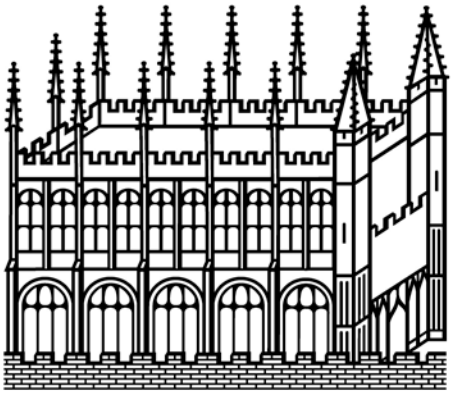


Bodleian Libraries

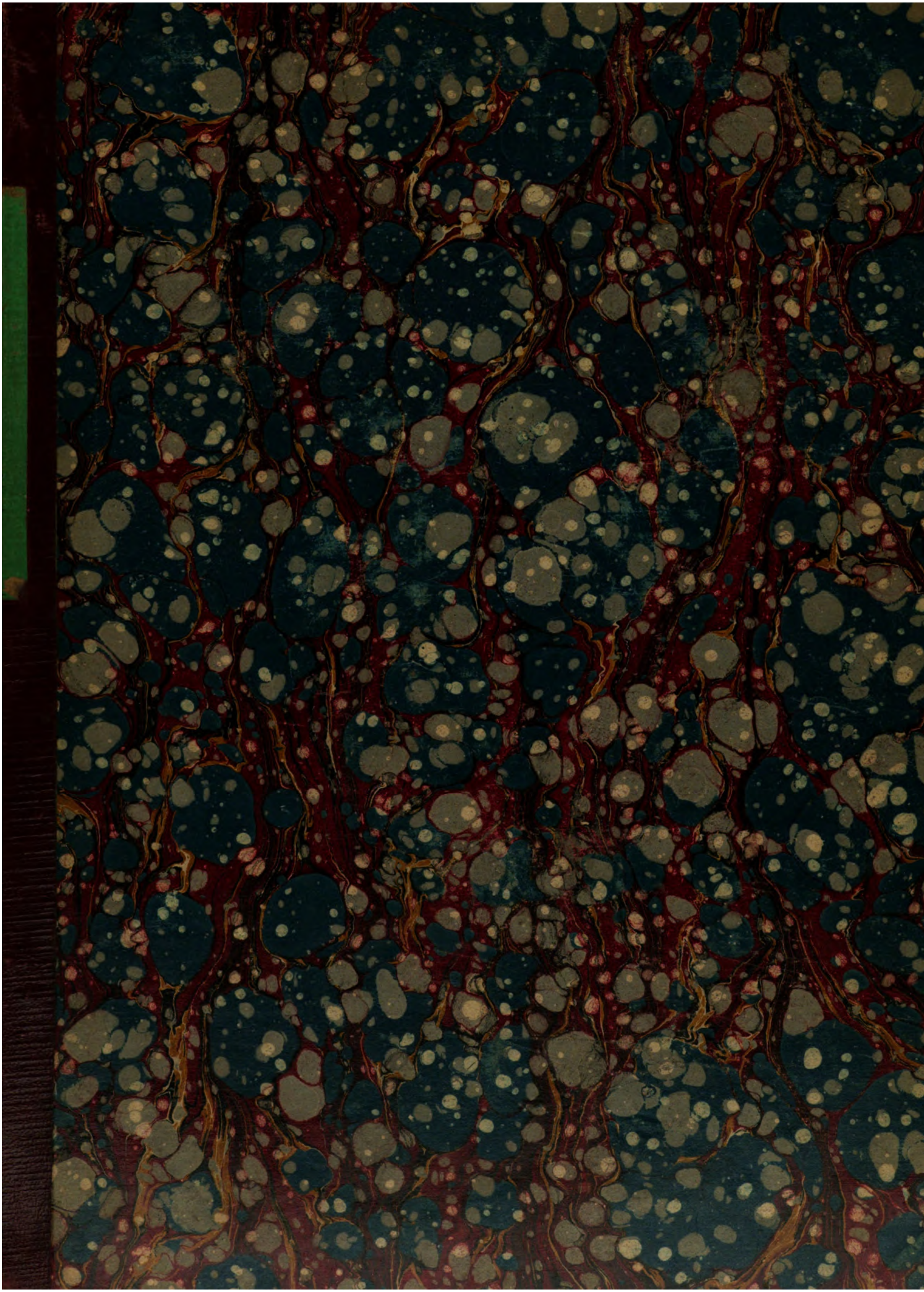
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

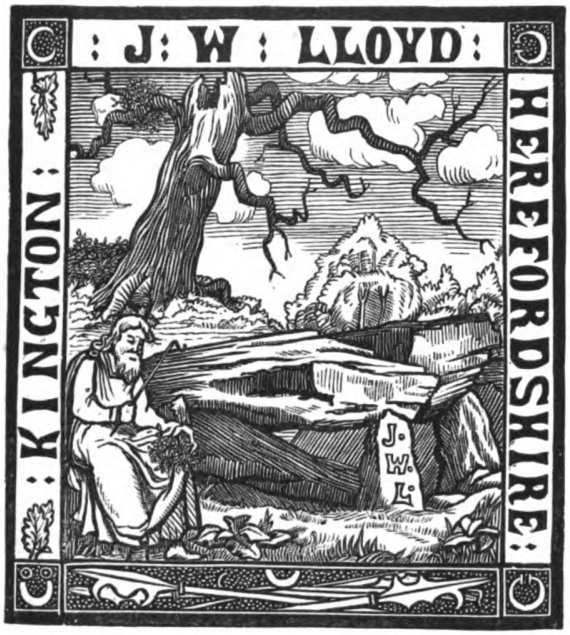
This book is part of the collection held by the Bodleian Libraries and scanned by Google, Inc. for the Google Books Library Project.

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.




: J: W : LLOYD :
: KINGTON :
HEREFORDSHIRE:
J.
W.
L

7413

WALES ILLUSTRATED,

IN A

SERIES OF VIEWS,

Comprising the

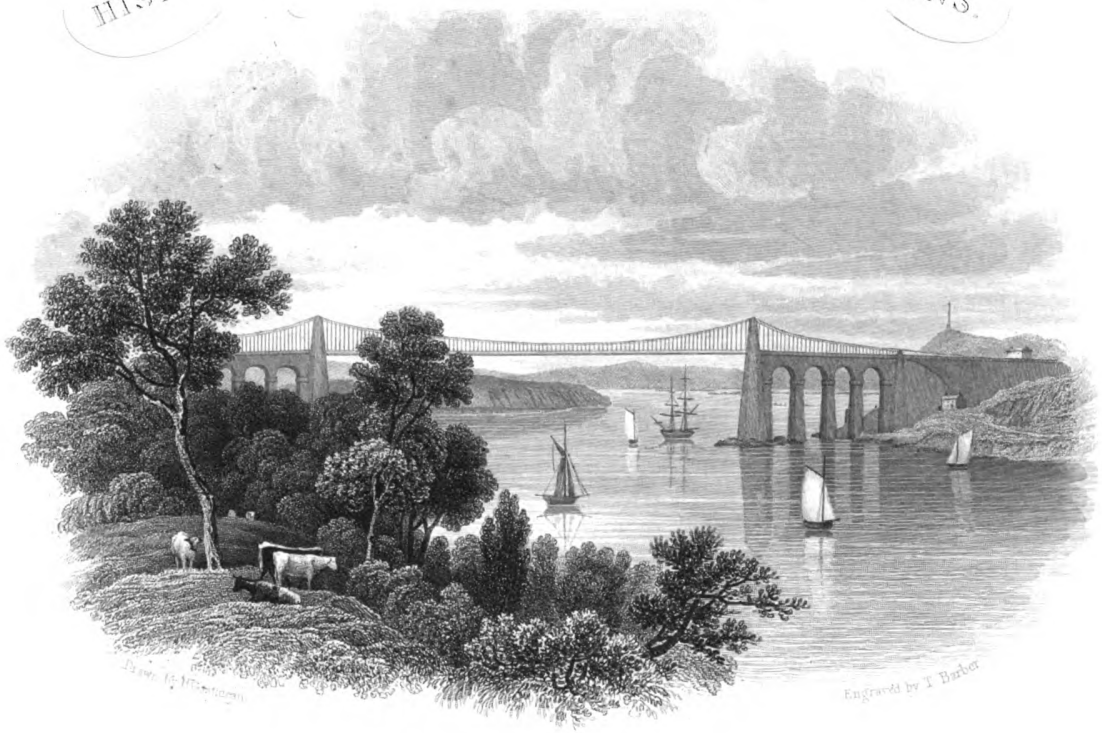
Picturesque Scenery, Towns, Castles, Seats of the Nobility & Gentry,

Antiquities, &c.

Engraved in Aid from Original Drawings by Henry Fashnaw.

Accompanied by

HISTORICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTIONS.



Engraved by T. Barber

PUBLISHED MDCCXXXII.

NORTH WALES.

LIST OF ENGRAVINGS.

VIGNETTE, Menai Straits

Abermaw, or Barmouth - Merionethshire

Rhuddlan Castle - - Flintshire

Llyn Tegid, or Bala Lake - Merionethshire

Menai Bridge

Beddgelert - - - Caernarvonshire

Llyn Idwal - - - Ditto

Tremadoc - - - Ditto

Rhaiadyr du - - - Merionethshire

Flint - - - - - Flintshire

Flint Castle - - - Ditto

Llanrwst Bridge - - Denbighshire

Llanrwst Church - - Ditto

Bangor - - - - Caernarvonshire

Bangor Cathedral - - Ditto

Denbigh Castle - - Denbighshire

Denbigh - - - - Ditto

View near Aber - - Caernarvonshire

Llyn Gwynant - - - Ditto

Overton Church - - Flintshire

Valle Crucis Abbey - - Denbighshire

Snowdon, from Capel Curig - Caernarvonshire

Fall of the Ogwen - - Ditto

Pont y Glyn - - - Denbighshire

Pont Aberglaslyn - - Caernarvonshire

Pont y Cyssyllte - - Denbighshire

Llangollen - - - Ditto

Tower of Wrexham Church - Ditto

St. Winifred's Well - - Flintshire

Beaumaris - - - Isle of Anglesea

Entrance to Beaumaris Castle Ditto

St. Asaph - - - Flintshire

St. Asaph Cathedral - - Ditto

Welsh Pool - - - Montgomeryshire

Powis Castle - - - Ditto

Pont y Rhydlanfair - - Caernarvonshire

Pistill y Caen - - - Merionethshire

Caernarvon - - - Caernarvonshire

Caernarvon Castle - - Ditto

Remains of Castell Dinas Bran, Denbighshire

Eagle Tower, Caernarvon Castle, Caernarvonshire

Bangor Iscoed - - - Flintshire

Holt - - - - - Denbighshire

Chirk Castle - - - - Ditto

Corwen - - - - Merionethshire

Harlech Castle, from the Tremadoc Road, Ditto

Remains of Dyserth Castle - Flintshire

Ruthin Castle - - - Denbighshire

LIST OF ENGRAVINGS.

Hawarden Castle	Flintshire
Suspension Bridge, Conway	Caernarvonshire
Conway Castle	Ditto
Llyn Ogwen	Ditto
Gwrych, near Abergele	Denbighshire
Rhuabon	Ditto
Llantisilio Church	Ditto
Mold	Flintshire
Harlech Castle	Merionethshire
Wynnstay	Denbighshire
Northop	Flintshire
Penmaen Mavr	Caernarvonshire
Criccieth Castle	Ditto
Caergwrle	Flintshire
Pont y Pair	Caernarvonshire
Plas Newydd	Denbighshire
Basingwerk Abbey	Flintshire
Bettws y Coed	Caernarvonshire
Tal y Llyn	Merionethshire
Town Hall, Ruthin	Denbighshire
Wrexham	Ditto
Penrhyn Castle	Caernarvonshire
Llangollen Church	Denbighshire
Machynlleth	Montgomeryshire
Llanberis Lake	Caernarvonshire
Dolgellau	Merionethshire
Llanelltyd Church	Ditto
View in the Vale of Llangollen,	Denbighshire
Chirk Aqueduct	Ditto
Pass of Llanberis	Caernarvonshire
Rhaiadyr y Wenol	Ditto
Holyhead Harbour	Isle of Anglesea
South Stack Light-house	Ditto
Cader Idris	Merionethshire
Llanfachreth Church	Ditto
Fall of the Conway	Caernarvonshire
View in the Vale of Beddgelert,	Ditto.

CAMBRIA.

On SCENES like these the eye delights to dwell;
Here loud CASCADES—and there the silent DELL
MOUNTAINS of tow'ring height—fantastic shape,
At whose broad base, terrific CHASMS gape:
HILLS, clothed in gayest verdure, smile serene,
Whilst rude and barren ROCKS, contrast the scene.
Varied by light and shade's perpetual change,
The enraptured ARTIST finds an endless range.

WALES, whether considered with reference to the nature of the country its picturesque scenery, geographical features, or rare productions, independent of its history, as a people whose circumstances, actions, and fate, stand single and unparalleled in the annals of the world, possesses peculiar interest, and is of the highest possible importance. Varied as is the face of it, with mountains, woods, rivers, lakes, and cataracts, it becomes particularly inviting to the artist, or the admirer of Nature; and the numerous vestiges of antiquity, which lead reflection back to the scenes and transactions of remote periods, are calculated strongly to arrest the attention of the historian and antiquary to a country long the asylum of freedom and religion; to a nation which, from the earliest period of its existence, was distinguished by independency of spirit,—which for ages defended the rights of Nature, and, as in the recent case of France, hurled defiance against the oppressors of mankind.

Antiquaries have been divided in their opinions respecting the origin of the names Cambria or Wales, usually given to that portion of Britain situated to the west of the rivers Severn and Dee. The derivation, however, of the former is clearly deduced from the original inhabitants having been a tribe of the Celtæ or Gauls, known under the denomination of *Cymbri* and *Cymri;* whence the Romans, agreeable to the genius of their language, would call the country inhabited by such people, in Latin, Cambria. As to the latter term, which the Saxons appear to have applied to this territory, and also to Danmonium, which comprised Devonshire and Cornwall, the etymology is not so obviously manifest. It has been by some writers observed, that *Walsh*, in the northern languages of Europe, signifies a *stranger*, and the

Britons being totally unlike their conquerors, in speech and customs, were, from that dissimilarity, called *Welsh*, and their country, *Wales*. Others, dissatisfied with this opinion, suppose, from the apparent conformity in language and manners between these Britons and the Gauls, the Saxons gave them the same appellation. But the learned Sumner remarks upon this supposition, that the Saxon conquerors did not so designate them till they had expelled them beyond the Severn; that the Saxon verb *weallan* means, to *wander;* and that by this denomination they intended to brand them as fugitives. A more modern antiquary, however, contends, that the name was applied to the Britons much earlier than is stated by Mr. Sumner; for the Saxon chronicle mentions the Britons by the title of *Brit-walas*, or *Brit-walan*, and frequently speaks of the troops under Hengist and Ella, almost at the commencement of the war with the Britons, as having routed the *Wealas*, *Wylishe*, or *Welsh*, in Kent and Sussex. The denomination of the Britons among themselves, as well as neighbouring nations, was popularly *Gall* or *Wall*. This appellation, which extended over all the British isles, and a considerable portion of the continent, has been frequently attempted to be explained by the philological critics both at home and abroad; but its meaning still remains veiled in obscurity.

Cæsar and Tacitus deduce the origin of the Britons from the Gauls, from the vicinity of the two countries, and the similarity of manners and character; but a stronger argument is found in the national appellation of Gael and Gaul, equally assumed by both people. The great current of European population, obviously, for centuries, took a direction to the west; and the British isles were evidently replenished from the adjacent shores of Gaul. When the first migration happened, or what, previous to the Christian era, was the state of society in Britain, is referable to a general description of the Island. Who were the inhabitants of Cambria, and what their national condition and character, at the period the Romans invaded this part of the country, are subjects for present consideration. It will appear, that the inhabitants of Wales were part of the aboriginal possessors, and whose numbers must have been greatly increased by those Britons, who, retreating before the victorious Romans, fled to this district, as a denier resort, to preserve their independence. After the invaders had secured the central part of Britain, by forming stations, and appointing garrisons, and given to it the name of *Britannia prima*, they then turned their attention to the reduction of the unconquered portion, lying west of the Severn. When Ostorius, the Roman general, took a survey of this country, which he was sent with an army to subdue, he found it possessed by three tribes of people, denominated, from their respective districts, *Ordovices*, *Silures*, and *Dimetæ*.

The *Ordovices* at the Roman invasion were in possession of all the country comprised in the present North Wales, *viz.* the counties of Anglesea, Caernarvon, Montgomery, Merioneth, Denbigh, and Flint, except a small part of the latter adjacent to Bangor, occupied by the Carnabii, and all those parts of Shropshire situated to the south and west of the Severn. Camden attempts to drive their appellative distinction from the people having originally settled upon the river *Devi*, whence they were called *Oar-devi*, in British signifying on the

Devi, and thence Ordevices: as the Amoricans were so denominated from inhabiting the sea-coasts; the Averni, upon the river Avernus; and the Horesci, on the banks of the Esk. But another and more probable etymology has been advanced by other writers. Bede mentions two British tribes under the names of the Huiccü, Wiccü, Vicü, and Vices; the one inhabiting Warwickshire and Worcestershire, and having for their capital Brannogenium, the city of Worcester; and the other, the country to the north-west of it, from which circumstance, or the mountainous state of their country, they received the appellations of *Ard*, or *Ordovices*, that is, the Northern or Upper Vices.

The *Silures* possessed, according to Ptolemy, the district at present comprising the counties of Hereford, Radnor, Brecknock, Monmouth, and Glamorgan, and the small portion of Gloucestershire west of the Severn; and had for their capital Caer Gwent, in Monmouthshire. The name of this tribe has been a subject of much antiquarian research, after all which, Camden confesses, he could find no derivation that in the least corresponded with the nature of the people. The name, by some, has been derived from *sil*, aspicio, to look at, this people having been remarkable for their bold countenance. The etymology has also been sought in *Esyllwg*, a term implying an open country of downs, abounding with prospects; hence its inhabitants were denominated *Gwyr Esyllwg*, *Gwyr Esyllyr*, &c. &c. from their derivatives *Syllyrwys*.

The *Dimetæ* were situated west of the Silures, and their country in British called *Difed*, whence is evidently derived the Roman appellation; the Latins frequently softening the *f*, or *v*, into *m*, in words they adopted from that language. They possessed the country at present including the counties of Cardigan, Pembroke, and Carmarthen. Some writers have comprehended this district under that of the Silures; but Ptolemy places here a people, whom he denominated Dimetæ; and both Gildas and Nennius, early British writers, designate and describe the country under the name of Dimetia.

Such were the inhabitants of Wales, when the Romans first entered it with an hostile army. Respecting the condition or state of these Britons at the period in question, there has been a great discrepancy of opinion among the most learned of our writers. Some, without possessing that impartiality which should ever accompany the inquirer after truth, and in despite of the most unexceptionable authorities, treat these people as naked, illiterate, wretched savages, destitute of clothes, and without any shelter from the inclemency of the weather, but what they found in miserably constructed hovels or hollow trees; fierce by nature, rude in their manners, unacquainted with the arts, and at a vast distance from civilisation. Others, following the British history, describe them as a martial, potent, learned, flourishing, and trading nation, well known in other countries by their commercial and military relations; as a people who possessed a foreign trade, equipped large fleets, sent out powerful armies, and achieved numerous conquests abroad; and at home erected stately edifices, founded large cities, and instituted seminaries of learning, so as to obtain respect from surrounding nations. This may be and probably is a picture possessing too little that is real in its general outline, not sufficiently accurate in its figures, and far too high and

glowing in the colouring. But waving the testimony of authorities, which in some respects may be considered doubtful, and adopting as guides, reason and experience, it will be readily discerned, that these ancient Britons need not be degraded into absolute savages, merely because the Romans, in imitation of the Greeks, chose to give them, as they did to all strangers. the contemptuous name of *barbarians*. There can be no doubt but they brought with them the knowledge of the arts and sciences, to whatever extent they were possessed by the parent country, at the time of their emigration. And these they must have had abundance of opportunities of exercising in a country, the state of which could administer little to their subsistence or comfort, without the application of both labour and skill.

When visited by the Romans, they had a religion remarkable for its numerous ceremonies, an order of priests, and places set apart for public worship. They possessed an established government, consisting of a princely aristocracy, united, in times of danger, under one head. Their militia were composed of regular and well-disciplined troops, divided into charioteers, cavalry and infantry, and their horses were admirably trained for the purposes of war.

With respect to their vast naval power, though attempted to be established by the learned Selden, considerable doubts and objections may be urged, founded upon authentic documents. As to small vessels, which does not exclude the probability of their having others of larger dimensions, Cæsar bears ample testimony to the ingenuity of their construction, and their great convenience; and acknowledges himself indebted to the Britons, for several useful improvements in the Roman navy. The facility with which these instruments of aquatic conveyance were made, and their peculiar portability, have occasioned a continuance of their use, and *corracles* still form the fishing boats which ply on the rivers of Wales.

They seem also to have understood rural economy; for their keepers of cattle having a distinct appellation, evinces that numbers of others were occupied in the labours of the field. In consequence of which they appear to have had sufficient corn for their own support, and their pastures were abundantly stocked with cattle, sheep, and hogs. Besides, they bred for amusement, hares, geese, and poultry. That an idea of individual property was prevalent among them, is manifest from all disputes, respecting limits of lands, having been referable for their decision to the Druids. In their negotiations with each other, for money they used rings, or small plates of iron strung together, and what proves great exactness in their dealings is, these passed among them by weight as well as tale. Supposing they possessed no minted coins, this circumstance alone would be a sufficient evidence of their civilisation; since it is deducible from history, that no nation in a state of barbarism ever adopted in buying and selling a circulating medium. That they possessed a foreign commerce is manifest, for the inhabitants of Britany, or Bretagne, traded hither in large ships, and the ports of Britain were visited by merchant vessels from the Levant. These facts respecting the first inhabitants will suggest to the reflecting mind, that the Romans, on their arrival did not find our ancestors hordes of ignorant savages; but a people, though widely different from their invaders in temper, customs, and manners, having all the necessaries, and some of the conveniences of life: and what is the most invaluable of all possessions, contentment in their

condition. It will also further appear, that, so early as their actions furnished materials for history, the Britons breathed a spirit of genuine freedom; had imbibed rational notions of its political advantages, and the miseries resulting from despotic power. Upon this principle, therefore, they always studied to procure, and preserve their liberty, and whenever they were deprived of it, by any undue extension of arbitrary power, they never ceased struggling till the galling yoke of despotism was removed. The same spirit animated their minds, and the same temper pervaded their actions, when their country was invaded by the Romans. Excited by a patriotism never exceeded in the annals of man, and stimulated by a noble ambition never to be satisfied but by victory, nor extinguished but by death, they fought with a degree of bravery that astonished the legionary troops; performed prodigies of valour, which nearly represented them as invincible; and disputed every inch of ground with a tenacity and obstinacy that extorted from their victors the tribute of admiration. Suetonius Paulinus overcame the Ordovices, and extirpated the remainder of the Druids, and other religious sects, who had fled to the island of Mona, the principal seat of their superstitious rites; vainly imagining the Deity would there afford them an invulnerable shield against the Roman arms. Notwithstanding this, the heroic Silures for years continued their struggle for liberty, till at length Julius Agricola was sent hither, with a powerful army, by the emperor Vespasian; and having entirely defeated the Britons under their intrepid leader, Caractacus, in a decisive battle near Caer Caradoc, on the borders of Salop, he completely reduced this part of the island to the Roman yoke. The affability of this General gained him the affections of the people, and, by his great urbanity, he disposed many to embrace the Roman manners; flattering them with the names, and bestowing on them the privileges of citizens, receiving them into his armies, providing for the education of their youth, living amongst them in a style of great hospitality, rewarding their valour, and commending their learning and politeness. Thus, securing by policy what he had won by force, Cambria was dignified with the name of *Britannia secunda;* and the conquerors, as they had previously done in Britannia prima, began to establish jurisdictions, appoint magistrates, and adopt other measures for the due and regular administration of the laws. Towns were built, stations appointed and garrisoned, and roads formed for intercommunication between them. So speedily and successfully did they proceed in their settlement of the country, that, in a few years, Wales assumed all the appearance of a Roman colony, and regular stations were erected under various designations.

The towns, classed as stations, were of different degrees, varying not merely in the rank of civil estimation, but also in the nature of their constitution. They were particularly distinguished into four orders, *latian*, *colonial*, *municipal*, and *stipendiary*. The first had the Jus Latii communicated to them, which exempted them from the ordinary jurisdiction of the prætor; and the inhabitants were not governed by a foreign præfect and questor, but those officers were elected from among themselves. A Briton was their president, a Briton their justiciary, and a Briton their collector; and such as had served these offices, became entitled to the privileges of Roman citizens. Of this description there were several in Britain, but none in Wales.

The second kind were governed by a different polity. They were those towns or cities which formed the head-quarters of the respective legions, where some of the principal cohorts were stationed, the eagle or standard was deposited, and the commander in chief resided. Towns of this class were occupied by Romans, and chiefly by legionary soldiers, who received portions of land in the neighbourhood, as a reward for past services, and as an inducement to be vigilant in the suppression of insurrection. Yet, for the sake of protection, numbers of the natives took up their habitation near, and were consequently deemed Roman citizens, and subjected to the imperial laws.

The third, or stipendiary towns, had their constitution courts of justice and offices copied from those at Rome, and governed by officers deputed by the prætor.

Exclusive of these, a few ranked as Municipia, by virtue of which distinction they were invested with the privilege of enacting laws for the regulation of their own affairs, and were exempted from subjection to the imperial code. The inhabitants also, without being divested of their native citizenship, were considered as denizens of Rome. None of this description appear to have existed in Cambria.

Of the Roman roads, though more distinct traces might be supposed to exist in Wales, than in England, from their vestiges not having been equally liable to obliteration, by the hand of cultivation: yet, for want of due investigation, few of them have been traced in a satisfactory manner.

After the Romans had been in possession of Britain for nearly five centuries, their empire, grown too unwieldy to preserve its integrity, had long been on the decline, and was now rapidly approaching to its dissolution. Immediately after the death of the emperor Maximus, such a scene of confusion succeeded in the imperial affairs, that it would occupy too much room to attempt a brief discussion of the discordant accounts given by writers, respecting the revolutions, and consequent devastations, which happened at that eventful period. The Romans were miserably harassed on all sides by the surrounding barbarians; and the Britons, unable to derive their usual protection from the legionary troops, shared a similar fate. At the period when the invaders bade a final adieu to this island, the country was exposed to the inroads of numerous enemies. Assailed on the north by the Picts and Scots, it was equally infested by the Irish on the west. The native strength of the country had been exhausted in the support of foreign wars; the number of its inhabitants further diminished by famine and pestilence; and the grand bulwark of its safety, the navy, was fallen into decay. Under these disadvantages, the people were also in want of that unanimity so essential to become powerful in times of emergency. They had recourse to their ancient form of government, and elected for their governors certain reguli, or chieftains; but these princes, instead of uniting to oppose the common enemy by well-concerted plans of co-operation, and to ward off the impending danger by combined force, were principally occupied in securing their separate interests.

Enervated by luxury, and weakened by dissensions, they found themselves in a worse state, as to self-defence, than on the arrival of Julius Cæsar. In this sad situation, without union, order, or discipline, and attacked on all sides by inveterate foes, through infatuation

or despair, they adopted the most impolitic of all expedients for national safety,—that of calling in the assistance of one barbarous nation, to drive out another; which quickly, in the sequel, subjected them to a new and heavier yoke.

On the arrival of the new race of settlers, the *Saxons*, besides the many sovereignties into which the island was then divided, a personal competition appears to have existed between one that tyrannised over the other princes, named Gwtheyrn, by most English writers called Vortigern, and a chieftain of Roman parentage, called Ambrosius, but by the Welsh, Emrys Wledig, or Emrys the chief. During this contest, to repel the incursions of the Scots and Picts, Gwtheyrn called in the assistance of the Saxons, an army of whom arrived under their leaders Hengist and Horsa, sons of Woden. The Saxon General having driven back the enemy, and discovered the pusillanimity of the British monarch, turned his attention towards establishing his troops, and securing for himself a portion of the territories he had defended: this plan, through the treachery or incapacity of Gwtheyrn, he was enabled to accomplish. The insulted and enraged Britons proceeded to depose the traitorous monarch, and placed Emrys Wledig on the throne, in his stead; who is described as brave, modest, and sincere, and whose parents had worn the imperial purple. For a time he prevailed against the Saxons, but fresh troops arriving under the command of Ella, they were enabled to become victorious, and to extend their territory. On the death of Emrys, his brother Uther, commonly called, from his office, Pendragon, was elected to the sovereign dignity. The intestine warfare was continued between the Britons and Saxons with varied success; but numerous hordes continually arriving from the northern hive of population, the latter became formidable in several parts of the island. Arthur, the son and successor of Uther, so celebrated in the annals of fame, though the existence of such a personage has been doubted by some, and denied by others, for a series of years conducted the war against the invaders; and, in many desperately-fought battles, led on the Britons to decisive victory.

At the time this prince held the pendragonate, it appears that Wales was divided into two sovereignties, for, by virtue of being chief ruler, he demanded, in the year 518, for the warfare in which he was engaged, the assistance of Caron, king of Scotland; Maelgwyn, the sovereign of North-wales: Meyric, Prince of South-wales; and Cador, duke of Cornwall; and at the same time received the support of his nephew Howel, king of Armorica in Gaul. During this and the late reign the ancient Britons had attained the meridian of their glory, but the period assigned, in the concatenation of events, for the fall of their empire, approximated to a close; though the beams which threw a degree of radiance on its decline, lingered for a time in the west, until gradually receding from the sight, not a single ray was visible in the horizon. The death of Arthur, decided the fate of Britain. The splendour, which had distinguished the preceding era, having principally derived its lustre from the virtue and the valour of a few individuals who took the lead in the contest, became clouded by the opposite qualities, so conspicuous in the princes of the subsequent period. The Britons, constrained by necessity to take up arms, were frequently victorious; though their successes are so magnified, and accompanied with so much of the marvellous in the detail, as not only to surpass all credi-

bility, but even to render problematical the very existence of the conquerors. And could they have abstained from intestine quarrels, and thoroughly united in the common cause, they might yet have recovered and preserved their country. But this lesson, which prudence dictated, they could not even learn from disastrous experience. So that, whenever they obtained the least respite from their foreign foes, they relapsed into civil dissensions; by which they not only exhausted their military strength, but were diverted from adopting the means by which they might have prevented the return of the enemy, and provided for their own security. Arthur had appointed his nephew Constantine, son of Cador, duke of Cornwall, as successor to the pendragonate; and the appointment was confirmed by the elective voice of the people. The Saxons, to excite divisions, espoused the cause of the sons of Mordred, the late regent; and while the Britons were settling the dispute, their wily adversaries were rapidly extending the bounds of their empire. During these troubles, many of the people submitted to the Saxons, and the Scots; others, to preserve their freedom, fled into distant countries, to Armorica and Bretagne; some retired with their effects into the wilds of Devon and Cornwall; some took shelter in the mountainous part of the north of England; but by far the greatest number found refuge in the fastnesses of Wales; where they defended and preserved their independence, long after the expiration of the Saxon dynasty. At the period, when the latter had conquered the greater part of Britain, and made their approaches to the borders of Cambria, the country appears to have been divided into six principalities, under so many reguli, and Maelgwyn king of North-wales, was invested with the sovereign dignity, about the year 552. The contest was continued under several succeeding monarchs, till the death of Cadwalader, in the year 703, closed the imperial dignity, which for many centuries had been annexed to the British government; during which time the paramount princes chiefly resided at Diganwy, on the water of Conway, and at Caer Segont near Caernarvon.

Rodric Moelwynoc, nominally succeeded to the sovereignty in 720. By continual and unhappy divisions, the strength of the country was so diminished, as to become unable successfully to resist the incursions of the Saxons. The Mercians, under king Offa, frequently laid waste the country, and at length wrested a portion from the Welsh princes; and to prevent the new occupants from the retaliating vengeance of the Welsh, Offa caused that famous boundary to be made, from the mouth of the river Dee to the Wye, which still goes under the appellation of Clawdd Offa, or Offa's Dyke. By this the region was considerably narrowed, and nearly reduced to its present limits. Though the Saxons made frequent inroads, yet they do not appear to have had any permanent footing in the country; so that, though the page of history relates many sanguinary conflicts which took place between them and the Welsh, yet scarcely any vestiges remain to mark the incursions of the invaders.

The Danes had called off the attention of the Saxons from the Welsh, who from this circumstance were left for many years to enjoy a season of unusual tranquillity. But, instead of taking the advantage of this fortunate conjuncture, a fatal plan was adopted, and irreparable

measures ensued. Roderic, who succeeded Mervyn to the sovereignty of Wales, in the year 843, divided his dominions into three principalities, which during his life were governed by chieftains, acting under his authority. These separate sovereignties he left to his three sons. In the year 877, Anarawd became prince of North Wales, called by the Welsh Gwynedd; and the royal residence was at Aberfraw in Anglesea. Cadell received the portion of South Wales, and had his palace at Dinevwr in Caermarthenshire. Mervyn possessed Powys-land, and a palace at Mathraval in Montgomeryshire. This division of the country has usually been considered as first made by Roderic. But from a very old treatise still extant of the British laws, it appears, that after the death of Vortipor, or Vortimor, the inhabitants of Venedotia, Powys, and Dimetia, assembled together for the purpose of electing a new king, and that in consequence of the triple choice, Maelgwyn, prince of North Wales, became their sovereign. To this fact also the British chronicles bear ample testimony. Indeed, partition of some kind, in cases where the monarch left more than one son, naturally happened by the ancient law of gavel-kind. Little is heard of Wales in history, during the Danish dynasty. The Danes made some incursions on the coast, but effected no permanent conquest of the country.

On the accession of William the first to the throne of England, the Welsh, having refused the annual tribute to the crown, which had been extorted from them as a mark of submission by King Edgar, the conqueror invaded their country with a powerful army, quickly awed them into submission, obliged them to do homage and take an oath of fealty, as due from vassals to their superior lord. From this period the English monarchs preferred a claim to Wales, as their heritable property.

On the death of William, the people of Cambria, feeling the galling yoke of their humbled condition, attempted to recover their lost independence, and joining in revolt with some refractory English barons, entered England, and by fire and sword carried their devastations to the banks of the Severn. These outrages determined William Rufus to attempt the subjugation of the country, and for this purpose he adopted the principle of Machiavelian policy, "*Divide et impera.*" And an incident happened at this juncture, from a trivial occurrence, which produced such a change in the affairs of South Wales, as was decidedly favourable to the plans of the English monarch, and eventually led to the fall of Cambria. Eineon a Welsh chieftain, having combined with two others in rebellion against Rhys ap Tewder, the king of South Wales, but who by defeat were baffled in their infamous attempt, saved himself from deserved punishment by flight; and associated himself with Jestyn ap Gwrgaint, lord of Glamorgan, who also was up in arms against his sovereign. Similarity of disposition begat a union of interests, and an agreement was formed between them to this effect:—that Jestyn should give his daughter in marriage to Eineon, on condition that the latter, who had served in the Anglo-Norman armies, should procure a body of Norman troops to assist in their projected scheme. These were readily furnished by the policy of the English. Robert Fitzhamon, a baron of the realm, with twelve select knights of considerable note, subordinate to his command, undertook the adventure. Having succeeded in

the enterprise by completely defeating the king of South Wales, Eineon then demanded of Jestyn the fulfilment of the engagement, which the latter refusing, he proceeded to resent such faithless conduct by exciting the Normans to espouse his cause, and avenge his quarrel. This they effectually did, and Jestyn was quickly dispossessed of his territories, which the Norman leader parcelled out among his followers, agreeable to the feudal system. Fitzhamon reserving for his own share the principal parts, with the seignory of the whole, gave the remainder of Morganwg to the twelve knights, to be held as fiefs under himself; leaving only the barren mountainous parts, as the portion of Eineon. In this manner were the lords of the marches established in Wales; possessing in all cases, except the power of granting pardons for treason, regal authority.

The fortunate issue of the late adventure raised among the Norman nobility an ardent spirit of enterprise. The king of England threw powerful temptations in their way, alluring them by motives of interest and power, those strong incentives to human conduct. Several barons petitioned the crown for licence to possess, under homage and fealty, such lands as they might obtain by conquest in Wales. This liberty, given to the English lords of conquering, at their own charge, the territories of the Welsh, though springing out of a wise policy, was apparently grounded on the absurd idea of forfeiture; because that people had renounced the allegiance to which they had through necessity submitted, during the operations of Edgar, Harold, and the decisive reign of the Norman conqueror. South Wales was soon attacked and divided amongst military adventurers. In the year 1102, king Henry the First bestowed several other lordships and castles in Wales, on Englishmen and Normans; and, for the purpose of still further breaking the high spirit of the Cambrians, he introduced in the year 1108, into Pembrokeshire, a numerous colony of Flemings. These barons, denominated *lords marchers*, from the old English word merch, a boundary, endeavoured to secure their conquests by peopling them with English, and erecting strong fortresses to defend them from the inroads of the Welsh. Thus was the last asylum of the Britons broken into on every side, and invested by their enemies. The principality of South Wales was subdued; Powys, through the defection of its princes, fully in possession of the English: while North Wales, now reduced to Anglesea, Caernarvon, Merioneth, with parts of the counties of Denbigh and Cardigan, alone preserved the national character, and supported its independence; and the inhabitants, aided by the valour of their princes, still upheld the struggle; and acquiring vigour from union, dictated by necessity, not only prevented the marchers from achieving further conquests, but rendered their existing acquisitions of precarious tenure.

For a long period did the Welsh, favoured by the mountainous nature of the country, support an unequal, but spirited contest, with their unjust invaders. The death of David, who had succeeded his unfortunate brother Llewelyn, in the reign of Edward the First, closed the only sovereignty that remained of the ancient British empire; which, through varied fortune, had opposed the arms of imperial Rome, and effectually resisted the Saxon

and Anglo-Norman efforts for its subjugation through the protracted space of eight centuries. Edward having at length obtained the object of his ambition by the entire conquest of Wales, annexed it to the crown of England. That monarch did not however enjoy a tranquil possession; for three insurrections broke out simultaneously in different places, though, as it afterwards appeared, upon no preconcerted plan, nor directed by any common principle of co-operation. This general revolt commenced with such acts of hostility as evinced a resolution and inveteracy in the Welsh, that loudly proclaimed the sword alone could terminate the dispute. To such a height did these commotions arrive, that Edward was constrained to conduct the war in person, and from a want of union between the Welsh chieftains, he shortly compelled them to lay down their arms, and make an unqualified submission. These disturbances were the last efforts the Welsh made, to recover their lost independence. From that period the concerns of the country, till the time of Henry the Seventh, are little interesting,—for the inhabitants were reduced to a state of the severest bondage. Henry the Seventh, from the assistance the Welsh had afforded him in obtaining the crown, the title to which he made out by his descent from Rhys ap Tewdwr, was more favuorably inclined towards them, than preceding monarchs; and granted the principality considerable immunities. But still, in a national point of view, their state was far from enviable. Several ameliorating statutes were passed in the reign of Henry the Eighth, to exonerate them from the tyrannical oppressions of the lords-marchers; and at length the people, awake to their true interest, solicited the king to give his liberal designs a more salutary effect, by extending to them all the privileges of the English jurisprudence. The prayer of their petition was granted, and Wales was formally united and incorporated with England.

During centuries this country was the theatre for the display of the most heroic courage and conspicuous martial prowess, ever exhibited to the world; and while it made a bold and continued stand for liberty, unexampled in the annals of man, opportunities occurred of learning the art of fortification, and necessity would impel the natives, equally with their assailants, to bring it into use to the most powerful extent. Wales therefore abounds with the remains of encampments, lines of circumvallation, strong holds, hill-fortresses, castles, and castellated mansions; specimens of *military architecture*, therefore, in the diversified styles of different and distant periods, constitute some of the most prominent and very interesting features in the artificial part of its picturesque scenery. While the Romans generally chose, for the site of their camps or forts, a rising ground near some river, or a lingula, formed by the confluence of two; the Britons selected the most lofty, insulated, and least accessible mountains, the summits of which they fortified by excavating deep trenches in the solid rock, and by heaping up the loose stones, dug out of the fosses; and in succeeding times, by adding strong walls, and erecting massy circular towers, with other bastion works of defence.

The Normans introduced a new and more magnificent style of military fortification—and to secure their unjustifiable seizures, and proceed in their sanguinary aggressions, they were obliged to erect castles more formidable, both in number and extent; so that what are

termed the marches of Wales, consist of one broad line of massy fortresses, from the mouth of the Dee to the embouchure of the Wye. Flint, Denbigh, Montgomery, Powys, Brecknock, Caerphili, and Caerdiff, furnish bold examples of the style at that period. More were erected by the Anglo-Normans, as they progressively encroached on the country; for, to secure the possessions they conquered from the retaliating vengeance of the expelled owners, they were necessitated to repair and strengthen the fortresses they took, or build others. On the conquest of Wales by Edward the First, that monarch, who had been crusading in the Holy Land, and there imbibed a spirit for eastern magnificence, for the purpose of overawing his new but refractory subjects, constructed three castles in a style, which for strength, beauty, and grandeur, have never yet been surpassed. Harlech, Caernarvon, and Conway, remain the proud monuments of the Cambrian conqueror's footsteps, and the finest display ever evinced of skill and execution, in military architecture.

From the accounts given by the Roman writers, a monarchical form of *government* was prevalent among the early Britons. The island was divided into several petty sovereignties, each subject to a separate prince; but in time of emergency and danger were united in one, under an officer similar to a dictator among the Romans, called a *pendragon*. To him, by joint consent, was committed the whole military government of the independent tribes. Nor was this dignity temporary, like the power; for though the latter appears to have ceased with the necessity that demanded it, yet the former continued for life, and was hereditary to the male heir. But the right of succession to the separate governments does not seem to have been strictly indefeasible; for, in some instances, the lineal succession was violated by the rule of *tanistry*. By this, the king's son, brother, or nephew, became the customary inheritor of the crown; the particular person being selected by the reigning monarch, with the advice of his nobles. This sovereign elect was denominated, by the law, the tanist, or the second in dignity. No power, but the regal, could either enact or abrogate a law; yet the king could effect neither without the consent of the country. And this maxim, on which is founded the fair structure of popular liberty, is expressly recorded in the institutions of Wales. The Britons were not unacquainted with that rational restraint upon monarchial despotism, parliamentary suffrage. It is highly probable, that the constitution of all the British states, in the period of confusion which followed the evacuation of the island by the Romans, was not exactly the same, but that some of their princes enjoyed greater powers and privileges than others; still it is evident, that none were despotic: for a decisive argument in favour of the existence of British parliaments, is found in the preface or introduction to the *laws* of the great Cambrian legislator, Howel Dda. Six of the most intelligent and powerful persons were summoned out of every Cantref, or hundred, to assist the king in the great work of legislation. This parliament having been assembled, they proceeded to examine the ancient laws, cancelled some, reformed others, enacted new ones, and digested all into one regular code of jurisprudence. This revision they presented to good king Howel, who, having approved it, gave the ratifying sanction of royal authority. Both the monarch and parliament then proceeded to imprecate the power of the state and the

wrath of Heaven upon any who should violate, or attempt to abrogate any of these institutes, unless they should be constitutionally annulled in a national council, similar to the one in which they had recently been discussed. The origin of laws must have been nearly coeval with society, and evidently from the circumstances of this revision, many of those in the code of Howel Dda were pre-existent statutes, by which the early Britons had been regulated in previous times. For in the Triades, or historical fragments, Dynswal, Prydain and Hywel are mentioned, as the three good princes of Britain for improving and extending the laws, customs, privileges, and uses of the Cymry; so that all might obtain equal justice and protection. From these it appears, that immediately below the sovereign, ranked the *Uchelwyrs*, or great men, holding their lands *in capite* from the crown, and each presiding as lord over his particular domain. As immediate tenants of the king they were obliged to perform certain services. Some held their lands by a tenure similar to the grand serjeanty among the Normans, by an obligation of personal attendance on the king's court; but the majority retained their estates by the *gwaeth milwyr*, or military service, being bound on summons to attend their sovereign with a certain number of men in arms, and follow him to the war; to aid in the repair of the royal castles; and were also assessed with certain stated rents, payable in money, or kind. For one knight's fee, usually comprising about a thousand acres of land, the possessor was obliged to remit to the royal palace, in the autumn, one horse-load of wheat, ground into flour, one ox, a barrel of mead, nine palms long, and eighteen broad, or in lieu, two of braget, or four of common ale, a hundred and sixty-eight equal threaves of oats for the stable, a three year old sow, a salted gammon of bacon, three inches thick, and a pot of butter, in length and breadth three palms. On failure of delivery of these rations at the appointed time, the uchelwyr was mulcted a pound and twenty-four pence. Under this reserve of tribute the lands were inheritable by the family.

Inferior to these, and holding from them as feudatory lords, were the general mass of the community, being in a condition like Cæsar describes the Gauls to have been, a state of villainage. These were however divided into two classes. First, such as might retain or relinquish their lands at discretion, possessed the power of buying and selling, and whose seignorial service was the least degrading of the menial kind. The other, denominated *Caeths*, were considered the property of the lord, attached to the soil, and saleable with the estate. These were bound to services the most servile, and least determinate; to build or repair houses for the uchelwyr, and perform all the drudgeries of husbandry. Both were subject like the chiefs to military attendance in time of war, and to contributions in money, or kind; and were necessarily subject to additional impositions.

