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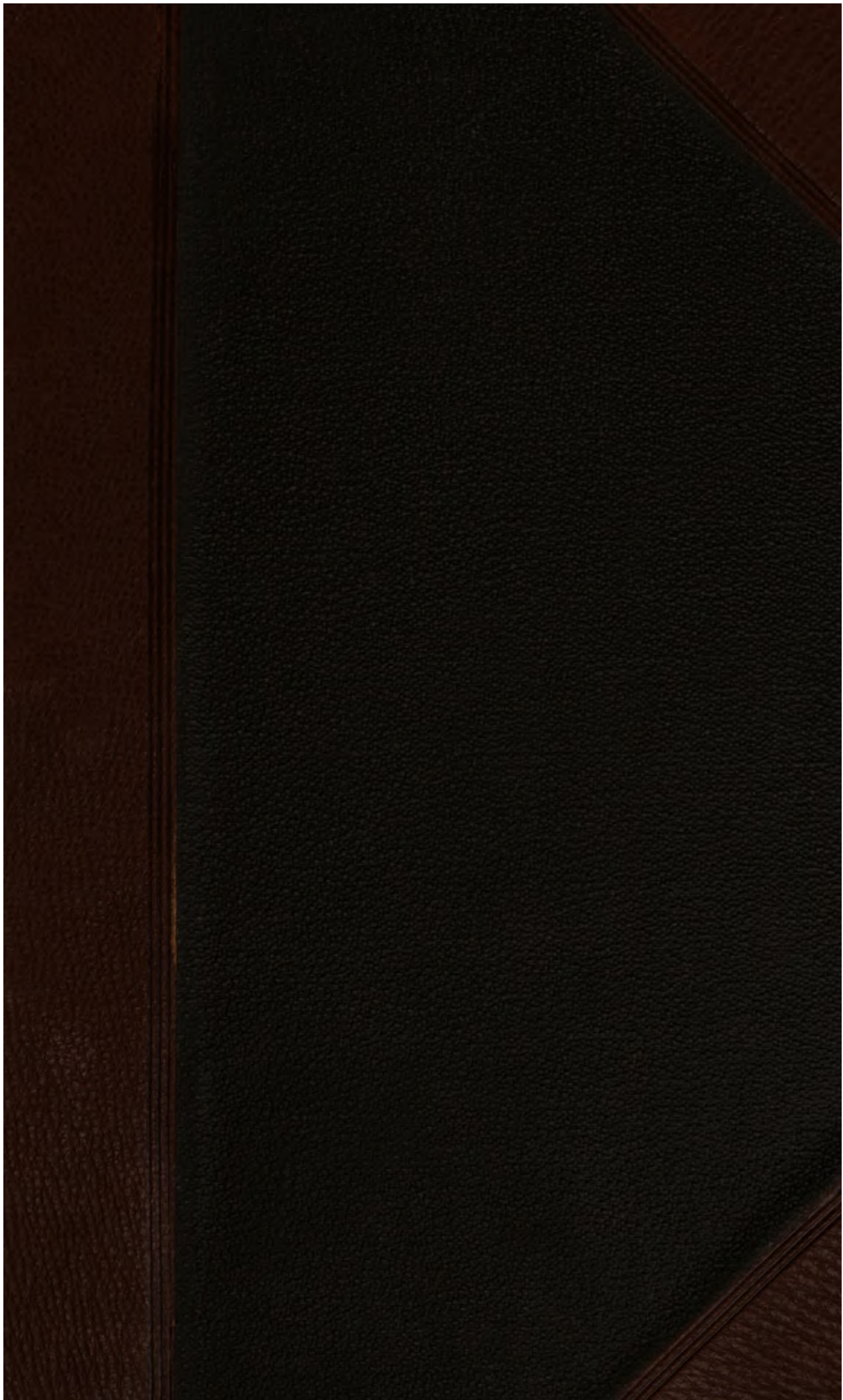
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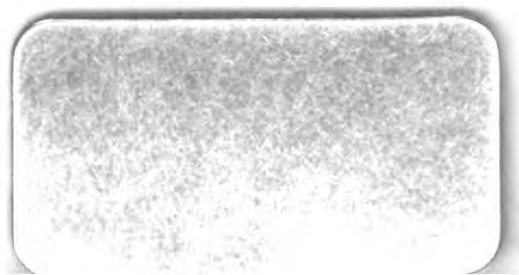
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SHAW'S
Tourist's Picturesque Guide
TO
NORTH WALES.



With Maps of North Wales, Environs of Llandudno,
Snowdon District,
and Twelve Coloured and other Illustrations.

Gough Adds Wales

8^o 123.

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GLOSSARY;

OR,

Explanation of Words and Particles frequently
occurring in the Welsh Names of Places, &c.

Aber, the fall of one water into another, a confluence.	Bu, an ox
Acron, fruits, brightness	Bwlch, or Bylch, a hollow, break, gap, pass, or defile
Afon, a stream, a river	
Al, power, very, most	Cad, battle, tumult, war
Allt, the side of a hill, a woody cliff	Cader, a hill-fort, a fortress or strong- hold, a chair
Am, about, around	Cae, a hedge, field, enclosure
Anial, wild, uncultivated	Caer, a wall or mound for defence, a fort, a city
Annedd, dwelling-place	Cantref, a district, a division or hun- dred of a county, a canton
Ap (or Ab), prefixed to names of per- sons, signifies the son of	Capel, a chapel, an oratory
Ar, upon, bordering upon	Careg, or Carreg, a stone; (pl.) Ceryg
Aran, a high place, an alp	Carn, a heap, a prominence
Ardal, region, province	Carnedd, a heap of stones, a cairn
Ardud, bordering land	Castell, a castle, a fortress
	Ceulan, side of a river, bank
Bach, and Bychan (masc.), little, small; Fach, and Fechan (fem.)	Cefn, the back, upper side, ridge
Bala, budding, an outlet	Cil, a retreat, a recess; (pl.) Ciliau
Ban, high, tall, lofty; (pl.) Banau, eminences	Clasdir, glebe land
Banc, platform, table-land	Clawdd, a hedge, dyke, ditch, or trench
Bâs, shallow, a shoal	Clogwyn, a precipice
Bedd, a grave, a sepulchre	Côch, red
Bettws, a station, a place between hill and vale, a chapel-of-ease	Coed, a wood, trees
Blaen, a point, end, extremity	Côr, or Gôr, a choir
Bôd, an abode, dwelling, residence	Corlan, a sheep-pen or fold
Bôn, the base	Cors, a bog, a fen
Braenar, fallow land	Craig, a rock, a crag; (pl.) Creigiau
Braich, an arm, a branch	Croes, a cross, a turn
Brîg, top, summit	Crug, a mound or hillock, a crag or rock
Brith, mixed, motley	Cwm, a valley, dale, glen, or dingle
Bron, the breast, a swell or slope of a hill	Cymmer, a confluence
Bryn, a mount or hill	
	Dan, under
	Dau, two; Dwy (fem.)

Dê, the south, right side
 Din, or Dinas, a fort, a fortified place generally on a hill, a city; hence the Donum, Dinum, or Dinium of the Romans; also the Don, Ton, and Town of the English.

Dôl, a holm, a meadow
 Drws, a doorway, a pass
 Dû, Dhu, black, dark
 Dwfr, or Dwr, fluid, water
 Dyffryn, a valley or plain, the course of waters

Eglwys, a church
 Epynt, an ascent, a slope
 Erw, an acre, a space of arable land
 Esgair, a long ridge

Fach, and Fechan, *see* Bach
 Fawr, mutable with Mawr
 Ffald, a fold or pen for sheep
 Ffin, boundary, limit
 Fflur, bright hue, bloom
 Ffordd, a passage, road, or way
 Ffynnon, a well, spring, or source

Gaer, mutable with Caer
 Gallt, mutable with Allt
 Gardd, a garden, a close
 Garth, a hill bending round or enclosing, a buttress, a cape
 Gelli, a grove, a bower, hazel coppice
 Glan, the brink, a side or shore
 Glâs, blue, grey, green, verdant
 Glyn, a glen, a deep vale
 Gorsaf, a station, a stand
 Grug, a heath
 Gwaelod, the bottom, a low part
 Gwaen, a plain, a level meadow
 Gwern, a swamp, bog, watery meadow
 Gwydd, wood, woody or wild
 Gwyn, white, fair, clear
 Gwyrdd, green

Hafod, a summer dwelling
 Hên, old, ancient
 Hendref, an old residence
 Heol, a street, road, or course
 Hir, long, tedious

Iâl, an open space, a region
 Is, or Ys, lower, inferior
 Isaf, lowest, humblest; Isel, low

Llain, a long patch, a slip
 Llan, a smooth area, an enclosure, a place of meeting, the church-place or village, and hence, figuratively, the church

Llawr, the floor, a ground plot
 Llech, a flat stone or slate, a smooth cliff

Lluest, an encampment
 Llwyd, grey, hoary, brown
 Llwyn, a wood, grove, bush, or copse
 Llyn, a lake, pool, pond
 Llyr, a duct, brink, or shore, the sea, water
 Llŷs, a palace, hall, or court

Mach, a place of security
 Maen, a stone
 Maenor, a manor
 Maes, a plain, an open field
 Mall, bad, rotten, blasted
 Mawnog, a peat-pit, a turbarry
 Mawr, great, large
 Melin, a mill
 Melyn, yellow
 Merthyr, a martyr
 Moel, fair, bald, naked, a smooth conical hill
 Monad, an isolated situation
 Morfa, a sea marsh
 Mynach, a monk
 Mynydd, a mountain

Nant, a brook, river, ravine, glen
 Neuadd, a hall, a large room
 Newydd, new, fresh

Or, or Ochr, side, edge, rim, border

Paith, a prospect, a scene
 Pant, a low place, a hollow, a valley
 Parth, a part or division
 Pen, a head, top, or end
 Penmaen, the stone end
 Penrhyn (or Penryn), a headland, a cape
 Pentref, a village, hamlet, suburb
 Perth, a thorn-bush, a brake
 Pistyll, a spout or cataract
 Plas, a hall, mansion, or palace
 Plwyf, a parish, a community
 Pont, a bridge, an arch
 Porth, a gate, a port, a ferry
 Pwll, a ditch, a pit, a pool

Rhaiadr, a waterfall or cataract
 Rhiw, a slope, an ascent
 Rhôs, a moist plain or meadow, a moor
 Rhûdd, purple, red, crimson, ruddy
 Rhÿd, a ford, a passage

Sarn, a causeway, a pavement
 Serth, steep, abrupt

Swydd, a shire or county, also an office	Tŵr, a tower, a heap, a pile
Tafarn, a tavern	Tŷ, a house, a mansion
Tal (adj.), tall or towering	Tyddyn, a farm
Tal (subs.), the head, the front	Tywyn, a strand
Tan, spreading, under	Uchel, high; Uchaf, highest
Terfyn, limit, extremity	Uwch, or Ach, or Uch, upper, above
Tir, the earth, land	Y, or Yr, the, on the, of
Tomen, a mound, a hillock, a dunghill	Ym, in, by
Traeth, sand, a sandy beach, estuary	Yn, in, into, at
Tref, or Tre, a house, a home, a small town	Ynys, an island
Tri, three; Tair (fem.)	Yspytty, an almshouse or hospital, a place for refreshment or rest
Troed, a foot, the base of a hill	Ystlys, the side, the flank
Trwyn, a point, the nose	Ystrad, a flat, a vale
Twl, rounded	Ystum, a bend, a curve
Twlch, a knoll	Ystwith, flexible, pliant

Hints on the Pronunciation of the Welsh Language.

A knowledge of the Welsh alphabet is indispensable to those who are desirous of correctly pronouncing the necessary questions and answers that occur on the road. The names of places must effectually puzzle the tourist who is unacquainted with the peculiar sound of each letter. In order, therefore, to aid the traveller in Wales, we append the common or generally prevailing Welsh alphabet, with the similar sound of each character in the English alphabet:—

A, as <i>a</i> English in man; when circumflexed, as in bard, glass, &c.	I, as <i>i</i> English in hid, bid, rid, &c.; when circumflexed, as <i>ee</i> in fleet, keep, &c.
B, as <i>b</i> English	L, as <i>l</i> English
C, as <i>k</i> English, or <i>c</i> hard, as in can, come, &c.; never soft, as in cease, city, &c.	Ll, as <i>l</i> strongly aspirated, and can be represented in English only by lh or llh
Ch, as <i>χ</i> Greek properly pronounced	M, as <i>m</i> English
D, as <i>d</i> in English	N, as <i>n</i> English
Dd, as <i>th</i> English in then, they, &c.; never as in think, third, &c.	Ng, as <i>ng</i> in the English words bring, king, long, &c.; when circumflexed it is pronounced long, as in bone, note, &c.
E, as <i>e</i> English in ten, fen, &c.; but when circumflexed, as <i>a</i> in dame, came, &c.	O, as <i>o</i> English in gone, &c.
F, as <i>v</i> in vile, very, &c., or as <i>f</i> English in of (ov)	P, as <i>p</i> English
Ff, as <i>f</i> English in fan, fight, &c., or as <i>ff</i> in off	Ph, as <i>ph</i> English in physic, philosophy, &c.
G, as <i>g</i> English in gain, get, gone, &c.; never soft, as in gin, gender, &c.	R, as <i>r</i> English
H, as <i>h</i> English in hand, house, &c.	Rh, as <i>rh</i> English in rhetoric, rheum, &c.

S, as *s* English in sense, since, &c.
 T, as *t* English in ton, tun, temper, &c.
 Th, as *th* English in thanks, thick, death; never as in then, they, &c.
 U, as *i* English in bliss, miss, this; when circumflexed as *ee* in green, seen, or like *u* French in une, feu.
 W, as *oo* English, in good; when circumflexed, as in fool, spoon, &c.

Y, in any other syllable except the last, is pronounced like the *u* in but, churn, hunt, &c.; in the last, like *i* in din or sin. These two sounds are well exemplified by the word Sundry, the *u* and *y* of which represent the *y* in its relative positions. When circumflexed, *y* is exactly the same as *û*—*ee* as in green, &c.

The following six letters are not found in the Welsh language:—J, K, Q, V, X, and Z. J is supplied by *si* or *i*. K is supplied by *c* or *ch*. Q, in words taken from other languages, is expressed by *cw*, as *cwestiwn*, *i.e.*, question. V is supplied by *f*. X, in foreign words having this letter, is indicated by *cs*, as *Ecsodus*, *i.e.*, Exodus. Z is supplied by *s*.

Every character represents uniformly but one appropriate sound, which it retains in every variety of combination, with the single exception of *y*, as above stated. No letter is ever mute.

The accentuation is governed by one general rule, which is this:—All words of more than one syllable have the accent on the penultima, or last syllable but one; excepting only a few instances, in which the last syllable, being either aspirated or circumflexed, takes the accent. It is never removed further from the termination than the penultima.

It is believed that an acquaintance with the alphabet, and with these few simple rules, is all that is requisite for enabling any person to read the Welsh language; and in this respect it has an advantage found in few other tongues.

In Welsh, initial consonants are exchanged into others of the same organ, either to mark a diversity of grammatical rotation, or exclusively for the sake of euphony: as *Fy mara*, my bread; *Dy fara*, thy bread; *Ei bara*, her bread.

Substantives, adjectives, and pronouns have no neuter gender.

The language has no inflexions. Nouns and adjectives have, properly speaking, no cases, the different rotation of words to each other being denoted by the collocation, by a change of initials, or by the employment of participles.

STATIONS on MAIN and BRANCH LINES of
the Chester and Holyhead Railway, with the
Distance from Chester to each of the Main
Line Stations.

	Miles.		Miles.
Chester	—	Conway	45 $\frac{3}{4}$
Queen's Ferry	7	Penmaen-Mawr	49 $\frac{3}{4}$
Flint	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	Llanfairfechan	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bagillt	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Aber	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
Holywell	16 $\frac{3}{4}$	Bangor	59 $\frac{3}{4}$
Mostyn	20	Menai Bridge	61
Prestatyn	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	Llanfair	63 $\frac{1}{4}$
Rhyl	29 $\frac{3}{4}$	Gaerwen Junction	66
Abergele and Pensarn	34	Bodorgan	72 $\frac{1}{2}$
Llandulas	37 $\frac{3}{4}$	Ty-Croes	75 $\frac{1}{4}$
Colwyn	40 $\frac{1}{4}$	Valley	81
Llandudno Junction	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	Holyhead	84 $\frac{1}{2}$

◆

Branch Lines.

RHYL TO—

Rhuddlan.
St. Asaph.
Denbigh.
Ruthin.
Corwen.
Bala.
Dolgelly.
Barmouth.

BANGOR (CAERNARVON LINE)

TO—

Menai Bridge.
Treborth.
Port Dinorwig.
Griffith's Crossing.
Caernarvon.
Llanberis.

AFON WEN TO—

Pwllheli.
Criccieth.
Portmadoc.
Mynfford Junction.
Penrhyn.
Tan-y-Bwlch.
Duffws.
Ffestiniog.
Harlech.
Barmouth.

CAERNARVON TO—

Llanwnda.
Groeslon.
Penygroes.
Nantlle.
Brynkir.
Chwilog.
Afon Wen.

Branch Lines—*continued.*

LLANDUDNO TO—

Deganwy.
 Llandudno Junction.
 Glan Conway.
 Tal-y-Cafn.
 Llanrwst.
 Bettws-y-Coed.

GAERWEN (CENTRAL ANGLESEY) TO—

Llangefni.
 Llanerchymedd.
 Amlwch.

Refreshment - rooms — Chester, Llandudno Junction,
 Bettws-y-Coed, Ruthin, Afon Wen, and Holyhead.

HEIGHTS of the PRINCIPAL MOUNTAINS
 in NORTH WALES.

	Feet.		Feet.
Snowdon	3,570	Moel Siabod	2,865
Carnedd Llewelyn	3,482	Moel Hebog	2,578
Carnedd Dafydd.	3,430	Y-Drosgl	2,478
Glyder Fawr	3,275	Mynydd Mawr	2,293
Cader Idris	3,100	Moel Fammau	1,845
Aran Mowddwy.	2,972	Penmaen-Mawr	1,553

ANGLING STATIONS.

Lake Coron, Anglesea.
 Maelog Lake, Anglesea.
 Lake Ogwen.
 Capel Curig Lakes.
 Llanberis Lakes.
 Bala Lake.

River Ogwen.
 „ Elwy and Clwyd.
 „ Seoint, near Caernarvon.
 „ Lledr, Bettws-y-Coed.
 „ Llugwy „
 „ Conway „





THE SWALLOW FALLS, THE UPPER FALLS.

NORTH WALES.

Brief General Description of the Principality of Wales,

which forms nearly a peninsula on the west side of Great Britain, washed on the north and west by the Irish Sea, on the south and south-east by the Bristol Channel, and bounded on the east by the counties of Monmouth, Hereford, Salop, and Chester. The country was formerly of much greater extent than at present, embracing, as it did, nearly the whole of Monmouthshire and portions of Cheshire (whose capital town was long regarded as the metropolis of the Principality) and other counties now incorporated with England. It was the retreat of the ancient Britons when they were overcome by the Saxons and subsequent invaders.

Llewellyn ap Griffith was the last prince who fought for the independence of Wales. In 1282 he was subdued by Edward I., and fell on the field of battle. From that time Wales has been annexed to the English crown; but the union was not complete till the reign of Henry VIII., when, at the request of the inhabitants of the Principality, its political institutions and laws were made to accord with those of England. It gives the title of Prince of Wales to the heir-apparent to the British throne.

The Principality is divided into North and South Wales, each containing six counties. The northern part is mountainous, intersected by continuous mountain ranges, deep ravines, and extensive valleys, and affording a constant succession of views of mountain scenery of a wild and picturesque character. The principal range is that which is called the Snowdon Range, commencing at Bardsley Island and extending to Penmaen back to the Bay of Conway.

The Welsh are remarkably fond of poetry and music, and their language is peculiarly adapted to poetical effusions. They style themselves Cymry, a word which in their language means a number of people associated together.

CHESTER.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Bangor	65	Holyhead	84½
Birmingham	84½	London	178½
Conway	50½	Manchester	52

[Hotels: Grosvenor; Blossom; Green Dragon; Hop-pole; and the Queen's at the Station; Refreshment-room at Station.]

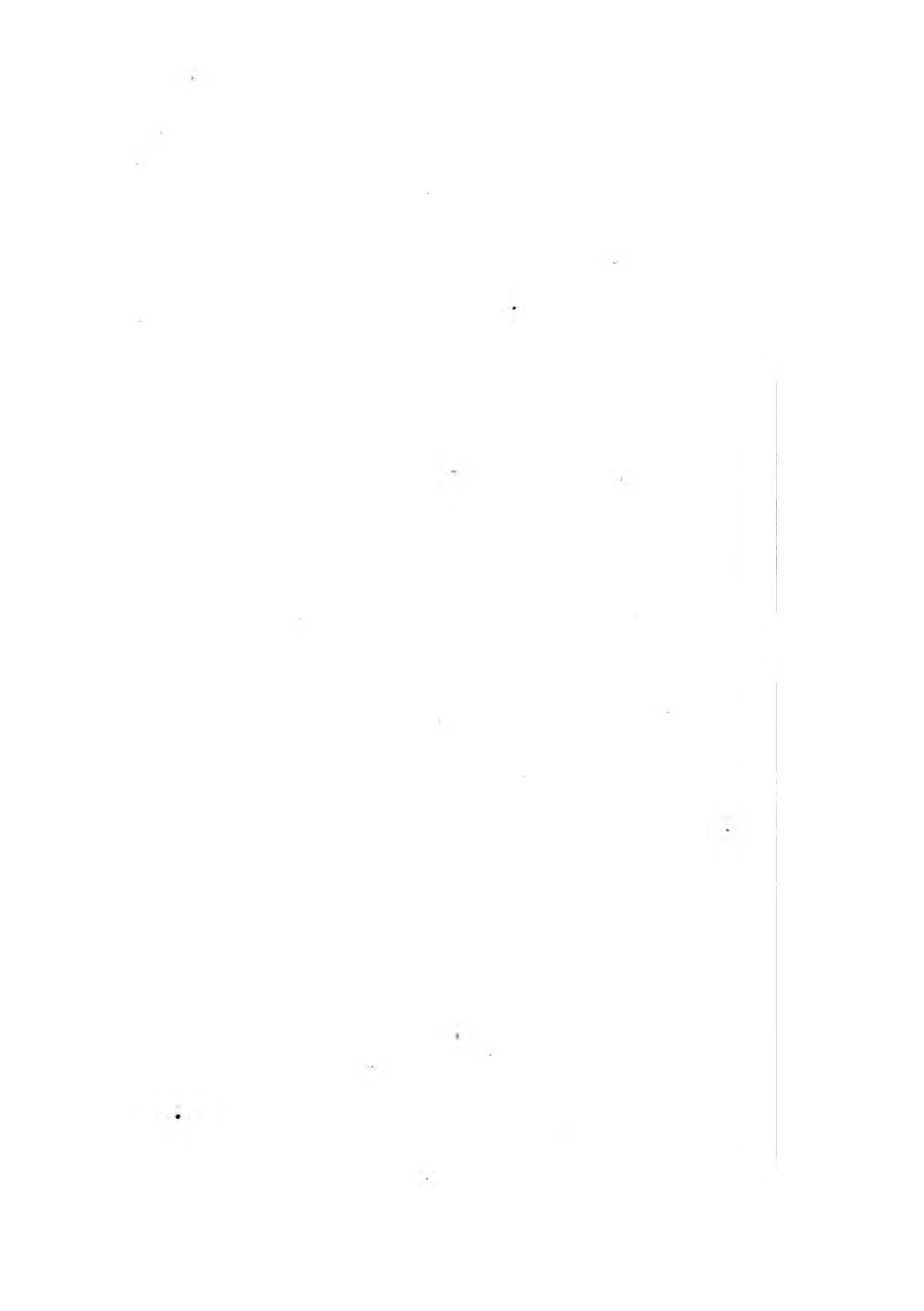
AN episcopal city, market and post town, parliamentary and municipal borough of England, county of itself, the chief town of Cheshire, sixteen miles south-west from Liverpool, eighteen miles from the sea, on the Dee, which is navigable here, and crossed by two bridges. It is surrounded by walls, which form a favourite promenade of the citizens. Four principal streets with piazzas, called the "Rows," lead from four gates, all terminating, as it were, in a centre at the Cross. The bishopric of Chester was founded by Henry VIII. in 1542, and the Church of St. Werburgh was converted into the cathedral of the new see. There are ten episcopal churches besides the Cathedral. The Nonconformists have several places of meeting. At the north-east end of the Castle-yard are barracks, and on the south-west side is an arsenal for 30,000 stand of arms. The Shire Hall and County Gaol adjoin the barracks. The Fenians, it will be recollected, made an ill-conceived and abortive attempt to capture the Castle in 1867.

Chester is a very ancient place, and its walls appear to have been erected by the Romans, by whom it was known as Deva. The tombs of Matthew Henry, the commentator on the Bible, and the poet Parnell, are in Trinity Church. The city gives the title of Earl to the Prince of Wales.

Eaton Hall, the seat of the Marquis of Westminster, is distant about three and a half miles to the south of Chester, and is well worthy of a visit. Tickets of admission may commonly be obtained from the principal book-



STANLEY PALACE, CHESTER.



sellers, a small payment being required, the proceeds of which are applied to local charities. The hall may also be approached by boats on the river Dee.

Horse-races are annually held on the Roodee.

Population of municipal borough, 35,257.

RAILWAYS TO AND FROM CHESTER.

As the number of tourists annually visiting Wales *via* Chester is much larger than the number leaving Liverpool by steamer for Llandudno, Beaumaris, and Bangor, the compilers have decided upon making Chester the starting-point; but those who arrive by the latter, or any other way, will, by aid of the Map and Index, be directed to any particular spot in the country they may wish to refer to.

Chester is a central station for the London and North-Western and Great Western Railway Companies, who run trains to most of the principal towns in England, Scotland, and Wales. It is on the main line of the London and North-Western Railway from Scotland, Birkenhead, Liverpool, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, and London to Holyhead; as well as on the main line of the Great Western Railway from London, Bristol, and Birmingham to Birkenhead, communicating with Liverpool by a ferry across the river Mersey. It will thus be seen that there is good and expeditious communication with all parts of the United Kingdom. As may be imagined, there is, on this account, a very considerable amount of passenger and other traffic through the station: its extent may be estimated from the following average (compiled from official returns) of the number of trains which arrive at and depart from the station every twenty-four hours, during the summer months:—

Passenger trains—in	133	
Goods and mineral ditto—in	117	
	—	250
Passenger trains—out	131	
Goods and mineral ditto—out	119	
	—	250
		500

COACH AND STEAMER ROUTES.

Bangor, Beaumaris, Caernarvon, and Llandudno are the best head-quarters for tourists during the summer months. A coach runs between Bangor, Conway, and Llandudno, making an agreeable circuit as follows:—Bangor, Llandegai village, Bethesda, passing near the Penrhyn Slate Quarries, through the Pass of Nant Francon, along the banks of Lake Ogwen, to Capel Curig; from that by the Swallow Waterfall to Bettws-y-Coed and Llanrwst, allowing an hour for visiting Gwyŷr House or Castle; thence through the Vale of Llanrwst, and by Trefriw to Conway and Llandudno.

If the tourist does not wish to remain the night at Llandudno, he can return from Llandudno to Bangor by rail, or the coach would drop him down at Conway.

A conveyance leaves Beaumaris during the season, for Aber and back, also to Ogwen Lake and back.

From Llandudno by water to Caernarvon, *viâ* the Menai Straits, passing Puffin Island, Beaumaris, the George Hotel, Bangor Ferry, under the Menai and Tubular Bridges, Plas Newydd, the fine old ancestral hall of the Payels, now occupied by the Hon. Lady Willoughby de Brooke. After passing Port Dinornick—a new port, brought into existence as a town for the export of slate from Mr. Smith's quarries at Llanberis—we come to Caernarvon, visit the Castle, and return by the "Fairy" packet, which leaves about four o'clock.

Coaches run also during the summer months from Caernarvon to Llanberis, through the pass to Capel Curig and Bettws-y-Coed. Also to Llanberis, the pass through Nant Gwynant to Beddgelert, and back.

A special visit from Beaumaris or Bangor ought to be made to the Menai and Britannia Bridges, and also, while in that locality, to Plas Newydd, the seat of the late Marquis of Anglesea. The house and grounds are open to the public on certain days in the week, which can be ascertained at the hotels.

CHESTER TO MOLD.

MOLD, Flintshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Caergwrle	6	Holywell	10
Chester	12	London	200
Denbigh	16	Ruthin	10
Flint	6	Worthop	3
Hawarden	6	Wrexham	11

[Hotels : Black Lion ; Royal Oak.]

THE ancient British name of this place is "Yr Wyddgrug," signifying a lofty eminence : the Romans called it "Mons Altus," a high hill. These names were derived from a high mound, on the north-western side of the present town, now called the Bailey Hill, an eminence partly natural and partly artificial, upon which a fortification appears to have been erected at a very early period ; but whether originally by the Ancient Britons, or by the Romans, is not accurately known. The only remains are a few stones of the keep. In the reign of Henry I. it was recorded among the possessions of Robert de Montalto, High Steward of Chester, and was first reduced by storm, in 1144, by Welsh forces, under Owain Gwynedd. The siege of Mold is mentioned, by the Welsh historians, among the most splendid actions of their annals. The bards of the day made it little inferior to the siege of Troy. Population 3,978.

The houses are not distinguished either for their regularity or style of building ; but in the environs are numerous handsome seats and elegant mansions. The parish abounds with mineral wealth. Numerous tumuli are found in various parts of the locality, affording evidence of the obstinacy with which the Vale of Alyn was contested by the various hostile parties who overran this part of the country in the earlier period of history. In October, 1833, some workmen, digging in a field near the town, discovered a human skeleton, having at its feet an earthen pot, which apparently contained ashes, and on the breast, with other metal, a large plate of gold, much ornamented, and valued at £70 : it was purchased by the trustees of the British Museum.

The Church of Mold is a handsome edifice, built in the

time of Henry VII., and dedicated to St. Mary. Before the Reformation it was attached to the Abbey of Bustleham, in Berkshire. The style of Mold Church is Gothic of the sixteenth century; the windows are large, and they are obtusely pointed; the walls, towards the parapet, are ornamented with figures of animals cut in stone. It consists of a nave, two side-aisles, a chancel, and a tower, enriched with sculpture and crowned with pinnacles. The latter is more modern, yet built very judiciously in the same style as the rest of the building. Between the arches are angelic figures, presenting shields charged with some emblem allusive to the Passion of Christ, or the arms of benefactors. A mural monument has a label with the supporting angel on one side, and a bishop on the other, inscribed—

ROBTUS PONISSIONE DIVINA EPSUE ASSCEV ;

forming a laboured cenotaph to the memory of Robert Warton, *alias* Perfen. He was Abbot of Bermondsey, in Surrey, elected Bishop of St. Asaph in 1536, and was a great benefactor of this place. In the south aisle is a superb monument to R. Davis, Esq., of Llanerch, the celebrated antiquary, who died 22nd of May, 1728, aged 24. A finely carved figure, in a standing attitude, is clad in Roman costume. Cheene was the sculptor. A tombstone, close to the north door, is erected to the memory of the ingenious artist, Wilson: it contains the following simple inscription:—

The Remains of
 RICHARD WILSON, ESQUIRE,
 Member of
 THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTISTS,
 Interred May 15th, 1782,
 Aged 69.

The following singular epitaph to Dr. Wynne was composed by himself, engraved during his lifetime, and put up there:—"William Wynne, of Tower, D.D., sometime Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford, and Rector of Llanfechan, in this diocese, departed this life, March 3rd, 1776, aged 77. In conformity to an ancient usage, from 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 churchyard, 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. 'God be merciful to me, a sinner.' 'Heb Dduw, heb ddim;'" *i.e.*, "Without the grace of God we are destitute."

By a recent Act, Mold is become a borough, contributory with others in the county in the return of a member to Parliament. Near Caerwys, four miles south of Mold, is Nercwys Hall, the seat of Miss Gifford, a fine old mansion, built in 1638 by John Wynne, Esq.; and near it Nercwys Chapel, with a spire steeple. North-west is Rhual, two miles distant, the seat of F. G. Phillips, Esq., built in 1634 by Evan Edwards, in the shape of a Roman H. It contains a portrait of the founder, by Vandyke; two heads, of Richard Earl of Dorset and his Countess, the celebrated Ann Clifford; with several highly finished family pictures. Near this place is

Maes-y-Garmon,

"the Field of Germanus," where, according to Constantius, of Lyons, "a miraculous victory was obtained by the Britons, under Germanus, over the Saxons and Picts, by suddenly shouting, 'Allelujah,' upon which the enemy fled in great confusion." A pyramidical stone column and inscription, placed near the spot, in 1736, by the late Nehemiah Griffith, Esq., of Rhual, commemorates this doubtful event.

