assistance, who miraculously raised certain sands between Flintshire and the opposite coast (Wirral,) and thus gave means to his (the earl's) constable and men, to pass to his relief. Hence that part of the sands retain the appellation of *Constables' Sands*, to this day.\* It was afterwards demolished by the welsh in the reign of king Stephen, but again rebuilt

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\* We feel it due to Saint Werburg, as well as to his Historian, to disclaim making any improper use of their authority, in this instance, since we have been so tenacious of our credulity towards a *Lady Saint*, and her worthy historian *Robert*, Prior of Shrewsbury, who no doubt, are as worthy of credit as the other *Saint*, and the Monk who wrote the legend, now under consideration. However, that Basingwerk Castle was originally an Abbey, or some such religious foundation, is probable enough—its history during the reigns of Stephen and Henry the second, with its ultimate demolition by Owen Gwynedd, admits of no doubt. ED.

and more strongly fortified and garrisoned by Henry the 2nd, in the year 1157. This monarch established here a house of the order of *Knight templars*, a military order suited to the age, and calculated to defend his castle of Basingwerk, as well as the pilgrims who resorted to the neighbouring saint, then held in great estimation. The fortress, however, was again totally demolished by *Owen Gwynedd*, prince of Wales, in 1165; after which, the name occurs no more, as a place of defence.

Proceeding along a low level road for a couple of miles, we come to

### BAGILLT,

a long straggling village, in the parish of Holywell, from which it is distant three miles and a half, running parallel with the Dee, over which is a ferry to Parkgate; the distant across is about seven miles. The influx to this village, for the purpose of conveyance to the opposite shore, and to Liverpool, is considerably diminished of late, by the establishment of regular steam packets to, and from, Mostyn Quay and Rhyl. Bagillt, notwithstanding, is a bustling place, and will continue so, as long as her smelting and coal works go on in their present prosperous state. Well conducted boats go from this place to Chester every day; with a favorable wind, these little barks make the 17 or 18 miles, in little more than two hours. The population is estimated at about fifteen hundred souls.

The last township in Holywell parish, on this side, is Coleshill, which gives name to a hundred, and was



so called from the abundance of fossil fuel it contained.

On the other side of Holywell, nearly parallel therewith, and the estuary of the Dee, lie the parishes of Whitford and Llanasa; the former celebrated for having produced that great antiquarian, tourist, and naturalist, the late Thomas Pennant, esq. and for containing the seat of the ancient family of the *Mos-tyns* of *Mostyn*; and the latter, as containing the seats of some of the most ancient and respected families of the principality. Mr Pennant, in his interesting account of the parish of

### WHITFORD\*

observes, that “of the seven churches of the hundred of Coleshill, *Widford*, as it is called in the doomsday book is one. The name was changed to *Whiteford*, of derivation unknown. In the doomsday book, notice is also taken of some of the present townships, such as *Tre Mostyn*, *Tre Bychton*, and *Merton*, under the names of *Mostone*, *Widford*, *Putecaine*, and *Meretone*.”

“The church stands in the township of *Trelan*. It is dedicated to *Saint Mary*; so popular was that *Saint*, that thirteen churches in our country were placed under her patronage, and thirteen wakes kept on one day in honor of her. The living is a rectory, a sinecure, which with the vicarage, is in the gift of

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\* *His. of the parishes of Whitford and Holywell. Qua. Edn. 1796. p. 98.*

the bishop of Saint Asaph. The church consists of a nave, with a plain tower steeple. It has besides, a side aisle, built by *Blethyn Drow*, of the house of Mostyn, to whom that part belongs."

In the village is a school, founded by Mary Bradshaw, widow of Thomas Williams of Mostyn Gate, who bequeathed by will in 1745, the interest of £.141 to be paid annually for the instruction of 14 boys.

In the church and church yard are a few monuments worthy of notice; the most remarkable of which, perhaps, is, the headstone which marks the resting place of *Catherine Morris*, otherwise *Gorse*, set up by the late Mr. Pennant. She is stated to have lived in the family of Bychton *sixty years*, and to have died at the advanced age of 106 years! Of her character, Mr. Pennant remarks, "This antediluvian was one of those characters misnamed fools, a mixture of weakness, with much acuteness and strong expressions, often highly diverting to the company." There are various memorials of distinguished members of the *Pennants* and *Mostyns*, too numerous to insert without making an invidious selection, suffice it to say, that all are alike honorable, and merited encomiums of departed worth and greatness. A small brass memorial, however, placed within the church, to the memory of a faithful servant, should not go unnoticed. The production is credible to the head and heart of the writer,—the late Thomas Pennant, esq. There is something in this small tribute



of affection and esteem, to the memory of “the faithful servant and *friend* of Thomas Pennant, esq.” so peculiarly interesting, that we cannot resist its claims for a place within our circumscribed limits. It is as follows;—

This small monument of esteem  
was erected by his lamenting master,  
in memory of

**LOUIS GOLD,**

a Norman by birth,  
and above twenty years the faithful  
Servant and friend  
of THOMAS PENNANT, Esquire,  
of Downing.

In his various services  
he made considerable savings,  
which he disposed of by his last will  
(having no relations of his own)  
with affection to his friends  
and to his fellow servants,  
with unmerited gratitude to  
his master and his family,  
and

with piety to the poor.

Every duty of his humble station,  
and every duty of life,  
He discharged so fully,  
That when the day shall come which levels  
all distinction of ranks,

He may,

By the favor of our blessed Mediator,  
hear these joyful words,

“Well done, thou good and faithful servant,  
enter into the joy of thy Lord.”

He was born at *St. Hermes de Rouville*,  
in Normandy, Aug. 22, 1717; died  
at Downing, Aug. 20, 1785; and was  
interred in the Church yard, near this wall,  
on the 22d of the same month.

Mr. Pennant adds, in respect to this excellent character, that "the wealth which he had acquired was considerable—above sixteen hundred pounds passed through my hands. He had besides a thousand pounds, which he was induced to sink for an annuity. Death, however, soon put the speculator\* in possession of the principal. I lament this, for I had been left by him residuary legatee and sole executor, with a power to dispose of the remainder (all legacies paid) in charitable uses. Thus, a thousand pounds were lost to Whitford parish. The interest of the remainder is quarterly divided among the worthiest of our poor, who may annually bless so excellent a benefactor."

In the adjoining township to the village, is situated an ancient *Pharos*, or roman light-house. It is built on the summit of a hill called *Mynydd Garreg*, or the Rock, a high and conspicuous part of the country. The romans made this erection to conduct the navigators to, and from Deva along the difficult channel of Seleia Portus. The building is still remaining and tolerably entire; its form is circular, and height considerable. The views from this spot are very extensive, and will amply reward the intelligent traveller for the toils of an ascent to it.

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\* Mr. Pennant insinuates that this *speculator* was an Attorney-at-Law, but it is hoped (for the credit of the profession) that his conduct, in this transaction, was honorable and fair, although Mr. P. seems to doubt it. *Vide Mr. Pennant's his. of Whitford and Holynell.*

We shall now proceed to give an account of

### DOWNING,

the seat of DAVID PENNANT, Esq. a name endeared to his country, for the celebrity his father acquired by his connection with literature and the arts. The name of *Pennant* will live while instruction is sought, and liveliness and pleasingness of style are admired. To "Neale's views of Gentlemen's Seats" we are chiefly indebted, for the following succinct account of Downing, though it, in its turn, is indebted to Mr. Pennant's own works, for the materials of which it is formed.

The present house was built, probably, on the site of an older mansion, in 1627, in the style of architecture of that period, but has, particularly by the late and present owners, undergone great alterations. In several of the apartments, are pictures of merit of the Italian, Flemish, and English schools, and also of many interesting portraits. The room, formerly used as a retirement for smokers, is most antequely furnished with rich oak carvings, and contains the horns of all the European animals of chase, and of various African antelopes, some Roman antiquities, arms and utensils from the islands of the Southern ocean, and other objects of curiosity.

Downing, corrupted from Eden Owain, the name of the township in which it stands, or from Dwynant, signifying the two romantic and wooden glens, which unite at some distance below, is situated on the slope

of a small valley, the lower part of which is occupied by a beautiful garden, watered by a brook, which, united with other streams, discharges itself into the sea, at the distance of a mile. "My grounds," says Mr. Pennant, in his history of Whitford and Holywell, "consists of walks, at least three miles in extent, " along the finely swelling lands, beneath the shady " depths of the glen, or through the contracted meads " which meander quite to the shore. The views are " various towards the hills, and the ancient Pharos on " Garreg." To the north, extends the hundred of Wiral, terminating with the Hilbree isles; and, more to the west, " an expanse of sea, animated with the " sight of the numerous fleets entering and sailing " out of the port of Liverpool, now swelled into a vast " emporium from (a century and a half ago) a most " insignificant fishing town,"

The family of Pennant is of great antiquity, deriving its descent from Tudor Trevor, who lived in the tenth century. Its late distinguished representative died December 16th, 1798, leaving two sons and a daughter; Thomas, the younger, rector of Weston Turville, in the county of Bucks, and David, his heir, who married Louisa, daughter of the late sir Henry Peyton, Bart. and sister to the present sir Henry Peyton, and Arrabella, (lately deceased) who intermarried into the ancient family of the *Hammers* of Bettisfield Park, Flintshire.\*

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\* Mr. Pennant in the first volume of his "Tour in Wales" gives an interesting account of what he justly calls this "great family."

Two miles north west of Downing, lies the ancient mansion of MOSTYN, the seat of

### SIR THOMAS MOSTYN, BART.

M. P. for the County. The house is approached by a magnificent gateway, called Porth mawr, erected at the termination of a venerable avenue of forest trees, leading to one vestibule of the mansion, which stands in a small but beautiful park, well clothed with wood. It is supposed to have been erected as early as the time of Henry 6, but additions and alterations have nearly obliterated its original character. The great gloomy hall is of very old date, furnished with the high *Dais*, or elevated upper end,

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He states that Collins derives it from a sir John Macksel, who had a son, John, Constable of Carnarvon Castle, in the reign of Edward the First. The Salesbury pedigree, however derives it from an *Upton*, who married *Haris verch Anian ap Gwillem ap Gryffydd ap Gwenwynwyn*, and had by her three sons, Owen, David, Philip. Philip succeeding to the fortune of his brothers married Annes, daughter and heir of *David ap Kirid ap Ymyr ap Yomas* of Penley, and had by her sir David Hanmer, one of the judges of the Common pleas in the time of Richard the second, and father in law to *Glyndwr*. It would be invidious to name the many eminent and brilliant characters which this family has produced during the period of the last five centuries, suffice it to say, that some of the greatest names that adorn the page of history, and are famed for valor, patriotism, and learning have arisen therefrom. The family of the *Hammers* received an eminent accession to its connection and importance in the beginning of the present century, by the marriage of one of its daughters to the Right

and its long table for the lord and his jovial companions; and another in the side, the seat of the inferior partakers of the good cheer. The walls are furnished in a suitable manner, with ancient militia guns, sword, and pikes; with helmets and breastplates; with funeral achievements; and with variety of spoils of the chase. A falcon is nailed against the upper end of the room, with two bells hung to each foot. With these encumbrances, it flew from its owner, a gentleman in the county of Angus, in the morning of the twenty-fourth of September, 1772, and was killed near this house, in the morning of the twenty-sixth. The adjacent kitchen is overlooked by a gallery

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Hon. Lord Kenyon of Gredington, descended, (says Mr. Pennant,) from the *Lloyds* of Bryn, of the house of *Tudor Trevor*. The first Baron of the house of *Gredington* was the celebrated Lord Chief Justice of the family name, whose learning and virtues are best described in the words of the inscription on the monument erected to his memory in Hanmer Church, which is as follows;—

### “LLOYD LORD KENYON,

“Baron of Gredington, in the county of Flint, Lord Chief Justice of England. In the execution of his high and important magistracy, he was eminently distinguished for learning, discernment, firmness, and integrity. Not only was he qualified to administer the laws with fidelity, promptitude, and vigour, but as the guardian of public morals, to instruct, admonish, and reform; for the authority of his high station, great and weighty in itself, was strengthened, graced, and dignified, by the religious simplicity of his own life and character, and the untainted purity of his habitual conduct. Dear to his family, in every office and relation of



leading to the ancient apartments of the lady of the house, at a period when the odours of the pot and spit were thought no ill savours. At one end of the gallery is a great room, remarkable for a singular event. During the time that *Henry*, earl of *Richmond*, was secretly laying the foundation of the overthrow of the house of York, he passed concealed from place to place, in order to form an interest among the Welsh, who favoured his cause, on account of their respect to his grandfather, *Owen Tudor*, their countryman. While he was at Mostyn, a party attached to

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domestic life, he has left a name, to which they look up with affectionate and honest pride, and which his country will remember with gratitude and veneration, so long as her happiness and her glory shall continue to depend on the great and united principles of religion, law, and order. Born October 5th, 1732. O. S. Died April 4th, 1802." WHAT A PORTRAIT; AND, HOW TRUE!