Such were the tenures of lands in Wales, prior to the English customs being transplanted into the country, as appears by the laws of Howel Dda, not formed by him, but referable to previous institutes, ascribed to the early Britons. And as they were evidently feudal in their essence, and military in their design, the opinion of antiquaries, who deduced the introduction of a system of feuds into this island from the Normans, must be erroneous; for the

laws in which it is found to have existed in Wales were collected into a digest, in the early part of the tenth century. These laws may be divided into three grand portions. First, those which relate to the organization and regulation of the king's household. Secondly, those respecting the affairs of the commonwealth. Thirdly, such as relate to the special customs belonging to particular places, and persons. "The laws and ordinances of Howel Dda," the Honorable Daines Barrington observes, "are the most regular of any extant, and have been wonderfully preserved, considering their antiquity; but though there are many provisions in them dictated by wisdom and sound policy, there are some which it is impossible to peruse without a smile, and others which should not be passed without censure." The most prominent feature in the Howellian code is the law of inheritance, denominated *gavelkind*, by which the property was divided among the sons, the females of every degree being excluded till the utter extinction of the males, among whom no distinction was made betwixt the spurious and legitimate. While the Welsh preserved their independence, this law of descent every where prevailed; but on the conquest of the country by king Edward the first, he directed certain commissioners to inquire upon oath into all the former laws and usages of the principality; and the first law promulgated by that monarch for the use of Wales was the celebrated *statute of Rhyddlan*. By this he permitted the ancient stem to continue in its native soil, but lopped off two of its principal branches, *viz.* the admission of spurious offspring to the inheritance, and the preclusion of females. But by the 34th and 35th of Henry the eighth, the venerable trunk was for ever levelled with the ground, all the lands in Wales having been required "to be holden as English tenure to all intents;" since which period the laws of England, with the exception of a few formal peculiarities, have continued to form the jurisprudence of Cambria.

The *religion* of the Britons, when Cæsar first visited the island, was of a kind peculiar to them, and the cognate tribes of Gaul. It abounded with singular tenets, and the mode of worship comprised numerous superstitious rites, the remaining vestiges of which form some of the most interesting antiquities of the country. *Bardism*, or the *druidical* system, as it is generally called, has by different writers been variously represented; and the term *bardd*, or *bard*, given to the Welsh poets who were not of the bardic order, has tended to increase the confusion on the subject. What may be considered as the foundation of the order was the principle of universal benevolence; so that a bard was prohibited by his tenets from bearing arms, and, recognised as the herald of peace, under the title of Bardd ynys Prydain, he could pass, when clad in his unicoloured azure robe, unmolested from one hostile country to another. A second general principle was the investigation of truth; and a third, was the perfect equality of its members. Leading considerations also among the bards, were the publicity of their actions, all their *gorseddau* or meetings being held in the open air, in a place set apart by a circle of stones, with one in the centre, called *Cylc Cyngrair*, or the circle of federation; and the invention of an oral record, by which the bardic traditions were delivered down to posterity; which for the purpose were recited twice a year in their general assemblies, by the *dadceiniaid* or reciters. The bards were

divided into three classes, the *Bard braynt*, *Derwydd*, and *Ovydd:* and the disciples, or candidates for the bardic order, were denominated the *Awenyddion.* These three classes formed the national college, and its members, on admission, assumed one or other of these distinctions. To the *bards braynt*, or proper, belonged the perpetuation of the customs and privileges of the system, and also of its moral and civil institutes. The *Derwyddon*, or Druids, were the priests, who officiated in things pertaining to religion; from which circumstance, and the great influence they had over society, this class became the most conspicuous. *Ovyddon*, or the Ovates, more particularly attended to the cultivation of the arts and sciences. The theology, or tenets of the bards, may be in a great degree collected from what Cæsar, Tacitus, and other Roman writers have advanced, compared with the maxims preserved in the British *Triades.* Whence it will appear, their religion bore considerable affinity to that of the patriarchal age, which, it is highly probable therefore, was the fountain or source from whence the doctrines and rites originally flowed. The bards believed in one creator and governor of the universe, pervading all space, and their conception of his existence was, that the substance of deity cannot be material, and what is not matter must be God. The world, though subject to numerous revolutions from the elements of water and fire, they considered of permanent duration. The soul, they supposed, pre-existed in a state of gradual advancement by transmigration, and that it was immortal: but their ideas of the metempsychosis did not extend to the degree it does among the Bramins of India, so as to prohibit the depriving any creature of life; for it was allowable to destroy such as were directly, or eventually might become, destructive to man. After many transmigratory changes, according to the moral turpitude or filthiness the soul had acquired by sin, it arrived at a state in which evil never could have the ascendancy, and yet it might return again to a state of second manhood, and the return of such a benign soul was considered a blessing to the world. Propitiatory sacrifices formed part of the bardic religion, as it did of most others, whether pure or corrupt, which have prevailed throughout the world. And after all that has been advanced by Borlase and other writers, to exonerate the Britons from the charge of offering up, on their sanguinary altars, *human* victims, truth evidently demands the admission of the horrid doctrine. If the country was in danger from enemies, numbers of its inhabitants were suffering by disease, or any calamity befel it, which indicated the divine anger, the deity must be appeased by offering human beings, as sacrifices on his altars. They thought that the life of man could only be redeemed from punishment by his fellow-creature's life, and that no other mode existed to deprecate the wrath, and conciliate the favour of God. Thieves, robbers, and other criminals, were the usual sacrifices, but in ease of a deficiency of such to offer, the innocent were doomed to suffer. At these gloomy rites the druids administered; and women destitute of clothing, having their skin tinged with a dark hue, acted as sibyls on the occasion, consulting heaven on futurity, by inspecting the quivering entrails of the proffered victims. But this was not peculiar to the Britons—few of the nations of antiquity were free from this foul blot in their escutcheon; and even our

Saxon ancestors, till converted to Christianity, were in the habit of offering up human sacrifices to their god Woden, and numerous other imaginary deities.

The ancient world, including such as were considered the most enlightened nations, were universally impressed with a belief in magical powers; but from several observations of Pliny it may clearly be deduced, that this mischievous imposture was peculiarly cultivated by the British druids. "Britain," he observes, "now celebrates magic in such an astonishing manner, and with such numerous ceremonies, that she might be imagined to have been the instructress of the Persians." The druids were indeed so superior in knowledge and intellect to the rest of the inhabitants, that their magical frauds must have been easily invented, and securely practised; and wizardism, in such hands, was a powerful engine to overawe and deceive the great mass of the people.

The bards do not appear to have had, like many other pagan priests, mythological fables to veil and personify their religion; but their institutes, and every kind of knowledge relative to their system, was retained wholly by tradition, in aphorisms, poems, and adages of a peculiar cast. For the preservation of these, one grand plan was the holding a gorsedd, or general meeting, where they were recited by those appointed to commit them to memory. The regular times for holding a gorsedd were the two solstices and equinoxes, and subordinate meetings also, for the instruction of disciples, might be convened at the new and full moon. The ceremony used on the opening of a meeting was the sheathing of a sword on the *maen gorsedd*, at which the presiding bards attended, and the ceremony was accompanied with a brief pertinent discourse. When the business of the meeting was finished, it was closed by the taking up the sheathed sword, and giving a concluding exhortation; all then covered their heads and their feet, and the assembly was dismissed.

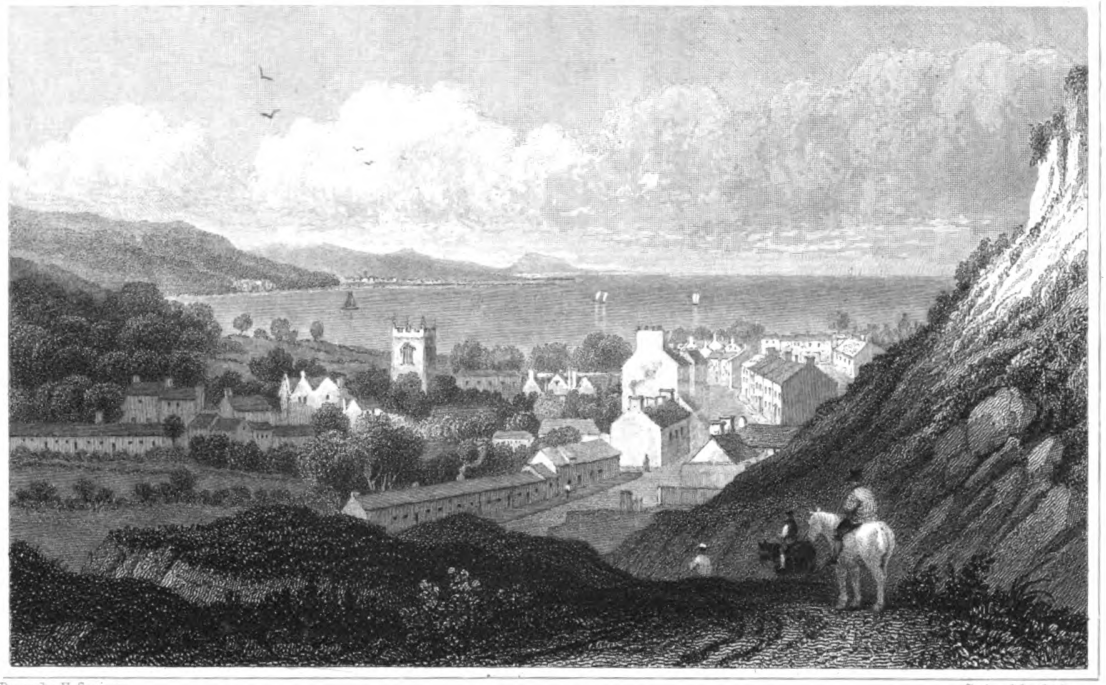
A writer supposes that the reason of the Britons having embraced Christianity with more openness than any other nation was, the bardic being less repugnant than other pagan systems to those doctrines; and that the functions of the Christian priesthood continued to be exercised exclusively by the different orders of bards amongst the Cymry, till the arrival of Germanus and Lupus, about the commencement of the fifth century. But it must be evident by comparison, that the principles of the two institutions are utterly incompatible, and the gross superstitions of the former must have been expunged by the introduction of the latter. Yet it is certain that a schism in the order did take place at an early period. A prince of the name of Beli or Belus formed a new code of regulations, in which it is probable their right to the Christian priesthood was either denied or not acknowledged. The bards of an accommodating disposition complied with the innovations, while others, attached to the ancient system, would refuse being guided by any other laws, than the public traditions of the gorsedd. From that era the Beirdd Ynis Prydain, the genuine British bards, formed a small dissenting sect, and at the fall of the last Llewelyn, bardism had very near been totally annihilated. The provincial chair, or gorsedd, of Glamorgan, however, at the request of the lords marchers and other powerful families, appointed the most intelligent bards of

the time to collect together, and digest every particular relating to the order. Various congresses were convoked at different periods by those authorities, and a revisal of former collections made, which received the sanction of a Gorsedd, convened at Bewpyr, in the year 1681, by the authority of Sir Richard Basset, where the above collection was pronounced to be the fullest illustration of the ancient bardic system. From that time, a remnant of the order has obscurely existed in that part of Wales, where those meetings were held, and an attempt has since been made to revive the institution.

Respecting those who embraced the new regulations, the peculiarities of the order merged in the profession of Christianity, for they continually submitted to whatever rules were laid down for their conduct, by the Christian princes, who at the time governed the country. Modifications of the bardic rules took place under king Arthur, in the sixth century; alterations were again made in the eleventh century, by Gruffydd ab Cynan, king of Wales; and an incoherent jumble of jarring principles was adopted by a congress, held at Caermarthen, towards the middle of the fifteenth century. The persons who embraced these new laws were called by the primitive bards, in derision, *Beirdd, Beli*, and *Overbeirdd*, that is, Beli's bards, or pseudo-bards. However, the latter appear to have been held in the highest estimation among the people, because they were not inimical to the clergy, nor their tenets in opposition to the established religion. They have since appeared in a different character, being encouraged by princes and great men, as historians, heralds, poets, minstrels, and reciters of martial songs, to excite the youth to deeds of arms, and record the heroes who fell in battle. The earliest record of these, is in the reign of Cadwalader, who died at Rome A. D. 688, and had previously presided at an Eisteddfod, or congress of bards. During the reign of Howel Dda, in the tenth century, the bards were held in high estimation, and enjoyed great and peculiar privileges; their persons were held sacred, and a heavy fine, one hundred and twenty-six cows, levied on the person who killed one. If a bard wanted to ask a favour of royalty, he must previously perform, upon the harp, one of his own compositions. He preceded the army, when prepared for battle, reciting an ancient song called *Unbenaeth Prydain*, or the monarchal song of Britain. Bleddyn ab Cynvyn, prince of Powys, established some regulations respecting the bards in his principality, about the year 1070; and Gruffydd ab Cynan, prince of North Wales, reformed the disorderly behaviour of the Welsh minstrels, by a wholesome statute, extant to the present day. At that time there existed three kinds of minstrels in Wales. The first denominated Beirdd, or the makers of songs, who also kept records of gentlemen's arms and pedigrees. Second, the performers on musical instruments, as the harp, crowth, pibgorn, &c.; these were called telyniawru. The third were the *datceiniaid*, or the reciters, persons who accompanied with the voice, the instruments played upon by others. The character of Edward the First has been generally blackened, both by historians and poets, as having issued a cruel edict for the extermination of the bards; but this opinion appears to have been adopted without sufficient foundation; for it does not appear that it was ever put in execution, otherwise contemporary writers, and those who lived in the immediate following ages, would, in some way or other, have noticed the sanguinary event.

Wales, by its aquatic boundary, forms nearly a peninsula, being washed on the north and west by the Irish sea, on the south and south-east by the Bristol channel, and limited on the east by the counties of Monmouth, Hereford, Salop, and Chester. It is situated between fifty-one degrees, twenty-minutes, and fifty-three, twenty-five of north latitude; and between two degrees, forty-one minutes, and four, fifty-six west longitude, from Greenwich. The length, from north to south, extends from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and eighty miles; and the breadth from fifty to eighty; comprising an area of about 8125 square miles, equal to 5,206,900 acres of land; and the number of its inhabitants amounts to between 500,000 and 600,000. The country is divided into twelve counties, six included under the appellation of North Wales, *viz.* Anglesea, Caernarvon, Denbigh, Flint, Montgomery, and Merioneth; and six in South Wales, *viz.* Cardigan, Radnor, Brecknock, Glamorgan, Caermarthen, and Pembroke, the centurial subdivisions remaining nearly the same as in the time of Llewelyn. The whole contains fifty-eight market towns, and seven hundred and fifty-one parishes.

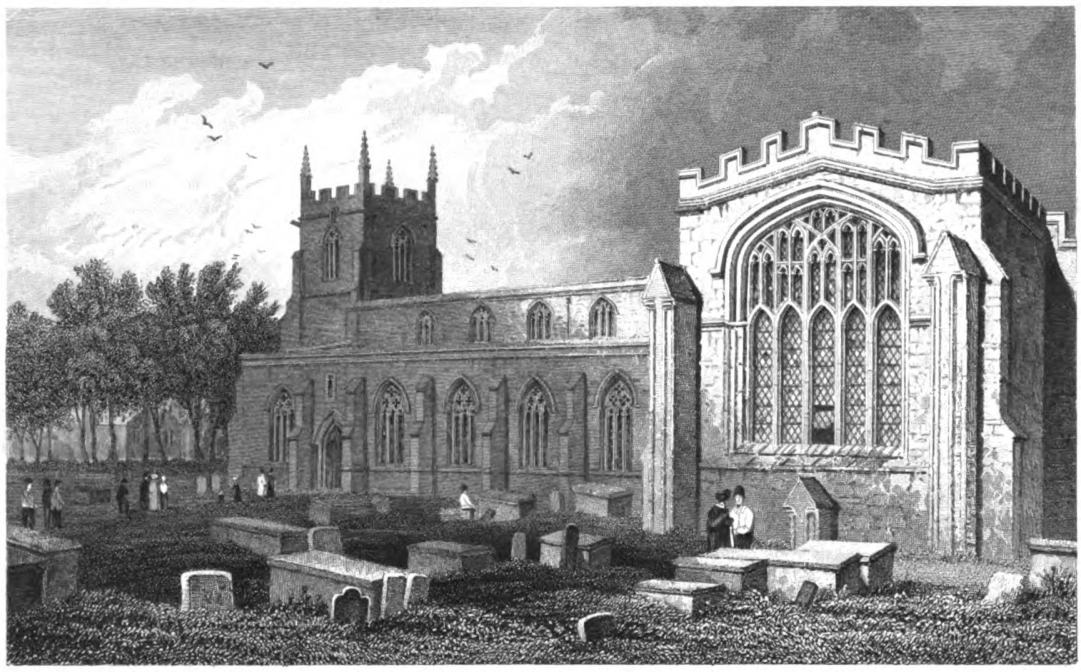
Having thus taken a view of the general History of the Country, as far as the limits of such a Work will admit, we shall now proceed to delineate the particular subjects which our Artist has selected as most important and worthy of graphic illustration.



Drawn by H. Gastineau. Engraved by C. Mottram

BANGOR.

CAERNARVONSHIRE.



Drawn by H. Gastineau. Engraved by W. Wal[illegible]

BANGOR CATHEDRAL.

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

London: Published by Jones & Co. Temple of the Muses, Fleet Street, and 92, Quadrant, 1833.

CITY OF BANGOR, AND CATHEDRAL.

THIS city, which derives its name from *Ban*, superior, and *Côr*, a society, that is, *the chief choir*, received the additional appellation of *vawr*, great, to distinguish it from Bangor *Iscoed*, in the county of Flint; and if reliance may be placed on historic records, it has a claim to high antiquity. No certain account, however, occurs, till the year 525, when *Daniel* or *Deiniol*, son of Dinawd, abbot of Bangor-Iscoed, founded here a Monastery, and made the place a cell to the prior institution.

In this place, the historian Cressy says that "Malgo Conan, not long after, built a city, which, for the beauty of its situation, he called Bancôr." It was here that this prince, better known under the name of *Maelgwyn Gwynedd*, A. D. 552, struck with remorse for the numerous crimes of his past life, resolved to devote his future days to the austerities of a cloister; but quickly relinquished the design, re-assumed the affairs of government, and returned to his former criminal habits, contenting himself with converting the conventual church into a cathedral.

The diocese of Bangor arose out of the monastic institution, and owed its constitution, and endowment, as previously noticed, to the most profligate of the Northwallian sovereigns, *Maelgwyn Gwynedd*, who constituted *Deiniol* its first bishop. The most concise biographical sketch of the numerous successors to the see, would require a volume; and to furnish a mere list of names, would be incompatible with the nature of the present work.

What the original extent was, does not appear upon record. The present jurisdiction comprises the whole of Anglesea, with Caernarvonshire, except the parishes of Llysfaen, Eglwys Rhôs, and Llangystenin, which belong to St. Asaph, and Llanbeblic annexed to the see of Chester; more than a moiety of Merionethshire; fourteen parishes in Denbighshire; and seven in the county of Montgomery.

THE CATHEDRAL of Bangor has several times been demolished by the political rage of the contending parties, which at different periods spread devastation and dismay over this part of Britain. The present cathedral is situated in a large yard, surrounded by a wall, on one side of which is an avenue of trees, forming in summer a pleasant promenade. The building comprises a choir, nave, transept, two aisles, and a quadrangular tower at the west end, which, but for the premature death of the founder, would have been raised, agreeably to the original design, to double the present height. The choir, transept, and tower have an embattled parapet, and the latter is surmounted by a crocketted pinnacle at each angle. The windows of the nave, transept, and chancel are in the pointed style; those of the cleresty have semicircular heads. The structure assumes a neat regular appearance; but

the uniformity of its plan is miserably marred by rooms having been added on the north side, for the purposes of a consistorial court, chapter house, and library.

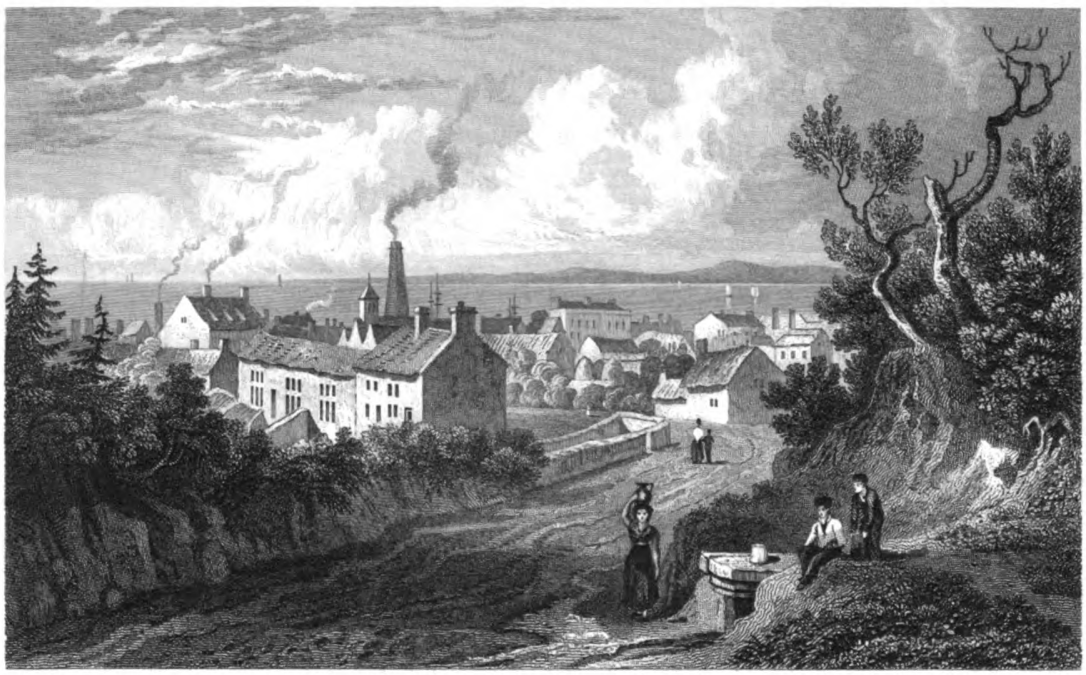
According to the custom of the times, the windows were decorated with painted glass by the piety of different persons, among whom, from the arms, appear the *Gryffydds of Penrhyn* and *Dean Kyffin*, who founded and endowed a chantry in the south cross aisle, for the posthumous benefit of his soul. The east window, at the end of the choir, which reaches from the top of the screen to the ceiling of the roof, is about twenty-seven feet high, by thirteen and a half broad. In this are figures representing saints and prelates robed and mitred. The nave is separated from the aisles by six flat-pointed arches, resting on octangular fluted columns, having plain annular capitals, and broad square plinths. The church contains few *sepulchral monuments*, interesting either in a sculptorial, or an elegiac view.

TOWN OF FLINT, AND CASTLE.

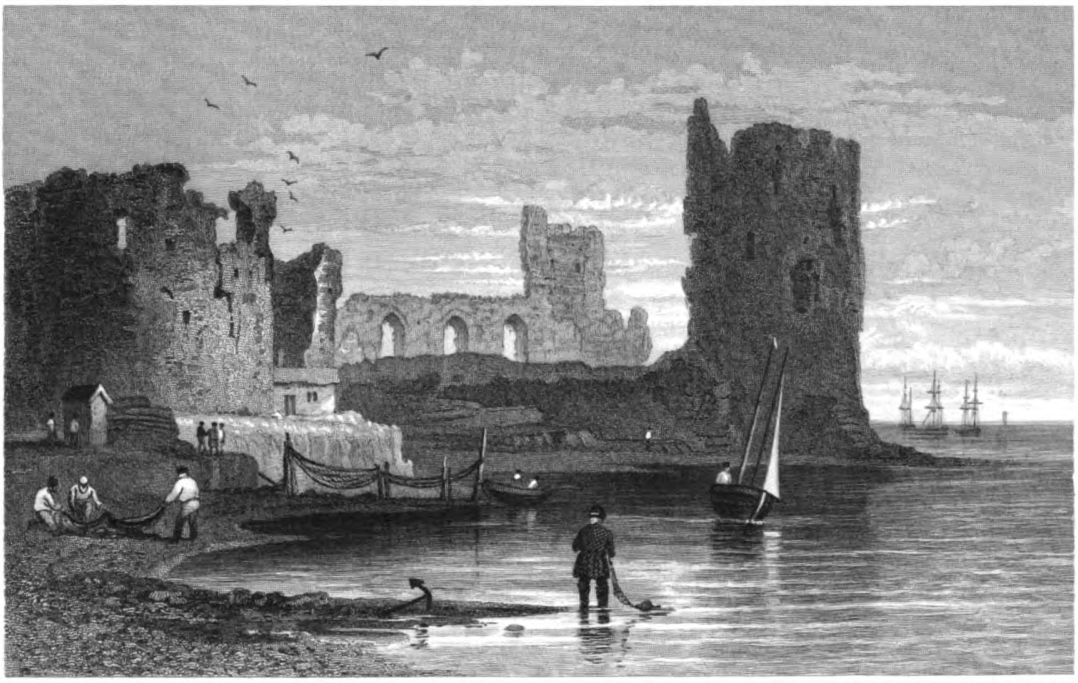
FLINT, the county town of the shire, from the present appearance, and concomitant circumstances attendant on its history, furnishes an analogical proof that this, though probably not a station, was a Roman-British town, under the protection of the advanced posts connected with Deva; being formed on the plan of a Roman encampment, rectangular, and surrounded with regular entrenchments, and ramparts with four *portæ*, or fortified gates. This is evident from the vast quantity of Roman coins, fibulæ, and various instruments discovered, from time to time, by the workmen in the old washes, as the miners term the spots, where they separate ore from antique scoria, in this and the adjoining parish.

THE CASTLE, situated on an isolated rock, in a marsh near the left bank of the Dee, had once the channel of the river immediately under its walls, which are still, at high tides, laved by the waters of the estuary.

Much doubt has arisen, as to the period when this fortress was erected. Camden asserts it was begun by Henry the Second, and finished by Edward the First. Leland adduces the authority of an ancient writer, who attributes the commencement of the work to the latter monarch, and couples both with the erection of the one at Rhuddlan. Being first regularly garrisoned in 1280, this fortress, with those of Chester, Beeston, and Rhuddlan, was granted to the Black Prince, by his royal father, Edward the Third; and, in 1385, was bestowed, with the chief justiciart of Chester, on the infamous *Robert Vere*, earl of Oxford, by Richard the Second. On the attainder of that nobleman, it was subsequently in possession of Percy, earl of Northumberland, who basely requited the favour of the grantor, by inveigling him to this fortress, with the view of entrapping, and putting him under the power of the cruel Bolingbroke.



FLINT.



Drawn by H. Gastineau.

Engraved by S. Lacey

FLINT CASTLE.

London, Published by Jones & Co. Temple of the Muses, Finsbury Square, 1829.

LLANRWST BRIDGE.
BUILT BY INIGO JONES.

Drawn by H. Gastineau. Engraved by J. Thomas

LLANRWST CHURCH,
DENBIGHSHIRE

Jones & Co. Temple of the Muses, Finsbury Square, London.

It appears, that although this fortress did not fall into the hands of Owen Glyndwr, yet numbers of the Flintshire men took up arms in behalf of their gallant countrymen, during that alarming insurrection, and on its termination, the prince of Wales procured a pardon for his tenants, who had forfeited their pledged allegiance, and joined in the rebellion.

Little appears in historic records, subsequently, respecting this castle, till the civil war in the reign of Charles the First, when, after having been put in a state fit for defence, it was garrisoned for the king, by *Sir Roger Mostyn, Knight*, who had been previously appointed governor. In the year 1643, the fortress was closely besieged by the parliamentary forces, and as nobly defended by the commandant, whose exemplary bravery procured for them very honourable terms.

The castle must have been retaken by the Royalists, for in 1645 it appears, the garrison of Beeston, by articles of convention, had been permitted to march out of that fortress, after a most gallant defence, with all the honours of war, to join their compatriots in this. The accession of strength, notwithstanding, was inadequate to the force by which it was opposed; for on the 29th of August, 1646, Flint Castle was given up to Major-general Mytton; and in the following year, was, like the other Welsh castles, dismantled under a general order of the Commons house.

The building was originally of a parallelogramic form, strengthened by circular towers at each angle. One disjoined from the walls, as appears by the present remains, was much larger than the rest, and seems to have been an additional work. This is designated the *double tower*, and is situated at the south-east end, looking towards the land. An outwork, denominated a *barbican*, consisted of a square tower, which was originally joined to the castle by means of a drawbridge, and which seems to have been a kind of postern.

LLANRWST BRIDGE AND CHURCH.

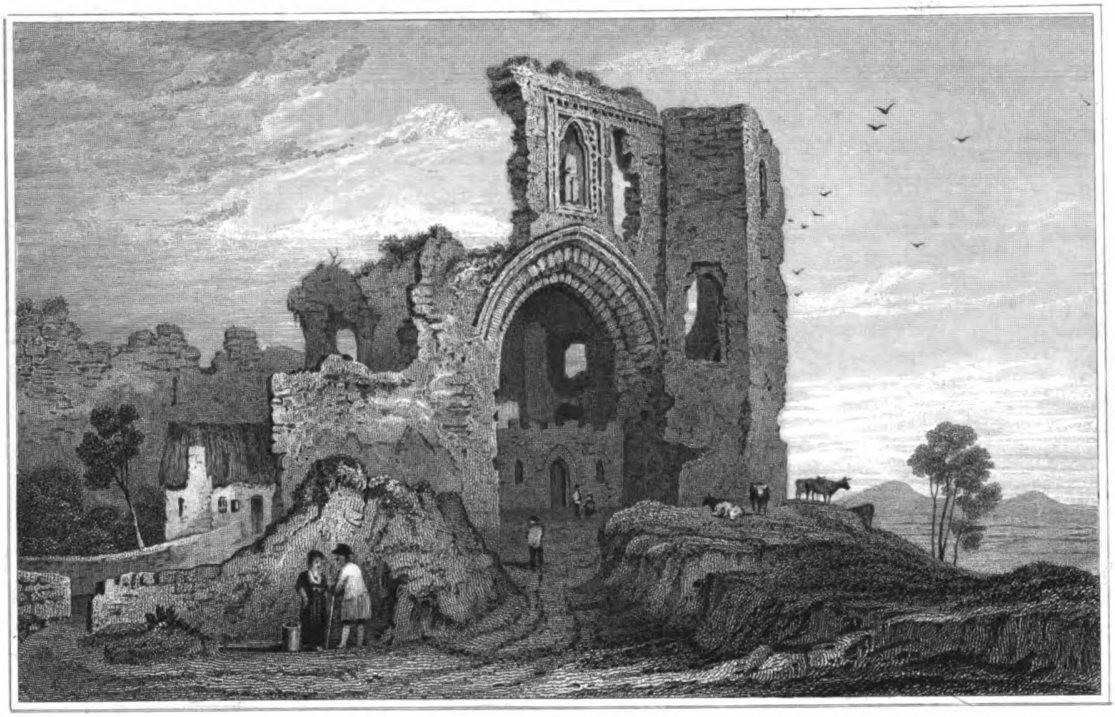
Llanrwst is a small town, pleasantly situated on the river Conway, in Denbighshire, and though but a small place, it monopolises the chief trade of the surrounding district. The bridge is considered the principal object worthy of notice, having been built after a design by the celebrated Inigo Jones, who is said to have been a native of the place, and who also furnished the design for the chapel, adjoining the church. Though not magnificent, the bridge is certainly a handsome structure, and displays somewhat of the genius of its far-famed architect. It was built by an order from the privy council, in the 9th year of Charles the first; the expense, estimated at one thousand pounds, being conjointly defrayed by the counties it connects—Caernarvon and Denbigh. It consists of three arches, the central one the largest, measuring nearly sixty feet in the span;—it is asserted that this bridge is formed

upon such nice principles, that when a person pushes against the large stone placed over the middle arch, the whole fabric may be felt to vibrate. The scenery, both above and below, is enchanting; gratifying the sight with the finest objects, grouped in endless variety. The hills and woods, which line both margins of the river, are enlivened by the busy display of small vessels on its surface, going to and from Triefrew, a village about two miles down, and the highest point to which the tide flows; or with still more diminutive coracles, fishing for salmon and smelts. Less extended than the vale of Clwyd, and wider than that of Llangollen, the vale of Llanrwst has often been admired, as exhibiting the most variegated assemblage of beauty; it has been the subject of eulogium of that competent judge, both of the sublime and beautiful, Mr. Burke, who pronounced it, "the most charming spot he had seen in Wales." This place was famous for the manufacture of Welsh harps; but in 1810, the harp makers had become extinct, no one carrying on that business, and the instrument becoming scarce, rose in price; those, by the best makers, fetching twenty-five guineas.

The ancient mansion built by John Wynne ap Meredydd is an extensive pile of buildings, without much regularity, ranged in the quadrangular style, comprising an inner and outer court. Immediately beyond the house, the ground rises very rapidly, to the foot of the perpendicular cliffs, forming the west boundary of the valley, all which space is now occupied by a fine wood, in the highest luxuriance of growth that can be imagined, while the summit of the rocks is also adorned with all the variety of foliage. Half way up is an irregular plain, containing a few cottages, the remains of a magnificent terrace, and a handsome domestic chapel, built in the gothic style, and overshadowed by a large Spanish chesnut-tree. Climbing to the tops of the cliff, which overlook this lovely scene, you are gratified with a view over the rich broad vale of Llanrwst, watered by the windings of the Conway, covered with meadows and corn fields, and enlivened by villages and seats peeping from among the sheltering woods, which clothe the higher and bleaker parts of the valley. Many beautiful and romantic cataracts may be seen in the vicinity; and whoever visits Wales, should not fail to see the admired vale of Llanrwst.

TOWN OF DENBIGH, AND CASTLE.

Denbigh, the county town of Denbighshire, is situated near the centre of Dyffryn Clwyd, upon a rocky declivity, forming a prominent point in a tract of the country called Rhôs, whence its ancient British name was Castell Cled fryn yn Rhôs. The castle appears to have been a superb structure, formed by grouting. Two walls, occupying the extremities of the intended thickness, were first built in the ordinary manner, with a vacancy between them; into which was poured a mixture of hot mortar and rough stones of all



DENBIGH CASTLE.

DENBIGHSHIRE

Drawn by H. Gastineau.

Engraved by W. Radclyffe.

DENBIGH.

sizes, which on cooling consolidated into a solid mass, as hard as stone. The grand entrance is through a magnificent pointed archway, formerly flanked by two large octagonal towers, now in ruins. The prospects, through the broken arches and frittering walls, are extensive and peculiarly fine. The vale of Clwyd is presented in rich variety, decorated with villas, and terminated by a line of hills from the rock of Disserth to Moel Fenlli.

The town of Denbigh has been compared to Stirling, in Scotland. Crowned with a majestic ruin, the town, viewed from a distance, assumes an imposing aspect. The castle is seen with great advantage from the road to Ruthin. The place was originally inclosed with walls, and fortified with one square and three round towers, that connected it with the castle. The entrance was by two gates; one called the exchequer gate, in which were held the royal baronial courts; and the other, the burgesses gate, in which affairs relative to municipal business was transacted. In one of these precincts stands St. Hilary's chapel, formerly belonging to the garrison. The new town, standing below the rocky ridge, gradually arose from the old. This extending down the slope of the hill, and some way round the base, consists principally of one street, with some good houses, but the collateral streets or lanes are very irregular and ill built; many improvements have, however, taken place. The parish church, St. Marcelles, is at Whitechurch, about a mile distant, on the road to Ruthin. In the porch, upon a small piece of brass, are the effigies of Richard Middleton, of Gwaynynog, in a kneeling posture, also of Jane, his wife; behind, in relievo, are nine sons, and behind the wife, seven daughters. Several of the sons were distinguished characters, but the most eminent was Hugh, to whom the British metropolis is indebted for one of its principal supplies of water. The speculative genius of this his sixth son, appeared at an early age, in attempts to search for coal in the neighbourhood of his native place; but failing of success, he removed to London, where he became a citizen and goldsmith. His success in trade enabled him to farm the principal lead and silver mines in Cardiganshire, at £400 a year; yet so profitable were these works, that from one mine, yielding nearly 100 ounces of silver from a ton of lead, he derived a clear profit of £2000 per month. This immense revenue he expended in carrying into execution a plan for supplying the city of London with water. The proposal was made in 1608, and the work completed in five years. The first issue of the water from the head at Islington, was honoured by the presence of king James the First, with his court, and the corporation of London. He received the honour of knighthood, and afterwards of baronetage, but his property was exhausted by the undertaking; and the ingratitude of the public allowed him to be reduced almost to a state of indigence, notwithstanding the vast advantage they derived from his genius and labours.

ABERMAW, OR BARMOUTH,

MERIONETHSHIRE

BARMOUTH is to the north-western part of the kingdom, what Weymouth is to the south, a genteel watering-place. The town is principally built upon the sloping side of a very lofty rock, which shelters it on the east; it has been compared to some parts of the city of Edinburgh, and not unaptly to the town of Gibraltar. The positions of the houses are so singular, that, in some places, one neighbour, as he stands at his own door, may look down the chimney of another. Being the only port of the county, a considerable trade is carried on, and many vessels enter the harbour, the entrance to which is somewhat difficult and dangerous; it has, however, been much improved by the erection of a pier, which, by increasing the depth of water, renders the entrance less difficult, and facilitates the lading and unlading of cargoes. The beach forms a most enchanting walk. The wide river Mawddoch winds delightfully among the mountains, having many and elegant promontories on its margin, rising to a considerable height on each side.

RHUDDLAN CASTLE,

FLINTSHIRE.

RHUDDLAN was deemed one of the most important fortresses in Wales, and during a course of ages experienced the frequent vicissitudes of fortune. It appears to be first mentioned in the year 795, as the spot where a signal battle was fought between the Welch and Saxons; and in which Carodoc, king of South Wales, was slain. On this occasion, a celebrated Welch air was composed, called "*Mow a Rhuddlan*," or the Red Marsh, which is still played with enthusiasm by its national harpers, but the original poem commemorating this battle no longer exists. The castle had been a handsome pile, of a lozenge form. At two of the corners, opposite to each other, are the entrances, beneath a tower, guarded on both sides by a round tower. The other two corners have on each a single tower. The court is large, and forms an irregular octagon, bounded by a large ditch, faced on both sides with stone. The steep slope to the river was defended by high walls and square towers; one of which is entire, and there are vestiges of two others. The first is called *Twr-y-Silod;* another, in the castle, was named *Twr-y-Brenhin*, or the *King's Tower.* To the south of the castle, at about a furlong distance, is a large artificial mount, the site of another fortress of very early date; the whole surrounded by a very deep foss, (including also the abbey,) which crosses from the margin of the bank, near the ascent of the present road to St. Asaph, to another parallel road, near which it is continued, then turns and falls nearly into the southern part of the walled ditch of the castle; the whole forms a square area, of very great extent.

MERIONETHSHIRE

Drawn by H Gastineau

Engraved by H Adlard

FLINTSHIRE.

Jones & Co Temple of the Muses, Finsbury Square, London

PONT Y GLYN.

Pont y Glyn (the bridge of the precipice) is situated on the road from Corwen to Cerig y Druidian. A recent tourist, who visited this place from Corwen, speaks very highly of the general beauty of the walk, especially where the vale of Edeirneon appears, bounded by the Jerwyn mountains; and of this bridge and its scenery remarks as follows: "The woody glen, at the head of which stands Pont y Glyn, with its prominent rocks, nearly obscured by the surrounding foliage, after a while presented itself, and then immediately, on a sudden turn of the road, appeared the bridge, thrown over the chasm. Beneath it was the rugged and precipitous bed of the river, where, among immense masses and fragments of rock, the stream foamed with the most violent impetuosity. The transition to this romantic scene was so momentary, as to seem almost the effect of magic. The cataract is not very lofty, but from its being directly under the bridge, where the foam was seen dashing among the dark opposing rocks, with the addition of the pendent foliages from each side, a scene was formed altogether finely picturesque and elegant. The bridge rests upon two nearly perpendicular rocks, and appeared to be 50 or 60 feet above the bed of the stream—the view thence, down the hollow, is grand and tremendous."

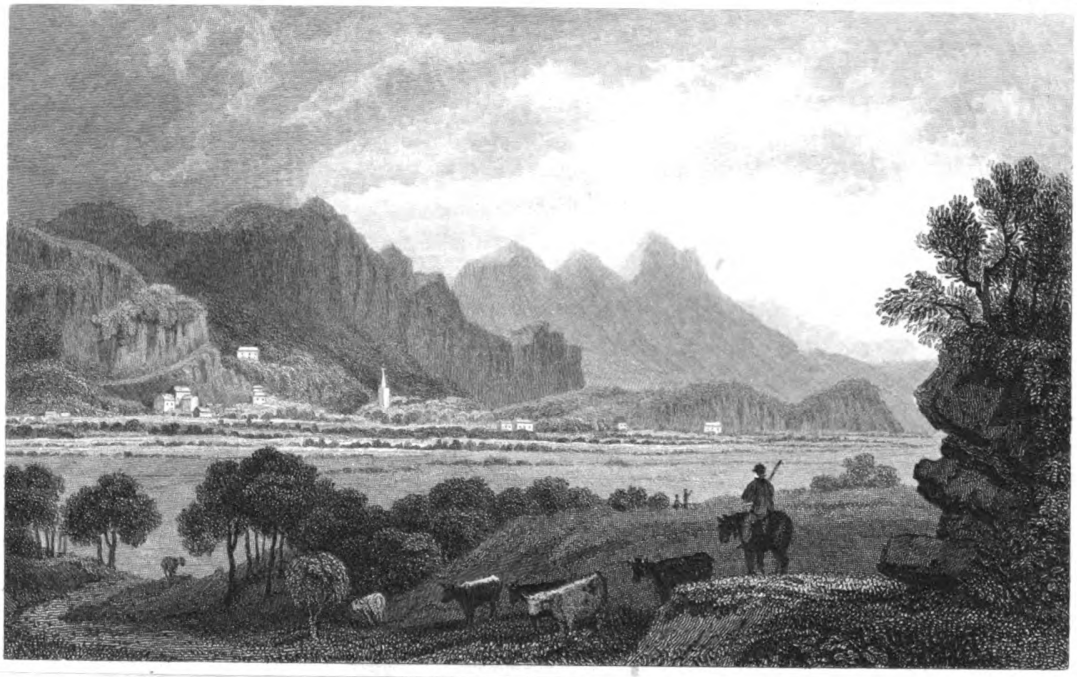
PONT ABERGLASLYN.

Pont Aberglaslyn (the bridge at the conflux of the blue pool) on the road to Maentiorog, over the main stream which discharges itself into the estuary of Traeth-mawr, is the principal entrance by the south into Caernarvonshire, which county it separates from that of Merioneth. There is little remarkable in the bridge, which is a single arch, but the surrounding scenery is truly magnificent. The road winds most romantically along a narrow stony vale, where the dark perpendicular cliffs on each side so nearly approach, as only just to leave sufficient width at the bottom for a good carriage-road, and the bed of the rapid stream, formed by the united torrents of the Colwyn and Glas Llyn, which rolls by its side. A few yards above the bridge is a small cataract, remarkable as being a salmon leap; its height above the bed of the river is about thirteen feet, and generally eight or nine feet from the surface. The salmon come up the rivers at the latter end of the year, sometimes as early as the beginning of October, and have the power of leaping to a great height over

rocks and dams. This place being only a few miles from the sea, is frequented by great numbers; they are, however, prevented from ascending, by a net placed for the purpose, during the months of August and September, by people who rent the river. By this means the fish are kept in the still water below, where they are either taken in nets, or barbarously struck with harpoons. Several attempts have been made to procure copper near Pont Aberglaslyn, but the ore is not rich. Similar trials have been made near the very summit of Snowdon, as well as among the other mountains, not wholly without success. Anglesea stands yet unrivalled for the richness and value of its copper.

TREMADOC.

TREMADOC stands upon a portion of land below water-mark, reclaimed from the west side of Traeth-mawr, in the promontory of Llyn, in Caernarvonshire, by the spirited exertions of Alexander Madocks, Esq. The form of the town is an oblong square, on the east side of which is a handsome market-house, and over it are good assembly rooms. On the other side of the area are ranged the recently well-built houses. A small church, in the pointed style, and a neat place of worship for protestant dissenters, are the principal buildings. A bank, for commercial purposes, was also established by Mr. Madocks, by whom this tract of country was regenerated, and the new town formed; nor has he been inattentive to the traveller, for the Tremadoc arms is a respectable and comfortable inn. At a short distance from the town, stands Tany yr alt, a mansion exhibiting considerable architectural taste. It is situated upon a lofty rock, amid flourishing plantations, which, with a singularly neat lodge, form a pleasing and picturesque appearance. In the year 1625, Sir John Wynne, of Gwydir, conceived, that to gain both the traeths from the sea was practicable, by embankment. He solicited the assistance of his illustrious countryman, Sir Hugh Middleton, but the latter declined this business, being engaged in his mines, the new river at London, and other undertakings. The great design has since been undertaken by W. A. Madocks, Esq. He first formed a plan for regaining a portion of land upon the west side of Traeth-mawr, which he completed about the year 1800. This reclaimed land produced most luxuriant crops of wheat, barley, clover, &c. comprising nearly 1900 acres of rich land, to which the appropriate name of Glandwr is given. Successful in this enterprise, Mr. Madocks engaged in the more arduous task of recovering the greater part of the drowned lands within the Traeth-mawr, by extending an embankment across from side to side. In 1807 he obtained a grant from the crown, vesting in him and his heirs the whole of these lands, from Pont Aberglaslyn to the Pont of Gêst. This bold design was shortly commenced, and rapidly executed. The extent of the line from north to south is about a



TREMADOC.

CARNARVONSHIRE.

PLAS TADY'R TU, NEAR PANT Y BWLCH.