On the right off the road leading towards Caergwrle, and about one mile from Mold, is an old structure, known by the name of

Tower.

It is a singular specimen of the style of domestic architecture in vogue during the ages of lawless violence in which it was erected. During the wars between the houses of York and Lancaster it was inhabited by Reinallt ap Gruffyd ap Bleddyn, who was constantly engaged in feuds with the citizens of Chester. In 1495 a considerable number of the latter came to Mold fair,

and a fray arising between the hostile parties, great slaughter ensued on both sides; but Reinallt, who obtained the victory, took the Mayor of Chester prisoner, and conveyed him to his mansion, where he hanged him on the staple in his great hall. To avenge this affront a party of 200 men were despatched from Chester to seize Reinallt, who, retiring from his house into the adjoining woods, permitted a few of them to enter the building, when, rushing from his concealment, he blocked up the door, and, setting fire to the house, destroyed them in the flames. He then attacked the remainder, whom he pursued with great slaughter, and such as escaped the sword were drowned in attempting to regain their homes. The staple on which the mayor was hung still remains in the ceiling of the lower apartment.

On the right of the road to Ruthin, about five miles from Mold, is a conspicuous eminence, called

Moel Fammau,

which rises 1,845 feet above the level of the sea. Upon the summit of this mountain the gentlemen of the county, chiefly, entered into a subscription, and erected a column in 1810, to which the name of the Jubilee Column was given, to commemorate the fiftieth year of the reign of George III. The first stone was laid by Lord Kenyon on the 25th of October, in the presence of upwards of 3,000 persons. The height of the column is 150 feet, and it is sixty feet in diameter. From the top a very extensive view of the surrounding country is seen.

The Chester and Holyhead Railway passes within five miles of Mold.

CHESTER TO BANGOR.

HAWARDEN, Flintshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Chester	7	Holywell	11
Flint	8	Northop	5

[Hotels: Glynne Arms; Nag's Head.]

THIS little town consists of one continuous street, more than half a mile long: it has a cleanly appearance. The

British name was Pennardd Halawg, corrupted, probably, from Pen-y-Lluch, "the Headland above the Lake." It has a weekly market. Extensive collieries are worked in the parish, where there are several potteries. The river Dee passes within about two miles of the town, and the Chester and Holyhead Railway within a mile and a half.

Hawarden Castle,

the seat of Sir Stephen Richard Glynne, Bart., lord-lieutenant of the county, and brother-in-law to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, occupies an artificial eminence at the eastern extremity of the town; and, had it not been for the laudable curiosity of the present worthy possessor's ancestor, we should have had 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 to be laid open. It seems to have been of a pentagonal shape, with a strong square entrance gateway on its widest side, and on the other 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 subterranean rooms, supposed to have been appropriated as places of confinement for prisoners. The situation was eligible, being on an eminence, and was further defended by broad deep fosses: these now form picturesque ravines, being filled with timber trees of fine growth.

FLINT, Flintshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Chester	12	London	200
Hawarden	8	Mold	6
Holywell	4½	Northop	3

[Hotels: Royal Oak and Railway; Ship.]

FLINT, the ancient, but now deserted capital of the county, in the parish of Northop, a borough market town and seaport, was probably once a Roman-British fortress, formed on the plan of a Roman encampment, rectangular, surrounded by regular entrenchments and ramparts, with four portæ, or fortified gates. A quantity of Roman coins,

fibulæ, and various Roman instruments, have been found here.

The town consists of four principal streets, crossing each other at right angles : they are much dilapidated. Mooring-rings are visible in some of the remaining walls, which indicate that the Dee rolled at the foot of the Castle. Flint was at one time a maritime place : it can now admit but small vessels. Hot baths have been constructed, affording the invalid every convenience. The smelting of lead ore forms the principal branch of trade here : 6,000 tons are yearly subjected to this process, from which 40,000 ounces of silver are obtained. The collieries yield 1,500 tons of coal weekly. Those carried on by Messrs. Eyton give employment to 800 men. Tram-roads convey the coal to the wharf, whence it proceeds to Chester and North Wales. Lead, in pigs, bars, sheets, and patent pipes, red lead, litharge, and silver form the principal exports. The extensive chemical works of Mr. Muspratt are situated in this town. Population 4,269. The principal public buildings in the town are the new Town Hall, recently erected from designs by Mr. J. Welsh, and the parish church, built in 1848, in the place of a dilapidated ancient structure.

Flint Castle.

Flint Castle stands upon a rock of freestone, in a marsh, on the south bank of the Dee. The time of its erection is doubtful : Camden says it was commenced by Henry II., in 1157. Leland, adducing the authority of older writers, ascribes the entire work to the same monarch. Here Edward II. received his favourite, Piers Gaveston, on his return from banishment in Ireland ; and here the unhappy king Richard II. was delivered, by the perfidious Percy of Northumberland, into the power of Bolingbroke. This fortress does not appear to have fallen into the hands of Owen Glyndwr, when he overran most other parts of the Principality. In the civil wars of Charles I. it was garrisoned for the king by Sir Roger Mostyn ; in 1643 it was besieged and taken by the Parliamentary forces ; in 1646 it was dismantled by order of the House of Commons ; and after the Restoration it was resumed by the Crown.

This fortress was originally of a parallelogramic form, with circular towers at each angle: one, detached from the walls, seems to have been an additional work. It consists of two concentric circular walls, each six feet thick, including an area between them, twenty feet in diameter, having a gallery opening into it, with four entrances. The donjon, or keep, is situated at the north-east end, looking towards the land. The area, or court, contains about one acre of ground. In the curtain, on the west side, are some windows with pointed arches. The barbican consists of a square tower, originally joined to the Castle by means of a drawbridge. The remains of this once impregnable fortress are in a state of rapid decay.

HOLYWELL, Flintshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Chester	18	Mold	10
Denbigh	14	Northop	6
Flint	5	Rhuddlan	11
London	207	St. Asaph	10

[Hotels: White Horse; King's Head; Red Lion.]

HOLYWELL, or Treffynon, *i.e.*, "the Town of the Well," is a flourishing town, on the Chester and Holyhead road, and about one mile from the Chester and Holyhead Railway. The parliamentary borough contains a population of 7,961. The town is spacious, but irregular, and pleasingly situated on the slope of a mountain, which extends nearly to the estuary of the Dee. Many of the houses are handsome, and the place altogether bears an air of considerable opulence. It is lighted with gas. It was, till the early years of the present century, an inconsiderable town, but, owing to the extension of the mines, the introduction of several manufactures, and the formation of the railway, it is now the chief industrial town in the county.

The parish church has a plain square and embattled tower of great strength; it is dedicated to Gwenfrewi, or St. Winifred, and situated in a bottom at one end of the town. It was erected in the year 1769, but the columns of a former ancient fabric separate the nave from the

aisles. These appear to be of Norman origin. During the erection the headless figure of a priest in a sacerdotal costume, with chalice in hand, was discovered. This mutilated sculpture is exhibited by the sexton as the image of the patroness St. Winifred. Under the chancel are family vaults of the Mostyns of Talacre, and of the Pennants and Pantons of Bagillt. In the chancel is a neat memorial of Mary, mother of the late Edward Pennant, Esq.

An elegant Roman Catholic chapel has been erected, and is situate in Well Street.

St. Winifred's Well,

from which the name Holywell was given to this place, springs with impetuosity from a rock at the front of a steep hill at the bottom of the town. Its site is covered by a small Gothic structure, said to have been erected by Margaret, the mother of Henry VII. There is some very fine carving on the inside of the structure, which forms a canopy over the well : it once contained the legend of St. Winifred, and seven sculptures alluding to the house of Stanley ; but these are not at present distinguishable. In a niche opposite the entrance stood formerly a statue of the Virgin Mary, but this has long since been destroyed. The chapel over it, of the same date as the other part of the building, is private property ; but the well, in consequence of a decree in Chancery, is open to the public at large. Persons of the Catholic persuasion believe that the waters of this famed fountain have lost none of their virtues. A pamphlet, published to substantiate the supernatural character of the spring, is entitled "Authentic Documents, relative to the Miraculous Cure of Winifred White, of the town of Wolverhampton, at Holywell, Flintshire, on the 28th of June, 1805, with Observations thereon, by J. M."

The well is approached by a flight of steps. The water is so clear that a pin can be seen at the bottom, a depth of six feet. The basin is calculated to contain about two hundred and forty tons of water, which, when emptied, is filled again in less than two minutes, as was proved by Dr. Taylor, in 1731. The water passes through an arch into a small square court : under this arch devotees used to swim as an act of penance. Several extensive mills

are turned by the stream. It was found that the water-wheels decay much sooner here than elsewhere, and consequently some of the mills have adopted cast-iron wheels.

The legendary story of the origin of this well is singular and curious. "Winifred, said to have lived in the early part of the seventh century, was a beautiful and devout virgin, the daughter of Thewith, a nobleman of these parts, and niece to St. Beuno. She made a vow of perpetual chastity, having obtained leave from her father to found a church upon his possessions here. He was so much gratified by it that he took her under his protection in order to assist her in her religious exercises. Caradog, the son of King Allen, whose residence seems to have been near, admired the beauty of her person, and resolved to make an attempt on her virtue. It is said that he made known to her his passion on a Sunday morning, after her parents were gone to church. She made an excuse to escape the room, and immediately ran towards the church. He is said to have overtaken her at the descent of the hill, and, enraged at his disappointment, drew his sword and struck off her head. He had scarcely levelled the blow when he fell dead: whether the earth opened and swallowed him, or he was suddenly seized and carried away, authors do not say; this, however, is stoutly averred, that he never made his appearance again in this world, either dead or alive. The head rolled down the hill to the altar, at which the congregation were kneeling, and stopped there: a clear and rapid fountain immediately gushed up. St. Beuno snatched up the head and joined it to the body, and it was, to the surprise of all present, immediately reunited, the place of separation being only marked by a white line encircling the neck. The sides of the well were henceforth covered with sweet-scented moss, and the stones at the bottom tinted with the maiden's blood. Winifred survived her decapitation about fifteen years, and towards the latter end of that time, having received the veil from St. Elevation, at Gwytherin, in Denbighshire, died abbess of that monastery, and was buried there, where four upright stones are still shown as Winifred's tomb. According to Dugdale, the bones of St. Winifred were translated from Gwytherin to the Abbey of St. Peter and St. Paul at Shrewsbury, in 1138."

The neighbourhood of Holywell is enlivened with several gentlemen's seats. About three miles thence lies

Downing,

the birthplace of Thomas Pennant, Esq., to whom this country is so much indebted for numerous excellent works on the history and antiquities of the kingdom. About a mile and a half north-west of Downing, on the summit of a high hill, stands

Mynydd-y-Garreg,

an ancient circular building of great height, in form not much unlike a windmill. It is a *pharos*, or Roman lighthouse, erected by the Romans to conduct navigation to and from the river Deva (the Dee).

Two miles north-west of Downing lies the ancient structure of

Mostyn Hall,

the property and seat of Lord Mostyn. There are several objects of great antiquity and curiosity shown, such as the Golden Torque, which was found near Harlech Castle; the Silver Harp, and the Mostyn Pedigree, which is no less than forty-two feet in length; as well as the Mostyn Testimonial, in the form of a silver candelabrum, presented to the Hon. Mr. Mostyn by his numerous friends and admirers. Upwards of £1,100 was subscribed on this occasion. The connection of Mostyn Hall with Henry VII. invests it with historical interest.

—◆—
RHYL, Flintshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Abergele	8	Holywell	13
Chester	30	St. Asaph	5

[Hotels: Parade; Belvoir; Royal; Queen's; Mostyn Arms.]

RHYL is justly ranked as the first bathing-place in the Principality. In 1820 the place consisted of only a few detached edifices; but, owing to the amenity of its position on the coast of the fine Irish Sea, commanding some smooth and firm sands of several miles in extent, Rhyl has become a place of considerable attraction, and is fast acquiring the character and conveniences of a town.

Its chief recommendations are—easy access, pure air, smooth and firm sands, and facilities for bathing; good hotels and lodging-houses; and agreeable objects within easy drives, such as St. Asaph, Rhuddlan Castle, Denbigh, and the Vale of Clwyd. Population 4,229.

This interesting locality commands some fine views of the most picturesque portions of the Vale of Clwyd, Llanddulas Bay, Orme's Head, the Isle of Anglesea, and the mountains of Cumberland.

A new pier was opened in 1867, and adds considerably to the attractions of the place. Anglers will find sport in the rivers Clwyd and Elwy.

The railway-station is commodious, and advantageously situated close to the town. The Vale of Clwyd Railway branches off here for St. Asaph, Denbigh, Ruthin, Corwen, &c.

ABERGELE, Denbighshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Bangor	27	London	225
Chester	35	Rhuddlan	5
Conway	12	Rhyl	8
Holywell	17	St. Asaph	7

[Hotels : Bee; Bodelwyddan Arms ; Harp.]

ABERGELE is a village in Denbighshire, of considerable resort on account of its large cattle fairs. It is also frequented in the bathing season, there being excellent firm sands for walking, and the neighbourhood abounding with much beautiful scenery. It is situated upon the edge of Rhuddlan Marsh. That the sea has encroached on the land is shown by an epitaph in the churchyard, which states that a man, who lived three miles to the north, lies buried there, while the grave at the present time is but a mile from the coast. Population 3,194.

About a mile and a half from Abergele is a spot almost unknown, except to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood; it is called Cave Hill, and derives its name from the contiguous immense caverns, which are said to be of unfathomable extent. Some of the honest sons of Cadwaladr go as far as to say that one leads directly under

London Bridge, and the other to Chester. In one of these enormous caves are found the bones of antediluvian animals. Every grain in this retreat is formed of pulverized bone. A very good specimen of a young hippopotamus's tooth, which was found there, was shown to Miss Costello when she visited the spot.

From the top of Cave Hill is an uninterrupted view of St. Asaph, the beautiful Vale of Clwyd, and the Flintshire mountains. From the coast is seen a considerable part of the counties of Cheshire and Lancashire. Sweeping the horizon, one obtains a distant view of the Isle of Man, and, more westerly, that of Anglesea, and the mountains of Caernarvonshire.

The pretty villages of Bettws and Llanfair are in the immediate neighbourhood.

A Roman encampment, afterwards occupied by the celebrated Owen Gwynedd, the Welsh chieftain, is supposed to have been situated on a hill not far from Abergele.

The Chester and Holyhead Railway passes within about half a mile of Abergele.

Gwrych Castle.

About a mile from Abergele stands the modern castellated mansion of Gwrych Castle, the property and residence of Henry Lloyd Bamford Hesketh, Esq. The situation is admirably chosen, to afford a very extensive view of the coast and all other interesting objects. The front extends about five hundred yards, and on each side is a noble terrace, about four hundred and twenty yards in length. The four inscriptions on the four tablets at the lodge gates deserve perusal.

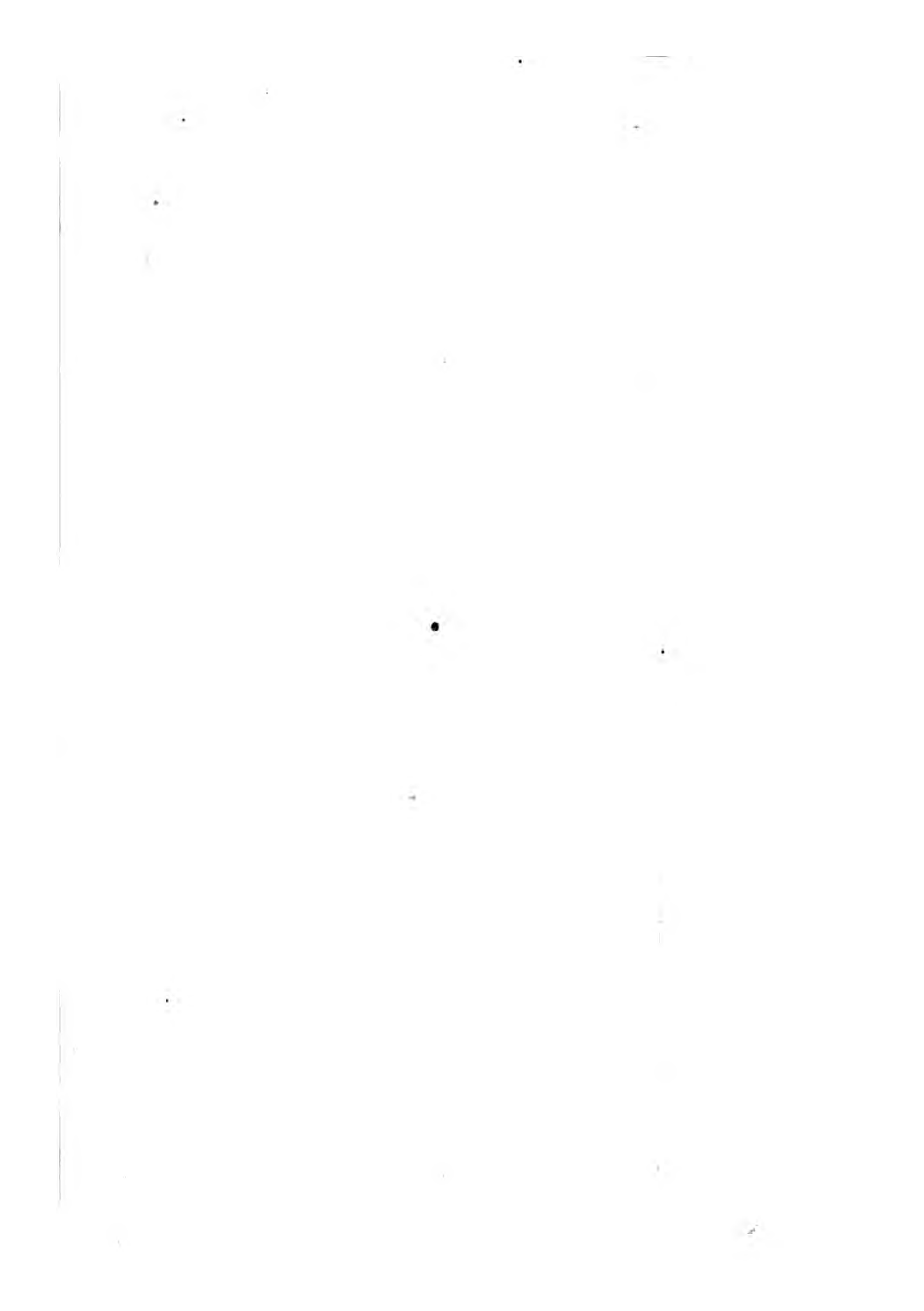
A cavern, called Tan-yr-Ogof, which is above the last lodge, is very well worthy of a visit. Its mouth resembles an extensive entrance of a Gothic cathedral.

Llandudno Junction.

[Refreshment-rooms here.]

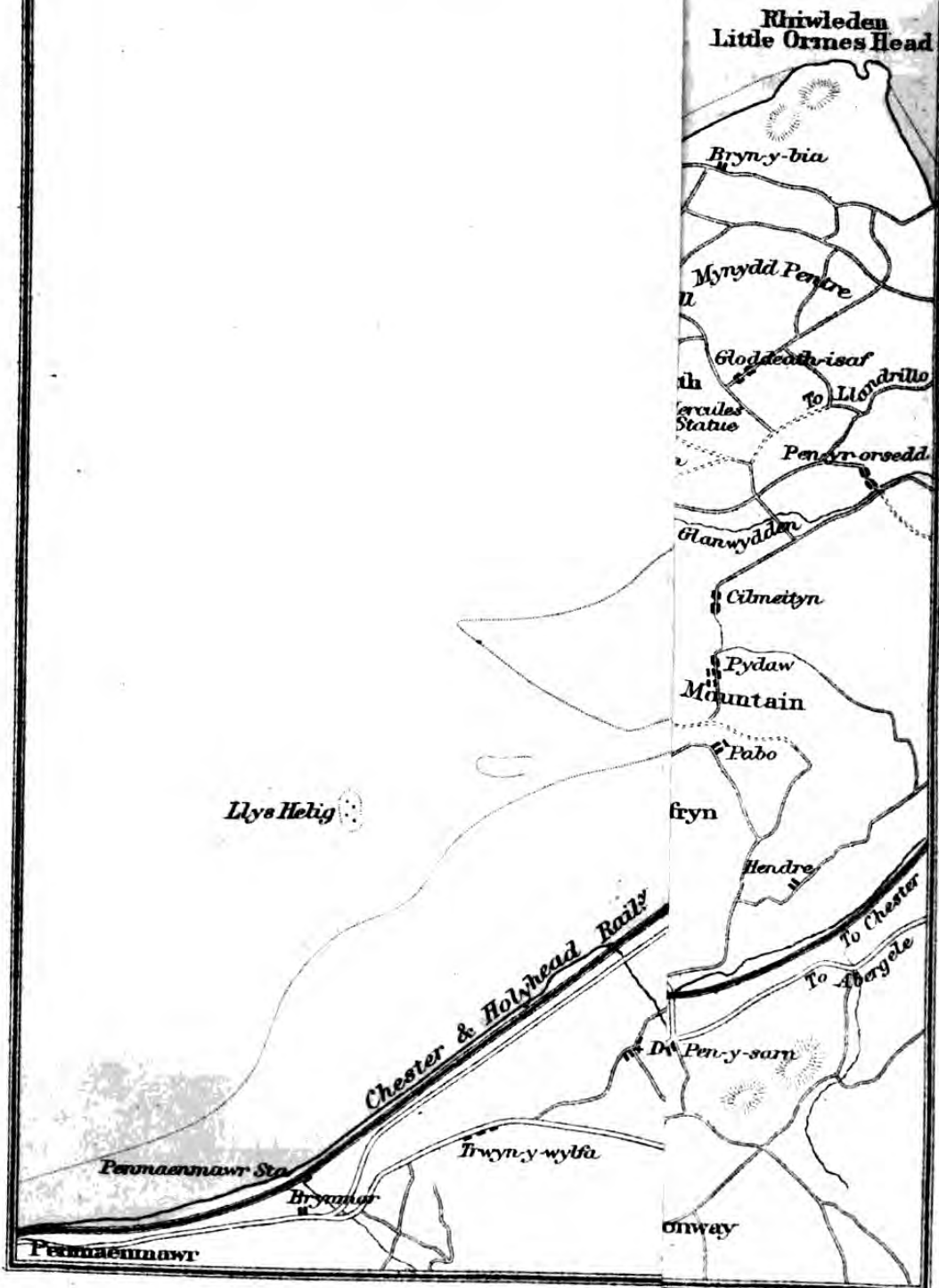
The concentrating line at this place will be best understood from the map. The Vale of Conway, by Llanrwst and Bettws-y-Coed, will be referred to subsequently.

At the terminus of the right-hand branch from Chester, and four miles from the junction, we reach



ENVIRONS OF LLANDUDNO

Scale of 1 Mile.



LLANDUDNO, Caernarvonshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Aber	9½	Conway	5
Abergele	16	Denbigh	19

[Hotels: Queen's; St. George's; Adelphi; Royal; Tudno Castle.]

LLANDUDNO is a parish situated on the shore of the Irish Sea, near the promontory of Orme's Head, or Gogarth, which forms the eastern boundary of the entrance into Beaumaris Bay. The Liverpool and Bangor steam-packets stop to land and take up passengers at Llandudno, in passing to and from Liverpool. The Church is two miles distant from the village, and is dedicated to St. Tudno; but, owing to its inconvenient situation, the foundation-stone of a new church was laid on the 22nd of April, 1839. The site was granted by the Hon. M. Lloyd Mostyn; A. Worthington, Esq., also contributed very liberally towards the erection of the new structure. Population 2,762.

The vast unconnected rock of Great Orme's Head was without doubt at one time an island; at present it is joined to the mainland only by a neck of low marshes. Some copper is procured from two mines, near the summit of the mountain, belonging to a Liverpool company. This elevation consists of alternate beds of chert and limestone, uniformly dipping from every side to a common centre, where the great deposit of ore is embedded. A variety of malachite, or mammillated carbonate of copper, is found in the mines; they also abound with other mineral curiosities. The cliffs are very abrupt, and hollowed into various inaccessible caverns by the action of the sea. In this secure retreat multitudes of gulls, cormorants, herons, razor-bills, ravens, and rock-pigeons have taken up their abode. The hazardous method practised here, and on the opposite rocks of Priestholm, of gathering the *crithum maritimum* by suspension over the cliffs, is strikingly described by the oft-quoted lines from Shakespeare's magic pen—

"How fearful
And dizzy 'tis to cast one's eyes so low!
The crows and choughs that wing the midway air
Show scarce so gross as beetles. Half-way down
Hangs one who gathers samphire: dreadful trade!"

On an eminence, called Dinas, is an ancient fortification, consisting of a wall of prodigious thickness round the summit of the hill : within are large circular caves, supposed by Mr. Pennant to have been the rude habitations of our ancestors. Near this is the Maen Sigl, the rocking and self-moving stone, called also Crud Tudno, "St. Tudno's Cradle." It is a huge, massive, and rude block, surrounded by a fosse, with a narrow path leading to it.

The bay, in the form of a crescent, is one of the finest on this coast, and affords shelter to shipping during heavy gales.

Two miles from Gloddarth, on the shore, is a singular structure, having three windows and a door, with a vaulted roof, covered with pebbles instead of slates, called St. Trillo's Chapel. In the inside is a well.

Half a mile farther is the parish church of Llandrillo, and near it the ruins of Bryn Euryn. Maelgwyn Gwynedd had his residence here in the sixth century, and in the twelfth it was the Llys, or palace, of Ednyfed Fychan. This, one of the thirteen residences belonging to that chief, is mentioned as his favourite, and stated to have been royally adorned with turrets and attics. This Ednyfed Fychan was the son of Kyna ap Jus ap Gwgan ap Marchydd, and an ancestor of Owain Tudur, of Penynydd, in Anglesea, who married Catherine, Queen Dowager of Henry V.

Resuming our journey at the junction, we cross the river by a tubular bridge, and enter

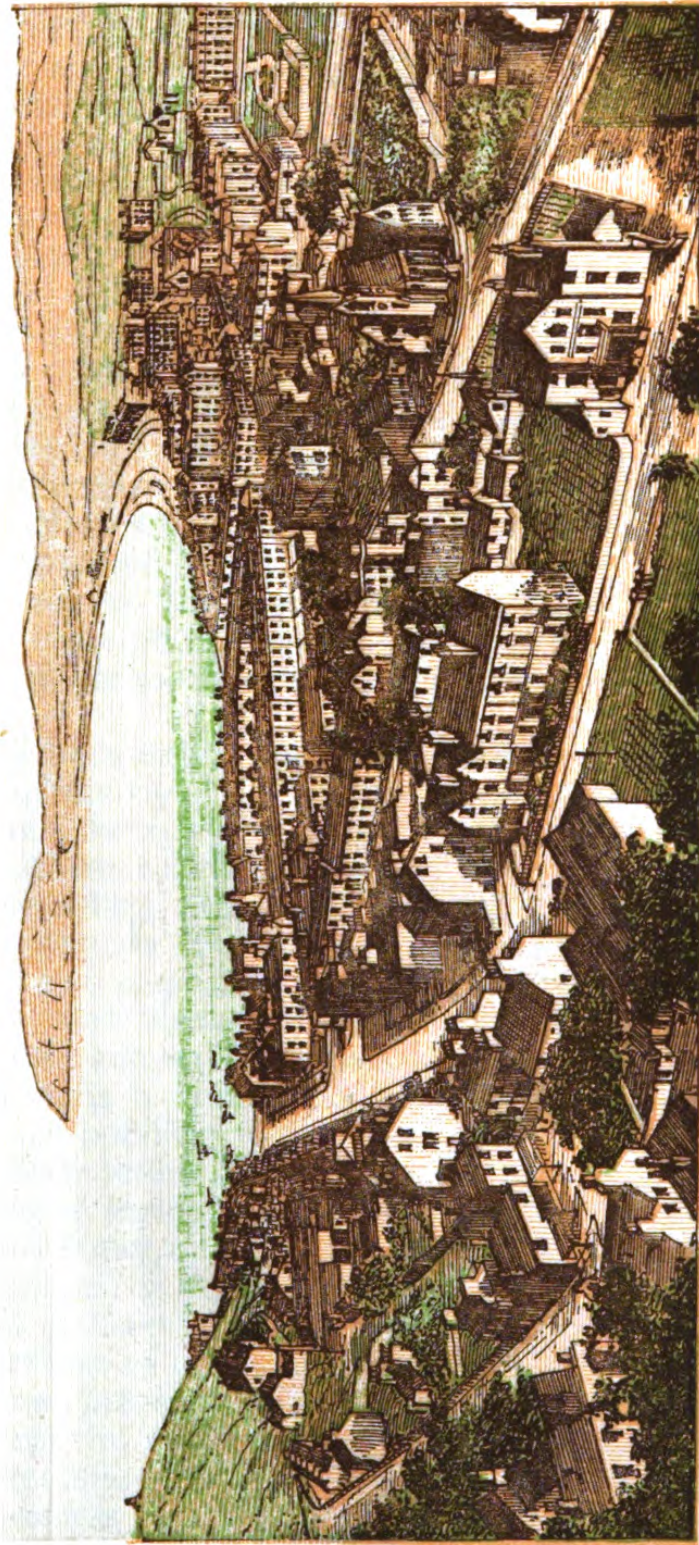
CONWAY, Caernarvonshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Aber	9	Llanddulas	9
Abergele	12	Llanwrst	12
Bangor	14½	London	236
Caernarvon	24	Penmaen-Mawr	6

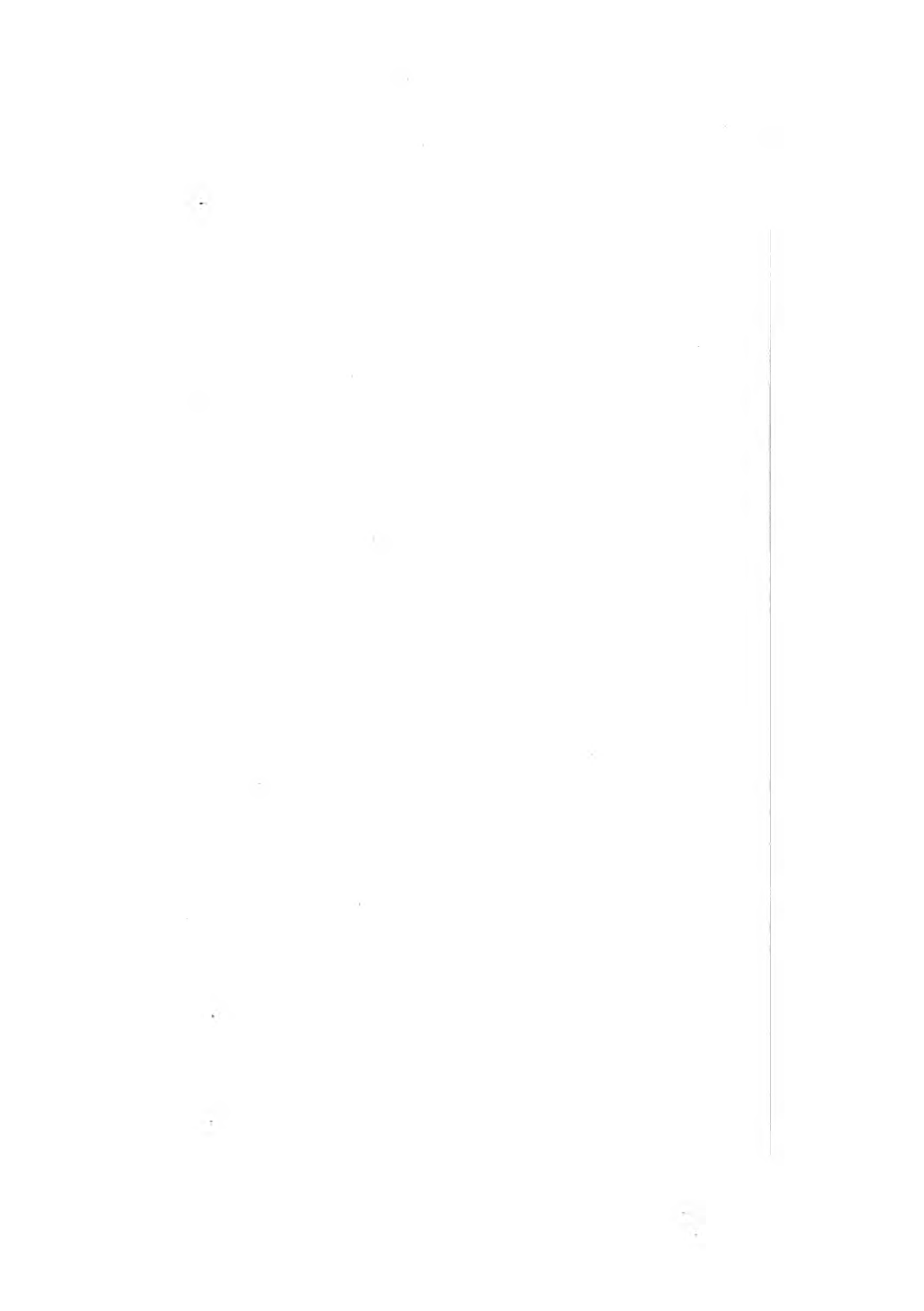
[Hotels : Castle ; Erskine Arms.]

