

**The history of Wales ... / translated into English by Dr. Powell; and augmented by W. Wynne. To which is added, a description of Wales, by Sir John Price.**

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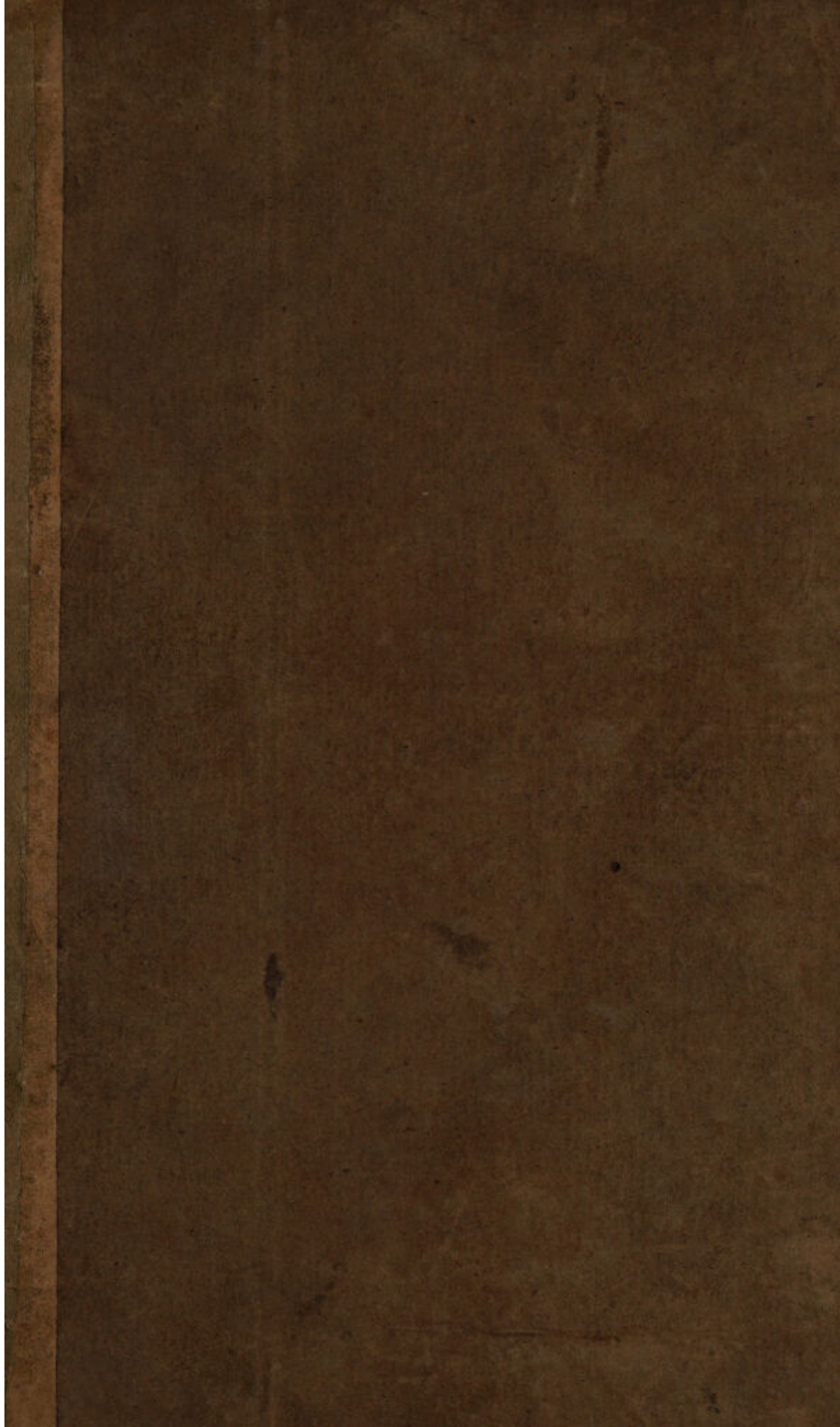
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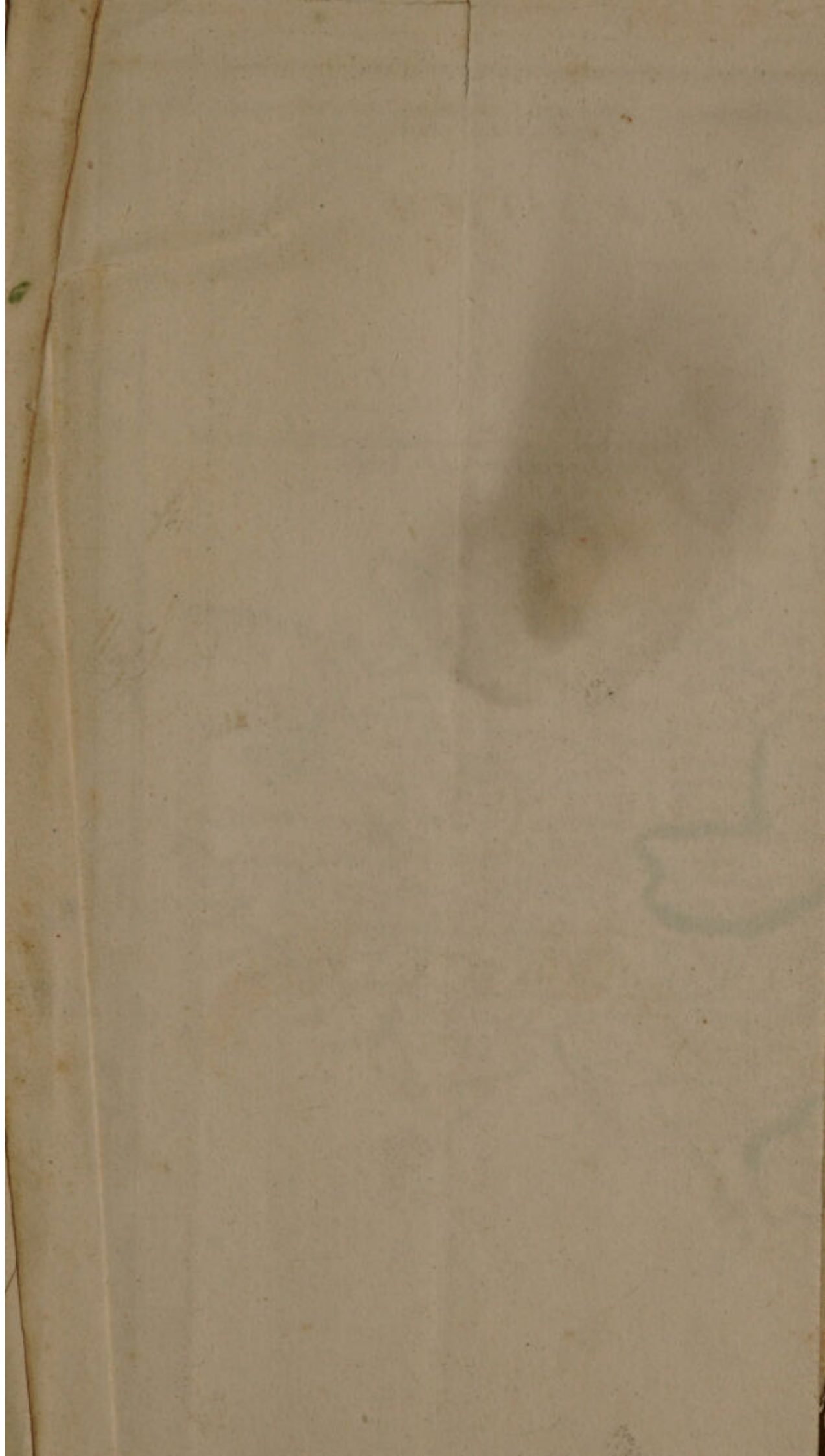
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Engraved for M. Harrison's History of Wales.

A MAP OF WALES, according to the MODERN DIVISIONS of COUNTIES By Wm. Owen.



Scale of British Statute Miles

West Longitude from London

Published as the Act Directs, April 1, 1818, by J. Johnson, St. Pauls Church Yard.

T. Collier, Sculp.

Ymddiddan rhwng Cymro ar Brenhin Harri 2<sup>il</sup>

Y Brenhin Harri oedd y pryni hyn yn paratw i rhyfela yn ebyrn y Brytaniaid. Efe a ofynodd i Cymro, pa beth oedd efen feddwl am gryfder y Cymro, ac oi fyddem ef ym eu herbyn hwynt. Efe au attibodd fel hyn: - "Y genid hon a all ddiweddaf llawer, ac, fe all di gael ei difetha mewn mesur mawr, neu o leiaf gael eu gwanhau ym fawr trwy ymgais presenol a dyfodol eich mawrhydi, megis y gwnaethant gynt ym Frych; ond os ydym ni yn sicr, na ddifethir mo honin llwyr trwy hys a gallu

un dym byth. Pa gyfnewidiadau bynas a gymerant le.  
mewn parthau eraill o'r byd, nis gallaf fi goloni y byd i un  
genedl arall heb lawr fymry rhaddi yfrif i'm y dydd  
olaf am y rhan fwyaf o'r gongl hyn o'r byd." — O fymry  
hoffwch a cholodwch eich Faith. —

12  
2  
Johannes Duma

de Castro Sancti Donati

in agro Glamorganensi

1073

no

7  
1073  
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1073



1867  
M. W. P.

1867  
M. W. P.

1867

Matthew Dorne to Donato Aug. 1. 181

80532

THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
WALES.

WRITTEN ORIGINALLY IN WELSH,  
BY CARADOC OF LLANCARVAN;  
TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH  
BY Dr. POWELL;

AND AUGMENTED

By W. WYNNE, Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A DESCRIPTION OF WALES,  
BY SIR JOHN PRICE.

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A NEW EDITION,

GREATLY IMPROVED AND ENLARGED WITH  
PEDIGREES OF FAMILIES.

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“Wherever Nature, though in narrow space,  
Fosters, by Freedom’s aid, a liberal race;  
Sees Virtue save them from Oppression’s den,  
And cries, with exultation, ‘These are men;’  
Though in Bœotia or Batavia born,  
Their deeds the story of the world adorn.”

HAYLEY’S ESSAY ON HISTORY.

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MERTHYR TYDFIL:

Printed by W. WILLIAMS; and Sold in LONDON,  
BY LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, AND BROWN;  
AND CRADOCK AND JOY, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

~~~~~  
1812.

THE

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CRISTY IMPRINTED AND ENLARGED WITH

REMARKS ON MANUSCRIPTS



Printed by W. MACKENZIE, and sold by LONDON

AT RICHMOND, BARNET, WINDSOR, AND BROMLEY

AND CARDIFF AND THE BATHING PLACE

1812

## PREFACE.

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THE History of the Britains, may not improperly be distinguished into two periods; the former comprehending the interval from Brute to Cadwalader, whilst the Britains are thought to have enjoyed a general possession of the whole island; the other containing the memoirs and transactions of the Britains under their several princes, after their recession to that part of the island, since called Wales. The former of these has been generally accounted of late, absolutely false and unhistorical; and it is undoubtedly concluded that all the passages in Geoffrey of Monmouth (the only remaining monument of the affairs of the ancient Britains) which are not consonant to, and agreeable with the Roman historians that speak of Britain, are absolutely fabulous and insincere. The history of the Princes of Wales, has indeed met with better fortune, and the author Caradoc of Llancarvan is accounted just and authentic; so that there need no other apology for the following work, than that it is for the best part the genuine history of that author. But because the history of Wales has no small dependance upon, and relation to the history of the ancient Britains published by Geoffrey, I think it necessary to make some general reflection, in relation to the truth and authority of that copy.

And here in the first place, I must take notice of two sorts of opinions, most widely repugnant, and as I may say, diametrically opposite to each other; and both in my opinion, equally deviating from the right apprehension of the matter in debate. The one, perfectly rejecting the whole foundation and process of Geoffrey's history, will not

believe so much as one passage relating to the ancient Britains, but what is delivered by Roman writers; as if nothing remarkable could happen in Britain, but what must needs fall under their special cognizance and observation. The other, without any allowance to the age when these British affairs were transacted, (not to mention the utmost antiquity of some part of this history, contemporary with which, nothing is certain among the more civilized Greeks and Romans) will believe the whole frame, and all the circumstances of Geoffrey's history, be they never so ridiculous and extravagant. But not to insist on so bigotted an opinion, as to think that the British history is universally true, and altogether authentic; I will confine myself to the examination of the other extreme, to see whether that history published by Geoffrey, be so absolutely fabulous as is frequently represented and generally believed. Now they who discredit this history, either wholly attribute the frame and invention of it to Geoffrey, or else granting him to be a faithful translator, assure themselves that the copy he received was fictitious, and perfectly owing to the unwarrantable forgeries of the fabulous monks. So that the subject of my present enquiries, will naturally fall under these two disquisitions; first, Whether Geoffrey be the real contriver and composer of this history? and secondly, Supposing him to be innocent of this suspicion, Whether the history published by him, be perfectly fabulous, and in all respects a monkish legend?

First, as to what relates to Geoffrey, though methinks there need no greater argument to evidence his innocency from so suspected an imposture, as his being the contriver of this history, than that he professedly owns the receipt of the British manuscript from Walter, archdeacon of Oxford; yet because the prejudice of some men oftentimes obscures their understanding, in things otherwise very clear and open, it will be requisite to dwell somewhat more particularly upon that

subject: or if the world be once persuaded, that the whole invention is owing to Geoffrey, and that there was no such account of the Britains in being, before he published his history, the whole series of British affairs not mentioned in the writings of the Roman authors, and all that long continued succession of British kings for so many ages, must of necessity be accounted fabulous, and a perfect legend. But before that Geoffrey should be so unreasonably attainted of such notorious forgery, and his history be so generally condemned; one might expect that such evident proofs could be produced to evince so absolute a position, as to render it past all dispute and contradiction. For to charge any one with insincerity, for no other reason, than because it is the common vogue and sentiment of the world, is in my opinion a greater argument of partiality and prejudice, than of solid and judicious reasoning.

Now the greatest reason that I can think of, why the British history is attributed to the invention of Geoffrey, is, that almost upon its first appearance in the world, William of Newborough and Giraldus Cambrensis exclaim against it, and seem to lay the whole imposture to the charge of Geoffrey. The words of Newborough are these: *At contra quidem (speaking before of Gildas) nostris temporibus pro expiandis his Britonum maculis scriptor emersit, ridicula de iisdem figmenta contexens, eosque longe supra virtutem Macedonum et Romanorum impudenti vanitate attollens. Gaufridus hic dictus est, agnomen habens Arturi, pro eo quod fabulus de Arturo ex priscis Britonum figmentis sumptas, et ex proprio auctus per superductum Latini sermonis colorem, honesto historiæ nomine palliavit. Qui etiam majori ausu, cujusdam Merlini divinationes fallacissimas, quibus utique de proprio plurimum adjecit, dum eas in Latinum transfunderet, tanquam authenticas, et immobili veritate subnixas prophetias vulgavit.*

From this passage it is apprehended, that Newborough thought that the British history was

solely owing to the contrivance and invention of Geoffrey; whereas nothing is more evident than that the only thing he lays to Geoffrey's charge, is, that he augmented, and of his own head made additions to the copy he received. And seeing that Newborough expressly mentions Geoffrey's translating into Latin, some ancient figments of the Britains concerning king Arthur, and unwarrantably adding to the same; it is manifestly apparent that he never took Geoffrey to be the contriver of the whole of what he had published, otherwise it is hardly conceivable, that such an inveterate enemy of that history, would conceal any thing that might derogate from the truth and authority of it. Besides, Newborough throughout his whole preface, wherein he endeavours to invalidate, and render the British history fabulous, chiefly insists upon the life of king Arthur, and the prophecies of Merlyn; not a word of Brutus and his Trojans, which, though since accounted as notorious a piece of romance as any at all; it seems he had faith to swallow. Indeed, the passages in king Arthur's life, and the prophecies of Merlyn tending much to the same purpose, were too great and extravagant to be credited by him, (who, by his character of them, seems to have bore but very slender affection towards the Welsh) by reason that they derogated much from the fame and valour of the Saxons; so that I am afraid, that the odium which Newborough bore to Geoffrey and his history, depended more upon national honour and reputation, than the truth and sincerity of history. For surely he could never be so warmly exasperated against a fabulous history, had he but the candour to consult his own, unless there had been some other motive to raise and foment his passion. As to the scurrilous language he casts upon the British history, and his unmannerly treatment of the translator; he therein expresses his ignorance and malice, rather than any love and regard to truth and ingenuity. For who but an ignorant and an unskilful pretender, would confi-

dently assert the Britains never had any metropolitans or archbishops, and would produce this as an invincible argument for the falsity of the British history; whereas it is notoriously manifest, that the Britains had their archbishops long before the arrival of Augustine the monk, whom Newborough pretends to have been the first who underwent that dignity in this Island. But as his arguments against Geoffrey's history are weak and invalid, and his whole preface more an invective than a confutation, so his credit should be rejected and undervalued for charging another history with falsehood, when his own seems wholly interwoven with ridiculous legends and monkish fictions.

But be the occasion of Newborough's dislike of the British history what it will, it is evident, that nothing can be concluded from the above quoted passage, more than that Geoffrey made additions to the British copy he received of the archdeacon of Oxford. And this is no more than what may easily and safely be granted; for the life of king Arthur, and the prophecies of Merlyn, the main subjects of Newborough's discontent, may probably be inserted into the history by Geoffrey, at least they were augmented, and several traditions were added by him. Bale, assures us, that he wrote the life of king Arthur in a distinct treatise; and himself owns in the preface to his fourth book, which comprehends the prophecies of Merlyn, that upon the request of Alexander bishop of Lincoln, he had translated Merlyn's prophecies out of British into Latin, before the British copy came to his hands. Now, when Geoffrey had received the manuscript from the archdeacon, and was engaged in translating it into Latin, it is no strange matter to imagine, that as occasion required, he might amplify, and add to it, out of his former tracts. For it is obvious to suppose, that the several things concerning Arthur and Merlyn, might be preserved in the island of Great Britain, which were long ago obsolete among the Britains of Armorica, from whence the British copy is said to have been brought over.



Ad. Ann.  
1151.

But supposing that Newborough had attributed the whole frame of the British history to Geoffrey, which is evident he does not, his authority cannot balance with far more authentic historians, such as H. Huntingdon, R. Hovedon, Mathew of Westminster, and others, but more particularly Mathew Paris, who in express terms, calls Geoffrey, the faithful translator of the British history. And seeing then, that it was in those times apprehended to be an ancient manuscript, and none of Geoffrey's contrivance, when the cheat might be best discovered, and there wanted not good inclinations to detect so notorious a forgery; how in these latter times, it could be so luckily found out, that Geoffrey was the sole inventor and composer of the history, I cannot possibly divine.

Camb.  
Descrip.  
Cap. 7.

The other reason, why Geoffrey is thought to be the author of the British history, is grounded upon a passage in Giraldus Cambrensis, who speaking of the etymology of Wales, rejects the denomination of it from either duke Wallo, or queen Wendolen, *Sicut fabulosa Galfredi Arturi mentitur historia.* Now this is thought an invincible argument against Geoffrey, and a palpable detection of his insincerity, since Giraldus, his own countryman strikes at him, and accuses him of forgery; whereas, upon nicer examination, we may easily discover how that Giraldus quarrels only with the history which Geoffrey published, and which upon that account bore his name. For had Giraldus thought it to be only a contrivance of Geoffrey's, had he suspected that Geoffrey falsely pretended to have received an antient British manuscript, and by that means to have imposed upon the world; can it be supposed that upon so plain conviction of falsehood, he would believe and give credit to an history, which he was satisfied was altogether a fable? But on the contrary, we find him assenting to the story of Brutus, and the division of the Island betwixt his three sons; and in short, excepting in this one place, he expresses himself to be an absolute votary of the British history, whence

'tis evident, he apprehended Geoffrey to be no more than a faithful translator of an ancient British copy.

I need not take notice of William of Malmsbury, because that by the best account, he is supposed to have been dead before Geoffery published his history, and consequently he could never see it; so that this expression in him, *Hic est Arthurus de quo Britonum nugæ hodieque delirunt*, must likely refer to the then present traditions and accounts of the Welsh concerning king Arthur, which probably might be too great and extravagant. For 'tis certain that a traditional account of any person or action, the farther it recedes from the spring and original, the more corrupt and imperfect it still proceeds; and like a ball of snow, it gathers and augments in its journey; so that it may be reasonably supposed, that the vulgar account which the Welsh in Malmsbury's time delivered of king Arthur, was too far incredible and surprising.

But since the reasons produced for proving Geoffrey to be the author of the British history, seem not to be satisfactory and convincing; let us see whether the contrary assertion can be more reasonably maintained. And first, 'tis manifest that Geoffrey could not be the total inventor of the British history, by reason that several things, and some of the most material passages therein contained, are agreeable with the histories of Gildas and Nennius, and the poetical fragments of Taliessyn, not to mention the Saxon Manuscript, quoted by Mr. Wheelock, and other authors far more antient than Geoffrey. 'Tis owned indeed Geoffrey might borrow the ground and plat-form of his romance from Merlyn or Taliessyn, or rather from Nennius, in whose writings there is some slight account of the Britains being descended from the Trojans; but the superstructure is all his own, who living in an ignorant age, and well knowing he could not well be disproved, took the liberty to make what invention he pleased, and

Lib. 1.

Notes upon  
on Bede.

then recommended it to the world, for a true, undoubted history. But notwithstanding all this concession, I think there is as little reason to attribute the frame and composition of this history to Geoffrey as there can be, to think him contriver of the ground and plot of it. For it seems to me very unaccountable, that if Geoffrey was to invent and compose this history, why in this account of the transactions betwixt the Britains and Romans, he should so widely disagree with, and deviate from the writings of the Roman historians. For certainly, nothing could add more authority to a fable, than exactly to follow the steps of credible authors, in those things they both had occasion to treat of. This in all probability, would not only render that part of the history unsuspecting, but likewise credit and authorize the rest, of which there was no account in Roman authors. And this disagreement betwixt the British history, and the writings of the Roman historians, though frequently produced to overthrow the authority of it, induces me to believe, not only that Geoffrey was not the author, but likewise that the manuscript was ancient, and much older than the time, in which it was first made public.

But besides, Geoffrey dedicates his translation to Robert earl of Gloucester, son to king Henry I. which in all likelihood he would never have ventured to do, had the original been of his own contrivance, for fear least that the cheat being discovered, he should be found, to put upon a person of eminent quality, with whom the British history was then in great esteem. For to him it is that Geoffrey owns the receipt of this manuscript from the archdeacon of Oxford, which he affirms to be very ancient, and by his request was persuaded to translate it into the Latin tongue. It was a very easy matter for the earl of Gloucester to find out Geoffrey's integrity, by enquiring of the archdeacon (who by all accounts is reckoned his contemporary) whether he had delivered such an antient British copy into Geoffrey's hands, and whether

the translation justly answered the original. These enquiries were natural, upon the publication of any new history, which made such considerable noise and clamour in the world, and which gave such an account of the antient Britains, as was never before thought or heard of among the English nation. And supposing the earl of Gloucester to have omitted these enquiries, yet it is scarcely conceivable, but that in case of so open a forgery, the archdeacon would discover the cheat, unless it can be thought that he was privy to, and had a hand in the contrivance. But he was so far from detecting Geoffrey's imposture, that he himself owns too, to have translated the British history first into Latin, and then in his latter days, to British again from the Latin, as may be still seen in the Archives of Jesus-College library. Now if there be any heed to, or dependance upon this, if it be true, that the archdeacon did translate, and consequently allow of this history, it appears very evident to me, that Geoffrey can be in no wise the author or contriver of it.

But that Robert of Gloucester took a fancy to Geoffrey's translation, more upon the account that his father had lately subdued the Welsh, and therefore seemed to add to his father's glory, than that he did credit and believe the history, does not seem to be so true and evincing. For wherein could the publication of this history contribute to the advancement of his father's name? Was it because he had conquered a people whose ancestors appeared by this history to be formerly valiant and warlike? this was performed by others before him, and I can conceive no great addition to any man's fame, to conquer a handful of people, with a numerous army, tho' their fore-fathers had been stout and victorious. This is surely too slight a pretence for the reception of the British history by the earl of Gloucester, and too weak an argument to destroy the truth and authority of it. It is certain, that it took exceeding well in the world at that time,

nor was it opposed till after Robert's death, when William of Newborough more out of malice and envy than any love he bore to truth, began to charge both the original and translator with insincerity. I cannot see upon the whole, the least reason, why the contrivance and invention of this history should be attributed to Geoffrey, or that the authority of it depends any way upon him, more than the fidelity of his translation. I shall therefore conclude this subject with the character bestowed upon Geoffrey, and the history by him published by Ponticus Virunnius, who flourished in the year 1290, a man of great reading, and excellent learning of his time, who did not think it lost labour to draw an epitome of the British history: *Giraldus* (says he) *historicus egregius et cardinalis, magnæ vir auctoritatis apud Robertum Claudiocestriæ ducem, Henrici regis filium, ac patriæ suæ curiosissimus fautor, ex summa philosophia atque archivis, historiam antiquissimam continua serie ab ipsis Trojanis collectam transtulit. Verissimas Brittannorum historias arguit regum occidentalium consuetudo; quæ erat, secum semper habere eos, qui veritate præcipua eorum gesta notarent.*

Secondly, But supposing Geoffrey to be innocent from this suspected imposture, and that he did no more than faithfully translate a British manuscript he received of the archdeacon; it may be farther objected, that seeing it abounds with so many unwarrantable matters of fact, and such extravagant fables and prodigies, it appears extremely suspicious, and sensibly smells of a monkish production. For how is it possible, you will say, that any account, excepting what is found in the Roman histories, could be had of the Britains, and that not only before, but even after their subjection to the Romans; since there is so much reason to doubt, whether the Britains, as well as other unlettered nations, had any means to convey any knowledge to posterity, for want of the art of writing? for if the affairs and transactions of the Britains were only handed down by tradition, and

they had no other way or method to preserve their memories, then certainly all pretences to ancient records, and consequently to this British manuscript supposed to have been translated by Geoffrey, must of necessity be vain and groundless.

And thus it is supposed, that the Britains had no writing among them, neither before nor after the Roman conquest; whence it follows, that there is no true nor certain account of any matter translated among them, but what is recorded in Roman histories. But tho' this be frequently insinuated, yet I think, the contrary can with greater ease and perspicuity, be made to appear. As to the Britains having no writing among them, during their subjection to the Roman empire, the contrary is so evident and notorious, that I conceive it lost time to go about to disprove it. It is sufficient to lay down the words of Tacitus, an author of unshaken reputation; *Jam vero principum filios liberalibus artibus erudire, et ingenia Britannorum studiis Gallorum anteferre, et qui modo linguam Romanorum abnuebant, eloquentiam concupiscerent. Inde etiam habitus nostri honor, et frequens toga; paulatimque discessum ad delinamenta vitiorum, porticus et balnea, et conviviorum elegantiam.* Vita Agric. Now, can any one suppose, that when the British youths were instructed in all the arts and sciences of the Romans, when they began to ape and imitate them in their habits, buildings, and other necessary fooleries, they should neglect so necessary a qualification, as that of writing? and can we imagine, that among so many able and learned persons, as the Britains must in reason be, when educated in the Roman way, and owned to be very tractable in their education, not one should prove so affectionate to his country, as to note down the state and transactions of it? certainly, if they learnt all the civilities and sciences of the Romans, history was not so slight and trivial a subject of their industry, as to be undervalued; and I know not where they could better employ their skill, than in

writing the history of their native country. It was natural for them being once civilized, to enquire into the origin and antiquity of their nation, the state and condition of their country before the Roman conquest; and having made the best search they could, whether by oral or written tradition into these enquiries, they would in all reason, according to the custom and manner of the Romans, commit all to writing.

But allowing the Britains to have learnt the art of writing from the Romans, after their subjection to the empire, yet it is certain they had no such thing among them, before the discovery of this island by Julius Cæsar, and consequently, that all the former part of the British history which precedes that epoch, must be false and fictitious. And that this is no precarious objection, a passage out of Cæsar's Commentaries is produced to strengthen it, which in my opinion, evidently proves the contrary.

De Bell.  
Gal. lib. vi.

The words of Cæsar are these: *Magnum ibi numerum versuum ediscere dicuntur, itaque annos nonnulli vices in disciplina permanent; neque fas esse existimant ea literis mandare, cum in reliquis fare rebus, publicis privatisque rationibus, Græcis literis utuntur.* Why any one from hence should conclude, that the superstition of those ancient philosophers the Druids, forbade the Britains to commit to writing the transactions of their country, much more that they had no writing at all among them, does I confess, very far exceed my comprehension. Cæsar, truly does intimate, that the doctrine and mysteries of their religion, the Druids did not think fit to commit to writing; but in all matters besides, whether private or publick (among which, history may be reasonably accounted) they used the Greek characters: for so I understand these words, *Græcis literis utuntur.* For it may not be supposed that all publick and private affairs of the Britains were translated in Greek, when they had a different language of their own, and which in all reason must be the common tongue of the country; but only that when the Britains had occasion

to put any thing in writing, they used the Grecian character, which probably was the only letter, they then were acquainted with. But to confirm this matter the more, Cæsar makes mention of the like custom among the Gauls; *In castris Helvetiorum tabulæ repertæ sunt literis Græcis confectæ.* Now if he concluded from hence, that the Gauls (for the Helvetians were a Gaulish people) made use of the Greek language, rather than the Grecian characters; I would fain be informed, why Cæsar should write in Greek to Quintus Cicero, *Ne intercepta epistola sua, a Galis consilia noscerentur;* lest that his letter being intercepted, all his measures and martial intrigues be discovered by the Gauls. Certainly, if he had known (as well he might, in case the Helvetians understood and wrote in Greek) that the Gauls were not ignorant of the Greek language, he would not make use of so mean a stratagem to conceal his counsels. But suppose it be acknowledged that the Gauls and Britains used, not only the Greek characters, but the language too (one of which must be allowed) it is evident that they had the art and use of writing before Cæsar made an invasion to either country, and consequently the Britains might have some written memorials of their country, which might be afterwards easily handed down to posterity. For it seems to me very strange, that men of such reputed learning and knowledge, and so well versed in the mysteries of philosophy, as the Druids are acknowledged to have been, should be ignorant of so necessary and useful a qualification as writing. And since it is affirmed, that their religious superstitions were interdicted to be committed to writing, we may rationally conclude, by the rule of contrariety, that all other things besides their religion, were allowed to be written, and consequently, that they had the art and use of writing among them.

But supposing the Britains to have recorded the transactions of their country, both before and after the Roman conquest, yet when the Saxons prevailed in the Island, all the monuments and writ-

Lib. I.

Lib. V.



ings of the ancient Britains were utterly lost; so that this pretended history of the Britains, must be modern and fabulous, built upon vulgar and uncertain traditions. For how was it possible that any one could write a true and faithful account of the ancient Britains, and be so particular in the transactions of those times, whereas there was not the least light to guide him to the knowledge of those obscure ages. This is expressly acknowledged by Gildas, who lived long before Geoffrey, and openly declares, that all the records and monuments of his country were lost in his time; and that in writing those small fragments of the history of Britain, he was forced to abstract his materials out of the writings of foreigners. *Illa tantum proferre conabor in medium, quae temporibus Romanorum Imperatorum et passa est, et aliis intulit civibus, et longe positis mala: quantum tamen potuero, non tam ex scriptis patriae scriptorum monumentis; quippe quae vel si fuerint, aut ignibus hostium exusta, aut civium exulum classe longius deportata non compareant; quam transmarina relatione, quae crebris interrupta intercapedinibus non satis claret.*

Excid.  
Brit.

Britan. p.  
158.

I shall here by the by, observe the levity of Aylet Sames's objection against the history of Brute; namely, because Gildas makes no mention of Brute and his Trojans, he concludes that the British history must be a real fiction; whereas Gildas in this place manifestly declares his design only of writing the history of the Britains, during their subjection to the Roman empire. But as to this passage in Gildas, if in his time, there were no remains of his ancestors left in writing; I would fain learn upon what ground and authority, he could so positively assert that the Britains from their first plantation in this Island, were proud and irreligious, and their kings cruel and tyrannical. For a little before the above quoted passage, he says of Britain, *Hæc erecta cervice et mente ex quo inhabitata est, nunc Deo, interdum Civibus, nonnunquam etiam transmarinis regibus ingrata consurgit.* And

a little after, *Tacens vetustos immanium tyrannorum annos, qui in aliis positis regionibus vulgati sunt.* Here he passes his judgment very liberally upon the state and condition of Britain from all antiquity; and yet by and by, he confesses, that he had no guide to direct him to the knowledge of those times he so freely censures; so that if he had not the spirit of divination, he may falter in his conjectures, or else he was guided by some British light, of which he was not willing to own the perusal.

But allowing that Gildas, in composing that small fragment of the British history, received no light from any British record, but was constrained to borrow out of the writings of foreigners; it concludes no farther, than that he had not the good fortune to meet with British manuscripts, not that there were none really remaining in Britain. And farther, supposing that in Gildas's time, there were no remains of the ancient Britains left in this Island, but were all utterly lost; yet according to his own acknowledgement, and upon the Saxons prevailing in the country, they might be carried over by the exiled Britains to Armorica, from whence the archdeacon of Oxford is said to have brought over the British copy he delivered to Geoffrey. But if there was no written account of the former state of Britain, in the age of Gildas, how comes it to pass, that any such thing should be discovered and brought to light in succeeding ages! And not to insist upon the authority of the British manuscript translated by Geoffrey, we have good reason to presume that the ancient Britains before Gildas had both ecclesiastical and civil histories of their country.

As to the former, Bede, whose authority, I presume, will not be questioned, expressly affirms it. For in his preface to his ecclesiastical history, he says, *A principio itaque voluminis hujus, usque ad tempus quo Gens Anglorum fidem Christi percepit, ex priorum maxime scriptis hinc inde collectis, ea*

*quæ promemoramus, didiscimus.* Here Bede plainly declares, that in writing a church history of Britain, he extracted all his matter, before the conversion of the Saxons to Christianity, out of antient authors. But who can these former writers be? surely they were not Saxons, for we read of no Saxon writer before Bede; besides, that several things contained in this history, were translated before the landing of the Saxons; and as to the ecclesiastical part, betwixt the arrival, and the conversion of the Saxons to Christianity, that cannot be extracted out of their writings. For in the first place they were no Christians, and it is very unreasonable to suppose, that they would write the history of a Church, of which they were at that time very fatal and implacable enemies; not to question whether the Saxons before their conversion had any writing or learning at all among them. For though it be pretended, that the Irish, who use the same manner of writing, borrowed their characters from the Saxons; yet, 'tis extremely suspicious, that these received them from the Irish, if not rather from the Britains. As to the former, it is well known, that during the disturbances betwixt the Britains and Saxons here in Britain, the incursions of the Goths, Vandals, and other northern nations into other countries; all the learning of these western parts of the world, fled into Ireland, which for a considerable time remained to be the nursery of learning and learned men.

Bed. Hist.  
Eccl. lib. 3.  
chap. 27.

And that the Saxons, long after their conversion to Christianity, retired to Ireland for this purpose, we have the testimony of their ancient and most authentic historian; so that, I think, 'tis no presumption to suspect, that as the Saxons borrowed their learning from the Irish, they might for the same reason, receive their characters, and form of writing from them. But 'tis again to be doubted, whether both the Saxons and the Irish did not primarily derive their characters from the Britains: for though the British language be now written in

a different character from the Irish and Saxon, yet upon ancient British monuments and inscriptions, most of the Saxon letters, different from the present Roman alphabet, are plainly to be seen. Nor was this character originally British, the same being used in the first age of the Roman empire, De Re Diplo p. 345. if we can lay any stress on Julius Cæsar's will and testament, represented by Mabillon. But farther yet;—if the Irish character be originally Saxon, the Saxons must either bring it along with them from Germany, or else they must have invented it after their arrival and settlement in Britain: if the first, it may seem wonderful, how it came to be quite lost and forgotten in all parts of Germany; unless we can suppose, that it was limited only to the Saxons, and that they to a man came and settled in this Island: for nobody can be ignorant, that not only the Germans, but the Swedes and Danes too, use the Latin character; which, if we suppose them to have but lately borrowed, yet in all probability, their former letter was Gothic or Runic, to which the Saxon bears no great resemblance. But if it be said, that the Saxons invented this character after their coming to Britain; I cannot well conceive, why they should put themselves to such unnecessary trouble, when with far greater ease and facility, they might copy and borrow from the Britains; unless the odium betwixt both nations made them scorn to ape and imitate an enemy. But be it so, that the Saxons invented this character in Britain; it will follow, that they had no letters nor learning before they came over; and consequently, that these authors which Bede mentions to have transcribed out of, could not be Saxons.

As to the civil part of the British history, that the transactions of state were recorded, and that copies thereof came to the hands of posterity, we have the express testimony of Nennius, who flourished about three hundred years after Gildas. For in his preface to the history of the Britains,

he openly declares, that he composed his history, *Partim majorum traditionibus, partim scriptis, partim etiam monumentis veterum Britanniae incolarum.* Here Nennius says, that he partly extracted his history out of the writings of the antient Britains. And what could these writings be? Certainly, they were not the works of Gildas, the only British author we read of before Nennius; upon the account that the history of Nennius is much larger, and far more complete than that of Gildas; this latter, besides the names of a few British kings, having left nothing historical to posterity; the main, it seems, of his design being to rail, and to inveigh against his country, to which he had taken some displeasure. From whence then else could Nennius extract the materials of his history? Why, 'tis reasonable to suppose, that from some British records, which possibly might be recovered since the time of Gildas; and if then, why might not more be discovered since Nennius, and that delivered to Geoffrey by the arch-deacon of Oxon, be one?

Lib. 15.

Pharsal.  
lib. 1.

But besides, that the Britains kept memorials of their transactions, we may rationally gather from the constitution and profession of the bards. Diodorus Siculus says, The bards singing to an instrument like a harp, repeat the praises and commendations of some, the faults and dispraises of others. And in like manner Marcellinus; *Bardi quidem fortia virorum illustrium facta heroicis composita versibus, cum dulcibus lyræ modulis cantantur.* And above the rest Lucan;

Vos quoque qui fortes Animas, belloque peremptas  
Laudibus in longum vates emittitis ævum,  
Plurima securi fudistis Carmina Bardi.

Cambr.  
Descrip.  
cap. 3.

But that the Bards did not only commit to memory the famous deeds of their princes and heroes, and so recite and repeat them upon occasions; but also that they wrote down and recorded what they repeated, we have the ample testimony of Giraldus Cambrensis. *Hoc etiam mihi notandum videtur, quod Bardi Cambrenses, et Cantatores seu recitatores, genealogiam habent prædictorum principum in libris*

*eorum antiquis et authenticis, sed tamen Cambrice scriptam, eandemque memoriter tenent a Roderico magno usque ad Belinum magnum, et inde usque ad Siteium, Ascanium, et Æneam; et ab Ænea usque ad Adam: generationem linealiter producant.*

Now that the genealogies here mentioned by Giraldus, were not only a bare account of the several descents and successions of the British kings, but also some memorials of their lives and actions, may be easily gathered from the above said manners and customs of the Bards. And seeing these Bards did preserve not only in memory but in writing too, the lineal succession and most famous transactions of their kings; I see no reason why the history of Geoffrey may not, as to a great part of it, pretend to greater authority than is generally attributed to it. And if it be objected, that the Bards, by a poetical liberty outdid the truth of history, in the praises of those princes they were to celebrate; yet thus far it may reasonably be acknowledged, that the names and succession of the several kings are real, and consequently that Geoffrey could never be the inventor of so large a list of false names, as he is generally thought to be. For it is very probable, that the history of the Britains translated by Geoffrey, was composed partly out of these genealogies peculiar to the Bards, and partly out of any other records and monuments of the Britains; both which I have shewn to have been preserved, and used among them antiently.

But to descend to the particulars of this history, the first and most suspicious relation, is that of the landing of Brute with a colony of Trojans, the several crosses and encounters he sustained in his voyage; and then of this island receiving its name from him. Should we indeed reflect upon the particular circumstances of this story, we might upon good reason be satisfied of the vanity and falseness of them; but therefore to conclude, that because the building is suspicious, the foundation consequently must be fabulous, and a perfect contrivance; does, I think, deserve some better examin-

Præfat.

ation: for if we do but reflect upon the contemporary histories of the Greeks and Romans, those more polite and literate nations, we may with equal pretence of reason affirm, that there is no foundation for any matter of fact before the Olympiads; or that the relation of Æneas coming to Italy, and all that history, to the building of Rome, are altogether groundless and impertinent, because they are intermixt with fables and impossibilities. Livy assures us, that all the transactions before the building of Rome, are rather owing to poetical fancy and extravagancies, than to any true and certain matter of fact; and therefore he declined to give either his assent or dissent, to any thing related of those times: *Quæ ante conditam condendamve Urbem poeticis magis decora fabulis, quam incorruptis rerum gestarum monumentis traduntur, ea nec affirmare, nec refellere in animo est.* And Plutarch goes farther, and tells us, that the original and etymology of Rome, that famous city, so well known afterwards over all the world, could not be agreed upon among the diversity of authors, and consequently must be very obscure and uncertain.

But for all their own historians do allow that the history of those times are fabulous and uncertain; yet there are none that question the being of Æneas, and that the Romans were descended from him. The like may be urged for the history of Brutus, and the landing of the Trojans in this island; that though many particular circumstances are fabulous, and entirely poetical, yet it does not thence necessarily follow, that there is no manner of ground or foundation for such a relation. Neither is it sufficient conviction, to urge, that the very being of Brute is all a fiction, by reason that the Roman historians make no mention of such a person to be the son of Silvius; because, that through the whole succession, from Æneas to Romulus, the histories of those times take notice only of the son that was to succeed; it being unreasonable to suppose, that all the kings of Latium, during that period, should beget each of them, but one son.

And therefore, what by the obscurity of those ages, and what by bearing regard to the line of succession, many collateral princes escaped the cognizance of future historians. Nor is it enough to affirm, that the history of Brute is but lately known and discovered to the world; whereas the fabulous Roman history has been recorded from antiquity; because, that though we are not certain that the British history has been handed down to posterity in writing; yet we are sure, that it was an ancient tradition, long before Geoffrey's publishing of it; and one should think, that an ancient national tradition, might require a stricter examination, than hastily to throw it aside, as fabulous, and of no consequence.

But the question is not, whether the British history, as related by Geoffrey, be, as to all the circumstances of it, true and real matter of fact; for that, no man, I presume, can reasonably maintain; but whether there be any ground or foundation of truth couched under these poetical and fabulous narratives. Now the first thing we meet with in the British history, is an account of Brutus, his pedigree, how he was descended from the Trojans, and having accidentally slain his father Sylvius, how he was forced to flee into Greece, whence, after several scuffles with Pendrasus, a petty prince of that country, he thought fit to retire, and to seek his fortune by sea. But he had not wandered long, when he met with Corinæus, with another party of desolate Trojans, with whom having joined his forces, he followed the counsel of the Oracle, and at last arrives in this Island, from him afterwards called Britain. Now as to the particular circumstances related in the life of Brutus, they may properly be placed in the same class with Homer's account of the travels of Ulysses, or Virgil's description of Æneas, his adventure to Italy; that is to say, that they are poetical fictions, and perfectly consonant to the humour of that fabulous age. But the question in hand will be, whether there be any probability for the ground of



this story, that Brute should bring over a colony of Trojans, and seat himself in this Island. Now what is most materially urged against it, is the novelty of this discourse, that none of the Roman historians make the least mention of such a person as Brutus; and that Cæsar and Tacitus, who seem to have enquired more narrowly into the original of the Britains, found no such tradition in their time; otherwise in giving their opinion whence the Britains were derived, they would never have omitted such an ancient national tradition, of their being descended from the Trojans. Besides, that Gildas, who was a Briton, takes no notice of such a tradition, which in all probability he would never have omitted, had there been such an account of their origin in his time.

As to what is objected against the antiquity of this tradition, is certainly very erroneous; for it is so far from being first known to the world, at the publication of Geoffrey's history, that Nennius, long before that time, and Merlyn much ancients than he, speak of the Britains being descended from Troy. Nay the Saxons themselves, before Geoffrey, were not unacquainted with this tradition, as plainly appears from the ancient Saxon poet, mentioned by Mr. Wheelock, whom he thus translates:

Notes on  
Bede.

—*Hæc unica fœmina prima  
Ante omnes sævit Trojani semina belli,  
Hanc Britones dixere Helenam, sed Dardanus ille  
Excelsus Bruti pater extitit, unde Britanni  
Heroum sumpserè genus; fortissimis idem  
Hunc orbem primus regere, & dominarier ausus.*

And again:

*Insula dicta fuit Britannia nomine Bruti.*

That Gildas should make no mention of this British tradition, is no great wonder, and as little to the purpose, to invalidate the antiquity of it;

for we must not regard the intent and purport of Gildas's writing, which was not to give an account of the history and antiquity of the Britains, as much as to inveigh against the profaneness and licentiousness of the age; wherein his zeal and passion carried him so far, that he did not spare either princes or the greatest persons; and therefore he might well omit to give an account of the origin of the Britains, seeing it was remote from, and exclusive of his purpose. Cæsar indeed seems to have been somewhat more inquisitive about the ancient state and descent of those people he invaded; but his stay in Britain was so short, and his knowledge of the country so defective, being he had no communication with the inland Britains, whom he owns himself to be the ancient inhabitants, that it can be no great wonder he should be ignorant of this tradition; for if this curious person had had the opportunity of a free conversation with the Britains, he would in all likelihood have left a discovery of their manners and customs, and given a more perfect description of Britain; which at that time would have been a very acceptable performance, to all the persons of learning and curiosity in Rome, who as yet had but very shallow knowledge of the Island. Or if we suppose that he made the strictest enquiry about the state of the Britains, which he might probably have learnt from Mandubratius, the son of Imanuentius, king of the Trinobantes, who, for fear of Cassibelan, had come over to him to Gaul, and sided with him during the British wars; it is very possible he might be ignorant that the Britains were descended from the Trojans, and that to be an ancient and a current tradition among them.

Tacitus was never in Britain, but from the relation of his father-in-law, Julius Agricola, and others, he made a guess, that from the different shapes and colour, they were descended from different nations; some from Germany, some from Gaul, and others from Spain; but yet, as to the

In vita  
Agric.

primitive Britains, those who seemed to be the ancient inhabitants of the Island, he concludes after the usual pagan manner, *Britanniam qui mortales initio coluerint, indigenæ an advecti, ut inter Barbaros parum compertum.* The Britains, indeed, in Tacitus's time, were well known to the Romans, and consequently these latter might have been easily instructed, as to what knowledge the Britains had of their antiquity; but it does not therefore necessarily follow, that because this historian does not mention any such tradition, there was none really among them; because possibly he might never have heard of it; or if he did, he might have omitted inserting it in his history: for what he has delivered relating to the antiquity of the Britains, was but contingent to his purpose, the whole scope of his design being to describe the actions of his father-in-law, during his lieutenancy in this Island; and therefore it is not at all wonderful, that he has given but a slight and an imperfect account of what he never designed to make a narrow inspection into. Besides, if we suppose him to have made a diligent enquiry into the matter, and to have mind to know the ancient state and origin of the Britains; yet since he wanted the opportunity of conversing with them, having never been in Britain; and none of the Britains that we know of, being at Rome, except those who from their youth were educated there, and consequently were in all probability, ignorant of the traditions of their own country; he might very well at such a distance, have never been acquainted with such a national tradition, which for all that, might have been current and prevailing among the Britains themselves. As to other Roman historians, who have written of the antiquity and primitive state of Rome. that they have made no mention of any such person as Brutus, the son of Sylvius; I have already observed, is not of that force as to overthrow this tradition, by reason that, from Æneas down to Romulus, there is regard only had

to the line of succession, and those only recorded who succeeded in the throne.

Let us consider now, in the next place, what probable reasons may be assigned to vindicate this supposed Trojan origin from an utter fiction; and whether the history of Brutus have any probable dependance upon some real foundation. And not to insist on the antiquity of this tradition, nor the authority of the British history published by Geoffrey, nothing gives greater confirmation to assert some real foundation for this supposed fable, than the near alliance and affinity betwixt the Britains and the Grecians. All learned men allow that the Greek was the ancient language of the Trojans, and that their customs were not much different; and whoever will compare the manners, religion and customs of the Britains with those of the Grecians, will easily discover a palpable conformity betwixt both nations, but more especially in the language; in which, as Mr. Camden says, *Maximum est disputationis firmamentum et certissimum originis gentium argumentum. Qui enim* (as he goes on) *linguæ societate conjuncti sunt, originis etiam communione fuisse conjunctos, homo opinor nemo inficiabitur.*

I shall not at present trouble the reader with a particular enumeration of that affinity; but will refer him to Sir John Prices's *Defensio Historiæ Britannicæ*, and Mr. Sheringham's Treatise *De Gentis Anglorum Origine*. Now, since there is such demonstrable affinity betwixt the Britains and the Grecians in all these respects; we must either suppose, with Mr. Camden, that they are of the same origin, at least that a colony of either Greeks or Trojans came over to this Island; or else, that the Britains had correspondence, traffic and communication with the Grecians. Now, that the Grecians had no knowledge of the Britains till very late, may be gathered from hence, that even the name of Britain is not so much as mentioned by any Greek author before Polybius, who lived less

than two hundred years before the Roman invasion, and by him but just named, as betokening a very remote and distant country, wherein indeed it was reported that there was plenty of tin. Nay, Britain was so far unknown to the eastern parts of the world, long after this, that even Cæsar himself, when he intended an invasion, was perfectly ignorant of the state of the Island; and though he made what enquiry he could of the British merchants in Gaul, yet for all that, he says himself, *Neq; quanta esset insula magnitudo, neq; quæ aut quantæ nationes incolerent, neq; quem usum belli haberent, aut quibus institutis uterentur, neq; qui essent ad majorum navium idonei portus reperire poterat*: and therefore he was forced to send Caius Volusenus before him to search into the state and condition of the Island. Such strangers were the Romans at this time to the Isle of Britain. And can it be supposed, that the Grecians had a better knowledge of it, since, in all probability, if they had had a commerce with the Britains, the Romans, who were masters of the sea long before this, would have quickly discovered their merchandizing; which, if as profitable as is imagined, they were no such enemies to gain, but they would share in the booty. At least, had the Grecians had any correspondence with the Britains, the Romans would in all probability have known it, and consequently they must needs have received better intelligence of the Island, than what they seem to have had at Cæsar's landing. But Dion Cassius seems to put this matter out of dispute, and gives us a very plain account of what knowledge the Greeks and Romans had of this Island, which I will set down in the Latin translation:—*Primis Græcorum Romanorumque ne esse quidem Britanniam compertum fuit, posteriores in controversiam adduxerunt, contines ea terra, an vero insula esset: multaque de utraque opinione conscripta sunt ab iis, qui certi quidem nil noverant (quippe qui nec vidissent, nec ab indigenis qualis esset accepissent) sed conjecturis tantum, quantum vel otti vel studdi sin-*

Bell. Gall.  
Lib. 4.

Lib. 39.

*gulis aderat uterentur.* And the ancient poet, in Eustathius upon Dionysius, reckoning up the greatest Islands of the world in his time, makes no mention of Britain, which shews it was not then known. And that Britain was the ancient Cassiterides of the Grecians, from whence they received their tin, is altogether uncertain: for Herodotus, making mention of those Islands of Cassiterides, fairly declares he knew not where they were; which cannot well be supposed, if the Grecian merchants traded thither in his time; it being rational to imagine that, in treating of any country, such a learned historian would endeavour to get the best intelligence he possibly could; and learning being at the highest pitch in Greece at this time, it is very strange we had not a better account of this Island, which is supposed to be so well known to those who had a constant traffick here. But indeed, all authors who have mentioned these Cassiterides, do not seem to have known where they were situated, only Dionysius, makes them plainly to be the same with the Hesperides, those Islands lying in the Atlantic Ocean, far enough from Britain, concerning which the poets have invented so many fables.

But admitting the Grecians to have been ignorant of any such place as Britain, and that there never was any traffic or communication betwixt these two nations; yet since the Gauls spoke Greek, it is not very improbable but that the Britains might borrow from them. That the Gauls used the Greek tongue, we have the testimony of Cæsar; and it is very certain, that all the Grecian learning flourished at Marseilles, which was an ancient and famous university, and is very much celebrated by almost all Greek and Latin writers. And by this means, it may be reasonably concluded, how the British and Gaulish Druids became acquainted with the Grecian philosophy, which being as to all the different sects and opinions of it, taught at Marseilles, the Druids more particularly adhered to the Pythagorean, to which the Druid philosophy bears a very near resem-

blance, both as to the doctrine of the transmigration of the soul, and the rest of their mystical Cabala, which they so superstitiously kept secret and close from the people.

Lib. VI.

But in opposition to this, it may be with greater certainty urged, that neither the Gaulish nor British Druids had any correspondence with the Grecians, and consequently could not borrow their philosophical mysteries from them. For if Cæsar may be believed, the art and learning of the Druids was first found out in Britain, and from thence is thought to be brought into Gaul; and at this time, as he goes on, such as will attain to the perfect knowledge of that discipline, do for the most part travel thither to learn it. Now if this be true, that the British Druids were the inventors of this kind of learning, and that the Gauls came over hither to be instructed in the way and method of it, I can see no reason, why they should have any communication with the Grecian academy at Marseilles, much less that they borrowed it from the disciples of Pythagoras, especially since they accounted their mysteries so sacred, that they would communicate them to none, besides those of their own order. Nay, it may be better questioned, whether Druidism be not much ancients than Pythagoras, and antecedent to that æra, when the Grecians began to philosophise. And for the same reason, that the Druids of Britain did not derive their philosophy from Marseilles, it will follow, that they could not borrow their language; for if we suppose, which is the most we can, that the Gauls had some communication with those Grecians, and upon that account that their language was in some measure mingled with the Greek; yet in their travels to Britain, they came not to communicate, but to borrow; and it is not likely that the Britains should be affected with the language of those who came to learn of them. Besides, of all the number of Gaulish words collected by Cambden, which agree with the British, few or none seem to be of Greek derivation; so it

is highly improbable, as far as we can see into this matter, that the Gauls should ever communicate the Greek tongue to the Britains. And therefore, since this difficulty cannot be removed by any other way, it is not unreasonable to suspect, that there is some real foundation lodged in the ruins of the story of Brutus, and that the truth is disguised by the boundless accession of poetical invention.

I should tire the reader, and exceed the just bounds of what I at first proposed, if I should take a particular view of the British history, published by Geoffrey, and therefore I shall now only take notice of the life of King Cadwalader, where the history of Wales begins, and where a palpable mistake, I may call it forgery, has been committed by one side or another. For the very same things, which the British history relate of Cadwalader, the Saxon writers attribute to Ceadwalla, King of the West Saxons, how he was driven by a famine out of his dominions, came afterwards to Rome, and was received by Pope Sergius, with other particulars here too tedious to relate. But that which seems to charge the fault upon Geoffrey, or whoever else was the author of the British history, is, that Bede, an author of established credit, and one who lived near those times, says that it was the West Saxon King Ceadwalla that went to Rome in Pope Sergius's time. But then on the other side, it is hardly conceivable, supposing the British history a perfect contrivance, that Geoffrey or any other should be so grossly overseen, as to borrow the transaction of a real king, and one so well known, to make up the life of a fictitious one cotemporary with him. Bede's reputation was too firm, to be shaken by an upstart history, and therefore it cannot well be supposed that the author of the British history was so unwary, in case he designed a cheat, as to let himself open to so easy a detection of forgery. All then that can be said, is, that the agreeableness of the names and time that these two princes lived in, and possibly their both going



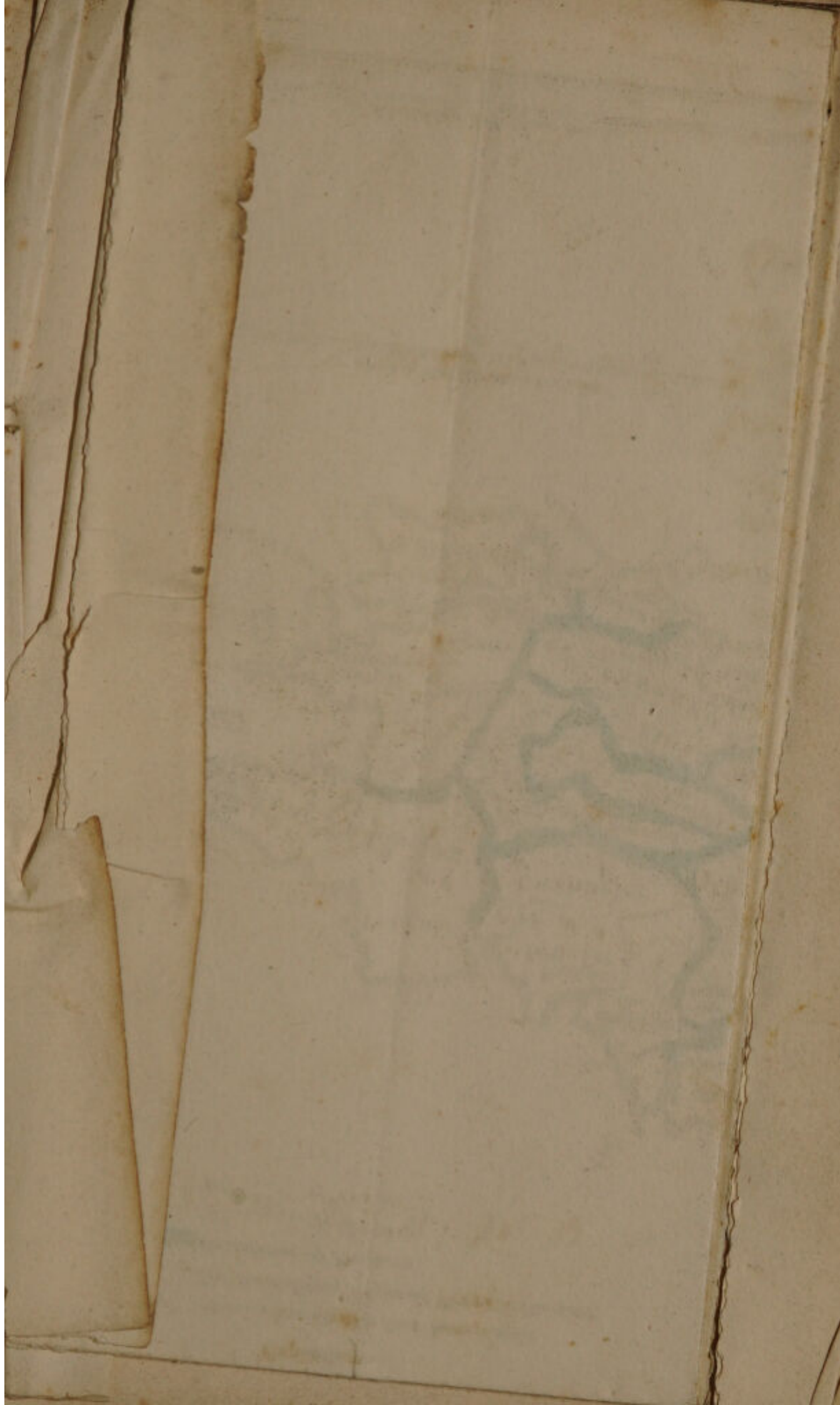
to Rome, which was not unusual in those days, might without any design of putting upon the world, make a confusion in their histories. But whether the life of Cadwalader be a fable, the reader is at his own liberty to judge; it being prefixed to the history of Wales, not as it is more authentic, or any way of greater certainty than the rest of Geoffrey's history, but only because the author, Caradoc of Llancarfan, began his continuation of the British history with it.

This Caradoc of Llancarfan, an author of undoubted integrity, was cotemporary with Geoffrey, who taking his rise from the place where the British history concluded, made a continuation of it through the reigns of several of the princes of Wales, till the year 1157, about which time he flourished. After him, all things of moment that happened in Wales, were kept and recorded in the abbies of Conway in North-Wales, and Ystratflur in South-Wales, where the princes and noblemen of Wales were buried, as appears by the testimony of Gutryn Owen, who lived in the time of Edward IV. and wrote the most exact and perfect copy of the same. All the most notable occurrences being thus registered in these abbies, were most generally compared together every third year, when the Beirdd or Bards belonging to these two houses went their ordinary visitations, which was called *Clera*. And this continued until the year 1270, a little before the death of the last Prince Llewelyn, who was slain at Buellt. Humphrey Lloyd, Gent. who flourish in the reign of Henry VIII. and one greatly skilled in the British antiquities, continued this history to the death of Prince Llewelyn; and afterwards having translated the whole into the English language, had designed to commit it to the press. But his death prevented what he purposed, and stopped the publication of this history for a long time after, until David Powel, D. D. in the time of Queen Elizabeth, having met with Humphrey Lloyd's translation, collected what he could out of

going thro' the press in the year 1609.

English historians, which he added by way of annotations, and so published it in the year 1584. This being the sole history of the princes of Wales, and the only edition of this history, I was moved to prepare it for another impression, by new modelling the language, making the body of the history intire, without troubling the reader to see the same thing by way of annotation, Dr. Powel's notes being for the greatest part but a repetition of the same matter of fact out of the English historians, with what other improvements could be made. The additions which I made to the former history, I chiefly took out of the notes of that late great antiquarian Mr. Robert Vaughan of Hengwrt; by whose help also I have corrected, supplied, and continued the chronology. Sir John Price's description of Wales will pretty well answer the geographical part of this history, till we shall be able to recover and fix several of those places whose names are only left to us at present, which we have great hopes, will be successfully perfected, by the unweari'd labours of my ingenious friend Mr. Edward Llwyd, in his intended Etymological Dictionary. I have added by way of appendix, the several records belonging to this history.

English historians, which is added by way of an  
 appendix, and so published in the year 1781. This  
 being the sole history of the province of Wales, and  
 the only edition of this history, I was desirous to  
 separate it from another impression, by an insert-  
 ing the language, and in the body of the history,  
 found without adding the notes to see the same  
 thing by way of illustration. Dr. Lloyd's notes  
 being for the greatest part but a repetition of the  
 same matter of fact, and the English historians,  
 such as what other historians could be made.  
 The edition which I made to be in Latin and  
 I chiefly took out of the notes of that date, and  
 substituted Mr. Lloyd's manner of treating it; by  
 which means I have corrected, amplified, and con-  
 sidered the chronology. But John Lloyd's descrip-  
 tion of Wales will partly and answer the present  
 edition of this history. If we shall be able to  
 know more of the state of those times, which are  
 now, it is an advantage which we have great  
 reason to expect, and which will be the more  
 valuable, because the present is the only  
 edition of this history, and the only  
 one which is in Latin and English.  
 I have added by way of appendix, the several  
 notes belonging to this history.



Engraved for M. Worthington's History of Wales.

A MAP of WALES, according to the Ancient Divisions of GWYNEDD, POWYS, and DINEFAWL, with their respective CANTREWS, subdivided into COMOTS. By Will<sup>m</sup> Owell.



M O R



YWERDDON

Explanation.

- ✕ Places where Battles have been fought.
- The Boundary of Gwynedd, Powys, & Dinewall.
- Boundaries of Provinces.
- of Cantrews.
- of Comots.

Scale of British Statute Miles

West Longitude from London

A  
DESCRIPTION  
OF  
CAMBRIA,  
NOW CALLED  
WALES.

DRAWN FIRST BY SIR JOHN PRICE, KNIGHT, AND AFTER-  
WARD AUGMENTED AND MADE PERFECT, BY  
HUMPHREY LLOYD, GENTLEMAN.

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THE three sons of Brutus having divided the whole Isle of Britain into three parts; that part contained within the French Seas, with the rivers of Severn, (called in British, Hafren) Dee and Humber, fell to the eldest son Locrinus, which was after his name called Lloyger, which name it hath in the British tongue to this day, and in English now it is called England, and is augmented northward to the river Tweed. The second son Albanactus, had all the land northward from Humber to the sea Orkney, called in the British tongue Mor Werydd, and in the Latin, Mare Caledonicum. The third son Camber had to his part, all that which remained undivided, lying within the Spanish and Irish seas, and separated from England, with the rivers Severn and Dee; and this part was after his name called Cambria, and the inhabitants thereof Cambry, and their language Camberæc, and so they are at this day. So that

they have kept the same country and language this 2700 and odd years, without commixtion with any other nation, especially in North-Wales, as it shall hereafter appear.

And because the name of this country is changed, or rather mistaken by the inhabitants of England, and not by them called Cambry, but Wales: I think it necessary to declare the occasion thereof, which is, that where the Saxons, a people of Germany, were the first that after the Britains inhabited and ruled the greatest part of this Isle, and drove the Britains to that corner, which according to the manner of their country, they called Wales, and the people Welshmen, and the tongue Welsh, that is to say, Strange, or not of them understood. For at this day, the inhabitants of the Low Countries, call their next neighbours language of Hene-gaw, or other that speak French, Walsh, as a language to them unknown. Likewise the inhabitants of Tyroll, and other the higher countries of Germany, do name the Italian their next neighbour a Welshman, and his language Welsh. And this is an evident proof, that they which harped upon a Queen Gwalaes, and of a Prince Wala, (of whom neither British, Latin, nor English maketh mention) were foully deceived; and so likewise was a great historiographer of late days, which saith, that it was called Wallia, quasi Italia, because the rest of the Romans which remained in the Isle were driven thither. Neither is this any new invention, although Polydore Virgil with an Italian brag doth glorify himself to be the first that espied it out, for divers ancient writers do alledge the same cause of the name of Wales, of whom Sylvester Giraldus is one, who wrote in the time of Henry the second, after the conquest, before 380 years passed; which is an evident token, that the said Polydore did either never see nor read the ancient histories of this realm, or dissembleth the same to the advancement and praise of himself and his country; which to the learned and indifferent reader shall appear to be the only occasion he took

that work in hand, for all his book redoundeth only to the praise and honour of the Romans, as well spiritual as temporal, and to blase forth their acts and deeds within this realm: and upon the other part doth either openly slander, or else privily extenuate, or shamefully deny the martial prowess and noble acts, as well of Saxons, Danes, and Normans, as of the Britains, all inhabitants of this Isle. Which thing he that list to prove, let him read and confer Cæsar's Commentaries, Cornelius Tacitus, Herodianus, and other ancient writers, as well in Latin as in Greek, with his work. As for the ancient writers of the British history, as the British chronicle, the history of Gildas, Ponticus Verunnus, yea the golden work of Matthew Paris, monk of St. Alban, which wrote from William the Bastard, to the last years of Henry the third; I dare well say he never saw them, they be in divers places to be had, so that the truth may be easily proved. To make an end I say, that he being first a stranger born, and also ignorant as well in the histories of this realm, as of those tongues and languages wherein the same were written, could never set forth the true and perfect chronicle of the same. But he having a good grace, and a pleasant stile in the Latin tongue, and finding himself in a country where every man either lacked knowledge or spirit to set forth the history of their own country, took this enterprise in hand, to their great shame, and no less dispraise, because he a blind leader shall draw a great number of indiscreet and rash followers, as well geographers and cosmographers, as chroniclers and historiographers, to the dark pit of ignorance, where I leave them at this time, remitting the reader to the apology of Sir John Price, Knight, and his British history, written by him of purpose, against the envious reports, and slanderous taints of the said Polydore, where he shall see a great number of his errors confuted at large. And to return to my former matter of the name of Wales, which name to be given of late by a strange nation may be otherwise proved:



A LoCrino.  
A Saxon.

for the Welshmen themselves do not understand what these words WALES and WELSH do signify, nor know any other name of their country or themselves but Cambry, nor of their language but Cambraec, which is as much as to say, Camber's language or speech. So likewise they know not what England or English meaneth, but commonly they call the country Lloyger, the English men Saison, and the English tongue Saisonæc, Which is an evident token that this is the same language which the Britains spake at the beginning; for the works of Merddyn and of Taliessin, who wrote above 1000 years past, are almost the same words which they use at this day, or at the least easy to be understood of every one which knoweth perfectly the Welsh tongue, especially in North Wales.

Besides this, where at this day, there do remain three remnants of the Britains, divided every one from the other with the seas, which are in Wales, Cornwall (called in British Cerniw) and little Britain, yet almost all the particular words of these three people are all one, although in pronunciation and writing of the sentences they differ somewhat, which is no wonder, seeing that the pronunciation in one realm is often so diverse, that the one can scarce understand the other. But it is rather a wonder, that the Welshmen being separated from the Cornish, well nigh these 900 years, and the Britains from either of them 290 years before that, and having small traffic or concourse together since that time, have still kept their own British tongue. They are not therefore to be credited, which deny the Welsh to be the old British tongue. And here I cannot pass over what one of these fine Chroniclers wrote of late, of the name of Britain, affirming that it should be so called out of Britanie in France, as the elder of that name. But surely he had either never seen Ptolomy nor Cæsar, nor any other ancient writer, or read them with small judgment and memory. For there he might have learned, that when this land was called Britain,

the other was called Armorica, and how in Maximus's time, Conan Meriadoc was the first that gave it that name, and inhabited it with Britains out of this Isle. Other derivations of these words, Britannia and Albion, out of Greek and Latin, I am ashamed to rehearse; for unto such errors do they commonly fall, that either puffed up with vain-glory of their own wits, or pinched with despite and envy at other men's works, or blinded with ignorance, do go about to write and set forth any history or chronicle. But passing over this matter until another time, I will return to the description of Wales, which (as I said) was of old time compassed almost about with the Irish seas, and the rivers Dee and Severn, although afterwards the Saxons won by force from the Britains all the plain and champion country over the rivers, and especially Offa King of Mercia, who made a ditch of great breadth and depth, to be a mear betwixt his kingdom and Wales, which ditch began at the river Dee, by Basingwerk, between Chester and Ruthlan, and ran along the hills sides to the Severn sea, a little below Bristol, reaching above a hundred miles in length, and is in many places to be seen at this day, bearing the name of Clawdd Offa, that is to say, Offa's ditch; and the country between it and England is commonly called in Welsh, Y Mars, although the greatest part of it is now inhabited by Welshmen, namely, in North Wales, which yet keepeth the ancient limits to the river Dee, and in some places over it. Others (as Sylvester Giraldus) make the river Wye, called in Welsh Gwy, to be the mear between England and Wales, on the South part, called South Wales, who measureth the breadth of Wales, from Salow, or Willowford, called Rhyd-yr-helig upon Wye, to St. David's in Menevia, 100 miles; and the length from Caerlleon upon Usk in Gwentland, to Holyhead, called Caergybi, in Anglesey, in Welsh, called Môn, above 100 miles; and these are the common mears at this day, although the Welsh tongue is commonly used and spoken in England, beyond these old mears a great way, as

Rob. Cæ-  
nal, lib. 2.  
Per. 2.

The mears  
and  
bounds of  
Wales.

in Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, and a part of Shropshire. And thus for the general description of Wales, which afterwards, about the year of Christ 870, Rodericus Magnus, King of Wales, divided into three territories, which they called kingdoms, which remained until of late days.

These three were Gwynedd, in English North Wales; Deheubarth, in English South Wales; and Powys Land: in every of the which he ordained a princely seat, or court, for the prince to remain at most commonly; as in Gwynedd (which some old writers call Venedotia, for Gwynethia) Aberffraw in the Isle of Môn, or Anglesey. In Deheubarth, called in Latin Demetia, Caermarthen, from whence it was afterward removed to Dynefowr, eight miles thence. In Powys, Pengwern, called Y Mwythig, and in English Shrewsbury, from whence it was removed to Mathrafael in Powys Land. And because this history doth as well treat of wars betwixt these three provinces, as betwixt them and the Saxons, Normans, and Flemings, I think it good to set forth the particular description of every part by itself. And first of North Wales, as the chiefest part, which he gave his eldest son, ordaining that either of the other two should pay him yearly 200*l.* of tribute, as it appeareth in the laws of Howel Dda, which are to be had in Welsh, and also in Latin. Therefore Gwynedd (called North Wales) had upon the North side the sea, from the river Dee at Basingwerke to Aberdyfi, and upon the West and South West the river Dyfi, which divideth it from South Wales, and in some places from Powys Land. And on the South and East, it is divided from Powys, sometimes with mountains, and sometimes with rivers, till it come to the river Dee again. This land was of old time divided to four parts, of which the chiefest was Môn, in English called Anglesey, where the prince's chief house was at Aberffraw, which is an Island separated from the main land, with an arm of the sea called Mænai, and had in itself three cantrefs, or hundreds, which were subdivided to six comots; as

Aberffraw.

Dynefowr.

Mathrafael.

North  
Wales.

Mon.

cantref Aberffraw to comot Lleyrn, and comot Malltraeth, cantref Cemais, to the comots Talibolion and Twr celyn; cantref Rosyr to the comots Tyndaethwy and Mænai. And at this day there is a fine town in that isle, called Bewmorris, and a common passage to Ireland at Caergybi, called in English, Holyhead. But here I cannot wink at that notable error of Polydore, which (after his accustomed fashion) denieth this isle to be called Mōna, but Anglesia, or Anglorum Insula, because it is called in English Anglesey, and gives this name Mōna to Man, and so hath lost the names of both isles: which ignorance and forgetfulness might be forgiven him, if he had not drawn a great number to this error with him, which in their charters do daily wrong name these isles, which may be easily proved. First, because the inhabitants of the isle do know no other name but Mōn; and it is called through all Wales, Tir Mon, that is to say, the land of Mon, unto this day. So that neither by memory of man, neither by any monument in writing in the British tongue can it appear, that ever it had any other name but Mon, yet there be manifest monuments for these 1000 years. It is also grown to a proverb through Wales, for the fertility of the ground, Mon mam Cymry, that is to say, Mon the mother of Wales.

The ancient history of Cornelius Tacitus, (which belike age had beaten out of Polydore's head) saith, that the soldiers of Paulinus Suetonius, and afterward of Julius Agricola, after they had passed through North Wales, then came over against Mōna, where they did swim over an arm of the sea of 200 paces, and so by force won the Isle. Now whether it is more reasonable thus to swim over 200 paces, or 20 miles? I know there is no man that believeth Polydore in this point; let all men therefore judge the rest. As for that which he saith of the great woods, it is nothing; for both the Romans, and after when the christian faith took place in this realm, the christians did fall and root them

out, for the idolatry and absurd religion which was used there; that the King of Man sent for timber to Môn; read the life of Hugh, earl of Chester, which also is evident by the great beeches and other trees found in the earth at these days. His other reason is, because it is called Anglesey in the English tongue; so is Lloyger England, and Cambry Wales; are those therefore the old names? no surely. And what if the inhabitants called it so? (as they did not) had it not a name before the Angles won it? yes, I warrant you, but he had forgotten that. Now to the name of Man, it was ever, or at least these 1000 years named in British Manow, of which cometh the English name Man. The inhabitants thereof call it so, and no nation about it did ever call it Mon, no nor any writer but Polydore, which was too young a godfather to name so old a child. For Gildas, who wrote above 900 years ago, whose writings Polydore never saw, but untruly fathers upon him his own device; Giraldus in his description of Ireland to Henry the Second, and Henry Huntingdon, do plainly call Man in Latin Eubonia, adding thereto either Manaw or Man, for the better understanding of the name; will you believe them or Polydore? other arguments there are which I will pass over, till I have more leisure and occasion to write of this matter.

Arfon.

The second part of North Wales was called Arfon which is as much as to say, over against Môn; and had in it four cantrefs, and ten comots.

Cantref Aber had in it three comots, Y Llechwedd-uchaf, Y Llechwedd-isaf and Nant-Conway.

Cantref Arfon had two comots, Uwch-Gwyrfai, and Isgwyrfai.

Cantref Dunodie had two comots, Ardudwy and Efonyth.

Cantref Lleyn containeth three comots, Cymyt-mayn, Tinllayn and Canologion. This is now called Caernarvonshire, as Môn is called Angleseyshire, and have the same division at this day. In this shire are Snowden-hills, called Eryri, neither in

height, fertility of the ground, wood, cattle, fish and fowl, giving place to the famous Alps, and without controvesy the strongest country within Britain.

Here is the town of Caernarvon, called in the old time Caersegonce; and there is also Conway called Caergyffyn. And the see of Bangor, with divers other antient castles and places of memory, and was the last part of Wales that came under the dominion of the kings of England. It hath on the north the sea and Mænai, upon the east and south east, the river Conway, which divideth it from Denbighshire, although it now pass the river in one place by the sea shore. And on the south west and west, it is separated from Meirionydd by high mountains and rivers, and other mears:

The third part of Gwynedd was Meirionydd, containing three cantrefs, and every cantref three comots. Meirion-  
ydd.

As cantref Meireon hath three comots, Talybont, Pennal and Ystumanner.

Cantref Arustly had these, Uwchcoed, Iscoed, and Gwarthrenium.

Cantref Penllyn had these, Uwchmeloch, Ismeloch, and Michaint, and this keepeth the said name till this day, but not within the same mears, and is full of hills and rocks, and hath upon the north the sea, notable at this day for the great resort and number of people that repair thither to take herrings. It hath upon the east, Arfon and Denbigh-land, upon the south, Powys, and upon the west, Dyfi and Cardiganshire.

In this country standeth the town of Harlech, and a great lake called Llyn-Tegydd, through which the river Dee runneth, and mingleth not with the water of the lake, which is three miles long, and also the salmons, which are commonly taken in the river hard by the lake, are never seen to enter the lake. Likewise a kind of fish called Gwyniaid, which are like to whittings, and are full in the lake, are never taken in the river. Not far from this lake, Tegydd.

is a place called Caergay, which was the house of Gay, Arthur's foster-brother. This shire, as well as Arfon, is full of cattle, fowl and fish, with great number of red deer and roes; but there is great scarcity of corn.

y Berfedd-  
wlad.

The fourth part of Gwynedd, was called y Berfedd-wlad, which may be Englished, the in-land or middle country, which contained five cantrefs and thirteen comots, as cantref Rhyfonioc had in it these comots, Uwchalet and Isalet.

Cantref Ystrad had Hiraethog and Cynmeirch.

Cantref Rhos these, Uwchdulas, Isdulas and Creuddyn, all which are in the lordship of Denbigh, saving the Creuddyn which is in Caernarvonshire, wherein the castle of Dyganwy did stand, which was the earls of Chester, and is commonly called in the Latin and English chronicle, Gannoc.

Dyffryn  
Clwyd.

The fourth cantref was Dyffryn Clwyd, which may be Englished the valley of Clwyd, and now is called the lordship of Rhuthyn, and hath these comots, Coleigion, Llannerch and Dogeulyn.

The fifth cantref is Tegengl, and now is a part of Flintshire, having these comots, cysyled, Prestatyn, and Ruthlan. And in this part is one of the fairest vallies within this isle, containing 18 miles in length, and 4, 5 6, or 7 in breadth, as the hills either draw inward together, or backward asunder, which high hills do inclose it on the east, west, and south parts, and northward the sea. It is plentiful of cattle, fish and fowl, corn, hay, grass, and wood, and divided along in the midle with the river Clwyd, to which runneth Clywedoc, Ystrad, Whilar, Elwy, and a great number of other rivers from the hills. In this valley, two miles from the sea, is the town and castle of Ruthlan, where sometimes a Parliament hath been kept. And two miles above it is the see of St Asaph, between the rivers Clwyd and Elwy, called in the old time the bishop's see of Llan Elwy. Four miles thence, and two miles from the river, is situate upon a rock the town and castle of Denbigh, where is one of the greatest markets in the marches of Wales, and one of the fairest and strong-

Ann 12,  
Edw. I.

est castles within this realm, which being the house of David brother to Llewelyn, the last prince of the Welsh blood, was enlarged and strengthened by Henry Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, to whom King Edward gave the same lordship; it is also the county town of that shire. Five miles above this, is the town of Ruthyn, with a fair castle, which sometimes belonged to the lords Gray, earls of Kent. This part of North Wales, hath upon the north the river Dee, and the sea. Upon the west, Arfon, and the river Conway, South and east Meirionydd, and the country then called Powys. And these are the mears and bounds of Gwynedd or Venedotia, for the name of North Wales containeth, besides this, all Powys, at these days. So there was under the territory of Aberffraw fifteen cantrefs, and in them thirty-eight comots.

The second kingdom was Mathrafael, which in right order was the third, which came to the third brother, yet for the better understanding of the history following, I have placed it here. To this kingdom belonged the country of Powys, and the land between Wye and Severn. Which part had upon the south and west, South Wales, with the rivers Wye and Tywy, and other mears. Upon the north, Gwynedd, and upon the east the marches of England, from Chester to the Wye, a little above Hereford; and therefore it was most troubled with wars, as well of the Saxons, as afterwards of the Normans, lords marches, who daily won some part thereof, and by that means it was the first part that served the Kings of England, and therefore less esteemed of all the rest. This part called Powys, was divided again into Powys Fadoc, and Powys Wenwynwyn. Powys Fadoc contained in itself five cantrefs and fifteen comots.

Mathra-  
fael, or  
Powys.

Cantref Y Barwn, which had three comots, Dynmael, Edeyrnion, and Glyndyfrdwy, which are now in Meirionyddshire, (saving Dinmael, which is in Denbighshire.)

Cantref Y Rhiw, whose comots were these, Yal



now in Denbighshire; Ystratalyn and Hop in Flintshire.

Cantref Uwchnant hath three comots, Merffordd in Flintshire, Maelor Gymraeg, in English Bromfield, now in Denbighshire, and Maelor Saesneg in Flintshire.

Cantref Trefred containeth these comots, Croesfain, Tref y Waun, in English Chirke, and in Denbighshire. Croesoswallt, in English Oswestry, and in Shropshire.

Cantref Rhaiader with his comots, Mochnant Israiader, Cynllaeth and Nanheudwy, all in Chirkeland, and in Denbighshire. Also the lordship of Whytington, now in Shropshire, was in this part of Powys, which part at this day, hath lost the name of Powys, and is situated in divers shires, as it appeareth by the discourse before passed. In this part is the castle of Holt in Bromfield, and the Castle of Chirke in Chirkeland. Likewise the lordship and castle of Whytington, which came by marriage to Foulk Fitz-Warren. There is beside these, the lordship of Oswestry, of which the Fitz-Alans have been lords these 300 and odd years, and of divers other lordships in those marches, as Shrarden, the eleven towns, Clun and many others, which are all now in Shropshire.

The second part called Powys Wenwynwyn, had likewise five cantrefs, and twelve comots.

Cantref Y Fyrnwy had these comots, Mochnant uwch Raiader, Mechain Iscoed and Llannerch Hudol.

Cantref Ystlic had these, Deuddwr, Corddwr Isaf, and Ystrad Marchell.

Cantref Llyswynaf had these, Caerneon, and Mechain Uwchcoed.

Cantref Cedewain had comot Conan and Comot Hafren.

Cantref Conan had Cyfeilioc and Mowddwy, which is in Meirionyddshire. Of all these, the three first cantrefs do only at this day bear the name of Powys, which are upon the north-side of

the Severn, and are all five (saving the comot of Mowddwy) in Montgomeryshire.

This is a country full of woods, hills, and rivers, and hath in it these towns, the Poole, New-Town and Machynlleth. Arustly was in old time in this part, but afterwards it came to the princes of Gwynedd. These lordships came by just descent from the princes thereof, to a woman named Hawys, the daughter of Owen ap Gruffydd. Arustly and Cyfeilioc came to the baron of Dudley, and afterwards it was sold to the king.

The third part belonging to Mathrafael, was the land between Wye and Severn, containing four cantrefs, and thirteen comots.

Cantref Melienydd hath these comots, Ceri, Swyddygre Rhiwalallt, and Glyn Erthon.

Cantref Elfel hath these, Uwchmynydd, Ismynydd, and Lhechddyfnog.

Cantref y Clawdd these, Dyffryn Teyfediad, Swyddynogen, and Pennwellt.

Cantref Buellt hath these, Swydd y Fam, Dreulys, and Isyrwon. Of this part there is at this day some in Montgomeryshire, some in Radnorshire, and some in Brecknockshire. In this part, and in the lordships marching to it, which, although at the time of this division, which was in the time of the last prince, were not in his subjection, yet to this day speak Welsh, and are called Wales, and in these comots are these towns and castles. Montgomery, called in Welsh, Trefaldwyn, a pretty town and fair castle. The castle of Clun, called Colunwy, which is the earls of Arundel. The town of Knighton, in Welsh, Trefyclawdd. The castle of Cymaron. Presteign, in Welsh, Llanandras. The town and castle of Radnor, in Welsh, Maesyfed, at this day the County town. The town of Kington, and the castle of Huntingdon, called in Welsh, Y Castell Mayn, which were the Bohuns earls of Hereford, and after the dukes of Buckingham. Castle Payn, Hay, Llanfair in Buellt. These lordships, with Brecknock and Abergavenny, were belonging to the Bruces, lords of Brecknock,

and after came divers times, and by sundry means, to the Bohuns, Nevils, and Mortimers. And so (as I have rehearsed) in this territory or kingdom were found fourteen cantrefs, and forty comots. Two of these parts, which are Powys and Gwynedd, are at this day called North Wales, and divided into six shires, Mon, called Anglesey, Caernarvon, Meirionydd, Denbigh, Flint, and Montgomeryshire, and are all on the north side of the Severn, saving a piece of Montgomeryshire.

And here I think it proper to let the reader understand what the British chronicle saith of North Wales, which affirmeth that three times it came by inheritance to women. First to Stradwen, daughter to Cadfan ap Conan ap Endaf, and wife to Coel Godebog, mother to Genaw, Dyfyr, and Gwawl. The Second time to the same Gwawl wife to Edeyrn ap Padarn, and mother to Cunedda Wledig; which Cunedda inhabiting in the north parts of England, about the year 540, after the incarnation of Christ; and hearing how the mingled nations of Irish-Scots, and Picts, had overrun the sea shore of Cardigan, which was part of his inheritance, sent his sons thither to enjoy their inheritance, of whom Tibiaon his eldest son died in Man, which land the said Irish-Scots had won. For Gildas saith, that the children of Glam Hector, which peopled a great part of Ireland, Yscroeth with his people inhabited Dalrieuda, which is a part of Scotland: Builke with his people came to Man. But I think it good to put in Gildas's words which saith; *Builke cum filiis suis inhabitavit Euboniam insulam vulgo Manaw, quæ est in meditullio maris inter Hyberniam & Britanniam*; that is to say, Builke with his children inhabited the isle Eubonia, commonly Manaw (for so it was and is named in British) which lieth in the middle of the sea, between Ireland and Britain. This was not called Môn, as Polydore faineth. The children of Bethoun inhabited Demetia, which is South-Wales, with Gwyr and Cydweli, till they were chased thence by the children of Cunedda. Thus far Gildas.

Therefore the sons of Cunedda, being arrived in North-Wales (as well I think being driven by the Saxons, as for their inheritance) divided the country betwixt them, And first Meiredon the son of Tibiaon, the son of Cunedda, had cantref Meireon to his part. Arustel ap Cunedda had cantref Arustly. Caredic ap Cunedda, had Caredigion, now called Cardiganshire. Donod had cantref Dunodic. Edeyrn had Edeyrnion. Mael had Dynmael. Coel had Coleyon. Doguael had Dogueilyn. Rhyfaon had Rhyfonioc, now Denbighland. Eineon Yrch had Caereineon in Powys. Ussa had Maesuswallt, near Oswestry. For surely that they say commonly of Oswald, King of Northumberland, to be slain there, and of the well that sprung where his arm was carried, nothing so. For Bede and all other writers testify that Peanda slew Oswald at Maserfelt, in the kingdom of Northumberland, and his body was buried in the Abbey of Bradney, in the province of Llyndesey. But to my former matter. These names given by the sons of Cunedda, remain to this day. After the Irish-Picts or Scots, which the Britains called Y Gwyddyl Pictiaid, which is to say, the Irish-Picts, did over-run the Isle of Môn, and were driven thence by Caswallon Lawhir, that is Caswallon with the long hand, the son of Eineon Yrch ap Cunedda, who slew Serigi their king with his own hands, at Llan y Gwyddyl, which is the Irish Church at Holyhead. This Caswallon was father to Maelgwn Gwynedd, whom the Latins call Maglocunus, Prince and King of Britain.

Maelor  
the son of  
Gwran,  
son to Cu-  
nedda, had  
Maeloron,  
that is the  
two Mae-  
lors, Mae-  
lor Gym-  
braeg,  
called Br.  
and Mae-  
lor Saes-  
neg.

In his time was the famous clerk and great wise man Taliessyn Ben Beirdd, that is to say, the chiefest of the Beirdd or wisemen; for this word Bardd in Cæsar's time signified (as Lucan beareth witness) such as had knowledge of things to come, and so it signifieth at this day. This Maelgwn had a son called Run, in whose time the Saxons invited Gurmond into Britain from Ireland, who had come thither from Afric, who with the Saxons was the

utter destruction of the Britains, and slew all that professed Christ, and was the first that drove them over the Severn. This Run was father to Beli, who was father to Iago, (for so the Britains call James) who was father to Cadfan, and not Brochwell called Brecyfal, (as the English chronicle saith) for this Brochwell called Ysgithroc, that is, long toothed, was chosen leader of such as met with Adelred alias Ethelbertus Rex Cantiaë, and other Angles and Saxons, whom Augustine had moved to make war against the christian Britains, and these put Brochwell twice to flight, not far from Chester, and cruelly slew 1000 priests and monks of Bangor, with a great number of lay-brethren of the same house, which lived by the labour of their hands, and were come bare-footed and woolward to crave mercy and peace at the Saxons hands. And here you shall understand that this was not Augustine, Bishop of Hippona the great clerk, but Augustine the monk, called the apostle of England.

Then this Brochwell retired over the Dee, hard by Bangor, and defended the passage against the Saxons, till Cadfan King of North Wales, Meredydd King of South Wales, and Bledrus, or Bletius Prince of Cornwall, came to succour him, and gave the Saxons a sore battle, and slew of them the number of 1066, and put the rest to flight. After which battle, Cadfan was chosen King of Britain, and was chief ruler within the Isle; after whom his son Cadwallon, who was father to Cadwalader, the last of the British blood, that bare the name of King of Britain, was king.

The third time that North Wales came to a woman, was to Esyllt, the daughter of Conan Tindathwy, the son of Edwal Ywrch, the son of Cadwalader. She was wife to Merfyn Frych, and mother to Rhoderic the Great, as shall be hereafter shewn. By this you may understand, that North Wales hath been a great while the chiefest seat of the last kings of Britain, because it was, and is the strongest country within this Isle; full of

high mountains, craggy rocks, great woods, and deep vallies, strait and dangerous places, deep and swift rivers, as Dyfi, which springeth in the hills of Meirionydd, and runneth north west through Mowddwy, and by Machynlleth, and so to the sea at Aberdyfi, dividing North and South Wales asunder. Dee, called in Welsh, Dyfrdwy, springing also on the other side of the same hills, runneth east through Penllyn, and the lake Tegyd, Corwan and Llangollen, between Chirkeland and Bromfield, where it boweth northward toward Bangor, to the Holt, and to Chester, and thence north west to Flint-castle, and so to the sea.

There is also Conway, rising likewise in Meirionyddshire, and dividing Caernarvon from Denbighshire, runneth under Snowden north east, by the town of Aberconwey to the sea.

Also Clwyd, which rising in Denbigh Land, runneth down to Rhuthyn, and plain north, not far from Denbigh to St. Asaph, and so by Ruthlan and to the sea. There are many other fair rivers, of which some run to the sea, as Mawr at Traethmawr, and Afon y Saint at Caernarvon, and other that run to the Severn, as Murnwy in Powys, and to Murnwy, Tanat; some other to the Dee, as Ceirioc betwixt the lordships of Chirke and Whittington; Alyn through Yal and Moldsdale, and Hopedale, and so to the Dee, a little above Chester. And this shall suffice for the perfect description of that which in old time was called Gwynedd and Powys, and at these days the six shires of North Wales.

Now remaineth the last kingdom of Wales, called Dynefawr, which although it was the greatest, yet was it not the best, as Giraldus witnesseth, chiefly because it was much molested with Flemings and Normans, and also that in divers parts thereof, the lords would not obey their prince, as in Gwent and in Morganwg, which was their own confusion, as shall hereafter appear. This was divided into six parts, of which Caredigion was the first, and contained four cantrefs and ten

Dynefawr, ✓

Caredigion.

comots, as cantref Penwedic had in it these comots, Geneurglyn, Perfedd and Creuthyn.

Cantref Canawl had these, Mefenyth, Anhunoc, and Peunarth.

Cantref Castell had these comots, Mabwynion and Caerwedros.

Cantref Syrwen had these, Gwenionydd and Iscoed; and this part is at this day called in English Cardiganshire, and in Welsh Swydd Aberteifi. This is a champion country without much wood, and hath been divers times overcome with Flemings and Normans, which builded many castles in it, and at the last were beaten out of them all. It hath on the east North Wales, with the river Dyfi and part of Powys, upon the south Caermarthenshire, upon the west Pembrokeshire, with the river Teifi, and upon the north the Irish sea. In this part is the town of Cardigan upon Teifi, not far from the sea. The town of Aberystwyth upon the river Ystwyth, by the sea, and Llanbadarn Fawr, which was a great sanctuary, and a place of religious and learned men in times past. And in this shire were a great number of castles, as the castle of Ystratmeyric, of Walter, of Llanrysted, of Dynernth, of the sons of Wyneacon, of Aber-Reidol, and a great number more, with the town of Tregaron and Llanddewibrefi.

Dyfed.

The second part was called Dyfed, and at this day Pembrokeshire, and had in it eight cantrefs, and twenty-three comots, which were these. Cantref Emlyn had these comots, Uwchcuch, Iscuch and Lefethyr.

Cantref Arberth had these, Penrhyn ar Elays, Esterolef and Talacharn.

Cantref Daugleddeu had these, Amgoed, Pennant and Efelre.

Cantref Y Coed had these, Llanhayaden and Castell Gwys.

Cantref Penfro hath these, Coed yr haf, Maenor byrr, and Penfro.

Cantref Rhos hath these, Hwlfordd, Castell Gwalchmai and Ygarn.

Cantref Pubidioc hath these, Mynyw, Pencaer and Pebidioc.

Cantref Cemais hath these, Uwchnefer, Isnefer and Trefdraeth.

In this part are divers towns and havens at this day, as Pembroke, Tenby, in Welsh Dynbegh-y-pyscod, Haverford-West in welsh Hwlffordd, with the fair haven of Milford, called in Welsh Aberdaugleddeu, St. David's or Menevia, called in Welsh Mynyw, the chiefest see in all Wales. Then Fishgard called Abeigwayn; and Newport, named Trefdraeth; thes are along the sea coast, or not very far off. Besides these there are divers castles, as Cilgerran, Arberth, Gwys, Llanhayaden, Walwyn, and divers others. This part was first won by the Montgomery's earls of Shrewsbury, and after given to the Marshalls, and so to Valence, and from thence were the princes of Wales most troubled with the Normans and Flemings, who do remain and inhabit about Tenby, Pembroke and Rhos to this day, which can neither speak Welsh nor good English as yet. Dyfed, (for so will I call it hereafter) hath on the west and north the Irish sea, upon the south the Spanish sea, and upon the east Caermarthenshire, and on the north east Cardiganshire. The third part was Caermarthenshire, having four cantrefs, and fifteen comots, as cantref Finioc, with the comots of Harfryn, Derfedd, and Isgeneny.

Cantref Eginoc with these Gwyr, now in Glamorganshire, Cydweli, and Carnwilleon.

Cantref Bychan with these, Mallaen, Caio, and Maenor Deilo.

Cantref Mawr with these, Cethinoc, comot mab Elfyw, comot mab Uchdryd and Wydigada. In this shire are the towns and castles of Caermarthen, Dynefawr, which was the prince's seat of the country, Newtown, Llandeilo, Llanymddyfri, Emlyn, Swansea, now in Glamorganshire, called in Welsh Abertawe upon the sea, the castle of the sons of Uchtryd, of Llanstephan, and others. It hath upon the west Dyfed or Pembrokeshire, on

*Dyfed*  
 1. won by  
 Montgomery  
 Earls of  
 2. Marshalls  
 3. Valence  
 4. Princes of  
 Norman

Caermar-  
then.



the north Cardiganshire, upon the south west the sea, and upon the south east Glamorgan, and upon the east Brecknockshire. This is counted the strongest part of all South Wales, as that which is full of high mountains, great woods, and fair rivers, especially Tywy. In this, and in the other two parts of South Wales, were the notablest acts that this history treateth of, atchieved and done.

The fourth called Morganwg, now Glamorgan-  
Morganwg shire, containeth four cantrefs, with fifteen comots. As cantref Croneth, with these comots, Rwngneth ac Afan, Tir yr Hwndrwd, and Maenor Glynogwr.

Cantref Pennythen with these, Meyscyn, Glynrhodny, Maenor Talafan, and Maenor Ruthyn.

Cantref Brenhinol with these, Cibowr, Senghenyith, Uwchcaeth, and Iscaeth.

Cantref Gwentllw, which is now in Monmouthshire, with these comots, y Rhardd Ganol, and Eithafdylgion. In this part are these towns and castles, Llandaf the bishop's see, Caerdiffe, called Caerdydd, Cowbridge, called in Welsh Y bont faen, which is as much as to say Stonebridge, Lantwyd, Caerffyli, and others, and hath several rivers which run to the Bristol channel, as Lay, Taf, Tawe, Neth, Afan, Ogwr, and Llychwr; it hath on the south, the sea of Severn, which divideth it from Devonshire and Cornwall; upon the west and north west, Caermarthenshire; upon the north east, Brecknockshire; and upon the east, Monmouthshire. Of these you shall read very little, for one Iestyn being chief of the country, and having war with his neighbours, called one Robert Fitzhamon, with a great number of strangers to his succours, which after they had atchieved the enterprise, liked so well the country, that they found occasion to fall out with Iestyn, and inhabited the country themselves and their heirs to this day.

The fifth part was called Gwent, and now in Monmouthshire, which had three cantrefs, and ten

comots, as cantref Gwent, which had these comots, Y mynydd, Iscoed Llefnydd, and Tref y grug.

Cantref Iscoed these, Brynbuga, Uwchcoed, y Teirtref, and Erging ac ewyas, now in Herefordshire.

Cantref Cŏch was the seventh cantref of Morgannwg, which is now in Gloucestershire, and is called the Forest of Dean.

In this part was the ancient city of Caerlleon upon Usk, where was the archbishop's see of Wales; here are also divers towns and castles, as Chepstow, Glyn, Strigul, Rhos, Tyntern upon the River Wye; there is also Newport, called y Castell Newydd, Usk called Brynbuga, Grosmont, Raglan, White-castle, Abergavenny, and many others. This is a fair and a fertile country, of which likewise the gentlemen were never obedient to their prince, which was the cause of their own destruction. It hath on the west Glamorgan and Brecknockshires, upon the north Herefordshire, upon the east Gloucestershire, with the river Wye, and upon the south and south east the Severn.

Last of all cometh Brecheinog, now Brecknockshire, which hath three cantrefs, and eight comots. As cantref Selef which hath these comots, Selef and Trahayern.

Brechei-  
noc.

Cantref Canol these, Talgarth, Ystradyw and Brwynllys or Eglwys Yail.

Cantref Mawr these, Tir Raulff, Llywel and Cerrig-Howel. In this part is the town of Brecknock upon the meeting of Usk and Honddi, and is called Aberhonddi, and Hay called Y Gelly, with Talgarth, Buellt, Llangors; it hath west Caermarthenshire, with the river Tywy, upon the north Radnorshire with Wye, upon the east Herefordshire and Monmouth, upon the south Glamorgan. This for the most part is full of mountains, woods and rivers, especially Buellt. And the lords of this country called Bruces, with the Mortimers, most of all other lords marches, sometimes by might, but oftener by treason, have molested and

grieved the princes of Wales. This land came after the Bruces to the Bohuns earls of Hereford, and so to the Staffords, dukes of Buckingham.

These six shires being subject to the territory of Dynefawr with Radnorshire, which was belonging to Mathrafael, are now commonly called South Wales, which country is both great and large, with many fair plains and vallies for corn, high mountains and rocks full of pasture for cattle; great and thick woods, with forests and parks for red deer and fallow; clear and deep rivers full of fish, of which Severn is the chiefest, which with Wye and Rheidol, spring out of a high mountain called Pymlymon, in the edge of Cardiganshire, and are called commonly the three sisters. Severn runneth full east through Cydewen by the pool, and under the castle of Shraden to Shrewsbury, from whence it turneth southward, and runs to Bridgenorth, Bewdley, Worcester, Gloucester, and so to the sea near Bristol. The second sister is Gwy, in English Wye, which took her journey south east, by Raya-der Gwy to Buellt, where Irwon meeteth her, thence to Glasbury, and so to Hereford and Monmouth, and to the sea of Severn at Chepstow; for so they call Môr Hafren the sea which severeth Wales from Somersetshire, Devonshire and Cornwall. The third sister named Rheidol, ran northward to the sea, being not far off, at Aberystwyth. There are other fair rivers as Usk, which rising in a high mountain called Y Mynydd du, in the south part of Brecknockshire, runneth to Brecknock, and so through Monmouthshire to the town of Usk, Caerleon and Newport, and so to the Bristol Channel. Tywy also rising not far from Wye, runneth south to Llanymyddyfri, and thence south west by Llandeilo and Dynefawr, to Abergwily and Caermarthen, and so by Llanstephan to the sea.

Teifi likewise which riseth in the edge of Caermarthenshire, and runneth north west by Emlyn, Cilgerran, Cardigan, and so to the Irish sea. In Teifi, above all the rivers in Wales, were in Giraldus's time a great number of castors, which may

be englished beavers, and are called in Welsh *afanc*, which name only remaineth in Wales at this day, but what it is very few can tell. It is a beast not much unlike an otter, but that it is bigger, all hairy saving the tail, which is like a fish tail, as broad as a man's hand. This beast useth as well the water as the land, and hath very sharp teeth, and biteth cruelly, till he perceives the bones crack. He that will learn what strong nests they make, which Giraldus calleth castles, which they build upon the face of the water with great boughs, which they cut with their teeth, and how some lie upon their backs, holding the wood with the fore feet, which the other draweth with a cross stick, which he holdeth in his mouth to the water side, and other particularities of their natures, let him read Giraldus in his topography of Wales. There are besides these a great number of rivers, of which some run to the south, and some to the west and north sea, as Tywy in Glamorganshire, Taf also in Caermarthenshire, which runneth to Cleddeu, two rivers either called Cleddeu, which do give Milford the name of Aberdaugleddeu in Pembroke-shire; Arth, Aeron, and Ystwyth, in Cardigan. There are also several lordships which are added to other shires, and were taken heretofore for parts of Wales, and in most part of them at this day, the Welsh language is spoken, as Oswestry, Knocking, Whittington, Elsmar, Malsbroke, Chirbury, Caurs, Clun, which are now in Shropshire; Ewyas-Lacy, Ewyas-Harwald, Clifford Winsorton, Yardley, Huntingdon, Whitney, and Loghardneys in Herefordshire. Also this country of South Wales, as all the rest of Britain, was first inhabited by the Britains which remain there to this day, saving that in divers places, especially along the sea shore, they have been mingled with Saxons, Normans, (which the Welsh history calleth Frenchmen) and Flemings; so that the princes of Wales, since the conquest of the Normans, could never keep quiet

Fiber, Latin, Beaver, English, *Afanc* British, Giraldus in Itiner.

possession thereof, but what for strangers, and what for disloyalty of their own people, vexation and war, were for the most part compelled to keep themselves in Caermarthenshire.

## THE WINNING OF THE LORDSHIP

OF

## GLAMORGAN,

OR

## MORGANNWG,

OUT OF THE WELSHMEN'S HANDS, AND FIRST OF THE  
DESCRIPTION OF THE SAME LORDSHIP.

(Reprinted from the Edition of 1584.)

IN primis, the said lordship in length from Rymny bridge on the east side, to Pwll Conan on the west side, is 27 miles. The breadth thereof from the haven of Aburthaw, alias Abardaon, on the south side, to the confines of Bredinockshire, above Morley's castle, is 22 miles.

Item the same lordship, being a lordship marcher, or a lordship royal, and holden of no other lordship, the lords ever since the winning of the same, owing their obedience only to the crown, have used therein *jura regalia*: that is, the trial of all actions, as well real as personal, with pleas of the crown, and authority to pardon all offences, treason only excepted.

Item there were 11 lordships, to wit, Senghenyith, Myskyn, Ruthin, Llanblethian, Tir Iarll, Glyn Rothney, Avan, Neath, Coyty, Talavan and Lantwit, alias, Boviarton, that were members of the said lordship of Glamorgan. In every of the members were the like *jura regalia* used in all things, saving that if any wrong judgement were

\* a new article, a <sup>H 2</sup> *hant* or *impendo*.  
Used essentially in wills for also.

given in any of the courts of the said members, it should be reversed by a writ of false judgement in the county court of Glamorgan, as superior court to the said members. Also all matters of conscience happening in debate, in any of the said members, should be heard and determined in the chancery of Glamorgan, before the chancellor thereof.

4 Item, the body of the said lordship of Glamorgan, was, (before the alteration of the laws in Wales) a county of itself, wherein the lord had two castles and three market towns, to wit, the castle and town of Kynfig, alias Kefnffigen, in the west part thereof, and Cowbridge town, alias Pont-vaen, in the midst. And the town and castle of Cardyff, or Caer-Dydd, in the east part, in which castle of Cardyff, the lord did most inhabit; and therein he had his Chancery and Exchequer, and a fair Court house, wherein the county Court was kept monthly on the Monday, for all the suiters of the shrievalty, that is, of the body of the said lordship itself, without the said members.

5 Item, within the said shrievalty, or body of the said lordship, were 18 castles, and 36 knight's fees and a half, that held of the said lordship of Glamorgan, by knight's service, besides a great number of freeholders.

6 Item, in eight of the said members were ten castles and four borough towns.

7 Item, the annual revenues of the said lordship, with the members, was 1000 marks, whereof was allowed in fees 400 marks; of the which members aforesaid, John Gamage, Esq; occupieth one at this day, descended unto him from the Turberviles, his ancestors, that is to wit, the lordship of Coyty; and the heir of John Basset enjoyeth another, to wit, the lordship of Talavan, by purchase, from King Edward the sixth. The other nine members, with four of the aforesaid knights fees, and all the castles, market towns, and borough towns, with the demesnes of the same; and

The value of the seniority, before the purchase thereof.

all the lands that were in the lords hands, parcel of the said lordship and members, the earl of Pembroke hath purchased. So that there remaineth now to the senior of the said lordship of Glamorgan, (being in the Queen's Majesty's hands) but the moiety only of the manor of Dynaspowys, of the value of 26 pounds by the year.

The value  
of the seni-  
ory now.

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THE MANNER OF THE WINNING OF  
THE SAID LORDSHIP.

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IN the year of our Lord 1091, and in the fourth year of the reign of King William Rufus, one Iestyn the son of Gwrgant, being lord of the said lordship of Glamorgan, Rees ap Tewdwr, Prince of South Wales, that is, of Caermarthenshire and Cardiganshire, made war upon him. Whereupon the said Iestyn, understanding himself unable to withstand the said Rees without some aid otherwise, sent one Eineon, a gentleman of his, to England, to one Robert Fitzhamon, a worthy man, and knight of the privy chamber with the said king, to retain him for his succour. The which Robert, being desirous to exercise himself in the feats of war, agreed soon with him thereto for a salary to him granted for the same. Whereupon the said Robert Fitzhamon retained to his service for the said journey, twelve knights, and a competent number of soldiers, and went into Wales, and joining there with the power of the said Iestyn, fought with the said Rees ap Tewdwr, and killed him, and one Conan his son. After which victory, the said Robert Fitzhamon, minding to return home again with his company, demanded his salary to him due of the said Iestyn, according to the covenants and promises agreed upon between him and the aforesaid Eineon, on the behalf of the said Iestyn his

1091



master. The which to perform in all points, the said Iestyn denied; and thereupon they fell out, so that it came to be tried by battle, And forasynuch as the said Eineon saw his master go from divers articles and promises, that he had willed him to conclude with the said Robert Fitzhamon, on his behalf, he forsook his master, and took part, he and his friends, with the said Robert Fitzhamon. In which conflict, the said Iestyn with a great number of his men were slain, whereby the said Robert Fitzhamon won the peaceable possession of the whole lordship of Glamorgan, with the members, of which he gave certain castles and manors, in reward of service, to the said twelve knights, and to other his gentlemen.

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THE NAMES AND SIRNAMES OF THE SAID TWELVE  
KNIGHTS WERE THESE.

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- 1 WILLIAM de Londres, alias London.
- 2 Richardus de Grana villa, alias Greenfeeld.
- 3 Paganus de Tuberville.
- 4 Robertus de S. Quintino, alias S. Quintine.
- 5 Richardus de Syward.
- 6 Gilbertus de Humfrevile.
- 7 Rogerus de Berkrolles.
- 8 Reginaldus de Sully.
- 9 Peter le Soore.
- 10 Johannes le Fleming.
- 11 Oliverus de S. John, a younger brother of the Lord S. John, of Basing.
- 12 William le Esterling, whose ancestors came out of Danske to England with the Danes, and is now by shortness of speech called Stradling.

THE PARCELS GIVEN BY THE SAID ROBERT FITZ-  
HAMON TO THE SAID TWELVE KNIGHTS  
AND OTHERS, IN REWARD  
OF SERVICE.

- IN primis, to the said William de Londres, the 1  
said Robert Fitzhamon gave the castle and manor Ogmor. — 4  
of Ogmore, being four knights fees; now parcel  
of the possessions of the duchy of Lancaster.
- Item, to the forenamed Sir Richard Greenfeeld, 2  
he gave the castle and lordship of Neath, being one Neath.  
of the members aforesaid; and now parcel of the  
possession of the Right Hon. the Earl of Pembroke.
- Item, to Sir Paine Turbervile, he gave the castle 3  
and lordship of Coyty, being another of the said Coyty.  
members; and now parcel of the possessions of  
John Gamage, Esq.
- Item, to Sir Robert S. Quintine he gave the 4  
castle and lordship of Llanblethian, being another Llan-Ble-  
of the said members, and now parcel of the pos- thian.  
sessions of S. William Herbert, of Swansey, Knt.
- Item, to Sir Richard Syward, he gave the castle 5  
and lordship of Talavan, being another of the said Talavan.  
members; and now parcel of the possessions of An-  
thony Maunsell, Esq.
- Item, to Sir Gilbert Humfrevile, he gave the cas- 6  
tle and manor of Penmarke, being three knights Penmarke — 3  
fees; now parcel of the possessions of the Right  
Hon. Lord St. John, of Bledso.
- Item, to Sir Reginald de Sully, he gave the cas- 7  
tle and manor of Sully, so since called after his Sully. — 2  
name, being two knights fees; now divided be-  
twixt the Earl of Pembroke, and the Lord St. John,  
of Bledso.
- Item, to Sir Roger Berkrolles, he gave the ma- 8  
nor of East Orchard, being one knight's fee; now East Orch-  
ard. — 1

parcel of the possessions of S. William Herbert, of Swansey.

9  
Peterton. Item, to Sir Peter le Soore, he gave the castle and manor of Peterton, so now called after his name, being one knight's fee; now parcel of the possessions of the Earl of Pembroke.

10  
S. George. Item, to Sir John Fleming, he gave the castle and manor of St. George, being one knight's fee; and holden of his posterity the Flemings to this day.

11  
Fonmon. Item, to Sir John St. John, he gave the castle and manor of Fonmon, or Fenuon, being one knight's fee; and now parcel of the possessions of the Lord St. John, of Bledso.

12  
S. Donats. Item, to Sir William le Esterling, alias Stradling, he gave the castle and manor of St. Donats, or St. Denwit, being one knight's fee; now parcel of the possessions of Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. that now is.

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SUM. FOUR LORDSHIPS MEMBERS, AND THIRTEEN  
KNIGHTS FEES.

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13  
ITEM, he gave to the aforesaid Eineon, that took his part, the lordship of Senghennyth, being another of the said members.

14  
Item, he gave the castle and lordship of Avan, another of the said members, to caradoc Fitz Iestyn, the eldest son of the said Iestyn.

15  
Item, he gave the lordship of Ruthyn, another of the said members, to another son of the said Iestyn.

16  
Item, the rest of the foresaid knights fees, being twenty-two and an half, he distributed part to gentlemen that served him, and part to the Welshmen, right owners of the same.

THE PORTION THAT THE LORD KEPT FOR HIMSELF  
AND HIS HEIRS.

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THE castle of Cardyff and Kenfig, with the foresaid three market towns of Cardyff, Kenfig, and Cowbridge, and the shrievalty, being the body of the said lordship of Glamorgan, and all the demesnes of the same, with the rest of the said members; to wit, Myskyn, Glynrothney, Tyr Iarl, and Boviarton, alias Lantwit; and the chief seniory of the whole, the said Robert Fitzhamon kept to himself. And in the said lordship of Boviarton, he had a large grange or house of husbandry, with lands to the same belonging, that served him for the provision of corn to his house. He dwelt himself most in the said castle or town of Cardyff, being a fair haven town. And because he would have the aforesaid twelve knights and their heirs give attendance upon him every county day, (which was always kept by the sheriff, in the utter ward of the said castle, on the Monday monthly, as is before said) he gave every one of them a lodging within the said utter ward, the which their heirs, or those that purchased the same of their heirs, do enjoy at this day.

Also the morrow after the county day, being the Tuesday, the lord's chancellor sat always in the Chancery there, for the determining of matters of conscience in strife, happening as well in the said shrievalty as in the members; the which day also, the said knights used to give attendance upon the lord; and the Wednesday every man drew homeward, and then began the courts of the members to be kept in order, one after another,

THE PEDIGREE OF ROBERT FITZHAMON, AND OF  
HIS HEIRS, LORDS OF GLAMORGAN.

Some do affirm that he was lord of Astrevile in Normandy.

Matt. West. lib. 2, p. 21. I. Castor. Matt. Paris, page 22.

- 1 THE said Robert Fitzhamon, was son to Hamon, a great lord, and kinsman of William the Conqueror, who came into the realm with him. This Robert, (as is before said) was knight of the privy chamber with King William Rufus; who (as it appeareth in the Chronicles) dreamed the night before the king was killed, that he saw the king torn in pieces by wolves; and therefore, by his persuasion, he willed the king to forbear to go abroad that forenoon. But the king, when he had dined, there was no man able to stay him, but that he would ride forth a hunting into the new forest, where he was slain by Walter Tyrrell, by the glancing of his arrow shooting at a red deer.
- 2 Mawd, the only daughter and heiress of the said Robert, was married to Robert, Earl of Gloucester, base son to King Henry the first.
- 3 William, Earl of Gloucester, son to the said Robert and Mawd, died without issue male, leaving behind him three daughters; of the which, Isabel, the eldest, was married to King John, then Earl of Oxenford and Lancaster (as some chronicles do declare) who so soon as he was made king was divorced from her. And then she was married to Geffrey Mandevile, Earl of Essex, and died without issue, as far as I can find.
- 4 The second daughter named Amicia, was married to Sir Gilbert de Clare, then Earl of Clare, by whom he had the earldom of Gloucester,

and Mabile, the third daughter was married to the Earl of Eureux.

5 Sir Gilbert de Clare, son to the said Gilbert, was the fourth Earl of Gloucester.

6 Sir Richard de Clare's son was the fifth earl.

7 Sir Gilbert's son was the sixth earl.

8 Sir Gilbert's son, who married Jane de Acres, daughter to King Edward I. was the seventh earl.

9 Sir Gilbert de Clare their son was the eighth earl, and he was slain by the Scots in King Edward the Second's time; and then the earldom fell between his three sisters. Of the which Elianor the eldest was married to Hugh Spenser the son, in her right Earl of Gloucester. Margaret the second was married to Peires Gaueston, and after to the Lord Awdeley. Elizabeth the third was married first to William Lord Burgh, Earl of Ulster, and after to Ralph Roch, Baron of Armoy, in Ireland; she was married the third time to Theobald L. Verdoun, and lastly to Sir Roger Damory, and had issue by every one of them.

10 Sir Hugh Spenser had to his wives purpartee the said lordship of Glamorgan.

11 Hugh Lord Spenser their son enjoyed the same, and died without issue.

12 Edward Lord Spenser, son to Edward, brother to the said Hugh, succeeded the said Hugh therein.

13 Thomas Lord Spenser, his son succeeded him.

14 Richard Lord Spenser, his son, succeeded him, and died in ward.

15 Isabell, sister to Richard, succeeded him, and married with Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Worcester, and Lord Abergavenny, who had issue by her a daughter only, and died. The which daughter was married to Edward, the son of Dawraby Ralph Neucl, Earl of Westmoreland. And after the death of the said Earl of Worcester, the said Isabell married with Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick.

- 16 Henry Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and after Duke of Warwick, their son died without issue.
- 17 Anne his sister of whole blood succeeded him, and married with Richard Neuell, after Earl of Salsburie, and in her right Earl of Warwick; and had issue two daughters, Marie, married to the Duke of Clarence; and Anne, married first to Prince Edward, slain at Teuxburie; and after his death with Richard, Duke of Glocester, who was afterward King of England.
- 18 The said Anne, and King Richard, (being then Duke of Glocester) had the said lordship given unto them by the said Anne, Countess of Warwick, her mother.
- 19 King Henry the Seventh, enjoyed the same after the death of King Richard.
- 20 Jasper, Duke of Bedford, enjoyed the same by the gift of King Henry the Seventh, and died without issue; and by reason thereof it remained to the king again.
- 21 King Henry the Eighth, enjoyed the same after his father.
- 22 King Edward the Sixth, succeeded him therein, and sold almost all the lands thereof.
- 23 Queen Mary, succeeded him in the seniory.
- 24 Queen Elizabeth, our most dread sovereign that now is, doth succeed her in the same seniory, and hath sold the lordship of Neath from it; so that now there remain no more lands appertaining to the seniory, but the moiety of the manor of Dinaspowys only.

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THE PEDIGREE OF LONDRES, LORD OF OGMORE,  
ONE OF THE SAID TWELVE.

1 WILLIAM LONDRES, lord of the castle and manor of Ogmores, (as is before said) won afterwards the lordships of Kydweley, and

Carnewillion, in Caermarthenshire, from the Welshmen; and gave to Sir Arnold Butler, his servant, the castle and manor of Dunreveen, in the lordship of Ogmore aforesaid. The which ever since hath continued in the heirs male of the said Arnold Butler, until within these few years that it fell to Walter Vaghan, sister's son to Arnold Butler, the last of the Butler's that was owner thereof.

- 2 Simon de Londres, his son, succeeded him.
- 3 William de Londres, succeeded his father Simon, and had issue one son.
- 4 Moris de Londres, his son, succeeded him, and had issue one only daughter.
- 5 The said daughter married with one Seward, a man of great possessions.
- 6 They had issue a daughter only, married to Henrie, Earl of Lancaster, brother to Thomas, Earl of Lancaster.
- 7 Henrie, their son, made afterwards Duke of Lancaster, did succeed them; and so the said three lordships, Ogmore, Kydweley, and Carnewillion, became parcels of the Duchy of Lancaster ever after.

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THE PEDIGREE OF GREENFEELD.

SIR Richard Greenfeeld, before said, (to whom the lordship of Neath, was given in reward) was lord of the castle and manor of Bydyford, in Devonshire, at the time he came into Wales, with the said Robert Fitzhamon, and founded an abby of white monks in Neath, and gave the whole lordship to the maintenance of the same, and then returned back again to Bydyford, whereas the issue male of his body doth yet remain, and enjoyeth the same.



THE PEDIGREE OF TURBERVILLE, LORD OF  
COYTY.

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- 1 SIR Paine Turbervile, lord of Coyty, as is before said.
  - 2 Sir Simon Turbervile succeeded him and died without issue.
  - 3 Sir Gilbert Turbervile succeeded his brother.
  - 4 Sir Paine Turbervile, his son succeeded him, and married Mawd, daughter and sole heir to Morgan Gam, one of the nephews of the afore-said Iestyn.
  - 5 Sir Gilbert their son quartered Iestyn's arms with Turbervile's
  - 6 Sir Gilbert, his son, succeeded him.
  - 7 Sir Richard, his son, succeeded him,
  - 8 Sir Paine, his son, succeeded him, who married with Gwenllian, daughter to Sir Richard Talbot, Knt. and had issue by her, two sons, that is to wit, Gilbert and Richard; and four daughters, namely, Catharine, Margaret, Agnes, and Sara.
  - 9 Sir Gilbert succeeded Sir Paine his father.
  - 10 Sir Gilbert, his son, succeeded him, and died without issue.
  - 11 Sir Richard, his father's brother, succeeded him, and having no issue, entailed the lordship of Coyty to the heirs male of Sir Roger Berkerolles, Knt.
  - 1 Sir Roger Berkerolles, Knt, son to Sir William Berkerolles, Knt. and Phelice his wife, one of the daughters of Veere, Earl of Oxenford, which said Sir Roger had married Catharine, the eldest sister of the said Sir Richard. And for default of such issue, the remainder to the heirs

- 2 male of Sir Richard Stakepoole, Knt. who mar-  
 3 with Margaret, second sister of the said Richard.  
 And for default of such issue, the remainder to  
 the heirs of Sir John de la Beare, Knt. and Ag-  
 4 nes his wife, the third sister to the said Richard.  
 And for lack of such issue male, the remainder  
 to the heirs male of William Gamage, and of  
 Sara his wife, the fourth sister to the said Sir  
 Richard Turbervile.