This splendid monument is in the usual pyramidal shape, and is divided in height into parts. The lowest contains the inscription, on the right is a spirited figure of justice, and on the left is another of religion. From the top of the pedestal arises a gothic niche, in which is a jitting figure of his lordship. The whole monument is of white marble, the figures in alto relievo, from the chisel of John Bacon, jun.

The present Lord Kenyon is a F. S. A. & D. C. L.; his son, the Hon. Lloyd Kenyon, is member for St. Michael, and promises to be as bright an ornament in the senate, as he is in private life. *Motto*, Magnanimiter crucem sustine. [In wandering from the parish of Whitford to that of Hanmer, the author trusts to the reader's indulgence; although, he conceives that the interest attached to the subjects treated of in the preceding note, as well as their identity with the county of Flint, supercedes the necessity of any apology for the introduction of them in this place.]

Richard the third, arrived there to apprehend him. He was then about to dine, but had just time to leap out of a back window, and made his escape through a hole, which to this day is called the King's. *Richard ap Howel*, then lord of Mostyn, joined *Henry* at the battle of Bosworth, and after the victory, received from the king, in token of gratitude for his preservation, the belt and sword he wore on the day. There are some remarkable portraits of the Mostyns, some busts collected in Italy, and a library, containing a most elegant collection of the classics, and various M. S. S. upon vellum. Mr. Pennant says, that scarcely any private library can boast of so valuable an assemblage. The pedigree of the Mostyns of Mostyn and Talacre, is traced to the very highest antiquity; they are of the line of Tudor Trevor, or of the tribe of *March*, so called, because a great number of gentlemen in the marches of England and Wales, were descended from him.

The family name of the Mostyns was one of considerable length, and consisted of a number of *aps*. Mr. Pennant gives the following curious account of the manner in which it was first shortened, in the reign of Henry the eighth. "*Rowland Lee*, bishop of Lichfield, and president of the marches of Wales, sat at one of the courts in a Welsh cause, and wearied with the quantity of *aps* in the jury, directed that the panel should assume their *last name*, or that of their *residence*; and that *Thomas ap Richard ap Howel ap Jevan Vychan*, (Lord of Mostyn) should for the future be reduced to the poor dissyllable *Mostyn*; no doubt to the great mortification of many an ancient line."



In the higher part of this township stands the curious cross, called *Maen Achwynfan*, or the *stone of lamentation*; because penances were often finished before such sacred pillars, and concluded with weeping and the usual marks of contrition. This is of an elegant form and sculpture: is twelve feet high, two feet four inches broad at the bottom and ten inches thick.

Of this piece of antiquity Mr. Pennant observes;—“I do not presume (after the annotator on CAMDEN has given up the point) to attempt a guess at the age. Only I must observe, that it must have been previous to the reign of gross superstition among the Welsh, otherwise the sculptor would have employed his chisel in striking out legendary stories, instead of the elegant knots and interlaced work that cover the stone. Those who suppose it to have been erected in memory of the dead slain in battle on the spot, draw their argument from the number of adjacent tumuli, containing human bones, and skulls, often marked with mortal wounds; but these earthly sepulchres are of more ancient times than the elegant sculpture of this pillar will admit. This likewise (from the crosses) is evidently a Christian monument. The former were only in use in Pagan days.”\*

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\* Mr. Pennant is correct in his conjecture. For this stately monument is a cross erected to St. Chwyfan, the patron saint of Diserth. In the church yards of Diserth and of Newmarket, which was formerly a chapel belonging to the rich Archdeaconry of Diserth, are similar pillars, but of smaller dimensions. Edw. Elwyd in his additions to Camden calls it *Maen y Chufan*, and not *Maen Achwynfan*, evidently a modern reading.

Near to it is an ancient chapel, now a farm house, called *Gelli*, the name of an adjacent tract.

From the summit of Garreg, a hill in this parish, the traveller may have an august view of Aran and Arenig in Merionethshire, and the lofty tract of Snowdon, from the crooked Moel Shabog at one end, to the towering Penmaen-mawr at the other; of the vast promontory of Llan Dudno, part of the isle of Anglesea, with the great bay of Llan Dulas, forming an extensive crescent, the estuaries of the Dee and the Mersey, and to the north, the isle of Man, and the Cumberland alps. Garreg was one of the stations, selected by Lieut. Colby of the Engineers, for the trigonometrical survey of this part of the country for the the Board of Ordnance. Lat.  $53^{\circ} 17' 41''$  Long.  $3^{\circ} 17' 19''$  elevation above the sea 835 feet. On the shore is the ancient smelting-house of Llannerch-y-môr. The estuary of the Dee lies at a short distance; the hundred of Wirral and Lancashire are seen on the other side. The view of this branch of the sea terminates on one end with Chester, and the rock of Beeston, and on the other with the Hilbree islands; The tides, here, recede so very far as to deny any variety of fish; the species most plentiful are of the flat kind.

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The adjoining parish to Whitford, coastwise, in a N. W. direction, is that of

#### LLANASA'.

Asaph, was a British Saint, founder of the See of his

name. Tradition says he had his summer residence in this parish, where he built the church, which is dedicated to him, and of which the bishops of this diocese are rectors to the present day. In the year 1385, Lawrence Child, bishop of Saint Asaph, procured the impropriation of *Llan-Asaph*, to supply the cathedral with lights. Llanasa' church is much more spacious than the generality of churches in the principality, having two east windows; in the more ancient of which is placed some fine stained glass, the gift of Harry Parry, esq.\* second son of the house of Perth-y-maen, in this parish, and ancestor to sir Edward Mostyn, who purchased the abbey of Basingwerk at the Reformation. The subject of the centre compartment is the crucifixion, with the various instruments of the passion: the side figures are the Mary Magdalen, St. James, St. Lawrence, and a bishop with the pall of Canterbury. The church-yard contains yew and other trees, and curiously wrought tomb-stones. The present incumbent of this vicarage is the rev. HENRY PARRY; a scholar, antiquarian, and divine of no ordinary celebrity. With the literature of his country, his name is intimately associated; and as an intelligent and upright magistrate, his parishioners and the surrounding neighbourhood have just reason to be proud of him. The vicarage house, which adjoins the church-yard

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\* Thomas ab Harri father to Harri Parry, was the person who jumped *Naid y March*, in the parish of Holywell.

“Goreu ar Farch o'r gwyr a fu.”

is an appropriate and neat structure, and both are surmounted by a massy mansion with ornamental carved work, and inscriptions in welsh and latin, quite characteristic of the æra of Charles the first: the feast of its rearing or finishing was held on the day of the battle of Naseby Field: it is now used as a farmhouse. These, with other buildings in the village, are seen to great advantage in descending the very steep hill in front, as the houses rise above each other on the opposite side in a very picturesque manner. Llanasa comprises the townships of Axton, Picton, Gwespyr, Kelston, Gronant, Golden Grove, Trewaelod, and Trelogan; and by the census of 1821, had a population of 1877 souls.

There are various Gentlemen's seats in this parish; we shall begin with

#### TALACRE,

the residence of Sir EDWARD MOSTYN, Bart. a branch of the family of the *Mostyns* of Mostyn. The founder of the Talacre family was *Piers* brother of *Thomas ap Richard ap Howel ap Jevan Vychan*, Lord of Mostyn, of the Tribe of Tudor Trevor.\*

This line of the Mostyns settled here about the end of the reign of Henry the 8th, or the beginning of that of Edward the 6th, by the marriage of Piers Mostyn with Hellen, daughter of Thomas Griffith, esq.

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\* Miscalled, says Mr. Pennant, "*Earl of Hereford*" cotemporary with the great King *Athelstan*, and who flourished A. D. 924.

of Pant y Ilwyndu, in this parish. The old house was erected in the time of James the 1st, it was afterwards enlarged and improved by Capability Brown in the middle of the last century. Nothing now remains of the work of Brown except the garden-house; the present baronet, sir Edward Mostyn, having levelled the whole.

The first stone of the new house was laid by Sir Edward Mostyn, on the 31st day of July, 1824, and a dinner was given on the occasion to upwards of two hundred people. The house is after the old English style, and truly handsome, built from a plan and under the superintendance of Thomas Jones, esq. of Chester, architect.

When the shell was completed, the living part was consumed by fire, on the night of September 11th, 1827, but phoenix-like it soon rose again from its ashes, and is now nearly finished.

Here are several portraits of the family by sir Peter Lely, and sir Godfrey Kneller: and two curious portraits, which till lately were concealed, of those unfortunate princes, James Edward Stuart, commonly called the Pretender, and of his son Charles Edward, count of Albany, the young Pretender, presented by the exiled family, as appears by an inscription on the back of one of them.

The present worthy possessor is sir Edward Mostyn, who is the seventh baronet, the family having been raised to that dignity by Charles the 2nd, in 1670.

Sir Edward Mostyn presided at the great EISTEDDFOD held at Denbigh, in the year 1828, on which occasion, his royal highness the duke of Sussex, and all the nobility and gentry of the surrounding country, were present. It was here that sir Edward won "golden opinions" from all ranks of his country-men, and long will the talents and unbanity displayed by the worthy baronet, on that memorable occasion, be remembered in Gwynedd. Sir Edward is the representative and heir of Piers Mostyn, who presided at the Eisteddfod at Caerwys, in the reign of queen Elizabeth; and also a lineal descendant of Richard ap Hywel ap Efan Vaughan, esq. of Mostyn, under whose management the great Eisteddfod was held at Caerwys in the reign of Henry the VIII. on the 22d July, 1523. The Committee for conducting the Eisteddfod of 1828 presented sir Edward with a GOLD HARP, as a memorial of his services on that occasion.

