



Bodleian Libraries

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

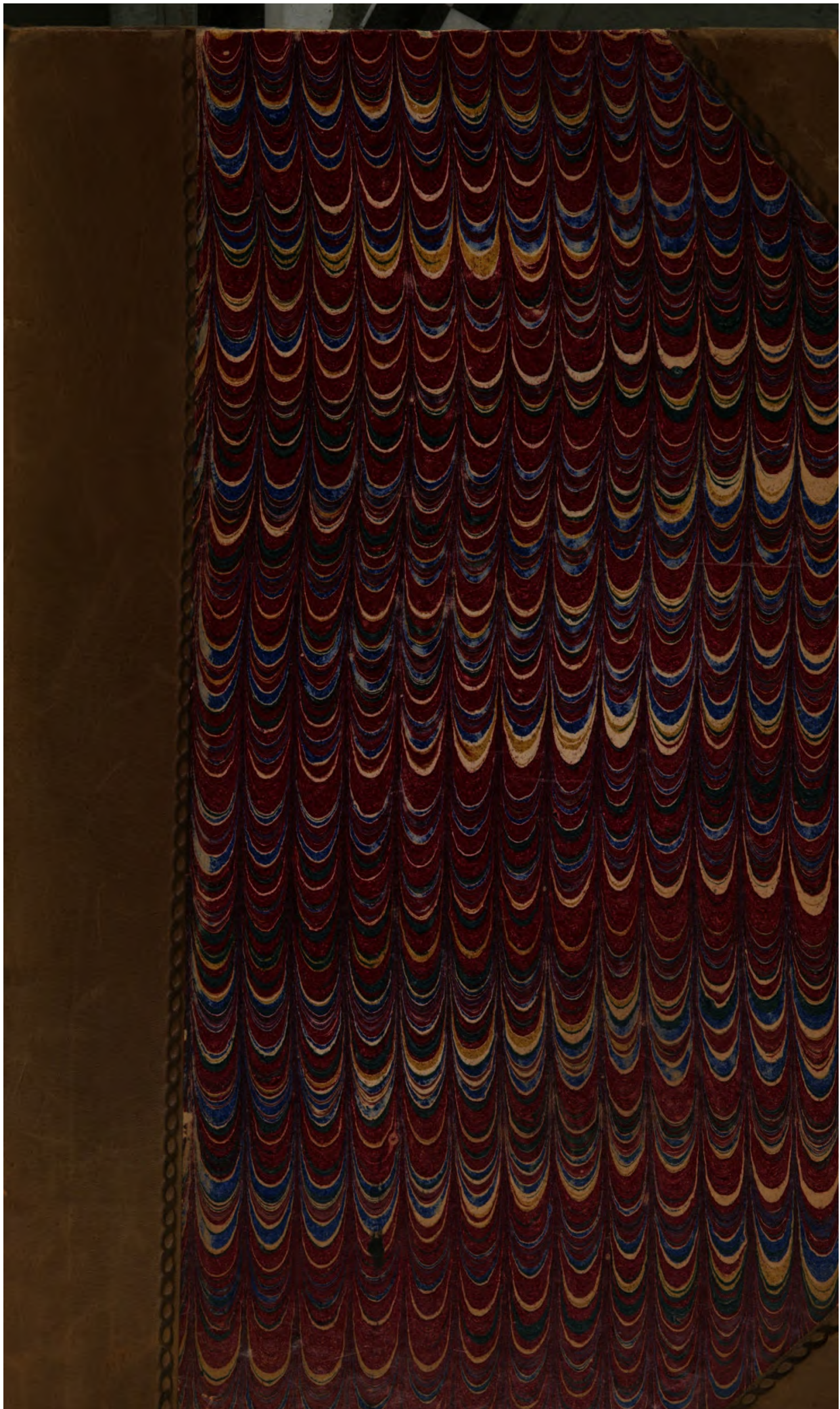
This book is part of the collection held by the Bodleian Libraries and scanned by Google, Inc. for the Google Books Library Project.