MERIONETHSHIRE.

mile: the breadth of the embankment at the base 100 feet, and at top 30. The following remarks of the intelligent author of the Cambrian Traveller's Guide, show the great risk of the undertaking. "In September, 1810, this grand design had been carried on from each extremity to within 100 yards in the centre. The filling up of this small chasm was considered the trying point, for the tide ran through it with amazing rapidity and tremendous force. The narrowing and closing point should have been that where the tide acts with least effect. If the sea, after its entire completion, fortunately throw up the sand, so as to form an inclined plane against the embankment, the work may stand; but should it, on the contrary, unfortunately act with force and wash the embankment, the whole will be demolished. It is," continues the same writer, "ardently desirable that the latter effect may never take place, but that the patriotic spirit already evinced by Mr. Madocks may be rewarded by the 5000 acres thus reclaimed." The spirit of improvement has been exceedingly active in this district, particularly with respect to embankments and new roads.

RHAIADYR DU, OR THE BLACK CATARACT.

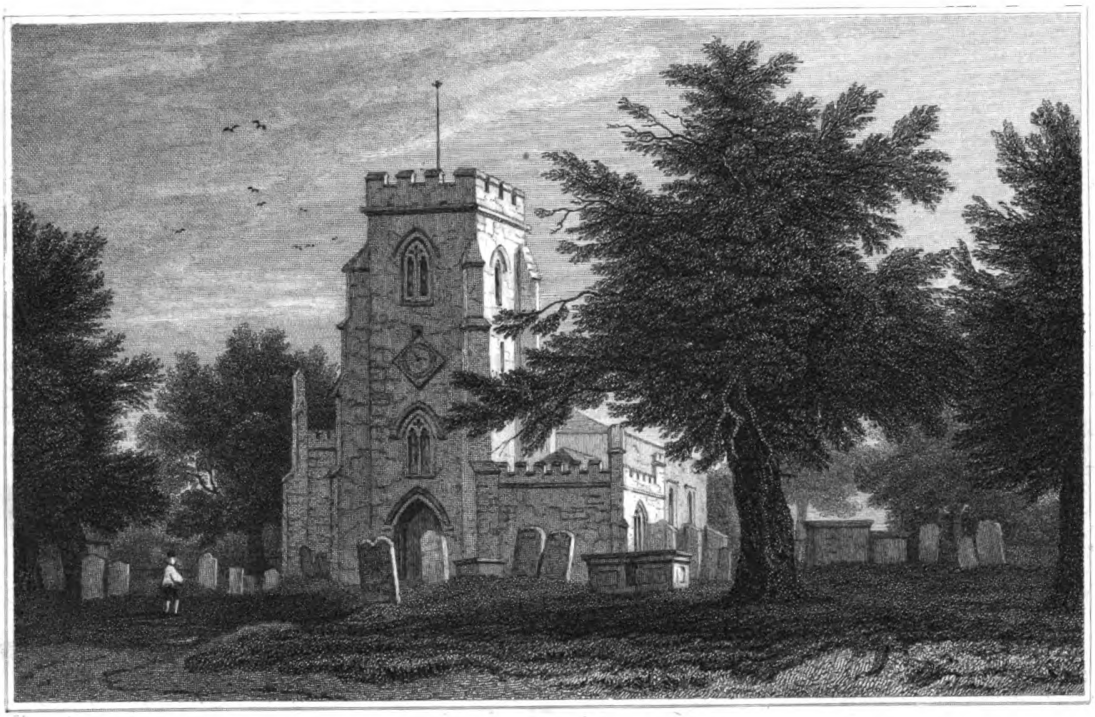
"This spot," says a celebrated tourist, "is surrounded with dark and impending scenery, and the water is thrown with vast impetuosity over three smooth black rocks, each in a different direction. Of its height I could form no idea, as the top of the upper fall, by the winding of the rocks, was not visible from below. The rock which hangs immediately over the fall, was, from its great height and rude form, a fine object in the landscape, and the whole of the hollow, for some distance below the cataract, extremely grand. I attempted to climb to the upper part, but the rocks were too precipitous and slippery to attempt it without danger: therefore, contenting myself with seeing as much as I could from below, I crossed the water, and kept along the shelving rocks by the side of the stream, for nearly half a mile. Here the banks closed in over my head, leaving but a narrow chasm, from which the light was excluded by the dark foliage on each side, and I found myself entering, to appearance, into the mouth of a deep and horrid cavern; the sides were too steep for me to think of clambering up, and except by going quite back again to the cataract, I had no alternative but to penetrate the place. The darkness did not extend far, and finding its banks sufficiently slanting to admit of my ascending to the meadows above, I was not a little pleased to escape from this abode of damp and horror."

OVERTON CHURCH.

Overton, or Overton Madoc, in Flintshire, is a pleasant village, situate on a high bank, above a rich meadowy flat, of a semicircular form, through which runs the Dee, bounded in front by fertile and wooded slopes; while the lofty and naked mountains soar beyond, and close the scene on one side; on the other, a grand contrast is presented to the eye, by the vale royal of Cheshire and the plain of Salop. There once existed a castle, which tradition says was the residence of Madoc ap Meredydd, prince of Powys and lord of Overton; but not a fragment of it is at present distinguishable, though a field fronting the Dee is called Castlefield. The church is a handsome building, dedicated to St. Mary, and the church-yard contains some fine yew trees. Several mansions in this neighbourhood are mentioned by Pennant as having been visited by him in his tour, and as deserving of notice.

VALLE CRUCIS ABBEY.

Valle Crucis has been pronounced, by several travellers, to be one of the most beautifully secluded situations in the kingdom. It is surrounded by towering mountains and abrupt rocks, covered at their bottom with wood and verdure. Here are the venerable remains of Valle Crucis Abbey, situated in the centre of a small verdant meadow, at the foot of a high hill, about two miles from Llangollen. This abbey is indebted for its name to the cross or pillar which is in a meadow adjoining, next to the second mile stone from Llangollen, called the Pillar of Eliseg. It appears to have been erected in memory of Eliseg, father of Brochmail, prince of Powys, by Concenn, his great grandson, the same who was defeated, in 607, at the battle of Chester. The abbey was a house of Cistercians, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and founded by Madoc ap Gryffydd Maclor, lord of Dinas Bran, or Bromfield, about the year 1200. Three rows of groined arches, on single round pillars, support the dormitory; the floors are remarkably thick, and supported partly by rows of gothic arches. The church was built cruciform, in several styles of architecture; and furnishes a specimen of the ornamented gothic of the 13th century; a few of the arches are pure gothic, but those which support the tower and several of the doors are mixed and ornamental. The east end is in the most ancient style, where the windows consist of long



OVERTON CHURCH.

FLINTSHIRE.

Drawn by H.Gastineau. Engraved by W. Raddyffe.

VALLE CRUCIS ABBEY.

DENBIGHSHIRE.

Jones & Co. Temple of the Muses, Finsbury Square, London.

BEDDGELERT.

CAERNARVONSHIRE

Engraved by J. C. Varrall

LLYN IDWAL,

IN THE PASS OF NANT FRANGON

CAERNARVONSHIRE

narrow slips, sharply pointed at top. The west gable has a large window, with three lancets, and underneath is an arched doorway—above is a marigold window, of elegant fret-work. The pilasters which support the internal arches, end in capitals of elegant foliage; and the mouldings of the arches are highly ornamental. In the north transept is a chapel, with two arches, and near it a double benetier, or vessel for holy water. Adjoining the church is the abbey, to which the apartments of the abbot were contiguous; the front of the abbey was uncommonly grand. A large window, highly ornamented with stone tracery, which reached from the roof to the ground, is still visible, with three long lancets, and over them two others, with remarkable pilasters dropping from them. Within are marks where stood a small narrow staircase. The dormitory, supported by three rows of groined arches, on single round pillars, has been converted into a hayloft, and approached by steps from without. The cloister is vaulted and supported by rows of low pillars, now divided into apartments, which are appropriated for cattle. The area of the church is overgrown with tall ash trees.

BEDDGELERT

Is a village in Caernarvonshire, situated in a beautiful tract of meadows, at the junction of three vales, near the conflux of the Glas Lyn and the Colwyn, which flows through Nant Colwyn, a vale leading to Caernarvon. Its situation, says Mr. Pennant, seems the fittest in the world to inspire religious meditation, amid lofty mountains, woods, and murmuring streams. The church is small, yet the loftiest in Snowdonia—the ancient mansion-house near the church might have been the residence of the prior. In this house is shown an old pewter mug, that will hold upwards of two quarts; and any person able to grasp it with one hand, and to drink it off at one draught, is entitled to the liquor gratis, and the tenant is to charge it to the lord of the manor, as part payment of his rent. Tradition says that Llewelyn the Great came to reside at Beddgelert during the hunting season, with his wife and children, and that one day, the family being absent, a wolf had entered the house. On returning, his greyhound, called Ciliart, met him, wagging his tail, but covered with blood. The prince being alarmed, ran into the nursery, and found the cradle in which the child had lain overturned, and the ground covered with blood;—imagining the greyhound had killed the child, he immediately drew his sword and slew him, but on turning up the cradle he found under it the child alive, and the wolf dead. This so affected the prince, that he erected a tomb over his faithful dog's grave, where, afterwards, the parish church was built, and called, from this accident, Bedd Ciliart, or the grave of Ciliart.

It is a subject of regret with many tourists, that most of the rocks which surround

Beddgelert, though once covered with oaks, are now naked, Snowdonia, though once a forest, contains now scarcely a tree, except those of a very recent growth. It is, however, to be hoped, that the example set by one proprietor of forming plantations on his estate, will be followed by others. Salmon is very plentiful here, and the price proportionally low. There is a comfortable inn at this place, called Beddgelert hotel; it is marked by the emblem of the goat, with the appropriate motto "Patria mea petra—My country is a rock." "While I was at Beddgelert," says Mr. Bingley, "I found myself one evening almost devoid of employment, and the moon shone so beautifully bright, that I was tempted to ramble alone as far as Pont Aberglaslyn. There never was a more charming evening; the scene was not clad in its late grand colours, but now more delicately shaded and arrayed in softer charms. The darkening shadows of the rocks cast a gloom around, and the faint rays, in some places faintly reflected, gave to the straining eye a very imperfect glimpse of the surface it looked upon, while in others the moon shot her silver light through the hollows, and brightly illumined the opposite rocks. All was solitude, serene and mild. The silence of the evening was only interrupted by the murmuring of the brook, which lulled to melancholy, and now and then by the shrill scream of the night owl flitting by me. I hung over the battlements of the bridge, listening to the hoarse fall of the water down the wears, and watching, as the moon became more elevated, the decreasing shadows of the mountains. I at length returned, after a most delightful ramble of nearly two hours."

LLYN IDWAL,

IN THE PASS OF NANT FRANGON, CAERNARVONSHIRE.

"The entrance to Nant Frangon," says the tourist, "may be examined, but not described. The romantic pen of a Radcliffe could not overcharge a description of a deep chasm at the foot of rock and mountain, rude and stupendous to the highest degree; neither should a wall of half a mile along the road to the left of the gothic cottage be omitted, since it leads to the awe-impressing solitude of Llyn Idwal, a small lake enclosed within stupendous rocks. On contemplating this scene, the traveller, used to cultivated and cheerful scenery, is at first startled, and almost fancies he sees before him the ghost of Nature." This lake has been very appropriately termed the Avernus of the Britons; the shepherds believe it to be the haunt of demons. The botanist will here be gratified with many rare and curious plants, which grow on the mountains with which it is surrounded.

HOLYWELL,

Derives its name from a remarkably fine spring, that rises at the bottom of the hill just below the town, and which, till interrupted by mills, belonging to divers manufactories, hurried its waters through a picturesque glen, with remarkable rapidity, to the sea.

The origin of this natural fountain, in legendary story, is ascribed to a miraculous event. A damsel, born of noble parents, her father, *Thewith*, being a potent lord in this district, and her mother, Wenlo, descended from a noble stock in Montgomeryshire, all resided together near the present site of Holywell. *St. Beuno*, either uncle, or brother, superintended her education, and erected a church on the spot, for the religious instruction of others at the same time. A neighbouring prince, or chieftain, named *Cradocus*, smitten with her beauty, became so enamoured of her charms, as to fall violently in love; and roused into impassioned vehemence by the coyness of the maid, he was determined to have that by force, which a few blandishments, or smiling attention, would soon have obtained for him, consenting possession. The fair, like Daphne, fled from her suitor, who pursued her with the ardency of intemperate desire, and disgusted with her affectation of horror, drew out his sword, and, at one blow, severed the head from the body, which rolling down the hill, rested on a certain spot below, near the church. A most copious spring instantly burst forth, waters gushed out, and a powerful stream irrigated the valley, which, from its remarkable dryness, had previously received the appellation of *Sychnant*. But this was a simple concomitant of the story. The head of the virgin was more fortunate and wonderful than that of Orpheus, which is reported to have sung a farewell elegy, as it floated down the Hebrus, after having been cut off by rival Siconian ladies; for it was not yet destined to hold its tongue, nor close its eyes. St. Beuno, with a chirurgical skill not possessed by the faculty of the present day, took up the head, re-adapted it to the body, and, "mirabile dictu," after a few prayers, alias incantations, the dissevered parts instantly and spontaneously re-united, leaving only the impression of cicatrisation, visible as a slender white line, encircling the neck of the resuscitated maid, merely as an evidential mark to those who might examine into the nature of the miracle.

The assassin is reported instantly to have suffered the retaliating vengeance of heaven; for being struck dead by lightning, the earth opened her jaws, and swallowed, at one mouthful, the impious corpse.

The supposed sanative virtues of these waters, from their professed miraculous origin, formerly attracted numerous pilgrims; and St. Winifred's well was looked upon with the eye of credulity, as another Bethesda. Here all kinds of infirmities, to which poor corporeal man is incident, received a healing power; and, to the present day, crutches, barrows,

and other votive offerings, as trophies of the astonishing cures performed, are placed in a pendent position over the well.

The spring is, perhaps, one of the finest in the kingdom. From experiments and calculations made, to ascertain the quantity of water thrown up per minute, it was ascertained, after repeated trials, in one instance to amount to the extraordinary quantity of *twenty-one tuns;* and in another, to eighty-four hogsheads. But that in time of drought, or after wet weather, the flow is equal, must be placed among those vulgar errors, arising from assumption, and is propagated by credulity. Those, whose experience extends to years, affirm, the variation is extremely great; that in summer there is frequently a diminution of one third, or more; and after violent rains, the increase is in a greater proportion.

The water, which rises with immense force, is received into a well of a polygonal shape, covered by a sort of colonaded cupola, the groined roof of which is richly decorated with imagery. Some portion consists of grotesque figures, others are parts of animals, allusive to the armorial bearings of the Stanley family; and a tun with a hop plant issuing out of it, being the rebus of Elizabeth *Hopton*, wife of Sir William Stanley, indicates that this building must have been erected sometime prior to 1495, he having been beheaded in that year. Some writers state, it was built by Margaret, mother of Henry the Seventh; but Grose, in his Antiquities, from the style of building, confutes that opinion. Adjoining the well is a neat chapel in the pointed style, of a much older date; for it seems that in Richard the Third's time, "the abbot and convent of Basingwerk received from the crown ten marks yerely for the sustentacione and salarie of a preiste at the chappelle of St. Wynefride."

WREXHAM CHURCH.

This Church, formerly collegiate, the glory not only of the place, but of North Wales, may vie with many cathedrals, and is ranked among the seven *wonders* of the country. Erected on the site of the former one, destroyed by fire, at a period when the pointed, or English ecclesiastic style of architecture had passed the acme, having, by the indulgence of too finical a taste, protuberantly run out into what has been termed "the tawdry turgid Gothic;" it exhibits a specimen of design, proportion, and moderated decoration, perhaps not surpassed, if equalled, by any edifice built in the time of Henry the Seventh.

The tower, elevated one hundred and thirty-five feet, is a chef d'œuvre of architectural display. The shape is quadrangular, with handsome set-off abutments, terminating in crocketted pinnacles; and the summit is crowned by four pierced lantern turrets, that rise twenty-four feet in height, above the open-worked balustrade; to each of which is attached a

ST. WINEFRIDE'S WELL.

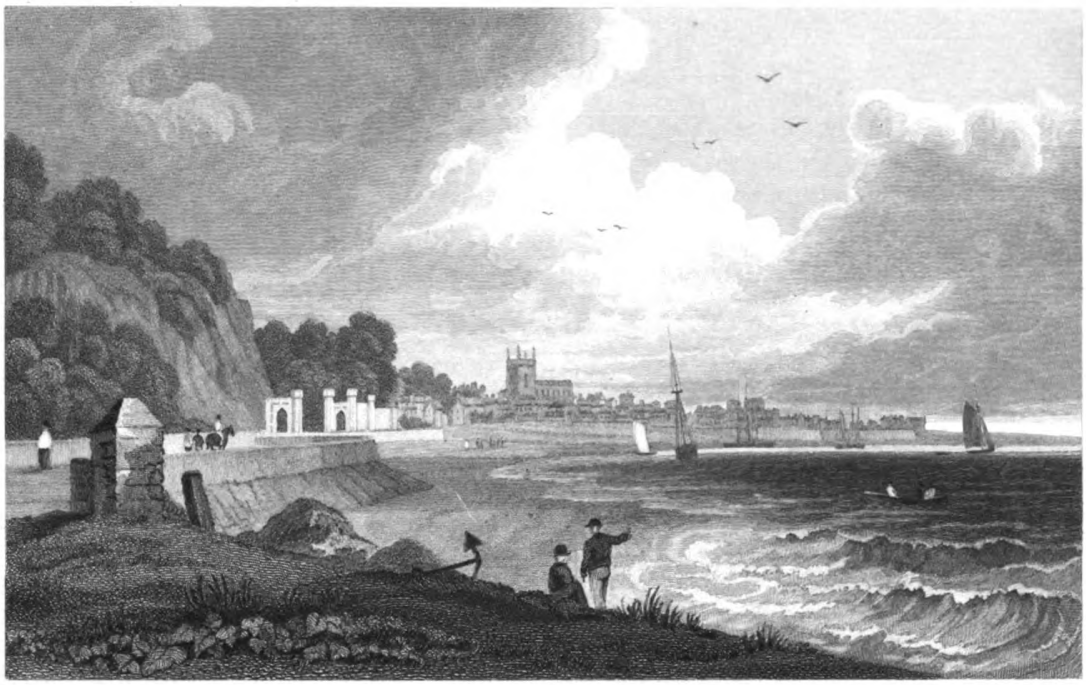
FLINTSHIRE.

Engraved by W. Wallis

HOLYWELL CHURCH.

FLINTSHIRE.

Drawn by H. Gastineau.



Drawn by H Gastineau. Engraved by J Thomas

BEAUMARIS.

ISLE OF ANGLESEA

Drawn by H Gastineau. Engraved by R B Hay

ENTRANCE TO BEAUMARIS CASTLE

London: Fisher, Son & Co. Newgate Street and at the Mansion House Paris.

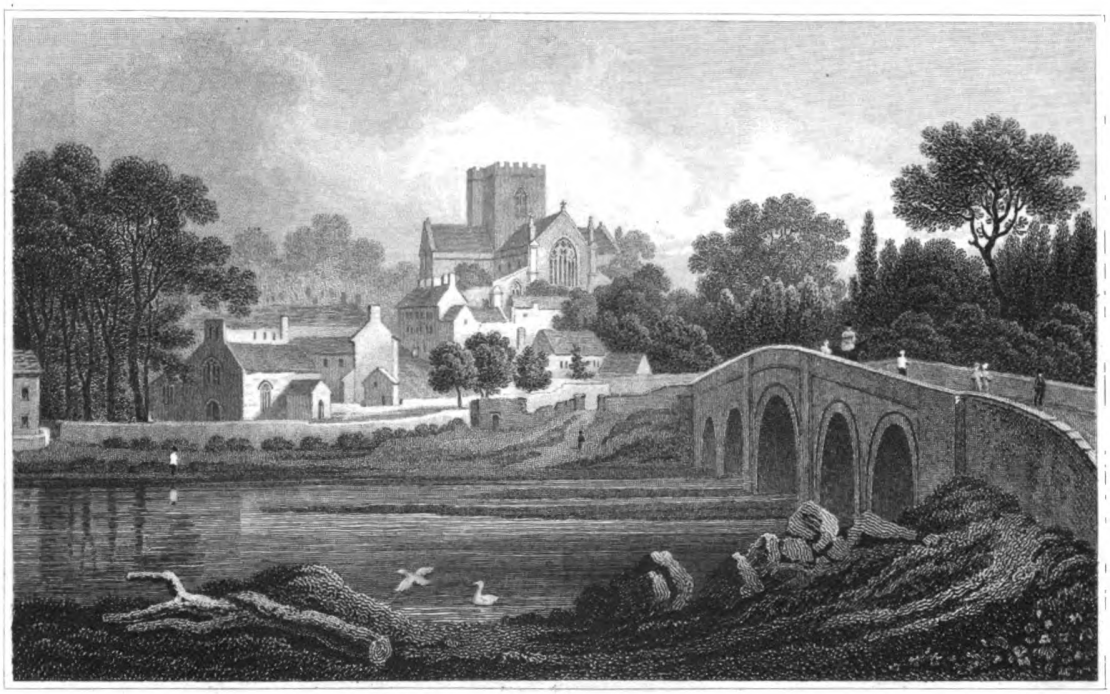
circular staircase. The three exposed sides are decorated with various embellishments. Statues of thirty saints, full in dimensions, placed in the niches of the buttresses, while they enrich the building, display the advanced progress statuary had made at the close of the fifteenth century.

BEAUMARIS, TOWN AND CASTLE.

BEAUMARIS, though a small place, is the capital of the county of Anglesea, and finely situated on the south-eastern part of the island, on a low shore of an admirable roadstead called Beaumaris bay. Included within the parish of Llandegvan, or Landegfan, little doubt can be entertained, but the present town originated from the circumstance of a castle having been erected here about the close of the thirteenth century, by king Edward the First; for nothing is heard of it anterior to that period, except that on the site of the present fortress, in a low marshy spot, stood a small oratory, denominated St. Meugin's chapel; and at the same epoch, the name of the place was changed from *Bomover* to *Beaumaris*; that is, the fine or beautiful marsh, from the French word *beau*, fair, and *marais*, a marsh. Others derive it from the former epithet, and joined to *mer*, the sea, allusive to the fine road for shipping near it; and both assign, as an argument for such derivations, the affectation so evident amongst the English, long subsequent to the Norman conquest, of designating persons and places by *French* appellations, as Beauclerk, De la Mere, &c. &c. But a no less ingenious conjecture is the one, which supposes it may refer to its natural position, between two seas, or near the point, where two powerful tides contend for fluctuating mastery.

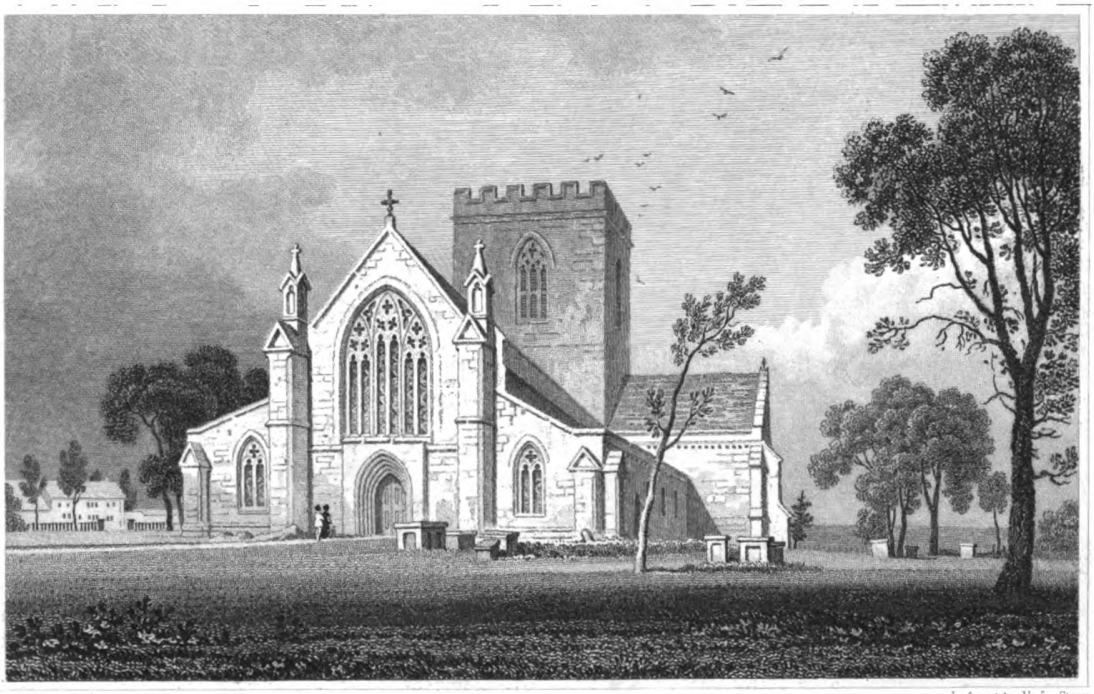
Beaumaris Castle, like the style of architecture displayed in Edward's other fortresses, participates more of the eastern, than the western mode of building. It was erected upon lands belonging to several proprietors, whom the king removed to distant places, probably sequestrated from some of the late insurgents. This spot was fixed upon with a view of surrounding it with a fosse, for the double purpose of defence, and bringing small craft to unload their cargoes under its walls for the use of the garrison. Part of this canal, till very lately, was visible under the name of *Llyn y green*, and the chains for mooring the vessels, at the quay. The lowness of the site, the expansive diameter of its circular towers and bastions, together with the dilapidated state of its walls, deprives this structure, though a prodigious one, of that prominent character, and imposing effect, so strikingly apparent in the prouder piles of Caernarvon and Conway. The shape approaches to an oblong square, comprising a case, encircling the castle. This outer ballium consists of low but massy embattled walls, flanked by ten circular bastion towers; one very large at each angle, and three of lesser dimensions in the intermediate spaces, on the north and south sides. Admis-

sion was obtained by two entrance gateways; the one to the west is formed by a large pointed arch, between two strong square towers, defended by two other collateral ones of dissimilar shape. This was furnished with portcullises, and evidently formed the sallying postern. The principal entrance, facing the sea, is formed by two circular bastion towers, between which a pointed arched way was fortified with four portcullises: on the left rises a large square tower, and on the right is a curtain, or a long narrow advanced work, embattled and machicolated at top, intended for the defence of those employed on the canal for the supply of the garrison. Under an arch in this work, passed the wet fosse or moat surrounding the whole; and the barges or vessels might deliver their cargoes by a communication through an aperture in the upper part of the arch. The rings for mooring chains still remain in the walls of this projection, which is called the Gunner's Walk. Within this fortified envelope, at a considerable equidistant space from the walls, stands the principal body of the castle, which is far superior in height to the envelope; and at a distance appears to rise majestically from it, as the base. Its form is nearly quadrangular, having a grand round tower at each angle, and the connecting curtains are flanked with another circular one in the centre of each face. The interior consists of an area, one hundred and ninety-feet square, with obtuse corners, or, as described by Mr. Grose, "a square with the corners cantled off." The centre of the north west side consists of a magnificent hall, in length seventy feet, breadth twenty-three, and of a proportionate height; with a range of five large pointed windows, constituting a handsome front to the inner quadrangle. On the eastern side of the area are the remains of a chapel, in form of a small theatre, the sides ornamented with receding pointed arches; and an elegant groined roof supported by ribs, springing from pilasters, between which are three lancet-shaped windows. A communication was made between various parts of the inner court, by means of a surrounding gallery about six feet wide, a considerable portion of which is at present entire. Within recesses, gained out of the thickness of the walls in the sides of the gallery, are several square apertures, apparently once furnished with trap doors, which opened into rooms beneath; but as no vestiges of descending steps are discoverable, it is difficult to ascertain their intended use. Mr. Grose surmises they may have been used for similar purposes to which the two circular eastern towers were applied, *viz.* the confinement of prisoners.



ST. ASAPH.

FLINTSHIRE.



Printed by H. Gastineau

Engraved by H. S. Storer

ST. ASAPH CATHEDRAL.

FLINTSHIRE.

TOWN AND CATHEDRAL OF ST. ASAPH.

St. Asaph, though the see of a bishop, is neither remarkable for the handsomeness of its buildings, nor the elegance of its diocesan church, as an architectural structure; yet the little town standing on the side of an elevation, the summit of which is occupied by the cathedral, situated between the rivers Clwyd and Elwy; the former flowing on the eastern, and the latter on the western side, over which are handsome bridges, and surrounded by trees; tend together, to give the place an imposing effect upon the view of the approaching traveller.

From the circumstance of the site, its original name was *Llan Elwy;* and from the circumstance of the hill on which it stands being called *Bryn Paulin*, it has been conjectured that this was one of the places where the Romans, under the command of their general, Paulinus, lay encamped in their progress north-westward, with the view of reducing to their yoke, the island of Mona. This place has certainly just claims to high antiquity in its ecclesiastical history. Cyndeyrn Garthwys ap Owain, ap Urien Reged, better known in North Britain by the name of Kentigern, who was bishop of Glasgow, and primate of Scotland, having been driven from his see, under a persecution instituted by a Pagan Prince of the country, fled for refuge to this, and was taken under the protection of Cadwallon, uncle to Maelgwyn Gwynedd, prince of North Wales, who assigned him, as a place of residence, this pleasant spot between the two rivers, where he built the church called Llan Elwy, about the year 560: and founded a college, or monastery, upon the plan of that previously established at Bangor Iscoed, for religious instruction, and personal devotion: which so rapidly increased, that, during his presidency, it is said to have been tenanted by nine hundred and sixty-five monks; whose regulations were, that one part should labour, while the other was engaged in prayer; and that the two-fold duty should be reciprocally performed. Being recalled to his original charge in his native country, on the persecution having ceased, he nominated a pious scholar, called *Asa*, or *Asaph*, the grandson of Pabs post Prydain, as his successor, from whom both the church and place received their present names.

The original structure of the *church* was built of wood; but soon after a new edifice, more convenient, as well as durable, was erected of stone. This building, in 1282, was, either through accident or design, consumed by fire. But the loss was quickly repaired, and the diocese benefited by a liberal present, and grant of lands, to several parishes, containing four hundred and nine acres, each of which appears at the time to have been valued at *sixpence.* In 1402, the church of St. Asaph had to encounter fresh difficulties, and suffer new disasters. The cathedral, as far as it could be destroyed by fire, the annexed canon's houses,

together with the episcopal palace, were consumed; after which these lay in a dilapidated state for nearly eighty years, when they were rebuilt by the bounty of bishop Redman, aided by voluntary contributions. This work of the worthy prelate is the present structure, except the choir, which has been, by the liberality of the dean and chapter, out of a fund vested in their hands, as trustees, restored, though not to its pristine state. The church, a neat plain structure, has now to boast of its eastern end being lighted by a large window in the pointed style, having its tracery copied from a skeleton one, still remaining at the ruins of Tintern Abbey, in the county of Monmouth. This is now handsomely decorated with stained glass, executed by the late ingenious artist, Mr. Egginton of Handsworth, near Birmingham; and the expense partly defrayed by bishop Bagot, and partly by the bounty of several of the nobility and gentry in the county, many of whose arms are emblazoned on the margin. Besides the choir, the building consists of a nave, two ailes, and transept, with a low square tower in the centre.

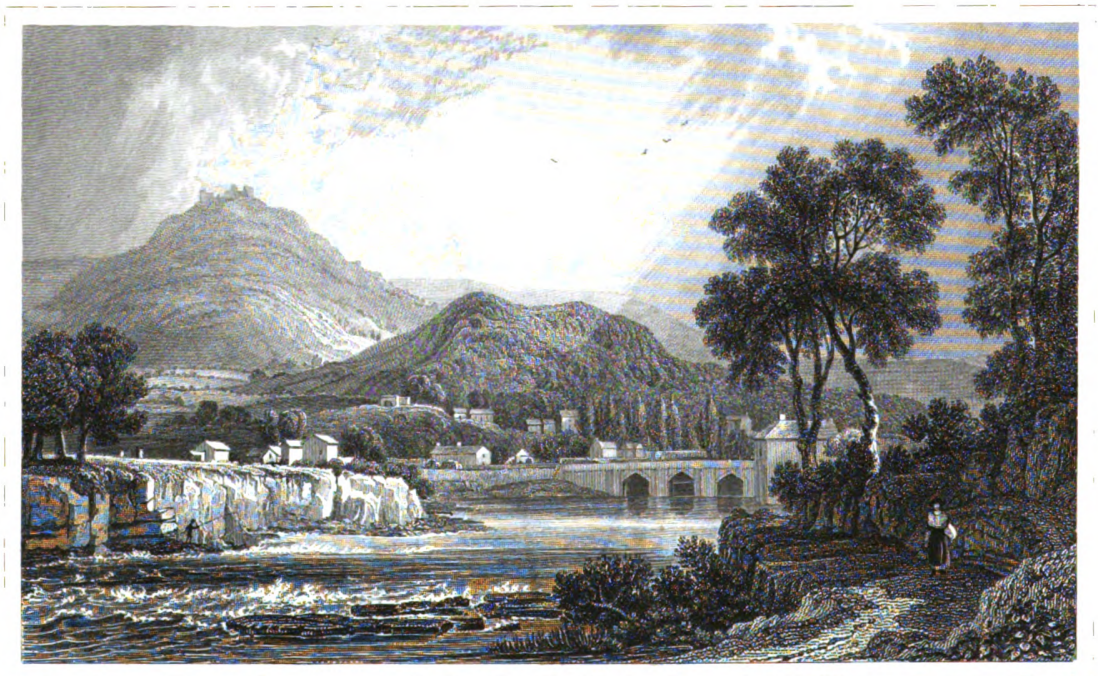
The city itself contains nothing of a public nature, to induce a traveller to make any long stay. The buildings, erected of brick, are in general low and small, forraing one long street; and by the returns made to Parliament, it contained two hundred and seventy-two houses, with a population amounting to 1513.

The vicinity of St. Asaph will compensate for the barrenness of the city. In serene weather, about two miles distant, on the Holywell road, from the side of a hill, 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 Rhuddland 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 boundary the ocean: and though not, from the extent, a scenery adapted for the pencil, cannot fail to afford the highest gratification to the real votary of Nature.

The road from St. Asaph towards Denbigh, along the common, denominated the *Row*, is peculiarly beautiful. The small valley below is watered by the boisterous stream of the Elwy, which, at times, extremely turbulent, runs beneath finely wooded banks; and at the extremity of it is *Pont yr allt gôch*, a handsome bridge, consisting of one arch eighty feet in the span: beyond the direction of the river, as it is found in Denbighshire, the country is exceedingly various, and accompanied by most diversified and romantic scenery.

PONT Y CYSSYLLTE.

IN THE VALE OF LLANGOLLEN. DENBIGHSHIRE



Drawn by F. Jukes.

Engraved by J. C. Varrall

LLANGOLLEN.

DENBIGHSHIRE

Jones & Co's Temple of the Muses Finsbury Square London

LLANGOLLEN.

THIS is a small, poor-looking town, consisting of a few narrow streets, and the houses being built of dark shaly stone, gives it a dingy and forbidding aspect. But being a thoroughfare on the great Irish road, and situated in an interesting spot, it is enlivened by the daily passing of travellers, and occasionally enriched by the influx of wealthy strangers, who take up their abode here, to visit places in the vicinity, and survey the beauties of its celebrated vale.

The objects the town itself presents are few and inconsiderable. The public buildings are the church and bridge.

The former, exhibiting little remarkable as an architectural structure, contains nothing more worthy of observation to the antiquary, but a ridiculous legendary story, respecting its reputed patron saint, Collen, who, from a manuscript life of him, written in Welsh, is said to have descended by his mother's side from Matholwch, Lord of Cwl in Ireland. The visitor however will be repaid for a walk to the elevated and spacious churchyard, which, flanked by vast mountains in the back, and side screens, with the river rushing violently under the bridge, in front, overtopped by the lofty hill on which stands Dinas Bran, affords a very grand and pleasing view.

The bridge, erected by John Trevor, bishop of St. Asaph, sometime previous to 1357, he having died in that year, has been classed among the *Tri Thlws Cymru*, or the three beauties of Wales. But the situation perhaps is more remarkable than the form. The structure has, however, exclusive of the age in which it was built, claims to attention from the observer, upon both considerations. It consists of four *angular* arches, resting upon triangular piers, and the position of the former differs from the usual mode adopted in bridge-building; for while the span of the largest does not exceed twenty-eight feet, the smallest two occupy the central portion. The river, except in times of flood, generally runs only under one; where the violence of its waters has formed a deep chasm into which they rush from a high ledge in the bed, above the bridge. Built in a place where, from the slippery nature of the rock, it would appear impossible to obtain a solid foundation for fixing a base, sufficient to withstand the rapidity of the current, and resist the fury with which it has frequently been assailed, the permanency proves the excellency of the plan, and has doubtless produced the deserved admiration.

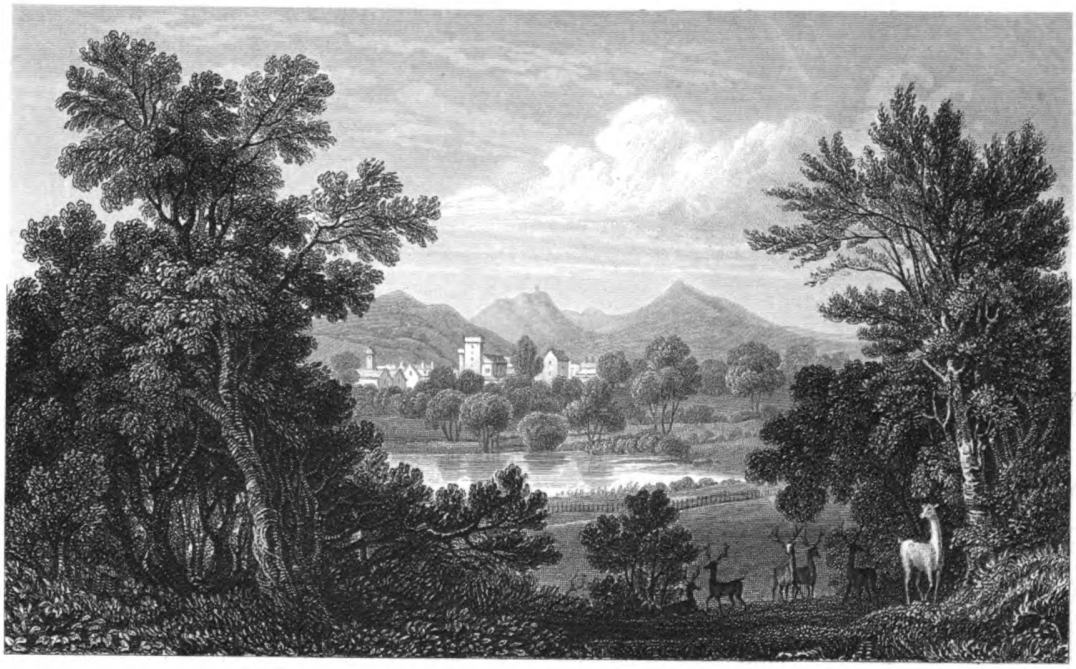
"No place in North Wales, it has been observed, can be found, where the refined lover of picturesque scenes, the sentimental, or the romantic, can give a fuller indulgence to his imagination. No place abounds more with various rides, or solemn walks. From this central spot he may visit the seat of Owen Glyndwr, and the fine valley to its source

beyond the great Llyntegid; or pass the mountains to the fertile vale of Clwyd; or make the tour of Wrexham:" and embrace the varied objects worthy of surveying, or contemplating in its immediate vicinity.

Llangollen Vale, or more properly *Glyn-dwrdwy*, the vale of the Dee, has been a subject of general eulogium, and few spots, of equal extent, have obtained greater celebrity, both in a descriptive and an historic point of view.

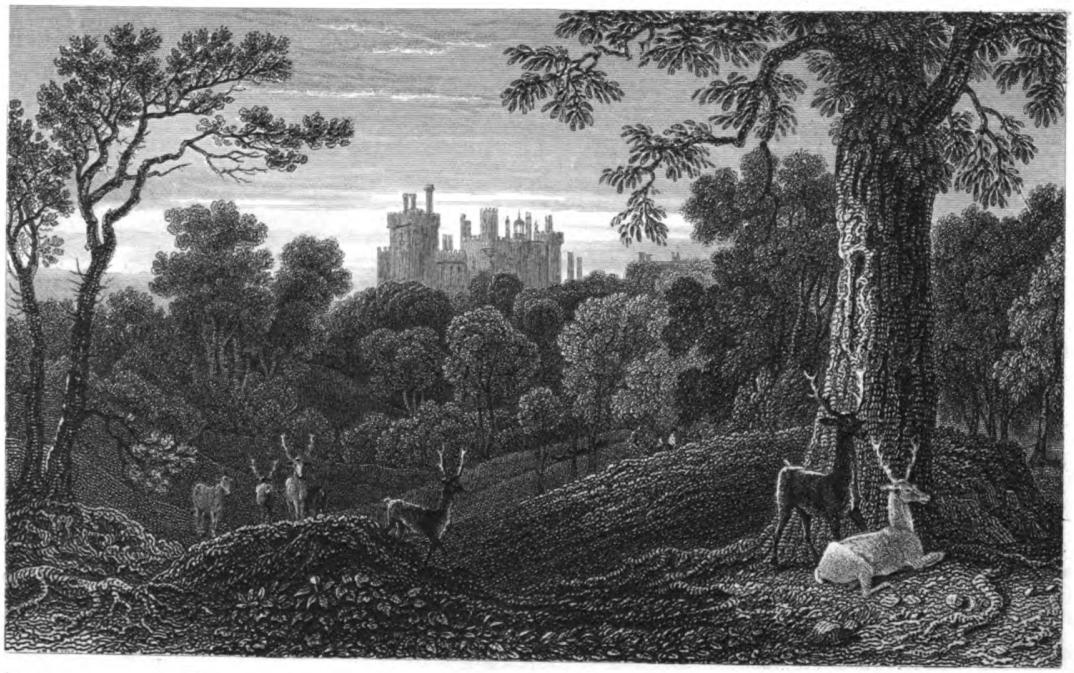
Bounded by lofty mountains on each side, whose features are peculiarly bold, and interspersed with prominent knolls and swells, which take a tortuous contour, together with the irregular direction of the vale, often cut by collateral openings, it produces a continued variety of landscape. The road, forming an elevated terrace, enables the eye to have a commanding view of the passing scenes, which, presented at every turn, are almost unequalled in richness, combined with so much romantic beauty. The union of rich meadows and arable fields, that, in the season, seem to blend the verdant beauties with the rich 'tints of golden grain,' while dark or light verdure of woods, skirting the base of the hills, finely contrast the purple hues of their slaty summits; and the whole, enlivened by the windings of the Dee, sporting through it, in whimsical vagaries, sometimes flowing in gentle meanders, at others hurrying down in rapids, over the numerous ledges of its rocky channel, running parallel across, or diagonal to the stream, produce a diversity of combinations, that cannot fail to interest and gratify the votaries of taste, and are well deserving pictorial representation.

Pont y Cyssyllte, *Aqueduct*, a wonderful effort of ingenious contrivance, and a convincing proof of the incalculable capability of human energies, when wielded by science and supported by power, lies a short distance out of the Llangollen and Ruabon road. The aqueduct, in length nine hundred and eighty-eight feet, consists of nineteen arches, each forty-five in the span, with the addition of ten feet six inches of iron work, in continuation, at each end. The supporting piers are stone, of a pyramidal shape, measuring at the base twenty-one feet by ten wide, but diminishing upwards to twelve feet by seven at top; and their height is one hundred and sixteen feet. Over this immense arcade is extended a trough, or large open caisson, made of cast iron, eleven feet eight inches broad, by which the water of the canal is conveyed over the river, one thousand and nine feet, to the opposite level. Two iron plates are screwed together from centre to centre, of each arch; and along one side of the canal is a towing path, four feet in breadth, with a handsome iron balustrade, as a defence for man and horse.



WELCH POOL.

FROM THE PARK OF POWIS CASTLE.
MONTGOMERYSHIRE.



POWIS CASTLE.

WELSH POOL.

Welsh Pool, a good town, is seated in the bottom, not far from the castle. In fact, it is a large and populous town, partly standing in the bottom that extends to the river, and partly ascending a low hill towards Powis Park. It consists of one long, wide, and spacious street, with another crossing it, at right angles, and several other collateral ones of lesser breadth. The uniformity and cleanliness of these, together with the houses, which are for the most part well built of brick, give it rather an inviting appearance. Indeed it assumes the appearance of a town east of the Severn; and both the manners and language of the persons resident here, are so completely English, as to corroborate the first idea formed on entering the town: the Welsh being spoken here by few, except such as come down from the country, to transact business. An air of cheerfulness, urbanity, and opulence, pervade this place, owing to the intercommunication with the more polished parts of the kingdom, and the trade in flannels; quantities of which are manufactured here, and still greater quantities brought from the hill countries, where they are made by the little farmers, with home-spun yarn, of wool, the produce of their native sheep, which are bought up by dealers from Liverpool and Shrewsbury. This being the principal mart for the article, a market is held once a fortnight, for the sole purpose of exposing it to sale. Some webs, used for army clothing, manufactured in the adjoining county of Merioneth, also by this route find a way to a ready market.

The church, though in the pointed style, is apparently a structure of no great antiquity, nor is it remarkable for any collective or particular elegance. It stands singularly at the bottom of the hill, and is so low, that the ground of the cemetery almost equals the height of the building: a circumstance, arising partly from natural situation, and partly from the accumulated soil of sepultural accretion. Among its sacramental ornaments and sacristal utensils, is a chalice of pure gold, brought from Guinea, on the coast of Africa, containing by measure a wine quart, and intrinsically valued at about one hundred and seventy pounds.