CONWAY, from Cynwy, "the Great River," is situated upon the northern corner of Caernarvonshire.

When approaching this ancient fortified town, its



LLANDUDNO.



aspect is so singularly grand and impressive that strangers are apt to indulge expectations which the near view of its poor, ill-built, neglected streets will be likely to disappoint; and the remark of Pennant may seem to be verified,—“A more ragged town within is scarcely to be seen, nor a more beautiful one without.” But closer deliberate inspection and more intimate knowledge may justify the opinion of Sir R. C. Hoare, who says of this place, “I have seen no town where the military works of art are so happily blended with the picturesque features of nature; and no spot which the artist will at first sight view with greater rapture, or quit with greater reluctance.” In like manner another competent judge, Miss Costello, writes, “We have heard much of this boast of North Wales, and on our arrival, far from considering that too much had been said, I think that no description, however enthusiastic, can do justice to one of the most romantic and interesting spots in Europe.”

The town is beautifully situated, on a steep slope on the left bank of the river Conway where it falls into the ocean, and hence the name by which the Welsh generally designate it, Aberconway. It is of a triangular form, somewhat resembling the shape of a Welsh harp, to which it is commonly likened. It is surrounded by a wall, one mile and a quarter in length, and twelve feet thick, fortified with towers and battlements. These, together with four gateways, are in a good state of preservation. It presents a rare example of the Saracenic or Moorish style of building, which was introduced by the Crusaders on their return from the East.

There are some curious old timber houses in the town. One, called Plas Mawr, or “the Great Mansion,” is worthy of particular notice; it bears date 1585. It was built by Robert Wynne of Gwydir, in the reign of Elizabeth, and is a good specimen of the domestic architecture of that period. It now belongs to the family of Mostyn, by whom it is kept in repair. The tourist will have no difficulty in obtaining access, and will be gratified by a sight of the spacious rooms, with their panelled walls and carved decorations. Besides the letters R. W., the monogram of the founder, the letters E. R. and R. D., the

initials of the Queen and those of her haughty favourite, Leicester, are frequently to be seen.

The Church has little to interest, either in its architecture or its history. There are some good monuments of the Wynnes ; and a stone is pointed out, with an inscription in memory of " Nicholas Hookes, of Conway, Gent., who was the forty-first child of his father, William Hookes, Esq., by Alice, his wife."

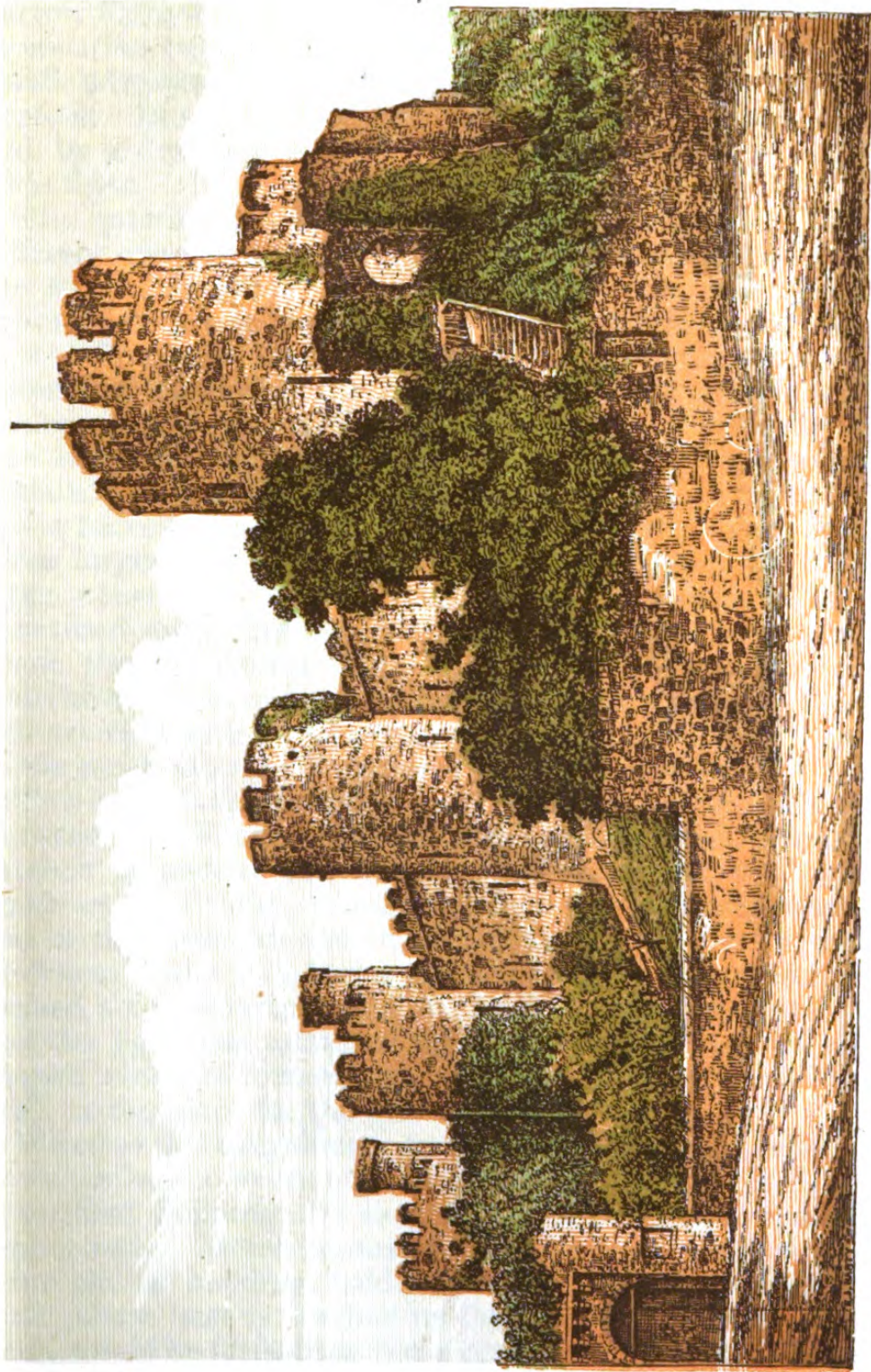
Conway unites with other boroughs as contributory to Caernarvon in returning a member to Parliament. The authentic annals of the town commence no earlier than the history of the Castle.

The river Conway runs upon the east side of the town, and is somewhat more than half a mile across at high water. This river was formerly noted for its pearls, one of which, presented to the queen of Charles II., by Sir R. Wynne, of Gwydir, is now honoured with a place in the royal crown of England. Population 2,620.

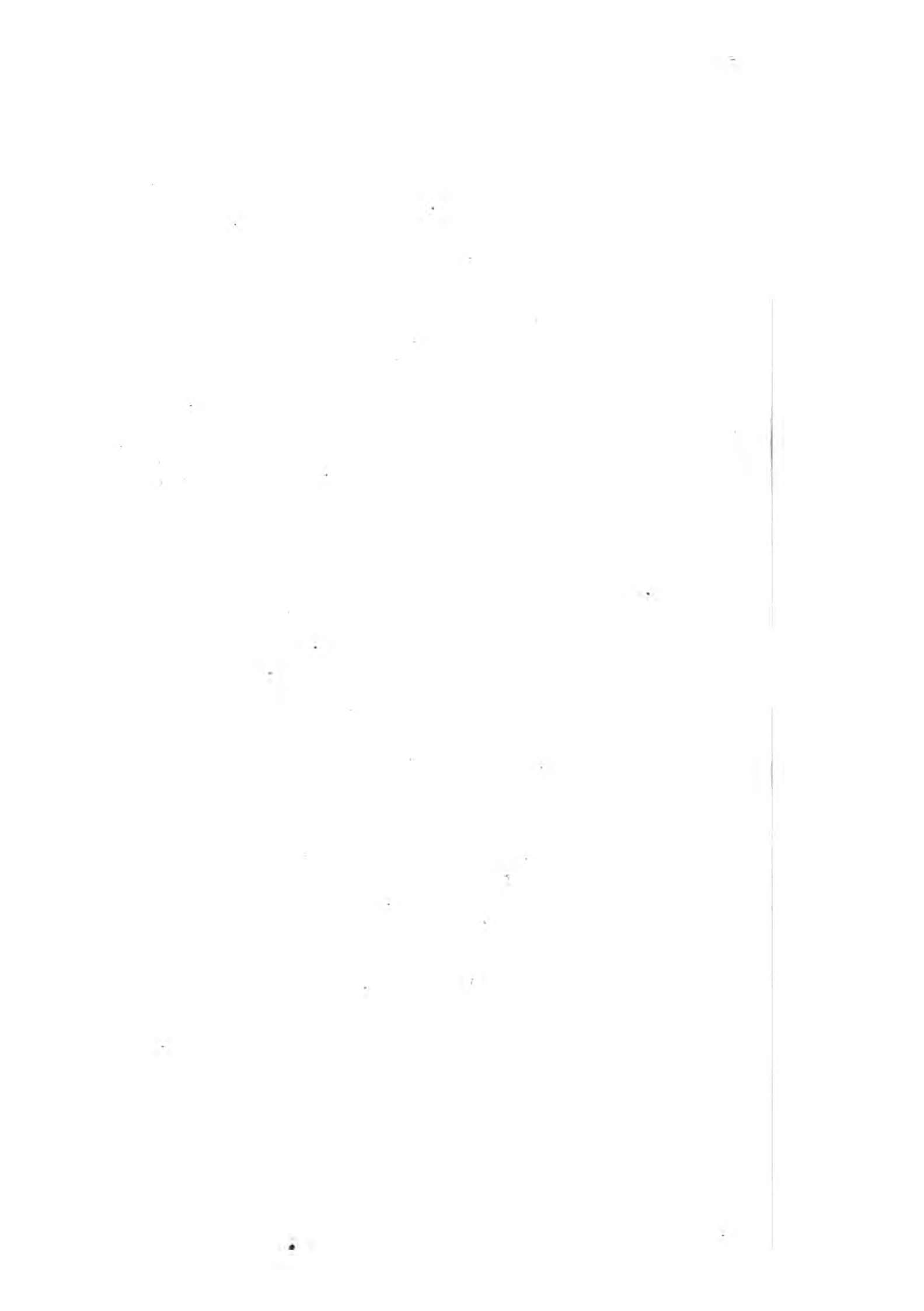
Conway Castle, Suspension Bridge, &c.

This castle, erected in 1284, by Edward I., 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.

If the architect was the same person who built Caernarvon, as is usually supposed, he must have here exerted himself to the utmost, and endeavoured to display his most transcendent skill, for perhaps a more beautiful fortress never arose ; certainly its equal is nowhere to be found within the precincts of Britain. Its 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. The fortress had two ways of ingress, both admirably contrived for security : one, by a



CONWAY CASTLE, FROM THE NORTH.



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 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 the vast canopy of heaven!—was supported by eight arches, four only of which now remain. It had two spacious fireplaces, and was lighted by six narrow windows on the side towards the river; and three larger and more ornamental ones looked into the inner court. Underneath were extensive vaults, which contained 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 hangs about 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, formed 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 the structure is a majestic pile of building, boldly standing on a supereminent rock, whose base is washed by the surges of a noble tidal river, would be furnishing but a very inadequate idea of the place. Nor is it less interesting for its varied concomitant beauties. Few of the events connected with the 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, when they 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. The bridge was designed and executed by Mr. Telford. It was commenced in 1822, and completed in 1826 ; it is constructed on the same principle as the Menai Bridge. The chains at the western extremity are secured to the rock beneath the Castle. The suspended roadway measures between the centres of the towers 327 feet, is 32 feet wide, and is elevated 18 feet above high water.

The Tubular Bridge is only a few feet from the Suspension Bridge. The design of the masonry is in keeping with that of the Castle. It is similar in construction to the Britannia Tube over the Menai, but consists of only one span of 400 feet clear, which is forty feet less than that of the Britannia, and its height above high water is but eighteen feet. The first stone of this bridge was laid on the 15th of June, 1846, by Alexander M. Ross, Esq., acting engineer. The first tube was commenced in March, 1847 ; it was floated on the 6th of March, and raised to its position on the 16th of April of the following year.

Starting again from Conway, the next station reached is

PENMAEN-MAWR, Caernarvonshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Aber	4	Conway	5
Bangor	9	Port Penrhyn	8

[Hotel : The Penmaen-Mawr, with a complete sea-bathing establishment.]

THIS is another of the retired watering-places which are situated on the Menai ; it is every year improving, splendid mansions and villas of every size and style dotting the sides of the hills.

The old road to Chester and London passed over the

side of Penmaen-Mawr, and the Chester and Holyhead Railway passes through it. A few years ago this sequestered spot was known only to the primitive inhabitants.

On the summit of Penmaen-Mawr (1,553 feet) stands Braich-y-Ddinas, a British fort of great strength, and of extent sufficient to afford shelter to twenty thousand men. A sanguinary battle was fought here between the Romans and British.

“After a resolute tug,” says Mr. Ayton, “which advanced me to a great elevation, I turned round, and was gratified with a prospect which would have amply repaid the labour of a much more difficult expedition. To the right was the expanse of boundless sea, and in front the yellow sands, bordered by a lovely plain. More directly under me lay a village, with a church, seated at the entrance of a pretty valley. The mountains enclosing the glen of Aber appeared drawn circularly, with the shivered summit of Lwt-Mawr soaring above them all. The white foam of the cataract was also visible. Continuing my ascent, I soon arrived at the verge of Braich-y-Ddinas: the summit shoots up in two protuberances; upon the lower there is a circular enclosure, about twelve feet in diameter, with a wall four feet high and three feet thick. Near these remains is a small well in the rock.” Between Penmaen-Mawr and the second range of mountains, to the south, is the noted

ABER, Caernarvonshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Bangor	5	Penmaen-Mawr	3
Llandegai	3	Conway	9
Holyhead	30	London	245

[Hotel: Bulkeley Arms.]

ABER, or “the Confluence” (called also Abergwyngregin, from the quantity of cockles found there), is a pleasant little village, situated on the Chester and Holyhead road; it commands an extensive view of the fine bay of Beaumaris, with the islands of Anglesea, Priestholm, and the Great Orme’s Head. The salubrity of its air and pleasantness of its situation, together with a convenient beach for bathing,

render this little place very attractive during the summer months.

The Church is an ancient structure : the living is in the gift of Sir R. W. Bulkeley, of Baron Hill.

From this village a deep and romantic glen, in length nearly two miles, is the entrance to a celebrated cataract, called *Rhaeadr Fawr*, falling over a tremendous slate rock, called *Maes-y-Gaer*, by a double fall, the lowest of which may be fifty feet. About half-way from the village to the falls is a bridge, over which the road leads to *Caer-Rhun* and the *Vale of Conway*. Upon the artificial mount, near *Aber*, called the *Mwd*, once stood a castle, the palace of *Llewelyn ap Gryffydd*, Prince of Wales : the vestiges of the moat and its feeder from the river yet remain. At the siege of *Montgomery*, *Llewelyn* took prisoner a *William De Broes*, one of the knights of the English court ; and while he remained his captive at *Aber Castle* he treated him well, rather as a friend than an enemy. This kindness was repaid by *De Broes* with treachery ; for he ventured to form an attachment to the *Princess Joan*. At length a ransom liberated the knight from his captivity. Soon after, facts of inconstancy and intrigue on the part of the princess, and deceit on the part of his captive friend, being discovered, *Llewelyn* solicited from the knight the favour of a visit, to which he unsuspectingly acceded. He was once more in the power of *Llewelyn*. The next morning the *Princess Joan* walked forth in a musing mood. She was young and beautiful ; she had been admired and caressed in her father's court, was there the theme of minstrels and the lady of many a tournament : to what avail ? Her hand, without her heart, had been bestowed on a brave but uneducated prince, whom she could regard as little better than a savage. Perhaps she sighed as she thought of the days when the handsome young *De Broes* broke a lance in her honour, and she rejoiced, yet regretted, that the dangerous knight, the admired and gallant *William*, was again beneath her husband's roof. In this state of mind she was met by the bard, who, observing her pensive air and guessing its cause, entered into conversation with her, and having beguiled her of her tears by his melody, he at length ventured on these dangerous words :—

“ Diccyn, doccyn, gwraig Llewelyn,
Beth a roit ti am weled Gwilym ? ”

“ Tell me, wife of Llewelyn,
What would you give to behold your William ? ”

The princess, thrown off her guard, and confiding in the harper's faith, imprudently exclaimed—

“ Cymru, Lloegr, a Llewelyn,
A rown i gyd am weled Gwilym ! ”

“ Wales, England, and Llewelyn,
I'd give them all to see my William. ”

The harper smiled bitterly, and, taking her arm, pointed slowly, with his finger, in the direction of a neighbouring hill, where, at a place called Wern Grogedig, grew a lofty tree, from the branches of which a form was hanging, which she too well recognized as that of the unfortunate William De Broes. This melancholy occurrence happened in 1229. In a field, called Cae Gwilym Ddu, were buried the remains of William De Broes.

Notwithstanding this tragical episode, the princess and her husband managed to live well together afterwards. Whether she convinced him of his error, and he repented his hasty vengeance, or whether he thought it better policy to appear satisfied, is uncertain ; at all events, Joan frequently interfered between her husband and father to prevent bloodshed, and sometimes succeeded. On one occasion she did so with some effect, at a time when the Welsh prince was encamped on a mountain, above Ogwen Lake, called Carnedd Llewelyn from that circumstance, when he saw his country in ruins and Bangor in flames. Joan died in 1237, and was buried in a monastery of Dominican friars, at Llanfaes, near Beaumaris. Llewelyn erected a monument over her, and died in 1240. The remains of Lady Llewelyn were suffered to lie 293 years, till Henry VIII. disposed of the monastery to one of his courtiers, when the church was converted into a barn. The ferocity of the times ejected Joan from her little tenement. Her coffin of stone was placed in a small brook, and for 250 years was used as a watering-trough for the farmers' horses. Lord Bulkeley rescued it from its degraded situation, and ordered it to be placed in his

grounds, near Baron Hill, where it can be seen. The sides, ends, and bottom are about four inches thick. From the cavity within, the princess appears to have been about five feet six or seven inches high, sixteen inches over the shoulders, and nine inches deep in the chest.

The Chester and Holyhead Railway passes within a few hundred yards of the village of Aber.

BANGOR, Caernarvonshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Abergele	27	Chester	65
Beaumaris, by the bridge	6½	Holyhead	24
Caernarvon	9	Llanberis, <i>via</i> Caernarvon	17
Capel Curig	14½	London, <i>via</i> Chester	251
Conway	14½	Snowdon, across Pentir	9

[Hotels: Penrhyn Arms ; Castle ; Railway ; George ; British, &c.]

(Coach from Railway Hotel several times daily to Quarries. Fare 2s. 6d.)

BANGOR is one of the most ancient cities in Wales, and a place of singular beauty, whether the taste of the tourist be turned to the sea or the land, or, better still, to a combination of the two. The name is derived from Ban Chor, the High or Beautiful Choir. It was formerly called Bangor Fawr, or the Great Bangor, to distinguish it from Bangor Iscoed, in Flintshire. The town, like many of the old cathedral cities, was quaint, curious, and withal somewhat obscure in former times. But the valley in which it stands, surmounted on one side by a bold escarpment of rock, and on the other by rising grounds, now clothed with trees, and at some places studded with houses, imparts no little beauty to Bangor and its environs. From various points the view of the city and the adjacent scenery is crowded with manifold attractions. The proximity of the Menai Straits and their Suspension Bridge—deemed an engineering marvel in its time, till eclipsed by the still more marvellous Tubular Bridge—adds to the characteristics of the place ; and few spots even in Wales could be named which are better fitted for

a sojourn, either as a centre of excursions for the tourist or as the abode of the lover of quiet beauty.

The stimulus imparted by the erections just named, and by the railways connected with them, has both modernized and enlarged the city of Bangor.

Bangor and its environs possess an almost inexhaustible diversity of walks, rides, and sea excursions.

The views of Beaumaris Bay, and the Caernarvonshire mountains from Garth Point, at the eastern extremity of the town, are of the most picturesque, bold, and sublime character; as well as those from the top of the mountains at the back of Bangor. In the vicinity of Bangor innumerable objects of curiosity abound: Penrhyn Castle, Slate Quarries, Ogwen Bank, Aber, Llanberis, Caernarvon, Beaumaris, Menai Bridge, Penmon Priory, Plas Newydd, Baron Hill, Ogwen Lake, Idwal Lake, Puffin Island, Conway, Capel Curig, &c., &c., are all within one day's drive.

The facilities for travelling are abundant. The Chester and Holyhead Railway passes within a hundred yards of the town; and in summer there are steamboats to Liverpool every day, to and fro, giving the tourist an opportunity of viewing from the sea all the objects deserving of attention along the Welsh coast.

A stone, three feet three inches long, was discovered at Ty Coch, about two miles from Bangor, on which was the following inscription:—

M. V. M. N. C.
IMP. CÆSAR M.
AUREL ANTONIUS
PIUS P. IX. AUC. ARAB.

In the year 1557 Dr. Jeffrey Glynn founded a Free Grammar School, for the education of the poor children of Bangor. It has long enjoyed reputation as a training seminary for Oxford, Cambridge, and Trinity College, Dublin.

On the summit of the steep rock opposite the above Free School are to be traced the remains of an ancient castle, supposed to have been built by Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, in the reign of Henry II. Several pieces of scoriæ have been found on the spot, which leave no doubt

that they were manufactured here at some very distant period. On the extreme height of the opposite hill, at the back of the school, are the remains of a British encampment, on an extensive scale, of more ancient date than the preceding.

The principal trade consists in the export of slates, which are raised in the quarries, six miles distant, and conveyed on a railway to Port Penrhyn, at the mouth of the river Cegid, a little to the east of the town.

A museum, including an extensive collection of rare and curious articles, will afford agreeable and instructive occupation for a leisure hour: it was formed at much cost, and with persevering diligence, by Captain Jones, who kindly presented it to the city of Bangor. It is open to the public on payment of a very small fee, and deserves a visit.

During the summer months coaches run between Bangor and Llandudno, and Llanberis. But the railway between Caernarvon and Llanberis interferes with the Bangor coach to that place.

The market is held on Fridays, but during the summer months every day during the week. Population (within the Parliamentary limits) 9,859.

The spot called Upper Bangor is beautifully situated, overlooking the Menai Straits, and has a number of superior lodging-houses. A magnificent church was erected at Upper Bangor in 1865.

The Cathedral

stands on a piece of ground near the centre of the town, and externally has but a humble appearance. It was founded about 525, by Daniel, son of Dinodus, Abbot of Bangor Iscoed, under the auspices of Maelgwyn Gwynedd, King of Wales, founder of Penmon, patron of Taliesin, and the most liberal prince of his time. It was destroyed by the Saxons in 1071, and afterwards rebuilt by King John, in 1212. It suffered with the cathedral of St. Asaph, about 1247, in the wars between Henry III. and the Welsh. In 1402 it was burnt down, in the rebellion of Owain Glyndwr, and remained in ruins upwards of ninety years, when the choir was rebuilt by Bishop Henry

Devurix, or Denni, in the reign of Henry VII. ; but the tower and nave were built, according to an inscription over the west door, at the expense of Bishop Skeffington, in 1532.

Beneath a simple arch lies the body of Owain Gwynedd, the valiant Prince of North Wales : his stone coffin, with a cross upon the lid, used to be seen under a pointed arch, which is now built up and concealed from view within the thickness of the wall. The heart of Bishop Skeffington is buried here, and his body at Beaulieu, Hants : he died in June, 1815.

Bishop Bale, author of that excellent book entitled "The Practice of Piety," was buried on the south side of the altar. Several other illustrious men lie beneath the walls of this ancient fabric. The choir was fitted up in a style of neat and simple elegance by the late Dr. Warren, and ornamented with a good organ, the gift of Dr. Thomas Lloyd. Upon the south side of the choir is a large handsome monument of white marble, surmounted by an urn, to the memory of Bishop Morgan and his daughter, 1671-1682.

The chapter consists of twelve dignitaries and two vicars.

The building is used for both cathedral and parish services : the former is conducted in the English language, the latter in Welsh.

Some considerable improvements were made in the Cathedral in 1827, by the outlay of £2,000, which was collected in various parts of the kingdom through the indefatigable and praiseworthy exertions of the Rev. T. H. Cotton, the late Dean of Bangor, the whole of which was expended in the most beneficial and tasteful manner under his superintendence, and will remain a lasting monument of his zeal and perseverance. Some years ago the citizens of Bangor originated a subscription to this estimable dignitary, for the many benefits conferred upon them and the neighbourhood. The very rev. gentleman, with his customary regard for the fabrics, as well as the doctrines and utility of the Establishment, devoted it to ornamenting the Cathedral with a splendid painted window—a permanent memorial of the respect and veneration in which he was held.

About 400 yards north-east of the Cathedral was built a parish church, by King Edgar, and called "Llanfair Edward Vrenhin." Bishop Skeffington, in Henry VIII.'s time, took it down, and repaired the present church with the materials.

The Bishop's Palace, as well as the Deanery, is situated below the Cathedral. Mr. Warren and his companions, in their "Walk through Wales," spoke in raptures of this place; the beauty, retirement, and repose of the whole pleased them exceedingly: he observed that, "were he Bishop of Bangor, the only translation he should covet would be thence to heaven." Close to the churchyard are the Almshouses, established by Henry Rowlands, bishop of this see, in 1616. About 400 yards on the way to Menai Bridge is the Public Infirmary: at this place the poor of Bangor have advice and medicine gratis. It was established in 1809. An elegant Roman Catholic Chapel has been lately erected.

The town is lighted with gas, and well supplied with water from an adjoining mountain.

BANGOR TO CAPEL CURIG.

VISIT Penrhyn Castle and the Slate Quarries. A coach leaves Bangor several times in the day for the latter place. Tickets to visit the former place must be procured in Bangor, at the various hotels.

When parties go in private conveyances the mode generally adopted is to visit first Penrhyn Castle, which is open to the public on Tuesdays and Fridays; but, in case there should be an alteration in the days, visitors had better ask at the Penrhyn Arms Hotel, Bangor, where tickets can be had for a trifle: the proceeds go towards the Infirmary of Bangor.

During the summer months a coach leaves Bangor for Bettws-y-Coed, passing through Llandegai, Bethesda, Nant Francon, and the margin of Ogwen Lake.

The first place reached after leaving Bangor, by this route, will be

Penrhyn Port.

This port has been greatly improved of late, under the careful management of James Wyatt, Esq. The quay is about 1,000 feet long, and is constructed in the most commodious manner, for the shipment of slates, which are brought down from the Slate Quarries by a tram-rail, a distance of six miles. Very extensive offices have been erected on the quay.

Visitors who go direct from Bangor to Penrhyn Castle enter through the lodge which is situated at Port Penrhyn, near the Penrhyn Arms Hotel.

Penrhyn Castle,

the magnificent seat of the Hon. Colonel Douglas Pennant, M.P., is situated about two miles from Bangor. Mr. Pennant came into this princely property on the death of the late George Hay Dawkins Pennant, Esq., having married the eldest daughter of that gentleman. The house is said to have been built on the site of a palace of Roderic Molwynog, Prince of Wales, who began his reign in 720. The estate came to the family of Pennant partly by the purchase of the late Lord Penrhyn's father, and partly by his own marriage with Anne Susannah, daughter and sole heiress of the late General Warburton, of Warrington, in Lancashire.

The late Lord Penrhyn made very considerable alterations in the buildings; and his successor, whose public spirit well accords with that of his lordship, and whose generous munificence has endeared him to the surrounding district, has been long engaged in rebuilding the whole on an extensive scale and in a magnificent style, so as to render it one of the most complete castellated baronial mansions in the kingdom. It is built in the ancient style of architecture, of Mona marble, and displays a magnificent range of buildings, crowned with lofty towers: five are circular; the keep and another of the principal are square, with angular turrets. The in-

ternal decorations correspond with the magnificence of the exterior: the furniture is extremely elegant. The situation is unrivalled in this, or perhaps in any other part of Great Britain.

There are several lodges, forming entrances to the park, all elegant in design and lofty in their elevation. The principal one is at Llandegai: it is a stately and beautiful specimen of architecture. In this mansion is still preserved the "herlass," or drinking-horn, of the hero Piers Gruffyd: it is a large bugle of an ox, ornamented with chased silver, and suspended by a chain of the same material, having the initials of his own name and family engraved at the end. Two miles from Bangor, on the Chester road, is the much-admired village of

LLANDEGAI, Caernarvonshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Aber	3½	Conway	10
Bangor	2	Penmaen-Mawr	7

THE scenery of the neighbourhood is beautifully picturesque and impressively grand, comprehending on one side a vast amphitheatre of mountains, and on the other a fine view of the Menai Straits.

The Church, one of the neatest in the Principality, is built in the form of a cross, having a tower in the centre; its style is Gothic, and it is supposed to have been erected at first in the reign of Edward III. In the wall, in the south side of the chancel, is a monument to the memory of John Williams, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal in the reign of James I. There is also a marble monument, by Westmacott, to the memory of the late Lord and Lady Penrhyn.

Close to the village is the principal entrance to Penrhyn Castle. Also in a field adjoining the churchyard are interred the remains of Lady Pennant, the wife of the present proprietor of the Penrhyn Castle estate, who died at Pisa, in Italy, on the 23rd of April, 1842, aged thirty-five, and was brought here to rest. An elegant tomb, which is likely to be the family vault of Penrhyn, has been erected over

her mortal remains, by her husband. It was in accordance with her wish that the elegant new school, for the education of the poor children of that place and neighbourhood, was erected.

About four hundred yards from Llandegai is an elegant viaduct for conveying the Chester and Holyhead Railway over the river Ogwen : it consists of twenty-four arches.

On leaving Llandegai the road follows the left bank of the river Ogwen for about a mile, and then, crossing to the right bank, continues to

BETHESDA,

which contains upwards of 6,000 inhabitants, who are chiefly the employés in the great Penrhyn Slate Quarry. There are handsome shops, a beautiful church built by Lord Penrhyn, and a number of Dissenting chapels, as well as a national school erected and maintained by Lord Penrhyn, in which 230 children are instructed.

The celebrated

Penrhyn Slate Quarries

are situated about one mile from Bethesda. They are the property of Lord Penrhyn. The tourist will be interested in inspecting the works. An average quantity of 200 tons of slate is daily conveyed hence. About 3,000 men and boys are employed in the quarries, and no less than 11,000 individuals are supported by these works.

Owing to the continual blasting of the rocks, it would be rather dangerous for the visitor to venture to inspect these extensive works without a guide. On his arrival he should, if possible, get one of the overlookers of the works to accompany him through the quarries, rather than trust to the casual idler who may proffer his services ; for the object of the latter is to procure payment, without giving himself much trouble in pointing out the wonders of the place. The sizes of the slates are denominated "duchesses," "countesses," "ladies," &c., which names were bestowed on them by General Warburton, about the

year 1765. There are several little articles made by some of the quarrymen, such as slate inkstands, taper-stands, &c. ; but, as they may impose on strangers, the best way is to purchase such articles at a respectable shop.

St. Anne's Chapel, near the quarries, was erected and liberally endowed by the late Lord Penrhyn ; and Lady Penrhyn left a sum for the purchase of an organ, and a suitable stipend for an organist.

- About a mile beyond Bethesda toward Nant Francon is

Ogwen Bank.

It is now used by the Pennant family, as an occasional resort, on paying a morning visit to the works or other objects of curiosity in the neighbourhood. The style is florid Gothic, and great taste is shown in the design. The centre contains an elegant room, the front of it forming the segment of a circle ; the wing contains a coach-house and stabling. Over the river Ogwen, in a rough and picturesque part of it, is a bridge corresponding with the house. All visitors to the house are requested to sign their names in a book kept there for that purpose. This brilliant erection in no way corresponds with the sterile scenery which surrounds it.