For more information see:

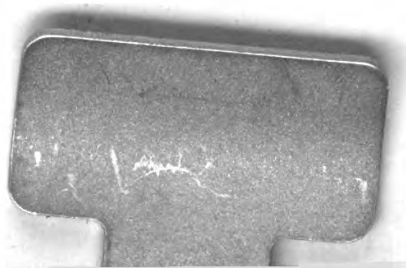
<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/dbooks>

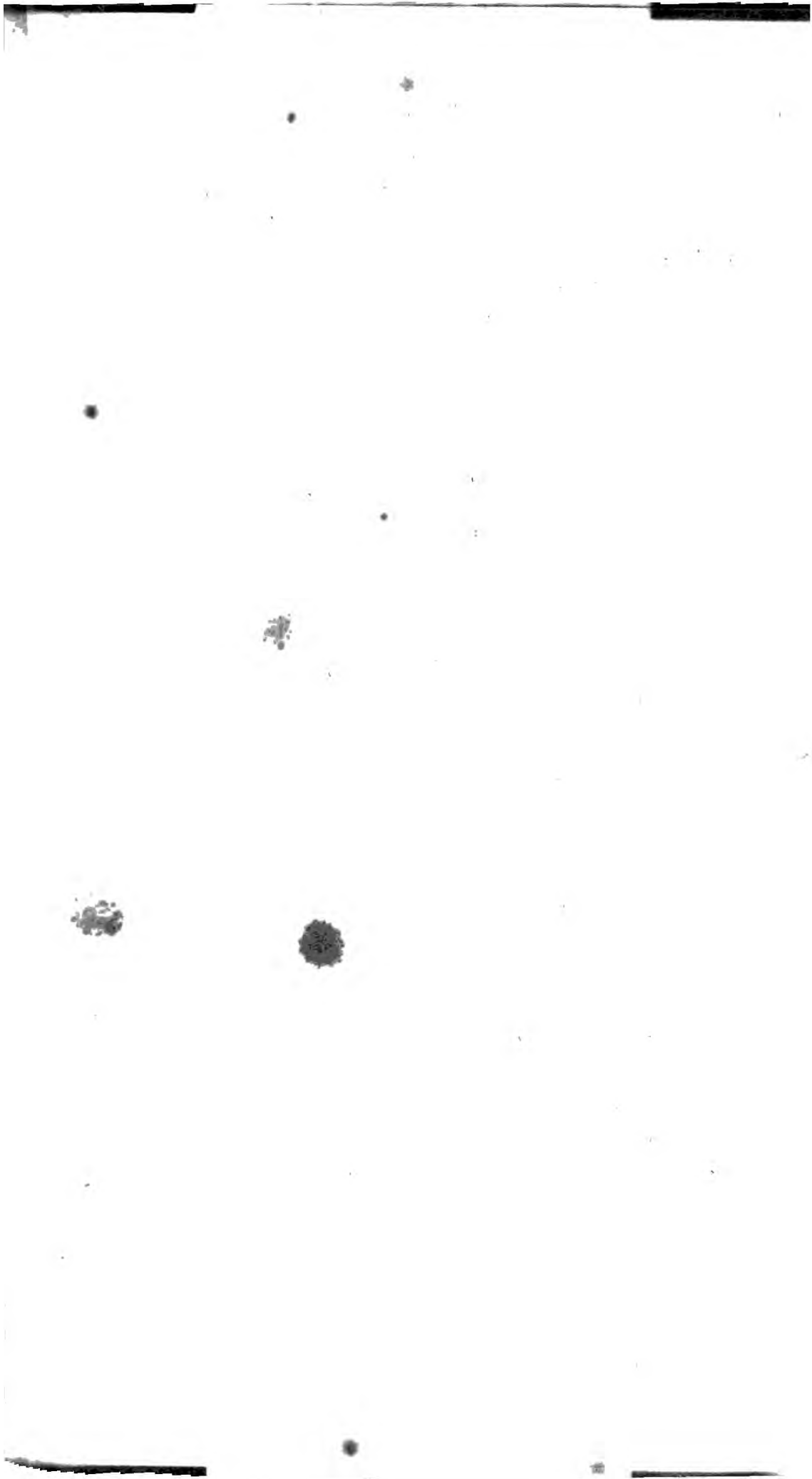


This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 2.0 UK: England & Wales (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0) licence.