The county-hall, erected in the centre of the principal street, is among the number of improvements made in this town and neighbourhood. The structure, presenting an elegant front with a colonnade and pilasters of stone, consists of upper apartments, for the administration of justice; and lower ones, for the accommodation of trade. Beneath is a spacious place appropriated as a corn-market; a separate space, for the sale of miscellaneous ... ticles; and an ample court, for holding the assizes, or great sessions. On the second floor is the county-hall room, for convening public meetings, measuring sixty-four feet in length, by twenty-five in breadth, and eighteen feet high.

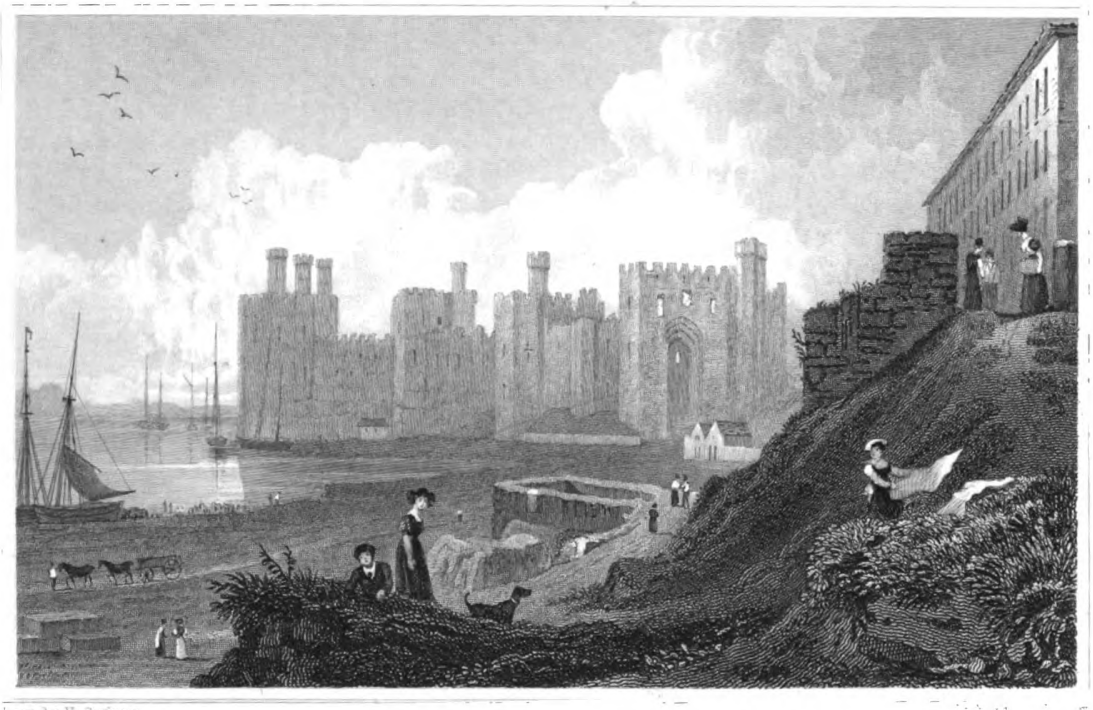
Pool, as a town, enjoyed numerous privileges under the auspices of the o ner of the

adjacent domain of Powis Castle, and was by one of its princes early incorporated; but the present charter was granted in the time of Charles the Second; by virtue of which, it is governed by two bailiffs, a high steward, a town-clerk, two serjeants at mace, &c. &c. The Severn becomes navigable a little below the town, at what is called the Pool-stake; and a branch of the Ellesmere canal, running near, tends to facilitate carriage by a water conveyance.

POWIS CASTLE.

THIS venerable pile, situated in a well-wooded park, about a mile from Pool, on the right of the road to Montgomery, is built in the ancient style of domestic architecture, participating of the castle and mansion. It stands on the ridge of a rock, is constructed of red sandstone, and the dilapidations made by time in the external walls have been repaired by a coat of red plastering. The entrance is by an ancient gateway, between two massy circular towers, into the area, or court, round which the apartments range. Several other towers are still standing, flanked with semicircular bastions. The site is elevated and commanding, looking over a vast tract of country, the greater part of which was, formerly, subject to its lords. In front, two immense terraces, rising one above another, form the ascent, by means of a vast flight of steps, to the house. These are ornamented with vases, statues, antique remains, &c. &c. The edifice is kept up, as a habitable mansion, though rarely visited by its noble owner. The inside has a heavy and unpleasant appearance, from the great thickness of the walls: and the whole building brings strongly to the recollection the cumbersome magnificence of former times. The interior exhibits little worthy the curious traveller's notice, excepting the principal gallery, measuring one hundred and seventeen feet in length, by twenty in breadth. This was originally much longer; but in the modernising plan a large room was taken from it, at one end. This is of a later date than the other part of the building, and is said to have been detached from it, about a century ago. The apartments on the ground-floor are gloomy, as are also the dining, and state-bed rooms; but the saloon and library are well lighted, and afford a most cheering and delightful prospect: the view from the former embracing the rich vale of the Severn, with the Freidden hills in the contrasted back ground. These contain some valuable antiques.

CAERNARVON.



CAERNARVON CASTLE.

CAERNARVON TOWN AND CASTLE.

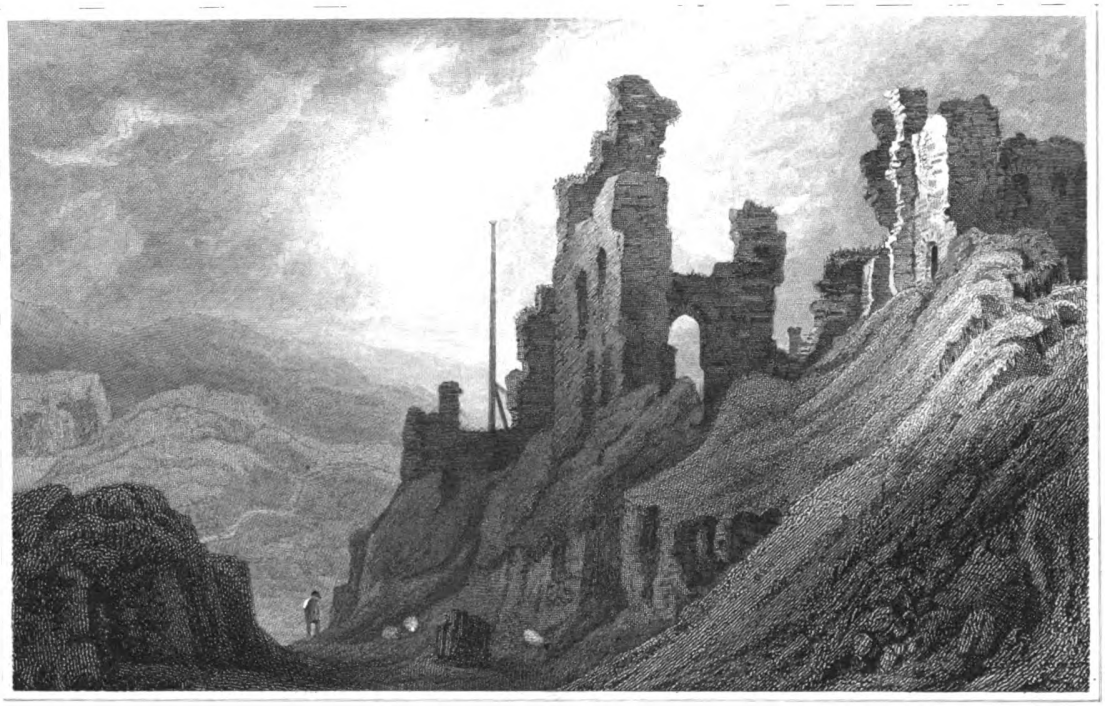
CAERNARVON has generally been supposed to have originated in the time of Edward the First; but it was in being long previous to that period, and was probably the British town that subsisted under the protection of the Romans, what is now considered the ancient Segontium having been exclusively confined to the use of the Roman military. Giraldus Cambrensis mentions passing through it in the year 1188; the author of the life of Gryffydd, the son of Cynan, observes, that Hugh, earl of Chester, who had dethroned the Welsh monarch, and overrun nearly the whole of North Wales, to secure his conquests and facilitate future inroads, erected four fortresses; one at Aberllienawag in Anglesea, another in Meirion, a third at Bangor, and a fourth at this place, then denominated *Hên Caer Custenni*. Llewelyn the Great also dates a charter, granted to the priory of Penmon, from it, in the year 1221. The probability, therefore, is against the idea of the present town having been a creation of the conqueror. To a judicious and able warrior like Edward, however, the place presented a situation admirably adapted for constituting a fortified post, for the purpose of curbing his newly acquired country. The position was naturally strong, bounded on one side by the Menai straits, on another by the estuary of the Seiont, on a third by a creek of the Menai, and the remainder has been apparently insulated by art. This fortress, it has been justly observed, from whatever point, or from whatever distance it is viewed, assumes a romantic singularity of appearance, and an air of grandeur, that, while it excites awe, affords pleasure to the beholder; and some of its noble walls, going fast to decay, excite a melancholy sigh, at the dilapidating powers of hoary-headed Time.

Caernarvon may justly be considered the boast of North Wales; whether the delightfulness of the site, the regularity of the plan, the goodness of the buildings, or its other concomitant advantages be taken into consideration. The situation, partly on the Menai, and partly on the estuary of the Seiont, where that river receives the tide from the former. The streets of the town, though narrow, are regularly built, and cross each other at right angles, and the whole were surrounded by a massy wall, of great height and thickness, flanked and defended at short intervals by numerous semicircular bastion towers. A walk ranged entirely round the inside of the embattled parapet, and two gates formed the entrance into the town, the east facing the mountains, and the west opening to the Menai. A wide and most accommodating terrace, extending from the quay to the north end of the town walls, forms a most charming walk, the fashionable promenade, in fine weather, for all descriptions of people; who, while they inhale the salutiferous breeze, may be pleasingly amused by the moving varieties of the port.

Caernarvon castle forms an era in the history of this part of the country. After the completion of his conquest, Edward the First, in 1282, undertook the great work, which still remains a proof of his achievements. It is said to have been built within the space of *one year*. This will not appear surprising, notwithstanding the magnitude of the building, when it is taken into consideration, that the chieftains of the country had the painful task imposed upon them, to procure artisans and labourers, and to find money to liquidate the expenses of the work. A record, however, formerly belonging to the exchequer of Caernarvon, states that it was *twelve* years in building, and the revenues of the archbishopric of York, which had for the purpose been kept vacant, were applied toward defraying the expenses of its erection. *Henry Ellerton*, or *de Elreton*, received the appointment of master-mason to this castle; a term, in that day, equivalent to architect in ours; under whom were doubtless employed numbers of excellent workmen: for Mr. Pennant justly observes, "the Welsh peasants were no more than cutters of wood and hewers of stone." The walls of Segontium afforded a portion of the materials, Anglesea furnished the lime-stone, and the breccia was brought from the vicinity of Vaenol. The conveyance of these ponderous materials was greatly facilitated by the navigation of the Menai.

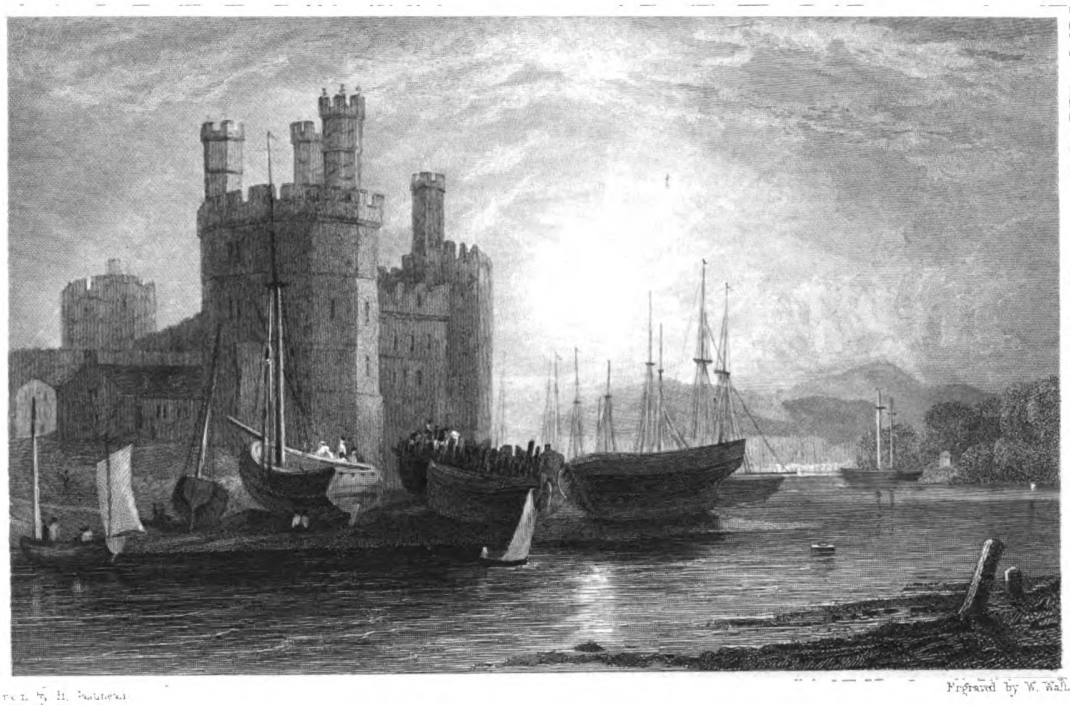
The external walls of this castle are almost entire, and exhibit nearly the shape of the building, as it was in the time of the royal founder. It occupies a large space at the west end of the town, and was a place of such strength, that prior to the introduction of artillery in warfare, it might have defied almost any portion of force to accomplish its subjugation. On two sides it was environed by water, and on the margin was an embattled terrace. The third side was evidently defended by a fosse, which probably extended round the fourth. The walls are from eight to ten feet thick, and have, within their thickness, a narrow gallery, with convenient eyelets, or slips, for the discharge of arrows at the assailants. Above the embattled parapet ascend, in majestic grandeur, numerous turreted towers, not uniform, but pentagonal, hexagonal, and octagonal in their shape. Two of these are more lofty than the rest.

The principal entrance to the castle is peculiarly grand, beneath a massy tower, on the front of which is a statue of Edward, in a menacing posture, with a sword half-drawn in his hand. This gate, by the remaining grooves, evidently was defended by four portcullises. The area within is oblong, but of an irregular shape, and was formerly divided into two parts, forming an outer and inner court. The internal part of this stupendous monument of ancient grandeur is much more dilapidated than would be expected from viewing the outside; many of the buildings lie in ruinous heaps, and the rooms contained within the towers are mere skeletons. What are called the state apartments, appear to have been extremely commodious, lighted by spacious windows, with elegant tracery. These externally exhibit a square front, but internally are all polygonal, some of the sides having been formed out of the thickness of the walls. A gallery or covered way appears to have extended completely round the interior of the castle, forming a general communication with the whole of the building: of this, about seventy yards are nearly entire.



REMAINS OF CASTELL DINAS BRAN.

DENBIGHSHIRE.



Engraved by W. Wallis

EAGLE TOWER, CAERNARVON CASTLE

EAGLE TOWER, CAERNARVON CASTLE.

The Eagle Tower, so called from a figure of that bird, carved in stone, forming part of its ornaments, has the addition of three elegant turrets issuing from the top, and is remarkably beautiful. The staircase to the Eagle Tower is the only one remaining complete, and from the summit is an extensive view of the surrounding country and the isle of Anglesea. "Edward the Second," says Mr. Pennant, "was born in a little *dark* room in this tower, not twelve feet long, nor eight in breadth: so little did, on those days, a royal consort consult either pomp or conveniency." On a view of this little *dark* room, which, from its having the accommodation of a fire-place, appears to have been a dressing-closet, the smallness will strike the beholder at once, with the improbability of its having been prepared for the royal accouchement. The adjoining central spacious chamber on the same floor, was, most probably, the one destined by the haughty monarch for the momentous occasion; an apartment suitable to the state of an English queen, and the heir apparent of a new principality. It is, however, matter of conjecture, and not worthy of discussion; for, as Mr. Wyndham justly remarks, "Surely the birth of such a degenerate and dastardly tyrant reflects little honour on the castle of Caernarvon." The circumstances which gave rise to the event, are far more interesting, both as respects their singular origin and important consequences. Edward had, by what are termed the statutes of Rhuddlan, annexed the principality to the kingdom of England, and in a great degree incorporated it, as to the administration of civil justice, with that country. But all this did not reconcile the Welsh with their new master, nor induce them quietly to submit to what they justly considered an usurped domination. Boldly and flatly they refused to acknowledge Edward as their sovereign, unless he would comply with their imperious requests, which were, that he should agree to reign, and condescend to reside, in Wales. This being a condition impossible to be complied with, a modification of the requisitions was granted on the part of the Welsh. After detailing the cruel oppressions, unjust exactions, and intolerable insolencies of the English officers, they stated, in a strong remonstrative memorial, that never would they acknowledge or yield obedience to any prince, but of their own nation and language; and who could shew an unblameable life and conversation. "King Edward," says the Welsh historian, "perceiving the people to be resolute and inflexible, and absolutely bent against any other prince than one of their own country, happily thought of this politic, though dangerous expedient. Queen Eleanor was now quick with child, and ready to be delivered; and though the season was very severe, it being the depth of winter, the king sent for her from England, and removed her to Caernarvon Castle, the place designed for her accouchement. When the time of her delivery was come, king Edward called to him

all the barons and chief persons throughout all Wales, to Rhuddlan, there to consult about the public good, and safety of their country. And being informed that his queen was delivered of a son, he told the Welsh nobility, that whereas they had oftentimes entreated him to appoint them a prince, he having at this time occasion to depart out of the country, would comply with their request, upon condition they would allow of, and obey him, whom he should name. The Welsh readily agreed with the motion, only with the same reserve, that he should appoint them a prince of their own nation. King Edward assured them he would name such a one as was born in Wales, could speak no English, and whose life and conversation nobody could stain: upon the Welsh agreeing to own and obey, he named *his own son Edward*, but little before born in Caernarvon Castle." The conqueror, by this bold manœuvre, having succeeded in obtaining what might be deemed the unqualified submission of the country, began, without any regard to justice or delicacy, to reward his English followers with the property of the Welsh; and numerous towns and manors were profusely bestowed on his coadjutant lords. It was not, however, till a considerable time after this event, that the English monarch judged it advisable to invest his son with the delegated sovereignty. For, though prince Edward was born in 1284, it was not till he had arrived to his sixteenth year, that he received the reluctant fealty of his deluded subjects. "In the twenty-ninth year of that monarch's reign, the Prince of Wales came down to Chester, and received homage of all the freeholders in Wales. On this occasion he was invested, as a mark of imperial dignity, with a chaplet of gold round his head, a golden ring on his finger, and a silver sceptre in his hand."

REMAINS OF CASTELL DINAS BRAN.

On a conical mountain, near Valle Crucis Abbey, in Denbighshire, stand in awful majesty the dilapidated fragments of Castell Dinas Bran. This, reckoned among the number of *primitive* Welsh castles, derived its latter name from the Brân, a small mountain stream running near the foot of the elevated spot on which it is situated; but by whom erected, or at what period, are points equally buried in the dust of oblivion. Probably it was built by some one of the lords of Yale, whose seat it continued to be for several centuries. In the reign of Henry the Third, it afforded an asylum, from the fury of his justly enraged subjects, to Gryffydd ap Madoc, who had basely sided with the English monarch, and betrayed his country. At his death, the king bestowed it on John, earl Warren, whence it descended in the succession of Bromfield and Yale.

RUTHIN CASTLE.

DENBIGHSHIRE

Drawn by H. Gastineau. Engraved by W. Radclyffe.

HAWARDEN CASTLE.

FLINTSHIRE

HAWARDEN CASTLE,

FLINTSHIRE.

THESE remains, had it not been for the laudable curiosity of the present worthy possessor's ancestor, would have furnished but a very inadequate idea of this, for a long period, important fortress. He caused a vast quantity of rubbish to be removed, and the foundations laid open, by which it seems to have been of a pentagonal shape, with a strong square entrance gateway, on its widest side, and on another a kind of barbican. At one angle was placed the keep, or citadel, consisting of a circular tower nearly entire. The other parts comprise fragments of walls, and various buildings, particularly some artfully contrived subterraneous rooms, supposed to have been appropriated as places of confinement, for the security of prisoners. The situation was eligible, being on an eminence, and was further defended by broad and deep fosses. These now form picturesque ravines, being filled with timber trees of fine growth.

RUTHIN CASTLE,

DENBIGHSHIRE.

RUTHIN CASTLE derives its name from the colour of the stone with which it is built, meaning the red fortress: although it has been conjectured, from the Welsh name being *Castell coch yn Gwernvor*, there might have been a strong hold anterior to the reign of Edward the First, who is said to have erected the present fortress. Camden, however, asserts, and the assertion, as to the fact, is corroborated by ancient authorities, that "both the castle and town were built by Roger Grey, with permission of the king, the bishop of St. Asaph, and the rector of Llan Rhudd, it being seated in that parish," on whom the monarch bestowed nearly the whole of the vale of Clwyd, for his active exertions against the insurrective movements of the Welsh.

Its history affords few incidents interesting to relate. During a fair holden at Ruthin, in the year 1400, Owen Glyndwr entered it with a small army, assailed the fortress without success, and, after pillaging the inhabitants and burning the town, retreated in safety to the mountains.

In the time of Charles the First, the castle was held for the king till the year 1645-6,

when, on being attacked by the parliamentarian party, under the command of General Mytton, after sustaining a siege from the middle of February to the middle of April, it was given up, although it might probably have held out much longer; possessing, at the time of its surrender, a supply of provision for two months. Mytton received the thanks of the house of commons, who remunerated his chaplain for communicating the news, and confirmed the appointment of Colonel Mason, as the new and permanent governor; but in the same year the garrison was disbanded, and the castle ordered to be dismantled.

The castle stood not on the summit, but on the side of the hill, fronting the vale to the west; and, from the extensive foundations, and massy fragments of walls, it seems to have been a grand structure. Camden observes, that through neglect it became roofless in the time of Henry the Seventh, and fell fast to decay. Some lord who received it by royal grant, must have repaired the dilapidations, for the same historian subsequently represents it as "a stately and beautiful castle, capable of receiving a numerous family." Previous to its demolition, it is described by honest Churchyard as it appeared in the sixteenth century: and, from a drawing preserved in the archives of the British Museum, it appears to have had a very elevated superstructure, as well as a capacious base: and that its massy walls, lofty towers, and apposite proportions, strictly merited the eulogium of the poet.

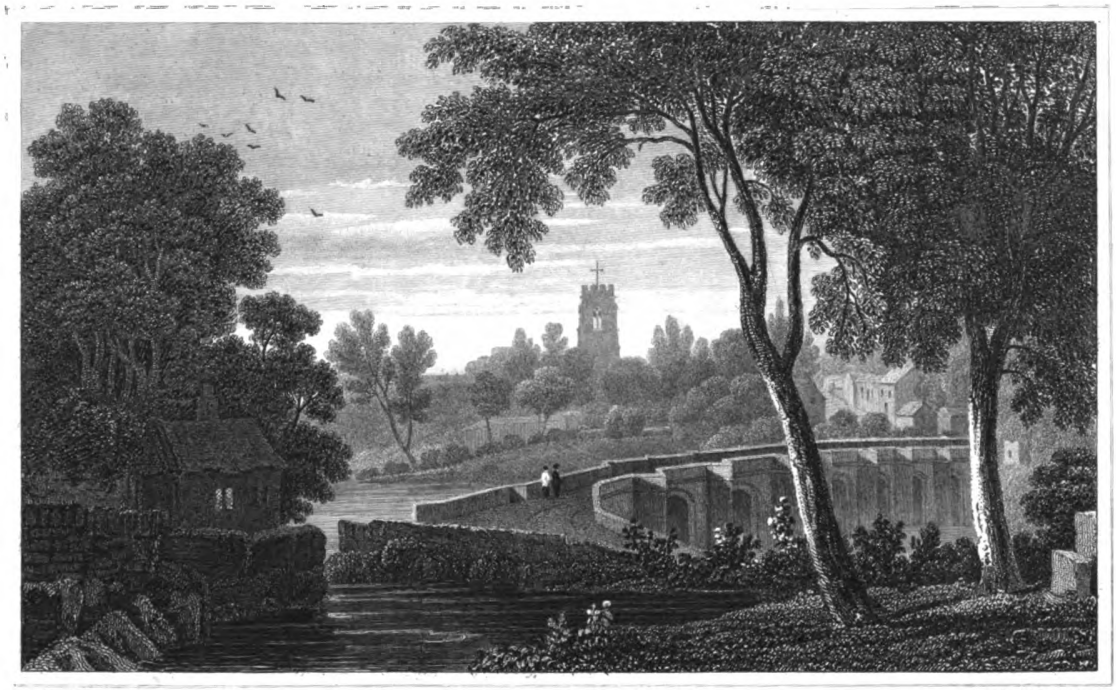
"This castle stands on rocke much like red bricke,
The dykes are cut with toole through stonie cragge:
The towers are hye, the walles are large and thicke,
The worke itselfe would shake a subjects bagge,
If he were bent to buyld the like agayne.
It rests on mount, and lookes o'er wood and playne;
It had great store of chambers finely wrought,
That tyme alone to great decay hath brought.

"It shews within, by dubble walles and waies,
A deep device did first erect the same:
It makes our world to thinke on elder daies,
Because the worke was formde in such a frame.
One tower or wall the other answers right,
As though at call each thing should please the sight:
The rocke wrought round, where every tower doth stand,
Set foorth full fine by head, by hart, and hand."

The poor remains of this once proud pile, consist of a few fragments of towers and fallen walls, reduced nearly to the foundations: and the area of the once formidable fortress at present comprises a meadow, fives-court, and bowling-green. From the walls is a commanding prospect of the vale beneath, as there is from several points in the outskirts of it. Ruthin is described as formerly a populous place, and having the best market in the vale. It is now a good town, with considerable population, and has two well-supplied weekly markets: the one for meat on Saturday, and the other on Monday, held principally for corn.

BANGOR ISCOED.

FLINTSHIRE.



Drawn by H. Gastineau. Engraved by T. Barber.

HOLT.

DENBIGHSHIRE.

BANGOR ISCOED,

FLINTSHIRE.

THIS place obtained early notice, and subsequent celebrity on the page of history, by having been the site of a very early Christian seminary for instructing religious novitiates, founded, according to several old writers, by Lucius, the son of Coel, first Christian king of Britain, anterior to A.D. 180. This college, for the dissemination of the Christian faith through the island, is said to have been converted into a monastery about the year 530, by *Cynwyl*, or *Congelus*, who constituted himself the first abbot. *Gildas Badonicus* is mentioned by Leland, as a member of this religious society; and in this retirement he is supposed to have translated into Latin the code of laws drawn up by Molmutius; and retiring hence to Armorica, published his celebrated philippic against the glaring vices of the governing clergy. *Dinothus*, the reported founder of an abbey on a similar plan at Bangor, near the Menai straits, presided over this house at the time St. Augustine convened a synod, for settling the ecclesiastical differences between the British and Saxon churches: to which august assembly the abbot was summoned, as a great and dignified divine. For an age so unenlightened, it produced many great and learned men. *Gildas Nennius* was first a monk, and subsequently abbot of this house. In the British Triades it is said to have contained two thousand four hundred monks, who in their turns, *viz.* a hundred each of the twenty-four, read prayers, and sung psalms, continually; so that divine service was performed day and night with unceasing intermission. Another authority states, "there were so many monks, that they divided into seven parts, all of which had a distinct ruler appointed for their guidance, and that each of these separate societies consisted of at least three hundred men, who lived by the labour of their hands." Whether originally, by the nature of their institution, there was an equal community of rights, it is difficult at this period to ascertain; but were it so, the equality did not subsist long. The simple and illiterate, under the appellation of *lay brethren*, had the most laborious and menial offices assigned, as their share in the concern: for the cultivation of the soil, and the providing meat, drink, clothing, &c. for the learned ecclesiastical portion, belonged exclusively to their department.

The monastery was celebrated for its valuable library; and Speed observes, from its antiquity, and the number of its learned men, it was generally acknowledged to be the parent of all other monasteries in the world.

For some time they flourished exceedingly, but the day was quickly approaching, 'big with the fate of Bangor, and its monks.'

The massacreing sword, that levels all distinctions, was already unsheathed, and the unoffending monks were doomed to feel its exterminating effects. While in the act of prayer

for their fellow countrymen and brother Christians, the Britons, and imploring success on their arms against Saxon pagan infidels, who had come with an hostile force against them, twelve hundred, or upwards, fell victims to their patriotism and piety. That such a massacre did take place, all authors are agreed; though their dates, as to the disastrous event, do not perfectly agree.

The remainder of the religious community, after the slaughter of their brethren, at the battle of Chester, fled, and their house was either demolished, or became dilapidated by neglect and time. William of Malmsbury, who lived soon after the Norman conquest, in the reign of Stephen, speaking of the monastery in his time, says, "there remained only some relics of its ancient magnificence. There were so many ruined churches, and such immense heaps of rubbish, as were not elsewhere to be found."

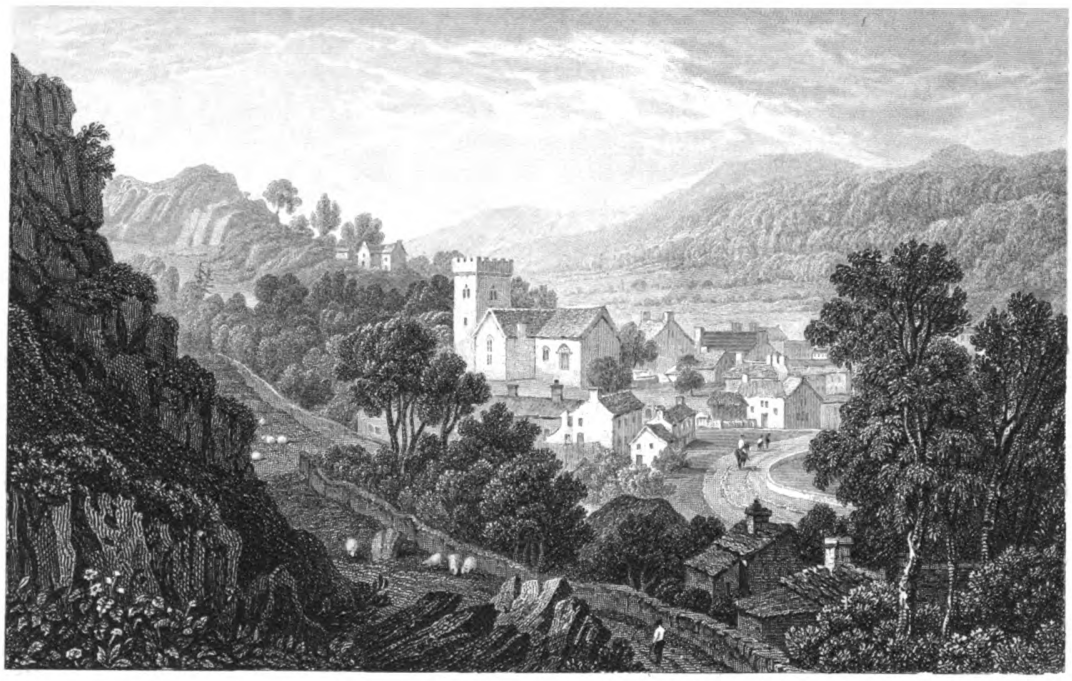
Whoever visits Bangor with a view to contemplate the ruins of its far celebrated monastery, will be disappointed, as not the smallest vestige of the once stupendous building can now be traced. Nor has the village any other object, worthy of notice, than its bridge, a beautifully light and elegant structure, of considerable antiquity, consisting of five arches.

HOLT,

DENBIGHSHIRE,

THOUGH now an inconsiderable village, was anciently a town of some notoriety. Camden supposes it derived the ancient name of Castrum Leonis, "from the *Legio vicesima victrix*, which kept garrison a little higher up on the other side of the Dee." The military station, an advanced post of the Roman troops, was near Farndon, a village in Cheshire, from which Holt is separated by the above-mentioned river, and over it a communication is formed by a bridge of ten arches, which is a very old and curious structure, having been erected in the year 1345, as appears by an inscription preserved, till a recent date, on a stone over the portion termed the *lady's arch.* This fascinating appellation, it is to be apprehended, did not arise from those beneficent actions suggested by the benevolence, and promoted by the influence of the virtuous part of the fair sex. From a manuscript account, preserved in the Bodleian Library, at Oxford, it appears the children of the chieftain, committed to the care of the lords Warren and Mortimer, were drowned under Holt bridge; those noblemen thus quickly getting rid of their political charge; and Emma, the mother, relict-lady of Gryffydd, is evidently implicated in the infamous transaction. The event had been variously represented by the specious gloss of historical embellishment; and had it not been for this valuable document, the fable of the *two young fairies*, that at certain times of the year were visible on moon-light nights, under the lady's arch, would probably never have been explained by the melancholy fact on which it is founded.

CHIRK CASTLE.



CORWEN.

CHIRK CASTLE,

DENBIGHSHIRE.

Chirk Castle, in the line of Offa's dyke, about a mile from the village of the same name, was erected upon the site of a more ancient fortress, called *Castell Crogen.* The present structure, however, is not of recent date, having been erected in the time of Edward the First, by Roger Mortimer, to whom the king had granted the united lordship of Chirk and Nanheudwy. Through varying descent and fortune it became the property of lord *St. John*, of *Bletso*, whose son sold it, in the year 1595, to Sir Thomas Myddleton, knt., afterwards mayor of London. In this family it still continues by the female side.

In the time of Charles the First, its owner, Sir Thomas Myddleton, then member for Denbigh, having declared himself decidedly against the royal cause, the king, by an order dated at Oxford, in the year 1642, commanded Robert Ellyce, colonel of an infantry regiment, to obtain possession of Chirk Castle; and after paying up his regiment with the money, arising from any valuables he might find there, to deliver it up to the previously-appointed governor, Sir Thomas Hanmer; an officer who had obtained much military experience, by serving on the Continent, under the far-famed Gustavus Adolphus, king of Sweden. Sir Thomas Myddleton was near sixty years of age, when he took the field in behalf of the parliament, on which occasion he was appointed serjeant-major-general to the forces, and first distinguished himself with Sir William Brereton, in the year 1643, by the reduction of Holt Castle. After several brilliant exploits, for which he received the thanks of the House, his name appears in 1648, among the secluded members; and he had been obliged, for contumacy, to enter into a recognisance of twenty thousand pounds, to be forfeited, if he should give, or cause to be given, the smallest molestation to the government.

The style of the building partaking both of the castle and mansion, is of a square form, having the angles strengthened with four clumsy bastion-like towers. The gateway in front gives entrance to a quadrangular court-yard, consisting of an area a hundred and sixty feet long, by one hundred broad, round which are ranged the different apartments; and the eastern side is ornamented by a handsome colonaded piazza. The principal of these are a saloon, drawing-room, &c. with a picture gallery, one hundred feet long, and twenty-two wide, comprising a large collection of paintings, principally portraits.

Though situated on an eminence, and the surrounding part of the knoll devoid of trees, so as to possess all the advantages of elevation and exposure, yet it wears a heavy appearance, and wants additional magnitude, to give it grandeur of effect. It can, however, boast, what few houses in the island can, that it commands a most elegant and varied extent of view into *seventeen counties.*

CORWEN,

MERIONETHSHIRE.

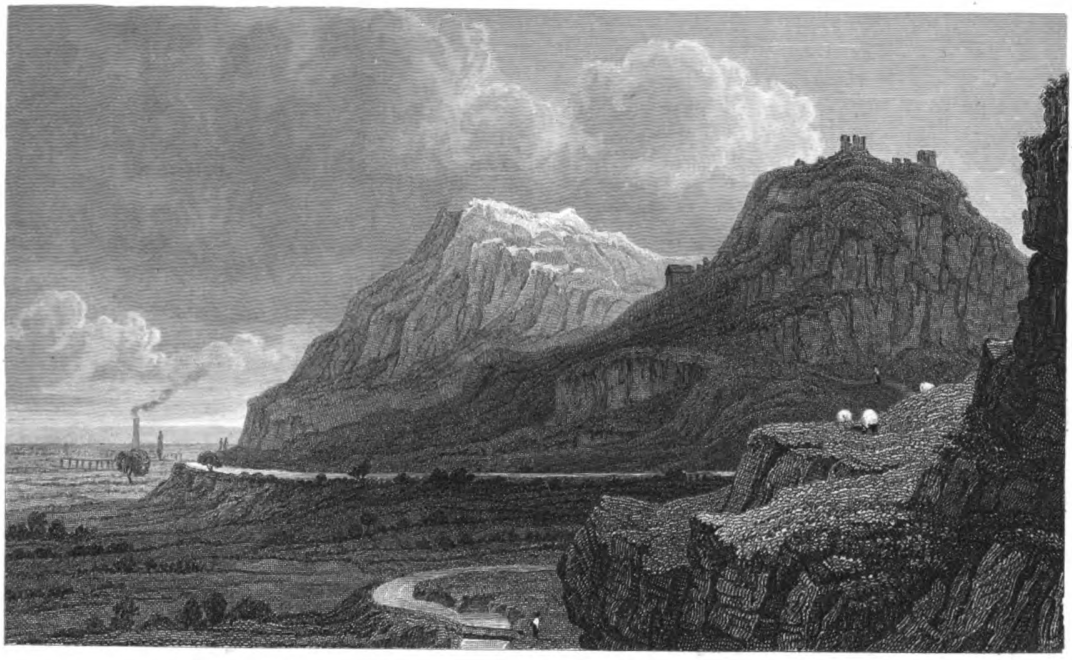
THE town is small, situated on the rising ground on the southern bank of the Dee. The church is a neat cruciform structure, in a highly romantic situation, immediately under a vast rocky cliff, the abrupt finishing of the Ferwyn; it is dedicated to Saint Julian, archbishop of St. David's, who was esteemed the godliest man and greatest clerk of all Wales; he died in 1009.

A neat building stands on the south side of the church-yard, a monument of the judicious munificence of a private gentleman, called *Corwen College*. It consists of six dwellings, with endowment for the support of six widows of poor clergymen, possessed of the cure of souls at the time of their decease, in the county of Merioneth, by William Eyton, esq., of Plas Warren, Shropshire, who left by will, in 1709, a sum for this purpose; but, from some cause, the building was not finished, according to the inscription over the entrance, till 1750. The endowment was originally sixty pounds, but is now doubled; this sum, by a singular circumstance, was lately enjoyed by one. A provision was made in the will, that the widows should keep the building in repair; and if, at any time, there should be less than the number, those resident were to share the residue of the income.

Fronting Corwen is a British post, called *Caer Drewyn*, which Lyttleton supposed Owen Gwynedd to have occupied, while Henry the Second was encamped on the opposite side of the vale; the King had assembled all his choice forces on the Berwyn, and strongly intrenched them, by felling the woods, and taking every possible precaution against ambush and surprise. Both armies, for a considerable time, lay in sight of each other; but the Welsh, being well acquainted with the country, with their light troops, cut off the king's supplies of forage and ammunition, and so harassed them by skirmishing, that the monarch was glad to withdraw to England in chagrin and disgrace, without having struck a single blow. The place of encampment may still be traced by a rampart of earth, between the church of Corwen and the village of Canwyd.

This was afterwards the retreat of the celebrated Owen Glyndwr, whose memory is highly revered in this neighbourhood, long the scene of his exploits and his hospitality. The family name of this extraordinary character was Vychen; he was styled Glyndwr, or Glyndwrdwy, from his possessions lying principally in the vale of the Dee, (Dwrdwy) commonly called the vale of Llangollen: some remains of his private palace are still visible at a place called Sychnant, about three miles from Corwen. He was fourth in descent from Gryffydd Vychan, the surviving son of Gryffydd ap Madoc, lord of Bromfield and Yale, whose residence was at Castell Dinas Bran: by his mother's side he was allied to the North-wallian princes, from which descent he afterwards derived his claim to the throne of Wales.

HARLECH CASTLE
FROM THE TRIMADOC ROAD,
MERIONETHSHIRE.



Engraved by J. C. [illegible]

RUINS OF DYSERTH CASTLE.
[illegible]

HARLECH CASTLE,

MERIONETHSHIRE.

ACCORDING to some of the British historians, Harlech Castle was built by Maelgwyn Gwynedd, prince of North Wales, about the year 350; and it is the general opinion that Edward the First erected the present castle upon the ruins of the former. This opinion is well founded, for the characteristics of the structure, aided by historic documents, confirm it. The castle bears evident marks of being the performance of the same architect who built the other castles for that monarch, in Wales. It appears to have been completed before the year 1283; for Hugh de Wlonkeslow was the constable, with the annual allowance of one hundred pounds. The salary was, however, subsequently reduced to fifty pounds, and this he only received, when he was invested with the double office of constable of the castle, and captain of the town; and when he was divested of the latter, he was paid but twenty-six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence. At that time the garrison consisted of twenty soldiers, whose pay amounted to one hundred and forty pounds per annum. Even so late as the forty-fourth year of Elizabeth, the constable's allowance was no more than fifty pounds, and the garrison included twenty-four men.

On the accession of Edward the Fourth to the throne, he soon became master of every part of the kingdom, except two or three strong holds in Northumberland, and Harlech Castle in Wales. This was possessed by Dafydd ap Jevan ap Einion, a firm friend of the Lancastrian party, and equally distinguished by his great valour, as his large stature. In spite of entreaties and menaces, he held out, after the coronation of Edward, nine years, till the year 1468. Finding the governor determined to continue the resistance, the King was at length compelled to send an army against him, under the command of William Herbert, earl of Pembroke. The English general, after leading his men with incredible difficulties through rough defiles of the British Alps, where they had to climb up crags, and in other places to descend precipices, invested the place. The conducting of the siege Pembroke committed to his brother, Sir Richard, a hero described as equal in size and military prowess to the British commandant. The general sent a peremptory summons for the surrender of the place, to which the governor promptly replied: "I held a tower in France, till all the old women in Wales heard of it; and now the old women of France shall hear how I defended the Welsh castle." The assailing army, after a long siege, found the place was so strong, both by nature and art, as only to be reduced by means of famine. Sir Richard was under the necessity, therefore, of compounding for its surrender, by promising the heroic defender to intercede with his royal master for life and liberty. The place was surrendered upon honourable terms; and Richard interceded with the king in behalf of the governor, requiring for him an unconditional pardon, on the ground, that, had

he chosen to have been obstinate, the castle might have held out much longer, in defiance of all the efforts of the English army, then sufficiently exhausted by fatigue. The cruel monarch, at first, indignantly refused to grant the request. "Then, sire," said Sir Richard, "you may, if you please, take my life in lieu of the Welsh captain's; if you do not comply, I will most assuredly replace Dafydd again in his castle, and your highness may send whom you please to take him out."

Situated on a lofty perpendicular rock, overhanging the sea, on which side it was utterly unassailable, and protected on the other by an immense, wide, and deep fosse, cut at great expense through the solid rock, it must, prior to the use of cannon, have been impregnable. The castle at present exhibits a noble square building, with a circular tower at each corner, and one bastion on each side the grand entrance gateway, with elegant machicolated turrets, issuing out of the large rounders, similar to those of Caernarvon and Conway. It is, however, going fast to decay, and the hoarse waves, that beat in roaring surge at the base of the rock on which it stands, seem to perform its parting dirge.

REMAINS OF DYSERTH CASTLE,

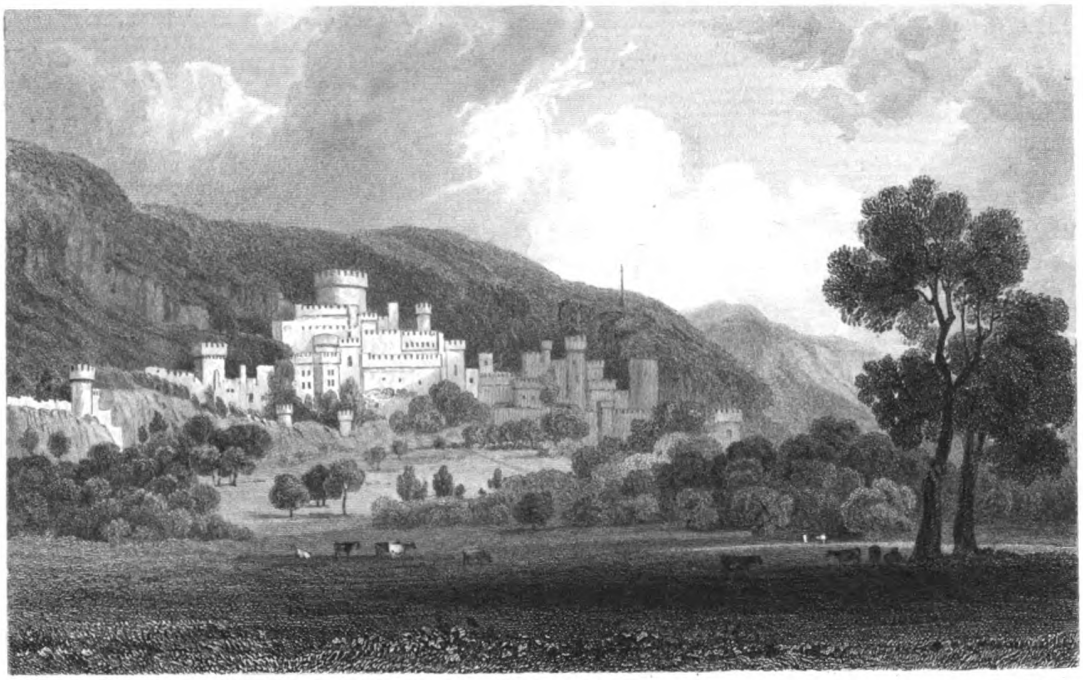
FLINTSHIRE.