Nant Francon,

or the "Beavers' Hollow," is in the immediate vicinity of the Penrhyn Slate Quarries, and about four miles and a half from Capel Curig. Mr. Burke, in his work entitled "The Beauties of Nature," says of this valley, "If you would be sublimely captivated, visit Nant Francon or Nant Gwynant." This valley, Nant Francon, a corruption from Nant-yr-Afranc, is supposed to be so denominated from having been at one time a covert for those amphibious animals, which are no longer inhabitants of the country, but were found in this place, according to report, less than a century ago. It was formerly a tremendous glen, or rather chasm ; but, by the efforts of human industry, some of its wild 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, over which the Ogwen rushes, roars, and rolls, in a sheet of foam and spray, down an integral and nearly perpendicular rock, is the most considerable. By climbing a broken and rocky steep, the river is seen precipitating 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, with the immense and singular mountain Trifaen filling the space behind, has a striking appearance. From Bangor to the Benglog the road is nearly throughout the whole distance upon the ascent, and passes through Nant Francon.

At the end of Nant Francon we reach the lake and falls of Ogwen.

Llyn Ogwen, Caernarvonshire,

is about ten miles from Bangor, on the road from Capel Curig to that city. It is a sheet of water of great beauty, extending about a mile in length from east to west. It is surrounded by high mountains, and to some eyes, or from some points of view, it bears a remarkable resemblance to Wordsworth's favourite, sweet St. Mary's Loch, not merely in its general contour and entourage, but even in some of its more minute details. Trifaen, on the south side of the lake, bears marks of a volcanic origin, and is wild and cavernous; but its peaky summits and jagged outline enhance by contrast the beauties of the placid lake at its base. If St. Mary's Loch be too tame a comparison, Loch Achray may furnish a closer parallel. In the quietude of the Welsh scene the grand and the peaceful are well blended. It is indeed a hermit haunt; and though the llyn is a frequent resort for anglers, their quiet pursuits scarcely interrupt the solitude. They rather deepen it; for what are a few fishermen amid these ever-

lasting hills and this unbroken silence? The trout caught in this tarn are reputed excellent—though it must be confessed that that is scarcely the entertainment which should be sought when we visit Llyn Ogwen.

Falls of the Ogwen.

To give some idea of the scenes which may be witnessed within easy distance of Bangor, we may glance at the heights of some of the mountains in that region. Snowdon is estimated at 3,570 feet, Carnedd Llewelyn at 3,482, and Carnedd Dafydd at 3,430. There are two hills called Glyder, of which the one, Glyder Fawr, is 3,275 feet high; the other, Glyder Bach, is nearly as much; and Moel Siabod is 2,865 feet. True, these are but like undulations compared with the Jungfrau and other mountains in Switzerland, ranging from 13,000 to 15,000 feet in height; yet, to the eye which is unaccustomed to those noble heights, the Welsh mountains are so grand as to be sometimes awful. They are wild, barren, scathed, and yet magnificent. They embosom, at the same time, many scenes of exquisite beauty, and the Falls of the Ogwen form one of these. The river issues from a lake of the same name, in three successive falls, and thus descends to a depth of about a hundred feet. It is a wild tumultuous gorge, and reminds us, though in a miniature, of some of the gorges on the slopes of Mount Lebanon, where the waters rush westward to the Mediterranean. No pallet or burine ever did justice to a waterfall. Even Niagara seems a dead and unimpressive thing on canvas, and it requires a forced effort of the imagination to set forth such scenes in their true majesty. Still the tourist, amid the wild scenes and the traditional stories of this Welsh glen, may discover that, if he cannot escape to lands whose mountains are more majestic or whose rivers are more expansive than ours, he may find, even in the little Principality of Wales, enough to prove that, taken all in all, ours is a land verily beloved of Heaven. This

Cambrian river, with slow music gliding
By pastoral hills, old woods, and ruined towers,

is not the least among the material proofs of that fact.

Llyn Idwal.

This is another mere which sends forth its waters to join the Ogwen near the falls of that stream. Few scenes of the same dimensions in Wales are more wild and bleak than the hills around this little lake. "The savage Salvator" himself might have revelled amid their sternness. At some places the rocks are perpendicular, and stand like a defiant wall around the pool. If we could suppose Glencoe turned into a lake, it would be a reproduction of Llyn Idwal, but on an enlarged scale. And the waters of the lake are at times in keeping and character with the wildness of the scene. The gusts of wind which howl and eddy from the surrounding rocks stir the lake to its depths; and such scenes as were familiar on the Sea of Galilee, and from the same cause, namely, sudden gusts of the tempests, are not uncommon on this tarn. It is lashed into a miniature sea in a storm.

To the left the cleft rock is called the Twll Dhu, or, in the language of the region, the "Devil's Kitchen." It is a wild abyss, said to be 450 feet in length. The rock walls which bound it are about one hundred feet high, and yet they are only two yards apart. The stream, which roars through the chasm when swollen by rain, forms one majestic fall of turbulent water. The several lines are then but one; and the descent is several hundred feet from the summit to the base.

The lake may be instanced as one of the many scenes in the Principality with which a dark tradition is linked. A young prince, whose name was Idwal (whence the name of the tarn), was entrusted to the guardianship of Nefydd Hardd by the boy's father, Owain Gwynedd. The guardian, however, for reasons which need not be alluded to, wished to have his ward put out of the way, and the traitor's own son, Dunawt, was the assassin employed. It is thus that a hundred spots in Wales have the memory of bloody deeds linked with them. Many of the castles in the Principality are thus badly pre-eminent, and the history of the centuries long passed are but too full of such atrocities. Then, as now, the Cymri, or Cambrians, were ardent, eager, impulsive, and, when actuated by vengeance, sanguinary. But the atrocious superstitions of

the Druids, once so rife in this region, naturally fostered such practices : when whole hecatombs of children were sacrificed at one time, what mattered about a life or two?

Five miles beyond Ogwen Lake is

CAPEL CURIG, Caernarvonshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Bangor	14½	Dolwyddelan Castle	5
Beddgelert	12	Ffestiniog	20
Bettws-y-Coed	6	Llanberis	10
Caernarvon	17	Llanrwst	11
Cernioge Mawr	15	Rhaiadr-y-Wennol	3½

[Hotel: Royal.]

CAPEL CURIG is beautifully situated on the London and Holyhead road. A spacious hotel has been erected here, and of late greatly enlarged, to meet the demands of the increasing number of tourists. It is covered, both on the roof and sides, with blue slates, and commands a very fine view of the mountains, lakes, rocks, and ornamental grounds. The garden is well disposed: the prospect from the terrace and the alcove is singularly pleasing. Besides the hotel, the village contains a scanty number of pleasant cottages, an inn, a public-house, and a good boarding-house. The village church, or rather chapel-of-ease, for it is affiliated to the rectories of Llandegai and Llallechid, is dedicated to St. Curig, a British saint or recluse, who had two other churches in Wales dedicated to him. Hence the name of the village, which is thought to have been much frequented by the Romans, on account of its slate quarries and lead mines. The remains of a large Roman building still exist in the neighbourhood, and it is more than probable that the Roman road from Trawsfynydd, Merionethshire, to Caer Rhûn, passed this way.

Very numerous and sublime are the attractions in the immediate neighbourhood of Capel Curig. The celebrated Pass of Llanberis, Snowdon, Bettws-y-Coed, Falls of the Swallow and Llugwy, Ogwen and Idwal Lakes, and the Pass of Nant Francon—all are within an easy drive or walk.

The ascent of Snowdon is not infrequently made from Capel Curig; but it is accomplished with much less fatigue and greater advantage from Llanberis and from Beddgelert. From Capel Curig the following ascents may be undertaken, for which guides can be engaged at the inn:—

Moel Siabod, the height of which is 2,865 feet. It is extremely precipitous, and its sides and summit are thickly strewed with loose fragments. The ascent is consequently difficult, but it will repay the toil. Standing a little apart from the group, it affords a sublime view of the mountains of Snowdonia, with their lakes and hollows, and of the Irish Sea, with the bays of Caernarvon and Cardigan. On the east side of the mountain is a pool, called Llyn-y-Foel, from which issues one of the tributary streams of the river Conway; and on the west side are two lakes of larger extent, called Llynniau Duwaunedd. Beneath Moel Siabod, towards the east, is Dolwyddelan, with the ruins of a castle built about the year 500, the birthplace of Llewelyn the Great, and the last stronghold in North Wales that held out against Edward I.

The two Glyders—Glyder Fawr, 3,275 feet, and Glyder Bach, about 3,000 feet.

Dolwyddelan Castle.

This ancient castle is seated in a rocky valley, watered by the Llugwy, six miles from Capel Curig. It is, from its situation among mountains, difficult to find, so that a guide should be taken or numerous inquiries made. The castle stands on a rocky steep, nearly perpendicular on one side; it has occupied the entire summit on which it was built, yet was never large, merely consisting of two square towers, each three stories high. The largest of these towers is, in the inside, only twenty-seven feet in length, eighteen in width, and the walls six feet in thickness.

Iorwerth Dowyndwn made this castle his residence, and Llewelyn the Great is said to have been born here. A fir-tree, four feet in diameter, was found three feet deep in a turbary near the place, in 1786.

BANGOR TO THE MENAI SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

THIS noble monument of art is situated about two miles and a half from Bangor, at a place called Ynys-y-Moch.

The Menai Strait is about fourteen miles long—ten from Bay Glas, near Beaumaris, to Caernarvon, and four from the latter place to its entrance at Abermenai. It is nearly two miles wide at Caernarvon bar, though the ferry at Abermenai is very narrow. Above Caernarvon the strait contracts till it reaches Beaumaris, when it again widens considerably. There are five ferries across it.

Owing to the inconvenience and danger to which travellers were exposed in crossing the Menai Strait from Ireland, the attention of Government was seriously directed to the matter, and several plans were prepared for a bridge over it.

The estimate for an iron bridge of three arches at the Swillies, about half a mile from the present bridge, was £290,417, and for a single arch at Ynys-y-Moch (the site of the present bridge), £262,500. These estimates were made by Mr. Kennie, the celebrated engineer.

In 1811 Mr. Telford, engineer, sent his plan and report to the Lords of the Treasury, who laid them before the Parliamentary committee. This proposal, after due consideration, was approved of by the Commissioners, and recommended to Parliament; the result was a vote of £20,000 to commence the works. They were begun July 8th, 1818. In January, 1826, Mr. Telford reported to the Commissioners that the bridge was in a sufficient state of forwardness to allow carriages to pass; and on the 30th day of the same month the general opening took place.

The stone used in the erection of the bridge was obtained at Penmon Point, on the north-east part of Anglesea. It is an excellent stratified limestone, principally of a grey or mottled colour. The iron was supplied by Mr. Hazeldine, of Shrewsbury; it was made at the forges at Upton, near Shrewsbury, and was the best Shropshire hammered iron.

In 1815 Mr. Telford made some important experiments to ascertain the tenacity of bar iron ; and, from the result of these experiments, he decided that each square inch of iron should be subjected to a strain of eleven tons. A machine was made for this purpose, and every bar which is now seen in this great structure was so proved and tried. While the bar was under full tension (in the machine), it was struck some smart blows on the side with a hammer : these gave it a quick vibratory motion, which tried the bar more than a direct strain. It was then carefully examined, to see if there were any symptoms of fracture. From the memoranda made by Mr. John Provis, the resident engineer, we find that, out of 15,052 bars, forty-seven broke whilst being proved, and one hundred cracked and were rejected.

In March, 1822, the masons' work was sufficiently advanced to fix part of the ironwork ; and on the 26th April, 1825, the first chain was thrown over. The chain was scarcely fixed when one of the men got astride it, and proceeded some distance along it ; he then had the temerity to raise himself up, and walk over thirty or forty yards. The slightest slip must have sent him to destruction, the chain being only nine inches wide, and its height, at that time, 120 feet above the water. By the beginning of October the chains were all suspended, the roadway beams placed, and the planking commenced.

The following are the particulars :—Dimensions : Extreme length of chains from fastening to fastening, 1,715 feet ; height of roadway from line of high water, one hundred feet ; land-piers from high water line to the spring of the arches, sixty-five feet ; span of each arch, fifty-two and a half feet ; height of suspending piers from roadway, fifty-three feet. The roadway consists of two carriage-ways of twelve feet each, with a four-foot central footpath. The chains are sixteen in number, consisting of five bars each ; length of each bar ten feet, width three inches, by one inch thick ; six connecting-links form each joint, one foot four inches by eight inches, and one inch thick, secured by ten bolts, each weighing 50 lbs. Total number of bars in the cross section, 80. Suspending power, 2,016 tons ; weight actually suspended, 489 tons. Total weight of ironwork, 4,373,281 lbs. The expense incurred by Government in

the erection of this bridge was £120,000. The fastenings of the main chains in the rock may be seen on application to the inspector of the bridge, at the toll-house, on the Anglesea side.

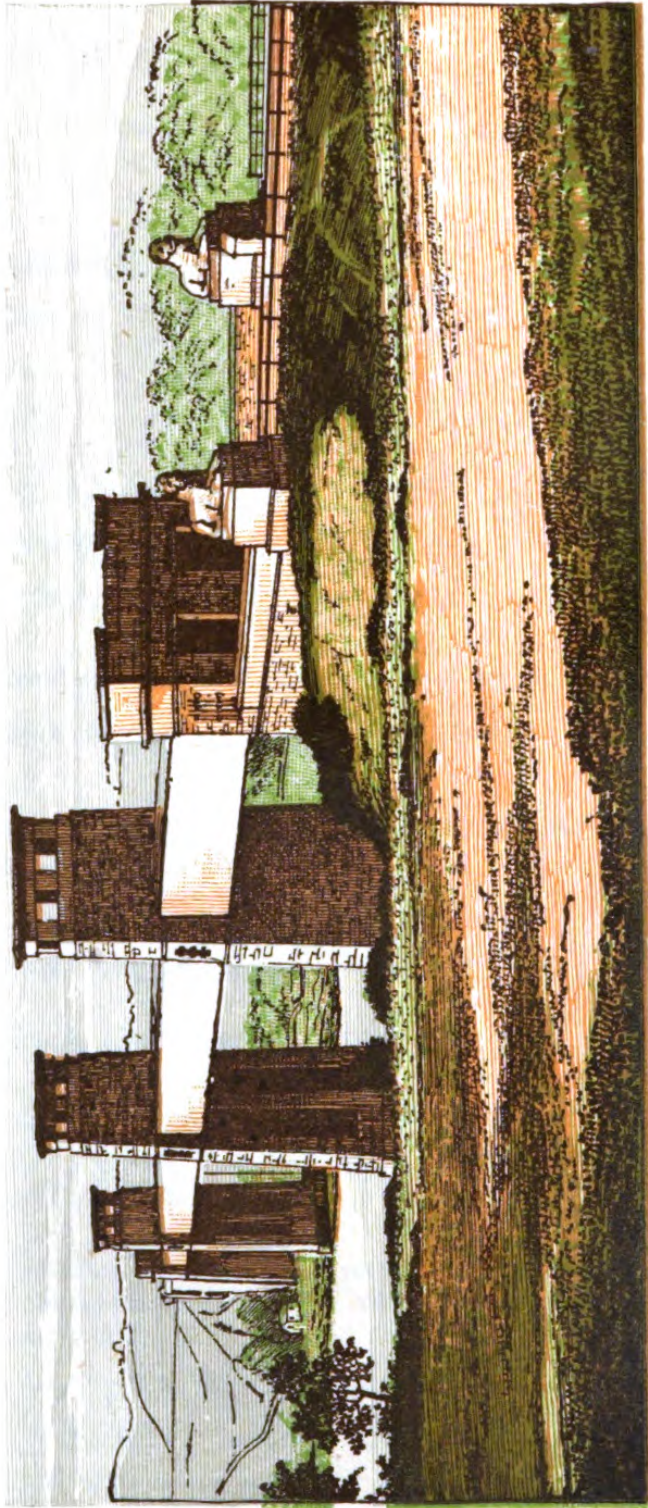
The first three-masted vessel which passed under the bridge was the ship "Melantho": her topmasts cleared twelve and a half feet below the centre of the roadway. However high this stupendous structure may appear, S. Scott, an American sailor, leaped from the top chains into the water, a fall of 130 feet. He ducked head foremost, and so much at ease was he, on regaining the surface, that he motioned away the boats which came to pick him up, and actually swam a considerable distance to shore.

About a mile below Menai Bridge (on the Caernarvon side) is situated that wonderful result of engineering skill called the

Britannia Tubular Bridge,

which bursts like a world of wonder upon the vision. The visitor on coming to the spot is struck with astonishment when, for the first time, he obtains a view of this huge monument of human enterprise.

The Anglesea abutment is 143 feet six inches high, and 173 feet long. The colossal lions which ornament the entrances are each twenty-five feet six inches in length, and twelve feet eight inches in height; breadth, nine feet. They contain nearly 8,000 cubic feet of stone, and weigh fully eighty tons. The towers are three in number, each land tower being sixty feet wide, by thirty-seven feet long, and 203 feet high. The Britannia Tower is six feet wide, fifty feet six inches long, and 220 feet three inches in total height. The tubes are eight in number, and classed into long and short: their respective dimensions are—Long tubes, depth at centre, thirty-one feet; ditto at the ends, twenty-three feet; width, fourteen feet eight inches; length, 488 feet eight inches; weight (each tube), seventy tons. Total weight of malleable iron in tubes, 10,000 tons; average thickness, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch; height above low water mark, 121 feet six inches.



BRITANNIA TUBULAR BRIDGE, LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

1870

1871

1872

1873

1874

1875

1876

1877

1878

1879

1880

1881

1882

1883

1884

1885

1886

1887

1888

1889

1890

1891

1892

1893

1894

1895

1896

1897

1898

1899

1900

COST OF THE BRIDGE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Pedestals and wing walls on the Caernarvon side	17,459	0	0			
Caernarvon Tower	28,626	0	0			
Britannia Tower	38,671	0	0			
Anglesea Tower	31,430	0	0			
Pedestals and wing walls, Anglesea side	40,470	0	0			
Lions	2,048	0	0			
Total cost of masonry				158,704	0	0
Wrought iron used in tubes	118,946	0	0			
Cast iron in tubes and towers	30,619	0	0			
Construction of tubes	226,234	0	0			
Total cost of tubes				375,799	0	0

Miscellaneous Expenses.

Pontoons, ropes, capstans, painting materials	28,096	0	0			
Raising machinery	9,782	0	0			
Carpentry and labour in floating, raising, and completing bridge	25,498	0	0			
Experiments	3,986	0	0			
Total cost of miscellanies				67,362	0	0
Total cost of entire structure				£601,865	0	0

On a rocky eminence, near the Anglesea end of the Britannia Bridge, stands the

Marquis of Anglesea's Column,

the height of which from the base is ninety-one feet. It was erected in 1816, at an expense of £2,000, to commemorate the eminent services of the noble Marquis on the field of Waterloo. It bears the following inscription, in English, Welsh, and Latin:—

The Inhabitants of the Counties of Anglesea and Caernarvon have erected this Column in grateful commemoration of the distinguished military achievements of their countryman,

HENRY WILLIAM, MARQUIS OF ANGLESEY,

the leader of the British Cavalry in Spain

throughout the arduous campaign of 1807,

and the second in command of the armies confederated against France at

the memorable Battle of Waterloo,

on the 18th of June, 1815.

A bronze statue of the Marquis was placed upon the column in 1860. It is a good likeness of the gallant soldier, who is represented as dressed in Hussar costume.

BANGOR TO BEAUMARIS AND ITS SURROUNDING OBJECTS OF INTEREST.

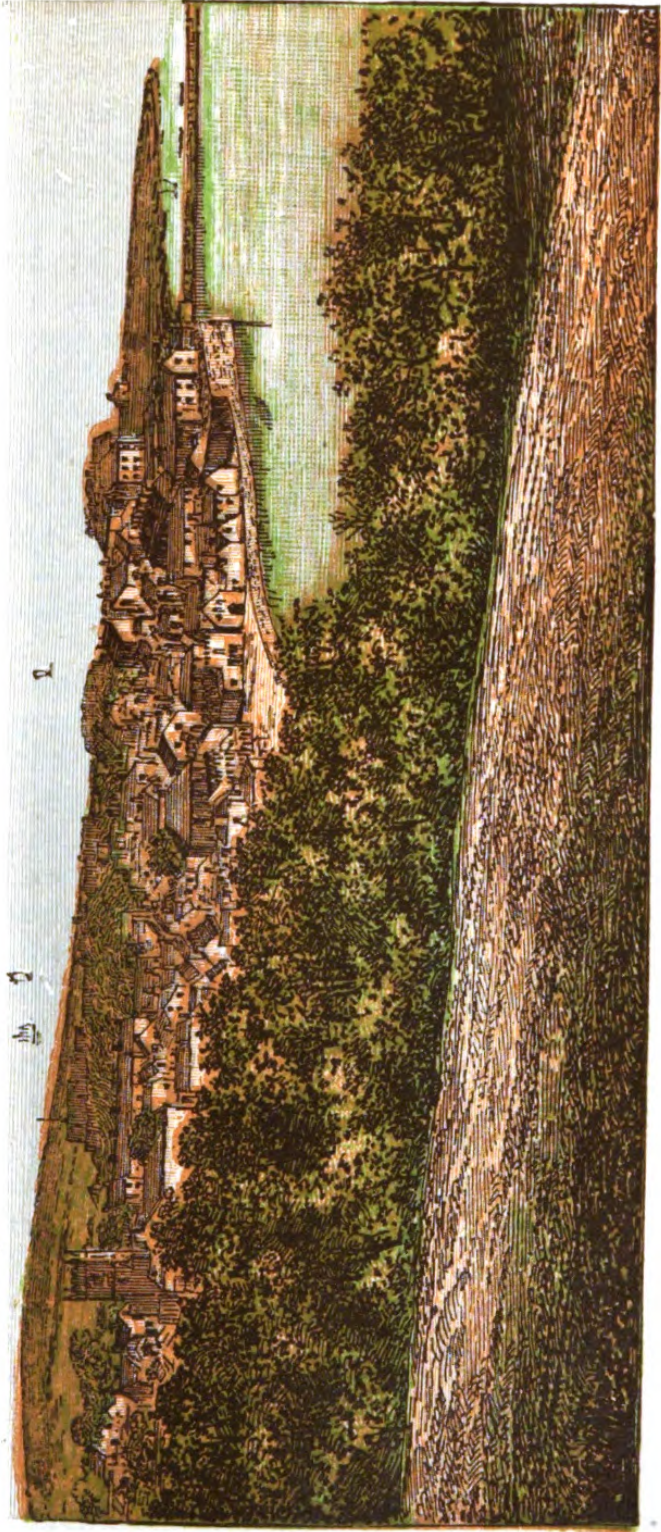
BEAUMARIS, Anglesea.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Amlwch	17	Menai Bridge	4
Bangor, <i>via</i> Garth Ferry	2½	Mona	14
Bangor, <i>via</i> Menai Bridge	7	Penmon Priory	4
Caernarvon	11	Red Wharf Bay	5
Holyhead	27	Snowdon	20

[Hotels: Bulkeley Arms; Liverpool Arms.]

BEAUMARIS is one of the largest and best-built towns in Anglesea, and is a corporate borough, where the assizes for that county are held. The town and liberties are included in the parishes of Llandegfan and Llanfaes, the whole occupying a district nearly semi-circular in form, and presenting to the Menai a bold rocky cliff of three miles, and an indented beach of more than two. This town has always stood at the head of the Welsh watering-places: it possesses natural advantages of no mean order, the pebbly shore being firm, and the water always exceedingly clear. Hot baths for ladies and gentlemen have been erected, and the accommodation is of the best kind.

Beaumaris commands the most beautiful and sublime prospect in North Wales, with the distinguished peculiarity that the eye at the same time rests on a noble expanse of the ocean and an extensive range of some of the loftiest mountains in Wales. If Bangor be the centre from which the tourist makes his excursions, he has a choice of routes to Beaumaris, and may proceed by land or sea. Passing along the coast of the island of Anglesea,



BEAUMARIS.



in which Beaumaris is situated, a walk of a few miles conducts him to this favourite watering-place ; and he cannot fail in being struck on his way by the peculiar beauties both of the seaward and the landward views. The town contains several well-built streets, and a brief sojourn is enough to tell why this coast town is so general a favourite. The place itself, its abundant accommodation for sea-bathers and other visitors, its beautiful vicinity, and the sights which, if not classical, are at least historical—all combine to render Beaumaris one of the most attractive spots in Wales. Yonder is the village of Aber nestling near the entrance of its glen. There is the Penmaen-Mawr bluff, and there is Bangor, with its palace, its rocks, and its hoary age. But “Go and see” is the counsel which all who have visited Beaumaris would give to those who have not yet seen that resort of the lovers of Nature and her beauties.

Between the town and the shores of the Menai is the beautiful Green, a spacious and verdant level, fronting the bay: it forms a charming promenade, and affords an ever-changing view of the passing and repassing of steam-vessels, of its “happy, hot, unbuttoned cricket-playing boys” of the old Grammar School, and occasionally of fair equestrians, denizens of the neighbouring seats, or of some gay equipage sparkling round its drive.

The Church is situated upon a gentle eminence in the centre of the town ; it is a chaste and elegant edifice, consisting of a chancel, nave, and two lateral aisles (chapels of St. Mary and St. Nicholas), joined to a massive embattled tower. It is roofed with lead, and possesses a peal of six bells. The services on Sundays are—Welsh, at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. ; English, at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The church contains several monuments of interest and beauty :—

1. An altar tomb, with recumbent effigies in white alabaster, of a knight in full armour, and his lady, richly robed ; but as the emblazonments of the shields are obliterated, no certain clue remains to the identity of the figures.

2. To the left of the communion-table, a monument by Westmacott, in white marble, to the memory of Lord Bulkeley (died June 3, 1822). His lady is represented

standing pensively beside a half-pillar supporting his lordship's bust and inscription.

3. A monument, by Ternouth, to commemorate the worth of "Charlotte Mary, daughter of the late Lord Dinorben, and wife of Sir R. B. W. Bulkeley, Bart." A female kneeling in an attitude of devotion, supported by a pedestal.

4. A monument in black marble, to the memory of "Thomas (sixth son of Sir Julius Cæsar, Master of the Rolls), Rector of Llanrhyddlad, Anglesea (1632)."

5. A mural tablet, commemorative of Sir William Jones, of Castellmarch, Caernarvonshire.

6. A votive tablet, of an oblong form, having devices and inscriptions in Latin. The names recorded were well known in the years 1530 and 1570, but why commemorated, or why thus grouped together, is difficult to determine.

In the vestry adjoining the church lie the remains of Lady Beatrice Herbert, daughter of the brave Lord Herbert, of Cherbury.

The town of Beaumaris, by itself, possesses but few remains of its ancient existence to arrest attention. On the site of the Old Palace in Church Street is erected a handsome English Presbyterian Chapel. Near the church is the Free School, founded in 1603, by David Hughes, Esq., who also endowed almshouses for six poor persons, to whom he granted annuities. The late Lord Bulkeley added four to this number. They are situated about a mile from the town. The town also possesses a good custom-house and a national school. Population 2,291.

During the summer months there are very superior steamboats running daily between this place and Liverpool, a distance of about sixty miles: the passage generally occupies from three and a half to four hours.

Beaumaris Castle

stands within the grounds of Sir R. W. B. Bulkeley. It covers a great extent of ground, but wants height to give it dignity; and though massive and ponderous, it has not

the imposing effect of other structures of the same age. There is an outer wall, with ten low Moorish towers, and an advanced work called the Gunner's Walk. Within this wall is the main structure, in form nearly quadrangular, with a large round tower at each angle. The area enclosed is an irregular octagon, about fifty-seven yards from north to south and sixty from east to west. The banqueting hall, the state rooms, the domestic apartments, and a small chapel may all be distinctly traced.

The Castle was built by Edward I., about the year 1285, some time after he had founded the castles of Caernarvon and Conway. He at the same time changed the name of this place from Bornover to Beaumaris, a French term, descriptive of its pleasant situation in low ground. He formed around the Castle a fosse, which was filled from the sea, and cut a canal to enable vessels to discharge their lading beneath its walls. It was given by Henry IV., soon after his succession, to Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, for his life. In 1643 Thomas Bulkeley, soon afterwards raised to the peerage, was appointed constable of the castle. It was held for King Charles I. against the Parliament, but in 1646 surrendered to General Mytton. By Charles II. Lord Bulkeley was reinstated as constable. It is now the property of Sir R. Bulkeley, who has laid out walks around the ruins, ornamented with plantations and shrubberies, to which the public have access.

When this old castle was being built, in the year 1285, the native ships, whatever they were like, carried from the king's quarry at Penmon, a distance of four miles, at tenpence a tide freight, limestone and that hard millstone grit, the square blocks of which are so ingeniously utilized in the walls, binding together and solidifying the smaller and more friable fragments of limestone. Curious open-mouthed lions' heads, of this material, occur in several parts of the building, and are well worthy of notice. The roofs were covered with lead, and the plumber who worked it came from Whalley, in Lancashire. The great beams, many of which are now parts of different houses in Beaumaris, were felled in Nant Conway, and brought here by water. Fourpence a day was the hire of a man, cart, and

horse, when this pile was built, and the superintendent of the whole work received but a shilling a day. It is evident that there were lean-to buildings of some sort erected in the noble quadrangle, for the chimneys connected with them still remain. In Saxton's old map of Beaumaris and its castle a house is shown in the centre of the square. It is said that there was a well of water there, which is very probable, but at the present day there is no trace whatever of water inside the walls.

There is an unfounded legend, of recent invention, that a great massacre of bards once took place in the front of the banqueting hall, in the time of Edward II. A grand Eisteddfod was held within the walls of this castle, in the year 1832. It was attended by the late Duchess of Kent and her illustrious daughter, Princess Victoria, now Queen of these realms.

At the present day it is the favourite drill-ground of militia and volunteers, and the field of many a lively croquet battle, the clicks of which are emulated by the echoing blows of the racket-balls in the adjacent court. The use of the whole beautiful ruin has been, with certain restrictions, very liberally granted to the public by the owner of the soil, Sir Richard B. Williams Bulkeley, Bart., whose predecessor bought it from the Crown some seventy years ago. A very curious photograph, taken from an old engraving in the possession of the above baronet, which can be bought at the Castle gate, shows the Castle while perfect: it must have been drawn in the time of Henry VIII.

The Environs.—Baron Hill.

This was the residence of the late Lord Bulkeley; at his death it descended to his nephew, Sir R. B. Bulkeley. It has recently been rebuilt and modernized, and is delightfully situated on the declivity of a richly wooded hill, commanding a fine prospect of all the northern mountains of Caernarvonshire. This place has been in possession of the Bulkeley family from the date of the second charter of the corporation of Beaumaris, procured in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The house was originally built in the reign of James I., for the reception of

Henry, the eldest son of that monarch, when on his way to Ireland ; but his untimely death so much affected Sir A. Bulkeley, the owner, that he gave up his original and magnificent plan, and used the part only that was then completed for his family seat.

The grounds of Baron Hill are open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

In a pretty recess, to the north-east of the mansion, lies the superbly sculptured stone sarcophagus of the Princess Joan, consort of Llewelyn the Great, of Aber. At some indefinite period, subsequent to the suppression of the monastic institutions by Henry VIII., the coffin was degraded to the menial office of a watering-trough for horses, and was so used for 250 years, as already mentioned, page 25.

Henllys, the seat of Major Hampton Lewis, is in the immediate vicinity of Baron Hill : the lodge contains, besides a goodly collection of varieties and curiosities, a number of Crimean relics, carried away after the Crimean war by Captain T. Hampton, who fought there.

Llanvaes Church.

The above beautiful little church is pleasantly situated about two miles from Beaumaris. English services are performed every Sunday, at 11 a.m. and 4.15 p.m., during the summer months ; and as the walk from Beaumaris is very pleasant, it is a pretty sight on summer Sundays to watch the concourse of ladies as they ascend Mountfield Hill, on their way to these services.

Llanvaes is memorable in Welsh history for the desperate and bloody battle there fought, in the year 819, between the Saxons and the Welsh, giving the temporary sovereignty to the Saxons. About half a mile beyond lies

Nant,

the fairy retreat of Lady Bulkeley, with its exquisite flower-garden and its cool dairy and other delights. By her ladyship's kindness Nant is thrown open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays : for those who have not already seen it there is a pleasure in reserve. At

Friars

are the remains of an ancient monastery of Franciscan friars, raised by Llewelyn the Great over the remains of his consort, the Princess Joan, daughter of King John of England, whose desecrated coffin we have already noticed. The present noble mansion is built on the site of the ancient Franciscan friary.