We shall now proceed to give an account of the beautiful residence, called

## GYRN,

·THE SEAT OF JOHN DOUGLAS, ESQ.  
situate in this parish—7 miles in a parallel line with the Dee, from Holywell, and the same distance from St. Asaph. It was formerly within the domain of Ednowain Bendew, the head of one of the fifteen tribes or nobility of North Wales, in whose descendants it continued till it passed in 1700 by the marriage



of an only daughter of the Griffiths of Pant y Llongdù, in the same parish, to Roger Mostyn, of Cilcain Hall, a branch of the ancient and neighbouring house of Mostyn, and afterwards, by the marriage of another only daughter, and heiress to Mr. Edwards, of Pentre, in Montgomeryshire, who sold it to the family of Hughes, of Halkin, now extinct. The existing edifice was built by the present possessor on the site of the old mansion. It is situated on an eminence opposite the great estuary of the Dee, near its confluence with the Mersey, its south side overhanging the precipitous bank of a small glen, along which extend several sheets of water; the grounds are finely undulated, and thickly planted, with various walks through them. The views from the summit of the high tower are very extensive, commanding the hills surrounding the lakes of Cumberland and Westmorland, as well as those of Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and Staffordshire; the Isle of Man, Beeston Castle, Chester, and Liverpool, are also in view; and in the opposite direction, a small part of the Snowdonian chain. From the lawn in front of the house, more than two hundred vessels have been seen issuing at one tide from the port of Liverpool, besides the shipping in the Dee: the light-house at the Point of Air, lies immediately on the sands below. To the eastward, the neighbouring Mostyn woods extend in an unbroken line for two miles, the same length as they are described in Domesday book, under the name of Sylva de Whiteford, and adjoining to them are those of Downing; across the Dee is Parkgate, and

beyond it Helsby Hill, one of the abrupt high terminations of Delamere forest in Cheshire. The Picture Gallery is fifty-two feet long, and lighted by a lantern of twenty-eight windows above the circular part of the ceiling. In the tablets or compartments under each window, are placed figures in bas-relief, cast from curious carvings in oak, from the time of Henry the seventh to James the first inclusive, and collected in the neighbourhood.

Alexander Douglas, the ancestor of the present owner of Gyŕn, was a branch of Douglas, of the house of Morton, and came to England in the suite of James the first, on his accession to the English throne. The king granted him possessions near Reath, in Yorkshire, where his family settled, but by their adherence to the house of Stuart during the civil wars, having raised a troop of horsemen, at their own expense, from among their tenantry, which were made prisoners on their march to join the king's forces, they were despoiled of their estates, which were never restored, notwithstanding reiterated applications to Charles the second; this being one of the many instances of ingratitude in that monarch. In the female line the present Mr. Douglas is descended from the family of Stephen Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester and Lord Chancellor of England, who made a conspicuous figure in the reigns of Henry the eighth, and Mary. Mr. Douglas' grandmother, and her maiden sister Joanna, were the last of the Bishop's family who bore the name, and were the only children of William



Gardiner, Esquire, of Send Place, near Dorking, and Haling, near Croydon, in Surrey, which latter mansion he inherited from the bishop, who originally built it.

About a mile from Gyrn, is the admired residence of

**EDWARD MORGAN, ESQ.**

called **GOLDEN GROVE,**

which has been, time immemorial, in the ancient and respectable family of the Morgans, who are descended from Ednyfed Fychan of the eight tribe of North Wales. The present mansion (which has the date 1578 over the front door) has been considerably enlarged and improved within the last forty years, by the present owner, and is a most comfortable and enchanting residence. There is a capital collection of family portraits in it by Sir Peter Lely, Sir Godfrey Kneller and others. As also a few pictures by Italian masters, collected by the present Col. Morgan when on his travels. The plantations are very extensive, which have likewise all been made within the last forty years.

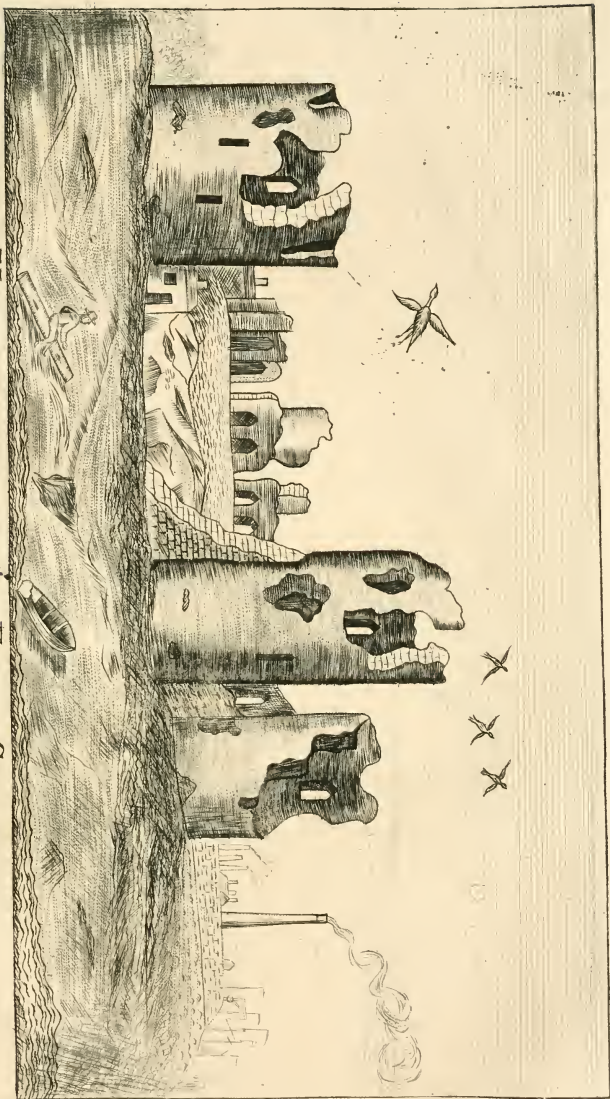
In the parish of Llanasa and the immediate vicinity, barrows or tumuli are very numerous, among which Gop is the chief, composed of small stones, covering a circular base of an acre and half, and rising thirty-nine feet, as a truncated cone. The summit of Gop is eight hundred and forty-two feet above the level of the sea, from whence Ireland and Scotland are at times to be seen.

## CHAP. III.

## FLINT, &amp;c.

FLINT, the nominal county town of the Shire of that name, is a borough, and parochial chapelry in the parish of Northop. It is beautifully situated on the estuary of the Dee, about 5 miles E. S. E. of Holywell, (opposite Parkgate) and is 203 miles distant from London. It was formerly a place of considerable importance, on account of its maritime situation, and its extensive fortress, a correct view of which in its present state, we are enabled to present to our readers on the opposite leaf; the town has now sunk into utter insignificance, except as a secondary bathing place. It however deserves a better fate, as its air is exceedingly salubrious, its surrounding scenery very beautiful, and its beach tolerably good. To its unfavorable situation as an assize and market town, is alone to be attributed its present dearth of business, and deserted appearance. Hence *Mold*, as a more central inland town, has gained those advantages, which, though originally conferred on Flint, it was evident the latter, must, eventually lose. Mr. Pennant imagines Flint from its rectangular form, to have been a Roman station and the vast quantities of Roman coins, fibulæ, and various instruments which have been discovered from

EAST VIEW  
OF  
FLINT CASTLE.





time to time in the old washes, fully bear out the assertion. In 1283 the town received its first Charter, it is dated at Flint on the 8th of September and was confirmed in the 2nd and 3rd years of Philip and Mary, and afterwards in the 12th of William the III. At this time and even previous thereto, Flint seems to have been the abode of royalty, for by a writ preserved by Rymer, it appears that in 1277 Edward the First resided here, as he did most probably when the first Charter was granted. Flint in conjunction with the Boroughs of Rhuddlan, Caerwys, Caergwrely, and Overton, returns one member to the united parliament in the person of the patriotic sir Edward Pryce Iloyd, bart. who has represented these boroughs since 1806,\* and has proved to the electors as worthy of their choice as he is of the distinguished honor they have conferred upon him

The public buildings within this precinct are the Church, the Town-hall, and the Gaol; the latter by Turner, and is peculiarly characteristic of that gentleman's architectural skill.† It was completed in 1785 and has the following inscription over the gateway written by the late Mr. Pennant.

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\* The election, on this occasion, was a most severely contested one between Sir Edward and the late Sir Stephen Glynne, Bart. It is said to have cost not less than £.30,000.

† From the inconvenience, however, attending the removal of the prisoners to the assize town, it is in contemplation to erect a new Gaol (together with a Town Hall) at Mold.

“In the 25th year of his Majesty George III, in the sheriffalty of sir Thomas Hanmer, bart. this prison was erected, instead of the ancient loathsome place of confinement, in pity to the misery of even the most guilty, to alleviate the sufferings of lesser offenders, or of the innocent themselves, whom the chances of human life may bring within these walls. Done at the expence of the county; aided by subscriptions of several of the gentry, who in the midst of most distressful days voluntarily took upon themselves part of the burden, in compassion to such of their countrymen on whom fortune had been less bounteous of her favours.”

The church (or rather the chapel) is dedicated to St. Mary, and is only a perpetual curacy under Northop, which lies about 3 miles in a S. S. E. direction, through a fine woody country, affording views of the channel and opposite land, and the Mersey beyond.

The *Castle* stands on a low free stone rock that juts into the sands a little north east of the town. Formerly the channel of the Dee ran immediately under the base of its towers, and even now at high tides the waves wash its walls. The building was originally of a square form, strengthened by large circular towers at each angle, one of which was disjoined, but had a communication with the other part by means of a draw-bridge; this is called the double tower. It appears from the present remains to have been much larger than the others, and consists of two

concentric circular walls, each six feet thick, comprising between them an open space of twenty feet in diameter. This is certainly the strongest part of the Castle, and is denominated by Froissart, Le Donjon, to which the same historian informs us the unfortunate Richard the Second retired as the place of the greatest security, when he was in danger of being taken by his rival Bolinbroke. Its interior had a gallery, where persons might retire, as the dernier resort; this had a sort of zig-zag communication up and down, and was furnished with four arch openings: it also consists of a square area, about half an acre. The remaining pointed windows, on the west side, are sufficient to indicate that this, like many other ancient buildings, was altered according to vogue of fashion. On the north-east side it has an out-work called the barbican, which consists of a square tower; this was nothing more than a kind of postern.

The period, when this Castle was originally erected, has been a question involved in obscurity and doubt. Camden asserts that it was began by Henry the Second, in 1157, and finished by Edward the First. Lord Lyttleton, in his history of Henry, is of the same opinion; but Lealand,\* who is a good authority on the subject, attributes its foundation to Edward the First; he is followed by Fabian and Stowe. The

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\* Lealand Colect. Tom. II. 420



probability is, that subsequent to the signal defeat of Henry at Eulo, and the great dismay which followed at Coleshill, which is close by, this monarch, in order to cover his army and prevent such disaster in future, might have caused some sort of a fortification to be erected here, and then Edward afterwards acquainted with the eligibility of the situation, as bordering on the sea, strengthened and enlarged it to its present form. This monarch resided here in 1277, and rebuilt the Castle, which shews that he was not the original founder but an enlarger. This enlargement must have been very prejudicial to the men of Flint, for in 1281, among other grievances, they complained "that the King builded the Castle on their soil," by which means "the noblest and the best of the countrie be injured;" and, although the Justiciary had received the Royal mandate to "grant them remuneration of ground, equally in goodness and quality," they did not receive "in lieu neither land nor monie." The rolls of Edward notice this place very frequently.