THE castle stands on the summit of a high limestone rock, at the distance of half a mile from the village from which it takes its name. Its remains are trifling, consisting of a few shattered fragments only. There is hence a fine prospect of part of the vale of Clwyd.

The time of the foundation of this castle is unknown; it was fortified by Henry the Third, about 1241, and appears, from Dugdale, to have been the property of the earls of Chester; for he remarks, that when that family became extinct, Dyserth and Diganwy Castles were annexed to the crown.—About twenty years afterwards, they were both destroyed by Llewelyn ap Gryffydd. In a field, a little to the south, is a ruinous building, called *Siamberwen* (the White Hall), said to have been the house of Sir Robert Pounderling, a valiant knight, who was constable of the castle. Of this illustrious hero, Leland relates the following story:—Being famed for his valour, he was challenged at a tournament, by a gentleman of Wales, who in the combat struck out one of his eyes. Being afterwards in the English court, he was requested to challenge him in return, but he wisely shewed that he had wisdom as well as valour, for he declined a second combat, saying that he did not intend the Welshman to knock out his other eye. *Moel Hiraddug*, a British post, is stationed on a very steep and rocky hill to the south, with an immense agger of loose stones upon the accessible part. At a place called *Marion*, are long deep trenches, out of which minerals have been dug. On the summit of the hill is a great bed of beautiful red spar. *Cum Church* is embosomed with hills, and fronts the vale of Clwyd.

LLYN OGWEN.

CAERNARVONSHIRE.



GWRYCH, NEAR ABERGELE.

DENBIGHSHIRE

THE SEAT OF R. HESKETH ESQ.

GWRYCH CASTLE,

DENBIGHSHIRE.

This castellated structure is situated upon an elevated spot, in a fertile and beautiful part of the county, within one mile of Abergele, and commanding a very fine view of the Irish sea. The Castle was erected by the present proprietor, B. Hesketh, Esq., from his own designs, which have been evidently intended to refer to a very early period of architecture, and is certainly a successful attempt at the restoration of the kernellated style of our first Edwards. Most of the windows contain stained glass, and in the hall is a collection of ancient armour, brought from the neighbourhood of Vienna, as spoil by the French, and purchased by Mr. Hesketh; a few valuable pictures decorate other rooms in the Castle, which are both spacious and handsome.

The situation is most admirably chosen, under a hill, which protects the edifice from the prevailing wind, and exposing to the view, not only a great length of sea-coast and vast expanse of that noble element, but a variety of interesting objects; amongst which are the towers of Rhyddlan Castle, in Flintshire, where King Edward I. kept his Christmas in 1283 and 1284, and instituted the law called *the Statute of Rhyddlan.* This noble ruin is backed by the termination of the Clwddian range of mountains, giving a marked and beautiful character to the scene. Every vessel that leaves Liverpool and Chester is seen from the Castle, sometimes more than two hundred sail in a tide, including the steam-boats for the Isle of Man, Ireland, and Scotland. In very clear days, the Isle of Man is visible from the terrace, also the hills of Cumberland and Westmoreland; but when they are seen, it is considered a sure sign of the approach of bad weather.

From the grounds is also seen the extensive plain, known in history as Rhyddlan Marsh, where King Richard II. was betrayed by the Earl of Northumberland into the hands of Bolingbroke; here also the Welsh were defeated, in a conflict with the Saxons, and their leader, Caradoc, slain in the action. This tragical event occurred in 795, and is the subject of an ancient ballad, called *Morva Rhyddlan,* composed by the bards on the death of Caradoc. Conway Castle is nine miles westward from Gwrych, and St. Asaph Cathedral the same distance eastward; the latter edifice is seen from the windows.

Near Gwrych Castle is a most perfect British encampment, and a mile and a half westward there is a strong natural pass, called Cefn Ogo, where torrents of blood have been

spilt in feudal times. The castle lodge is erected on this spot, in a corresponding style of architecture with the mansion.

The family of Hesketh has flourished in the county palatine of Lancaster for more than seven hundred years, being at this time in possession of most of the estates which belonged to it at the beginning of that remote period. This branch of the family settled at Upton, near Chester. Robert Hesketh, Esq., the father of the present proprietor of Gwrych, assumed the name of Bamford, upon inheriting the estate of Bamford Hall, in Lancashire, three miles from Rochdale and Cheadle Hulme, in Cheshire, and nine miles from Macclesfield. He married, secondly, Miss Lloyd, coheiress of Gwrych, which estate had been in the family of Lloyd from time immemorial.

The present proprietor has lately commenced working two extensive Roman lead mines, and to one of them has carried a level from the sea, a great and fine work.

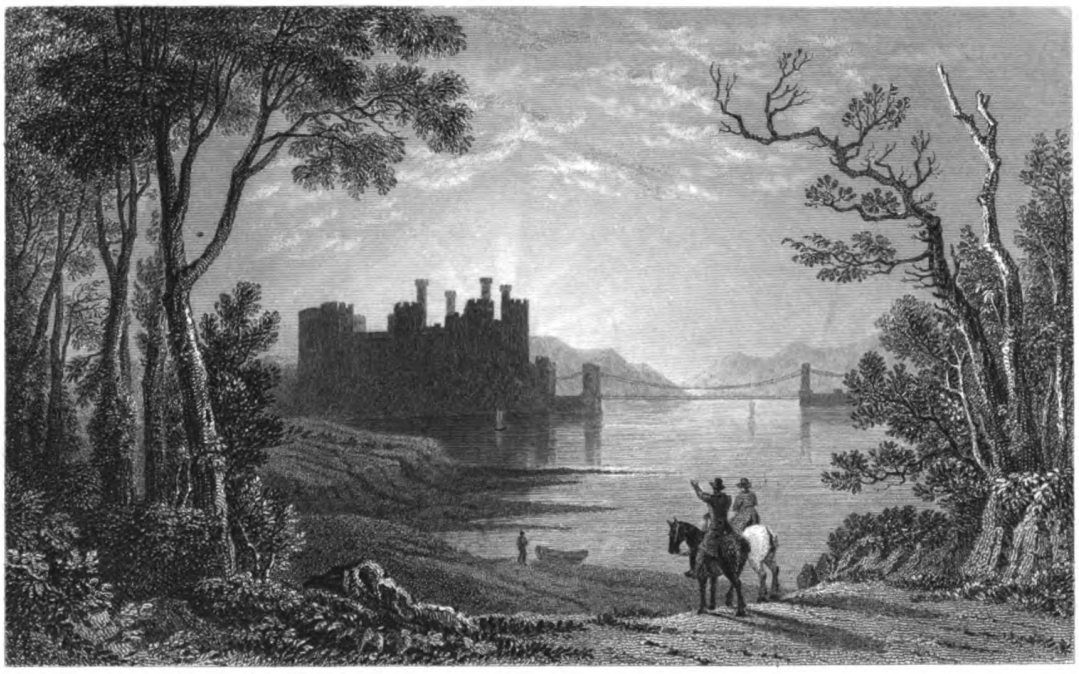
LLYN OGWEN,

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

None, it may be supposed, have penetrated to Capel Curig, from more populous and cultivated scenes, to examine the grand and savage part of Nature's vagaries, who will omit at least an excursion to the bold shores and cataract of Llyn Ogwen, about seven miles from Bangor. In approaching this lake, the mountain Trifæn, capped by two pieces of rock, appears to soar into the clouds. This lake is the source of the river Ogwen, which, after a course of twelve miles through Lord Penrhyn's property, is lost in the Menai, near the ruins of Capel Ogwen. Having passed the lake, the entrance to Nant Frangon may be examined, but not described.

SUSPENSION BRIDGE, CONWAY.

CARNARVONSHIRE.



CONWAY CASTLE.

CONWAY CASTLE, SUSPENSION BRIDGE, &c.

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

THIS Castle, erected in 1284, by Edward the First, like its rival in strength and grandeur, that of Caernarvon, is going fast to decay; and the dilapidating hand of time promises soon to deprive the county of one of its principal ornamental objects.

"Proud pile! thy tempest-beaten towers still rear
Their heads sublime, and to the angry storm
Bid bold defiance; though their aged brows
Bear visible the marks of strong decay,
While superstition, with a frenzied eye,
And wildering fear, that horrid form surveys,
Affright the lonely wanderer from thy walls.
Far hence, thou busy world, nor here intrude
Thy sounds of uproar, arguing much of fear,
And impotent alarms. Behold, fond man,
This feeble monument of mortal pride,
Where time and desolation reign supreme
With mildest havoc; o'er the solemn scene
In silence pause; and mark this pictured truth:—
That not alone the proudest works of man
Must perish, but, as this tow'ring fabric,
That lifts its forehead to the storm, till time
And the wild winds shall sweep it from its base,
Pass but a few short hours, the dream of life
Is fled; and sinks to the cold grave man's faded form."

If the architect was the same person who built Caernarvon, as generally allowed, he must have here used all his exertion, and endeavoured to display his most transcendant skill. For perhaps a more beautiful fortress never arose; certainly, its equal is nowhere found within the precincts of Britain. The form is nearly a parallelogram, or rather oblong, extending along the verge of a precipitous rock, washed on two sides by a fork of the river: the others front the town. The walls are of great thickness, flanked by eight vast, circular, embattled towers, each having a slender machicolated one issuing from the top. These, ascended by spiral staircases, served the purpose of watch turrets, and gave an elegant degree of lightness to the appearance of the building; four only of them are remaining.

This fortress had two ways of ingress, both admirably contrived for security. The one, by a narrow flight of steps, cut out of the rock, formed a communication between the castle and the river, through a small advanced work, and was evidently intended as a *postern*. But the *grand entrance* was at the north-west end, by a drawbridge, occasionally let down over a deep and wide fosse.

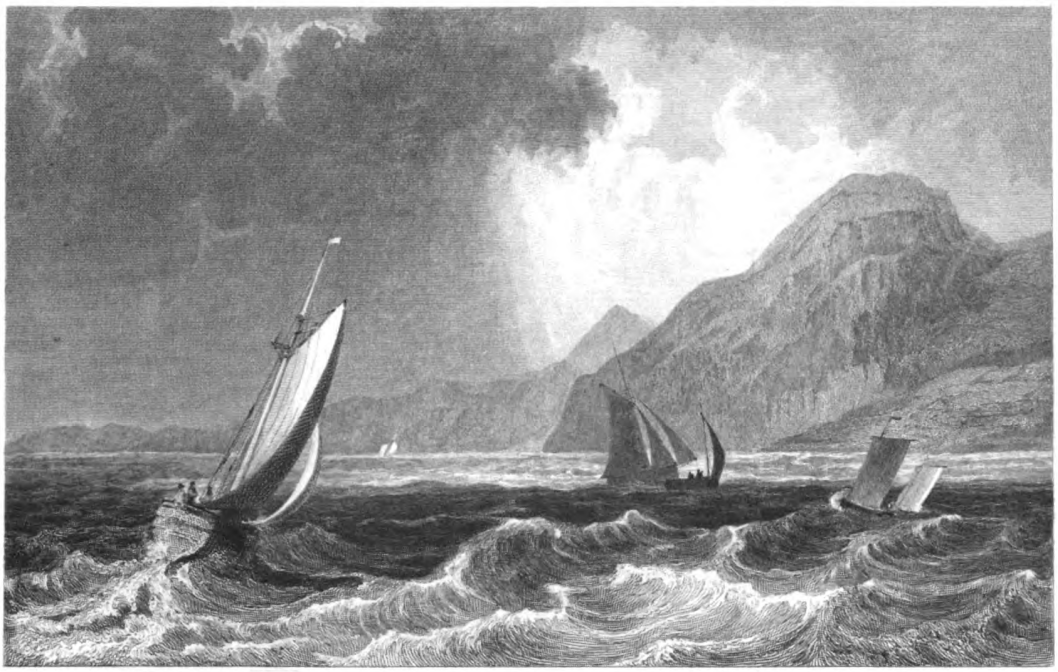
The interior consists of two courts, comprising the different apartments. Few of these are traceable, except the *state hall*, whose greatness, though now fallen, appears originally to have been suitable to the magnificence of the founder. The length is thirty feet, the breadth about the same, and the height twenty. Its grand roof, alas! now supplied by a portion of the canopy of heaven, was supported by eight arches, four of which only now remain. It had two spacious fire-places; was lighted by six narrow windows on the side towards the river, and three larger, and more ornamented ones, looked into the inner court. Underneath were extensive vaults, serving to contain arms and ammunition in time of war; and in peace the magazines and stores essential to convivial festivities.

The ruinous arches and broken walls of this hall are clad with darksome ivy, which issues from them in the most fantastic forms, and luxuriant profusion.

Two towers opposite the principal gateway, one denominated the king's, and the other the queen's, served as their respective apartments, when they took up their abode at the Castle. Each contained two or three rooms, and in the latter an opening or niche, obtained out of the thickness of the wall, had a groined roof, the ribs of which formed six compartments. In these were originally seats, and the light was admitted through three narrow lancet-shaped windows towards the river. This was called the *Oriel*, or the place for the queen's toilet.

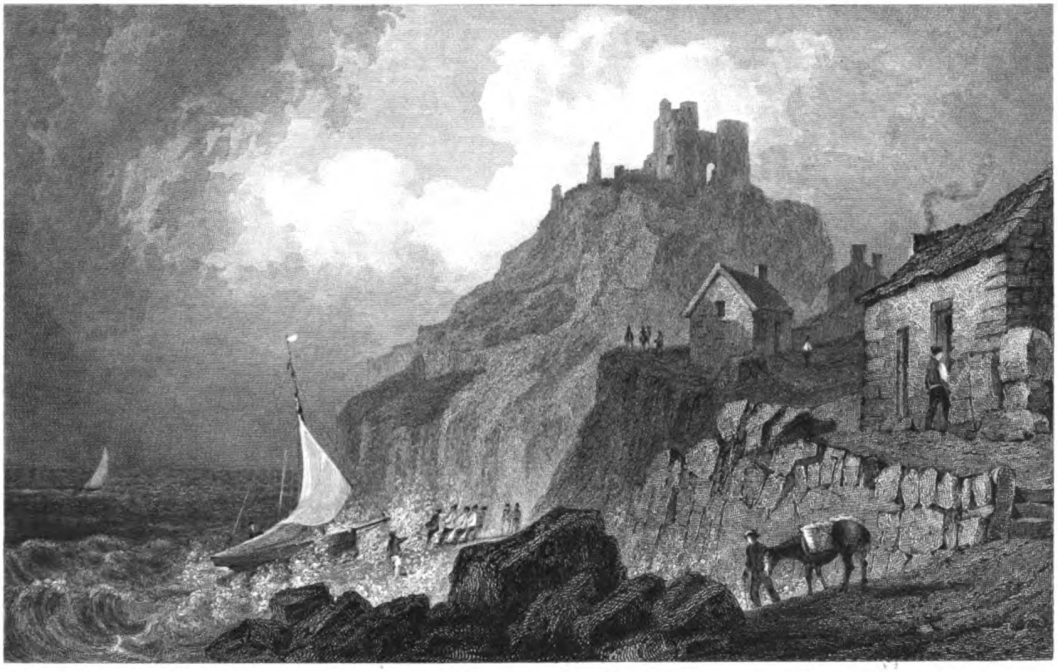
Whether this magnificent fortress be viewed as a whole, or its various component parts examined in detail, nothing in fortified building can exceed its grandeur and relative proportions. Merely to observe, that this structure is a majestic pile of building, boldly standing on a supereminent rock, whose base is washed by the surges of a noble tide river, would be furnishing but a very inadequate idea of the place. Nor is it less interesting by its varied concomitant beauties. Few of the events connected with this fortress have been recorded: perhaps, the most remarkable is that of its royal founder having been besieged in it, soon after its erection, and the garrison almost reduced by famine to an unconditional surrender, but were relieved by the timely arrival of a fleet.

The Suspension Bridge, by its lightness, finely contrasts with the solid masses of the castle, and is an object no less beautiful than useful in communicating with both banks of the river



PENMAEN MAWR.

CAERNARVONSHIRE.



CRICCIETH CASTLE.

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

London & 79 Temple of the Muses Finsbury Square London

PENMAEN MAWR,

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

Penmaen Mawr, over which the great Irish road, *via* Chester, passes to London, protruding itself into the sea, exhibits a fine contrast with the adjacent fertility, by a wildly scenic view of weather-beaten rocks. This was justly once the dread of the neighbourhood; the immense promontory affording only a narrow zigzag path, along the shelf on its side, for the terrified traveller to pass. Under his feet were showers of rugged stones, impeding his progress; beneath, a hundred fathoms down, the roaring ocean, foaming against the perpendicular base of the mountain; and over his head, the impending precipice momentarily threatening, by its shivering aspect, to overwhelm, or hurry him headlong down the craggy steep. The danger, from the declivity of the mountain, with the crumbling nature of the strata, increased with his progress; and in several difficult parts of the road, one false step must have inevitably proved fatal. From the numerous accidents that occurred, it was long an object of melancholy consideration to the inhabitants in the vicinity; the winter evenings were often spent in the alarming tales of the perils and disasters attendant on passing Penmaen Mawr; but several of the incidents related by grave writers, have much more the appearance of marvellous embellishment, than sober narrative.

The pass, however, must have presented very formidable obstacles to the traveller; and the description of Dryden, in his "Rival Ladies," is not an unapt representation:

> "As from a steep and dreadful precipice,
> The frighted traveller casts down his eyes,
> And sees the ocean at so great a distance,
> It looks as if the skies were sunk beneath him."

Formerly there was a house of entertainment at the foot of the ascent each way, and on the signs distichs, allusive to the hazardous and laborious journey, said to have been the composition of Swift. The one—

> "Before you venture hence to pass,
> Take a good refreshing glass."

The other—

> "Now you're over, take another,
> Your drooping spirits to recover."

In 1772, an application was made to parliament, and a generous aid was granted, for the purpose of improving and securing this part of the road to Holyhead. A voluntary sub-

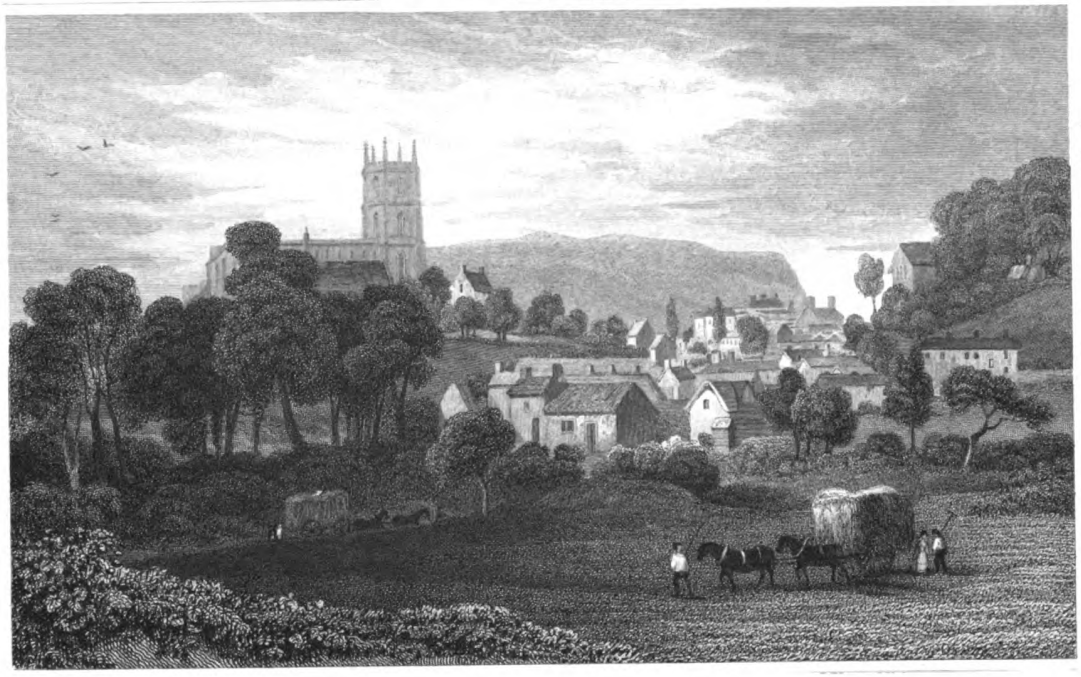
scription, in which the city of Dublin bore a distinguished part, was also added; and under the judicious management of that able engineer, Mr. Sylvester, what was deemed beyond the power of human art to remedy, was speedily effected. The road is widened a proper breadth for carriages to pass each other, by cutting the solid rock; while the side towards the sea is secured by a wall built upon a series of arches, meeting the irregularity of the precipice, with circular holes, at regular distances, to take off the great quantity of water descending from the mountains in rainy seasons.

CRICCIETH CASTLE,

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

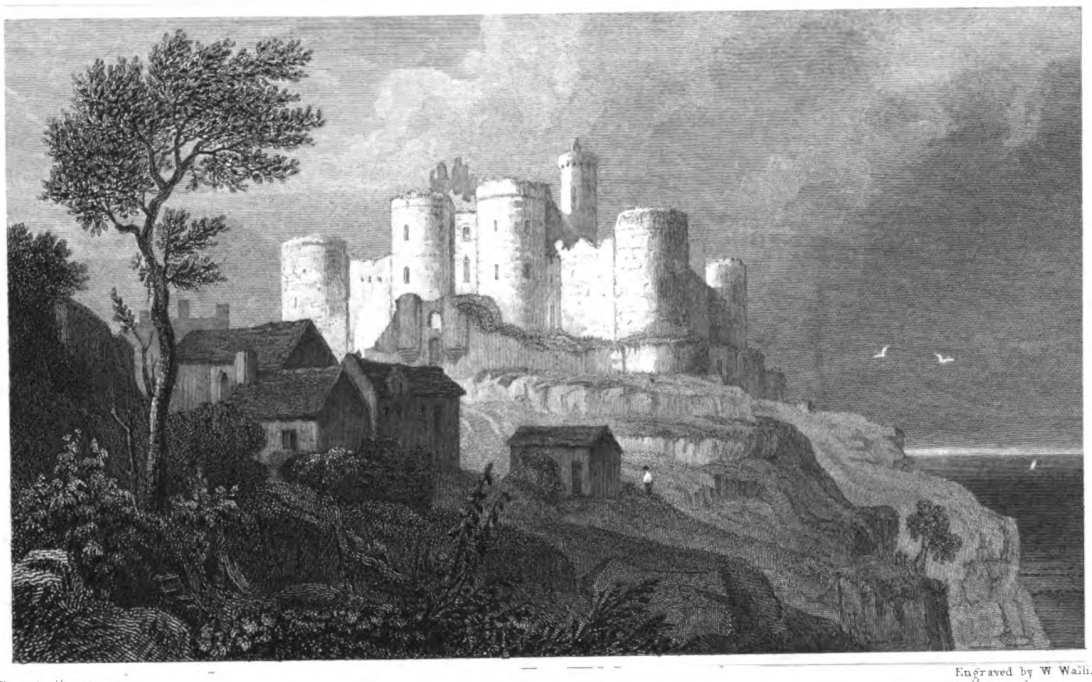
This place, though small, is of high antiquity, and the remains of its ruined Castle are worthy of the traveller's notice. The fortress stands on an eminence, at the end of a long neck of land jutting out into the sea. By this narrow isthmus was the entrance, which was defended by a double fosse and vallum thrown across it. The admission is by a gateway, between two round bastion towers, into an irregular court, beyond which is another of smaller dimensions. The remaining towers are of a quadrangular form, one within the area, and two on the verge of the rock. The entrance towers are also square inside, and probably were originally so without. The whole never appears to have been a very large fortress, although of great importance from its position. This is supposed by some writers to have been erected by Edward the First; but that monarch probably did no more than cause it to be repaired, and the entrance towers cased, in a circular fashion, to give the whole a more imposing effect. Rowlands observes that this was a British post. And the architecture so much resembling that of another, evidently of a very early period, at Dolwyddelan, gives corroborative weight to the opinion. After the conquest, Edward appointed William de Leybourn the governor, with an allowance of one hundred pounds per annum; out of which he was to maintain thirty stout men, ten were to be cross-bowmen, a chaplain, surgeon, a carpenter, and one mason.

The proud boast of his countrymen, Sir Howel y Fwyall, a hero descended from Collwyn ap Tangno, had the government bestowed upon him by the Black Prince, whom he had attended at the battle of Poictiers, where he is said to have performed prodigies of valour, and captured the French king. But that honour is, with more probability, ascribed to Denis de Morebegne, a knight of Artois. Some more, equally improbable stories are related respecting Sir Howel, who was denominated *y Fwyall*, or the pole-axe, the figure of which he bore in his coat of arms.



MOLD.

FLINTSHIRE



Drawn by [illegible]

Engraved by W Wallis

HARLECH CASTLE.

MERIONETHSHIRE.

London: Published by the Misses Finden, Percy Square, London.

MOLD,

FLINTSHIRE.

A market town, situated in a small, but fertile plain, surrounded by rugged hills, richly productive of mineral treasure. It consists principally of one long and spacious street, and has a considerable population.

On the north side is a mount, partly natural, and partly artificial, from whence is a fine view of the circumjacent country, with Moel y famma, rising proudly pre-eminent among the Clwydian hills. This mount is now called Bailey-hill, from having once had ballia upon it; for the Normans, taking advantage of an eminence so defensible, made it the site of a strong castle. Though arduous of ascent, from its declivous sides, it was further defended by ramparts, and surrounded by deep fossa. It appears to have been divided into three parts; the lower and upper ballia, and the donjon or keep. The only remains are a few stones of the latter building, lying about the artificial elevation.

The fortress was probably erected by Eustace de Cruer, who, on William Rufus entering the Welsh frontier, enlarged the system of lords marchers, by creating more, and increasing their powers. On which occasion the above baron did homage for the territory of Mold and Hopedale.

In the reign of Henry the First, it appears among the possessions of Robert de Montalto, high steward of Chester; and at that period it was a very strong fortress; had endured several sieges, without being obliged to surrender; for, according to history, its first reduction was by storm, in the year 1144, with the Welsh forces commanded by their intrepid hero, prince Owen Gwynedd.

Subsequent to this period it suffered many vicissitudes; sometimes being alternately in the hands of the different belligerent parties; and was completely demolished during the desperate struggle, maintained under the extraordinary prowess displayed by Owen Glyndwr. It was subsequently re-edified; and again, in 1267, wrested from the hands of the English, and finally destroyed by Griffith ap Gwynwyn. Soon after it was rebuilt, and restored to the family of Montalt; when, from want of issue male, it reverted to the crown.

The church is a very handsome edifice, evidently built in the time of Henry the Seventh, from the style of architecture according with ecclesiastical structures erected about the same period. The windows are wide, having obtusely pointed arches, and the walls, towards the parapet, are decorated with the representations of various animals, carved in stone. It consists of a nave, and two side aisles, with a tower at the west end. The latter, though a

more recent structure, is in a corresponding style: an uniformity not commonly observed in modern architectural reparations, or additions. The interior is florid; and, though wanting in chasteness of design, is not inelegant. The pillars, supporting the arches that separate the aisles from the nave, are clustered columns, composed of four round pilasters, which, with their foliated capitals, assume the appearance of lightness and taste. Above these, between the arches, are angelic figures, presenting shields, respectively charged with some emblem, allusive to the Saviour's passion; or the arms of such benefactors, who contributed towards the erection of the edifice. Among the former is a *Veronica*; and among the latter, different quarterings of the Stanley family.

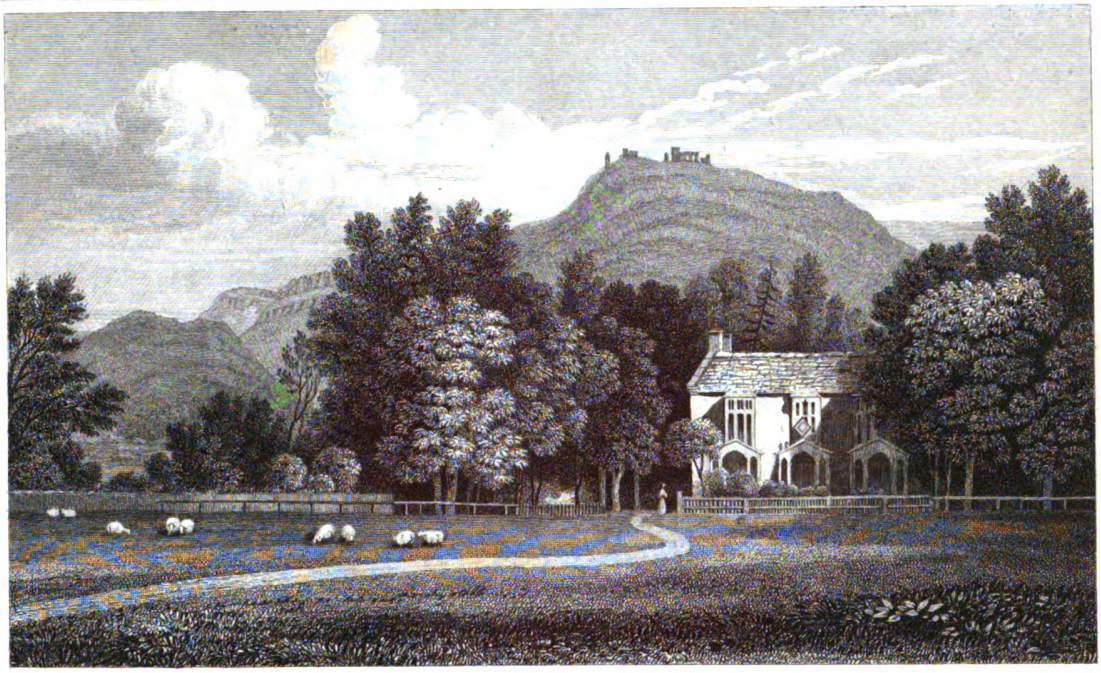
A mural monument has a label, with two figures, as supporters, one representing an angel, and the other a bishop. This is a cenotaph to the memory of Robert Warton, alias Parfew, who was abbot of Bermondsey in Surrey; and in the year 1536, was elected bishop of St. Asaph. Having been a great benefactor to this place, induced some persons to pay him this posthumous tribute of respect.

In the south aisle is a superb monument, commemorative of Robert Davies, Esq. of Llannerch, who died May 22, 1728, at the age of forty-four. This affords one of those numerous instances of that licence taken by artists, which can only be tolerated when directed by taste, or dictated by necessity. It consists of a fine figure, not badly executed, in a standing attitude; but, to misguide, instead of instructing posterity, clad after the Roman costume. This practice, so often adopted by statuaries, cannot be too much reprobated. If the arts are to be subservient, which they certainly were intended, as handmaids to history, then they ought to represent things as they really are; and not, by laws of misrule, become the powerfully operative causes of perpetual aberrations from truth.

Some little allowance, with respect to dimensions, or size of the figures, may perhaps be allowed the sculptor; but the garb, visage, &c. &c. should be strictly copied, as tending to elucidate the manners and customs of different countries, and distant ages. Anachronisms of this kind, tend to destroy the unities, both of time and place, and confound things which propriety dictates should ever be kept separate and distinct.

An epitaph, composed by Dr. Wynne for himself, and engraved on the stone, during his life-time, deserves notice, not so much from the eccentricity of the thing, as its containing a laudable testimony against interment within the walls of a place intended for devotion, and sets an example, strongly reprehensive of sepulchral flattery.

"William Wynne, of Tower, D. D. sometime Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, and rector of Llanvechan, in this diocese, departed this life, March 3, 1776, aged 77. In conformity to an ancient usage, from a proper regard to decency, and a concern for the health of his fellow-creatures, he was moved to give particular directions for being buried in the adjoining church-yard, and not in the church; and, as he scorned flattering of others while living, he has taken care to prevent being flattered himself when dead, by causing this small memorial to be set up in his life-time. God be merciful to me a sinner! Heb. DDUW, Heb-ddim."



PLAS NEWYDD.

NEAR LLANGOLLEN
DENBIGHSHIRE

Drawn by H. Saunders

Engraved by H. Jordan

BASINGWERK ABBEY.

FLINTSHIRE

Jones & Co. Temple of the Muses Fin. Bury Square London

PLAS NEWYDD,

DENBIGHSHIRE.

THIS small but elegant residence, situated on a gentle eminence in the Vale of Llangollen, has long been distinguished as the retreat of Lady Eleanor Butler, and the Hon. Miss Ponsonby. These ladies, who, it is said, are related to noble Irish families, first determined to live together in retirement, about the year 1779. At that period, although in the meridian of youth and beauty, and blessed with the means of purchasing all the pleasures which affluence is supposed to be capable of procuring for its possessors, they quitted the fascinating but destructive paths of fashionable dissipation, to taste those superior and less-fleeting enjoyments which attend on virtue, innocence, and content; and sought, in the peaceful retirement of Llangollen Vale, that ease and equanimity of mind which they fouud it was vain to expect amid the busy and ever-varying scenes of fashionable life. Their relations, considering the determination of the ladies as an eccentricity which ought not to be permitted, were not disposed to agree to this plan of seclusion, and quickly constrained the two friends to quit their retirement, when they were once more restored to their respective families. Soon after their return, however, they concerted a second elopement, and, by confiding the secret of their retreat to a female servant only, they remained unmolested for many years in the Vale of Llangollen, where, among their neighbours and the peasantry, they were known only by the appellation of "The Ladies of the Vale." They did not, however, live in complete seclusion; but visited and were visited in return by the gentry of the neighbourhood, and many eminent literary characters. Lady Butler died in June, 1829.

The style in which the grounds around the cottage are arranged and cultivated, has long been honoured with high encomiums, while the tasteful drawings which adorn the walls of the apartments, have frequently been applauded by the artist and the connoisseur. The door and windows are ornamented with rich carved work, and a palisade, which encloses the front, is decorated with antique and grotesque figures carved in oak.

BASINGWERK ABBEY,

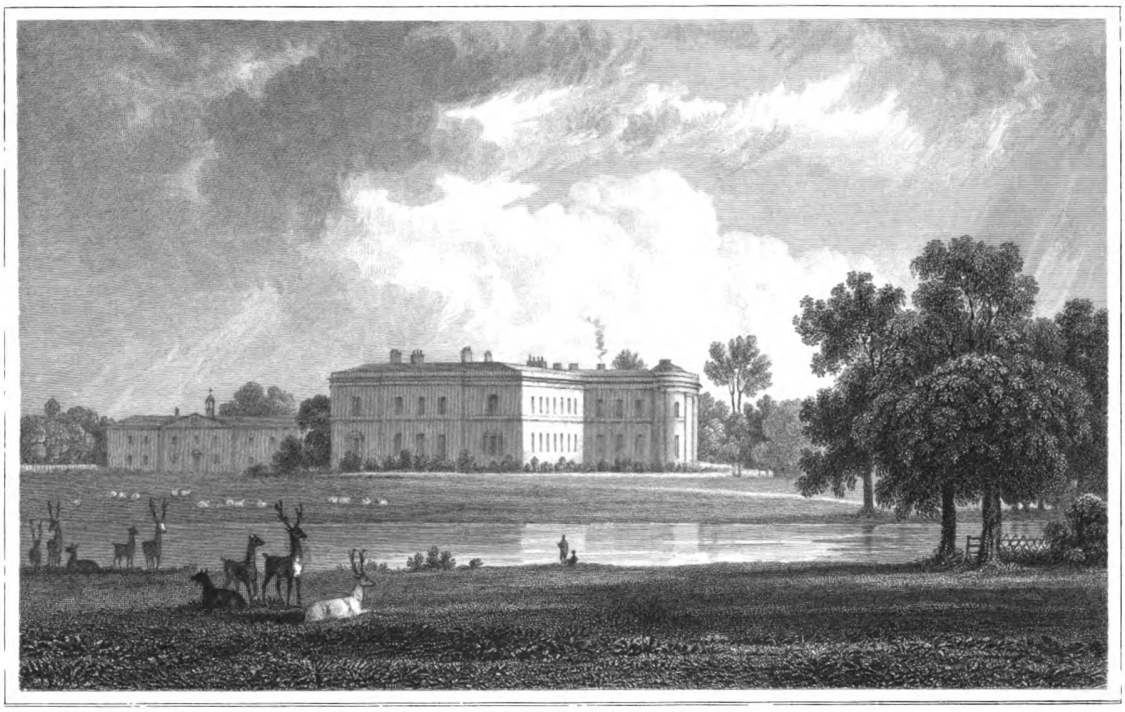
FLINTSHIRE.

IT appears, that a monastic settlement was established here about the latter end of the eleventh, or beginning of the twelfth century. Tanner, following the authority of Dugdale, says, that it was founded by Ranulph, earl of Chester, A.D. 1131, and that it was probably the first house of the Cistercian order, or Bernadines, in this portion of the island.

During the perpetual struggles between the English and the Welsh, it was at times in the hands of each respective party; and the monks, not being partial, or very violent in their political conduct, contrived, by management, to keep well for a time with both parties. Henry the Second, king of England, confirmed their original grants, and added further immunities; and Llewelyn ap Jorwerth, prince of Wales, was equally a protector and benefactor. The conduct of the English monarch led some historians into the error that he was the original founder; and he might have refounded the monastery, or re-edified and repaired the building; for as it stands near to the castle, it probably suffered some dilapidations, when that fortress was levelled to the ground by the forces of Owen Gwynnedd. The inhabitants were, probably, at the same time changed, for afterwards the abbey appears to have been under English protection. During the preparations made in the reign of Edward the First, for the reduction of Wales, two mandates were issued for that purpose, on the required condition that the monks held no conference, nor kept any connexion with Welsh rebels. They seem to have been obedient, and politically attached themselves to the strongest side. Records in the tower contain writs for calling the abbot of Basingwerk to parliament, issued in the 23d, 24th, 28th, 32d, and 34th of Edward the First.

From the present remains, a very imperfect idea only can be obtained of the extent or appearance of the buildings in their original state. The architecture is of a mixed kind, comprising the divers styles, respectively prevalent in different ages. Some portions partake of what is termed Saxon, comprising massy walls with circular arches, and short pillars. The conventual church is only traceable by half-buried foundations. The refectory is the most entire portion left, which has a recess with superincumbent circular arches, where formerly the well-supplied sideboard used to have its stand. The columns, or supporters of these arches, are almost unique. They are formed of rounded stones, placed on each other in such a manner as to assume the appearance of cheeses piled in a warehouse. Over the refectory was the dormitory. The half-timbered building, that is, a wooden frame with bricks laid between the cross beams, adjoining the abbey, Mr. Grose conjectures to have been the granary. The annual revenues at the dissolution Dugdale states at 150*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*

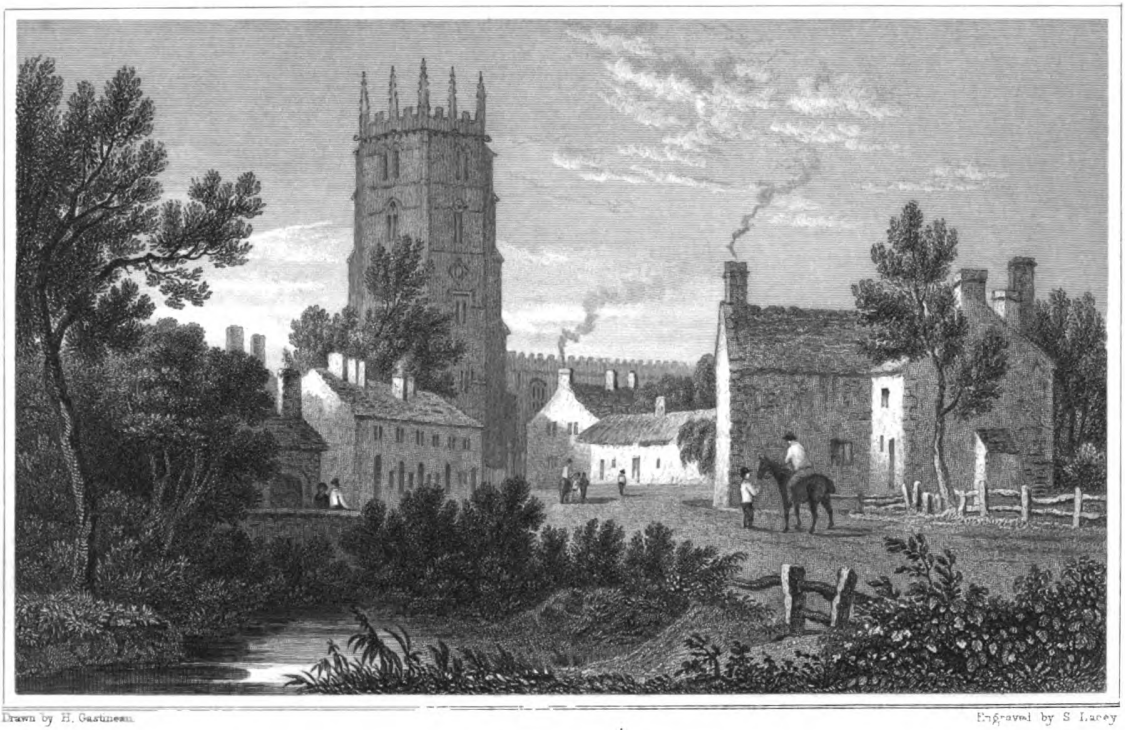
Vestiges of a castle are yet visible in the fragments and foundations of a wall, at a small distance from the abbey, on the margin of Wat's Dyke. The founder is said, on the authority of Lord Lyttleton, in his history of Henry the Second, to have been an earl of Chester. But in the life of St. Werburg, written by Bradshaw, it is said that Richard, on his return out of Normandy, where he had been educated, began his reign with an act of piety. He attempted, in 1119, a pilgrimage to the well of St. Winifred; but, either in going or returning, was suddenly surprised and attacked by the Welsh, and obliged to take shelter in Basingwerk abbey. Having, on the emergency, applied to St. Winifred for advice and assistance, the saint taking his difficult and distressing case into serious contemplation, and putting his talisman to work, raised up a quantity of sands between this and the opposite coast, which enabled his constable of Chester, with his armed bands, to march over the estuary to his relief; and from that circumstance the shoal still retains the appellation of the Constable sands.



WYNNSTAY.

THE SEAT OF SIR W W WYNNE BART

DENBIGHSHIRE.



Drawn by H. Gastineau.

Engraved by S. Lacey

NORTHOP.

FLINTSHIRE.

London & Liverpool: Published by Jones & Co. Moore Harding, Square Terrace.

WYNNSTAY,

DENBIGHSHIRE,

THE seat of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart. is entered immediately out of Rhuabon, by a plain but handsome modern gateway, opening into an avenue formed of timber trees, almost unparalleled in girt, consisting of venerable oaks, majestic elms, elegant beeches, spreading chesnuts, and patulous planes. Through this, extending a mile in length, a carriage road in a direct line leads into a spacious lawn, on which stands Wynnstay Hall.

Erected at divers times, and in different styles of architecture, the house cannot be brought in competition with many elegant and more magnificent mansions; being, from the above circumstances, deficient both for elegance and uniformity. The old part is principally appropriated to menial, and it may be added general accommodation. For the hospitality allowable within this division is emphatically and aptly expressed, in a laconic distich, on a wall within the court, allusive to the name Wynn-stay, or, rest satisfied with the good things Providence has so liberally showered on you.

The new part, erected by the first Sir Watkin, though only a portion of the original plan, were it not deformed by the incongruous remainder of the old, might be considered a good plain modern structure, substantially built, and most comfortably fitted up. The interior comprises several spacious apartments, in which are some good paintings, principally consisting of portraits, representative of the Wynns, the Williams, the Seymours, and other families connected with them, by consanguinity or affinity. A head of Sir Richard Wynn, who was a gentleman of the bed-chamber to Charles the First, when Prince of Wales, and who accompanied him in his romantic matrimonial adventure to the court of Spain, is justly admired as an exquisite performance; it is Vandyck's.

The park, from a portion of the ancient rampire, called Wat's Dyke, running through this part of the estate, was denominated Wat-stay; but on the heiress of the property, a daughter of Eyton Evans, marrying Sir John Wynn, the new proprietor inclosed the grounds, in the year 1678, with a lofty stone wall, formed them into a deer park eight miles in circumference, and changed the name to Wynn-stay. The surface is not greatly diversified, yet being well wooded and advantageously situated, is a most delightful spot; the near and distant views are distinct, and extremely fine; especially those towards the Berwyn chain of mountains, with the grand natural breach made in it, beyond Llangollen, through which, in turbulent grandeur, rolls the rapid Dee. Considerable improvements have been made within a few years past, by the erection of baths, new plantations, and a fine sheet of water, that reflects the images of several peculiarly handsome-grown isolated trees on its margin, in front of the house. Under the direction of John Evans, Esq. the waters of several brooks and rills were made confluent, so as to form a torrent; which dashing over a lofty ledge of artificial rock-work, covered with mosses and lichens, assumes

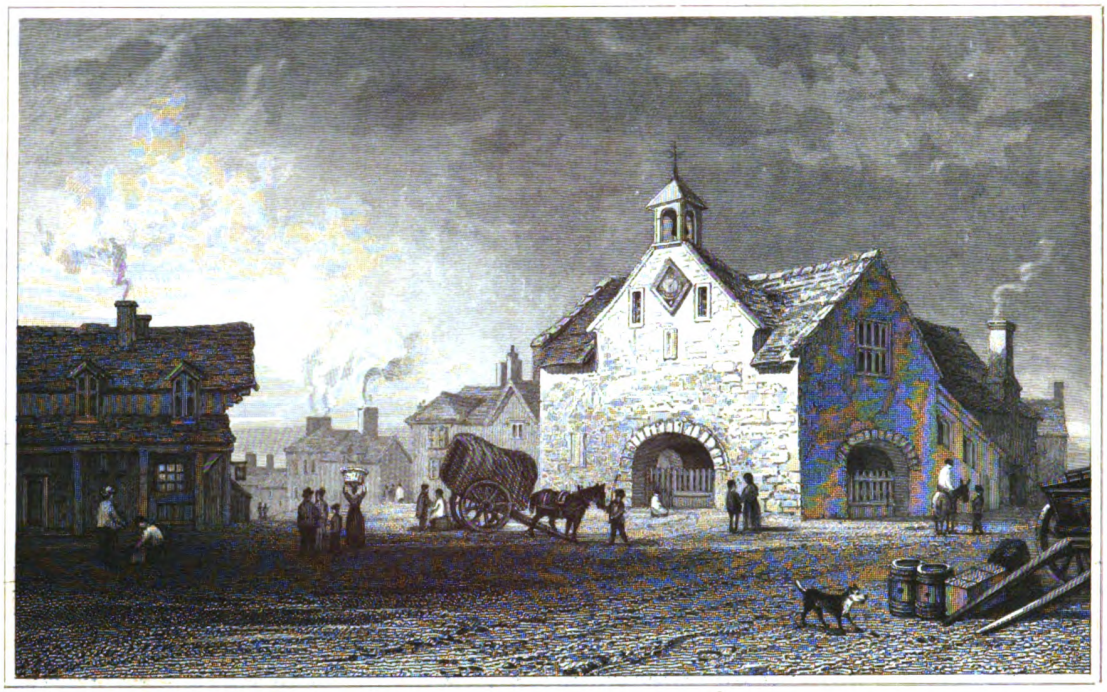
the appearance of a natural cascade, and very similar to the much-admired one in the Marquis of Lansdowne's park, at Calne, in the county of Wilts. The rapid stream then winds through the Belan grounds, having its margin skirted with sylvan accompaniments, where, a few years since, a sprinkling of stunted hawthorn bushes were nearly sole possessors of the soil. "To those who can remember its then rude and ragged state, the change must appear the work of some potent enchanter; whose only spells, however, were industry and munificence, guided by the faculty of taste."