Lleiniog Castle

lies about three miles north of the town, and is all that remains of a small fortalice, erected by Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, in 1096. It is situated upon a conical mound, about 40 feet high and 150 feet in diameter, and surrounded by a fosse 20 feet broad. It was garrisoned for the Parliament by Sir Thomas Cheedle, during the great civil wars in the time of Charles I., under the Earl of Dorset.

At a short distance from the Castle is a large circular well, constructed for the benefit of bathers and visitors, the water being esteemed of some remedial value.

Tre Castell,

an ancient seat of the Tudor family, is situated a little to the south of Lleiniog Castle: with the exception of a fragment of the keep, the original edifice has entirely disappeared, the site being occupied by a modern erection. In a range of fields adjacent to the house, and lying between the Beaumaris road and the cliff, was fought the "sore battle of Llanfaes," which gave the temporary sovereignty of the isle to the Saxons. Bones, skulls, and even entire skeletons are occasionally exposed by the wearing action of the waves upon the adjacent cliff.

Penmon Priory.

The refectory and dormitory still remain. The church, from the persevering zeal of the late incumbent, the Rev. P. C. Ellis, has been well restored, and was reopened on the 19th of September, 1855. The Priory was founded in the sixth century, by Maelgwyn Gwynedd,

King of Wales. The religious of this place and the recluses of Priestholm (Puffin Island) seem to have been of the same foundation, for they are both called *Canonici de Insula Glannauch*. In 1140, Idwal, son of Gryffydd ab Cynan, Prince of North Wales, was Prior of Penmon, and, in the poetical language of the time, is described as the "sunshine of the neighbourhood." Llewelyn ab Iorwerth afterwards refounded it, and filled it with monks of the order of St. Benedict. Queen Elizabeth, in the sixth year of her reign, granted it to John Moore. Its revenues at the dissolution were estimated at £47 15s. 3d.—*Dugdale, Monast.* ii. 38; *Tanner*, 669.

On a hill, about a mile distant, is a spot called Cae'r Crogi, or "Hanging Field," where executions under the capital jurisdiction of the prior were performed. The site of the gallows is still discernible. In the Deer Park, above the church, stands an ancient cross, removed from the Priory grounds.

The stone used in the erection of both the Menai and Britannia Bridges was obtained from the Penmon quarries; it admits of a fine polish, and is made into brooches, studs, and various other articles.

The following are the names of the Priors of Penmon:—Gervaise de Bristol, received the royal assent to his election in 1311. John Castell, upon whose resignation Thomas Truerham succeeded: the royal assent was given to his election June 15, 1415. Thomas Godfrey died in 1445, on the 14th July, in which year the king appointed William Whaller to be prior.

Pentraeth.

Pentraeth, or "the Head of the Sand-bank," is a small village—distance from Beaumaris, five miles. The sands there are firm, and cannot fail to amuse the conchologist, as the place abounds with rare shells.

Near the porter's lodge at Plasgwyn, Pentraeth, stand three stones, said to mark the place where Einion ap Gwalchmai, some centuries ago, obtained his wife by leaping fifty feet: there were two competitors, and the lady offered to accept him who could leap the farthest.

Puffin Island.

Puffin Island, or Priestholm, was anciently called Ynys Seiriol. A visit to this island is the object of a favourite aquatic excursion from Beaumaris or from Bangor. It is of oval shape, about half a mile in length, and not more than three-quarters of a mile from the shore of Penmon. Seiriol, a holy recluse in the sixth century, erected his cell here, no part of which remains. Near the centre of the island is an old square tower, supposed to be the remains of a religious house, subordinate to the Prior of Penmon. The surface of the island consists of fine turf. There are upon it a few sheep and a numerous colony of rabbits. The coast on three sides is precipitous, and scarcely accessible, and the remainder is a steep bank.

During the summer the whole island swarms with various birds of passage, peregrine falcons, cormorants, razor-bills, guillemots, stormy-petrels, divers, curlews, gulls, &c. ; and from the beginning of April to near the middle of August it is the resort of an immense number of the *Alca Arctica*, or puffin-auk. Coming hither to breed, parts of the island appear at times to be almost covered with them. They form burrows in the earth, and deposit in each cavity one white egg, which is generally hatched in July. They have many peculiarities of habit, which render them highly interesting to the naturalist. Their food being small fishes and sea-weed, the flesh is rank, but the young birds, when pickled and spiced, are by some persons esteemed a delicacy.

A melancholy interest attaches to this island, from the distressing loss of the "Rothesay Castle" steamer, on its passage from Liverpool, in the night of 17th August, 1831. The vessel struck on what is called the Dutchman's Bank, opposite Puffin Island, quickly went to pieces, and more than one hundred persons perished. Since this calamitous event a lighthouse has been erected on the south-west point of the island. It is an admirable work, in the bell form, and has more courses of masonry under low water mark than the celebrated Eddystone Lighthouse.

*BANGOR TO AMLWCH AND HOLYHEAD.***PLAS NEWYDD, Anglesea.**

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>		<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Caernarvon	6		Menai Bridge	5½

PLAS NEWYDD is the elegant seat of the late Marquis of Anglesea. Its style of architecture is Castellated Gothic: the front is semi-lunar, and presents ten semi-sexangular wings; the façade is relieved by octagonal turrets, on each side the centre; the respective wings rise from the base above the embattled parapet. The situation is finely chosen, on a curve of the Menai. The whole edifice is built of marble, from the Moclfré Quarries, Anglesea, and it is nearly surrounded with noble oak. The lawn slopes gracefully to the shore, on which a strong embattled wall is erected, which acts as a check to the encroachments of the water. Mr. Potter, of Lichfield, was the architect.

It was at Plas Newydd that the noble and gallant proprietor entertained George IV., on his way to Ireland, in 1821. At the invitation of the noble Marquis, her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent and her illustrious daughter, the Princess Victoria, now our beloved Queen, took up their residence here for several weeks, in the summer of 1832.

Opposite the stables behind the house stands the most complete cromlech in Anglesea, perhaps in Britain. The cap-stone of this ancient British monument is twelve feet long in the centre and ten broad; on one side it is twelve and a half feet long, and only eight on the other. "Various conjectures have been spent on these venerable pieces of antiquity," says Mr. Horton, "but I have no doubt of the great cromlech having been appropriated for a sacrifice, the lesser for the use of the priest while he attended it. The altar of death was probably in use many centuries prior to the extinction of Druidic worship. It excites a melancholy interest when we consider what a

number of lives, both of the human and brute creation, have been sacrificed upon this fatal stone." Mr. Bingley differs from this opinion, and says, "That these erections should have been as altars for Druidic sacrifice seems altogether impossible; for the upper stones are, in general, too small and much too high for a fire to be kindled upon them, sufficient to consume the victim, without burning the officiating priest." The upper stones of several of them were also so thin that the intenseness of the sacrificial fire would have cracked and broken them; however, two facts speak strongly in favour of Mr. Horton's opinion, which are that these altars are uniformly lower at one end, and have a channel cut in them, as if for the conveyance of blood; and at about a quarter of a mile from the house is a large *carnedd*, which once covered a space of ground 140 yards in circumference: one of its recent proprietors supposing this mound to be a mere heap of rubbish, began to level, but meeting with a quantity of human bones, the workmen were ordered to desist.

A short distance from Plas Newydd is

Druid's Lodge,

a beautiful cottage—indeed one of the prettiest little places in the island of Anglesea. In it are well-selected treasures of ancient and modern sculpture, paintings, gems, fossils, cameos, minerals, and several other curiosities.

On *Craig-y-Ddinas*, a rock on the side of the London and Holyhead road, about midway between the Menai Bridge and Plas Newydd, stands the Anglesea Column, erected to commemorate the exploits of the noble Marquis on the field of Waterloo, where he lost his leg. The first stone was laid June 18th, 1816, and completed September 8th, in the following year. Its height from the base is 100 feet, and the summit of the hill on which it stands rises 260 feet above the level of the sea. The Chester and Holyhead Railway passes between this column and Plas Newydd.



AMLWCH, Anglesea.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Bangor	20	Holyhead	20
Beaumaris	18	Llanerchymedd	6

[Tŷ Mawr Inn.]

THIS is a market town on the coast, chiefly supported by the copper mines with which the district abounds: it possesses a capacious harbour, cut out of the solid slate rock, capable of admitting thirty vessels of 200 tons burden. In conjunction with Beaumaris, Holyhead, and Llangefni, it returns one member to Parliament. The Church, an elegant building, was erected by the Parys Mine Company, at an expense of £4,000.

Close to Amlwch are situated the celebrated copper mines, generally known throughout Europe. These mines were first discovered about the year 1768, and have ever since been worked with spirit and profit. Besides copper, the mines have yielded, at different times and in various proportions, lead, with a mixture of silver, zinc, alum, and sulphur. About 80,000 tons of ore are extracted annually from the bowels of the mountain, which produced, for many years, no less a sum than from £200,000 to £300,000 per annum to the fortunate possessors, the Marquis of Anglesea and Lord Dinorben. A railway has been opened from Bangor to Amlwch. Population 2,968.

ABERFFRAW, Anglesea.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Caernarvon Ferry	3	Mona Inn	8
Holyhead	20	Newborough.	7

[Prince Llewelyn Inn.]

ABERFFRAW, once a princely residence, is now reduced to a few small houses; it is situated on the river Ffraw, near a small bay. Not a vestige is to be

seen of its former boast, except the rude wall of an old barn, and Gardd-y-Llys, or Palace Garden, at the west end of the town: it was the chief seat of the native prince. Here was always left one of the three copies of the ancient code of laws. This place is of great antiquity, being one of the three fixed upon by Roderic the Great, about the year 870, for the residence of his successors. In 962 it was ravaged by the Irish.

Near to Aberffraw is Bodorgan, the seat of Owen Augustus Meyrick, Esq., which is pleasantly situated, and overlooks Caernarvon Bay. The mansion, gardens, and conservatories are deserving of a visit.

In this neighbourhood was found the curious mass of copper which is placed in the Mostyn Library; it weighs 42 lbs., and is in shape something like a cake of bees' wax: it has these words, "Socio Romæ," in raised characters, on it.

Near Aberffraw have frequently been found the amulets, called gleianau nadrodd, or snakes' gems, supposed to have been Roman manufacture, and sent from thence in exchange for exports with the Britons.

Llyn Coron, or the Lake of Coron, is in this vicinity: it is much resorted to by anglers. Some very good trout, gwyniad, and other fish are very plentiful here.

The Chester and Holyhead Railway passes within about a mile of Aberffraw.



MONA INN, Anglesea.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Beaumaris	14	Menai Bridge	10
Holyhead	12		

MONA INN, formerly called Caeau Mon, is an excellent hotel, situated midway between Bangor and Holyhead, on the new line of road between those places. About nine miles beyond the Mona Inn, the mail road, together with the Chester Railway, crosses the Stanley

Sands, by means of an embankment 1,300 yards in length, and upon an average 16 feet in height. In the fields belonging to the inn geologists will find a curious red rock, containing jasper, which will cut glass like a diamond, and which polishes beautifully.

—◆—

HOLYHEAD, Anglesea.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Amlwch	20	Dublin	60
Bangor	24	London, <i>via</i> Chester	279
Beaumaris	27	London, <i>via</i> Shrewsbury	269
Chester	85		

[Hotels: Royal; Marine; Castle, &c.]

HOLYHEAD, or, as it is called in Welsh, Caergybi, the "Fortress of Gybi," is a seaport borough and market-town. Gybi, also named Corinens, was a son of Solomon, Duke of Cornwall, and pupil of Hilarius, Bishop of Poitiers, about the year 380. A religious house is said to have been erected here, by Prince Maelgwyn Gwynedd, in the latter part of the sixth century; but the house called the College appears to have been founded by Hwfa ap Cynddelw, Lord of Llys Llifon, a contemporary of Cwain Gwynedd, who began his reign in 1137. It afterwards became the property of Rice Gwynne, Esq., who in the year 1640 transferred the tithes to Jesus College, Oxford, for the maintenance of two scholars and two fellows. From that time the parish has been served by a curate nominated by the college. The Church is both collegiate and parochial, and is dedicated to Gybi, son of Selyf ab Geraint ab Erbin, cousin and contemporary of St. David. It is a handsome embattled cruciform structure, consisting of chancel, nave, aisles, and transept, with a square tower, surmounted by a low flat kind of spire. It was erected about the time of Edward III.

Holyhead has neither fairs nor manufactories: the trade chiefly consists of the building of small coasting-vessels,

and of the repairing of her Majesty's mail-boats ; but, in consequence of the communication between this place and Ireland, it has greatly increased and improved, and very probably in a few years Holyhead will become one of the principal towns in North Wales. The population within the Parliamentary limits is 7,191 ; within the local board district, 5,916.

The harbour* spreads over a large space inland, forming a basin, in the shape of a horseshoe, extending one mile from one point to the other. The tide runs rapidly out, and leaves the port dry. The pier is one of the finest in England, lying upon the east side of the harbour : it enables vessels to ride in four fathoms of water, instead of being stranded or lying aground. It extends about five hundred yards from an iron swivel bridge. Beyond the bridge are various Government offices and the depôt for Post-office stores ; still farther is a Triumphal Arch, commemorating the visit of George IV., in 1821. It is composed of *Mona marble*, in the Doric style. Over the carriage-way on each side are empanelled inscriptions in Welsh and Latin.

At the extremity of the pier, and the entrance into the harbour, is a magnificent lighthouse, entirely constructed of stone : it consists of three stories. Its base is six feet above high water mark, and is protected by a strong glacis. The lantern is ten feet high, and lighted by twenty burners. The expense of constructing these works, including the graving dock, amounted to £142,000. An outer refuge harbour has been completed, at the cost of £500,000.

There are two banks, also a public room; and baths have been opened for public accommodation.

Another grand lighthouse has been erected upon an isolated rock on the coast, about five miles to the west of Holyhead. It is called

The South Stack Lighthouse.

The reflection is produced by twenty-one brilliant lamps

* On the rocks, south of the harbour, is an obelisk, erected by public subscription to the memory of the late Captain Skinner, formerly master of one of the Post-office packets on this station, who lost his life by being washed overboard, in 1833.

with powerful reflectors, displaying a full-faced light every two minutes, from an elevation of 212 feet above the level of the sea, at high water mark : it is visible over the whole of Caernarvon Bay. In 1827 a suspension chain bridge was thrown over the sound : the span is one hundred and ten feet.*

The ascent to the summit of the Head, which is seven hundred feet, is exceedingly grand. Upon the top is an ancient tower, ten feet in diameter. The promontory of the Head is an immense precipice of rock, hollowed into magnificent caverns. One, the most remarkable, has received the name of Parliament House ; its arch is seventy feet high.

*BANGOR TO CAERNARVON AND LLANBERIS
(FOR SNOWDON).*

CAERNARVON, Caernarvonshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Bangor	9	Llanberis	10
Beaumaris	12	London, <i>via</i> Chester	254
Beddgelert	13	London, <i>via</i> Shrewsbury	236
Capel Curig	17	Pwllheli	20
Dolbadarn	8	Tan-y-Bwlch	23
Ffestiniog	25	Tre Madoc	20

[Hotels : Royal Sportsman ; Uxbridge, close to the Station ; Castle ; Queen's.]

THE extent and relative importance of this town, its magnificent castle, its numerous antiquarian and historical associations, and the convenience of its situation, within a short distance from much of the grandest scenery of North Wales, entitle it to much attention from the tourist. It is situated on the north-east side of the Menai Strait, at the mouth of the river Seoint. The origin of the name is easily discerned : *Caer-yn-Arfon*, *i.e.*, the "City" or

* The bridge is attained by descending the Holyhead mountain, in a zig-zag direction, by a flight of three hundred and eighty steps.

“Fort in Arfon” (pronounced Arvon), that being the appellation of the adjacent district. The town, with its castle and walls, was built by Edward I., about the year 1283, as a place of strength, to secure his newly acquired conquest of Wales. The walls, which formerly enclosed the whole town, are still nearly entire ; but the town has extended greatly beyond their limits. They are flanked with round towers, and had originally two principal gates, others having been added at different times, as convenience required. Within the walls, the streets, though narrow, are regular ; and in the modern parts of the town, beyond the walls, streets more spacious, and residences of a superior class, have been erected, more than doubling the size of the place ; and the whole town, well supplied with water and lighted with gas, has undergone great improvement. Pen-nant, a Welshman, says of it, “Caernarvon is justly the boast of North Wales, for the beauty of its situation, the goodness of its buildings, the regularity of its plan, and above all the grandeur of the castle, that most magnificent badge of our subjection.” Caernarvon is in the parish of Llanbeblig, the church being more than half a mile distant ; within the town, however, is a handsome chapel-of-ease (St. Mary’s), in which the services are conducted in the English language. The Dissenting chapels are large and numerous, the attendants here, as in most parts of Wales, bearing a far higher proportion to the adherents of the Established Church than is common in the English counties. The Town Hall is over one of the ancient gateways, and one of the old towers is fitted up as a prison. There are also a County Hall, a Theatre, a modern Market-house, a large Union Poor-house, National and British Schools, and, in connection with the National Schools, a Training Institution for the supply of efficient teachers. The baths deserve notice as combining elegance and utility. They consist of two suites of hot and cold sea-water baths, and a large swimming bath, with a dressing-room attached to each. The water is drawn from the sea, a distance of half a mile, by a steam-engine. For this convenience the inhabitants are indebted to the Marquis of Anglesea, who has also built a spacious hotel, with assembly and billiard-rooms. Outside the walls is a fine terrace walk along the Menai, an attractive resort in fair weather. At the north end of

this terrace are a pier and large dock ; and at the south end stands the Custom-house, from which the quay extends along the banks of the river Seoint, beneath the wall of the Castle. The harbour, of late much enlarged and improved, is frequented by vessels of from 50 to 400 tons burden. The principal exports are slate and copper ore, the former being brought down from the quarries of Llanberis and Llanllyfni, a distance of nine or ten miles, by a railroad of recent construction, and sent from the port to all parts of Europe and America. The copper ore is sent chiefly to Swansea, in South Wales. The coasting trade is carried on with London, Dublin, Bristol, Glasgow, Cork, and Liverpool, with which last-named port there is regular communication by steam-packets. Caernarvon received from Henry I. a royal charter, the first which was granted in the Principality. It bore date September 8th, 1286, and conferred many privileges. Population 9,449.

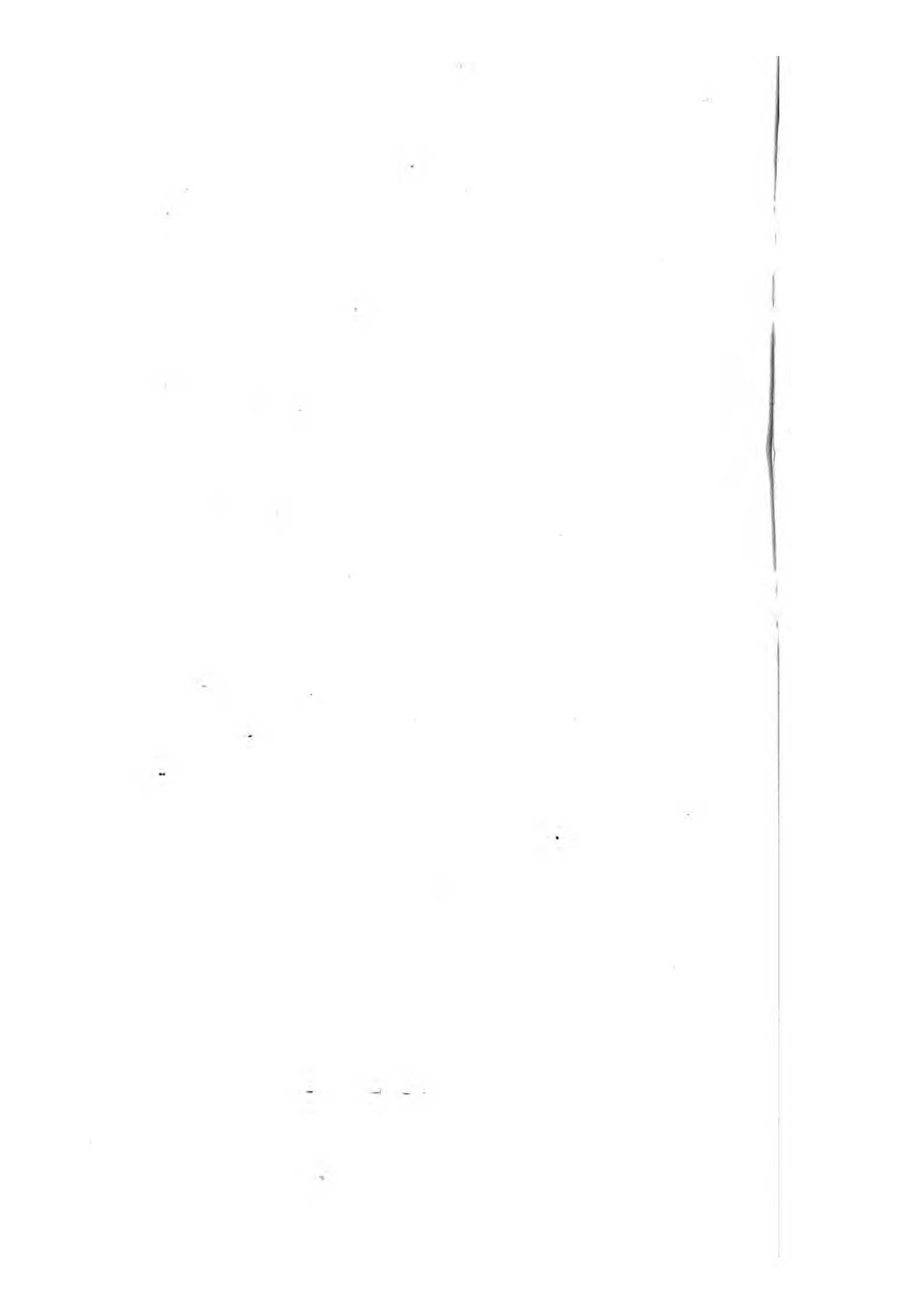
From a rocky eminence called Twt Hill, behind the Uxbridge Arms Hotel, a good view is obtained of the town and castle, the Menai Straits, Anglesea, with the Holyhead and Parys mountains, the three peaks of the Eifl ridge in the promontory of Lleyn, Snowdon and the surrounding group, and, on a clear day, the distant heights of Wicklow, in Ireland. By the completion of a branch railway, connected with the Holyhead line, near Bangor, this town is rendered easily accessible, and has the advantage of rapid communication with all parts of the kingdom. The railway is now open to Llanberis, a distance of eight miles, as well as to Aberystwyth. A steam ferry-boat plies between the quay and Tal-y-Foel, on the Anglesea coast ; and pleasure-boats may at all times be hired, affording the only means of obtaining advantageous views of the romantic and sublime scenery on the western coast of Caernarvonshire and Anglesea. The assizes and quarter sessions for the county are held here. The market on Saturday is attended by a vast concourse of the country people. Fairs are held four times annually. In conjunction with Bangor, Conway, Criccieth, Nevin, and Pwllheli, Caernarvon elects one representative in Parliament.

Caernarvon Castle.

The Castle of Caernarvon differs greatly from both Conway and Beaumaris ; and if it be not as striking in appearance as the former, it is equal in grandeur, and has, in truth, a royal and stately air. Its situation is very fine, for, though it stands in the town, it is placed on the shore of the Menai Straits. Looking down from a rocky eminence, called Fort Hill, a good view is obtained of it and the town, of the Menai Straits, the opposite shore of Anglesea, with the distant summits of the Holyhead and Parys hills. The architect employed by Edward I. in its erection was Henry Ellerton, and, according to tradition, many of the materials were brought from Segontium, or the old Caernarvon, and much of the limestone of which it is built came from Twr Celyn, in Anglesea, and of the gritstone from Vaenol, in the county of Caernarvon, the Menai facilitating the carriage from both places. The foundations of the Castle are surrounded on three sides by water. It is bounded on one side by the Menai Strait, on another by the estuary of the Seoint, the river which runs hither from the Lake of Llanberis. As you approach the edifice, its walls and towers have an air of lightness, which deceives you completely as to its strength, for these walls are immensely thick and massive. The doorways in the gateway tower and the windows are more lofty and graceful than the doors and windows generally in castles of the same age. The walls enclose an area of about three acres, and are themselves from seven to nine feet thick ; they have within them each a gallery, with slips, for the discharge of arrows, and are flanked by thirteen towers, all angular, but differing in the number of their angles. The very massive pentagonal tower, called the Eagle Tower, guards the south of the Seoint, and it is so called from a now shapeless figure of that bird, said to have been brought from the ruins of the neighbouring Roman station of Segontium, but probably placed there simply as being one of the crests of Edward I. This majestic tower has three turrets, and its battlements display a mutilated series of armour heads of the time of Edward II. This tower is the only one of which the staircase remains



CARNARVON CASTLE.



perfect, and by 158 stone steps you may ascend to the summit and obtain a splendid view. In the lower part of the tower is shown a small dark room, measuring twelve feet by eight, in which Edward II. is said to have been born. That unfortunate prince was most probably born in another part of the Castle, for, according to rolls expressly relating to the erection of the Eagle Tower, it was the work of Edward II. ; consequently it was impossible for him to have been born in it. The Eagle Tower was roofed in November, 1316, floored in February, 1317 ; and the great gateway was finished in 1320.

The Rev. C. H. Hartshorne, of Cogenhoe, in Northamptonshire, asserted, at the annual meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Society, held at Caernarvon, in September, 1848, that this castle, instead of being built, as Pennant and others represent, in two years, was not completed in less than thirty-eight years; that it was begun in 1284, and only completed in 1322. As Edward I. entered the town of Caernarvon on the 1st of April, 1284, and his son was born on the 25th of the same month, twenty-four days are only left for the building of the Eagle Tower, which would be work, not for English or Welsh builders, but for the genii of the "Arabian Nights." The main gateway of the Castle is flanked by lofty towers of vast strength. Over the grand entrance arch stands in a niche a mutilated statue of Edward I., with his hand upon a half-drawn sword, as if to intimate that he was equally prepared to pluck it forth on any menace of resistance or to sheath it at the desire for peace. In the archway beneath are grooves for four portcullises. The entrance on the east side is called the Queen's Gate, because Queen Eleanor is said by tradition to have entered the Castle by it. On passing into the interior, you observe the traces, on the two opposite buildings, of a portion of a wall having formerly divided it into two courts ; much of the interior is cleared away, leaving exposed one of the fine corridors which led from one part of the Castle to the other. On the south-east side is a modern building which has been raised within the old walls. Several of the dungeons are yet visible, and in one of these was confined, in the reign of Charles I., the celebrated William Prynne.

An extension of the Chester and Holyhead Railway to

Caernarvon enables tourists to visit easily this very noble and interesting castle. From the top of the Eagle Tower a very wide view of the surrounding scenery is seen to great advantage.

LLANBERIS, Caernarvonshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Beddgelert	12	Capel Curig	10
Caernarvon	10	Dolbadarn	2

[Hotels : Royal Victoria ; Padarn Villa ; Dolbadarn. The Castle and Glyn Peris are smaller houses.]

THE first four miles from Caernarvon are somewhat tame and uninteresting, but the remainder of the journey to Llanberis is a suitable and animating introduction to the sublime scenery to which it conducts.

The lakes are Llyn Peris, the upper, rather more than a mile long, and Llyn Padarn, the lower, two miles in length. They both lie in a direction from south-east to north-west, and are skirted on their south-west side by the high road. They are not more than a quarter of a mile apart, and through the neck of rich meadow-land lying between them flows a narrow stream by which they are connected, and which is crossed by a bridge affording access to the Dinorwig Slate Quarries. Mountains of varied forms rise abruptly on both sides of these lakes, and those especially which surround the head of the upper one are of the most majestic and sublime character. Both lakes are very deep. The river which issues from the north-western extremity of Llyn Padarn, and terminates its short course at Caernarvon, is the Seoint, although the upper portion of it is better known in the neighbourhood as the Rothell. Neither lakes nor rivers in this vicinity are found favourable for angling, being probably in this respect injured by the washings of the copper mines.

Dolbadarn Castle is only about two hundred yards from the Victoria Hotel. It is a single circular tower, occupying a rocky point, of no great elevation, at the foot of Llyn Peris. It is evidently of great antiquity, but the

precise date of its foundation is not ascertained. It is believed to have existed as early as the sixth century, because a stronghold in this locality is referred to as held at that period by Maelgwyn Gwynedd, Prince of North Wales. It was a fortress of importance on account of its position, commanding the passage of the lakes and valley. The meadow spread beneath it was called Dolbadarn, *i.e.*, the "Holm" or "Meadow of Padarn," for here, tradition relates, a holy man so named passed his life in solitude and devotion. To this British saint several churches in Wales are dedicated. The Castle was long held by Llewelyn, the last Prince of Wales of the British line. Here for twenty-three years, from 1254 to 1277, he imprisoned his unfortunate brother, Owain Goch, or "the Red." A Welsh ode, by the bard Howel Foel, lamenting the hard fate of Owen, is extant, from a free translation of which we extract the first and last stanzas :—

THE CAPTIVE OF DOLBADARN.

From yonder height a captive's sighs
 Are wafted towards me by the gale ;
 There, chain'd, abandon'd, Owen lies,
 And I still live to tell the tale—
 To tell how, by a brother's doom,
 Yon towers are Owen's living tomb !

* * * *

Shame that a prince like this should lie
 An outcast, in captivity ;
 And, oh, what tears of ceaseless shame
 Shall cloud the Lord of Snowdon's name !

Dolbadarn Castle was maintained for some time against the attack of Edward I. by Dafydd, another brother of Llewelyn ; but he was at length compelled to abandon it, and, after vainly endeavouring to conceal himself with his wife and seven children in the mountains and morasses, he was taken prisoner, and carried first to Rhuddlan and then to Shrewsbury, where he was put to death with much cruelty. During the protracted struggles of Owain Glyndwr, in the reigns of Henry IV. and Henry V., it was repeatedly in possession of each party, being warmly contended for, as the master-key to the region of Snowdon.

The present remains, covering the whole summit of the rock, consist only of a portion of a round tower, which has evidently had three floors, exclusive of a vaulted basement story, probably used as a dungeon. A few broken steps show that the intercommunication was by spiral stairs. The best view of the ruins is from a boat on the adjacent lake, and, when reflected in the smooth waters beneath, it is particularly beautiful.

The Waterfall of Ceunant Mawr, *i.e.*, of the "Great Chasm," is about half a mile south from the Castle, approached by an ascending rocky walk of no great difficulty. Children of the neighbourhood are always at hand, ready to attend as guides. A number of streams, descending from the sides of Snowdon and of Moel Eilio, having united, rush over a shelf of rock through a dark chasm of great depth, being in the descent turned suddenly aslant, and then thundering into a dark pool below. The height of the fall exceeds sixty feet. It is a remarkably beautiful cascade, all animation and brilliancy, and in the perfect seclusion whence it starts into life is a charming surprise. Roscoe well says of it, "The roar of its precipitous fall, the flashing of its waters in the bright beams of a noonday sun, the rising of its light foam, glowing with prismatic colours, and the sequestered aspect of the spot, in the very gorge of the glen, present a scene that has in it something inconceivably wild, picturesque, and beautiful."

The Slate Quarries extend far along the sides, and are cut deep into the interior of the Allt Dhu, or "Black Cliff," the mountain on the north-east side of the lakes. They give employment to more than 2,000 men and boys, and the produce is conveyed by locomotive engines along a railway to the coast of the Menai Strait. The sights and sounds connected with these mining operations, in the midst of the wild scenery of Llanberis, cannot fail to attract attention.

Snowdon.

Llanberis has become the principal resort of tourists visiting Snowdon, the ascent being accomplished more easily from this place than from any other.