In the time of King Henry the Fifth, Flint Castle was in the possession of the Chamberlain of Chester, and he appointed Nicholas Hawbuck Constable, who kept it, with four men at arms and twelve archers, at the expence of one hundred and forty-six pounds per annum.

An order was issued in 1280 for the custody of the gate, when the Constable, as the Governor, was appointed an annual salary of ten pounds a year. During the insurrection of Llywelyn and David, in



1280, the Welsh, took this castle by surprise; at the same time the South Wales chieftains took the castle of Aberystwyth: but Edward soon afterwards compelled them to fly in precipitation, leaving it undefended. In 1290 an order was issued for superintending the work of this fortress as well as those of Rhuddlan. In 1311 Edward the 2nd received here from banishment his particular favorite Piers Gaveston. The next account we have of Flint castle is in 1355, when Edward the 3rd granted it to his son the Black Prince.

In this castle was deposed the unfortunate monarch Richard the 2nd, where he was inveigled by Percy, earl of Northumberland, with the assurance that his rival Bolingbroke, afterwards Henry the 4th, wished no more than the restoration of his own property, and the securing a parliament for the kingdom. Northumberland, with a small train, first met Richard at Conway, then on his return from Ireland. The king distrusted the earl, but upon his taking the oath of allegiance at high mass, he placed himself in his hands. The king then proceeded on his journey in company with the earl when they arrived at the precipice of Penmaen Rhôs, Richard perceived a large body of soldiers bearing the Percy banners; he here conceived the snare he had fallen into, and would have retired, but Northumberland seizing his bridle, forcibly pressed him onwards. The king had only time to reproach him with his perjury, and was conveyed that night to Flint castle.

The next morning he was astonished at the sight of a great army commanded by Bolingbroke in full march along the sands. The castle was soon surrendered to the Lancastrians, and Richard descended from the keep to meet his victorious, but treacherous rival. Bolingbroke for a short time assumed a respectful appearance, but soon threw off the mask, for says Stow “the duke badde bring forth the King’s horses; and then two little nagges, not worth forty franks, were brought forth; <sup>the</sup> king was set on the one, and the earl of Salisbury on the other; and thus the duke brought the king from Flint to Chester, where he was delivered to the duke of Gloucester’s sonne, and the earl of Arundel’s sonne, that loved him but a little; for he had put their fathers to death; who led him straight to the castle.”

If the testimony of Froissart may be relied on, Richard did not experience ingratitude from man alone, but even his favorite *dog* deserted him, and fawned on his rival Bolingbroke! The story is so very singular, and as it relates to the transactions of this fortress, we shall here insert it, as translated by sir John Bouchier, lord Berners. It is as follows—“And as it was enfourmed me, kyng Richarde had a gray-hound, called Mathe, who always wayted upon the kyng, and woulde knowe no man els. For whan so ever the kyng dyd ryde, he that kept the gray-hounde dyd lette hym lose, and he wolde streyght runne to the kyng and fawne uppon hym, and leape with his fore fete upon the kynges shoulders. And as the

kynges and the erle of Derby talked togyder in the courte, the gray-hounde, who was wonte to leape uppon the kynge, left the kynge and came to the erle of Derby, duke of Lancastre, and made to hym the same friendly countenance and chere as he was wonte to do the kynge. The duke who knew not the gray-hounde, demanded from the kynge what the gray hounde wolde do. Cosyn, quod the kynge, it is a greate good token to you, and an evyll signe to mee. Sir, howe knowe you that, quod the duke? I knowe it welle, quod the kynge. The gray hounde maketh you chere this day as kynge of Englande, as ye shalbe, and I shalbe deposed; they gray-hounde hath this knowledge naturallye, therefore take him to you; he will follow you, and forsake mee. The duke understoode well those wordes, and cheryshed the gray hounde, who wolde never after folowe kynge Richard, but followed the duke of Lancastre."

With the exception of a grant or two, there is a chasm in history with respect to the affairs of this fortress, from the period last mentioned until the civil wars in the reign of Charles the 1st, when this county took an active part in behalf of royalty. Sir Roger Mostyn was one of the first that took up arms in defence of royalty against the parliamentary forces; he was appointed governor of Flint castle, and after repairing and putting it in a defencible state, at his own expense, he garrisoned the same for the king. The interest of sir Roger was so great

that he raised fifteen hundred men in *twelve hours*; with these forces he took the castle of Hawarden, and afterwards marched to the relief of the city of Chester, which was then besieged by the rebel army.\*

This castle was closely besieged in 1643 by the parliamentary forces, under the command of sir William Brereton, and sir Thomas Middleton; but was ably and nobly defended by sir Roger Mostyn and his garrison, during a long siege of great hardship, and though they had been reduced to the last necessity, even to live on horse flesh, still they did not deliver it up till the king had sent a specific order to surrender; their courage and bravery, however, procured for them very favourable terms.

Two years after this, about 1645, thi fortress was retaken by the royalists, and, as appears by articles of convention, received an additional strength.

The whole garrison from Beeston castle, after a most gallant defence, capitulated, and was permitted to march to this place with all the honours of war.

Notwithstanding this accession of strength, the force was not equal to the one by which they were

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\* Sir Roger, it is said, spent a princely fortune in the service of his country!—His house at Mostyn, which was garrisoned for the royal cause, was stripped of all its valuables—was himself taken prisoner, confined for some time in Conway castle, and after being released, he was obliged to desert his family mansion and retire for several years to a small farm house, called Plas Ucha, one mile from Mostyn.

opposed, for on the 29th of August, 1646, it was surrendered to major-general Mytton. The following year it was like other important castles in Wales, dismantled under a general order from the Parliament.

Among other rights, on the restoration, Flint castle was resumed by the crown, where it is still vested, and governed by a constable, who according to ancient royal grants, appears in the two-fold capacity of civil and military, for he is both governor of the castle and mayor of the borough. This closes the affairs of Flint castle.

This town, with the county, was an appendage to the earldom of Chester. The following schedule gives us their revenues, as they stood in the 50th year of Edward III.

	£.	s.	d.
The profits of the manor of Hope and			
Hope dale, .....	63	0	0
of the manor of Eulo, and the coal-			
mines, .....	6	0	0
of the office of constable of Rhudd-			
lan, whereof he was accountable	8	14	0
of the rent of the town of Flint, ....	56	0	0
of the town of Coleshill, .....	4	7	10
of the town of Caerwis, .....	22	6	8
of Bagberge, .....	14	3	4
of Veyvoll (Veynoll), .....	13	6	8
of Rhuddlan, .....	72	9	2

	£	s.	d.
The profits of Mostyn,.....	15	6	8
of the office of escheator of Engle- field,.....	56	0	0
The Bloglot of the county of Flint, which consisteth of the profits of the hun- dred courts within the said county	72	11	9
The profits of the perquisites of the Ses- sion of Flint.....	30	0	0
Of the escheator of the said county,....	8	0	0
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Total.....	£. 442	6	1

Adjoining to Flint is the precinct of Atis-cross or Croes Ati, which gives name to the hundred. Tradition states that a large town once existed in this place.

In the neighbourhood of Flint, in the hundred of Coleshill, is a wood famous as the scene of action where Henry 2 was twice defeated in one campaign, and where he lost not only many of his principal noblemen, but where his own person was in danger.

Thus ends our short description of Flint and its castle, which will introduce the reader to the fourth part of our little work.

## CHAP. IV.

## SAINT ASAPH.

**T**HE city of St. Asaph is situated on a delightful eminence in the vale of Clwyd, between the streams, and near the conflux, of the rivers Elwy and Clwyd, from the former of which is derived its British name *Ilan-Elwy*.\* The township in which it stands is called *Bryn-polin* (or *Bryn Paulin*) from, it is supposed, its being a place of encampment of Paulinus on his way to the isle of Mona. It is distant from London two hundred and eighteen miles, Chester twenty-eight miles, Flint fifteen miles, and Holywell ten miles. The chief interest attached to this city is its cathedral and ecclesiastical history, and next to those its commanding and salubrious situation compensate, in the traveller's estimation, for the loss of that grandeur and bustle for which its less ancient neighbouring towns are more conspicuous. The see of St. Asaph owes its origin to Kentigern, bishop of Glasgow, who, driven from his see in Scotland, in the year 543, retired into Wales, and established here a monastery for nine hundred and sixty-five monks, whose time was alternately occupied in labor and

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\* The town and church upon the Elwy.



prayer. He here built a church, and having won over the British prince Maglo cunus, once his violent opponent, established a see, and was himself the bishop. Being recalled to his native country, he nominated his successor, Asaph or Hassaph, a Briton of great piety and good family, who died in 596, and gave name to the place.

THE CATHEDRAL.—The church was first built of wood, but soon after of stone. In 1247 during the wars of Henry III. the diocese was destroyed by fire and sword, and the bishop (Howel ap Ednevet), who sided with the English, reduced to beggary. Prynn, in his collection from one ancient historians, gives this relation of the affair “ King Henry III. having conquered all Wales, and having brought the Welsh under the laws of England, the Welsh bishops siding against the king, with their countrymen, had their bishopricks and churches so spoiled and destroyed, that they were forced to beg their bread, and live on the alms of others.” In 1282 the cathedral was again burnt down, but ample amends was made to the see by the grant of Edward the first, of lands in Newmarket, Nannerch, Dinclyn, and a rich mineral tract in Dyserth, the latter known as the Talar-goch lead mines. The then bishop of the diocèse (Arrian II. confessor of Edward I.) was strongly inclined to have the cathedral at Rhuddlan, and petitioned the Pope to that effect, Edward promising him the ground, and also a thousand marks towards its building. However the project fell to the ground (pro-

bably owing to the Pope's death) and a stone fabric was raised from the ground which continued till the year 1402, when this church underwent new misfortunes. In that year the cathedral, canons' houses, and episcopal palace, were burnt to the ground by Owen Glyndwr, and lay in ruins nearly eighty years, when they were rebuilt by bishop Redman. This building forms the present structure, except the choir, which was built in or about the year 1783, and during the time the late Dr. Shipley was bishop. At this period, the roof as well as the north and south side walls were taken down, and rebuilt in the state they now appear. The east end underwent no alterations with the exception of the mullions in the window, which were uniform with that at the west end of the broad isle. The choir is small, but neat, and if all the prebendaries, canons, and other dignitaries, together with their respective families, were residents, little room would be left to accommodate the public. The late Dr. Bagot, (who succeeded bishop Shipley) finding the light thrown into the choir by the east window, together with the four others too great, suggested a plan for remedying the inconvenience, by proposing to substitute a painted window. The design is said to be taken from a similar one at Tintern Abbey, in Monmouthshire;\* but the original is from a church or chapel in Italy. At the top of the window,

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\* Tintern Abbey is a highly beautiful and interesting ruin. The Abbey was for monks of the cistercian order, and was founded in the year 1131, by Walter de Clare, who dedicated it

is a large star, intended to represent the one in the east at the birth of our Saviour; in the centre is the word Jehovah (in Hebrew characters), and the words —“Made perfect through suffering,” (in Greek letters), above and below it. The centre compartment contains the figure of our Saviour on Mount Calvary, hovering over his head are two winged figures, one with the bitter cup, the other prepared with the crown of thorns, and in the back ground is seen at a distance the city of Jerusalem. In the compartment to the right of the principal figure are other figures, actively engaged in the preparation of the instruments of the passion; in that on the left, is a soldier armed with a spear, and two others with him intensely engaged with the cross. To the north and south sides of the three centre pieces are two compartments, and below the whole are seven others, all emblazoned with the royal arms, and those of the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood, who contributed by subscription to the expense of the window; they are in the following order, viz:—

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to the Virgin Mary. This Walter was the grandson of William, the son of Osbert, to whom William the Conquerer had given the manors of Wollesten, and Tudenham, and all he could conquer from the Welsh. Walter dying without issue, was succeeded by his brother, Gilbert Strongbow, earl of Pembroke, whose grandson, Robert Strongbow, was the conqueror of Leinster, in Ireland. The male line failing, Maud, the eldest of their female heirs, was married to Hugh Bigod, earl of Norfolk and Suffolk. William, lord marshal of England, and earl of Pembroke, in the

PLAN OF THE WINDOW.