The obelisk is a handsome free-stone column, not seen from the house, but visible from various parts of the surrounding country, consisting of a plinth, sixteen feet square, decorated with oak leaves, issuing, as wreaths, out of the mouths of four eagles, one of which guards each corner of the base. The shaft of the column is fluted, one hundred feet in height, and on the entablature is a circular iron-railed balustrade, for the purpose of prospect, nine feet high, to which a well-staircase leads from a door below; the whole surmounted by a magnificent urn in bronze.

NORTHOP,

FLINTSHIRE.

Northop, or Llan Eurgain, is in the hundred of Coleshill, Flintshire. The Church is long and embattled; the tower lofty and handsome. It is a rectory and vicarage; the rectory, a sinecure annexed to the bishopric of St. Asaph, dedicated to St. Eurgain. The population of this parish, including the township of Caer Fallwch, Cilstaym, Golftyn, Leadbrook-major, Leadbrook-minor, Northop, Sychtyn, and Wybre, in 1801, was 2212. The market is on Saturday. The fairs are held March 14, July 7, and October 12. Here are two schools: one founded in 1606, for the children of the parish, and for one boy from each of the parishes of Cwm, Flint, Holywell, and St. Asaph; the other is for ten poor girls of the parish. The petty sessions are holden here every other month. It is a post-office town. The parish contains about six thousand acres, nearly the whole of which is cultivated. "There is a farm house called Monachlog, i. e. the Monastery, in the township of Northop, which stands on Wat's Dyke. Lead ore is found in the township of Caer Fallwch: and the two Leadbrooks doubtless derive their names from the old smelting hearths which lie a little below Leadbrook House, near the extremity of the Brook; here the Romans smelted the lead ore, which was obtained from Halkin mountain, and the neighbourhood. A vein of coal lies under most part of the parish. About one mile N. W. from the Church, is the site, surrounded by a moat, of Llys Edwin. Edwin was Lord of Tegeingl, in the middle of the tenth century, and one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales. Northop is supposed to have taken its name from North of Hope, called East or Queen's Hope."



TOWN HALL, RUTHIN.

DENBIGHSHIRE.

[illegible]

TOWN HALL,

RUTHIN.

RUTHIN, like Denbigh and St. Asaph, is situated upon the summit and slope of a considerable hill, nearly in the centre of the vale of the Clwyd, which river runs through the place, but is an inconsiderable rivulet, serving only for the purpose of turning mills. This town has a separate jurisdiction, and is in the hundred of Rhuddyn, Denbighshire. The town evidently originated with the castle called Rhyddin, or "the red fortress," from the colour of the stone with which it is built.

The poor remains of this once-proud pile consist of a few fragments of towers and fallen walls, reduced nearly to the foundations; and the area is employed as a meadow, fives-court, and bowling-green. Ruthin is described as having been a populous place, with the best market in the vale. It has two well-supplied markets in the week; on Monday and Saturday. It is one of the contributary boroughs with Denbigh in returning one member to parliament. The corporation consists of two aldermen and an unlimited number of burgesses. Besides the hundred of Ruthin, there is also the lordship of Ruthin, a manorial right which is vested in the Middleton family at Chirk Castle, who appoint a steward to it. The church, though only a chapel to Llanrhydd, is a large spacious structure, anciently conventual, and belonging to the religious house of monks, denominated *Bon-hommes*. It is a perpetual curacy, not in charge. The dean and chapter of Westminster, patrons. It was changed into a collegiate chapter, A. D. 1310, by John de Grey, who formed an establishment of seven regular canons, and endowed it with valuable lands, and numerous privileges. The apartments for the canons were connected with the church by a cloister, of which a remaining portion has been converted into a residence for the warden. The roof of the church is admired for its curious workmanship, consisting of small squares, with various sculpture, bearing the workmen's names. John de Grey, the founder, was probably buried here, but there is nothing commemorative of him. The only monument worthy of notice is to the memory of Doctor Gabriel Goodman, upon which, his likeness is elegantly represented by a marble bust. This person was a native of the place, distinguished for various learning, but particularly eminent as a linguist. Queen Elizabeth promoted him to the deanery of Westminster, and he was appointed to assist in translating the scriptures. The first epistle to the Corinthians is said to have been wholly his performance. He died dean of Westminster, after forty years incumbency. He supported Camden on his travels, who, through the dean's interest, was made under-master of Westminster school. He founded the free-school here, and his philanthrophy continues to live in a hospital for the

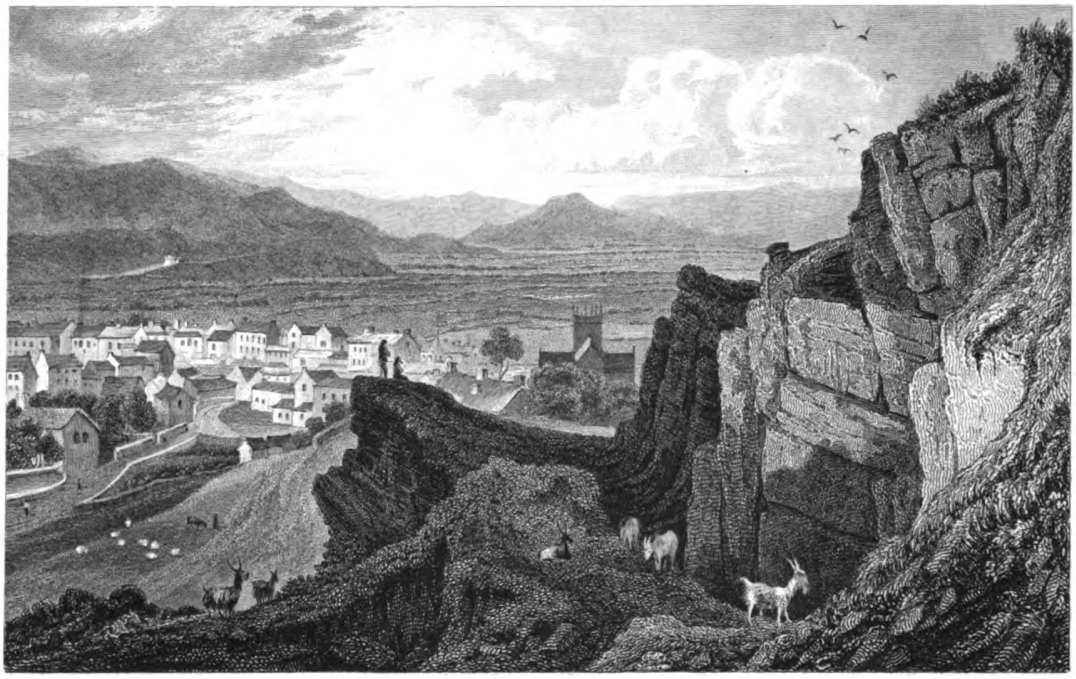
aged poor. The Town Hall, the subject of our view, standing near the market-place, has apartments for holding the great sessions; this place being preferred to Denbigh, as being more central. The free-school is a good building, founded by Gabriel Goodman, D. D., the endowment respectable. From this school young men are sometimes admitted into orders, without having graduated at any university. The head-mastership is in the gift of Jesus College, Oxford. The new gaol is a handsome structure, designed by Mr. J. Turner.

WREXHAM,

DENBIGHSHIRE.

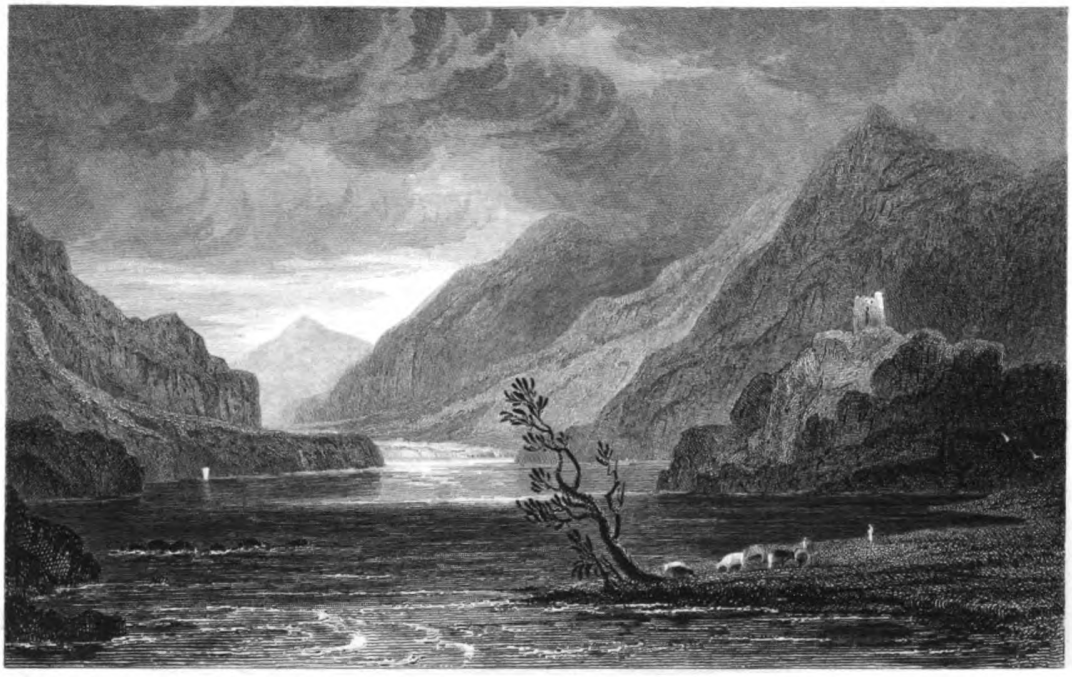
WREXHAM, a considerable market town in Denbighshire, has been judged by Mr. Pennant to be "the largest town in Wales, and the parish the most populous." Mr. Bingley has expressed a similar opinion, adding, that from these circumstances "it has obtained the appellation of the metropolis of North Wales." Another traveller has asserted that "the buildings are mean, and the town in general dirty, and dilapidated." It is observed to increase in population less than most other towns; and by returns made under the census, the population appears to be considerably less than that of Caernarvon.

Wrexham appears to have been an ancient town, for it is noticed in the Saxon Chronicle under the name Wrightelesham. The town was granted with the lordship to Earl Warren, in the reign of Edward the First, and Leland describes it [Itin. v. 32.] as containing "sum merchauntes and good brokeler makers." At present, the principal trade arises from its lying in the great road from Shrewsbury to Chester. The High-street, where the markets on Mondays and Thursdays are held, is spacious, and the buildings mostly good. At the upper end of this street stands a public edifice, of the doric order; the upper apartment is used as a municipal hall, and the piazza part below as a kind of diurnal mart. The fairs are held March 23, Holy Thursday, June 6, and Sept. 19. Wrexham is noted for an annual fair which lasts nine days. The Welsh bring flannels of all staple, linens, linsey-woolseys, coarse linens, horses, sheep, and black cattle. Other dealers bring Irish linens, Yorkshire and other woollen cloths, with Manchester, Sheffield, and Birmingham goods in all their varieties. Two squares are fitted up with booths and temporary shops. This public mart opens the 23d of March. An agricultural society was established here in the year 1796, consisting of about one hundred members, under the presidency of Sir W. W. Wynne, Bart. The premiums are from one to five guineas, and to proprietors silver medals. The free-school was endowed by Valentine Broughton, for instructing twelve boys, and ten pounds per annum to remunerate the master. This is an instance of the folly of making bequests without regard to the fluctuating value of money.



MACHYNLLETH.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.



Drawn by T. Harrison. Engraved by J. Walker.

LLANBERIS LAKE,

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

MACHYNLLETH,

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

At the conflux of the Dulas with the Dovey, stands Machynlleth, a neat, regular, well-built town, and preferable in appearance to most in North Wales. It has apparently a claim to high antiquity, for it is generally supposed to have been a Roman station, the Maglona of the Itinerary. Near Penalt, about two miles distant, is a place denominated Cefn Caer, or the ridge of the city; where Roman coins have frequently been found, and formerly were visible the remains of a circular fortification of considerable extent. But upon the highest part of the hill was the main fort, built in a quadrangular form, and encompassed with a strong wall, accompanied by a fosse and vallum, of an oval shape, excepting the side towards the valley, where they were continued in a straight line. The outer walls were built of a rough durable stone, dug at Tal-y-garreg, near seven miles distant. From the site of this fort a road, twelve yards wide, formed of pebbles and larger stones, extended in a direct line through the marshy meadows, for two hundred yards, to the water-side. Beyond the river the foundations of many houses are yet discoverable; and upon a low mount stood a small fort, supposed to have been erected with such bricks as have been frequently found on the spot, and specimens of which may be found intermixed with the stone in the walls of Penalt church. Near the main fort, silver coins of Augustus and Tiberius have been dug up; yet the station appears to have been principally occupied by troops, under the command of a lieutenant, in the time of the emperor Honorius.

The church is not remarkable, but for an absurd custom, too prevalent through the country, that of white-washing the outside. The town hall is a plain, unadorned, good structure. The ancient senate house, now degraded by being converted into a stable, has a spacious entrance door-way, that evinces its occupancy, at some former period, had been more honourable. Here, in 1402, the rebel chieftain, Owen Glyndwr, when, from repeated successes, he was in the meridian of his glory, assembled the estates of Wales, and held a Parliament; by which his title to the principality was solemnly acknowledged, and he formally underwent the ceremony of coronation. On this occasion the new sovereign narrowly escaped assassination. Dafydd Gam, so called from having but one eye, a man whom Mr. Carte describes as holding his estate of the honour of Hereford, who had been long in the service of Bolingbroke, and firmly attached to his interest, notwithstanding he was allied by affinity to Glyndwr, having married his sister, yet so much did he detest his cause, and such a furious hatred had he conceived for his person, that he appeared in the

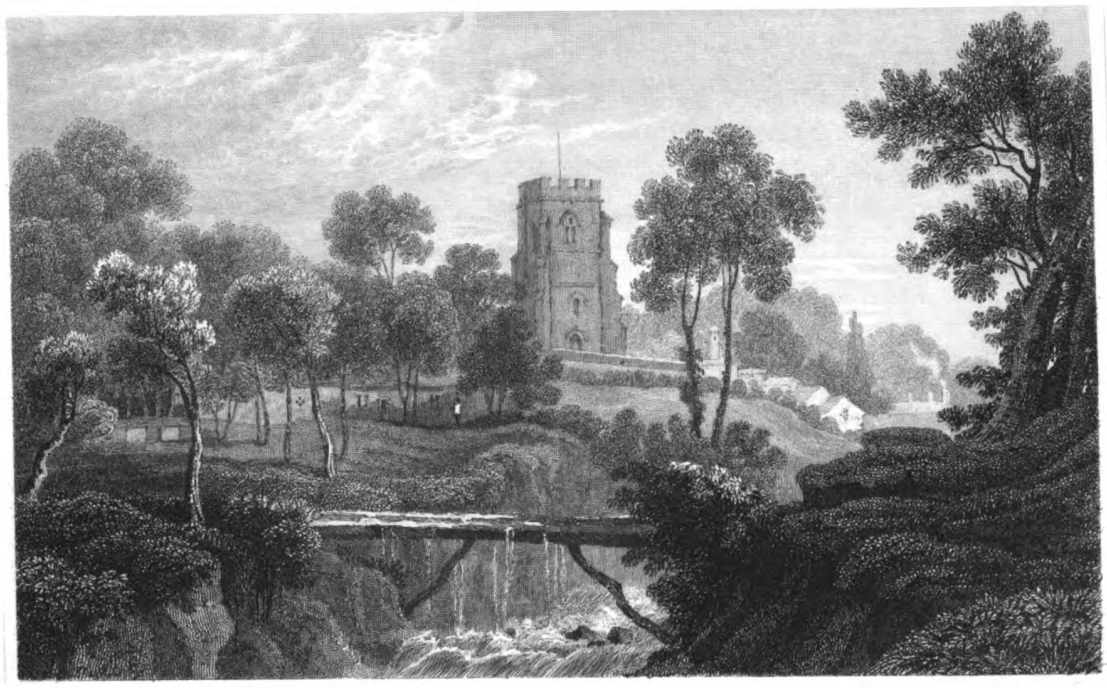
assembly, as an abettor of the purpose for which the meeting was called; but with the secret intention and treacherous resolution of murdering his brother-in-law and prince. The plot was, however, timely discovered. Dafydd was seized and imprisoned, and would have instantly met with condign punishment, had it not been for the intercession of Owen's best friends, and warmest partisans. He received a pardon, on his giving solemn assurances that he would adhere to the cause of Glyndwr, and aid in securing the independence of his country. He, most probably conceiving that extorted concessions were not binding, quickly acted contrary to his promise; for which Glyndwr, in resentment, burnt his house, and kept him in close confinement at Machynlleth till the year 1412.

On the suppression of the rebellion under Glyndwr, Dafydd obtained his liberty, and was cordially received at the court of Henry the Fifth. On the war breaking out between England and France, he received a commission, and was in high favour with his royal master. At the battle of Agincourt, the king was nearly taken, being surrounded by the enemy; but was rescued by the personal prowess of Dafydd, his son-in-law Roger Fychan, and his relative, Walter Lloyd, who saved the life of the sovereign at the expense of their own; falling victims to their courage, after receiving many fatal wounds. The king, when victory was announced, rode up, and approaching the place where they lay weltering in their blood, conferred on them, in *articulo mortis*, the moment of death, the only reward of their valour he could bestow on the melancholy occasion, the honour of knighthood. The circumstance is charmingly embellished, and the character of Gam finely depicted, in that of Captain Fluellin, by our immortal bard.

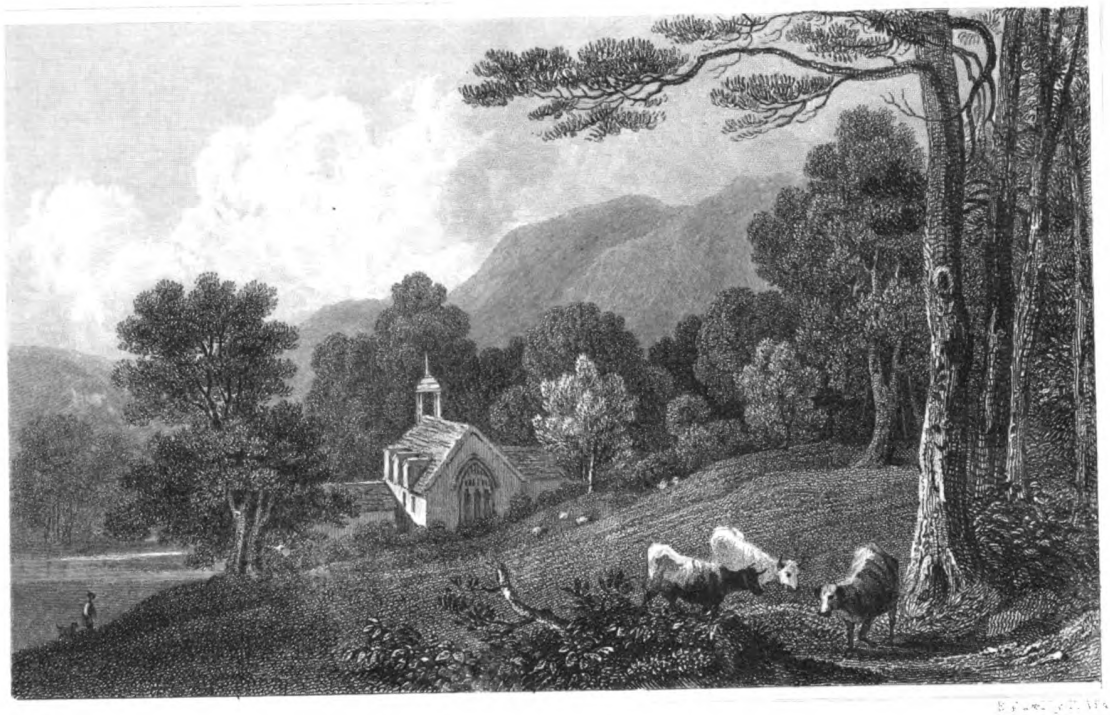
LLANBERIS LAKE,

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

THE village of Llanberis, situated where the cwm opens towards the north, and enlivened by some narrow verdant strips, and a few trees, the remains of its once notable sylvan beauty, includes a small group of cottages. The name is derived from *Peris*, a saint and cardinal, who lived about the middle of the sixth century, a son of Helig ap Glanog. The valley is narrow, and almost straight, nearly filled with two small lakes, celebrated, previous to the opening of the copper mines, for the abundance of the red and golden char. The upper lake, about a mile in length, and nearly half a mile in breadth, though the least, is the finest piece of water. The depth is said, in many places, to be one hundred and forty yards. The other is about a mile and a half long, but so narrow, as to assume rather the appearance of a river, than a lake. Between these a communication is formed by a stream, and out of the lower, issues the river Rythel, which, after flowing in an irregular diffused manner, assumes at Caernarvon the name of Seiont.



REPTON.



RHUABON,

DENBIGHSHIRE.

RHUABON, or RUABON, a small neat village, situated upon a hill, where the roads from Oswestry and Llangollen to Wrexham coalesce, obtains notice from the seat and park immediately adjacent, by the auspices of whose owners it originally arose, and under whose fostering protection it still continues; enjoying also the additional advantage of several genteel residences in its vicinity.

The church is worthy every traveller's notice, from the neat order in which it is kept, and as containing monuments that surprise, because the varied display of the sculptor's art, the "storied urn and animated bust," are not expected to be found in a remote country parish like this.

In a chapel on the south side of the communion table is an altar tomb, on which lie two recumbent figures; the one representing a man clad in armour, his head on an helmet, with a collar marked S. S.; and the other of a female resting on a mantle. At the feet, a lion couchant, with the figure of a monk sitting on it, reclining his head on one hand. The sides are decorated with small weeping figures, and angels presenting shields, once charged with arms that are now defaced. Round the edge of the sarcophagus, a Latin inscription informs the reader that it commemorates John ap Elis Eyton, Esq., who died in 1526, and Elizabeth Calfley, his wife, who died in 1524.

Several handsome monuments are commemorative of the families of Williams and Wynn; among which, one on the north side of the church, is peculiarly worthy of attentive observation. It is a magnificent one, for the first Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, whose virtues are yet fresh in the recollection of the neighbourhood, whose popularity still lives in the annals of fame, and who died by a fall from his horse, September 26th, 1749. He is represented as a fine athletic person, standing in a graceful attitude, clad in a loose robe, and his hands outspread, as though in the act of addressing an assembly. Beneath, on one side, is a male figure, the likeness of his son, and on the other a female, the likeness of his daughter, both kneeling, with their hands placed on their breasts, expressive of a lamenting posture. The apposite chasteness of the conception, devoid of all heterogeneous and superfluous ornament, and, at the same time, the exquisite art displayed in the execution, evince that the sculptor exerted the utmost efforts of his art; nor will this work of Rysbrack disdain competition with the admired monuments he erected for the Duke of Marlborough and Sir Isaac Newton · the one placed at Blenheim, and the other in Westminster Abbey. An

elegant Latin inscription, the composition of the late Dr. King, of St. Mary Hall, Oxford, enumerates, in eloquent detail, his mental abilities, social qualities, and private and public virtues; among which latter, his love of political freedom, and his strenuous ardour, exerted in its defence, extorted the reverence of parliament, and obtained him the gratitude of his country.

Two others, of more recent date, by Nollekins, prove that the art of sculpture is far from being on the decline in this kingdom; one is to the memory of the late Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, bart., and the other to his wife, Lady Henrietta Williams Wynn. The latter represents that amiable female in the character of Hope, standing and reclining her elbow on an urn, with the goddess's usual emblematic accompaniment, an anchor. This display of the chisel, perhaps, cannot well be surpassed. The countenance, the attitude, and the drapery, are exquisitely fine. The figure is placed on a pedestal, in the shape of a Roman altar, on which, in high relievo, is a serpent, having the head and tail united, hieroglyphical of eternity; and within it is an inscription, indicating that Lady Wynn was third daughter of Charles Noel, Duke of Beaufort, and died at the early age of twenty-three, July 25, 1769.

These *chef d'œuvres* of the art do not lose in effect from rival excellence by want of contrast; for a mural monument near, erected for Henry Wynn, Esq., tenth son of Sir John Wynn, of Gywdir, who died in 1671, affords one sufficient. A colossal kind of such *mementa mori* threatens to overwhelm the former by its weight. The subject of lamentation is represented clad in a full-buttoned coat, short skirts, with square-toed boots, and the attitude expressive of fanatical grimace. To pourtray a person in such a position, and attired in so quaint a dress, was certainly an inauspicious circumstance for an artist, who, perhaps, had formed his taste upon Grecian models. The two accompanying figures, Sir John Wynn, of Wynnstay, bart., and Jane his wife, both in a supplicating posture, are almost equally egregious. This has not unaptly been termed "a mass and massacre of marble, ludicrous to look on."

Sir John Wynn, son of the above, lies interred beneath, and whom, with his wife, the heiress of Watstay, this monument also commemorates. In him the baronetage of the Gwydir house continued and terminated. He died at the age of ninety-one, in the year 1718. Though a man of pleasure, and what has been termed, after French phraseology, *un bon vivant*, he was not inattentive to the improvement of the state and melioration of the country. Horticulture appears to have been a favourite pursuit, and, through his encouragement, several useful roots and fructiferous vegetables, with their proper methods of culture, were introduced into Wales; amongst which, a small-sized swan's-egg pear is still popular, and retains the name of the Wynn Pear.

Llantisilio (or Llandyssilio) Church, presents itself as one of the many beautiful and picturesque objects in the admired vale of Llangollen.

Drawn by H. Mathieson. Engraved by J. C. Varrall.

PENRHYN CASTLE.

CAERNARVONSHIRE

Drawn by H. Mathieson. Engraved by C. Mottram.

LLANGOLLEN CHURCH.

DENBIGHSHIRE.

PENRHYN CASTLE,

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

PENRHYN CASTLE is said to have been erected upon the site of an ancient palace, belonging to Roderick Molwynog, who was sovereign of North Wales, in the early part of the eighth century. During the contention of the rival princes, it was levelled with the ground by Meredydd ap Owen, in 987; who, the same year, invading this country, slew the reigning monarch, Cadwallan ap Jevaf. In the time of Llewelyn, it was granted, with other estates, to Yarddur ap Trahaiarn, from whom, by the law of gavelkind, it descended to a female, who, with her person, bestowed it on one of the posterity of Ednyfed Fychan. A descendant, William Fychan, chamberlain of North Wales, was made an English denizen, on the sole condition that he should not intermarry with a Welsh woman: such were the maxims of severity adopted and enforced against the oppressed Cambrians, in the time of Henry the Sixth. William's father, Gwillim ap Gryffydd, obtained the hereditary chamberlainship, and had previously been admitted to the same privilege by his intermarriage with Alice, daughter of Sir Richard Dalton, of Althorpe, in Northamptonshire. Sir William Gryffydd, contemporary with Henry the Eighth, and who was present with that prince at the siege of Boulogne, was the means, by his indefatigable exertions, of preserving the valuable records in two parchment books; one of which, called "The Extent" of North Wales, is now in the chamberlain's office; and the other, in that of the auditor's in London.

The house appears to have been rebuilt in the reign of Henry the Sixth, by the aforementioned Gwillim ap Gryffydd; and prior to the late alterations, exhibited a fair specimen of the domestic architecture prevalent at that period. The arms of Stanley, having the female distinction empaled with his own, were to be seen in the stained glass of the hall windows, so late as the year 1764. The buildings stand round a large court, entered by a handsome gateway. One side of the area is flanked by a magnificent hall, and the others by divers spacious apartments. The structure has lately received considerable improvements, from designs by Wyatt. The whole is new fronted with yellow brick, which gives it the appearance of stone; and to the credit of the architect, as well as the taste of the late noble owner, due respect has been paid to the original design, except that the chapel has been removed to a different site. "Like that of our Lady of Loretto," says a humorous bard, "it changed its former situation in the court of castellated Penrhyn, for a grove at a few yards distance: and though under the guidance of mortal agency only, its flight has been by judgment, and it has rested scientifically." It was carefully taken down and re-constructed with the same materials, and upon a similar plan.

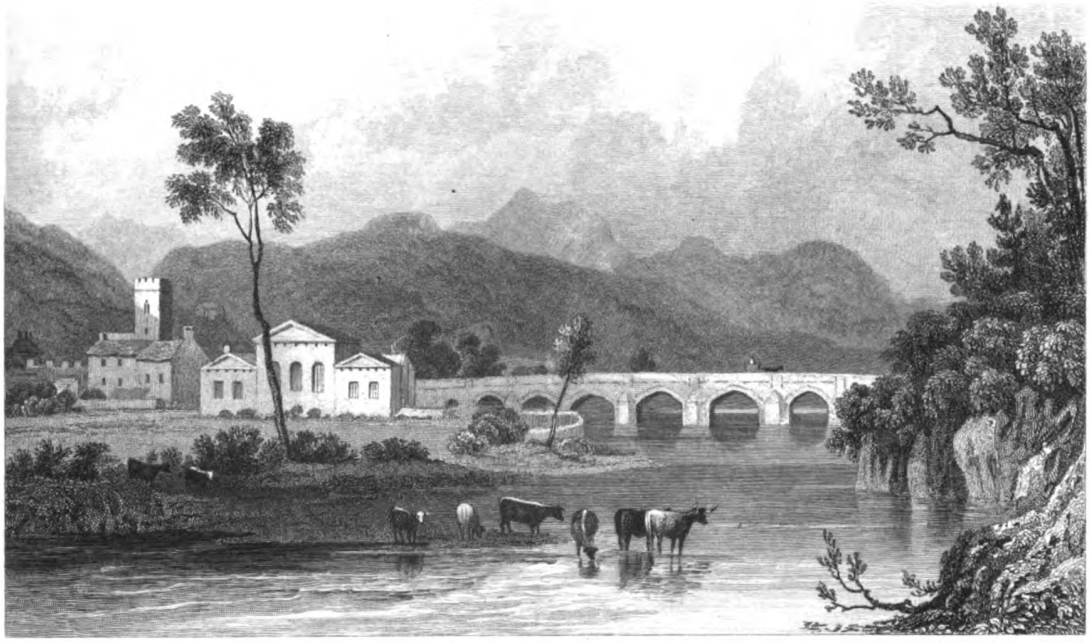
The principal entrance into the park is by a grand gateway, in the manner of a Roman triumphal arch, which, though correspondent to the magnificence, does not perfectly harmonise with the style of the mansion. The river Ogwen, that used to roll its waters over a

widely-extended rubbly bed, is here confined within narrow limits; and several cascades appear through vistas in the plantations from the front of the house.

Here is still preserved a hirlas, or drinking-horn, of the hero, Piers Gryffydd; and is perhaps the only elegant specimen of that kind of utensil, elucidatory of ancient manners, at present subsisting. It is a large bugle of an ox, ornamented with enchased silver, and suspended by a chain of the same metal, having the initials of his own name and family engraved at the end. In the royal court of Cambria there were legally three sorts of horns, for the purpose of private or public libations. The first was *y corn ydd y foy brenin*, or the one solely appropriated to the king's use. Second, *Corn cyweithas*, by which the domestics of the palace were summoned to duty. And, third, *Corn y pencynydd*, committed to the custody of the chief huntsman. Each of these was to be of the reputed value of one pound. On grand occurrences, the domestics of the palace were permitted to drink out of the sovereign's horn; and the chamberlain, or high steward, on such occasions, furnished handsome potations of the generous metheglin. The contents of the horn, at these times, assumed the name of the sacred potion, similar to the *wassail bowl*, or the apostle's cup, in use among the Saxons. Ulphus, when he conveyed certain lands to the church of York, is said to have quaffed off the sparkling contents of such a vessel, drinking a health, "*Deo et sancto Petro*," to God and St. Peter. On festive days, the imperious custom was to empty the horn at one tip, and instantly blow it, as a testimony that no dereliction of draught had occurred.

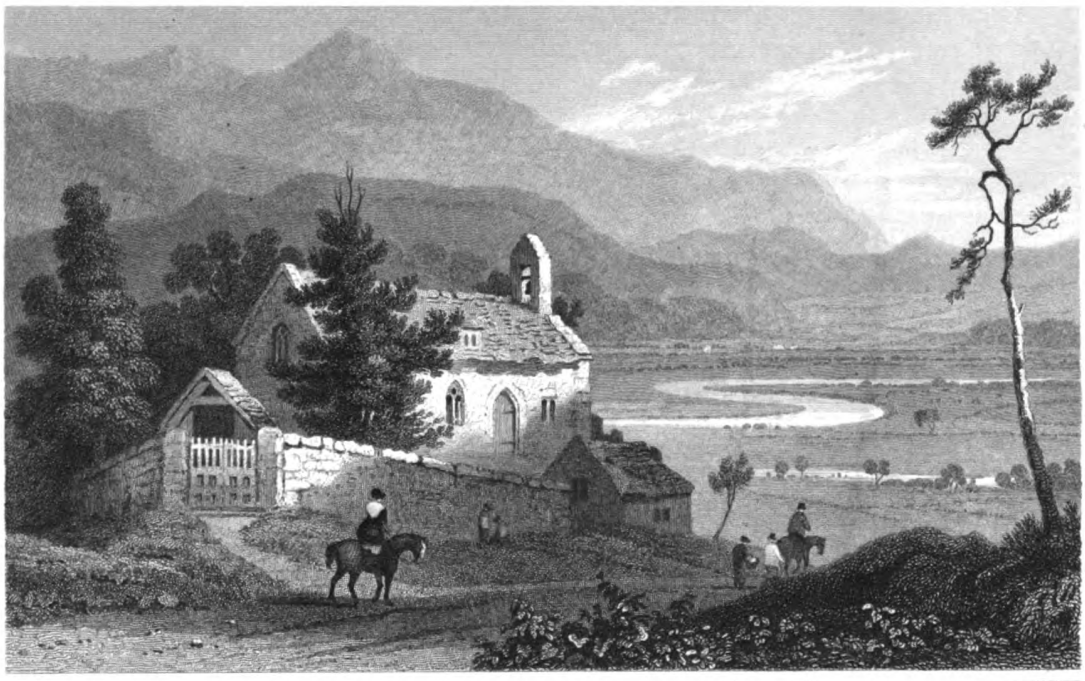
"Fill the horn with foaming liquor,
Fill it up, my boy, be quicker;
Hence away, despair and sorrow;
Time enough to sigh to-morrow.
Let the brimming goblet smile,
And Ednyfed's cares beguile.
Gallant youth, unus'd to fear,
Master of the broken spear,
And the arrow-pierced shield,
Brought with honour from the field.
Like a hurricane is he,
Bursting on the troubled sea.
See their spears distain'd with gore!
Hear the din of battle roar!
Bucklers, swords, together clashing,
Sparkles from their helmets flashing!
Hear ye not their loud alarms?
Hark! they shout—To arms! to arms!
Thus were Garthen's plains defended,
Maelor fight began and ended.
There two princes fought; and there,
Was Morach Vorvran's feast exchang'd for rout and fear."

Llangollen Church is the accompanying View, which, notwithstanding its unpretending structure, is not undeserving of notice.



DOLGELLAU.

MERIONETHSHIRE.



Drawn by H. Gastineau.

Engraved by S. Lacey.

LLANELLTYD CHURCH.

NEAR DOLGELLAU,

MERIONETHSHIRE.

J. & C. Temple of the Muses Finsbury Square London

DOLGELLAU,

MERIONETHSHIRE,

THOUGH a small market-town, is in several respects the principal in the county, from the summer sessions being held here, and being a manufacturing place, and a mart for the sale of various articles in the clothing line, brought from the adjacent parts. It is situated in a fertile vale, between the rivers Arran and Wnion, and surrounded on all sides by lofty mountains, many of which are well wooded. The name is derived from *dol*, a word similar to dale, so common in Scotland and the north of England, and *gelli*, or *celli*, a grove of hazel-trees. The town contains little worthy of observation. The streets are very irregular, the houses principally small, and most are ill built.

The church is the neatest structure in or about the place; but has nothing peculiarly attracting. It is pewless, the seats consisting of forms; and, what is not usually seen in Wales, the floor is paved with limestone flags. The market-house is a low square building, and the town-hall is scarcely distinguishable from the other houses. A very strong and handsome edifice, erected at a small distance from the town, forms the county gaol.

The facetious Fuller, who wrote more than a century ago, gives a singular enigmatical account of Dolgellau.

> "1. The walls thereof are three miles high.
> 2. Men go into it over the water; but
> 3. Go out of it under the water.
> 4. The steeple thereof doth grow therein.
> 5. There are more alehouses than houses."

These he solves in the following manner: The first alludes to the mountains surrounding the place. The second, that at one entrance to the town, there was a bridge, over which all travellers must pass. The third, that at the other they had to go under a wooden trough, carried across the road for the conveyance of water from a distance to an overshot mill on the opposite side. For the explanation of the fourth, the bells (if plural) hung in a yew tree. And fifthly, "the tenements were divided into two, or more tipling houses, and that even chimneyless barns were often used for that purpose." It must be presumed that he penned this description from the state of the town during the time of fair, when almost every house is open for the sale of *Cwrw dda*, or Welsh ale. Respecting the other allusions, none will at present apply, except the first two.

A considerable trade is carried on at Dolgellau in webs, or coarse cloths, and flannels.

The principal market for these goods was formerly Shrewsbury; but so large a portion has of late years been purchased by agents on the spot, that the inhabitants have had little occasion to send to such a distant market. Another article in the kerseymere line has recently been added to the list of the manufactures of the place. The number of hands necessarily employed in these departments, have rendered the place very populous, comparatively with other towns in the county. By the census in 1801, the number of houses returned was 630, and the population 2949. But since that period the trade has been more flourishing, and the number of inhabitants greatly increased.

The whole of the vale in which the town is situated, is remarkable for its beautiful views, and picturesque landscapes. It has been observed, "There is no place in the principality whence so many pleasing and interesting excursions may be made; and where Nature bears so rich, varied, and grand an aspect, as at Dolgellau. The ride to Dinas y Mowddwy, and thence to Bala over the mountains, and back through the vale, in which the river Dee takes its rise, affords much fine scenery:" and it may be added that views and objects, as diversified as they are multifarious, present themselves in every direction; so that the tourist will advantageously make this a kind of central station for embracing opportunities of investigation.

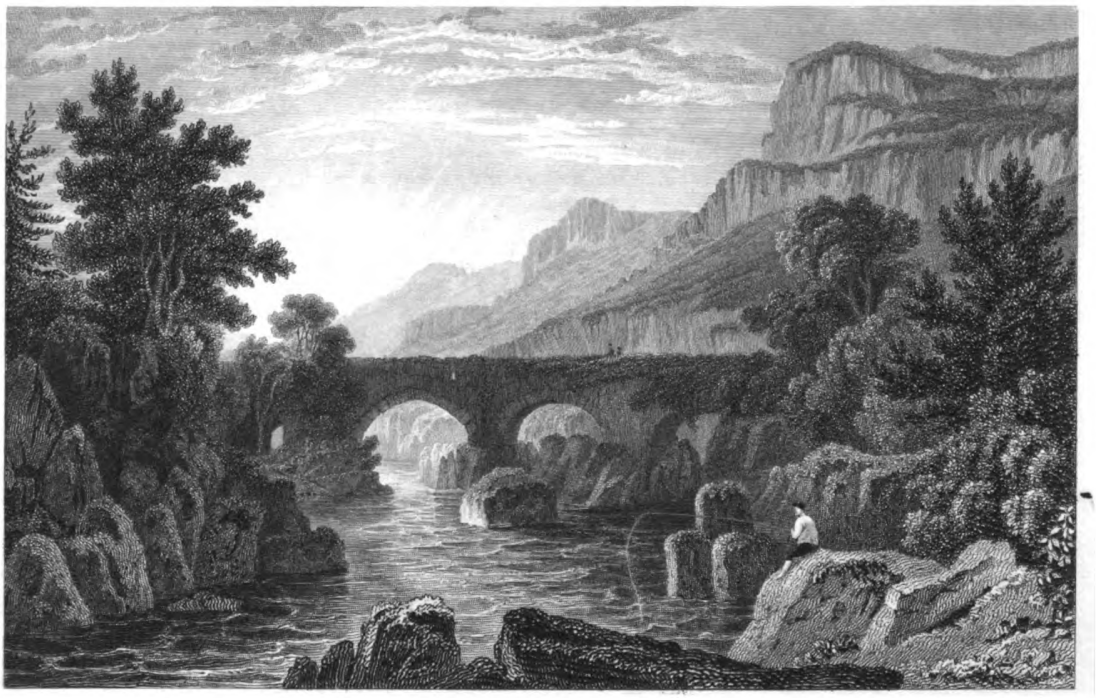
Nannau is situated on an elevated spot, two miles from Dolgellau. The house is a substantial and elegant structure; and being placed on a more eligible site than the old mansion, commands more pleasing views. From the circumstance of the road leading to it being upon a continual ascent, it has been supposed "to stand higher than any gentleman's house in Britain." The park is well wooded, and remarkable for a very small kind of deer, which make excellently fine-flavoured venison. Inclosed in the garden is a venerable oak, pierced and hollowed by the hand of time, and in the last state of decay. The girth is twenty-seven feet and a half. The name, *Derwen Cenbren yr Ellyll*, the "*hollow oak, the haunt of demons*," may lead the fancy into visionary scenes; and the illuded eye may see dryads and hamadryads, with other fairy tribes, revelling round its antiquated trunk.

Above Nannau rises a lofty rocky eminence, having the summit encircled with a rampart, formed of loose stones, evidently a British post, called *Moel Orthrwm*, or "the hill of oppression."

Llanelltyd Church, a pleasing and picturesque object, at no great distance from Dolgellau, is the accompanying subject.

CAERGWRLE.

FLINTSHIRE



Drawn by H. Gastineau.

Engraved by W. J. Stocker.

PONT-Y-PAIR.

CARNARVONSHIRE

James & C. Temple, 4, The Mall, Pentonville.

CAERGWRLE,

FLINTSHIRE.

THE etymology of the name given to this place suggests the idea that it was once occupied by the Romans. *Caergawr-Lle*, or "the camp of the gigantic legion:" the Britons having conferred that distinction on the twentieth, or victrix, to which this was an equivalent appellation. Hence originated the fabulous story of Chester, their principal station, having been built by a mighty giant called Lleon Gawr.

The conjecture of its having been once in possession of the Romans, has been confirmed by indubitable remains of that people. A Roman *hypocaust*, or sudatory, a species of vapour bath, was discovered by a gardener, while digging. "It was five ells long, four broad, and about half an ell high; encompassed with walls hewn out of the live rock. The floor was of brick set in mortar; the roof was supported with brick pillars, and consisted of polished tiles, which at several places were perforated; and on these were laid certain brick tubes, which carried off the force of the heat."

It is well known to persons conversant with history, how partial the Romans, as luxury in their manners increased, were to baths of various descriptions, such as Balnea, Thermæ, Hypocausta, &c.; and whose particular work this was, is evidently pointed out by some of the tiles being inscribed LEGIO XX., or twentieth legion, which was long stationed at Deva, or Chester. In addition to this, large beds of iron scoria have been discovered near Caer Estyn, the supposed remains of Roman smelting works; and the vestiges of two roads, one in a direction for Hawarden, and the other looking towards Mold, which are traceable in several places. Caergwrle, therefore, appears one of the outposts to the grand station Deva, for the defence of the frontier, and more especially to protect the mining districts.

The situation was subsequently occupied by the Britons, who erected a castle upon the summit of a lofty hill. But in what period, or by whom built, is not ascertained; yet evidently prior to the reign of Henry the Second; for in the reign of Owen Gwynedd it formed part of the possessions of a chieftain named Gryffydd Maelor. It afterwards must have been taken by the English forces, because Edward the First made a grant of this stronghold to prince David. Afterward it was retaken, and the king bestowed it on his consort Eleanor, who rested here on her journey for her future accouchement at Caernarvon; whence the name was changed to that of *Queen Hope*. While the king and queen were there, this fortress was, either by accident or design, set on fire, and the interior of the structure burnt.