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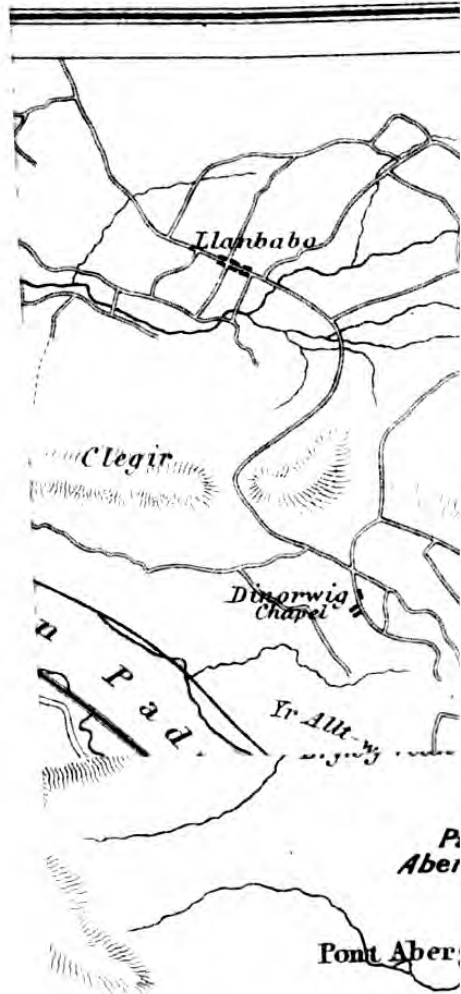
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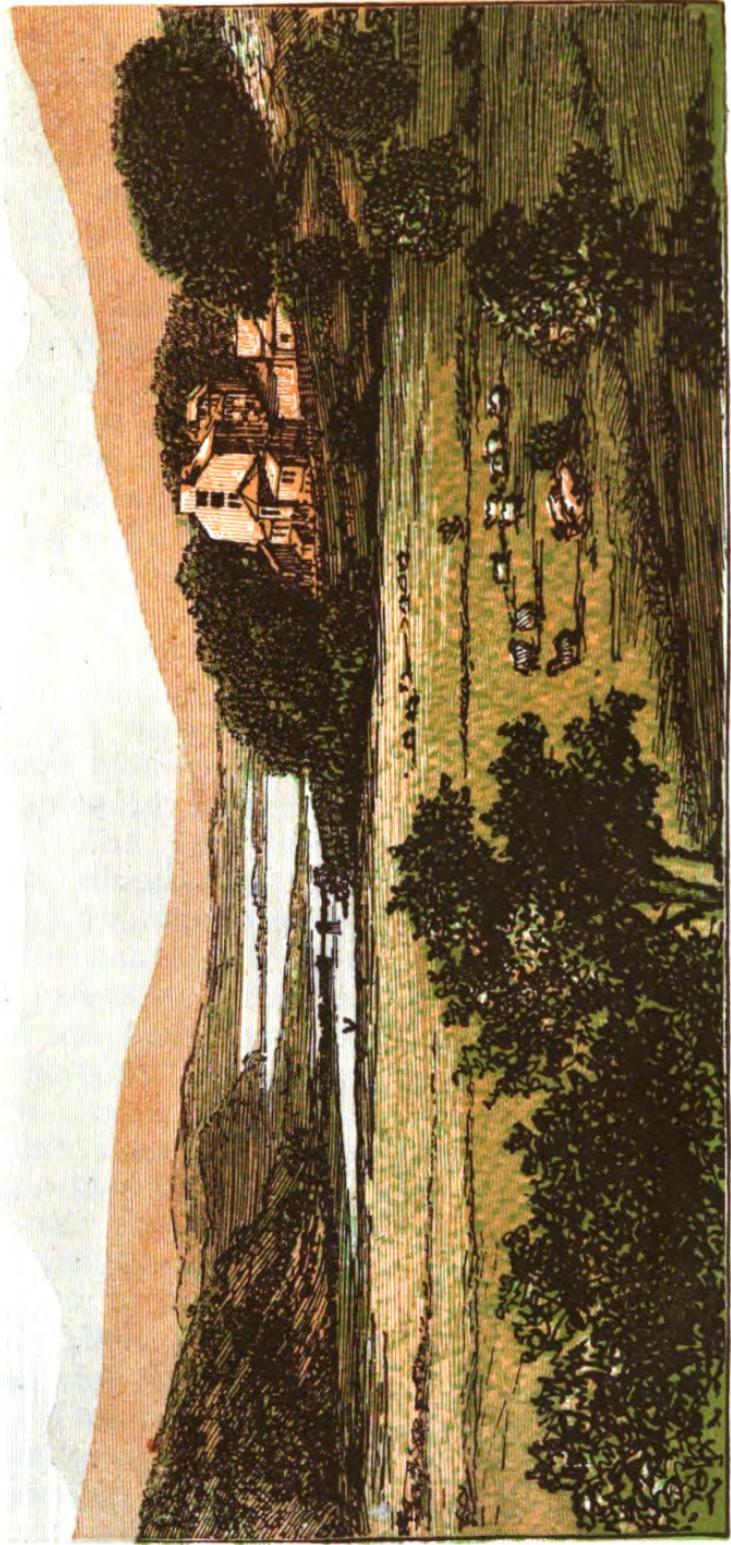
A continuous mountain range extends across the county of Caernarvon, from the coast near Nevin, in the south-west, to Penmaen-Mawr, near Conway, in the north-east ; thus stretching over a tract which measures, in a direct level line, not less than thirty-five miles. To the whole of this country is given the general designation of the Snowdon range, while to the loftiest and noblest elevation, which is as nearly as possible in the middle of the line, is especially appropriated the name of Snowdon. The appellation is Saxon, and signifies simply a "snowy height." The British name, Craig Eryri, is of exactly the same import. The most elevated point is further distinguished by the term *Y Wyddfa*, or "the Conspicuous." Its altitude is 3,570 feet. *Carnedd Llewelyn* ranks second in height, being 3,482 feet. The ascent of Snowdon may be commenced from *Beddgelert*, from *Llyn-Cwellyn* on the road between *Beddgelert* and *Caernarvon*, from *Capel Curig*, and from *Llanberis*, or rather from the hotels two miles below that village. The last-named is now generally preferred as the starting-point, because hence, as has been already intimated, the ascent is undoubtedly least difficult. It is indeed so gradual and comparatively smooth that ponies are taken very nearly to the top. Mr. Bingley, who had tried seven different ways to and from the top of the mountain, declares that this is "by far the most easy and agreeable, being less steep, less rocky, and less dangerous than any of the others." The usual path is by the waterfall of *Ceunant Mawr*, to a vale called *Cwm Brwynog*, thence along the ridge which immediately overlooks the Vale of *Llanberis*, till within sight of a black and almost perpendicular rock, named *Clogwyn-Dhu-'r-Arddu*, with a small lake at its bottom. This being passed at about a quarter of a mile on the right hand, the next steep ascent is called *Llechwedd-y-Rhy*, which being attained, the course is south-west to a well, whence the highest peak, now full in view, is distant about a mile ; and the remainder of the ascent, although steep, is tolerably smooth. Near the top is a spring of pure water, remarkably cold. The summit, not more than six or seven yards in diameter, is surrounded by a dwarf wall, on which it is convenient to lean or sit while quietly surveying the magnificent prospects on every side. A

comfortable house has been erected for the purpose of shelter, refreshment, and repose, if needed. The distance from the Victoria Hotel to the summit of Y Wyddfa is about five miles. Travellers have commonly exaggerated the difficulties of the ascent. In favourable weather it is really nothing more than what any person who has good health and is accustomed to regular moderate exercise may without fear or hesitation undertake. The indispensable requisites are suitable garments, an early morning start, an experienced guide, some slight provisions, a horn or flask for water, and a resolute abstinence from stimulating beverages, or, at least, the most scrupulous moderation in the use of them.

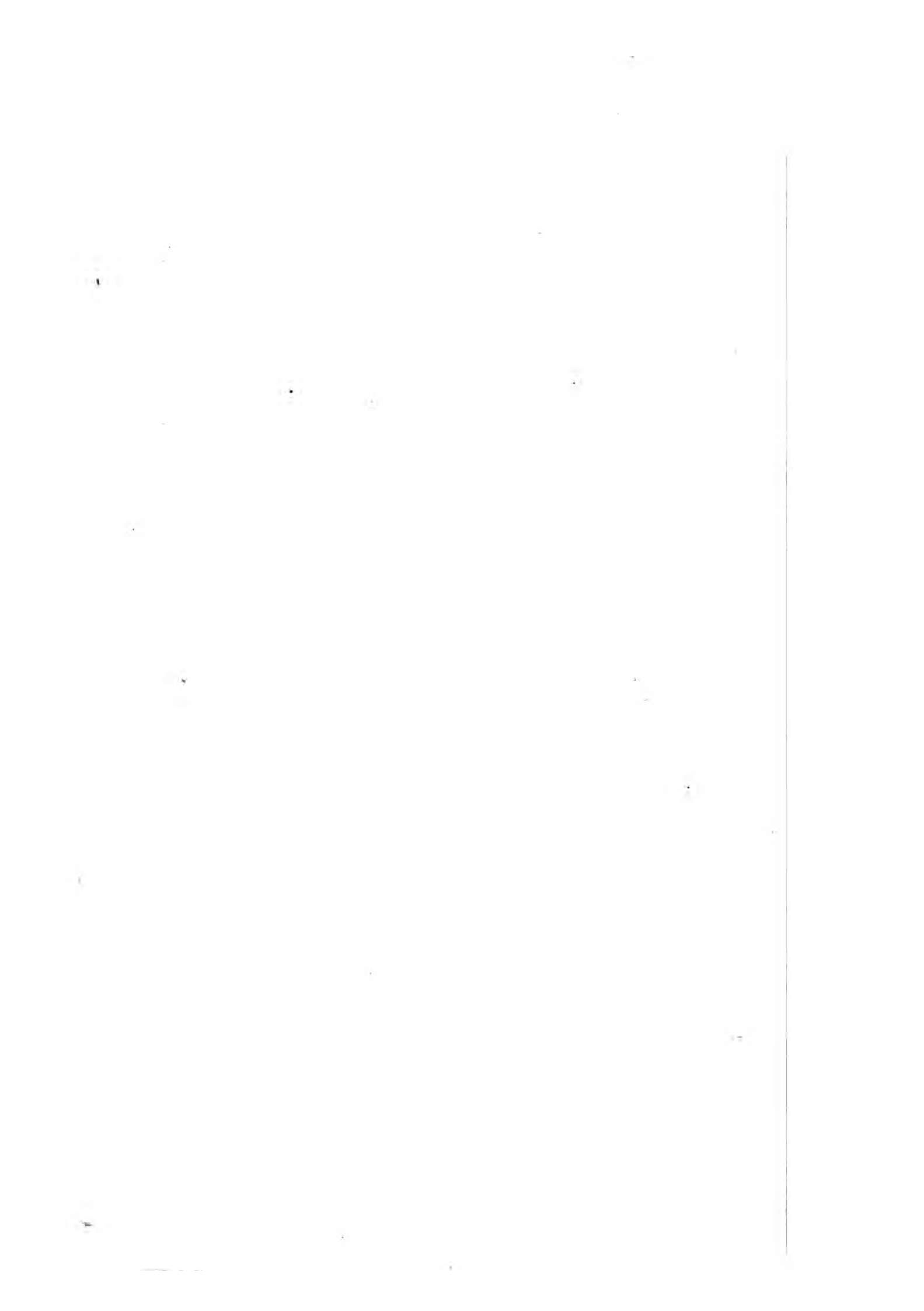
From Capel Curig the ascent is rarely made, except by the most hardy pedestrians, because not only of the distance from the inn to the point where the real ascent is commenced, but also of the extremely rugged nature of the course to be subsequently traversed. The route is through the valley of the Mymbyr, and past Pen-y-Gwryd, five miles on the road to Llanberis; then turn on the left to a small pool called Llyn Teyrn, along a beaten track above Cwm Dyli, and close to the south-east margin of Llyn Llydiaw; then westerly, leaving the Llywedd, one of the buttresses of Snowdon, to the left; and thence, by a difficult and circuitous route, to the highest point, Y Wyddfa. This route may be readily traced on our map.

In this manner other routes might be indicated; but, as the attendance of a guide is always required by the inexperienced tourist, little advantage could be derived from such sketches; and it is believed that more information and pleasure will be drawn from personal narratives of the ascent as furnished by two accomplished modern writers, Thomas Roscoe, Esq., in his "Wanderings and Excursions in North Wales," and Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd, in his "Vacation Rambles."

Mr. Roscoe writes: "On one occasion, while staying at the Victoria Hotel, I determined to commence the ascent of Snowdon at such an early hour as would afford me the prospect of a glorious sunrise from the top of that lofty mountain. For this purpose I engaged a guide, whom I ordered to be in readiness the following morning; and at the appointed time, after some hasty refresh-



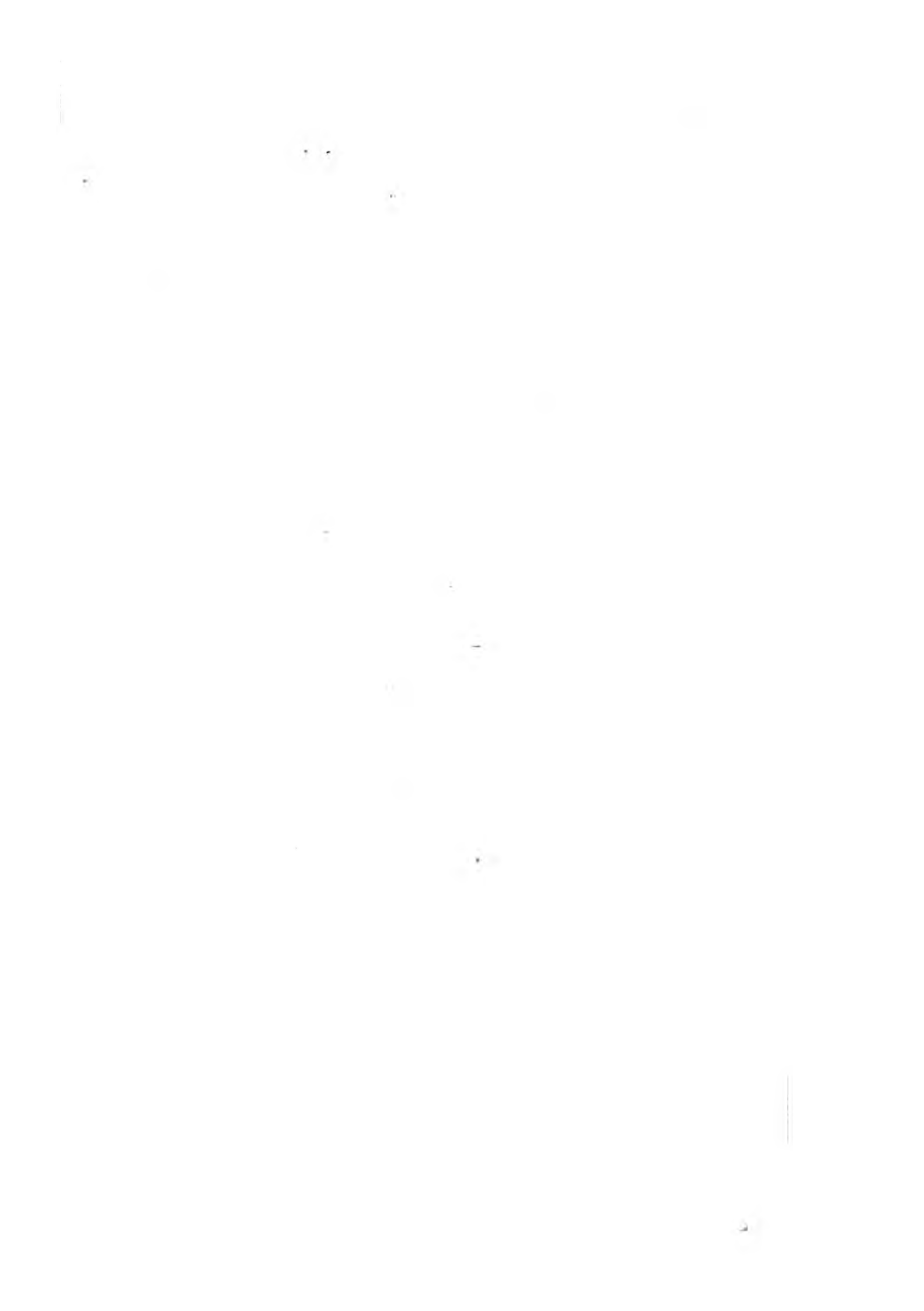
SNOWDON FROM CAPEL CURIG.

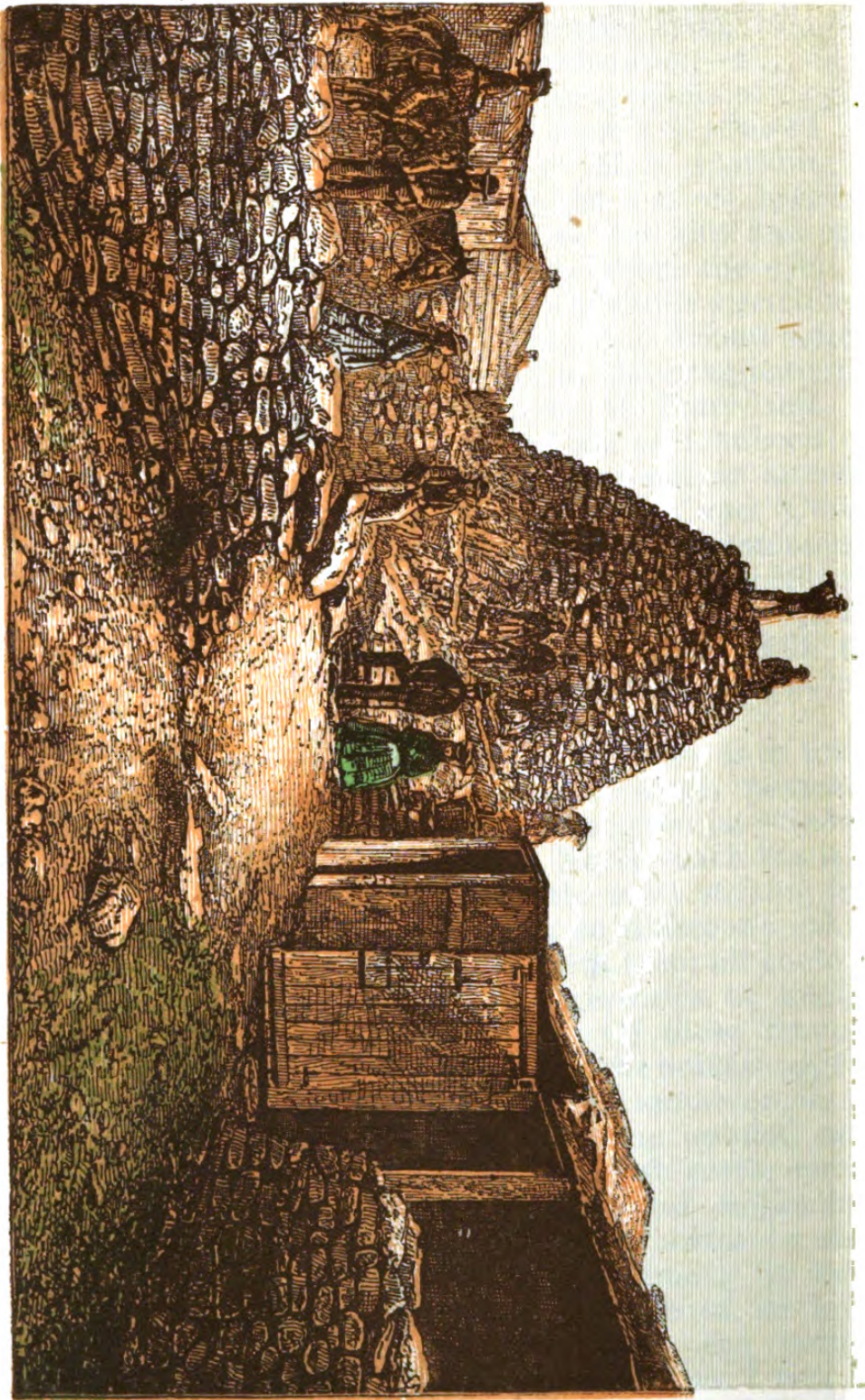


ment, we started on our way before daybreak, taking care to provide the edibles, ycleped brandy and biscuits, necessary for a day's sojourn upon the hills. After a wearisome walk we reached the stonework on the highest point, but only to meet with disappointment, for thick mists invested the pinnacle of Y Wyddfa, and the sun rose in murky gloom. The cold was intense, and I was almost disposed to beat a retreat from this comfortless situation ; but my companion prevailed on me to remain, assuring me, from his long experience, that the morning might yet prove to be remarkably fine. He was correct in his prognostication, and a day of wonderful revelations rewarded me for this exercise of patience. After waiting for nearly two hours, the heavy clouds moved forward in tempestuous eddies, and for a few minutes the scene was without any parallel for its novel and sublime character. The objects immediately surrounding me, and the summits of the loftier hills, appeared to roll with the surge of the sweeping and dispersing fogs. As they slowly debouched, column after column, the horizon began to clear, and the splendid scenery below disclosed itself more distinctly. The sun, breaking forth from his pavilion of clouds, illuminated the mural steps of the Llywedd, and shed a sudden radiance over the lakes and vales below. The panoramic views presently became more grand and extensive. Far as the eye could reach a vision of wondrous power and beauty unfolded itself, awakening new thoughts and feelings in the soul, which trembled while it exulted in tracing the startling and majestic characters stamped by an Omnipotent Hand upon these His glorious works. The atmosphere became perfectly clear : the day, magnificently beautiful, displayed the most distant objects, to the far-off horizon of the sea, in the most brilliant and varied illuminations. The red veins of Crib Goch reflected back a stream of sanguine rays, as quick and fierce as those which glittered upon his ridge. The singular and fantastic forms of these rocky formations, either primitive or time-worn, pinnacled or projecting, running off in bold escarpments or shelving into sheet-like floors of granite, sometimes yawning in chasms too deep for the light of summer sun to reach, or rounded into amphitheatres that might have

formed the council-hall of a race of giants, gleaming in their hues of grey, green, and purple, lying in ribbon-streaks or mingling in rich combination—all, all lay immediately around me. The loftiest points of England, Scotland, and Ireland were not merely shadowed forth, but were seen; while the Isle of Man, sparkling with ocean lights, the Menai, running like a silver thread in a web of verdure, and Anglesea, with her hills and coasts, appeared to be spread like a map before the eye. The impression was that of a world of solitude stretching out in a succession of prospects, fading into distant softening vistas, as agreeable to the eye as to the imagination, and looking like the *val sans retour* of Fairy-land. The descent from Snowdon into the Vale of Llanberis offers many picturesque views, but they are not so interesting or majestic as those on the side of Capel Curig or Beddgelert. A great part of the way is monotonous, but this, in some degree, served to heighten the pleasure of reaching in safety the delightful scene around old Dolbadarn Tower, which had presented itself under many aspects, with varied effects, from different points upon the hills."

Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd's description is as follows :—“Of the four British mountains which possess the most powerful influence for the imagination—Snowdon, Cader Idris, Helvellyn, and Ben Nevis—each has its own attributes; and though in each the most striking feature is that of dark precipice, this is so differently exhibited in each, that if any one familiar with them all could see a single precipice apart from its accessories, he might tell to which mountain it belonged. Of these mountains, Snowdon forms beyond comparison the noblest aggregate, because, except on the side opposite Caernarvon, its upper portion is all mighty framework, a top uplifted on vast buttresses, disdaining the round lumpish earth, spreading out skeleton arms towards heaven, and embracing on each side huge hollows, made more awful by the red tints of the copper ore which deepen among its shadows and gleam through the scanty herbage of its loveliest pathways. Perhaps I love Snowdon the better on account of its being the first great mountain I ever knew. I have ascended it several times—from Capel Curig, from





THE SUMMIT OF SNOWDON.

Llanberis, and from Beddgelert—the last time on October 1st, 1839, from the latter place. I am tempted to extract the following account of my ascent from some notes of an Autumn in Wales, made shortly afterwards:— ‘The morning dawned misty, yet promising, and I engaged a car to take me three miles on to the place where the ascent commences. As I rode on the Caernarvon road, speculating on the state of things in the higher regions, I observed a pinnacle shooting out his head from the mist far into the sky. I asked my guide what height it was, and was told that it was the peak of Snowdon. Seen over the round breast of an intervening hill, it did not look higher than many other points, but was remarkable for its spiral form, and was surmounted, certainly not adorned, by what here appeared to be a little stick, but which in reality is a great piece of timber, stuck up in the midst of a heap of stones, all reared by order of Government for a landmark, as if the mountain were not great enough without the addition of this Cockney crown. We proceeded, keeping this tall head in view, till we reached a gate about three miles on the road, where we quitted the car and began the ascent. We now saw the whole of the south-east side of the mountain, which presented directly before us its second peak, with the highest just peering over it. Here the mountain did not, at first sight, appear high, not nearly so high as a slender rock we had passed; but on looking attentively at it you could fancy it crouching to conceal its height. Its aspect was that of a stony hill, surmounted by a green shoulder, on which appeared a steep upward track, with a tall peak just peeping over the ridge, and, beyond, a long regular slant, dark against the sky. We walked along a plashy path, very gently rising to a farmhouse, passed through its yard, and continued by the side of a little stream, curving upwards through the dark rushy meadow, till we reached the first serious ascent among heaps of rocks, which bestrew the lower part of the hill. We now began to feel ourselves rapidly rising, winding about among grass and pieces of rock, till we reached a great flat stone, on which we rested, and the view from which was remarkable. Before us lay the simple unadorned lake of Bettws, with its one great rock rising to shield it; beyond, seen through two

ranges of hill, the towers of Caernarvon Castle; and below, but apparently quite close, Anglesea, seen mapped out to Holyhead. The sea spread its lovely blue on each side of Anglesea, but the Menai Straits were entirely hidden; and the effect was that of standing on a terrace, of which the towers of Caernarvon formed the battlements, and looking directly down on a huge garden below. Hence ascending, we found the second peak rising far higher above us than the summit itself had appeared from the plain. A spring of clear, cold, exquisite water detained us a few minutes, as it is the highest on this side of the mountain. On the Capel Curig side there is a spring not very far below the summit. Here I tasted the water, having prepared the way by a little brandy, with which the guide had taken care that we should be provided. Here we saw the sea in front as well as to the west, between the huge openings of the mountains, and looked into a great valley branching off in that direction, which contains two lakes within its depths, between which Wilson sat when drawing Snowdon. A little onward we reached the margin of the first great hollow of the mountain—not quite so grand as that below the summit of Cader Idris—holding three small pools, instead of, like that, one great tarn. Along the side of the hollow, up the shining track, we now laboured, and found it by far the hardest work of the ascent, though not so hard as the Fox's Path of Cader. Having surmounted this stiff brae, we turned to the left, under the second peak beside the precipice, and soon came to a ridge connecting it with the summit, the grandest part by far of the ascent. We now looked into a greater precipice on the opposite side, the greatest of all Snowdon's hollows, overshadowed by a shelf of rock of the boldest form, holding a little lake in its depth, and descending to a green ridge, over which the road from Beddgelert to Capel Curig, in the Vale of Gwynant, is seen, like a line of blue among the green. Beyond the upward ridge I had glimpses of a third hollow, that which is ascended from Capel Curig, of the same character, but not quite so large. Hence the path to the summit was sometimes on one side of the ridge, sometimes on the other, sometimes on its top, but quite easy, and (in spite of the fables of guide-books,

which talk about people dying with fright in it) quite safe. After about two hours and a half's walk from the road, we reached the summit, where I partook of some sandwiches and brandy-and-water with great relish. Here the mountain seems drawn to a point, as by five or six cords shouldering to the plain, and within these to embrace great hollows, more or less precipitous, with pools or tarns in their depths. Near the top it is a mere bunch of ridges, surmounted by one slender apex, defended by rocky fragments, like huge tusks. Climbing the mound of stones, I saw the entire panorama, in its kind matchless, but not so grand as the lower view from the ridge connecting the second peak with the summit. To the west lay Anglesea, the sea beyond, and I thought I caught a glimpse of the Wicklow mountains. To the north Moel Siabod, and the great mountains between Capel Curig and the sea, forming the pass through which the road is conducted among great, bare, stony rocks, glittering in the sun. To the south the mountains of Merionethshire, among which Cader was easily to be distinguished; and for some minutes a gleam of light revealed the very side of its central precipices, along which I had lately climbed; and beyond—blue in the distance—crouched Plinlimmon. To the east a wilderness of mountain, and, round at least two-thirds of the view, the blue ocean poured, as around the shield of Achilles. The most remarkable feature of this great prospect is the mountain tarns which gleam upon you from the bosom of the hills. I counted twenty-three. Among them one very far up its own mountain gleamed out, as from a brimming basin, over the Holyhead road, just visible in its huge bed of rock, at least 1,500 feet above the neighbouring track of human traffic. I remained on the summit nearly an hour, during which time I was joined by a young friend and two ladies, who had ascended from Llanberis. On the descent we walked over the crown of the second peak, whence, and from the ridge, the view is really nobler than from the summit, because the neighbouring mountains are seen in nobler proportion.’”

In Wordsworth's "Prelude," at the commencement of the last book (page 353), a moonlight night on the top of Snowdon is described in a beautiful manner.

The geological character of Snowdon is peculiar and of great interest ; and for the researches of the botanist it affords an extensive and most productive field.

Snowdon was formerly a "royal forest," and abounded with deer, but the last of these was destroyed at the beginning of the seventeenth century. Some writers have asserted that the higher part of the mountain is under snow throughout the year. This, however, is by no means the case. Its highest peak is as much as 800 feet below the point of permanent snow ; and neither in quantity nor duration does the snow here exceed what might be expected from its comparative elevation.

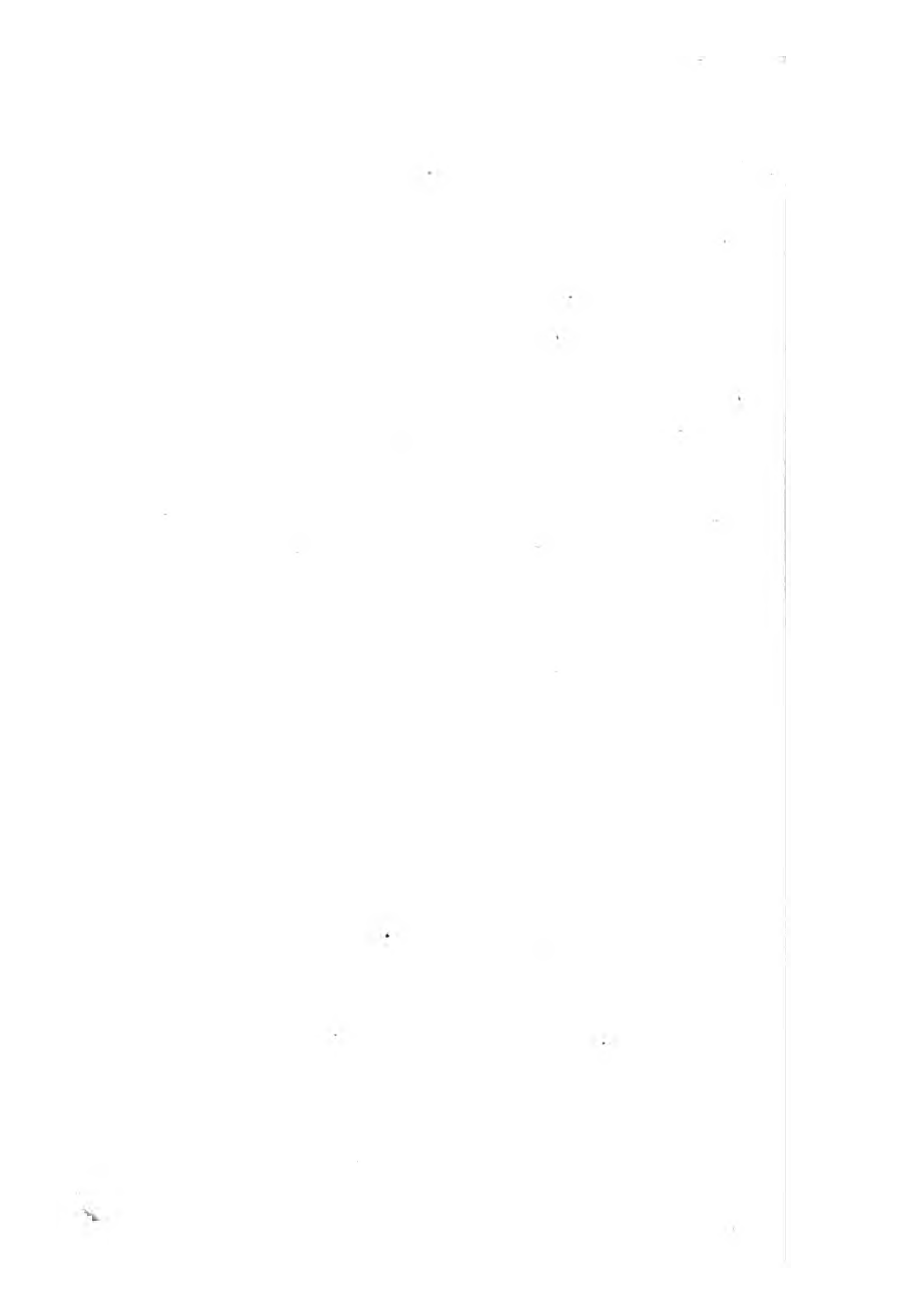
Llanberis village and church are about half a mile beyond the upper end of Llyn Peris, and about two miles from the Victoria Hotel. They will be passed in pursuing the route to Beddgelert. The parish is extensive, and, owing to the proximity of the slate quarries, the population has been greatly increased. The Church, dedicated to St. Peris, is for the most part a modern erection, but includes portions of a very ancient structure, which was deemed the greatest architectural curiosity in Wales. The Well of St. Peris, not far from the church, was long held in high repute, and even superstitious veneration, not merely on account of the purity of its waters, but especially for their supposed sanitary efficacy, and their alleged property of revealing future events by the agency of a silver fish which at intervals appeared in the crystal fountain. Some copper mines in the neighbourhood are still wrought, although they are far less productive than formerly.