The said Berkrolles, Stakepoole, or Stacpoole, and De la Beare, died without issue male\*, by reason whereof, after the death of Sir Laurence Berkerolles, Knt. son to the said Sir Roger, and Catharine his wife; the said lordship fell to Sir William Gamage, son to Gilbert, son to the foresaid William Gamage, and Sara. The said William son to Sir Robert Gamage, Knt. son to Paine Gamage, lord of the manor of Rogiade, in the county of Monmouth. The foresaid Sir William had issue Thomas, Thomas had issue John, John had issue Morgan, Morgan had issue Sir Thomas Gamage, Knt. and Margaret, wife to Jenkin Thomas, and Anne, wife to Robert Raglan, and Catharine, wife to Reginald ap Howel, and Gwenllian, wife to Thomas ap Meyric.

\* ROBERT, the only brother of the said Sir Richard Stackpoole, married a daughter of Sir John Sitsylt, or Cecill.

Sir William Stackpoole, his eldest son, married a daughter of Howel ap Ithel, lord of Roos and Ryfonioc, now Denbighland. The said Sir William Stackpoole had a command in an army, raised in the reign of king Stephen, against David, king of Scots, but died young, leaving three sons and one daughter.

Sir Richard Stackpoole, his eldest son. of Stackpoole, in the county of Pembroke, married a daughter of Sir Henry Vernon, of Haddon, in the Peke.

No mention is made of the second son; but Robert, the youngest son, encouraged by his cousin Robert Fitzstephen, went over to Ireland with Richard, earl of Strigule, known by the name of Strongbow, and was a captain of archers in that division of the army that Fitzstephen commanded under Strongbow, in the year 1168, the fourteenth year of king Henry the Second.

The said Robert Stackpoole afterwards settled in Ireland, and his lineal descendant has a large property in the county of Clare, in that kingdom.

The old mansion of Stackpoole Court, and a large estate in Pembrokeshire, descended to a grand daughter of the second Sir Richard Stackpoole, and is now the property of the son of the late Pryse Campbell, esq. who was member for that county. and died in 1769.

The said Sir Thomas Gamage had issue Robert Gamage that late was ; Catharine his eldest daughter, wife to Sir Thomas Stradling, Knt. Marie the second daughter, wife to Matthew Herebert ; Margaret the third daughter, wife to the Lord William Howard ; and Elizabeth the fourth daughter, wife to Richard Hogan, of Pembrokeshire, Esq. The said Robert Gamage had issue John Gamage that now is.

- 1 Sole heir General to the said Sir Roger Berkroles, Knt. and Catharine, one of the four sisters, and heirs general to the aforesaid Sir Richard Turbervile, Knt. is Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. that now is.
- 2 Sole heir general to the said Sir Richard Stakepoole, of Pembrokeshire, and Margaret his wife, another of the four sisters, and heirs general to the said Sir Richard Turbervile, Knt. is Sir George Vernon, Knt.
- 3 Heirs general to the said Sir John de la Beare, Knt. and Agnes his wife, another of the four sister, and heirs general of the said Sir Richard Turbervile, Knt. are Oliver S. John, Lord S. John, of Bledso, and William Basset, of Glamorgan, Esq. that now is.
- 4 John Gamage, Esq. that now is, is as well heir general, lineally descended from Sara, the fourth sister, and heir to the said Sir Richard Turbervile, Knt. as also heir by the entail aforesaid, to the whole lordship of Coyty.

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ROBERT DE S. QUINTINE, HIS PEDIGREE.

SIR Robert de S. Quintine, to whom the lordship of Llanblethian was given, and his issue male enjoyed the same, until King Henry the Third's time. And then, or in short time after, his issue male failed, of whom is descended Sir William Parr, late Marquis of Northampton.

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 RICHARD DE SYWARD, HIS PEDIGREE.

SIR Richard Syward, to whom the lordship of Talavan was given, and his issue male, enjoyed the same until King Edward the Third's time; at which time, the heirs thereof having other lands in Somersetshire, sold the said lordship to the lord Spencer, then lord of Glamorgan, and went into Somersetshire to dwell there, where his issue male continueth yet.

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 GILBERT DE HUMFREVILE, HIS PEDIGREE.

SIR Gilbert Humfrevile aforesaid, to whom the castle and manor of Penmarke was given, and his issue male, enjoyed the same till the said King Edward the Third's time; and then the inheritance of the said castle and manor descended to Sir John S. John, of Fonmon, Knt. to whom the forenamed lord S. John, of Bledso, is sole heir.

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 ROGER DE BERKEROLLES, KNT. HIS PEDIGREE.

SIR Roger Berkerolles, aforesaid knight, to whom the manor of East Orchard was given, and his issue male, enjoyed the same till the thirteenth year of Henry the Fourth; that Sir Laurence Berkerolles, Knt. died, whom Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. as sole heir did succeed, being son to Sir William Stradling, Knt. son to Sir Edward Stradling, Knt.

The said Sir Thomas Gamage had issue Robert Gamage that late was; Catharine his eldest daughter, wife to Sir Thomas Stradling, Knt. Marie the second daughter, wife to Matthew Herebert; Margaret the third daughter, wife to the Lord William Howard; and Elizabeth the fourth daughter, wife to Richard Hogan, of Pembrokeshire, Esq. The said Robert Gamage had issue John Gamage that now is.

- 1 Sole heir General to the said Sir Roger Berkroles, Knt. and Catharine, one of the four sisters, and heirs general to the aforesaid Sir Richard Turbervile, Knt. is Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. that now is.
- 2 Sole heir general to the said Sir Richard Stakepoole, of Pembrokeshire, and Margaret his wife, another of the four sisters, and heirs general to the said Sir Richard Turbervile, Knt. is Sir George Vernon, Knt.
- 3 Heirs general to the said Sir John de la Beare, Knt. and Agnes his wife, another of the four sister, and heirs general of the said Sir Richard Turbervile, Knt. are Oliver S. John, Lord S. John, of Bledso, and William Basset, of Glamorgan, Esq. that now is.
- 4 John Gamage, Esq. that now is, is as well heir general, lineally descended from Sara, the fourth sister, and heir to the said Sir Richard Turbervile, Knt. as also heir by the entail aforesaid, to the whole lordship of Coyty.

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ROBERT DE S. QUINTINE, HIS PEDIGREE.

SIR Robert de S. Quintine, to whom the lordship of Llanblethian was given, and his issue male enjoyed the same, until King Henry the Third's time. And then, or in short time after, his issue male failed, of whom is descended Sir William Parr, late Marquis of Northampton.

## RICHARD DE SYWARD, HIS PEDIGREE.

SIR Richard Syward, to whom the lordship of Talavan was given, and his issue male, enjoyed the same until King Edward the Third's time; at which time, the heirs thereof having other lands in Somersetshire, sold the said lordship to the lord Spencer, then lord of Glamorgan, and went into Somersetshire to dwell there, where his issue male continueth yet.

## GILBERT DE HUMFREVILE, HIS PEDIGREE.

SIR Gilbert Humfrevile aforesaid, to whom the castle and manor of Penmarke was given, and his issue male, enjoyed the same till the said King

*Died at Bath the Hon. Matilda Villiers, wife of Villiers W. Villiers  
Esq<sup>r</sup>, daughter of John W. Lord, & sister of the late Henry Beauchamp  
of Saint Andrew, successively Lords of John of Blewre.  
The Bristol Mercury July 21<sup>st</sup> 1711*

SIR Roger Berkerolles, aforesaid knight, to whom the manor of East Orchard was given, and his issue male, enjoyed the same till the thirteenth year of Henry the Fourth; that Sir Laurence Berkerolles, Knt. died, whom Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. as sole heir did succeed, being son to Sir William Stradling, Knt. son to Sir Edward Stradling, Knt.

and Gwenllian, sole sister and heir to the said Sir Laurence, of whom Edward Stradling, Knt. (that now is) is lineally descended.

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REGINALD DE SULLY, KNT. HIS PEDIGREE.

**SIR** Reginald de Sully, to whom the castle and manor of Sully was given, and his issue male, enjoyed the same until about King Edward the First's time; and then it fell to a daughter married to Sir Morgan de Avan, lord of the lordship of Avan, above-named; whose son, Sir John de Avan, had but one daughter, of whom Sir George Blunt, of Shropshire, is lineally descended as sole heir, whose ancestor gave the said lordship of Avan, and the castle and manor of Sully to the lord Spencer, in exchange for other lands in England.

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PETER LE SOORE KNT. HIS PEDIGREE.

**SIR** Peter le Soore, Knt. to whom was given the castle and manor of Peter's Towne, and his issue male, enjoyed the same until King Henry the Fourth's time, and then died without issue, and his inheritance fell between divers.

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JOHN LE FLEMING, KNT. HIS PEDIGREE.

**SIR** John le Fleming, Knt. to whom the castle and manor of S. George was given, and his issue male, enjoyed the same until King Henry the Fourth's time, and then it fell to Edmond Male-

fant, who had married a daughter to the last Fleming. And in King Henry the Seventh's time, the Malefant's issue by Flemings daughter failed; and then it fell to John Butler, of Dunreeven, above-named, Esq. and after the death of him, and of Arnold his son, both the inheritances of Fleming and Butler fell to Walter Vaghan, of Brodemard, in the county of Hereford, Esq. now living, sister's son to the said Arnold Butler.

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OLIVER DE S, JOHN KNT. HIS PEDIGREE.

SIR Oliver S. John, Knt. to whom the castle and manor of Fonmon was given, and his heirs male, have ever since enjoyed the same, to whom the above-named lord S. John, of Bledso, that now is, is sole heir; whose ancestors, from the winning of the said lordship of Glamorgan, out of the Welshmen's hands, have continually dwelt at Fonmon aforesaid, until the latter time of King Edward the Fourth. That John S. John, Esq. had the said lordship of Bledso, and many other possessions besides, by the death of dame Margaret Beauchampe, his mother, who was also mother to Margaret, Duchess of Somerset, mother to King Henry the Seventh. Since which time the said John S. John, and Sir John S. John, Knt. father to my lord that now is, have always dwelt in Bledso, but they do keep their lands in Wales still in their hands.

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WILLIAM LE ESTERLING, ALIAS STRADLING, HIS  
PEDIGREE.

1 SIR William Esterling, Knt. to whom the castle and manor of St. Donat's was given.

K 2

*continued in the family of y<sup>e</sup> Stradlings for 604 yrs. viz  
till 1775. - or by others 549 yrs. viz till 1740 y<sup>e</sup> said  
lands by a deed y<sup>e</sup> old person of parish retained in  
but then*



- 2 Sir John le Esterling, Knt. his son, succeeded him.
- 3 Sir Moris le Esterling, Knt. his son, succeeded him.
- 4 Sir Robert le Esterling, Knt. (most commonly called Stradling, by shortness of speech and change of some letters) succeeded him.
- 5 Sir Gilbert Stradling, Knt. his son, succeeded him.
- 6 Sir William Stradling, Knt. his son, succeeded him.
- 7 Sir John Stradling, Knt. his son, succeeded him. It doth not appear in what stock or surname any of these seven knights above named did marry; but the names of the wives of William the first, Robert, and John the second, were Hawisia, Mathilda, and Cicilia.
- 8 Sir Peter Stradling, Knt. his son, succeeded him, who in the beginning of King Edward the first's time and reign married Julian, sole daughter and heir of Thomas Hawey, by whom he had three manors, Hawey and Comhawey, in Somersetshire, yet remaining to his heirs, and Compton Hawey, in Dorsetshire, sold of late years.
- 9 Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. their son, succeeded them, and he quartered the Haweys' arms with his, and married with Elianor, daughter and heir to Gilbert Strangbow, a younger brother, whose wife was daughter and heir to Richard Garnon, and had by her two manors in Oxfordshire.
- 10 Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. his son, succeeded him, and married with Gwenllian, daughter to Roger Berkrolles, Knt. and sole sister and heir so Sir Laurence Berkrolles, Knt. as it happened afterward.
- 11 Sir William Stradling, Knt. his son, married with Isabel, daughter and heir to John S. Barbe, of Somersetshire; but he had no lands by her, for it was entailed to the heirs male. This Sir William, in King Richard the Second's time,

went a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and received there also the order of knighthood of the sepulchre of Christ.

- 12 Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. his son, succeeded him, who because he was sole heir general to the said S. Barbe, did quarter S. Barbe's arms with his. To whom also (in the thirteenth year of of King Henry the Fourth) fell the whole inheritance of the Berkerolles, and the right of the fourth part of Turbervile's, inheritance, Lord of Coyty aforesaid; the which, for lack of issue male of the said Berkerolles, remained to Gamage and to his heirs male by the especial entail aforesaid. The which Sir Edward did quarter not only the said Berkerolles' arms with his, but also Turberviles and lestynes arms; of whom the Turberviles had in marriage one of the inheritors, as is before said; because the said Sir Edward was one of the four heirs general to Sir Richard Turbervile, to wit, son to Sir William Stradling, son to Gwenllian, sister and heir to the said Laurence Berkerolles, and daughter to Catharine, eldest sister, and one of the four heirs general to the aforesaid Sir Richard Turbervile.

The said Sir Edward married with Jane, daughter to Henry Beauford, afterwards Cardinal, begotten (before he was priest) upon Alice, one of the daughters of Richard, Earl of Arundell; and in the beginning of King Henry the Seventh's reign, he went likewise on pilgrimage unto Jerusalem, as his father did, and received the order of the sepulchre there.

This Sir Edward had to his brother Sir John Stradling, Knt. who married with the heir of Dauncy, in Wiltshire, and had issue Sir Edmond, who had issue John and Edmond. John had issue Anne, Lady Davers, of whom the Davers, Hugerfordes, Fynes, and Leuet, and a great progeny of them are descended; and of the said Edmond cometh Carnysoyes, of Cornewal.

The said Edward had another brother called William, of whom Stradling of Ruthyn and others are descended; the same William had a daughter named Gwenllian, who, by the Earl of Ryvers, had a daughter, married to Sir Robert Poynes, of whom cometh all the Poynes the Newtons, Perots, and others.

- 13 Sir Harry Stradling, Knt. his son succeeded him, and married with Elizabeth, sister of whole blood to Sir William Herbert, Kut. Earl of Pembroke, and had issue by her one son and two daughters; one of them was married to Miles ap Harry, of whom Mrs. Blanch ap Harry and her brethren and uncles are descended; the other daughter was married to Fleming, of Monton, in Wales.

This Sir Harry, in the sixteenth year of King Edward the Fourth, went in like manner on pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and received the order of the sepulchre there, as his father and grandfather did, and died in the Isle of Cypres in his coming home; whose book is to be seen as yet, with a letter that his man brought from him to his lady and wife. The saying is, that divers of his said ancestors made the like pilgrimage, but there remaineth no memory in writing but of these three.

This Sir Harry, sailing from his house in Somersetshire to his house in Wales, was taken prisoner by a Brytaine pirate, named Colyn Dolphyn, whose redemption and charges stood him in 2000 marks; for the payment whereof he was driven to sell the castle and manor of Basselek and Sutton, in Monmouthshire, and the manors in Oxfordshire.

- 14 Thomas Stradling, Esq. his son, succeeded him, and married Jenet, daughter to Thomas Matthew, of Rayder, Esq. and had issue by her two sons, Edward and Harry, and one daughter named Jane, and died before he was twenty-six years of age. After whose death, his wife married with Sir Rice ap Thomas, Knight of the

Garter. Harry married with the daughter and heir of Thomas Jubb, learned in the law, and had issue by her, Frances Stradling, of S. George, of Bristow, yet living. Jane was married to Sir William Gryffith, of North Wales, Knt. and had issue by her three sons, Edward, Sir Rice Gryffith, Knt. and John, and seven daughters. The eldest married to Stanley, of Houghton, the second to Sir Richard Buckley Knt. the third to Lewis, the fourth to Moston, the fifth to conwey, the sixth to Williams, the seventh to Pers Motton, and after to Simon Theloal, Esq. whose wife at this time she is; the eighth to Philips. Of which daughters there be a wonderful number descended. Edward married Jane, daughter to Sir John Puleston, Knt. and had issue by her three daughters; Jane married to William Herbert, of S. Julian; Catharine married to William Herbert, of Swansey, and another daughter married to Sir Nicholas Bagnoll, Knt.

- 15 Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. succeeded his father, and married with Elizabeth, one of the three daughters of Sir Thomas Arundell, of Lanheyron, in Cornewall, Knt. The other two were married to Speke and S. Lowe, and had issue four sons;—Thomas, Robert, Edward, and John. Robert married Watkin Lodher's daughter, and had by her many children; Edward married with the daughter and heir of Robert Baglan, of Lantwit, and hath also divers children; and John is a priest. Also the said Sir Edward had two daughters;—Jane married to Alexander Popham, of Somersetshire, of whom is a great number descended; and Catharine married to Sir Thomas Palmer, of Sussex, who hath a son named William.
- 16 Sir Thomas Stradling, Knt. his son, succeeded him, and married Catharine, the eldest daughter, to Sir Thomas Gamage, of Coyty, Knt. and to dame Margaret his wife, daughter to Sir John S. John, of Bledso, Knt. by whom

he hath living yet two sons, Edward and David; and five daughters, Elizabeth, Damasyn, Jane, Joice, and Gwenllian.

- 17 Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. that now is, married Agnes, second daughter to Sir Edward Gage, of Sussex, Knt. and as yet in the year 1572, hath no issue.

*Memorandum*, that of the heirs male of the aforesaid twelve knights that came with Sir Robert Fitzhamon, to the winning of Glamorgan, the lordship aforesaid, there is at this day but the Stradling alive, that dwelleth in Wales, and enjoyeth the portion given in reward to his ancestors.

There be yet of the younger brothers of the Turberviles and Flemings.

Greenfeeld and Syward do yet remain, but they dwell in England, and have done away their lands in Wales.

The Lord S. John, of Bledso, (although he keepeth his ancient inheritance in Wales) yet he dwelleth in England.

Thus far the copy of the WINNING OF GLAMORGAN, as I received the same at the hands of Mrs. BLANCH PARRIE, penned by Sir EDWARD STRADLING, Knight.

D. POWEL.

In Dr. Wale's bequest to

Matthew Strading Gent

and by

6 Black horses  
6 White do.

he had also bequeathed

the 6 bequeathed - 20 lines

was by virtue of y<sup>e</sup> bequest to M. S.

Def: Peter Styles

Strading versus Styles

paid losses were made & therefore an  
injunctio was prayd -

Miscellaneous Vol. 2. p. 292  
1712. fr. Sir H. Poleworth, M. S.

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*[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

# THE KINGS AND PRINCES OF WALES.

*The noble CADWALADER the last King of the BRITONS.*

1. IDWALO or EDWAL I. was made King of Wales after the 2 Years of IVOR's Usurpation, enroll'd among the other Kings Anno 690, † 720, reign'd 30.
2. Roderic Moelwinoe succeeded his Father 720. † 755.
3. Cynan Tindaethwy succeeded his Father 755. † 818. or 820.
4. Esyllt was Queen of Wales.—4. Mervyn Frych succeeded in right of his Wife 818, † 843.
5. Roderic II. MAWR surnamed the GREAT, succeeded his Father 843. He partition'd his Kingdom among his 3 Sons, on Condition, that the two youngest Sons, and their Successors, should be subject to the Princes of North-Wales, or to the Posterity of the eldest Son.

## NORTH WALES.

1. Anarawd, Prince of North Wales, or Gwynedd, 877. † 913.
2. Edwal II. Voel, Prince of Gwynedd, 913, was made tributary to ALHSTAN, King of England, †
3. Meyric, King of Gwynedd. 4. James, or Iago, succeeds his Brother.
5. Cynan, Prince of Gwynedd.
6. Gryffith ap Cynan, Prince of Gwynedd.
7. Owen Gwynedd, Prince of North-Wales.
8. David ap Owen, Prince of Gwynedd, 1169, † 1194.
9. Llewelyn I. ap Iorwerth, Prince of Gwynedd, 1194, † 1240.
10. David ap Llewelyn, Prince of Gwynedd, 1240, † 1246.
11. Llewelyn, as below.

Another Scheme, according to the Welsh History, beginning with 8. Edwal II. Voel, Prince of Gwynedd, or North-Wales, 913, made Tributary to Athelstan, King of England, † 940.

- Meyric was set aside being unfit for the Government.
10. Ieuf and Iago, whom King Edgar ordered to change the Tribute of Money for that of Wolves, whereby those Wild Beasts were extirpated. † 972.
  11. Howel, suc. 972, † 984.
  12. Cadwallion suc. 984, † 986.
  15. Aeden ap Blethored, an Usurper, from 1003, to 1015.
  20. Trahaern ap Caradoc, Cousin of King Blethyn, succeeded 1073, † 1078.

## SOUTH WALES.

1. Cadell, Prince of South-Wales, or Deheubarth, 877.
2. Howel, Prince of South-Wales. † 907.
3. Howel Dda, Sovereign King of Wales, † 948.
4. Meredith ap Owen, King of Wales. 948.
5. Meredith, † 998.
6. Aeneas, or Evenus, King. 998.
7. Tewdwr, the GREAT King of Deheubarth, † 1077.
8. Rhys ap Tewdwr, Prince of Deheubarth, † 1093.
9. Gryffith ap Rhese, Prince of Deheubarth, † 1093.
10. Rhys II. ap Gryffith.
11. Gryffith II. ap Rhys, the last Prince of the Line of Cadell. In the Time of King Henry I. Arnulph of Montgomery won a great part of this Dyvet, which we now call Pembroke, and tho' this Gryffith recover'd part of it, yet he † soon after.

Cynric and Meredith had their Eyes barbarously put out by King Henry II. and the whole Country was subdued by King Edward I.

9. Howell Dda, (or the Good) Prince of South-Wales and Powis Land, † 948.

13. Meredith ap Owen, Prince of South-Wales, † 992.

N. N. her second Husband.

U Angharad, U

19. Blethyn and Rhywallon, Prince from 1061, to 1073.

Harold II. K. of England, her 2nd Husband.

U Aldgah, or Algatha, Da. of Aldgar, E. of Mercia. U

N. N. Wite of Fleance the Son of Bancho, Thain of Lochabyr, which Bancho was the Grandson of Grimus, King of Scotland; and from Fleance is descended the House of Stuart, that afterwards became Royal.

16. Llewelyn I. ap Sisyllt, descended from Anarawd the first P. of North-Wales K. 1015, † 1021, her first Husband.
18. Gryffith ap Llewelyn, King 1037, † 1067, her first Husband.

21. Gryffith ap Cynan, King 1078. He did Homage to William the Conqueror of England, and was the last that had the Title of King of Wales. He † 1137.
22. Owen, Prince of North-Wales at first, and became Sovereign Prince of all Wales 1137, † 1169. Iorwerth, the eldest Son, excluded by his Brother David.
23. David ap Owen, excluded his Brother 1169, † 1194. There were other Sons.
24. Llewelyn II. ap Iorwerth, succeeded his Uncle David 1194, † 1242.
25. David ap Llewelyn, Prince of Wales 1242, † 1246. Gryffith, a younger Son.
11. Llewelyn III. the last sovereign Prince of Wales of the British Race.

## POWYS LAND.

MERVYN Prince of Powys Land. In his Line this Country long continued, tho' of his Successors there is no good Account. The last that held it was Meredith ap Blethyn, who partition'd it between his two Sons, Madoe who † 1160 and his Brother Gryffith, who was made Lord of Powys. Edward I. made all subject to him.

HISTORY OF WALES

THE

H I S T O R Y

OR

W A L E S.

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WHEN the Roman empire, under Valentinian, the younger, began to decline, and became sensibly unable to repress the perpetual incursions of the Goths, Huns, Vandals, and other barbarous invaders, it was found necessary to abandon the remotest parts of that unweildly body, and to recal the Roman forces that defended them, the better to secure the inward, and the provinces most exposed to the depredations of the barbarians. And in this exigency of the Roman affairs, Britain, as lying far remote from the heart of the empire, was deprived of the Roman garrisons; which, being transported into Gaul upon more urgent occasions, left it naked and exposed to the inveterate cruelty of the Scots and Picts; for no sooner had they understood of the Romans departure out of Britain; and that the Britains were to expect no further help from the empire, but they descend in greater number than formerly, and with greater courage and expectation, being now rid of the fear they entertained of the Roman legions, who always used to hinder their progress, and to prevent their incursions into the Roman province. The Britains perceiving their ancient and implacable enemies to fall upon them, and finding themselves far too weak to



repel their endless devastations, with a lamentable narrative of their own miseries, and the cruel oppressions of their enemies, they sent over to Gaul, imploring aid of Ætius, præfect of that province; who, being moved with the deplorable condition of that province, dispatched over a legion under the command of Gallio, which unexpectedly surprising the Picts and Scots, forced them, with great loss and destruction, to retire over the seas or friths to their own habitations. Then helping them to build a wall of stone across the land, for a bulwark against any future irruptions; the Romans, at their departure, told them, they could not any more undertake such dangerous expeditions for their defence, and therefore admonished them to take arms, and like men vindicate their country, their wives, children and liberties, from the injuries of their barbarous enemies.

But as soon as the Roman legion was transported into Gaul, back return the Picts and Scots; and having by a desperate assault passed the wall, pursued the Britains with a more dreadful and bloody slaughter than formerly. The Britains, perceiving their condition most desperate, once more sent their miserable complaints to Ætius, in these tragical words:—"To Ætius, thrice consul the groans of the Britains: the barbarians drive us to the sea, and the sea drives us back to them; and so, distracted betwixt two deaths, we are either drowned, or perish by the sword." But they solicited to no purpose; the Romans having already bid absolutely farewell to Britain, and the empire being cruelly oppressed by the Goths, and other barbarous nations, was not in a condition possible to assist them. The Britains therefore finding themselves absolutely forsaken by the Romans, and conceiving it utterly impracticable to drive away the barbarians by their own strength, saw it urgently necessary to call in the aid of some foreign nation, whose labour in repelling their enemies should be gratefully and satisfactorily rewarded.

The reason that the British nation was at this time so weak and impotent, and so manifestly unable to withstand these barbarous enemies, who were far inferior as to the extent of country, and probably in number of people, may in great measure be attributed to the ease and quietness the Britains enjoyed under the Roman government. For whilst the Roman legions continued in Britain, they ever undertook the security and preservation of it; so that the Britains heretofore were little concerned at the incursions of the Scots and Picts, depending wholly upon the strength and valour of the Romans, insomuch, that within a while, they fell into a fit of luxury and effeminacy, and quickly forgot that martial prowess, and military conduct which their ancestors so famously excelled in. For after their entire subjection to the Roman empire, they had little or no opportunity to experience their valour, excepting in some home-bred commotions, excited by the aspiring ambition of some male-contented general, which were quickly composed and reduced to nothing. And after the Scots and Picts grew formidable, and durst venture to make incursions into the Roman province, the Britains were the least concerned in opposing them, leaving that to the care and vigilancy of the Roman garrisons. And this easiness and supinity of the Britains, may not be untruly attributed to the policy of the Roman constitution: for when the Britains were brought subject to the empire, the first thing the Romans effected towards the confirmation of their obedience, was to take the sword out of their hands. They were sensible how bold and valorous the Britains naturally were, how unlikely to submit their necks to a foreign yoke, and therefore they found it impracticable to obtain a quiet possession of this province, as long as the Britains had power and opportunity to oppose them. This course they found very effectual, and when they had once lulled them asleep, they were not over solicitous to rouse and awaken them.

The Britains also might possibly be too much taken with this sedentary and unactive life; and as long as they lived secure, under the protection of the Roman empire, they little feared their country would become a prey to any barbarous nation. No one would have imagined that that glorious empire would be so soon crushed to pieces, which could not otherwise be effected, than by the insupportable pressure of its own weight. The apprehension of the greatness and strength of the Romans, made the Britains probably less solicitous of enabling themselves to defend their country, not thinking they would ever forsake and relinquish the province of Britain. But to their sorrow they experienced the contrary, the affairs of the empire elsewhere requiring the help of the British legions, so that they were left exposed to the cruelties of the northern invaders, having not as yet recovered any power or conduct to oppose them. For had not the Scots and Picts come on so forcibly at first, but had given time to the Britains to shake off that lethargy they had for many years been buried in, and to renew their ancient discipline and vigour, there had been no need of calling in the Saxons, seeing they would in all probability been able to maintain their ground against any opposition, and likely had been in possession of their whole country to this time. But next to the decree of heaven, the ruin of the British nation must be attributed to its too much luxury and effeminacy, and to the universal lapse of the nobility and people, into an aversion of all military action and martial discipline. For though a continued peace be in itself desirable, yet oftentimes nothing tends more to the future ruin and downfall of a nation. For peace begets in men generally a habit of looseness and debauchery, is the occasion of many notorious extravagancies and vicious practices, which weakens their hands, and cools their courage and greatness of mind, so that in case of any open danger, they are incapable to defend their country, and unfit to oppose the common enemy. Scarce

any kingdom or nation was subverted, but the ruin of it was ushered in by these means ; witness the Assyrian under Sardanapalus, the Persian under Darius, and the Egyptian under Cleopatra ; so that it was most prudently urged by a Roman senator, that Carthage might not be demolished ; lest that for want of an enemy abroad, the valour of the Romans might degenerate, and their conduct be forgotten. Had the Britains had the fortune to be continually in action, and not exchanged, their courage and discipline for ease and laziness, they would have no reason to dread the incursions of the Scots and Picts, nor any need of the aid and assistance of a foreign nation ; but the condition of their affairs then required it, and help must be had, or else their country must unavoidably become a prey to those northern invaders.

To prevent therefore and repel their violence, King Vortigern held a council of his great men and nobles, where it was concluded to be most advantageous to the Britains, to invite the Saxons out of Germany to their aid, who in all probability would gladly embrace the opportunity, by reason that their own country was grown too scanty for their superfluous numbers. This message of the Britains, however originally delivered, is by an ancient Saxon writer repeated in this manner :—  
“ Most noble Saxons, the miserable Britains, shattered and quite worn out by the frequent incursions of their enemies, upon the news of your many signal victories, have sent us to you, humbly requesting that you would assist them at this juncture. A land large and spacious, abounding with all manner of necessaries, they give up entirely to your disposal. Hitherto we have lived hapily under the government and protection of the Romans : next to the Romans we know none of greater valour than yourselves, and therefore in your arms do now seek refuge. Let but that courage and those arms make us conquerors, and we shall refuse no service you shall please to impose.” To this message the Saxons returned this short answer : “ Assure your-

selves, the Saxons will be true friends to the Britains, and as such, shall be always ready both to relieve their necessities, and to advance their interest."

The Saxons being thus happily courted to what they themselves had a thousand times wished for, arrived soon after in Britain, in three gallies, called in their own language Kiules, under the conduct of two brethren Hengist and Horsa. Being honourably received by the king, and affectionately treated by the people, their faith was given of both sides; the Saxons stipulating to defend the Britains' country, and the Britains to give the Saxons a satisfactory reward for all the pains and dangers they should undergo upon their account. At first the Saxons shewed themselves very diligent in their employment, and successfully repelled the Scots and Picts, who being probably ignorant of the landing of the Saxons, and fearing no opposition, boldly advanced to the heart of the country. But when the Saxons became better acquainted with the island, and happily discovered the weakness and inability of the Britains; under pretence that their pay was not answerable to their service and deserts, they quarrelled with the Britains, and instead of supporting them, according to oath, entered into a league with their enemies the Scots. Moreover, Hengist, perceiving with whom he had to do, sent over to acquaint his countrymen with the beauty and fertility of the island, the infirmity and effeminacy of the inhabitants; inviting them to be sharers of his future success and expectations. To his invitation they readily comply, and sailing over in great numbers, they thought to take possession of that country, which fortune promised should be their own: but they must fight for it first; the Britains being resolved to the last to defend themselves and their country against these treacherous practices of the Saxons; and if possible, to drive them to their primitive habitations. For when the Britains became sensible of the undermining aim of

the Saxons, how they secretly endeavoured the total extirpation of the British nation, they presently betook themselves to their swords, and in a short time became signally famous for their valour and conduct. This the Saxons afterwards grievously felt, though the total recovery of Britain proved impracticable for want of power; the Saxons having by massacres and other treacherous means, most unmercifully lessened the force and number of the Britains. King Vortigern loved his ease too well to observe their practices; and besides, became so foolishly enamoured with the daughter of Hengist, which purposely, was laid to intrap him, that the Saxon, upon the strength of their marriage, began to carve for himself, and during Vortigern's reign, laid so firm a foundation for the Saxon conquest, that the succeeding British kings, though famously valiant, could never undermine it. This Scottishness of his father, young Vortimer could not at length endure; to see himself and his country so openly and shamefully imposed upon by strangers; and therefore he resolved to take the British government upon himself, and to endeavour the universal expulsion of the Saxons. With him the British nobility willingly joined, and after several famous victories over the Saxons, he was unhappily poisoned by a Saxon lady. After him the Britains bravely defended themselves against the prevailing greatness of the Saxons, under these valiant princes;—Aurelius Ambrosius, Uter Pendragon, Arthur, Constantine II. Aurelius Conanus, Vortimer, and Maelgwyn. To him succeeded Caractacus; in whose time the Saxons aspiring to a total conquest of Britain, invited over one Gurmundus, a Norwegian pirate, who had lately signalized himself in Ireland, and obtained a conquest over that kingdom. Him they employ to march against Caractacus, who being overcome and vanquished by him, the Britains were forced, some to retire beyond the rivers Severn and Dee, some to Cornwall, and the rest to Little Britain in France. The British affairs were now brought very low, and their

government reduced within a very narrow compass ; so that the title of the Kings of Britain, can be but superficially attributed to the succeeding princes,—Cadwan, Cadwallan, and Cadwalader.

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## CADWALADER.

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**CADWALADER**, surnamed Bendiged, or the Blessed, was the last of the British race, that enjoyed the title of King of Britain ; after him, the Welsh, who were the most numerous remains of the Britains, disdaining to own any subjection to the oppressing Saxons, set up a new government among themselves, and altered the stile of British kings to that of princes of Wales. But whilst Cadwalader ruled in Britain, a very severe famine, attended with a raging pestilence, which assuredly sprung from the continued war, which was so eagerly carried on betwixt the Britains and Saxons, happened in the Island, which occasioned a most lamentable mortality among his subjects ; insomuch that he was compelled, together with a great number of his nobility and others, to retire for refuge to his cousin Alan, King of Llydaw, or Little Britain in France. There he was sure to meet with all civility suitable to his quality and condition, as well, because of his own near relation and consanguinity to Alan, as upon the account that their subjects were originally one and the same people : for the Britains of France, about the year of Christ 384, went over out of this Island under the command of Conan, Lord of Meiriadoc, to the aid of Maximus the tyrant, against the emperor Gratianus. For this service, Maximus granted to Conan and his followers, the country of Armorica, where the Britains, having driven out the former inhabi-

tants, seated themselves, and erected a kingdom, which lasted for many years under several kings, whose names and succession are as follows:—

THE LIST OF THE  
ARMORICAN KINGS.

1. Conan Meriadoc.	13. Conobertus.
2. Gradlonus.	14. Budicus II.
3. Salomon I.	15. Theodoricus.
4. Auldranus.	16. Rubalonus.
5. Budicus I.	17. Daniel Dremrost, <i>i. e.</i> rubicunda facie.
6. Howelus Magnus.	18. Aregstanus.
7. Howellus II.	19. Maconus.
8. Alanus I.	20. Neomenius.
9. Howelus III.	21. Haruspogius.
10. Gilquellus.	22. Salomon III.
11. Salomon II.	
12. Alanus II.	

ALAN II. then reigned in Little Britain, when Cadwalader was forced to forsake his own dominions, and to retire beyond the seas. He was descended from Rune the son of Maelgwyn Gwynedd, King of Great Britain, by a daughter married to Howel the second, King of Little Britain. This kingdom remained firm, till Salomon III. who was treacherously slain by his own subjects; upon which unlucky accident, the kingdom was converted to an earldom, whereof one Alan was the first, a valiant and warlike prince, who stoutly resisted the Normans, and frequently vanquished and overcame them.

But after that Cadwalader had continued some time with Alan, the plague being abated in Britain he purposed to return, and if possible, to recover that part of his kingdom which the Saxons were now in possession of. He received frequent intelligence of their number and increase, how they fairly bid for the conquest of that country, which had been governed by British kings for the space of 1827 years. This troubled him exceedingly, and



and though he had little hopes of prevailing by the strength and number of his forces, yet he made the best preparation that the opportunity would permit, and dispatched his fleet for the transportation of his army, which consisted partly of his own subjects, and partly of such succours as he received from Alan. Whilst he vigorously prosecuted this design, and was ready to strike sail for Britain; his voyage was prevented by a message from heaven; which counseled him to lay aside the thoughts of recovering his kingdom, because it was already decreed above, that the Britains should no longer enjoy the government of Britain, till the prophesy of Merlyn Ambrose was fulfilled. And instead of a voyage to Britain, he is ordered to take his journey to Rome, where he should receive holy orders at the hands of Pope Sergius, and instead of recovering the British crown, have his own crown shaved off, and be initiated into the order of the monks. Whether this vision was signified to him in a dream, or by the impositious illusions of some wicked spirit; or whether it may be a fantastical conceit of his own, being a man of a mild and easy temper, wearied with troubles and miseries, is very dubious: only this is certain, that he never returned again to Britain, after he had gone over to Alan. But Cadwalader had no sooner received this vision, but immediately he relates the whole to his friend Alan, who presently consults all his prophetical books, chiefly the famous works of the two Merlins, Ambrose and Silvester: the first is said to be begotten on a spirit, and born in the town of Carmarthen, whence he received the name of Merlin, and to flourish in the reign of King Vortigern. The latter called Caledonius, from the forest Caledon in Scotland, and Silvester, or Merlyn Wyllt, by reason he fell mad, and lived desolately after that he had seen a monstrous shape in the air, prophesied in the time of King Arthur, and far more full and intelligible than the former. Both these were in great reverence and reputation among the Britains, and their works very religiously preserved, and

Merlyn  
Wyllt.

upon any considerable occasion most venerably consulted. They were of opinion, that nothing could escape their knowledge; and that no accident of moment or revolution could happen, which they did not foretel, and was to be discovered in their writings. In the consultation therefore of their prophesies, and the words which an eagle is said to have spoken at the building of Caer Septon, now Shaftsbury; namely, that the Britains must lose the government of Britain till the bones of King Cadwalader were brought back from Rome. Alan found out that the time was now come, when these prophesies were to be accomplished, and the Britains forced to quit their native inheritance to strangers and invaders. Upon this he advised Cadwalader to obey the commands, and follow the counsel of the vision, and to hasten his journey for Rome. This he was willing to submit to, being desirous to spend the remainder of his days in peace and quietness, which before he had no opportunity to enjoy. To Rome therefore he hastens, where he was kindly received by Pope Sergius: and after eight years spent there in piety and devotion, he died in the year 688, and with him the kingdom and total government of the Britains over this island.

King Cadwalader, is said to have been a considerable benefactor to the abbey of Clynnoc Vawr, in Arvon, upon which he bestowed the lordship of Grayanoc. This place was primarily founded by S. Bueno, to whom it is dedicated, who was the son of Hywgi ap Gwynlliw, ap Glywis, ap Tegid, ap Cadell, a prince or lord of Glewisig, brothers son to S. Cadoc, ap Gwynlliw, sometime bishop of Beneventum in Italy. He was by the mothers side cousin german to Laudatus, the first abbot of Enlli, or the island of Bardsey; and to Kentigern, bishop of Glasgow, in Scotland, and of Llanelwy, or S. Asaph, in Wales; which last was son to Owen, Regent of Scotland, and grandson to Urien, King of Cumbria. The building of a monastery at Glyn-

Gwyn  
P. C.  
Cadell  
Tegid  
Glywis  
Gwynlliw  
Hywgi  
Buenoc

King of Cumbria - Urien  
Regent of Scotland - Owen  
Bishop of Glasgow - Kentigern

noc happened upon this occasion: Beuno having raised to life, as the tradition goes, S. Wenifryd, who was beheaded by one Caradoc, a lord in North Wales, upon the account that she would not yield to his unchaste desires, became in very great esteem with King Cadvan, who bestowed upon him certain lands whereon to build a monastery. Cadwallon also, Cadvan's son, gave him the lands of Gwar-eddoc, where beginning to build a church, a certain woman with a child in her arms prevented his further progress, assuring him, that those lands were the proper inheritance of that child. Beuno was so exceedingly troubled at this, and without any more consideration on the matter, taking the woman along with him, he went in all haste to Caer Se-vent (called by the Romans Segontium, now Caer-narvon) where King Cadwallon then kept his Court, when he was come before the king, he told him with a great deal of zeal and concern, that he had not done well to devote to God's service what was another man's inheritance, and therefore demanded back of him the golden scepter he had given him in lieu and consideration of the said land, which the king refusing to do, was presently excommunicated by Beuno, who thereupon departed and went away. But a certain person called Gwyddeiant, the king's cousin-german, hearing what had happened, immediately pursued after Beuno; whom when he had overtaken, he bestowed upon him (for the good of his own soul and the king's) the township of Clyn-nocvawr, being his undoubted inheritance, where Beuno built a church, about the year 616, about which time King Cadvan died, leaving his son Cadwallon to succeed him. And not long before this time, Eneon Frenin, or Anianus King of the Scots, a considerable prince in the north of Britain leaving all his royalty in those parts, came to Llyn in Gwynedd, where he built a church, which is still called from him, Llan Eneon Frenin; where he is said to have spent the remainder of his days in the fear and service of God. He was son to Owen Danwyn, the son of Eneon Yrth, son to Cunedda

Wledig king of Cambria, and a great prince in the north, and cousin-german to the great Maelgwyn Gwynedd King of Britain, whose father was Caswallon-law-hir, the brother of Owen Danwyn; and his mother Medif the daughter of Voylda ap Talu Traws of Nantconwey. This Maelgwyn died about the year 586.

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### IVOR AND EDWAL YWRCH.

WHEN Cadwalader was departed for Rome, Alan began to reflect upon the state and condition of Great Britain; he imagined with himself that the recovery of it was not impracticable, but that a considerable army might regain what the Saxons now quietly possessed. Therefore he was resolved to try the utmost, and to send over all the forces he was able to draw together; not doubting the conquest of some part of Britain, in case the whole should prove irrecoverable. He was the more encouraged to this expedition, by reason that the advantage was likely to be his own, and no one could challenge the government of Britain, in case fortune should deliver it to his hands. Cadwalader was gone to Rome, and in all probability never to return; his son Edwal Ywrch, or the Roe, was young and under the tuition of Alan; so that the event of this expedition must of necessity fall to himself, or by his concession to his son Ivor, who was to be chief in the undertaking. Having raised a considerable army, consisting chiefly of his own subjects, with what remained of the Britains that came over with King Cadwalader, he dispatched it for Britain, under the command of his son Ivor, and his nephew Ynyr: they safely landed in the western parts of Britain, which put the Saxons into so great a fright, that immediately they drew up all their power to oppose them, and to hinder their progress into the country. The Britains, though

somewhat fatigued with their voyage, however gave them battle, and after a very great slaughter of the Saxons, possessed themselves of the countries of Cornwall, Devon, and Somersetshires. This proved a fortunate beginning for the Britains, and gave them great hopes of farther success in the recovery of their country; but that could not be expected without great opposition, and several hot engagements with the Saxons. This they were immediately made sensible of; for they had scarce time to breathe, and to recover their spirits after the last battle, but Kentwinus, King of the West-Saxons, marched against them with a powerful army, consisting of Saxons and Angles. The Britains resolved to fight them; but whilst both armies were in view of each other, they thought it more adviseable to cease from any hostility, and to enter into articles of composition. Ivor seemed already satisfied with his conquest, and willingly agreed to marry Ethelberga, Kentwyn's cousin, and peaceably to enjoy for his life so much as he was already in possession of. This he faithfully observed during the reign of Kentwyn, and his nephew Cadwal; who, after two years, resigned the kingdom of the West-Saxons to his cousin Ivor. And now Ivor was become unexpectedly powerful, being King, as well of the Saxons, as Britains that inhabited the Western parts of the island. He was now able to undertake somewhat considerable, and therefore began to fall foul upon his neighbours the kings of Kent, the West-Saxons, and Mercia, whom he vanquished in several battles. But being at length tired with the weight of government, he went to Rome, after the example of Cadwalader, and resigned the rule of the Saxons to his cousin Adelred, leaving the Britains to the care of Roderick Moelwynog, the son of Edwal Ywrch.

This Ivor founded the abbey of Glastenbury, called in the British tongue Ynys Avalon; where there had been a christian church for several years before, and the first that was ever erected in Britain. For Joseph, of Arimathea, being sent by Philip the apostle in the days of Arviragus, An.

Chr. 53. to preach the gospel in Britain, seated himself here, and built a church for the British christians. This church afterwards Ivor converted into an abbey, which he endowed with very large possessions; being famous for the burying-place of Joseph, of Arimathea, and King Arthur. He bestowed also some lands upon the church of Winchester.

But there happened several casualties in his time. Brythe, a subject to Egfride, King of Northumberland, passed over to Ireland, and wasted and destroyed a great part of that kingdom. In the fourth year of his reign, there happened a remarkable earthquake in the Isle of Man, which much disturbed and annoyed the inhabitants; and the year following it rained blood both in Britain and Ireland. This occasioned the butter and milk to resemble the colour of blood; and two years after, the Moon also appeared all bloody. These accidents of nature might presage some tumults and disturbances in the kingdom; which were very great in his time. For he was almost in perpetual hostility with the kings of Kent, West-Sex, and Mercia; which occasioned great bloodshed and slaughter in Britain. His journey to Rome put an end to all these commotions, from whence he never did return, but ended his days there in the practice of piety and religion.

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### RODERICK MOELWYNOG.

THE Government of the Britains, Ivor resigned to Roderick Moelwynog, the son of Edwal Ywrch, A. D. 720. who began his reign An. 720. But Adelred, King of the West-Saxons, was displeas'd that Ivor had not bestowed upon him his whole kingdom; and upon that account he is resolv'd to trouble and plague Roderick and his Britons. He rais'd immediately a powerfui army, and with all his forces march'd to Devonshire, which he destroy'd with fire and sword. From thence he proceeds to Corn-

wal, intending to make that country sensible of the same misery; but he came far short of his expectation; for upon his entrance into the county, the Britains opposed him, and gave him battle, where he was vanquished, and forced to retire with all speed to his own dominions. This victory the Britains called Gwaeth Heilyn, from the place where this battle was fought. The year following, the Britains again obtained two notable victories over the Saxons, the one at a place called Garth Maelawg, in North Wales; the other at Pencoed, in South Wales. But the joy and satisfaction which the Britains entertained of these successes, was somewhat abated by the death of Belin the  
 A. D. 721. son of Elphin, a man of noble birth, and great worth among them.

About the same time, Celredus King of Mercia died; and was succeeded by Ethelbaldus, who being very desirous to annex that fertile and pleasant country lying between the rivers Severn and Wye to his kingdom of Mercia, entered Wales with a puissant army. He destroyed and ravaged the country before him, to Carno, a mountain lying not far from Abergavenny, where he was met with by the Britains, between whom a bloody and sore battle was fought, in the year 728; but the victory proved very dubitable.

Not long after died venerable Bede, who was educated and brought up in the abbey of Wyrnetham, or Iarewe; a man of great learning and extensive knowledge; who wrote several books, one of which is entitled, The Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation; he dedicated to Cleolwolfe King of Northumberland. The same time, Adel-  
 A. D. 733. red King of the West-Saxons, and Ethelbald King of Mercia, united their forces, and jointly marched to fight against the Britains. The Welsh were now put to very hard streights, and forced to oppose the numerous armies of two powerful kings. However, fight they must, or suffer their country to be miserably over-run by their inveterate enemies. Both armies being engaged, a very dismal battle

ensued thereupon, and a very great slaughter happened on both sides, but the Saxons prevailing by the number of their forces, obtained a very bloody victory over the powerless Britains. But Adelred, who was shortly followed by Edwyn, King of the Picts, did not long survive this battle; and Cudred took upon him the government of the West-Saxons. The Welsh found themselves unable to cope with the Saxons, and too weak to repress their endless incursions; therefore they apply themselves to Cudred, and joined in league with him, who, upon some occasion or other, was actually fallen out with Ethelbald, King of Mercia. But Ethelbald was so proud with the success of the last engagement, that notwithstanding the league with Cudred, he must needs again fall upon the Welsh. He advanced as far as Hereford, where the Britains, by the help of Cudred, gave him a signal overthrow, and caused him to repent of his rash and precipitous expedition. But shortly after, Cudred and Ethelbald were unluckily reconciled, and made friends together, and Cudred relinquishing the Welsh, joined his forces to Ethelbald's. Hereupon ensued another battle, in which the Welsh being greatly overpowered, were vanquished by the Saxons; after which victory, Cudred shortly died. To him succeeded Sigebert, a man of a loose and vicious inclination; who for his ill behaviour in the management of his kingdom, was in a short time expelled and deprived by his nobility, and at last miserably slain by a rascally swineherd. After him Kenulph was chosen king of the West-Saxons, Ann. 750, in whose time died Theodore the son of Belin, a man of great esteem and reputation among the Britains. And about the same time, a remarkable battle was fought between the Britains and the Picts, at a place called Magedawe; in which the Picts were put to a total rout, and Dalargan their king casually slain. But the Britains did not succeed so well against the Saxons; for Roderic Moelwynog was at length forced to forsake the western

A. D. 740.

A. D. 743.

A. D. 750.



countries of Britain, and to claim his own inheritance in North Wales. The sons of Bletius or Bledericus, Prince of Cornwall and Devonshire, who was one them that vanquished Adelred and Ethelbert, at Bangor, on the river Dee, had enjoyed the government of North Wales ever since Cadvan was chosen King of Britain. Roderic therefore demanded the government of this country as his right, which he was now willing to accept of, seeing he was forced to quit what he had hitherto possessed. But he did not long enjoy it, but died in a short time, leaving behind him two sons, Conan Tindaethwy and Howel; after that he had in all reigned over the Britains thirty years.

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### CONAN TINDAETHWY.

**R**ODERIC MOELWYNOG being dead, his son Conan Tindaethwy took upon him the government and principality of Wales, in the year 755. He was scarce settled in his throne, but the Saxons began to make in-roads into his country, to spoil and destroy what they conveniently could meet with. They were animated hereto by the bad success of Roderic; and having forced the Britains out of Cornwall and Devonshire, they thought it practicable to drive them out of Wales too, and so to reduce the possession of the whole Island to themselves. This was their aim, and this they endeavoured to put in execution; but they were met with at Hereford, where a severe battle was fought between them and the Welsh, in which Dyfnwal, the son of Theodore, a stout and valiant soldier, was slain. And shortly afterwards died Athelbert, King of Northumberland, and was succeeded by Oswald.

About the same time happened a religious quarrel between the Britains and Saxons, concerning the observation of the feast of Easter, which Elbodius, a learned and pious man, endeavoured to rectify in

Wales, and to reduce it to the Roman calculation, which the Saxons always observed. The Britains did differ from the church of Rome in the celebration of this feast; and the difference was this. The church of Rome according to the order of the council of Nice, always observed Easter-day the next Sunday after the 14th day of the moon; so that it never happened upon the 14th day itself, nor passed the 21st. The Britains on the other hand, celebrated their Easter upon the 14th, and so forward to the 20th, which occasioned this difference, that the Sunday observed as Easter-day by the Britains, was but Palm-Sunday with the Saxons. Upon this account the Saxons did most uncharitably traduce the Britains, and would scarcely allow them the name and title of Christians. Hereupon, about the year 660, a great contest happened, managed on the one part by Colman and Hylda, who defended the rites and celebration of the Britains; and Gilbert and Wilfride on the part of the Saxons. Hylda was the niece of Edwine, king of Northumberland, educated by Pauline and Aedan. She publicly opposed Wilfride and other superstitious monks, as to such trifles and bigotry in religion, alledging out of Polycrates, the fact of Irenæus, who withstood Victor, bishop of Rome, upon the same account; and the custom of the churches of Asia observed by St. John the Evangelist, Philip the apostle, Polycarpus and Melito; and likewise observed in Britain by Joseph of Arimathea, who first preached the gospel here.

Offa was made King of Mercia, and Brictrich of the West-Saxons; about which time died Fermael, the son of Edwal, and the year following, Cemoyd, King of the Picts. The Saxons did daily encroach upon the lands and territories of the Welsh beyond the river Severn, but more especially towards the south part of the country. These encroachments the Welsh could not endure, and therefore were resolved to recover their own, and to drive the Saxons out of their country. The Britains of South Wales,

A. D. 776. as receiving the greatest injury and disadvantage from the Saxons, presently took up arms and entered into the country of Mercia; which they ravaged and destroyed with fire and sword. And shortly after, all the Welsh joined their forces together, fell upon the Saxons, and forced them to retire beyond the Severn, and then returned home with a very considerable spoil of English cattle. The Welch finding the advantage of this last incursion, and how that by these means they gauled and vexed the Saxons, frequently practised the same; and entering their country by stealth, they killed and destroyed all before them; and driving their cattle beyond the river, ravaged and laid waste the whole country. Offa King of Mercia not being able to endure these daily incursions and depredations of the Welsh, entered into a league with the rest of the Saxon Kings, to bend their whole force against the Welsh; who having raised a very strong and numerous army, passed the Severn into Wales. The Welsh being far too weak to oppose and encounter so great an army, quitted the even and plain country, lying upon the banks of Severn and Wye, and retired to the mountains and rocks, where they knew they could be most safe from the inveterate and revengeful arms of the Saxons. But as soon as the Saxons decamped, being not able to effect any thing against them in these strong and natural fortifications, the Welsh still made in-roads into their territories, and seldom returned without some considerable booty and advantage. The Saxons were heartily nettled at these bo-peeping ravagers, and would compliment them still to their holes, but durst not pursue them further, for fear they should be entrapped by such as defended the streights and passages into the rocks. King Offa perceiving that he could effect nothing by these measures, annexed the country about Severn and Wye to his kingdom of Mercia, and planted the same with Saxons. And for a farther security against the endless invasions of the Welsh, he made a deep ditch, extending from one sea to the other, called

Clawdd Offa, or Offa's dyke; upon which account, the royal seat of the Princes of Powys was translated from Pengwern, now Shrewsbury, to Mathravael, in Montgomeryshire.

While these things are transacted in the west, the Danes began to grow powerful at sea, and durst venture to land in the north of England; but without doing any great injury, being forced to betake themselves to their ships again. Within six years after, they landed again in greater numbers, and proved much more terrible; they ravaged and destroyed a great part of Linsey and Northumberland, over-run the best part of Ireland, and miserably wasted Rechreyn. At the same time a considerable battle was fought at Ruthland, between the Saxons and the Welsh, wherein Caradoc, King of North Wales was killed. The government of Wales was as yet green, and not firmly rooted, by reason of the perpetual quarrels and disturbances between the Welsh and the Saxons; so that the chief person or lord of any country assumed to himself the title of king. Caradoc was a person of great esteem and reputation in North Wales, and one that did very much contribute towards the security of the country, against the incursions of the Saxons. He was son to Gwyn, the son of Colloyn, the son of Ednowen, son to Blethyn, the son of Blecius, or Bledericus, Prince of Cornwall and Devonshire. Offa, King of Mercia, did not long survive him, and was succeeded by his son Egfert, who in a short time left his kingdom also to Kenulphus, a year after that Egbertus was created King of the West-Saxons. About the same time died Arthen, son to Sitsyllt, the son of Clydawc, King of Cardigan; and sometime after, Run, King of Dyfed, and Cadell, King of Powys; who were followed by Elbodius, archbishop of North Wales, before whose death happened a very severe eclipse of the sun. The year following, the moon was likewise eclipsed upon Christmas-day. These fatalities and eclipses did portend no success to the Welsh affairs; the laying of St. Davids in ashes by

A. D. 795.

Blecius  
Blethyn  
Ednowen  
Colloyn  
Gwyn  
Caradoc

Run King of Dyfed  
Griffith ap Iorwerth

A. D. 808.

Run King of Dyfed  
Cadell King of Powys  
Arthen King of Cardigan

Terados  
Meredith  
Owen

the West-Saxons, being followed by a general and a very grievous murrain of cattle, which was like to impoverish the whole country. The following year Owen, the son of Meredith, the son of Terados, died, and the Castle of Deganwy was ruined and destroyed by thunder.

But these several losses which the Welsh sustained, could not reconcile Prince Conan and his brother Howel; but they must needs quarrel and contend with one another, when they had the greatest occasion to embrace and unite their endeavours against the common enemy. Howel claimed the Isle of Anglesey, as part of his father's inheritance, which Conan would by no means hearken to, nor consent that his brother should take possession of it. It was the custom of Wales, that a father's estate should be equally distributed between all his sons; and Howel by virtue of this custom, commonly called Gavelkind, from the word Gafael, to hold; claimed that island as his father's estate. The custom of Gavelkind has been the occasion of the ruin and diminution of the estates of all the ancient Nobility in Wales; which being endlessly divided between the several sons of the same family, were at length reduced to nothing. From hence also proceeded several unnatural wars and disturbances between brothers; who being either not satisfied with their portions, or displeased with the country they were to possess, disputed their right by dint of the sword. This proved very true in this present instance; for Howel would not suffer himself to be cheated out of his paternal inheritance, and therefore he would endeavour to recover it by force of arms. Both armies being engaged, the victory fell to Howel, who immediately thereupon possessed himself of the Island, and valiantly maintained it against the power and strength of his brother Conan.

The Welsh being thus at variance and enmity among themselves, and striving how to destroy one another; had yet another disaster added to their misfortune. For the following year they received a very considerable loss by thunder, which

very much spoiled and annoyed the country, and laid several houses and towns in ashes. About the same time, Gryffith, the son of Run, a person of considerable quality in Wales, died; and Griffri the son of Kyngen, was treacherously murdered by the practices of his brother Elis.

But Conan could not rest satisfied with his brother Howel's forcible possession of the Island of Anglesey; and therefore he was resolved to give him another battle, and to force him to restore and yield up the possession of that country which he had now violently kept in his hands. Howel on the other hand, being as resolutely bent to maintain his ground, and not to deliver up a foot of what he was now, upon a double respect, viz. his father's legacy, and his late conquest, owner of; willingly met his brother, put him to flight, and killed a great number of his forces. Conan was cruelly enraged at this shameful overthrow, and therefore made a firm resolution, either to recover the Island from his brother, or to sacrifice his life and his crown in the quarrel. Having drawn up all the forces he could raise together, he marched to Anglesey to seek his brother Howel; who, being too weak to encounter and oppose so considerable a number, was compelled to make his escape to the Isle of Man, and to leave the Island of Anglesey to the mercy of his brother. But Conan did not live long to reap the satisfaction of this victory, but died in a short time, leaving issue behind him, one only daughter, called Esvllt, married to a nobleman of Wales, named Mervyn Vrych. He was son to Gwyriad, or Uriet, the son of Elidure, who lineally descended from Belinus, the brother of Brennus, king of the Britains. His mother was Nest, the daughter of Cadell, king of Powys, the son of Brochwel Yscithrog; who, together with Cadvan, king of Britain, Morgan, king of Demetia, and Bledericus, king of Cornwall, gave that memorable overthrow to Ethelred, king of Northumberland, upon the river Dee, in the year 617. This Brochwel, by the Latin writers named Brei-

*Gryffith ap Run  
Bren. Llyso*

*Brennus  
k  
Britains  
Belinus*

*Brochwel*

*Cadell*

*A. D. 817.  
Nest*

*Conan*

*Esvllt*

*Morgan k  
Demetia*

*Ethelred k  
Northumberland*

*Cadell k  
Powys*

*Cadvan k  
Britain*

*Morgan k  
Demetia*

*Bledericus  
k Cornwall*

vallus and Brochmaelus, was a very considerable prince in that part of Britain, called Powys-land; as also Earl of Chester, and lived in the town then called Pengwern Powys, now Salop; in the house where since the college of St. Chad stands. He was a great friend and a favourer to the monks of Bangor, whose part he took against the Saxons that were set on by Augustine the monk, to prosecute them with fire and sword, because they would not forsake the customs of their own church, and conform to those of Rome.

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### MERVYN VRYCH, AND ESYLLT.

CONAN being dead, Mervyn Vrych and his wife Esyllt, who was sole heir to Conan, took upon them the government or principality of Wales. This Mervyn was king of Man, and son to Gwyriat and Nest the daughter of Cadell ap Brochwel ap Elis king of Powys. Howel being forcibly ejected out of Anglesy by his brother Conan Tindaethwy, escaping to the Island of Man, was honourably and kindly received by Mervyn; in return of whose civilities Howel used such means afterwards that Mervyn married Esyllt, the daughter and heir of his brother Conan, (though others say, that he died presently after his escape to Mervyn.) Howel after that he had for about five years enjoyed the Isle of Man, and other lands in the north, given him by Mervyn to hold under him, died about the year 825; after whose death, they again returned to Mervyn, whose ancestors had always held the same, under the kings of the Britains; and so, upon his marriage with Esyllt, the Isle of Man was annexed to the crown of Wales.

In the first year of their reign, Egbert, the powerful king of the West-Saxons, entered with a mighty army into Wales, destroyed and wasted the country as far as Snowden Hills, and seized upon the lordship of Rhyvonioc in Denbighland. About

the same time, a very sore battle was fought in Anglesey, between the Saxons and the Welsh, called, from the place where this fight happened, the battle of Llanvaes. Fortune seemed all this while to frown upon the Welsh, and their affairs succeeded very ill; for shortly after that, Egbert had advanced his colours as far as Snowden; Kenulph, king of Mercia, wasted the country of West-Wales, over-ran and destroyed Powis-land, and greatly disturbed and incommoded the Welsh nation. Soon after this, Kenulph died, and was succeeded by Kenelm; and he in a short time by Ceolwulph, who, after two years reign, left the kingdom of Mercia to Bernulph.

Egbert, king of the West-Saxons, was grown very strong and powerful, able to reduce all the petty kingdoms in Britain, under one single monarchy; upon the thoughts of which, he set upon Bernulph, king of Mercia, and vanquished him at Elledowne, and afterwards brought under subjection the countries of Kent, and of the West Angles. But the Britains could not be so easily subdued; for after a long and a cruel fight at Gavelford, between them and the West-Saxons of Devonshire, in which several thousands were slain on both sides, the victory remained uncertain. He had better success against Whytlafe, king of Mercia, whose dominions he easily added to his now increasing Monarchy; and passing the Humber, he quickly reduced that country to his subjection. The Saxon heptarchy was now become one kingdom, and Egbert sole monarch of all the countries that the Saxons possessed in Britain; which name he ordered should be changed to England, his people to be called Englishmen, and the language English. A. D. 829.

They who came over out of Germany into this island to aid the Britains against their enemies the Picts and Scots, were partly Saxons, Angles, and Juthes; from the first of which came the people of Essex, Sussex, Middlesex, and the West Saxons; from the Angle, the East Angles, the Mercians, and



they that inhabited the north side of the Humber; from the Juthes, the Kentishmen, and they that settled in the Isle of Wight. These Germans, after that they had drove the Britains beyond the Severn and Dee; erected seven kingdoms called the heptarchy in the other part of the island; whereof, 1. Kent. 2. Of the South-Saxons, containing Sussex and Surrey. 3. The East-Angles, in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire. 4. The kingdom of the West Saxons, comprehending Berkshire, Devonshire, Somersetshire, and Cornwall. 5. Mercia, containing Gloucester, Hereford, Worcester, Shropshire, Stafford, Cheshire, Warwick, Leicester, Derby, Nottingham, Lincoln, Northampton, Oxford, Buckingham, Bedford, and half Hertfordshire. 6. The East-Saxons, containing Essex, Middlesex, and the other part of Hertford. 7. Of the Northumbrians, taking in all the country beyond Humber, which was divided into two parts, Deyra and Bernicia; the first from Humber to Tyne, the other from Tyne to the Scottish Sea.

Egbert, king of the West-Saxons, having severally conquered these kingdoms, annexed them together, and comprehended them under one monarchy, which was called the kingdom of England, 968 years after the coming of Brute to this Island, 383 years after the landing of Hengist, and 149 after the departure of Cadwalader to Rome.

Egbert having thus united under one government these several kingdoms, which used continually to molest, and to incroach upon each others territories; might reasonably have expected to enjoy his new kingdom quietly, and not fear any disturbance or trouble in his dominions. But no sooner was he established king of England, but the Danes began to threaten new commotions, and landed in great numbers, and in divers places of the kingdom. Egbert fought several battles with them, and with various success: at length the Danes landed in West-Wales, marched forward for England, being joined by a great number of Welsh, and met Egbert upon Hengist-down, where a severe battle was fought, and

A. D. 883.

the Danes put to a total rout. The Welsh suffered severely for this; Egbert, being highly incensed that the Danes were supported by them, laid siege to Caerlleon ar Ddyfrdwy, or Chester, the chief city of Venedotia, which hitherto had remained in the hands of the Welsh; took the town, and, among other tokens of his indignation, he caused the brazen effigies of Cadwallon, king of Britain, to be pulled down and defaced, and upon pain of death forbade the erecting of such again. He issued out also a proclamation, by the instigation of his wife Redburga, who always bore an inveterate malice to the Welsh; commanding all that were any ways extracted from British blood, to depart, with all their effects, out of his kingdom, within six months, upon pain of death. These were very severe and insupportable terms; but he did not live long to see them put in execution; for dying shortly after the battle of Hengist-down, he was succeeded by his son Ethelwulph. This King Ethelwulph, married his daughter to Berthred, who was his tributary king of Mercia, by whose help he successfully opposed the cruel incursions of the Danes, who miserably destroyed the sea-coasts of England with fire and sword. These Danish commotions being indifferently well appeased, Berthred, king of Mercia, set upon the Welsh, between whom a remarkable battle was fought at a place called Kettell; where Mervyn Vrych, king of the Britains, was killed, leaving to succeed him in the government of Wales, his son Roderic Mawr, or the Great.

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### RODERIC THE GREAT.

**MERVYN VRYCH** having lost his life, and A. D. 845 with it his kingdom, in the battle of Kettell; his son Roderic, surnamed the Great, without any opposition or contest, succeeded in the principality of Wales. The first thing he effected after his

advancement to the crown, was the dividing of Wales into several provinces, which he distinguished into these three; Aberffraw, Dinefawr, and Mathravael. Berthred, king of Mercia, being animated by his late success against Mervyn Vrych, purposed to perform the like exploits against his son Roderic. And having gained the aid and assistance of King Ethulwulph, he entered North Wales, with a strong army, and advanced as far as Anglesey, which he cruelly and miserably destroyed. Roderic met him several times, and the Welsh did at length so gaul and torment him, that in fine, he had little or nothing to boast of; only Meyric, one of the chiefest princes among the Britains, was slain.

But he was soon forced to quit his expedition against the Welsh, and to convert his forces another way; his own dominions requiring their constant residence, being severely threatened by a foreign invasion. For the Danes were by this time grown so very powerful, that they over-ran a great part of England, fought with Athelstan, king of Kent, brother to Ethelwulph; and obtained so much conquest, that whereas before they returned to their own country, when the weather grew too cold for action, they now took up their winter-quarters in England.

The Welsh, in the mean time, being secure from any violence, which might otherwise be expected, from the English; began to quarrel and fall out amongst themselves. Ithel, king of Gwent, or Wentland, for what occasion not known, fell foul upon the men of Brecknock, who were so resolute as to fight him; and the event proved very unfortunate to Ithel, who was slain upon the spot. It is the unhappiness of a nation that is governed by several petty states, when it is apprehensive of no danger from an outward enemy, that it will fall at variance, and create disturbances among itself.

Had the Britains, instead of falling upon one another, taken the advantage of this opportunity, when the Saxons were altogether employed in op-

posing and repelling the Danes, to increase and strengthen their number, and to fortify their towns; they might at least securely have possessed their own dominions, if not extended their government to a great part of England. But a sort of an equality in power, begat an emulation between the several princes, and this emulation for the most part ended in blows and contention; so that instead of strengthening themselves whilst they had respite from the English, they rather weakened their power by inward differences.

A. D. 854.

Kongen, king of Powys, was gone to Rome, there to end his days peaceably and religiously, but his death did not prove so natural as he expected, being barbarously slain, or (as some say) choaked by his own servants. Shortly after died Cemoyth, king of the Picts, and Jonathan, lord of Abergeley. It was now become customary for princes wearied with government to go to Rome, and the Pope willingly dispensed with the resignation of their crowns, by reason that his Holiness seldom lost by it. King Ethelwulph paid very dear for his entertainment there, made his kingdom tributary to the Pope, and paid the Peter-pence to the church of Rome. The Saxon genealogists bring the pedigree of Ethelwulph for several successions and generations, up to Adam, as may be seen in Matthew of Westminster, who in like manner derives the pedigree of Offa, king of Mercia. This has been the custom of most nations, both antient and modern: and is always practised by them whose families are any thing antient and honourable; so that it is a very great mistake to scoff at, and deride the Welch because they keep up this antient and laudable custom.

Berthred, king of Mercia, became at length far too weak to repel the daily increasing power of the Danes, who so numerously poured upon him, that at last he was forced to relinquish his kingdom and fly to Rome, where in a short time he sorrowfully ended his days. Ethelwulph shortly followed, and left his sons, Athelbald, king of the West-Saxons, and Athelbright, king, of Kent, and the East-Saxons.

*Pedigree  
to  
Adam*

*Ethelwulf*  
 Ethelwulph is reported to have been so learned and devout, that the church of Winchester elected him in his youth bishop of that see, which function he took upon him about seven years before he was made king. He is said also to have conquered the kingdom of Demetia or South-Wales; which together with the kingdom of the South-Saxons, he bestowed upon his son Alfred, upon condition he would bring a thousand men out of Wales to Winchester, to the aid of his brother Ethelbert against the Danes. Athelbald succeeding his father in the kingdom of the West-Saxons, kept his mother-in-law, the wife of Ethelwulph, for his concubine, and afterwards married her in the city of Chester. But he did not live long to enjoy this unnatural conjunction, but dying without issue after that he had reigned eight years, left his kingdom to his brother Athelbright.

About the same time the Danes began again to bestir themselves, and fell upon the city of Winchester, and destroyed it, which Athelbright perceiving, after a long fight forced them to quit the land, and to betake themselves to sea again. But the Danes quickly returned to the Isle of Thanet, where they remained for that winter, doing much mischief upon the sea-coast, and destroying all places near the shores of England. The English were very glad that they durst venture no further, and the more, because the Welsh began again to be troublesome, against whom an army must be speedily dispatched, otherwise they would certainly advance to the English country. Both armies met at Gweythen, where a fierce battle was fought, and a great number slain on either side, but the victory was not plainly discoverable. But the Welsh not long after, received a considerable loss by the death of Conan Nant Nifer, a stout and skilful commander, who oftentimes had valiantly repulsed the English forces, and obtained many signal victories over them.

The Danes had been for some time quiet, being unable to venture upon any considerable action,

and therefore they thought it adviseable to secure only what they had already won, and to expect a reinforcement from their own country. This was quickly sent them, under the command of Hungare and Hubba, who landed in England with a very considerable army of Danes. King Athelbright, whether terrified with a dismal apprehension of these invaders, or otherwise being indisposed, quickly afterwards gave up the ghost, leaving the management of his kingdom, together with that of his army against the Danes, to his brother Ethelred. The Danes in the mean time got sure footing, and advanced as far as York, which they miserably destroyed, killing Osbright and Elba, two Kings of Northumberland that opposed them. From hence they proceeded, and over-ran all the country as far as Nottingham, destroying and spoiling all before them, and then returned back to York. But having once tasted how sweet the spoil of a country, much more fertile than their own was, they could not rest satisfied with what they had already obtained, but must needs make a farther progress into the country, and fall upon the kingdom of the East-Angles. Edmund, king of that country, being not able to endure their insolencies, endeavoured to oppose them, but in the undertaking was unfortunately slain. And now after the same manner that the Saxons had formerly attained to the conquest of Britain, the Danes proceeded to the conquest of England. For the Saxons having found out the sweetness of this Island, and withal, discovered the weakness and inability of the Britains to oppose them, brought over their numbers by degrees, and in several companies, by which they wearied and tired out the British armies. For it is certain that nothing can produce more to the conquest of an Island, than the landing of an army at several places, and at several times, which distracts the counsels and proceedings of the inhabitants, and which at this time, for want of sufficient power at sea, could not be prevented. And so the Danes being informed of the good success

of Hungare and Hubba in England, sent over another army under the command of Basreck and Alding, who landed in West-Sex, and fought five battles with King Ethelred and his brother Alfred, namely, at Henglefield, Eastondown, Redding, Basing, and Mereton, in which two first, the English overcame, and the three last the Danes got the victory.

Soon after this Ethelred died, leaving his kingdom to his brother Alfred, who no sooner had taken the government upon him but considered with himself what a heavy burthen he was to sustain, and therefore he began to enquire after the wisest and most learned men that he could hear of, to be directed by them, whom he worthily entertained, making use of their advice as well in the publick government of the kingdom, as in his private studies and conference of learning. He sent for two men famously learned out of Wales, the one called John de Erigena, surnamed Scotus; the other Asserius, surnamed Menevensis. De Erigena was born at Menevia, or St. Davids, and was brought up in that college; who, for the sake of learning having travelled to Athens, and bestowed there many years in the study of the Greek, Hebrew, and Caldaick tongues, and the secret mysteries of philosophy, came to France; where he was well accepted of by Carolus Calvus, or Charles the Bald, and Ludovicus Balbus, or Lewis the Stammerer: and there translated the works of Dionysius Areopagita, De Cœlesti Hierarchia out of the Greek into the Latin tongue. Being returned home to Wales, he was sent for by this King Alfred, who was then founding and erecting the university of Oxford, of which Erigena became the first professor and public reader. But King Alfred bore so great a respect to learning, that he would suffer none to bear any considerable office in his court, but such as were learned; and withal, exhorted all persons to embrace learning, and to honour learned men. But though a love to learning be seldom reconcileable with a warlike and a military life, King Alfred was

*John de Erigena*  
*Erigena*

also forced to regard the discipline of war to defend his kingdom against the increasing power of the Danes. For he was scarce settled in his throne, but this restless and ever troublesome people began to molest and destroy his country, insomuch that he was of necessity forced to oppose them, which he did twice upon the south side of the river Thames, in which engagements he slew of the Danes, one king, nine earls, together with an innumerable multitude of inferior soldiers. About the same time, Gwgan ap Meyric, ap Dunwal, ap Arthen, ap Sitsyllt, prince of Cardigan, died, being as some say, unfortunately drowned. But the late victories which Alfred had obtained over the Danes, did not so much weaken and dishearten them, but that in a short time they recovered their spirits and began again to look terrible and threatening. For as soon as they could re-unite their scattered forces, they set upon and destroyed the town of Alclyde, won the city of London and Reading, over-ran all the inland country, and the whole kingdom of Mercia. Another army of Danes at the same time proved very successful in the North, and possessed themselves of the country of Northumberland, which action did not so much grieve the English, as trouble and vex the Picts and Scots, who were incessantly gauled, and frequently beat off by these Danish troops. The next year three of the Danish captains marched from Cambridge towards Warham, in Dorsetshire, of which expedition, King Alfred being informed, presently detached his forces to oppose them, and to offer them battle. The Danes were so startled at this, that they immediately desired peace, and willingly consented forthwith to depart out of the country, and to forswear the sight of English ground. According to which capitulation, the horse that night marched for Exeter, and the foot being shipped off, were all of them drowned at Sandwich. The Danes having thus abjured England, were not willing to return home empty, but thought it prudent to bend their

*Sitsyllt. P. 88*

*Arthen*

*|*

*Dunwal*

*|*

*Meyric*

*|*

*Gwgan*



course against Wales. They fancied that they were like to meet with no great opposition from the Welsh, and therefore could carve for themselves according as their fancy directed them. But having landed their army in Anglesey, they quickly experienced the contrary; Prince Roderic opposing them, gave them two battles, one at a place called Bangole, and the other at Menegid in Anglesey. At the same time another army of Danes under the command of Halden and Hungare, landed in South-Wales, over-ran the whole country, destroying all before them, neither sparing churches nor religious houses. But they received their due reward at the hands of the West-Saxons, who meeting with them on the coasts of Devonshire, slew both Halden and Hungare, with 1200 of their men. The same year Eineon, bishop of St. Davids died, and was the following year succeeded by Hubert, who was installed in his place.

*James in South Wales born?*

A. D. 876. The English being rid of their powerful and ever restless enemies the Danes, began now to quarrel with the Welsh, entering into Anglesey, with a numerous army, fought a sore battle with Roderic, who together with his brother (or as others say his son) Gwyriad, was unhappily slain in the field, which battle is called by the Welch, Gwaith Duw Sul y Mon. This Roderic had issue by his wife Angharad, Anarawd, Cadell and Mervyn, the last of which, Giraldus Cambrensis, contrary to the vulgar and received opinion, will have to be the eldest son of Roderic, upon whom was bestowed the principality of North-Wales. For it was unanimously granted that Roderic was undoubted proprietor of all the dominions of Wales, North Wales descending unto him by his mother Esyllt, the daughter and sole heir of Conan Tyndaethwy; South-Wales by his Wife Angharad, the daughter of Meyric ap Dyfnwal ap Arthen ap Sitsyllt, King of Cardigan; Powis by Nest, the sister and heir of Congen ap Cadell, King of Powis his father's mother. These three dominions Roderic divided between his three sons, appointing North Wales for his eldest son

Anarawd, South Wales to Cadell, who shortly after his father's death, forcibly seized upon his brother Mervyn's portion, upon whom Roderic had bestowed Powis-Land. Wales being thus divided between these three princes, they were called Y Tri Tywysog Talaethiog, or the three crowned princes, by reason that each of them did wear on his helmet a coronet of gold, being a broad head band indented upward, set and wrought with precious stones, which in the British Tongue is called Talaeth. To each of these princes Roderic built a royal seat; for the Prince of Gwynedd, or North Wales, at Aberffraw; of South Wales, at Dinefawr; for the Prince of Powis, at Mathrafael. Roderic had issue also, besides these three. Roderic, Meyric, Edwal or Tudwal, Gwyriad and Gathelic.

But Roderic having divided his principality betwixt his eldest sons, namely, Aberffraw, with the fifteen cantrefs thereunto belonging, to Anarawd; Dinefawr, with its fifteen cantrefs, extending from the mouth of the river Dyfi, to the mouth of the Severn, to Cadell; and Powis, with fifteen cantrefs, from the mouth of the river Dee, to the bridge over the Severn at Gloucester, to Mervyn: ordained, "That his eldest son Anarawd, and his successors, should continue the payment of the ancient tribute to the crown of England; and the other two, their heirs and successors should acknowledge his sovereignty; and, that upon any foreign invasion, they should mutually aid and protect one another."

And he farther appointed, "That when any difference should arise betwixt the Princes of Aberffraw and Cardigan, or Dinefawr, the three Princes should meet at Bwlch y Pawl, and the Prince of Powys should be umpire. But if the Prince of Aberffraw and Powis fell at variance, they should meet at Dol Rhianedd, probably Morva Rhianedd, on the bank of the river Dee, where the King of Cardigan was to adjust the controversy; and if the quarrel happened betwixt the Princes of Powis and Cardigan, the meeting was appointed at Llys

*King*  
*Cardigan*  
*Princ of Powis*  
*15 Cantrefs*  
*3 Princes of*  
*Aberffraw*  
*15 Cantrefs*  
*Cardigan - Dinefawr*

Wen, upon the river Wye, and to be decided by the Prince of Aberffraw."

And the better to frustrate any attempt of the English, he ordained moreover, "That all strong holds, castles and citadels, should be fortified and kept in repair; that all churches and religious houses should be re-edified and adorned, and that in all ages, the history of Britain, being faithfully registered and transcribed, should be kept therein.

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### ANARAWD.

THE Welsh had often sorrowfully felt the unnatural effects of inward seditions, and of being governed by several princes, which were now unavoidably to be renewed by reason of Roderic's imprudent division of his dominions between his three sons. For the several principalities being united in him, it was certainly the most politic means for the preservation of the country from the inveterate fury of the English, to compose the inward differences which would otherwise happen, by perpetuating the whole government of Wales in one prince. For it was impossible effectually to oppose the common enemy by separate armies, and where a different interest interfered, as if the safety of the same country, and the honour of the prince were unanimously regarded. This was the unhappiness of the ancient Britains, when the Romans invaded their country; domestic broils and inward dissensions being sown among themselves, they could not agree to unite their powers, and jointly to oppose the common enemy; so that Tacitus wisely concludes, *Dum singuli pugnant universi vincuntur.*

There are few nations but have experienced the folly of being rent into several portions, and the downfall of that great body the Roman empire, may not be absurdly attributed to Constantine's dividing of it between his sons. But the

Welsh at this time, presently felt the unhappiness of it; Cadell, Prince of South Wales, being dissatisfied with his portion, and desirous to feed his ambition with larger territories, could not spare his brother Mervyn's country, but must needs forcibly dispossess him of his lawful inheritance, and so involve the Welsh in a civil war.

But the succession of the Princes of Wales proceeds in Anarawd, the eldest son of Roderic, who A. D. 877. began his reign over North Wales, in the year 877. At that time Rollo, with a numerous army of Normans descended into France, and possessed themselves of the country of Neustria, which from them has since received the name of Normandy. But the treacherous Danes in England, who had retired to the city of Exeter, quickly violated the capitulation which they had lately sworn to observe, and upon that account were so warmly pursued by King Alfred, that they gladly delivered up hostages for the performance of the articles formerly agreed upon between them. But it was not their intention to keep them long, for the next year they again broke loose, possessed themselves of all the country upon the north side of Thames, and passing the river, put the English to flight, and made themselves masters of Chippenham in West-Sex. But their whole army did not succeed so well, for Alfred meeting with a party of them, slew their captain and took their standard, which the Danes called **RAVEN**. After this he vanquished them again at Edendown, where after that the Danes had given hostages for their peaceable behaviour; Godrun, their commander, received the Christian faith, and so reigned in East-Angle. But this opportunity seemed to threaten a great storm upon Wales; for A. D. 878. besides the death of Aedan, the son of Melit, a nobleman of the country, the articles of composition between the English and the Danes, occasioned these last to join their power with the people of Mercia to fight against the Welsh, between whom a severe battle was fought at Conway, wherein the

Welsh obtained a very signal victory, which was called "Dial Rodri, or the Revenge of the Death of Prince Roderic."

The reason why the Mercians were so irreconcilably enraged against the Welsh at this time, was this: After the death of Roderic the Great, the northern Britains of Stradelwyd and Cumberland were mightily infested and weakened through the daily incursions of the Danes, Saxons and Scots, insomuch that as many of them as would not submit their necks to the yoke were forced to quit their country, and to seek for more quiet habitations. Therefore towards the beginning of Anarawd's reign, several of them came to Gwynedd, under the conduct of one Hobert, whose distressed condition the prince commiserating, granted them all the country betwixt Chester and Conway to seat themselves in, in case they could drive out the Saxons who had lately possessed themselves of it.

The Britains having returned their thanks to Anarawd, presentedly fell to work, and necessity giving edge to their valour, they easily dispossessed the Saxons who were not as yet warm in their seats. For some time they continued peaceably in this part of Wales: but Eadred, Duke of Mercia, called by the Welsh Edryd Wallthir, not being able any longer to bear such an ignominious ejection, made great preparations for the re-gaining of the said country. But the northern Britains, who had settled themselves there, having intelligence of his design, for the better security of their cattle and other effects, removed them beyond the river Conway. Prince Anarawd in the mean time was not idle, but drawing together all the strength he could raise, encamped his army near the town of Conway at a place called Cymryt, where himself and his men having made gallant resistance against the pressing efforts of the Saxons, obtained a very compleat victory.

This battle was by some called Gwaith Cymryt Conway, by reason that it was fought in the township of Cymryt, near Conway. But Prince Ana-

rawd would have it called Dial Rodri, because he had there revenged the death of his father Rodri.

In this battle Tudwal, Rodri's son, received a wound in the knee, which made him to be donominated Tudwal Gloff ever after; but for his signal service in this action his brethren bestowed upon him Uchelogoed Gwynedd. But the Britains pursuing their victory, chased the Saxons quite out of Wales into Mercia, where having burnt and destroyed the borders, they returned home laden with rich spoils, and so took possession of the country betwixt Chester and Conway, which for a long time after they peaceably enjoyed. But Anarawd to express his thankfulness to God for this great victory, gave very considerable lands and possessions to the collegiate churches of Bangor, and Cly-nog Vawr, in Arvon. After this, those Danes that lay at Fulhenham, near London, crossed the sea to France, and passing to Paris along the river Seyn, spoiled the country thereabouts, and vanquished the French that came against them; but in their return towards the sea coast, they were met with by the Britains of Armorica, who slew the greatest part of them, and the rest confusedly endeavouring to escape to their ships, were all drowned.

A. D. 882.

*Sly Danes*

One should think that the several misfortunes the Danes sustained first at Sandwich, then by King Alfred, and now in France, would have quite drained their number, and utterly have rid Britain from so troublesome an enemy. But like ill weeds, the more you root them, the faster they will grow; the Danes were still supplied from abroad, and if an army was vanquished here, another was sure to come in their room. This the Welsh found too true, for not long after this famous defeat by the Armorican Britains, the Danes not able to venture upon these, were resolved to revenge themselves upon their friends of Wales, and therefore landing in North Wales, they cruelly harassed and destroyed the country. Nor is it strange to consider from whence such a wonderful number of Danes

and Normans could come. For the kingdom of Denmark had under it, not only Denmark, which is a small country, divided by the sea into Insulas and Peninsulas, as that which joins upon Saxony and Holsatia, called Cymbrica Chersonesus, with the islands of Zealand and Finnen, but also Norway, and the large country of Sweden, reaching to Muscovy, and almost to the North Pole. This country being then scarce known to the world, did of a sudden pour out such a multitude of people, which, like a sudden storm, unexpectedly over-ran all Europe, with a great part of the country of Africa. From hence proceeded these Danes who annoyed England, and the Normans, who conquered France; both Nations being originally derived from the same stock.

A. D. 890.

The Danes had not appeared in England for some time, and therefore are now resolved to take so sure a footing, as they cannot easily be repulsed. Two hundred and fifty sail being landed at Lymene in Kent, hard by the great forest of Andresledge, they built the castle of Auldre, or Apledore. The same time Hasting, with a fleet of eighty sail, ventured to the Thames mouth, and built the castle of Mydleton; having first made an oath to King Alfred, not to molest him or any of his subjects: but having built the castle of Beamfleet, he thought himself to have obtained so great a strength, that there was no necessity of observing the oath lately sworn to King Alfred, and therefore invaded the country round about him. But he soon found his mistake, and was forced to betake himself back to his castle, which was quickly pulled down upon his head, and his wife and two sons taken prisoners; who being christened, were again restored to their father. Upon this, Hasting and his Danes departed from England, and made their way for France; where laying siege to the city of Limogis, and despairing of a speedy surrender of it, betook himself to his usual way of dealing sinistrously, and devised this trick to win the town: he feigned himself to be dangerously sick, and sent to the bishop, and the

*Mydleton  
Castle  
on the Thames*

consul of the city, desiring of them most earnestly, that he might be admitted to the christian faith, and be baptized before his departure out of this world. The bishop and consul suspecting no deceit, were very glad, not only to be delivered from the present danger of being besieged, but also to win so great a person to the congregation of Christ. Whereupon a firm peace being concluded betwixt both nations, Hasting is baptized, the bishop and consul being his godfathers; which being ended, he was carried back by his soldiers to his ships, in a very infirm condition, as he outwardly pretended. About midnight he caused himself with his arms about him to be laid on a bier, and commanded his soldiers to carry their weapons with them under their coats, and so to be ready when he should give them the word. The next day, all things being in readiness, he was solemnly brought by his soldiers with great clamour and counterfeit mourning, to be interred in the chief church of the city; where the bishop and consul, accompanied with all the most honourable members of the town, came to honour the funeral. But when the bishop had made himself ready to bury the body, and all the citizens being in the church, up starts Hasting with his sword drawn, and killing first the bishop and the consul, afterwards fell with his armed soldiers upon the naked people, putting all to the sword, and sparing neither age, sex, nor infirmity. Having ransacked the town, he sent messengers to Charles, the French king, to mediate for peace, which he easily obtained, together with the town of Chartres towards the defraying of his charges.

At this time Evneth ap Bledrid a baron of Wales, died; and two years after, Anarawd prince of North Wales, with a considerable number of English, marched against his brother Cadell, and spoiled the countries of Cardigan and Ystradgwy. At the same time the Danes laid siege to the city of Exeter; and when Alfred had marched to oppose them, they that continued in the castle of Auldre

A. D. 891.  
893.



passed over to Essex, and built another castle at Scobrith, and from thence marched to Budington, seated upon the Severn. When Alfred came near to Exeter, the Danes presently raised the Siege, and betaking themselves to their ships, sailed towards Wales, and spoiled the sea-coast thereof, and advanced as far as Buellt.

But the Danes at Budington being informed that king Alfred marched against them, fled back to their castle in Essex: so that the king was fain to alter his march, and to convert his forces against Leicester; where a party of Danes was so warmly besieged, that at length they were reduced to that extremity, as to feed upon their horses, But the season of the year for action being ended, and the extremity of the weather being advanced, Alfred was forced to raise the siege, and to wait the next opportunity for the recovery of the town. But before he could appear before it again, the Danes fairly quitted it, and together with those in Northumberland, passed by the North Sea to Meresige, an isle in Essex. The next year they entered the Thames, and built a castle twenty miles distant from London; upon the strength of which, they ventured to spoil and waste the country thereabouts; but paid very dear for their courage, being accidentally met with, they received a bloody overthrow, having four of their princes slain upon the spot, and the rest very glad to make their escape to the castle. Upon this, Alfred divided the river into three streams, by which stratagem the water became so diminished in the Thames, that the Danish ships could not return back into the sea. When the Danes perceived this, and found it impracticable for them to escape in their ships, they left their wives and children, and all their effects in Essex; and so passed by land to Quadbryge upon the Severn, and then passing the river, spoiled the countries of Brecknock, Gwentland, and Gwentllwg. Some of them at the same time, passed over to France; and another company coasting about Devonshire, destroyed the maritime countries; but being met with by the English, lost six of their ships in the dispute.

A. D. 895.

896.

The following summer, the kingdom of Ireland A. D. 897. suffered extremely by locusts, which consumed all the corn and grass through the whole country; but were at length by continued prayers and fasting quite destroyed. These are common in Africa, and other hot regions, but seldom seen in colder climates; and when they happen to travel so far, they are always very pestilential and destructive to that country they come to.

This year Igmond, with a great number of Danes, 900. landed in Anglesey, and was met with by the Welsh, at a place called Molerain, where Mervyn was slain: though others call it Meilon, and from the battle fought there, Maes Rhos Meilon. The same year King Alfred died, who translated the ancient laws of Dyfnwal Moelmud, king of Britain, and the laws of Queen Marsia, out of British into English, and called it Marsian law, which was afterwards called West-Saxon law, and observed in part of Mercia, with all the countries on the south of the Thames: the other part of the country having another law called Dane Lex, both which remained to the time of Edward the Confessor, who of these two made one law. It is very observable, what is related of King Alfred, concerning his division of the natural day into three parts; the one he set apart for devotion and study, the next for the affairs of the commonwealth, and the third for his own rest and refreshment.

Alfred being dead, Edward his eldest son took upon him the crown, which so displeased the ambitious spirit of his brother Adelwulph, that presently he raised a cruel war against him, and flying to Northumberland, stirred up the Danes against his brother Edward. The Danes were glad of the opportunity; having now a fair pretence to render themselves masters of the whole Island; and therefore Adelwulph is made king, as well of the Angles as of the Danes, who by this time were grown to be one people. Marching then proudly with a very considerable army at his heels, he subdued the East-

Saxons, spoiled the country of Mercia; and passing over the Thames at Crickland, destroyed Brythend, and returned home with very great booty. At the same time Eyneth was slain in Arwystly. But Edward being informed of his brother's retreat, pursued him very eagerly; but missing of him, over-ran and destroyed all the country betwixt Ouse and the Dyke of St. Edmund, and then returned home with his whole army, saving the Kentish men, who being too greedy of plunder, rashly tarried behind. For the Danes perceiving the body of the army to be returned, and that a small party still continued to ravage the country, presently set upon them, slew a great number of their men, and put the rest to a shameful flight. Nor were the Danes only powerful in England, but molested and grew prevalent in Ireland: for this year they entered that kingdom, slew Carmot, king and bishop of all Ireland, a religious and a virtuous person, the son of Cukeman; and Kyrnalt, the son of Murgan, king of Lagines. The year after, died Asser, archbishop of St. David's, uncle to the famous and learned Asser, surnamed Menevensis, who being chancellor to his uncle, the archbishop, was sent for by King Alfred to instruct his children; whose life he afterwards wrote, and was made bishop of Shireburn.

A. D. 905.

906.

Edward, to force his brother from his country, and to revenge the death of the Kentishmen, dispatched an army to Northumberland; which having spoiled the country, returned home: upon which the Danes to return their kindness, destroyed a great part of Mercia. But within a while after, Edward having raised a very considerable army, gave the Danes battle, overthrew them, and slew their kings Alden and Edelwulph, with a great number of their nobles. This added very much to his dominions, which were the more increased and strengthened by the addition of the cities of London and Oxford; which upon the death of Edelred, duke of Mercia, Edward seized into his own hands, permitting his wife Elfleda to enjoy the rest of his dukedom. Shortly after, Cadell, prince of South

907.

After  
 Gorain  
 Jarogla

Wales, died leaving behind him three sons; Howel Dda, or the Good, who succeeded his father in the kingdom of South Wales; Meyric and Clydawc. King Edward having obtained so signal a victory over the Danes, and rendered his kingdom for some time quiet, began to build places of strength, which might be serviceable against a future storm: he built a castle at Hertford, betwixt the rivers Benefic, Minier, and Lige; and also erected the borough of Wytham in Essex; and continued sometime in Wealdyne, to keep those countries in awe. But in spite of all this precaution, the Danes of Leicester and Hampton, began the following year to be very troublesome, slew a great number of English at Hotchnorton; and in their return homeward, destroyed the country of Oxford. About the same time a considerable fleet from Tydwike, under the command of Uther and Rahald, sailed by the western sea to Wales, and destroyed St. David's; where was fought the battle of Dinerth, and Mayloc the son of Peredur Cam, was slain. After this they entered into Herefordshire, where they were fought withal, and Rahald was slain, and the rest compelled to forswear the king's land, and never to return any more to England. King Edward, to prevent any future disturbance from such open invaders, caused a strong army to be quartered upon the south side of Severn; but the Danes, for all he could do, entered twice into his country, once at Werd, and then at Portogan; but were both times overthrown by the English. from thence they departed to the Isle of Stepen, whence they were forced by hunger to sail to South Wales, intending to make a considerable prey of that country; but failing of their aim, they were constrained to make the best of their way for Ireland. But the next year, a party of Danes fought a very severe battle with the Kentish men at Holm; but which of them obtained the victory, is not certainly reported. About the same time Anarawd, prince of North Wales, died, leaving behind him two sons, Edwal Voel, and Elis; and some say a third, named Meyric.

A. D. 911.

913.

## EDWAL VOEL.

AFTER the death of Anarawd, his eldest son Edwal Voel took upon him the government of North-Wales; Howel Dda holding the principality of South-Wales and Powis: At that time, a terrible comet appeared in the heavens. The same year the city of Chester, which had been destroyed by the Danes, was by the procurement of Elfleda, new built and repaired, as the ancient records of that city do testify. This in the ancient copy is called Leicester, by an easy mistake for Legecestria, or Chester, called by the Romans, Legionum Cestria. The next summer the men of Dublin cruelly destroyed the isle of Anglesey; and soon after, A. D. 917. Clydawc the son of Cadell, was unnaturally slain by his brother Meyric, about the same time that the Danes received a cruel overthrow by the English, at Tottenhale. But Elfleda did not long survive the rebuilding of the city of Chester; a woman of singlar virtues, and one that greatly strengthened the kingdom of Mercia, by building of towns and castles against the incursions of the Danes; as Strengat and Bruge, by the forest of Morph, Tamworth, Stafford, Edelburgh, Cherenburgh, Wadeburgh, and Runcofe. After this, she entered with her whole army into Wales, won Brecknock, and took the queen, with thirty-three of her men prisoners; which in Welsh is called "Gwaith y Ddinas Newydd, or the battle of the new city. From hence she marched for Derby, which she took from the Danes, losing only four of her chief commanders in the action.

The occasion of these two expeditions, according to some, was this: Huganus, lord of West Wales, perceiving King Edward to be unavoidably busy in the Danish war, gathered an army of Britains, and entering into England, destroyed the king's country. Upon the news of this, Elfleda came to Wales with a great army, fought with the Welsh at Brecknock, and putting Huganus to flight, took his wife

and some of his men prisoners, whom she carried with her to Mercia. Huganus being thus defeated fled to Derby, and being there kindly received, joined himself with the king's enemies, the Danes. Elfleda being certified of that, followed him with her army; but in storming the gates of the town, had four of her best officers killed by Huganus. But Gwyane, Lord of the Isle of Ely, her steward, setting fire to the gates, furiously ran upon the Britains, and entered the town; upon which Huganus perceiving himself to be over-matched, chose rather to fall by the sword, than cowardly to yield himself to a woman. The next year Elfleda laid siege to the city of Leicester which was quickly surrendered, and the Danes therein perfectly subdued. The fame of these several actions being noised abroad, her neighbours became somewhat fearful and timorous; and the Yorkshiremen voluntarily did her homage, and proffered their service. She died at Tamworth, after eight years rule over Mercia; and lies buried at Gloucester by St. Peter's porch.

After the death of Elfleda, king Edward most ungratefully disinherited her daughter Alfwyden; and entering into Mercia, seized all the land into his own hands; upon pretence that she, without his knowledge, (whom her mother had appointed her guardian) had privily promised and contracted marriage with Raynald, king of the Danes. But this unjust and unnatural action of king Edward's, might possibly bring upon him those vehement troubles, which presently ensued upon it. For Leofred a Dane, and Gryffith ap Madoc, brother-in-law to the prince of West Wales, came from Ireland with a great army to Snowden, and minding to bring all Wales and the marches thereof to their subjection, over-ran and subdued all the country to Chester, before king Edward was certified of their arrival. Whereat being sore offended, and loth to trouble his subjects for help, vowed that himself and his sons, with their single forces, would be revenged upon Leofred and Gryffith; and thereupon marching to Chester, forced the city from them. Then

he divided his army into two battles, whereof he and his son Athelstane led the first, Edmund and Edred the second; and followed them so close, that he overtook them at the forest of Walewode, (now Sherwode) where Leofred and Gryffith set upon them so fiercely, that the king at first was in some danger; until Athelstane stepped in and wounded the Dane in the arm in that manner, that being no longer able to hold his spear, he was taken prisoner, and committed to the custody of Athelstane. In the mean time, Edmund and Edred encountering with Gryffith, slew him, and brought his head to their father; and Leofred's head being likewise cut off, they were both set up on the tower of Chester; and then Edward, together with his sons, victoriously returned home. But King Edward, having built Glademutham, soon after this, died at Farandon, and his son Alfred the same time at Oxford, and were both buried at Winchester.

A. D. 921.

Edward being dead, his base son Athelstane, for many excellent virtues appearing in him, was preferred to the crown; the worthiest prince of the Saxon blood that ever reigned. He overcame Cudfryd, the father of Reynald, King of the Danes, at York; and being invaded by Hawlaf, King of Ireland, who, with all the power of the Scots and Danes marched against him, gave him battle at Brimestbury, and obtained a very notorious victory; King Hawlaf, together with the King of the Scots, five Kings of the Danes and Normans being slain upon the spot: so that the whole country of England and Scotland became subject to him, which none of his predecessors ever attempted.

Sometime after, Owen, the son of Gryffith, was slain by the men of Cardigan: and then Athelstane  
 933. entering with his army into Wales, forced the princes thereof to pay a yearly tribute of 20*l.* in gold, 300*l.* in silver, and 200 head of cattle; which, notwithstanding was not observed, as appears by the laws of Howel Dda, wherein it is appointed, That the prince of Aberffraw should pay no more to the King of London, than 66*l.* tribute; and that the

Princes of Dinefawr and Powis should pay the like sum to the Prince of Aberffraw. But King Athelstane was not less terrible abroad, than he was awed and feared at home; the Kings of France and Norway sending him very great and costly presents, to obtain his favour, and to gain his good will.

This year Evneth, the son of Clydawc, and Meyric, the son of Cadell, died. The same time King Athelstane removed the Britains who lived at Exeter and the neighbouring country, to Cornwall; bounding them with the river Cambria; (now Tamar) as the Britains of Wales, with the Wye. Not long after, the noble Prince Athelstane died, to the great and inexpressible sorrow of all his subjects, and was buried at Malmesbury; and succeeded by his brother Edmund, not inferior to him in courage; but preferable by right of nativity, being born in wedlock. In the first year of his reign, he gave a very considerable blow to the Danes; took from them the cities of Leicester, Derby, Stafford, Lincoln, and Nottingham. Then Aulafe, King of the Danes, finding it impracticable to withstand the force of King Edmund, desired peace, and withal to be initiated into the Christian Faith; which being granted him, and all his Danes received baptism, King Edmund standing godfather at the font: after which both parties concluding a firm and a lasting peace, Edmund honourably returned to West Saxony.

The same year died Abloic, chief King of Ireland, and the year following, Cadell, the son of Arthual, a nobleman of Wales, was, for what reason not discovered, imprisoned by the English. To revenge which indignity, Edwal Voel and his brother Elis, gathered their forces together, and fought against the English and Danes, but were both unhappily slain.

This Edwal Voel had six sons, Meyric, Ievaf, Iago, Conan, Edwal, Fychan, and Roderic: and his brother Elis had issue Conan, and a daughter, named Trawst, the mother of Conan ap Sitsyllt, Gryffith ap Sitsyllt, and Blethyn ap Confyn, which two last were afterwards Princes of Wales.



## HOWEL DDA.

A. D. 940. **HOWEL DDA**, had been for a considerable time Prince of South Wales and Powis; in which government he had so justly and discreetly behaved himself, that upon the death of Edwal Voel, he was worthily preferred to the principality of Wales: notwithstanding that Edwal had left behind him several sons, who at first seemed to murmur at, and resent the election of Howel Dda. The first thing he took care of, was, to enact good and wholesome laws for the benefit of his country; which held in force in Wales, till the time of Edward the First, when the Welsh received the laws of England, yet not so generally, but that in some places they continued long after, and are still to be seen in the Welsh and Latin tongues: for Howel Dda perceiving the laws and customs of his country to have grown to great abuse, sent for the Archbishop of Menevia, with the rest of the bishops and chief clergy, to the number of one hundred and forty, and all the barons and nobles of Wales, and ordered that six of the wisest and best esteemed persons in every commote should be cited before him, at his palace, called Y Tŷ Gwyn ar Daf, or, the White House upon the river Taf. Thither coming himself, he remained with his nobles, prelates, and subjects, for all the Lent, in prayers and fasting, imploring the assistance and direction of God's holy Spirit, that he might reform the laws and customs of the country of Wales, to the honour of God, and the peaceable government of his subjects. Towards the end of Lent, he chose out of that assembly twelve of the wisest and gravest, and persons of the greatest experience, to whom he added Blegored, a man of singular learning, and one exquisitely versed in the laws. To these he gave commission to examine the ancient laws and customs of Wales, and to collect out of them what was requisite towards the government of the country; according to which

charge they retained those that were wholesome and profitable, expounded those that were doubtful and ambiguous, and abrogated them that were superfluous and hurtful: and so these laws were distinguished into three sorts; the first concerned the order and regulation of the king's household and court; the second, the affairs of the country and commonwealth; and the last had regard to special customs belonging to particular persons and places; all which being publicly proclaimed and generally allowed of, Prince Howel ordered three copies to be written; one for his own use, another to be laid up at his palace of Aberffraw, and the third at Dinefawr; so that the three provinces of Wales might have easy recourse to either of them, when need required. And for the better observation of these laws, he caused the Archbishop of St. David's to denounce sentence of excommunication against all such of his subjects as would not obey the same.

Within a while after, Howel, to omit nothing that might procure any countenance or authority to these his laws, accompanied with Lambert, Archbishop of St. David's, Mordaf, Bishop of Bangor and Cheber of St. Asaph, and thirteen of the most prudent and learned persons in Wales, took a journey to Rome, where the said laws being recited before the Pope, were by his holiness ratified and confirmed: after which, Howel, with all his retinue, returned home to his country.

The particulars of these laws are too numerous to be here inserted; only it is observable, that all matters of inheritance of land were determined and adjudged by the prince in person; or if sick, by his special deputy. And that upon view of the same land, citing together the freeholders of that place, two elders of his council, the chief justice always attending in the court, the ordinary judge of the country where the land lay, and the priest. The method of their proceeding was in this manner:

The Prince sate in his judicial-seat above the rest of the court, with an elder on each hand, next to

whom the freeholders on both sides, who upon that account were probably called UCHELWYR. Below the prince, at a certain distance, sate the chief justice, having the priest on his right hand, and the ordinary judge of the country concerned, upon the left. The court being thus sate, the plaintiff with his advocate, champion and Rhingyll or sergeant stood on the left side of the court, as did the defendant in like manner on the right. And lastly, the witnesses on both sides appeared, and stood at the lower end of the hall, directly opposite to the chief justice, to testify the best of their knowledge in the matter in debate. After the taking the desposition of the witnesses, and a full pleading of the cause in open court, upon notice given by the sergeant, the chief justice, the priest, and the ordinary judge, withdrew themselves for a while, to consult of the matter; and then *secundum allegata & probata*, brought in their verdict. Whereupon the prince, after consultation had with the elders that sate next him, gave definitive sentence; excepting the cause was so obscure and intricate, that the justice of it could not appear; and then the two champions put an end to the controversy by combat.

Whilst Howel Dda is thus regulating the customs and meliorating the laws and constitutions of Wales; Aulafe and Reginald, Kings of the Danes, forcibly entered the country of King Edmund, who being vexed with their incessant hostility, gathered his forces together, and (as some say) by the help of Llewelyn ap Sitsyllt, who was afterwards Prince of Wales, followed them to Northumberland; and having overcome them in a pitched battle, utterly chased them out of his kingdom, and remained a whole year in those parts to regulate and bring that country to some quiet order. But finding it impracticable to reduce the inhabitants of Cumberland to any peaceable constitution, having spoiled and wasted the country, he gave it up to Malcolm king of Scotland, upon condition that he should send him succours in his wars whenever demanded of him. In the mean time the Welch had but little