-Gough Herodotus











George Herbert
14

By the Drive of D. Campbell, of several
Other Gentlemen of Dorsetshire who have lately formed
themselves into a Society called "The Broommen of ~~Wiltshire~~ Dorset", I am
Pleased to draw up an Account of that Territory
and the Customs of its Inhabitants - I am enabled to put it
in print through the favor of Mr. Juston, Printer,
Rowman's Row, Blackfriars where I now reside

Gough Hereford 14.

ERGINFIELD;

AN

ANTIQUARIAN FRAGMENT.

BY DAVID PUGH;
ANTIQUAR. EREINUCIÆ.

“VIRTUS SOLA INVICTA.”



LONDON.

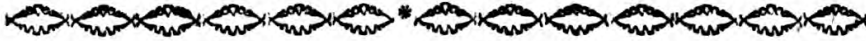
PRINTED IN THE YEAR

MDCCLXXXIX.

E. Gough, Esq.

from his obed. humble Servant

D. Pugh

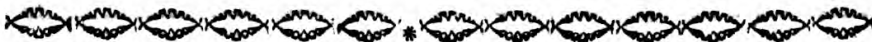


A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

IT is an old Adage "That every Man speaks the Language of his Profession;" This obviates an Apology for the following Performance. That it was not composed for the world, the Subject is a sufficient conviction. When it is considered, that Antiquarian Literature should be devoid of Political Discussions. general Encomium cannot give Offence. The praise, therefore of the multitude is not sought; though the esteem of the FEW is wished for: the accomplishment of which will be ample Recompence.

BRITISH MUSÆUM, LONDON,

April 23, 1789.





T O T H E

B O W M E N O F E R G I N F I E L D ,

A N D

M E N O F E W I A S .

DEVIIOUS, alas ! the maze I tread,
Vast is my tale ; — Oh, how incautious read !

“ To thee, kind CAMPBELL, — friend of all mankind !
“ I look for judgment — for I know thy mind ; —
“ Warm in my cause — yet still to Justice true, —
“ *I can but plead* — the rest I leave to you ! ”
Tho’ ruthless Slander wreak its utmost spite ;
Let Malice conquer — still my Cause is RIGHT :
And, could Parnassian splendors round me beam,
Thy sons, EWRYEYENNWC ! should exalt the theme !

Cease, wand’ring Fancy ! — cease to stray ! —
’Tis ERGINFIELD incites thy lay ?

Attend a mystic Bard’s enervate strain ;
Hys hoary hede wyth woe-worn hairs,
Hys myddel bendyng rought,
Hys thoght soe whyte, woe-worne hys face

Yn femely secrets wrought :
 And when, with unabating toil,
 He tells of ravage undeserv'd—and spoil,
 Ere yet he ceases, bid him strike again !

Pent up by hills, yet void of gloom,
 SILURIA aw'd all-conq'ring ROME !
 Nor could OSTORIUS' p und'ring rage,
 Her inbred Liberty assuage ! —

CLAUDIUS ! how lessen'd thou must be ! —
 'Twas CRADOC's Valour made him free !

Se hys threat'ning countenance,
 Hys armed faulchion yn hys honde ;
 Hys lokes alone wolde make one fere,
 Hys ey'n foe lyke a fiery brand !
 And, yn the bondes of fullen woe,
 Disdains e'en CÆSAR's ire—yet wins the pow'rful foe ! —

Fairer than the rising star—
 CRADOC ! thou shalt beam afar,
 E'en where Sol's extensive ray
 Scorns to usher in the day !—

My muse, alas ! will stray beyond
 What to her destin'd lore is giv'n ;
 How shall I sing the lay unconn'd,
 A theme as wide, as high—as heav'n !