The Pass of Llanberis,

between the north ridge of Snowdon and the south side of Glyder Fawr, surpasses in awe-inspiring wildness every other scene in the usual tracks of Welsh tourists. It has been sometimes compared to Glencroe, and even to Glencoe in Scotland, and to the pass of Honister Crag in Cumberland, from all of which, however, it differs in some prominent characteristics. Until within the last few years it was inaccessible to carriages of any description, and was penetrated only by bold, adventurous pedestrians, and by the



THE PASS OF LLANBERIS.



hardy ponies of the country. It is now traversed by a well-formed road, which, though ascending and descending steeply, is so easily and so constantly passed by every kind of vehicle as to discharge from the mind of the traveller every idea of danger, or even of difficulty, and to leave him at liberty in the utmost tranquillity and composure to contemplate the majestic and sublime objects amidst which he is conveyed. The precipitous and craggy sides of the noble mountains, in some parts of basaltic formation, press closely on each other, and shut in the narrow pass. Shattered masses of every form, which have been hurled down from the heights, are lying about in strange confusion, and amidst them a stream, rushing and roaring, hastens its descent to the head of Llyn Peris. Midway, on the left-hand side of the road, an enormous fragment of rock, fallen from the side of Glyder Fawr, has been so precipitated as to assume some resemblance to an immense cromlech. Resting upon other fragments, it leaves a cavity beneath, which, it is said, an old woman, named Hetty, was wont to occupy as her shelter and resting-place when tending her cattle, sheep, and goats; and hence it is called Ynys Hettws, or Hetty's Island, though more generally known as the Cromlech. At the present time it is partially enclosed by a rude fence of loose stones, and is used as a fold for the washing of sheep. At the summit of the pass a level verdant space, inviting a pause and affording a view in both directions, is appropriately named Gorphwysfa; *i.e.*, "the Resting-place." At rather more than a mile beyond this, the road, having descended quickly, enters the older road between Capel Curig and Beddgelert, near to the roadside public-house of Pen-y-Gwryd. From this junction Capel Curig is distant about four miles. The route to Beddgelert takes a sharp turn to the right.

*CHESTER TO FFESTINIOG, viâ RUABON, COR-
WEN, BARMOUTH, AND HARLECH.*

We shall now return to Chester, and proceed by the Wrexham, Llangollen, Corwen, and Bala line to

BANGOR ISCOED, Flintshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Chester	13	Overton	3
Ellesmere	8	Whitchurch	10
Holt	7	Wrexham	5

THIS place obtained early notice and subsequent celebrity in the page of history by having been the site of a very early Christian seminary for instructing religious noviciates, founded, according to several old writers, by Lucius, the son of Coel, first Christian King of Britain, anterior to A.D. 180. This college was converted into a monastery about the year 530, by Cynwyl, or Congelu, who constituted himself the first abbot. Gildus Badonius 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 Molenutius. Gildus Nennius was first monk and subsequently abbot of this house. In the British Triads it is said to have contained 2,400 monks, who, in their turns, by one hundred each, read prayers and sang psalms continually, so that Divine service was performed day and night unceasingly.

The monastery was celebrated for its valuable library; and Speed observed that, 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.

The massacring 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 Britains, and imploring success on their arms against Saxon Pagan infidels, who had come with

a hostile force against them, 1,200 or upwards fell victims to their patriotism and piety. That such a massacre did take place all authors have agreed, though their dates as to the disastrous event do not perfectly accord.

Whoever visits Bangor Iscoed with a view to contemplate the ruins of its 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, except its bridge, a beautiful, light, and elegant structure of considerable antiquity: it consists of five arches.

The next place we come to will be

WREXHAM,

[Hotels: Wynnstay Arms; Lion; Turf],

a market town, described by the poet Churchyard as the pearl of Denbighshire. The chief object is the Church, which was once considered one of the seven wonders of Wales: it was erected in 1472. Municipal population, 8,576; Parliamentary, 9,547.

Wrexham has an endowed free grammar school and a handsome market-hall. A number of gentlemen's mansions are situated around: among them are Acton Hall, Brymbo Hall, and Erd Hall.

A few miles farther on is

RUABON,

[Hotel: Wynnstay Arms],

the junction for the line to Dolgelly and Barmouth. The village of Ruabon is pleasantly situated on an eminence, surrounded by beautiful scenery. In the immediate vicinity is Wynnstay, the demesne of the Wynns, and seat of the present Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn, Bart.

An agreeable excursion may be made from Ruabon to Chirk Castle.



CHIRK, Denbighshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Chester	21 $\frac{1}{4}$	Oswestry	5
Llangollen	7	Ruabon	6
London	191 $\frac{3}{4}$	Wrexham	9 $\frac{1}{4}$

[Hotel: Hand.]

CHIRK is a large village, situated upon the brow of a limestone hill, on the northern banks of the river Ceiriog, which separates the counties of Denbigh and Salop. The Chester and Shrewsbury Railway passes through Chirk. In the churchyard are several aged yews. In the church are several marble monuments, belonging to the Myddeltons, of Chirk Castle. Population 1,919.

Chirk Aqueduct,

for conveying the Ellesmere canal across the Vale of Chirk, and over the river Ceiriog, is 250 yards long, and consists of ten arches, the piers of which are sixty-five feet high.

About one mile and a half to the west of the village is

Chirk Castle,

which is proudly situated on an eminence, backed by the Berwyn mountains. It is supposed to have been built in the year 1013, and was an extremely strong fortification. The front is about 250 feet in length, and two persons abreast may walk along the battlements with ease. It was besieged by the Parliamentary forces, and considerably battered by the cannon of Cromwell: the repairs cost £80,000. The park is very extensive, and disposed with picturesque effect.

Not far from the Castle is a curious dyke, called Offa's Dyke: this ditch extended from the Severn, below Chepstow, to the mouth of the river Dee, which separates the counties of Flint and Cheshire. By a law of Egbert, King of the Saxons, in 835, the penalty of death was attached to every Welshman who should pass this ram-

part ; and by another law of Harold Harefoot, if a Welshman should come to England without leave and be taken on that side of the dyke, his right hand was to be cut off by the king's officer.

LLANGOLLEN, Denbighshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Chester	23	Oswestry	12
Chirk	7	Ruabon	6
Corwen	10	Ruthin	15
Gresford	14	Valle Crucis Abbey	3
London	183	Wrexham	12

[Hotels: Hand ; Royal ; King's Head ; Cambrian ; Jenny Jones Inn.]

L LANGOLLEN is beautifully situated in a deep narrow valley, embosomed by lofty mountains and watered by the river Dee. Population 2,798. The bridge, anciently considered one of the seven wonders of Wales, is formed of four irregular pointed arches, and was erected in 1346, by Dr. John Trevor, Bishop of St. Asaph. The bed of the Dee is here composed of one continued surface of solid rock. The water has been known to rise in a few hours—at times—to the height of the bridge, bearing down some large trunks of trees and fragments of out-houses. Such inundations have occurred in the finest weather, when there has been neither rain nor thaw: they have been occasioned by a strong south-westerly gale, blowing over Bala Lake, which has the effect of a tide rushing with great fury through a confined channel, committing ravages in its way.

The Church is an ancient structure, partly in the early English style of architecture, but it has recently been much enlarged. The roof is of oak, panelled and richly carved. The interior is neat, the east window well painted by Eglington: its subject is Christ in the Garden. It is dedicated to a British saint named Collen, hence the name of the town, Llan-gollen, *i.e.*, the "Church of Collen." The services are usually conducted in the Welsh

language, but occasionally in English. The living is a discharged vicarage, the Bishop of St. Asaph being its patron.

From the churchyard there is a view of the Dee. The perspective is not very pleasing, being what painters term a study, rather than a composition. From this point is a good view of Castell Dinas Brân, or Crow Castle.

Almost contiguous, and overlooking the town of Llangollen, is the simply elegant building called

Plas Newydd,

in the cottage style, fitted up for the late Lady Eleanor Butler and Miss Ponsonby (but more chiefly known as "the ladies of Llangollen"), who quitted the busy hum of men to dwell in seclusion and peace in these retired shades ; nor can it be a matter of surprise to any one who examines this spot and its concomitant beauties that a decided preference has been given to it. The following account of these two retired ladies is taken from the pen of Madame de Genlis :—

"Lady Eleanor Butler was born in Dublin, an orphan from the cradle, and a rich, amiable, and lovely heiress. Her hand was sought by the first families in Ireland, but she very early announced her aversion to marriage. This taste for independence she never concealed, yet no woman was more remarkable for mildness, modesty, and all the virtues that embellish her sex. From her earliest infancy she was the intimate friend of Miss Ponsonby. By a singular coincidence of events (which struck their imaginations), they were born at Dublin in the same year and on the same day, and became orphans at the same period. It was very easy for them to fancy from this that Heaven had created them for each other, to perform together the voyage of life ; their sensibility enabled them to realize the illusion, and their friendship so increased with their age that at seventeen they mutually promised to preserve their liberty, and never to part from each other, and formed from that moment the plan of withdrawing from the world and permanently fixing themselves in the profoundest solitude. Having heard of the charming land-

scapes of Wales, they made a secret journey thither, in order to choose their place of retreat. On arriving at Llangollen, they found on the summit of a mountain a small isolated cottage, in a delightful situation, and there it was that they resolved to fix their abode. The guardians of the young fugitives, however, traced their steps and brought them back to Dublin; but they declared they would return to their mountain as soon as they should have attained their majority. In fact, at twenty-one, in spite of all the entreaties and arguments of relatives, these ladies quitted Ireland for ever, and went to Llangollen. Miss Ponsonby was not rich, but Lady Eleanor enjoyed a considerable fortune: she purchased the land about the mountain, with the little cottage, and built a house upon its site, of which the outside is extremely simple, but the interior of the greatest elegance. The two friends possessed at the foot of the hill a meadow for their flocks, a beautiful farmhouse, and a kitchen-garden. These two extraordinary persons, both of whom possessed most cultivated minds, resided in that solitude for fifty-five years, without having slept out of it in a single instance. Nevertheless they were far from reserved, frequently visiting the neighbouring gentry, and receiving with equal politeness and kindness travellers either coming from or going to Ireland, and who might be recommended to their attention by their old friends. They possessed an excellent library of the best English, French, and Italian authors. The drawing-room was adorned with charming landscapes, drawn and painted after nature by Miss Ponsonby. I must not quit Llangollen without mentioning the pure manners of that part of Wales. The two friends assured us that often, when they quitted home to walk in the neighbourhood, they left the key in their cottage door, though they had a considerable quantity of silver plate and other valuable articles, which might easily have been carried away."

Lady Eleanor Butler died at Plas Newydd, on the 2nd of June, 1829, aged seventy-four; and Miss Ponsonby departed this life December 9th, 1831, aged seventy-six: both are interred in the churchyard of Llangollen. The entire property was purchased in 1832 by two maiden ladies, Miss Lolly and Miss Andrews, who are said to have

emulated the retirement of its former possessors. It is now the residence of Captain Lonran.

Remains of Castell Dinas Bran.

On a conical mountain, near Valle Crucis Abbey, stand in awful majesty the dilapidated fragments of Castell Dinas Brân, or the "Castle of the City of Brân." This, reckoned among the number of Welsh castles, derived its 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, and 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 III. it afforded 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.

The view from the top, a height of 910 feet above the surface of the river Dee, at Llangollen Bridge, is very grand.

Valle Crucis Abbey,

or, as it is called by the Welsh, Monachlog Llan Egwestle, is about two miles from Llangollen, and one mile and a half from Castell Dinas Brân. On the right of the road towards Ruthin is a grand and majestic ruin, affording some elegant specimens of ancient Gothic architecture. There are still remaining of the church the east and west ends and the south transept.

Valle Crucis was a house of Cistercian monks, dedicated to the Virgin Mother. It is indebted for its foundation, about the year 1200, to Madoc ap Gryffydd Maelor, lord of Bromfield and Dinas Brân, who, after various successes, and acquiring much booty by the reduction and ruin of English castles, dedicated a portion of his plunder to the service of religion. He was interred there. A short time ago the burial-place of the monks was accidentally discovered, when a quantity of their remains were found which had been undisturbed for 600 years.

In a field near the Abbey is a pillar, called

The Pillar of Eliseg,

which is very ancient. The Rev. John Price, Bodleian Librarian (uncle to Dr. Price, of Llangollen), a noted antiquary, wrote to Mr. Lloyd, of Trevor Hall, respecting this long-neglected pillar, and through his suggestion it was placed in the position it now occupies. It appears to have been erected upwards of a thousand years ago, in memory of Eliseg (the father of Brochmail Yscythrog, Prince of Powys), who was slain at the battle of Chester, in 607, by Concen, his great-grandson. The inscription is not at present legible.

—◆—
CORWEN and BALA

are but small market towns, and there is nothing very noteworthy in their neighbourhood, except Bala Lake, which is four miles in length, and of great depth. Bala is also a good fishing station, and much frequented by sportsmen during the season of grouse shooting.

The railway from Bala to Dolgelly is carried along the eastern shore of the lake, and the route occupies a little less than an hour, the distance being seventeen miles. Here we exchange the Dee for the Wnion, following the course of the latter for nine miles.

—◆—
DOLGELLY, Merionethshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Bala	18	Machynlleth	15
Barmouth	9	Maentwrog	18
Chester	57	Towyn	16

[Hotels : Golden Lion ; Ship ; Angel.]

DOLGELLY, the "Vale of the Hazel," is the principal market town in Merionethshire, where the assizes are held alternately with Bala ; it is situated in a wide

and fertile valley, upon the river Wnion, over which is a stone bridge of seven arches, erected in 1638, and thoroughly repaired and enlarged some years ago. There are many well-built houses in various parts of the town. The principal building is the County Hall, erected in 1825, at an expense of £3,000: the court-room is handsomely fitted up with necessary accommodation for the officers of justice. In the hall is a splendid portrait of Sir R. W. Vaughan, Bart., painted by Sir M. A. Shee, R.A.

In 1404 Owain Glyndwr assembled his Parliament at Dolgelly, when he formed an alliance with Charles, King of France. Some Roman coins have been found at a well in this vicinity, called Ffynon Fawr, bearing this inscription, "Imp. Cæsar Trajan."

The waterfalls in the locality are also a considerable attraction to the tourist: these are Rhaiadr Dhu (the Black Cataract), Rhaiadr-y-Mawddach, and Pistyll-y-Cain. The first is about five, the two latter about eight miles from Dolgelly, and all of these near the high-road, leading towards Maentwrog. Population 2,357.

Rhaiadr Dhu

is situated on the left of the turnpike road, in the grounds of Dol-y-Melynlyn; it is a double fall, about sixty feet high, and the water foams with a thundering noise among the black rocks down which it falls: these rocks give to the scene a singular appearance, from their being in many places covered with a pure white lichen. A mile farther on is

Rhaiadr-y-Mawddach.

This cataract falls down a rock between fifty and sixty feet in height; the stream is twice broken in its descent, the basin into which it falls is very large, and the rocks and trees form an amphitheatre around.

Pistyll-y-Cain,

"the Spout of the Cain," is by far the highest and most magnificent cataract of the three. A narrow stream rushes down a vast rock, at least 150 feet high, the horizontal strata of which run in irregular steps through

its whole breadth, and form a mural front. It is surrounded by oak, birch, and yellow elm trees, whose agreeable mixture of tints gives to the scene a highly pleasing appearance. The ascent to Cader Idris is generally made from Dolgelly.

Cader Idris,

or the "Chair of Idris," is a considerable mountain in Merionethshire, one mile and a half from Dolgelly. It is so called, according to tradition, from a person called Idris, an enormous giant: the old bardic writings represent him greater in mind than in stature. He is said to have been a poet, an astronomer, and a philosopher; and he is supposed to have had his observatory on the summit of this mountain. It is believed that this stupendous hill was at one time a volcano, different kinds of lava, pumice, and other similar matters having been found upon its sides and base.

The peak of Cader Idris consists of silicious porphyry, quartz, and felspar. The prospect from the top on a clear day is unbounded: to the north-east, Ireland is seen like a distant mist upon the ocean, and a little to the right Snowdon and the other mountains of Caernarvonshire; farther, in the same direction, the Isle of Man, the neighbourhood of Chester, Wrexham, and Salop; and to the south the country round Clifton, Pembrokeshire, St. David's, and Swansea. Exclusive of the distant objects, the nearer views are wonderfully striking.

Some travellers have compared the height of Cader Idris to Snowdon, from the deception of its appearance: accurate admeasurements prove that the apex of the former is not more than 3,100 feet in height, while the peak of Snowdon is 3,570.

Guides to Cader Idris may be obtained at Dolgelly.

From Dolgelly to Barmouth (nine miles) the whole distance has been truly described as a continued series of pictures. The river from Dolgelly to Barmouth is beautiful. The late Sir T. N. Talfourd compared it to the far-famed Drachenfels and the Rhine.

BARMOUTH, Merionethshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Aberdovey	16	London	225
Dolgelly	9	Towyn	12
Harlech	10		

[Hotel : Corsygedol Arms.]

BARMOUTH is to the north-westward 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 inaptly 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. Great improvements have been effected of late years, and for sea-bathing quarters it now forms an agreeable residence. The lower buildings are occasionally subjected to the drifting of the sand, but there is little annoyance from this except during severe gales. The town is pleasantly situated near the mouth of the river Maw, which empties itself into St. George's Channel; hence its Welsh name, Aber-Maw. It is in the parish of Llanaber.

Barmouth is now connected by the coast line of railway with Harlech and Portmadoc.



HARLECH, Merionethshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Barmouth	10	Portmadoc, across the sands .	4
Maentwrog	10	Tan-y-Bwlch	10

[Hotel : Blue Lion.]

HARLECH, or Harddlech, "a Bold Rock," is situated upon a barren rock, and is the county town of Merionethshire. It is remarkable for nothing besides its Castle, which is built upon a cliff overhanging the marsh, upon the

sea coast, near Cardigan Bay. The name of this fortress is said to be derived from its situation: it was originally called *Twr Bronwen*, from *Bronwen*, "the Fair-bosomed," sister to *Brenapllyr*, Duke of Cornwall, and subsequently King of Britain. In the eleventh century it was denominated *Caer-Colwyn*, from *Colwyn ap Tango*, who flourished in the time of *Anavaud*, about A.D. 877, and resided in a square tower, of which there are some remains. According to some of the British historians, *Harlech Castle* was built by *Maelgwyn Gwynedd*, prince of North Wales, about the year 550; and it is generally believed that *Edward I.* built this castle upon the ruins of the former. It appears to have been completed before the year 1283, for *Hugh de Wlonkeslow* was the constable, with a salary of £100. In the forty-fourth year of *Elizabeth* the constable's allowance was no more than £50. In 1404 this Castle, along with that of *Aberystwith*, was seized by the ambitious *Owain Glyndwr*, during his rebellion against *Henry IV.* They were both retaken, about four years afterwards, by an army which the King despatched into Wales. *Margaret of Anjou*, the spirited queen of *Henry VI.*, after the King's defeat at *Northampton*, in 1460, fled from *Coventry* and found an asylum in this fortress. The Castle was utterly unassailable on the side overhanging the sea, and on the other side was protected by a prodigious wide and deep fosse, cut at an immense expense through the solid rock.

The town, though a free borough, with various other grants and immunities, and at one time of no little celebrity, is now reduced to a very small village; but as the Member of Parliament for *Merionethshire* is elected here, it is still regarded as the county town. It consists of a few poor houses: the only exception is the inn, which is pleasantly situated and affords every accommodation. The *South Wales Railway* passes through it.

From the Roman coins which have been found here, the place is conjectured to have been a fortified post of the Romans. About 1692 an ancient golden torque was dug up in a garden near the Castle; it weighed eight ounces, and is now in the *Mostyn library*.

MAENTWROG, Merionethshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Bala	22	Harlech	10
Beddgelert	10	Slate Quarries	5
Caernarvon	23	Tan-y-Bwlch	0½
Capel Curig	22	The Cataract	2
Dolgelly	18	Tremadoc	10
Ffestiniog	3		

[Hotel : Grapes.]

MAENTWROG is a small village, situated in the most romantic part of the highly picturesque Vale of Ffestiniog. It derives its name from a large stone in the churchyard, called Maen Twrog, "the Stone of Twrog," a British saint, who died about the year 610. The present church was built on the site of the ancient structure, in 1814. The Rev. Edmund Prys, one of the most eminent poets of his time, was rector of this parish, and archdeacon of Merioneth. He translated the metrical psalms used in the Welsh churches, and also assisted Bishop Morgan in translating the Bible. He died in the year 1623, and was buried in Maentwrog Church.

Nothing can exceed the beauty of this little vale : the hills are moderately high, and scattered in a pleasing style ; the sides are principally well wooded. A Sunday-school has been erected here by Mrs. Oakeley.

Within sight of the village, and about a quarter of a mile distant, stands the well-known

TAN-Y-BWLCH,

that is, "Below the Pass," one of the most beautiful and, to the tourist, most celebrated places connected with the Snowdon range. It has of late become a very fashionable resort for families and tourists during the summer season. The Oakeley Arms Hotel, at Tan-y-Bwlch, is situated on a gentle declivity, and in the centre of the attractive objects around, one of which is

The Mansion of Tan-y-Bwlch,

the residence of Mrs. Oakeley, who, with her usual kindness, permits visitors from the hotel to view the cele-

brated vale from the grounds. The house is embosomed in an extensive and thriving plantation, and commands a most magnificent view of the surrounding scenery. Mrs. Oakeley is in possession of ancient coins, urns, and inscribed stones of Roman origin.

About two miles from Tan-y-Bwlch, on the Harlech road, up a woody valley, are two cataracts on the Felin Rhyd river. One is called the Rhaiadr-Dhu (a name frequently occurring), and the other the Raven Fall: both are deserving of a visit. At a cottage near the bridge, which the tourist will cross before he leaves the main road from Maentwrog, a guide to the falls may be obtained.

The slate quarries in the neighbourhood are worthy of inspection, and belong to Lord Newborough, J. Greaves, W. Turner, and Thomas Casson, Esqs.

There is now a daily coach to and from Tan-y-Bwlch to Caernarvon; and during the summer months a coach runs hence, through Harlech and Barmouth, to Dolgelly. The attractions in each journey will be found under their proper heads.

FFESTINIOG, Merionethshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Bala	19	Maentwrog	2½
Caernarvon	25	Tan-y-Bwlch	2¾
Capel Curig	20	Tremadoc	13

[Hotels: Pengwern Arms; Abbey Arms; Queen's, close to the quarries.]

FFFESTINIOG, "the Place of Hastening," is a village situated in a most enchanting vale. The inhabitants are principally employed in the slate quarries, which are situate about four miles from the village. The church is built in the ancient style of English architecture, and is dedicated to St. Michael. A national school has been built at a short distance from the village. Mrs. Oakeley, of Tan-y-Bwlch, has built and endowed a chapel-of-ease, near the quarries, for the convenience of the quarrymen and other persons in the neighbourhood.

About half a mile from Ffestiniog are the

Falls of the Cynfael.

One of them is about three hundred yards above, and the other three hundred below, a rustic stone bridge. The upper fall consists of three steep rocks, over which the water foams into a deep basin, overshadowed by the adjoining precipices. The other is formed by a broad sheet of water, falling over a slightly shelving rock, about forty feet high. After the water has reached the bottom of the deep concavity, it rushes along a narrow rocky chasm, when, rolling amid the shaggy rocks, it glistens among the scattered fragments, and, falling from slope to slope, gains another smooth bed, and steals among the mazes of the vale. Between the lower cataract and the bridge is a tall columnar rock, which stands in the bed of the river: it is called "Pulpit Hugh Llwyd Cynfael," or "Hugh Lloyd's Pulpit."*

Near Ffestiniog ran the ancient military way, called Ffordd Helen, or Helen's Road; it was paved with stones, even along these steep and almost inaccessible mountains, and was the work of Helena, wife of the Emperor Maximus. Several of the kind are discoverable both in North and South Wales. There are few vales which afford such delightful prospects as that of the Vale of Ffestiniog.

Tommen-y-Mûr, near Ffestiniog, was a Roman station: the village of Maentwrog is seated nearly in the middle of it.

* Hugh Lloyd lived in the time of James I., was esteemed a magician, and is said to have delivered his incantations from this station.

*TREMADOC TO FFESTINIOG, BY THE FFESTINIOG
TOY RAILWAY.*

**TREMADOC and PORTMADOC,
Caernarvonshire.**

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Barmouth	20	Harlech	10
Barmouth, <i>via</i> Tan-y-Bwlch	30	Harlech, <i>via</i> Tan-y-Bwlch	20
Beddgelert	7	Pwllheli	14
Caernarvon	20	Tan-y-Bwlch	10
Ffestiniog	13		

[Hotels: Royal; Madocks Arms; Ship; Commercial.]

TREMADOC takes its name from its founder, W. A. Madocks, Esq., formerly M.P. for Boston, who, having projected a plan for regaining from the sea a portion of the land from the western side of the wide sandy estuary called the Traeth Mawr, purchased the estate of Tan-yr-Allt, in the immediate vicinity, in 1798, and in 1800 succeeded in recovering a tract of nearly 2,000 acres of rich land, then forming Penmorfa Marsh, which produces excellent crops of wheat, barley, and clover, and to which he gave the appropriate name of Glandwr, or the "Water Edge." Encouraged by the success of his attempt, Mr. Madocks was induced to undertake the more arduous enterprise of reclaiming the whole of the Traeth Mawr, and for this purpose he obtained, in 1808, an Act of Parliament, vesting in him and his heirs the whole extent of these sands, from Pont Aberglaslyn, at their head, to the point of Gest, at their lower extremity. Notwithstanding the numerous unforeseen obstacles which threatened to frustrate the undertaking, Mr. Madocks succeeded in constructing across the mouth of Traeth Mawr, at the eastern extremity of Cardigan Bay, an embankment of earth and stones, nearly one mile in length, from north to south, varying from 100 to 400 feet in breadth at the base, and diminishing gradually to the summit, which is 100 feet high from the foundation. By means of this embankment, having an excellent road along its summit, a line of communication has been formed between the counties of Caernarvon

and Merioneth ; a tract of more than 2,700 acres of land has been recovered from the sea, and a vast extent of adjoining land, which was before overflowed by the tide, is now, by draining, rendered capable of cultivation. This enterprise was completed in 1811, at an expense of more than £10,000 ; and, including the lands previously recovered, not less than 7,000 acres have been regained, 6,000 of which are now cultivated.



On the Ffestiniog Railway.

Tremadoc is situated at the foot of a lofty mountain, on the western side of Traeth Mawr, on a portion of the tract first recovered from the sea, and is built in the form of a square, having in the centre a lofty column, round the pedestal of which is a flight of steps. On the eastern side a commodious market-house has been erected, and

above it is a handsome assembly-room. Mr. Madocks also built, at his own expense, an elegant church, in the late English style of architecture; it has a lofty spire, which forms an interesting object as seen from the coast. Divine service is regularly celebrated in the English language every Sunday, which is a great accommodation to the English families residing in the neighbourhood.

Portmadoc is a harbour, also of recent construction, accessible to vessels of 300 tons burden: it has good quays and considerable trade.

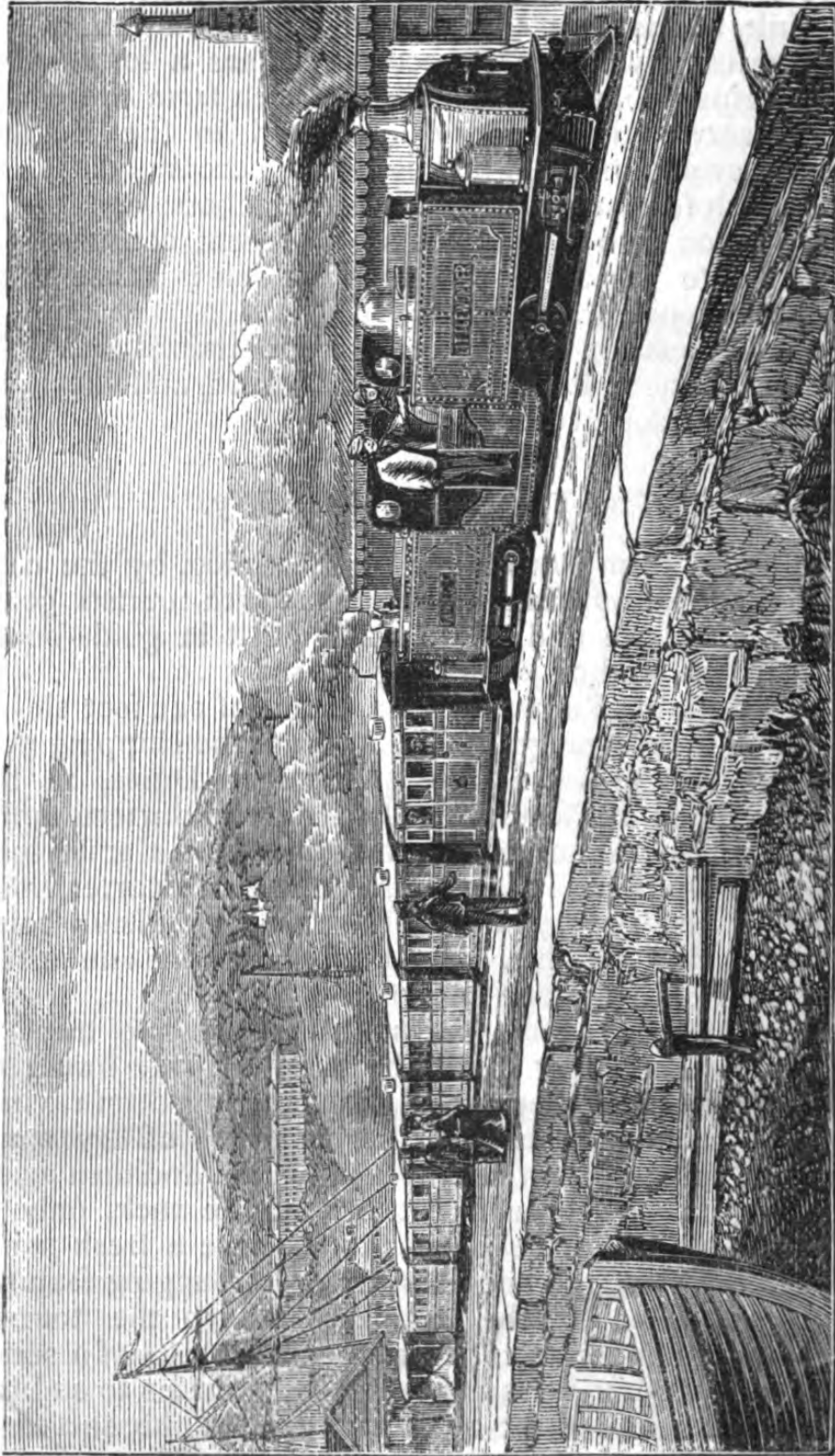
From Tremadoc some pleasant excursions may be made to Criccieth, Pwllheli, Bardsey Island, and Lley, by Clynog, to Caernarvon.

The Ffestiniog Railway.

The route from Portmadoc to Ffestiniog, by the celebrated Toy Railway, is a favourite one with tourists generally, and yet we find no mention of it in guide-books issued by the leading publishing houses.

The Ffestiniog Railway is a single line of one foot eleven and a half inches gauge, extending from the shipping port of Portmadoc to some slate quarries at Dinas, in the neighbourhood of Ffestiniog. Its length is thirteen and a quarter miles, exclusive of a branch about a mile long leading to Duffws. In the thirteen and a quarter miles the main line rises 700 feet, the rising gradients being continuous, but variable. The least gradient is one in 186, while the steepest is one in 68·69.