occasion to rejoice; Hubert bishop of St. David's, Marclois bishop of Bangor, and Ussa the son of Llafyr being dead: and shortly after the English entering into Wales with a very strong army, put the country into a great consternation; but being satisfied with the destruction and spoil of Strat Clwyd, they returned home without doing any more mischief. The same time Conan the son of Elis was like to be treacherously put to death by poison; and Everus bishop of St. David's died. The next year Edmund King of England was unluckily slain upon St. Augustine's day; but the manner of his death is variously delivered; some say, that discovering a noted thief, who was out-lawed sitting among his guests, being transported with indignation against so confident a villain, ran upon him very furiously, who expecting nothing less than death, thought to die not unrevenged, and therefore with a short dagger gave the king a mortal wound in the breast. Others report, that as the King would have rescued a servant of his from an officer who had arrested him, he was unwittingly and unhappily slain by the same. But however his death happened, he lies buried at Glastonbury; in whose place his brother Edred was crowned King of England, who no sooner had entered upon his government, but he made an expedition against Scotland and Northumberland, which being subdued, he received fealty and homage, by oath of the Scots and Northumbrians, which they did not long observe. Shortly after Howel Dda, after a long and peaceable reign over Wales, died, much lamented and bewailed of all his subjects, being a prince of a religious and a virtuous inclination, and one that ever regarded the welfare and prosperity of his people. He left issue behind him, Owen, Run, Roderic, and Edwin, betwixt whom, and the sons of Edwal Voel, late Prince of North Wales, great wars and commotions arose afterwards about the chief rule and government of Wales.

But the sons of Howel Dda, as some writers record, were these, viz:—Owen, who did not long

A. D. 914.

948.

Conan y Cwn  
 Run  
 Lord of Cardigan
 
 survive his father, Eincon, Meredyth, Dyfnwal, and Rodri, the two last whereof, as is conceived, were slain in the battle fought near Lhanrwst, in the year 952, by the sons of Edwal Voel; Run, lord of Cardigan, who was slain before the death of his father, Conan y Cwn, who possessed Anglesey; Edwin, who was also slain, as is supposed in the forementioned battle. There was also another battle fought betwixt Howel and Conan ap Edwal Voel, for the Isle of Anglesey, wherein Conan fell; and Gryffith his son, renewing the war, was likewise overcome; and so Cyngar, a powerful person, being driven out of the island, Howel enjoyed quiet possession thereof, and of the rest of Gwynedd. It is supposed that this Howel Dda was chosen governor of Wales, during the minority of his uncle Anarawd's sons, who, at the death of their father, were too young to manage the principality, which he kept till his return from Rome, at which time Edwal Voel being come of age, he resigned to him the kingdom of Gwynedd or North Wales, together with the sovereignty of all Wales: before which time Howel is styled Brenhin Cymry oll, that is, King of all Wales, as is seen in the preface to that body of laws compiled by him.

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### IEVAF AND IAGO, THE SONS OF EDWAL VOEL.

**AFTER** the death of Howel Dda, his sons divided betwixt them the principalities of South Wales and Powis; laying no claim to North Wales, though their father had been a general Prince of all Wales. But Ievaf and Iago, the sons of Edwal Voel, having put by their elder brother Meyric, as a person uncapable of government, and being dissatisfied with the rule of North Wales only, imagined that the principality of all Wales was their right, as descending from the elder house, which

the sons of Howel Dda denied them. Indeed, they had been wrongfully kept out of the government of North Wales during the reign of Howel; in whose time the recovery of their own was impracticable, by reason that for his moderation and other good qualities, he had attracted to himself the universal love of all the Welsh. But now, he being gone, they are resolved to revenge the injury received by him upon his sons; and upon a small pretence, endeavour to reduce the whole country of Wales to their own subjection. Ievaf and Iago were indeed descended from the elder branch; but since Roderic the Great conferred the principality of South Wales upon his younger son Cadell, the father of Howel Dda, it was but just his sons should enjoy what was legally descended to them by their father; but ambition seldom gives place to equity; and therefore, right or wrong, Ievaf and Iago must have a touch for South Wales, which they enter with a great army; and being opposed, they obtained a very opportune victory over Owen and his brethren the sons of Howel, at the hills of Carno. The next year the two brothers entered twice into South Wales, destroyed and wasted Dyvet, and slew Dwnwallon, lord of the country. Shortly after which, Roderic, the third son of Howel Dda died. But his brethren perceiving the folly of standing only upon the defensive, mustered all their forces together, and entering North Wales, marched as far as Lhanrwst, upon the river Conwy; where Ievaf and Iago met them. A very cruel battle ensued upon this, and a very great number were slain on both sides, among whom were Anarawd the son of Gwyriad, the son of Roderic the Great; and Edwyn the son of Howel Dda. But the victory plainly favoured the brothers Ievaf and Iago; so that the Princes of South Wales were obliged to retire to Cardiganshire, whither they were warmly pursued; and that country cruelly harrassed with fire and sword. The next year Mervyn was unhappily drowned; and shortly after Congelach, King of Ireland, was slain.

A. D. 950.

951.

952.

953.

Ievaf &  
Iago -Dwn  
Lor  
Dyve

Dwn Wallon

The Scots and Northumbrians having lately sworn allegiance to King Edred, he was scarce returned to his own country, but Aulafe, with a great army, landed in Northumberland, and was with much rejoicing received by the inhabitants. But before he could secure himself in the government, he was shamefully banished the country; and so the Northumbrians elected one Hircius, the son of Harold for their king. But to shew the inconstancy of an unsettled multitude, they soon grew weary of Hircius, and after three years space expelled him, and voluntarily submitted themselves to Edred, who, after he had reigned eight years, died, and was buried at Winchester. To him succeeded Edwin the son of Edmund, a man so immoderately given to venery, that he forcibly married another man's wife; for which, and other irregularities, his subjects, after four years reign, set up his brother Edgar, who was crowned in his stead; with grief of which he soon ended his days. The summer, that same year, proved so immoderately hot, that it caused a very dismal plague in the following spring, which swept away a great number of people; before which, Gwgan, the son of Gwyriad, the son of Roderic, died. At this time, Ievaf and Iago forcibly managed the government of all Wales, and acted according to their own good pleasure, no one daring to confront or resist them. But for all their power, the sons of Abloic, King of Ireland, ventured to land in Anglesey; and having burnt Holyhead, wasted the country of Llyn. Also the sons of Edwyn, the son of Colloyn, destroyed and ravaged all the country to Towyn, where they were intercepted and slain. About the same time, died Meyric, the son of Cadvan; Rhytherch, bishop of St. David's; and Cadwallon ap Owen. Not long after, the country of North Wales was cruelly wasted by the army of Edgar, King of England: the occasion of which invasion, was the non-payment of the tribute that the King of Aberffraw, by the laws of Howel Dda, was obliged to pay to the King of London. But at length a peace was concluded upon these conditions,

A. D. 958.

961.

965.

that the Prince of North Wales, instead of money, should pay to the King of England the tribute of 300 wolves yearly; which creature was then very pernicious and destructive to England and Wales. This tribute being duly performed for two years, the third year there were none to be found in any part of the Island; so that afterwards the Prince of North Wales became exempt from paying any acknowledgment to the King of England. The terror apprehended from the English, being by these means vanished; there threatened another cloud from Ireland; for the Irish being animated by their late expedition, landed again in Anglesey; and having slain Roderic, the son of Edwal Voel, they destroyed Aberffraw. And this danger being over, Ievaf and Iago, who had jointly and agreeably, till now, managed the government of Wales from the death of Howel Dda, began to quarrel and disagree among themselves; and Iago having forcibly laid hands upon his brother Ievaf, confined him to perpetual imprisonment. These heats and animosities between the two brothers, gave occasion and opportunity to Owen, Prince of South Wales to carve for himself, who presently seized to his hands the country of Gwyr. And to augment the miseries of the Welsh at this time, Mactus, the son of Harold, with an army of Danes, entered the isle of Anglesey, and spoiled Penmon. King Edgar was so indulgent to these Danes, that he permitted them to inhabit through all England; insomuch that at length they became to be as numerous and as strong as the English themselves, and fell into such lewd courses of debauchery, and such horrid drinking, that very great mischief ensued thereupon. The king to reform this immoderate sottishness, enacted a law, that every one should drink by measure, and so stamped a mark upon every vessel, how far it should be filled. But Harold having taken Penmon, made subject to himself the whole isle of Anglesey, which however he did not keep long, being forced to quit the same, and

A. D. 966.

967.

968.

969.

970.



to return home; as did the fleet of king Alfred, which he had sent to subdue Caerlleon upon Usk. A. D. 971. And now being rid of the English and Danes, the Welsh begin to raise commotions among themselves. 972. Ievaf continued still in prison, to rescue whom, his son Howel raised his power, and marched against his uncle Iago, who being vanquished in fight, was forced to quit the country to save himself. Howel having won the day, took his eldest uncle Meyric, the son of Edwal prisoner, and pulled out both his eyes, and clapt him in prison, where in a woeful condition he shortly died, leaving behind him two sons, Edwal and Ionaval; the first of which lived to be afterwards prince of Wales, and to revenge upon the posterity of Howel, that unnatural barbarity shewed to his father. But though Howel delivered his father from his long and tedious imprisonment, yet he did not think fit to restore him to his principality; for whether by age or infirmity he was incapable, Howel took upon him the sole government of Wales, which he kept and maintained for his lifetime, but afterwards it descended to his brethren. For Ievaf had issue besides this Howel, Meyric, Ievaf, and Cadwallon, all three men of great repute and esteem.

About this time died Morgan Hen, in his younger days called Morgan Mawr, being an hundred years old, having lived fifty years after the death of his wife Elen, daughter of Roderic the great, by whom he had one son called Owen. Morgan was a valiant and a victorious prince, and well beloved of his subjects; but sometime before his death, Owen, the son of prince Howel Dda, laid claim to Ystradwy and Ewy, (called the two Sleeves of Gwent Uwchcoed) being the right of Morgan, and seized upon them to his own use. But the matter, through the mediation of the clergy and nobility, being by both parties referred to the decision of Edgar, king of England, it was by him adjudged, that the said lands did of right belong to Morgan, and to the diocese of Llandaf; and that Owen ap Howel Dda, had wrongfully possessed himself of them. The

Roderic  
great

Morgan Hen  
Elen

Owen

charter of the said award was made before the archbishops, bishops, earls, and barons of England and Wales; as may be seen at Llandaf, in an old manuscript, called y Cwitta Cyfarwydd o Forganwg. And there is somewhat to the same purpose in the old book of Llandaf; only the mistake in both is, that they make Howel Dda the intruder into the said lands, who had been dead at least twenty years before king Edgar began his reign.

*M. S. Cwitta  
Cyfarwydd o Forganwg*

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## HOWEL AP IEVAF.

**H**OWEL, after that he had expelled his uncle Iago, and forced him to quit his own dominions, took upon himself the government of Wales, in right of his father, who though alive, yet by reason of his years, was willing to decline it. About the same time Dwnwallon, Prince of Stradclwyd, took his journey for Rome, and Edwallon, son of Owen, Prince of South Wales died. But the English received a greater blow by the death of King Edgar, who was a prince of excellent qualities, both warlike and religious, and one that founded several monasteries and religious houses, and particularly at Bangor.

*Dwnwallon  
Prince  
of Stradclwyd*

For Iago ap Edwal having fled to King Edgar, prevailed so far with him, that he brought an army into North Wales to restore him to his right. Being advanced as far as Bangor, he was honourably received by Howel, who, at his request, was contented his uncle Iago should have a share in the government, as he had in his father Ievaf's time. Then Edgar founded a new church at Bangor, on the south side of the Cathedral, which he dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary; and confirmed the ancient liberties of that see, and bestowed lands and gifts upon it: and then with Howel and Iago in his company, he marched towards Chester, where met

him, by appointment, six kings more, viz:—Kenneth King of the Scots, Malcolm King of Cumberland, Macon King of Man, and Dyfnwal, Sivrethus, and Ithel, three British kings. These eight princes having done homage, and sworn fealty to him, entered with him into his barge, and rowed him, four of each side, from his palace to the church, or monastery of St. John the Baptist, and divine service being ended, in like state rowed him back again. To King Edgar succeeded his son Edward, surnamed the younger; who, after four years reign, was treacherously slain through the treason of his stepmother Elfrida, to make room for her own son Edelred, upon pretence of whose minority, being a child only of seven years, she might have the management of the kingdom in her own hands. But

A. D. 976. whilst the English were in this waving and unsettled condition, Eineon, the son of Owen, King of South Wales, the second time entered the country of Gwyr, and having spoiled and wasted it, returned home again. This, though an unsufferable affront to Howel, Prince of North Wales, yet he thought it most convenient to pass by and wink at it; being then warily engaged against the aiders and abettors of his uncle Iago; and marching against them with a numerous army, consisting of Welsh and English, pursued them to Llyn and Clynnoc Vawr, the very extremity of Wales; where, after cruel ravaging and miserable harassing of the country about, Iago was at last taken prisoner; but so generously received by Howel, that he granted his uncle to enjoy his portion of the country peaceably for his life. But he did not deal so kindly with his uncle Edwal Vychan, the son of Edwal Voel; who, for what

979. pretence, not discovered, was slain by him. It may be, that being in a manner secure of his uncle Iago, he was apprehensive that Edwal Vychan would put in his pretence for the principality; and therefore he judged it convenient to remove this obstacle in time, and to send him to seek for it in another world. For nothing can be the cause of greater injustice and inhumanity in princes, than the jealousy and

apprehension of rivals and pretenders to their government; to prevent which, they will sacrifice any thing that is just and legal, so that the person offending be removed out of the way. But though Howel had murdered his uncle Edwal Vychan, yet he could not remove all disputes and pretences to North Wales: for at that same time that he was employed in this unnatural action, Cystenyn Idu, or Constantine the Black, son to Iago, then prisoner to Howel, having hired an army of Danes, under the command of Godfryd, the son of Harold, marched against his cousin Howel, and entering North Wales, destroyed Anglesey and Llyn. Whereupon Howel having drawn his forces together, set upon them at a place called Gwaith Hirbarth, where the Danes received a very shameful overthrow, and Constantine, the son of Iago, was slain. But another army of Danes fared better in England, who having landed at, and spoiled Southampton, over-ran the countries of Devon and Cornwall, burnt the town of Bodman, whereby the cathedral church of St. Petrokes, with the bishop's palace, were laid in ashes; by reason of which disaster, that bishop's see was translated to St. Germans, where it continued till the uniting thereof to Crediton. Within a while after, St. Dunstan, archbishop of Canterbury died, a pious and religious person, who foretold of very great and unsupportable calamities the English should endure by the cruel outrages of the Danes.

But Godfryd, the son of Harold, being highly A. D. 981. disgusted at the shameful rout he received of Howel, in the quarrel of Constantine, was resolved to recover his credit, and to revenge himself of the Welsh. And accordingly he landed with a powerful army in West Wales, where, after that he had spoiled the land of Dyfed, with the church of St. David's, he fought the famous battle of Llanwano. 982. But Harold being forced upon this to retire and forsake the country, the following year Duke Alfred, with a considerable number of English, came to supply his room, and to conquer the

Welsh. But he received as little advantage or honour as Harold in this expedition; for after that he had laid waste and destroyed the town of Brecknock, with some part of South Wales, he was shamefully vanquished, and his army almost totally cut off by the troops of Eineon, the son of Owen, Prince of South Wales, and Howel, Prince of North Wales, who had joined their forces against him.

A. D. 983. And now the Welsh having quite disabled the Danes and the English, began to fall to their old courses, to make use of their prosperity and quietness from abroad, for quarrelling and creating disturbances at home. The inhabitants of Gwentland imagined themselves very strong and powerful, and therefore must needs endeavour to shake off their allegiance to their prince, and to set up one of their own making. Owen, Prince of South Wales, to pacify the rebellious humour of these seditious and turbulent people, sent his son Eineon to persuade them to obedience. But a distracted multitude got loose, is not to be worked upon by arguments, which Eineon fatally experienced, who was so far from persuading them in their allegiance by fair means, that they presently set upon him, and thinking that they had the bird in their fist, who was next to succeed, put him to present death. And thus most ignobly fell this worthy prince, who, in his father's time, was the only support of his country, being a stout and valiant commander, and one famously experienced in the art and discipline of war. He had issue two sons, Edwyn and Tewdwr Mawr, or Theodore the Great, out of whose loins several Princes of South Wales were since descended. But Howel, prince of North

984. Wales, did not regard this dissention and rebellion in South Wales, and therefore took opportunity to strengthen and multiply his army, with which he marched the next year for England, intending to revenge the incursions and invasions of the English upon Wales, and to destroy and waste their country. But having entered into England, he was presently fought with, upon which, being

Owen  
Eineon  
Edwyn  
Tewdwr Mawr

resolved either to return victoriously, or to die courageously, he fell in among them, but in the action was slain, leaving no issue behind him to succeed in his principality, though in some ancient genealogies he is reputed to have a son called Conan y Cwn.

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### CADWALLON AP IEVAF.

**H**OWEL, the son of Ievaf, had for a long time enjoyed the principality of North Wales, more by main force and usurpation, than any right of succession he could pretend to it. For Ionaval and Edwal, the sons of Meyric, the eldest son of Edwal Voel, were living, and tho' their father had been rejected as unfit for government, yet that was no reason to deprive them of their right. Indeed, Howel could pretend to no other right or title, than that his father Ievaf had been prince of North Wales before him, and this he thought sufficient to maintain his possession against the rightful heir, who was far unable to oppose or molest his wrongful usurpation. But he being slain in this rash expedition against the English, and leaving no issue to succeed him in the crown, his brother Cadwallon thought he might rightfully take upon him the government of North Wales, seeing his father and his brother had without any molestation enjoyed the same. However, to make his title secure, he thought fit to remove all manner of rubs which might create any dispute concerning his right of succession, and to that end, concluded it necessary to make away his cousins Ionaval and Edwal, the lawful heirs; the first of which he executed accordingly, but Edwal being aware of his intention, privately made his escape, and so prevented his wicked design. This unnatural dealing with his cousins Ionaval and Edwal, cost Cadwallon not only his life, but the loss of his principality, and the utter ruin of his father's house. For he had scarce enjoyed his government

one year, but Meredith, the son of Owen, prince of South Wales, entered into North Wales, slew Cadwallon and his brother Meyric, the only remains of the house of Ievaf, and under the pretence of conquest, possessed himself of the whole country. Here we may observe and admire the wisdom of providence, in permitting wrong and oppression for some time to flourish and wax great, and afterwards by secret and hidden methods, in restoring the posterity of the right and lawful heir to the just and pristine estate of his ancestors. For after the death of Edwal Voel, Meyric, who by right of birth was legally to succeed, was not only deprived of his just and rightful inheritance, but had his eyes most inhumanly put out, and being condemned to perpetual imprisonment, for grief of being so barbarously treated, quickly ended his days. But though his brothers Ievaf and Iago, and Howel and Cadwallon, the sons of the former, successively enjoyed the principality of North Wales; yet not one died naturally, or free from the revenge of Meyric's ejection. For Ievaf was imprisoned by his brother Iago, and he with his son Constantine, by Howel the son of Ievaf, and afterwards Howel fell by the hands of the English, and his brethren Cadwallon and Meyric were both slain by Meredith ap Owen. On the other side, Edwal ap Meyric, who was right heir of North Wales after the death of his brother Ionaual, escaped the snare intended by Cadwallon; and Meredith ap Owen, after some time, leaving North Wales exposed to the enemies, by reason he had enough to do to preserve South Wales, Edwal was received of the North Wales men as their true prince.

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### MEREDITH AP OWEN.

A. D. 986. **MEREDITH** having won the field and slain Cadwallon and his brother Meyric, the only seeming pretenders to the principality of North Wales,

took upon himself the rule and government of it. But before he could be well confirmed in his dominions, Godfryd the son of Harold, third time entered into the isle of Anglesey, and having taken Llywarch, the son of Owen, with 2000 men prisoners, most cruelly put out his eyes; which so startled and struck such a terror into Prince Meredith, that with the rest of his army, he forthwith made his escape and fled to Cardigan. This loss to the Welsh was the same year seconded by another, but of another sort; for there happened such a dismal and unusual murrain, that the best part of the cattle of Wales perished. Neither were the English at this time free from adversities and troubles, for the Danes landed again in England with several armies, and at Westport and Witest, gave two English lords, Godan and Britchwold such a blow, that the king was forced to buy his peace with the payment of £10,000, which was termed Dane Gelt. But within a while after, King Edelred violated and broke the peace himself, and prepared a great fleet, thinking to vanquish the Danes at sea; but it proved far otherwise, and much contrary to his expectation, all his ships being either taken or destroyed, together with the Admiral, Alfric, earl of Mercia. The Danes being animated with this victory, sailed up to the mouth of the Humber, and landing in Yorkshire, spoiled and destroyed the cities of York and Lindsey; but in their march through Northumberland, were routed and put to flight by Godwyn and Fridgist, two English generals who were sent to oppose them. The same time Aulaf, king of Norway, and Swane of Denmark, with 94 gallies, sailed up the Thames, and besieged London, which the citizens so bravely defended, that at length the Danes thought best to raise and quit the siege. But though they could effect nothing upon the city, yet the country was at their mercy, and therefore leaving their ships, they landed and wasted with fire and sword all Kent, Essex, Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire. Where-



fore King Edelred, instead of manly opposition in the field, sends ambassadors to treat about another payment, and so the Danes being satisfied with a great sum of money and victuals, lay quiet that winter at Southampton. Upon this composition, Aulaf was invited by Adelred, and royally entertained; and being dismissed with very many rich presents, he promised upon oath to depart the kingdom, and never to molest it any more, which he faithfully performed.

A. D. 937. Whilst the English and Danes were thus for a time agreed, Ievaf the son of Edwal, having spent for several years a retired and private life, died; and was quickly followed by Owen, the son of Howel Dda, Prince of South Wales. This Owen had three sons; Eineon, who in his father's time was slain by the rebels of Gwentland; and Llywarch, who had his eyes put out by Godfryd the son of Harold the Dane; and Prince Meredith, who had already conquered North Wales, and now upon his father's death takes possession also of South Wales, without any regard had to Edwyn and Theodore, the sons of Eineon, his elder brother. But upon his advancement to his new principality, he was like to meet with no very small troubles; for the Danes at Hampton quickly broke the league with king Adelred, and sailing towards the West, mightily annoyed the coasts of Cornwall and Devonshire, and at last landed in South Wales. Having destroyed St. David's, Llanbadarn, Llanrhystyd, Llandydoch, and several other religious places; the country was so cruelly harrassed and weakened, that Prince Meredith was forced to compound with them, and to pay a tribute of one penny for every person within his dominions, which in Welsh was called Glwmaem, otherwise, the tribute of the black army. And Ireland too at this time received no inconsiderable blow from the Danes, who slew Elwmaen the son of Abloic, king of the country, and so spoiled and ravaged that kingdom, that a great number of the natives perished by famine.

933.

*South Wales*

*Ireland army*

The year following, Owen the son of Dyfnwal, A. D. 989. a man of considerable note and reputation among the Welsh was slain; besides which, nothing remarkable happened this year. But the next year Edwin ap Eimeon, who was right heir to the principality of South Wales, having drawn to his help a great army of English and Danes, 990. hostily entered into Meredith's country, spoiled all the land of Cardigan, Dyfed, Gwyr, Kydwely and St. David's, and received hostages of the chief persons of those countries to own him as their rightful prince. To return these outrages upon Edwyn, 991. Meredith destroyed the town of Radnor, spoiled Glamorgan, and carried the chiefest men therein prisoners, who paying their ransom, were set at liberty. But whilst Wales was in this tottering condition, and scarce any place free from hostility, it happily fell out, that Meredith and Edwyn were made friends, and the differences composed between them, so that the English and Danes who came in with Edwyn, and who expected to fare best by these civil disturbances of the Welsh, were unexpectedly cashiered and sent home. And soon after this agreement, Cadwallon, the only son of Meredith, died, which rendered the composition between Meredith and Edwyn more firm, by reason that this latter thought now, without any dispute, to succeed Meredith in his principality. But this fell short of his aim, for Meredith being very much disturbed in South Wales, had so much work upon his hands to defend that country, that he left North Wales open and exposed to the common enemy, which the Danes were quickly acquainted with, and so landing in Anglesey, they ravaged and laid waste the whole island. 992. The North Wales men finding themselves thus forsaken by Meredith, and their country like to be over-run by the Danes, if not timely prevented, set up Edwal the son of Meyric, the indisputable heir of North Wales, though long kept from it, and owned him for their prince. But those incessant wars and commotions in South Wales,

occasioned a very dismal famine and scarcity in the country, of which a very considerable number of people perished. And thus Meredith who had once conquered North Wales, and for a long time had got possession of South Wales, without any right or title to either, was now obliged to relinquish the one, and was scarce able to maintain the other.

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### EDWAL AP MEYRIC.

A. D. 993. **EDWAL**, after a long and tedious expectation, being now joyfully received by the North Wales men for their prince, endeavoured the first thing to defend his subjects from the injuries and depredations they received from the Danes. And having in a measure effected that, he was accosted by another enemy; for Meredith being resolved to revenge the indignity and disgrace put upon him by the North Wales men, in depriving him of the government of their country, gathered and mustered together all his power, intending to recover again that principality. Being advanced as far as Llangwm, Edwal met him, and in plain battle routed his army; in which action, Theodore, or Tewdwr Mawr, Meredith's nephew, was slain, leaving behind him two sons, Rhys and Rytherch, and a daughter named Elen. But it is probable that it was not Tewdwr Mawr, but his brother Edwyn that was slain in this battle, which also seems rather to have been fought at Hengwm in Ardudwy; in Merionethshire, than at Llangwm, for in that place there are to this day certain monuments of victory to be seen; as heaps of stones, tomb-stones and columns, which they call Carneddi Hengwm. Edwal returning home triumphantly after this victory, thought he had now secured himself in his government, and expected to enjoy his dominions quietly, and without any molestation. But he had scarce recovered the fatigue of the last engagement, when Swane the son of Harold, having lately pillaged

Meredith  
Edwal  
Tewdwr Mawr  
Rhys Rytherch &c.

and wasted the Isle of Man, landed in North Wales, whom Edwal endeavouring to oppose, was slain in the encounter, leaving one son behind him, called Iago. Within a while after, the Danes returned again against St. David's, and destroying all before them with fire and sword, slew Morgenny or Urgenny, bishop of that diocese. Prince Meredith being highly concerned at the mischiefs these barbarous people continually did to his country, and the more, because he was not able to repel their insolencies, out of grief and vexation died; having issue one only daughter, named Angharad, who was twice married; first to Llewelyn ap Sitsyllt, and after his death to Confyn Hirdref, or, as others think, to Confyn ap Gwerystan. She had children by both husbands, which occasioned afterwards great disturbances and civil commotions in Wales, the issue of both adventures pretending a right of succession to the principality of South Wales.

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### AEDAN AP BLEGORED.

**EDWAL**, Prince of North Wales, being killed in the battle against Swane, and having no other issue than Iago, who was a minor, and too young to take upon him the government; and Meredith, Prince of South Wales, dying without any other issue than a daughter, caused very heavy quarrels and contentions among the Welsh, several without any colour of right, putting in their claim and pretensions to the government. In North Wales, A.D. 1003. Conan the son of Howel, and Aedan the son of Blegored, were the chief aspirers to that principality; and because they could not agree who should be the man, they fairly consented to try the matter in open field, where Conan had the misfortune to be slain; and so Aedan was victoriously proclaimed Prince of North Wales. But who this Aedan was descended from, or what colour of pre-

*Meredith P.  
S. Wales*

tence he could lay to the principality, cannot be as much as guessed at, there being none of that name to be met with in any Welsh records, excepting that Blegored, who is mentioned in the line of Howel Dda, whose estate and quality was too mean, that his posterity should lay any claim to the principality of Wales. But be that how it will, Aedan, after his victory over Conan ap Howel, was owned Prince by the North Wales men, over whom he bore rule for the space of twelve years; though besides his conquest of Conan ap Howel, there being nothing recorded of him, excepting his being slain, together with his four sons, by Llewelyn ap Sitsyllt.

But whilst the Welsh were in this inconstant and unsettled condition, the Scots in Ireland began to grow powerful, and having destroyed the town and country of Develyn, they took Galfath and Ubiad, two Irish lords, prisoners, whose eyes they most inhumanly put out. The Danes also, who had lately made their incursions into South Wales, began now to molest the English; having landed in the West, passed through the counties of Somerset, Dorset, Hampshire, and Sussex, destroying and burning all before them. Having advanced without any opposition, as far as the river Medway, they laid siege to Rochester, which the Kentish men endeavouring to preserve, assembled themselves together, and gave the Danes battle, but were vanquished in the undertaking. King Edelred was then in Cumberland, where the Danes were more numerously planted, which country he kept quiet and in subjection. But in the mean time another army of Danes landed in the West, against whom the country people of Somersetshire assembling themselves, shewed their readiness to attack them, but wanting a head to direct them, were easily put to their heels, and the Danes ruled and commanded the country at their pleasure. The King being sorely vexed at the insolencies and restless depredations of the Danes, thought convenient to strengthen himself by some powerful affinity, and to that end, sends ambassadors to Richard, duke of Normandy, desiring his daugh-

ter Emma in marriage, and succours to repel the Danish incursions. Here it is observable, that as the Saxons being formerly called over as friends and allies to the well-meaning Britains, violently and wrongfully possessed themselves of the greatest part of the Island; so now the Normans being invited to aid the English against the Danes, took so good a liking to the country, that they never gave over their design of gaining it, till at last they became conquerors of the whole Island. The mischief of calling in the Normans, though foretold to King Adelred, he was so far concerned about the present calamities received by the Danes, that he was deaf to all futurities, how dangerous and mischievous soever they might prove. And therefore being puffed up with hopes of increase of strength by this new affinity, he sent private letters to all cities and towns throughout his dominions, where the Danes were quartered, requiring them all upon St. Brice's night to massacre the Danes, which was accordingly performed with much unanimity and secrecy. This cruel disaster was so far from discouraging the Danes, that they now began to vow the eradication of the English nation, and to revenge that unmanly massacre of their countrymen; to which end they landed in Devonshire, and overrunning the country with fire and sword, spared nothing that had the least spark of life in it. The city of Exeter they razed to the ground, and slew Hugh the Norman, whom the Queen had recommended to the government of it. To prevent their further incursions, Almarus, Earl of Devon, gathered a great army out of Hampshire and Wiltshire, and the country thereabouts, and marched with a resolution stoutly to oppose the Danes, who put Almarus to flight, and pursued him to Wilton and Salisbury, which being ransacked and plundered, they carried the pillage thereof triumphantly to their ships.

The next year Swane, a prince of great repute in Denmark, landed upon the coast of Norfolk. and laid siege to Norwich, and wasted the country A.D. 1004.

thereabouts. But Wolfkettel, duke of that country, being too weak to oppose him, thought it most convenient to make a peace with the Dane, which was quickly broke; and then Swane marched privately to Thetford, which after he had spoiled and ransacked, he returned with his prey to his ships. Wolfkettel hearing this, privately drew up his forces, and stoutly marched against the enemy; but being far inferior in number, the Danes got the day, and afterwards sailed to their own country. Within two years after, the Danes returned again, bringing with them their usual companions,—the fire, the sword, and the spoil, and landed at Sandwich; which after they had burnt and pillaged, they sailed to the Isle of Wight, where they took up their winter-quarters till Christmas: and then coming from thence, they over-ran, by several parties, the countries of Hampshire and Berkshire, as far as Reading, Wallingford and Colsey; devouring up, for want of other plunder, all the provisions and victuals they found in the houses, and retributed the same with fire and sword at their departure. In their return they met with the army of the West Saxons, near Essington; but this consisting only of a raw and unexperienced rabble, they easily broke through, and passing triumphantly by the gates of Winchester, they got safe with great booty to the Isle of Wight. King Adelred all this while lay at his manor-house in Shropshire, much troubled and concerned at these uninterrupted devastations of the Danes. But the nobility of England, rather to save some than lose all they possessed, bought their peace of the Danes for the sum of £30,000; during which interval, King Adelred rousing his drooping spirits, ordained, that every three hundred hides of land, one hide being as much as one plough can sufficiently till, through his dominions, should man out a ship, and every eight hides a corslet and a helmet; besides which, the king had no inconsiderable navy sent him from Normandy. This fleet when rendezvoused at Sandwich, seemed terrible in those days, and was the greatest that

ever before then rode upon the British sea. And now, one might have thought, that all things would go well with the English, when of a sudden another cloud appears; for one Wilnot, a nobleman of Sussex, being banished by King Adelred, got to sea with a small number of ships, and practised piracy along the coasts of Britain, and mightily annoyed all merchants and passengers. Brightrych, brother to the traitorous Edric, Earl of Mercia, thinking to advance his reputation by some signal exploit, promised to bring Wilnot dead or alive before him: to which end, he sets forth with a considerable fleet, which meeting with a terrible storm, was by the tempest driven back, and wrecked upon the shores; so that a great number of the ships were lost, and the rest burnt by Wilnot and his company. Brightrych being abashed with this unfortunate beginning, returned ingloriously by the Thames back to London; so that this great preparation against the Danes was dashed to pieces, and came to nothing.

The Danes were not ignorant of the misfortune the English received by this storm, and without any further enquiry, landed at Sandwich, and so passed on to Canterbury, which they intended to destroy, was by the citizens bought off for £3000. Passing from thence through Kent, Sussex and Hampshire, they came to Berkshire, where King Edelred at length met with them, and purposing resolutely to set upon them, was by the cunning insinuations and subtle arguments of the traitor Edric dissuaded from fighting. The Danes being thus delivered from the danger which they certainly expected, passed on joyfully by the city of London, and with great booty returned to their ships. The next year they landed again at Ipswich, upon Ascension day, where Wolfkettel entertained them with a sharp encounter; but being overpowered by number, he was forced to draw back, and yield the day to the Danes. Passing from thence to Cambridge, they met with Ethelstan, King Edelred's nephew by his sister, who with an army was come



to oppose them; but the Danes proving too powerful, he with many other noblemen were slain; among whom were duke Oswyn, and the Earls Edwyn and Wolfrike. From hence they passed through Essex, leaving no manner of cruelty and barbarity unpractised, and returned laden with booty to their ships, which lay in the Thames. But they could not contain themselves long in their vessels; and therefore sallying out, they passed by the river side to Oxford, which they ransacked over again; adding to their prey, Buckingham, Bedford, Hartford, and Northamptonshire; and having accomplished that year's cruelties, at Christmas they returned to their ships. Yet the prey of the country from the Trent southward, would not satisfy these unmerciful barbarians; but as soon as the season gave them leave to peep out of their dens, they laid siege to the city of Canterbury, which being delivered up by the treachery of Almaraz, the archdeacon, was condemned to blood and ashes, and Alfege, the archbishop, carried prisoner to the Danish fleet, where he was at length most cruelly put to death.

A.D. 1010.

1011.

1012.

The next year Swane, king of Denmark, came up the Humber, and landed at Gainsborough; whither repaired to him Uthred, Earl of Northumberland, with his people, the inhabitants of Lindsey, with all the countries northward of Watlingstreet, being a highway, crossing from the east to the west sea, and gave their oath and hostages to obey him. Whereupon, King Swane, perceiving his undertaking to prove so fortunate beyond expectation, committed the care of his fleet to his son Canute, and marched himself first to Oxford, and then to Winchester; which cities, whether for fear of further calamities, readily acknowledged him for their king. From thence he marched for London, where King Edred then lay, and which was so stoutly defended by the citizens, that he was like to effect nothing against that town; and therefore he directed his course to Wallingford and Bath, where the principal men of West Saxon yielded him subjection. The Londoners too, at last, fearing his fury and displeasure, made their

peace, and sent him hostages ; which city being received to mercy; Swane, from that time was accounted King of all England. King Edeldred perceiving all his affairs in England to go against him, and his authority and government reduced to so narrow a compass, having sent his queen, with his two sons Edward and Alfred, to Normandy, he thought convenient within a while after to follow himself. Being honourably received by his brother-in-law Richard; he had not been there long, but news arrived of the death of Swane, and that he was desired by the English to return to his kingdom. Being animated and comforted with this surprising news, he set forward with a great army for England, and landing at Lindsey, he cruelly harassed that province, by reason that it had owned subjection to Canute the son of Swane, whom the Danes had elected king in his father's stead. King Canute being at Ipswich, and certified of the arrival of King Edeldred, and the devastation of Lindsey; fearing that his authority was going down the wind, barbarously cut off the hands and noses of all the hostages he received from the English, and presently sailed for Denmark. And whilst England was in this general confusion, there fell out no less a storm in Ireland; for Brian, king of that island, and his son Murcath, with other kings of the country subject to Brian, joined their forces against Sutric, the son of Abloic, king of Dublin, and Mailmorda, king of Lagenes. Sutric being of himself too weak to encounter so numerous a multitude, hired all the pirates and rovers who cruised upon the seas, and then gave Brian battle, who, with his son Murcath, was slain; and on the other side, Mailmorda, and Broderic, general of the auxiliaries.

But Canute, though he was in a manner forced to forsake England upon the recalling of King Edeldred, yet he did not abandon all his pretence to the kingdom; and therefore the next year he came to renew his claim, and landed with a strong fleet in West Sex, where he exercised very great hostility. To prevent his incursions, Edric and Edmund bastard-

A.D.1013

son to Edelred, raised their forces separately ; but when both armies were united, they durst not, whether for fear, or the dissention of the two generals, fight with the Danes. Edmund therefore passed to the North, and joined with Uthred duke of Northumberland, and both together descended and spoiled Stafford, Leicester, and Shropshire. On the other side, Canute marched forcibly through Buckingham, Bedford Huntingdonshire, and so by Stafford passed toward York, whither Uthred hastened, finding no other remedy, submitted himself, with all the Northumbrians, to Canute, giving hostages for the performance of what they then agreed upon. But nevertheless this submission, Uthred was treacherously slain, not without the permission of Canute, and his dukedom bestowed upon one Egrick a Dane ; whereupon Edmund left them, and went to his father, who lay sick at London. Canute returning to his ships presently followed and sailed up the Thames towards London ; but before he could draw nigh the city, King Edelred was dead ; having prolonged a long and troublesome reign for thirty seven years. After his decease, the English nobility chose his base son Edmund, for his eminent strength and hardiness in war, surnamed Ironside, for their king. Upon this, Canute brought his whole fleet up the river to London, and having cut a deep trench round about the town, invested it on all sides ; but being valourously repulsed by the defendants, he detached the best part of his army to fight with Edmund, who was marching to raise the siege ; and both armies coming to battle at Proman, by Gillingham, Canute with his Danes were put to flight. But as soon as time and opportunity would give him leave to increase his forces, Canute gave Edmund a second battle at Caerstane ; but Edric, Almar and Algar, under hand siding with the Danes, Edmund was hard put to it, to maintain the fight obstinately, till night and weariness parted them. Both armies having sufficiently suffered in this action, Edmund went to West-Sex, to reinforce himself, and the Danes returned to the siege of London, where Edmund quickly followed, raised the siege,

and forced Canute and his Danes confusedly to betake themselves to their ships, and then entered triumphantly into the city. Two days after, passing the Thames at Brentford, he fell upon the enemies backs; by which lucky opportunity obtaining a considerable victory, he returned again to raise recruits among the West-Saxons. Canute upon Edmund's removal, appeared again before London, and invested it by land and water; but all in vain; the besieged so manfully and resolutely defending themselves, that it was impracticable to master the town before Edmund could come to the relief of it. And this they presently experienced; for Edmund, after having augmented his forces, crossed again the Thames at Brentford, and came to Kent in pursuit of Canute, who, upon engaging, was so shamefully defeated at first, and his men put to that terrible flight, that there wanted nothing of a full and absolute victory, but the true loyalty of the traitor Edric, who perceiving the victory to incline to Edmund, and the Danes like to receive their mortal and final blow, cried aloud, Fled Engle, Fled Engle, Edmund is dead, and thereupon fled with that part of the army under his command, leaving the king overpowered with number. By this desertion the English were at the last overthrown, and a great number slain; among whom were Duke Edmund, Duke Alfric, Duke Godwyn, and Ulfkettel, the valiant Duke of the East-Angles, together with all the English cavalry, and a great part of the nobility. After this victory, Canute marched triumphantly to London, and was crowned king; but Edmund preparing to try his fortune in another field, mustered together all the forces he could, and meeting with Canute in Glocestershire, intended to give him battle: but considering what cruel and unnatural bloodshed had already happened, both generals agreed to put an end to their tedious quarrel by single combat; and the place being appointed, Edmund and Canute fell to it very vigorously, till at last Canute perceiving it impracticable to vanquish a man of Ironsides valour, laid down his weapon, moving this composition to divide the kingdom fairly be-

twixt them: Edmund was not displeas'd at the offer, and therefore both parties submitted to this decision, that Edmund should rule the West-Saxons and the South; Canute in Mercia and all the North; and so they parted friends, Canute, moving to London, and Edmund to Oxford. But Edric was not pleas'd that Edmund should have any share at all of the government, and therefore he is resolv'd to conspire against his life, and to deliver the whole kingdom of England into the hands of Canute; of whom he might reasonably expect for this, and other traitorous services, a very ample and an answerable return. This he committed to one of his own sons to put in execution, an imp of the old stock, and one early vers'd in wicked and traitorous designs; who perceiving the king go to stool, thrust a sharp knife up his fundament, of which wound he presently died. Edric being quickly certified of the fact, posted it up to London, and with great joy and loud acclamations came to Canute greeting him as sole king of England, and withal, telling him in what manner, and by whose means his old enemy King Edmund was assassinated and killed at Oxford. Canute, though pleas'd at the death of Edmund, was a person of greater honour than to commend so horrible a deed, though done to an enemy, and therefore told Edric, that he would without fail take care to reward him, as his deserts required, and would advance him above all the nobility of England, which was quickly performed, his head being plac'd upon the highest tower in London, for a terror to such villainous traitors to their king. Edric being thus deservedly disappointed of the mighty thoughts he entertain'd of greatness, upon the advancement of King Canute, this generous Dane scorn'd his baseness, and so having paid him a traitor's reward, caus'd execution to be done upon all Edric's accomplices, and those that consented to the base murder of that brave Prince King Edmund.

A.D.1013. About the same time there happen'd no small disturbance and commotions in Wales; Llewelyn ap Sitsyllt having for some years sat still and quiet, be-

gan now to bestir himself; and having drawn all his forces together, marched against Aeden, who forcibly and without any legal pretence, had entered upon, and for all this time had kept himself in the government of North Wales, Aedan would not easily eject himself from what had been so long in his possession to maintain which, he gave Llewelyn battle: But the day going against him, himself, with his four sons, were slain upon the spot; upon which Llewelyn, without any regard had to Iago the son of Edwal the right heir, took upon himself the title and authority of Prince of all Wales. His pretence to North Wales, was, as being descended from Trawst daughter to Elis, second son to Anarawd, who was the eldest son of Roderic the Great; and to South Wales, as having married Angharad the only daughter of Meredith Prince of South Wales; by virtue of which pretensions he assumed to himself the government of all Wales.

*Meredith  
S Wales  
Angharad*

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### LLEWELYN AP SITSYLLT.

LLEWELYN having, as is said, taken upon him the general government of Wales, managed his charge with such prudence and moderation, that the country in a short time became very flourishing and prosperous; peace and tranquility being established produced plenty and increase of all things necessary to human subsistence: For there was none that could lay any claim or pretence to either of the principalities, excepting Iago the son of Edwal, who was indeed lawful heir of North Wales; but either too weak to withstand, or unwilling to disturb Llewelyn's title, he lay quiet for a time expecting a better opportunity to recover his right. In the mean time, Canute being crowned king of all England, marries Emma the widow of King Edelred; and for the better securing the English crown to himself and his heirs, he thought it expedient to dispatch Edmund and Edward the sons of Ironside out of the way. But lest such an execrable fact

should seem too black to be done in England, he sent the two youths so Solomon King of Hungary, willing him to use some convenient opportunity to take away their lives; which seemed to Solomon so very unnatural, that instead of complying with Canute's request, he educated and brought them up as his own children. But Canute imagined now that his fear was over, and his business effectually finished; so that he could the more boldly demand of his subjects, what either his necessity or curiosity would prompt him to. And reflecting with himself, what excessive expence he had been at in the conquest of England, was resolved that the English should repay him; and therefore required a subsidy of seventy two thousand pounds, besides eleven thousand, which the city of London contributed. The same time Meyric the son of Arthfael, a person of quality in Wales, rebelled, and raised an army against Prince Llewelyn, who no sooner appeared in the field to quell his male-contented General, but Manfully slew him with his own hand, and easily discomfited his followers. The same time Canute sailed over into Denmark, and made war upon the Vandals, who, for all that they had a greater army in the field, were overcome by the incomparable valour of earl Godwyn; for which famous action Canute had the English in great esteem ever after.

A.D. 1020 But Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, though he had lately quelled the rebels headed by Meyric, was now to encounter with another difficulty, which seemed to threaten greater disturbance and trouble to him: for a certain person of a mean quality in Scotland, coming to South Wales, assumed the name of Run, and gave out that he was the son of Meredith Prince of South-Wales; to whom joined a great number of the nobility, who had no great affection to Llewelyn, and proclaimed Run Prince of South Wales, Llewelyn being then in North Wales, and certified of this famous impostor, drawing his army together, marched to meet him; who with the whole strength of South Wales, then lay at Abergwili, where he waited the arrival of Llew-

lyn. When both armies were ready to join battle Run makes a vaunting speech to his soldiers, assuring them of victory; and so persuading them courageously to fall on, privately himself retired out of harm's way; there one might have observed on the one side a valiant army under a cowardly general, and on the other part a valiant and a noble commander engaging with a slow and a faint-hearted army; for Llewelyn, like a bold and courageous prince, ventured into the midst of his enemies, whilst Run privately sneaked off out of all danger; and the South Wales men were more fierce and eager in the cause of a pretender than the North Wales men to maintain the quarrel of a prince of their own blood. But after great slaughter on both sides, the North Wales men calling to mind the several victories they had obtained, and withal being in a very great measure animated by the incomparable valour of their prince, fell on so warmly, that they put their enemies to flight, and pursued Run so close, that notwithstanding his several shifts, he was at last overtaken and slain. Llewelyn, after this victory returned laden with spoil into North Wales, and for some time lived peaceably and without disturbance: But the next year Howel and Meredith, the sons of Edwyn, conspired against him and slew him, leaving behind him a son called Gryffith ap Llewelyn, who afterwards, though not immediately, ascended to the principality of North Wales.

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### IAGO AP EDWAL.

**AFTER** the death of Llewelyn, Iago the son of Edwal, the true heir to the principality of North Wales, who had been all this time wrongfully kept from it, thought this the best opportunity to enter upon his right, by reason of the minority of Gryffith, the son of Llewelyn; upon which pretence



likewise Rytherch, the son of Iestyn, forcibly assumed the principality of South Wales. About the same time Canute, King of England, sailed over to Denmark and Sweden, against Ulf and Alaf, who had moved the Finlanders against him; whom he subdued with the loss of a great part of his army, as well English as Danes. Within a while after his return to England, he made a very pompous and magnificent journey to Rome; more to satisfy his ambitious temper, and to signify to the world his greatness and might, which he expressed by his costly presents and princely behaviour, than any way to make atonement for the oppression and bloodshed, by which he had established himself in his kingdom: for what holiness and mortification he had learnt at Rome, presently appeared upon his return to England; for upon no provocation, he marched with an army into Scotland, and forced Malcolm, the king thereof, together with Molbeath and Jermare, the kings of the Orkneys and Ewist, to do him homage.

- A.D. 1031. But the affairs of Wales were at this time very turbulent and uneasy; for Howel and Meredith, after the murder of Prince Llewelyn, expected to enjoy some part of his principality themselves; but finding Iago to have seized upon North Wales, and Rytherch upon South Wales, and withal perceiving their own power too weak to oppose their designs, they invited over the Irish-Scots, to their aid against Rytherch ap Iestyn, Prince of South Wales. By the help of these, Howel and Meredith prevailed over Rytherch, who being at length slain, they jointly took upon them the rule and government of South Wales. But this was not a sufficient title to
1032. establish them so firmly in it, that their usurpation would not be called in question; for the sons of Rytherch, presently after their father's death, gathered their forces together to fight with the brothers Howel and Meredith, who met at Hyarthwy; where a cruel battle was fought, called Gwaith Hyarthwy; and at last the sons of Rytherch were put to flight. But though these victories, the one over

Rytherch, and the second over his sons, seemed in a great measure to favour Howel and Meredith's pretence to, and establishment in the principality, <sup>A.D. 1033.</sup> yet so unpardonable a crime, as the murder of Llewelyn, a prince of such extraordinary qualities, could not remain long unrevenged; for the sons of Conan the son of Sitsyllt, Prince Llewelyn's brother, were resolved to return their uncle's murder upon the two usurpers which in a short time they effected against Meredith, who met with the same end from the sons of Conan, that he had formerly inflicted upon Llewelyn. But these civil discords in Wales were <sup>1034.</sup> quickly discovered by the English, who taking advantage of so fair an opportunity, entered with a great army into the land of Gwent, where after they had committed considerable waste for some time, Caradoc, the son of Rytherch ap Iestyn, gave them battle, but was in that engagement unhappily slain. And shortly afterwards died King Canute, <sup>1035.</sup> the most famous and mightiest prince then in the western parts of the world; whose dominions extended over all Sweden, from Germany almost to the north Pole; together with the kingdoms of Norway and Denmark, and the noble Island of Britain. To him succeeded his son Harold, for his swiftness, surnamed Harefoot, begotten upon Alwyn, the daughter of Duke Alselyn; though several stood firmly for Hardy Canute, his other son by Emma, who was then in Denmark. But Harold being once advanced to the throne, took care to establish himself as firmly as he could in it; and to that end, thought it expedient to banish out of his dominions his mother-in-law Emma, who was restless to promote the interest of her own son Hardy Canute, and to bring him to the crown of England.

And whilst Harold was by these measures settled <sup>A.D. 1037.</sup> in his throne, Iago ap Edwal was just upon the point of losing his principality of North Wales; for Gryffith, the son of Llewelyn ap Sitsyllt, sometime Prince of North Wales, having once hinted a rebellion against Iago, was so generally encouraged, and

universally followed by all people, for the love they bore to his father; that in a short time his army mounted to an invincible number. However, Iago was not so thoroughly affrighted, that he would deliver up his principality without drawing a sword for it; but providing for himself as well as he could, and drawing together what forces he was able, he gave Gryffith battle; but his number being far too weak to oppose so great an army as sided with Gryffith, was presently overpowered and put to the rout, and himself slain, leaving after him a son called Conan, by his wife Avandred, daughter to Gweir the son of Pyll.

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### GRYFFITH AP LLEWELYN.

**IAGO** ap Edwal being killed, Gryffith ap Llewelyn was received with loud acclamations, and joyfully saluted Prince of North Wales; who treading in his father's steps, behaved himself in his government with that prudence and conduct, that he manfully defended his country from the frequent invasions of the English and Danes: for he was scarce settled in his throne, when these inveterate enemies of the Welsh entered in an hostile manner into Wales, and advanced as far as Crosford upon the Severn, where Gryffith met them, and forced them shamefully to fly, and retire back to their own country. From thence Gryffith passed to Llanbadarn Vawr, in Cardiganshire, which he laid in ashes; and afterwards marched through all the country of South Wales, receiving of the people oaths of fidelity and subjection to him. In the mean time, Howel ap Edwyn, Prince of South Wales, fled to Edwyn, brother to Leofric, Earl of Chester, and prevailed with him to come with an army consisting of English and Danes, to his aid against Gryffith, who meeting his enemies in the field, easily overcame them, Edwyn being slain upon the spot, and Howel forced to preserve his life by flight.

After which victory, Gryffith having reduced all the country of Wales to subjection, returned again to North Wales. But Howel, as soon as he could A.D. 1032 recover himself, and recruit his army, entered again into South Wales, intending the recovery of that principality, which he was now so well assured of, that he brought his wife with him to the field, to let her see how easily he could conquer and overcome Prince Gryffith. But too great an assurance of victory seldom proves prosperous; which Howel presently experienced; for Gryffith meeting with him at Pencadair, gave him so warm an entertainment, that he was forced presently to take his heels, which however could not so well secure him, but that he was narrowly pursued, and his wife, who was to be entertained with the conquest of Gryffith, on the contrary, saw herself taken prisoner by him, and forced to comply so far to his humour, as to be his concubine.

The same time Harold King of England died, and was succeeded by his brother Hardycanute, a Prince very famous for hospitality, and a great lover of good cheer, having his table covered four times a day, with great plenty and variety of dishes, with other superfluities for all comers. But he likewise dying at Lambeth after two years reign, the English agreed to send for Alfred the eldest son of Edelred from Normandy, and to make him king. This message by no means pleased Earl Godwyn, a man of great sway now in England; who knowing Alfred to be a person of greater spirit than to permit him to domineer as he pleased, endeavoured all he could to dissuade the English from sending for Alfred. He shewed them how dangerous it was to permit a warlike nation to take root in their country, and how well Alfred was accompanied with Normans, to whom he had promised the chief places and rule of the kingdom; by which and other like insinuations he so disgusted the English nobility against the Normans, that to diminish their number, they put every tenth man to death. But seeing this was not sufficient, they acted the

same part over again, and tythed them a second time; and being highly enraged against the Normans, they led Alfred, who had brought them over from Gilford, where this execution was committed, to Gillingham, where having put out his eyes, they removed him to Ely, and there at length pitifully murdered him. Then they sent for Edward out of Normandy, and made him king, who, according to his promise to Earl Godwyn, married his daughter Edith, a lady much commended not only for beauty, modesty, and other feminine qualifications, but also beyond what is requisite for a woman, learning. But King Edward did not deal so favourably with her brother Swayn, son to Earl Godwyn, who upon some distaste was banished England, and thereupon forced to betake himself to Baldwyn earl of Flanders, by whom he was very honourable received.

A.D. 1041. These trouble and revolutions in England were succeeded by others of no less consequence in Wales. For Howel, not brooking to be kept so shamefully out of his kingdom, returns again the third time into South Wales, where he had not continued long, but a great number of strangers landed in the West of Wales, and advancing farther into the country, pillaged and destroyed all places they came to. Howel, though desirous to reserve his army to fight with Prince Gryffith, yet could not behold his country so miserably wasted and over-run by strangers, and thinking moreover, that by so charitable an action he should win the universal love of the South Wales men, drew up his forces against them, and overtaking them at Pwll Vynach, forced them with much loss, to retire to their ships; which action was called in Welsh, Gwaith Pwll Vynach. At the same time Conan the son of Iago ap Edwal, who was forced for fear of Prince Gryffith to flee to Ireland, with the forces of Alfred king of Dublin, whose daughter named Ranulph he had married, landed in North Wales; and having by some treacherous stratagem taken Gryffith, triumphantly carried him prisoner towards his ships. This un-

happy accident being discovered, and publickly known, the North Wales men did rise on a sudden, and so unexpectedly overtook the Irish, that they easily recovered their Prince, and drove his enemies with great slaughter to their ships; who, without any farther consultation, were glad to strike sail with Conan for Ireland, And now Wales, both North and South, is free from all foreign invasion, and Howel, as yet too weak to dispute his title with Gryffith; so that the next year could be subject A.D. 1042. to no great action, in which nothing happened remarkable, saving the death of Howel the son of Owen Lord of Glamorgan, a man of great quality and esteem in Wales. But as soon as Howel could call in his Danes, to whom he added all the forces 1043. he could raise in South Wales; he intended presently to march against Prince Gryffith. But he being aware beforehand to what end those levies were designed, prepared against the ensuing storm; and to avert the war from his own country, marched courageously to South Wales, not fearing to face an enemy whom he had shamefully vanquished twice already. Both armies being joined, Gryffith easily overcame, and pursued Howel as far as the spring-head of the river Towy, where after a long and a bloody fight, Howel was at last slain, and his army so universally routed that few escaped with their lives. But though Howel was dead yet there remained still more pretenders to the principality of South Wales; so that Gryffith was in no great prospect to enjoy the same peaceably: for as soon as it was published that Howel's army was defeated, and himself slain, Rytherch and Rhys, the sons of Rytherch ap Iestyn, put in their claim to South Wales in right of their father, who had once enjoyed the sovereignty of that country. And in order to the recovery of the same, they drew together a great army, consisting partly of strangers, and partly of such as they could raise in Gwentland and Glamorgan, and marched to fight with Gryffith. The Prince, according to his usual manner, detracted no time, but animating and solacing his soldiers

with the remembrance of their former victories and conquests, bid the enemies battle, which proved so very bloody and terrible, that nothing could part them beside the darkness of the night. This battle so tired and tamed both armies, that neither was very desirous of another engagement; and so one being unwilling to set upon the other, they both agreed to return to their own habitations. The same time, Joseph, bishop of Teilo, or Llandaf, died at Rome. But both armies being separated, Prince Gryffith enjoyed a quiet and unmolested possession of all Wales for about two years; after which, the gentry of Ystrad Towy treacherously slew 140 of the choice of his army, which he took in so high an indignation, that to revenge their death, he destroyed all Dyfed and Ystrad Towy.

About the same time, Lothen and Hyrling, two Danish pirates, with a great number of Danes, landed at Sandwich, and having plundered the town, returned again to their ships, and sailed for Holland, where they sold the booty they had taken, and then returned to their own country. Shortly afterwards, Earl Swayn came out of Denmark with eight ships, and returned to England, and coming to his father's house, at Pevenese, humbly requested of his father and his brothers Harold and Tostie, to endeavour his reconciliation with the king. Earl Beorned too promised to intercede for him, and going to Swayn's fleet to sail to Sandwich, where the King then lay, he was by the way most treacherously and ungratefully murdered, and his body cast upon the shore, which lay there exposed, till his friends hearing of the fact, came and carried it to Winchester, and buried it by the body of King Canute, Beorned's uncle. Swayn having committed this most detestable murder, put himself again under the protection of the earl of Flanders, not daring to shew his face in England, till his father by earnest mediation wrought his peace with the king.

This year Conan the son of Iago raised again an army of his friends in Ireland, and sailed towards Wales, purposing to recover his inheritance in that

country. But when he was come near the Welsh coast, there suddenly arose such a violent storm, that his fleet was presently scattered, and most of his ships lost, which rendered this expedition ineffectual. About the same time, Robert archbishop of Canterbury impeached Earl Godwyn and his sons Swayn and Harold of treason, and the queen of adultery, and upon the account of their non-appearance when cited before the peers at Gloucester, the queen was divorced, and Godwyn and his sons banished, who with his son Swayn fled to Flanders, and Harold to Ireland. But these unlucky clashings, and the many troubles that ensued thereupon, happened upon this occasion. Eustace, earl of Bologne being married to Goda the king's sister, came over this year to England to pay king Edward a visit, and in his return to Canterbury, one of his retinue forcibly demanding a lodging, provoked the master of the house so far, as by chance or anger to kill him. Eustace, upon this affront, returns back to the king, and by the insinuations of the archbishop, makes a loud complaint against the Kentish-men; to repress whose insolencies, earl Godwyn is commanded to raise forces, which he refusing to do, for the kindness he bore to his countrymen of Kent, the King summonses a parliament at Gloucester, and commands Godwyn to appear there. But he mistrusting either his own cause, or the malice of his adversaries, gathered a powerful army out of his own and his sons earldoms, and marched towards Gloucester, giving out that their forces were to go against the Welsh, who intended to invade the Marshes. But King Edward being satisfied by the Welsh, that they had no such design in hand, commanded Godwyn to dismiss his army, and to appear himself to answer to the articles exhibited against him. Godwyn refusing to obey, the king by the advice of earl Leofrick, summoned an assembly at London, whither a great number of forces arrived from Mercia, which Godwyn perceiving, and withal, finding himself unable to withstand the king's



proceedings, privately retired with his sons out of the kingdom, and fled into Flanders. Whereupon the king issued out an edict, proclaiming Godwyn and his sons out-laws, and then confiscating their estates, bestowed them upon others of his nobility. And, to pursue his displeasure the farther, he divorced his queen Edith, earl Godwyn's daughter, and committed her to a cloister, where in a mean condition she spent some part of her life. In the distribution of the forfeited estates, Adonan obtained the earldoms of Devon and Dorset, and Algar the son of Leofric, that of Harold. But Godwyn could not patiently behold his estate bestowed upon another, and therefore having hired some men and ships in Flanders, he sailed to the Isle of Wight, where after that he had made a sufficient havock, he put in at Portland, which he treated after the same manner. The same time Harold having sailed from Ireland, at length met his father, and then with their united navy, they burnt Preveneseny, Romney, Heath, Folkstone, Dover and Sandwich, and entering the Thames, they destroyed Cheppy, and burnt the king's house at Middletown. Then they sailed up the river towards London, where the king's army being ready to oppose them, a treaty of peace was by the means of bishop Stigand agreed upon, which proved so effectual of Godwyn's side, that the king received him again to his favour, restored him and his sons to all their estates, recalled the queen, and banished the archbishop, with all the Frenchmen who had been promoters of that unhappy suspicion the king had entertained of them.

About this time, Rhys, brother to Gryffith, Prince of Wales, who by several irruptions upon the borders, had considerably gauled and damaged the English, was taken and put to death at Bulendun, whose head being cut off, was presented to the king, then at Gloucester. But he received better news some time after from the North, for Siward, earl of Northumberland, having sent his son against Macbeth, king of Scotland, vanquished the sons, though not without the loss of his son, and many others, both

English and Danes. But Siward was not cast down at his son's death, but enquiring whether he received his death's wound before or behind, and being assured that it was before, replied, "He was very glad of it, for he could not wish his son to die otherwise." After this victory, King Edward marched in person to Scotland, and having again overcome Macbeth in battle, he made the whole kingdom of Scotland tributary to the crown of England. The next year, earl Godwyn sitting with the king at table, fell down dead of a sudden, being choaked, (as 'tis thought) in swallowing a morsel of bread; whose earldom the king bestowed upon his son Harold, and his son's upon Algar, earl of Chester.

To this time is referred the original of the Stewards in Scotland, which being a remarkable passage, and in a great measure dependant upon the affairs of the Welsh, is requisite to be here recorded. Macbeth, king of Scotland, having caused Bancho a nobleman of that kingdom to be inhumanly murdered; Fleance, Bancho's son, to avoid the like cruelty to himself, fled to Gryffith ap Llewelyn, prince of Wales, who taking a very great liking to his person, and withal commiserating his condition, shewed him all the respect and kindness possible. But Fleance had not continued long with Gryffith, when he fell enamoured upon the prince's daughter, and having obtained her good-will, without any regard had to her father's civility towards him, abused her so far as to beget her with child. Gryffith being acquainted with the matter of fact, so heinously resented the affront, that he occasioned Fleance to be slain, and treated his daughter most servilely for prostrating her chastity, especially to a stranger. However, she was in a short time delivered of a son, whose name was christened Walter; a child, who in his youth expressed very great hopes, and in all probability like to make a very considerable man, which happened according to expectation. But the first original of his future greatness happened upon a very accidental occasion; being re-

proached of bastardism by one of his fellow companions, he took it in so unpardonable a dudgeon, that nothing could satisfy his revenge, but the life of the aggressor. Being upon this mischance afraid to undergo the punishment of the law, he thought it safe to fly to Scotland, where falling in company with certain Englishmen who were come thither with queen Margaret sister to Edgar Edeling, he behaved himself so soberly and discreetly, that he won the favour and good character of all that knew him. But his fame daily increasing, he grew at length to that height of reputation, as to be employed in the most inward affairs of the commonwealth, and at last was made Lord Steward of Scotland, from which office his posterity retained the surname of Steward, the kings of Scotland of that name, with several other families of quality in that kingdom being descended from him.

But to return to England, Siward the worthy earl of Northumberland died about this time of the bloodyflux, a man of a rough demeanour, and a meer soldierly temper, as he plainly manifested at the point of death. For bewailing his misfortune that had escaped so many dangerous engagements, and withal disdaining to die so effeminately in bed, he caused himself to be compleatly armed, and as it were in defiance of death, presently expired in a martial bravery. But his son being too young, the  
 A.D.1054. king bestowed his earldom upon Tosty, the son of earl Godwyn.

Wales had been now a long time quiet, and void of all troubles both abroad and at home, but it could not be expected that such a life should prove durable, but something or other would create new commotions and disturbance. Gryffith son to Rytherch ap Iestyn having recruited and recovered himself after the last blow he received from Prince Gryffith must needs venture another trial for the principality of South Wales. The Prince protracting no time, speedily marched against him, and both armies being joined, Gryffith ap Rytherch was easily vanquished, and in fine, slain. But the troubles of the

Welsh did not end with him, for Algar Earl of Chester being convicted of treason, and thereupon banished the kingdom, fled to Gryffith, Prince of Wales, requesting his aid against king Edward, who, repeating the frequent wrongs he had received at the hands of the English, by upholding his enemies against him, gladly embraced the opportunity and promised him all imaginable support. And thereupon assembling his forces, he entered with him into Herefordshire, and advancing into the country, within two miles of the city of Hereford; they were opposed by Randolph Earl of that country, who boldly gave them battle. The fight continued very dreadful and dubious for some hours, till at last Gryffith so encouraged his soldiers with the remembrance of their former victories over the English, that they fell on a-main, and easily discomfited Randolph, and slew the best part of his army. Afterwards they pursued their chace to the town, and having made all the waste and havock they were able, they laid the town itself in ashes, and so returned home triumphantly, laden with rich booty and plunder. King Edward receiving notice of this invasion, presently gathered a great army at Gloucester, under the conduct of Harold, earl Godwyn's son, who courageously pursuing the enemies, entered into Wales, and encamped beyond Stradclwyd. But Gryffith and Algar, dreading to oppose him, retired further into South Wales, of which Harold being certified, leaves one part of his army behind, with orders to fight, if occasion offered, and with the other passed to Hereford, which he fortified with a strong wall round the town. Gryffith perceiving his undaunted industry, after many messages concluded a peace with Harold, at a place called Biligellag, by which articles Algar was pardoned by the King, and restored to his earldom of Chester. But he did not continue long in the king's favour, for about two years after, upon conviction of treason, he was again banished the land, so that he was forced to betake himself to his old friend Gryffith, Prince of Wales, by whose aid, and a fleet

from Norway, in spite of the king, he was restored to his earldom. But King Edward was sore offended with the Prince of Wales for harbouring traitors, and therefore to be revenged upon him, he dispatched Harold again with an army to North Wales, who, coming to Ruthlan, burnt the Prince's palace there, and his fleet, that lay in the harbour, and then returned to the king at Gloucester.

A.D. 1056.

This year, Edward, the son of Edmund Ironside, who was sent for out of Hungary, being designed successor to the crown, came to England, but in a short time after his coming, died at London, leaving behind him a son called Edgar Edeling, and a daughter named Margaret, who was afterwards queen of the Scots, and mother to Maud, the wife of Henry the first. About two years after, Roderic, son to Harold, king of Denmark, came with a considerable army into Wales, and being kindly received by Prince Gryffith, united his power with the Welsh, and so entered into England, which they cruelly harrassed and destroyed. But before they could advance any considerable distance, Roderic was compelled to sail for Denmark, and so Gryffith returned laden with spoils into Wales. The same time Harold, earl Godwyn's son, sailing to Flanders, was driven by force of weather to land at Poytiers, where being seized upon, he was brought before William, bastard duke of Normandy, to whom he declared the reason of his voyage, that it was purposely to tender him his service in the affairs of England; and so taking an oath, first to marry the duke's daughter, and after the death of Edward, to secure the kingdom of England for him, he was honourably dismissed. Upon his return to England, by the persuasions of Caradoc, the son of Gryffith ap Rytherch, himself with his brother Tosty, raised a great army, and entered into South Wales, which they destroyed after that manner, that the Welsh were glad to deliver up hostages for the payment of the ancient tribute, which aforetime they were used to pay. Gryffith hearing of the insolencies of the English in South Wales, made all possible haste and

preparation to oppose them, but all to no purpose; Harold having already treacherously hired some of Gryffith's nearest friends to murder him, who watching their opportunity, executed their wicked design, and brought his head to Harold. Gryffith being dead, Harold, by King Edward's orders, appointed Meredith, son of Owen ap Edwyn, prince of South Wales, and the government of North Wales to Blethyn and Rywallon, the sons of Conwyn, brothers by the mother side to Prince Gryffith, and who probably for the desire of rule, were accessory to the murder of that noble prince. This Gryffith ap Llewelyn enjoyed the principality of Wales for the space of thirty-four years; a prince of incomparable virtues, both wise and valiant, beloved of his subjects, and formidable to his enemies, in all his actions he behaved himself great and princely; and having defended his country so bravely against all foreign opposition; he was far unworthy of that treacherous and cruel death, which his unkind subjects and unnatural friends bestowed upon him. He left issue but one daughter called Nest, abused first by Fleance, son of Bancho, and afterwards married to Trahaern ap Caradoc, prince of North Wales.

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### BLETHYN AND RYWALLON.

AFTER the deplorable murder of Prince Gryffith, Meredith, the son of Owen ap Edwyn, who according to some, was son to Howel Dda, did take upon him, as 'tis said, the government of South Wales; and Blethyn and Rhywallon, the sons of Conwyn, half brothers to Gryffith, as descended from Angharad, daughter to Meredith, sometime Prince of Wales, entered upon the principality of North Wales; Conan, the son of Iago ap Edwal, the right heir to that crown, being then with his father-in-law in Ireland. This partition of Wales fell much short of the expectation of Caradoc ap Gryffith ap Rytherch, who, being the chief promoter of Harold's

making an expedition against Gryffith ap Llewelyn, made no question to attain to the government of South Wales, in case Gryffith got the worse. Put it happened otherwise; Harold being sensible of Caradoc's subtilty and knavery, and doubting whether if he was made prince of South Wales, he could obtain a certain lordship nigh Hereford, which he had longing mind to, made a composition with Meredith ap Owen for the said lordship, and created him Prince of South Wales, and on the contrary banished Caradoc out of the country. Harold having obtained his request, built a very magnificent house at a place called Portascyth in Monmouthshire, and storing it with great quantity of provision, splendidly entertained the king, who honoured him with a visit. This was by no means pleasing to Tosty, to see his younger brother in greater esteem and favour with the king than himself, and having concealed his displeasure for a time, could not forbear at length but discover his grievance. For one day at Windsor, while Harold reached the cup to King Edward, Tosty ready to burst for envy that his brother was so much respected beyond himself, could not refrain to run furiously upon him, and pulling him by the hair, dragged him to the ground, for which unmannerly action, the king forbad him the court. But he with continued rancour and malice rides to Hereford, where Harold had many servants preparing an entertainment for the king, and setting upon them with his followers, lopped off the hands and legs of some, the arms and heads of others, and threw them into the butts of wine and other liquors, which were put in for the king's drinking, and at his departure charged the servants to acquaint him, "That of other fresh meats he might carry with him what he pleased, but for sauce he should find plenty provided ready for him." For which barbarous offence, the king pronounced a sentence of perpetual banishment upon him. But Caradoc ap Gryffith gave a finishing stroke to Harold's house, and the king's entertainment at Portascyth; for coming thither shortly after Tosty's departure,

to be revenged upon Harold, he killed all the workmen and labourers, with all the servants he could find, and utterly defacing the building, carried away all the costly materials, which with great charges and expence had been brought thither to beautify and adorn the structure. Soon after which, the Northumbrians, (who could not endure the insolencies of the two brothers Harold and Tosty, who bearing an uncontrollable sway in the kingdom, were used to practise most daring villanies to encompass any man's estate that displeased them;) in a tumult at York beset the palace of Tosty, and having pillaged his treasure, slew all his family, as well Englishmen as Danes. Then adjoining to themselves the people of Lincoln, Nottingham and Derbyshire, they elected Marcher the son of earl Algar, their general, to whom came his brother Edwyn with a considerable number of forces, and a great party of Welshmen. Then they marched in an hostile manner to Northampton, where Harold met them, being sent by the king to know their demands; to whom they laid open their grievances, and the cruelty of Tosty's government, and at last, with an absolute refusal of admitting him again, desired that Marcher should be appointed earl over them, which the king upon the reasonable complaints of injuries done by Tosty, easily granted, and willingly confirmed Marcher's title. Whereupon they peaceably returned back to the North, and the Welsh with several prisoners and other booties got in this expedition, returned to Wales.

The year following, King Edward died, and was A.D.1066. buried at Westminster, being the last king of the Saxon blood before the conquest, that governed the kingdom of England, which from Cerdic, king of the West Saxons, had continued 544, and from Egbert the first monarch, 171 years. Edward being dead, the next debate was about an election of a successor, Edgar Edeling being set up by some as lawful heir to the crown, which Harold, as being a person of great power and authority in the king-



dom, much wealthier and better befriended, presently thwarted, and brought matters so cunningly about, that himself was chosen king, without any regard observed to the oath and promise he had formerly made to William, Duke of Normandy. Duke William, upon notice of Harold's advancement, how that he had accepted of the crown of England contrary to the articles between them, convened together his nobles, and laid before them the several wrongs and affronts he had received at the hands of Harold, as the death of his cousin Alfred, the banishment of archbishop Robert, Earl Odan, and all the Normans, and lastly the breach of his oath and promise. Then he declared to them the pretence he had to claim the crown of England, that Edward had given him formerly an absolute promise in Normandy, that if ever he enjoyed the English crown, William should be his heir; which title, though in itself weak and insignificant served William's purpose well enough to make an expedition against an intruder. Duke William's pretence seemed plausible enough to the Norman nobility, but the difficulty of the undertaking and the danger of this expedition was something perplexive, and made them less inclinable to encourage so precipitous an undertaking; which they the more disliked upon the persuasion of William Fitzosbert the duke's sewer, whom they pitched upon to deliver their thoughts as to the expedition, unto the duke. But he instead of dissuading him from this voyage, politically declared that himself with all his power were ready to live and die with him in this expedition, which the rest hearing, could not but offer the duke their service in the same manner; and so all things were prepared for an invasion of England. In the meanwhile, Tosty, full of indignation at his brother's advancement to the crown, entered the river Humber with forty sail, but meeting with Earl Edwyn, who came to oppose him, he was forced after a considerable encounter to bear off, and secure himself by flight. But meeting with Harold, King of Norway, upon the coast of Scotland, coming for Eng-

land with three hundred sail, he joined his forces with Harold, and so both together entering the Humber, they landed their army and marched to York, where the Earls Edwyn and Marcher unsuccessfully gave them battle. Having pillaged and destroyed that city, they passed on to Stamford-bridge, and there met with king Harold, who with a well disciplined army was come to stop their farther career. After a long and a terrible fight, and much bloodshed on both sides, the Norwegians began at last to give back, which the English perceiving, fell on so manfully, that few or none escaped with their lives, Harold and Tosty being also slain upon the spot. One of the Norwegians is deservedly recorded for his incomparable exploits performed in this battle, who with incredible valour maintaining the bridge against the whole strength of the English army for above an hour with his single resistance delayed their victory, and having slain a great number of his enemies, he seemed invincible, till in the end, no one daring to grapple with him fairly, he was run through with a spear from under the bridge, and so by his fall, a passage was opened for pursuit to compleat the victory. King Harold overjoyed with this success, triumphantly entered into York, and whilst he was making merry with his nobles at a sumptuous feast, news came that Duke William of Normandy was safely landed at, and began to fortify himself in Hastings, with which tidings being no way dashed, as fearing nothing after his late victory, he forthwith marched towards him, and as soon as he was arrived in Sussex, without any consideration of the fatigue his army had underwent in their march, bid William battle, The Duke dividing his army into five battalions, made a long harangue to his soldiers, wherein he repeated and commended the noble acts of their ancestors the Danes and Norwegians, who had perpetually vanquished the English and French, and other nations, as many as they had to do with; how that themselves being well horsed and armed,

were now to engage with a people void of both, who had no other defence to trust to, than the nimbleness and swiftness of their heels. Both armies being joined upon the fourteenth day of October, Duke William, after some hours engaging, ordered his army so to retire, as if they seemed to fly, which the English perceiving, broke their ranks in haste of pursuing the supposed chace, which falling out according to the Duke's expectation, he sent in a fresh supply of Normans, who falling upon the confused battalions of the English, easily overcame them, and Harold receiving first a wound by an arrow, was at length slain, and then both the field and the victory were left to the Normans. The day being thus won, William, from this time called the Conqueror, went straight to London, where he was received with all possible formality, and upon Christmas-day solemnly crowned king of England. This change and alteration in England, was afore prognosticated by a comet which appeared in the spring of this year, upon which, a certain poet made the following verses:—

*Anno milleno sexageno quoque seno,  
Anglorum metæ flammæ censere cometæ.*

A.D.1067. King William having established himself in the crown of England, passed over the next year to Normandy, so to settle affairs there, as afterwards they might have no need of his presence. In the mean while Edgar Edeling taking advantage of his absence returned from Scotland to York, being declared king by the inhabitants of the country, who had already slain Robert, upon whom William had bestowed that earldom with nine hundred of his men. But the king upon his return from Normandy, presently marched to the North, and having sufficiently revenged himself upon the inhabitants, by wasting and destroying their country, chased Edgar to Scotland again. The like advantage Edric Sylvaticus the son of Alfric Earl of Mercia embraced, who refusing to own any submission to the conqueror, took the opportunity of his departure to Normandy to fall

foul upon such as were appointed vicegerents and governors of the kingdom in his absence. Whereupon Richard Fitzscrope, governor of the castle of Hereford, with the forces under his command, so bitterly gauled him, by wasting and consuming his lands, and carrying off the goods of his tenants, that he was compelled to desire aid of Blethyn and Rywallon, princes of Wales, by whose help, to recompence the loss he had received, he passed into Hereford, and after that he had over-ran and pillaged the country to Wyebridge, returned back with exceeding great booty. But no sooner were Blethyn and Rywallon arrived in North Wales, but they received news of a rebellion raised against them by Meredith and Ithel, the sons of Gryffith ap Llewelyn, who had drawn together a considerable number of men, upon pretence of recovering the principality of North Wales, which they said was fraudulently detained from them. Blethyn and Rywallon did not delay to march to find the enemies, and meeting with them at a place called Mechain, without any further ceremonies, set upon the rebels, who behaved themselves so gallantly, that after a fight of several hours, they wanted nothing but number to complete the victory. There fell in this battle on the one side Prince Rywallon, and on the other Ithel, who being slain, Meredith was forced to give ground, and endeavour to save himself by flight, which could not secure him, he being narrowly pursued by Blethyn, that in fine, he was glad to escape to the mountains, where, for want of victuals and other necessaries, he quickly perished, leaving Blethyn ap Convyn sole Prince of North Wales and Powis. During these Welsh disturbances, Swane, king of Denmark, and Osburn his brother, with three hundred sail, came up the Humber, and being joined by Edgar Edeling, and Earl Waltelfe, marched to York, and taking the castle, disposed of their forces to winter-quarters, betwixt the rivers of Ouse and Trent. The king understanding the matter, posted to the North, whose coming so dashed the confederates, that they quickly dispersed

their power, and the Danes escaped to their ships, and the king having taken vengeance upon the rebellious inhabitants of the country, and upon his submission, having pardoned Earl Waltelfe, returned back to London.

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### BLETHYN AP CONVYN.

ABOUT the same time Caradoc, son to Gryffith ap Rhytherch ap Iestyn, all this while being sorely dissatisfied that he could not attain to the principality of South Wales, invited over a great number of Normans, to whom he joined all the forces he could raise out of Gwentland, and other parts of Wales. Then setting upon Prince Meredith, who was far too weak to encounter so considerable an army, gave him an easy overthrow near the river Rymney, where Meredith was slain, and so Caradoc obtained the government of South Wales, which for a long time he had endeavoured sinistrously to encompass. He had sometime before procured Harold to make an invasion upon Griffith ap Llewelyn, purposely that himself might arrive at the principality of South Wales; and failing then of his expectation, he now invites over the Normans, not being willing to trust the English any more, by reason that he had been so ungratefully used by Harold: so that it seems he cared not by what course, or by whose means he should gain his point, though it were by the ruin and destruction of his country, which hitherto he had earnestly promoted. Being at length advanced to his long expected government of South Wales, (which though not recorded, seems yet very probable, by reason that his son Rytherch ap Caradoc, enjoyed the same very soon after) he did not enjoy this honour long, for dying in a short time after his advancement, left to succeed him, his son Rhytherch ap Caradoc. At the same time that Caradoc carried on this rebellion in Wales, the Earls Edwyn, Marcher, and Hereward

revolted from the King of England; but Edwyn suspecting the success of their affairs, and determining to retire to Malcolm, king of Scotland, in his journey thither was betrayed, and slain by his own followers. Then Marcher and Hereward betook themselves to the Isle of Ely, which, though sufficiently fortified, was so warmly besieged by the king, that Marcher and his accomplices were in a short time forced to surrender themselves up prisoners, only Hereward made his escape to Scotland; but the king followed him so close, that after he had received homage of Malcolm, king of Scotland, returned back to England; and after a short stay there, passed over to Normandy, where he received Edgar Edeling again to mercy.

The next year, the Normans having already tasted of the sweetness of wasting and plundering a country, came over again to Wales; and having spoiled and destroyed Dyfed and the country of Cardigan, returned home with very great spoil; and the following year sailed over again for more booty. About the same time, Bleythyn, bishop of St. David's died, and was succeeded by one Sulien. But this was not all the misfortune that befel the Welsh; for Randulph, Earl of the East Angles, together with Roger, Earl of Hereford, and Earl Waltelfe, entered into a conspiracy against King William, appointing the day of marriage between Radulph and Roger's sister, which was to be solemnized in Essex; to treat of, and conclude their design. Randulph's mother was come out of Wales, and upon that account, he invited over several of her friends and relations to the wedding; meaning chiefly by this seeming affection, by their help and procurement to bring over the princes and people of Wales, to favour and assist his undertaking. But King William being acquainted with the whole plot, quickly ruined all their intrigues; unexpectedly coming from Normandy, surprised the conspirators; only Randulph, who either doubted of the success of their affairs, or else had intimation given him of the king's landing, before hand took shipping at Norwich, and fled

A.D. 1071.

to Denmark. Waltelfe and Roger were executed, and all the other adherents; more particularly the Welsh, some of whom were hanged, others had their eyes put out, and the rest were banished. Soon after, *A.D. 1073.* Blethyn ap Convyn, Prince of Wales, was basely and treacherously murdered by Rhysap Owen ap Edwyn, and the Gentlemen of Ystrad Towy, after he had reigned thirteen years: a prince of singular qualifications and virtues, and a great observer of justice and equity towards his subjects; he was very liberal and magnificent, being indeed very able, having a prodigious and almost an incredible estate, as appears by these verses made upon him;

Blethyn ap Convyn bob cwys,  
Ei hun bioedd hen Bowis.

He had four wives, by whom he had issue, Meredith by Haer, daughter of Gyllyn, his first wife; Llywarch and Cadogan by the second; Madoc and Riryd by the third; and Iorwerth by his last.

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### TRAHAERN AP CARADOC.

**BLETHYN** being, as is said, traitorously murdered, there was no regard had to his issue, as to their right of succession; but Trahaern ap Caradoc his cousin-german, being a person of great power and sway in the country, was unanimously elected Prince of North Wales, and Rhys ap Owen with Rhytherch ap Caradoc did jointly govern South Wales. Trahaern indeed had none of the least pretence to that principality, as having married Nest the only surviving issue of that great prince, Gryffith ap Llewelyn; his two sons Meredith and Ithel, being lately slain in their attempt against Blethyn and Rywallon. But his title could not secure him in his government as much as his possession, since there was one still living, though much regarded, who without any dispute, was true heir and proprietor of the principality of North Wales. And this

was Gryffith, son to Conan, son to Iago ap Edwal, who being informed of the death of Blethyn ap Convyn and the advancement of Trahaern, thought this a proper time to endeavour the recovery of what was truly his right, and out of which he had been all this time most wrongfully excluded. Wherefore having obtained help in Ireland, where he privately sojourned during the reign of Blethyn ap Convyn, from Encumallon, king of Ultonia, Ranallt and Mathawn, two other kings of that country; he sailed for Wales, and landed in the isle of Anglesey, which he easily reduced and brought to subjection. At the same time Cynwric ap Rywallon, a nobleman of Maeler or Bromfield, was slain in North Wales, but how, or upon what account, is not known. But whilst Gryffith ap Conan endeavours to dispossess Trahaern out of North Wales, Gronow and Llewelyn, the sons of Cadwgan ap Blethyn having united their forces with Caradoc ap Gryffith ap Rytherch, intended to revenge the murder of their grandfather Blethyn ap Convyn, upon Rhys ap Owen and Rytherch ap Caradoc, the joint rulers of South Wales. And then marching confidently to find them, both armies met together, and fought at a place called Camddwr, where after a sore engagement, the sons of Cadwgan at length obtained a glorious victory. In North Wales the same time, Gryffith ap Conan having established his possession of the isle of Anglesey, intended to proceed farther in the continent of Wales; to which end, having transported his forces over the river, encamped in the neighbouring country of Carnarvonshire, purposing to reduce North Wales by degrees. Trahaern ap Caradoc being informed of this descent of Gryffith's, made all possible speed to prevent his farther progress; and having made all necessary preparations that the shortness of the opportunity would permit, he drew up his forces to Bron yr Erw, where he gave Gryffith battle, and in fine put him to a shameful flight; so that he was glad to retire back safe to Anglesey.



A.D.1074. The next year, Rytherch ap Caradoc, Prince of South Wales, died, being murdered through the unnatural villainy of his cousin-german Meyrchaon ap Rhys ap Rytherch; after whom Rhys ap Owen obtained the sole government of South Wales: but his enjoyment of the whole principality was not very lasting, and scarce at all void of trouble and  
1075. vexation of war. For shortly after the death of Caradoc, the sons of Cadwgan, thinking they might easily now foil and vanquish one, seeing they had some time ago victoriously overcome both princes together, with all the forces they could raise, set upon Rhys again at a place called Gwanyffyd; who not being able to endure their number, was routed and forced to flee; however the blow was not so mortal, but that Rhys gathered together new levies, by the help of which he was emboldened still to maintain himself in his principality. But fortune, which had advanced him to the crown, seemed now to frown at and cross all his endeavours and undertakings, and being reduced to a very weak condition in the late battle, he was set upon by a fresh enemy, before he could have sufficient time to recover and recruit himself. For Trahaern ap Caradoc Prince of North Wales, perceiving the weakness and inability of Rhys to make opposition against any foreign enemy that invaded his territories, thought it now very feasible to obtain the conquest of South Wales, and then to annex it to his own principality of North Wales. Being urged on by these pleasant imaginations, he dispatched his army to South Wales, to fight with Rhys, who with all the forces he could possibly levy, as laying his whole fortune upon the event of this battle, boldly met him at Pwllgwttic; where after a tedious fight on both sides, Rhys having lost the best part of his army, was put to flight, and so warmly pursued, that after long shifting from place to place, himself with his brother Howel, fell at length into the hands of Caradoc ap Gryffith, who put them both to death, in revenge of the base murder of Blethyn ap Conwyn, by them formerly transacted. The principa-

lity of South Wales being thus vacant by the death of Rhys ap Owen, Rhys, son to Tewdwr ap Eineon, ap Owen, ap Howel Dda, as lawful heir to that government, put in his claim, which being very plain and evident, so prevailed with the people of the country, that they unanimously elected him for their prince, much against the expectation of Trahaern ap Caradoc, Prince of North Wales. The next year, St. David's suffered greatly by A.D. 1077. strangers, who landing there in a considerable number, spoiled and destroyed the whole town; shortly after which barbarous action, Abraham, bishop of that see died; and then Sulien, who the year before had relinquished and resigned up that bishoprick, was compelled to resume it.

The government of all Wales, both North and 1079. South, had been now for a long time supplied by usurpers, and forcibly detained from the right and legal inheritors; but Providence would suffer injustice to reign no longer, and therefore restored the rightful heirs to their principalities. Rhys ap Tewdwr had actual possession of South Wales, and there wanted no more at this time, but to bring in Gryffith ap Conan to the principality of North Wales; both these princes being indisputably right and lawful heirs to their respective governments, as lineally descended from Roderic the Great, who was legal proprietor of all Wales. Gryffith ap Conan had already reduced the isle of Anglesey, but not being able to levy a sufficient army from thence to oppose Trahaern, he invited over a great party of Irish and Scots, and then with his whole army joined with Rhys ap Tewdwr, Prince of South Wales. Trahaern in like manner associating to himself Caradoc ap Gryffith and Mailyr, the sons of Rywallon ap Gwyn, his cousins-german, the greatest and most powerful men then in Wales, drew up his forces together, with resolution to fight them. Both armies meeting upon the mountains of Carno, a terrible and cruel battle ensued presently thereupon, which proved the more fierce and bloody, by reason that both

parties resolutely referred their whole fortune to the success of their arms, and life would prove vain if the day was lost. But after a dismal fight on both sides, the victory fell at last to Gryffith and Rhys, Trahaern with his cousins being all slain in the field; after whose death Gryffith took possession of North Wales, and so the rule of all Wales, after a tedious interval, was again restored to the right line. About the same time, Urogeny ap Sitsyllt, a person of noble quality in Wales, was treacherously murdered by the sons of Rhys Sais, or the Englishman; by which name, the Welsh were accustomed to denominate all persons, as either had lived any considerable time in England, or could fluently and handsomely speak the English tongue.

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### GRYFFITH AP CONAN.

**GRYFFITH** ap Conan being confirmed in the principality of North Wales, and Rhys ap Tewdwr in that of South Wales; there was nobody that could create them any molestation or disturbance upon the account of right, which was unquestionably just, so that they quietly enjoyed for some time their respective dominions, without apprehension of any other pretender. Indeed, it had seldom been known before, but that one of the princes was an usurper; and particularly in North Wales, where from the time of Edwal Voel, none had legally ascended to the crown, excepting Edwal, the son of Meyric, eldest son to Edwal Voel, in whose line the undoubted title of North Wales lawfully descended. And the right line being now restored in Gryffith ap Conan, the same legally continued to Llewelyn ap Gryffith, the last prince of the British blood. But during these revolutions in Wales, some things memorable were transacted in England;—Malcolm, King of the Scots, descending into Northumberland, ravaged and destroyed the country without mercy, carrying away a great number of prisoners;

after which, the Northumbrians fell upon Walter, bishop of Durham, whom they slew, together with a hundred men, whilst he sat keeping of court, not dreaming of any such treacherous villainy. The same time, Robert Curthoys, the Bastard's eldest son, being for some reason disgusted against his father, and set on by the instigation of the King of France, entered Normandy with an army, and claimed it as his right; which King William being acquainted with, passed over to Normandy, and meeting with his son hand to hand in battle, was by him overthrown. But being returned from Normandy, he entered with a great army into Wales, and marching after the manner of a pilgrimage as far as St. David's, he offered and paid his devotion to that saint, and afterwards received homage of the kings and princes of the country. About the same time the tomb of Walwey, King Arthur's sister's son, a most valiant person in his time, and governor of that country, from him called Walwethey, was discovered in the country of Ros, nigh the sea shore, whose body proved monstrously prodigious, being in length about fourteen feet.

This year, Madawg, Cadwgan and Riryd, the sons of Blethyn ap Convyn, some time Prince of Wales, raised a rebellion against Rhys ap Tewdwr, and having drawn together a great number of licentious and malecontented people, thought to eject him out of the principality of South Wales. Rhys had not power and forces enough to oppose them; the rebels' army increasing daily by the addition of the discontented multitude, who always rejoice at any new commotion or disturbance; and therefore he was compelled to retire to Ireland, where he obtained a very considerable party of Irish and Scots, upon promise of a sufficient reward, in case he was restored again to his principality. Having by this measure got a very sensible increase to his former strength, he landed in South Wales; the news of whose arrival being blazed abroad, his friends from all quarters presently retired to him; so that in a short time his army became numerous, and able to

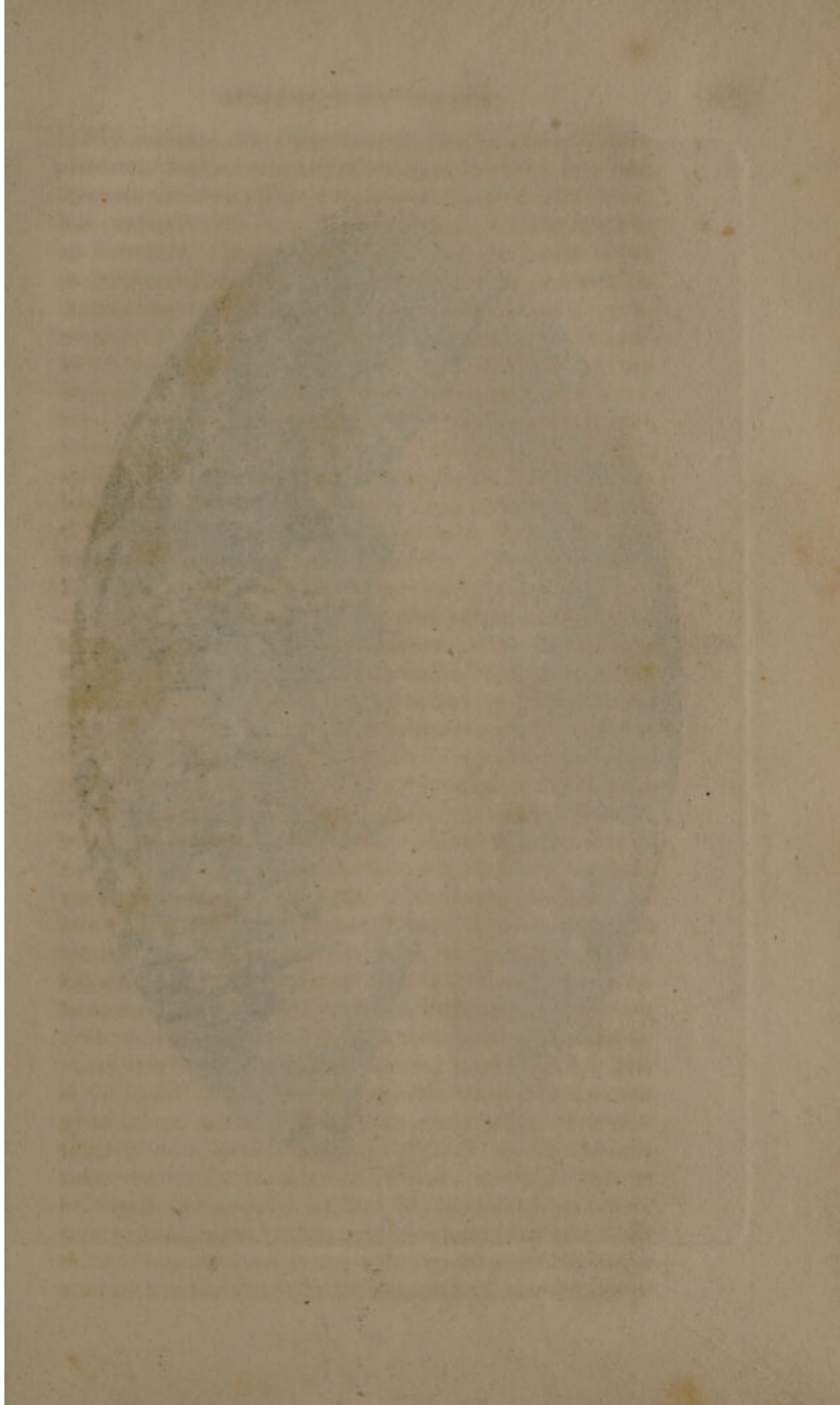
A.D. 1086.

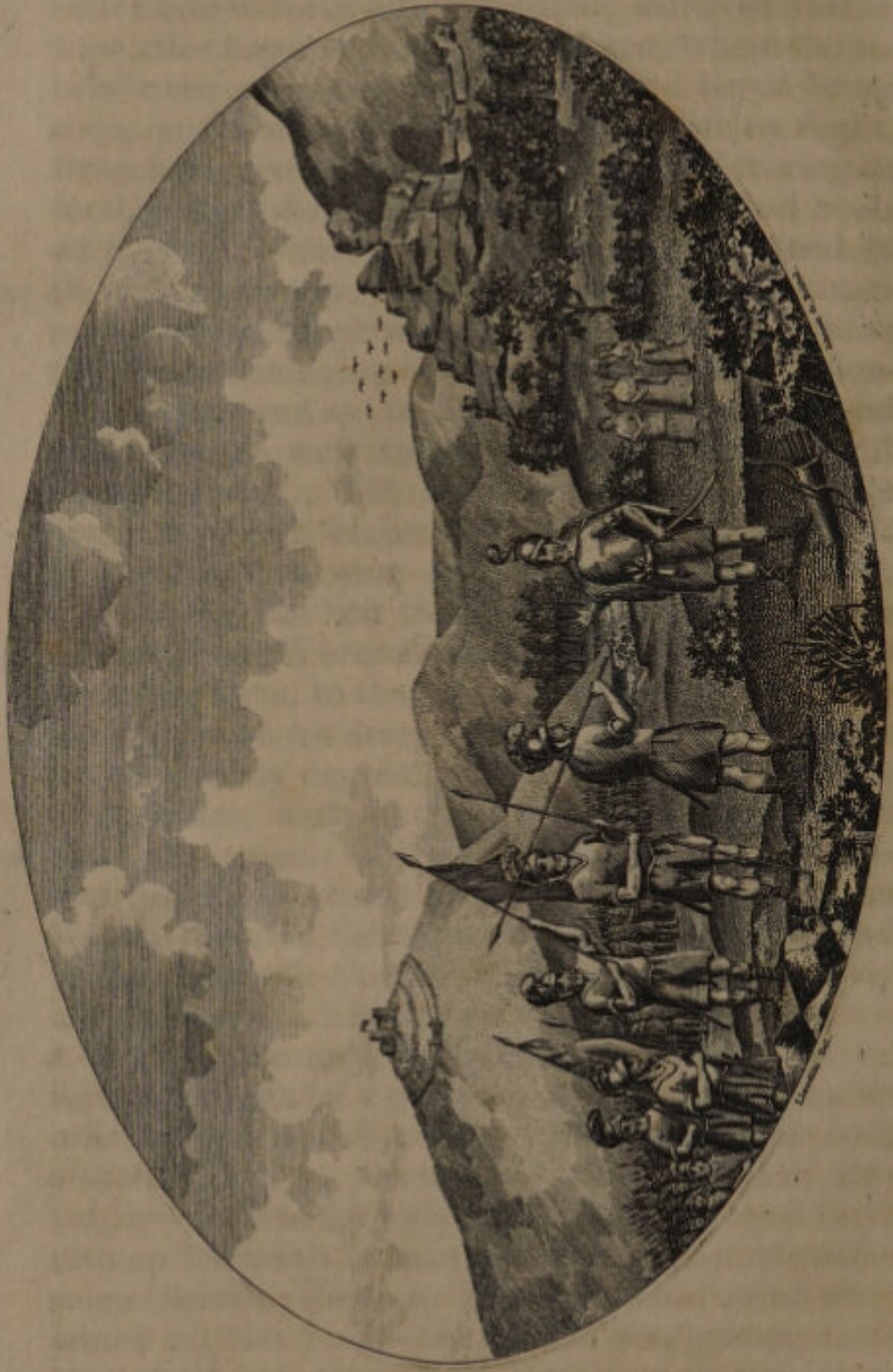
Madawg, Cadwgan, Riryd

confront the enemy. The rebels were sensible how the Prince's forces daily multiplied, and therefore to prevent any further addition, they made all possible haste to force him to a battle, which in a short time after happened at Llech y Creu, where the rebels were vanquished; Madawg and Riryd being slain, and Cadwgan glad to save his life by flight. Rhys having won so signal a victory, and fearing no further disturbance, dismissed the Irish and Scots with great rewards, who honourably returned to their own country. Within a while after, an unaccountable sacrilege was committed at St. David's; the shrine belonging to the cathedral, being feloniously conveyed out of the church, all the plate and other utensils were stolen, and only the shrine left empty behind. The same year a civil war broke out in England, and several armies in several parts of the kingdom were up in arms at the same time, and among the rest the Welsh, who entering into Gloucester and Worcestershires, burnt and destroyed all before them, to the gate of Worcester. The king having drawn his army together, proceeded against his enemies by degrees, and falling upon their separate parties, without any great difficulty, reduced all to obedience. Within two years after, Archbishop Sulien, the most pious and learned person in Wales, died, in the eightieth year of his age, and in the sixteenth year of his bishoprick; presently after whose death the town of St. David's suffered a dreadful calamity, being first plundered, and afterwards burnt by a company of pirates, who sorely infested the British coasts. About the same time also died Cadivor, the son of Calloyn, Lord of Dyfed, whose sons Llewelyn and Eineon moved Gryffith ap Meredith to take up arms against his sovereign Prince, Rhys ap Tewdwr, with whom they joined all the forces they could levy among their tenants and dependants; then passing with their army to Llandydoch, boldly challenged Rhys to fight; who thereupon gave them battle, and after a resolute engagement of both sides, the rebels were at length worsted and put to flight, and then so nar-

A.D.1087.

1089.





rowly pursued, that Gryffith ap Meredith was taken prisoner, and in fine executed as a traitor: but Eineon made his escape, and not daring to trust himself with any of his own kindred, he fled to Iestyn ap Gwrgant, Lord of Morgannwg, who was then in actual rebellion against Prince Rhys. And to ingratiate himself the more in Iestyn's favour, he promised, upon condition of the performance of certain articles, one of which more especially was, That he should receive his daughter in matrimony; that he would bring over to his aid a considerable body of Normans, with whom he was singularly acquainted, as having served a long time in England. These articles being agreed to and recorded, Eineon posted to England, and in a little time brought matters so about, that he prevailed with Robert Fitzhamon and twelve more knights, to levy a strong army of Normans, and to come to Wales to the protection and aid of Iestyn. The beginning A.D. 1099. of the following year they landed in Glamorgan-shire, and were honourably received by Iestyn, who joining his power to theirs, marched to Prince Rhys's dominions, where, without the least shew of mercy to his own countrymen, he encouraged the Normans, by his own example, to spoil and destroy all that came before them. Prince Rhys was mightily grieved to find his country so unmercifully harassed; and though at this time very old, being above ninety-eight years of age, he could not refrain but meet his enemies; and having with all possible speed raised a convenient army; he met with them near Brecknock, where, after a terrible fight, and a great slaughter on both sides, he was unhappily slain. With him fell the glory and grandeur of the principality of South Wales, being afterwards rent in pieces, and divided into several parts and piece-meals among the Norman captains, as shall be by and by more particularly related. Prince Rhys left issue behind him by the daughter of Rywallon ap Convyn, two sons, Gryffith and Gronow, the latter of which was detained prisoner by the king of England; though the author of the winning of the lordship



of Glamorgan, affirms, that he was slain, together with his father, in this battle against the Normans.

The Normans having received a sufficient reward from Iestyn, upon the account of their service against Prince Rhys, returned to their ships, in order to their voyage homeward. But before they could weigh anchor to sail off, Eineon recalled them, being ungratefully affronted by Iestyn, who absolutely refused to make good to him the conditions which they had agreed upon, before the Normans were invited to Wales. Upon this account, Eineon was so irreconcilably incensed against Iestyn, that to be revenged upon him, he was willing to sacrifice his native country into the hands of strangers; and therefore endeavoured to persuade the Normans concerning the fatness and fertility of the country, and how easily they might conquer and make themselves masters of it. But he needed not many arguments to persuade a people that were willing of themselves, especially being encouraged thereto by a person of some esteem in the country; whereupon, without any more questions, they presently fell to their business, and from friends became unexpectedly foes. Iestyn was much surprised to find the Normans, whom he had but lately honourably dismissed from his service, (and as he thought) with satisfaction, so soon became his enemies; but perceiving a serpent in the hedge, and Eineon so amicably great among them, he quickly guessed at the reason, of which there was no other remedy left but to bewail the unnecessary folly of his own knavery. The Normans easily dispossessed Iestyn of the whole lordship of Glamorgan; the most pleasant and fertile part of which they divided among themselves; leaving the more mountainous and craggy ground to the share of Eineon. The knights who accompanied Fitzhammon in this expedition were, William de Londres, or London; Richard de Grena villa, or Greenfield; Paganus de Turberville; Robert de S. Quintino, or Quintin; Richard de Sywarde; Gilbert de Humfrevile; Roger de Berkrolles; Reginald de Sully; Peter le

Soore; John le Fleming; Oliver de S. John; William de Esterling, or Stradling. These persons having distributed that fair and pleasant lordship among themselves, and considering that they were much better provided for here than they could be at home, settled in Glamorgan, where their posterity have continued to this time. And here we may observe, what a train of circumstances concurred together in favour of the Normans, having possession of this lordship; for had not Eineon, being vanquished by Prince Rhys, fled to Iestyn, rather than to another; or had not Iestyn been so vain as to attempt the conquest of South Wales, and to that end consented to the advice of Eineon, there had been no necessity of inviting the Normans at all to Wales. And then, the Normans being arrived, had not Iestyn ungentlely violated his promise, and refused to perform the articles agreed upon between him and Eineon; or had not Eineon pursued so desperate revenge, but satisfied his passion upon Iestyn, without prejudice to his country, the Normans would have returned home with satisfaction, and consequently could never have been proprietors of that noble country they then forcibly possessed. And now again the Welsh experienced the dangerous consequence of calling in a foreign nation to their aid; the Saxons had already dispossessed them of the best part of the Island of Britain, and now the Normans seized upon a great part of that small country, which had escaped the sovereignty and conquest of the English. But here it will be necessary to lay down the state and condition of this lordship of Morganwg or Glamorgan, and what share each particular knight obtained in the distribution of it.

The lordship of Glamorgan reaches in length twenty-seven miles, even from Rymney bridge to the east, to Pwll Conan westward and in breadth from Aberthaw, otherwise Aberdaon on the south part, to the confines of Brecknockshire, above Morley's castle, twenty-two miles. This being a royal lordship, the lords thereof owing no other subjection than

obedience only to the crown, assumed to themselves all the privileges of a regal court, excepting only the pardoning of criminals in case of treason. And not only Glamorgan, but the several petty lordships of which it consisted, namely, — Senghennyth, Myscyn, Ruthin, Llanblethian, Tir Iarll, Glyn Rothney, Avan, Neath, Coyty, Talavan, and Lantwit or Boviar-ton; exercised the same privilege of *Jura Regalia*; with this difference only, that in case of wrong judgment in these courts, appeal might be made in the county-court of Glamorgan, which being superior to the rest, had power to reverse any judgment given in them. Within this lordship were eighteen castles, and thirty-six knight's fees, besides the town and castle of Kynfig, the town of Cowbridge or Pont Vaen, and the town and castle of Caerdaf; in the latter of which the lord of Glamorgan chiefly resided wherein the county-court was monthly kept. The annual revenue of this lordship amounted to a thousand marks, whereof four hundred was allowed for fees and salary of the several officers belonging to the same. This lordship of Glamorgan, Robert Fitzhamon kept to himself, and the others he distributed between his several followers, namely, to William de Londres he gave the castle and manor of Ogmores; to Richard Greenfield, the lordship of Neath; to Paine Turberville, that of Coyty, to Robert S. Quintine, Llanblethian; to Richard Syward, Talavan; to Gilbert Humfrevile the castle and manor of Penmark; to Reginald de Sully, the castle and manor of Sully; to Roger Berkrolles, that of East Orchard; to Peter le Soor, that of Peterton; to John Fleming, that of S. George; to John S. John that of Fonmon or Fenvon; and lastly, to William le Esterling or Stradling that S. Donats. But that these knights should have dependence upon, and might seem to hold their several lordships and estate from him; Robert Fitzhamon appointed them their several apartments in his castle of Caerdaf, where they were obliged to give their attendance at every court-day, which was monthly kept upon Monday.

But about the same time that Robert Fitzhamon took the lordship of Glamorgan, Barnard Newmarch

a nobleman likewise of Normandy, obtained by conquest the lordship of Brecknock; and Henry de Newburgh son to Roger de Bellemont, by the Conqueror made Earl of Warwick, the country of Gower. But Barnard Newmarch gave the people of Wales some small satisfaction and content by marrying Nest, the daughter also of Nest, daughter to Llewelyn ap Gryffith Prince of Wales, by whom he had issue, a son called Mahael. This worthy gentleman being legally to succeed his father in the lordship of Brecknock, was afterwards disinherited by the malice and baseness of his own unnatural mother. The occasion was this, Nest happening to fall in admiration of a certain knight, with whom she had more than ordinary familiarity, even beyond what she expressed to her own husband; Mahael perceiving her dissolute and loose behaviour, counselled her to take care of her fame and reputation, and to leave off that scandalous liberty which she took; and afterwards meeting casually her gallant coming from her, fought and grievously wounded him. Upon this Nest to be revenged upon her son, went to Henry the first, king of England, and in his presence took her corporal oath, that her son Mahael was illegitimate, and not begot by Barnard Newmarch her husband, but another person; by virtue of which oath or rather perjury, Mahael was disinherited, and his sister, whom her mother attested to be legitimate, was bestowed by the king upon Milo, the son of Walter Constable, afterward Earl of Hereford, who in right of his wife enjoyed the whole estate of Barnard Newmarch, lord of Brecknock. Of this Milo, it is reported, that telling King Henry of a strange accident which had occurred to him by Llyn Savathan, in Wales, where the birds upon the pond at the passing by of Gryffith the son of Rhys ap Tewdwr, seemed by their chirping to be in a manner overjoyed; the king replied, it was not so wonderful; for although, says he, manifestly we have violently and injuriously oppressed that nation, yet it is known that they are the lawful and original inheritors of that country.

But whilst the Normans were thus carving for themselves in Glamorgan and Brecknock, Cadogan ap Blethyn ap Conwyn, towards the end of April entered into Dyved, and having ravaged and destroyed the country, returned back. But within eight weeks after, there succeeded him a more fatal enemy; for the Normans landing in Dyved and Cardigan, began to fortify themselves in castles and other strong places, and to inhabit the country upon the sea-shore, which before was not in their possession. Indeed the Normans having by the connivance of the Conqueror already got into their hands all the best estates in England, began now to spy out the commodities of Wales; and perceiving moreover how bravely Robert Fitzhamon and Barnard Newmarch had sped there, thought they might as well expect the like fortune. Wherefore having obtained a grant from King William (who readily consented to their request, because by this means he killed two birds with one stone, procured to himself their utmost service upon occasion, and withal provided for them without any charge to himself) they came to Wales, and so entered upon the estates appointed them by the king. which they held of him by knight-service, having first done homage and sworn fealty for the same. Roger Montgomery Earl of Arundel did homage for the lordships of Powis and Cardigan; Hugh Lupus Earl of Chester for Tegengl and Ryvonioc, together with all the land lying upon the sea-shore to the river Conway; Arnulph a younger son of Roger Montgomery for Dyved, Barnard Newmarch for Brecknock; Ralph Mortimer for Eluel, Hugh de Lacy for the land of Ewyas; Eustace Omer for Mold and Hopedale; and several others did the like homage for other lands. But Roger Montgomery, who by the Conqueror was created Earl of Arundel and Shrewsbury, entered in an hostile manner into Powisland, and having won the castle and town of Baldwin, fortified it in his own right, and called it Montgomery, after his own name. King William, of England, was now in Normandy, and busily