ETHELBERT ! 'twas thine to die
 A sacrifice to treachery.
 Shameful deed of OFFA's reign ! —
 Who can 'raze the livid stain ?
 But well thy manes are rever'd ;
 For ERGIN's MILFRITH such a PILE has rear'd,
 That not grim age shall overthrow,
 Although it deals the threat'ning blow !—

How great in war ! —how blest in peace ! —
 Still ERGIN ! will thy name encrease !
 And though the tale no Bard has sung,
 Nor lift'ning crouds aroud have clung ;
 Again let Fame proclaim the pleasing sound,
 And let the vaulted roof rebound ;
 For ERGIN's sons will bend the knee,
 When, PRICE ! they know that *thou* art he !
 In whom their Royal Blood flows pure and free !

 Thee, LACY ! next I'll sing !

 With harden'd brow, more stately than thy tow'rs !
 Thy valiant sons, the bravest of their day,
 Led on by thee in Honor's fairest way,
 ERGIN uprais'd,—and made her glory thine !
 But where thy castles now ? How sunk thy name !
 Did not the SCUDAMORES sustain thy fame,
 And HOWARDS gloriously entwine
 A race as virtuous as benign !
 Whose deeds so noble make their name divine !
 “ 'Twas MORTIMER ! with more than human pow'r,
 “ Calling his trusty Archers to his aid,
 “ On brave LLEWELLIN sent the fatal show'r,
 “ And half his numbers on the field were laid.
 “ Yet still he strove, still dar'd the powr'ful foe,
 “ For Liberty he fought ! His Right of Birth !
 “ Nor, but with Life his Freedom would forego,
 “ The choicest Blessings mortals know on earth !”
 But who shall dare—with unsought ire,
 WALWYN, against thy Name conspire ?
 'Twas not thy race, in fullen meed
 O'erwhelm'd in Treason, triumph'd in the deed
 Which made thy Prince—thy own LLEWELLIN bleed !
 FRAMPTON ! inglorious ! thou alone !
 The blacken'd register must own !

 WALWYN in Honor still thy Name is clad ;
 Well may thy Motto boast, “ *Trwy Rbynwed Gwâd !* ”

How shall I, HARLEY, tell thy just renown !
 Thou friend to Science !—thou benignant man !
 Enrich'd, a Patriot,—lov'd e'en by a Crown :
 Thine were these Virtues, OXFORD ! thine alone !

And while respectful, CORNEWALL ! all shall view
 Thee, a MECÆNAS of th' enquiring age !
 Be smooth the path, so lib'ral to pursue,
 And Science ever thus each thought engage !

Alas ! with weak'd face besprent,
 The Bard, in theme, is nearly spent ;
 Tho' toil'd for breath, and dim his eyes,
 Oh ! may his wishes reach the skies,
 And ERGIN still immortalize !

Still may each Son for ever raise
 An arm in fair BRITANNIA's cause ;
 “ Or shoot the glitt'ring shaft of Praise,”
 Where ROYAL VIRTUES claim Applause !

And would but fair Commerce enliven her shore,
 Spreading forth her brisk sails ERGIN's worth to proclaim ;
 What blessings unknown would enhance the rich store,
 What glory triumphant would blazon her name.
 In rapture exulting, then DUNSTER might cry,
 ‘ No stream boasts such banks, as *the Banks of the Wye* !’

ERGINFIELD.

A

FRAGMENT.

THE Territory, of which *Herefordshire* formed a part, by the *Ancient Britains* was denominated *Ewryeynnwc*, *Ergnig*, *Ergengel*, *Hergin*, *Reinwc*, which all imply a *Hunting Country*; and its inhabitants *Ewryenn-Wyr*, *Ereych-Wyr*. It was part of the possessions of the ancient *Silures*, *quasi Silvestres*. Under the dominion of the *Saxons* it was called *Archenfield*, *Erginfield*, and *Urchenfield*.