In 1307, this castle and manor were granted to John de Cromwell, upon the express stipulation that he should repair the fortress, then in a ruinous state.

When it was dismantled or dilapidated, and the name of its founder, are equally buried in oblivion. Churchyard describes it as being in a shattered condition, about the latter part of the sixteenth century.

The castle, now exhibiting a most picturesque ruin, was erected on the summit of a lofty rock, isolated from the surrounding high land, and precipitous on one side, which formed a natural barrier; and the others, that are very difficult of access, were defended by deep fossa, excavated out of the solid strata. Though apparently from the present remains, consisting of a mutilated circular tower, and a few fragments of walls, it was never a very large structure; yet possessing such a defensible site, and aided by another British post, Caer Estyn, formed of one ditch and rampart on the opposite elevation, it must have been of considerable importance, as calculated to defend one of the passes for English troops to the interior of Wales; for here the little valley narrows almost to a close, leaving little more space than is sufficient for the Alyn to flow through its romantic dingles, till the country opens in the distant vale, and the river expands at the village of Gresford.

Nearly the whole of this rock is composed of brescia, or that mixed kind of gritstone, so coarse in its texture, as to wear the appearance of small pebbles, imbedded in mortar. The adjacent hills consist of limestone, quantities of which is quarried, burnt into lime on the spot, and most of it carried into Cheshire. In the overlay of loose earth are numerous antediluvian organic bodies, called by fossilists *entrochi* and *astroites*, which are supposed to be the remains of some sort of asterias. A singular kind found here, with protuberant joints, is conjectured to have been part of the species denominated by some naturalists arborescens, or arborescent sea-star; the branches of which have a very near resemblance to these substances; being of a cylindrical shape, and made up of several articulations, though in few instances exceeding an inch in length.

On the demesne named Rhyddyn, almost close to the river Alyn, are two springs, the waters of which are strongly impregnated with muriate of soda. They are nearly like those of the celebrated fountain at Barrowdale, near Keswick, in the county of Cumberland, though not equally potent; approximating nearer to the standard of sea water. These were formerly much frequented, as medicinal resources, particularly by scorbutic patients. The dose was from one to two quarts in a day; and many, to increase the strength by diminishing the quantity of aqueous matter, boiled the water till half was wasted, through evaporation. The effect produced by taking them in this quantity, is purging: for they act as a powerful cathartic, and generally produce nausea. In small doses they operate as a diuretic. They are serviceable in most cutaneous affections, and in some obstinate chronic disorders. In dry weather, pigeons resort to these springs, to pick up the crystallized particles.

Pont-y-Pair, Caernarvonshire, is the accompanying View, and presents a scene which must prove interesting to every lover of the picturesque.

SNOWDON, FROM CAPEL CURIG.

CAERNARVONSHIRE

FALL OF THE CGWEN, IN NANT FRANCON,

CAERNARVONSHIRE

Jones & Co. Temple of the Muses Fleet Street, London. 1829.

SNOWDON,

FROM CAPEL CURIG, CAERNARVONSHIRE.

Snowdon, from ancient testimony, appears to have been held in as high veneration among the Britons, as the celebrated Ida among the Cretans, and Parnassus, connected with classic fame, of the Achaians. Like the latter, it is bifurcate, having its *Nissa* and *Cirrha*, its *Crib y distill*, and *y wyddfa*; and was, doubtless, an object of adoration and invocation, from the following passage, included in a series of triambrics, each terminating with a moral precept; supposed to be the *Englynion*, or verses by which the bardic instructors inculcated upon the minds of their auditors their oral ethics.

"Eyry Mynydd, caled' grawn
Dail ar gychwyn, Llynwyn llawn,
Nag ymddiried i estrawn."

"Nivean hill, the harvests grow,
The leaves descend, the lakes o'erflow:
Confide in none thou dost not know."

According to the testimony of Gildas, our ancestors worshipped mountains and rivers. It is certain they paid a particular veneration to them, and some were held peculiarly sacred. To the present day, it is said, and by many believed, that whoever sleeps for one night upon the top of Snowdon, will wake up, as much inspired as those who became poets by taking a nap on the hill of Apollo.

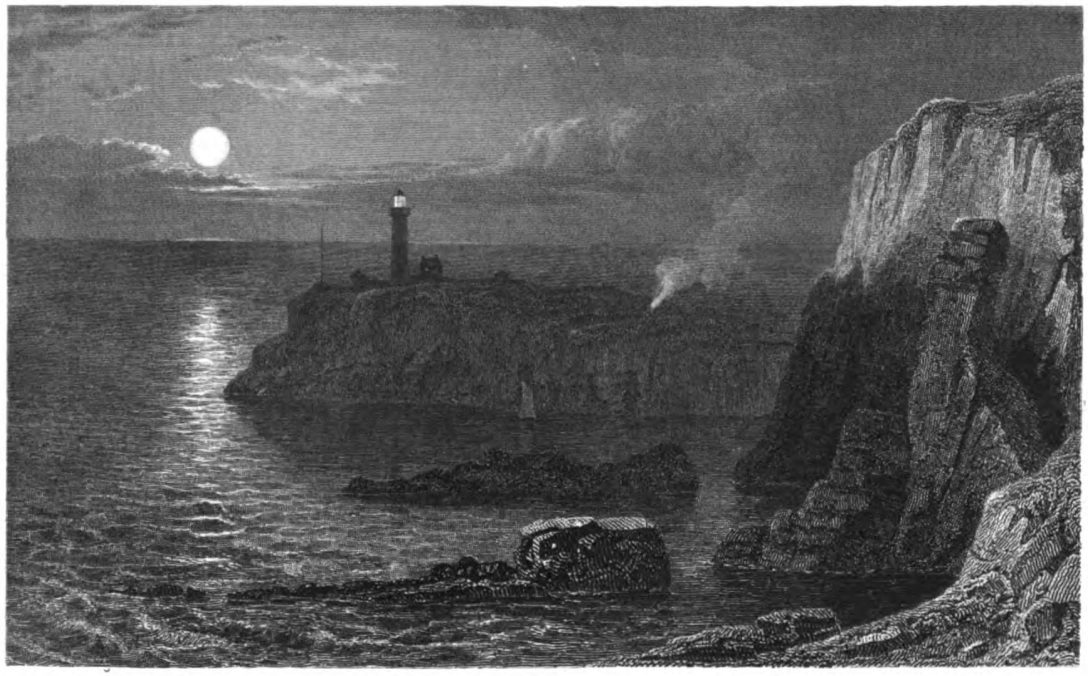
The summit of Snowdon is so frequently enveloped in clouds and mist, that, except when the weather is perfectly fine and settled, the traveller through this country will find it somewhat difficult to have a day sufficiently clear to permit him to ascend the mountain. When the wind blows from the west it is almost completely covered; and at other times, even when the state of the weather seems favourable, it will often become suddenly enveloped, and will remain in that state for hours. Most persons, however, agree, that the prospects are the more interesting, as they are the more varied, when the clouds just cover the summit. The following description (from Bingley's Tour) of the scenery from Snowdon, when the mountain is in this state, is perfectly accurate:

"How high and swift flits the thin rack along,
Skirted with rainbow dyes; now deep below
(While the fierce sun strikes the illumin'd top)
Slow sails the gloomy storm, and all beneath,
By vaporous exhalation hid, lies lost
In darkness; save at once where drifted mists,

Cut by strong gusts of eddying winds, expose
The transitory scene.
Now swift on either side the gather'd clouds,
As by a sudden touch of magic, wide
Recede, and the fair face of heaven and earth
Appears. Amid the vast horizon's stretch,
In restless gaze the eye of wonder darts
O'er the expanse; mountains on mountains piled,
And winding bays, and promontories huge,
Lakes and meandering rivers, from their source
Traced to the distant ocean."

NANT FRANCON, or "The Valley of Beavers," a corruption from *Nant yr Afanc*, is supposed to be so denominated from having been formerly a covert for those amphibious animals, no longer inhabitants of the country; but found, according to report, in this valley, less than a century ago. This formerly was a tremendous glen, or rather chasm; but by the efforts of human industry, some of its wild and terrific appearances have been dissipated. It comprises a narrow strip of meadow land, surrounded by lofty mountains; through which meanders the small river Ogwen, towards the sea. Down a rocky height, called the Benglog, rush the waters of five lakes, into a deep pool beneath, forming a very picturesque and grand waterfall. This, consisting of three cataracts, is best viewed by descending from the road into the deep bottom beneath. The lower fall is the most considerable, over which the Ogwen rushes, roars, and rolls, in one sheet of foam and spray, down an integral and nearly perpendicular rock. By climbing a broken rocky steep, the river is seen precipitating itself in a more majestic stream, through a chasm between two vertical cliffs. The third, some height above, is less romantic; but its broad expanse of water participates of the grand, immense, and singular mountain Trivaen, filling the space behind; and in the fore-ground the waters are seen dashing in various directions among the loose masses of rock that lie scattered in the rugged bed of the river. Near the rudest part of the glen, on Ogwen Bank, an elegant pavilion, under the direction of Mr. Wyatt, was built for Lady Penrhyn. Surrounded with luxuriant plantations, it certainly forms a striking contrast with the bleak and barren mountains in the vicinity. And though considerable taste has been displayed, it would savour of poetic licence to call it "an acre of Tempe among the rocks of Norway." From Bangor to the Benglog, the road is nearly the whole distance upon the ascent; but after this narrow pass, it extends by the side of Llyn Ogwen, and continues under the mountains, almost on a level, to Capel Curig, where the late Lord Penrhyn erected, for the accommodation of the public, a handsome inn; so that travellers through this dreary region may now meet with good entertainment, and very excellent lodging. Since this inn and hotel has been occupied, it has become a fashionable resort. During the summer months, numerous genteel families and others make a temporary residence at Capel Curig, to enjoy the numerous diversified and interesting walks and rides, amidst the magnificent objects of the surrounding scenery.

THE HARBOUR, HOLYHEAD.



SOUTH STACK LIGHT HOUSE.

NEAR HOLYHEAD

HOLYHEAD HARBOUR,

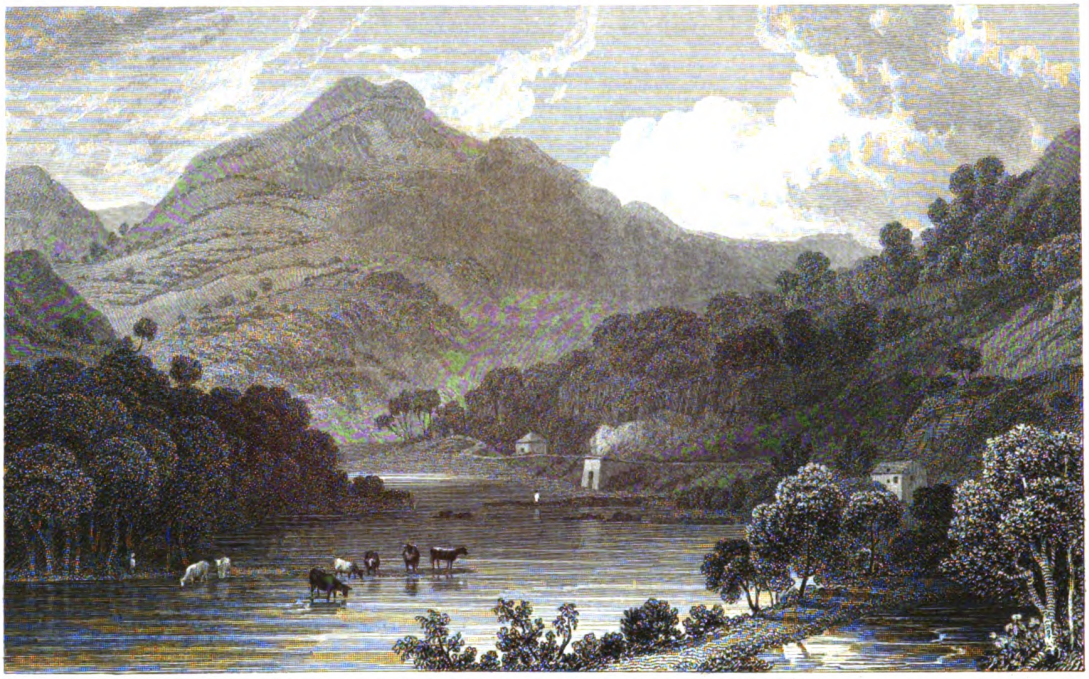
ANGLESEA.

The island on which the town is situated, being the nearest point of land toward Dublin, has always occasioned it to become a resort of numerous persons passing between England and Ireland. The passage by sea, both from Liverpool and Parkgate, has been found extremely hazardous, owing to the vicinity of the Welsh coast, along which vessels to and from either of those places must consequently pass, for half the voyage; and during heavy gales, by having been under the necessity of nearing it, many wrecks have occurred. The superior advantages, therefore, Holyhead presented for this maritime communication, induced individuals first to fix upon it as a station for the purpose; and government afterwards, as the rendezvous of the packets, or vessels charged with the conveyance of the mails. The eligibility of this port, for the mutual intercourse between the two countries, arises from ships being able in a short time to clear the land, in less danger of getting embayed, than from the above-mentioned havens; and the distance by water is considerably less, the extent of sea between Holyhead and Dublin being twenty leagues.

STACK LIGHTHOUSE.

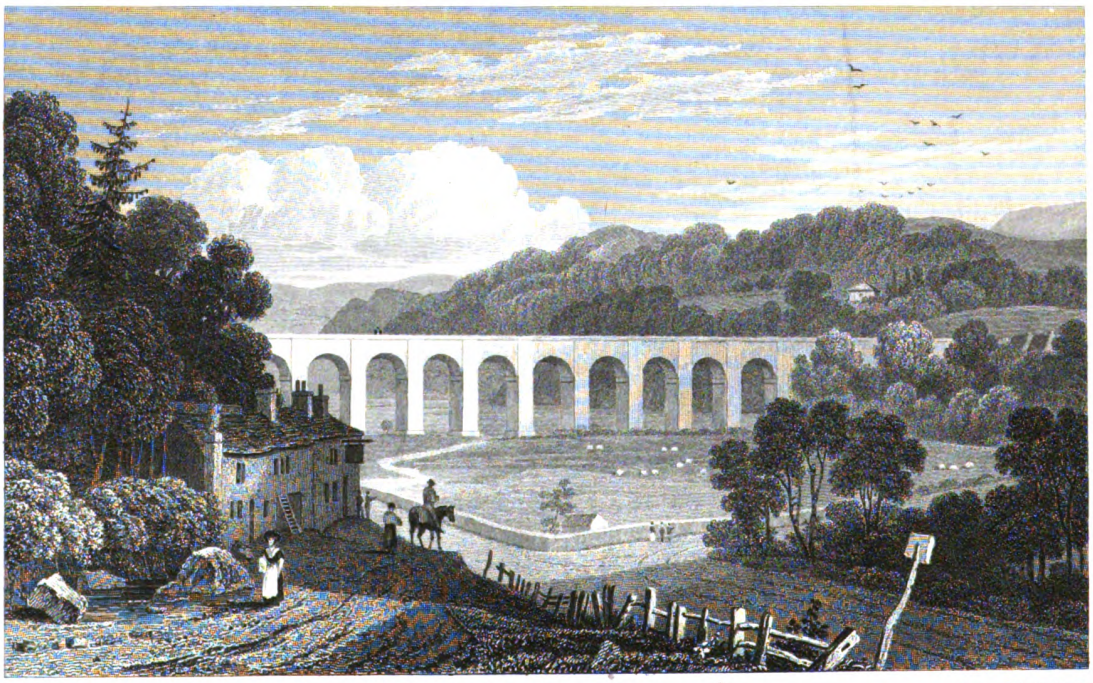
For the accommodation of the port, a lighthouse is erected on a small island, or rather protruding rock, to the west of the head called "the South Stack." The light is produced by argand lamps, and the elevation above the level of the sea is about two hundred feet. This beacon is constructed upon a grand scale, so that the visibility extends through the whole of Caernarvon bay. The principle being different, renders it easily distinguishable from the one on the island of Skerries; from which it bears south-west half west, distant nearly eight miles. The promontory, strictly called "the head," is either an immense precipice, or a huge mass of rocks hollowed into most magnificent caves; one is peculiarly worthy of observation. It has received the vulgar appellation of "the parliament-house," from the frequent visits made by water parties to see this wonderful cavern; it being only accessible by boats, and that at half-ebb tide. It is one of those usual phenomena produced by the action of sea water upon the soluble parts of stratified rocks; more especially where calcareous substances are prevalent in their composition. Grand receding arches of different shapes, supported by pillars of rock, exhibit such a magnificent scene, as cannot fail to astonish the

beholder, unaccustomed to Nature's bolder works. The promontory consists of high cliffs of various heights, abounding with large caverns, which afford shelter for innumerable birds; such as pigeons, gulls, razor bills, ravens, guillemots, cormorants, and herons. On the loftiest crags lurks the peregine falcon; the bird so high in repute while falconry continued a fashionable amusement. The eggs of many of these birds are sought after as delicious food, and considered as a great treat to the epicurean. The price procured for them is a sufficient inducement for the poor to follow the adventurous trade of egg-taking; but in this, as in the pearl fishery on the coasts of Persia, the gains bear no tolerable proportion to the danger incurred. The adventurers having furnished themselves with every necessary implement for the business, while the sun affords assistance by his beams, enter on the terrific undertaking. Two, for this is a trade in which co-partnership is absolutely necessary, take a station; and he, whose turn it happens to be, or whose superior agility renders it eligible, prepares for the rupestrian expedition. A strong stake is driven into the ground, at some distance from the edge of the cliff, to which a rope of sufficient length to reach the lowest haunts of those birds is affixed. Fastening the other end round his middle, taking the coil on his arm, and laying hold with both his hands, he throws himself over the brow of the cliff; placing his feet against its sides, and carefully shifting his hands, he gradually descends till he comes to the abode of the birds; then, putting his left hand into the hole, while suspending himself with the other, he takes possession of its contents, carefully placing the eggs in a basket slung at his back for the purpose. Having despoiled all the nests within his extent of rope, he ascends by the same means to the edge of the cliff, where his partner, whose duty hitherto was to guard the stake, crawling on hands and knees, affords him assistance in doubling the cliff, which otherwise he would be unable to do. Dangerous employ! A slip of the foot, or the hand, would in an instant be fatal to both. Instances have occurred, where the weight of the one overcoming the strength of the other, both have been precipitated down the craggy steep, and their mangled carcases buried in the ocean: but these are rare. To a stranger and bystander, this occupation appears more dangerous than it really is; in persons habituated to bodily difficulty, the nervous system becomes gradually braced, and the solids attain that state of rigidity, which banishes irritability; while the mind, accustomed to scenes of danger, loses that timidity which frequently leads to the dreaded disaster. To the person whose heart palpitates at the near approach to such heights, it must appear a presumptuous employ, and daily instances of its fatality might be expected; but fact demonstrates the contrary, and serves to prove how much we are the creatures of habit, and to what an extent difficulty and danger may be made subordinate to art and perseverance.



VIEW IN THE VALE OF LLANGOLLEN.

DENBIGHSHIRE



Drawn by J. Harwood

Engraved by T. Barber

CHIRK AQUEDUCT.

DENBIGHSHIRE

Longs & Co. London. Published as the Act directs 1 January 1819 by Longman Hurst Rees Orme & Brown Paternoster Row London.

CHIRK AQUEDUCT,

AND VIEW IN THE VALE OF LLANGOLLEN, DENBIGHSHIRE.

THE Ellesmere Canal, in its line near Chirk, passes across a deep narrow valley, where the number of double locks and circuitous route would have proved tedious and expensive. The engineer, therefore, had recourse to an aqueduct consisting of ten arches, resting upon pyramidal piers of stone. Thus is the canal carried over the river and vale of Ceiriog, an extent of two hundred yards, and about the middle sixty-five feet in height. But the projector had not proceeded far in a horizontal direction, before he had to encounter, from similar causes, tenfold more formidable difficulties: a still deeper ravine was presented, through which the Dee passes with considerable force. Mr. Thomas Telford, the engineer, like the celebrated Brindley, erased from his nomenclature the term *impossible*, and another aqueduct, upon a more enlarged scale, called *Pont y Cyssyllte*, was formed. Upon the river Ceiriog in this neighbourhood are several paper-mills, coals are abundant, and there are quarries of excellent stone.

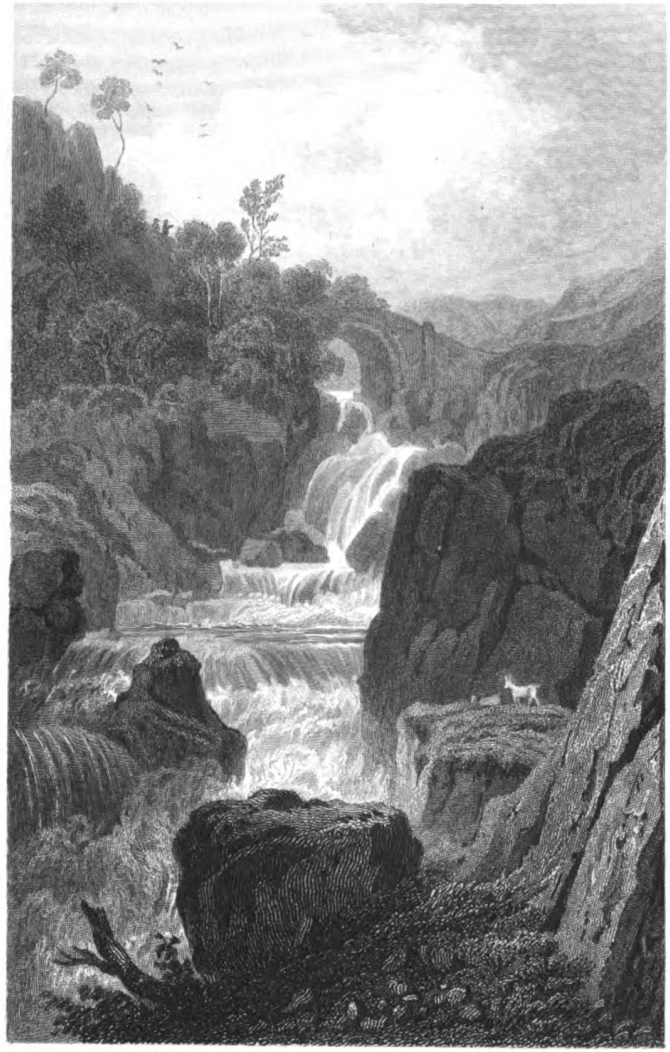
During the desperate struggles of Cambria to recover her independence, the vicinity of Chirk, in the year 1164, was the theatre of a most sanguinary battle between the English and Welsh. The successes of Rhys, prince of South Wales, against the Flemings and Normans, encouraged the other princes in the north to make another bold attempt to shake off the galling yoke of tyranny. David, son of Owen, prince of North Wales, therefore, fell upon Flintshire, which belonged to the king of England, carrying off all the people and cattle with him, and brought them to Dyffrin Clwyd. King Henry hearing this, collected his forces, and marching with all speed came to Rhyddlan, but returned to England to augment his forces. He then levied a great force, and advanced to Oswestry. The Welsh pitched their camp at Corwen, but were driven to the Berwyn mountains. In the end, Henry was forced to decamp, and returned to England. He, however, wreaked his vengeance on the unfortunate hostages which the Welsh had sent to him some time before, by tearing out their eyes. These were Rhys and Cadwalhon, sons of Owen; and Cynric and Meredith, sons of Rhys. According to a paper communicated by John Middleton to the Antiquarian Society, the castle was begun in 1011, and finished in 1013; the repairs of one of the wings, in Cromwell's time, cost nearly £28,000. The front is two hundred and fifty feet long. However, when sir Thomas Middleton, in the civil wars, revolted from the parliament, this castle was besieged, and one side, with three of its towers, were thrown down, but again rebuilt in one year, at the enormous expense of £80,000. For a building

of great extent and antiquity, this castle may be pronounced rather mean than magnificent. The finest specimen of art which the demesne contains is the singularly beautiful iron gates.

About two miles from Chirk, on the road to Rhuabon, is a pleasing view down a woody vale, in the bottom of which runs the river Dee; but a little farther, at New Bridge, this is exceeded by another view more interesting. "Out of the road," says Mr. Bingley, (who visited this neighbourhood in September, 1798,) "about one hundred yards above the bridge, such a scene was presented to me, that had I possessed the pencil of a Claude, I could have painted one of the most exquisite landscapes the eye ever beheld. The river here darted along its rugged bed, and its rocky banks clad with wood, where every varied tint that autumn could afford added to their effect, cast a darkening shade upon the stream. With the green oak, all the different hues of the ash, the elm, and the hazel, were intermingled. Above the bridge arose a few cottages surrounded with foliage. The evening was calm, and the smoke, tinged by the setting sun, descended upon the vale, while the distant mountains were brightened by his beams into a fine purple. I contemplated these beauties till the declining sun had sunk beneath the horizon, and twilight had begun to steal over the landscape, blending into one every different shade of reflection."

On the way to Llangollen, Mr. Pennant ascended the front of Cefn Ucha. The distant view from this lofty hill is boundless. One side impends over a most beautiful valley, watered by the Dee, diversified with groves, and bounded towards the end by barren and naked rocks, tier above tier. *Fumaria claviculata* is abundant in hedges by the road-side near Llangollen.

"Leaving the noble mansion of Chirk, the seat of genuine hospitality and real elegance," says Mr. Evans, "we crossed the river Ceiriog, a tributary to the Dee, and at present the boundary between England and this part of Wales, and turned our backs upon a country which had furnished us with new scenes at every step; where Nature has been lavish with whatever tends to please and elevate the mind; where Flora sports in sweet variety, and spreads her matchless charms over alpine heights, as well as lowly vales, in rich profusion. A country which was eminently distinguished as the birth-place and residence of the children of freedom, whose independent spirit and martial prowess, for centuries, chastised rapacity and injustice, and made oppression and tyranny tremble upon the throne. A country where a plain, honest, hospitable people, uncorrupted by wealth, and not enervated by luxury, still keep the noiseless tenour of their way—where calm content and bliss delight to dwell."



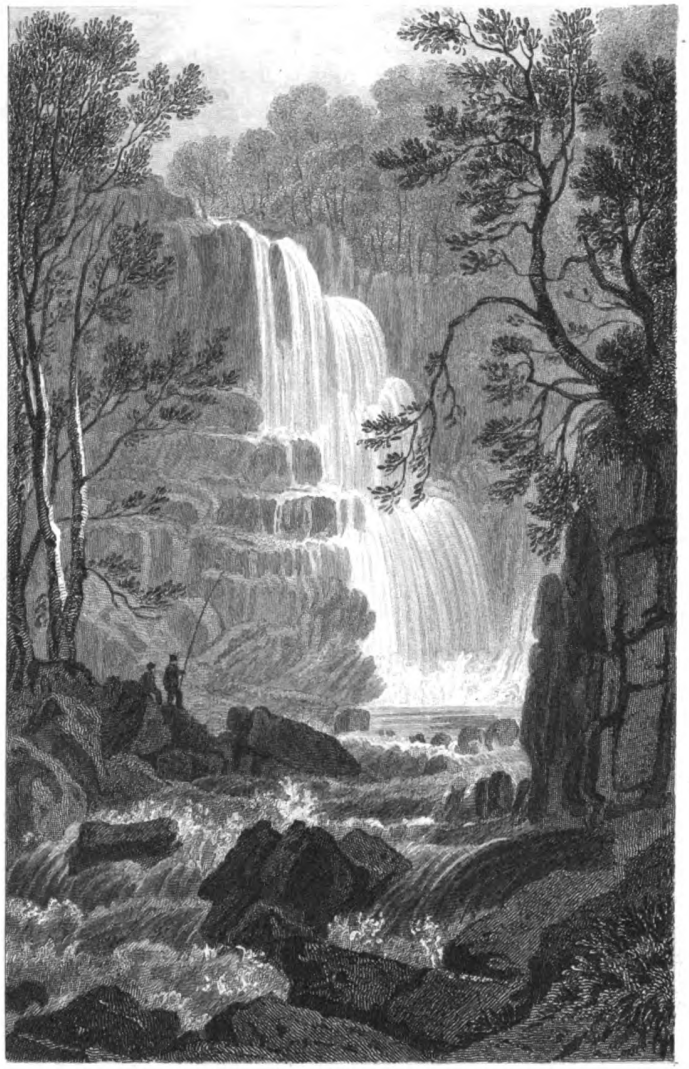
Drawn by T. Sunderl

PONT Y PRYDDANFAR.

NEAR [illegible]

CARNARVONSHIRE.

[illegible]



Engraved by H. Ald[illegible]

PISTILL Y CAEN.

MERIONETHSHIRE.

[illegible] People of the Arts, Instructive Square, London.

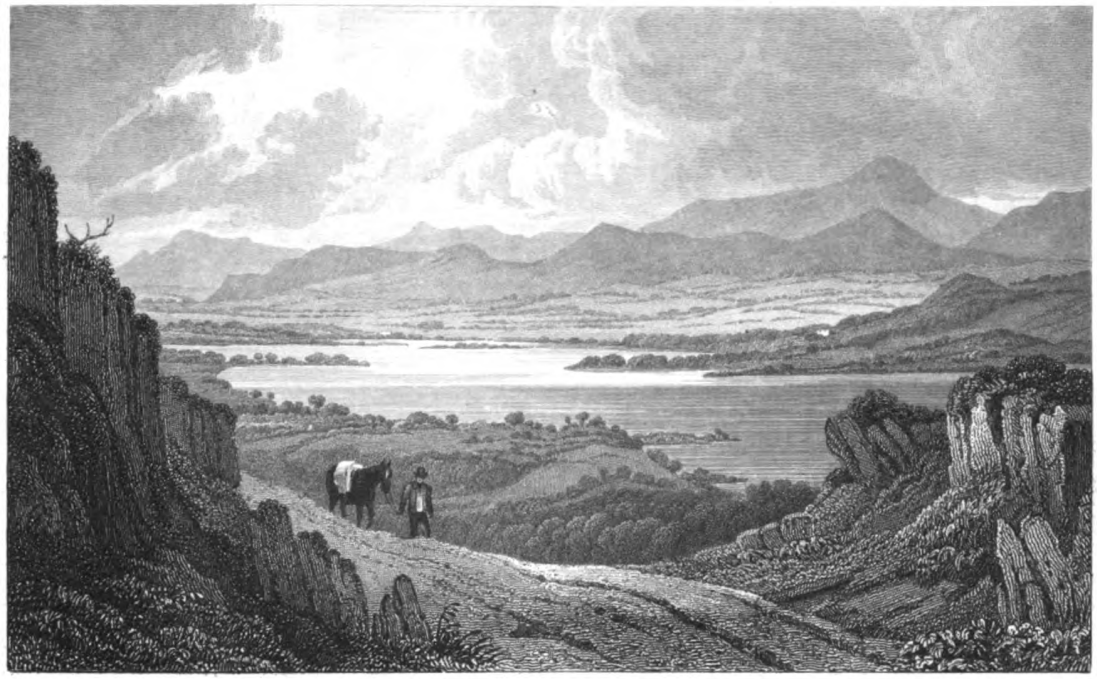
PISTILL Y CAEN.

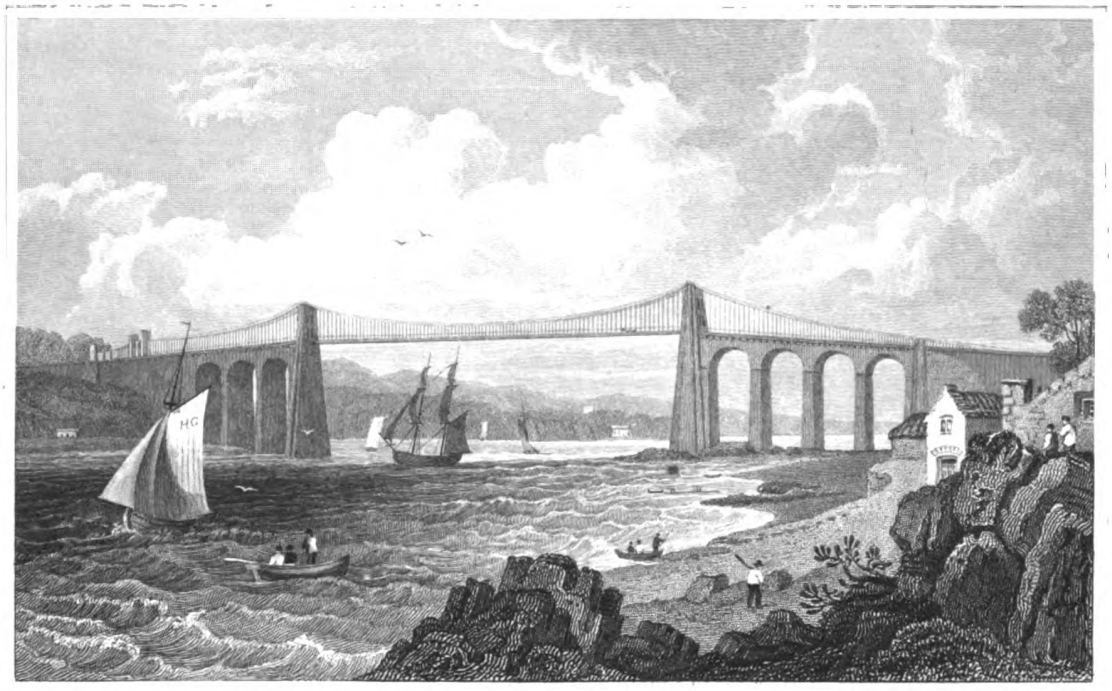
SEVEN miles from Dolgelly, our guide conducted us over a bridge to the right of the road, called Pont-ar-Garfa, from the river of that name, which flows under it. From hence we proceeded nearly two miles on a gradual ascent over a slate mountain, the dulness of which was soon contrasted by a magnificent and sublime prospect. The summit of the hill Tylyn Gwladys, which we had been ascending, is opposed by the lofty mountain Cwm-Ysom, and the profound valley of Mouddach at its feet. Through this immense hollow the two torrents Cayne and Mouddach pour their irresistible streams; and though the deep woods, which completely clothe the declivities on either side, preclude a view of their troubled waters, yet the roar of their cataracts swells upon the gale, and reaches the ear in one continual peal of distant thunder. The solemn sentiments which this circumstance naturally inspires, were exalted and enlivened, as we descended, by the surrounding scenery; the umbrageous and gloomy appearance of the glen, the precipitous declivity of the hills, and the sharp rocky crags which shot through the verdant clothing of their sides. An infinite variety of shrubs and trees, planted by the hand of Nature, but disposed with the justest taste and happiest effect, the trembling foliage of the aspen, the vivid berries of the mountain ash, and the melancholy shade of the pendant birch, complete the beauties of this fairy region.

Our first object was the Pistill y Caen, or fall of the Caen; in order to approach which, we passed over a rude alpine bridge, formed of the trunk of an oak thrown from rock to rock, and hanging frightfully over a black torrent that roared many feet beneath it. We descended with some difficulty to the bottom of the fall. Here the effect is very grand. A sheet of water is seen pouring down a rugged declivity, nearly perpendicular, of two hundred feet; the view of it is complete and full, through the adjoining woods, which, though they thickly mantle its sides, do not break by the intervention of their branches the continuity of the fall. After tumbling from the stupendous height, the agitated waters are received amongst rocks of a light dun colour, which their perpetual actions have excavated into hollows of alarming profundity and various shapes, and through these they force their course, in order to unite themselves with the Mouddach, a few hundred yards from the spot on which we stood. Whilst we were contemplating this grand example of Nature's magnificence, the sun, which had hitherto veiled its head in the clouds, shone suddenly and

full upon the descending sheet of water, and produced an appearance that conveyed no bad idea of an immense shower of diamonds falling from an eminence.

Pont y Rhydlanfair.—The cataract here, is of a very different character from the other; indeed, we may extend this remark to all the particulars of Welsh scenery; each spot having, as it were, a character peculiar to itself; a circumstance which produces inexhaustible variety, and constant sources of fresh entertainment to the admirer of Nature.





MENAI BRIDGE.

THE passage of the Menai Strait, which separates Anglesea from the main land, and which, although in appearance only a river, is in fact an arm of the sea, being at certain times both difficult and dangerous, suggested the idea of forming a bridge over the Strait, chiefly with a view to facilitate the communication with Ireland. Various estimates and plans were submitted to the public by engineers and scientific men, and it was not until after due consideration and some delay, that Mr. Telford's splendid design for one, on the suspension principle, was adopted, and a sum granted by Parliament for carrying it into effect. On the 10th of August, 1819, the first stone of this magnificent structure was without any ceremony laid by Mr. Provis, the resident engineer, and the contractor for the masonry.

"When, on entering the Straits," says a recent author, "the bridge is first seen, suspended as it were in mid air, and confining the view of the fertile and richly wooded shores, it seems more like a light ornament than a massy bridge, and shows little of the strength and solidity which it really possesses. But as we approached it nearer, whilst it still retained its light and elegant appearance, the stupendous size and immensity of the work struck us with awe; and when we saw that a brig, with every stick standing, had just passed under it, that a coach going over it appeared not larger than a child's toy, and that foot passengers upon it appeared like pigmies, the vastness of its proportions was by contrast fully apparent."

The whole length of the bridge is one thousand feet, of which the part immediately dependant upon the chain is five hundred and ninety feet, the remaining distance being supported by seven arches, four on one side, and three on the other, which fill up the distance from the main piers to the shore. These main piers rise above the level of the road fifty feet, and through them two archways, each twelve feet wide, admit a passage. Over the tops of these piers, four rows of chains, the extremities of which are firmly secured in the rocks at each end of the bridge, are thrown; two of them nearly in the centre, about four feet apart, and one at each side. The floor of the road is formed of layers of wood, well covered with pitch, and then strewed over with granite broken very small, forming, by its adhesion to the pitch, a solid work, impervious to the wet. A light lattice-work of wrought iron, to the height of about six feet, prevents the possibility of accidents by falling over, and allows a clear view of the scenery on both sides, which appears to great advantage from this height. Having expressed our admiration of the skill evident in the construction, at once so simple and so useful, and having satisfied our curiosity at the top, we descended by a precipitous path to the level of the water, and gazed upwards with wonder, at the immense flat surface above us, and its connecting gigantic arches. The road is one hundred feet above high water, and the arches spring, at the height of sixty feet, from abutments of solid masonry, with a span of fifty-two feet. These abutments taper gradually, from their

base to where the arch commences, and, immense masses as they are, show no appearance of heaviness; indeed, taking the whole of the Menai Bridge together, a more perfect union of beauty with utility cannot be imagined. It has been erected to bear a weight of two thousand tons upon the chains; the whole weight imposed at present is only five hundred, leaving an available strength of fifteen hundred tons; so that there is an easy remedy for a complaint that has been made, of its too great vibration in a gale of wind, by laying additional weight upon it. There is so much magnificence, beauty, and elegance in this grand work of art, that it harmonises and accords perfectly with the natural scenery around, and though itself an object of admiration, still in connexion it heightens the effect of the general view.

LLYN TEGID,
MERIONETHSHIRE.

Llyn Tegid, better known under the name of Pimble Mere, or Bala Lake, lies about a quarter of a mile to the south of the town, extending about four miles in length, and three quarters of one in breadth. Its greatest depth is about forty feet. The accompanying scenery consists of easy slopes partly cultivated, and partly clothed with wood, and not dissimilar to the low hilly views around the lake of Winander Mere, in the county of Cumberland. During stormy weather, from the wide expanse, the billows run very high, encroaching greatly on the north-east end. The water rises sometimes nine feet above its usual level; and when winds and rains combine their forces, it overflows the banks into the fair vale of Edeirnion.

The tradition of the neighbourhood is, that the Dee passes through the lake, without mixing its waters, as the Rhone is fabled to serve the lake of Geneva. The proof adduced is—that salmon, found in the river, are never found in the lakes, nor the gwyniaids, except rarely, in the river. But this is no conclusive argument, because fish, as well as birds, by instinct seek out, and frequent, those places most agreeable to them as haunts, and most convenient for their feeding and shelter.

The lake abounds with fish, such as pike, perch, trout, roach, &c. with shoals of a sort denominated a *gwyniaid*, from the whiteness of its scales. It is a gregarious fish, the *salmo lavaretus* of Linnæus, and found in most alpine lakes, particularly those of Switzerland. The greatest weight seldom exceeds three or four pounds. The flavour is by some persons considered rather insipid, but this may be for want of taste. For a noble author asserts "it is so delicate, that his friends, to whom he addresses his description of the country, would prefer the flavour of it even to the lips of the fair maids of Bala." These fish usually keep at the bottom of the lake, where they feed on small shells and aquatic plants, so that to take them recourse is had, not to baited lines, but deep nets. The fishery in former times constituted part of the possessions belonging to Basingwerk abbey, having been bestowed on God and St. Mary, through the medium of monks belonging to that house.

VIEW NEAR APER

CALEDONIAN CANAL

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

VIEW NEAR ABER, AND LYNN GWYNANT,

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

To the north-east of Beddgelert the mountains recede from each other, leaving a small opening, which constitutes the highly romantic pass of Nant Hwynan, or Nant Gwynant, the valley of waters. This, Mr. Pennant styles "the most beautiful vale in Snowdonia;" and truly, for six miles of the extent, its picturesque features stand unrivalled. It affords such multifarious scenery, composed of luxuriant meads, watered by expansive lakes, whence issue numerous streams, that meander towards the sea; and circumvented by august boundaries, finely clothed with wood far up their sides, above which they lift their bare and rugged summits to the skies, in all the diversity of colouring; so that the beauty and order, so admirably described by the elegant Mason, are here actually exhibited to the enraptured view.

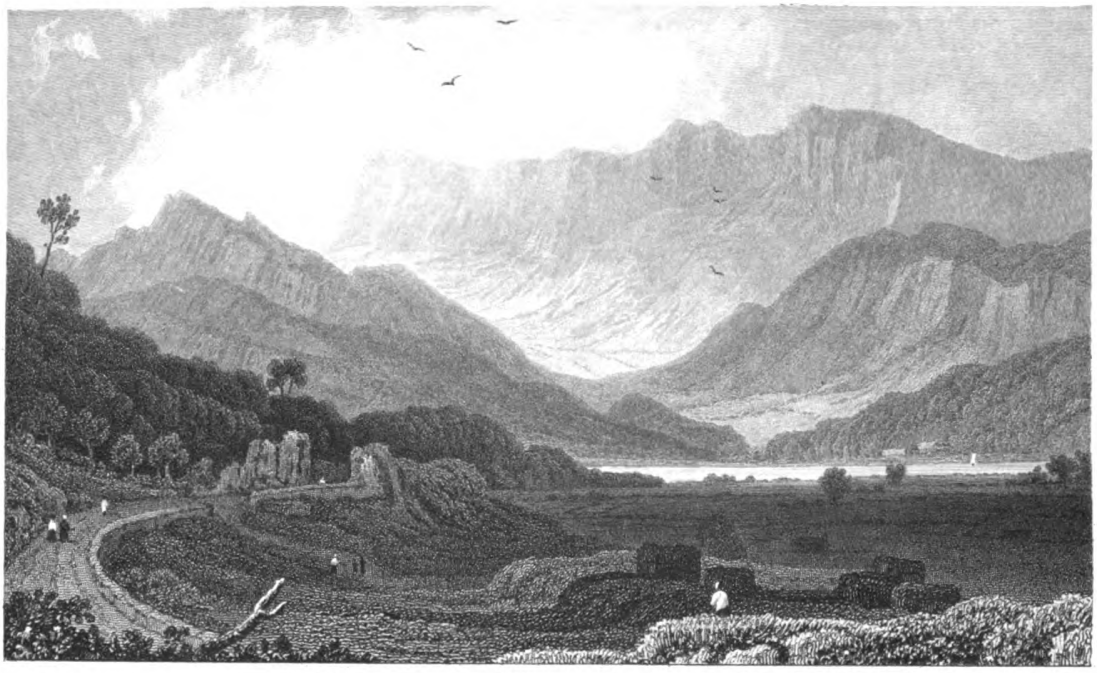
> "Vivid green,
> Warm brown, and black opake, the foreground bears
> Conspicuous. Sober olive coldly marks
> The second distance. Thence the third declines
> In softer blue, or lessening still, is lost in
> Faintest purple."

About a short mile up this valley, on the left, rises a lofty rock, forming part of the mountain barrier, on which it is said Vortigern had his residence, previous to his final retreat from the persecution of his subjects, to Nant Gwrtheyrn in the vicinity of Nefyn. This he bestowed upon his favourite soothsayer, Ambrosius; and the spot still retains the appellation of Dinas Emrys, or the fort of Ambrosius, called, in Welsh, Merddin Emrys. On the top of this precipitous rock, is a considerable area, the accessible part of which is defended by two large ramparts; within this are the remains of a stone building, about ten yards in length; and the walls, though built without mortar, appear very thick and strong. Near this, a place, allusive to the magic story of Vortigern and his court, is called Cell y dewiniaid, or "the cell of the diviners." Here,

> "Prophetic Merlin sate, when to the British king
> The changes long to come, auspiciously, he told.
> And from the top of Brith, so high and wondrous steep,
> Where Dinas Emrys stood, shewed where the serpent fought,
> The *white* that tore the *red*, from whence the prophet wrought
> The Briton's sad decay, then shortly to ensure."