*Dyved*

*Conwyn  
Blethyn  
Cadogan*

*Dyved*

engaged in a war against his brother Robert; by the advantage of whose absence, Gryffith ap Conan, Prince of North Wales, and Cadogan ap Blethyn, who now ruled in South Wales, with joint force entered into Cardigan, and slew a great number of Normans, whose pride and excessive cruelties towards the Welsh, were altogether intolerable. But after sufficient execution there, being returned home, the Normans sent for more aid from England; which being arrived, they thought to make a private in-road into North Wales, and so to be revenged upon the Welsh. But their design being happily discovered to Cadogan, he drew up his forces to meet them, and then unexpectedly setting upon them in the forest of Yspys, after a very warm resistment of the Normans side, forced them to retire by flight, and then triumphantly marching through Cardigan and Dyved, he destroyed all the castles and fortifications in the country, except Pembroke and Rydcors, which proved too strong, and impregnable.

The next year, the Normans, who inhabited the country of Glamorgan, fell upon and destroyed the countries of Gwyr, Kidwely, and Ystrad Tywy, which they harrassed in such a cruel manner, that they left them bare of any people to inhabit. And to increase, as it was thought, the miseries of the Welsh, King William Rufus, being informed of the great slaughter which Gryffith ap Conan, and the sons of Blethyn ap Convyn, had lately committed upon the English, as well within Cheshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Herefordshire, as within Wales; entered the country at Montgomery, which place the Welsh having sometime since demolished, King William lately rebuilt. But the Welsh kept all the passages through the woods and rivers, and all other streights so close, that the King could effect nothing considerable against them; and therefore when he perceived that his labour was but lost, in continuing in those parts, he forthwith decamped, and returned with no great honour back to England. But this retreat of King William was not

A.D. 1093.

1094.

altogether so favourable to the interest of the Welsh, as the death of William Fitz-Baldwyn, who was owner of the castle of Rydcors, and did the greatest mischief and hurt to the South Wales men of any other. He being dead, the garrison of Rydcors, which was wont to keep the Welsh in continual awe, forsook that place, and by that means gave opportunity to the inhabitants of Gwyr, Brecknock, Gwent, and Gwentllwc, to shake off that intolerable yoke the Normans forced upon them, who after they had robbed them of their lands, kept them in perpetual subjection. But now William Fitz-Baldwyn being dead, and the garrison of Rydcors scattered, they ventured to lay violent hands upon the Normans, who thought themselves free from all fear, and prevailed so successfully, that they drove them all out of the country, and recovered their own ancient estates. But the Normans liked that country so well, that they were resolved not to be so easily driven out of what they had with a great deal of pains and danger once possessed; and therefore having drawn a great number of English and Normans to their aid, they were desirous to venture another touch with the Welsh, and to return, if possible, to their once acquired habitations. But the Welsh so abhorred their pride and tyrannical dominion over them when they were masters, that they were resolved not to be subject to such tyrants again; and therefore they boldly met them at a place called Gelly Tarvawc, and set upon them so manfully, the very apprehension of servitude whetting their spirits, that they put them to flight with great slaughter, and drove them out of the country. The Normans however were not so absolutely routed with this overthrow: but like a fly in the night which destroys itself in the candle, they must needs covet their own destruction; their greediness urging them on to venture with few, what was not practicable to be effected by many. Therefore on they came as far as Brecknock, with this absolute vow and resolution not to leave one living thing remaining in that country. But they

fell short of their policy, the people of the country being removed to a narrow streight, to expect their passing through; whither the Normans being advanced, they fell upon them, and killed a great number of them. About the same time, Roger Montgomery, Earl of Salop and Arundel, William Fitzeaustace, Earl of Gloucester, Arnold de Harecourt, and Neal le Vicount, were slain by the Welsh between Caerdaf and Brecknock; and Walter Eureux, Earl of Sarum, Rosmer, and Mantilake; Hugh, Earl of Gourney, were wounded, who afterwards died in Normandy. The Normans finding that they continually lost ground, thought it not advisable to stay any longer; and therefore having placed sufficient garrisons in those castles which they had formerly built, they returned with what speed they could to England. But all the haste they made, could not secure them from the fury of the Welsh; for Gryffith and Ivor, the sons of Ednerth ap Cadogan, expected them privately at a place called Aberllech, where falling unexpectedly upon them, they slew the greatest part of their number, the rest narrowly escaping safe to England. But the Norman garrisons which were left behind, defended themselves with a great deal of bravery, till at last finding no prospect of relief, they were forced for their own safety to deliver them up to the Welsh, who, from that time, became again proprietors of those places which the Normans had dispossessed them from. And this encouraged the Welsh to undertake other things against the English; for immediately after this, certain of the nobility of North Wales, Uchthed, the son of Edwyn ap Gronow by name, together with Howel ap Gronow, and the sons of Cadogan ap Blethyn of Powis-land, passed by Cardigan into Dyved (which country King William had given to Arnulph, son to Roger Montgomery, who had built thereon the castle of Pembroke, and appointed Gerald de Windsore, governor of the same) and destroying all the country with fire and sword, excepting Pembroke castle, which was impregnable, they returned home with a great deal of booty. In

*Cadogan*

*Ednerth*

*Uchthed  
Howel ap Gronow  
Cadogan*

*Dyved*



recompence of this, when the lords of North Wales were returned, Gerald issued out of the castle, and spoiled all the country about S. David's; and after he had got sufficient plunder, and taken divers prisoners returned back into the castle.

- A.D.1095. The year following, King William returned from Normandy, and having heard how that the Welsh had cut off a great number of his subjects in Wales, gathered all his power together, and with great pomp and ostentation entered the marches, resolving utterly to eradicate the rebellious and implacable humour of the Welsh nation. But after all this boast and seeming resolution, he durst venture no further than the marshes, where having built some few castles, he returned with no greater honour than
1096. he came. But the next Spring, Hugh de Montgomery, Earl of Arundel and Salop, by the Welsh named Hugh Goch, and Hugh Vras, or the Fat, Earl of Chester, being invited by some disaffected Welsh lords, came into North Wales with a very great army. Prince Gryffith ap Conan, and Cadogan ap Blethyn, perceiving themselves to be too weak to oppose so numerous an army, and what was worse, being very suspicious of the fidelity and honesty of their own forces, thought it their best way to take the hills and mountains for their safety, where they were like to remain most secure from the enemy. Then the English army marched towards Anglesey, and being come over against the island, they built the castle of Aberliennawc. But Gryffith and Cadogan, could no longer endure to see their country over-run by the English, and therefore they descended from the mountains, and came to Anglesey, thinking, with what succours they should receive from Ireland, of which they were disappointed, to be able to defend the island from any attempt that should be made upon it. And now the whole reason, and the occasion of the English coming to Wales was discovered; for Owen ap Edwyn, the Prince's chiefest counsellor, whose daughter Gryffith had married (having himself also married Everyth, the daughter of Convyn, aunt to

Cadogan) upon some private grudge or other, called in the English into Wales, and at this time openly joined his forces with theirs, and led the whole army over into Anglesey. Gryffith and Cadogan, finding how they were betrayed by their dearest friend, as they thought, for fear of further treachery, judged it prudent to sail privately for Ireland; after whose departure, the English fell cruelly to work, destroying all they could come at, without any respect either to age or sex.

And whilst the English continued in Anglesey, Magnus, the son of Harold, lately King of England, came over with a great fleet, intending to lay faster hold upon that kingdom, than his father had done, and to recover the same to himself. But whilst he steered his course thither, he was driven by contrary winds to the coasts of Anglesey, where he would fain have landed, had not the English army kept him off. But in this skirmish, Magnus accidentally wounded Hugh, Earl of Salop, with an arrow in his face, whereof he died; and then of a sudden, both armies relinquished the island; the English returning to England, appointing Owen ap Edwyn, who invited them over, prince of the country. A.D. 1097. But Owen did not enjoy the principality long; for in the beginning of the following spring, Gryffith ap Conan, and Cadogan ap Blethyn, returned from Ireland, and having concluded a peace with the Normans, for some part of their lands in Wales; Gryffith remained in Anglesey, and Cadogan had Cardigan, with part of Powis. Llew. 1097. But though Cadogan recovered his estate, yet in a little while after, he lost his son Llewelyn, who was treacherously murdered by the men of Brecknock: at which time also died Rythmarch, archbishop of St. David's, the son of Sullen, being in the forty-third year of his age; a man of the greatest piety, wisdom, and learning, that had flourished a long time in Wales, excepting his father, under whose tutelage he was educated. 1098. The year following, King William Rufus, as he was hunting in the new forest, was acci-

dentally slain with an arrow, which one Walter Tyrrel shot at a stag; and his eldest brother being then engaged in the holy war, Henry, his younger brother, whom in his life-time he had nominated his successor, was crowned in his stead. The same year, Hugh, Earl of Chester, Gronow ap Cadogan, and Gwyn ap Gryffith, departed this life.

A.D. 1100. About two years after, a rebellion broke out in England; Robert de Belesmo, the son of Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Salop, and Arnulph his brother, Earl of Pembroke, took up arms against King Henry; which he being informed of, sent them a very gracious message to come before him, and declare their grievances, and the reason of their rising up in arms against his Majesty. But the Earls, instead of appearing in person, sent him slight and frivolous excuses, and in the mean while made all necessary preparations for the war, both by raising of forces, and fortifying their castles and strong holds. And to strengthen themselves the more, they sent rich presents, and made large promises to Iorwerth, Cadogan, and Meredith, the sons of Blethyn ap Convyn, for to bring them to their side. Robert fortified four castles, namely,—Arundel, Tekinhill, Shrewsbury, and Brugge; which last, by reason that Robert built it without the consent of the king, was the chief occasion of this war; and Arnulph fortified his castle at Pembroke. After this, they entered in an hostile manner into the territories of the King of England, wasting and destroying all before them. And to augment their strength, Arnulph sent Gerald his steward, to Murkart, King of Ireland, desiring his daughter in wedlock; which was easily granted, with the promise too of great succours and large supplies. King Henry, to put a stop to their bold adventures, marched in person against them; and laying siege to the castle of Arundel, won it without any great opposition; and quickly afterwards the castle of Tekinhill; but that of Brugge, by reason of the situation of the place, and the depth of the ditch about it, seemed to require longer time and harder service; and there-

fore King Henry was advised to send privately to Iorwerth ap Blethyn, promising him great rewards if he forsook the earl's part, and came over to him; urging to him, what mischief Roger, earl Robert's father, and his brother Hugh, had continually done to the Welshmen. And to make him the more willing to accept of his proposals, he promised to give him all such lands as the earl and his brother had in Wales, without either tribute or homage; which was a part of Powis, Cardigan, and half Dyved, the other part being in the possession of William Fitz-Baldwyn. Iorwerth receiving these offers, accepted of them very gladly, and then coming to the king, he sent all his forces to Earl Robert's lands, who having received very strict orders, destroyed without mercy every thing they met with; and what made the spoil the greater, Earl Robert upon his rebelling against King Henry, had caused his people to convey all their goods to Wales, for fear of the English; not thinking how his father's memory sounded among the Welsh. But when the news of Iorwerth's revolt reached the ears of the earl, Cadogan and Meredith, Iorwerth's brothers; their spirits began to faint, as despairing any longer to oppose the king, since Iorwerth, who was the person of greatest strength in Wales, had left and forsaken them. Arnulph was gone to Ireland to fetch home his wife, and to bring over what succour his father-in-law, King Murkart, could afford to send him; but he not coming in time, some other method was to be tried, how to get some aid against the English. A little before this rebellion broke out, Magnus, Harold's son, landed the second time in the isle of Anglesey, and being kindly received by Gryffith ap Conan, he had leave to cut down what timber he had need for; and so returning to the Isle of Man, which he had got by conquest, he built there three castles, and then sent to Ireland to have the daughter of Murkart in marriage to his son, which being obtained, he created him King of Man: Earl Robert hearing this, sent to Magnus for

aid against King Henry, but receiving none, he thought it now high time to look to his own safety; and therefore he sent to the king, requesting that he might quietly depart the kingdom, in case he should lay down his arms; which the king having granted, he sailed to Normandy. And then King Henry sent an express to his brother Arnulph, requiring him either to follow his brother out of the kingdom, or to deliver himself up to his mercy; and so Arnulph went over also for Normandy. When the king was returned to London, Iorwerth took his brother Meredith prisoner, and committed him to the king's custody; his other brother Cadogan having reconciled himself beforehand, to whom Iorwerth gave Cardigan, with a part of Powis. Then Iorwerth went to London, to put the king in mind of his promise, and the service he had done him against Earl Robert; but the king finding now all matters at quiet, was deaf to all such remembrances, and instead of promising what he had once voluntarily proposed, against all rules of equity and gratitude, he took away Dyved from Iorwerth, and gave it to a knight of his own, called Saer; and Stratywy, Cydwely, and Gwyr he bestowed upon Howel ap Gronow, and sent Iorwerth away more empty than he came; nor was this sufficient reward

A.D. 1101. for his former services; but the next year, King Henry must send some of his counsel to Shrewsbury, and cite Iorwerth to appear there, under pretence of consulting about the king's business and affairs of those parts. But the plot was laid deeper; and when without any suspicion of treachery he made his appearance, he was surprisedly attainted of high treason, and then contrary to all right and justice, actually condemned to perpetual imprisonment; the true reason of this unparalleled severity being, the king feared his strength, and was apprehensive that he would revenge the wrong and affront he received at his hands. And indeed, well had he reason to fear that, when he so ungratefully treated him, whose service he had experienced to be so greatly advantageous to him. But the policy of Princes

is unaccountable; and whether to value an eminent person for his service, or to fear him for his greatness, is a subject that frequently disturbs their most settled considerations. But the noblemen that were at this time sent by the king to Shrewsbury, were Richard de Belmersh, who being chief agent about Roger Montgomery, Earl of Salop, was preferred to the bishoprick of London, and afterwards appointed by this king, to be warden of the marshes, and governor of the county of Salop. With him were joined in company, Walter Constable, the father of Milo, Earl of Hereford, and Rayner, the king's lieutenant in the county of Salop. About this time, as Bale writes, the church of Menevia, or St. Davids, began to be subject to the see of Canterbury, being always afore, the metropolitan church of all Wales.

Shortly after this, Owen ap Edwyn, who had been A.D. 1102. author of no small mischief and disturbance to the Welsh, in moving the English against his natural prince, and son-in-law Gryffith ap Conan, departed this life, after a tedious and miserable sickness; of which he was so much the less pitied, by how much he had proved an enemy and a traitor to his native country. He was the son of Gronow, by his wife Edelfede, the widow of Edmund, surnamed Ironside king of England; and had the title of Tegengl; though the English, when they had compelled Gryffith ap Conan to flee to Ireland for safety, constituted him prince of all North Wales. After his death Richard Fitz-Baldwyn laid siege to, and took the castle of Rydcors, and forcibly drove Howel ap Gronow, to whom King Henry had committed the custody of it, out of the country. But Howel quickly returned, and with a high spirit of revenge, began to destroy and burn whatsoever he could meet with, and then meeting a party of the Normans in their return homewards, he fell upon the flank of them with a very considerable slaughter; and so brought all the country to his subjection, excepting some few garrisons and castles which would not surrender to him. The same time King Henry took away

from Saer the government of Dyved, which formerly was Iorwerth ap Blethyn's, and bestowed it upon Gerald, who had been some time earl Arnulph's steward in those parts; and therefore by reason of his knowledge of the country, was in all probability best able to take upon him the management of it. But the Normans in Rydcors castle, being sensible that they were not able to effect any thing against Howel ap Gronow in open field, after their accustomed manner, began to put that in execution by treachery, which they could not compass by force of arms. And how to make Howel a sacrifice to those Normans he had lately slain, they could find no safer way than by corrupting one Gwgan ap Meyric, a man in great favour and esteem with Howel, upon the account chiefly that one of his children was nursed by Gwgan's wife. This ungrateful villain, to carry on his wicked intrigue the more unsuspected, gave Howel a very earnest invitation to his house to a merriment, where, without any suspicion of treachery, being come, he was welcomed with all the seeming affection and kindness imaginable. But no sooner was he settled, but Gwgan gave notice thereof to the Norman garrisons; and therefore by break of day they entered the town, and coming about the house where Howel lay in bed, they presently gave a great shout. Howel hearing the noise, suspected something of mischief, and therefore leaping in all haste out of bed, he made to his weapons, but could not find them, by reason that Gwgan had conveyed them away whilst he was asleep. And now being assured of treachery in the case, and finding that his men had fled for their lives, he endeavoured all he could to make his escape; but Gwgan and his company were too quick for him; and so being secured, they strangled him, and delivered his body to the Normans, who having cut off his head, conveyed it to the castle of Rydcors. This most villainous murder, so barbarously committed upon the king's lieutenant, was not in the least taken notice of; for king Henry was so unreasonably prejudiced in favour of the

Normans, that whatever misdemeanor, be it of ever so high a nature, was by them committed, it was presently winked at, and let fall to the ground; whereas, if the Welsh trespassed but against the least injunction of the king's laws, they were most severely punished; which was the cause that they afterwards stood up against the king in their own defence, being by experience assured, that he minded nothing more than their utter destruction.

About this time, Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury, convened a synod at London, wherein among other injunctions then decreed, the celibacy of the clergy was enjoined; marriage being before allowed of in Britain, to them in holy orders. But this new injunction created a great deal of heat and animosity among the clergy, some approving of it as reasonable and orthodoxical; others condemning it, as an innovation, and contrary to the plain letter of scripture. But during these disputes between the clergy, king Henry being now in the fifth year of his reign, sailed over with a great army into Normandy, where his brother Robert, together with Robert de Belesmo, Arnulph, and William, earl of Mortaign, gave him battle; but the king having obtained the victory, took the duke his brother, with William of Mortaign, prisoners; and carrying them to England, he caused first his brother Robert's eyes to be plucked out, and then condemned them both to perpetual imprisonment in the castle of Cardiff. About the same time, Meyric and Gryffith, the sons of Trahaern ap Caradoc, were both slain by the means of Owen ap Cadogan ap Blethyn, whose uncle Meredith ap Blethyn, who had been prisoner for a long time in England, now broke open the prison, wherein he was very narrowly confined; and returning to his own country, had his estate restored, which afterwards he quietly enjoyed.

The next year a dismal and calamitous accident <sup>A.D. 1104.</sup> *Blethyn*  
*Cadogan*  
*Owen* happening in the Low-countries, proved very incommodious and prejudicial to the Welsh; for a great part of Flanders being drowned by the over-



flowing of the sea, the inhabitants were compelled to seek for some other country to dwell in, their own being now covered with water. And therefore a great many being come over to England, they requested of King Henry to assign them some part of his kingdom, which was empty and void of inhabitants, where they might settle and plant themselves. The king taking advantage of this charitable opportunity, and being in a manner assured, that these Flemings would be a considerable thorn in the side of the Welsh, bestowed upon them very liberally what was not justly in his power to give; and appointed them the country of Ros, in Dyved, or West-Wales, where they continue to this day. But Gerald, the king's lieutenant in those parts, was resolved to be afore-hand with them, and rebuilt the castle of Pembroke, in a place called Congarth Vechan; whither he removed his family and all his goods. But here a very unfortunate accident happened to him; for Cadwgan ap Blethyn having prepared a sumptuous feast in the Christmas, invited all the lords to his country-house in Dyved, and among the rest his son Owen, who lived in Powis. This young gentleman being at his father's house, and hearing Nest, the wife of Gerald, universally praised for her incomparable beauty, was so smitten with the rumour that went abroad of her, that by all means he must see the lady, who was by all so much admired. And forasmuch as Gwladys, wife to Rhys ap Tewdwr, and mother to Nest, was the daughter of Rywallon ap Convyn, cousin-german to Cadwgan his father; under pretence of friendship and relation, he made bold to pay her a visit. But finding the truth far to surpass the fame that went of her, he returned home so inflamed with her charms, that not being able to keep the mastery over himself, he went back again the same night, and being attended by a company of wild, head-strong youths, they privily entered into the castle, and encompassing the chamber about, where Gerald and his wife lay, they set the house on fire. Gerald hearing a noise, would fain go out to know the meaning of

such unseasonable disturbance; but his wife fearing some treachery, persuaded him to make as private an escape as he could; and then pulling up a board in the privy, let him go that way. Then returning to her chamber, she would fain assure those notorious youths, that there was nobody beside herself and children there; but this being not satisfactory, they forcibly broke in; and having searched the most private corner, and not finding Gerald, they took his wife and two sons, with a son and a daughter born by a concubine, and carried them away to Powis, having first set fire to the cattle, and destroyed the country as they went along. Cadwgan, Owen's father, hearing of what outrageous crime his son had committed, was exceedingly concerned and sorry, chiefly because hereby he was like to incur King Henry's great displeasure; and therefore he went with all speed to Powis, and desired his son with all intreaties, to send home to Gerald his wife and children, with whatever else he had taken away from him. But Owen was so amourosly inexorable with respect to the woman, that he would by no means part with her; however, upon her request, he was willing to restore Gerald his children back again, which forthwith he performed. But when Richard, bishop of London, whom King Henry had constituted Warden of the Marches, being now at Shrewsbury, heard of this, he sent for Ithel and Madoc, the sons of Ryryd ap Blethyn, persons of great power and interest in Wales, promising them very considerable rewards, besides the government of the whole country, in case they could bring Owen and his father Cadwgan, either dead or alive, to him, that he might revenge that heinous affront which they had done to the King of England. With them he joined Llywarch, the son of Trahaern ap Caradoc, whose two brethren Owen had slain, and Uchtryd the son of Edwyn; which four undertook to answer effectually the bishop's proposal to them. But when they had united their forces, and began in an hostile manner

to destroy the country as they passed along; Uchtryd sent private notice before him, requiring all who were any way desirous of their own safety, to come to him; because no quarters was to be given to any that was found in the country. The people being thus so opportunely forewarned, began to bethink with themselves how they might best avoid so eminent a danger; and thereupon some fled to Arustly, others to Melienyth, some to Stradtywy, and some to Dyved; but in this latter place they met with very cold welcome; for Gerald, who was then very busy in exercising revenge upon that country, falling in among them, cut off a considerable number of them. The like fate befel them who escaped to Arustly and Melienyth, for Walter, bishop of Hereford, having raised an army in defence of the town of Caermarthen, before he could come thither, accidentally met with these stragling fugitives, and knowing to what country they belonged to, without any further ceremony, he fell upon them, and put most of them to the sword. But they who fled to Stradtywy, were gently received by Meredith ap Rytherch, and such as resorted to Uchtryd, were kindly entertained by him; and so he marched with the rest of his confederates to Rydcors castle; it being the general opinion, that it was best to enter the country by night, and to take Cadwgan and Owen his son by surprise. But Uchtryd reflecting upon the difficulty of the country, and how easily they might be entrapped by an ambuscade, dissuaded them from any such nocturnal undertakings; and told them, that it was far more advisable to enter the country in good order, when the light gave the soldiers opportunity to keep and observe their ranks. But whilst they were thus considering of the most effectual way to carry on their purpose, Owen got a ship at Aberdyfi, bound for Ireland; and escaping thither, avoided the narrow search that was the following day made for them. But when neither father nor son could be found, all the fault was laid upon Uchtryd, who had dissuaded them from falling upon the castle unexpectedly; and

therefore all they could do, since their escape, was to burn and destroy the country, which they did effectually, excepting the two sanctuaries of Llanbadarn and Llanddewi Brefi; out of which however they took several persons who had escaped thither, and carried them away prisoners to their several countries. But Owen, with them who were accessory to the burning of Rydcors castle, being fled into Ireland, desired the umbrage and protection of King Murcart; who received him very gladly, upon the account of their former acquaintance; for Owen, during the war betwixt the Earls of Arundel and Chester, and the Welsh, had fled to King Murcart, and brought him very rich presents from Wales. Cadwgan all this while lay privately in Powis; but thinking it impossible to continue there long undiscovered, he adjudged it his wiser way to send to King Henry, and to declare his innocency and abhorrence of that fact which his son had committed. The King was easily persuaded that the old-man was guiltless, and wholly ignorant of his son's crime; and therefore he gave him permission to remain in the country, and to enjoy the town and lands he received by his wife, who was the daughter of a Norman lord, called Pygot de Say. But his lands in Powis were otherwise distributed; for his nephews Madoc and Ithel, finding what circumstances their uncle Cadwgan lay under, upon the account of his son Owen, they divided betwixt themselves such lands as he and his son possessed in Powis, though afterwards they could never agree about the equal distribution of it. To counterbalance this, Cadwgan made such friends to the King of England, that upon paying the fine of £100, he had a grant of all his lands in Cardigan, and a power to recall all the inhabitants, who had rubbed off upon the publication of the King's late order, that no Welshman or Norman should dwell in Cardigan. Upon information of this grant to Cadwgan, several of them that retired to Ireland returned again privately to Wales, and lurkingly remained with

their friends; but Owen durst not appear in Cardigan, by reason that his father had received that country from King Henry, upon condition that he would never entertain nor receive his son, nor by any means succour him either with men or money. Nevertheless, Owen came to Powis, and would fain be reconciled to the king, and make an atonement for his late misdemeanor; but he could find nobody that would venture to speak in his behalf, nor make the king acquainted with his desire and willingness to submit. And thus being hopeless and full of despair, he could not possibly divine which way to turn himself; till at last, a very unexpected opportunity offered him means and occasion to oppose the English. The matter was this, there happened a difference betwixt Madoc ap Ryryd and the bishop of London, lieutenant of the Marches of Wales, about certain English felons, who being under the protection of Madoc, he would not restore at the bishop's request. The bishop being much offended at Madoc's denial, threatened him very severely; and therefore to make all possible preparations against an ensuing storm, Madoc sent to Owen, who heretofore was his greatest enemy, desiring his help against the bishop, and by this means being reconciled, they took their mutual oaths not to betray each other, and that neither should make a separate agreement with the English without the knowledge and approbation of the other. And so uniting their power, they spoiled and ravaged all the country about them, destroying whatever they could meet with, which belonged to those they had no kindness or affection for, without the least distinction of English or Welsh.

A.D. 1107. Iorwerth ap Blethyn had been very unjustly detained in prison all this time; and now King Henry calling to mind what hardship he laboured under, and that he committed him to custody upon no pretence of reason, sent to know of him, what he was willing to pay for his liberty, Iorwerth being now almost ready to sink under a fatigue of so long imprisonment, was glad to give any thing he was able,

to obtain that which he had so long in vain hoped for; and therefore he promised either £300. in specie, or to the value of it in cattle and horses; for the payment of which, Iorwerth and Ithel the sons of his brother Ryryd were delivered for pledges. Then the king released him out of prison, and restored him all his lands which were taken from him; and of the due for his liberty, the king bestowed £10. upon Henry, Cadwgan's son by the daughter of Pygot de Say the Norman. Owen and Madoc, all this while committed all the waste and destruction possible, and cruelly annoyed both the English and Normans, and always withdrew and retired to Iorwerth's estate, which so troubled him, by reason of the king's strict orders not to permit Owen to come to his or Cadwgan's territories, that at length he sent to them this positive and peremptory rebuke;—  
 “Since it hath pleased God to place us in the midst of our enemies, and to deliver us into their hands; and hath so far weakened us, as that we are not able to do any thing by our own strength; and your father Cadwgan, and myself, are particularly commanded, under penalty of forfeiting our lands and estates, not to afford you any succour or refuge during these your rebellious practices; therefore as a friend I intreat you, command you as a lord, and desire you as a kinsman, that you come no more to mine or your father Cadwgan's territories.”

Owen and Madoc receiving such a presumptuous message, were the more enraged, and in the way of a malignant retribution, did more frequently than heretofore, shelter themselves in Iorwerth's country; in somuch, that at last, since that they would neither by threats nor intreaties desist from their wonted courses, he was forced to gather his power, and drive them out by force of arms. Being chased out thence, they made in-roads into Uchtryd's country in Merionethshire; but Uchtryd's sons, being then in Cyveilioc, hearing of it, they sent to the people of the country, with positive orders to oppose and resist any offer they would make to enter the country. The people, though wanting a skillful commander,

were resolved to do as much as lay in their power ; and so meeting with them by the way, they set upon them so furiously, that Owen and Madoc, though after a brave defence, were forced to bear back, and to take the heels ; Owen to Cardigan to his father Cadwgan ; and Madoc to Powis. Yet all this misfortune could not suppress the restless spirit of Owen ; for as soon as he could rally together his scattered troops, he made divers inroads into Dyved, and carrying away several persons to the ships, that they came in from Ireland ; he first ransomed them, and then listing them under his own command, made such addition to his army, that he ventured to set upon a town in Dyved belonging to the Flemings, and having razed it to the ground, he returned to Cardigan ; having no regard to what inconveniency might befall his father from the King of England, upon this account, which a little afterwards unhappily fell out. For it happened that some of Owen's men having had intelligence, that a certain bishop, called William de Brabant, was upon his journey through that country to the coast of England, laid wait for his coming ; who without any apprehension of treachery, passing through the country, was unexpectedly slain, he and all his retinue. Iorwerth and Cadwgan were then at court, to speak with king Henry, concerning certain business of their own ; but whilst they discoursed the king, in comes a Fleming, that was a brother to the deceased bishop, and with a very loud exclamation, complained how that Owen, Cadwgan's son, had slain his brother, and the rest of the company, and that he was succoured and entertained in Cadwgan's country. King Henry hearing this, was wrathfully displeased at such cruel barbarity, that a person of that quality and profession, should be so treacherously murdered ; and therefore he asked Cadwgan what he could say to the matter ; who answered, that what had so unhappily fell out, was done without the least of his knowledge or approbation, and therefore desired his Majesty to impute all the blame and guilt of

that unfortunate action to his son Owen. But King Henry was so far from being satisfied with this reply, that he told Cadwgan in a violent passion, that since he could not keep his son so, but that he was aided and continually entertained in his country, he would bestow it upon another person, who was better able and more willing to keep him out; and would allow him a maintenance upon his own proper charges, upon these conditions, that he should not enter into Wales any more, without his further orders; and so granting him twenty days for the ordering of his affairs, he gave him liberty to retire to any part of his dominions, excepting Wales. When Owen and Madoc were informed how Cadwgan was treated by the King of England, and that Cardigan, which was their chiefest place of refuge, was to be given to another person, they thought that their condition by this time was desperate, and that they had not better stay any longer in Britain, therefore with all speed they took shipping for Ireland, where they were sure to be honourably entertained by King Murkart. Then King Henry sent for Gilbert Strongbow, Earl of Strygill, a person of noted worth and valour, and one who had often sued to the king for to grant him some lands in Wales, and bestowed upon him all the lands and inheritance of Cadwgan ap Blethyn, in case he could conquer and bring the country under. Gilbert very thankfully accepted of the proposal, and having drawn together all the forces he was able to raise, he passed into Wales, and being come to Cardigan, without the least trouble or opposition, he reduced the whole country to his subjection. The first thing he did, was the best he could to secure himself in this new purchased inheritance; in order to which, he erected two castles, one upon the frontiers of North Wales, upon the mouth of the river Ystwyth, a mile distant from Llanbadarn; the other towards Dyved, upon the river Teifi, at a place called Dyngerant; where, as some think, Roger Montgomery had some time before laid the foundation of Cilgarran castle.



Owen and Madoc were all this while in Ireland; but this latter being at length tired with the country and not willing to endure the manners and customs of the Irish, came over for Wales, and passed to the country of his uncle Iorwerth. Iorwerth being acquainted with his arrival was fearful to suffer the same fate with his brother Cadwgan, by winking at his being there, and therefore without any regard to relation or consanguinity, he presently issued out a proclamation, forbidding any of his subjects under a great penalty to receive him, but that they should account him an open enemy to their country, and endeavour all they could to secure him, and to bring him prisoner before him. When Madoc understood this, how that his person was in continual danger whilst he remained there; having drawn to him all the out laws and villains in the country, he kept in the rocks and mountains devising all the ways and means he could to be revenged upon Iorwerth and so made a private league and agreement with Llywarch ap Trahaern, who for a long time had been a mortal enemy of Iorwerth's. These two associates, having intelligence that Iorwerth lay one night at Caereineon, gathered all their strength, came and encompassed the house at midnight; which when Iorwerth's servants perceived, they arose and defended the house with all the might they could; but the assailants at last putting the house on fire, they were glad, as many as could, to escape through the flames; the greatest part being forced to yield, either to the enemies sword, or the more conquering fire. Iorwerth seeing no remedy, but that he must undergo the same fate as his men had done, chose rather to die in the presence of his enemies, with his sword in his hand, than to commit his life to the cowardly flames; and therefore rushing out with great violence, he was received upon the points of the enemies spears, and so being tossed into the fire, he miserably perished by a double death. As soon as King Henry heard of his death, he sent for Cadwgan to him, and gave him all his brother's estate, being Powis-land; and promising his son

*Mabil*

Owen his pardon, upon condition he would demean himself quietly and loyally hereafter, willed him to send for him back from Ireland. King Henry also about this time, married his natural son Robert to Mabil, daughter and sole heir to Robert Fitzhamon, lord of Glamorgan, in whose right this Robert became lord of Glamorgan, being before the king created earl of Gloucester; by whom the castle of Cardiff was built.

But Madoc finding the matter nothing mended, and that his other uncle Cadwgan, who lay under the same obligation to the king of England, ruled the country, hid himself in the most private and inaccessible places, watching only an opportunity to commit the like fact upon Cadwgan, and to murder him by one treacherous way or other. And this he effected in a little time; for Cadwgan having reduced the country to some sort of settlement and quietness, and restored the courts of judicature, where he sat in person to administer justice; came with the rest of the elders of the country to Trallwng, now Pool; and having begun to build a castle, he thought to make that the constant seat of his habitation. Madoc understanding his design, laid in ambush for him in his way to Trallwng; and as Cadwgan unconcernedly passed by, without the least suspicion of treachery, he suddenly set upon him, and slew him, without allowing him any time either to fight or escape. Then he sent presently a message to Shrewsbury, to the bishop of London, the king's lieutenant in the marches, to put him in mind of his former promises to him, when he chased Owen out of the country; because that the bishop bearing an inveterate enmity to Cadwgan, and his son Owen, granted Madoc such lands, as his brother Ithel was possessed of. But Meredith ap Blethyn, being informed of the death of both his brothers, went in all haste to the king, desiring of him the lands of Iorwerth in Powis, which he had lately granted to Cadwgan; which the king granted him, till such time as Owen should return from Ire-

land. Owen did not stay long before he came over; and then going to King Henry, he was honourably received, and had all his father's estate restored to him; whereupon, in gratitude of this signal favour, he voluntarily promised to pay the king a considerable fine, for the due payment of which, he gave very responsible pledges. Madoc finding himself alone to be left in the lurch, and that he had no seeming power to bear head against the king, thought it also his wisest way to make what reconciliation he could; and therefore he offered the king a very great fine, if he should peaceably enjoy his former estate, promising withal, never to molest or disturb any one that was subject to the crown of England. King Henry willing to bring all matters to a settled condition, readily granted his request, and conferred upon him all he could reasonably ask for; only with this proviso, that upon his peril, he should provide for the relations of them whom he had so basely murdered.

- A.D.1109. And thus all matters being brought to a peaceable conclusion in Wales; the next year, Robert de Belesmo, who had been one of the chief instruments of these Welsh disturbances, in that great rebellion, which himself, with Roger de Montgomery, earl of Salop, and his brother Arnulph, earl of Pembroke, had raised against the king, was taken prisoner by King Henry, in Normandy, and committed to perpetual imprisonment in War-
1110. ham castle. The year following, Meredith ap Blethyn, detached a considerable party of his men to make incursions into the country of Lhywarch ap Trahaern ap Gwyn, who was an inveterate enemy of himself and Owen; by reason that by his aid and instigation, Madoc was encouraged to kill his uncles Iorwerth and Cadwgan. These men as they passed through Madoc's country, met a person in the night-time who belonged to Madoc; who being asked where his master was, after some pretence of ignorance, at last through fear confessed, that he was not far from that place. Therefore lying quietly there all night, by break of day they arose to look

out their game; and unexpectedly surprising Madoc, they slew a great number of his men, and took himself prisoner; and so carrying him to their lord, they delivered him up, as the greatest honour of their expedition. Meredith was not a little proud of his prisoner, and therefore to ingratiate himself the more with his nephew Owen, he committed him to safe custody; till he was sent for; who coming thither straight, Meredith delivered Madoc up to him. Owen, though he had the greatest reason for the most cruel revenge, by reason that both his father and uncle were basely murdered by this Madoc, would not put him to death, remembering the intimate friendship and oaths that had passed betwixt them; but however, to secure him from any future mischief he might practise, he pulled out his eyes, and then set him at liberty. But least he should be capable of any revenge, by reason of his estate and strength in the country, Meredith and Owen thought fit to divide his lands betwixt them; which were Caernarvon, Aberhiw, with the third part of Deuddwfr.

These home-bred disturbances being pretty well A.D. 1111. abated, a greater storm arose from abroad; for the next year, King Henry prepared a mighty army to enter into Wales, being provoked thereto by the request of those who enjoyed a great part of the Welshmen's lands, but would not be satisfied till they got all. For Gilbert Strongbow, Earl of Striggill, upon whom the king had bestowed Cardigan, made great complaints of Owen ap Cadwgan, declaring how that he received and entertained such persons as spoiled and robbed in his country; and Hugh, Earl of Chester, made the like of Gryffith ap Conan, Prince of North Wales, how that his subjects and the men of Gronow ap Owen ap Edwyn, Lord of Tegengl, unreproved, wasted, and burnt the country of Cheshire; and to aggravate the matter the more, he added further, that Gryffith neither owed any service, nor paid any tribute to the king. Upon these complaints, King Henry was so cruelly

enraged, that he swore he would not leave one living creature remaining in North Wales and Powisland; but having extirpated utterly the present race of people, he would plant a colony of new inhabitants. And then dividing his army into three parts, he delivered one to the conduct of the Earl of Strygill, to go against South Wales, which comprehended the whole power of the south part of England and Cornwall: the next battle was designed against North Wales, in which was all the strength of Scotland and the North, and was commanded by Alexander, King of the Scots, and Hugh, Earl of Chester: the third the king led himself against Powis, wherein was contained the whole strength of the middle part of England. Meredith ap Blethyn hearing of these mighty preparations, and being informed that this vast army was designed against Wales, was quickly apprehensive that the Welsh were not able to make any great defence; and therefore thought it his safest way to provide for himself beforehand; and so coming to the king, yielded himself up to his mercy. But Owen fearing to commit himself to those whom he knew so greedily to covet his estate, and whom he was assured were far more desirous to dispossess the Welsh of their lands, than any other way to punish them for former crimes and miscarriages, fled to Gryffith ap Conan to North Wales. Upon that, King Henry converted his whole force that way, and came himself as far as Murcastell, and the Scotch King to Pennant Bachwy; but the people flying to the mountains, carried with them all the cattle and provision they had; so that the English could not follow them, and as many as attempted to come at them, were either slain or wounded in the streights. But Alexander, King of the Scots, finding that nothing could possibly be effected against the Welsh, as long as they kept the rocks and mountains, sent to Prince Gryffith advising him to submit himself to the king, promising him all his interest to obtain an honourable peace. But the Prince was too well acquainted with English promises, and therefore refused his proposals; and so

King Henry being very unwilling to return without doing something in this expedition, sent to Owen to forsake the prince, who was not able to defend himself, but was ready to strike a peace with the Scottish King and the Earl of Chester. But this cunning insinuation would not take effect; for Owen was for his life as distrustful of King Henry as Prince Gryffith; and therefore he would hearken to no intreaties for revolting from him, who had all this while afforded him refuge, till at length his uncle Meredith, an old insinuating politician, persuaded him, with much ado, not to forsake the King of England's proposals, who offered him all his lands without tribute, in case he would come to his side, and therefore Meredith advised him instantly to accept of his offer, before Prince Gryffith made a peace with the king, which if it was once done, he would be glad upon any score to purchase the king's mercy. Owen being prevailed upon by such arguments, came to the king, who received him very graciously, and told him, that because he believed his promise, he would not only perform that, but likewise exalt him above any of his kindred, and grant him his lands free from any payment of tribute. Prince Gryffith perceiving how that Owen had submitted to the king, thought it also his wisest way to sue for peace, and so promising the king a great sum of money, a peace was then actually agreed upon, and confirmed; which the King of England was the more ready to consent to, because he found it impossible to do him any hurt, whilst he continued encamped in that place. Some affirm, that the submission as well of Prince Gryffith as Owen, was procured by the policy of Meredith ap Blethyn and the Earl of Chester; this last working with Gryffith, and assuring him that Owen had made his peace with the king before any such thing was in agitation, so that the prince yielding somewhat to the earl's request, if Owen had gone contrary to his oath, which they had mutually taken, not to make any peace with the English, without one another's knowledge, seemed to incline to a peace.

On the other hand, Meredith going in person to his nephew Owen, affirmed for truth, that the prince and the Earl of Chester were actually agreed, and the prince was on his journey to the king to make his submission. And in the mean while Meredith took especial care that all messengers betwixt the prince and Owen should be intercepted, and by that means Owen wilfully submitted himself to the king.

King Henry having thus finished and brought to an end all his business in Wales, calling Owen to him, told him, that in case he would go over with him to Normandy, and there be faithful to him, he would upon his return confirm all his promises upon him; and so Owen accepting of the king's offer, went with him to Normandy, where he behaved himself so gallantly, that he was made a knight; and after his return the year following, he had all his lands and estate confirmed unto him. About the same time Griffri, bishop of St. David's, died, and king Henry appointed to succeed him one Barnard, a Norman, much against the good-will and inclination of the Welsh, who before this time were ever used to elect their own bishop. And this year the rumour of Gryffith, son to Rhys ap Tewdwr, was spread throughout South Wales, who, (as the report went) for fear of the king had been from a child brought up in Ireland, and having come over about two years before, past his time privately among his relations, particularly with Gerald, Steward of Pembroke, his brother-in-law. And now the noise of a new prince being spread abroad, it came at last to the ears of the king of England, that a certain person appeared in Wales, who pretended to be the son of Rhys ap Tewdwr, late prince of South Wales, and laid claim to that principality, which was now in the king's hands. King Henry being somewhat concerned with such a report, and fearing lest that this new starter should create him some greater trouble, he thought to nip him in the bud, and sent down orders to apprehend him. But Gryffith ap Rhys, being aware of the traps laid against him, sent to Gryffith ap Conan, prince of

North Wales, desiring his assistance, and that he might have liberty to remain safe in his country, which Gryffith, for his father's account, readily granted, and treated him honourably. A little after, his brother Howel, who was imprisoned by Ardulph, Earl of Pembroke, in the castle of Montgomery, where he had remained for a great while, made his escape and fled to his brother, then with Gryffith ap Conan, in North Wales. But King Henry being informed that Gryffith ap Rhys, and his brother Howel, were entertained by the Prince of North Wales, sent very smooth letters to Gryffith ap Conan, desiring to speak with him, who being come, he received him with all the tokens of honour and friendship, and bestowed upon him very rich presents, just after the Norman policy, who usually make very much of those whom they design afterwards to be serviceable to them. After some time's general discourse, King Henry came at length to the main point, and promised the prince even mountains of gold, in case he would send Gryffith ap Rhys, or his head to him, which the Prince, overcome by such fair words and large promises, promised to perform, and so returned joyfully home, big with the expectation of his future reward. But some who wished better to Gryffith ap Rhys, and his brother Howel, presently suspected the occasion of the king's message, and therefore they advised them to withdraw themselves privately for some time, till Prince Gryffith's mind be better understood, and whether he had made any agreement with the King of England to betray them to him. As soon as the Prince was returned to his palace at Aberffraw, he presently enquired for Gryffith ap Rhys, and learning in a little time where he was, he sent a troop of horse to recall him to his court, but Gryffith hearing of their approach, with all speed made his escape to the church of Aberdaron, and took sanctuary there. But Prince Gryffith was resolute to make his promise good to the King of England, that without any respect to the religious place he had escaped to, he commanded the same



messengers to return, and to bring him away by force, which the clergy of the country unanimously withstood, protesting that they would not see the liberties of the church in the least infringed. And whilst the clergy and the prince's officers were thus at debate, that same night, some who had compassion upon the young prince, and seeing how greedily his life was thirsted for, conveyed him away out of North Wales to Stradtywy, in South Wales. And so being delivered from the treacherous and more dishonourable practices of the Prince of North Wales, he was forced for the defence of his own life, to bid open defiance to the King of England, and thereupon having raised all the forces which the shortness of the opportunity would permit, he made war upon the Flemings and Normans.

A.D.1113.

The next year, he laid siege to the castle which stood over against Arberth, and winning the same, made it plain with the ground, and from thence marched to Llanymddyfri castle, belonging to Richard de Pwns, upon whom the King had bestowed Cantrev Bychan; but the garrison commanded by Meredith ap Rytherch ap Caradoc, so manfully defended it, that Gryffith, after killing only some few of the besieged, and burning the out-works, was forced to remove with no small loss of his own men. Finding this place impregnable, he came before Abertawy-castle, which was built by Henry Beaumont, Earl of Warwick; but this proving too strong to be quickly surrendered, after he had burnt some of the outward buildings, he returned to Stratywy, burning and destroying all the country as he went along. And now his fame being spread abroad through all the country, all the wild and head-strong youth, and they whose fortunes were desperate, resorted unto him from all parts, by which means, being waxed strong and numerous, he made in-roads into Ros and Dyved, spoiling and destroying the country before him. The Normans and Flemings were cruelly enraged with these continual depredations, and how to remedy this mischief, was not easily determined; but after a long consultation,

they thought it the best way to call together such Welsh lords as were friends to the King of England, such were Owen ap Rhytherch, and Rhytherch ap Tewdwr, with his sons Meredith and Owen, whose mother was Heynyth, the daughter of Blethyn ap Confyn, and Owen ap Caradoc, the son of Gwenllian, another daughter of Blethyn, and Meredith ap Rhytherch. These protesting their loyalty and fidelity to King Henry, were desired to defend the king's castle of Carmarthen, and that by turns;—Owen ap Caradoc the first fortnight, and then by succession, by Rhytherch ap Tewdwr, and Meredith ap Rhytherch. Owen undertook the defence of Carmarthen castle for the time required of him, and Blethyn ap Cadivor had committed to him the government of Abercomyn, or Abercorran castle, which appertained to Robert Courtmain. But for all these preparations, Gryffith ap Rhys had a wishful eye upon Carmarthen, and therefore he sent out some spies to learn the strength and condition of the town, who bringing him a very kind and hopeful account, he decamped by night, and rushing suddenly into the town, ordered his men to make a great shout, thereby to strike a great terror into those within. Owen ap Caradoc, the governor, being surprised with such an unexpected uproar, made all possible haste to the place where he had heard the shouting, and thinking that his men were at his heels, fell in among the enemy; but having none to support him, his men being all fled, he was, after a manly defence, cut in pieces; and so the town being taken, Gryffith burnt every thing to the ground, excepting the castle, which was also sore defaced. And then returning with a great deal of spoil and booty to his usual residence at Stratwy: his forces were considerably increased by the accession of many young men, who came to him from all quarters, and thought that fortune so prospered his arms, that nobody was able to stand before him. After this he marched to Gwyr, but William de Londres, thinking it impossible to stand before

him, forsook the castle with all his men in all haste, so that when Gryffith was come thither, he found a great deal of cattle and spoil, and none to own them, and therefore having burnt down the castle, he carried away every thing of value in the country. When the Cardiganshire men heard how fortunately he succeeded in all his attempts, and being extremely fearful, lest his next expedition should be against them, sent to him, desiring him, as being their near relation and countryman, to take upon him the rule and government over them. Gryffith willingly accepted of their offer, and coming thither, was joyfully received by the chief men in the country, who were Cadivor ap Gronow, Howel ap Dinerth, and Trahaern ap Ithel, which three persons had forsaken Dyved, by reason that it was so thwacked with Normans, Flemings and Englishmen. Nor was Cardigan free from strangers, who pretended to sway and rule the country, but the people bearing in mind the continual wrong and oppression they received from them, bore an inveterate hatred to them, and were very glad to be delivered from their insolent and imperious oppressors. For King Henry, what by force and banishment of those that stood up stiff for their liberty, and what by corrupting of those that were wavering, had brought all that country to his subjection, and bestowed what lands he thought fit upon his English or Norman favorites. But notwithstanding the strength of the English in this country, Gryffith was not in the least cast down, but boldly coming on to Cardigan Iscoed, he laid siege to a fort that Earl Gilbert and the Flemings had built at a place called Blaen Porth Gwythan. After divers assaults, and the killing of several of the besieged, with the loss only of one of his men, Gryffith took the place, and razing it to the ground, brought all the country thereabouts to subjection. This action proved very fatal to the English, for immediately upon this, they began to forsake their houses and habitations, as thinking it too hot for them to stay any longer in the country, and so the Welsh burnt and destroyed as far as Pen-

wedie all the houses of those strangers whom Earl Gilbert had brought with him. Then Gryffith besieged the castle of Stradpythyll, which belonged to Ralph, Earl Gilbert's steward, and having made himself master of it, he put all the garrison to the sword. Removing from thence, he encamped at Glasgryg, a mile from Llanbadarn, purposing to besiege Aberystwith castle next morning, but for want of provision necessary for his army, he was forced to make bold with some cattle which grazed within the limits of the sanctuary. And here it may be observed, that not only men enjoyed the privilege of these sanctuaries, but also cattle and horses, and whatever else lived within the liberties of them. But the day following, Gryffith marched disorderly towards the castle, being apprehensive of no great opposition, by reason that he was ignorant of the number of the garrison, and so encamping upon an opposite hill, which was divided from the castle by a river, with a bridge over it, he called a council to determine with what engines they might with best success play against it, and so make a general assault. The Normans observing their disorder, very cunningly sent out some of their archers to skirmish with them, and so by little and little to entice them to the bridge, where some of the best armed horsemen were ready to issue out upon them. The Welsh not thinking the garrison to be so strong, approached near the bridge, still skirmishing with the Normans, who pretended to give ground; but when they came very near, out sallies one on horseback, who would fain pass the bridge; but being received upon the points of their spears, he began to give way, and as he endeavoured to return, he fell off his horse, and so the Welsh pursued him over the bridge. The Englishmen seeing this, fled towards the castle, and the Welsh with all speed followed them to the top of the hill; but whilst they thought that the day was their own, up rises a party of horse which lay in ambuscade under the hill, and standing betwixt the Welsh and the bridge, prevented any suc-

cour to come to them. And the Welsh being thus hemmed in betwixt both parties, the former recoiling with greater strength, were so unmercifully cut off, that scarce one man was left living. When the rest of the Welsh army, that staid on the other side of the river, saw what number the garrison contained, and that they were strong beyond their expectation, presently decamped, and with all speed departed out of the country.

When King Henry was informed of all the mischief and cruelties that Gryffith ap Rhys had committed among his subjects in Wales, he sent for Owen ap Cadwgan, desiring him and Llywarch ap Trahaern, to use all the effectual methods possible to take or kill the arch-rebel Gryffith, promising very speedily to send his son Robert with an army to Wales for that purpose. Owen, being very proud that the king put such confidence in him, encouraged his men to be now so industrious to merit the king's favour, as they had been formerly to deserve his displeasure; and so joining his forces with Llywarch, they both marched to meet Prince Robert, at Stratywy, where they supposed Gryffith ap Rhys had hid himself in the woods. When they were come to the frontiers of the country, they made a vow, that they would let neither man, woman, or child escape alive; which so affrighted the people of the country, that all made what shift they could to save their lives, some by fleeing to the woods and mountains, and some by getting into the king's castles, from whence they had come but a little before. Then Owen and Llywarch separated with distinct parties to scour the woods, which about Stratywy are very desertous; and Owen having entered with an hundred men, presently discovered the tract of men and cattle, and followed their footsteps so close, that within a little while he overtook them; and having slain a great many of them, and put the rest to flight, he carried away all their cattle back to his army.

But whilst Owen was busy in searching the woods, Gerald, steward of Pembroke, who with a

Cadwgan  
Owen

great power of Flemings, was upon his march to join the king's son, met with them who fled from Owen who desiring help of Gerald, declared how Owen had forcibly drove them out, slain a great many of their companions, and spoiled them of all their goods. Gerald and his Flemings, understanding that Owen was so nigh with such a small number of men, thought he had now very convenient opportunity to be revenged of him upon the account of his wife; and therefore to make sure work with him, he persued him close into the woods. Owen being forewarned by his men that a great number followed him, and advised to make all speed to get away, was deaf to all such counsels, as thinking that they of whom his men were so much afraid of, were the king's friends, and therefore their integrity need not be questioned, since they had all respect to the same common cause. But he found that a private quarrel is sometimes more regarded than the public good; and therefore when Gerald was advanced within bow-shot, he greeted him with a volley of arrows, to shew how great a friend he was; but Owen, though persuaded to flee, was so little terrified at such an unwelcome salutation, that though the enemy were seven to one, yet he told them, that they were but Flemings, and such as always trembled at the hearing of his name. And then falling on with a great deal of courage, he was at the first onset struck with an arrow into the heart, of which wound he presently died; which when his men saw they all fled, and brought word to Llywarch, and the rest of their fellows, of what had happened; and so suspecting the king's army, seeing they could not be trusted in their service, they all return to their respective countries.

Owen being in this manner unhappily slain, his brethren divided his lands betwixt them; excepting Caereneon, which properly belonged to Madoc ap Riryd ap Blethyn, and which he had forcibly taken away from his uncle Meredith. His father Cadwgan had several children by different women; and besides himself, he had issue Madoc by Gwen-

llian, the daughter of Gryffith ap Conan; Eineon, by Sanna, the daughter of Dyvnwal; Morgan, by Evelliw, or Elliw, the daughter of Cadivor ap Collwyn, Lord of Dyved; Henry and Gryffith were by the daughter of the Lord Pigot, his wedded wife; Meredith by Eurvron Hoedliw; and himself by Inerth, the daughter of Edwyn. But a while afterwards, Eineon ap Cadwgan, and Gryffith ap Meredith ap Blethyn, besieged the castle of Cymmer, in Meirionythshire, which was lately built by Uchtryd ap Edwyn; for Cadwgan had bestowed upon Uchtryd, his cousin-german, Meirionyth and Cyveilioc, upon condition, that in all cases he should appear his friend, and his sons after him; contrary to which promise he bore no manner of regard to Cadwgan's children, after Owen's death; but to strengthen himself the better, he erected this castle of Cymmer, which very much displeased many of Cadwgan's sons. And therefore Eineon and Gryffith, to make Uchtryd sensible of his error in despising of them, furiously set upon Cymmer castle, and having slain divers of the garrison, the rest surrendered themselves; and so taking possession of it, they divided the country betwixt them; Mowddwy, Cyveilioc, and half Penllyn, to Gryffith ap Meredith, and the other half of Penllyn with all Meirionyth to Eineon.

The next year, King Henry sailed with a great army into Normandy, against the French king, who with the Earl of Flanders and others, went about to make William, the son of Robert Curthoise, duke of Normandy; but at the appearance of the King of England, they all scattered, and laid aside their intended design. About the same time, Gilbert Strongbow, Earl of Strygill, to whom King Henry had given all Cardigan, departed this life, after a long fit of a consumption; much to the joy and satisfaction of the Welsh, who were in a great measure displeased, that they should be deprived of their own natural lord, Cadwgan, from whom this country was taken away, and be forced to serve and be subject to a stranger, whose kindness they had

*Cadwgan - Meredith  
1118 Owen Tudor Eineon Morgan Henry Gryffith Meredith  
Cadwgan - Meredith  
1118 Owen Tudor Eineon Morgan Henry Gryffith Meredith*

no great reason to expect. But the year following, A.D. 1115, an irreconcilable quarrel happened betwixt Howel ap Ithel, lord of Ros and Ryvonioc, now Denbighland, and Riryd and Llywarch, the sons of Owen ap Edwyn. And when they could not otherwise agree, they broke out into open war; and thereupon Howel sent to Meredith ap Blethyn, and to Eineon and Madoc, Cadwgan's sons; who came down from Meirionyth with a party of four hundred well-disciplined men, and encamped in Dyffryn-Clwyd. Riryd and Llywarch on the other hand, desired the assistance of their consins the sons of Uchtryd; and so both armies meeting in the vale of Clwyd, they fell to blows with a great deal of spirit and alacrity, and after a tedious and a bloody fight, Llywarch, Owen ap Edwyn's son, was at last slain, and with him Iorwerth, the son of Nudd, a noble and a valorous person; and Riryd was forced to make his escape by flight. But though Howel obtained the victory, yet he did not long survive his slain enemies; for having received a desperate wound in the action, died of it within forty days; and then Meredith ap Blethyn, and the sons of Cadwgan, finding it dangerous to stay longer there, for fear of some French, who lay garrisoned in Chester, returned home with all speed.

King Henry was still in Normandy, and about 1116. this time, a very great battle was fought betwixt him and the French king, who was shamefully vanquished and overthrown, and had a great number of his nobles taken prisoners. But as King Henry returned the following year for England, one of the 1117. ships happened, by the negligence of the pilot, to be cast away, wherein perished the king's two sons; William who was legitimate and heir apparent to the crown, and Richard, his base son; together with his daughter and niece, and several others of his nobility, to the number in all of one hundred and fifty persons. This unparalleled loss of so many kindred and friends did not perplex his mind so long, but that within a short time, he began to solace and raise his drooping spirits with the thoughts of a new wife; and having married Adelice, the



A.D.1118. daughter of the duke of Lovain, he purposed to go against Wales, and having prepared his forces, he led them in person to Powis-land.

When Meredith ap Blethyn and Eineon, Madoc and Morgan, the sons of Cadwgan, and lords of the country heard of it, they sent to Gryffith ap Conan Prince of North Wales, desiring some help at his hands; who flatly refused, assuring them, that because he was at peace with the king of England, he could neither with honour nor safety send them any succour, nor permit them to come within his dominions. The lords of Powis receiving this unwelcome answer, and having now no manner of hopes of any aid, were resolved however to defend themselves as well as they could; and therefore they thought it the most effectual means to annoy the enemy, and to keep them from entering into the country, was to observe and defend the streights, by which the enemy must of necessity pass. Neither were they out in their policy; for it happened that the king himself, with a small number, advanced to one of these narrow passages, the rest of the army, by reason of their carriages, having taken some compass about, which the Welsh perceiving, presently poured a shower of arrows upon them, and the advantage of the ground giving help to their execution, they slew and wounded a great many of the English. The king himself was struck in the breast, but for all that the arrow could not hurt him, by reason of his armour; yet he was so terrified with this unexpected conflict, and considering with himself, that he must receive several such brushes before he could advance to the plain country; and what was above all, being sensible that by such a rash misfortune, he might lose all the honour and fame which he had before obtained, sent a message to parly with them who kept the passage, and with all assurance of safety, to desire them to come to the king. The Welsh being come, and questioned how they had such confidence to oppose the king, and to put his life in so much danger, made answer, that they belonged to Meredith

ap Blethyn, and according to their master's orders, they were resolved to keep the passage, or to die upon the spot. The king finding them so resolute, desired them to go to Meredith, and propose to him an agreement of peace, which he and his cousins, the sons of Cadwgan, accepted of; and promised to pay the king 10,000 head of cattle, in retribution for former offences. And so King Henry leaving all things in a peaceable and quiet posture in Wales, and appointing the lord Fitz-Warren warden, or lieutenant of the Marshes, returned to England.

But when a foreign enemy was removed out of <sup>WYLLA</sup> A.D. 1120. the country, the Welsh could never forbear quarrelling with each other; for Gryffith ap Rhys ap Tewdwr, who had been now for some time quiet, fell upon Gryffith ap Sullaern, and for what reason not discovered, treacherously shew him. But the <sup>1121.</sup> next year there happened another occasion of disturbance and falling out among the Welsh; for Ein-eon the son of Cadwgan dying, left all his share of Powis and Merionyth to his brother Meredith. But his uncle Meredith ap Blethyn, thinking that these lands more properly belonged to him, ejected his nephew Meredith to whom his brother Ein-eon had left them, and took possession of them himself. And what augmented these differences, King Henry set now at liberty Ithel ap Riryd ap Blethyn, Meredith's nephew, who had been for a long time detained in prison; who coming to his own country, was in expectation to enjoy his estate, which, upon his being put in custody, his relations had divided betwixt them; of which, the greatest share fell to his uncle Meredith. But when Gryffith ap Conan was informed, how that Meredith ap Blethyn, contrary to all justice, had taken away by force, the lands of his nephew Meredith ap Cadwgan, he sent his sons Cadwallon and Owen, with an army into Merionyth, who conquering and bringing to subjection all the country, carried away the chief of the people, and all the cattle to Llyn. And at the same time, the sons of Cadwgan entered into

the lands of Llywarch ap Trahaern, and cruelly wasted and destroyed it, by reason that he had countenanced the doings of their uncle Meredith ap Blethyn. But these inward clashings and animosities concerning estates and titles, were seconded by most unnatural bloodshed and unparalleled cruelties; for Meredith ap Blethyn, when he found that his nephew Meredith ap Cadwgan was assisted by the Prince of North Wales, and that it was impracticable to keep Merionyth from him, he was resolved to practise that upon his nephew, which he had failed to effect upon another. And therefore lest his other nephew Ithel ap Riryd, should meet with the like help and encouragement to recover those lands, which during his imprisonment were taken away from him, of which his uncle actually enjoyed a considerable share; Meredith thought it his wisest way to prevent all manner of disputes, by sending Ithel out of the world, which upon mature deliberation he treacherously effected. Nor was this the only murder committed at this time; for Cadwallon, the son of Gryffith ap Conan, exceeded him far, and slew his three uncles,—Gronow, Riryd, and Meiler,, the sons of Owen ap Edwyn; but which was most unnatural of all, Morgan ap Cadwgan, with his own hands, kill his brother Meredith; a crime most execrable, though he did afterwards repent of it.

1124. Not long after this, Gryffith ap Rhys, by the false and invidious accusations of the Normans, was dispossessed of all the lands which King Henry had formerly granted him, and which he had for a considerable time peaceably enjoyed. And towards the end of the same year, died Daniel ap Sulgien, bishop of St. David's, and archdeacon of Powis, a man of extraordinary piety and learning, and one who made it his continual employment to endeavour to work a reconciliation betwixt North Wales and Powis, which in his time were at perpetual  
 1125. variance and enmity with one another. The next year, died, likewise Gryffith, the son of Meredith ap Blethyn; and about the same time, Owen ap

Cadwgan, having got into his hands Meredith ap Llywarch, delivered him to Pain Fitz-John, to be kept safe prisoner in the castle of Bridgenorth. The reason of this was, because Meredith had slain Meyric, his cousin-german, and very barbarously had pulled out the eyes of two more of his cousins, the sons of Griffri. This cruel and inhuman custom of plucking out the eyes of such as they hated or feared, was too frequently practised in Wales; for the following year, Ievaf, the son of Owen, served two of his brethren after this unnatural manner, and thinking that too little, passed a sentence of perpetual banishment upon them. A little after, his brother Llewelyn ap Owen, slew Iorwerth ap Llywarch; but all this mischief practised by these two brothers, Ievaf and Llewelyn, turned at last upon themselves; for their uncle Meredith ap Blethyn, being apprehensive that his two nephews were a considerable rub in his way, and if they trooped off, that all their estate would of right fall to him; slew Ievaf outright, and having plucked out Llewelyn's eyes, castrated him, for fear he should beget any children to inherit his lands after him. These no doubt were implacable times, when for the least offence, (nay sometime suspicion) murder was openly and incorrigibly committed; which must of necessity be attributed to this one principle;—that so many petty states having equal power and authority in their own territories, and being subject to none but the King of England, still endeavoured to outvie and overtop each other. And so, nearness of relation giving way to ambition, they never regarded those of the same blood, so that themselves might add to their strength, and increase their estate by their fall; and for this reason, Meyric slew Llywarch, and his son Madoc, his own cousins; but before he could make any advantage of their death, he was himself served after the same manner. But the only person who afterwards repented of such a foul crime, was Morgan ap Cadwgan, who being severely troubled in mind for the

murder he had lately committed upon his brother Meredith, took a journey to Jerusalem, to expiate for his crime, and in his return from thence, died in the isle of Cyprus. But this treacherous way of private murdering those by whom they were offend-  
 A.D. 1129. *Edwyn*  
*Gronow*  
*Cadwgan*  
 ed, could not be forgot among the Welsh; for Eineon, the son of Owen ap Edwyn, calling to mind how that Cadwallon, the son of Gryffith ap Conan, had basely slain three of his brothers, and taking the opportunity of his being at Nanhewdwy, assisted by Cadwgan ap Gronow ap Edwyn, set upon him, and slew him. About the same time, that great usurper Meredith ap Blethyn ap Convyn, who by most unnatural and daring practices, had got the lands of all his brothers and nephews, and by that means was become a man of the greatest strength and sway in Powis, died of a severe fit of sickness, which reduced him to that apprehension of his former miscarriages, that he endured penance for the expiation of former guilt.

1134. In the year 1134, till which time nothing of moment was transacted in Wales, Henry, the first of that name, king of England, died in Normandy, in the month of October; after whom Stephen, Earl of Buloign, son to the Earl of Blois, his sister's son, by the means of Hugh Bygod, was crowned king by the archbishop of Canterbury, all the nobility of England consenting thereunto, though contrary to a former oath they had taken to Maud the empress. The first thing that employed his thoughts after his accession to the government, was against David, king of the scots, who taking advantage of this new revolution in England, by some treacherous means or other, got the towns of Carlisle and Newcastle into his hands. But King Stephen, though scarcely settled in his throne, presently marched towards the North; of whose coming David being assured, and fearing to meet him, voluntarily restored Newcastle, and compounded for Carlisle; but would not swear to him by reason of his oath to Maud; which, however, his son Henry did not stick at, and thereupon was by King Stephen created Earl of Huntingdon. This change and alteration of affairs

in England made also the Welsh bestir themselves; for Morgan ap Owen, a man of considerable quality and estate in Wales, remembering the wrong and injury he had received at the hands of Richard Fitz-Gilbert, slew him, together with his son Gilbert. A.D. 1135. And shortly after, Cadwalader and Owen Gwynedd the sons of Gryffith ap Conan, Prince of North Wales, having raised a mighty army, marched against the Normans and Flemings, and coming to Cardigan, committed very considerable waste and havock in the country, and took two of the strongest places, one belonging to Walter Espec, and the castle of Aberystwyth. In this last place they were joined by Howel ap Meredith, and Rhys ap Madoc ap Ednerth; who marching forward, took the castle of Richard de la Mare, together with those of Dinerth and Caerwedros, and then returned with very valuable booty. But having succeeded so well in this expedition, they could not rest satisfied, till they had rid the whole country from the intolerable pride and oppression of the Normans and Flemings; and therefore returning the same year to Cardigan with 6000 foot, and 2000 horse, well disciplined and experienced soldiers; and being joined by Gryffith ap Rhys, and Howel ap Meredith, of Brecknock, with his sons, and Madoc ap Ednerth, they over-ran the country, as far as Aberteifi, restoring all the former inhabitation to their proper inheritances, and discarding all such strangers as the late Earl of Strygill had placed in the country. But when Stephen, who was governor of Aberteifi, saw that, he called to him Robert Fitz-Martyn, the sons of Gerald, and William Fitz-John, with all the strength of the Normans, Flemings, and English in Wales, or the Marshes; and meeting with the Welsh betwixt Aber Ned and Aber Dyfi, gave them battle. But after a very sore and bloody encounter, the English began to give ground, and according to their usual manner, trusting too much to the strength of their towns and fortifications, began to look how to save themselves that way. But the Welsh pressed upon them so hard, that they killed above 3000 men, besides several that were drowned and taken prisoners. This

victory being so happily obtained, Cadwalader and Owen over-ran the whole country, forcing all the Normans and Flemings to depart the country with all speed, and placing in their room those miserable Welsh, who had been so long deprived and kept from their own estates; and after they had weeded the country of those insatiable caterpillars, they returned to North Wales, laden with very rich spoils and acceptable plunder. The King of England was not in a condition to take notice to what extremities his subjects were reduced to in Wales, by reason that his own nobles of England were risen in arms against him; the reason of which tumult among the nobility was occasioned by a fallacious report that went about of the king's death, who then lay sick of a lethargy. They that bore him no good will, verified the rumour as much as they could, and stirred up the common people in behalf of the Empress; whereas on the other hand, the king's friends betook themselves to castles and strong holds for fear of the empress, and among others, Hugh Bygod secured the castle of Norwich, and after that he was assured that the king was well again, he was loth to deliver the same out of his possession, unless it were to the king's own hands. But during these commotions and troubles in England, Gryffith ap Rhys

A.D.1136 son to Rhys ap Tewdwr, the right heir to the principality of South Wales, died, leaving issue behind him a son called Rhys, commonly known by the name of Lord Rhys, by Gwenllian, the daughter of Gryffith ap Conan, who by some is said to have poisoned her husband. Towards the end of the same year died likewise Gryffith ap Conan, Prince of North Wales, after he had reigned 57 years; to the great grief and discontent of all his subjects, as being a Prince of incomparable qualities, and one who after divers victories obtained over the English, had thoroughly purged North Wales from all strangers and foreigners. He had issue by Angharad, the daughter of Owen ap Edwyn, three sons, namely,—Owen, Cadwalader, and Cadwallon, and five daughters, Marret, Susanna, Ranullt, Agnes, and Gwenllian; and by a concubine, Iago, Ascain, Edwal,

abbot of Penmon, Dolling, and Elen, who was married to Hova ap Ithel Velyn of Yal. There were several good and wholesome laws and statutes enacted in his time; and among the rest, he reformed the great disorders of the Welsh minstrels, which were then grown to great abuse. Of these there were three sorts in Wales; the first were called Beirdd, who composed several songs and odes of various measures, wherein the poet's skill was not only required, but also a natural endowment, or a vein, which the Latins term *furor poeticus*. These likewise kept the records of all gentlemen's arms and pedigrees, and were principally esteemed among all the degrees of Welsh poets. The next were such as played upon musical instruments, chiefly the harp and the crowd; which music, Gryffith ap Conan first brought over into Wales; who being born in Ireland, and descended by his mother's side of Irish parents, brought with him from thence several skilful musicians, who invented almost all the instruments as were afterwards played upon in Wales. The last sort were called Atcaneaid, whose business it was to sing to the instruments played upon by another. Each of these, by the same statute, had their several reward and encouragement allotted to them; their life and behaviour was to be spotless and unblameable, otherwise their punishment was very severe and rigid, every one having authority to punish and correct them, even to the deprivation of all they had. They were also interdicted and forbidden to enter any man's house, or to compose any song of any one, without the special leave and warrant of the party concerned; with many other ordinances relating to the like purpose.

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### OWEN GWYNEDD.

AFTER the death of Gryffith ap Conan, his eldest son Owen, surnamed Gwynedd, succeeded in the principality of North Wales; who no sooner



had entered upon the government, but together with the rest of his brethren, he made an expedition into South Wales; and having demolished and overthrown the castles of Stradmeyric, Stephan, and Humphreys, and laid in ashes the town of Carmarthen, he returned home with no less honour than booty and plunder. About the same time, John, archdeacon of Llanbadarn, departed this life, a man of singular piety and strictness of life, who for his rigid zeal in religion and virtue, was thought worthy to be canonized, and to be counted among the number of the saints. This year likewise King Stephen passed over to Normandy, and having concluded a peace with the French king, and the duke of Anjou, returned back to England without any further delay. But the following spring gave opportunity for greater undertakings; David, king of Scots, upon the king of England's going to France last summer, had entered the borders of England, and continued to make considerable waste and havock in that part of the country. Whereupon King Stephen, to rid his country and his subjects from so dangerous an enemy, marched with an army towards the North, whose coming the king of Scots hearing of, he relinquished the borders of England, and retired to his own country. But that would not satisfy King Stephen, who desired to be further revenged for the unpardonable hostilities committed by the Scots in his country; and therefore pursuing the Scots to their own country, he harrassed and laid waste all the south part of the kingdom of Scotland. But the king's absence animated several of the English nobility to rebel; to which purpose they fortified every one their castles and strong holds,—William, Earl of Gloucester, those of Leeds and Bristol; Ralph Lunel, Cari; William Fitz-Allen, Shrewsbury; Paganellus, Ludlow; William de Mouyn, Dunester; Robert de Nichol, Warham; Eustace Fitz-John, Merton; and Walklyn, Dover. But for all these mighty preparations, the king in a short time became master of them all; some he won by assault, others upon fair

promises and advantageous conditions were surrendered up, and some he got by treacherous and under-hand contrivances. The Scots thought to make good advantage of these commotions in England; and thereupon, as soon as they heard that some of the nobility were in actual rebellion against the king, they entered into the borders, and began, (as they thought) without any apprehension of opposition, to ravage and lay waste the country before them. But William, Earl of Albermale; William Pyppell, Earl of Nottingham; Walter Espec, and Gilbert Lacy, gathered together all the forces they could raise in the north; and being animated and encouraged by the eloquent and pressing oration of Ralph, bishop of Orkneys, which he delivered in the audience of the whole army, they set upon the Scots at Almerton, with such unanimous courage, that after a very great slaughter of his men, King David was glad to escape with his life by flight. After this, King Stephen seized to his own use the castles of Ludlow and Leeds, and pressed the bishops of Salisbury and Lincoln, so hard, that to prevent their perishing by famine, they were constrained to surrender; the former the castles of Devizes and Sherbourne; the latter those of Newark-upon-Trent, and Sleaford. This did not a little augment the king's strength against the ensuing storm; for in the summer, this year, Maud the empress, daughter and heir to King Henry, to whom King Stephen, with all the nobility of England, had sworn allegiance, landed at Arundel, with her brother Robert, Earl of Gloucester, and was there honourably received by William de Albineto, who was lately married to Queen Adeliz, King Henry's widow, with whom he received the earldom of Arundel, in dowry. But as soon as King Stephen heard of her landing, he marched with all possible speed to Arundel, and laid siege to the castle; but finding it upon trial impregnable, he raised the siege, and by that means suffered the Empress and her brother to escape to Bristol.

A.D.1138. The next year, an unlucky accident fell out in Wales; Cynric, one of Prince Owen's sons, having by some means or other disgusted Madoc ap Meredith ap Blethyn ap Convyn, a person of considerable esteem and estate in the country, was, with his connivance, set upon and slain by his men. But the affairs of England this year, afforded greater rarity of action; King Stephen, with a formidable army, laid siege to the city of Lincoln, to the relief of which, Ranulph, Earl of Chester, and Robert, Earl of Gloucester, marched with their forces. But before they could arrive, the town was taken; whereupon they drew up their forces in order to give the king battle, who on the other side, was as ready to receive them. King Stephen drew up his forces in three battles, the first being led by the Earls of Britain, Mellent, Norfolk, Hampton, and Warren; the second by the Earl of Albemarle, and William of Ypres; and the third by the king himself, assisted by Baldwyn Fitz-Gilbert, with several others of his nobility. Of the enemy's side, the disinherited barons had the first place; the Earl of Chester, with a considerable party of Welshmen, far better couraged than armed, led the second; and the Earl of Gloucester the third battle. After a hot and bloody dispute of both sides, the victory at length favoured the barons, King Stephen being first taken prisoner, and a little after the queen, together with William of Ypres, and Bryan Fitz-Count. But within a while after, William Martell and Geffrey de Mandeville gathered together some fresh forces, and fought the empress and her brother at Winchester, and having put the empress to flight, took Earl Robert prisoner, for exchange of whom, the king  
 1139. was set at liberty. The next year King Stephen would try the other adventure, and received a second overthrow at Wilton; which, however, did not so much discourage him, but that he laid so close a siege to the empress at Oxford, that she was glad to make her escape to Wallingford. The same year died Madoc ap Ednerth, a person of great quality and note in Wales; and Meredith ap Howel, a

man of no mean esteem, was slain by the sons of Blethyn ap Gwyn.

For the two succeeding years nothing remarkable A.D. 1140.  
 passed in Wales; excepting that this year Howel ap Meredith ap Rhytherch of Cantref Bychan, and Rhys ap Howel, were cowardly slain by the treachery and perfidious practices of the Flemings; and the next year, Howel ap Meredith ap Blethyn was basely murdered by his own men; at which time, Howel and Cadwgan, the sons of Madoc ap Ednerth, upon some unhappy quarrel, did kill each other. But shortly after this, an irreconcilable difference fell out betwixt Anarawd, son to Gryffith ap Rhys, Prince of South Wales, and his father-in-law Cadwalader, the son of Gryffith ap Conan, and brother to Prince Owen Gwynedd; which from words quickly proceeded to blows. In this scuffle Anarawd was unhappily slain; which so exasperated Prince Owen against his brother Cadwalader, that together with his son Howel, he marched with an army into his brother's Country, and after a considerable waste and destruction, burnt to the ground the castle of Aberystwyth. Cadwalader, upon the news of Prince Owen's approach, withdrew himself and fled to Ireland; where having hired a great number of Irish and Scots, for two thousand marks, under the command of Ocer, and the sons of Turkel and Cherulf, he sailed for Wales, and landed at Abermeny in Carnarvonshire. The Prince, to protract no time, marched with all speed to prevent their farther progress into the country; and both armies being come in view of each other, a peace was happily concluded betwixt the two brothers. The Irish understanding this, and how that their coming over was like to prove but a fool's errand to them, they surprised and secured Cadwalader, till their wages and arrears were paid; who, to obtain his liberty, delivered to them two thousand heads of cattle, besides many prisoners, and other booty, which they had taken in the country. But as soon as the Prince was informed that his brother Cadwalader was set loose, without any farther demur

upon the case, he fell in upon the Irish, and having slain a very considerable number of them, recovered all the booty they purposed to ship off, and forced as many as could escape, to return with great loss, and a greater shame back to Ireland.

But the Normans sped far better in Wales; Hugh, son to Radulph, Earl of Chester, having fortified his castle of Cymaron, set upon and won the country of Melienyth a second time; and the castle of Clun being fortified by another lord, all Eluel became subject to the Normans. The same time King Stephen took Geffrey Mandeville prisoner at St. Albans, where the earl of Arundel, by the slip of his horse, was like to be drowned in the river. But the Earl of Mandeville, to obtain his liberty, delivered up to the king the tower of London, with the castles of Walden and Plassey, which reduced him to that condition, that he was forced to live upon the plunder and spoil of abbies and other religious houses, till at length he was slain in a skirmish against the king, and his son banished the kingdom.

A.D. 1144. The next year, a skirmish happened betwixt Hugh de Mortimer, and Rhys ap Howel, wherein the latter was taken prisoner, with many others of his accomplices, who were all committed to prison by the English. But it fared much better with Howel and Conan, the sons of Prince Owen, who having raised an army against the Flemings and Normans, gained a considerable victory at Aberteifi, and having placed a garrison in the town, returned home with great honour, and much booty.

About the same time, Sulien ap Rhythmarch, one of the college of Llanbadarn, and a person of great reading and extensive learning, departed this life. Shortly after, Gilbert Earl of Clare, came with a great number of forces to Dyved, and built the castle of Caermarthen, and the castle of the sons of Uchtryd. Hugh Mortimer likewise slew Meyric ap Madoc ap Riryd ap Blethyn, and Meredic ap Madoc ap Ednerth. And so far it went of the side of the English; but now the Welsh began to gain ground; Cadell the son of Gryffith ap Rhys Prince of South

Clare

1145.

Wales, laid siege to the castle of Dynevawr, belonging to Earl Gilbert, which being surrendered up, Cadell, assisted by his brethren Meredith and Rhys, brought his army before the castle of Caermarthen which after a short siege yielded in like manner, reserving only this one condition, that the garrison should not be put to the sword.

From thence he marched to Llanstephan, and set before the castle; to the relief of which the Normans and Flemings coming with their forces, were shamefully vanquished and overcome, and so the castle was easily delivered up to the Welsh. But the Normans were so cruelly nettled at this, that they mustered up all the forces they could possibly draw together out of the neighbouring countries, and unexpectedly surrounded the castle, intending by all possible means to recover the same. But the governor, Meredithap Gryffith, a man of great years and no less experience, so animated and encouraged the besieged, that when the Normans and Flemings ventured to scale the walls, they were beat back with such vigour, and loss of their side, that at length they were compelled to raise the siege, and leave the Welsh in possession of the castle.

Shortly after this, Run the son of Prince Owen of North Wales, a youth of excellent hopes, and incomparable qualifications, died, whose death his father took so much to heart, that for some time he seemed to be past all comfort, being fallen into such a melancholy disposition, that he was diverted with nothing but retirement. But an accident fell out, which roused him out of this lethargical fit of sorrow and discontent; the castle of Mould was so very strong and well garrisoned by the English, that it mightily annoyed the country thereabouts, and had been frequently besieged, but could never be taken. Prince Owen at this time levied an army and laid close siege to it; and the garrison for several assaults, behaved itself so manfully, that the place seemed impregnable and invincible. But the presence and example of Prince Owen so encouraged his men, that they fell on with all possible vigour

and might, and at last forced their entrance into the castle. Having put a great number of the garrison to the sword, and taken the rest prisoners, the castle was razed to the ground; and this fortunate attempt so pleased the Prince, that he forgot all sorrow for his son, and returned to his usual temper and accustomed merriments. At the same time, King Stephen of England, obtained a remarkable victory over his enemies at Farendon; and although the ensuing year Rondel, Earl of Chester, and he were reconciled, yet he thought it more adviseable to detain him prisoner, though contrary to his promise, until such time as the Earl would deliver up the castle of Lincoln, with all the forts and places of strength in his custody.

A.D. 1146. The next year, Cadell, Meredith, and Rhys, the sons of Gryffith ap Rhys ap Tewdwr, brought an army before the castle of Gwys; but finding themselves too weak to master it, they desired Howel, son to Prince Owen Gwynedd, a person famously remarkable for martial endowments, to come to their assistance, Howel, who was very desirous to signalize himself, and to evidence his valour to the world, readily consented to their request; and having drawn his forces together, marched directly towards Gwys, where being arrived, he was joyfully received, and honourably entertained by such lords as desired his help. Having viewed the strength and fortification of the castle, he found it was impracticable to take the place, without the walls could be destroyed, and therefore he gave orders, that certain battering engines should be provided, whilst the rest should gaul and molest the besieged, by throwing of great stones into the castle. The enemies perceiving what irresistible preparations the besiegers contrived; thought it to no purpose to withstand their fury; and therefore to do that voluntarily, which must be done by compulsion, they presently yielded up the castle. Shortly after this, a great difference happened betwixt the sons of Prince Owen, Howel and Conan, and their uncle Cadwalader; whereupon the former entered with an army into the country of

Meirionyth, and committed great wastes and hostilities there, insomuch that the inhabitants flocked into sanctuaries to save their lives. But the young lords finding what fearful and unstable condition the people were in, and the better to draw them to their side, issued out their proclamation, assuring that all who would favour their country, should not only enjoy their lives, but their former liberty and accustomed privileges; upon the publication of which edict, the people returned to their own habitations. Having by this stratagem brought all the country under their own pleasure and good will, they led their army before the castle of Cynvael, belonging to Cadwalader, which he had built and strongly fortified. The government of this castle, Cadwalader had committed to Mervyn, abbot of Tygwyn, or the White House; who being summoned to surrender, by the brothers Howel and Conan, did not only refuse, but defied their utmost efforts upon the place. The lords finding they could do no good by threats and menaces, judged it more convenient to make use of the other extream; and therefore promised the abbot a very high reward, if he would deliver the castle into their hands. But all proved to no effect, the abbot being a person of more honesty and greater honour, than to be corrupted to betray his trust; told them flatly, that he would not deceive his master's expectation, and therefore would choose rather to die with honour, than to live with shame. The lords finding him inexorable, and withal being vexed, that a churchman should put such a stop to their fortunate proceedings, made such a vigorous assault upon the castle, that after they had pulled down some part of the walls, they entered in by force, and ravaged so furiously, that they killed and wounded the whole garrison, the abbot only escaping, who by the help of some of his friends in Howel's army, got away safe. Towards the close of this year, several persons of note departed this life, among whom were Robert, Earl of Gloucester, and Gilbert, Earl of Clare, as also Uehtryd, bishop of Llandaf, a man



of great piety and learning, in whose see succeeded Nicholas ap Gwrgant.

- A.D. 1147. The following year, also died Barnard, bishop of St. David's, and was succeeded by David Fitzgerald, then archdeacon of Cardigan. Sometime after, 1148. Prince Owen Gwynedd built a castle in Yale, called Castell y Rodwyth; and his brother Cadwalader built another at Llanrystyd, and bestowed his part of Cardigan upon his son Cadwgan. Also Madoc, the son of Meredith ap Blethyn, founded the castle of Oswestry, and gave his nephews Owen and Meyric, the sons of Gryffith ap Meredith, his share of Cyveilioc.
1149. The next year, Conan, son to Prince Owen Gwynedd, for certain faults and miscarriages committed against his father, though the particulars are not discovered; was put in prison, where for some time he continued in custody. But it fared better with his brother Howel, who having made his uncle Cadwalader his prisoner, reduced all his country, together with his castle subject to himself. In South Wales, some business of moment happened this year, Cadell, the son of Gryffith ap Rhys, having fortified the castle of Carmarthen, marched with his army towards Cydwely, wasted and destroyed the whole country, and being returned home, joined his army with his brothers Meredith and Rhys, who entering into the country of Cardigan, won that part called Is Aeron. This was succeeded by an action of greater importance in North Wales; some irreconcilable difference arising betwixt Prince Owen, and Rondel, Earl of Chester, quickly broke out into open war. The Earl made all the possible preparations the opportunity would permit, and drew together a considerable army from all parts of England, and which strengthened and encouraged him the more, he was joined by Madoc ap Meredith, prince of Powis, who disdainingly to hold his lands of Prince Owen Gwynedd, chose rather to side with, and abet his enemies. The prince, on the other hand, was not backward in his preparations, and perceiving the enemy to come upon him,

thought it not adviseable to suffer him to advance too far into the country, but to stop and prevent his career, before he should take too firm a footing in his dominions. To this end he marched with his whole power as far as Counsylvllt, with full resolution to give the earl of Chester battle, which the English were glad of, as thinking themselves far more numerous, and much better armed and disciplined than the Welsh. But both armies having joined battle, they quickly faltered in their expectation of undoubted success; and finding the Welsh to press so irresistibly severe upon them, they thought it wiser to retire, and endeavour to save themselves by flight. But the Welsh pursued them so hard, that few escaped without being either slain or taken prisoners, and they, some of the chief commanders, who through the fleetness of their horses, avoided the fury of their pursuers.

The next year, the scene of action removed to A.D. 1150.  
 South Wales, Cadell, Meredith and Rhys, the sons of Gryffith ap Rhys, prince of South Wales, being entered with an army into Cardigan, won all the country from Howel, the prince of North Wales's son, excepting the castle of Llanvihangel, in Pengwern. The siege of Llanrystyd castle proved so difficult and unmanageable, that the young lords of South Wales lost a great part of their bravest soldiers before it, which so troubled and vexed them, that when they got possession of the castle, they put all the garrison to the sword. From thence they marched to Ystratmeyric castle, which after they had won, manned and re-fortified, they disbanded their forces, and returned home. But Cadell, the eldest of the brothers, was upon the point of receiving his last blow by treachery at home, which he had escaped from the enemies abroad. For some of the inhabitants of Tenby, in Pembrokeshire, having conceived some displeasure and hatred against Cadell, were resolved to revenge themselves, and to lay a trap for his life, and having observed what pleasure he took in hunting, were resolved to

execute their plot, whilst he was hot and eager at his sport. Observing therefore, one day how he went a hunting with only a few companions, they placed themselves in an ambuscade, and when the game came that way, they unexpectedly set upon the unarmed sportsmen, and having easily made all the rest fly away; they wounded Cadell so cruelly that he narrowly escaped their hands alive; who making shift to get home, lay for a long time dangerously ill, and with great difficulty at length recovered his life. Upon this, his brothers Meredith and Rhys, passed with an army into Gwyr, and having burnt and destroyed the country thereabouts, they besieged, and took the castle of Aberllychwr, but finding they could not keep it, they razed it to the ground, and after that, returned home with great booty to Dynevawr, and repaired the fortifications of the castle there. About the same time also, Howel, Prince Owen Gwynedd's son, fortified Humphry's castle, in the valley of Caletwr.

A.D. 1151.

But the following year, prince Owen did a very barbarous action to Cunedda, his brother Cadwallon's son, for fearing lest that this young man should lay claim to any part of his estate as his father's right, he first pulled out his eyes, and afterwards castrated him, for fear he should beget any children, who might some time or other renew their claim and right to Cadwallon's estate. This inhuman severity was succeeded by another of no small remark; Llewelyn, son to Madoc ap Meredith, having watched a convenient opportunity, set upon, and slew Stephen, the son of Baldwin. But Cadwalader, Prince Owen's brother, after a tedious imprisonment, which he had sustained through the malice and rancour of his nephew Howel, at length made his escape, and flying to the isle of Anglesey, brought a considerable part of that island under his subjection. But Prince Owen, hearing how that his brother had got loose from custody, and that he was in actual possession of a great part of Anglesey, he presently dispatched an army over, which proving too formidable to Cadwalader's party, he

was constrained to escape to England, and to desire succour from his wife's relations, who was the daughter of Gilbert, Earl of Clare. This year, Galfrede Arthur, commonly called Geffrey of Monmouth, was made bisoph of St. Asaph, and at the same time, Simon, archdeacon of Cyveilioc, a man of great worth and esteem in his country, died.

But the year following, Meredith and Rhys, the A.D. 1152. sons of Gryffith ap Rhys, Prince of South Wales, laid siege to Penwedic castle, which belonged to Howel, Prince Owen's son, and after great pains and considerable loss of men on their side, at last made themselves masters of it. From thence they marched by night to Tenby, and unexpectedly falling upon the castle, of which one William Fitzgerald was governor, they scaled the walls before the garrison were aware of any danger, and so possessing themselves of the castle, they fell foul upon the garrison, in revenge of the mischief they had done, and further designed to their brother Cadell. For Cadell, at this time, was gone upon a pilgrimage, and during his absence, had committed his whole inheritance, and all other concerns in Wales, to the care of his brethren Meredith and Rhys. But after taking Tenby Castle, they divided their army into two parties, with one of which, Rhys marched to Ystratcongen, and after great havock and waste committed there, he passed to Cyveilioc, which fared in like manner with Ystratcongen. Meredith, with the other party, sat before Aberavan castle, and after a short siege won and got possession of it, and then returned home with very considerable booty, and many rich spoils. About the same time, Rondel, Earl of Chester, who had lived in continual enmity and frequent hostility with Prince Owen of North Wales, departed this life, leaving his son Hugh to enjoy both his titles and estate in England, and to prosecute the feuds and hostilities against the Welsh.

And shortly after, died Meredith, son to Gryffith 1153. ap Rhys, prince of South Wales, who was lord of

Cardigan, Ystratywy, and Dyved, being not passed the twenty-fifth year of his age; a person of incomparable valor and audacity, and in all his warlike attempts and achievements very fortunate. He was presently followed by Geoffrey, bishop of Llandaf; a man as famous for learning and a good life, as the other was for masculine bravery and martial prowess. In England, the face of things looked very lowering, Henry, surnamed Shortmantel, the empress' son, landed in England, and in his progress through the country took several castles, among which were Malmesbury, Wallingford, and Shrewsbury. But his fury was quickly appeased by the death of Eustace, King Stephen's son, so that the sole obstacle for his succeeding to the crown, being now removed, he willingly concluded a peace with King Stephen, permitting him to enjoy the crown peaceably for his life, upon condition that himself

A.D. 1151. was declared his successor. But King Stephen did not long survive this treaty; and then Henry Plantagenet, the empress' son, was crowned in his stead.

1155. Towards the beginning of King Henry's reign, Rhys Gryffith ap Rhys, King of South Wales, upon apprehension that Owen Gwynedd had raised an army for the conquest of South Wales, drew together all his strength, and marched to Aberdyfi, to face the enemy upon their own borders. But finding the rumour to be false, and that the Prince of North Wales had no such design in hand, having built a castle at Aberdyfi, which might defend the frontiers from any future design on his country, he returned back without attempting any thing further. At the same time, Madoc ap Meredith built a castle at Caereneon, near Cymer, and then Eglwys Vair, in Myvot, was founded. About this time also, Meyric, nephew to Prince Madoc ap Meredith, made his escape out of prison, wherein he had been detained by his uncle for a considerable time.

The same year, King Henry being displeased with the Flemings, whom his predecessor, King Stephen, had brought over into England, issued out a proclamation, charging the greatest part of them to

depart his dominions, and to retire to their countrymen in West-Wales, where his grandfather, Henry the First, the Bastard's son, had planted them. And thus that part of Wales, called Pembroke-shire, was over-run with these strangers, who being better befriended by the kings of England, than the Welsh could well expect to be, made sure footing in that country, where they have ever since continued firm. It was the English policy of those times to accept of any opportunity to curb and keep under the Welsh, whom they experienced to be none of the safest neighbours, and therefore the kings of England did grant any lands and privileges in Wales, to any that would accept of them, which, honestly, they had no power to bestow.

But this was not enough in detriment to the Welsh, for the year following, King Henry raised A.D. 1156. a very great army, which he gathered from all parts of England, with the purpose to subdue all North Wales, being principally moved hereto, by the instigation of Cadwalader, the prince's brother, whom Owen Gwynedd, for what reasons not known, deprived of his estate, and banished the country. Also Madoc ap Meredith, prince of Powis, who maligned the liberty and privilege of the princes of North Wales, who owned subjection to no other than the King of England, whereas those of Powis were obliged to do homage to the prince of North Wales, did jointly consent to this invitation. The King of England accepted of their proposals, led his army to West-Chester, and encamped upon the marsh called Saltney, in Welsh, Morfa-Caer-Lleon. Prince Owen, all this while, was not ignorant of this intended invasion; and therefore having made all possible preparations to confront the enemy, he marched his army to the frontiers of England, and encamping at Basingwerk, resolved to give the English battle. King Henry understanding of the prince's resolution, detached some of the chiefest troops out of the main-body, under the command of several earls and other lords, and sent them towards the prince's camp. But after they had advanced some

little way, and were passing through a wood, called Coed-Eulo, David and Conan, prince Owen's sons, unexpectedly set upon them, and what by the advantage of the ground, and the suddenness of the action, the English were borne down with a great slaughter, and those who survived, narrowly escaped to the king's camp. This was a very unwelcome beginning to King Henry; but however, in order to prosper better hereafter, he thought it adviseable to decamp from Saltney, and to rauk his troops along the sea-coast, thinking thereby to get betwixt prince Owen and his country, which if he could effect, he was sure to reduce the Welsh to a very great inconveniency. But the prince, foreseeing the danger of this, retired with his army to a place called Cil Owen, that is, Owen's Retreat, which when King Henry perceived, he let fall his design, and came to Ruthlan. W. Parnus writes, that in this expedition against the Welsh, King Henry was in great danger of his life, in passing through a strait at Counsyllt, near Flint, where Henry, earl of Essex, who by inheritance enjoyed the office of bearing the standard of England, being over-charged by the enemy, cast down the same and fled. This accident so encouraged the Welsh, that they bore on so violently, that the king himself narrowly escaped, having of his party Eustace Fitz-John, and Robert Curcie, two valiant knights, together with several others of his nobility and gentry, slain in the action.

After this prince Owen decamped from Cil Owen, and intrenched himself upon Bryn y Pin, where little of moment passed between the two armies, only some slight skirmishes happened frequently. King Henry in the mean time fortified the castle of Ruthlan, and during his stay there, Madoc ap Meredith, prince of Powis, sailed with the English fleet to Anglesey, and having put some men on shore, they burnt two churches, and ravaged part of the country about. But they paid very dear for it, for all the strength of the island being met together, they set upon them in their return to their ships, and cut them off in such a manner, that not one remained

to bring tidings to the fleet of what had befallen them. But they on board quickly perceived what had happened, and therefore thought it not very safe harbouring upon that coast, but judging it more advisable to weigh anchor, they presently set sail for Chester; when they were arrived thither, they found that a peace was actually concluded betwixt King Henry and prince Owen upon this article; That Cadwalader should have all his lands restored to him and he received to the favour and friendship of his brother. Then King Henry leaving the castles of Ruthlan and Basingwerk well manned and fortified, and having near the latter founded a public structure for the order of Knight's Templars, returned to England. But the troubles of Wales did not end with him, for Iorwerth Goch ap Meredith, who had taken part with the King of England, during this war, laid siege to the castle of Yale, which was built by Prince Owen, and making himself master of it, razed it to the ground.

The next year commenced with a very unfortunate action; Ivor ap Meyric having long before cast a very wishful eye upon the land and estate of Morgan ap Owen, was now resolved to put in execution what he had before contrived; and as covetousness seldom bears any regard to virtue or honour, he treacherously set upon him, and slew him; and with him fell Gwrgan ap Rhys, the most famous British poet of his time. Morgan's estate, Ivor bestowed upon his brother Iorwerth, who about the same time got also possession of the town of Caer-Lleon. But these inward and home-bred disturbances were quickly mitigated by a general peace, which was presently after this concluded, betwixt the King of England, and all the princes and lords of Wales, Rhys ap Gryffith ap Rhys, prince of South Wales, only excepted. For this prince Rhys, who probably would not rely too far upon the King of England's fidelity, refused to consent to a peace; but however, to secure himself the best he could from the English, whom he had no small reason to be afraid of, he thought it his best



prudence to issue out his orders, commanding his subjects to remove their cattle and other effects to the wilderness of Tywy, where they were like to remain securest from the eyes and reach of the enemies. But he had not continued there long, when he received a more positive express from King Henry, commanding him to appear forthwith at his court, and to accept of the proposals of peace, before the joint forces of England and Wales were sent to fetch him up. Prince Rhys having received such a threatening message, thought it now high time to repent of what he had before so rashly resolved upon, and therefore after long consultation, he judged it his wisest way to accept of the king's proposals, and to appear at court. There it was agreed upon, that Rhys, whose lands heretofore lay scattered about, and were intermixed with other persons' estates, should enjoy Cantrev Mawr, and any other Cantrev which the king should be pleased to bestow upon him. But contrary to this article, the king assigned him several lordships and other lands far remote from each other, and particularly intermixed them with the estates of Englishmen, whom he was sure would be a watch and a curb to all the motions of prince Rhys. This was indeed a very political contrivance of King Henry to keep under the high and restless spirit of Rhys; but the justice of the action does not so evidently appear in breaking one of the chiefest articles of the peace, and chopping and bestowing that which was not justly in his power to give. But it is manifestly apparent that the English of these times, were mainly concerned, right or wrong, to oppress and keep under the Welsh, of whose mortal hatred to subjection, they had so frequently and so cruelly felt. Prince Rhys was not at all ignorant of these wrongful and deceitful dealings of King Henry, but knowing himself to be unable to redress these grievances, he thought it more adviseable for a time to live quietly with a little, than rashly to hazard all. But in a short time, he had opportunity either to demand redress from the king, or else to endeavour

it himself by force of arms. For as soon as Roger, Earl of Clare, was informed of the distribution which the King of England had granted to prince Rhys, he came to king Henry, requesting of his majesty, that he would grant him such lands in Wales, as he could win by force of arms. The king readily complied with his request, being always very forward to grant any thing which seemed to curb and discommode the Welsh, and therefore the earl of Clare marched with a great army into Cardigan, and having fortified the castles of Ystrat-Meyric, Humphrey, Dyfi, Dynnerth and Llanrhystyd, he made several incursions into the country. In the same manner, Walter Clyfford, who was governor of Llanymddyvri castle, made inroads into the territories of prince Rhys, and after he had slain several of the Welsh, and made great waste in the country, returned with considerable booty.

Prince Rhys, as he was unable to bear these outrages, so he was resolved either to have immediate redress, or else to proclaim open war against the English, and therefore he sent an express to King Henry, complaining of the hostilities which his subjects the earl of Clare and Walter Clyfford had committed in his country. But finding the king to put him still off with only smooth words and fair promises, and that he always winked at the faults of the English and Normans, without any farther consultation about the matter, he laid siege to the castle of Llanymddyvri, and in short time made himself master of it. Also Eineon, the son of Anarawd, Rhys's brother's son, and a person of great valour, being desirous to free his country from that miserable servitude they now groaned under, and judging withal that his uncle was now discharged from the oath he had lately sworn to the King of England, sat before the castle of Humphrey, and having forcibly made his entrance into it, he put all the garrison to the sword, where he found a great number of horses and armour, enough to arm a considerable body of men. And whilst Eineon was thus engaged at Humphrey's cas-

Roger Earl  
of Clare

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Anarawd

Eineon

tle, Prince Rhys perceiving that he could not enjoy any part of his inheritance but what he afterwards got by the sword, drew all his power together, and entered Cardigan, where like a most violent torrent, he over-run the country, that he left not one castle standing of those which his enemies had fortified, and so brought all the country to his subjection. King Henry being sore offended at the progress which Prince Rhys so suddenly made against him, returned with a great army into South Wales, but finding it to no purpose to attempt any thing against the Prince, he thought it more adviseable to permit him to enjoy all that he had gotten, and only to take hostages for his observing of peace during his absence out of the kingdom, which Prince Rhys promising to do, he forthwith returned to England, and soon after went for Normandy, where he concluded a peace with the French King.

*Earl of Clare*  
 A.D. 1158. But the year following, Prince Rhys, of South Wales, without any respect to his promise to King Henry last year, led his forces to Dyved, and destroyed all the castles that the Normans had fortified in that country, and then laid siege to Carmarthen. But Reynold, Earl of Bristol, the king's base son, being informed of it, called together the Earl of Clare, his brother-in-law Cadwalader; Prince Owen of North Wales's brother; Howel and Conan, Owen's sons; with two Earls more, who with their joint forces marched to raise the siege. But Prince Rhys was wiser than to abide their coming, and therefore upon the first intimation of such great opposition, he retired to the mountains called Cefn Rester, and there encamped being sufficiently secure from any enemy, by the natural fortification of the place. The confederate army lay at Dynwyllir; and there built a castle, but finding no news or tidings of Prince Rhys, they returned home without effecting any thing of note. King Henry was still in Normandy, and there made war against the Earl of St. Giles, for the city and earldom of Tholouse. Towards the beginning of this year, Madoc ap Meredith ap Blethyn Prince of Powis died at Win-