**JEHOVAH.**

**LAMB**

Wynne  
&  
Dod.

Yorke  
&  
Wynne.

Pennant  
&  
Peyton.

Shackerley.

ALPHA

OMEGA

CENTRE COMPARTMENTS.

Powis.

KING.

Orkney.

Ormsby  
&  
Owen.

Dungannon.

Bishop Bagot.

Gwydir.

Sir E. P. Lloyd, Bart.

Sir F. Cunliffe.

Late  
Sir J. Williams,  
Bart.

Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart.

Vaughan.

Dacre.

Dean Shipley.

Lord Bagot.

Lloyd,  
(Hatodunos.)

Late  
Sir T. Mostyn,  
Bart.

**DOVE**

Hon. C. Finch,  
Rushout.

Sir T. Hamner.

Williams,  
(Penbedw.)

Chirk Castle,  
&  
Rushout.

The late Mr. J. Turner, was architect for rebuilding the choir; the window is from the hands of the late celebrated Eginton, of Birmingham. The choir does not boast of many monuments, having only two splendid tablets, one on the north side of the east window, to the memory of Richard Price Thelwall, esq., who died 25th March, 1775, aged 55; complimenting him whilst in youth for his military, and in riper years, for his senatorial services. That on the

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seventh year of the reign of King Henry III. confirmed to the monks all the lands, possessions, liberties, immunities, formerly granted by his predecessors. Roger Bigod, earl of Norfolk, in the year 1301, also confirmed to them divers lands at Portcassek, Pentick, Modisgat, &c. About the time of the dissolution, the number of inmates were only thirteen, when the estates were, according to Dugdale, estimated at £192 1s. 4d. per annum. Speed says the value was £252 11s. 6d. The scite was granted the 28th of Henry VIII. to Henry, earl of Worcester, and is now the property of the duke of Beaufort. In the ruins of Tintern Abbey, the original construction of the church is perfectly marked; and it is principally from this circumstance that they are celebrated as a subject of curiosity and contemplation. From Tintern village, in walking to the Abbey, you pass the works of an iron-foundery, and a train of miserable cottages, completely ingrafted on the ruins of the Abbey; this disagreeable and confined approach is not calculated to inspire the spectator with a very high estimation of what he is about to view; but on throwing open the w. door of the church, an effect is produced of a description so majestic and singular, that words cannot do justice to its merit, nor convey an adequate idea of the scene. It is neither a mere creation of art, nor an exhibition of nature's charms, but a grand spectacle, in which both seem to have blended their powers in producing an object beautiful and sub-

south side, to perpetuate the memory of Anna Maria Lloyd, daughter and heiress of Evan Lloyd, esq., late of Pengwern, deceased, and wife of Edward Lloyd, esq., of Berth Lloyd, Montgomeryshire, and Pwllhalog, Flintshire, who died 3rd May, 1763, aged 39. The same tablet records the death of Lucy her mother, a daughter of Thomas Paget, a merchant, of London, she died the 24th Sept. 1742, aged 59. Beneath and attached thereto is an oval one, to the

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lime. The vaults are almost entire; the roof only is fallen in: most of the columns which divided the aisles are still standing; of those which have dropped down, the basis remain, every one exactly in its place; and in the middle of the nave, four lofty arches which once supported the tower, rise above the rest, each reduced now to a narrow rim of stone, but completely preserving its form. The shapes, even of the windows are little altered, but some of them are quite obscured, others partially shaded by tufts of ivy; and those which are most clean, are edged with its slender tendrils and lighter foliage, wreathing about the sides and the divisions: it winds round the pillars—it clings to the walls—and in one of the aisles, clusters at the top in branches so thick and large, as to darken the space below. The other aisles, and the great nave, are exposed to the sky: the floor is entirely overspread with turf. Monkish tombstones, and the monuments of benefactors long since forgotten, appear above the green sward: the basis of the pillars which have fallen rise out of it; and maimed effigies and sculpture, worn with age and weather, are scattered about, or lie in heaps, piled up together; other shattered pieces, though disjointed and mouldering, still occupy their original places: nothing is perfect; but memorials of every part still subsists—all certain, but all in decay; and suggesting, at once, every idea which can occur in a seat of devotion, solitude, and desolation. Castles and abbies have different situations,



memory of sir Edward Lloyd, of Pengwern, bart. who died 26th May 1795, aged 86; put up as a token of respect and gratitude by his great nephew, sir Edward Pryce Lloyd, bart. of Bodfach, Montgomeryshire. The north transept is a vestry room, for the vicars choral, choristers, and boys, to dress in. In it is erected a monument to the memory of dean Shipley. The statue is of white marble, placed

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agreeably to their respective uses. The castle, meant for defence, stands boldly on the hill: the abbey, intended for meditation, is hid in the sequestered vale; such is the situation of Tintern Abbey. It occupies a gentle eminence in the middle of a circular valley, beautifully screened on all sides by woody hills, through which the river Wye winds its course; and the hills closing on its entrance, and on its exit, leave no room for inclement blasts to enter. A more pleasing retreat could not be found. The woods and glades intermixed; the winding of the river; the variety of the ground; the splendid ruin, contrasted with the objects of nature, and the elegant line formed by the summits of the hills, which include the whole, make altogether, a very enchanting piece of scenery. From the length of the nave, the height of the walls, the aspiring form of the pointed arches, and the size of the e. window, which closes the perspective, the first impressions are those of grandeur and sublimity; but as these emotions subside, and we descend from the contemplation of the whole to the examination of the parts, we are no less struck with the regularity of the plan, the lightness of the architecture, and the delicacy of the ornaments; we feel that elegance is its characteristic no less than grandeur, and that the whole is a combination of the beautiful and the sublime. This church is cruciform, and an excellent specimen of the English architecture in its greatest purity. The length of the nave and choir is 218 feet, their width 33; the length of the transept 150 feet. The



upon a pedestal of grey, in a sitting attitude, clad in canonicals. In the front of the pedestal is the following inscription :—

Sacred to the Memory  
of  
William Davies Shipley,  
Dean and Chancellor of this Diocese  
for more  
than half a century.  
He was born Oct. 16, 1745.  
and died June, 7, 1826.  
A. D.

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arches and pillars of the choir and transept are complete ; and the frame of the w. window is in perfect preservation : the design of the tracery is extremely elegant, and when decorated with painted glass, must have produced a fine effect. The general form of the e. window is entire, but the frame is much dilapidated : it occupies the whole breadth of the choir, and is divided into two large and equal compartments, by a slender shaft not less than 50 feet in height, which has an appearance of singular lightness, and, in particular points of view, seems suspended in the air. Instead of dilapidated fragments, overspread with weeds and choaked with brambles, the floor being covered with a smooth turf, keeps the original level of the church, exhibits the beauty of its proportion, heightens the effect of the grey stone, gives a relief to the clustered pillars, and affords an easy access to every part. Although the exterior appearance is not equal to the inside view, yet in some positions, particularly to the e. they present themselves with considerable effect. About half a mile from the ferry, down the river, the ruins assume a new character. The grand e. window wholly covered with shrubs, and half mantled with ivy, rises like the portal of a majestic edifice embowered with wood. Through this opening, and along the vista of the church, the cluster of ivy, which twine round the pillars, or hang suspended from the arches, resemble tufts of trees, while the thick mantle of

On the east side of the pedestal "This monument was erected by the subscription of the gentry, clergy, and commonality of this diocese, as a testimony of their high sense of his eminent private virtues, and public worth." In the centre of this transept, secured in the flags, is a brass plate, stating it to be the entrance of the family vault of Dr. John Luxmoore, late bishop of the diocese. The south transept is an old chapel dedicated to St. Mary, but no remains of its altars or other appendages are now seen. There the dean and chapter hold their annual and adjourned chapters, and the chancellor of the diocese his ecclesiastical and visitation courts: in it is an extensive library, containing some valuable publications, and the whole in good

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foliage, seen through the tracery of the w. window, forms a continuation of the perspective, and appears like an interminable forest.

"How many hearts have here grown cold,  
That sleep these mouldering stones among!  
How many beads have here been told!  
How many mattins here been sung.

"On this rude stone, by time long broke,  
I think I see some pilgrim kneel;  
I think I see the censor smoke,  
I think I hear the solemn peal.

"But here no more soft music floats,  
No holy anthems chanted now;  
All hush'd, except the ring dove's notes,  
Low murmuring from yon beachen bough."

Sir Richard Hoare asserts, that "this Abbey (as to the first coup d'oeil) exceeds every ruin he has seen either in England or Wales."

order and preservation. Here is also placed, against one of the four main pillars that support the tower, the mutilated statue of bishop David ap Owen, removed from its recumbent state by the bishop's throne within the choir, when undergoing the before mentioned repairs. On the west end wall of this aisle is a neat mural monument, erected by sir Henry Browne, of Bronwhylfa, as an imperfect tribute to the memory of Louisa Anne, daughter of the rev. dr. Gray, prebendary of Durham, who died 20th July, 1823, his first wife. The broad aisle has been recently new roofed, together with the north and south transepts, the two latter are semicircular ceilings, as is also that of the choir, the whole three ribbed and otherwise beautified. On the south side of the west or the bishop's door, in the church yard, is the tomb of the late bishop Barrow, a man who displayed extensive erudition, was exemplary through life, and a benevolent and charitable prelate. He was the founder of the almshouses and grammar school, and other charitable institutions in his diocese as well as in St. Asaph. His tomb stone rested on six square pillars, but at the time the roof of the broad aisle was undergoing its last reparation, some of the carpenters employed, unnecessarily, nay wantonly, from the summit of the gable-end, threw down heavy stones thereon and shattered it to pieces. The fragments are now within the broad aisle, and it is a source of regret that the Dean and Chapter do not cause another tomb stone to be erected in its stead, to perpetuate the memory of a truly

good man, though a rigid catholic. The church yard will furnish the curious with nothing worthy of notice, except the vault of the late bishop Bagot. In 1794, a new clock was introduced into the tower, and one solitary (D) bell, now mutilated, and of course out of tone. The belfry has frames for a ring of 8 or 10—the effect of a peal would be indescribable, owing to the elevated situation of the tower between the rivers Elwy and Clwyd. The following are the present dignitaries of the cathedral:—

Bishop . . . . .	Dr. William Carey.
Dean . . . . .	Very Rev. Charles Scott Luxmoore.
Archdeacon . . . . .	The Bishop in commendam.
Precentor, or Prebend of Vaynol	} Rev. William Cleaver.
Chaneellor . . . . .	
Treasurer, or Prebend of Meliden	} Rev. Henry Stephen Milner
1st. Comportioner of Llanfair Prebend	
2nd. ditto	Rev. Heneage Horsley.
Meifod . . . . .	Rev. John Henry Montague Luxmoore

## CANONS.

1st. or Rekensal . . . . .	Rev. Rowland Wingfield.
2nd. or Arthur Bulkeley . . . . .	Rev. Rowland Williams.
3rd. or David ap Howel . . . . .	Rev. William Williams.
4th. or Galfridus Ruthin . . . . .	Rev. Thomas Griffith Roberts.
5th. or Griffith . . . . .	Rev. John Francis Cleaver.
6th. or Ralph Birkenhead . . . . .	Rev. Roger Clough.
7th. or Richard Harrison . . . . .	Rev. Howel Holland Edwards.