It was at first part of the dominion of the *Ordovici*; and afterwards, upon the division of *Wales* by *Roderic* the Great, monarch of *Wales*, constituted a part of *Powis*. Again, upon the division of the latter territory, between two brothers, it was known by the appellation of *Erging*. Thus it continued, till King *Pebianus*, and after him *Cradoc fraich-fras*, insatiate in ambition, distressed their unsuspecting neighbours, and unjustly incorporated *Gwent*, *Ewias*, and *Erginfield*, under one chief Lord. In

In the times of the Saxons, *Erginfield* was bounded on the East by the kingdom of *Wessex*; on the West by the kingdom of *Brechinia*, or *Brecknock*, and the territory of *Ewias*; on the South by the kingdom of *Gwent*; on the North West by the kingdom of *Powis*; and on the North by the kingdom of *Mercia*.

When the victorious arms of the rapacious *Offa*, had ravaged and laid waste the other British Borders, he carried his conquest into *Erginfield*; and, adding this to his other domains, caused that enormous dyke, which to this day goes by his name, to be formed, extending from the mouth of the *Dee* to the confluence of the *Severn* and *Wye*; and punished, most severely, every Britain that intruded beyond that Boundary.

Thus the Kingdom of *Erginfield*, once so powerful, was subjected, and made a province of the kingdom of *Mercia*. However, one partial recompence attended the conquest; *Offa* made it his royal residence; and dwelt at the place we now call *Sutton Walls*, about five miles from the city of *Hereford*, where the ruins of his stately palace are at this day discernible.

After this period, *Erginfield* gradually decreased, and was indiscriminately called a Region, a Liberty, and a Hundred: So that the small tract now denominated *Archenfeld*, in *Herefordshire*, retains a very trifling portion of its ancient splendor.

The

The importance of *Erginfield* is evident from the estimation in which it was held, even in later times. Captain *Silas Taylor*, whose Collections for a HISTORY OF HEREFORDSHIRE, will be a lasting monument of his erudition and industry, has very judiciously confirmed the superiority of this Region to all others, by his extract from *Domesday Book*, as inserted in his *History of Gavel-kind*, by which Tenure *Archenfield* was governed:

“ The honorable Services of the lands in *Vrchenfield*, by their tenure, are in grofs recorded in *Domesday Book* :

“ *In ARCENEFIELD habet REX C homines IV minus, qui habent LXIII. car. cum suis hominibus : & dant de Consuetudine XLI. Sextarios Mellis, & XX. Solid. pro Ovibus quas solebant dare, & X. solid. pro fumagio. nec dant geldam, aut aliam consuetudinem, nisi quod pergunt in exercitu REGIS si jussum eis fuerit.*”

“ These *ninety-six* men here spoken of, I take to be *Liberi Homines* ; and the *seventy-three Ploughs*, with their men, I look upon to be their *Villani* ; and both *Liberi* and *Villani* to hold by the tenure of *Gavel-kind* ; and I find all the lands in that Territory, which consists of *Two Hundreds*, are so held to this day. You find them free from Payments and Customs anciently imposed upon the rest of the Nation ; because, as a *special* remark, it is said,

“ *nec*

“ *nec dant Geldam aut aliam Consuetudinem,*”

Unless it be to march in the king's army when they are commanded; yet paying, as the rest of Wales doth, their *Tal y Fiwch* and *Tal y Ffwrn*; this last being the *Fumagium* there recorded, which is still paid to the lords of manors generally over Wales.”

I am inclined to think that the latter of these Tallages is a relic of the feudatory system by which Ancient Britain was governed; but those who consult *Wottoni Leges Wallicæ*, will, I dare say, receive more ample information in this respect, than can be derived from the present PROSPECTUS; a REGULAR ACCOUNT OF ERGINFIELD, not being my intention at *this* time, whatever may be my future progress, by means of FIFTEEN VOLUMES of MS. Documents, and the liberal assistance of my learned friends, to whose kind partiality, *at such a time*, I am so much indebted.—To the subject:—Captain *Taylor* proceeds:

“ But to clear the distinction that I made of Freemen and Villains in *Urcbenfield*, that so I may not seem to speak without book, I gathered it out of the same record; which, in the next paragraph, gives a further account in these words:

“ *Si liber homo ibi moritur, REX habet Cabellum ejus cum Armis: de Villano cum moritur habet REX unum Bovem.*”

“ The

“ The first seems to me to be a Relief from those that held by Knight’s Service ; because his Horse and Arms, when he died, did belong to the king ; the second to be Heriot ; both which were ancient British usages ; as may be seen by the conclusion of all the Customs.