chester, whence his body was honourably conveyed to Powis, and buried at Myvod. He was a Prince very much affected to piety and religion, very charitable to the necessitous, and good to the distressed; but his great fault was, that he stickled too hard for the interest of the English, and was always in confederacy with King Henry against the good success of his native country. He had issue by his wife Susanna, the daughter of Gryffith ap Conan, Prince of North Wales; three sons, Gryffith Maelor, Owen and Elis, and a daughter named Marred. He had also three natural sons, Owen Brogynton, Cynwric Evell, and Eineon Evell, who though base born, yet according to the custom of Wales, co-inherited with their brethren who were legitimate.

And here it will not be amiss, once for all, to give a particular account of the principality, afterwards the lordships of Powis, how it came to be divided into many shares and portions, and by that means became so irrecoverably broken and weakened, that it was made subject to the Normans before the rest of Wales. For Powis, before King Offa's time, reached eastwards to the rivers of Severn and Dee, in a right line from the end of Broxon hills to Salop, and comprehended all the country between the Wye and Severn, which was anciently the estate of Brochwel Yscithroc, of whom mention is made before. But after the making of Offa's dyke, Powis was contracted into a narrower compass, the plain country towards Salop being inhabited by Saxons and Normans, so that the length of it reached northeast from Pulford bridge, to Llangiric parish, on the confines of Cardiganshire, to the South-west, and the breadth from the farthest part of Cyveilioc westward, to Elsmere on the east-side. This principality, Roderic the Great gave to his youngest son Mervyn, in whose posterity it remained entire, till the death of Blethyn ap Convyn, who though he had divided it betwixt his sons Meredith and Cadwgan, yet it came again whole and entire to the possession of Meredith ap Blethyn. But he again broke the union, and left

it between his two sons Madoc and Gryffith; the first of whom was married to Susanna, the daughter of Gryffith ap Conan, Prince of North Wales, and had with her that part, afterward called by his name, Powis Vadoc. After his death, this lordship was divided also betwixt his sons Gryffith Maelor, Owen ap Madoc, and Owen Brogynton, which last, though basely born, had however, for his incomparable valour and courage, a share of his father's estate, namely, Edeyrneon and Dinmael, which he left to his sons Gryffith, Blethyn, and Iorwerth. Owen Madoc had to his portion Mechain-is-Coed, and had issue Llewelyn and Owen Vychan. But Gryffith Maelor, the eldest son, lord of Bromfield, had to his part, both the Maelors, with Mochnant-is-Rayder, and married Angharad, the daughter of Owen Gwynedd, Prince of North Wales, by whom he had issue one son, named Madoc, who held his father's inheritance entirely, and left it so to his only son Gryffith, who was called lord of Dinas Bran, because he lived in that castle: he married Emma, the daughter of James, lord Audley, by whom he had issue Madoc, Llewelyn, Gryffith and Owen. This Gryffith ap Madoc took part with King Henry the Third, and Edward the First, against the Prince of North Wales, and therefore for fear of the said prince, he was forced to keep himself secure within his castle of Dinas Bran, which being situated upon the summit of a very steep hill, seemed impregnable to all the daring efforts that could be used against it. After his death, Edward the First dealt very unkindly with his children, who were of age to manage their own concerns; and making two of them privately away, bestowed the wardship of Madoc, his eldest son, who had by his father's will, the lordships of Bromfield and Yale, with the reversion of Maelor Saesneg, Hopesdale, and Mouldsdale, his mother's jointure, on John Earl Warren; and the wardship of Llewelyn, to whose share fell the lordships of Chirke and Nanheudwy, to Roger Mortimer, third son to Roger Mortimer, the son of Ralph Mortimer, lord Mortimer of Wigmore. But

Emma, Gryffith's wife, having in her possession for her dowry, Maelor Saesneg, Hopesdale, and Mouldale, with the presentation of Bangor rectory; and seeing two of her sons disinherited and done away, and the fourth dead without issue, and doubting lest Gryffith her only surviving child could not long continue, she conveyed her estate to the Audley's, her own kin, who getting possession of it took the same from the king, from whom it came to the house of Derby, where it continued for a long time; till at length it was sold to Sir John Glynne, serjeant at law, in whose family it still remaineth. But Earl Warren and Roger Mortimer, forgetting what signal service Gryffith ap Madoc had performed for the king, guarded their new possessions with such caution and strictness, that they took especial care they should never return to any of the posterity of the legal proprietor; and therefore having obtained the king's patent, they began to secure themselves in the said lordships. John Earl Warren began to build Holt castle, which was finished by his son William, and so the lordships of Bromfield and Yale continued in the name of the Earls of Warren for three descents, viz:—John, William and John, who dying without issue; the said lordships, together with the earldom of Warren descended to Alice, sister and heir to the last John, Earl Warren, who was married to Edmund Fitz Allan, Earl of Arundel, in which house they remained for three descents, namely, Edmund, Richard, Richard his son, and Thomas, Earl of Arundel. But for want of issue to this last, Thomas, Earl of Arundel, and Warren, the said lordships fell to two of his sisters. whereof one named Elizabeth, was married to Thomas Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, and the other called Joan, to William Beauchamp, lord of Abergavenny: but since they came to the hands of Sir William Stanley, knight, who being attainted of high treason, they devolved by forfeiture to the crown, and now are annexed to the principality of Wales. But Roger Mortimer, the other sharer in the lands of Gryffith ap Madoc, was made Justice

of North Wales; built the castle of Chirke, and married Lucia, the daughter and heir of Sir Robert de Wafre, knight, by whom he had issue Roger Mortimer, who was married to Joan Tuberville, by whom he had John Mortimer, lord of Chirke. This John, sold the lordship of Chirke to Richard Fitzallan, Earl of Arundel, Edmund's son, and so it was again annexed to Bromfield and Yale.

The third son of Gryffith, lord of Dinas Bran, named also Gryffith, had for his part Glyn Dwr-dwy, which Gryffith ap Gryffith had issue Madoc Crupl, who was the father of Madoc Vychan, the father of Gryffith, the father of Gryffith Vychan, who was the father of Owen Glyndwr, who rebelling in the days of Henry the Fourth, Glyndwr-dwy, by confiscation came to the king, of whom it was afterwards purchased by Robert Salisbury of Rug, in whose family it still remaineth. Owen, the fourth son of Gryffith, lord of Dinas Bran, had for his share, Cynllaeth, with the rights and privileges thereunto belonging. The other part of Powys, comprehending the countries of Arustly, Cyveilioc, Llannerch-hudol, Caereneon, Mochnach uwch Rayadr, Mechan uwch Coed, Mouddwy, Deuddwr, Ystrad Marchell, and Teir Tref, or the Three Towns, rightfully descended to Gryffith ap Meredith ap Blethyn, by Henry the First, created lord Powis, who married Gweyryl, or Weyryl, the daughter of Urgene ap Howel ap Ievav ap Cadogan ap Athlestan Glodryth, by whom he had issue Owen, surnamed Cyveilioc. This Owen enjoyed his father's estate entire, and married Gwenllian the daughter of Owen Gwynedd, Prince of North Wales, who bore him one son, named Gwenwynwyn, or Wenwynwyn, from whom that part of Powis was afterwards called Powis Wenwynwyn. He had moreover a base brother, called Caswallon, upon whom he bestowed the countries of Swydd, Llannerch Hudol, and Braniarth, Gwenwynwyn succeeded his father in all his estate, saving what Caswallon enjoyed, and married Margaret, the daughter of Rhys ap Tewdwr, Prince of South Wales, by whom

he had Gryffith ap Gwenwynwyn, who succeeded his father in all his possessions, had issue six sons, by Margaret, the daughter of Robert Corbet, brother to Thomas, lord Corbet, of Cous; and so the entire estate of Gryffith ap Meredith ap Blethyn, lord of Powis, became shattered, and torn into divers pieces. Owen, Gryffith ap Gwenwynwyn's eldest son, had for his part, Arustly, Cyveilioc, Llanerch Hudol, and a part of Caereleon; Llewelyn had Mochnant uwch Rayader, and Mechain uwch Coed; John, the third son, had the fourth part of Caereleon; William had Mouddwy; Gryffith Vychan had Deuddwr, Ystrad-Marchell, and Teir Tref; and David, the sixth and youngest son, had the other fourth part of Caereleon. Owen ap Gryffith had issue one only daughter, named Hawys Gadarn, or the Hardy, whom he left his heir; but her uncles, Llewelyn, John, Gryffith Vychan, and David, thinking it an easy matter to dispossess an orphan, challenged the lands of their brother Owen, alledging for a cloak to their usurpation, that a woman was not capable of holding any lands in that country. But Hawys made such friends in England, that her case was made known to King Edward the Second, who bestowed her in marriage upon a servant of his, named John Charleton, termed, *Valectus domini regis*, who was born at Appley, near Wellington, in the county of Salop, *anno* one thousand two hundred and sixty-eight, and in her right, created him lord Powis.

This John Charleton, lord Powis, being aided and supported by the King of England, quickly broke all their measures; and having taken Llewelyn, John, and David, his wife's uncles, he put them in safe custody, in the king's castle of Harlech; and then obtained a writ from the King, to the sheriff of Shropshire, and to Sir Roger Mortimer, lord of Chirkland, and justice of North Wales, for the apprehension of Gryffith Vychan, with his sons-in-law, Sir Roger Chamber, and Hugh Montgomery, who were then in actual hostility against him and his wife Hawys. But Gryffith Vychan and



his accomplices, suspecting their own strength; and having lost Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, their main support, thought it most adviseable to submit themselves to the king's pleasure, touching the difference betwixt them and Hawys; who finding upon record, how that Gryffith ap Meredith, ancestor to the said Hawys, upon his submission to King Henry the first, became subject to the King of England, and thereupon was created baron of Powis, which barony he and his posterity had ever since held *in capite* from the king; was of opinion, that Hawys had more right to her father's possessions now in their hands, than any pretence they could lay to her estate. But to make a final determination of this matter, and to compose the difference more amicably betwixt them, it was agreed, that Hawys should enjoy her inheritance in fee simple, to her and her heirs for ever, after the tenure of England; and that her uncles, Llewelyn, John, David, and Gryffith, should quietly enjoy their portion, and the same to descend to their heir males perpetually; but in default of such heir males, the same was to descend to Hawys and her heirs. But William, lord of Mouddwy, the fourth brother, called otherwise Wilcock Mouddwy, because he did not join with the rest against Hawys, had all his lands confirmed to him, and to all his heirs, both male and female for ever. He married Elianor, the sister of Elen, Owen Glyndwr's mother, who was lineally descended from Rhys ap Tewdwr, Prince of South Wales, by whom he had issue John de Mouddwy; whose daughter Elizabeth, being heir to his whole estate, was married to one Sir Hugh Burgh, knight. His son Sir John Burgh, lord of Mouddwy, married Jane, the daughter of Sir William Clapton, of Gloucestershire, by whom he had four daughters, Elizabeth, Ancreda, Isabel, and Elianor; the first of whom was married to Thomas Newport, the second to John Leighton, of Stretton; the third to John Lingen; and the younger to Thomas Mytton; who, by equal distribution, had the lordship of Mouddwy divided betwixt them.

But John Charleton, lord of Powis, had issue by his wife Hawys, a son, named John, who enjoyed the same lordship, for about seven years, and then left it to his son, of the same name, who was lord of Powis fourteen years; and then it descended to his son, called also John Charleton, who enjoyed his father's estate twenty-seven years; but dying without issue, the lordship of Powis fell to his brother Edward Charleton. This Edward had issue by his wife Elianor, the daughter, and one of the heirs of Thomas, Earl of Kent, and the widow of Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, two daughters, Jane and Joyce; the first of which was married to Sir John Gray, knight; and the second to John, lord Tiptoft, whose son was by King Henry VI. created Earl of Worcester. But after the death of Elianor, this Edward, lord Powis, married Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir John Barkley, knight; and so after his death, which happened in the year 1420, the lordship of Powis was divided into three parts, whereof his widow Elizabeth had for her jointure Llannerch Hudol, Ystrad Marchell, Deuddwr and Teirtref, and was afterwards married to Lord Dudley. Jane, his eldest daughter, had Caereneon, Mechain, Mochnant, and Plasdinas; and Joyce had Cyveilioc, and Arustly. But the lordship of Powis continued in the family of Sir John Gray, for five descents, in right of his wife Jane; the last of whom, Edward Gray, lord Powis, married Anne, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, and died without any lawful issue. This Edward, lord Powis, in 15th of Henry VIII. accompanied the Duke of Suffolk in the expedition then made into France, and was at the taking of Bray, and other places then won from the French. And in 36th of Henry VIII. being again ready to march in the king's service, he made his last testament, whereby he settled the succession of his whole barony and lordship of Powis, his castle and manor of Pool, with divers other lordships in the county of Montgomery, and all the rest of his

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estate in the county of Salop, upon the heirs of his own body lawfully begotten, or to be begotten; and in default of such issue, his castle and manor of Charlton and Pontisbury, in Shropshire, upon Jane Orwell, daughter of Sir Lewis Orwell, knight, and her assigns, during her natural life. And in case he should die without any issue of his own body lawfully begotten, that then Edward Grey, his illegitimate son by the same Jane Orwell, should have and enjoy his said barony and manor of Powis, his castle and manor of Pool, and all other his lordships in the county of Montgomery; with the reversion of the castle and manor of Charlton and Pontisbury, to him and his heirs lawfully begotten; and for lack of such issue, to remain to that child, in case it should be a son, wherewith the same Jane Orwell was then great by him, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten. But if it should not prove a son, or if the son die without issue, then that the whole barony of Powis, and all the premises before-mentioned, should come to Jane Grey his daughter, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue, to Anne Grey, his other daughter, and heirs of her body lawfully begotten; and lastly for default of such issue, to such woman-child as should be born of the body of the said Jane Orwell. But after Edward Grey, the title of Lord of Powis, lay extinct to the fifth year of King Charles I. when Sir William Herbert, son of Sir Edward Herbert, of Redcastle, (anciently called Pool-castle, now Powis-castle) in the county of Montgomery, second son to William, Earl of Pembroke, was advanced to the dignity of a baron of the realm, by the title of Lord Powis of Powis, in the marshes of Wales; in whose family it still continues, though the title has been changed from a Baron to an Earl, and since to a Marquis.

About the same time that the Prince of Powis died, Cadwallon ap Madoc ap Ednerth, who had been for some considerable time at variance with his brother Eineon Clyd, was taken prisoner by him, who delivered him up to Owen, Prince of North

Wales. But the Prince being willing to gratify the king of England, whose interest Cadwallon had as much as in him lay opposed, sent him to the king's officers to be imprisoned at Winchester; from whence he quickly found a way to escape: and by the advice of the rest of his brethren he returned home to his country. King Henry continued all this while in Normandy, and during his stay there, a match was concluded upon betwixt his son Henry and Margaret, daughter to Lewis, king of France. But A.D. 1160. this new alliance could not prevent these two monarchs from falling at variance with each other, which happened the year following; and thereupon King Henry marched with his army into Gascoyne, to quell certain rebels, who upon first notice of this breach between both kings, were up in arms against the English. But the next year, a peace was again 1161. concluded, and so all things returned to their former state of amity and quietness.

But it was not so in Wales; for Howel, the son of Ievaf ap Cadwgan ap Athlestan Glodryth, having got into his hand the castle of Walwern in Cyveiloc, rased it to the ground, which so incensed Prince Owen, who was owner of it, that nothing could lay his fury, till he had drawn his forces together, and made an incursion into Llanddinam in Arustly, Howel's country, which he cruelly harrassed, and carried away considerable booty. The people of the country perceiving these devastation of the North Wales men, came together to the number of three hundred men, offering their service to their natural lord, Howel ap Ievaf; who upon this addition of strength, followed the enemy to the banks of Severn, where they were encamped. Prince Owen finding them to march after him, was glad of the opportunity to be further revenged upon Howel; and so turning suddenly upon them, he slew about two hundred men; the rest narrowly escaping with Howel to the woods and rocks. Owen being more joyful for the revenge he had taken of Howel, than for any victory he had gained, rebuilt Walwern castle, and having well fortified and manned it, returned home to North Wales.

A.D. 1162. The year following, the like thing happened; Owen the son of Gryffith ap Meredith, commonly called Owen Cyveiloc o Wynedd, together with Owen ap Madoc ap Meredith, and Meredith ap Howel, set upon Carrechova castle, near Oswestry, and having overpowered the garrison, committed great waste and destruction therein. But about the same time, a pleasant passage happened in England; Robert Mountford and Henry de Essex, who had both fought against the Welsh upon the marshes, and both run, began now to impeach each other, as being the first occasion of flying. The dispute was to be tried by combat, in which being engaged, Henry was overcome; and for his false accusing of Robert, he was sentenced to have his estate forfeited, and then having his crown shorn, he was entered a monk at Redding. Within a little after, King Henry calling to mind what Prince Rhys had committed during his absence out of the kingdom, drew up a great army against South Wales, and having marched as far as Pencadyr, near Brecknock, Rhys met him, and did his homage; and having delivered up hostages for his future behaviour, stopped the king's farther progress, so that thence he returned to England. But after the king's departure, two very unlucky accidents happened in Wales; Eioneon the son of Anarawd ap Gryffith, nephew to Prince Rhys, being villainously murdered in his bed by his own servant, called Walter ap Llywarch; as also Cadwgan ap Meredith, in like manner, by one Walter ap Riccart. But the loss of his nephew, Prince Rhys, made up, by possessing himself of that large country, called Cantrev Mawr, and the land of Dynevawr, which he afterwards enjoyed. Of men of learning there died this year, Cadivor ap Daniel, archdeacon of Cardigan, and Henry ap Arthen, the greatest scholar that had flourished in Wales for many years.

1163. The next year, a total rupture broke forth betwixt the English and Welsh; Prince Rhys, a man of an active and uncontrollable spirit, being now experimentally sensible he could never carry on the great-

ness and grandeur of his quality, with such lands as the King of England had allotted him, made an invasion into the lordship of Roger de Acre Earl of Gloucester; being moved thereto in a great measure by reason that his nephew Anarawd ap Gryffith, was murdered by his motive and instigation. Being advanced with a strong army into the Earl of Gloucester's estate, without any great opposition he took Aberheidol castle, with those belonging to the sons of Wyhyaon, all which he razed to the ground. Thence he marched to Cardigan, bringing all that country under his subjection; and from thence he marched against the Flemings, whose country he cruelly harrassed with fire and sword. The rest of the estates of Wales, perceiving Prince Rhys to prosper so successfully against the English, thought they might equally succeed, and shake off the English yoke, which so unreasonably oppressed them. And therefore they unanimously agreed to cast off their subjection to the English, whose tyranny they could no longer bear, and to put over them princes of their own nation, whose superiority they could better tolerate. And so this year concluded with making suitable preparations for the following campaign.

And therefore as soon as the time of the year for action was advanced, David, son of Owen, Prince of North Wales, fell upon Flintshire, which pertained to the king of England; and carrying off all the people and cattle with him, brought them to Dyffryn Clwyd, otherwise Ruthyn land. King Henry understanding this, gathered together his forces, and with all speed marched to defend both his subjects and towns from the incursions and depredations of the Welsh. Being come to Ruthlan, and encamped there three days, he quickly perceived he could do no great matter, by reason that his army was not sufficiently numerous; and therefore he thought it more adviseable to return back to England, and to augment his forces, before he should attempt any thing against the Welsh. And accordingly he levied the most chosen men throughout all

A.D. 1164,

his dominions of England, Normandy, Anjou, Gascoyn and Gwin; besides those succours from Flanders and Britain; and then set forward for North Wales; purposing to destroy without mercy every living thing he could possible meet with; and being advanced as far as Croes-Oswallt, called Oswestry, he encamped there. On the other side, Prince Owen and his brother Cadwalader, with all the strength of North Wales; Prince Rhys with those of South Wales; Owen Cyveilioc and Madoc ap Meredith, with all the power of Powis; the two sons of Madoc ap Ednerth, with the people living betwixt the rivers of Severn and Wye, met together, and pitched their camp at Corwen, in Edeyrneon, intending unanimously to defend their country against the King of England. King Henry understanding that they were so near, was very desirous to come to battle; and to that end he removed to the banks of the river Ceireoc, causing all the woods thereabouts to be cut down, for fear of any ambushment lurking therein, and for a more clear prospect of the enemy. But some of the Welsh took advantage of this opportunity, who being well acquainted with the passage, without the knowledge of their officers, fell upon the king's guard, where all the pikemen were posted; and after a hot skirmish, several were slain on both sides. But in fine, the king won the passage, and so marched on to the mountain of Berwyn, where he lay sometime without any hostility on either side, both armies standing in fear of each other. The English kept the open plains, and were afraid to be entrapped in the streights and narrow passages; and the Welsh on the other hand watched the advantage of the place, and observed the English so narrowly, that neither forage or victuals could pass to the king's camp. And what augmented the misery of the English army, there happened to fall such a rain, that mightily disturbed their encampment, in so much that the soldiers could scarcely stand, for the disadvantage of those slippery hills. But in the end King Henry was forced to decamp, and after very considerable loss of men and

ammunition, besides the great charges of this expedition, was compelled to return back to England. But to express the great dissatisfaction he entertained of this enterprize, in a great fury he plucked out the eyes of the hostages, which he had some time afore received from the Welsh; which were Rhys and Cadwallon, the sons of Owen, Prince of North Wales, and Cynric and Meredith, the sons of Rhys of South Wales. Some write, that in assailing of a bridge, the king was in no small danger of his life; one of the Welsh having aimed directly at him, was like to pierce him through the body, had not Hubert de Clare, Constable of Colchester, who perceived the arrow a-coming, thrust himself betwixt the king and it, though to the loss of his own life.

But though King Henry was shamefully forced to return to England, yet he did not give over the thoughts of subduing the Welsh; and therefore after a long consultation, he made a third expedition into Wales, conveying his army by sea, as far as Chester. There he staid for some time, till all his fleet, as well those ships that he had hired out of Ireland, as his own, were all arrived. But when they were all come together, and got safely to Chester, his mind was altered; and instead of a design against Wales, he unexpectedly dismissed his whole army. Prince Rhys was glad of this opportunity, and therefore withdrawing his forces from the confederate army, he marched to the siege of Aberteifi castle, which being surrendered to him, he razed to the ground. From thence he got before Cilgerran, which he used after the same manner, and therein took prisoner, Robert, the son of Stephen his cousin-german, who was the son of Nest, his aunt, who after the death of Gerald, had married Stephen Constable. The joy of these happy successes on the part of the Welsh, was somewhat clouded by the death of Llewelyn, son of Owen, Prince of North Wales, a person of great worth, and exceedingly well beloved of all his country.

And now the Welsh being something secure from any invasion from the English; there rose up ano-

A.D. 1165.



ther enemy to create them disturbance; the Flemings and Normans finding the English to fail in their attempt against the Welsh, thought they might with better success quell and subdue them. And therefore they came to West Wales with a great army, and laid siege to the castle of Cilgerran, which Rhys had lately fortified; but after two different assaults, they were manfully beat back, and forced to depart home again. But what the Flemings could not affect against the Welsh in South Wales, the Welsh easily brought about against the English in North Wales; for Prince Owen having besieged Basingwerk castle, then in the possession of the King of England, without much time spent, made himself master of it. But it was always the misfortune of the Welsh, that when they found themselves secure from any enemy abroad, they were sure to quarrel and fall out at home; though indeed it could not be well otherwise expected, where so many petty states endeavoured still to surmount and outvie one another. And now when all things went very successfully of their sides, in opposition to the English; two ambitious persons began to kindle a flame in their own bosoms; Owen Cyveilioc, the son of Gryffith ap Meredith, lord of Powis, and Owen Vychan, second son to Madoc ap Meredith, forcibly dispossessed Iorwerth Goch of his estate in Powis, which they divided betwixt themselves; Mochnant uwch Rayadr to Owen Cyveilioc, and Mochnant is Rayadr to Owen Vychan.

A.D.1166. But the rest of the princes of Wales could not brook this injury done to Iorwerth Goch; and therefore Owen, Prince of North Wales, with his brother Cadwalader, and Rhys, Prince of South Wales, went with an army into Powis, against Owen Cyveilioc, and having chased him out of the country, they bestowed Caereleon upon Owen Vychan, to hold it of Prince Owen; and Rhys had Walwern, by reason that it lay near his own territories. But within a while after, Owen Cyveilioc returned with a numerous band of Normans and English along with him, and laid siege to the castle of Caereleon,

which he burnt to the ground. But the loss of this place was made up by the taking of Ruthlan castle, which Owen, Rhys, and Cadwalader jointly besieged; and which was so strongly fortified, and so manfully defended, that it cost them three months before they could make themselves masters of the place. Afterwards they won the castle of Prestatyn, and reduced the whole country of Tegengl, subject to Prince Owen; and then returned home to their respective dominions. And from henceforward, A.D. 1167. nothing of moment was transacted, during the remainder of Prince Owen's reign, only his son Conan most unmercifully slew Urogeney, abbot of Llwythlawr, together with his nephew Llawthen. But a little after, Prince Rhys, of South Wales, released 1168. out of prison his nephew Robert, son to Stephen Constable, whom as is said before, he had taken at the siege of Cilgarran castle, and sent him to Ireland, to the aid of Dermot, the son of Murchart, king of Linster, who was then in actual war with the king of Leinster. With him and his brother Morris Fitz-Gerald, and their nephews Robert Meyler and Raymond, went over a strong detachment of Welshmen, under the command of Richard Strongbow, Earl of Strigule, who were the chief motive of the conquest of Ireland, when it was first brought in subjection to the crown of England.

But the next year, Owen Gwynedd, son of Gry- 1169. ffith ap Conan, prince of North Wales, departed this life, in the two and thirtieth year of his reign. He was a wise and valourous prince, ever fortunate and victorious in all his undertakings, insomuch, as he never undertook any design but what he accomplished. He had by different women several issues, who got themselves greater esteem by their valour, than by their birth and parentage. He had by Gwladys, the daughter of Llywarch ap Trahaern ap Caradoc, Iorwerth Drwyndwn, (or the Broken Nose) Conan Maelgon, and Gwenllian, by Christian, the daughter of Grono ap Owen ap Edwyn; he had David, Roderic, Cadwallon, abbot of Bard-

sey and Angharad, afterwards married to Gryffith Maylor. He had by other women several other children, as Conan, Llewelyn, Meredith, Edwal, Rhun, Howel, Cadell, Madoc, Eineon, Cynwric, Philip, and Ryrid, lord of Clochran, in Ireland. Of these, Run, Llewelyn, and Cynwric, died before their father; and the rest will be mentioned in the sequel of this history.

### DAVID AP OWEN.

**PRINCE OWEN GWYNEDD** being dead, the succession was of right to descend to his eldest legitimate son, Iorwerth Drwyndwn, otherwise called Edward—with the Broken Nose; but by reason of that blemish upon his face, he was laid aside as unfit to take upon him the government of North Wales. Therefore his younger brothers began every one to aspire, in hopes of succeeding their father; A.D.1170. but Howel, who was of all the eldest, but base born, begotten of an Irish woman, finding they could not agree, stept in himself and took upon him the government. But David, who was legitimately born, could not brook that a bastard should ascend his father's throne; and therefore he made all the preparations possible to pull him down. Howel, on the other hand, was as resolute to maintain his ground, and was not willing so quickly to deliver up, what he had not very long got possession of; and so both brothers meeting together in the field, were resolved to try their title by the point of the sword. The battle had not lasted long, but Howel was slain; and then David was unanimously proclaimed and saluted Prince of North Wales, which principality he enjoyed without any molestation, till Llewelyn, Iorwerth Drwyndwn's son came of age, as will hereafter appear. But Madoc, another of Owen Gwynedd's sons, finding how his brothers contended for the principality, and that his native

country was like to be turmoiled in a civil war, did think it his better prudence to try his fortune abroad; and therefore leaving North Wales in a very unsettled condition, sailed with a small fleet of ships which he had rigged and manned for that purpose, to the westward; and leaving Ireland on the north, he came at length to an unknown country, where most things appeared to him new and uncustomary, and the manner of the natives far different from what he had seen in Europe. This country, says the learned H. Lloyd, must of necessity be some part of that vast tract of ground, of which the Spaniards, since Hanno's time, boast themselves to be the first discoverers; and which by order of Cosmography, seems to be some part of Nova Hispania, or Florida; whereby it is manifest, that this country was discovered by the Britains, long before either Columbus or Americus Vesputius sailed thither. But concerning Madoc's voyage to this country, and afterwards his return from thence, there are many fabulous stories and idle tales invented by the vulgar, who are sure never to diminish from what they hear, but will add to and increase any fable as far as their invention will prompt them. However, says the same author, it is certain that Madoc arrived in this country, and after he had viewed the fertility and pleasantness of it, he thought it expedient to invite more of his countrymen out of Britain; and therefore leaving most of those he had brought with him already behind, he returned for Wales. Being arrived there, he began to acquaint his friends with what a fair and extensive land he had met with, void of any inhabitants, whilst they employed all their skill to supplant one another, only for a ragged portion of rocks and mountains; and therefore he would persuade them to change their present state of danger and continual clashings for a more quiet being of ease and enjoyment. And so having got a considerable number of Welsh together, he bid his final adieu to his native country, and sailed with ten ships back to

them he had left behind. It is therefore to be supposed, says our author, that Madoc and his people inhabited part of that country, since called Florida, by reason that it appears from Francis Loves, an author of no small reputation, that in Acusanus and other places, the people honoured and worshipped the cross; whence it may be naturally concluded, that christians had been there before the coming of the Spaniards; and who these christians might be, unless it were this colony of Madoc's, cannot be easily imagined. But by reason that the Welsh who came over, were not many, they intermixt in a few years with the natives of the country, and so following their manners and using their language, they became at length undistinguishable from the barbarians. But the country which Madoc landed in, is by the learned Dr. Powel supposed to be part of Mexico; for which conjecture he lays down these following reasons:—first, as it is recorded in the Spanish Chronicles of the conquest of the West Indies, the inhabitants and natives of that country affirm by tradition, that their rulers descended from a strange nation, which came thither from a strange country; as it was confessed by King Montezuma, in a speech at his submission to the King of Castile, before Hernando Cortez, the Spanish general. And then the British words and names of places used in that country, even at this day do undoubtedly argue the same; as when they speak and confabulate together, they use this British word, Gwrandu, which signifies to hearken, or listen; and a certain bird with a white head, they call Pengwyn, which signifies the same in Welsh. But for a more complete confirmation of this, the island of Corroeso, the cape of Bryton, the river of Gwyn-dor, and the white rock of Pengwyn, which are all British words, do manifestly shew, that it was that country which Madoc and his people inhabited.

A.D.1117. As soon as the troubles of North Wales were over, and Prince David securely settled in his throne, the storm fell presently upon Powis: for Owen Cyveilioc; the lord of the country, had always, as much as in

him lay, opposed the interest and advantage of Rhys, Prince of South Wales; upon which account Prince Rhys came with a great army against Powis, and having subdued Owen Cyveilioc, his enemy, he was for all that so favourable to him, that upon his delivering him pledges for his future behaviour, he presently departed out of Powis, and returned with much honour to South Wales. And now all the states of Britain being at perfect rest and amity with one another, the whole tide and scene of action returned to Ireland; for Henry, king of England, having called together all his nobility, began to consult about the Irish expedition, which had already been determined to be taken in hand. To this consultation there came some messengers from Richard Strongbow, Earl of Strigule, Marshal of England, to deliver up to the king's hands the city of Dublin, the town of Waterford, with all such towns and castles as he got in right of his wife; whereupon the king restored to him all his lands, both in England and Normandy, and created him Lord Steward of Ireland. For this Earl Strigule, had lately, without the king's permission, gone over to Ireland, and had married the daughter of Dermott king of Dublin: which King Henry took in such indignation, that he presently seized upon all his lands in England and Normandy. Therefore the king having now some footing in Ireland, the expedition was unanimously concluded upon; and so the king set upon his journey, and coming towards Wales, was received by Prince Rhys, whose submission the king liked so well, that he presently confirmed to him all his lands in South Wales. To return the king's favour, Rhys promised to his Majesty three hundred horses, and four thousand oxen, towards the conquest of Ireland; for the sure payment of which, he delivered fourteen pledges. Then King Henry marching forward, came to Caerlleon upon Usk, and entering the town, he dispossessed the right owner Iorwerth ap Owen ap Caradoc, and kept it for his own proper use, placing a garrison of his own men therein.

But Iorwerth was not so easy-mouthed, as to be so unreasonably curbed by the king; and therefore departing in a great fury from the king's presence, he called to him his two sons Owen and Howel, whom he had by Angharad, the daughter of Uchtryd, bishop of Llandaf, and his sister's son, Morgan ap Sitsyllt ap Dyvniwal; and bringing together all the forces they were able, upon the king's departure they entered the country, and committing all the waste and destruction as they came along, they at last came before Caerlleon, which when they took, they in the like manner, spoiling and destroying whatever they could meet with; so that nothing escaped their fury excepting the castle, which they could not win. The king was in the mean time upon his journey to Pembroke, where being accompanied by Prince Rhys, he gave him a grant of all Cardigan, Ystratywy, Arustly, and Eluel in recompence of all the civilities and honour he paid him. And so Rhys returned to Aberteifi, a town he had lately won from the Earl of Gloucester, and there having prepared his present, about the beginning of October, he returned again to Pembroke, having ordered eighty-six horses to follow him; which being presented to the king, he accepted of thirty-six of the choicest, and returned the rest with great thanks. The same day King Henry went to St. David's, and after he had offered to the memory of that saint, he dined with the bishop, who was the son of Gerald, cousin-german to Rhys, whither Richard Strongbow Earl of Strigule came from Ireland to confer with the king. Within a while after, King Henry being entertained by Rhys at the White-House, restored to him his son Howel, who had been for a considerable time detained as a pledge, and appointed him a certain day for payment of his tribute, at which time, all the rest of the pledges should be set at liberty. The day following, being the next after the feast of St. Luke, the king went on board, and the wind blowing very favourably set sail for Ireland; and being safely arrived upon those coasts, he landed at Dublin; where he rested for that whole

winter, in order to make greater preparation against the following campaign.

But the change of the air and climate occasioned such a raging distemper and infection among the soldiers, that to prevent the perishing of his whole army, A.D. 1172. the king was forced to return with what speed he could back for England; and so having shipped off all his army and effects, he loosed anchor, and landed in Wales in the Passion week next year, and coming to Pembroke, he staid there on Easter-day, and then proceeded upon his journey towards England. Rhys hearing of the king's return, was very officious to pay him his devotion, and would gladly feign to be one of the first who should welcome him over; and so meeting with him at Talachan, he expressed all the ceremonies of duty and allegiance. Then the king passed on, and as he came from Caerdiff by the new castle upon Usk, meaning to leave Wales in a peaceable condition, he sent for Iorwerth ap Owen ap Caradoc, who was the only person in open enmity against him, and that upon very just ground, willing him to come and treat about a peace, and assuring him of a safe conduct for himself, his sons, and all the rest of his associates. Iorwerth was willing to accept of the proposal, and thereupon set forward to meet the king, having sent an express to his son Owen, a valourous young gentleman, to meet him by the way. Owen, according to his father's orders, set forward on his journey, with a small retinue, without any thing of arms or weapons of war, as thinking it folly to clog himself with such needless carriage, when the king had promised a safe conduct. But he did not find it so safe; for as he passed the new castle upon Usk, the Earl of Bristol's men, who were garrisoned therein, laid in wait for him, as he came along, and setting cowardly upon him, slew him, with most of his company. But some few escaped to acquaint his father Iorwerth of such a treacherous action; who hearing that his son was so basely murdered, contrary to the king's absolute promise of a safe passage; without any farther consultation about



the matter, presently returned home with Howel his son, and all his friends, and would no longer put any trust or confidence in any thing that the king of England, or any of his subjects promised to do. But on the other side to avenge the death of his son, who was so cowardly cut off; he presently raised all the forces that himself and the rest of his friends were able to do; and so entering into England, he destroyed with fire and sword all the country, to the gates of Hereford and Gloucester. But the king was so intent upon his return, that he seemed to take no great notice of what Iorwerth was doing; and therefore having by commission constituted Lord Rhys Chief Justice of all South Wales, he forthwith took his journey to Normandy. About this time died Cadwalader ap Gryffith, the son of Gryffith ap Conan, sometime Prince of North Wales; who by his wife Alice, the daughter of Richard Clare Earl of Gloucester, had issue, Cunetha, Radulph, and Richard; and by other women, Cadvan, Cadwalader, Eineon, Meredith Goch, and Cadwallon. Towards the end of this year Sitsyllt ap Dyvnwal, and Ievan ap Sitsyllt ap Riryd, surprised the castle of Abergavenny, which belonged to the king of England, and having made themselves masters of it, they took the whole garrison prisoners.

A.D. 1173.

But the following year, there happened a very great difference, and a falling out betwixt King Henry and his son of the same name; this latter being upholden by the queen his mother, his brothers Geffrey and Richard, the French King, the Earl of Flanders, together with the Earl of Chester, William Patrick, with several other valiant knights and gentlemen. But the old King having a stout and faithful army, consisting of Almanes and Brabanters, was not in the least dismayed or discouraged at such a seeming storm; and which made him more bold and adventurous, he was joined by a strong party of Welshmen, which Lord Rhys had sent him, under the command of his son Howel. King Henry overthrew his enemies in divers encounters, and having either killed or taken prisoners most of them who

were rose up against him, he easily dissipated the cloud which at first seemed so black and threatening. Iorwerth ap Owen was not very sorry to see the English clash, and fall into civil dissensions among themselves; and therefore taking advantage of such a seasonable opportunity, he drew his army against Caerlleon, which stood out very stiffly against him. But after many warm disputes of both sides, Iorwerth at length prevailed, and entering the town by force, he took most of the inhabitants prisoners; and then laying siege to the castle, it was surrendered up in exchange for the prisoners he had taken in the town. Howel his son at the same time was busy in Gwent is Coed; and having reduced all that country, excepting the castle, to subjection, he took pledges of the inhabitants, to be true and faithful to him, and to withdraw their allegiance from the King of England. At the same time, something of action passed in North Wales; for David ap Owen Gwynedd, Prince of North Wales, bringing an army over the river Menai into Anglesey, against his brother Maelgon who kept that island from him. forced him to make his escape to Ireland; in his return from whence the following year, he was accidentally discovered and seized upon, and then by his brother's orders committed to close prison. Prince David having brought the isle of Anglesey to its pristine state of subjection to him, was resolved to move all manner of obstacles which might at any time for the future endanger its falling off from him; and these he judged to be his own next relations, and therefore he expelled and banished all his brethren and cousins out of his territories of North Wales. But before this sentence was put in execution, his brother Conan died, and so escaped the ignominy of being banished his native country, for no other reason but the jealousy of an ambitious brother. A.D. 1176.

About the same time, Howel the son of Iorwerth ap Owen of Caerlleon, took prisoner his uncle Owen Pencarn, who was right heir of Caerlleon and Gwent;

and now having him secure, and to prevent his getting any children to inherit those places which himself was next heir to, he first pulled out his eyes, and then very inhumanly cut off his testicles. But vengeance did not permit such a base action to go unpunished; for upon the Saturday following, a great army of Normans and Englishmen came unexpectedly before the town, and won both it, and the castle, notwithstanding all the opposition which Howel and his father Iorwerth made; though this last was not privy to his son's action. About the same time King Henry came over to England, a little after whose arrival, William king of scots, and Roger de Moubray, were taken prisoners at Alnewike by the Barons of the north, as they came to destroy the northern part of the country in the quarrel of the young King. But old King Henry having committed them to the safe custody of the Earl of Leicester, and received Hugh Bygod Earl of Chester to his mercy, returned to Normandy with a very considerable army of Welshmen, which David prince of North Wales had sent him; in return of which, he gave him his sister Emme in marriage. When he was arrived in Normandy, he sent a detachment of the Welsh to cut off some provisions which were going to the enemies' camp; but in the mean time the French King came to a treaty of peace, which was shortly afterwards concluded upon; so that all the brethren, who had all this time maintained such an unnatural rebellion against their father, were forced to beg the old King's forgiveness and pardon for all their former misdemeanours. David Prince of North Wales began to grow very bold and assuming, by reason of his new alliance with the King of England; and nothing would serve his turn, but he must put his brother Roderic in prison, and secure him with fetters, for no other account than because he demanded his share of his father's lands. It was the custom of Wales, as is said before, to make an equal division of the father's inheritance between all the children; and therefore David had no colour of reason or pretence to deal

so severely with his brother; unless it were to verify that proverb; Might overcomes right. But though Prince David might depend much upon his affinity with the King of England; yet Rhys Prince of South Wales gained his favour and countenance the more, by reason that he let slip no opportunity to further the King's interest and affairs in Wales, and by that means was a very necessary and useful instrument to keep under the Welsh; and to promote the surer settlement of the English in the country. Not that he bore any love or affection to either King Henry or his subjects; but because he was sufficiently rewarded for former services, and was still in expectation of receiving more favours at the King's hands, he was resolved to play the politician so far, as to have regard to his own interest, more than the good of his native country. And what did ingratiate him to King Henry most of all, upon the feast of St, James he brought all such lords of South Wales as were at enmity with the King, to do him homage at Gloucester; namely, Cadwallon ap Madoc of Melyenyth, his cousin-german; Einion Clyt of Eluel, and Eioneon ap Rhys of Gwerthrynion, his sons-in-law; Morgan ap Caradoc ap Iestyn of Glamorgan; Gryffith ap Ivor ap Meiric of Sengennyth, and Sitsyllt ap Dyvnwal of Higher Gwent, all three his brothers-in-law, who had married his sisters; together with Iorwerth ap Owen of Caerlleon. King Henry was so well pleased with this stratagem, of Rhys that notwithstanding these persons had been his implacable enemies, he readily granted them their pardon, and received them to favour; and restored to Iorwerth ap Owen the town and castle of Caerlleon, which he had unjustly taken from him.

This reconciliation betwixt King Henry and A.D. 1175. these Welsh lords, some of the English in Wales took advantage of, and more particularly William de Bruce lord of Brecknock, who having for a long time a great longing to Gwentland, could not bring about his design, by reason that Sitsyllt ap Dyvn-

wal, the person of greatest sway and power in the country, was an inveterate enemy to all the English. But being now reconciled to the King, William de Bruce, under pretence of congratulating this new peace and agreement between the English and Welsh invited Sitsyllt and Geffrey his son, with several others of the persons of chiefest note in Gwentland to feast in his castle of Abergavenny, which by composition he had lately received from them. Sitsyllt with the rest, came according to appointment, and without the least suspicion of any treasonable designs; but after they had been civilly entertained for some time, William Bruce, to move a quarrel against them, began at last to propound certain articles to them, to be by them kept and performed; and among other unreasonable conditions, they were to swear, that none of them should at any time carry with them bow or sword. The Welsh refusing to consent to and sign such improper articles as these; William Bruce presently calls out his men, who were ready for that purpose, and bidding them fall to their business, they most treacherously fell upon and slew the innocent and naked Welsh; and as if it did not sufficiently express their cruelty and inhumanity, they immediately went to Sitsyllt's house, which stood not far from Abergavenny, and taking hold of Gwladys his wife, they slew her son Cadwalader before her face, and then setting fire to the house, they packed her away to the castle. This execrable murder being thus most barbarously, and which was worst of all, under pretence of friendship and kindness, committed; William Bruce, to cloak his treason with some reasonable excuse, and to make the world believe it was not for any private interest or expectation he had done such an act, as he knew would be by all men abhorred, caused it to be reported abroad, that he had done such a thing in revenge of the death of his uncle Henry of Hereford, whom the Welsh on the Eastern-Even before had slain. But whilst these things passed in South Wales, Roderic, David, Prince of North Wales' brother, made his escape by some means or other out

of prison, and fleeing to Anglesey, he was received and acknowledged by all the country on the other side the river Conway, for their lord and Prince; which they were the more willing to do, by reason that they conceived an utter abhorrence of Prince David, who contrary to all rules of equity, and almost nature, had disinherited all his brethren and cousins; as boldly relying upon his affinity and relation to the King of England. But David perceiving the storm to grow very violent, and that the country did numerously flock and adhere to his brother Cadwalader, thought it his best way to stay a while, till the storm was abated; and so retired over the river Conway. Towards the end of this year, Cadell the son of Gryffith ap Rhys, and brother to lord Rhys, after a tedious fit of sickness, and taken upon him the monkish order, departed this life, whose body was very honourably interred at Stratflur.

In the spring of the following year, died also A.D. 1176, David Fitz-Gerald, bishop of Menevia, or St. Davids, whose see was supplied by one Piers, being nominated thereunto by the King of England, But what happened most remarkable this year; the Lord Rhys, Prince of South Wales, made a very great feast at Christmas, in his castle of Aberteifi, which he caused to be proclaimed through all Britain, Ireland, and the islands adjacent, some considerable time before; and according to their invitation, many hundreds of English, Normans, and others, coming to Aberteifi, were very honourably received, and courteously entertained by Prince Rhys. But among other tokens of their welcome and entertainment, Rhys caused all the bards or poets throughout all Wales to come thither; and for a better diversion to the company, he provided chairs to be set in the hall, in which the bards being seated, they were to answer each other in rhyme; and those that acquitted themselves most handsomely, and overcame the rest, were promised great rewards and rich presents. In this poetical disceptation, the North Wales bards obtained the victory, with the

- applause and approbation of the whole company ; and among the professors of music, between whom there was no small strife, Prince Rhys's own servants were accounted the most expert. But for all this
- A.D.1177. civil and obliging treatment of Prince Rhys, the Normans upon the marshes fell to their accustomed manner of treacherous way-laying, and privately assaulting the harmless and undesigning Welsh ; and therefore Eineon Clyt, Rhys's son-in-law, and Morgan ap Meredith, falling into the net which the Normans had deceitfully laid for them, were treacherously murdered. Therefore, to keep the Normans under greater fear and awe for the future, Prince Rhys built a castle at Rhaiadr Gwy, being a place where the river Wye falls with a very great noise and precipitation down a great rock. But this castle was like to stand him in a double stead ; for
1178. it was not long after he had perfectly finished it, that the sons of Conan ap Owen Gwynedd made war against him ; but finding upon trial that their design against Rhys was impracticable, they thought it more adviseable to retire back to North Wales.
1179. The next year, Cadwallon, brother to Owen Gwynedd, an uncle to David and Roderic, who, for fear of his brother, had some time ago fled for refuge to the King of England ; as he was conveyed home by some of the king's servants, to enjoy his patrimonial estate in Wales, was by those barbarous and treacherous villains, murdered in his journey. This year, the sepulchre of that famous British King, Arthur, with his wife Gwenhovar, (by the means of some Welsh bard, whom King Henry had heard at Pembroke relate in a song, the worthy and mighty acts of that great Prince, and the place where he was buried) was found in the isle of Avalon, without the abbey of Glastonbury ; their bodies being laid in a hollow elder tree, buried fifteen feet in the earth. The bones of King Arthur were of marvelous and almost incredible bigness, having ten wounds in the skull, whereof one being considerably larger than the rest, seemed to be his death blow ; and the queen's hair seemed to the sight to

be fair and yellow, but when touched, crumbled presently to dust. Over the bones was laid a stone, with a cross lead, upon the lower side of which stone were engraven these words:—

HIC JACET SEPULTUS INCLYTUS REX AR-  
THURUS IN INSULA AVALONIA:—

HERE LIES BURIED

*The famous KING ARTHUR*

IN THE ISLE OF AVALON.

No action of moment had passed in Wales this long time, and the Welsh were in perfect amity and concord with the King of England; but some unlucky accident fell out at last to dissolve this happy union and agreement. One Ranulph de Poer, A.D. 1182. who was sheriff of Gloucestershire, or rather as Giraldus Cambrensis observes, of Herefordshire, being a cruel and unreasonable oppressor of the Welsh, put the lord of Gwentland to death; in revenge of whom a certain young person of that country, set upon Ranulph with several other gentlemen his companions, and slew them to a man. King Henry was implacably enraged at this news, and so cruelly incensed, that he presently raised and drew together all his power, and came to Worcester, intending to march forward to Wales, and to invade the enemies' country. But the lord Rhys ap Gryffith, a subtile and a politic Prince, thinking it impossible to withstand the English army, and fearing the king's puissance, which he perceived to be so implacably bent against the Welsh, went in person to Worcester, and swearing fealty to the king, became his perpetual liegeman; and for the due observance of this contract, he promised to send his sons and nephews for pledges. But when he would have persuaded them to answer his request, the young men considering with themselves how former pledges had not been very genteely treated by the English, refused to go; and so the whole matter rested for that time. What became of the matter afterwards we know not; but pro-

*Rhys ap Gryffith  
became fealty  
to the king  
and became  
perpetual liegeman  
to the king*



bable it is, that King Henry returned to England satisfied with Rhys's submission, for we hear no more of his coming to Wales. And so the country remained quiet and undisturbed for a long time; till at length the Welsh began to fall to their wonted method of killing and murdering one another.

- A.D. 1186. Cadwalader, Prince Rhys's son, was privately murdered in West Wales, and buried in the Ty Gwyn.
1187. And the year following, Owen Vychan, the son of Madoc ap Meredith, was slain by night in the castle of Carrergova near Oswestry, by Gwenwynwyn and Cadwallon, the sons of Owen Cyveilioc. But what was most unnatural of all, Llewelyn, whose father Cadwallon ap Gryffith ap Conan was lately murdered by the Englishmen, was taken by his own brothers, who very barbarously put out his eyes. About the same time, Baldwyn, archbishop of Canterbury, being attended by Giraldus Cambrensis, took a progress into Wales, being the first archbishop of Canterbury that visited that country; whose authority the clergy of Wales in vain opposed, though they stily alledged the liberties and privileges of their metropolitan church of St. Davids. In this visitation, described by Giraldus in his *Itinerarium Cambriæ*, he persuaded many of the nobility of Wales to go to the Holy Land, against those prevailing enemies of Christianity, the Saracens, to whose prevailing greatness, Jerusalem itself was now in great danger to become subject.
1188. The archbishop having left the country, Maelgon, the son of lord Rhys, brought all his power against Tenby, and having by force made himself master of it, burnt the whole town to the ground, and so carried away very considerable spoil. He was a person of such civil behaviour and easy access, of so comely personage, and honesty in all his actions, that he attracted the most earnest love and affection of all his friends; by which means he became very terrible and formidable to his enemies, especially the Flemings, of whom he obtained divers victories and conquests.
1189. The next year, being the year of Christ 1189, Henry the Second, surnamed Courtmantel, king of

England died, and was buried at Fonteverard: after whom, his son Richard, called Courdelion, was by the unanimous consent of all the peers and nobility of England, crowned in his place. Prince Rhys being thus deprived of his greatest friend, thought it his wisest way to make the best provision he could for himself, by enlarging his dominions, and extending the bounds of his present territories; and therefore having raised all the strength he could, he won the castles of Seynclere, Abercorran, and Llastephan; and having taken and committed to prison Maelgon his son, who was the greatest thorn in his side as one that was most passionately beloved by the South Wales men, he brought the whole country to his subjection. Then he built the castle of Cydweli; but what took away from him the joy of all this good fortune, he lost his daughter Gwenllian, a woman of such incomparable beauty, and exceeding in all feminine qualifications, that she was accounted the fairest and best accomplished lady in all the country. And not long after her died Gryffith Maylor, lord of Bromfield, a man of great prudence and experience, and one that excelled all the nobility of his time in hospitality, and all other acts of generosity and liberality. His corps was carried to Myvod, and honourably interred there, being attended by most of the persons of quality throughout the whole country. He had issue by his wife Angharad daughter of Owen Gwynedd prince of North Wales, a son called Madoc, who succeeded his father in that part of Powis, called from him Powis Vadoc. Rhys, prince of South Wales, was growing very powerful, and had made himself master of the greatest part of South Wales, only with some few places more, Dynevawr held out still; which however, upon the first assault he made against it, was delivered up to him. But as he increased in the number of towns and castles, he had the misfortune to have that of his children diminished; for his daughter Gwenllian was lately deceased; and now he had no sooner got Dynevawr castle into his

A.D. 1190,

1191.

possession, but his son Owen died at Strata Florida, or Ystratflur. King Richard was gone to the Holy Land against the Saracens; but on his return to England, he won the kingdom of Cyprus, and gave it to Gwido king of Jerusalem, upon condition he would resign his former title to him: during his stay in this island, he married Berengaria the daughter of the king of Navarre.

- A.D. 1192. Maelgon, Prince Rhys' son had been now detained a long time in prison, where his father had shut him up; but being at last utterly weary of such a close confinement, he found some means or other to get out, and to make his escape. His father Prince Rhys was not so troubled at his being broke out, and that he had got his liberty, as to give over the conquest, which all this while he had gone so furiously on with; but laying siege to Llanhayaden castle he took it without any great opposition, and brought all the country about to his subjection. And what favoured him more in his attempts against the English, King Richard having most bravely signalized himself against the infidels, in his return home through Austria, was taken prisoner by Duke Leopold, who presented him to the Emperor Henry, who demanded 200,000 marks for his ransom; laying to his charge, that he had spoiled and plundered the island of Sicily in his voyage, to the Holy Land. And as Rhys took the advantage of King Richard's absence to subject South Wales; so Roderic brother to David Prince of North Wales, made use of Gothrik's the king of Man's help, to get the principality of North Wales to himself, and eject his brother. And therefore entering into Anglesey, he quickly reduced the whole island to his subjection. But he did not enjoy it long; for before the year was over, the sons of his brother Conan came with an army against him, and forcing him together with the king of Man to fly the island, they took present possession of it themselves. And while these things were done in North Wales, Maelgon, Prince Rhys of South Wales his son, who was lately escaped from prison, besieged Ystratmeyric castle, and after some

small opposition got into his own hands upon Christmas night; which encouraged him to farther attempts. And at the same time, his brother Howel surnamed Sais, or the Englishman, by reason that he had served for some time under the king of England, another son of Prince Rhys, got by surprise the castle of Gwys, and having secured Philip de Gwys the owner, with his wife and two sons, he made them all prisoners of war. Then the two brothers Howel and Maelgon joined their forces; but fearing that they had more castles than what they were able to defend, they thought it convenient to rase Llanhayaden castle; which the Flemings having notice of, they gathered all their power together, and coming to Llanhayaden at the day appointed, they unexpectedly set upon the Welsh, and slew a great number of them. But notwithstanding this sudden and unhappy accident, they thought it necessary to destroy the castle; and so coming to Llanhayaden the second time, they rased it to the ground, without any molestation from, or appearance of any enemy to disturb them. But when Anarawd, another son of Prince Rhys, saw how prosperously his brothers succeeded, he thought to make himself as rich as they, and by a shorter and an easier method; and therefore having under a smooth pretence of friendship and love got his brothers Howel and Madoc in private, being moved with ambition and covetousness to enjoy their estates, he first made them prisoners, and then very unnaturally pulled out their eyes. But Maelgon escaped this snare, and hearing what a foul action was committed, he promised his brother Anarawd the castle of Ystratmeyric, for the liberty and releasement of his two brothers, which Anarawd granted. But it is no wonder that those brothers could be unnatural and cruel to one another, who could join and agree to rebel against their father; and now Prince Rhys A.D. 1194. having rebuilt the castle of Rhayadr Gwy, was laid wait for, and taken prisoner by his own sons, who were afraid, that in case their father had them once

in his power, he would severely revenge their cruel and unnatural deeds. But Howel proved more kind and dutiful than the rest; who, though blind, found a way to let his father escape out of Maelgon's prison, and so Prince Rhys being set at liberty, he took and destroyed the castle of Dynevawr, which belonged to his son Maelgon. But tho' he succeeded in this attempt, yet he lost another castle elsewhere; for the sons of Cadwallon ap Madoc of Melyenith being informed that Prince Rhys was detained prisoner by his son Maelgon, they besieged Rhayadr Gwy castle, which being surrendered up to them, they fortified for their own use.

But whilst these unhappy differences, and unnatural clashings betwixt Prince Rhys and his sons, continue and rage in South Wales, a new revolution of affairs happened in North Wales. Prince David had now enjoyed the sceptre of North Wales for above twenty-four years; and one would think, that so long a possession would secure him in his throne, that it could not be very easy to pull him down. But possession is not always the surest card, which proved very true in Prince David's case at this time; for Llewelyn, the son of Iorwerth Drwyndwn, who was the eldest son of Owen Gwynedd, Prince of North Wales, being now arrived to years of maturity, and having sense enough to understand what a just title and claim he had to the principality of North Wales, of which his uncle David had so unjustly kept him out; he thought it high time to endeavour to recover what was lawfully his own, which however he was well persuaded his uncle David would never easily part with. And therefore being well assured that the justness of his title would never mount him up to the throne, without he had an army at his heels to help him on; he called together all his friends and relations by his mother's side, who was Marred, the daughter of Madoc ap Meredith, Prince of Powis, and having drawn to his side his cousins, the sons of Conan ap Owen Gwynedd, and Rhodri ap Owen, he came into North Wales, proclaiming how, against all

*Owen Gwynedd*

*Iorwerth Drwyndwn*

*Llewelyn*

justice, his uncle David had first disinherited his father Iorwerth, and then had kept the government from him who was the right heir. And though his father Iorwerth had been incapable of taking upon him the government, by reason of some infirmity; yet there was no reason that his father's weakness should exclude and turn him out; and therefore, being now sensible of what he was not capable to understand in his youth, he laid claim to the principality, which was justly his own. But there was no great need of conjuring to understand his claim, nor of much rhetoric to persuade the people to own him for their prince; whose affection was cooled, and almost worn off from David, ever since he had dealt so unnaturally with his brothers, whom, after he had deprived of their estates, he banished out of the country. And therefore before Llewelyn could expect to have any sure footing, the whole country of North Wales was at his devotion, excepting only three castles, which David by the help of the English, in whom, by reason of his affinity with the late King Henry, he depends much upon, kept to himself. And thus David, being deprived of almost all that he formerly possessed, we shall reckon him no more among the princes of North Wales, but restore the principality to the true heir, Llewelyn ap Iorwerth.

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### LLEWELYN AP IORWERTH.

**LLEWELYN AP IORWERTH**, the son of Owen Gwynedd, having thus successfully carried on his just claim to the dominion of North Wales, and being quietly settled in the government of it, Roger Mortimer marches with a strong body to Melyenith, and built the castle of Cymaron, whereby he reduced that country to his subjection, and forced thence the two sons of Cadwallon ap Madoc that were governors thereof. About this time Rhys and Meredith, two valiant, but undutiful sons of Prince Rhys,

having got together a body of hot-headed, daring soldiers, came before Dynevawr, and took the castle that was garrisoned by their father's men: hence they proceeded to Cantre-Vychan, where the country civilly received them, and surrendered up the castle to them. At this their father was justly incensed, and therefore to put a stop to their farther proceedings, he endeavoured by all means to take them, which not long after happened; for their adherents now began to be touched with the sense as well of their treason against, as of their allegiance due to their lawful lord Prince Rhys; and therefore to atone for their past faults, and to procure his future favour, they betrayed their rebellious leaders to their offended father, who immediately committed them to safe custody.

A.D. 1196.

The ensuing year Prince Rhys levies a great army whose first attempt was upon the town and castle of Caermarthen, both which he took in a short time and destroyed, and then returned with considerable booty. Not long after he led the said army to the marches, and invested the castle of Clun, which was not so easily taken as the former, for this cost him a long siege, and many a fierce assault; and therefore to be revenged of it, when he took it he laid it in ashes; thence he proceeded to the castle of Radnor, which he likewise won; but immediately after it cost him a bloody battle; for he was no sooner master of the castle, but Roger Mortimer and Hugh de Say came with a numerous and well-disciplined army, consisting of Normans and English, to the relief of it. Whereupon Prince Rhys thinking it not his best course to confine his men within the walls, led them up into a champaign ground hard by, and there, like a valiant prince, resolved to give his enemies battle, though they had much the advantage of him; for his men were neither so well armed, nor so much accustomed to battle as the others were; however, their courage made amends for their arms; and their leader's prudence and conduct supplied the defects of their discipline; for they chose rather to die honourably in the de-

fence of their country, than shamefully to survive the loss of it; and therefore they attacked their enemies so valiantly, that they were not long able to withstand their force, but quitted the field in great disorder, leaving a great number of their men behind them slain upon the spot; and Prince Rhys pursued them so warmly, that they were glad of the shelter of the night to protect them from his fury. After this victory, he besieged the castle of Payne in Eluel, which he easily took, and kept in his own hands, till William de Bruce, the owner thereof, came to him, and humbly desired peace of him which he granted him, and withal delivered him up his castle again. Not long after, the archbishop of Canterbury (whom King Richard had substituted his lieutenant in England) marches with a powerful army towards Wales, and besieges the castle of Gwenwynwyn, at the pool; but the garrison made such a vigorous defence, that he lost a great many of his men, and all his attempts proved ineffectual; therefore he sent for some pioneers, whom he ordered to undermine the walls; which when the besieged understood, they bethought of securing themselves on the most honourable terms they could; they were not willing to put themselves to the hazard of a battle, for their enemies were thrice their number; therefore they proposed to surrender up the castle, on condition they should carry off all their arms along with them: which offer the archbishop accepted of, and so permitted the garrison to march out quietly. Then fortifying the castle for the king's use, and putting a strong garrison in it for its defence, he returned again to England. But Gwenwynwyn was not so willing to part from his castle, as never to attempt the recovery of it; therefore as soon as he understood that the archbishop was gone back, he immediately besieged it, and shortly after received it on the same terms that his men had delivered it up, and afterwards kept it for his own use.

The following year there broke out a terrible plague, which spread over all Britain and France, and carried off a great number of the nobility, be-

A.D. 1197.



sides common people. This year likewise died the valiant Rhys, Prince of South Wales; the only stay and defence of that part of Wales; for he it was that got them their liberty, and secured it to them. He often very readily exposed his own life for the defence of theirs and their country; generally he got the better of his enemies, and at last either brought them entirely under his subjection, or forced them to quit their country. He was no less illustrious for his virtuous endowments, than for his valour and extraction; so that it was with good reason that the British bards and others wrote so honourably of him, and so mightily deplored his death.

To this prince were born many sons and daughters, whereof his eldest son Gryffith succeeded him: the others were Cadwallon, Maelgon, Meredith, and Rhys. Of his daughters, one called Gwenllian was married to Ednyved Vychan, ancestor to Owen Tudor that married Katharine queen-dowager to King Henry the Fifth; and the rest were very well matched with some of the nobility of the country. Prince Gryffith being settled in the government of his country, did not long enjoy it peaceably; for his troublesome brother Maelgon thought it now a fit time to endeavour the recovery of the inheritance his father had deprived him of. To this purpose he makes a league with Gwenwynwyn, the son of Owen Cyveilioc, lord of Powis, and by their joint interest got together a considerable body of men, wherewith they surprised Prince Gryffith at Aberystwyth, whom, after they had slain a great many of his men, they took prisoner. Thus Maelgon effectually accomplished his design in the recovery of the castle, and the whole country of Cardigan. His unfortunate brother he committed to the custody of his spiteful confederate Gwenwynwyn, who immediately out of malice delivered him up to the mercy of his inveterate enemies the English. After this Gwenwynwyn having got together an army entered Arustly, and brought it to his subjection.

David ap Owen, whom Prince Llewelyn had forced to quit his usurpation of the principality of

North Wales, had hitherto lived quietly and peaceably, not so much out of kindness to his nephew, as because he knew not how to redress himself; but now having got a great army of English and Welsh, he used his utmost efforts to recover his principality. Whereupon Prince Llewelyn, who was the right heir, and in possession of it, came on boldly to meet him, and gave him battle; wherein he shamefully routed his army, and took his uncle David prisoner, whom he delivered into safe custody, whereby he secured to himself and his country peace and quietness. Towards the close of this year, Owen Cyveilioc, lord of the Higher Powys, departed this life, and left his estate to Gwenwynwyn, his son; after whom that part of Powis was called Powis-Wenwynwyn, to distinguish it from the other, called Powys-Vadoc, the inheritance of the lords of Bromfield. Much about this time, Trahaern Vychan, a man of great power and authority in the county of Brecknock, was suddenly seized upon as he was going to Llancors, to confer about some business with William de Bruce, lord thereof, and by an order of the lord's, tied to an horse's tail, and dragged through the streets of Brecknock to the gallows, where he was beheaded, and his body hung up by the feet for three days. Which barbarity inflicted on him for no known just cause, so frightened his brother's wife and children, that they fled their country for fear of the same usage. The year following, Maelgon, who had before routed his brother Prince Gryffith's army, and taken him prisoner, begins now to enlarge his territories, and takes in his brother's castles of Aberteifi and Ystratmeyric. Also the youngest son of Prince Rhys, about this time, recovered the castle of Dynevawr from the Normans. A.D. 1198.

The same summer, Gwenwynwyn took up a resolution of attempting to extend Wales to its ancient limits; and for this purpose he raises a powerful army, with which he first designs to be avenged of William de Bruce, for the inhuman

death of his cousin Trahaern Vychan, and therefore he besiegeth his castle of Payn, in Eluel, where he makes a protestation, that as soon as he had taken it, for a further satisfaction to his revenge, he would unmercifully ravage the whole country as far as Severn. But these mighty menaces were soon blown over; for he had neither battering engines nor pioneers, so that he was forced to lay before the castle for three weeks, without effecting any thing; whereby the murderers had time enough to apply themselves to England for succours, which they obtained. For upon this, Geoffrey Fitz-Peter, Lord Chief Justice of England, levies a considerable army, to which he joins all the lords Marchers, and comes in all haste to the relief of the place, where he meets Gwenwynwyn; with whom before he would hazard a battle, he was desirous to have a treaty of peace, to which Gwenwynwyn and his adherents, would in no wise hearken or condescend, but returned in answer, that their business there was to be revenged of old injuries done them. Hereupon the English lords resolved to enlarge Prince Gryffith, of South Wales, whom they knew to be an inveterate enemy of Gwenwynwyn, as he that delivered him up to their hands; and likewise to be a man of great authority in his country, therefore they rightly concluded he might be more serviceable to them when at liberty than under confinement, wherein they were not disappointed; for he immediately got together a strong body of his countrymen, and joining with the English, advanced towards the castle, where they furiously attacked Gwenwynwyn, who made no less vigorous defence; hereupon there ensued a bloody battle, with a great slaughter on both sides, but at length the English got the victory, and Gwenwynwyn lost a great number of common soldiers, (if we believe Matthew Paris, 3700 men) besides a great many of his best commanders, among whom were Anarawd, son of Eineon; Owen ap Cadwallon, Richard ap Iestyn, and Robert ap Howel. Meredith ap Conan was likewise taken prisoner, with

many more. After this, the English returned home triumphantly, and requited Prince Gryffith's service with a perfect liberty, who immediately, partly by his own force, partly by the affection of his people, repossessed himself of all his dominions, except the castles of Aberteifi and Ystratmeyric, which his usurping brother Maelgon, by the assistance of Gwenwynwyn, had, during his confinement by the English, taken from him, and still unjustly detained. Hereupon, some of Prince Gryffith's prime nobility and clergy came to him, and offered him their endeavours of reconciling him to his brother, and made him so apprehensive of his just displeasure at him, that he took a solemn oath before them, that in case his brother would give him hostages for the security of his own person, he would deliver him up his castle of Aberteifi by a day appointed; which proposals Prince Gryffith accepted of, and accordingly sent him his demands: but it was the least of Maelgon's intention to make good his part, or else he was very inconstant in his resolution; for he had no sooner received the hostages, but instead of delivering up the castle, he fortifies it, and puts in a garrison for his own use, and commits the hostages to the custody of Gwenwynwyn, Prince Gryffith's mortal enemy; but not long after, their innocency procured them an opportunity of an escape.

In the year 1199, Maelgon still pursuing his hatred of his brother Prince Gryffith, gets an army, wherewith he besiegeth his castle of Dynnerth, which he was master of in a short time, and then put all the garrison to the sword. But about the same time, Prince Gryffith, in lieu of this, won the castle of Cilgerran, and strongly fortified it. This year, Richard the First, of England, as he was besieging the castle of Chalons, in France, was shot from the walls with an arrow, whereof he not long after died, and left his kingdom to his brother John, who thereupon was with great solemnity crowned at Westminster. But he could not expect

to enjoy this kingdom peaceably, for his elder brother Geoffrey Plantagenet had left a son behind him, named Arthur, whose right to the crown of England was by lineal descent; which now therefore he justly lays claim to, and by the assistance of King Philip of France, (who espoused his quarrel) endeavours to recover. But before Prince Arthur had made sufficient preparations to carry on his design, he was unexpectedly set upon by his uncle, his army routed, and he himself taken prisoner, and committed to safe custody; not long after which, he died, and so King John was rid of his competitor.

*Monks Paul*  
 A.D. 1200. The following year, Griffith ap Conan ap Owen Gwynedd died, and was buried in a monk's cawl, in the abbey of Conway, which way of burying was very much practised, (especially by the higher sort) in those days; for the monks and friars had deluded the people into a strong conceit of the merits of it, and had firmly persuaded them it was highly conducive to their future happiness to be thus interred. But this superstition, together with the propagators of it, they had lately received from England: for the first abbey or monastery we read of in Wales, since the destruction of that famous house of Bangor, which favoured of Romish dregs, was the Ty-Gwyn, built in the year 1146, after which they mightily increased and spread over all the country; and now the fountain-head began to be corrupted; for the clergy maintained a doctrine which their ancestors abhorred, as may easily be gathered from the writings of that worthy divine Ambrosius Telesinus, who flourished in the year 540, when the christian faith (which we suppose to be delivered at the isle of Avalou, by Joseph of Arimathea) flowed in this land in a pure and uncorrupted stream, before it was infected and polluted by that proud and blood-thirsty monk Augustine. I say, he then wrote and left behind him as his own opinion, and the opinion of those days, these following verses:—

*391.01*  
*Telesin*

Gwae'r offeiriad byd  
 Nis angreiffia gwyd,  
 Ac ni phregetha:  
 Gwae ni cheidw ei gail,  
 Ac ef yn fugail,  
 Ac nis areilia;  
 Gwae ni cheidw ei ddefaid,  
 Rhag bleiddie Rhufeiniaid,  
 A'i ffon gwppa.

—*i. e.* Woe be to the bishop who does not rebuke vice, and give good example; and who does not preach. Woe be to him, if he does not keep well his fold: and he a shepherd. And does not keep together and guard his sheep from popish wolves, with his pastoral staff.

From whence it is apparent, that the church of Rome was then corrupt, and that the British churches persevered in the primitive and truly apostolical profession of christianity, as it was at first planted in the island; and that no Roman innovations had crept in among them, which afterwards mightily increased, when they were once introduced by Augustine the monk.

This year likewise we find the spiteful and turbulent Maelgon, choosing rather to persist still in his rebellion, than to return to his allegiance, and to prefer a small lucre to the love and safety of his country. For now finding that the castle of Aber-teifi was not tenable by his own power and force, yet rather than deliver it up to his brother Prince Gryffith, and thereby procure his favour, he chose to sell it to his bitter enemies the English, for an inconsiderable sum of money, whereby he opened them a free passage into all Wales; this being reckoned one of its chief defences and bulwarks. About this time, Madoc, son of Gryffith Maylor, lord of Bromfield, built the abbey of Llanegwast, commonly known by the English, by the name of Vale Crucii.

In the year 1201, the valiant Llewelyn ap Ior-<sup>A.D. 1201.</sup>werth, prince of North Wales, banished out of his territories his cousin Meredith, the son of Conan ap Owen Gwynedd, whom he suspected of treasonable practices, and therefore confiscated his lands which were the Cantrev of Llyn and Evyonyth.

Much about the same time Meredith, the son of Prince Rhys, was slain at Carnwillion by treason, whereupon his elder brother Gryffith possessed himself of his castle, in Llanymddyvri, and all his lands. This Gryffith was a valiant and discreet prince, and one that was like to bring all South Wales to good order and obedience; for in all things he trod in his father's steps, and made it his business to succeed him, as well in his valour and virtuous endowments, as in his government. But the vast hopes conceived of him soon proved abortive; for in the ensuing year, on St. James's day, he died, to the great grief and loss of his country, and shortly after was buried at Ystratflur, with great pomp and solemnity. He left behind him for a successor a son, called Rhys, which Maud, the daughter of William de Bruce had bore him. The following year, some of the Welsh nobility marched with an army towards the castle of Gwerthrynion, which belonged to Roger Mortimer, and after a short siege, they took it and levelled it with the ground.

A.D.1202.

This year, Llewelyn ap Iorwerth calling to mind his estate and title, and how all the Welsh princes were obliged, both by the laws of Roderic the Great, and those of Howel Dda, to acknowledge the king or prince of North Wales for their sovereign lord, and to do homage to him for their dominions: yet notwithstanding that they knew this to be their duty, and that they formerly had readily performed it; yet, because of late years his predecessors had neglected to call them to their duty, they now began to imagine themselves exempted from it; and some thought themselves accountable to no superior prince; others denied subjection to Prince Llewelyn, and held their dominions of the King of England. To put a stop therefore to the further growth of this contempt, and to assert his own right, Prince Llewelyn summons all the Welsh lords, who, for the most part appeared, and swore allegiance to him. But Gwenwynwyn, lord of Powis, neither came to this meeting, nor would own the prince's supremacy; which stubbornness and disobedience, the prince

acquainted his lords with, whereupon they delivered their opinion, that it was but reasonable that Gwenwynwyn should be compelled to his duty, or else forfeit his estate: this all the lords consented to, but Elis ap Madoc, who was an intimate friend of Gwenwynwyn, and therefore would not consent to the enacting any thing that might be prejudicial to him, but broke off from the meeting much dissatisfied with their proceedings. Notwithstanding which, Prince Llewelyn, pursuant to the advice of the rest of his lords, raises an army, and marches towards Powis; but before he made any use of it, he was by the mediation of some learned and able men reconciled to Gwenwynwyn, and so Gwenwynwyn became his dutiful subject; which he confirmed both by oath and writing: and indeed it was not without good reason, that Prince Llewelyn used all the caution imaginable to bind this man; for he had sworn allegiance before to the King of England. Llewelyn having thus subjected Gwenwynwyn, he thought it now convenient to shew likewise some marks of his resentments against his adherent, Elis ap Madoc, and therefore he stript him of all his lands, whereupon Elis fled the country, but not long after, yielding himself to the prince's mercy, he received of him the castle of Crogen, and seven townships besides. And now having mentioned Crogen, it will not be improper to step a little out of the way, and here take notice of the reason why the English formerly, when they had a mind to reproach the Welsh, called them Crogens. The first occasion of it was this, King Henry the Second, in his expedition against the Welsh to the mountains of Berwin, lay a while at Oswestry, during which time he detached a number of his men to try the passages into Wales, who as they would have passed Offa's ditch, at the castle of Crogen, at which place there was a narrow way through the same ditch, which appears now very deep through all that country, and bear its old name; these men, I say, as they would have passed this streight, were met by a party of Welsh,



and a great many of them slain and buried in that ditch, as appears by their graves there to be seen; and the name of the streight imports as much, being called in Welsh, Adwy'r beddau. The English therefore bearing in mind this slaughter, whenever they got any of the Welsh into their clutches, upbraided them with the name of Crogen, intimating thereby that they should expect no more favour or mercy at their hands, than they shewed them in the skirmish. But this word, which at first was rather a badge of reputation, than disgrace to the Welsh, came afterwards to be used in a bad sense, and only then applied when they designed to reproach and abuse them. But to return to Prince Llewelyn, whom we find returning home, after he had successfully asserted his sovereignty over all Wales, and set all things in good order; and by the way he fortifies the castle of Bala, in Penllyn. About this time, Rhys, the son of Gryffith ap Rhys, the right prince of South Wales, took the castle of Llanymddyvri, upon Michaelmas-day. This year, Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, took to wife Joan, the daughter of king John, which Agatha, daughter of Robert Ferrers, earl of Derby, bore him, with whom he gave the Prince for a dowry the lordship of Elesmere, in the marshes of Wales.

A.D. 1203. Prince Rhys, whom we mentioned the year before to have taken the castle of Llanymddyvri, wins likewise the castle of Llangadoc, and puts a garrison therein; but he enjoyed neither of them long; for shortly after, his uncle Maelgon, with his friend Gwenwynwyn, levied a powerful army, and with it besieged and took the castle of Llanymddyvri; thence they removed to Llangadoc, and won that castle likewise, upon this condition, that the garrison be permitted to march out quietly. When they had taken these two castles, they went to Dinerth, where Maelgon finished the castle he had formerly begun there. This year likewise, Prince Llewelyn set at liberty his uncle David ap Owen Gwynedd, who made but a sorry return for his kindness; for instead of living peaceably at

home, and enjoying that liberty that was granted him, he flees to England, and there gets an army, wherewith he attempts to restore himself to his ancient estate of North Wales; but he missed his mark; for his prudent nephew immediately met him on his march, and gave him a shameful overthrow, wherewith David was so mightily disheartened, that he presently returned for England, and shortly after died of grief. The next year Howel, <sup>A.D.1204.</sup> a blind son of Prince Rhys, was slain at Camaes by his brother Maelgon's men, and buried near his brother Gryffith, at Ystratflur. But notwithstanding that, Maelgon in those days usurped all the rule and government of South Wales; yet his brother Gryffith's sons, Rhys and his brethren, won from him the chief defence of all that country, to wit,—the castles of Dynevawr and Llanymddyri. About this time, William Marshall, earl of Pembroke, besieged the castle of Cilgerran, and took it; and not long after, Maelgon hired an <sup>1205.</sup> Irishman to kill Cadivor ap Giffri; after which horrid fact, Maelgon seized upon his four sons, and put them to death;—these were forward, promising young gentlemen, and descended from a noble family; for their mother Susannah was a daughter of the said Howel ap Rhys, by a daughter of Madoc ap Meredith, Prince of Powis. In the year 1206, Maelgon built a castle at Abereneon. <sup>1206.</sup> At which time, there was such abundance of fish seen at Aberystwyth, that the like number was never known to have come there in the memory of man before.

This year, the King of England banished Wil- <sup>1207.</sup> liam de Bruce and his wife out of the realm, on account of a grudge that he bore his son, and then seized upon all his lands; whereupon, William, with his wife and son, fled to Ireland, and there continued for some time. And this hardship he now underwent was the less pitied, because he exercised the great power he had in the marshes of Wales with extreme cruelty and injustice. The same year,

Gwenwynwyn came to Shrewsbury to speak with the king's council, where he was detained prisoner: whereupon Prince Llewelyn conquered all his country, took all his towns and castles, and garrisoned them for his own use. This expedition of Prince Llewelyn mightily alarmed the usurping Maelgon, and the more, because he had intelligence that Llewelyn was on his march towards South Wales; therefore he now puts himself in the best posture he could to receive him; but finding himself not able to abide the prince's coming, and to withstand his forces, he demolisheth his castles of Aberystwyth, Ystratmeyric, and Dinerth, which before he had fortified. Notwithstanding which, the prince comes to Aberystwyth, and rebuildeth the castle and puts a garrison therein; after this he seized upon the cantrev of Penwedic, and the land betwixt Dyvi and Aeron, which he gave to Maelgon's nephews, the sons of Gryffith ap Rhys, and then returned home with great joy and triumph. Not long after, Rhys Vychan, son to Prince Rhys, besieged the castle of Llangadoc, and took it, contrary to the promise and league he had made with his nephews, forgetting likewise how freely and readily they had administered to him in his necessity; therefore to be revenged of this ingratitude and breach of promise, Rhys and Owen no sooner heard of it, but they furiously attacked the castle, and took it by assault, and put to the sword, or took prisoners, all the garrison, and then burnt the castle to the ground.

A.D. 1209.

This year, King John levied a powerful army with which he made a voyage to Ireland; but as he was on the borders of Wales on his journey thitherwards, there was a criminal brought before him, who had murdered a priest. The officer desired to know the king's pleasure, how he would have the delinquent punished; but the king, instead of ordering any punishment to be inflicted upon him, suitable to the heinousness of his crime, discharged him with a *well done* thou *good* servant, thou hast slain mine enemy; for such he reckoned the clergy of those

days, who were very ill-affected to his usurped, arbitrary government, and therefore he slightly regarded any injuries that were done them, nay, thought those did him good service who did them wrong. He had not been long in Ireland, but he got into his clutches the unfortunate William de Bruce the younger, and his mother Mawd de Saint Valerike, whom we have mentioned before to have quitted England for fear of him, and to have fled here for shelter. Upon his return to England he brought these in triumph along with him, and committed them to Windsor castle, where by his orders, not long after they were inhumanly famished. The reason of King John's displeasure against William de Bruce, lord of Brecknock, Mathew Paris delivers to be this:

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When the Pope had excommunicated the realm of England, the king, to prevent any inconveniencies that might ensue thereupon, took pledges of such of his nobles as he thought were disaffected to him, and would be like, if occasion offered, to countenance and promote a rebellion. Amongst others, he sends messengers to William de Bruce, to demand his sons for pledges, to whom Mawd, de Bruce's wife, being the readier speaker, answered, (though what she said was no less her husband's sentiment than her own)—That the king, who had proved so base a guardian to his nephew Prince Arthur, whom instead of setting in, he deprived of his right, should have none of her children. This answer the messengers delivered to the king, whereat he was so highly displeased, that he ordered some soldiers should be sent to seize this lord; but he having timely intelligence of this order, fled into Ireland with his wife and children, where now his wife Mawd, with her son, were unfortunately taken by King John, but he himself escaped, and fled into France, where not long after he died.

This year the Earl of Chester rebuilt the castle of Dyganwy, situate on the sea-shore, east of the river Conway, which Prince Llewelyn had before demo-

lished. He likewise fortifies the castle of Treffynon, or St. Wenefrid. Upon this Llewelyn enters into the Earl's land, which when he had ravaged sufficiently, he returns home with considerable booty. About this time, Rhys Vychan, son to Prince Rhys, fearing lest Prince Llewelyn should fall upon him for the wrong he had done to his nephews, whom he, Prince Llewelyn, stiffly defended in their right, made his application to the king of England, who readily granted him what succours he desired, and with these he besieged the castle of Llanymddyvri, the garrison for some time made a vigorous defence, but having no hopes of any relief, they thought it their wisest course to capitulate, and so they desired they might march out with their arms, bag and baggage, and all that belonged to them, which was granted them. About this time likewise Gwenwynwyn was set at liberty, whom the king had hitherto detained prisoner, and withal lends him some forces to attempt the recovery of his country which Prince Llewelyn had seized upon during his imprisonment; and though by his own strength he was not able to cope with the Prince, yet by this assistance granted him by the king, he soon re-possessed himself of his dominions. This success of Gwenwynwyn, encouraged Maelgon likewise to endeavour the recovery of that part of his country which the Prince had taken from him in the same expedition. Now he makes his application to the king of England, and swears allegiance to him. Hereupon the king grants him a considerable army as well English as Normans; to these he joins what forces he could raise in Wales, and then contrary to the oath and agreement he had made with his nephews Rhys and Owen, he in an hostile manner enters their country; when he was come to Cantrev Penwedic, he encamped at Cilcenny, where he staid some time to take measures for the better accomplishment of his designs; by this time his nephews had got together about 300 chosen well disciplined men, but with so small a number durst not oppose their uncle's numerous army in open field; therefore they were to endeavour to

overthrow those by a stratagem which they could not do by main force. Herein they proved very successful, for coming as near their enemies as they could without being discovered, they sent out their spies that night for intelligence, who brought back the good news, that all was quiet in Maelgon's camp and that they kept no strict watch, being not aware of an approaching enemy. This intelligence mightily encouraged the brothers to prosecute their designs, and now they march as silently as they can towards their enemies camp, where they met with no opposition, being not discovered because all were fast asleep. When they were advanced as they thought as far as Maelgon's tent, they furiously fell on, and slew a great number of his men before they awaked; the rest being frightened with the noise and shouts of their enemies, and withal thinking their numbers to be far greater than it was, were glad to make use of the darkness of the night to quit the field, only Maelgon's guard valiantly kept their post, and defended their lord till he had time and opportunity to escape. But Maelgon's army suffered very much in this action, his nephew Conan ap Howel with his chief counsellor Gryffith ap Cadwgan were both taken prisoners, and Eineon ap Caradoc with a great number more were slain upon the spot. About the same time Gilbert Earl of Gloucester fortified the castle of Buellt, where a little before he had lost a considerable number of his men, by reason that the place was not very strong and tenable. And towards the conclusion of this year, Mallt or Mawd de Bruce, the wife of Gryffith ap Rhys departed this life, and was interred by her husband in a monk's caul in Ystratflur.

But the following year a great storm threatened North Wales, by reason that the Marshers made frequent and grievous complaints to King John how that prince Llewelyn perpetually molested their country, slew their men, and committed all the waste and destruction possible as he passed along. The king hearing of such intolerable depredations continually exercised by the North Wales men,

thought it high time to redress his subjects, and therefore he raised a mighty army throughout all England, and called to him all the lords and princes of Wales as held their lands and patents from him, as Howel ap Gryffith ap Conan ap Owen Gwynedd, whom Prince Llewelyn had banished out of North Wales: Madoc ap Gryffith Maylor lord of Bromfield, Chirke and Yale, Meredith ap Rotpert lord of Cydewen, Gwenwynwyn lord of Powis, Maelgon and Rhys the sons of Prince Rhys and governors of of South Wales. With this formidable army he came to Chester, intending to enter into North Wales by that way, and being fully resolved to execute the severest vengeance upon the inhabitants, and not to let one living soul remain alive throughout the whole country. But matters of this nature are easier resolved upon, than accomplished; Prince Llewelyn was no sooner informed of these mighty preparations against him, comprehending the whole strength of the English nation, and what was worst of all, being assisted by his own countrymen, but he issued forth his orders, commanding all his subjects of the inland counties of Denbigh and Flint, together with them of the island of Anglesey, to remove for a time all their cattle and other effects to Snowden-hills, where they were sure to remain securest from their enemies. But King John marched his army along the sea-coast to Ruthland, and there passing the river Clwyd, he came to the castle of Teganwy, where he encamped for some time to refresh and recreate his army, which by reason of the long marches they made, was in a great measure weary and fatigued. But what the more augmented their misery, Llewelyn getting behind them, cut off all their hopes of provision from England, and the Welsh by the advantage of being acquainted with the straits and narrow passages, cut off all that straggled from the English camp, so that in time, they were glad to take up with horse-flesh, and any thing, were it ever so mean, which might fill up their greedy and empty stomachs. At last, King John finding no other remedy, and perceiving

it impossible to continue longer there, so hungry and faintly, thought it his wisest way to march for England, and leave the Welsh to themselves, and so he decamped in a great fury, leaving Llewelyn to bury that great number of dead, which had starved in this successful expedition. But to recover the honour he had now lost, he was resolved to try another touch with the Welsh, but possibly not with the same confidence and assurance of victory. And therefore returning to Wales in the next August, he entered with such another terrible army of English, and was assisted by the same Welsh lords, at Blanch monastery, now Oswestry, being in the lordship of John, the son of William Fitzalan. In this expedition, King John, passing the river Conway, and encamping at the other side towards Snowden hills, sent a part of his army, conducted by guides who were acquainted with the country, to burn Bangor, which they effectually did; and taking Rotpert, bishop of that see, out of the church, they carried him prisoner to the English camp, where he continued for some time, till he obtained his ransom for a present of two hundred hawks. But Prince Llewelyn finding the whole strength of England and almost all Wales, to fight against him, and judging it impossible for himself alone, to withstand so great a multitude, thought it his best way to endeavour to find out some method or other, to reconcile himself to the king. And no better measures could possibly be thought of, than to send Joan his wife, King John's daughter, to intreat with her father about a peace, and a cessation of all hostilities; who being a prudent, sly woman, so prevailed upon the king, that he granted Prince Llewelyn, her husband, a safe conduct to come to him, and to renew the former peace and amity that was betwixt them. And so Llewelyn having done homage, promised the king, towards his expences in this expedition, 20,000 head of cattle, and 40 horses, and what was more than all, he granted all the inland countries of Wales, with the appurtenances, to him and his heirs for ever. And then King John having received



better success in this, than the former expedition, returned to England in great triumph, having subdued all Wales, excepting that part which Rhys and Owen, the sons of Gryffith ap Rhys, still kept and maintained against the English. But having no leisure to march against them himself, at his departure out of the country, he gave strict charge to *Cardiff* Foulke, Viscount of Cardiff, warden of the marshes, a cruel tyrant, though well beloved and favoured by the king, to take an army with him, and so joining with Maelgon and Rhys Vychan, to compel the sons of Gryffith ap Rhys to acknowledge him for their sovereign, and to do him homage. Foulke having received so positive a command, presently raised his forces, and calling Maelgon and Rhys, came to the cantrev of Penwedic, which when the young lords, Rhys and Owen heard of, and being assured that this blow was levelled against them, which they knew they were not able to bear, before the stroke was struck, they sent to Foulke to sue for peace, and a safe conduct for them to pass to the court of England. This being granted, they came to London, and making their submission to the king, and requesting his pardon for all former misdemeanors, they gave up all pretence to their lands betwixt Aeron and Dyvi, and so paying their homage, they were dismissed very graciously. But Foulke, before his departure out of the country, fortified the castle of Aberystwyth, and placing a strong garrison therein, kept it for the king's use. But Maelgon and Rhys Vychan, a couple of headstrong, inconstant people, quickly repented them of the peace they had made with the King of England, and thereupon, without the least reason or provocation, they laid siege to Aberystwyth castle, and with much ado having made themselves masters of it, they destroyed those fortifications, which Foulke had lately erected, and defaced the castle to the ground. But they paid sauce for this another way, for as soon as Rhys and Owen had heard that their uncles had broken and violated the king's peace, they made inroads into

Isaeron, which was Maelgon's country, and having slain a considerable number of his men, among whom was one brave and lusty youth, called Bachglas, they returned with very rich booty.

Maelgon and Rhys Vychan were quickly followed by the North Wales men, in their revolt from the King of England, for Prince Llewelyn being not able to endure any longer the tyranny and oppression which the king's garrisons exercised in his country; called together Gwenwynwyn from Powis, Maelgon ap Rhys from South Wales, Madoc ap Gryffith Maylor from Bromfield, and Meredith ap Rotpert from Cydewen, and plainly declared before them the pride and insolency of the English, and how that they who were always used to have a prince of their own nation, were now by their own wilfulness and neglect become subject to strangers. However, it was not too late to recover their ancient liberty, and if they did but unanimously agree among themselves, they might easily cast off that yoke which was so intolerably burthensome to them. Then the lords being sensible of the truth and reasonableness of what Prince Llewelyn delivered, and being conscious to themselves that their present slavery and subjection to the English, was wholly owing to their own fear and cowardice, swore fealty to Prince Llewelyn, and swore to be true and faithful to him, and to stick by each other to the utmost of their lives and fortunes. And so joining their forces together, they took all the castles in North Wales which were in the hands of the English, excepting Ruthlan and Dyganwy; and then going to Powis, they laid siege to the castle which Robert Uspont had built at Mathravel. But King John being informed how the Welsh had conspired against him, and that they had taken and seized upon almost all his castles in North Wales, and how that they were now in actual besiegement of Mathravel, presently drew up his army, and coming to Mathravel, quickly raised the siege, and to prevent the Welsh from

coming any more against it, he burnt it to the ground, and so returned to England, having no time to stay any longer in Wales, by reason of the differences that happened betwixt him and his nobility. But being afterwards at Nottingham, and hearing how that Prince Llewelyn cruelly harrassed and destroyed the marches; he caused all the Welsh pledges which he had received the last year to be hanged, among whom were Howel, the son of Cadwallon, and Madoc, the son of Maelgon, with many others of the nobility's sons, to the number of twenty-eight. And about the same time, Robert Vepont caused Rhys, the son of Maelgon, to be hanged at Shrewsbury, being a youth of about seventeen years of age, and so cruelly murdered the innocent child, to revenge the crimes and offences committed by his father and others.

But though King John was so severe to the Welsh, yet the Princess of North Wales was more dutiful and favourable to him; for while he staid at Nottingham, she sent him an express, declaring how that the barons had entered into a conspiracy with the French king against him, and that the latter was preparing and raising an army to come over to England, upon pretence that the king was a rebel, and bid open defiance to the Holy Church, in as much as he would not condescend, nor yield to the Bishop of Rome's request. And in confirmation of all this, she told him that Robert Fitzwalter, Eustace de Vesey, and Stephen Redell, were secretly fled into France, to promote and carry on this intrigue. And that this design against King John was no feigned surmise. The next year, A.D. 1212. Pope Innocent the Third, detached one of his nuncios to Wales, who absolved Prince Llewelyn, Gwenwynwyn, and Maelgon, from their oaths of allegiance to King John, and withal gave them a strict command, under the penalty of excommunication, to molest and annoy him with all their endeavours, as an open enemy to the Church of God. Prince Llewelyn, you may be sure, was not in the least troubled at this, for now he gained the

fittest opportunity imaginable, to restore such lands as he had formerly, much against his mind delivered up to the king, being in the inland country of Denbigh and Flint, which Llewelyn at this time repossessed himself of. And well it was he was so quick, for within a little while after, King John, by the persuasions of Pandulph, the Pope's legate, granted his Holiness all his request, and so obtained absolution at Pandulph's hands, and upon performance of his promises, an assurance of a releasement from that Ecclesiastical Bull, which had so formidably roared against him.

South Wales had now been quiet for a considerable time, and they that used to be commonly very turbulent and contentious, were now pretty easy and amicable. But it was impossible that such a peaceable course of life should hold long, where injustice and oppression had so much liberty, and where people were wrongfully kept out of their just and rightful inheritance. And this was the occasion of the breach of that quietness, which for the two or three years last past, they had so satisfactorily enjoyed. For Rhys, the son of Gryffith ap Rhys, who was right heir to Prince Rhys, finding he could have no share of his father's estate, but that his uncles forcibly kept all from him, thought it his best way to make his case known to the King of England, and to desire a remedy and redress from him. King John, in compassion of the young man's hard condition, sent to his deputy Foulke, Viscount of Cardiff, warden of the marches, and to the Steward of Hereford, commanding them to take away all Ystratwy from Rhys Vychan, (by some called Rhys Gryg) unless he would permit his nephews to enjoy Llanymddyvri castle, with all the lands and privileges thereunto belonging. Foulke having received such orders from his master the King of England, sent to acquaint Rhys of the proposals, and so demanded of him whether or no he would deliver up Llanymddyvri to his nephews, according to the king's command; who returned answer, that

A.D.1213.

he did not know of any such obligation due from him to the King of England, as to part with his lands at his command, and therefore assured him peremptorily, and in plain terms, that he would not willingly part with one foot of what he was in present possession of. Foulke therefore having received this resolute answer, was likewise as resolute to get that by force which he could not obtain by fair means; and so having raised a great army, he marched to Tallwynelgain, to meet with young Rhys, who was to come thither with all the forces he could raise in Brecknock; and from thence they marched in three battles towards Dynevawr, the first being commanded by young Rhys, the second by Foulke, and Owen, brother to Rhys, led the third; Rhys Vychan was not in the least dismayed at their number, but thinking it more adviseable to meet them in the field, rather than suffer them to block him up at Dynevawr, came out very boldly, and gave them battle; but after a warm engagement on both sides, Rhys Vychan in the end got the worse, and after a loss of a great number of his men, he was glad at last to make his escape by flight. And so retiring to Dynevawr, he doubled the garrison of that place, but thinking the town of Llandeilo-vawr not to be tenable. he burnt it to the ground, and then kept himself private in the woods and other desart places. But young Rhys and Foulke laid siege to Dynevawr, and in the first assault came on so fiercely, that they forced the garrison to retire to the castle, which for some time they defended very manfully. But the besiegers began to play so violently with their battering engines, and to undermine the wall in such a manner, that the governor after a short defence began to capitulate, giving three pledges for security, that if they received no relief by the morrow at noon, the castle should be surrendered up, conditionally, that the garrison should march out with all the tokens of honour, and carry their arms and all other implements of war along with them. No relief being arrived, the castle the next

day was accordingly surrendered, and all the articles of the capitulation observed; and so young Rhys being possessed of Dynevawr, in a little time afterward, brought all Cantrev Mawr to his subjection. When Rhys Vychan was sensible how the stream run violently against him, he thought it his wisest way to remove his wife and children, and all his other effects, to his brother Maelgon's country, and so leaving Llanymddyvri castle well manned and fortified, he departed towards Aberystwyth. But as soon as Foulke was returned to the marches, young Rhys came with an army consisting of Welsh and Normans before Llanymddyvri, intending to besiege that place, but before they were encamped before the town, the governor thought it his best way to surrender, upon condition only, that the garrison should depart away with their lives. And shortly afterwards, Rhys Vychan was taken at Caermarthen, and committed to the king's prison, and so all the disturbances and troubles of South Wales came to a peaceable issue. But it was not so in North Wales, for Prince Llewelyn being desirous to rid his country from the insupportable tyranny and oppression of the English garrisons, laid siege to the castles of Dyganwy and Ruthlan, the only places now remaining in the hands of the English, which he took without any great opposition, and so freed his country from any title or pretence the King of England might claim in North Wales. King John indeed was engaged another way, and consequently in no good condition to help himself, for having repented of all the indignities and stubbornness he expressed against Pope Innocent; at this time he received penance at the hands of the archbishop of Canterbury, to atone for all the severities he had practised against the church. And to restore himself the more to his Holiness's favour, he made the kingdom of England tributary to the church of Rome, to be holden of the Pope, in paying him the sum of 1000 marks yearly for ever; and withal, recalled and restored to their former preferments and places, all such as had been banish-

ed, or had voluntarily fled the kingdom upon the account of their strict adherence and submission to the Pope of Rome.

A.D. 1219.

Nor was this all, for the next year, King John, with two of his nobility, the Earls of Chester and Derby, was resolved upon a voyage to the Holy Land, but was unfortunately prevented of his journey, by the rebellion of his barons, which now broke forth violently, by reason that the king would not grant them some ancient laws and privileges, such as their forefathers always enjoyed. Therefore the barons entered into a confederacy with Prince Llewelyn, of North Wales, desiring him to make what diversion he could on his part, which they were resolved to do on theirs; and so having raised an army they appointed Robert Fitzwalter their general. Coming to Bedford, they were honourably received into the castle by William Beauchamp, and from thence marching to London, they were entertained with all the expressions and tokens of joy. King John perceiving how powerful they were like to prove, and how that the country did in a great measure favour their cause, thought it his wisest way to nip them in the bud, and to fall upon them before they grew too strong; and therefore having levied his forces, he marched together with William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, towards the castle of Rochester. Being arrived there, he laid close siege to the castle, but the governor William de Abbineto, so bravely defended it, that it could hardly be taken after three months siege, but at length the king's men bore on so violently, that they took it by storm, where besides William de Abbineto, the king took several of the barons prisoners. This was an ill beginning to the design of the confederates, and what did not add a little to their misfortune, the Pope presently issues out his Bull of Excommunication against Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, and all the English barons as made war against King John, who was under the protection of the church of Rome. But Prince Llewelyn did not regard his threatening anathemas, and therefore having raised

an army, he came to Shrewsbury, which was delivered up to him without any resistance. And whilst Llewelyn remained there, Giles de Bruce bishop of Hereford, one of the chief of this conspiracy, sent his brother Reynold to Brecknock, whom all the people readily owned for their lord; and so without the least grumbling or opposition he received the castles of Abergavenny and Pencelly, the Castell Gwyn, or the White Castle, together with Grosmont castle, and the island of Cynuric. But when the bishop came thither in person, he had the castle of Aberhonddy, Hay, Buellt, and Blaenllyfny, delivered up to him; but thinking he had enough himself, and being rather desirous to secure his interest, and to strengthen his party in the country, than to heap more upon his own shoulders than he was well able to support, he bestowed Payn castle, Clune and all Eluel upon Walter Vychan, the son of Eineon Clyd.

In the mean time, young Rhys the son of Gryfith ap Rhys, and his uncle Maelgon were reconciled and made friends, and so coming both to Dyved they destroyed Arberth and Maenclochoc castle, and recovered all such lands as formerly belonged to them, excepting Cemais. But Rhys's brothers Maelgon and Owen went to North Wales, and did homage and fealty to Prince Llewelyn, whilst their brother Prince Rhys marched forward to Cydwely, and having rased the castles of Carnwylleon and Llychwr, brought all the country about under his subjection. But this was not enough to satisfy the ambitious humour of that young prince, for having once tasted the pleasure of victory, and the taking and demolishing of towns, he was resolved to prosecute his conquest whilst Fortune seemed to favour his undertakings: and therefore he led his army against Talybont castle, which belonged to Hugh de Miles, and forcing his entrance into the same, he put a great number of the garrison to the sword. The next day he marched to Sengennyth castle, but the garrison which kept it, thinking it fruitless and to no purpose to oppose him, burnt the place and departed to Ystymllwynarth. But he followed



them at the heels, and the next day took it, and rased it to the ground, and over-ran the country in such a violent manner, that in three days time, he became master of all the castles and fortresses in all Gowerland and Morgannwc, and so returned home with great victory and triumph. At the same time Rhys Vychan, otherwise Rhys Gryg, young Prince Rhys's uncle obtained his liberty from the king of England, leaving his son with two more for pledges for his modest and peaceable behaviour towards his subjects, whom at other times he was used to molest and oppress. About this time, the Abbots of Tal y Llecheu and Ty Gwyn, were consecrated bishops, the former of St. David's, and the other of Bangor. But the bishop of Hereford, who seemed to be the most violently inclined against King John, and was otherwise unwilling to part with what he had got in Wales, could not for all that refuse the injunction of the Pope, by whose express command, he was constrained to make peace with the king, which being concluded, in his return homeward, he died at Gloucester, leaving his estate to his brother Reginald, who had married the daughter of Prince Llewelyn.

But for all that, Giles de Bruce, bishop of Hereford, was fallen off, and reconciled to King John, yet Prince Llewelyn did not think it convenient to follow his example, and therefore with his whole army he marched against Caermarthen, and took the castle in five days, having rased it to the ground, he successively laid siege to the castles of Llanstephan, St. Cleare, and Talacharn. which he used after the same manner. From thence he went to Cardigan, and winning Emlyn castle, he subdued Cemaes, and then laying siege to Trevdraeth castle, (in English called Newport) he quickly took it, and afterwards rased it to the ground. His next design was upon Aberteifi and Cilgerran castles; but the garrisons which defended them, finding it to no purpose to wait his coming, and so to withstand all his attempts against those places, voluntarily surrendered, and by that means prevented all

the mischief, which in opposing him, would in all probability unavoidably attend them. And so Prince Llewelyn having successfully over-run and subdued all Caermarthen and Cardigan, triumphantly returned to North Wales, being attended by several of the Welsh nobility, such as Howel ap Gryffith ap Conan, Llewelyn ap Meredith, Gwenwynwyn, lord of Powis; Meredith ap Rotpert, Maelgon and Rhys Vychan, the sons of Prince Rhys, of South Wales, Rhys and Owen, the sons of Gryffith ap Rhys, together with all the power of Madoc ap Gryffith Maylor, lord of Bromfield.