Traversing a rugged but most picturesque tract of country, now creeping along the steep hill-side hundreds of feet above the valley below, now crossing deep ravines on narrow embankments, or rather walls of dry stone masonry, some of them sixty feet in height, and then again threading its way through cuttings in the rock, only to burst out anew into the open and disclose a fresh panorama to the view, the line presents ever-changing features of interest alike to the engineer and to the tourist. Throughout almost its entire course it consists of a series of curves, varying in radius from eight chains to as little as one chain and three-quarters, some of the curves of the latter radius being 200 feet in length. There are two



The Ffestiniog Railway—Starting from Portmadoc.

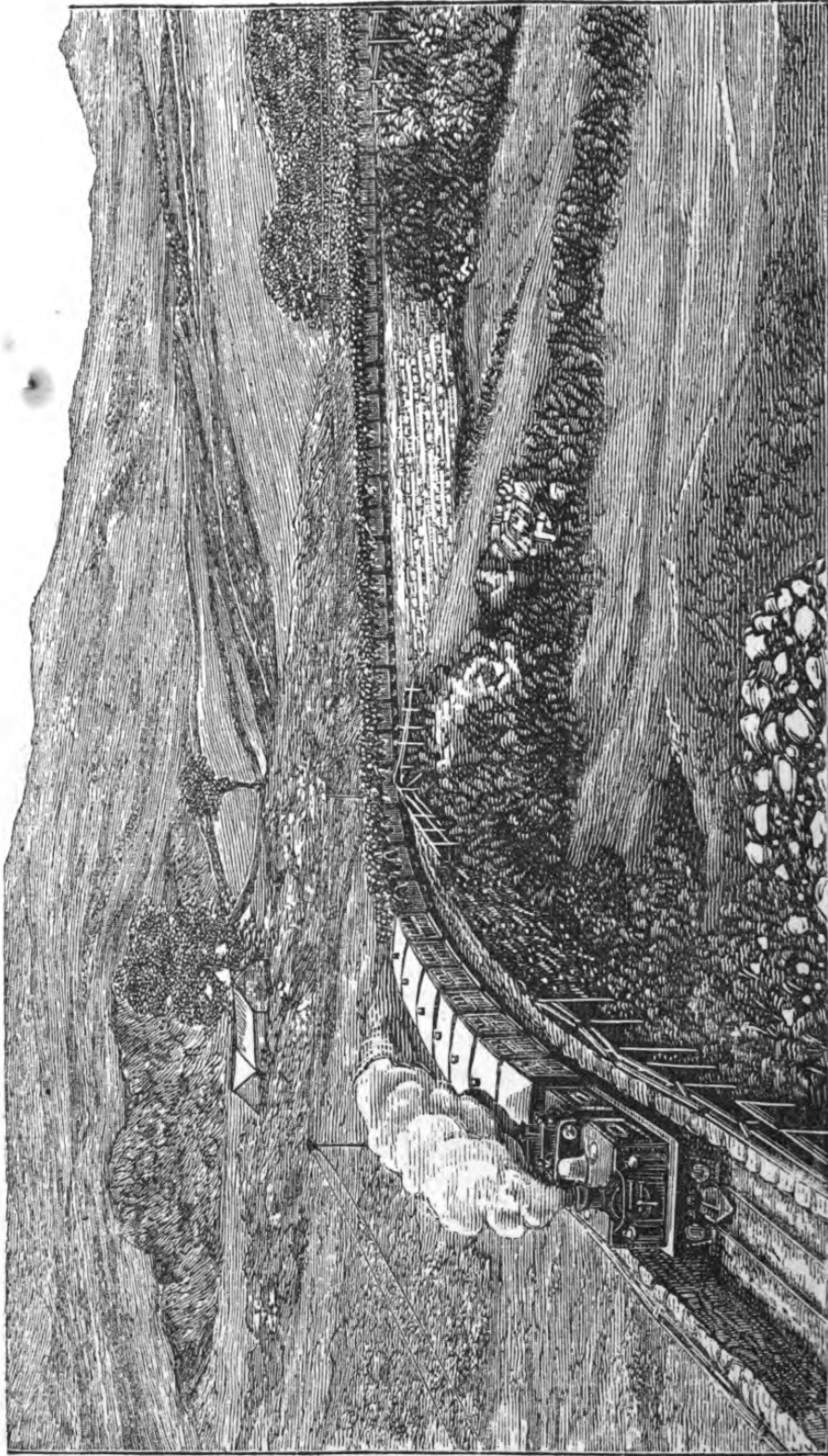
tunnels on the line, one 60 yards, and the other 730 yards in length. The shorter tunnel passes through a slate formation, while the longer one is cut through syenite.

In 1832, when the construction of the Ffestiniog Railway was commenced, it was intended that the line should merely be a tramway, which the trains of loaded slate waggons should descend by gravity, while the empty trucks were to be hauled back by horses. This plan was adopted, and continued in operation till 1863, when, on the recommendation of Mr. C. E. Spooner, the engineer of the line, locomotive power was employed. During the autumn of 1864 passengers were carried by the company experimentally, without charge, and in the following year the line was regularly opened for passenger traffic.

There are, besides the termini, four intermediate stations on the Ffestiniog Railway, namely, Minfford Junction (the next station to Portmadoc, where there is the transshipment station for interchange of traffic with the Cambrian Railway), Penrhyn, Tan-y-Bwlch, and Tan-y-Grisian. These stations have no platforms (the lowness of the carriages rendering this unnecessary), but they are provided with all requisite accommodation, although on a small scale. The engine sheds and the principal constructing and repairing shops are about a mile from Portmadoc, and there is also a carriage shed close to the latter station. Everything at these workshops and running sheds is of course in miniature, but they are none the less complete on that account.

The line is worked on the "staff" system, assisted by telegraph. All the stations and signal-boxes are in telegraphic communication with each other, and the signalling arrangements are as complete as on ordinary lines of the four feet eight and a half inches gauge. The same remark also applies to the systems of points and crossings, turn-tables, and other fixed plant required for accommodating the traffic.

The year 1869 was marked by the introduction of the Fairlie engine, "Little Wonder," on the Ffestiniog Railway. The engine is mounted on two steam bogies, each bogie having four coupled wheels two feet four inches in diameter. Each two has a pair of cylinders, $8\frac{3}{16}$ inches in diameter, with thirteen inches stroke. In ordinary



The Ffestiniog Railway—Workmen returning from the Quarries.

work this engine will take up a train consisting of three carriages (first, second, and third class), a guard's brake-van, six goods waggons, and one hundred and twelve empty slate waggons; the total gross weight, inclusive of engine, being $127\frac{1}{2}$ tons.

A train of this description measures over 1,200 feet in length, and on some parts of the line it is thus on three or more curves at once, the different portions of the train moving towards almost all points of the compass. Riding in one of the last waggons of such a train, it is at times difficult for a stranger to realize the fact that the engine which he sees moving along the contrary side of a ravine, in a direction almost exactly opposite to that in which he is travelling, can possibly have any connection with the vehicle in which he is sitting.

The speed was at first limited, by the Board of Trade regulations, to twelve miles per hour; but more recently these restrictions have been entirely removed, the result being that on portions of the line free from curves the "Little Wonder" will sometimes run at a speed of over thirty miles per hour.

It may, perhaps, be desirable that we give some particulars of the traffic which the Ffestiniog line is accommodating. We have not the figures for the last year by us; but during 1869 the passengers carried amounted to 97,000, and the goods and mineral traffic to 18,600 tons and 118,132 tons respectively. The total receipts for the year were £23,676 12s. 10d., while the cost of working, repairs, and maintenance was £10,518 6s. 3d., and the special expenditure £2,535 11s. 7d., making the total expenditure £13,053 17s. 10d.; the line thus yielded during the year a net revenue of £10,622 15s., equal to a dividend at the rate of $29\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the original capital of £36,185 10s., or at the rate of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the present capital of £86,135 10s. The £50,000 forming the difference between the present and original capital has, we should state, been accumulated out of revenue. Notwithstanding the large amount of traffic it has accommodated, it must be borne in mind that the Ffestiniog Railway is very far from being worked up to its full capacity: there is no night traffic on it, and no Sunday trains are run.

This railway will not take you all the way to Ffes.

tiniog town : at Duffws you must change trains, and cross the road to another station.

We find that an Act of Parliament, dated 18th July, 1872, was obtained by the London and North-Western Railway Company for the construction of a line (two feet gauge, same principle, &c., as the Ffestiniog line) from Bettws-y-Coed to Ffestiniog, a distance of twelve miles, thus completing a circular tour through the most interesting parts of North Wales.

For description of Ffestiniog, see page 89.

RHYL TO DENBIGH AND RUTHIN.

RHUDDLAN, Flintshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Abergele	5	Holywell	11
Flint	16	London	220

[Hotels: Black; New.]

RHUDDLAN lies in a flat, on the east bank of the Clwyd, about two miles from its influx into the sea. It is here so wide as to allow flat vessels of about twenty tons burden to pass up as high as the bridge.

Rhuddlan was formerly a place of considerable magnitude and importance; but no traces whatever of these are left, except in the ruins of its castle.

It was at Rhuddlan that Edward I. succeeded in inducing the Welsh to acknowledge his infant son, born at Caernarvon, as Prince of Wales. Here also Edward held his council, or parliament, which passed the celebrated Statute of Rhuddlan, enacting new regulations for the government of the Principality. Population 1,233.

Below the village is a large marsh, called by the Welsh "Morfa Rhuddlan," or "Marsh of Rhuddlan," where, in 795, was fought a dreadful battle between the Welsh, under their leader, Caradoc, and the Saxon forces, under Offa, King of Mercia. The Welsh were routed and their commander slain. The memory of this tragical event has

been brought down to posterity in a ballad called "Morfa Rhuddlan," which the Welsh harpers play with great effect.

Rhuddlan Castle

is built of red stone, and is nearly square, having six towers, two at each of the two opposite corners, and only one at each of the others : three of them, on the north-west side, remain tolerably entire. It had a double ditch on the north side, and a strong wall and fosse all round. In this wall is a tower, still standing, called Twr-y-Silod, or Twr-y-Brenhin. The principal entrance was from the north-west, between two round towers. Opposite to these are two very much shattered, but the remainder are in good preservation. Powell and Camden say it was built by Llewelyn ap Sitsyllt, at the commencement of the eleventh century, who made it his place of residence. Henry II. subsequently rebuilt or fortified the Castle, in which Giraldus Cambrensis says he was nobly entertained. Queen Eleanor, in 1283, was delivered here of a princess. Northumberland seized the Castle in 1399, previous to the deposition of Richard II., who was brought here on his way to Flint Castle.

ST. ASAPH, Flintshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Abergele	7	Holywell	10
Chester	28	Rhuddlan	3
Conway	19	Rhyl	5
Denbigh	6	Ruthin	14

[Hotels: Plough; Bôdelwyddan Arms.]

THE small city of St. Asaph stands on an eminence between the rivers Clwyd and Elwy, the former flowing on the eastern, and the latter on the western side : over them are two handsome bridges. The Welsh name is Llan Elwy ; and from the circumstance of the hill on which it stands being called Bryn Paulin, it has been conjectured that it was one of the places where the Romans, under the command of their general, Paulinus, lay encamped in their progress north-westward, with a view of reducing to

their yoke the island of Anglesea, or Mona. Population 1,900.

This place has certainly just claims to high antiquity in its ecclesiastical history. 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 Wales, and was taken under the protection of Cadwallon, uncle to Maelgywn 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 of Llan Elwy, about the year 560. Being recalled to his original charge in his native country on the persecution ceasing, he nominated a pious scholar, called Asa, or Asaph, the grandson of Pabs post Prydain, as his successor : from him both the church and the place received their present names.

The interior of the church contains some good monuments. An altar tomb, with a recumbent figure in episcopal robes, is said to commemorate the munificent prelate Dafydd ap Owain, who was interred here in 1502. Near the west door is a painted tomb with an inscription to the memory of Bishop Barrow, who died in 1680. There is also a monument of white marble, to the memory of Dean Shipley, by Ternouth, erected by subscription in the year 1829, at an expense of £600 ; and a mural tablet to the memory of the gifted poetess Felicia Hemans, who resided during a great portion of her life at Bronwylfa and Rhyllon, near St. Asaph.

The city of St. Asaph contains nothing of a public nature to induce a traveller to make any long stay : the buildings are of brick and generally low. Its surroundings will, however, compensate for the barrenness of the city. In clear weather a fine portion of the Vale of Clwyd, with its accompanying scenery, may be seen to great advantage from the side of a hill about two miles distant, on the Holywell road. There are numerous elegant mansions within the parish.



DENBIGH, Denbighshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Abergele	13	Llanrwst	22
Chester	28	London	214
Conway	25	Mold	16
Corwen	20	Ruthin	8
Holywell	14	St. Asaph	6

[Hotels : Crown ; Bull.]

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-Caled-Fryn-yn-Rhôs ; *i.e.*, "the Castle on the Craggy Hill in 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 space between them. Into this was poured a mixture of hot mortar and rough stones of various 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 decaying 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 Feuli.

The town of Denbigh, crowned with a majestic ruin, has been compared to Stirling, Scotland. Viewed from a distance it assumes an imposing aspect. The Castle is seen with great advantage from the road to Ruthin. The place was originally enclosed 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 was held the Baronial Court, and the other the Burgess Gate, in which municipal business was transacted. In one of these precincts stands St. Hilary's Chapel, formerly belonging to the garrison. The environs abound with beautiful scenery. Wednesdays and Saturdays are market days. Population 6,323.

The parish church is at Whitchurch, about one mile from the town, on the road to Ruthin. A Free Grammar

School was founded by subscription in 1727. There are likewise commodious buildings for National and British Schools. A Lunatic Asylum for North Wales was opened for patients in 1848: the building cost £27,000.

RUTHIN, Denbighshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Bala	22	London	210
Chester	22	Mold	10
Corwen	12	Rhyl	18
Denbigh	8	St. Asaph	14
Llangollen	15	Wrexham	18

[Hotels: Lion; Wynnstay Arms; Cross Keys. Refreshment-rooms at Station.]

RUTHIN, a borough and market town, like Denbigh and St. Asaph, is situated upon the summit and slope of a considerable hill, nearly in the centre of the Vale of Clwyd, which runs through the place. It is an assize town. The Town Hall, standing near the market-place, is a substantial building, and has pretty good apartments for holding the great sessions. The County Hall is an elegant modern erection, fronted with white stone. The Free Grammar School is a good structure, and the endowment respectable. Ruthin has always been celebrated for its grammar school. The market is held on Monday, and a second one on Saturday. Population 3,298.

Ruthin Castle,

called Rhyddin, or the "Red Fortress," from the colour of the stone of which it is constructed, is said to have been erected by Edward I., yet the Welsh name, Castell-Côchyn-Gwernver, seems to indicate that there was a stronghold anterior to that reign. Camden, however, asserts that both the castle and town were built by Reginald de Grey. Its history affords few interesting incidents. During a fair, held at Ruthin in the year 1400, Owain Glyndwr entered it with a small army, assailed the fortress without success, and, after pillaging the inhabitants and burning the town, retreated to the mountains. From the family of the Greys it devolved to Richard, Earl of

Kent, who sold it to Henry VII. It was granted to Dudley, Earl of Warwick, by Queen Elizabeth.

In the time of Charles I. the Castle was held for the king till the year 1646; but after sustaining a siege from the middle of February to the middle of April, it was given up to Major-General Mytton, who received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament. Colonel Mason was appointed permanent governor; but, soon after, the Castle was ordered to be dismantled. Its situation was not upon the summit, but upon the side of the hill, fronting the vale to the west.

The poor remains of this once proud pile consist of a few fragments of towers and fallen walls, reduced nearly to the foundation. A beautiful castellated structure, harmonizing tastefully with the ancient remains, has been erected within the ruins of the old Castle, commanding rich and extensive prospects. While the work was in progress, under the superintendence of the Hon. Frederick West, some remains of the east entrance into the ancient castle-yard were discovered. On removing some rubbish, to the depth of two or three feet, the workmen came to the head of a staircase, composed of fourteen steps of red stone, which led to a room four yards in length and about seven feet wide. The style of architecture of this room is a specimen of the multiplied acute Gothic of the first Edward.

*LLANDUDNO JUNCTION TO LLANRWST AND
BETTWS-Y-COED.*

LLANRWST, Denbighshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Abergele	24	Conway	12
Bettws-y-Coed	4½	Denbigh	22
Capel Curig	10	London	218
Cerniog	14	Maentwrog	20

[Hotels: Eagles; Victoria; Queen's.]

THERE is another route to Llanrwst besides the railway. A small steamer plies daily between Conway and the pretty village of Trefriw, which is two and a half

miles from Llanrwst. The sail is a pleasant one of about ten miles. The mineral spring lately found near Trefriw has been so efficacious in many cases of disordered health, that this village is now much resorted to : the water is a powerful chalybeate.

Llanrwst is a small town, pleasantly situated on the western bank of the river Conway. It is well built, but consists principally of small houses and shops. 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 ninth year of the reign of Charles I., at an expense of £1,000. It consists of three arches, the centre one, the largest, measuring nearly sixty feet in span. It is asserted that this bridge is formed upon such nice principles, that when a person suddenly 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. This place was once famous for the manufacture of Welsh harps. Many beautiful and romantic cataracts may be seen in the vicinity.



BETTWS-Y-COED, Caernarvonshire.

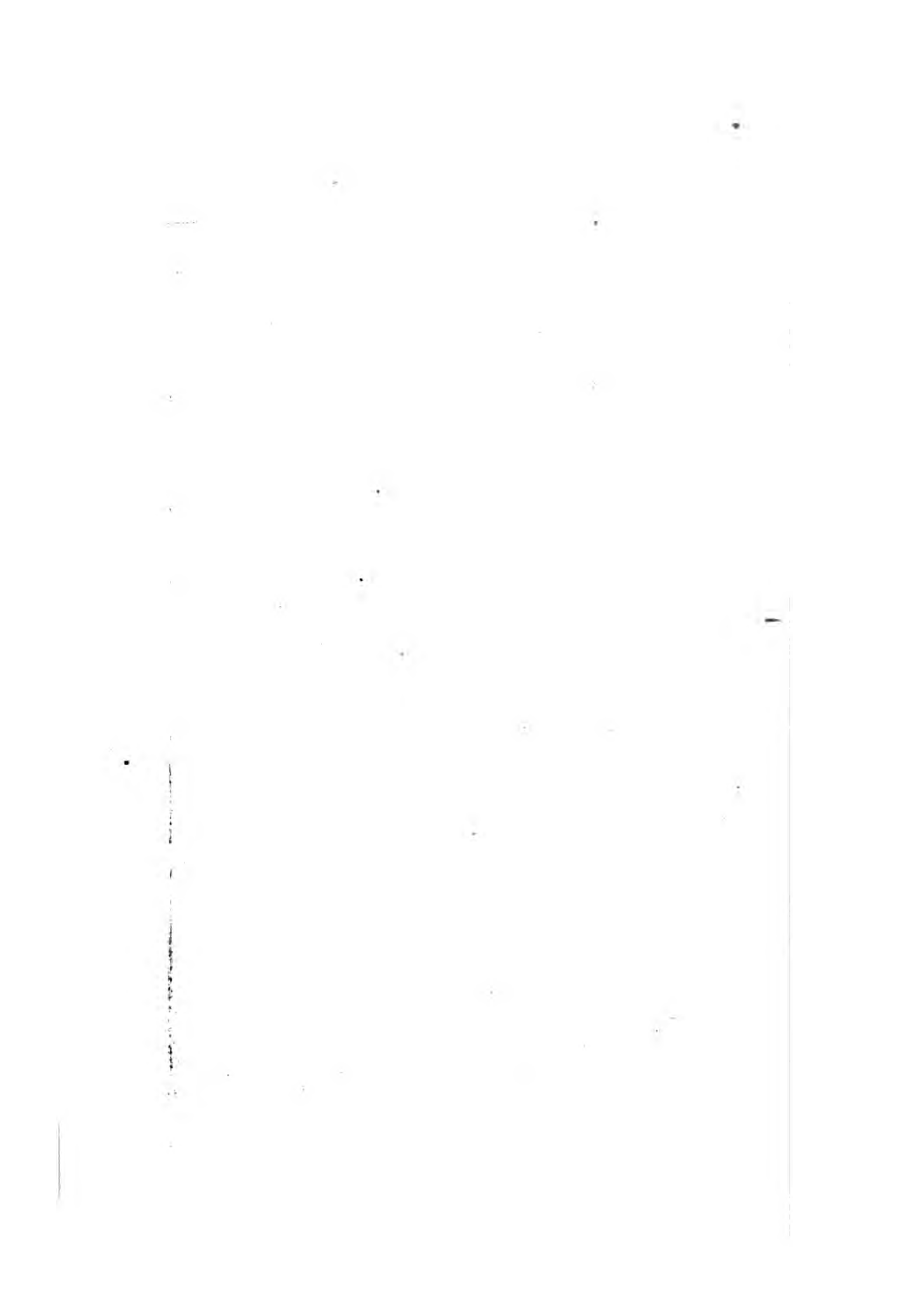
<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Capel Curig	6	Swallow Waterfalls	2
Llanrwst	4½	Trefriw	7

[Hotels: Royal Oak ; Waterloo.]

BETTWS-Y-COED, *i.e.*, the "Chapel," or the "Station in the Wood," is a hamlet, forming a romantic sylvan retreat, delightfully situated at the junction of the counties of Denbigh and Caernarvon, and



BETTWS-Y-COED.



near to the confluence of the rivers Llugwy and Conway. There is much of mingled beauty and grandeur in the surrounding scenery. The Llugwy is here crossed by Pont-y-Pair, an old stone bridge, erected in the fifteenth century by a native mason of the name of Howel. It has four lofty and irregular arches, covered with ivy, beneath which the foaming current rushes with the fury of a cataract, and then, making a sudden bend, quietly pours its waters into the channel of the Conway. The church contains an effigy of Gryffydd, son of David Goch, of the royal lineage of Wales. It is an armed recumbent figure of gigantic proportions. The railway is open to Bettws from Llandudno Junction.

Bettws-y-Coed has long been a favourite haunt of anglers and artists. The views present features of quiet loveliness and grandeur, in which river, cataract, woodland, and mountain are commingled alternately. The Falls of the Conway are about three miles from Bettws-y-Coed. The road leads across the Waterloo Bridge (a handsome iron structure, cast the year the battle of Waterloo was fought), turning to the right and ascending along the old mail coach road to London. The view up this valley is one of the sweetest pictures on which the eye can rest. When in this locality a visit to Ffos Noddyn (the "Fairy Glen") must not be omitted.

Rhaiadr-y-Wennol, *i.e.*, the "Spout," or "Cataract of the Swallow," is about two miles from Bettws-y-Coed. Although close to the road, it is wholly concealed by rocks and trees. A small gate at the roadside opens to a winding path, which descends steeply amidst luxuriant foliage. A secure standing-place will be found at the bottom, whence an advantageous view of this beautiful and most impressive cataract is obtained. The water of the Llugwy is precipitated down a chasm, which, in its widest part, measures sixty feet across. It does not form a single sheet from top to bottom, but is broken into three large falls, partly precipitous and partly shelving; and these again are subdivided and broken by the jutting crags, which disperse and dash about the waters in all directions, and then the stream rushes on impetuously to the romantic bridge of Pont-y-Pair. The impressiveness of this waterfall is materially aided by

its accessories: the union of beauty and grandeur in the surrounding scenery, the luxuriant wildness of the overhanging trees, the dark solemn colour of the rocky walls, and the forms of the rugged basins into which the water rushes. On the way to Rhaiadr-y-Wennol, the Miners' Bridge must be visited.

The road from Bettws-y-Coed to Capel Curig, about seven miles, is through the Vale of Llugwy. It follows the course of the river Llugwy, with its wooded banks. The magnificent mountains of the Snowdon range are now full in view.

*CAERNARVON TO BEDDGELERT AND THE
VALE OF GWYNANT (by Coach).*

VISIT the far-famed Pont Aberglaslyn, and proceed up the Vale of Gwynant to Pen-y-Gwryd, and down the Pass of Llanberis to Caernarvon. During the summer months there are coaches which take this route, allowing plenty of time at Beddgelert and other places.

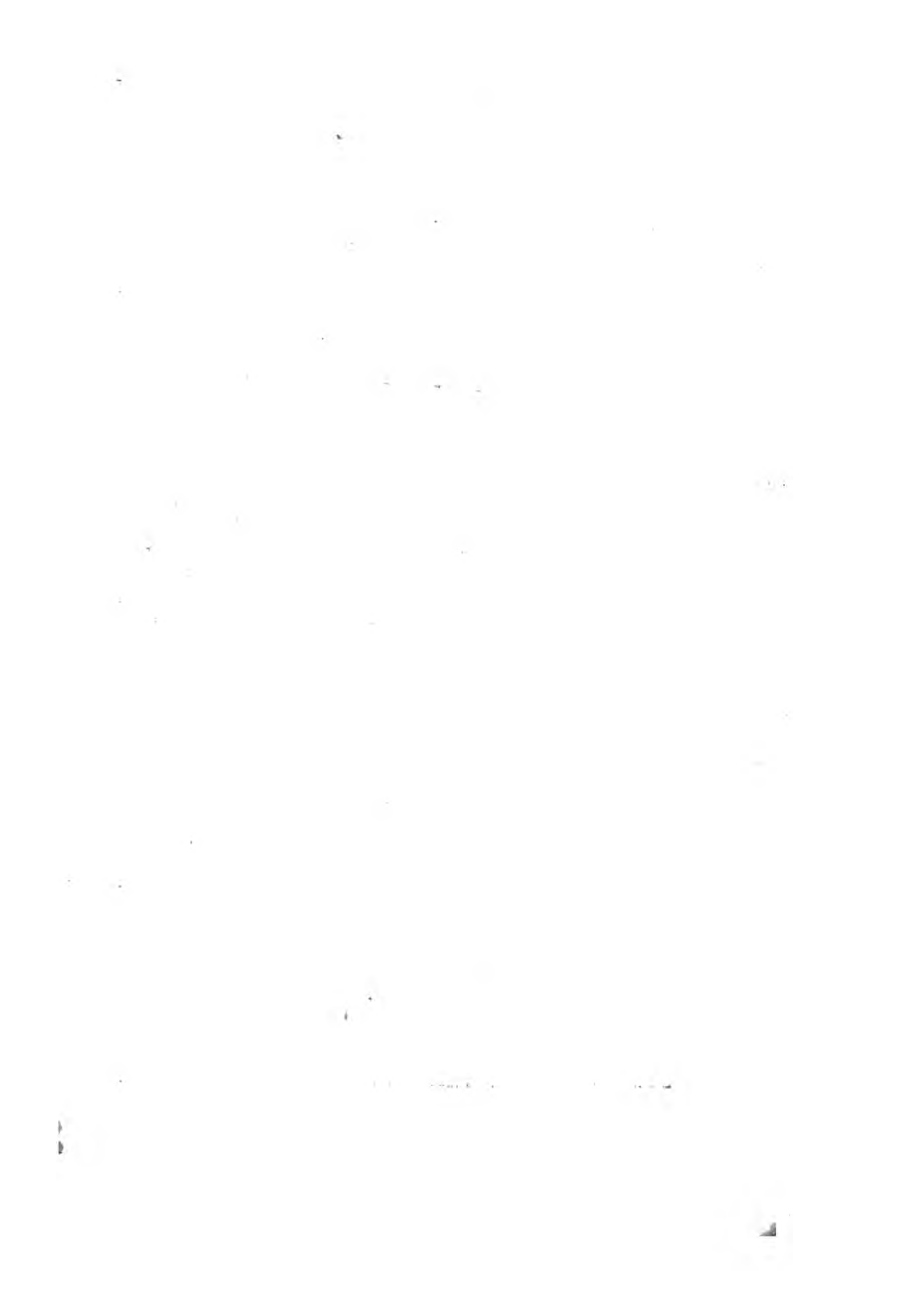
Six miles from Caernarvon we reach

Nant Mill,

a favourite spot for the painter, the mill, with its pretty cascades and surrounding scenery, having employed the artist's pencil times innumerable. The celebrated painter David Cox, A.R.A., made a beautiful drawing of this spot, which sold in 1867 for the largest amount ever paid for one of his pictures.

Llyn Cwellyn.

This lake is situated about six and a half miles from Caernarvon, towards Beddgelert. It is noted for a species of char, *Salmo alpinus* (Lin.), called in Welsh *torgoch*, "red-belly," found formerly in Llyn Peris, and in some lakes of Switzerland. These fish seldom wander beyond





BEDDGELERT.

the limits of the lake. In the frosts and rigours of December they sport near the margin of the lake, but in the heat of summer they confine themselves to the deeps. At the upper end of this beautiful lake stood the residence of the Qwellyns, a family now extinct, who took their name from the place. At the south end of the pool that part of Mynydd Mawr called Castell Cidwm, "the Wolf's Castle," forms a bold and very striking feature, seeming to overhang its base. Tradition states that it was at one time the stronghold of a renowned gigantic warrior, or rather robber chief, named Cidwm.



BEDDGELERT, Caernarvonshire.

<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Distance from</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Caernarvon	13	Summit of Snowdon	6
Llanberis	12	Tan-y-Bwlch	9
Pont Aberglaslyn	1½	Tremadoc	7

[Hotels : Royal Goat ; Prince Llewelyn.]

BEDDGELERT, a picturesque village, is situated in a beautiful tract of meadows, at the junction of three vales, near the confluence of the Glaslyn and the Colwyn, which flow through Nant Colwyn, a vale leading to Caernarvon. "This 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 ; 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 Gelert, 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 stained 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 the child alive under it, 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-Gelert*, or "*Gelert's Grave*."

The *Caernarvon* coach passes through *Beddgelert*. Guides to *Snowdon* may be procured here.

About a mile and a half from *Beddgelert*, on the road to *Tremadoc*, is situated *Pont Aberglaslyn*, or the "*Bridge of the Confluence of the Blue Pool*." This spot is mentioned by *Giraldus Cambrensis*, as being the roughest and most dreary part of *Wales*: it is bounded on each side by mountains of such terrific height that they seem to carry their cliffs into the sky.

There is good fishing in the river: it abounds with salmon and trout.

Nant Gwynant.

Nant Gwynant, or the "*Valley of Waters*," is situated on the way from *Capel Curig* to *Beddgelert*. This *Mr. Pennant* styles "*the most beautiful vale of Snowdonia*;" and truly, for six miles of the extent, its picturesque features stand unrivalled. That of *Llanberis* is the one which may be said to approach it the nearest; but the characters are so different that they cannot, with propriety, be compared: *Gwynant* affords such multifarious scenery, composed of luxuriant meads, watered by expansive lakes, whence issue numerous streams, that meander towards the sea. It is surrounded by high hills, finely clothed with wood far up their sides, above which they lift their bare and rugged summits to the skies, in every diversity of colouring.

About a 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 Merddyn Emrys. On the top of this precipitous rock is a considerable area, the accessible part of which is defended by two large ramparts; within these are the remains of a stone building, about ten yards in length, and the walls, though built of mortar, appear very thick and strong. Near to this place is Cell-y-Dewiniad, or the "Cell of the Divining," so called in allusion to the story of Vortigern and his court. Here—

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

This Merlin 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 turn pleurably away from the recollection of these absurdities to view the beautiful Llyn-y-Dinas, filling the vale with its expansive waters, famous for a large and well-flavoured trout, and contrasting beautifully with the surrounding scenery. Two miles beyond this rises, with unwieldy bulk, Yr 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 heights. Numerous streams, issuing out of the rocky clefts, tend greatly to relieve the eye from the fatiguing and dull uniformity of the mountains, and a neat modern mansion, belonging to James Wyatt, Esq., of Lime Grove, near Bangor, embosomed in woods, with a small lawn in front, forms a fine close to the upper end of the lake. The mountains here diverge, 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 sufficient space for the continuation of the road. Near to this are the ruins of a small chapel, erected and endowed by Mr. John Williams, a goldsmith, of London. At the upper part of the vale are immense fragments of rock, one of which is in shape like the gable of a large house, and far exceeds in bulk the enormous Bowder Stone, near Derwentwater, in Borrowdale. Here the mountain barrier divides, opening with Nant Peris, and farther with Nant Curig. On the right the lofty Mount Siabod lifts its dark brown head, and on the left side is the cataract of Rhaiadr-cwm-Dyli : it consists of two distinct waterfalls, formed by a rivulet issuing from an Alpine pool in the mountains. This, interrupted by two rocky ledges, breaks in foam and spray down their rugged fronts, and during rainy weather produces a grand effect.

THE END.

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