## VICARS CHORAL.

1st. . . . .	Rev. George Strong.
2nd. . . . .	Rev. William Hicks Owen.
3rd. . . . .	Rev. Thomas Wynne Edwards.
4th. . . . .	Rev. John Jones.

The diocese of St. Asaph comprises one hundred and thirty parishes, (including chapelries) dispersed in the following counties, viz:—Flintshire, Denbighshire, Carnarvonshire, Merionethshire, Montgomeryshire, and Shropshire, forming fourteen rural deaneries, and which may be further divided, thus,

Rectories .....	55
Vicarages .....	48
Parochial Curacies .....	13
Chapels .....	14
	130

It is singular however, that this diocese cannot claim the entirety of a single county, being so much intermixed with the diocese of Bangor, which Mr. Willis attributes to the former being originally so laid out as to comprize the whole territory of the lord Marchers, or princes of Powis Land, as the latter did the principality of the princes of North Wales.

The chapter consists of the dean, archdeacon, (who is the bishop) six prebendaries, and seven canons, in all fifteen; the revenues of the whole body are entirely impropriations.

The following is a list of the bishops of this cathedral from the earliest period down to the present time, with the dates of their respective consecrations, or period of flourishing.

### BISHOPS.

KENTIGERN .....	550
ASAPH, or HASSAPH .....	560

From whom the Cathedral church was ever after called *ECCLESIA ASAPHENSIS*. He was a man of zeal, virtue, and learning. He died May 1, 596, and was buried in his own cathedral, which contributed not a little to raise an opinion in the minds of the succeeding generation of the sanctity of the place, and retaining the episcopal see here; for notwithstanding by reason of its situation (being near the borders of England, and the barrier of the territories of North Wales and Powis Land) it was often laid waste by frequent ransacks and incursions, insomuch that the memory of Asaph's immediate successors are for 500 years nearly lost, and though during their confusions, this bishoprick often-times continued without a bishop, "yet it is not, says Wharton, to be doubted, but there were bishops frequently nominated hereunto, although their names are not to be met with from the year 596 to 1143."\*

GILBERT .....	1143
GEFFRY, or GODFRY .....	1151

There is some confusion in the names of Geffrey and Godfrey during the period of near a quarter of a century, but according to Wharton, all doubt is removed in the year 1175, by the consecration in that year of

ADAM canon of Paris	1175
JOHN .....	1183

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\* Browne Willis' survey of St. Asaph cathedral, Ed. 1720, p. 35.

REYNER .....	1186
ABRAHAM .....	1225
HUGH .....	1235
HOWEL ap EDNEVET .....	1240
ANIAN, or EINEON .....	1249
JOHN 2nd. ....	1267
ANIAN 2nd. ....	1268
LEOLINE de BROMFIELD .....	1293
DAVID ap BLETHIN.....	1314
JOHN TREVAUR nominated by Pope Clemens VI. ....	1344
LEOLINE ap MADOC ap ELLIS ....	1357
WILLIAM de SPRYDELINGTON....	1376
LAWRENCE CHILD .....	1382
ALEXANDER BACHE .....	1389
JOHN TREVAUR 2nd. ....	1395

It was this bishop who pronounced the sentence of deposition against his sovereign Richard II. then a prisoner in Flint Castle in favor of Bolingbroke, afterwards Henry IV., notwithstanding the many favors he had received from the hand of the former monarch; he afterwards revolted from his new allegiance in favor of Owen Glyndwr, who had burnt down the cathedral church, episcopal palace, canons houses, and the other appendages of the cathedral, in which state they lay until rebuilt by bishop Redman. He was, however in turn, deposed by Henry, who nominated as his successor DAVID in the year 1402, but owing to the troubles of the times and the late bishop not being in the king's power, no effectual appointment took place until the death



of Trevaer which happened about 1411, in which year was consecrated

ROBERT of LANCASTER ..... 1411

JOHN LOWE or LOBBE ..... 1433

This bishop was translated to the see of Rochester about 1444, being the first translation that took place from the see of St. Asaph.

REGINALD PEACOCK ..... 1444

A reforming bishop, who after his translation to Chichester, was deprived of his bishopric and confined in Thorney Abbey, Cambridgeshire, for holding heretical doctrines and disputing the Pope's authority in this kingdom.

THOMAS ..... 1450

This bishop was a great partisan of the house of Lancaster, and shared in the consequent vicissitudes of the times in which he lived. He seems to have enjoyed his bishopric when his party were in power, but when they were out, the temporalities of the see were seized to the use of the crown. He was ultimately convicted of treason by Edward IV. but received the royal pardon, probably in consideration of formally resigning his see.

RICHARD REDMAN ..... 1471

This bishop, as has been before observed, rebuilt the cathedral after its laying in ruins since its destruction by Owen Glyndwr; he was a very learned and prudent man, and an especial favorite of Edward IV. and Richard III. On Henry the VIIIth's accession, however, he fell somewhat under the royal dis-

pleasure, on account of that prince discountenancing the friends of the house of York; but he was afterwards received into the king's favor, and in 1493 sent ambassador to Scotland. He was subsequently translated to the see of Exeter, and thence to that of Ely, where he died.

MICHAEL DIACON .....	1495
DAVID, Abbot of Vale Crucis .....	1500
DAVID ap OWEN .....	1503
EDMUND BIRKHEAD .....	1513

A member of an ancient family in Cheshire, supposed to have taken the surname from the priory or village of Birkenhead, or Birkhead.

HENRY STANDISH .....	1518
WILLIAM BARLOW .....	1535
ROBERT WARTON .....	1536

Of the five episcopal palaces which anciently belonged to this bishopric, that of St. Asaph only remained at this period. The predecessor of bishop Warton is accused of every kind of improvidence to impoverish as well the see of St. Asaph as the other sees to which he belonged; he even stripped off the lead from his episcopal palaces of St. David and Wells, and would (as appears by one of his letters in the Cotton Library) have pulled down the very church of St. David's had he stayed there. Bishop Warton is, however, ably defended by Wharton from the charge of impoverishing this see by improper means, who rather thinks that the various palaces originally belonging to it were destroyed in the wars between the

English and the Welsh in the reign of Henry IV.

THOMAS GOLDWELL ..... 1555

THOMAS WOOD ..... 1558

This was the last roman catholic bishop of St. Asaph, he enjoyed his promotion but a short time, for queen Mary dying, he was deprived of his bishopric by Elizabeth, from a sense of what she owed to a more pure and reformed religion.

RICHARD DAVIES ..... 1559

THOMAS DAVIES ..... 1561

WILLIAM HUGHES ..... 1573

It was this bishop who procured a faculty for the incorporation of the archdeaconry of St. Asaph to be held with the bishopric in commendam, which has ever since so been held by his successors.

WILLIAM MORGAN ..... 1601

It was this excellent bishop who first translated the bible into the Welsh language. The new testament he corrected from the former translation of William Salisbury and bishop Richard Davies.

RICHARD PARRY ..... 1604

This prelate was a coadjutor of bishop Morgan in his translation of the bible. He was a native of Ruthin, and second master of the free school established there by dr. Goodman.

JOHN HANMER ..... 1623

A descendant of the ancient family of the Hanmers, of Hanmer, particularly noticed, in p. 58 of this work.

## JOHN OWENS ..... 1629

This prelate, though an Englishman by birth, (being born at Burton Latimers, in the County of Northampton) is said to have had an incomparable skill in the Welsh language. Upon his consecration he immediately set upon several great and good works, some of which are recorded in a private register called *Cwitta Cyfarwydd*, continuing for about fifty years from 1600. He first established Welsh preaching in the parish church of St. Asaph and other parts of his diocese. He made several improvements in the choir of the cathedral, set up a new organ there, and at his own cost considerably enlarged the episcopal palace. His other benefactions were numerous and extensive, but which were put an end to by the breaking out of the rebellion in 1641, in which he was an extraordinary sufferer. This good bishop after he had lived to see the manors and lands belonging to his cathedral church sold to the extent of £5297 2s. 9d., died at Aberkinsey, near St. Asaph, October 16, 1651, and was obscurely buried under the episcopal throne within his own cathedral, which in these times of anarchy and confusion became desecrated by one Mills the postmaster, of that period, to the most profane and revolting of purposes. He even occupied the bishop's house, and there sold wine and liquors; he kept his horses and oxen in the body of the church, and tied up and fed calves in the bishop's throne and other parts of the choir; removed the font into his own yard, set it in the ground, and made use of it as a pig-trough till such time as

it pleased God to put an end to these enormities, by the happy restoration of church and monarchy in 1660. The first sermon in Welsh preached in the parish church of St. Asaph was on 6th March, in the year 1630, by the rev. Morris Jones, one of the vicars choral.

GEORGE GRIFFITHS .....	1661
HENRY GLEMHAM .....	1667
ISAAC BARROW .....	1669

The charity and munificence of this good prelate are already noticed in our pages; to attempt further to enumerate his virtues and laudable deeds would fail in our hands, both from inability to do justice to the subject as well as from our circumscribed limits.

WILLIAM LLOYD .....	1680
EDWARD JONES .....	1692
GEORGE HOOPER .....	1703
WILLIAM BEVERIDGE .....	1707

This eminent and learned divine was so versed in all the learned languages, that at eighteen he wrote a treatise of the excellency and use of the oriental tongues, especially the Hebrew, Chaldee, Syriac, Arabic, and Samaritan, which he published when about twenty years of age. He also distinguished himself by his early piety and seriousness of mind. His promotion in the church was only equal to the peculiar qualifications he possessed for his sacred calling; so regular and uniform was he in every part of his pastoral function, that he was justly styled "the great reviver and restorer of primitive piety." He was a great benefactor to several churches and

chapels in his native county (Leicestershire) by bequests made for their benefit, as he was to mankind in general, by the numerous publications which proceeded from his pious mind and eloquent pen. In 1704 he drew up and published for the use of his diocese, a plain and easy exposition of the church catechism, which, with his private thoughts on religion, and a christian life, published after his death, have been translated into the Welsh language, as they deserve to be from their excellencies, into every language of the known world.\* His other publications were numerous, besides 150 sermons also published after his death, and a defence of the Book of Psalms, and an exposition of the 39 Articles of the Church of England.

WILLIAM FLEETWOOD .....	1708
JOHN WYNNE .....	1714
FRANCIS HARE .....	1723
THOMAS TANNER .....	1731
ISAAC MADDIX .....	1736
JOHN THOMAS.....	1743
SAMUEL LEISLE .....	1744
HON. ROBERT HAY DRUMMOND..	1748
RICHARD NEWCOME .....	1761
JONATHAN SHIPLEY .....	1769
SAMUEL HALIFAX.....	1789
LEWIS BAGOT .....	1790

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\* A neat Edition of Beveridge's private thoughts on Religion and a Christian life, is now to be had in one volume, at the low price of 4s. 6d. A treasure no Christian ought to be without.