This Merddin is represented, in legendary story, as the son of a vestal virgin, begotten by an incubus; consequently, endued with miraculous and predictive powers; and numerous prophecies are attributed to him, the copying, or recital of which, was prohibited by the council of Trent. But the traveller will pleasurably turn away from the recollection of such absurdities, to view the beautiful Lyn y Dinas, filling the vale with its expansive waters; famous for a large and well-flavoured trout, and affording the effects of contrast and vividity to the surrounding scenery. Two miles beyond this rises, with unwieldy bulk, Y Aran, under which is a romantic hollow, denominated Cwm Llan, extending on the left towards Snowdon, whose summit is here finely visible between the intervening mountains. Numerous streams, issuing out of the rocky clefts, tend greatly to relieve the eye from the fatiguing and dull uniformity of the mountain. At the same time a neat modern mansion, embosomed in woods, with a small lawn in front, forms a fine close to the upper end of the lake. The mountains here converge, but soon recede, and another lake, Llyn Gwynant, presents itself to view. This is about three quarters of a mile in length, and nearly fills the valley, leaving little more than space for the continuation of the road. Near this are the ruins of a small chapel, erected and endowed by a Mr. John Williams, a goldsmith in London. Near the upper part of the vale are two immense fragments of rock, one of which is in shape like the gable of a large house, and far exceeds in bulk the enormous Bowdar stone, near Derwentwater, in Borrowdale. Here the mountain barrier divides, opening into Nantperis, and further into Nant Cerrig; on the right the lofty Shiabod lifts his dark brown head, and on the left is the cataract Rhaiadr Cwm dyli. It consists of two distinct waterfalls, formed by a rivulet, issuing from the alpine pool in the mountains above, called Llyn Llwydaw. This, interrupted by two rocky ledges, breaks in foam and spray down their broken fronts; and, during rainy weather, produces a grand effect.

The View near Aber, in which the mountain stream may be traced nearly to its source, will prove interesting to every lover of pictorial beauty.



CALDER ABBEY,
NEAR WEST FROM ARMOTH
MONTGOMERYSHIRE

LLANFAGGRETH CHURCH,
NEAR DOLGELLAU, MERIONETHSHIRE

CADER IDRIS,

MERIONETHSHIRE.

Cader Idris, the majestic father of the Merionethshire mountains, which literally lifts its bifid head and black precipices above the clouds, rises majestically from the margin of the beautiful lake of Tal y Llyn. The ascent to the top, and the views obtained from the summit, are thus described by an observant traveller:—

"A small lake, called Llyn y gader, lies about a mile and a half on the high road to Towyn, which having arrived at, we quitted the road, and began our ascent at the first step of this lofty mountain. When we had surmounted the exterior ridge, we descended a little to a deep clear lake, which is kept constantly full by the numerous tributary torrents that fall down the surrounding rocks; hence we climbed a second and still higher chain, up a steep but not difficult track, over numerous fragments of rock detached from the higher parts: we now came to a second and more elevated lake, clear as glass, and overlooked by steep cliffs in such a manner as to resemble the crater of a volcano. Some travellers have mentioned the finding lava and other volcanic productions here; upon a strict examination, however, we were unable to discover any thing of the kind, nor did the water of the lake appear to differ in any respect from the purest rock water, though it was tried repeatedly with the most delicate chemical tests. A clear, loud, and distant echo, repeats every shock that is made near the lake. We now began our last and most difficult ascent up the summit of Cader Idris itself, which, when we had surmounted, we came to a small plain, with two rocky heads of nearly equal heights, one looking to the north, and the other to the south: we made choice of that which appeared to us the most elevated, and seated ourselves on its highest pinnacle, to rest after a laborious ascent of three hours. We were now high above all the eminences within this vast expanse, and as the clouds gradually cleared away, caught some grand views of the surrounding country. The huge rocks, which we before looked up to with astonishment, were far below at our feet, and many a small lake appeared in the valleys between them; to the north, Snowdon with its dependencies shut up the scene; on the west, we saw the whole curve of the bay of Cardigan, bounded at a vast distance by the Caernarvon mountains, and nearer, dashing its white breakers against the rocky coasts of Merioneth; the southern horizon was bounded by Plinlimmon; and at the east the eye glanced over the lake of Bala, the two Arennig mountains, the two Arrans, the long chain of the Ferwyn mountains, to the Breiddin hills on the confines of Shropshire; and dimly, in the distant horizon, was beheld the Wrekin, rising alone from the plain of Salop. Having at last satisfied our curiosity, and being thoroughly chilled by the keen air of these

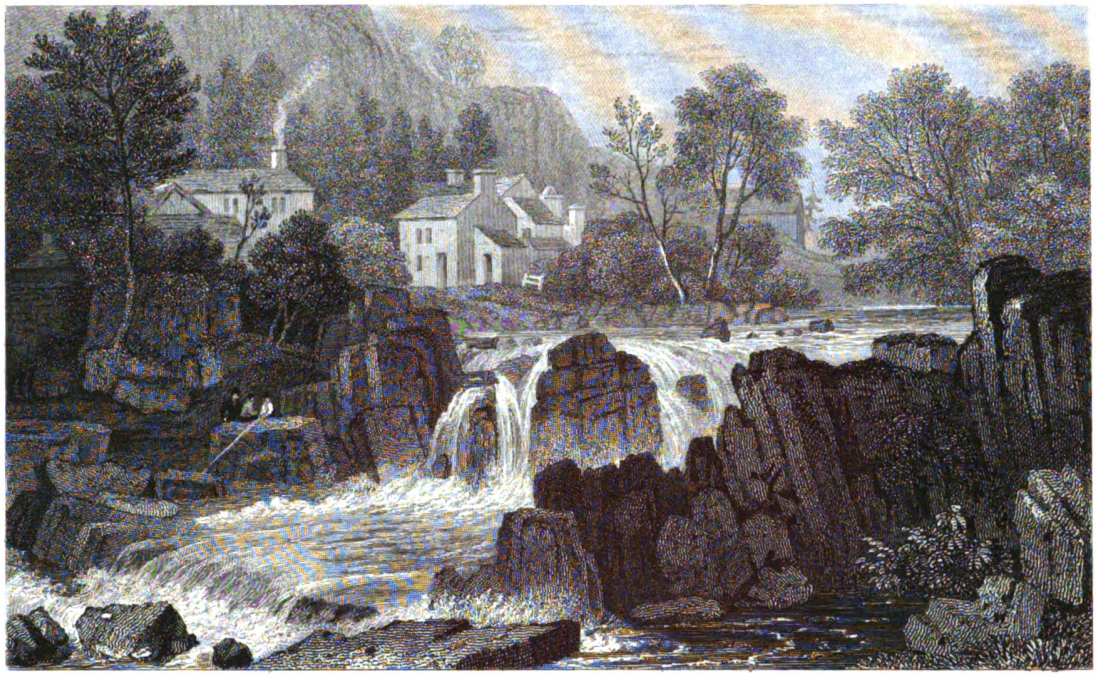
elevated regions, we began to descend down the side opposite to that which we had come up. The first stage led us to another beautiful mountain lake, whose cold clear waters discharge their superabundance in a full stream down the side of the mountain. All these waters abound with trout; and in some is found the gwyniaid, a fish peculiar to rocky alpine lakes. Following the course of the stream, we came on the edge of the craggy cliffs that overlook Tal y Llyn lake; and a long and difficult descent conducted us at last on the borders of Tal y Llyn, where we entered the Dolgellau road."

The mountain of Cader Idris, in height the second in all Wales, rises on the sea shore, close upon the northern side of the estuary of the small river Dysynwy; about a mile above Towyn, it proceeds with almost a constant ascent, first northward for about three miles, then for ten miles farther runs E. N. E. giving out from its summit a branch nearly three miles long, in a south-westerly direction, parallel to the main ridge. It is very steep and craggy on every side; but the southern descent, especially to the border of Tal y Llyn lake, is the most precipitous, being nearly perpendicular. Its breadth bears but a small proportion to its length; a line passing along its base and intersecting the summit would scarcely equal four miles and a half; and in the other parts it is a mere ridge, whose base hardly ever exceeds one mile in breadth. The peak is said to be two thousand eight hundred and fifty feet above Dolgellau.

Cader Idris is the beginning of a chain of primitive mountains, extending in a N. N. easterly direction, and including the Arrans and the Arennigs. It is much loftier and more craggy than the slates and secondary mountains which surround it, and consists of—1. Siliceous porphyry in mass, intersected by veins of quartz. 2. Siliceous schistose, porphyry, intersected by veins of quartz. 3. Argillaceous porphyry, in mass. 4. Granitell (of Kirwan) in mass, composed of quartz and schorl.

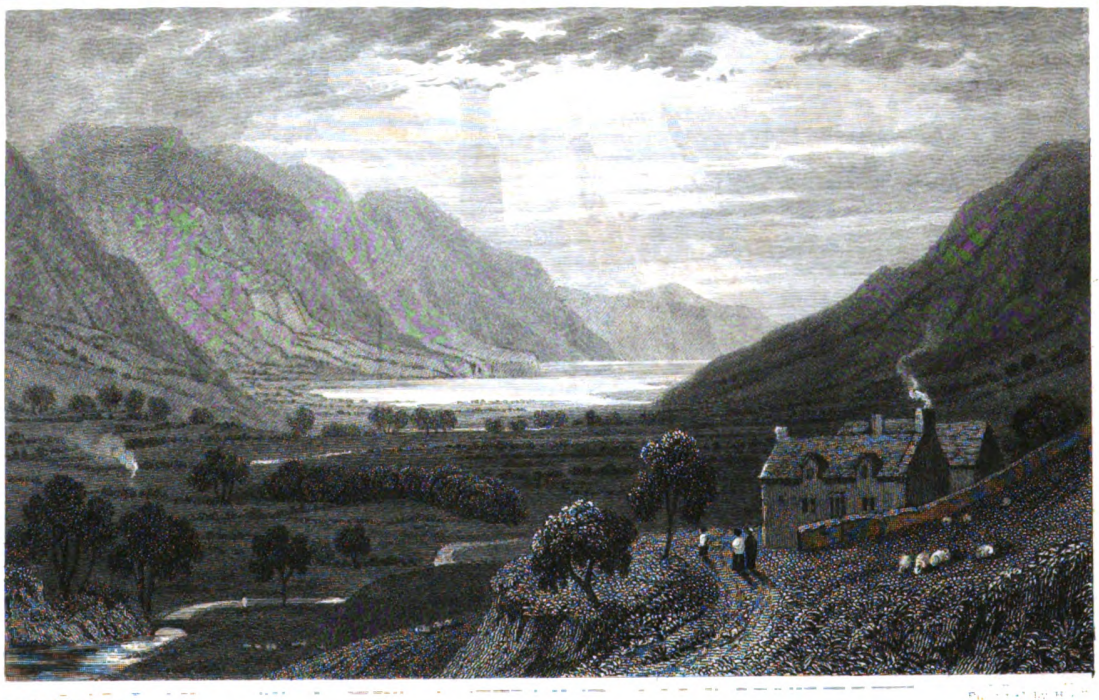
In a flat called Towyn Meireonydd, watered by the river Dysynwy, that falls into the sea a few miles to the north of Llanfihangel y Pennant, rises an immense rock, with a very contracted top. Here once stood a castle, evidently from the present remains of great strength. It appears to have extended longitudinally, over the whole surface of the summit. One apartment, thirty-six feet in diameter, was cut out of the rock. In some parts, the lines of circumvallation consisted of stones, loosely piled on the edges of the precipices. The other sides were defended by well-built walls of squared stones, cemented with mortar, composed of calcined shells, and gravel. The whole is now almost invisible, being overrun with weeds and bushes.

Llanfachreth Church is the accompanying View.



BETTWS Y COED.

CAERNARVONSHIRE.



TAL Y LLYN

MERIONETHSHIRE.

BETTWS Y COED,

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

On the way to Cernioge, Mr. Hutton passed Bettws y Coed, (the station in the wood), the road running beside the Llugwy for five miles, and being enclosed by a range of mountains on each hand. A walk to the right, up these banks, produces some wonders. The rocks and the river seem to contend which should most delight the traveller. About midway is the famous Rhaiadyr y Wenol, a hill of rocks in the bed of the river, over which the water precipitates with the utmost violence. Leaving the wonderful objects of Nature at Pont y Rhydlanvair, Mr. Hutton was obliged to travel the next five miles through an old British road, full of turnings, which brought him into the great road to Pentre Voelas; thence he passed through Cernioge.

TAL Y LLYN,

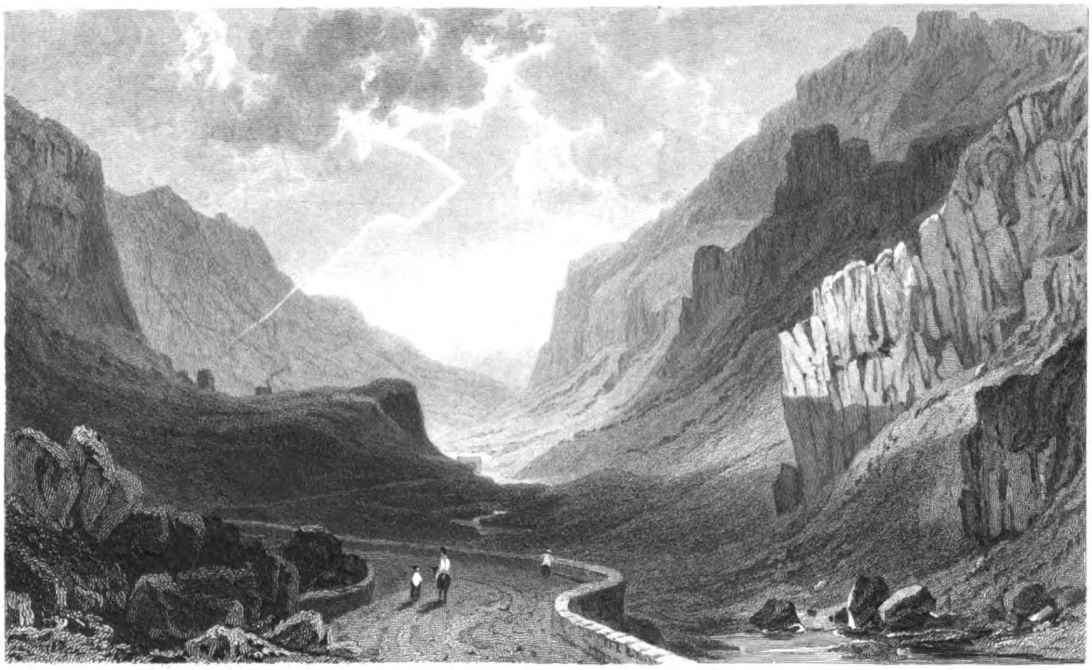
MERIONETHSHIRE.

The vale of Tal y Llyn, though confined, is not destitute of beauty. It consists of rich meadows, through which flows a fine rivulet, issuing from the lake, and proceeding to the ocean. The valley is flanked by lofty mountains, the sides of which are adorned with verdant and sylvant clothing. The termination is pleasing. The lake here nearly fills the valley, so as to leave only a road on one side. It then contracts gradually into a river, rushing under a bridge of one arch, through a narrow defile; on one side of which stands the church, and upon the other, cottages intermingled with trees.

Mr. Pennant continued his journey from a place called Allt-Lwyd, where he had a full view of the flat called Towyn Meireonydd, watered by the Dysynwy. From this place he descended through fields, and, crossing the river, dined upon a great stone beneath the vast rock Craig y Deryn, or the rock of birds, so called from numbers of cormorants, rock pigeons and hawks, which breed there. At the foot is a prodigious stream of stones, which extends some hundreds of yards from the bottom of the rock. Here the Towyn is contracted into a fertile vale, which stretches about two miles farther. Near its end is a long and high rock, narrow upon the top. Here stood the castle of Teberri, which extended lengthways over the whole surface of the summit. The remaining walls are well built, but the place is so overgrown with bushes as to render the survey very difficult. It lies in the parish of

Llanfihangel y Pennant. Returned about half a mile, and rode several miles along the pretty vale of Tal y Llyn; went by Llyn y mingil, a beautiful lake, about a mile long. Its termination is very picturesque, for it contracts gradually into the form of a river, and rushes through a good stone arch into a narrow pass, having on one side the church, on the other some cottages mixed with trees. A few miles beyond Tal y Llyn church, the hills almost meet at their bottoms, and change their aspect. No verdure is now to be seen, but a general appearance of rude and savage nature. One of the precipices is called Pen y Delyn, from some resemblance it has to a harp; another is styled Llam y lladron, or "the thieves' leap." On the left is the rugged height of Cader Idris. Pass near a small lake, called Llyn y tri grasenyn, or "pool of the three grains," from three vast rocks, which some time had fallen from the neighbouring mountain into the water. These (say the peasants) are the three grains, which the giant feeling in his shoe, so as to hurt his foot, he threw them out here. Pass over Bwlch Coch, and from thence to Dolgellau; whence visit Nannau, the seat of the ancient family of the Nanneys, now of the Vaughans. The way to it is a continual ascent of two miles. On the road-side is a venerable oak, pierced by art into the form of a gothic arch; its girth is twenty-seven feet and a half. Its name is Derwen Ceubren yr Ellyll, the hollow oak, the haunt of demons. Above Nannau is a high rock, called Moel yr thrwm, evidently once a British post. Return through Dolgellau, and about one mile beyond is a beautiful view of three vales, finely embellished with gentlemen's seats, and watered by the junction of the Onion and the Mouddach. Instead of the direct track to Barmouth, visit the cascades of Glyn-maw. Cross the bridge of Llanelltyd; below is a turbery; on the left is the church of Llanelltyd; on the right, in a rich flat, stand the remains of the abbey of Cymmer. A portion of the church is still to be seen; and the great hall and part of the abbot's lodgings now form a farm-house.

About five or six miles from Dolgellau, at Dol y Melynllyn, Mr. Pennant turned out of the road to meet the furious course of the Gamlan, which falls, with short interruptions, from rock to rock, for a very considerable space, amid the woods and bushes, till it reaches a lofty precipice, whence it precipitates into a black pool, shaded by trees, (which give the name of Rhaiadyr-du, or the black cataract.) Cross Pont ar Gamlan, below which the river falls into the Mouddach. Not far thence, the junction of the Mouddach and Eden forms another grand scene. Begin a considerable ascent, and find upon the summit some groves of handsome oaks; in front, a naked country. Descend through steep fields, to another set of wooded dingles, which wind along the bottoms, and join the former. In various parts, Cader Idris appears in full majesty. Soon after arriving in the woods, another cascade, called Pistill y Caen, astonishes with its grandeur, forming a vast fall, bounded on one side by broken ledges of rocks, on the other by a lofty precipice. At the bottom is an alpine bridge, and not far distant is another cascade. Emerging from these romantic depths, a long extent of woodless tract is reached, in the vast parish of Trawsfynnydd, walled in on all sides by lofty rugged mountains, of various forms.

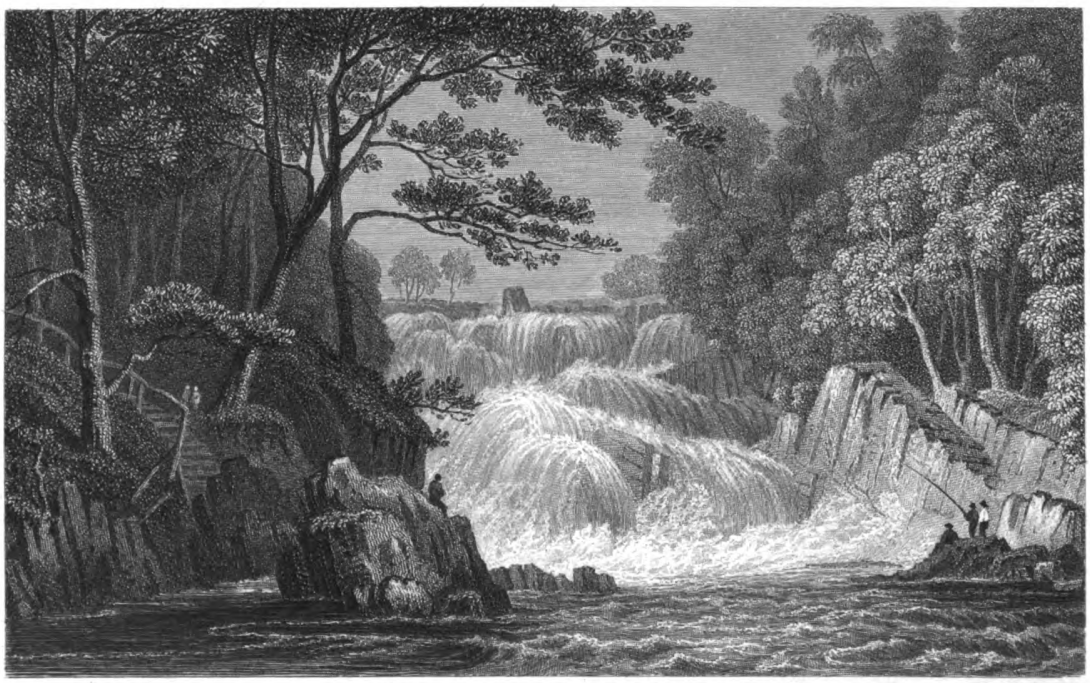


Drawn by H. Gastineau. Engraved by H. Adlard.

PASS OF LLANBERIS.

NEAR CAPEL CURIG,

CAERNARVONSHIRE.



Drawn by H. Gastineau. Engraved by S. Fisher.

RHAIADYR-Y-WENOL.

NEAR CAPEL CURIG,

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

Jones & Co. Temple of the Muses, Finsbury Square London.

PASS OF LLANBERIS AND RHAIADYR Y WENOL,

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

From Llanberis to Capel Curig is a curious and romantic pass, between three and four miles in length, and in some places not more than fifty or sixty yards wide, called Cwm Glas, or the "blue vale." The rocks on each side are of a tremendous height, in some places nearly perpendicular, and in others overhanging their bases many yards. About three miles from Llanberis is a huge fragment of rock, far larger than the Bowdar stone in Borrowdale, once probably loosened from the impending heights above; under which is a large cavity, where a poor woman resided for many years during the summer season, to tend her sheep, and milk her cows: the place is called Ynys Hettws, Hetty's Island. The highest part of this gradually ascending road is called Gorphwysfa, or "the resting-place." Mr. Hutton describes this pass as follows:—"Leaving the enchanting scenery around Llanberis, I instantly entered Bwlch y Gwyddyl. I was struck with astonishment at this wonderful spot. He who has not seen it, may imagine himself rising a steep mountain, nearly two miles long, meeting a rapid stream in the centre, but diminishing to nothing as he rises, with an immense rock on each hand all the way. From the frosts, the sun, and the rains, which, for ages, have operated upon these elevated mountains of rock, they have been shivering to pieces, and fragments of all sizes have covered the valley, which is about one hundred yards wide, so as to annoy the traveller, and choke the river. All is chaos. Amazement and contemplation fill the mind. Many of the stones may be traced to the spot whence they fell. After travelling up this scene of wonder, this wreck of nature, sometimes up stone stairs, sometimes through water, yet always upon rock, I arrived at the top, called 'the resting-place,' whence I had a prospect of the other side of the hill, called Bwlch yr Eisteddfa. One of the ranges of mountains now opened to the right, which was Snowdon, and the other to the left towards Capel Curig. In front appeared a third range, forming a triangular area. This was barren, solitary, yet dignified nature. Not one habitation could be descried in all this prospect; not a human being, no shrub, or tree. Even the birds appeared to avoid this secluded spot, to seek their enemy, man. Unproductive as the place appears, it is without doubt, thought I, the freehold of somebody, but I could not estimate the fee-simple at more than one shilling an acre. It is space without use, freehold without profit. During two days did I wander among these desolate mountains, yet only trod upon two estates. I was inquisitive to learn the value of land in a desart. One farm, about three hundred acres, including a newly erected inn, which could not cost lest than £1200, is let at 3s. 6d. an acre. Another, two thousand four hundred acres, at £60 per annum. A third, six hundred acres, at £5 per annum, which is two-pence an acre. And here I might pay a compliment to Lord Penrhyn, who is proprietor of one of the estates; but that cannot be

praise from me, which is only a repetition of what all the country asserts; for every tongue which I heard was loud in his favour. His works speak in the most convincing language. As the stubborn rock on the surface of the earth yielded no benefit to man, he explored its interior, where he found fuller's earth, colours, slate, &c. These employ workmen, and are exported for general benefit.

"Having descended Bwlch yr Eisteddfa, or 'the pass of the Irishmen,' and bearing to the right," says Mr. Hutton, "I passed by a grand cascade, or waterfall, from Ffynnon Las, a large pool in one of the chasms of Snowdon. The fall seems about three hundred feet high; the water, a strong current, forming the river Llyn Glas, which brought me in view of the beautiful vale of Nant Gwynant; a rich spot, graced with woods and two large pools. The whole Nant, or valley, consists of perhaps two thousand acres, surrounded with dreary mountains; a diamond set off with black shades."

On the road to Capel Curig, the traveller may skirt the north extremity of Snowdon. Ascending the west boundary of Llanrwst Vale, by the road to Capel Curig, passing at the foot of Gwydir woods, at the distance of about two miles, occurs an extensive dip between the mountains abounding with mines. Hence proceeding up a rather narrow, wooded valley, two or three fine waterfalls are formed by the river Llugwy, one of which, called Rhaiadyr y Wenol, is particularly striking. Its height is not great, but a considerable body of water falls in four foaming torrents into a deep bason in the centre of a very rocky channel; a number of footsteps cut in the rock, shew that it is a spot much resorted to. In the prospects on this part of the road, Moel-Siabod, a mountain so lofty as to conceal behind it the crags of Snowdon, forms an object of admiration, both on account of its size, and the elegance of its outline.

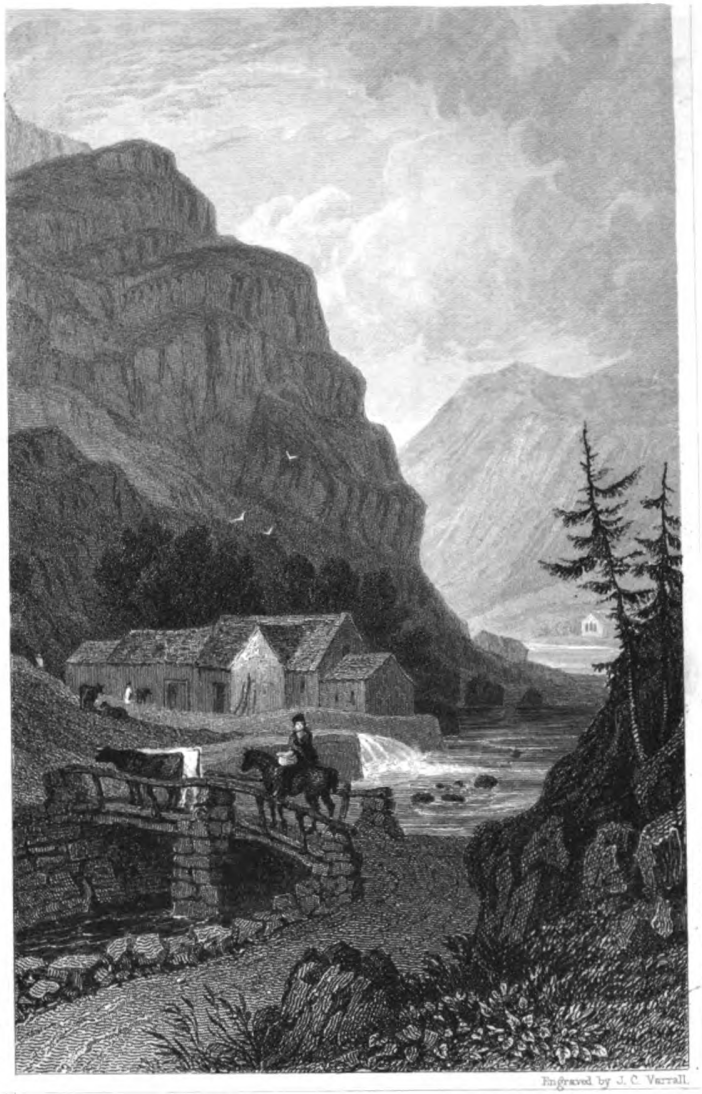
The road to Denbigh lies over some heathy hills, till within the distance of five miles, when the beauty of the country begins sensibly to increase, and to prepare the traveller for the rich and fertile prospects which gladden the vale of Clwyd.

From Llanrwst to Conway, Mr. Skrine proceeded up the vale, till the closing hills barely left room for the foaming river; then turning to the right, he coursed the Llugwy, and soon came to a spot, where it dashes with great rapidity over a ledge of broken rocks, on the craggy points of which an extraordinary bridge of five arches, called Pont y pair, is founded. He then penetrated into the recesses of that pile of mountains, which form the base of Snowdon, for the purpose of viewing the cataract of Rhaiadyr y Wenol. The river, here tearing its way through opposing obstacles, increases the horror of this savage desart, by a precipitate fall from rock to rock, into the abyss of an excessively deep hollow, whence it rushes with prodigious impetuosity for several miles to the bridge which he had passed. At the cataract, a dark column of wood overhangs and fringes its banks, which, combined with the colour and largeness of the rocks, give an indescribable sublimity to the scene. Returning to Llanrwst, he passed near the old mansion of Gwydir. Pursuing the turnpike-road, on the Caernarvonshire side of the river, he soon reached the town of Conway.

Drawn by H Gastineau

FALL OF THE CONWAY.

CAERNARVONSHIRE



Engraved by J.C. Varrall.

VIEW IN THE VALE OF BEDDGELERT.

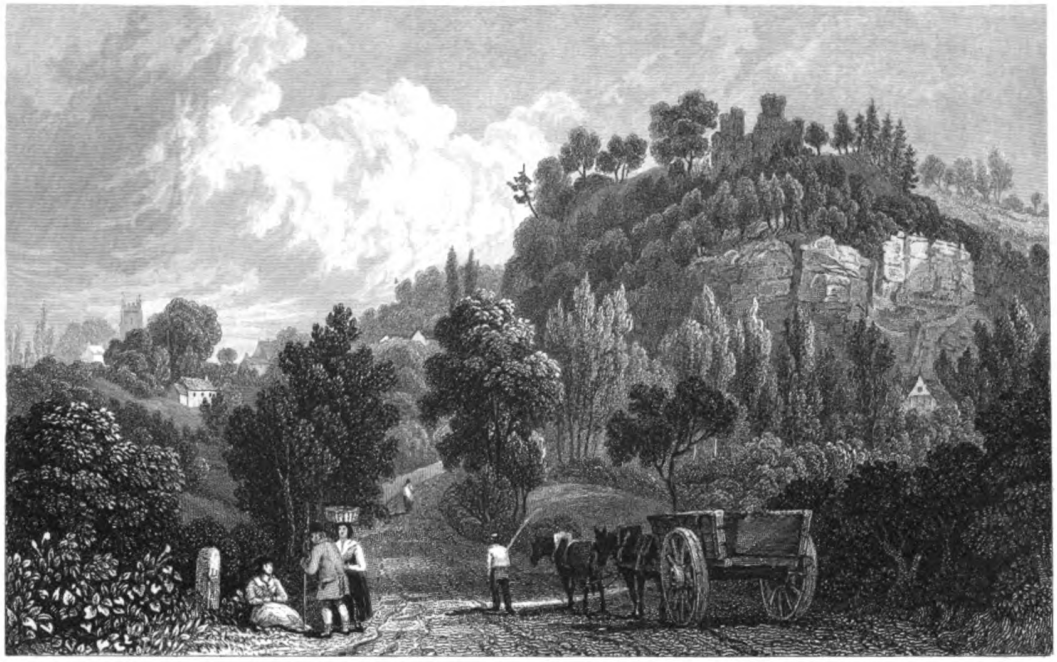
CAERNARVONSHIRE

VALE OF BEDDGELERT, AND FALL OF THE CONWAY,

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

On the direct road to Caernarvon, a pleasing vale is entered, expanding as you advance, and is watered by the river Colwyn, which flows from a lake called Llyn Cadair yr Aur Frychin. Cadair means a seat or chair, and the Aur Frychin is supposed to have been a wild beast, perhaps a buffalo; and the tradition is, that it was hunted up the hollow from Llanllyfni, and killed at his haunt near this pool. Upon the right, nearly opposite this lake, is the usual ascent from Beddgelert to the summit of Snowdon; the distance is four miles. A road from the lake Cwellyn has been made, to bring down the copper ore on sledges. The sons of Snowdon, Moel Eilir and Castell Cedwm, arise on the river, while the waters of the beautiful lake of Cwellyn, three miles in length, are expanded on the left. The road lies close to its margin on the eastern side. "This lake," says Mr. Evans, "is noted for a species of charr, (*salmo alpinus*, Lin.) called torgoch, or red belly, found formerly in Llyn Peris, and in some of the lakes of Switzerland; and whoever has travelled through the Grisons, would, from the great similarity of the scenery, conceive that he had been wafted by magic to that alpine country. The road just described is not unlike that from Grenoble to Susan." At the upper end of this beautiful lake, stood the house of Cae uwch y Llyn, or "the field above the lake," which by contraction forms Cwellyn. This house was once the residence of the Quellyns, a family now extinct, who took their name from the place. At the south end of the pool, that part of Mynyddmawr, called Castell Cidwm (the wolf's castle) forms a bold and very striking feature, seeming to overhang its base. Upon the banks of the great lake, is a little public-house kept by the guide to Snowdon. This guide has the command of three small ponies, which he conscientiously charges 5*s.* each. His customary compliment is half a guinea more, besides the expense of a person to hold the ponies, (when the steepness renders it impossible to ride any farther, which is within half a mile of the top of the mountain.) Between Llyn y Gader, and Llyn Cwellyn, the traveller may turn to the left, out of the great road, to visit Llyn y Dywarchen, or "the lake of the sod," near a farm called Drws y Coed, celebrated by the romantic Giraldus Cambriensis for its *insula erratica*, or wandering island, of an irregular shape, and about nine yards long. It was a piece of the turbery, undermined by the water, torn off, yet kept together by the entangling roots which form that species of soil. It is frequently set in motion by the wind, and again joins its native banks. Giraldus says, "cattle have frequently been surprised upon it, and by a contrary gale, carried a short voyage from the shore." There are two little islands of this description in Llyn Mignan, in Merionethshire. The charr is found only in one spot, and only for a few days, annually, about the end of December, but trout is generally abundant. From Llyniau Nanlle, between Llyn y

Dywarchen, and Llanllyfni, Mr. Wilson took his beautiful view of Snowdon. In the summer of the year 1284, Edward the First resided here for some days. The place is called Bala Den-lyn. Proceeding to Caernarvon, along the banks of Llyn y Cwellyn, is a fine cascade, formed by the Fai, or Gwyrfai Issa, running from the lake into the valley, which expands to fine meadows. In this vale, distant from Beddgelert five miles and three quarters, is the picturesque spot of Nant mill, on the left. On the right is Plas Nant, seated at the foot of Moel Eilir, or Ael y Iâ, near the outlet of Llyn Cwellyn, and fronted by a beetling and shaggy rock of a peculiar character. The accompaniments are the mill and cascade before mentioned, and though the latter has received some touches from art, yet they appear perfectly natural. One mile and a quarter farther is the small village of Bettws Garmon. The country over which the road now lies is a succession of eminences and dips, undulating in a happy style; the soil rocky, but not unproductive. On the left rises a very picturesque mountain at some distance, near the sea-coast; but in front the country is champaign and open for many miles. The high grounds in Anglesea begin to appear, and from one of the eminences on the road, the whole island lies like a map.



Drawn by H. Gastineau. Engraved by J. C. Varrall.

MONTGOMERY AND GLAN SEVERN,

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

MONTGOMERY is the county town, called by the Welsh Tref Faldwyn, that is, Baldwyn's town. He is supposed to have built the castle. Baldwyn was a Lieutenant of the Marches, in the service of William the First.

This castle, however, must have soon fallen into the possession of the Welsh, since Roger de Montgomery, (to whom William the Conqueror had given the earldoms of Arundel and Shrewsbury), who entered Powisland a few years after, gained the castle and town of Montgomery, and called it after his own name, about the year 1092. The Welsh again mustered all their strength and retook it, plundered the town, and desolated the surrounding country. The castle was again repaired and strengthened by William Rufus. Dr. Powell, in his History of Wales, published 1584, says, that Prince Llewelyn came in person with a great army to the Marches, put the garrison to the sword, and burnt Montgomery castle to the ground, in the year 1231. This castle, like many others, during a course of ages, experienced the frequent vicissitudes of fortune.

In the reign of Henry III. Montgomery was incorporated. The outlying boroughs of Llanidloes, Llanvyllin, and Welshpool, were formerly contributary boroughs with Montgomery, and exercised the elective franchise equally with them, until the year 1728; when, by an extraordinary decision of the House of Commons, the right of election was declared to belong to the borough of Montgomery *only*. From that time, until the 3d of William IV., Montgomery became a close borough, under the entire control and dominion of the Powis family, until the change which took place under the late Reform Act, by which the elective franchise was restored to the ancient contributary boroughs, and extended to the towns of Machynlleth and Newtown. After two severe contests, a Reform candidate was seated in opposition to the Powis interest.

Montgomery castle appears to have been held by the immediate ancestors of Lord Herbert of Cherbury, as stewards of the Crown, and to have been the principal residence of that family. Lord Herbert, "in his Life," (written by himself) says, "he was married in 1598, at the age of fifteen; and that he occasionally passed his time at Montgomery castle, till he came to the age of one-and-twenty."

The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, an ancient and venerable structure, in the form of a cross; it contains several monuments, and one of ancient and curious construction, to

the memory of Richard Herbert (father of Lord Herbert of Cherbury) and Magdalen, his wife, in which are the recumbent effigies of the former, in complete armour; and of the latter by his side; in the front of which, are representations of their six sons and two daughters, in a kneeling posture; and, under the tomb, is the figure of Richard, wrapped in his winding-sheet. The steeple has been lately rebuilt, at the sole expense of the Powis family. The church-yard is of considerable extent, and commands a fine view of the adjacent country.

A new county gaol, at the end of the town, was built in 1830, at an expense of 10,000*l.* defrayed by the county. It is a handsome edifice of blue stone, of durable quality, and well adapted for the purpose.

Glan Severn, the seat of William Owen Esq., is situated in the parish of Berriew, four miles north of Montgomery, and about the same distance from the line of Offas' Dyke.

The valley in which this house is situated is of the most fertile and beautiful description; it is bounded by hills, rising above each other to a considerable height. The house is a modern erection, delightfully situated on a gentle eminence, which slopes gradually to the margin of the river Severn, from which its name is derived. It is situated in one of the most eligible parts of the country, and was selected for the site of a mansion, thirty years ago, by Sir Arthur Davies Owen, (brother of the present proprietor,) who erected this Grecian edifice about a mile and a half distant from his family residence, Tynycoed, an ancient black and white timber house, situated upon the side of a hill, surrounded by fine timber, and for some centuries the residence of his maternal ancestors.

Glan Severn presents three fronts; and to the south, is ornamented with four Ionic pilasters. The whole is of freestone, having an air of pleasing simplicity in its general effect.

The grounds were much improved by the good taste of its last, and have been more particularly so by that of its present possessor. But this spot has many natural advantages,—the Breiddin hills form a noble feature. Upon one of these is Rodney's pillar, to commemorate the victories which Admiral Lord Rodney obtained over the French, in 1782. It is a lofty obelisk, with an inscription. To the south, it commands a fine view of the Cornden and Montgomery hills. Upon the sloping lawn, shown with the west and part of the south front, in our plate, is a fine piece of water (a natural lake), generally covered with wild fowl.

The surrounding country possesses much beauty; its surface is finely varied with hill, dale, and wood-land; on each side terminated with a range of mountains, which form an exquisite back-ground to its picturesque scenery.

The lodge is of freestone, and corresponds in style with the mansion. It was erected by the present proprietor, and is much admired. It is situated on the turnpike-road, leading from Shrewsbury to Aberystwith; about three and twenty miles from the former town.

BERRIEW, OR ABER-RHIEW,

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

THIS village derives its name from being situated near the junction of the river Rhiew with the Severn, from which point it is distant about three quarters of a mile, on the banks of the Rhiew, on the road between Welshpool and Newtown. Pursuant to an Act of Parliament, obtained in 1796, the waste lands in the manor of Kedewen, (part of which are in the parish of Berriew,) amounting to about 15,000 acres, have been allotted. The Montgomeryshire canal passes through the parish, and is carried over the Rhiew, near the village, by an aqueduct of four arches. Berriew presents a cheerful and pleasing appearance, containing some good houses and neat cottages. The high grounds, particularly the Byrwydd, about three miles north-west of the village, command very extensive and richly diversified prospects, of the fertile vales of the Severn, watered by their respective streams.

The mansion of Vaynor occupies an elevated situation, in a park well wooded. It formerly belonged to the ancient family of Price, of Newtown-hall; an heiress of which married Mr. Devereux, and this estate became the property of Price Lord Hereford, who died about the year 1748, when the estate was sold to Robert Moxon, Esq., and is now in the possession of his relatives. There are also several other genteel residences in the parish.

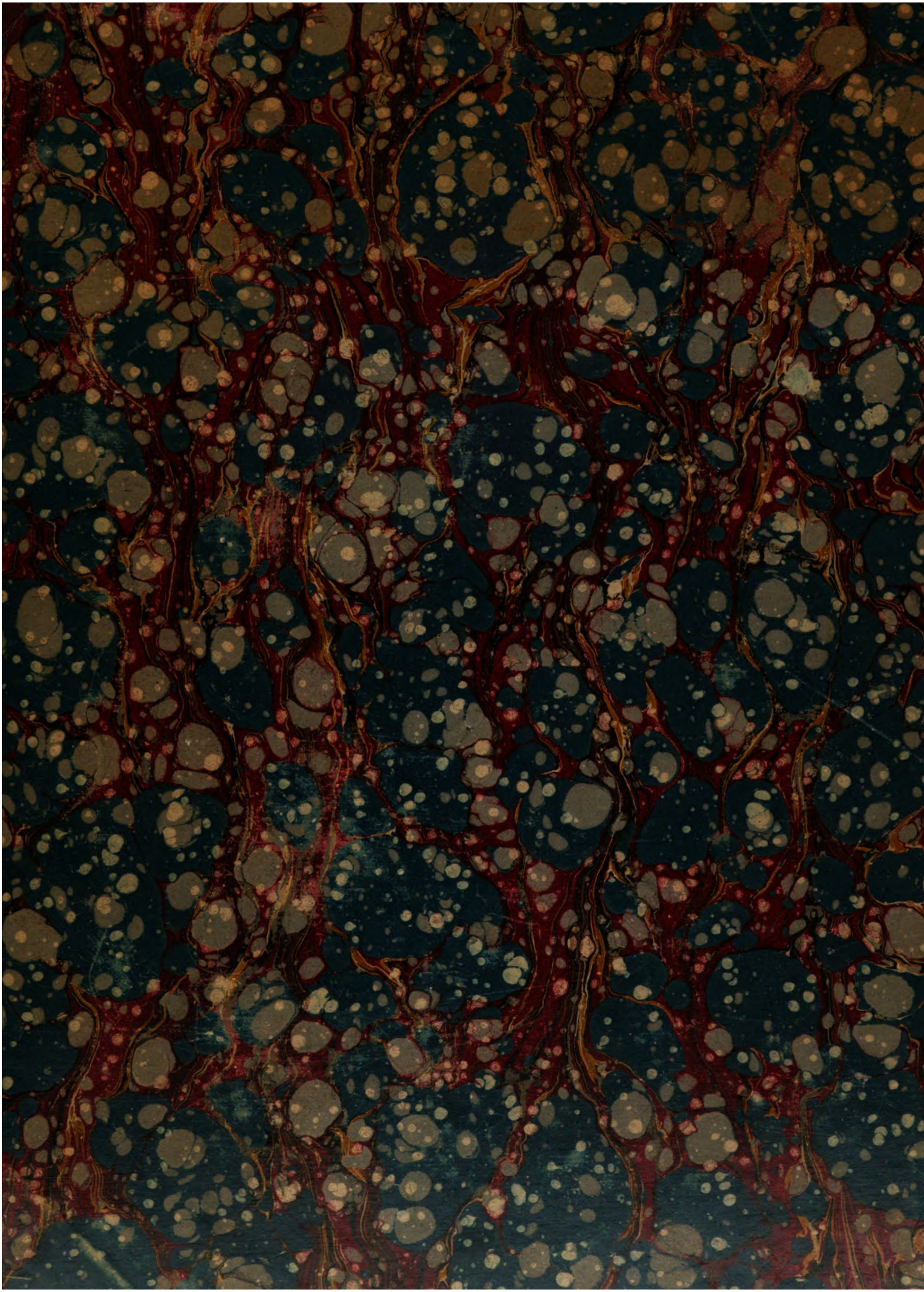
The parish of Berriew is in the hundred of Newtown. The petty sessions for the lower division of the hundred are held at Berriew, on the first Saturday in every month. The living is a vicarage, in the diocese of St. Asaph.

The church, dedicated to St. Beuno, (a saint of the sixth century,) is a neat modern structure, with a square tower, surmounted with pinnacles. Maen Beuno, a stone pillar, bearing the name of the patron saint of the church, is still standing in the township of Berriew, between the road to Welshpool and the river Severn.

The old school-house, being in a dilapidated state, was taken down in 1819, and a neat and substantial structure was erected.

In the township of Allt, between the road leading to Welshpool and the canal, there is a tumulus; and on the top of Cefn yr Allt, are the remains of a British encampment. There is also an encampment near the road from Berriew to Castle Caer Einion, in the township of Frith.

The View on the Rhiew forms the second subject of this Plate.

TEMPLE OF THE MUSES (LATE LACKINGTON'S),
FINSBURY SQUARE, LONDON,
September, 1832.

☞ **The Subscribers to GASTINEAU'S VIEWS in NORTH WALES are respectfully informed, that Mr. Gastineau is now on a Tour, making Drawings in SOUTH WALES, for a volume uniform with the present one. The first *Five Numbers, at One Shilling each, are already published*, and may be had, on application to any respectable Bookseller in Great Britain.**