“ These men had the *Chief Honor in the Army* given to them ; for

“ *Cum Exercitus in hostem pergit, ipsi per Consuetudinem faciunt Avauntward, & reversione Redrewarde ;* ”

They did lead the van to fight, and out of the field brought up the rear. These Honors were not least in those days any more than at present.”

I cannot believe, but this most distinguishing Honor was derived to the *Bowmen of Archenfield*, from the remotest Antiquity. And as the Materials for the discussion of this intricate subject are, at present, in a deranged state, suffice it therefore to suppose the privilege to be a consequent testimony of the prowess of their ancestors the *Silures* ; which, being delivered by tradition to their descendants, might have made them so tenacious of such an eminent mark of their glory. Indeed the Tenure itself strongly corroborates the conjecture ; therefore, till a more solid argument overbalances this *Postulatum*, I shall remain confident in my opinion. — To return from this digression,

“ These

“ These men enjoyed many other privileges with their Gavel-kind ;” which, existing in this Domain, as well as over Wales, makes me rather conclude it borrowed from the ancient British, and not from the Saxons. *Sed Quære?* And upon a comparison with the Laws of *Howel Dda*, these privileges are of the same tendency; as, *satisfaction for murder; for burning of houses, &c.* all which are certified in *Domesday Book*, with this additional paragraph in conclusion :

“ *Hæ sunt Consuetudines erant Walensium tempore Regis EDVWARDI in ARCENEFELD.*”

Much has been advanced, but with great uncertainty; and by no means, can be called an elucidation. *Taylor*, as above, confined *Erginfield* within the narrow limits of two Hundreds; but by his own account, this Territory must have been of larger extent, and on the opposite side of the *Wye*; which in another part he seems to confirm, though unintentionally. For instance, *Milfrith*, a *Regulus* of *Erginfield*, builds the Cathedral of *Hereford*; and *Merewald*, another *Regulus*, founds the Monastery of *Llan Llieni*, or *Leominster*. Now, it is observable that both these places are on the opposite side of the present situation of *Erginfield*. Again, does there not appear a seeming impropriety, in these *Reguli*, in neglecting their own domain, to confer such an honorable distinction as this was? for it could not be done from a motive of pilgrimage, the distance being so inadequate. Certainly, we find that *St. Dubritius*, Bishop of *Llandaff*, son of *Pebianus*

Glanorawc

Glanorawc, and grandson of *Erb*, who dwelt at *Moccas*, in this county, and were Kings of *Gwent*, *Erginfield* and *Ewias*, founded the famous monastery of *Llan-Frawd-Wyr*, now *Hen-llan*, for a thousand students. But it is to be remarked this was not till, by conquest, these were consolidated into one Domain.

From these *data*, I much doubt whether the land now called *Archenfield*, was really so in the times of the Britains. My reason is, that as the river *Wye* was an ancient boundary, *Erginfield* extended along the *Hereford* side of that river, by *Rofs*, near which the ancient *Ariconium* was placed, then by the Forest of *Dean*, &c. I look upon the whole tract of land on the opposite bank of the *Wye*, from *Wilton* Castle to the *Black Mountain*; and from the banks of *Monwy*, to *Eaton Bishop*, on the banks of *Wye*, that is, the whole circuit of that country, to comprehend the Territory of *Ewias*; which being held jointly, and enjoying the same privileges, was involved in the general name of *Archenfield*. That small portion of *Herefordshire*, now called *Ewias*, not being sufficient for a *Principality*, as it was in the times of the Britains, whose representatives being of the stem of the ancient family of *Whitney*, by intermarriages descended to the *Rodds*, and from these to *Prices* of *Foxley*, *Much Mancel*, &c. in which house now flows the royal blood of *Erginfield* and *Ewias*.