But the next year, Prince Llewelyn returned to A.D. 1216. Aberteifi to compose a difference, which since his departure, had happened betwixt Maelgon and Rhys Vychan, Prince Rhys's sons on the one side, and Rhys and Owen, Gryffith ap Rhys's sons on the other. Therefore to make up this quarrel, and to reduce all matters to a quiet and amicable issue, Prince Llewelyn made an equal distribution of South Wales betwixt them, allotting to Maelgon, three Cantreys in Dyved, viz.—Gwarthav, Penllwynoc, Cemac, and Emlyn, with Cilgerrau castle; to young Rhys, two castles in Ystratywy, Hiruryn and Maellaen, Maenor Bydvey, with the castle of Llanymddyvri, and two in Cardigan, Gwynionyth and Mahwyneon. His brother Owen had to his share the castles of Aberteifi and Nant yr Arian, with three Cantreys in Cardigan; and Rhys Vychan, otherwise called Rhys Gryc, had Dynevawr castle, the Cantrev Mawr, the Cantrev Bychan, excepting Hiruryn and Middvey, together with the Comotes of Cydwely and Carnwyllion. This division being accomplished to every one's satisfaction, and all the lords of South Wales being amicably reconciled, Prince Llewelyn took his journey for North Wales; but he had not advanced very far, when news was brought him that Gwenwynwyn, lord of Powis, was revolted, and was become again the King of England's subject. This unwelcome news struck very deep in the prince's mind, by reason

that Gwenwynwyn was a man of great power and strength in the country, and went a great way to repel the incursions of the English upon the marches, which now he being gone off, could not, he feared, be so well effected. But however, to make the best of a bad market, he endeavoured to take him off from the English, and to restore him to his former allegiance, due to himself as his natural prince; and to that end, he sent to him some bishops and abbots to put him in mind of his oath and promise, how that he with the rest of the lords of Wales, had obliged himself to oppose the English to the utmost of his power, and had delivered pledges for the sure performance of what he had then by oath engaged in, and lest he should have forgot what he had then promised, he was desired to read his own hand-writing, whereby it was apparent that he had very unjustly violated both his oath and promise. But all the rhetoric the bishops could make use of, was not of force enough to work Gwenwynwyn to a reconciliation with the prince, and an aversion to the King of England; and therefore seeing nothing would do, Prince Llewelyn was resolved to make him incapable of serving the English, and so entering Powis with a strong army, he subdued the whole country to himself, Gwenwynwyn being forced to fly for succour to the Earl of Chester.

Whilst these things passed in Wales, Lewis, the Dauphin of France, being invited by the English barons against King John, landed in the island of Thanet, and marching forward to London, he there received homage of all the barons, that were in actual war against the king. And then setting forward to Winchester, where King John then lay, he took in his way the castles of Rygat, Guildford, and Farnham, and coming to Winchester, had the town presently surrendered to him. King John did not think fit to abide his coming, but removing to Hereford, in the marches of Wales, he sent to Prince Llewelyn and Reynald Bruce, desiring their friendship, and imploring their aid and assistance

against the French. But they refusing to hearken to his proposals, he destroyed Radnor and Hay castles, and marching forward to Oswestry, which belonged to John Fitzalan, he burnt it to the ground, and then departed towards the North. But after that he had settled his affairs there, and appointed governors in all the towns and places of strength; whilst he was making all necessary preparations at Newark to confront the barons, he fell sick, and in a short time died, and was buried at Worcester.

After his death, his son Henry was by several of the English nobility proclaimed king, and in a little while, most of the barons, who upon their hatred to King John, had maintained an open war against him, came in, and owned their allegiance to his son Henry, though contrary to their oath to Lewis the Dauphin. But what was most pernicious to the Welsh, Reynald de Bruce, who had all this while maintained a confederacy with Prince Llewelyn, his father-in-law, against King John, underhand made his peace with King Henry. But he suffered severely for his treachery; for young Rhys, and Owen, his nephew by his sister, seeing that he in whom they put their greatest confidence, had deceitfully forsaken them, came upon him with all their power, and took from him all Buellt, excepting only the castle. Prince Llewelyn was presently made acquainted with Bruce's revolt, but as soon as he was informed that his son-in-law was gone over to the King of England, he went in great fury to Brecknock, and laying siege to the town of Aberhonddu, he was with much ado prevailed upon by young Rhys to raise the siege for the sum of a hundred marks; and then crossing the mountainous part of Glamorgan, called the Black Mountains, where his carriages suffered very much, he came to Gwyr, and encamping at Llangruc, Reynald Bruce, with six knights in his company, came to meet him, desiring his pardon for his past offence, assuring him that for the future, he would be true and faithful to him, and would do his endeavour to assist him against the King of England. Prince Llew-

A.D. 1217.

*Glamorgan  
Blackmount  
Gwyr*

lyn was too good-natured to reject his submission, and so did not only receive him to his favour, but bestowed upon him also the castle of Senghennyth, which Reynald committed to the custody of Rhys Vychan.

Prince Llewelyn having settled all things in good order in Gwyr, marched to Dyved, and being at Cefn Cynwarchon, the Flemings sent their agents to him to desire peace, which the prince, by reason that they always adhered to the English interest, would not grant them. And so young Rhys, being the first man, passed the river Cleddeu to storm the town, Iorwerth, bishop of St. David's, with the rest of his clergy, came to the prince to intreat for a peace for the Flemings, which, after a long debate, was granted, and concluded upon these terms;— first, That all the inhabitants of Rhos, and the country of Pembroke should from thence forward swear allegiance to Prince Llewelyn, and ever after acknowledge his sovereignty; secondly, That towards the defraying of his charges in this expedition, they should pay one thousand marks, to be delivered to him before the ensuing feast of St. Michael; thirdly, That for the sure performance of these articles, they should deliver up twenty hostages, who were to be some of the most principal persons in their country. Then Prince Llewelyn having now brought all Wales subject to himself, and put matters in a settled state in South Wales, returned to North Wales, having purchased very considerable honour and esteem for his martial achievements in this expedition.

And now all matters of differences being adjusted, and the Welsh in good hopes of a durable freedom from all troubles and hostilities; another accident unhappily fell out to cross their expectation. Lewis, the Dauphin, perceiving the English barons to slight and forsake him, concluded a peace with King Henry, and returned to France; and then the barons, the king promising to answer all their requests, and to redress their grievances, made their submission, without including the Welsh in

their articles. They had all this while gladly embraced the friendship and aid of the Prince of Wales; but now upon their reconciliation to the king, thinking they had no farther need of him, they very basely forsook him, who had been the principal support and succour of their cause. And not only so, but they conspired together to convert their arms against Wales, thinking they could, without any breach of equity or conscience, take away the lands of the Welsh, to make addition to what some of them had already unjustly possessed themselves of. William Marshal, Ear<sup>l</sup> of Pembroke, opened the scene, and coming unexpectedly upon the Welsh, took the town of Caerlleon. But he got nothing by this, for Rhys Vychan perceiving what he would fain be at, razed Senghennyth castle, and all the rest in his custody in that country, and banishing the English with their wives and children, divided the country betwixt the Welsh, who kept sure possession of it. Prince Llewelyn also finding those to become his foes, who had but lately courted his friendship, and fearing lest that the English, being now in arms, should make any attempt upon his castles, augmented the garrisons of Caermarthen and Aberteifi, to make them capable of withstanding the English, in case they should come against them. But though the Welsh and English were at open variance, and in actual hostility one against another, yet young Rhys, with Prince Llewelyn's approbation and consent, thought it adviseable to go and do homage to the King of England, for his lands in Wales. This might be thought a matter of supererogation, to make courtship to one who was a declared enemy to all the Welsh, and one that would not in all probability, suffer him to enjoy a quiet possession of his estate, in case he had ability and opportunity to eject him. But the Welsh interest was in a great measure augmented by a new alliance with some of the most powerful among the English; Rhys Gryc, Prince Rhys's son, being married to the Earl of Clare's daughter; and Marret, Prince Llewelyn's daughter, to John Bruce.

A.D.1218.

1219.

A.D.1220. The Prince of Wales had quickly an occasion to experience his power, for the Flemings in Dyved, who had lately sworn allegiance to him, began now to repent of what they had but a little time ago gladly submitted to, and contrary to their oaths, and the league they had sworn to observe, they fell upon Aberteifi castle, which they took. Prince Llewelyn being highly displeas'd with the treacherous practices of these perjured Flemings, march'd with all speed to Aberteifi, and having recover'd the castle, which he afterwards razed, he put all the garrison to the sword. Gwys was serv'd in the same manner, and the town of Haverford was burnt to the ground, and over-running Rhos and Daulgleddeu, he committed a lamentable destruction throughout the whole country. This the Flemings received as the due reward of their sinistrous dealing, which made them quickly apprehensive of their folly, and their imprudent behaviour towards the Prince of Wales; and therefore being sorrowfully sensible how unable they were to put a stop to his farther progress by force of arms, they made overtures for cessation of all hostilities, till the May following, which being granted them upon strict conditions, Prince Llewelyn return'd to North Wales. In the mean time some Welsh lords besieg'd Buellt castle, which was in the possession of Reynald Bruce, but before they could take it, King Henry brought an army to the marches and rais'd the siege, and then marching forward to Montgomery, built a new castle in that town.

A.D.1221. The next year, an unhappy dissention fell out betwixt Prince Llewelyn and his son Gryffith, this latter having kept himself in possession of the Cantrev of Meirionyth, contrary to the consent and well-liking of his father. The Prince therefore having now no great matter of moment abroad, was resolv'd to curb the insolency of his son, and therefore sent to him to command his appearance, and to wish him to deliver up the Cantrev quietly, lest he should be forc'd to take it violently out of his hands. Gryffith was not in the least dismay'd

at his threatenings, but being resolved to keep what at present he enjoyed, would neither go to his father, nor deliver up the Cantrev to him. The Prince being enraged that he should be so slighted by his son, made a vehement protestation, that he would be severely revenged, both of him and all his accomplices; and therefore coming to Meirionyth with a great army, was resolved to drive his son out of the country. But Gryffith made all possible preparations to oppose his father, and drew up his forces to give him battle; but when both armies were ready to join, the differences betwixt them was happily composed, and Gryffith prevailed upon to make his submission to his father. But the Prince, though he forgave his son his offence, and received him to favour, would not however, permit him to enjoy Meirionyth and Ardydwy; but taking them away from him, and building a castle in the latter, returned home. But he had not continued long at his palace at Aberffraw, when another occasion called him abroad; for young Rhys being disappointed of Aberteifi, which in the division of South Wales was allotted to his share, forsook the prince, and put himself under the protection of William Marshall, earl of Pembroke. Prince Llewelyn hearing this, marched in great haste to Aberystwyth, and being desirous to punish Rhys for his desertion from his allegiance due to him, seized to his own use that castle, together with all the domain and lands belonging to it. When Rhys understood what the prince had done, he presently made his complaint to the King of England, who coming to Shrewsbury, and sending for Prince Llewelyn, adjusted matters so betwixt them, that the prince promised to treat with Rhys for Aberteifi, after the same manner as he had done with Maelgon for Caernarthen. And towards the close of the year, John Bruce, Prince Llewelyn's son-in-law, obtained leave to fortify Senghennyth castle, which in right of the prince's grant to Reynald Bruce, belonged to him. But young Rhys did not long survive the agreement betwixt him and Prince Llewelyn.



lyn; for he died the following year, and was buried at Ystratflur; after whose death, the prince divided his estate betwixt his brother Owen and his uncle Maelgon,

A.D. 1222. William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, was now in Ireland, and very busy in prosecuting the war against the king of England's enemies in that kingdom; the opportunity of whose absence Prince Llewelyn taking advantage of, won the castles of Aberteifi and Caermarthen, belonging to the Earl; and putting both the garrisons to the sword, placed in their room a strong party of his own men. But when the Earl was informed of what the Prince of Wales had done, he presently left Ireland, and landed at St. David's with a great army, and having recovered his castles, he treated the Welsh after the same manner, as Prince Llewelyn had used his garrisons, and passing forward into the prince's country, destroyed all before him as he went along. The Prince understanding how violently he came forward, sent his son Gryffith with a considerable body of men to check his fury; who coming to Cydwely, and receiving intelligence that the magistrates of that place, had a private design to betray him to the enemy, he put the whole town in flames, and burnt it to the ground, without sparing either churches, or other religious houses. The Earl of Pembroke had passed the river Tywy, at Caermarthen, where Gryffith met him, and gave him battle; but the victory proved so uncertain, that the night was forced to part them; and so the English retired over the river. Matthew Paris writes, that the Earl obtained a very signal victory, and that of the Welsh there were nine thousand slain and taken; though the Welsh account, which in this case is in all likelihood the best, makes the whole army of the Welsh to consist but of that number. But both armies having lain for certain days in that posture, and the river Tywy being betwixt them; Gryffith, by reason that provision began to grow scarce in his camp, returned back; and then the Earl decamped, and marched to Cilgerran, where he began to build a

very strong castle. But before he could have time to finish it, he received an express from the king, with orders to come to him; and so he went by sea to London, leaving his army at Cilgerran, to continue the work which he had begun. Shortly after, the king, together with the Archbishop of Canterbury, came to Ludlow, and sending for Prince Llewelyn thither, they had good hopes to adjust all differences, and to make an amicable composition betwixt him and the Earl. But when this could not be effected, both parties sticking close to their private interest; the Earl being assisted by the Earl of Derby, and Henry Pygott, lord of Ewyas, designed to pass by land to Pembroke; but his purpose being discovered to the prince, he detached his son to secure the passage of Carnwyllion, and came in person to Mahedryd; which when the Earl understood, finding it dangerous to prosecute his design any further, he returned to England, and then the prince marched to North Wales. The next action that passed in Wales, was somewhat rare, and not redounding much to the credit and esteem of the Welsh; for Rhys Vychan, having by some sinistrous means or other, taken his father Rhys Gryc, contrary to all filial affection and duty, detained him prisoner, and would not set him at liberty, till he had delivered up Llanymddyvri castle to him. About the same time, Meredith, archdeacon of Cardigan, Prince Rhys's son, departed this life, and was honourably interred at St. David's, by his father.

A.D.1227.

But a while after, a great storm threatened the Welsh; King Henry having raised a great army, was resolved to make a violent prosecution of the Earl of Pembroke's quarrel against the Prince of Wales, and if possible, to make all that country for ever subject to the crown of England; and so being advanced into the marches, he encamped at Ceri. Prince Llewelyn on the other hand, being informed of these mighty preparations in England, and understanding that they were intended against him, did use all the endeavours possible, to make

1228.

a vigorous resistance; and having drawn together all the forces he was able to levy, thought it his wisest way to meet the English upon the marches, and not to permit the enemy to enter his country. Both armies being come in sight of each other, frequent skirmishes happened betwixt them; but one day, almost the whole armies engaged, and after a vigorous attack of both sides, the English at last got the worst, and were forced to retire, having a great number of men slain and taken prisoners. Among the latter, was William Bruce, Reynald's son, who offered for his ransom all Buellt, together with a considerable sum of money, which the prince would not accept of. But King Henry finding that his army was worsted in this rencounter, thought it best to make peace with the prince of Wales, which being concluded, Llewelyn came to the king, and having paid him all other respects, besides that of submission and allegiance, he returned in great honour to North Wales. But this action is somewhat otherwise laid down by Mathew Paris, who writes, that this skirmish betwixt the English and Welsh happened upon another account; for the garrison of Montgomery issuing out of the castle, to enlarge a certain passage leading through a wood, where the Welsh were wont to rob and kill all passengers; began to fell the timber, and cut down all the bushes which lessened the road, thereby to make the passage more clear and secure. The Welsh receiving intelligence of this, came presently upon him in great numbers, and surprising the enemies, being busy at their labour, forced as many as could escape, to betake themselves for refuge into the castle, which afterwards, having first cast a deep trench about it, they smartly invested. Hubert de Burgh, Lord Chief Justice of England, and owner of the castle, having notice of this, sent presently to King Henry, desiring his speedy help against the Welsh, who thereupon came in person with part of his army, and raised the siege. Then, the rest of his forces being arrived, he marched into the wood, which was five miles in length, and by rea-

son of the thickness of the growth, impassable, and for an easy passage through it, caused it to be burnt down. After that, he led his army farther into the country, and coming to an abbey called Cridia, which the Welsh were wont to take for refuge, he caused it to be burnt down; but finding it a very convenient place for a fortress, he granted leave to Hubert de Burgh to build a castle there. But whilst the work was going on, the Welshmen gauled the English, and skirmished with them frequently, so that many were slain on both sides; but at last, William de Bruce with many others that went abroad to fetch provision, was intercepted by the Welsh, and taken prisoner, and most of his company were slain, among whom, one who was knighted a few days before, seeing some of his fellows in great danger, rushed boldly into the midst of his enemies, and after a manful defence, bravely lost his life. Several of King Henry's men were corrupted by Prince Llewelyn, and upon that account took no great pains to repulse the enemy; which when the king perceived, and finding withal that provision was grown very scarce in his camp, he was forced to conclude a dishonourable peace with the Welsh, consenting to demolish that castle, which with so great an expence both of men and money was now almost finished, upon his own charges, Prince Llewelyn paying only three thousand pounds towards it. Then both armies separated, Prince Llewelyn marching to North Wales, and the king leaving William Bruce prisoner with the Welsh, returned to England, having purchased no small discredit in this expedition.

William Bruce was brought to Wales, and there A.D. 1230. had an honourable confinement in the prince's palace, but he had not continued there very long, when he began to be suspected of being too familiar with the princess, King Henry's sister; and as the report went, was taken in the very act of adultery; for which the prince caused him to be hanged forthwith. About the same time, Llewelyn, Maelgon's son, died

in North Wales, and was buried at Conway: and Maelgon, Prince Rhys's son, in South Wales, and was buried at Ystratflur; whose estate descended to his son Maelgon. And a little after, William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, died, one that ever entertained an inveterate enmity to the Welsh, and upon whose account King Henry had chiefly brought his army into Wales. He was succeeded both in his title and estate by his brother Richard, who was much more favourably inclined towards the Welsh, and never attempted any thing against them. But the King of England was resolved to retrieve the honour he had lost in the late expedition against the Welsh; and therefore being returned from France, whither he had made a descent, to recover what his father had lost in that kingdom, he came to Wales; and having remained some time in the marches, he returned again to England, leaving his army under the command of Hubert Burgh, Earl of Kent, to defend the marches against any inroad which the Welsh might attempt. And he had not remained there long when he received intelligence, that a party of Welsh had entered the marches near Montgomery, whom he forthwith pursued, and setting upon them surprisedly, he put a great number of them to the sword. Prince Llewelyn hearing this, came in person with a great army to the marches, and sitting before Montgomery castle, he forced Hubert to withdraw, and then making himself master of the place, he burnt it to the ground, and put the garrison to the sword; the like fate attended the castles of Radnor, Aberhonddu, Rhayadr Gwy, Caerlleon, Neath, and Cydwely; though Caerlleon held out very stubbornly, and the prince had several of his men destroyed before the place. King Henry being informed of what miserable desolation the Prince of Wales so successfully committed upon his subjects in these countries, had him presently excommunicated; and then coming to Hereford with a mighty army, he detached the greatest part of it, with a great number of his nobility to Wales. These by the

direction of a friar of Cymer, unexpectedly as they thought, fell upon a party of Welsh; who at the first encounter seemed to fly, till they had allured the English to pursue them to a place where a greater party of Welsh lay in ambuscade; who rushing of a sudden upon the English, put them in such a confusion, that the greatest part of them was cut off. The king being sensible that this was a treacherous insinuation of the friar, was resolved to be revenged, by burning the abbey of Cymer; but the prior, for three hundred marks, prevented it; and so the king returned to England, having effected nothing in this expedition, besides the building of Mawd castle. In the mean time, Maelgon, son of Maelgon ap Rhys, laid siege to Aber-teifi, and having by force got entry into the town, he put all the inhabitants to the sword, then destroyed all before him to the castle gates, which were so strongly fortified, that it seemed almost impracticable to take it in any short time. But Maelgon being joined by his cousin Owen, Gryffith ap Rhys's son, was resolved to try the utmost that could be effected, and therefore taking with him some of Prince Llewelyn's most experienced officers, he broke down the bridge upon the river Teifi, and then investing the castle more closely, he so battered and undermined it, that he became in a little time master of it.

The year following, Prince Llewelyn made a descent upon England, and having committed very considerable waste and destruction upon the borders, he returned to North Wales with a rich booty both of men and cattle. King Henry, to correct the Welsh, for these grievous devastations, and to prevent their further incursions into England, demanded a very great subsidy of his subjects to carry on the war against the Welsh; which being granted him, he made all possible preparations for his expedition to Wales. In the mean time, Randolph, Earl of Chester, died, and was succeeded in that honour by John, his sister's son, who was afterwards married to Prince Llewelyn's daughter. But the

A.D. 1232.

English in Wales being in expectation of King Henry's coming thither, began to repair and fortify their castles, and particularly, Richard, Earl of Cornwall, rebuilt Radnor castle, which the prince had lately destroyed. Prince Llewelyn was sufficiently sensible, that the King of England intended an invasion, and therefore to be before hand with him, he came with an army to Brecknock, destroyed all the towns and castles throughout the country, excepting Brecknock castle, which held out so manfully, that after a month's sitting before it, he was at last constrained to raise the siege. In his return to North Wales, he burnt the town of Clun, recovered all that country called Dyffryn Teveidiat, in the possession of John Fitzalan, destroyed Red castle in Powis, and burnt Oswestry. But what happened very fortunately to the Welsh, Richard Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, being fallen at variance with King Henry, took part with Prince Llewelyn; with whom joined Hubert de Burgh, who had lately made his escape out of the castle of Devizes, where the king, upon some articles of information brought against him, had committed him to prison. But the Earl of Pembroke, attended by Owen ap Gryffith ap Rhys, came to St. David's; and being very glad of an opportunity to revenge himself upon the king, slew every one that owned any dependance upon the crown of England. Maelgon and Rhys Gryc, with all the forces of Prince Llewelyn, quickly joined the Earl; who in their march through the country, took the castles of Cardiff, Abergavenny, Pencelly, Blaenllyvni, and Bwlch y Ddinas, which all, excepting Cardiff, they burnt to the ground. The king receiving intelligence, that the Earl of Pembroke had entered into a confederacy with the Prince of Wales, and that he was now in open hostility against his subjects in that country, gathered a very formidable army, consisting, besides English, of Flemings, Normans, and Gascoigns; and coming to Wales, he encamped at Grosmont, where the Earl, with the Welsh army met him. But when the English would have endeavoured to

advance further into the country, the Welsh opposed them, and a battle ensued, wherein the English lost five hundred horse, besides a far greater number of their infantry.

The Welsh having gained a considerable victory in this action, the king was advised to withdraw his forces, for fear lest that the Welsh should again set upon them, and so sustain a greater loss, which counsel the king willingly hearkened unto, and so he returned for England. The English being withdrawn, the Earl likewise decamped, and marched to Caermarthen, which he besieged; but after three months vain assault, the garrison most bravely defending the place, and the English fleet having thrown in new provisions, he thought it most adviseable to raise the siege. Shortly after, Rhys Gryc, son to Prince Rhys, died at Llandeilo Vawr, and was honourably interred by his father at St. David's. A.D. 1234. About the same time, Maelgon Vychan, Maelgon ap Rhys's son, finished Trevilean castle, which was begun in his father's time.

King Henry was not willing to hazard any more campaigns in Wales, and therefore he appointed John of Monmouth, a great soldier, and general of the English forces, warden of the marches of Wales; who thinking to get to himself an eternal name in conquering the Welsh, raised all the power he could; and imagining that the Welsh could not be privy to his purpose, he apprehended he could fall upon the Earl Marshal unexpected. But in this he was to his sorrow most widely mistaken; for the Earl having received private intimation of his design, hid himself in a certain wood, by which the English were to march; and when they were come so far, the Welsh of a sudden gave a great shout, and leaping out of the place they had absconded themselves in, they fell upon the English being unprovided; and putting their whole army to flight, they slew an infinite number both of the English and their auxiliaries. John of Monmouth himself made his escape by flight; but the Earl Marshal entering his country, destroyed it with fire and sword, And



what added to the misery of the English, Prince Llewelyn in the week after Epiphany, joining the Earl Marshal, made an incursion into the king's territories, destroying all before them, from the confines of Wales to Shrewsbury; a great part of which they laid in ashes. King Henry was all this while with the bishop of Winchester at Gloucester, and for want of sufficient power or courage to confront the enemy, durst not take the field; of which being at length perfectly ashamed, he removed to Winchester, leaving the marches naked to the mercy of the enemy. And now, there being no apprehension of fear from the English, the Earl of Pembroke, by the counsel of Geoffrey de Marisco, transported his army into Ireland, thinking to obtain a conquest in that kingdom; but in the first encounter with the Irish, he was unfortunately slain through the treachery of his own men: and so his estate and title descended to his brother Gilbert.

But King Henry finding it impracticable to force the Welsh to a submission, and being in a great measure weary of continual wars and incessant hostilities, thought it his best prudence to make some honourable agreement with the Prince of Wales; and therefore he deputed Edmund, archbishop of Canterbury, the bishops of Rochester, Coventry, Litchfield, and Chester, to treat with Prince Llewelyn about a peace. When the king came to meet with them on their return from this negociation, being at Woodstock, he was certified of the death of the Earl of Pembroke, which he took so much to heart, that he presently melted into tears, being afflicted for the death of so great a person, whom he openly declared had not left his second in all his kingdom. Going from thence to Gloucester, he met with the archbishop and bishops, who delivered to him the \* form of the treaty of peace with Prince Llewelyn, which he would not conclude, unless upon this condition:—That all the English nobility who were confederated with him, and by evil counsel were exiled, should be recalled, and restored to the king's favour. The archbishop fur-

\* See the Appendix.

ther acquainted his Majesty with what difficulty he had brought the matter to this conclusion, being sometimes forced to add threatenings on the king's behalf, with his clergy; to which menaces the prince is said to have answered,—That he bore more regard to the king's charity and piety, than he did fear his arms, or dread his clergy. But the king, who was very desirous of a peace, readily consented to what the prince required; and therefore he issued out his letters, recalling all the nobles who were outlawed, or otherwise exiled, requiring them to appear at Gloucester, upon Sunday next before Ascension-day, where they should receive their pardons, and be restored to their estates, which the king had taken into his own hands.

The peace being thus concluded betwixt the English and Welsh, Prince Llewelyn set his son Gryffith at liberty, whom for his disobedient and restless humour, he had detained in close prison for the space of six years. About the same time, Cadwallon ap Maelgon, of Melienydd, departed this life, who was quickly followed by Owen, Gryffith ap Rhys's son, a person of great worth, and exceedingly beloved, and was buried at Ystratflur, by his brother Rhys. And the year following, died Owen A.D. 1235.  
 ap Meredith ap Rotpert of Cydewen; and not long 1236.  
 after him, Madoc the son of Gryffith Maylor, lord of Bromfield, Chirk, and Yale, who was buried at the abbey of Llanegwest, of Vale Crucis, which he had built; leaving issue behind him one son, called Gryffith, who succeeded into the possession of all these lordships. A little after, Gilbert, Earl of Pembroke, got by treachery, Marchen castle, which belonged to Morgan ap Howel, and fortified the same very strongly, for fear of Prince Llewelyn. The next spring, Joan, King John's daughter, and 1237.  
 Princess of Wales, departed this life, and was buried, according to her own desire, upon the seashore, at a place called Llanvaes, in the isle of Anglesey, where the prince, in memory of her, afterwards founded a religious house, for the order of mendicant friars. About the same time also died

John Scot, Earl of Chester, without any issue, upon which account, the king seized that earldom into his own hands. Hugh Lupus was the first that enjoyed this honour, who coming over to England with the Conqueror, was by him created Earl of Chester, and sword-bearer of England; *Habendum & tenendum dictum comitatum Cestrie, sibi & hæredibus suis, ita libere ad gladium, sicut ipse rex totam tenebat Angliam ad coronam*:—To have and to hold the said county of Chester, to him and his heirs by right of the sword, so freely and securely as the king held the realm of England in right of the crown. After five descents, Randolph Bohun came to be Earl of Chester, who was uncle to this John, the last Earl. This Randolph had several encounters with Prince Llewelyn, and was in continual agitation against him; but once more particularly, meeting with the prince, and being sensible of his inability to withstand him, he was obliged to retire for refuge to the castle of Ruthlan, which the prince presently besieged. Randolph perceiving himself to be in danger, sent to Roger Lacy, constable of Chester, requesting him to raise what strength he could possible, and come to succour him in this extremity. Wherefore Lacy having received this express, called to him presently all his friends, desiring them to make all the endeavours imaginable to rescue the earl from that imminent danger which so severely threatened him: at whose request, Ralph Dutton, his son-in-law, a valorous youth, assembled together all the players and musicians, and such as then, being fair-time, had met to make merry; and presenting them to the constable, he forthwith marched to Ruthlan, raised the siege, and delivered the Earl from all his fear. In recompence of this service, the Earl granted the constable several freedoms and privileges; and to Dutton, the ruling and ordering all players and musicians within the said country, to be enjoyed by his heirs for ever.

A.D.1238. In the year 1238, Prince Llewelyn being indisposed in body, called unto him all the lords and barons

of Wales, to Ystratflur, where each of them swore to remain true and faithful subjects, and did homage to David, Llewelyn's son, whom he had named to succeed him. Matthew Paris writes, That Prince Llewelyn, being impotent by reason of a palsy, and sore disquieted by his son Gryffith, sent ambassadors to the King of England, signifying to him, that forasmuch as he could not expect to live long, by reason of his age, he was desirous to lead the remainder of his days in peace and tranquility: and therefore now purposed to submit himself to the government and protection of the king, and would hold his lands of him; promising withal, that whenever the king should stand in need of his help, he would serve him both with men and money, to the utmost of his power. The bishops of Hereford and Chester were sent mediators in this behalf, though some of the nobility of Wales openly and peremptorily withstood it, and upon no condition whatsoever would accept of such a peace. But David being declared successor to the principality, began to plague his brother Gryffith, who, though elder, was yet base-born; and took from him Arustly, Ceri, Cyveilioc, Mowddwy, Mochnant, and Caereneon; and let him only enjoy the Cantrev of Llyn. But a little afterwards he dispossessed him of all, and contrary to his oath to the bishop of Bangor, in whose protection Gryffith then remained, took him prisoner; having, upon promise of no violence, obtained leave to speak with him, and sent him to Cricieth castle. But whilst these two brothers continued to entertain an irreconcilable odium one to another, their father, Prince Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, to the great grief and dissatisfaction of all the Welsh, departed this life, and was very honourably interred in the abbey of Conway, after he had reigned six and fifty years. He was a prince of great courage and audacity, and had no less prudence in contriving, than boldness in executing any martial adventure; he was a great support to the Welsh, and no less a plague to the English; he

A.D. 1246.

made very considerable conquests upon the borders, and extended the frontiers of Wales, much beyond their former limits. He had issue by his only wife Joan, daughter to King John of England, one son called David, who afterwards succeeded in the principality of Wales; and a daughter named Gwladys, who was married to Sir Ralph Mortimer. He had also a base son, named Gryffith, whom his brother David kept a close prisoner to his dying day.

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### DAVID AP LLEWELYN.

**PRINCE** Llewelyn ap Iorwerth being deceased, his only legitimate son David, whom all the barons of Wales had, as is said, in his father's life-time sworn to obey, legally succeeded in the government; wherein being actually confirmed, he went to the King of England to Gloucester, and there did him homage\* for his principality. Then all the barons, both English and Welsh, who held any lands in Wales, in like manner did homage and fealty for the same. But the English could not long refrain from their wonted hostilities towards the Welsh; and thereupon, Gilbert Marshal, taking advantage of this revolution, before matters were thoroughly settled, brought an army before the castle of Aberteifi, which being delivered up to him, he fortified with a strong garrison. Prince David was as yet too weak to appear in the field; and indeed the more, by reason that several of his nobility and others, could not affectionately love him, for that unnatural spleen he shewed to his brother Gryffith, whom, for no visible reason, he detained in close custody. But above the rest, Richard, bishop of Bangor, stormed at the Prince, and finding that he violated his promise, in setting his brother at liberty, whom under pretence of an amicable consultation, he had fraudulently seized upon in the bishop's presence, without more ado excommunicated him; and then retiring to Eng-

\* See the Appendix.

land, made a very querimonious relation of the whole matter to the king, desiring to release Gryffith out of prison, before the rumour of so heinous a fact should reach the court of Rome, and so reflect upon his Majesty's reputation. King Henry thereupon sent to his nephew Prince David, blaming him highly for such a treacherous action, and dealing so severely with his brother; and then earnestly requested him to deliver Gryffith out of custody, both to save himself from perpetual defamation, and to deserve an absolution from the severe sentence pronounced against him. But David absolutely refused to comply to the king's desire, assuring him, that Wales could never enjoy a peaceable time, as long as his brother Gryffith had his liberty.

Gryffith being acquainted with his brother's resolution, and thinking that thereby he had unavoidably displeased the King of England, privately sent to King Henry, assuring him, that if by force he would deliver him out of prison, he would not only hold his lands for ever from him, but also pay him the yearly acknowledgement of three hundred marks; offering both to give his corporal oath, and deliver up sufficient pledges for the performance of it; and withal to assist the king with all his power in bringing the rest of the Welsh to his subjection. Moreover, Gryffith ap Madoc, lord of Bromfield, positively assured the king, that in case he would lead an army into Wales, to revenge the falsity and injurious practices of David, he would give him all possible aid and assistance. Indeed, King Henry, besides this solemn invitation, had no weak pretence to come to Wales; for Richard, bishop of Bangor, a fiery man, had prosecuted the matter so warmly at Rome, that he obtained of the Pope also to excommunicate David, which excommunication being denounced against him, his lands were pretendedly forfeited. But the king being chiefly allured with the promises of the Welsh; in the behalf of Gryffith, levied a very formidable army to lead to Wales; strictly commanding by proclama-

tion, all the English, who owed him any martial service, to repair armed to Gloucester, by the beginning of Autumn. This rendezvous being accordingly performed, the king came thither in person, at the time appointed, and having regulated his troops, and put all matters in convenient order, he marched to Shrewsbury, where he remained fifteen days to refresh his army. During his stay there, several of the nobility became suitors unto him on behalf of Gryffith, whose condition they desired he would commiserate; among whom were, Ralph, lord Mortimer, of Wigmore; Walter Clifford; Roger de Monte Alto, steward of Chester; Maelgon ap Maelgon; Meredith ap Rotpert, lord of Cydewen; Gryffith ap Madoc, of Bromfield; Howel and Meredith, the sons of Conan ap Owen Gwynedd; and Gryffith ap Gwenwynwyn, lord of Powis. These noblemen prevailed so far with King Henry, that a league was concluded between him and Senena, the wife of Gryffith. For the performance of these articles, the aforesaid noblemen offered to be securities, and bound themselves by their several writings. But as if all things had conspired together against Prince David, several persons that had been at continual variance and enmity among themselves to this time, were now, by reason that they equally favoured Gryffith's cause, made friends among one another: Morgan ap Howel, lord of Ceri, made his reconciliation to Sir Ralph Mortimer, and his submission to King Henry, in a very solemn manner; in the same form several others of the nobility submitted to the king; as, Owen ap Howel, Maelgon ap Maelgon, Meredith ap Meredith, Howel ap Cadwallon, and Cadwallon ap Howel. David finding himself thus relinquished by the greatest part of his nobility, and particularly by Gryffith ap Madoc, lord of Bromfield, whom he chiefly feared, by reason of his great wisdom and power, and that he was much esteemed by the King of England, could not easily conclude how to carry himself in this perplexity of affairs. But in fine, considering with himself what

See the  
Appendix.

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Appendix.

a puissant army King Henry brought against him, and how himself was considerably weakened by the defection of his subjects, he thought it most adviseable to truckle to the king; and therefore with all speed sent him his submission.

Prince David having given a plenary submission See the Appendix. to the king, desired, that being his nephew, and the lawful heir and successor of his father Prince Llewelyn, he should enjoy the principality of Wales, rather than Gryffith, who was illegitimate, and in no wise related to the king; assuring him further, that the war would never be at an end, if he was set at liberty. King Henry knowing well the truth of all this, and withal being assured that Gryffith was not only valiant himself, but had likewise very powerful abettors and promoters of his cause, was very inclinable to assent to David's request, and to prevent any farther troubles, willingly granted it. Therefore David in a while after sent his brother Gryffith to the king, together with the pledges promised for the performance of the articles lately agreed upon; who were all sent to the tower of London to be kept in safe custody; Gryffith being allowed a noble a-day to provide himself with necessaries. Shortly after, David came himself to London, and after he had done his homage, and sworn fealty to the King of England, returned to Wales, being honourably and peaceably dismissed. But as soon as Gryffith found out King Henry's mind, and that it was the least part of his design to set him at liberty, having flatly denied the bishop of Bangor his request therein; he began to set his brains a-working, and to devize means whereby he might make his escape out of the tower. Whereupon, having one night deceived his keepers, he let himself down from the top of the building, by a line which he had composed out of the sheets and hangings of the room; which being too weak to bear his weight, being a heavy corpulent person, let him down headlong to the ground; by the greatness of which fall he was crushed to pieces, and so presently expired. King Henry being informed of



this unhappy accident, severely punished the officers for their inexcusable carelessness; and ordered that his son, who was kept prisoner with him in the tower, should be more narrowly observed.

After this, King Henry fortified the castle of Dyserth, in Flintshire; and for their past service, or rather to oblige them to the like after, granted to Gryffith ap Gwenwynwyn, all his estate in Powis, and to the sons of Conan ap. Owen Gwynedd, their lands in Merionyth. And the next year Maelgon Vychan fortified the castle of Garthgrugyn, John de Mynoc, the castle of Buellt, and Roger Mortimer, that of Melienyth. But all these preparations were to no purpose; for the following year early, <sup>1243.</sup> King Henry came with an army into Wales, and began very unreasonably to molest the Welsh, and without any just pretence forcibly to seize upon their lands and estates. Indeed, after the death of Gryffith, he had a mind no longer to keep his promise to David, and therefore entitled his eldest son Edward to the principality of Wales, whom he thought to oblige the Welsh to obey. But Prince David understanding his design, levied all his power for the defence of his just right; yet finding himself unable to withstand the army of the English, purposed to effect that by policy which he could not attain by force. He sent therefore to the Pope, complaining how that King Henry of England compelled him unjustly to hold his lands of him, and that upon no legal pretence he seized the estates of the Welsh at his pleasure; telling him moreover, that Prince Llewelyn, his father, had left him and the principality of Wales to the protection of the see of Rome, to which he was willing to pay the yearly sum of five hundred marks, obliging himself and his successors by oath for the due performance of this payment, the Pope (you may be sure) gladly accepted of the offer, and thereupon gave commission to the two abbots of Aberconwey and Cymer, to absolve David from his oath of allegiance to the king of England, and having enquired into the whole state of the quarrel, to transmit an account

of it to him. The abbots, according to their commission, directed a very positive mandate to the King of England. King Henry admiring the strange presumption and confidence of these abbots, or more the insatiable avarice and greediness of the Pope, sent also to Rome; and with a greater sum of money, easily adjusted all matters: his Holiness being very desirous to make the best advantage of both parties.

See the  
Appendix.

But Prince David finding that the Pope minded his own gain, more than to justify his complaints against the King of England, thought it to no purpose to rely upon his faith but judged it more adviseable to vindicate himself by force of arms. Having therefore gathered his forces together, (being now reconciled to, and followed by all the nobility of Wales, excepting Gryffith ap Gwenwynwyn, and Morgan ap Iowel, who also shortly after submitted to him) he drew up his army to the marches, intending to be revenged upon the Earls of Clare and Hereford, John de Monmouth, Roger de Monte Alto, and others, who injured and oppressed his people; with whom he fought divers times, and with various success. But in the Lent-time next year, the Marchers and the Welsh met near Montgomery between whom was fought a very severe battle; the governor of that castle being general of the English, and having cunningly placed an ambuscade of men, pretended, after some short engagement, to flee, whom the Welsh daringly pursued, not thinking of any treachery. But as soon as they were past the ambushment, up rises an unexpected party of men, who falling upon the backs of the Welsh, put them to a very great disorder, and killed about three hundred men, not without a considerable loss on their own side, among whom was slain a valiant knight called Hubert Fitz-Matthew. But King Henry being weary of these perpetual skirmishes and daily clashings between the English and Welsh, thought to put an end to the whole with one stroke; and therefore raised a very great army of English

A.D. 1245.

and Gascoigns, and entered into North Wales, purposing to waste and destroy the country. But before he could advance very far, Prince David intercepted him in a narrow pass, and so violently set upon him, that a great number of his nobility and bravest soldiers, and in a manner all the Gascoigns were slain. The king finding he could effect nothing against the Welsh, invited over the Irish, who landing in Anglesey, began to pillage and waste the country; but the inhabitants gathering themselves together in a body, quickly forced them to their ships: after which, King Henry having victualled and manned all his castles, returned dissatisfied to England.

Mat. Paris.

But concerning this expedition to Wales, and the continuance of the English army therein, a certain person in the camp, wrote to this effect to his friends in England:—‘The king with the army is encamped at Gannock, and is busy in fortifying that place, (sufficiently strong already) about which we lay in our tents, in watching, fasting, praying, and freezing. We watch for fear of the Welsh, who were used to come suddenly upon us in the night-time: we fast for want of provision, the half-penny loaf being now risen and advanced to five-pence: we pray that we may speedily return safe and scot-free home: and we freeze for want of winter-garments, having but a thin linen shirt to keep us from the wind. There is a small arm of the sea under the castle where we lay, which the tide reached, by the conveniency of which, many ships bring us provision and victuals from Ireland and Chester: this arm lies betwixt us and Snowden, where the Welsh are encamped, and is in breadth, when the tide is in, about a bow-shot. Now it happened, that upon the Monday before Michaelmas-day, an Irish vessel came up to the mouth of the haven, with provision to be sold to our camp, which being negligently looked to by the mariners, was upon the low ebb stranded on the other side of the castle, near the Welsh. The enemy perceiving this, descended from the mountains, and laid siege

to the ship, which was fast upon the dry sands; whereupon we detached in boats three hundred Welsh of the borders of Cheshire and Shropshire, with some archers and armed men, to rescue the ship; but the Welsh, upon the approach of our men, withdrew themselves to their usual retirements in the rocks and woods, and were pursued for about two miles by our men on foot, who slew a great number of them. But in their return back, our soldiers being too covetous and greedy of plunder, among other sacrilegious and profane actions, spoiled the abbey of Aberconway, and burnt all the books and other choice utensils belonging to it. The Welsh being distracted at these irreligious practices, got together in great number, and in a desperate manner setting upon the English, killed a great number of them, and following the rest to the water-side, forced as many as could not make their escape into the boats, to commit themselves to the mercy of the waves. Those they took prisoners they thought to reserve for exchange; but hearing how we put some of their captive nobility to death, they altered their minds, and in a revengeful manner scattered their dilacerated carcasses along the surface of the water. In this conflict, we lost a considerable number of our men, and chiefly those under the command of Richard Earl of Cornwall; as Sir Alan Buscell, Sir Adam de Maio, Sir Geoffry Estuemy, and one Raimond a Gascoign, with about an hundred common soldiers. In the mean time, Sir Walter Bisset stoutly defended the ship till midnight, when the tide returned; whereupon the Welsh, who assailed us on all sides were forced to withdraw, being much concerned that we had so happily escaped their hands. The cargo of this ship, was three hundred hogsheads of wine, with plenty of other provision for the army, which at that time it stood in very great need of. But the next morning when the sea was returned, the Welsh came merrily down again to the ship, thinking to surprise our men, but as luck would have it, they had at full sea the night before relinquished

*Books burnt**300 Hogsheads of Wine*

the ship, and returned safe to the camp. The enemy missing our men, set upon the cargo of the ship, carried away all the wine and other provisions; and then, when the sea began to flow, they set fire to the vessel, and returned to the rest of the army. And thus we lay encamped in great misery and distress for want of necessaries, exposed to great and frequent dangers, and in great fear of the private assaults and sudden incursions of our enemies. Oftentimes we set upon and assailed the Welsh, and in one conflict we carried away a hundred head of cattle, which very triumphantly we conveyed to our camp. For the scarcity of provision was then so great, that there remained but one hogshead of wine in the whole army; a bushel of corn being sold for twenty shillings, a fed ox for three or four marks, and a hen for eight-pence; so that there happened a very lamentable mortality, both of man and horse, for want of necessary sustenance of life.

The English army having undergone such miseries as are here described, and King Henry, as is said perceiving it was in vain for him to continue any longer in Wales, where he was sure to gain no great credit, he retired with his army into England, being not very desirous to make another expedition into Wales. Then all the nobility and barons of Wales, and those that had favoured and maintained Gryffith's cause, were made friends and reconciled to Prince David, to whom they vowed true and perpetual allegiance. But the Prince did not long survive this amity and agreement between him and his subjects: for falling sick towards the beginning of this year, he died in March, at his palace in Aber, and was buried at Conway, leaving no issue to succeed. The only thing unpardonable in this prince, was his over jealousy and severity against his brother Gryffith, a person so well beloved of the Welsh, that upon his account their affection was much cooled, and in some entirely alienated from their prince. Indeed thus much may be said for David, that Gryffith was a valourous and an aspiring man and if set at liberty, would bid fair to eject

*Palace*  
A.D. 1246.

him out of his principality ; which King Henry of England too (who thought he might bring over David, a milder man, to what terms he pleased,) was sensible of, when he would by no persuasion dismiss him from custody in the tower of London. But this occasioned all the disturbance that happened in his time, the Welsh themselves, for the love they bore to Gryffith, inviting the king of England to come to invade their country, and to correct the unnatural enmity their Prince expressed to his brother. But when all differences were over, the king of England returned with his army shamefully back, and the Prince and his nobility reconciled ; the Welsh might have expected a very happy time of it, had not death taken the Prince so unnaturally away, before he had well known what a peaceful reign was.

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### LLEWELYN AP GRYFFITH.

**PRINCE** David being dead, the principality of North Wales legally descended to Sir Ralph Mortimer, in right of his wife Gwladys, daughter to Llewelyn ap Iorwerth. But the Welsh nobility being assembled together for the electing and nominating a successor, thought it by no means advisable to admit a stranger to the crown, though his title was ever so lawful ; and especially an Englishman, by whose obligations to the crown of England, they must of necessity expect to become subjects, or rather slaves to the English government. Wherefore they unanimously agreed to set up Llewelyn and Owen Goch, the sons of Gryffith, a base son of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, and brother to Prince David ; who being sent for, and appearing before the assembly, all the nobles and barons then present, did them homage, and received them for their sovereigns. But as soon as the King of England understood of the death of the Prince of Wales, he thought the country being in an unsettled and

wavering condition, he might effect great matters there; and therefore he sent one Nicholas de Miles to South Wales, with the title of Justice of that country, with whom he joined in commission, Meredith ap Rhys Gryc, and Meredith ap Owen ap Gryffith; to eject and disinherit Maelgon Vychan of all his lands and estate in South Wales. The like injurious practices were committed against Howel ap Meredith, who was forcibly robbed of all his estate in Glamorgan, by the Earl of Clare. These unreasonable extortions being insupportable; Maelgon and Howel made known their grievances to the Princes of North Wales, desiring their succour and assistance for the recovery of their lawful inheritance from the encroachments of the English. But the King of England understanding their design, led his army into Wales; upon whose arrival, the Welsh withdrew themselves to Snowden hills, where they so tired the English army, that the king finding he could do no good, after some stay there returned back to England. Within a while after, Ralph Mortimer, the husband of Gwladys Ddu, died; leaving his whole estate, and with it a lawful title to the principality of North Wales, to his son Sir Roger Mortimer.

A.D. 1247. The next year, nothing memorable passed between the English and the Welsh, only the dismal effects of the last year's expedition were not worn off; the ground being incapable of cultivation, and the cattle being in great measure destroyed by the English, occasioned great poverty and want in the country. But the greatest calamity befel the bishops; St. Asaph and Bangor being destroyed and burnt by the English, the bishops thereof were reduced to that utmost extremity, as to get their subsistence by other men's charity; the bishop also of St. David's died, and he of Llandaff had the misfortune to fall blind. In the bishoprick of St. David's succeeded Thomas, surnamed Wallensis, by reason that he was born in Wales; who thinking himself obliged to benefit his own country what lay in his power, desired to be advanced from the

Mat. Paris,  
page 739.

archdeaconry of Lincoln to that see: which the king easily granted, and confirmed him in it. The A.D., 1249. next summer proved somewhat more favourable to the Welsh; Rhys Vychan, son to Rhys Mechyl, won from the English, the castle of Carrec Cynen, which his unkind mother, out of malice, or some ill opinion entertained of him, had some time before privately delivered up to them. And about the same time, the body of Gryffith ap Llewelyn, base son to Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, was recovered from the King of England, by the earnest solicitations of the abbots of Conway and Ystratflur; who conveying it to Conway, bestowed upon it a very pompous and honourable interment.

After this, the affairs of the Welsh proceeded 1255. peaceably for a long while, and the country had sufficient opportunity to recover its former plenty; but at last, to make good the proverb, that Plenty begets War; they began, for want of a foreign enemy, to quarrel and fall out among themselves. Owen was too high and ambitious to be satisfied with half the principality, and therefore must needs have a fling at the whole; wherein fortune so far deceived him, that he lost his own stake, as will afterwards appear. But the better to encompass his design, by sly insinuations he persuaded David, his younger brother, to second his cause; and they with joint interest levied their power, with intention to dethrone their elder brother Llewelyn. But that was no easy matter, for Llewelyn was prepared to receive them, and with a puissant army met them in the field, and so was resolved to venture all upon the fortune of a battle. It was strange and grievous to behold this unnatural civil war; and the more grievous now, by reason that it so manifestly weakened the strength of the Welsh to withstand the incursions of the English, who were extremely pleased with so fair an opportunity to fall upon them. But they were too far engaged, to consider of future inconveniencies; and a trial of war they must have, though the English were ready to fall upon both armies. The battle being joined, the day proved



bloody on both sides, and which was like to conquer was not presently discovered; till at length Owen began to give ground, and in fine was overthrown, himself and his brother David being taken prisoners. Llewelyn, though he had sufficient reason, would not put his brothers to death; but committing them into close prison, seized all their estates into his own hands, and so enjoyed the whole principality of Wales.

The English seeing the Welsh at this rate oppress and destroy one another, thought they had full liberty to deal with them as they pleased; and thereupon began to exercise all manner of wrong and injustice against them; insomuch that the next year, all the lords of Wales came in a body to Prince Llewelyn, and declared their grievances, how unmercifully Prince Edward (whom his father had sent to Wales) and others of the nobility of England dealt with them, how without any colour of justice they seized upon their estates, without any room for appeal; whereas, if themselves offended in the least, they were punished to the utmost extremity. In fine, they solemnly declared, that they preferred to die honourably in the field, rather than to be so unmercifully enslaved to the will and pleasure of strangers. Prince Llewelyn was not a stranger to all this; and now having happily discovered the bent and inclination of his subjects, was resolved to prosecute, if possible, the expulsion of the English, and to be revenged upon them for their most cruel, and almost inhuman practices towards the Welsh. Having therefore drawn all his power together, being accompanied by Meredith ap Rhys Gryc, in the space of one week he recovered out of the hands of the English all the inland country of North Wales, and then all Meirionyth, with such lands as Prince Edward had usurped in Cardigan, which he bestowed upon Meredith, the son of Owen ap Gryffith. Having also forced Rhys Vychan out of Buellt, he conferred it upon Meredith ap Rhys; and in like manner bestowed all the lands which he recovered, between his nobles; reserving nothing

to his own use, besides Gwerthryneon, the estate of Sir Roger Mortimer. The next summer, he entered into Powis, and made war against Gryffith ap Gwenwynwyn, who always had taken part with, and owned subjection to the King of England, which he totally overcame, excepting the castle of Poole, some small part of Caerneon, and the country lying upon the banks of the Severn. A.D. 1257.

But Rhys Vychan was not satisfied with the loss of Buellt, and therefore was resolved to try to recover it; to which end, he went to the King of England, of whom he obtained a very strong army, commanded by one Stephen Bacon, which being sent by sea, landed at Caermarthen, in the Whitsun-week. From thence the English marched to Dynevawr, and laid siege to the castle, which valiantly held out, until Llewelyn's army came to its relief. Upon the arrival of the Welsh, the English decamped from before the castle, and put themselves in posture of battle, which the Welsh perceiving, they made all haste to answer and oppose them. Whereupon there ensued a very terrible engagement, which lasted a very long while; this being for number of men, the greatest battle that had been fought between the English and the Welsh. But the victory favoured the Welsh, the Englishmen being at length forced to fly, having lost above two thousand men, besides several barons and knights, who were taken prisoners. After this, the Prince's army passed to Dyved, where having burnt all the country, and destroyed the castles of Abercorran, Llanstephan, Maenclochoc, and Arberth, with all the towns thereunto belonging, returned to North Wales with much spoil. But as soon as he was arrived, great complaints were exhibited to Prince Llewelyn, against Jeffrey Langley, lieutenant to Edward, earl of Chester, who without any regard to equity and conscience, most wrongfully oppressed the inhabitants of Wales under his jurisdiction. Whereupon the Prince, to punish the master for the servant's fault, entered with some

part of his army into the Earl's estate, burnt and destroyed all his country on both sides the river Dee, to the gates of Chester. Edward had no power at present to oppose him, but being resolved to be revenged upon the Welsh, with the first opportunity, he desired aid of his uncle, then chose king of the Romans, who sent him a strong detachment, with which he proposed to give Prince Llewelyn battle. But finding him too strong, he thought it more adviseable to desist from hostility, the prince's army consisting of ten thousand experienced men, who were obliged by oath, rather all to die in the field, than suffer the English to gain any advantage over the Welsh. But Gryffith ap Madoc Maylor, lord of Dinas Bran, a person of notorious reputation for injustice and oppression, basely forsook the Welsh, his countrymen, and with all his forces went over to the Earl of Chester.

A D. 1258.

The next year, Prince Llewelyn passed to South Wales, and seized into his hands the land of Cemaes, and having reconciled the differences betwixt Rhys Gryc and Rhys Vychan, he won the castle of Trevdraeth, with the whole country of Rhos, excepting Haverford. Then he marched in an hostile manner toward Glamorgan, and razed to the ground the castle of Llangymwch, and then returning to North Wales, he met by the way with Edward, Earl of Chester, whom he forced precipitously to return back. But before he would put an end to this expedition, he must needs be revenged upon that ungrateful fugitive, Gryffith ap Madoc Maylor, and thereupon passing through Bromfield, he miserably laid waste the whole country. Upon this the kings of England and Scotland sent to Llewelyn, requiring him to cease from hostility, and after that unmerciful manner to devour, and forcibly to take away other men's estates. The prince was not over solicitous to hearken to their request, but finding the time of the year very seasonable for action against the English, he divided his army into two battles, each of these consisting of 1500 foot, and 500 horse, with which he pur-

posed to enlarge his conquest. Edward, Earl of Chester, to prevent the blow which so desperately hung over his head, sent over for succours from Ireland, of whose coming, Prince Llewelyn being certified, manned out a fleet to intercept them, which meeting with the Irish at sea, after a sharp dispute, forced them to return back with loss. King Henry being acquainted with the miscarriage of the Irish, resolved to come in person against the Welsh, and having drawn together the whole strength of England, even from St. Michael's mount in Cornwall, to the river Tweed, marched with his son Edward, in a great rage to North Wales, and without any opposition advanced as far as Teganwy. But the Prince had stopped his farther progress, and prevented any long stay he could make in Wales, having beforehand caused all manner of provision and forage to be carried over the river, and then securing the strait and narrow passages whereby the English might get farther into the country; the army was in a short time so mortally fatigued, that the king, for want of necessary subsistence was forced to retire in haste to England, with considerable loss.

The prince after that, sending for all the forces in South Wales, came to the marches, where Gryffith, lord of Bromfield, finding that the king of England was not able to defend his estate, yielded himself up, and then passing to Powis, he banished Gryffith ap Gwenwynwyn, and took all the lands in the country into his hands. Proceeding farther, he was encountered with by Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, who with a choice party of English, gave him battle. But Llewelyn's army exceeding both in number and courage, easily vanquished and overcame the English, and so the victory being quickly obtained, the prince presently reduced to his power all the castles belonging to the Earl of Gloucester. King Henry hearing of the Earl's overthrow, was much concerned at the loss of so many brave soldiers, in whose valour and experience he always put

a very great confidence, and therefore to revenge their deaths, he was again resolved to march against the Welsh. Having called his forces together, and received supply from Gascoign and Ireland, he came to Wales, but not daring to venture far into the country, for fear of being forced to make another shameful retreat, he only destroyed the corn near the borders, it being harvest time, and so returned to England. But lord James Audley, whose daughter was married to Gryffith, lord of Bromfield, did more mischief and hurt to the Welsh, who having brought over a great number of horsemen from Germany, to serve against the Welsh, so terrified them with the unusual largeness of the horses, and the unaccustomed manner of fighting, that in the first encounter the Welsh were easily overcome. But minding to revenge this disgrace, and withal being better acquainted with their method of arms, the Welsh in a little time after made inroads into the lord Audley's lands, where the Germans presently set upon them, and pursued them to certain straits, which the Welsh discovered for a politic retreat. The Germans thinking they had entirely drove the Welsh away, returned carelessly back, but being set upon of a sudden, without any thought of an enemy behind, they were all in a manner slain by the rallying Welsh. This year, a very great scarcity of beef and horses happened in England, whereof several thousands yearly were supplied out of Wales, by reason of which the marches were perfectly robbed of all their breed, and not so much as a beast to be seen in all the borders.

A.D.1259. The next spring, all the nobility of Wales convened together and took their mutual oaths to defend their country to death, against the oppressing invasions of the English, and not to relinquish and forsake one another, upon pain of perjury; though notwithstanding, Meredith ap Rhys, of South Wales, violated this agreement, and put himself in the service of the King of England. King Henry was ready to fall upon the Welsh, to which

purpose he summoned a parliament, wherein he proposed to raise a subsidy towards the conquest of Wales, being not able of himself to bear the expences of this war, by reason of several losses he had already received: the country of Pembroke being lately destroyed and taken by the Welsh, where they found plenty of salt, which before they were in great necessity of. But William de Valentia, accusing the earls of Leicester and Gloucester, as the authors of all this mischief, quite broke all their measures, so the king was forced to prorogue the parliament for a time, without any grant of a subsidy. But within a while after, it sat at Oxford, where King Henry, and Edward his son, took a solemn oath to observe the laws and statutes of the realm, and the same being tendered to Guy and William, the king's brothers, and to Henry, son to the king of Almain, and to earl Warren; they refused to take it, and so departed. In this parliament, the lords of Wales fairly proffered to be tried by the laws for any offence they had unjustly committed against the king, which was mainly opposed by Edward, who caused one Patrick de Canton (to whom the lordship of Cydwely was given, in case he could win and keep the same) to be sent to Caermarthen, as lieutenant for the king, with whom Meredith ap Rhys was joined in commission. Being arrived at Caermarthen, Patrick sent to the Prince, to desire him to appoint commissioners to treat with him concerning a peace, which he consented to, and without any suspicion of treachery, sent Meredith ap Owen, and Rhys ap Rhys to Emlyn, if possible, to conclude the same. But Patrick meaning no such thing, laid an ambuscade for the Welsh, who coming honestly forward, were by the way villainously set upon by the English, and a great many slain; but those that happily escaped, calling up the country, presently gave chase to Patrick and his accomplices, who being at length overtaken, were almost all put to the sword. But Prince Llewelyn was now altogether bent upon a peace, and did not only desire it, but was willing to purchase

*Meredith  
ap  
Rhys*

*Patrick de Canton  
Lord of  
Kidwely*

it for a sum of money, to which purpose he offered to give the king 4000 marks, to his son 300, and 200 to the queen, which the king utterly refused, replying,—That it was not a sufficient recompence for all the damages he had suffered by the Welsh. Matthew of Westminster reporteth, that about Michaelmas this year, the bishop of Bangor was commissioned by the prince and nobility of Wales to treat with the King of England about a peace, and to offer him 16000 pounds for the same, upon these conditions, that according to their ancient custom, the Welsh should have all causes tried and determined at Chester, and that they should freely enjoy the laws and customs of their country; but what was the result of this treaty, my author does not mention.

A.D. 1260.

There being no hopes of a peace, Prince Llewelyn early next year appeared in the field, and passed to South Wales, and first fell foul upon Sir Roger Mortimer, who contrary to his oath, maintained the King of England's quarrel. Having forcibly dispossessed him of all Buellt, and without any opposition taken the castle, where was found a plentiful magazine, he marched through all South  
 1262. Wales, confirming his conquest, and afterwards returned to his palace at Aber, betwixt Bangor and  
 1261. Conway. The year following, Owen ap Meredith, lord of Cydewen, died. But the next summer was somewhat more noted for action, a party of Prince Llewelyn's men took by surprise the castle of Melienyth, belonging to Sir Roger Mortimer, and having put the rest of the garrison to the sword, they took Howel ap Meyric, the governor, with his wife and children, prisoners; and after that, the castle was demolished by the prince's order. Sir Roger Mortimer hearing of this, with a great body of lords and knights came to Melienyth, where Prince Llewelyn met him, but Sir Roger not daring to hazard a battle, planted himself within the ruins, and finding he could do no good, desired leave of the prince to retire peaceably. The prince, upon the account of relation and near consanguinity

betwixt them, and withal, because he would not be so mean spirited as to fall upon an enemy, who had no power to resist him, let him safely depart with his forces, and then passing on himself to Brecknock at the request of the people of that country, who swore fidelity unto him; so passed on and returned to North Wales. And now being confederate with the barons against King Henry, he was resolved to practise something in the prejudice of the English, and so set upon the earldom of Chester, destroyed the castles of Teganwy and Diserth, belonging to Edward, who coming thither, was yet not able to prevent the mischief done to him by the Welsh. The next year, John Strange, A.D. 1263, junior, constable of Montgomery, with a great number of marchers, came a little before Easter, by night, through Ceri to Cydewen, intending to surprise the castle, which when the people of the country understood, they gathered together, and setting upon them, slew two hundred of his men, but Strange, with a few, got safely back.

Within a while after, the marchers and the Welsh met again near a place called Clun, where a hot engagement happened between them, in which the Welsh were defeated, and had a great number of their men slain. After this, nothing remarkable fell out for a considerable time, unless it were, that David being released out of prison, by Prince Llewelyn, his brother most ungratefully forsook him, and with all his might, sided with his enemies the English; also Gryffith ap Gwenwynwyn, having taken the castle of Mold, demolished it to the ground. During this quiet and unactive interval in Wales, Meredith ap Owen, the main support and defender of South Wales, died, to the great disadvantage of the affairs in that country. And now 1268, indeed, the Welsh were like to be made sensible of the loss of so considerable a person; for King Henry was resolved once more to lead an army into Wales, and to see if he could have better success than he had hitherto against the Welsh. But when he was prepared to undertake this expedition, Ottobonus,



Pope Clement's legate in England, interposed and mediated a peace, which was concluded upon at the castle of Montgomery, wherein it was articulated, that Prince Llewelyn should give the king thirty thousand marks, and the king was to grant the Prince a charter, from thenceforth to receive homage and fealty of all the nobility and barons of Wales, except one, so that they could hold their lands of no other but himself, and from thence forward he was to be lawfully stiled Prince of Wales. This charter being ratified and confirmed, as well by the authority of the pope, as the king's seal; Prince Llewelyn desisted from any further acts of hostility, and punctually observed all the articles of agreement betwixt him and king Henry, so that nothing more was outrageously transacted between the English and Welsh, during the remainder of this king's reign. Within that space, died Grono ap Ednyved Vychan, one of the chief lords of the Prince's council, and shortly after him Gryffith, lord of Bromfield, who lies buried at Vale Crucis.

A.D. 1272. But the death of King Henry, put an end to the observations of the peace betwixt the English and Welsh, who dying on the sixteenth day of November this year, left this kingdom to his son Edward. Prince Edward was then in the Holy Land, and very active against those enemies of christianity, the Turks, where he had already continued above a year; but understanding of his father's death, and that in his absence he was proclaimed King of England, he made all haste to return to receive the solemnity of coronation. But what by the tediousness of the journey, and being honourably detained at princes' courts in his way, it was two years before he could get into England, then upon the fifteenth of August, and in the year 1274, he was crowned at Westminster. Prince Llewelyn was summoned to attend at his coronation, but he positively refused to appear, unless upon sure terms of safe conduct, for having offended several of the English nobility, he could not in safety pass through their country without the danger of exposing his

person to the inveterate malice and acceptable revenge of some of them. And therefore without the king's brother, the earl of Gloucester, and Robert Burnell, Lord Chief Justice of England, were delivered up as pledges for his safe conduct, he would not come to do his homage and fealty at his coronation, according to the writ directed to him. And indeed, seeing King Edward had broke the peace lately concluded upon, before the Pope's legate, and did receive, and honourably entertain such noblemen of Wales, as for their disloyalty were banished by Prince Llewelyn, by whom he feared some treachery; there was no reason that the prince should pay him any subjection, but by the breach of peace was exempted from all homage. However, Prince Llewelyn, to shew that it was not out of any stubbornness or disrespect to the King of England, that he refused to come, sent up his reasons by the abbots of Ystratflur and Conway, to Robert Kilwarby, archbishop of Canterbury, and the rest of the bishops then sitting in convocation, in the New Temple at London, which were to this effect:—

*To the most Reverend Fathers in GOD, ROBERT, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Metropolitan of all England; the Archbishop of York, and the rest of the Bishops in Convocation; Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, and Lord of Snowden, sendeth greeting:—*

WE would have your Lordships to understand, that whereas formerly most terrible and incessant wars were continually managed betwixt Henry, King of England, and Ourselves; the same were at last composed, and all matters of differences were adjusted, by the means of his Excellency, Cardinal Ottobonus, the Pope's legate, who having drawn the articles and conditions of the peace agreed upon, they were signed and swore to, not only by the king, but also the prince his son, now King of England. Among these articles were comprehend-

ed, that We and our successors, should hold of the king and his successor, the principality of Wales, so that all the Welsh lords, one baron excepted, should hold their baronies and estates *in capite* of Us, and should pay their homage and fealty for the same to Us; We in like manner doing homage to the King of England, and his successors. And besides, that the king and his successors should never offer to receive and entertain any of Our enemies, nor any such of Our own subjects as were lawfully banished and excluded our dominions of Wales, nor by any means defend and uphold such against Us. Contrary to which articles, King Edward has forcibly seized upon the estates of certain barons of Wales, of which they and their ancestors have been immemorably possessed of, and detains a barony, which by the form of peace, should have been delivered to us; and moreover, has hitherto entertained David ap Gryffith our brother, and Gryffith ap Gwenwynwyn, with several other of Our enemies, who are outlaws and fugitives of Our country; and though we have often exhibited our grievances and complaints against them, for destroying and pillaging our country, yet we could never obtain of the king any relief or redress for the several wrongs and injuries we received at their hands; but on the contrary, they still persist to commit wastes and other outrages in Our dominions. And for all this, he summons Us to do him homage at a place which is altogether dangerous to Our person, where Our inveterate enemies, and which is worse, Our own unnatural subjects, bear the greatest sway and respect with the king. And though we have alledged several reasons to the king and his council, why the place by him assigned, is not safe and indifferent for Us to come, and desire him to appoint another, whereto We might with more safety resort, or else that he would send commissioners to receive Our oath and homage, till he could more opportunely receive them in person; yet he would not assent to Our just and reasonable request, nor be satisfied with the reasons We exhibited for Our

non-appearance. Therefore We desire your lordships earnestly to weigh the dismal effects that will happen to the subjects, both of England and Wales, upon the breach of the articles of peace, and that you would be pleased to inform the king of the sad consequence of another war, which can no way be prevented, but by using Us according to the conditions of the former peace, which for Our part, We will in no measure transgress. But if the king will not hearken to your counsel, We hope that you will hold Us excused, if the nation be disquieted and troubled thereupon, which as much as in Us lieth We endeavour to prevent.

King Edward would admit of no excuse, nor hearken to any manner of reason in the case, but was unmercifully enraged, and conceived an unpardonable displeasure against Prince Llewelyn, which yet he thought convenient to conceal and dissemble for a time. Indeed, he could never abide Llewelyn since the time that he was vanquished and put to flight by him at the marches, so that the chief cause of King Edward's anger, originally proceeded from a point of honour, which this refusal of homage served sufficiently to increase. But to prosecute his revenge, which upon this score is in princes very fierce and unforgetful, in a short time he came to Chester, meaning to recover by force what he could not obtain by fair means. From hence he sent to the Prince of Wales, requiring him to come over and do him homage, which Llewelyn either absolutely refusing or willingly detracting to do, King Edward made ready his army to force him to it. But there happened an accident which took off a great part of Prince Llewelyn's stubbornness; for at this time the countess of Leicester the widow of Simon Montford who lived at Montargis a nunnery in France sent over for Wales her daughter, the Lady Eleanor, (whom Llewelyn extremely loved) with her brother Aemerike, to be married to the prince, according to the agreement made in her father, Earl Montfort's time. But Aemerike fearing to

A.D.1277.

touch upon the coast of England, steered his course towards the islands of Scilly, where by the way they were taken by four Bristol ships, and brought to King Edward, who received the lady very honourably, but committed her brother prisoner to the castle of Coff, whence he was afterward removed to the castle of Shirburne. The king having obtained this unexpected advantage over Llewelyn, began boldly to fall upon him, and so dividing his army into two battalions, led one himself into North Wales, and advanced as far as Ruthlan, where he strongly fortified the castle. The other he committed to Paganus de Camutiis, a great soldier, who entering into West Wales, burned and destroyed a great part of the country. But the people of South Wales, fearing that his next expedition was levelled against them voluntarily submitted themselves to the king, and did him homage, and then delivered up the castle of Ystratywy to Paganus.

Prince Llewelyn hearing of this and finding his own subjects to forsake him, but more especially being desirous to recover his espouse the Lady Eleanor, thought it likewise adviseable to submit, and therefore sued to King Edward for a peace, who granted it, but upon very severe conditions upon Llewelyn's side. The agreement consisted of ten articles, which were, I. That the prince should set at liberty all manner of prisoners, that upon the king's account were detained in custody. II. That for the king's favour and good-will; he should pay 50,000 marks, to be received at the king's pleasure. III. That these four cantreys or hundreds, viz. Cantrev Ros, where the king's castle of Teganwy stands, Ryvonioc, where Denbigh; Tegengl, where Ruthlan; Dyffryn Clwyd, where Rhuthyn stands, should remain in the king's hands. IV. That the Lords Marchers should quietly enjoy all the lands they had conquered within Wales, excepting in the isle of Anglesey, which was wholly granted to the Prince. V. That in consideration of this island, the prince should pay 5000 marks in hand, with the reserve of a 1000 marks yearly to begin at Michaelmas; and in case the prince died without issue, the

whole island should return to the king. VI. That the prince should come every year to England to pay homage to the king for all his lands. VII. That all the barons of Wales, excepting five in snowden, should hold their lands and estates of the king, and no other. VIII. That the title of Prince should remain only for his life, and not descend to his successors, and after his death, the five lords of Snowden should hold their lands only from the king. IX. That for the performance of these articles, the prince should deliver up for hostages ten persons of the best quality in the country, without imprisoning, disinheriting, and any time of redemption determined. And farther, that the king should chose twenty persons in North Wales, who besides the prince, should take their oaths for the due performance of these articles, and in case the prince should swerve and recede from them, and upon admonition thereof not repent, they should forsake him, and become his enemies. X. The Prince was obliged to suffer his brethren quietly to enjoy their lands in Wales, whereof David for his service was dubbed knight by the king, and had the Earl of Derby's widow given in matrimony, and with her as a portion, the castle of Denbigh in North Wales, besides a 1000 pounds in lands. His other brother Roderic was lately escaped out of prison into England, and the younger called Owen, was upon his composition delivered out of prison.

King Edward having imposed these severe and unmerciful conditions upon Prince Llewelyn, and for a better security for the performance of them, built a castle at Aberystwyth, returned very honourably into England; upon whose arrival, the people willingly granted him a subsidy of the twentieth part of their estates towards his charges in this war. But it seems very probable that Prince Llewelyn submitted to these intolerable conditions, more upon the account of his amours, and to regain the lady Eleanora out of the King of England's hands, than that he was apprehensive of any considerable danger he might receive by the English

troops. For it is hardly conceivable, that a prince of such notorious conduct and valour, would so easily accept of such hard terms, and in a measure deliver up his principality, when there was no necessity so to do, without resisting an enemy, whom he had frequently overcome, and forced to retire back with greater inequality than the English had at present over him. But the force of love worked wonders, and in this case proved most irresistible, which to obtain, Llewelyn did not think hard to forfeit his proper right to his inveterate enemies, and forever to exclude his posterity from succeeding in their lawful inheritance. The next year therefore, he had his wish accomplished, and was married to Eleanora, at Worcester, the king and queen, with all the nobility and persons of quality in England, honouring the wedding with their presence.

A.D.1278.

But this specious amity, and the peace lately concluded betwixt them, did not last long, the English governors in the marches and inland countries of Wales, presuming upon the prince's submission to the king, grievously oppressed the inhabitants of the country, with new and unheard of exactions, and with intolerable partiality openly encouraged the English to defraud and oppress the Welsh. These insupportable practises moved the Welsh to go in a body to David, lord of Denbigh, to endeavour a reconciliation between him and his brother, the prince, that they both being at unity, might easily deliver themselves and their country from the unmerciful tyranny of the English. David was not ignorant of the miseries of his countrymen, and therefore gladly submitted to be reconciled to his brother, with promise never to side again with the King of England, but to become his utter enemy. This happy union being thus effected, David was chosen general of the army, with which he presently marched to Hawarden, and surprising the castle, slew all that opposed him, and took Roger Clifford prisoner, who had been sent by King Edward, Justiciar into those parts. From thence being joined

1281.

by the prince, he passed to Ruthlan, and laid siege to the castle; but upon notice given that the king was marching to raise the siege, he thought convenient to withdraw, and to retire back. At the same time, Rhys ap Maelgou, and Gryffith ap Meredith ap Owen, with other lords of South Wales, took from the English the castle of Aberystwyth, with divers others in that country, and spoiled all the people thereabouts, who owned subjection to the crown of England. In the mean while, John Peckham, archbishop of Canterbury, perceiving how matters were like to proceed between the king and the prince, and how the kingdom was effectually involved in a war, of his own proper motion came to Prince Llewelyn, to endeavour a re-submission from him and his brother David to King Edward, and so to put a stop to any farther hostilities.

But he sent beforehand to the prince and people of Wales, intimating to them,—‘That for the love he bore to the Welsh nation, he undertook this arbitration, without the knowledge, and contrary to the king’s liking; and therefore earnestly desired, that they would submit to a peace with the English, which himself would endeavour to bring to pass. And because he could make no long continuance in those parts, he wished them to consider, how that if he should be forced to depart before any thing was brought to a conclusion, they could hardly find another who would so heartily espouse their cause; and farther threatened, that in case they contemned and derided his endeavours, he would not only instigate the English army, now greatly strengthened and increased, to fall upon them, but also signify their stubbornness to the court and bishop of Rome, who esteemed and honoured England, beyond any other kingdom in the world. Moreover, he much lamented to hear of the excessive cruelty of the Welsh, even beyond that of the Saracens and other infidels, who never refused to permit slaves and captives to be ransomed; which the Welsh were so far from practising, that



even some time they slew those for whose redemption they received money. And whereas they were wont to esteem and reverence holy and ecclesiastical persons, they are now so far degenerated from devotion and sanctity, that nothing is more acceptable to them than war and sedition, which they had now great need to forsake and repent of. Lastly, he proposed, that they would signify to him, wherein, and what laws and constitution of their's was violated by the English, and by what means a firm and a lasting peace might be established; which if they rejected, they must expect to incur the decree and censure of the church, as well as endure the violent inroads and depredations of a powerful army.'

To these, partly admonitions, and partly threatenings of the archbishop, Prince Llewelyn returned an answer:—'That he humbly thanked his Grace for the pains and trouble he undertook in his, and his subjects' behalf; and more particularly, because he would venture to come to Wales, contrary to the pleasure and good liking of the king. And as for concluding a peace with him, he would not have his Grace be ignorant, that with all readiness he was willing to submit to it, upon condition that the king would duly and sincerely observe the same. A.D.1282. And though he would be glad of his longer continuance in Wales, yet he hoped that no obstructions would happen of his side, why a peace (which of all things he most desired) might not be forthwith concluded, and rather by his Grace's procuring than any others; so that there would be no farther need of acquainting the Pope with his obstinacy, nor moving the King of England to use any force against him. And though the kingdom of England be under the immediate protection of the see of Rome, yet when his Holiness comes to understand of the great and unsufferable wrongs done to him by the English; how the articles of peace were broken, churches and all other religious houses in Wales, were burned down and destroyed, and religious persons unchristianly murdered, he hoped he would rather pity and lament his condi-

tion, than with addition of punishment increase and augment his sorrow. Neither shall the kingdom of England be anywise disquieted and molested by his means, in case the peace be religiously observed towards him and his subjects. But who they are that delight themselves with war and bloodshed; manifestly appears by their actions and behaviour; the Welsh being glad to live quietly upon their own, if they might be permitted by the English, who coming to the country, utterly destroy whatever comes in their way, without regard either to sex, age, or religious places. But he was extremely sorry that any one should be slain, having paid his ransom; the author of which unworthy action he did not pretend to maintain, but would inflict upon him his condign punishment, in case he could be got out of the woods and desarts, where as an outlaw, he lives undiscovered. But as to commencing a war in a season inconvenient, he protested he knew nothing of that till now; yet those that did so, do solemnly attest that to be the only measure they had to save themselves, and that they had no other security for their lives and fortunes, than to keep themselves in arms. Concerning his sins and trespasses against God, with the assistance of his Grace, he would endeavour to repent of; neither should the war be willingly continued by him, in case he might save himself harmless; but before he would be unjustly dispossessed of his legal property, he thought it but reasonable, by all possible measures to defend himself. And he was very willing, upon due examination of the trespasses committed, to make satisfaction and retribution of all wrongs committed by him and his subjects; so that the English would observe the same on their side; and likewise was ready to conclude a peace, which he thought was impossible to be established, as long as the English had no regard to articles, and still oppress his people with new and unwarrantable exactions. Therefore seeing his subjects were unchristianly abused by the king's

officers, and all his country most tyrannically harassed he saw no reason why the English, upon any fault of his side, should threaten to bring a formidable army to his country, nor the church pretend to censure him: seeing also, he was very willing upon the aforesaid conditions, to submit to a peace. And lastly, he desired his Grace, that he would not give the more credit to his enemies, because they were near his person, and could deliver their complaints frequently, and by word of mouth; for they who made no conscience of oppressing, would not in all probability, stick to defame, and make false accusations; and therefore his Grace would make a better estimation of the whole matter, by examining their actions, rather than believing their words.'

Prince Llewelyn having to this purpose replied in general to the archbishop's articles, presented him with a copy of the several grievances, which himself and others of his subjects had wrongfully and unjustly received at the hands of the English, and these, though somewhat tedious, are thought necessary to be particularly inserted in the appendix, by reason that they demonstrably vindicate the Welsh nation from the unreasonable aspersions which the English of these times cast upon it. For, the breach of peace, and the occasion of those dismal disturbances in the kingdom, are, by the English writers of those times wholly attributed to the restless and rebellious humour, and unconstant temper of the Welsh; whereas, had they looked at home, they might have found the original of all these troubles, to have proceeded from the intolerable extortions and insupportable oppressions of their own nation. For whoever considers these unmerciful grievances, and the manifold wrongs the Welsh endured, it cannot in reason be expected, but that they would endeavour to vindicate themselves, and repel force by force. For had the English the liberty of dispossessing them wrongfully of their proper inheritance and estates, and was it not lawful for the Welsh to endeavour the defending and keeping of their own? And must they be

reckoned disobedient, and promoters of sedition, upon the account that they would not be trampled under, and enslaved by the English? These measures were too hard and intolerable, and scarce allowable in an infidel nation; to oppress, (and what in them lay) eradicate a people, for no other reason, than because they were weaker and more helpless than themselves; and then, what is worse, to accuse them of being authors of sedition, because they would not suffer themselves to be peaceably enslaved, but endeavoured to vindicate their right by main force. But it is highly probable, that King Edward had no inclination to observe, what articles of agreement soever were concluded upon; and therefore encouraged his deputies in the marches and inland country of Wales, in all their oppressions and sinistrous dealings towards the Welsh. This was the best method, and the most expedient means to reduce the country of Wales to subjection to the crown of England, which the king had long ago intentionally effected; and to accuse the Welsh of not observing the conditions of peace, was a specious pretence to bring that actually to pass, and to lead an army into the country. But whatever the English might pretend, it is evident the Welsh had the greater occasion to complain, as appears from the grievances committed as well against the prince himself, as others of his subjects. See the Appendix.

The archbishop having read over these grievances, and finding the Welsh to be upon good reason guiltless of that severe character, which by the malicious insinuations of the English, he had conceived of them, went to King Edward, requesting him to take into consideration the unjust wrongs and injuries done to the Welsh; which if he would not redress, at least he might excuse them from any breach of obedience to him, seeing they had so just a reason for what they did. The king replied,— That he willingly forgave them, and would make reasonable satisfaction for any wrong done; so that they had free access to declare their grievances be-

fore him, and then might safely depart, in case it would appear just and lawful they should. The archbishop upon this, thought he had obtained his purpose, and therefore, without any stay, posted it to Snowden, where the prince and his brother David resided; and having acquainted them with the king's mind, earnestly desired that they, and the rest of the nobility of Wales, would submit themselves, and by him be introduced to the king's presence. Prince Llewelyn, after some time's conference and debate, declared that he was ready to submit to the king, with the reserve only of two particulars; namely, his conscience, whereby he was obliged to regard the safety and liberties of his people; and then the decency of his own state and quality. But the king understanding by the archbishop, how that the prince stood upon terms, positively refused to consent to any more treaty of peace, than that he should simply submit without any farther conditions. The archbishop had experience enough, that the Welsh would never agree to such proposals; and therefore desired of his Majesty, that he would give him leave, with the rest of the English nobility present, to confer and conclude upon the matter; which being granted, they unanimously resolved upon the following articles, and sent them to the prince, by John Wallensis, bishop of St. David's.

I. The king will have no treaty of the four cantreys, and other lands which he has bestowed upon his nobles; nor of the isle of Anglesey.

II. In case the tenants of the four cantreys submit themselves, the king purposeth to deal kindly and honourably with them; which we are sufficiently satisfied of, and will, what in us lies, endeavour to further.

III. We will do the like touching Prince Llewelyn, concerning whom we can return no other answer, than that he must barely submit himself to the king, without hopes of any other conditions.

These were the public articles agreed upon by the English nobility, and sent to Prince Llewelyn;

besides which, they sent some private measures of agreement, relating both to him and his brother David; promising, that in case he would submit, and put the king in quiet possession of Snowden, his Majesty would bestow an English county upon him, with the yearly revenue of a thousand pounds sterling. And moreover, his daughter should be provided for, suitable to her birth and quality, and all his subjects according to their estate and condition; and in case he should have male issue by a second wife, the aforesaid county and a thousand pounds should remain to his posterity for ever. As for David, the prince's brother, if he would consent to go to the Holy Land, upon condition not to return but upon the king's pleasure, all things should be honourably prepared for his journey with respect to his quality; and his child maintained and provided for by the king. To these the archbishop added his threats; that in case they did not comply, and submit themselves to the king's mercy, there were very severe and imminent dangers hanging over their heads; a formidable army was ready to make an inroad into their country, which would not only gaul and oppress them, but in all probability totally eradicate the whole nation: besides which, they were to expect the severest censure and punishment of the church.

But all this could not force so unlimited a submission from the prince, but that he would stick upon some certain conditions; and therefore by letter he acquainted the archbishop,—‘That he was with all willingness desirous to submit himself to the king; but withal, that he could not do it but in such a manner as was safe and honest for him. And because the form of submission contained in the articles sent to him, were by himself and his council thought pernicious and illegal for him to consent to, as tending rather to the destruction, than the security of himself and his subjects, he could in no wise agree to it; and in case himself should be willing, the rest of his nobility and people would never admit of it, as knowing for certain

the mischief and inconveniency that would ensue thereby. Therefore he desired his lordship, that for a confirmation of an honest and a durable peace, which he had all this while earnestly laboured for, he would manage matters circumspectly, and with due regard to the following articles. For it was much more honourable for the king, and far more consonant to reason, that he should hold his lands in the country where he was born and dwelt in, than that by dispossessing of him, his estate should be bestowed upon strangers.' With this was sent the general answer of the Welsh to the archbishop's articles, viz.—

I. Though the king would not consent to treat of the four cantreys, nor of the isle of Anglesey; yet unless these be comprehended in the treaty, the prince's council will not conclude a peace; by reason that these cantreys have ever, since the time of Camber, the son of Brutus, properly and legally belonged to the Princes of Wales; besides the confirmation which the present prince obtained by the consent of the king and his father, at the treaty before Cardinal Ottobonus, the Pope's legate, whose letters patent do still appear. And more, the justice of the thing itself is plainly evident, that it is more reasonable for our heirs to hold the said cantreys for money, and other services due to the king, than that strangers enjoy the same, who will forcibly abuse and oppress the people.

II. All the tenants of the cantreys of Wales do unanimously declare, that they dare not submit themselves to the king's pleasure; by reason that he never, from the beginning, took care to observe, either covenant, oath, or any other grant to the Prince and his people; and because his subjects have no regard to religion, but most cruelly and unchristianly tyrannize over churches and religious persons; and then, for that we do not understand ourselves any way obliged thereunto, seeing we be the prince's tenants, who is willing to pay the king all usual and accustomed services.

III. As to what is required, that the prince should simply commit himself to the king's will, we all declare, that for the aforesaid reasons, none of us dare come, neither will we permit our prince to come to him upon those conditions.

IV. That some of the English nobility will endeavour to procure a provision of a thousand pounds a year in England; we would let them know, that we can accept of no such pension; because it is procured for no other end, than that the prince being disinherited, themselves may obtain his lands in Wales.

V. The Prince cannot in honesty resign his paternal inheritance, which has for many ages been enjoyed by his predecessors, and accept of other lands among the English, of whose customs and language he is ignorant; and upon that score, may at length be fraudulently deprived of all, by his malicious and inveterate enemies.

VI. Seeing the king intends to deprive him of his ancient inheritance in Wales, where the land is more barren and untilled; it is not very probable that he will bestow upon him a more fruitful and an arable estate in England.

VII. As to the clause, that the prince should give the king a perpetual possession of Snowden; we only affirm, that seeing Snowden essentially belongs to the principality of Wales, which the prince and his predecessors have enjoyed since Brute, the prince's council will not permit him to renounce it, and accept another estate in England, to which he has not equal right.

VIII. The people of Snowden declare, that though the prince should give the king possession of it, they would never own, and pay submission to strangers; for in so doing, they would bring upon themselves the same misery, that the people of the four cantrevs, have for a long time groaned under; being most rudely handled, and unjustly oppressed by the king's officers; as woefully appears by their several grievances.



IX. As for David, the prince's brother, we see no reason, why against his will, he should be compelled to take a journey to the Holy Land; which, if he happens to undertake hereafter, upon the account of religion, it is no cause that his issue should be disinherited, but rather encouraged.

Now seeing neither the prince nor any of his subjects, upon any account whatsoever, have moved and begun this war, but only defended themselves, their properties, laws and liberties, from the encroachments of other persons; and since the English, either for malice or covetousness to obtain our estates, have unjustly occasioned all these troubles and broils in the kingdom, we are assured that our defence is just and lawful, and therein depend upon the aid and assistance of heaven; which will be most cruelly revenged upon our sacrilegious and inhuman enemies, who have left no manner of enormities, in relation to God and man, uncommitted. Therefore your Grace would more justly threaten your ecclesiastical censures, against the authors and abettors of such unparalleled villainies, than the innocent sufferers. And besides, we much admire, that you should advise us to part with our own estates, and to live among our enemies; as if, when we cannot peaceably enjoy what is our own unquestionable right, we might expect to have quiet possession of another man's: and though, as you say, it is hard to live in war and perpetual danger; yet much harder it is, to be utterly destroyed and reduced to nothing; especially, when we seek but the defence of our own liberties from the insatiable ambition of our enemies. And seeing your Grace has promised to fulminate sentence against all them that either for malice or profit would hinder and obstruct the peace; it is evident who in this respect are transgressors and delinquents; the fear and apprehension of imprisonment and ejection out of our estates, the sense of oppression and tyrannical government; having compelled us to take up arms for the security of our lives and fortunes. Therefore as the English are not dispossessed of their estates,

for their offences against the king, so we are willing to be punished, or make other satisfaction for our crimes, without being disinherited; and as to the breach of the peace, it is notorious that they were the authors, who never regarded either promise or covenant, never made amends for trespasses, nor remedy for our complaints.

When the Archbishop saw there was no likelihood of a mediation, and that a peace was impossible to be concluded as long as the Welsh stood upon conditions; he presently relinquished his pretended affection towards them, and denounced a sentence of excommunication against the prince and all his adherents. It was a subject of no little wonder, that a person of so reputed a sanctity, who esteemed the several grievances done to the Welsh to be intolerable, should now condemn them for refusal of unlimited submission to the King of England; whereas he had already owned it to be unreasonable. But this ecclesiastical censure was only a prologue to a more melancholy scene; King Edward immediately upon it, sending an army by sea to Anglesey, without any great opposition, conquered the island, and without any mercy, put all that withstood him to the sword. From thence designing to pass over to the continent, he caused a bridge of boats covered with planks to be built over the Menay, (being an arm of the sea which parteth the isle from the main land) at a place called Moel y don, not far from Bangor, where the water is narrowest. The bridge being finished, which was so broad that threescore men might pass in a breast, William Latimer, with a strong party of the best experienced soldiers, and Sir Lucas Thany, commander of the Gascoigns and Spaniards, whereof a great number served the king, passed over, but could discover no sign, or any the least intimation of an enemy. But as soon as the tide began to appear, and the sea had overflowed beside the bridge, down come the Welsh fiercely out of the mountains, and setting upon the disheartened

English, killed or drowned their whole number, excepting Latimer, who, by the swimming of his horse, got safe to the bridge. In this action, several worthy soldiers of the English side were lost; among whom were Sir Lucas Thany, Robert Clifford, Sir Walter Lyndsey, two brothers of Robert Burnel, bishop of Bath, with many others; in all to the number of thirteen knights, seventeen young gentlemen, and two hundred common soldiers. A little after, or as some say before, another engagement passed between the English and the Welsh, wherein the former lost fourteen colours, the lords Audley and Clifford the younger, being slain, and the king himself forced to retreat for safety to the castle of Hope.

And while these things passed in North Wales, the earl of Gloucester and Sir Edmund Mortimer, acted vigorously with their forces in South Wales; and fighting the Welsh at Llandeilo Vawr, overthrew them with the loss of no considerable person, saving William de Valence, the king's cousin-german, and four knights besides. Prince Llewelyn was all this while in Cardigan, wasting and destroying all the country, and principally the lands of Rhys ap Meredith, who very unnaturally held with the King of England in all these wars. But being at length tired with action, with a few men privately separated himself from his army, and came to Buellt, thinking to ease and respite himself there undiscovered. But coming to the river Wye, he met with Edmund Mortimer and John Gifford, with a considerable party of the people of that country which Mortimer was lord of. But neither party venturing to assail the other, Prince Llewelyn with one only servant, retired to a private grove in a neighbouring valley, there to consult with certain lords of the country, who had appointed to meet him. In the mean time, Mortimer descends from the hill, with intention to fall upon Llewelyn's men; which they perceiving, betook themselves to the bridge called Pont Orewyn, and manfully defended the passage he was to cross. Mortimer could effect

nothing against them, till he had gained the bridge, the river being impassable; and to force them to quit it, seemed altogether impracticable. But at last, the river was discovered to be fordable a little below, and so Helias Walwyn was detached with a party through the river, who unexpectedly falling upon the backs of the defendants, easily forced them to leave the bridge, and save themselves by flight. Prince Llewelyn all this while in vain expected the lords of Buellt, and in fine continued to wait so long, till Mortimer having passed over the bridge, surrounded the wood he was in with armed men. The prince perceiving himself to be betrayed, thought to make his escape to his men; but the English so closely pursued him, that before he could come in, one Adam Francton, not knowing who he was, run him through with his sword, being unarmed. The Welsh still expected the arrival of their prince, and though but a few in number, so gallantly maintained their ground, that in spite of the far greater number of the English, they were at length with much ado put to flight. The battle being over, Francton returned to plunder his dead; but perceiving him to be the prince of Wales, he thought himself to have obtained a sufficient prize, and thereupon presently chopt off his head, and sent it to King Edward, at Conway, who very joyfully caused it to be placed upon the highest pinnacle of the tower of London. And thus fell this worthy prince, the greatest, though the last of the British blood, betrayed most basely by the lords of Buellt, and being dead, most unworthily dealt with by the King of England; who, contrary to all precedents, treated a lawful prince like a traitor, and exposed his crowned head to the derision of the multitude.

Not long after, David, the prince's brother, was delivered up by the Welsh themselves, and in a parliament for that purpose assembled at Shrewsbury, was condemned to die; his head to be sent to accompany his brother's upon the tower of London,

and his four quarters to the four cities of Bristol, Northampton, York, and Winchester. Then the king, for the easier keeping the Welsh in due subjection, built two strong castles in North Wales; the one at Conway, and the other at Caernarvon. There was none that now stood out, besides Rhys Vychan, of Ystratywy; and he finding David was gone, and himself like to do nothing to any purpose, fairly yielded himself up to the Earl of Hereford, who, by the king's orders, committed him prisoner to the tower of London; and so all the country of Wales became ever since subject to the crown of England.

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THE  
PRINCES OF WALES,  
OF  
ENGLISH BLOOD.

Anno 12,  
Edw. I.

PRINCE LLEWELYN and his brother David, being so basely taken off, and leaving no body to lay any specious claim to the principality of Wales, King Edward, by a statute made at Ruthlan, incorporated and annexed it to the crown of England; constituting several new and wholesome laws; as concerning the division of Wales into several counties, the form and manner of writs and proceedings in trials, with many others not very unlike the laws and constitutions of the English nation. But all this could never win the affection of the Welsh toward him; who by no means would own him as their sovereign, unless he would condescend and agree to live and reign among them. They had not forgot the cruel oppressions and intolerable insolencies of English officers; and therefore they flatly told him, they would never yield obedience to any other, than a prince of their own nation, of their own language, and whose life and conversation

was spotless and unblameable. King Edward perceiving the Welsh to be resolute and inflexible, and absolutely bent against any other prince, than one of their own country, happily thought of this politic, though dangerous expedient. Queen Eleanor was now quick with child, and ready to be delivered; and though the season was very severe, it being the depth of winter, the king sent for her from England, and removed her to Caernarvon castle, the place designed for her to lye in. When the time of her delivery was come, King Edward called to him all the barons and chief persons throughout all Wales, to Ruthlan, there to consult about the public good and safety of their country. And being informed that his queen was delivered of a son, he told the Welsh nobility, that whereas they had oftentimes intreated him to appoint them a prince, he having at this time occasion to depart out of the country, with their request, upon condition they would allow of, would comply and obey him whom he should name. The Welsh readily agreed to the motion only with the same reserve, that he should appoint them a prince of their own nation. King Edward assured them, he would name such a one as was born in Wales, could speak no English, and whose life and conversation no body could stain; whom the Welsh agreeing to own and obey, he named his own son Edward, but little before born in Caernarvon castle.

King Edward having by these means deluded the Welsh, and reduced the whole country of Wales to his own devotion, began to reward his followers with other mens properties, and bestowed whole lordships and towns in the midst of the country upon English lords, among whom Henry Lacy earl of Lincoln obtained the lordship of Denbigh; Reginald Grey, second son to John, lord Grey, of Wilton, the lordship of Ruthyn. This Henry Lacy was son to Edmund Lacy, the son of John Lacy, lord of Halton Pomfret, and constable of Chester, who married Margaret the eldest daughter, and one of the heirs of Robert Quincy, earl of Lincoln.

This Henry Lacy, lord of Denbigh, married the daughter and sole heir of William Longspear, earl of salisbury, by whom he had issue to sons, Edmund and John, who both died young, one by a fall into a very deep well within the castle of Denbigh; and a daughter named Alicia, who was married to Thomas Plantagenet, earl of Lancaster, who in right of his wife was earl of Lincoln and Sarum, lord of Denbigh, Halton Pomfret, and constable of Chester. After his death, King Edward II. bestowed the said lordship of Denbigh upon Hugh, lord Spencer earl of Winchester, upon whose decease, King Edward III. gave it, together with many other lordships in the marches, to Roger Mortimer, earl of march, in performance of a promise he had made, whilst he remained with his mother in France, that as soon as he should come to the possession of the crown of England, he would bestow upon the said earl of March, to the value of a thousand pound yearly in lands. But within few years after, Mortimer being attainted of high treason, King Edward bestowed the said lordship of Denbigh upon Montague, earl of Salisbury; but it was quickly restored again to the Mortimers, in which house it continued, till the whole estate of the earls of March, came with a daughter to the house of York, and so to the crown, Richard, Duke of York, grandfather to Edward the fourth, having married the sole daughter and heir of the house of the Mortimers. And so it continued in the crown to Queen Elizabeth's time who in the sixth year of her reign, bestowed the said lordship upon her great favourite Robert earl of Leicester, who was then created Baron of Denbigh. After him it returned again to the crown, where it has continued to this present year 1696, when his present Majesty granted a patent under the Great Seal to William, earl of Portland, for the lordships of Denbigh, Bromfield, and Yale. Some of the Welsh representatives, perceiving how far such a grant encroached upon the properties and privileges of the subject, disclosed their grievances to the honourable House of Commons, who after some

consideration, resolved, (*nemine contradicente*) that a petition should be presented to his Majesty by the body of the whole House, to request him to recall his grant to the said earl of Portland; which was accordingly done in the manner following:—

*May it please Your Most Excellent Majesty,*

**WE**, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the knights, citizens, and burgesses in parliament assembled; humbly lay before Your Majesty, That whereas there is a grant passing to William, earl of Portland, and his heirs, of the manors of Denbigh, Bromfield, and Yale, and divers other lands in the principality of Wales; together with several estates of inheritance, enjoyed by many of Your Majesty's subjects, by virtue of ancient grants from the crown:

That the said manors, with the large and extensive royalties, powers, and jurisdictions to the same belonging, are of great concern to Your Majesty, and the crown of this realm: and that the same have been usually annexed to the principality of Wales, and settled on the Princes of Wales for their support: and that a great number of Your Majesty's subjects, in those parts, hold their estates by royal tenure, under great and valuable compositions, rents, royal payments, and services to the crown and Princes of Wales; and have by such tenure great dependance on Your Majesty and the crown of England; and have enjoyed great privileges and advantages with their estates, under such tenure.

We therefore most humbly beseech Your Majesty, to put a stop to the passing this grant to the earl of Portland, of the said manors and lands; and that the same may not be disposed from the crown, but by consent of parliament: for that such grant is in diminution of the honour and interest of the crown, by placing in a subject, such large and extensive royalties, powers, and jurisdictions, which ought only to be in the crown; and will sever that dependance, which so great a number of Your Ma-



Majesty's subjects in those parts, have on Your Majesty and the crown, by reason of their tenure; and may be to their great oppression in those rights which they have purchased, and hitherto enjoyed with their estates: and also, an occasion of great vexation to many of Your Majesty's subjects, who have long had the absolute inheritance of several lands (comprehended in the said grant to the earl of Portland) by ancient grants from the crown.

HIS MAJESTY'S ANSWER:—

*Gentlemen,*

I HAVE a kindness for my Lord Portland, which he has deserved of Me, by long and faithful services; but I should not have given him these lands, if I had imagined the House of Commons could have been concerned; I will therefore recall the grant, and find some other way of shewing My favour to him.

The lordship of Ruthyn continued in the possession of the Greys, till the reign of Henry VII. when George Grey, earl of Kent, and lord of Ruthyn, upon some bargain, passed the same over to the king, since which it has been in the possession of some of the earls of Warwick, and afterwards came to the Middletons, of Chirk castle, in the county of Denbigh, where it still continues; being now enjoyed by the right worshipful Sir Richard Middleton, baronet.