SAMUEL HORSELEY .....	1802
JOHN LUXMOORE .....	1815
WILLIAM CAREY .....	1830

The city of St. Asaph contains little of a public nature to satisfy the curiosity of the traveller; its beautiful and romantic neighbourhood, however, fully compensates for this deficiency—

Here wood and lawn their various charms combine,  
 The green dale sinks, and swells the rugged hill;  
 Old reverend oaks their high arch'd boughs entwine,  
 And parting rocks disclose the gushing rill.

Lo! through the glade, where ripening harvests bend,  
 To the soft breeze a distant town appears;  
 From happy cots the fragrant wreaths ascend,  
 And many a tower its antique structure rears.

Down from yon hoary mountain's squalled side,  
 That nods aloof what rippling streamlets flow!  
 Now underneath, with silent stealth they glide,  
 Now spring to light a fresh cascade below.

In severe weather, about two miles distant on the Holywell road, from the side of the Clwydian range of hills, a fine portion of the Vale of Clwyd, with its surrounding scenery, may be seen to great advantage. On the south, while the eye stretches its ken over fertility and beauty, Denbigh with the shattered fragments of its castle, crowning the summit of an isolated hill, grandly and pre-eminently rises into view. On the north, with less assuming aspect, the fallen remains of Rhuddlan press their melancholy features on the sight. The intervening space is diversified by luxuriant fields, rich meadows, groves, woods, water, enlivened by numerous herds, flocks, and cottages in every direction, and the whole surrounded by perpendicular rocks, and dark receding mountains in the back ground, or the still grander



boundery, the ocean; and though not, from the extent, a scenery adapted for the pencil, yet cannot fail to afford the highest gratification to the real votary of nature.

The episcopal palace and deanery house are edifices worthy the taste and liberality of the distinguished characters who now preside over the diocesan church, and present, in conjunction with the beautiful elliptic bridge over the Elwy, an imposing north west entrance into the town; the other principal entrance into the city (e. n. e.) is graced by the elegant mansion of lieut. col. sir Henry Browne, called Bronhwyfya, which commands a beautiful view of the enchanting vale. Under Bronhwyfya, over the Clwyd, the sturdy ruin of the old Pont David bridge will attract the attention of the curious. This bridge is said to have been first built of wood by bishop David Owen, in the early part of the sixteenth century, but becoming ruinous, was in 1630 rebuilt at the county charge. Over this incommodious bridge the royal mail used to pass, and, fording the Elwy near Roe Gau, leave St. Asaph to the left, wending its way up a narrow dirty lane, now quite in disuse, except as a passage to the lands through which it runs. The grandest view of the Vale of Clwyd, however, to be obtained from the eminence on which St. Asaph is situated, is to be had from the direction of the Mount, the residence of Edwin Wyatt, Esq.,—it is from here that the *coup d'oeil* of landscape scenery is to be enjoyed. The majestic towers of Bodlewyddan, the Italian jumble of Grwych,

the extensive park of Kinnel, and the elegant mansion of Pengwern, all add to the grandeur and diversity of the scene. The cathedral church is not used as a parish church as the other cathedrals in Wales are. The parish church stands within the town, about a hundred and fifty yards west of the cathedral; it consists of two small aisles, the south of which is called Eglwys Asaph (i. e. St. Asaph's church,) and the north one, Eglwys Cyndeirn, or Kentairn (i. e. Kentigern's Church). In the east window was A. D. 1614. This inscription, which would seem to denote the time the church was built—*Orate pro bono statu omnium parrochianorum parrochiæ Assaphensis opus vitreum & lapideum factum fuit & finitum A. D. 1524.* In the north east corner of the aisle is a small monument of white marble, with the following inscription:—

In hope to partake of the first resurrection ;  
 Here lyeth  
 Thomas Humphreys, of Boddlewyddan, Esquire,  
 who discharged all the offices of a  
 Discreet friend, an hospitable Neighbour, and a true  
 Son of the Church,  
 Till in the 72nd year of his age.  
 He paid his debt to nature in 1698.

The church yard is large, and has some neat grave stones to the memory of some of the inhabitants. Here are also five or six tomb stones said to have been brought from Rhuddlan abbey. They are much of the shape of stone coffins, and have carved upon them at the top, a sword and spade on all except one, which alone hath this inscription,

HIC JACET.

RANULPHUS SMALLWOOD.

The parish of St. Asaph is large, and contains thirteen townships, comprised in the counties of Flint and Denbigh. There are two lordships belonging to the bishop of St. Asaph, namely, Isterfyn, and Uwchterfyn. Eleven of the thirteen townships in St. Asaph parish are within these two lordships. Wygfair is in the lordship of Denbigh, and Cyrchynen in that of Rhuddlan. There are four fairs at St. Asaph; one upon Easter Tuesday, another July 9, third, August 5, and fourth, December 15, and upon Friday is a market for provision of meat. There are now no houses belonging to the dignitaries, except the bishop, who, as archdeacon, has one at Diserth, about three or four miles from St. Asaph; and another at Llandrinio, Montgomeryshire, as rector of the parish, which has been held in commendam since the restoration.

The road to the town of Denbigh from St. Asaph, along the Roe, is extremely beautiful. The Elwy runs beneath lofty banks, finely wooded. At Pont yr allt goch, is a handsome bridge of one lofty arch, eighty-five feet in diameter. The Elwy here takes another direction, running west, and then north, along most romantic dingles, varied with meadows, woods, and cavernous rocks. Y fflynnion fair (our lady's well,) a fine spring, inclosed in an angular wall, formerly roofed, and the ruins of a cross-shaped chapel, finely overgrown with ivy, are in a deep wooded bottom, not far distant from the bridge. The road from St. Asaph to Rhuddlan is very pleasing. When distant about a mile, by looking back-

wards, the city is seen to occupy the slope of the eminence upon which it stands, at the top of which stands the cathedral; the intermingling trees and leaves, with the river Elwy flowing at the bottom under its noble elliptic bridge, forming a very beautiful and interesting scene. Onwards appears the venerable and majestic ruin of Rhuddlan Castle, of which we now proceed to give a detailed account of its history, ancient grandeur, and present state.

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## CHAP. VI.

### RHUDDLAN,

#### ITS CASTLE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.

**RHUDDLAN CASTLE.**—The ruins of this long famed and celebrated fortress have a fine appearance, even at a distance, and when approached, the beholder is struck with awe, especially when the mind reflects upon the transactions that have taken place in its precincts, here once lived the heroic princes of Wales and their brave followers, beneath these splendid arches were tuned the ancient harps of Cymru, who “gave to rapture all their trembling strings.” The Castle is of red stone, its form nearly approximates to a square, and has six towers, two of them standing at the two opposite corners, and one at each of the other corners. One is called *twr y brenin*, (or the king’s tower) and the other *twr y silod*;

these remain tolerably entire. The ditch that surrounds the Castle is both deep and wide, and faced with stone on both sides; the escarpments towards the river were defended by steep walls, which enclosed an area nearly forming an octagonal shape, and its principal entrance seems to have been at the north west angle. About two hundred yards to the south of the Castle there is an artificial mount, the side of another fortress; this, to all appearance, was of very early date. The conjecture would not be void of probability, were I to say that this was in being in 790, when the celebrated battle of Rhuddlan Marsh took place, and where the brave Caradoc fell in defending his country against the famous Offa, King of Mercia, who is also said to have been slain in the conflict. Two of our most celebrated historians were of opinion, that the original founder of this fortress was Llewelyn ap Seisyllt, who reigned over North Wales from 1015 to 1020, and who, they inform us, made this castle his residence. It continued to be the seat of royalty until 1063; when Gruffydd ap Llywelyn gave offence to Edward the confessor, by receiving one of his rebellious subjects. In retaliation for this offence, Harold, son of Edwin, earl of Kent, took the castle and burnt down the palace. In this transaction Gruffydd had a very narrow escape for his life; the English troops presented themselves at the gates before he was aware of the danger, but fortunately for him there was a vessel in the harbour, to which he fled with a few of his attendants, and the wind being in their favour,

they escaped with safety. The castle was soon restored, and rebuilt by the Welsh, who continued to be its possessors until 1098, when Robert, a nephew to Hugh Lupus, earl of Chester, wrested it from them. Robert after this event, was surnamed de Rhuddlan. He received a mandate from William the Conqueror to refortify the place, which he did by erecting new works, and made it his military residence, by which means he was enabled to annoy the surrounding inhabitants, and carry on his marauding system. While the Norman warrior was thus situated, he received a visit from Gruffydd ap Conan, who earnestly solicited his aid against some foes by whom he had been assailed. Robert afforded him every assistance, but afterwards a quarrel took place between them; the result was that Gruffydd attacked Robert in the castle of Rhuddlan, took and burnt part of the building, and killed a great number of his men, so that very few escaped.

This grand barrier fortress was, by order of Henry II. repaired and furnished with a strong garrison; and prior to his quitting the country for a campaign in France, he gave it to Hugh Beauchamp. Notwithstanding all this, in 1169, while Henry was engaged in his foreign wars, it was attacked by Owain Gwynedd, his brother Cadwaladr, and Rhys ap Gruffydd, and after two months blockade they took and dismantled it. It was again recovered by the English, and Henry bestowed it with Emma, his natural sister, on Dafydd ap Owen, son of Owen Gwynedd.



In 1187, when Baldwin, Archbishop of Canterbury, was preaching the crusade through Wales he stopped at this Castle, and David entertained him "very nobly." David must have resigned it to the English again, for we have an account that in the latter end of the reign of Richard I. about 1198. Randle Blundeville, Earl of Chester, was suddenly and unexpectedly attacked here by a body of the Welsh, and, with an incompetent force, lay in the greatest distress until he was relieved by his Lieutenant, Roger de Lacy, who with great promptitude collected a great number of idle persons together, such as itinerant minstrels, fiddlers, tinkers, panders, &c. &c. with whom he marched towards Rhuddlan; the Welsh observing at a distance an immense crowd, concluded it to be an English army, which induced them to fly in precipitation. The Earl, grateful for his deliverance, rewarded Lacy by appointing him *Magisterium Omnium Peccatorum et Meretricum Totius Cestreshire*. In the time of Prince Henry, afterwards Henry the V., this fortress belonged to the Chamberlain of Chester, and as such, the Prince appointed Henry de Conway to be Constable thereof, which he kept with nine men at arms and thirty archers, at the expence of £.422 15s. 11d. per annum. During the reign of King John, about the year 1214, this castle was again besieged and taken by the Welsh, under Prince Llewelyn ap Iorwerth. This fortress is noticed as being the last Castle King John held in this country, the Cambrians having entirely driven him beyond the frontiers.



Llywelyn had married princess Joan, daughter of king John, but owing to many imprudent acts committed by this monarch, and the wild disorder of his conduct, he convulsed every part of his dominion, and loosened every tie of duty or affection which bind the subject to the Prince. This conduct of John brought on him the curse of Rome, and the Pope released Wales from the interdiction under which it had lain; he also absolved Llywelyn from the oaths of homage and allegiance which he had taken at the late place. The native spirit of the Welsh now burst through every restraint; Llywelyn laid waste the marches with fire and sword, and made himself complete master of North Wales, which he retained for a considerable time. The next account we have of this fortress is in 1277, when Llywelyn ap Gruffydd refused to do homage to Edward the First. This monarch marched into Wales at the head of a very considerable army, and amongst others he took this Castle. So important did the Conqueror consider this strong hold, that previous to the accomplishment of his design, he made it the rendezvous of all his forces destined for that purpose; he sent thither a great quantity of ammunition and provisions for the support of the advancing division of his army. Llywelyn knowing from experience of how much importance this fortress would be to his interest, in conjunction with his brother David, both being awake to a sense of their common danger, made a most vigorous attack upon it, which however proved unavailing.