I think there cannot be a better support of my position of *Ewias*, than its etymology, *the Valley on*
Wye

Wye side, or furrounded by Wye. If this is its proper etymology, and by analization I find it so, the little river *Dwr* very improperly confines, what the *Wye* only should bound; Water being anciently the only limits of Territories: from thence called *Caü*, which to this day, in the Welsh language, implies *an enclosure*. When power gave mankind an idea of dominion, it became necessary for the oppressed to embody for the general safety, to form closer and fortified settlements; but still without any other bulwark than earth, encompassed by water: these they distinguished *Caer*. Whence *Castra, Ceaster, Chester, Chaer, Share, and Shire*.

However, to set the matter out of dispute, I will insert, what that learned Antiquary, *Humfry Lluyd*, has recorded in his *Breviary of Britain*; of which the following is an extract:

“ There yet remaineth that part of *Powis*, which stretched sometime unto *Wey*, whose first region taketh name of the river *Colunwy (Clun)*, and of the castle and possessions of the *Fitz Alanes*.

“ Next to *Melienith*, and *Gurttrenion*, hilly countries, and at the *South Radenor*, called of the Welshmen, *Maisfod*, head of the shire. Joining unto these are *Eluil*, with the castle of *Payne*, by *Wey*, which our countrymen call *Gwy*. Beyond all these are *Prestene*, which we call *St. Andrew's church*, and *Kynton*, with the castle of *Huntington*. And upon *Themis*, of us called *Tefidioc*, standeth the fayre town and castle of *Ludlaw*, in *Schreupshire*, in old time called

called *Dinau*, the work of *Roger Montgomer*. And above that the castle of *Wigmore*, the patrimony of the *Mortumars*. And at *Severne*, *Bridgenorth*, and *Beaudeley*, in old time very well known by the castle *Tyrbil*. And on the south-west side, upon *Logus*, which we call *Llygwy*, on a passing fertile playne standeth *Llanibieni*, of the Englishmen called *Lemstre*. And not farre thence, is the auncient Citie *Henfford*, that is to say, *an old way*, of Englishmen in old time called *Ferleg*, now *Hereford*, standing upon *Wey*, or more truly upon *Gwy*. Towards *Severne* and *Wey*, not far from the Town of *Rofs*, is that renowned Woode, which of the Danes, is called the *Forest of Deane*.

These Regions, with all *Herefordshire*, beyond *Wey*, before they were possessed by the Englishmen, in old time, were termed in British *Ewryeynnuc*, and the inhabitants *Eurnwyr*, of which name there remaineth yet some signification apparent, in one place of *Herefordshire*. For that which the Englishmen call *Vrchenfield*, the Welshmen called *Ergnig*, and *Ergengel*."

To reconcile a seeming incongruity, in the above description, it is necessary to observe that *Lluyd* resided at *Denbigb*, and wrote from that place: This accounts for beginning at *Clun*.

It may not be improper, in addition, to remark, that part of this Territory, immediately before its subjugation by the Normans, was in the kingdom
of

of *Morgannuc* or *Gwlad-Morgan*, and called *Cantref Ergin*. Upon consulting some of the Harleian MSS. in this Repository, I am induced, finally, to imagine *Archenfield* the land of the *Wiccii*; for *Vortiger*, was called, indiscriminately, Duke of the *Wiccii*, as well as of *Archenfield*, &c. and it is generally acknowledged that his possessions were in these parts; it not being customary, in those times, to have lands in one place, and titles from another. As a confirmation, I find an account of a Donation by *Ofric*, a Sub-regulus, *de Maner. Wicciorum*. toward the foundation of the Abby of *Gloucester*. Where could these Manors lie? Surely not in *Cornwall*, &c. which was deemed by some the Land of the *Wiffians*, with what reason I cannot discover. I more probably think them in *Archenfield*, where I shall place them till evident conviction evinces the contrary.

However, I think I have, in the present instance, produced authority sufficient for ascertaining the Bounds of the BOWMEN OF ERGINFIELD, AND EWIAS. I have only to wish Prosperity to such an Institution; and that the Members will not be more esteemed for their *Liberality*, than eminently distinguished by that Standard of true, patriotic Knighthood, *Protection of the Innocent*, so consistent with their character, as *Haters of Oppression!*