On the approach of the English army the native Princes were under the necessity of retreating, judging it more prudent to avail themselves of every opportunity of cutting off the detached parties of the enemy, than with unequal force to fight them in the open field. A favourable opportunity offered itself not far from this fortress; the Cambrians put to flight a large detachment of the English army, and fourteen ensigns were taken in the conflict; the lords Audley and Clifford, the son of William de Valence, Richard de Argerton, and several other chiefs were slain. Edward himself was obliged to retire for protection to Hope Castle, a fortress he had lately taken. In order to prevent the success of any future attempts of the Welsh, the King of England adopted every known method to render this fortress impregnable; for this purpose he strengthened the old works, and enlarged it much with new ones: this being done, the English monarch made it his place of residence, and in 1282 issued out orders from this Castle, to the sheriffs of the adjacent counties, to raise and send to him, according to a fixed ratio, a number of hatchet men, who were to cut down the woods and form roads and passages for his army to advance to the interior. Without these securities his troops could not proceed any further with safety. During these transactions archbishop Peckham was endeavouring to reconcile matters between the contending parties; with this view he sent monitary letters in the king's name, to Llywelyn and his brother David, in which he reprov- ed them for their late revolt, urged them to return to

their allegiance, and if they had any grievances, to point them out, for all of which (if just) he would endeavour to obtain redress. In answer to this, Llywelyn enumerated the various injuries that he and his people had received from Edward's government. The Archbishop delivered this answer to the King, who was then at Rhuddlan castle, and urged him to pay some regard to the complaints of the Welsh. All negotiations however failed, and the Archbishop pronounced them accursed, and thundered against them the whole force of ecclesiastical denunciation.

The King was now determined to subdue the Country; he issued out writs from Rhuddlan to all his Lieutenants of Counties, summoned all the Sheriffs of England to make extra preparations, and then convened the whole power of Great Britain. The great and warlike appointments and the extensive preparations made throughout England, mark the eager spirit of Edward, as well as the difficulty he entertained of conquering the Principality of Wales, whose strength was only as one twelfth to that of England. Llywelyn however fell, and this event gave additional strength to the English; for before the Welsh could repair the loss they sustained by the death of their Prince, the invaders followed up their victorious career, took possession of Snowden, the castle of Dolbadarn, and routed the Welsh in all directions: thus in confusion and dismay they fled on every side: rocks, woods and caves were the shelter of the remaining part of the Cymry.

Prince David managed to conceal himself and family for some months after, almost famished for want of provisions; in this dilemma, two of his retainers, who are supposed to have been bribed by the English, delivered their Prince to Edward, and on the night of the 21st of June, he sent a detachment of his army, and took David and his family in a morass. This Prince with his wife, two sons, and seven daughters, were brought prisoners to Rhuddlan Castle where the King resided. David was examined at Rhuddlan, and several very curious relics were found upon him: among the rest was one called Croesenydd, or a part of the real cross of Christ, highly venerated by the Princes of Wales; and the crown of the celebrated King Arthur, with several others, were taken from him and delivered to the King. The King of England having at length reached the height of his ambition, in the final conquest of Wales, annexed it to that of England; and in order to secure the obedience of the newly subdued country, Edward introduced English jurisprudence, divided North Wales into counties, and appointed proper officers to enforce the obedience of his reluctant subjects. In order further to accomplish his projects, the Conquerer took up his residence at Rhuddlan Castle, and there promulgated the famous body of laws called the statutes of Rhuddlan. From this ancient fortress he issued out a proclamation to all the inhabitants of Wales, pledging himself that he would take them under his protection, and at the same time giving them assurances that they should enjoy their ancient land

and liberties as heretofore, reserving for himself only the same rents, duties, and service, which were always claimed by the Princes of Wales.

With a view to conciliate the minds, and redress the grievances of the Welsh Clergy, Edward sent for the Archbishop of Canterbury to come to Rhuddlan, who issued out orders for repairing the different churches that had been injured by the late war. The King also made a recompense to "Master Richard Barnard, Parson of Rhuddlan," for some land taken from him previous to his enlarging the Castle. These liberal and lenient measures were a wise policy in Edward, but he still found that the Welsh would not willingly bend their knee to one whom they looked upon as an usurper of their rights and privileges. They promised him submission, however, providing he would govern them in person, or that they were willing to be governed by a chieftain of their own country; but firmly declared that they would yield no obedience to any person who was not born in Wales and resided among them. At last their wishes were gratified. The idea struck Edward that his Queen was pregnant, and he instantly sent orders for Eleanor to come to Wales. Though it was then in the depth of winter, and the season severely cold, he caused her to be removed to Carnarvon Castle, the place designed for the Queen's accouchment. A little before the time of the Queen's delivery, Edward issued out a proclamation that he would hold his Parliament at Rhuddlan, for the purpose of taking into consider-



ation the best mode of securing the public welfare of Wales; and he particularly desired all the Welsh chieftains to meet him there. Edward delayed to call them into council until Sir Gruffydd Llwyd (knighted on the occasion) brought the news of his having a son born at Carnarvon on the 25th of April.

He immediately commanded the attendance of the Welsh chieftains, and there practised his well known scheme of giving the country a Prince; he stated to the assembled chiefs that in consequence of their long expressed desire to have a Prince, a native of their own country, if they would promise obedience to the one whom he named, he would indulge them by nominating a person whose life had hitherto been irreproachable; one who was born among them and could not speak a word of English. The Welsh eagerly assented to acknowledge such a person for their future ruler; but little did they think when expressing their acclamation of joy, and rendering unbounded promises of obedience, who this Prince should be, when the King informed them that their future Prince was his own son, born in Carnarvon Castle a few days before!! Their surprise was great, but as they were bound by the letter of their promise, they submitted, and the only consolation left was the hope of the young Prince making his residence among them, which with tolerable magnanimity, assisted them to sustain their disappointment. The King and his Queen must have resided in this Castle for many months after this, for in 1284

Princess Eleanor was born here. The finishing of this stupendous work occupied a considerable time, as in 1291 there was an order for overlooking its works. The next account we have of this fortress is in 1322, when Sir Gruffydd Llwyd, owing to the rapacity of the Lord Marchers, created and headed an insurrection and attempted to recover the lost liberty of the country. He over-ran North Wales, and took several Castles; but at last he was taken prisoner, confined in Rhuddlan Castle, and afterwards executed. Richard 2nd dined at this fortress in 1399, on his way to Flint Castle, where he was delivered by the Earl of Northumberland into the power of his rival Bolingbroke. The crown fees of the Castle and "Vill of Rothelane" were granted to Catherine, Queen of England in 1422, by her son Henry 6th, they were then worth 42£. 12s. 6d. The fortress was totally neglected from this time until the civil wars of Charles, when it was occupied by the Royalists, but after a short siege the garrison was obliged to surrender to General Mytton in July, 1646. The same year it was by order of Parliament, dismantled, together with several other Castles.

To the foregoing account of the Castle, which we have extracted chiefly from Mr. Parry's talented essay on "the Castles of Flintshire,"\* little more re-

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\* From the "GWYNEDDION, or an account of the ROYAL DENBIGH EISTEDDFOD held in September 1828, together with prize essays and poems on the subjects proposed for adjudication at that meeting."—Griffith, Chester, 1830. This is a most excellent compilation of the interesting events which it commemorates, and



mains to be said respecting Rhuddlan. A good trade in coals is carried on at its port, and the establishment of Steam-packets to and from Liverpool has caused a considerable trade in corn from the Welsh markets, besides an abundant traffic in every description of agricultural produce. Hence Rhuddlan may yet, (as in times of yore,) become a most important emporium of trade, especially if means were taken to lower the bed of the river, so as to make the port accessible at all tides. This to many might appear a visionary idea, but great efforts are *even now* being made to establish the direct line of road from Chester to Holyhead, through this place. This done, capitalists and builders will be soon in the field for Acts of Parliament, and building leases!

To the fostering care of things antique, of that great antiquarian and talented divine, the Rev. Henry Parry of Llanasa, and to the liberality of the late Dean Shipley, we are indebted for the preservation of part of the building where Edward the first held the Parliament which passed the Statute of Rhuddlan, in the year 1283. The remains consist of a soli-

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if we have culled largely from Mr. Parry's "Essay on the Flintshire Castles" in our description of the Castles of Flint and Rhuddlan, it was because it would afford us this opportunity to express our admiration of the patriotic production, while we hoped the use we made of the materials would not affect its intrinsic value, nor lessen the sale of the book which contains it. We are also assured by a competent judge of the Welsh language that the poem (comprising 20 pages of letter press) entitled "AWDL AR WLEDD BELSASSAR" is alone well worth the whole price of the book!

tary gothic window only, on the east side of the main street, on which has been placed the following memento;

This fragment  
Is the remains of the Building  
Wherein King Edward the first  
Held his Parliameut,  
A. D. 1283,  
In which was passed the Statute of Rhuddlan,  
Securing  
To the principality of Wales  
Its judicial rights  
And Independence.

The burgesses of Rhuddlan contribute towards electing a member for the Flint boroughs, and truly loyal and independent they are, and always have been, in their choice. When they lost their late respected member, now Lord Mostyn, by his elevation to the peerage, they laid the "flattering unctio to their souls" that they could prevail upon a branch of the ancient house of Bodryddan, to represent them in parliament; but they were disappointed. Mr. Shipley Conway conceiving he could not efficiently serve his country in the "tented field," and the respected constituency of the Flint boroughs in the House of Commons, at one and the same time. After a good deal of coquetting, the present Hon. member Henry Glynne, Esq. brother of Sir Stephen R. Glynne, Bart. the High Sheriff of the County, was elected; in order, it is presumed, to preserve the seat for the worthy Baronet, until another occasion, and when he shall be in a situation to offer himself to the electors.

Below the town lies Rhuddlan Marsh, where in 795, it is said, was fought a dreadful battle between the Welsh, and their leader Caradoc, and the Saxon forces under Offa, King of Mercia. The Welsh were routed, and their Commander slain; in addition to this the Saxon Prince ordered all the men and children who fell into his hands to be massacred. The memory of this tragical event has been brought down to posterity in a ballad, called *Morfa Rhuddlan*, the air of which is most tenderly plaintive.

The population of this parish in 1801 was 594, in 1821, 1467, and by the last census was estimated at a very considerable increase.



## ERRATA.

Page 10 line 13	for "Aran Vowddwg"	read "Aran Vowddwy"
11....15....	"on the air"	...."in the air"
13.... last..	"yr <i>Eifr</i> "	...."yr <i>Eift</i> "
68.... 7....	"unbanity"	...."urbanity"
78.... 6....	"assurmed"	...."assumed"
84....13....	"one ancient"	...."our ancient"
98....29....	"Henry VIII."	...."Henry VII."
104....20....	"severe"	...."serene"
107....10....	"July 9, 3rd Aug <sup>25</sup> "	.. "July 15, Oct. 16"
108.....	"CHAP. VI."	...."CHAP. V."
109....27....	"norrow"	[ ...."narrow"

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1622

James Davies, Printer, Holywell.









<http://stores.ebay.com/Ancestry-Found>

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