But besides Henry Lacy and Reginald Grey, several other gentlemen of quality came at this time with King Edward to North Wales, who in some time became to be men of great possessions and sway in the country, whose posterity enjoy the same to this time. But he that expected to fare best in the distribution of these lordships and estates in Wales, was one Rhys ap Meredith a Welshman: and one that, contrary to the allegiance sworn to his prince, and his duty to his native country, had served the king of England, in all these wars, and

done the greatest hurt of any man to the interest of Prince Llewelyn. For these great services done to King Edward, Rhys expected no less than to be promoted to the highest preferments; whom the king, after the Prince of Wales's overthrow, first dubbed knight, and afterwards fed him with fair words and great promises.

But when he, and all his neighbours and countrymen had submitted themselves to the government of the King of England; it happened that the lord Pain Tiptost, warden of the king's castles which joined to Rhys's country, and the lord Alan Plucknet, the king's steward in Wales, cited Sir Rhys ap Meredith, with all the rest of the country, to the king's court, which he refusing to do, alledging his ancient privileges and liberties, together with the king's promises to him, the aforesaid officers proceeded against him according to law. Whereupon Sir Rhys being greatly vexed to be thus served by those whose interest he had all this while so warmly espoused, thought to be revenged of Pain Tiptost, and the rest of the English. And to that end, having drawn together some of his tenants and countrymen, he fell upon the said Pain Tiptost; between whom several skirmishes afterwards happened, and several men were slain on both sides. King Edward was now at Arragon, to compose the differences betwixt the kings of Arragon and Naples; but being informed of the disturbances which had happened in Wales, betwixt his ministers there and Sir Rhys ap Meredith; he wrote to this latter, requiring him to keep the peace, till his return; at which time he would redress all grievances, and reduce matters to a good and reasonable order. But Sir Rhys having already waited sufficiently upon the king's promises, and being now in a good condition to offend his enemies by force of arms, would not give over the enterprize he saw so promising, but marching with his forces to his enemies' lands, burnt and spoiled several towns belonging to the English. Upon this, the king sent to the earl of

A.D.1289.

Cornwal, whom he had appointed his deputy during his absence, to march with an army into Wales, to repress the insolencies, and to prevent any farther disorderly attempts of the Welsh. The earl accordingly prepared an army and went against Sir Rhys's, whose army he quickly dispersed, and overthrew his castle of Drevolan, but not without the loss of some of his chief men. For as they besieged and undermined the said castle, the walls unexpectedly fell down, by which unlucky accident, several of the English were oppressed and bruised to death, among whom were the lord Stafford, and the lord William de Monchency. But within a while after, Robert Tiptost, lord deputy of Wales, raised a very powerful army against Sir Rhys, and after a slaughter of 4000 of the Welsh, took him prisoner, who the Michaelmas following, at the king's going to Scotland, was condemned and executed at York.

A.D. 1293. But the death of Sir Rhys did not put a final period to all the quarrels betwixt the English and Welsh, for in a short time after, there happened a new occasion for the Welsh to murmur against, and upbraid the government of the English over them. King Edward was now in actual enmity and war with the King of France, for the carrying on of which, he wanted a liberal subsidy and supply from his subjects. This tax was with a great deal of passion and reluctancy levied in divers places of the kingdom, but more especially in Wales, the Welsh being never acquainted with such large contributions before, violently stormed and exclaimed against it. But not being satisfied with villifying the king's command, they took their own captain, Roger de Pulesdon, who was appointed collector of the said subsidy, and hanged him up, together with divers others who abetted the collecting of the tax. Then the West-Wales men chose Maelgon Vychan for their captain, and so entering into Caermarthen and Pembrokeshires, they cruelly harassed all the lands that belonged to the English, and then returned laden with considerable booty. The Gla-

morganshire men, and they towards the south parts, chose one Morgan for their leader, and set upon the earl of Gloucester, whom they forced to make his escape out of the country; and so Morgan was put in possession of those lands which the ancestors of the earl of Gloucester had forcibly taken away from Morgan's forefathers. On the other side, the North Wales men set up one Madoc, related to the last Llewelyn slain at Buellt, who having drawn together a great number of men, came to Caernarvon, and setting upon the English, who in great multitudes had then resorted thither to a fair, slew a great many, and afterwards spoiled and ransacked the whole town. King Edward being acquainted with these different insurrections and rebellions in Wales, and desirous to quell the pride and stubbornness of the Welsh, but most of all to revenge the death of his great favourite, Roger de Pulesdon, recalled his brother Edmund, earl of Lancaster, and Henry Lacy, earl of Lincoln and lord of Denbigh, who with a considerable army were ready to embark for Gascoign, and countermanded them into Wales. Being arrived there, they passed quietly forward, till they came to Denbigh, and as soon as they drew near unto the castle, upon St. Martin's day, the Welsh with great fury and courage faced them, and joining battle, forced them back with a very considerable loss. Polydore Virgil says, (but upon what authority is not known) that the Welsh obtained this victory rather upon the account that the English army was hired with such money as had been wrongfully taken out of the abbies and other religious places, so that it was a judgment from above, more than the force of the Welsh, that overcame the English army. But be the cause of it what it will, it is certain the English were vanquished, upon which account King Edward came in person to Wales, and kept his Christmas at Aberconway, where Robert Winchelsey, archbishop of Canterbury, being returned from Rome, came to him, and having done homage, returned honourably again to

England. But as the king advanced farther into the country, having but one part of his army with him, the Welsh set upon and took most of his carriages, which contained a great quantity of victuals and provision, so that the king with all his followers were constrained to endure a great deal of hardships, insomuch that at last, water mixed with honey, and very coarse and ordinary bread, with the saltest meat, were accounted the greatest delicacies for his Majesty's own table. But their misery was like to be greater, had not the other part of the army come in time, because the Welsh had encompassed the king round, in hopes to reduce him to the utmost distress, by reason that the water was so risen, that the rest of the army could not get to him. But the water within some time after, abating, the remainder of the army came in, whereupon the Welsh presently retired, and made their escape. One thing is very remarkable of King Edward, during his distress at Snowden, that when the army was reduced to very great extremity, a small quantity of wine was found, which they thought to reserve for the king's own use. But he to prevent any discontent, which might thereupon be raised in his soldiers, absolutely refused to taste thereof, telling them, 'That in time of necessity all things should be common, and as he was the cause and author of their distress, he would not be preferred before them in his diet.'

But whilst the king remained in Snowden, the earl of Warwick being informed that a great number of Welsh were assembled, and had lodged themselves in a certain valley betwixt two woods, chose out a troop of horse, together with some cross-bows and archers, and set upon them in the night-time. The Welsh being thus surprised and unexpectedly encompassed about by their enemies, made the best haste they could to oppose them, and so pitching their spears in the ground, and directing the points towards their enemies, endeavoured by such means to keep off the horse. But the earl of Warwick having ordered his battle so, as that be-

tween every two horses there stood a cross-bow, so gauled the Welsh with the shot of the quarrels, that the spear-men fell apace, and then the horse breaking easily in upon the rest, bare them down with so great a slaughter, as the Welsh had never received before. After this, King Edward to prevent any more rebellious attempts of the Welsh cut down all the woods in Wales, wherein, in any time of danger, they were wont to hide and save themselves. And for a farther security, he repaired and fortified all the castles and places of strength in Wales, and built the castle of Bewmoris in the isle of Anglesey, and so having put all things in a settled posture, and punished those that had been the occasion of the death of Roger de Pulesdon, he returned with his army into England. But as soon as the king had left the Welsh, Madoc, who, as it is said before was chosen captain by the North Wales men gathered some forces together, and came to Oswestry which presently yielded to him. And then meeting with the Lord Strange near Knookine, who with a detachment of the marchers came to oppose him, gave him battle, vanquished his forces, and miserably ravaged his country. The like success he obtained a second time against the marchers, but at last they brought together a very great number of men, and met Madoc marching towards Shrewsbury, upon the hills of Cefn Digoll, not far from Comes castle, where after a bloody fight on both sides, Madoc was taken prisoner, and his army vanquished and put to flight. Then he was sent to London, and there sentenced to remain in perpetual imprisonment in the Tower, though others affirm, that Madoc was never taken, but that after several adventures and severe conflicts, whereby the Welsh were reduced to great extremities, he came in and submitted himself to the king, who received him upon condition he wold not desist to pursue Morgan, captain of the Glamorganshire men, till he brought him prisoner before him. Madoc having performed this, and the whole country being peaceable and undisturbed, several hostages from

*Roger**Madoc**Morgan*

the chiefest nobility of Wales for their orderly and quiet behaviour were delivered to the king, who disposed of them into divers castles in England, where they continued in safe custody till the end of the war, which was presently commenced with Scotland.

A.D.1301. In the 29th year of King Edward's reign, the prince of Wales came down to Chester, and received homage of all the freeholders in Wales as follows; Henry, earl Lancaster, for Monmouth; Reginald Gray, for Ruthyn; Foulk Fitzwarren for his lands; the lord William Martyn, for his lands in Cemaes; Roger Mortimer for his lands in Wales; Henry Lacy, earl of Lincoln, for Rhos and Rhyvonioc; Robert lord Montalt, for his lands, and Gryffith, lord of Poole for the lordship of Powys, at the same time paid their homage, Tudor ap Gronow of Anglesey, Madoc ap Tudor archdeacon of Anglesey, Eineon ap Howel, of Caernarvon, Tudor ap Gryffith, Llewelyn ap Ednyved, Gryffith Vychan, son of Gryffith ap Iorwerth, Madoc Vychan Dinglefield, Llewelyn, bishop of St. Asaph, and Richard de Pulesdon. This last in the twelfth year of King Edward, was constituted sheriff of Caernarvon, for life, with the stipend of forty pounds sterling yearly. At the same place, Gryffith ap Tudor, Ithel Vychan, Ithel ap Blethyn, with many more did their homage. Then the prince came to Ruthlan, where the lord Richard de Sutton, Baron of Malpas, paid homage and fealty for the said barony of Malpas. Thence the prince removed to Conway, where Eineon, bishop of Bangor, and David, abbot of Maynan, did their homage; as did Lewis de Felton, son of Richard Felton, for the lands which his father held of the prince in Maelor Saesneg, or English Maelor. John, earl Warren, swore homage for the lordships of Bromfield and Yale, and his lands in Hope-Dale, at London, in the chapel of the Lord John de Kirkby, sometime bishop of Ely; as also a while after, Edmund Mortimer for his lands of Cery and Cydewen.

But besides all these, there paid homage to the prince of Wales at Chester, Sir Gryffith Llwyd, son of Rhys ap Gryffith ap Ednyved Vychan, a stout and a valiant gentleman, though not very fortunate and as Florus says of Sertorius, he was *magnæ quidem, sed calamitosæ virtutis*. He was knighted by King Edward the First, upon his bringing the first news of the queen's safe delivery of a son at Caernarvon castle, the king holding then a parliament at Ruthlan. This Sir Gryffith continued for some time very gracious with the king of England, but observing at length the intolerable oppression and tyranny exercised by the English officers, especially by Sir Roger Mortimer, lord of Chirke, and Justice of North Wales, towards his countrymen the Welsh became so far concerned and discontented with such unwarrantable practices, that he presently brake out into open rebellion against the English. And the better to effect what he purposed, he treated with Sir Edward Bruce, brother to Robert, then king of Scotland, who had conquered Ireland, to bring or send over some forces to assist him in his design against the English, upon which account he sent him the following letter:—

*Nobili in Christo conquestori domino EDVARDO, illustrissimo regi Hiberniæ, suus, si placet, GRIFFINUS LLWYD in North Wall: reverentiam debitam in honore.*

AUDITA nobis vestri in terrarum conquisitione fama egregia in partibus nostris præcipue debelland, æmulos nostros & vestros, qui tam vos quam nos ab hæreditatibus vi injuste expellendo destruxerunt, & nomen nostrum memoriamque in terris delere conati fuerunt, ab initio supra modum applaudimus, ut merito debemus, omnes unanimiter in partibus nostris, unde vobis ex parte Wallensium nobilium significo per præsentés, quod si ad Walliam cum hominibus vestris dignemini venire, vel si vos in propria persona accedere illuc non poteritis, aliquem nobilem Albanen. comitem, baronem vel militem,



cum paucis, si plurimi nequeant adesse, ad dictas partes nostras volueritis mandare. Parati erimus omnes unanimiter . . . . . dicem eo quod nomen vestrum celebre ubique publicetur expugnat; si quid Saxonibus in Albania, per illustrem regem fratrem vestrum ultim. per vos in Hibernia, per vos & nos in Wallia statum vestrum pristinum per Brutum conquistum recuperabimus, ipsisque suppeditatis, confusis & dispersis, Britannia juxta discretam vestræ dominationis ordinationem inter Britoues & Albaneos in posterum divisa cohæreditabitur. Valeat dominatio vestra regia per cuncta sæcula.

To this letter of Sir Gryffith Llwyd's, Sir Edward Bruce returned the following answer.

**OMNIBUS** desiderantibus a servitute liberari salutem in eo. Qui desiderant in se releavat. & liberat. ab angustiis, temporibus opportunis, quia quilibet christianus obligatur suo proximo in omni angustia subvenire, & præcipue illis qui ex una radice originis sive parentelæ & patriæ primitus processerunt, ideo compatientes vestræ servituti & angustiae, jam . . . . . Anglicana molestia indigenti decrevimus (auxiliante altissimo) vestro gravamini occurrere, & innaturalem & barbaricam totis viribus Anglicanam de vestris finibus expellere servitutum, ut sic sicut a principio Albanicus et Britannicus populus expulsis hostibus in perpetuum fiet unus. Et quia nullus inimicus faciliter relevatur libenter præcipimus, si jugum Anglicanum in tantum vos deprimat, quantum nuper depresserat populum Scotianum, ut sic ex vestro concordiam amine, & nostro superveniente (juvamine disponente semper divino) positis jura vestra & justitiam recuperare & proprietatem . . . . . hæreditatam pacifice possidere. Veruntamen dei cum omnia serviunt in isto proposito filium invocamus, quod non ex præsumptione & ambitione injusti domini talia attemptamus, sed ex mera compassione effusionis innocentis vestry sanguinis & subjectionis intollerabilis & signant: ad hoc quod vellemus ini-

micorum vestrorum & nostrorum vires reprimere, qui nec pacem nec concordiam desiderant. Imo vestram & nostram finalam destructionem, sicut a principio ingressionis eorum in Britanniam incessanter diebus ac noctibus molientur, & quia nullo modo est nostræ conscientiæ quemquam decipere, nec etiam decipi a quocunque, nostram intentionem & proposit. sine tergiversatione aliqua declaramus quod libenter sciremus vestram voluntatem, si rationem nostri laboris & conaminis intuitu revelationis vestræ acceptare decrement. nobis committere prosecutionem querelæ vestræ & justitiæ nec non capitale dominium vestri pro ut alius hactenus princeps vester liberius habere consuevit. Ita quod vos omnes & singuli cujuscunque extiteritis conditionis pristinis hæreditatibus, terris, libertatibus. possessionibus consuetis, & omnibus conditionibus ad vos expectantibus integre & finaliter gaudeatis. Vestrem igitur voluntatem suber hiis & quibuscunque aliis in quibus vos consolari poterimus, si videatur expediens caute & celeriter nobis remandetis. Valete domini in domino.

But for all that these letters passed betwixt them, whether by reason that Bruce's terms were conceived unreasonable, nothing however was concluded upon, and the whole treaty came to nothing. But Sir Gryffith, though without any hopes of assistance from the Scots, would not lay aside what he had once undertaken, and therefore having gathered all the forces he could, desperately set upon, and almost in an instant over-ran all North Wales and the Marches, seizing upon all the castles and strong holds through the country. But all to no purpose, for as the most violent stream is quickly over, so Sir Gryffith's army was presently spent, and then being met with by a strong detachment of English, his party was easily discomfited, and himself taken A.D. 1322. prisoner.

The same year, being the 15th of the reign of King Edward the Second, his eldest son Edward, born at Windsor, in a parliament holden at York,

was created Prince of Wales, Duke of Aquitaine, and earl of Chester. This prince succeeded his father in the kingdom of England, by the name of Edward the Third, one of the greatest and most powerful monarchs that ever sat upon the English throne.

A.D. 1343.

Edward born at Woodstock, eldest son and heir to King Edward the Third, was created prince of Wales, upon the 12th day of May, in the 17th year of his father's reign, being then about fourteen years of age. He was a prince of incomparable qualifications, but so signally famous in martial affairs, that upon the account of the several actions he was engaged in, he received the name of Black Prince. He took John, the French king prisoner at the battle of Poitiers, and shamefully vanquished the French army in the battle of Cressy. He did not live to enjoy the crown, but died one year before his father in the forty-sixth year of his age; no prince was in his life-time better beloved, and after his death more lamented by the English nation, who, had he lived to sit at the helm, no one doubted but that he would have exceeded as to all qualifications, the most glorious renown of the greatest of his ancestors.

In the time of Edward the Third, lived Sir Tudor Vaughan ap Grono, descended lineally from Ednyved Vaughan, a person as to estate, power, and interest, one of the chiefest in North Wales. Upon some motive, either of ambition or fancy, he assumed to himself the honour of knighthood, requiring all people to call and stile him Sir Tudor ap Grono, as if he did prognosticate and foresee, that out of his loins should arise those that should have power to confer that honour. King Edward being informed of such unparalleled presumption, sent for Sir Tudor, and asked him, with what confidence he durst invade his prerogative, by assuming the degree of knighthood, without his authority, Sir Tudor replied, that by the laws and constitution of King Arthur, he had the liberty of taking upon himself that title, in regard he had those three qualifications, which whosoever was endued with, could

by those laws claim the honour of a knight. First, he was a gentleman. Second, he had a sufficient estate. And thirdly, he was valiant and adventurous; adding this withal, If my valour and hardiness be doubted of, lo, here I throw down my glove, and for due proof of my courage, I am ready to fight with any man, whatever he be. The king approving and liking well the man's forwardness and resolution, was easily persuaded to confirm the honour of knighthood upon him. From this Sir Tudor lineally descended Henry the Seventh, king of England, who was the son of Edmund earl of Richmond, the son of Sir Owen Tudor, son to Meredith, the son of this Sir Tudor ap Grono.

After the death of the Black Prince, his son Richard, born at Bourdeaux, in France, being but ten years of age, was created prince of Wales, at Hevering, at Boure, on the twentieth day of November, A.D. 1377. and in the fiftieth year of Edward the Third, his grandfather's reign, whom he succeeded in the crown of England.

Henry, born at Monmouth, son and heir to Henry the fourth, king of England, upon the fifteenth of October, in the first year of his father's reign, was created prince of Wales, at Westminster, who succeeded his father in the English crown by the name of Henry the Fifth.

Whilst Richard the Second reigned, one Owen ap Gryffith Vychan, descended of a younger son of Gryffith ap Madoc, lord of Bromfield, was not a little famous. This Owen had his education in one of the Inns of Court, where he became barrister at law, and afterwards in very great favour and credit served King Richard, and continued with him at Flint castle, till at length the king was taken by Henry, duke of Lancaster. Betwixt this Owen and Reginald, lord Gray of Ruthyn, there happened no small difference touching a common, lying between the lordship of Ruthyn, whereof Reginald was owner, and the lordship of Glendwrwy, in the possession of Owen, whence he borrowed the

name of Glyndwr. During the reign of Richard the Second, Owen, as being a courtier, and in no mean esteem with the king, did overpower Reginald, who was neither so well befriended at court, nor beloved in the country, as Owen was. But after King Richard's deposal, the scene was altered, and Reginald, as then better befriended than Owen, entered upon the common, which occasioned Owen, in the first year of Henry the Fourth, to make his complaint in parliament against him, for thus divesting him of his right. No redress being found, the bishop of St. Asaph wished the lords to take care, that by thus slighting his complaint, they did not irritate and provoke the Welsh to an insurrection, to which, some of the lords replied, That they did not fear those rascally barefooted people. Glyndwr therefore perceiving how his petition was slighted in parliament, and finding no other method to redress himself, having several friends and followers, put himself in arms against Reginald, and meeting him in the field, overcame and took him prisoner, and spoiled his lordship of Ruthyn. Upon this, many resorted to him from all parts of Wales, some thinking him to be in as great favour now, as in King Richard's days, others putting in his head, that now the time was come when the Britains, by his means, might again recover the honour and liberties of their ancestors. But Reginald being thus kept prisoner, and very severely handled by Owen, to terrify him into compliance with him in his rebellious actings, and not permitted to have his liberty, under ten thousand marks for his ransom, whereof six thousand to be paid upon the feast of St. Martyn, in the fourth year of Henry the Fourth, and to deliver up his eldest son with some other persons of quality, as hostages for the remainder; the king, at the humble suit of Reginald, seeing no other way for his enlargement, gave way thereto, authorising Sir William de Roos, Sir Richard de Grey, Sir William de Willoughby, Sir William le Zouche, Sir Hugh Huls, as also, John Harvey, William Vaus, John Lee, John Langford,

Thomas Payne, and John Elnestow, to treat with Owen and his council, and to conclude in what they should conceive most expedient and necessary to be done for his redemption. Whereupon they consenting to give the sum demanded by Glyndwr for his deliverance, the king gave license to Robert Baybroke, bishop of London, as also to Sir Gerard Baybroke the father, and Sir Gerard the son, then feoffees of divers lordships for this Reginald, to sell the manor of Herteleghe, in the county of Kent, towards the raising of that money. And for the better enabling him to pay so great a fine, the king was pleased to grant, that whereas it was enacted, that such persons who were owners of lands in Ireland, and did not there reside, should for such their neglect, forfeit two parts of the profits of them to the king; that notwithstanding this act, he should forfeit nothing for non-residence there, during the term of six years next ensuing.

This good success over the Lord Gray, together with the numerous resort of the Welsh to him, and the favourable interpretation of the prophecies of Merddyn, which some construed very advantageously, made the swelling mind of Glyndwr overflow its banks, and gave him some hopes of restoring this island back to the Britains. Wherefore he set upon the earl of March, who met him with a numerous party of Herefordshire men, but when they came to close, the Welshmen proved too powerful, and having killed above a thousand men of the English, they took the earl of March prisoner. King Henry upon this was frequently requested to ransom the earl, but to no purpose, for whether by reason that Mortimer had a juster title to the crown than himself, he being the next heir in blood after King Richard, who was as yet living, or because of some other private odium, the king would never hearken to his redemption, alledging that he wilfully threw himself into the hands of Glyndwr. But about the midst of August, to correct the presumptuous attempts of the Welsh, the king went in person with a great army into Wales; but by

reason of extraordinary excess of weather, which some attributed to the magic of Glyndwr, he was glad to return safe.

But the earl of March perceiving that he was not like to obtain his liberty by King Henry's means, whether out of compliance, by reason of his tedious captivity, or affection to the young lady, he agreed to take part with Owen against the King of England, and to marry his daughter; with them joined the earl of Worcester, and his brother the earl of Northumberland, with his son, the valiant Lord Percy, who conspiring to depose the King of England, in the house of the archdeacon of Bangor, by their deputies divided the realm amongst them, causing a tripartite indenture to be made, and to be sealed with every one's seal: by which covenant all that country lying betwixt the Severn and the Trent, southward, was assigned to the earl of March; all Wales, and the lands beyond the Severn, westward, were appointed to Glyndwr; and all from the Trent, northward, to the Lord Percy. This was done (as some said) through a foolish credit they gave to a vain prophecy, as though King Henry was the execrable moldwarp, and they three, the dragon, the lion, and the wolf, which should pull him down, and distribute his kingdom among themselves. After that they had exhibited articles of their grievances to King Henry, and divulged their reasons for taking up arms; at length they marched with all their power towards Shrewsbury to fight the king, depending mainly upon the arrival of Glyndwr and his Welshmen. But the matter was gone so far, that whether he came in or no, they must fight, and so both armies being joined, the king's party prevailed, young Percy being slain upon the spot, and Douglas, besides most of the English of quality, who with a party of Scotch had come to the aid of the confederates, was taken prisoner, but afterwards honourably set at liberty by the intercession of the prince of Wales. In the mean time, the earl of Northumberland was marching forward with a great party

from the North, but the king having settled matters about Shrewsbury, coming to York, and sending to him to lay down his arms, he voluntarily submitted and dismissed his forces. Then the king returning from Yorkshire, determined to pass over to North Wales, to chastise the presumptuous practices of the immorigerous Welsh, who after his departure from Shrewsbury, had made inroads into the marches, and done much hurt to his English subjects. But other business of greater consequence intervening, he detached his son, the Prince of Wales, who took the castle of Aberystwyth, which was quickly again retaken by Owen Glyndwr, who thrust into it a strong garrison of Welsh. But in the battle of Huske, fought upon the fifteenth of March, the Welsh received a very considerable blow from the prince's men, Glyndwr's son being taken prisoner, besides fifteen hundred more taken and slain. After this, we hear little of Glyndwr, excepting that he continued and persisted to vex and plague the English upon the marches, to the tenth year of King Henry's reign, when he miserably ended his life; being, as Hollinshed reporteth, towards his latter days driven to that extremity, that despairing of all comfort, he fled and lurked in caves, and other the most solitary places, fearing to shew his face to any creature, till at length, being starved for hunger and lack of sustenance, he miserably ended his life.

But these rebellious practises of Glyndwr, highly exasperated King Henry against the Welsh, inso-much that several rigorous and unmerciful laws were enacted, relating to Wales, which in effect destroyed all the liberties of the Welsh subject. They were made incapable of purchasing any lands, or to be elected members of any county or borough, and to undertake any office, whether civil or military, in any town incorporated. If any suit at law happened betwixt an Englishman and a Welshman, the former could not be convicted, but by the sentence of an English judge, and the verdict of an English jury; besides that any Eng-



lishman who married a Welsh-woman, was thereby forthwith disfranchised from all the liberties of an English subject. It was further enacted, that no Welshman should be in possession of any castle, or other place of strength, and that no victuals, or armour, should be brought into Wales, without a special warrant from the king or his council; and farther, that no Welshman was capable of undertaking the office of justice, chamberlain, sheriff, or any other place of trust in any part of Wales, notwithstanding any patent or license heretofore given to the contrary. These, with many others most rigorous and unjust laws, particularly that forbidding any Welshman to bring up his children to learning, or to bind them apprentices to any trade or occupation, were enacted by the king against the Welsh; so that nothing could cool his displeasure, but that a whole nation should be wrongfully oppressed, for the fault and miscarriage of one person. But one might think, that this was no politic method to secure a nation in its allegiance, which upon lighter affronts was used to defend its privileges; and therefore we may well attribute the quiet disposition of the Welsh towards this time, to the moderation of Henry the Fifth, who, within a little time, succeeded his father in the crown of England.

Contemporary with Glyndwr was Sir David Gam, so called by reason he had but one eye, the son of Llewelyn ap Howel Vaughan of Brecknock, by Mawd, the daughter of Ievan ap Rhys ap Ivor, of Eluel. He was a great stickler for the duke of Lancaster, and for that reason became a mortal enemy to Glyndwr, who having his education, as is said before, at one of the Inns of Court, got to be preferred to the service of King Richard the Second, who, as Walsingham says, made him his Scutifer, or shield-bearer. But being informed that his master Richard was deposed and murdered, and withal being provoked by several wrongs and affronts done him by his neighbour, the Lord Gray of Ruthyn, whom King Henry greatly counte-

nanced, and looking upon Henry as an usurper, he caused himself to be proclaimed Prince of Wales. And for a better grace of the matter he feigned himself to be descended by a daughter from Llewelyn ap Gryffith, the last prince, whereas in truth, he came paternally but from a younger brother of the house of Powis. But as ambition has no moderation, so Glyndwr for a time acted the part of a prince, and summoned a parliament to meet at Machynlleth, whither the nobility and gentry of Wales appeared, and among the rest Sir David Gam, but not upon the same design with the rest, having an intention in this meeting to murder Glyndwr. But the plot being discovered, and Sir David secured, he had liked to undergo present execution, had not Glyndwr's best friends, and the greatest upholders of his cause, pleaded in his behalf, by whose intercession he was prevailed with to grant Sir David both his life and liberty, upon condition he would ever after continue true and loyal to him. Sir David promised very loudly, but with the reservation never to perform; for as soon as he came to his own country, where he was a person of very considerable sway and interest, he did exceedingly annoy and molest those that any way favoured or adhered to Glyndwr. While Sir David lay in prison at Machynlleth, for his attempt against Owen's life, this Englyn was made upon him:—

Dafydd Gam dryglam dreigl, i ti yn wan frwydr,  
Fradwr Rissart Frenin,  
Llwyr y rhoes diawl (hawn hwyl flin  
Y fath ystad) ei fys i'th din.

—*i. e.* David Gam, thou wilt be a wanderer, and an ill end will come to thee. Thou wilt be weak in battle, thou traitor to King Richard. So eagerly vexatious in thy station, that the devil wholly entered thy heart.

But Glyndwr receiving information, how that Sir David Gam, contrary to the promise he had

made at his releasement, endeavoured all he could to destroy his interest among the Welsh, entered the marches, and among other tokens of his indignation, burned the house of Sir David, and as the report goes, calling to him one of Sir David's tenants, spake to him thus merrily in verse;—

O gweli di wr coch cam,  
Yn ymofyn y Girnigwen,  
Dywed ei bod hi tan y lau,  
A nôd y glo ar ei phen.

—*i. e.* If thou seest a red-haired, squint-eyed\* man, looking for the lost sheep, tell him she is below the hill, and he may know her as she is marked with fire.

But Sir David had the luck to escape his reach, and was constrained to retire to England, where he lived for the most part at court, till the death of Glyndwr.

When King Henry the Fifth went with an army to France against the French king, Sir David Gam brought into his service a numerous party of stout and valourous Welshmen, who upon all occasions expressed their courage and resolution. In the battle of Agincourt, news being brought to the king that the French army was advancing towards him, and that they were exceeding numerous, he detached Captain Gam, to observe their motions, and to review their number. The Captain having narrowly eyed the French, found them twice to exceed the English, but not being in the least daunted at such a multitude, he returned to the king, who enquiring of him what the number of the French might be, he made answer, A'nt please you my liege, they are enough to be killed, enough to run away, and enough to be taken prisoners. King Henry was well pleased, and much encouraged with this resolute and undaunted answer of Sir David's, whose

\* Squint-eyed is Gam in Welsh, from which he took his name, and his family continue it to this day, and all squint with one eye. Sir David Gam was the person who Shakespeare described in the character of Captain Fluclin.

tongue did not express more valour than his hands performed. For in the heat of battle, the king's person being in danger, Sir David charged the enemy with that eagerness and masculine bravery, that they were glad to give ground, and so secured the king, though with the loss of much blood, and also his life, himself and his son-in-law Roger Vaughan, and his kinsman Walter Llwyd, of Brecknock, having received their mortal wounds in that encounter. When the king heard of their condition, how that they were past all hopes of recovery, he came to them, and in recompence of their good services, knighted them all three in the field, where they soon after died; and so ended the life, but not the fame of the signally valiant Sir David Gam.

Edward of Westminster, the sole issue of that unfortunate prince, King Henry the Sixth, by Margaret, the daughter of Rayner, duke of Anjou, and titular king of Jerusalem, Sicily, and Arragon; was created Prince of Wales, in a parliament held at Westminster, on the fifteenth day of March, in the thirty-second year of his father's reign. When the day was lost at Tewksbury, this young prince thought to make his escape by flight, but being unfortunately taken, and brought to the presence of King Edward the Fourth, who then sat upon the helm, made such resolute and unexpected replies, that he put the king into such a passion, that he smote him on the mouth with his gauntlet; and then his brother Richard, the Crouch-back, ran him into the heart with his dagger.

Edward, born in the Sanctuary at Westminster, the eldest son of King Edward the Fourth, was, after his father's expulsion out of England, in the forty-ninth year of King Henry the Sixth, created Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester, in the eleventh year of his father's reign. Upon the death of Edward the Fourth, this young prince, being then at Ludlow, in the marches of Wales, was presently sent for to London, and proclaimed King of England, but never lived to be crowned; for his

uncle Richard, duke of Gloucester, who was appointed his protector, most villainously made him away, together with his brother, the duke of York; and afterwards was himself proclaimed and crowned king.

Edward the Fourth, in his wars against Henry the Sixth, was very much assisted by the Welsh; in recompence of which service, he designed to reform matters so in Wales, as that intolerable oppression, which they had hitherto endured, should be regulated and taken off. And to that end, he meant to establish a court within the said principality, and constituted John, bishop of Worcester, president of the prince's council in the marches; who, together with Anthony, earl of rivers, sat in the town-hall of Shrewsbury, and constituted certain ordinances for the public good and tranquility of that place. But the matter proceeded no farther; for the troubles and disquietness of his kingdom, coming heavy upon him, and the shortness of his reign after his establishment not permitting, he was forced to leave that to others, which himself thought once to bring about.

Edward, born at Middleham, near Richmond, in the county of York, the only son of King Richard the Third, was, at ten years of age, created by his father, Prince of Wales, and died soon after.

Arthur, the eldest son of King Henry the Seventh, born at Winchester, was in the seventh year of his father's reign, created Prince of Wales. About the fifteenth year of his age, being then newly married to Katherine, the Infanta of Spain, he was sent by his father into Wales, that by his presence he might keep that country in better awe. With him King Henry sent Dr. William Smith, afterwards made bishop of Lincoln, as president of his council; together with Sir Richard Pool, his chamberlain, Sir Henry Vernon, Sir Richard Crofts, Sir David Philip, Sir William Udal, Sir Thomas Englefield, Sir Peter Newton, and others, to be his counsellors and directors in his management of affairs. But the prince had not continued

long there, but he fell sick at his castle at Ludlow, of which indisposition he shortly after died, and was buried with great solemnity in the cathedral church of Worcester. But the creating of his brother Henry, duke of York, Prince of Wales in his stead, was deferred for about the space of a month, to discover whether the Lady Katherine was with child by Prince Arthur. But when it appeared for certain, she had not conceived; on the eighteenth day of February, in the nineteenth year of his father King Henry the Seventh's reign, Henry, Duke of York, was created Prince of Wales.

King Henry the Seventh, being by his grandfather Owen Tudor descended out of Wales, and having sufficiently experienced the affection of the Welsh towards him; first of those, who upon his first landing, opportunely joined him under Sir Rhys ap Thomas, and then of those, who under the command of Sir William Stanley, lord of Bromfield, Yale, and Chirkland, aided him in Bosworth-field; could not in honour and equity, but bear some regard to the miserable state and condition of the Welsh, under the English government. And therefore this prudent prince, finding the calamities of the Welsh to be insupportable, and seeing what grievous and unmerciful laws were enacted against them by his predecessors, he took occasion to redress and reform the same, and granted to the Welsh a charter of liberty and immunity, whereby they were released from the cruel oppression, which since their subjection to the English government, they had most cruelly sustained. And seeing the birth and quality of his grandfather Owen Tudor was called in question, and that he was by many upbraided of being of a mean and ignoble parentage; King Henry directed a commission to the abbot of Llan Egwest, Dr. Owen Pool, canon of Hereford, and John King herald at arms, to make inquisition concerning the pedigree of the said Owen; who coming to Wales, made a diligent enquiry into this matter; and by the assistance of Sir John Leyav, Gutty Owen Bardd, Gryffith ap Llewelyn ap Evan

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pendix.

Vychan, and others, in the consultation of the British books of pedigrees, they drew up an exact genealogy of Owen Tudor, which upon their return they presented to the king.

Edward, son to Henry the Eighth, by the Lady Jane Seymour, his third wife; was born at Hampton Court, on the twelfth of October; and upon the eighteenth of the said month, was created Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, and earl of Chester.

King Henry the Seventh, had already abrogated those unreasonable and intolerable laws, which the former Kings of England, particularly Henry the Fourth, had made against the Welsh; and now, King Henry the Eighth, willing to make a plenary reformation of what his father had wisely begun, thought it necessary towards the good and tranquility of both nations, to make the Welsh subject to the same laws, and the same government with the English. He understood that the usual hostilities and depredations were still continued and kept up by both sides upon the borders; and though his father had eased the yoke of the Welsh, yet he perceived, that it did contribute but little towards the disannulling of that inveterate and implacable envy and animosity which raged in the marches. Therefore to remedy this, otherwise unavoidable, distemper, he concluded that it was the only effectual method, to incorporate the Welsh with the English, that they being subject to the same laws, might equally fear the violation of them. And accordingly, in the twenty-seventh year of his reign, an act of parliament passed to that purpose, which together with another act in the thirty-fifth year of his reign, made a plenary incorporation of the Welsh with the English, which union has had that blessed effect, that it has dispelled all those unnatural differences which heretofore were so rife and irreconcilable.

A.D. 1356.

When the Reformation was first established in Wales, it was a mighty inconveniency to the vulgar people, such as were unacquainted with the English tongue, that the bible was not translated into

their native language. Queen Elizabeth was quickly apprehensive of the inconveniency which the Welsh incurred for the want of such a translation; and therefore in the eighth year of her reign, an act of parliament was passed, whereby the bishops of Hereford, St. David's, St. Asaph, Bangor, and Landaff, were ordered to take care that the bible, containing the Old and New Testaments, with the book of Common Prayer, and Administration of the Sacraments, be truly and exactly translated, into the British or Welsh Tongue, and that the same so translated, being by them perused and approved, be printed to such a number at least; as that every cathedral, collegiate, and parish church, and chapel-of-ease, within the said diocese where that tongue is vulgarly spoken might be supplied before the first of March, anno 1566. And from that time forward, the Welsh divine service should be used in the British tongue, in all places throughout those diocesses, where the Welsh is commonly spoke, after the same manner as it was used in the English tongue; and that the charge of procuring the said Bible and Common Prayer, should equally depend betwixt the parson and parish: the former being obliged to pay one half of the expence; and that the price of the book should be set by the aforesaid bishops, or by three of them at the least. But this act of parliament was not punctually observed; for the Old Testament was wholly omitted, and only the New, with the book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments, then translated, which translation was chiefly owing to Richard bishop of St. David's, who was assisted by William Salusbury, a perfect critic in the Welsh tongue, and one excellently conversant in all British antiquities. But in the year 1588, Dr. William Morgan, first, bishop of Landaff, and then of St. Asaph, undertook the translation of the whole Bible; and by the help of the bishops of St. Asaph and Bangor, Gabriel Goodman, dean of Westminster, David Powel, D. D. Edmund Price archdeacon of Merionyth, and Richard Vaughan, he effectually finish-



ed it. This was of singular profit and advantage to the Welsh, to have the whole Scripture read and perused in their own native tongue; by which means they received a clearer demonstration of the corruptions of the church of Rome, when they saw many of their principles apparently contradicting, and others not very firmly founded upon the Holy Scriptures. And on the other hand they perceived the necessity and advantage of the Reformation, they easily discovered that the whole doctrine of the church of England was sound and orthodox, and that they were now happily delivered from that popish slavery which their forefathers ignorantly adored; and therefore being convinced of the truth of their religion, they became, and continued generally, very strict adherents and firm observers of the doctrine and discipline of this church.

And here by the bye, I cannot but observe what a reverend writer has lately insinuated, relating to the christian religion planted in Wales. For that learned person in his funeral sermon upon Mr. Gouge, would fain induce the world to believe, that christianity was very corrupt and imperfect among the Welsh, before it was purified by that, whom he terms apostolical man. Whereas it is notoriously evident, that since the Reformation was settled in that country, and the Bible, with the book of Common Prayer, translated into the Welsh tongue, no place has been more exact in keeping to the strict rubrick and constitution of the Church of England, both as to the substance and form of worship. But what may more truly be attributed to Mr. Gouge, is that since his travels into Wales, and the propagating of his doctrine among the ignorant of that country, presbytery, which before had scarce taken root, has daily increased, and grown to a head.

Henry, eldest son of King James the First, being arrived to the age of seventeen years, was created Prince of Wales, on the 30th day of May, anno 1610, but he dying of a malignant fever, about two years after, his brother Charles being fifteen years

of age, was created prince of Wales in his room, anno 1615. For joy of this new creation the town of Ludlow, and city of London, performed very great triumphs; and the more to honour this solemnity, the king made twenty-five knights of the Bath, all lords' or barons' sons; and the Inns of Court, to express their joy, elected out of their body forty choice gentlemen, to perform solemn justs and barriers.

Charles, eldest son of King Charles the First, by Henrietta Maria, daughter to King Henry the Fourth of France, was born May 29, 1630, and afterwards created Prince of Wales.

Since the happy incorporation of the Welsh with the English, the history of both nations, as well as the people is united; and therefore I shall not repeat that which is so copiously and frequently delivered by the English historians; but shall conclude with Dr. Heylyn, 'That since the Welsh have been incorporated with the English, they have shewed themselves most loyal, hearty and affectionate subjects of the state: cordially devoted to their king, and zealous in defence of their laws, liberties and religion, as well as any of the best of their fellow-subjects.'

of age, was created Prince of Wales in his room  
 anno 1015. For joy of this new creation the town  
 of Ludlow, and city of London, performed very  
 great triumphs; and the most to honour this solemn  
 day, the King made twenty-five knights of the Bath,  
 all lords or barons sons; and the sons of Count  
 expired their joy, elected out of their body forty  
 chosen gentlemen, to perform solemn jousts and  
 this

Charles, eldest son of King Charles the First, by  
 Blanche, eldest daughter to King Henry the  
 Fourth of France was born May 29, 1592, and at  
 Ludlow created Prince of Wales.

Since the happy incorporation of the Welsh with  
 the English, the history of both nations, as well as  
 the people is united; and therefore I shall not re-  
 peat here which is an ordinary and frequently de-  
 livered by the English historians; but shall con-  
 tinue with Mr. Lloyd's. That since the Welsh  
 have been incorporated with the English, they have  
 enjoyed the same yet most loyal hearts and abso-  
 lute subjects of the same; continually devoted to  
 their King, and zealous in defence of their laws,  
 liberties and religion, as well as any of the best of  
 their fellow-subjects.

## APPENDIX.

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*The return of a Commission sent into Wales by King Henry the Seventh, to search out the Pedigrees of Owen Tudor.*

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**HENRY** the Seventh, King of England, &c. son of Edmund, earl of Richmond, son of Owen ap Meredith, and of Queen Catherine his wife, daughter to Charles the Sixth, King of France. This Owen was son of Meredith ap Tudor ap Gronw ap Tudor, ap Gronw, ap Ednyved Vychan, baron of Brinveingle, in Denbigh-land, lord of Kriceth, Chief Justice and chief of council to Llewelyn ap Iorwerth Drwyndwn, Prince of all Wales. And in the time of Prince Llewelyn, grew a variance between King John of England and the said prince; whereupon Ednyved came with the prince's host, and men of war, and also a number of his own people, and met these English lords in a morning, at which time these English lords were hostied and slain; and immediately brought their heads, being yet bloody, to the said Prince Llewelyn. The prince, seeing the same, caused Ednyved Vychan, from thenceforth to bear in his arms or shield, three bloody heads in token of his victory, where he had borne in his arms before a Saracen's head; and so ever after, this Ednyved bore the said arms, his son, and his son's son, unto the time of Tudor ap Gronw, ap Tudor ap Gronw, ap Ednyved Vychan. And after this, Ednyved wedded one Gwenllian, daugh-

ter to Rhys, Prince of South Wales, and had issue by her, Gronw: which Ednyved Vychan had in Wales divers goodly houses, royally adorned with turrets and garrets; some in Anglesey, some other in Caernarvonshire, and some in Denbigh-land; but his chiefest manor-house was in the commot of Crythin, in Caernarvonshire, which was a royal palace, now decayed for want of reparations. Also he builded there a chapel, in the worship of our lady, and had license of the pope for evermore to sing divine service therein for his soul, and his ancestors' and progenitors' souls always; and had authority to give his tythes and offerings to his chaplain there \* starving; which Ednyved Vychan was son to Kyner ap Iers ap Gwgan, ap Marchudd, which was one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales, and son to Kynan ap Elvyn, ap Mor, ap Mynan, ap Isbwis Newintyrche, ap Isbwis ap Cadrod Calch Evynydd, earl of Dunstable and lord of Northampton, ap Cywyd Cindion, ap Cynvelyn ap Arthuys, ap Morydd ap Cynnaw, ap Coel Godeboc, King of Britain, of whom King Henry the Seventh descended lineally by issue-male, and is son to the said Coel in the thirty-first degree, as it is approved by old chronicles in Wales. Which Coel was son of Tegvan ap Deheuvraint, ap Tudbwyll, ap Urban, ap Gradd, ap Rhyvedel, ap Rhydeirne, ap Endigant, ap Endeyrn, ap Enid, ap Endos, ap Eddolaw, ap Avalach, ap Afflech, ap Beli Mawr, King of Britain, of whom King Henry the Seventh descendeth by issue-male, and is son to him in forty-one degrees. Which Beli was son to Monnogon King, ap King Kaxor, ap King Pyr, ap King Sawl Benisel, ap Rhytherch King, ap Rydion King, ap Liddel King, ap Arthavel King, ap Seissilt King, ap Owen King, ap Caxho King, ap Bleuddyd King, ap Meirion King, ap Gwrgust King, ap Elydno King, ap Clydawc King, ap Ithel King, ap Urien King, ap Andrew King, ap Kereni King, ap Porrex King, ap Coel King, ap Cadell King, ap Geraint King, ap Elidr King, ap Morydd King, ap Dan King, ap Seissilt King, ap Cynhelyn King, ap Gwrgan King,

\* Vide an  
serving.

(alias) Varvdrwch, ap Beli King, ap Dyvnwal King, ap Dodion King, ap Enyd, ap Kwrwyd, ap Cyrdon, ap Dyvnvarth Prydain, ap Aedd Mawr, ap Antonius, ap Seissylt King, ap Rhegaw, daughter and heir of King Lyr, and wife of Henwin, Prince of Cornwall. This Lyr was son of Bleuddyd, ap Rhunbaladr bras, ap Leon, ap Brutus darian lās, ap Effroc Cadarn, ap Mymbyr, ap Madoc, ap Lochrine, ap Brutus, which inherited first this land, and after his name, was called Britain, and had three sons, Lochrine, Kamber, and Albanactus. Lochrine, the eldest, parted the ilse with his brethren, and kept half the land for himself, and called it Leogria. Kamber, the second son, had the land beyond the Severn, and named it Kambria, in English, Wales. Albanactus had Scotland, which he then called Albania, after his own name. Of which Brute, King Henry the Seventh is lineally descended by issue-male, saving one woman, and is son to Brute in five-score degrees.

*How Owen, grandsire to King Henry the Seventh, cometh of Beli Mawr, by Angharad, mother to Ednyved, by issue-female, by Guttin Owen, and Sir John Leiv's books.*

THE mother of Ednyved was Angharad, daughter of Hwva, ap Cyner, ap Rhywallon, ap Dinged, ap Tudor Trevor, ap Mymbyr, ap Cadvarch, ap Gwrgenaw, ap Gwaethiawc, ap Bywyn, ap Biordderch, ap Gwriawn, ap Gwnnan, ap Gwnfiw Vrych, ap Cadell, Dehurnlluc, ap Pasgan, ap Rhydwr, ap Rhudd Vedel Vrych, ap Cyndeirn, ap Gwrtheirn Gwrthenau, called in English, Vortiger, by whom King Henry the Seventh, by the aforesaid Angharad, mother to Ednyved Vychan, and wife to Cyner ap Iers, ap Gwgon, is son to the said Vortiger in thirty degrees. Which Vortiger was son to Rhydeyrn ap Deheuvraint, ap Eidigant, ap Endeirn, ap Enid, ap Endos, ap Eddolau, ap Avallach, ap Afflech, ap Beli Mawr, to whom King Henry the Seventh is son, by Angharad, mother to Ednyved Vychan, in forty degrees.

*How King Henry the Seventh cometh of Beli Mawr, by Gwenllian wife to Ednyved Vychan, and daughter to the Lord Rhys, called Arglwydd Rhys, by issue-female.*

OWEN ap Meredith ap Tudor ap Gronw, ap Tudor ap Gronw, ap Gwenllian, daughter to Rhys, Prince of South, Wales, ap Gryffith prince, ap Rhys prince, ap Tudor mawr prince, ap Cadell prince, ap Rodri mawr, prince of all Wales. This Rodri had three sons, and divided the principality of Wales between them in three parts; to Mervyn his first son, prince of North Wales, all North Wales, who died without issue; and Anarawd, prince of Powys, and Cadell, prince of South Wales, of whom King Henry the Seventh descendeth, by Gwenllian, daughter to Prince Rhys, called Arglwydd Rhys, wife to Ednyved Vychan; and the said King Henry the Seventh is son to Rodri mawr in the seventeenth degree; which Rodri mawr was son to Mervyn, first king of man, which wedded Essilt, daughter and heir to Cynan Dyndaethwy.

This Mervyn vrych was son to Gwriad ap Elidur, ap Handdear Algwn, ap Tegid, ap Gwiar, ap Dwywc ap Llywarch hên, ap Elidur Lydanwin, ap Meirchion, ap Grwst, ap Genaw, ap Coel Godeboc, King of Britain as before. This Coel was King, of Britain and Earl of Colchester, a right worthy king, to whom King Henry the Seventh is son, by the said Gwenllian, wife to Ednyved Vychan, in the thirty-first degree, by the said Guttin Owen, and Sir John Leiav's books.

*How Owen, Grandfire to King Henry the Seventh, cometh of Beli mawr, by Essillt, daughter to Cynan Dyndaethwy.*

OWEN ap Meredith ap Tudor ap Gronw, ap Tudor ap Gronw, ap Gwenllian, daughter of Prince Rhys, ap Gryffith ap Rhys, ap Tudor mawr, ap Engion, ap Owen, ap Howel Dda, ap Cadell, ap Rodri mawr,

ap Essillt, daughter of Cynan Dyndaethwy, and heir, Prince of Wales, ap Rodri Moelwynoc, ap Edwal Iwrch, ap Cadwalader Vendigaid, King of all Britain, to whom King Henry the Seventh is son in the twenty second degree. Cadwalader was son to Cadwallon King, ap Cadvan King, ap Iago, ap Beli ap Rhun, ap Maelgwn Gwynedd King, ap Caswallon Lawhir, ap Eineon Irth, ap Cynnedda Wledig, ap Edeirn, which wedded Gwawl, Verch Coel Godeboc King, which Edeirn was son to Padarn Peisrydd, ap Tegid, ap Iago, ap Genedawc, ap Cain, ap Gwrgain, ap Doli, ap Gwrtholi, ap Dufu, ap Gorddufu, ap Amwerid, ap Omwedd, ap Duve Brichwain, ap Owen, ap Affallach, ap Afflech, ap Beli mawr, to whom King Henry the Seventh is son by the said Gwenllian in the fiftieth degree.

Owen ap Meredith ap Tudor ap Gronw, ap Tudor ap Gronw, ap Gwenllian, daughter to Arglwydd Rhys, son to Gwenllian, daughter of Gryffith Prince, ap Cynan, Prince of North Wales, son of Iago Prince, ap Edwal Prince, ap Meyric Prince, ap Edwal Voel Prince, ap Anarawd Prince, ap Rodri mawr, Prince of all Wales, to whom King Henry the Seventh is son by Gwenllian mother to the Arglwydd Rhys in the seventeenth degree.

Owen ap Meredith ap Tudor ap Gronw, ap Tudor, ap Gronw, ap Gwenllian, Verch Arglwydd Rhys, ap Gwladis, Verch Rhywallon ap Cynvyn, Prince of Powys, and Angharad, wife to Cynvyn, daughter and heir to Meredith, Prince of Powys, son of Owen, Prince of Powys and South Wales, son to Cadell Prince there. Which Owen ap Howel Dda had two sons, Meredith and Eineon, and Owen their father gave the principality of South Wales to Eineon his son, and the Principality of Powys to Meredith his other son. Which Meredith had issue Angharad, that wedded Gynvyn, by whom he was Prince of Powys, which Cadell was son to Rodri mawr, Prince of all Wales, son to Mervyn vrych, &c. to Beli mawr, as above written by Gut-tin Owen's book.

*Handwritten notes:*  
 No. 20  
 Owen  
 Meredith  
 P.P.  
 Angharad  
 Rhys  
 Gwawl  
 Gronw  
 Tudor  
 Meredith  
 etc.



Owen ap Meredith ap Tudor ap Gronw, ap Tudor, ap Gronw, ap Gwenllian, Verch Arglwydd Rhys, ap Gryffith, ap Rhys, ap Tudor, ap Eineon, ap Howel Dda, ap Cadell, ap Angharad, wife to Rodri mawr, daughter to Meyric ap Dyvnwal, ap Arthen, ap Seissillt, ap Clydawc, ap Artholes, ap Arnothen, ap Brothan, ap Seirwell, ap Ussa, ap Caredic, ap Cwnedda Wledig, ap Edeirn, ap Padarn Peisrydd, which Edeirn wedded Gwawl verch Coel Godeboc, Mother to Cwnedda Wledig, &c.

*How Owen cometh of Meyric, lord of Gwent, by Morvydd's daughter, wife to Gronw ap Ednyoed Vychan.*

OWEN ap Meredith ap Tudor ap Gronw, ap Tudor ap Morvydd, Verch Meyric lord of Gwent.

*How Owen cometh of Rodri mawr, by Angharad, daughter to Ithel Vychan, ap Ithel Llwyd, and wife of Tudor ap Gronw, ap Ednyoed Vychan.*

OWEN ap Meredith ap Tudor ap Gronw, ap Angharad, verch Ithel Vychan, ap Ithel Llwyd, ap Ithel Gam, ap Meredith ap Uchdrud, ap Edwin, King of Tegengle, in Flintshire.

*How Owen cometh of Rodri mawr by Adleis, wife to Ithel Vychan, daughter to Ricart.*

OWEN ap Meredith ap Tudor ap Gronw, ap Angharad, verch Adleis, wife to Ithel Vychan, daughter to Ricart, ap Cadwalader, ap Gryffith, ap Kynan Prince of North Wales, ap Iago, ap Edwal Voel, ap Anarawd, ap Rodri Mawr, &c. all this by Guttin Owen's book.

*How Owen cometh of Beli Mawr, by Gwervill verch Madawc, o'r hen dwr, wife to Gronw ap Tudor, ap Gronw, ap Ednyoed Vychan.*

OWEN ap Meredith ap Tudor ap Gwervill verch Madawc, o'r hen dwr, ap Iers, ap Madawc, ap Me-

redith, ap Bleddyn, ap Kynfin, Prince of Powis, &c. and so to Beli Mawr.

*How Owen cometh to Beli Mawr by the mother of the said Gwervill Verch Madoc.*

OWEN ap Meredith, ap Tudor, ap Gwervill Verch Madoc, o'r hen dwr, ap Lleucu Verch Angharad, Verch Meredith, ap Madoc, ap Gryffith Maelor, Prince of Powis. This Madoc ap Gryffith Maelor, built the abbey of Valecrucis, in Welsh, Monachlog Llan Egwest, in the year of our Lord 1200, and lieth there buried, and this Gryffith Maelor was son to Madoc, ap Meredith, ap Bleddin, ap Cynvin, ap Gweristan, ap Gwalthvoed, ap Gwrydor, ap Cariadawc, ap Lles Llaw Ddeawc, ap Edwal, ap Gwnnan, ap Gwnnawc Varv Sych, ap Keidic, ap Corv, ap Cadnawc, ap Teganwy, ap Teon, ap Gwinav Daufreuddwyd, ap Powyr Iew, ap Bywdec, ap Rhun rhudd baladr, ap Llary, ap Casvar Wledig, ap Lludd, ap Beli Mawr, King of all England and Wales, to whom King Henry the Seventh is son this way by Ludd in thirty-six degrees.

*How Owen cometh to Beli Mawr, by the mother's side of Gwervill Verch Madoc.*

OWEN ap Meredith, ap Tudor, ap Gwervill Verch Eva, Verch Llewelyn ap Gryffith, ap Gwenwynwyn, ap Owen Cyveilioc, ap Gryffith ap Madoc, ap Meredith, of Powis, ap Bleddyn, ap Cynfin, &c. to Beli mawr.

Owen ap Meredith, ap Tudor, ap Gwervill Verch Eva, Verch Margret, Verch Meredith Goch, ap Meredith, ap Iers Vychan, ap Iers Goch, ap Meredith ap Bieddyn, ap Cynfin, &c. to Beli.

Owen ap Meredith ap Tudor, ap Gwervyll, Verch Eva, Verch Margret, Verch Meredith Goch, ap Christin, ap Bledrws, ap Edwal Owen Bendew, one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales, son to Cynan

Vieniard ap Gwalthvoed, ap Gwlyddien, ap Gwri-dor, ap Caradoc, ap Lles Llaw ddeawc, ap Edwal, ap Gwnnan, ap Gwannawc Varv sych, ap Ceidio, ap Corv, ap Cadnawc, ap Teganwy, ap Teon, ap Gwinan dau Freuddwyd, &c. and so to Beli.

Owen ap Meredith, ap Margret Verch Tomas, ap Llewelin, ap Owen ap Meredith, lord Iscoed, ap Owen, ap Gryffith, ap Rhys, Prince of South Wales, so to Rodri Mawr.

Owen ap Meredith, ap Margret, Verch Tomas ap Llewelyn, ap Angharad, Verch Arglwydd Sion, John of Hasson, by William ap David ap Gryffith. Dubium.

Owen ap Meredith, ap Margret, Verch Tomas ap Llewelyn, ap Angharad Verch Margret, Verch Philip, ap Ivor, lord Iscoed, by William ap Gryffith. Dubium.

Owen ap Meredith, ap Margret, Verch Tomas ap Llewelyn, ap Angharad, Verch Margret, Verch Angharad, Verch Llewelyn ap Iers Drwyndwn, Prince of all Wales. This Llewelyn wedded Inet, daughter of King John, who was son to Henry the Second, son to Mawd the empress, daughter to Henry the First, son to William the Conqueror, son to Robert, duke of Normandy.

Owen ap Meredith, ap Margret, Verch Tomas ap Elinor Verch. . . . Lord Barre, by Guttin Owen, by information of Dr. Owen Pool, and Mr. Lingam's wife by an old pedigree.

Owen ap Meredith, ap Margret, Verch Tomas, ap Elinor, Verch Elinor, Verch Edward Longshanks, King of England.

Owen ap Meredith, ap Margret, Verch Tomas ap Elinor Verch Elinor, Verch Elinor, second to King Edward abovesaid. Dubium.

Owen ap Meredith, ap Margret, Verch Elinor Verch Meredith, ap Owen, ap Gryffith, ap Rhys, Prince of South Wales, by Madoc ap Llewelyn ap Howel's books.

Owen ap Meredith, ap Margret, Verch Elinor, verch Catrin, verch Llewelyn ap Gryffith, last prince of Wales.

Owen ap Meredith, ap Margret, verch Elinor, verch Llewelyn ap Gryffith, ap Tangwistl, verch Llywarch Goch, ap Llywarch ap Pyll, ap Cynan, ap Einion, ap Gwridor Goch, ap Helic, ap Glannawc, ap Gwgon Gleddyvrudd, ap Cariadawc Vreichvas, ap Llif Merini, ap Einion Irth, ap Cunedda Wledig.

Owen ap Meredith, ap Margret, verch Elinor, verch Caterin, verch Elinor ap Gryffith ap Tangwistl, verch Tangwistl, verch Llywarch, ap Bran, ap Dinawal, ap Evnydd, ap Alawe Alser, ap Tudwal, ap Rodri Mawr: ap Guttin Owen.

Owen ap Meredith, ap Margret, verch Elinor Vychan, verch Simon Montford, earl of Leicester: by Guttin Owen.

Owen ap Meredith, ap Margret, verch Elinor, verch Caterin, verch Elinor Vychan, verch Elinor, verch John, King of England.

*Hereafter followeth the ancient lineage of the said Owen's mother, Margaret, wife to Meredith ap Tudor.*

OWEN ap Margret, verch Dafydd Vychan, ap Dafydd Llwyd, ap Cyner, ap Gronw, ap Cyner, ap Iers, ap Hwva, ap Cwmus, ap Cillin, ap Maeloc dda, ap Gredev, ap Kwmus du, ap Cillin Ynad, ap Predur Teirnee, ap Meilyr Eryr, gwyr gorsedd, ap Tiday, ap Tyvodde, ap Gwybfiw, ap Marchwin, ap Branap Pill, ap Cervyr, ap Meilir Meilirion, ap Goron, ap Cunedda Wledig, ap Gwawl, verch Coel Godeboc, as before.

Owen ap Margret, verch Dafydd Vychan, ap Dafydd Llwyd, ap Ceyner, ap Gronw, ap Cyner, ap Iers, ap Hwva, ap Generis verch Ednowain Bendew, ap Cynon Viniaid, ap Gwarthvoed, ap Gwridir, ap Caradoc, ap Lles llaw ddeuawc, ap Edwal, ap Gwynnan; and so to Ludd, ap Beli Mawr, as before by Guttin Owen.

Owen ap Margret, Verch Dafydd Vychan, ap Dafydd Llwyd ap Cyner, ap Llaysedd, daughter to Sir William Twychet, knight, by William. Indub.

Owen ap Margret, Verch Dafydd Vychan, ap Dafydd Llwyd, ap Alis, Verch Robert, ap Turstan Holland, captain of Harlech: by William.

Owen ap Margret, Verch Dafydd Vychan, ap Dafydd Llwyd, ap Alis, Verch Margret, Verch Alan Norris, knigh, by William. Indub.

Owen ap Margret, Verch Dafydd Vychan, ap Angharad, Verch Howel ap Meredith, ap Iers, ap Cadwgan, ap Llywarch, ap Bran, as before, &c.

Owen ap Margret, Verch Dafydd Vychan, ap Angharad Verch Howel ap Meredith, ap Iers, ap Gwenllian, Verch Cynan ap Owen Gwynedd, ap Gryffith ap Cynan, &c.

Owen ap Margret, Verch Dafydd Vychan, ap Angharad, Verch Owen ap Bleddin, ap Owen Brogennwn, ap Madoc, ap Meredith, ap Bleddin, ap Cynfin, Prince of Powys; these three by Guttin Owen.

Owen ap Margret, Verch Dafydd Vychan, ap Angharad, Verch Gwladis, Verch Llewelyn Gethni, ap Edwal, ap Gryffith ap Meyric, ap Cadhayarn, ap Gwrydd, ap Rhys Goch, one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales; which was son to Sandwr ap Iarddwr, ap Mor, ap Tegerin, ap Aelaw, ap Gredres, ap Cwmus du, ap Cillin Ynad, &c. to Coel Godeboc.

Owen ap Margret, Verch Dafydd Vychan, ap Angharad, Verch Gwladis, Verch Mali Llwyd, Verch Iers ap Engion, ap Geraint, ap Tegward, ap Cynfawr, ap Madoc diffaeth, which were rulers and great men in Pentraeth.

Owen ap Margret, verch Nest, verch Jermy, ap Gryffith, ap Howel, ap Meredith, ap Engion, ap Gwgon, ap Merwydd ap Golwyn, one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales, son to Tangno, ap Cadvael, ap Lludd, ap Llen, ap Llamínod Angel, ap Pasgen, ap Urien Rheged, ap Meirchion, ap Gwrest, ap Cenev, ap Coel Godeboc king, as before.

Owen ap Margret, verch Nest, verch Jermy, ap Gwervill, verch Gwladis, verch Edwal Vychan, as before.

Owen ap Margret, verch Nest, verch Angharad, verch Gryffith, ap Dafydd Goch, ap Gryffith ap Llewelyn, prince of Wales.

Owen ap Margret verch Nest, verch Angharad, verch Gryffith ap Dafydd Goch, ap Dafydd, ap Gryffith, ap Tangwistl, verch Llywarch Goch, ap Llywarch Holbwrc'h, ap Pill, ap Cynan, ap Gwridor Goch, ap Helic, ap Glannoc, as before,

Owen ap Margret verch Nest, verch Angharad, verch Gryffith, ap Dafydd Goch, ap Rhanullt, verch Rheinallt, King of Man.

Owen ap Margret vech Nest, verch Angharad, verch Gryffith, ap Angharad, verch Heylyn, ap Tudor, ap Ednyved Vychan.

Owen ap Margret verch Nest, verch Angharad, verch Gryffith, ap Angharad, verch Heylyn, ap Adleir, verch Ricart, ap Cadwalader, ap Gryffith, ap Cynan prince. These four by Guttin Owen.

Owen ap Margret verch Nest, verch Angharad, verch Gryffith, ap Angharad, verch Heylyn, ap Adleis, verch Ricart, ap Cadwalader, ap Gryffith ap Cynan, ap Avandrec, wife to Iago, daughter to Gwayr, ap Pill, ap Cynan ap Cynddelw gam, ap Elgudi, ap Grwysnad, ap Diwgludd, ap Tegawc, ap Cyvnerth, ap Madoc Madogion, ap Sauddl bryd Angel, ap Llywarch hen, ap Elidor Ludanwin, ap Meirchion gul, ap Erwst galedlwm, ap Cenaw, ap Coel Godeboc king as before.

Owen ap Margret verch Nest, verch Angharad, verch Marret, verch Tudor, ap Iers, ap Ewrgwnnon, ap Cyfnerth, ap Rhuon, ap Nevydd hardd, one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales.

Owen ap Margret, verch Nest, verch Angharad, verch Margret, verch Tangwistl, verch Madoc, ap Cyvnerth, ap Cyhelyn, ap Llywarch Vychan, ap Llywarch Goch, ap Llywarch Holbwrc'h, ap Pill, ap Cynon, ap Gwrydr Goch, ap Helic ap Glannoc, ap Gwgon gledddyfrud, ap Caradoc freich frâs, ap Glir Meirini, ap Engion yrth, ap Cynedda Wledig, by Guttin Owen.

Abstracted out of the old Chronicles of Wales, by Sir John Leiav, priest, Guttin Owen, Gryffith ap Llewelyn ap Jermy Vychan, Madoc ap Llewelyn ap Howel, Robert ap Howel ap Thomas, John King, with many others, at the King's Majesty's cost and charges. The abbot of Llanegwestle, and Dr. Owen Pool, canon of Harf, overseers.

## APPENDIX.

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### No. I.

*Omnibus hoc scriptum visuris Rogerus de Monte Alto Senescallus Cestriæ Salutem: Sciatis quod ego me constitui plegium, &c.*

TO all and singular to whome this writing shall come, Roger de Monte Alto, Steward of Chester sendeth greeting: Know yee that I haue constituted my selfe pledge for Senena the wife of Gryffith the sonne of Llewelyn, sometimes prince of Northwales, and haue vndertaken for hir to our souereigne lord Henrie king of England, that the said Senena shall accomplish and performe all and singular those couenants and articles, agreed vpon betweene our said souereigne lord and the said Senena, for and concerning the deliuerance of the said Gryffith hir husband and Owen his son out of the prison of David his brother, and the portion of inheritance due vnto the said Gryffith, which the said David keepeth from him by force. In wittnesse whereof to this present writing I haue put my seale, Dated at Salop, the mundaie before the feast of the Assumption of the blessed Virgin Marie, in the 25. yeare of the reigne of the said King.

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### No. II.

*Reuerendissimis in Christo patribus ac D. D. Roberto Dei gratia Archiepiscopo Cantuar. totius Angliæ Primati, & Archiepiscopo Eborum, ac eorum Suffraganeis, &c.*

TO the most reuerend fathers in Christ and Lords, Robert by the grace of God Archbishop of Canturburie, primate of England, and the Archbishop of Yorke, and their Suffraganes, being now together at London in councill: their deuout sonne Llewelyn Prince of Wales and lord of Snoundon, greeting with due obedience, reuerence, and honor in all things. Be it knowen to your reuerend Fatherhoods,

that where heretofore contention and discord (whereof warre followed and long continued) arose betwixt the king of noble memorie Henrie king of England of the one partie, and vs of the other partie: the same contentions and strife were at the last appeased by the authoritie of the sea Apostolike, and meanes of the reuerend father lord Otobonus, Deacon and Cardinall of S. Adrian Legate into England: as it appeareth in the forme of treatie and peace betwixt the said king, and Edward his first begotten son, lord Edward now king of England, and their successors on the one partie: and vs and our successors on the other partie, by the corporall othes of both parties assured. Which forme of peace was committed to writing by the said Legate, with the seale of the said king, and the seale of the said lord Edward now king, and with our seale also. In the which peace it is contained amongst other things (which you doo well know as we belecue) that we and our successors should hold of the king and his successors the principallitie of Wales. So that all Welsh Barons should hold their Baronies and lands of vs and our successors in Capite, and should doo homage and fealtie to vs and to our heires (one Baron excepted) for the which we and our successors should doo homage and fealtie to the lord the king and his successors. It is further contained in the same peace, that neither the said king nor his successors, should receiue anie of our enemies, nor anie running awaie from vs, or our successors, nor should helpe or maintaine anie such against vs or our successors. The which all are contained in the forme of peace, the tenor whereof the reuerend Fathers of Strata Florida, and Aberconwey bearers hereof can shew you.

BUT see returned Fathers, the lord Edward now noble king of England, after the said peace taketh into his hands certeine Barons lands of Wales, of which they and their ancestors haue been long possessed, and keepeth a Baronie in his hands which should be ours by the forme of peace: other Barons of our land being from vs fugitiues, runing to him, he keepeth, helpeth and mainteineth; as Dauid ap Gryffith, and Gryffith ap Gwenwynwyn, who purposed our death and destruction. Notwithstanding that since their debarture they haue robbed within our land, committed slaughter, and burning of houses, and doo still dailie commit the like against the peace aforesaid: and although we haue often sent our greefes and complaints by our solemne messengers, to the said noble lord Edward, as well before he was king, as since, yet vnto this daie he never did anie redresse therein. Also that which is more perilous, he called vs vnto a place (not to vs safe) amongst our deadlie enemies, our fugitiues and felons and their spies and murderers, to doo him homage and fealtie: to the which place we can no waies come without



danger of our bodie: especiallie seeing our enemeis abouesaid be in that place at the king's table, and sometimes in counsell. and openlie brag themselves. And though lawfull and reasonable excuse were alledged by our messengers, before the king and his counsell, why the place was not safe nor indifferent, yet he refused to allow or appoint anie other place indifferent for vs to doo our homage and fealtie: which we were and are readie to doo vnto him, in anie safe place by him to be appointed, if he will appoint anie: and to performe the other articles of the peace concluded and sworne. And for that it pleased him not to come to anie place, where we could with safetie do him homage, we were suiters to him, to send anie from him to receiue our othe and homage, vntill it pleased him to apoint a place, where we shall doo our homage to him personallie, the which thing he vtterlie denied to doo.

WE therefore beseech your Fatherhoods earnestlie, that it please you to consider what danger should happen to the people both of England and of Wales, by reason of the breach of the couenants of peace aboue said: if now warres and discord should follow, which God forbid: attending and calling to remembrance the prohibition of the holie father the Pope latelie in the counsell at Lions, that no ware should be mooued amongst Christians: least thereby the affaires of the holie land should be neglected: that it would please you also to help with your counsell with the lord and king, that he would vse vs and order vs according to the peace agreed vpon, the which we will no waie infringe. And if he will not harken to your counsell therein (which God forbid) that you will hold vs excused, for we will no waies as much as in vs lieth procure the trouble or disquietness of the Realme. And if it may please you to giue credit to our messengers (which we doo send to the king at the daie by him vnto vs appointed) to alledge our lawful excuses in those things, which they by mouth shall on our part shew vnto you: resting to doo your will and pleasure, if it please you to write againe. Dated at Talybont the 6. daie of October, An. 1275.

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No. III.

*Certain greefes sent from Llewelyn, to the Archbishop translated Word by Word out of the Records of the said Archbishop.*

WHERE that it is contained in the form of the peace, concluded as followeth.

1 IF the said Llewelyn will claime anie right in anie lands occupied by anie other than by the lord the king, without the said foure Cantreds, the said lord the king shall doo him full iustice, according to the lawes aud customes of those quarters or parts, where the said lands doo lie. Which article was not obserued in the lands in Arustly, and betwixt the waters of Dyui and Dulas, for that when the said Llewelyn claimed the said lands before the lord the king at Rhuthlan, and the king granted him the cause to be examined according to the lawes and customes of Wales, and the aduocates of the parties where brought in, and the Iudges which vulgarlie they call Ynnayd, before the king, to iudge of the said lands according to the lawes of Wales. And the defendant appeared and answered so, that the same daie the cause ought to haue beene fullie determined according to the appointment of our lord the king. Who at his being at Gloucester, had assigned the parties the said daie: and though the same cause was in diuers places often heard and examined before the Iustice, and that the lands were in North Wales and neuer iudged but by the laws of Wales; neither was it lawfull for the king but according to the laws of Wales to proroge the cause; all that notwithstanding he proroged the daie (of his owne motion) contrarie to the said laws. And at the last the said Llewelyn was called to diuers places, whither he ought not to haue beene called: neither could he obtain iustice, nor anie iudgement, vnlesse it were according to the lawes of England, contrarie to the said article of the peace. And the same was doone at Montgomery, when the parties were present in iudgement, and a daie appointed to heare sentence, they proroged the said daie contrarie to the foresaid lawes: and at the last the king himselfe at London denied him iustice, vnlesse he would be iudged according to the English lawes in the said matter.

2 ALL iniuries, trespasses and faults on either part doone, be clearelie remitted vnto this present daie. This article was not kept; for that as soone as the lord Reginald Gray was made Iustice, he mooued diuers and innumerable accusations against the men of Tegengl and Ros, for trespasses doone in the time of king Henrie: when they bear rule in those partes, whereby the said men dare not for feare keepe their own houses.

3 WHERE as it was agreed that Rees Vychan ap Rees ap Maelgon shall enioie his possessions, with all the land which he now holdeth, &c. After the peace concluded he was spoiled of his lands of Geneu'rglyn which he then held, with the men and cattell of the same.

4 ALSO our lord the king granteth, that all tenants holding lands in the foure Cantreds, and in other places

which the king holdeth in his owne hands, shall hold and enioie the same, as freelie as they did before the time of the warres, and shall vse the same liberties and customes, which they vsed before. Contrarie to this article, the lord Reginald Gray hath brought manie new customes against the forme of peace aforesaid.

5 ALL controuersies moued, or to be moued betwixt the Prince and anie other, shall be decided after the lawe of the marches (if they haue their beginning in the marches) and after the lawes of Wales, such as in Wales haue their beginning. Contrarie to this article, the king dooth and sendeth Iustices to Anglesey, who presume to iudge there the men and subjects of the Prince: setting fines vpon them, contrarie to the lawes of Wales, seeing neither this nor anie like was euer heard in times past; imprisoning some, outlawing others, when the Prince is at all times readie to doo iustice to all men that complaine vpon anie of his men.

6 WHERE it is in the peace, that Gryffith Vychan should doo homage to the king for the land in Yale, and to the Prince for the land in Ederneon, the kings iustices brought the ladie of Maylor, into all the said lands of Edeyrneon. The knowledge of which cause onelie pertained to the Prince and not to the said Iustices: and yet for peace sake, the Prince did tollerate all this, being at all times readie to minister iustice to the said ladie.

7 AND though the said Prince submitted himselfe vnto vs and our will, yet we neuertheless will and grant, that our will in no case goo furder, than is contained in those articles. Contrarie to this article, gold was exacted for the Queenes workes at euerie paiment made to the king: which gold was neuer demanded in time of king Henrie, or anie other king of England. Which gold yet for quietnes sake the Prince paid, though it were not spoken of or mentioned in the peace. And now further it is exacted for the old Queene the kings mother that now is (for the peace concluded with king Henrie) 2000 marks and a half: and vnlesse it be paid, the king threatneth to occupie the goods and lands of Llewelyn and his people, which he could find in his realme; and sell men and beasts vntill the said summe were paid.

8 ITEM, when the king inuited the Prince to his feast at Worcester, promising with verie fair words, that he would give his kinsewoman to him to wife, and enrich him with much honour: neuerthesse when he came thither, the selfe same daie they should be married before Masse, the king required a bill to be sealed by the Prince; conteining amongst other things that he would neuer keep man against the kings will, nor neuer mainteine anie, whereby it might come to passe that all the Princes, force should be called from him. The which letter sealed, he deliuered the king by iust fear, which

might mouue anie constant man; yet was not this conteined in the peace, whereas the conclusion of the peace was, that the king should require nothing that was not conteined in the same.

9 ITEM, where in the said peace all customes be confirmed to the said Prince, as his ancestors of long and dailie obserued custome haue receiued to their owne vse, all wrecks happening vpon his owne lands: the Iustice of Chester tooke a distresse of the Prince for goods of shipwrecke receiued by him before the warres, contrarie to the forme of the said peace. By the which all trespasses of either side were remitted; and contrarie to the customes before said: and if in case it were forfeited, yet he tooke such a distresse, fiteene pounds of honie, and manie horsse, and imprisoned his men. And this he tooke of the Princes owen proper goods, and further tooke booties of Bagiers which came to Lyrpoole with merchandize, and neuer redeliuered the same vntill he had taken so much monie for the same, as it pleased him.

10 ITEM, when certeine men of Geneu'rglyn had taken certeine goods of some of their neighbours of Geneu'rglyn, when they were in the dominion of the Prince in Meyreon, the king's men of Llanbadarn did take awaie the said goods out of the said dominion of the Prince: and when the prince his men came thither, and asked the cause why they tooke the said preie: the kings men killed one of them, and wounded the other, and the rest they did imprison, neither could the prince get anie iustice for the said goods to this daie.

11 AND where it is conteined in the peace, that all things committed in the Marches, should be redressed in the Marches; yet the kings men would no where heare the princes men, but put them in the castell of Llanbadarn: which is against the peace aforesaid. In these articles and diuers others, the king standeth sworne to the prince, and to his people. And although the prince as well by himselfe as by his people, haue often requested the king to cause the said peace to be kept, yet was it in no point kept, but dailie the kings Iustices doo more and more heape iniuries and greefes vpon the people of those parts. So that it can not be blamed, if the Prince did assent to them that first began the wars, seeing the othe which the lord Robert Typtost sware for the king, was kept in no point: and cheeflie seeing the prince was forewarned, that he should be taken so soone as the king came to Ruthlan, as he had beene in deede if the king had come thither after Christmasse, as he purposed.

## No. IV. &amp; VII.

*These greefes following were done by the King and his officers, to the lord David ap Gryffith.*

WHEN the said Daud came to the lord Edward then earle of Chester, and did him homage, the said lord Edward did giue by his letters patents to the said Daud, two Cantreys, Dyffryncluyd, and Ceinmeyrdd, with all the appurtenances: afterward when he was made king he confirmed the said gift to the said Daud, and gaue him possession of them. Then afterward Guenllian Lacy died, who held some townes in the said Cantreys for terme of life: which after hir decease appertained to Daud, by force of the foresaid grant, which townes yet the king tooke from him, contrarie to his letters patents.

2 ITEM, when the said Daud did hold of the lord the king the villages of Hope and Eston in Wales, of the which he ought to answeere no man, but according to the lawes of Wales, yet the Iustice of Chester caused the said Daud to be called to Chester, at the sute of one William Venable an English man: to answeere for the title of the said villages. And although the said Daud did often and instantlie desire him the said Iustice not to proceed against him iniuriouslie in the countie of Chester, where he was not bound to answeere by the forme of the peace: yet he plainlie denied him to be iudged either in Wales or after the lawes of Wales.

3. ITEM, the said Iustice of Chester to the iniurie of the said Daud, did cut downe his wood of Llyweny, and his woods at Hope, as well by the dwellers of Ruthlan, as others: and yet the said Iustice had no iurisdiction in those parts. And not being contented to get timber there, for building, as well for Ruthlan as other places in the countrie, but also destroyed the said woods, sold it, and carried it into Ireland.

4. ITEM, where the said Daud tooke certaine outlawes and rouers in the woods, and caused them to be hanged: yet the said Iustice accused Daud to the king, for succoring and mainteining the theeues aforesaid: which was not like to be true seeing he caused them to be hanged.

5 ITEM, it is prouided in the peace, that all Welshmen in their causes should be iudged after the lawes of Wales. This was in no point obserued with the said Daud and his people. Of these foresaid greefes the said Daud required often amends, either according to the lawes and customes of Wales, or of speciall fauour: but he could neuer obtaine

anie of them both at his hands. Further, the said Dauid was warned in the kings court, that as soone as Reginald Gray should come from the court, the said Dauid should be taken and spoiled of his castell of Hope, his woods should be cut downe, and his children taken for pledges: who seeing he had taken much paines and perill for the king in all his warres as well himselfe as his people, both in England and in Wales, and had lost therebie the most part of the nobilitie of his countrie, and yet neuerthelessse could obtaine neither iustice, amends, nor fauour at his hands, hauing such great wrongs offred vnto him, and fearing his owne life and his childrens, or else perpetuall prison, being enforced, as it were against his will, began to defend himselfe and his people.

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No. V.

*Articles sent from the Archbishop of Canturburie,  
to be intimated to Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, and  
the People of the same Countrie.*

BECAUSE we came to those parts for the spirituall and temporall health of them whom we haue euer loued well, as diuers of them haue knowne.

2 THAT we came contrarie to the will of our lord the king, whom our said comming (as it is said) dooth much offend.

3 THAT we desire and beseech them, for the bloud of our Lord Iesus Christ, that they would come to an vnitie with the English people, and to the peace of our lord the king, which we intend to procure them so well as we can.

4 WE will them to vnderstand, that we cannot long tarrie in these quarters.

5 WE would they considered, that after our parting out of the countrie, they shall not perhaps find anie that will so tender the preferring of their cause, as we would doo, if it pleased God (with our mortall life) we might procure them an honest, stable and firm peace.

6 THAT if they doo contemne our petition and labour, we intend forthwith to signifie their stubbernes to the high bishop, and the court of Rome: for the enormitie that manie waies hapneth by occasion of this discord this daie.

7 LET them know, that vnlesse they doo quicklie agree to a peace, that warre shall be aggrauated against them, which they shall not be able to sustaine, for the kings power increaseth dailie.

The great-  
er cause  
the more  
love.

8 LET them vnderstand that the realme of England is vnder the speciall protection of the sea of Rome: that the sea of Rome loueth it better than anie other kingdome.

9 THAT the said sea of Rome will not in anie wise see the state of the realme of England quaille, being vnder speciall protection.

10 THAT we much lament to heare that the Welshmen be more cruell then Saracens: for Saracens, when they take christians they keepe them to be redeemed for monie. But (they saie) that the Welshmen by and by doo kill all that they take, and are onlie delighted with blood, and sometime cause to be killed them whose ransome they haue receiued.

11 THAT whereas they were euer woont to be esteemed, and to reuerence God and Ecclesiasticall persons, they seeme much to reuolt from that deuotion: moouing sedition and warre, and committing slaughter, and burning in the holie time. Which is great iniurie to God, wherein no man can excuse them.

12 WE desire, that as true christians they would repent, for they cannot long continue their begun discord, if they had sworne it.

13. WE will that they signifie vnto vs, how they will or can amend the trouble of the kings peace, and the hurt of the common wealth.

14 THAT they signifie vnto vs how peace and concord may be established: for in vaine were it to forme peace, to be dailie violated.

15 IF they saie that their lawes or couenants be not obserued, that they doo signifie vnto vs which those be.

16. THAT granting it that they were iniured, as they saie, (which we in no waies doo know) they which were Iudges in the cause might so haue signified to the kings maiestie.

17. THAT vnlesse they will now come to peace, they shall be resisted by decree and censure of the church, besides warre of the people.



No. VI.

*To the most reuerend Father in Christ, the Lord  
John by Gods grace Archbishop of Canturburie,  
Primate of all England, his humble and deuout  
Sonne Llewelyn Prince of Wales and Lord of  
Snoudon sendeth greeting.*

WITH all reuerend submission and honor we yeeld our most humble and hartie thanks vnto your fatherhood, for the

great and grieuous paines which at this present for the loue of vs and our nation you haue sustained: and so much the more we are beholden vnto you, for that besides the kings pleasure you would venture to come vnto vs. In that you request vs to come to the kings peace, we would haue your holinesse to know that we are most readie and willing to the same, so that our lord the king will duellie and trulie observe and keepe the peace towards vs and ours. Moreouer, although we would be glad of your continuance in Wales, yet we hope there shall not be anie delaie in vs but that peace (which of all things we most desire and wish for) may be forthwith established, and rather by your trauell and procurement than by any other mans: so that it shall not be needefull to complaine vnto the Pope of our wilfulnes: neither do we despise your fatherhoods requests and painefull trauell, but with all hartie reuerence according to our dutie do accept the same. Neither yet shall it be needefull for the lord the king to vse anie force against vs, seeing we are redie to obeie him in all things, our rights and lawes (as aforesaid) reserued. And although the kingdome of England be vnder the speciall protection of the sea of Rome, and with speciall loue regarded of the same: yet, when the lord the Pope and the court of Rome shall vnderstand of the great damages which are done vnto vs by the Englishmen, to wit, the articles of the peace concluded and sworne vnto, violated and broken, the robbing and burning of churches, the murthering of ecclesiasticall persons, as well religious as secular; the slaughter of women great with child, and children sucking their mothers breasts: the destroieng of hospitals, and houses of religion, killing the men and women professed in the holie places, and euen before the alters: we hope that your fatherhood, and the said court of Rome will rather with pitie lament our case, than with rigour of punishment augment our sorrow. Neither shall the kingdome of England be in anie wise disquieted or molested by our meanes (as is affirmed) so that we may haue the peace dulie kept and observed towards vs and our people. Who they be, which are delited with bloodshed and warre, is manitestlie apparant by their deedes and behauiour; for we would liue quietlie upon our owne if we might be suffered, but the Englishmen comming to our countrie did put all to the sword, neither sparing sex, age or sicknesse, nor any thing regarding churches or sacred places, the like whereof the Welshmen neuer committed. That one hauing paid his ransome was afterward slaine, wee are right sorrie to heare of it, neither do we maintaine the offender, who escaping our hands keepeth himselfe as an outlaw in the woods and vnknown places. That some began the warre in a time not meeete and convenient, that vnderstood not we of vntil now;



and yet they which did the same do affirme, that in case they had not done as they did at that time, they had beene slain or taken themselues, being not in safetie in their own houses, and forced continuallie for safeguard of their liues to keepe themselues in armour: and therefore to deliuer themselues from that feare, they tooke that enterprise in hand. Concerning those things which we commit against God: with the assistance of his grace, we will (as it becometh Christians) repent and turne vnto him. Neither shall the war on our part be continued, so that we be saued harmlesse and may live as we ought: but before we be disinherited or slaine we must defend our selues as well as we may. Of all iniuries and wrongs done by vs, we are most willing and readie (vpon due examination and triall of all trespasses and wrongs committed on both sides) to make amends to the vttermost of our power: so that the like on the kings side be performed in like manner towards vs and our people: and to conclude and stablish a peace we are most readie: but what peace can be established when as the king's charter so solemnlie confirmed, is not kept and performed? Our people are dailie oppressed with new exactions: we send unto you also a note in writing of the wrongs and iniuries which are done vnto vs contrarie to the forme of the peace before made. We haue put our selues in armour, being driuen therevnto by necessitie: for we and our people were so oppressed, troden vnder foote, spoiled and brought to slauerie by the kings officers, contrarie to the forme of the peace concluded against iustice, none otherwise than if we were Saracens or Iewes: whereof we haue often times complained vnto the king and neuer could get anie redresse: but alwaies those officers were afterwards more fierce and cruell against vs. And when those officers through their rauine and extortion were enriched, other more hungrie than they were sent a fresh to flea those whom the other had shorne before: so that the people wished rather to die than live in such oppression. And now it shall not be needeful to leuie anie army to war vpon vs, or to moue the prelats of the church against vs, so that the peace may be obserued duellie and trulie, as before is expressed. Neither ought your holie fatherhood to giue credit to all that our aduersaries do allege against vs: for euen as in their deeds they haue and do oppresse vs, so in their words they will not stickle to slander vs, laieng to our charge what liketh them best. Therefore, for as much as they are alwaies present with you, and we absent from you, they oppressing, and we oppressed, we are to desire you euen for his sake from whom nothing is hid, not to credit mens words but to examine their deeds. Thus we bid your holines farewell. Dated at Garth Celyn, in the feast of S. Martine.

## No. VIII.

*Greefs and Iniuries offered by the King and his Officers to the Men of Ros.*

THIS is the forme of peace, which the king of England did promise the men of Ros before they did him homage, which he promised them to obserue inuiolable. That is to saie the king should grant to euerie of them their right and iurisdiction, as they had in time of king Henrie, according as the said men doo report that they had in the time of king Henrie.

2 ITEM, the lord the king did promise the said men, that they should haue iustice in their sutes: after granting of the which articles, the said men did homage to the king. And then the king promised them with his owne mouth faithfullie to obserue the said articles. This notwithstanding, a certeine noble man passing by the kings hie waie, with his wife in the kings peace, met certaine English laborers and masons going to Ruthlan where they did then worke: who attempted by force to take awaie his wife from him, and while he defended hir as well as he could, one of them killed the wife, and he who killed hir with his fellowes were taken; and when the kinred of hir which was slain required lawe at the Iustice of Chesters hands (for their kinswoman) they were put in prison, and the murtherers were deliuered.

3 ITEM, a certeine man killed a Gentleman who had killed the sonne of Grono ap Heilyn and was taken: but when certaine of the kinred required iustice before the Iustice of Chester, certeine of them were imprisoned, the offender set at libertie, and iustice denied to the kinred.

4 ITEM, certeine Gentleman claimed some lands, and offered the king a great peece of monie, to haue iustice by the uerdict of good and lawfull men of the countrie (then the lands being adiudged to the claimers) Reginald Gray tooke the same lauds, corne, goods, and all vpon the ground, so that they lost their lands, monie, corne and cattell.

5 ITEM, it is our right that no stranger should cut our woods without our leaue: yet this notwithstanding there was a proclamation at Ruthlan, that it should be lawfull for all other men to cut downe our woods, but to vs it was forbidden.

ITEM, where diuerse honest men had lands of the gift of the said Dauid, the Iustice taketh the said mens lands awaie.

7 ITEM, when anie commeth to Ruthlan with merchandize, if he refuse whatsoeuer anie English man offereth, he is forth-

with sent to the castell to prison, and the buier hath the thing, and the king hath the price: then the soldiours of the castell, first spoile and beate the partie, and then cause him to pay the porter, and let him go.

8 ITEM, if anie Welshman buie anie thing in Ruthlan, and anie English man doo meet him, he will take it from him, and giue him lesse than he paid for it.

9 ITEM, the king contrarie to his promise made to the men of Ros, hath giuen the territorie of Maynan, Penmayn, and Llysuayn.

10 ITEM, Certeine Gentlemen of the Cantred of Ros bought certeine offices, and paid their monie for the same: yet the Iustice of Chester tooke the said offices from them without cause.

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359.

11 ITEM, Grono ap Heilyn tooke to farme of Godfrey Marliney, the territorie of Maynan and Llysuayn, for the terme of foure years: yet Robert de Cruquer with horses and armes and foure and twentie horssemen, came to vexe the said Grono, so that he had no safe going, neither to Ruthlan nor Chester, without a great garrison of his kindred and freends.

12 ITEM, certaine Gentlemen were arrested for trespasses done before the warres and imprisoned, and could not be deliuered vntill they had paid xvi. markes, which was contrarie to the peace concluded.

13 ITEM, our causes ought to be decided after the custome of our lawes; but our men be compelled to swear against their consciences, else they be not suffered to swear: furthermore we spent three hundred markes in going to the king for iustice in the foresaid articles. And when we beleued to recouer full iustice, the king sent to our parties the lord Reginald Gray, to whom the king hath set all the lands to farme, to handle the men of the said Cantreds as it pleaseth him: who compelled vs to \*swear in his name, whereas we should swear in the kings name. And where the kings crosse ought to be erected, he caused his crosse to be erected, in token that he is the verie true lord: and the said lord Reginald at his first comming to those parts of Wales, sold to certaine seruants of the king, offices for lx. markes, which the said seruants bought before of the king for xxiiij. markes: which offices ought not to be sold at the choise of the lord.

14 ITEM, the king gaue Meredyth ap Madoc a captainship for his seruice, Reginald Gray tooke it from him: neither could he get anie remedie at the kings hands for the same.

15 ITEM, one of the councell of the said Reginald, Cynwric Vachan told vs by mouth, that as sooue as the said Reginald Gray returned to Wales he would take xxiiij. men of

\* To swear by his hand, whereas we should swear by the hand of the king.

euerie Cantred, and either behead them or imprison them perpetuallie.

16 ITEM, whereas we paid our taxes and rents in old monie half a yeare before the comming of new monie, they enforced vs to paie new monie for the old.

THESE greefes and the like, the said Reginald offered vs, and threatned that if we would send anie to the king to complaine he would behead them: and when we sent anie to the king, he could neuer speake with the king but spend us much monie in uaine. For which greefes we beleue our selues free before God, from the othe which we haue made to the king.

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No. IX.

*These Greefes folowing, the King and his Iustice offered to Rees Vychan of Stratywy.*

AFTER that the said Rees guae the king his castell of Dyneuowr, sithence the last peace, the said Rees then being in the tent of the lord Payne de Gadersey, at the same time there were slaine sixe Gentlemen of the said Reeses men, for whom they neuer had amends, which was to him great greefe and losse.

2 ITEM, Iohn Gifford, claimed the said Reeses inheritance at Hiruryn, and the said Rees requested the lawe of his countrie of the king, or the lawe of the countie of Caermarthen, in the which countie the ancestors of the said Rees were woont to haue lawe: when they were of the peace of the Englishmen, and vnder their regiment; but the said Rees could haue no lawe, but lost all his lands. They would haue had him to answer in the countie of Hereford, where none of his ancestors euer answered. Further in the lands of the said Rees were such enormities committed, which doo most apperteine to the state ecclesiasticall: that is to saie in the church of S. David, which they call Llangadoc, they made stables, and plaid the harlots, and tooke awaie all the goods of the said church, and burning all the houses, wounded the preest of the said church before the high altar, and left him there as dead.

4 ITEM, in the same countrie they spoiled and burnt the churches of Dyngad, Llantredaff, and other churches in other parts: they spoiled their chalices, books, and all other ornaments and goods.

## No. X.

*These be the Greefes which the King and his Iustice gaue to Llewelyn ap Rees and Howel ap Rees.*

AFTER that a forme of peace was concluded betwixt Henrie then king of England, and the prince of Wales, the said king granted and confirmed by his charter to the said Prince the homage of the said noble men, so long as they stood freends with the prince, according to the said gift and confirmation: but Edward now king disinherited the said Gentlemen of their lands, so that they could not haue their owne lands, neither by law nor by fauour.

## No. XI.

*These be the Greefes done by the Englishmen to the Sonnes of Meredyth ap Owen.*

AFTER that the king had granted the Gentlemen their owne inheritance of Geneu'rglyn and Creuthyn, he contrarie to the peace disherited the said Gentlemen: denieng them all lawes and customes of Wales, and of the countie of Caermarthen.

2 THE said king in his countie of Caerdigan by his said Iustices compelled the said Gentlemen to give iudgment vpon themselues: where their predecessors neuer sffered the like of Englishmen.

3 THE said Iustices of the king haue taken awaie the courtes of the noblemen in Wales, and compelled the people to satisfie before them for trespasses: when as they ought to haue satisfied by the said nobles.

4 WHEN a wrecke hapneth vpon anie of the grounds of the noble men, whose ancestors had wrecke, they should haue the same: yet the king forbiddeth them, and the said king by color of that shipwrecke contrarie to their custome and law did condemne them in eight markes, and tooke away all the goods of the shipwrecke.

5 THAT none of our men of the countie of Caerdigan dare come amongst the Englishmen, for feare of imprisonment: and if it had not beene for feare of hurt, the nobles would neuer haue stirred.

## No. XII.

*The complaints of the noble Men of Stratalyn, of the Wrongs and Greefes doone to them, by Roger Clifford, and Roger Scrochill deputie to the said Roger Clifford: contrarie to the Priuilege, Iustice and Custome of the said noble Men, as they saie and proue.*

WHEN the said Roger compelled the said men of Stratylyu to giue them (to haue their customes and priuileges) twentie marks starling, and after the paiement of the monie, they brake by and by after this sort, to put vpon twelue men according to the lawes of England, which was neuer the manner nor custome of the said countrie.

2 ITEM, Madoc ap Blethyn was condemned in foure markes vniustlie, contrarie to the lawes and vse of the countrie.

3 ITEM, Grono Goch was likewise condemned in five markes and twelue beasts, contrarie to the custome of the countrie.

4 ITEM, the said Roger tooke the lands of the men of the countrie as forfeit: and for one foote of a stag found in a dogs mouth, three men were spoiled of all that they had.

5 ITEM, Ithel ap Gwysty was condemned in a great sum of monie, for the fact of his father done fourtie yeares before.

6 ITEM, the said Roger laid vpon vs the finding of all the English soldiours, whereof before there was but one halfe.

7 ITEM, we were giuen to maister Maurice de Cruny, and were sold to Roger Clifford: which was neuer seené in our parents time.

8 ITEM, the widow of Robert of the Mowld asked of the king the third part of the land in the Mowld in ward: whereas it was iudged before the king, that the said lands were neuer giuen in ward.



## No. XIII.

*These be the Articles of Greefes doone to the Men of Penllyn, by the Constable of Henrie Chambers of the white Abbie, and his Men.*

CYNWRIC AP MADOC was spoiled by them in time of peace, of eight pound, foure oxen, corne the worke of

one plough for two yeares, and to the value of three pound, of three of his men, and they had the worth of xvi. pound for the said eight pound, and did beate him besides: which was more wrong, for then he was the princes constable at Penllyn. And all the cause that they pretended to make this spoile, was onelie that they said they had found foure and twentie sheafes of tyth in the house of a seruant of the said Cynwric.

2 ITEM, Adam Criwr was condemned in eight shillings eight pence, and a mare, price twentie shillings, and was taken and beaten, for that he had taken the stealer of that mare, and brought him bound with him, the which theefe was forthwith deliuered.

3 ITEM, Iorwerth ap Gurgeneu was condemned in foure pound, for that he had scaped out of their prison in time of the warres, and was found in the said towne in the time of peace, and this is directlie against the peace concluded betwixt the king and the prince.

4 ITEM, Caduan Ddu seruant to the constable of Penllyn was condemned, bicause he would not receiue the old monie for new.

5 ITEM, Gryffith ap Grono the Princes man was spoiled of an oxe, price eleuen shillings eight pence, and after that the constable had plowed with the said oxe seven monthes, he paid to the said Gryffith for the said oxe, three shillings foure pence.

6 ITEM, two seruants of one named Y Bongam were spoiled of two pounds, for that they tooke a theefe that robbed them by night, and yet the theefe was deliuered.

7 ITEM, Eneon ap Iibel was taken, beaten, and spoiled of two oxen, price foure and twentie shillings and two pence, for this cause onlie, that the said oxen went from one streete to an other in the towne.

8 ITEM, Guyan Maystran was spoiled of his monie, because a certeine merchant of Ardudwy owed them certeine things, and yet the said merchant was not of their bailiwick.

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No. XIV.

*The Greefes of Grono ap Heilyn.*

A TENANT of Grono ap Heilyn was called to the kings court without anie cause: then Grono came at the daie appointed to defend his tenant, and demanded iustice for him, or the law which the men of his cuntry did vse: all this being denied, the said tenant was condemned in seuen and twentie pound, i. d. ob. Then the said Grono went to Lon-

don for iustice, which was promised him, but he could neuer haue anie, where he spent in his iournie fifteene markes.

2 A CERTEINE Gentleman was slaine, who had fostered the sonne of Grono ap Heilyn, and he that killed him was taken and brought to Ruthlan castell: then the said Grono and the kindred of him that was slaine asked iustice, but some of them were imprisoned, and the killer discharged. Then Grono went againe to London for iustice, which the king did promise him, but he neuer had anie, but spent twentie markes.

3 THE third time Grono was faine to go to London for iustice in the premisses: where he spent xvij. markes, vj. s. viij. d. And then likewise the king promised him that he should haue iustice: but when he certeinlie beleued to haue iustice, then Reginald Gray came to the countrie and said openlie, that he had all doings in that countrie by the kings charters: and tooke away all Bailiwicks, which the king had given the said Grono and sold them at his pleasure: then the said Grono asked iustice of the said Reginald, but he could not be heard.

4 THE said Grono tooke to farme for foure yeares of Godfrey Marliney, Maynan and Llysvayn, then Robert Cruquer came with his horssees and armes to get the said lands by force, and for that Grono would not suffer him to haue the said lands before his yeares came out, he was called to the law, and then the said Reginald Gray came with xxiiij. horssemen, to take the said Grono. And for that they could not that daie haue their purpose, they called Grono the next daie to Ruthlan: and then Grono had counsell not to go to Ruthlan. Then they called him againe to answer at Caerwys, but the said Grono durst not go thither, but by the conduct of the bishop of S. Asaph, for that Reginald Gray was there and his men in harnesse.

5 FOR these greefes for the which he could get no iustice, but labour and expenses, of liij. markes and more, and for that he durst not in his owne person go to the court, he sent letters, one to the king, another to his brother Llewelyn, to signifie to the king that he should loose all the fauour of the countrie, if he kept no promise with them, and so it came to passe, because the men of Ros and Englefeld could get no iustice, the king neglecting the correction of these things, lost the whole countrie.



## No. XV.

*Humble sheweth to your Holines, Lord Archbishop of Canturburie, Primate of all England, the noble Men of Tegengt: that when the said noble Men did their Homage to the Lord Edward, King of England, the said King promised them to defend them and their Goods; and that they should vse all kind of Right, Pruiilege, and Iurisdiction, which they did vse in time of King Henrie, of the Graunt of the said King, whereof they were after spoiled.*

FIRST they were spoiled of their right and priuileges and customes of the countrie: and were compelled to be iudged by the lawes of England, whereas the tenor of that their priuilege was to be iudged according to the lawes of Wales at Tref Edwyn, at Ruthlan, and at Caerwys, and the best men of the countrie were taken, bicause they desired to be iudged at Tref Edwyn, according to the tenor of their priuileges, by the lawes of Wales.

2. WHATSOEVER one Iustice dooth, his successor dooth reuerse the same: for in Dauids cause Reginald Gray reuoked that, which his predecessor confirmed and allowed.

3 IF he doo take anie Gentleman of the countrie, he will not let him go vpon suertie, which he ought to doo.

4 IF anie Gentleman be brought to the castell of the Flynt, vpon small accusation, and his cattell withal; they can neither be deliuered, nor haue delaie, vntill they giue the constable an oxe, and untill they paie three pound fees to Cynwric for the hauing of the delaie.

5 REGINALD GRAY gaue the lands of the men of Merton to the abbot and conuent of Basingwerke, against the lawes of Wales and the custome of the countrie, and contrarie to the forme of the peace betwixt Prince Llewelyn and the king; that is to saie, xvi. Caratatas terræ.

6 THE noble and best of the countrie be iniured, for that the king builded the castell of Flynt vpon their ground: and the king commanded the Iustices to giue the men as much and as good ground or the price. But they are spoiled of their lands, and haue neither other lands nor monie.

7 REGINALD GRAY will not suffer men to cut their owne wood, vntill he haue both monie and reward, and vntill they paie for it also; but permitteth others to cut it downe freelie, which they ought not to doo by the lawes and customes of Wales.

8 WHERE the men of Cyrchynan couenant with the king to giue the king halfe a medowe, on condition the king should not suffer the woods to be cut downe, Howel ap Gryffith being present: yet Reginald Gray hath broken the same, permitting euerie man to cut their woods, and spoile them also of their medowe.

9 THE sonne of Cynwric ap Grono was taken at Ruthlan, and put in prison without anie cause at all: neither would the kings officers deliuer him, vnlesse he would redeeme the gage of a certeine woman, for the which he was constrained to pay much more than the pawne laie for.

10 WHEN the bailiffe of Ruthlan was at a feast, Hicken le Mayle wounded a Gentleman cruellie in the presence of the said bailiffe: by the occasion of which wound, Hicken was condemned in eight pound, and when he which was hurt would haue demanded the said eight pound, he was put in prison with Hicken.

11 THE messengers of Reginald Gray attempted an absurditie not heard of, requiring the people of the countrie to plow his ground, and sowe the same: and the messengers were Cynwric Says and Hicken Lemayl, and the said Cynwric sware openlie before the whole companie, that vnlesse all men should plow Reginald Grayes ground, they should shortlie repent it: then the people feared much, as in that case anie constant man would feare.

12 THE heires of Tegengl bought their offices for xxx. markes of the king. But afterward Reginald Gray spoiled them of their offices and monie, against the lawes and customes of England.

13 SEAUEN Gentlemen were wrongfullie killed by the Englishmen, but as yet the parents of the Gentlemen can haue no amends: and though the offenders were taken, yet the said constable let them go without punishment.

14 THE constable of Ruthlan kept two of the kings soldiours in prison, for that they tooke an Englishman, who had wounded a man.

ALL these things contened in these articles are contrarie to the priuilege, libertie and right of the said men, and contrarie to the lawes and customes of Wales: neither dare the inhabitants send their complaints to the king for feare of Reginald Gray (which feare anie constant man might haue) because the said Reginald Gray said openlie, that if he could come by anie such their messengers, he would cut off their heads as it is certeinlie told vs by one of his counsell: further neither toong can expresse, nor penne can write, how euill the men of Tegengl haue beene ordered.

HUMBLIE complaineth vnto your lordship, my lord Archbishop of Canturburie Primate of all England, Llewelyn ap

Llewelyn  
ap Gryffith  
ap Madoc.

Gryffith ap Madoc, of the constable of Oswaldes Crosse, the king and of the men of that towne, who haue spoiled the said Llewelyn of the third part of a towne called Lledrod, and his fathers house without anie law, or right, or custome of the countrie. Further the said Constable and his complices haue against the lawes and the custome of the countrie spoiled the said Llewelyn of the common and pasturage, which he and his predecessors haue had and vsed time out of mind: and further condemned the said Llewelyn for the said pasture in lxx. markes. And further the king of England granted certeine letters to a bastard called Gryffith Vychan of Cynllaeth to law with the said Llewelyn for his whole lordship and possessions; by the occasion of the which letters, the said Llewelyn hath spent two hundred pound of good monie.

Also the said Constable compelled the said Llewelyn to send two of his Gentlemen to him, whom when they came to him he caused to be hanged, which Gentlemen ought not by right to haue been hanged whose parents had rather haue giuen him three hundred pounds.

AFTERWARD the said Constable imprisoned threescore of the men of the said Llewelyn (no cause alledged) but that a certeine Page spake a word: who could not be deliuered out of prison, vntil euerie of them paid ten shillings.

WHEN the men of the said Llewelyn came to the said towne to sell their oxen, the said Constable would cause the beasts to be driuen to the castell: neither would he restore the beastes nor monie from them. Further, the said Constable and his men tooke awaie the cattell of the said Llewelyn from his owne ground, and did their will with them.

FURTHER the kings lustice compelled the said Llewelyn, contrarie to the law and custome of Wales, to deliuer to the sonnes of Eneon ap Gryffith, a certeine towne which both he and his ancestors euer had held. The said Constable tooke the horsse of Llewelyns Bailiff: when the said Bailiff owed him nothing, who could neuer get his horsse againe, nor anie satisfaction for it.

FURTHERMORE when the said Llewelyn should haue gone to a towne called Caerlleon to appeare there as he was appointed, the sonnes of Gryffith ap Gwenwynwyn, and the soldiours of Roger Strainge, by the counsell of the said Roger, tooke the said Llewelyn and his men, and imprisoned them to their great damage; which the said Llewelyn would not for 300. pound starling, who could by no meanes be deliuered, vntill they had found sufficient suerties.

THE Archbishop receiuing these and other articles, came to the king, and requested him to consider these wrongs, and to cause amends to be made, or at the least excuse the Welsh men hauing so iust cause of greefe. Who answered that the Welshmen were to be excused: yet he said he was euer rea-

die to doo iustice to all them that complained. Wherevpon the Archbishop besought the king againe, that the Welshmen might haue free accesse to his Grace to declare their griefes, and to seeke remedie: the king answered they should freelie come and depart, if it should seeme that by iustice they deserved to depart.

THE Archbishop hearing this, went and came to the Prince of Wales in Snowdon, that he might mooue him and his brother Dauid, and the other companie to submit themselues: whereby he might incline the king to admit them. which after much talke and conference with the Archbishop, the Prince answered that he was readie to submit himselfe to the king, reseruing two things: that is to say, his conscience, which he ought to haue for the rule and safegard af his people: and also the decencie of his state and calling. Which answeere the Archbishop brought, and reported to the king. At the which the king said, that he would not anie other treatie of peace, than that the Prince and his people should simplie submit themselues. But the Archbishop (knowing well that the Welshmen would not submit themselues but in the forme aforesaid, or in other forme to them tollerable and of them liked) requested the king, that he might haue conference in this matter with all the noble Englishmen then present: who after such conference agreed all to these articles following. The which articles the Archbishop did send in writing to to the Prince, by Iohn Wallensis.

Conscien-  
tia de salu-  
te populi.  
2. Deco-  
rum.

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No. XVI.

*These are to be said to the Prince before his Councell.*

FIRST, that of the foure Cantreds and the lands by the king giuen to his nobles, and the Isle of Anglesey, he will haue no treatie of.

2 ITEM, of the tenants of the foure Cantreds if they will submit themselues, he purposeth to doo as becommeth a kings majestie: and we uerelie beleeeue he will deale with them mercifullie, and to that end we will labour and trust to obtaine:

3 As touching the lord Llewelyn we can haue none other answer, but that he shall submit himselfe simplie to the king: and we beleeeue certeinlie he will deale mercifullie with him, and to that end we trauell all we can, and uerilie beleeeue to be heard.

## No. XVII.

*These following are to be said to the Prince in Secret.*

FIRST, that the nobilitie of England haue conceiued this forme of fauorable peace, that the lord Llewelyn should submit himselfe to the king: and the king should honorable provide for him a thousand pound starling, and some honorable countie in England. So that the said Llewelyn would put the king in quiet possession of Snowdon: and the king will provide honorable for the daughter of Llewelyn, according to the state and condecencie of his owne bloud and to these they hope to persuade the king.

2 ITEM, if it happen that Llewelyn marrie a wife, and to haue by hir anie heire male, they trust to intreate the king, that the same heire male and his heires for euer shall haue the same thousand pound and countie.

ITEM, to the people subiect to the said Llewelyn the king will provide, as becommeth their estates and condition, and to that the king is well inclined.

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No. XVIII.

*These are to be said to David Brother to Llewelyn in Secret.*

FIRST, that if for the honor of God, (Iuxta debitum crucis assumptæ) he will go to the holie land, he shall be provided for according to his degree, so that he doo not returne, vnlesse he be called by the king: and we trust to entreat the king, to provide for his child.

2 AND these things we tell our selues to the Welshmen, that a great deale greater perill dooth hang ouer them, than we told them by mouth when we were with them: these things which we write seeme greuous, but it is a great deale more greuous to be oppressed with armes, and finallie to be rooted out, bicause euerie daie more and more their danger dooth increase.

3 ITEM, it is more hard to be alwaies in warre, in anguish of mind, and danger of bodie, alwaies sought and besieged, and so to die in deadlie sinne, and continuall rancor and malice.

4 ITEM, we feare (whereof we be sorie) vnlesse you doo agree to peace, we most certeinlie will aggrauate the sen-

tence Ecclesiasticall against you for your faults: of the which you can not excuse yourselues, whereas yee shall find both grace and mercie, if you will come to peace.

And send vs your answer of these in writing.



No. XIX.

*To the most reuerend Father in Christ, the Lord John by Gods Grace Archbishop of Canterburie, and Primate of all England, his obedient Sonne Llewelyn Prince of Wales and Lord of Snowdon sendeth greeting,*

MOST hartily with all reuerence and honor we are content and readie holie father as you haue counselled vs, to submit our selues vnto the kings Grace, so it be in that forme that shall be safe and honest for vs; but because that forme of submission contained in the articles which were sent vnto us, is neither safe, nor honest, as we and our councill do thinke (at the which articles all men do maruell :) tending rather to the destruction of vs and our people, than anie securitie and honest dealing, we may in no wise yeeld our assent vnto it, and if we should so doo, our nobles and people would not agree to the same, knowing the mischeefe and inconuenience that is like to ensue thereof. Neuerthelesse, we beseech your holie fatherhood, that for the reformation of a decent, honest and firme peace (for the which you haue taken so great paines) you do circumspectlie prouide, hauing respect vnto the articles which we send vnto you in writing. It is more honorable for the king, and more agreeable to reason that we should hold our lands in the countrie where we dwell, than that we should be disinherited, and our lands giuen to other men. Dated at Garth Celyn.



No. XX.

*The Answers of the Welshmen.*

FIRST, though the lord the king will haue no treatie of the foure Cantreds of the lands that he gaue his nobles, nor the Isle of Anglesey; yet the Princes councill will no peace to be made, vnlesse treatie be had of them. For that the foure Cantreds be of the more tenure of the Prince, where alwaies the Princes of Wales had more right, since the time,

of Camber the sonne of Brutus: so that they be of the principallitie of Wales. The confirmation of the which the Prince obtained by Otobonus the Popes legate in England, by the consent of the king and his father: as it doth appeare by the letters patents. And more iust and equall it is, that our heires doo hold the said Cantreds of the king for monie and vsed seruice, than the same be giuen to strangers which abuse the people by force and power.

2 ALL the tenants of all the Cantreds of Wales altogether doo saie, that they dare not submit themselues to the king, to doo his pleasure. First, for that the king kept neither couenant, nor othe, nor grant by charter from the beginning, to the Prince or his people. Secondlie, for that the kings men doo cruellie exercise tyrannie towards the Church and Churchmen. Thirdlie, that they be not bound to anie such matter, seeing they be the Princes tenants: who is readie to doo vsed and accustomed seruice, and to obey the king, with and by the said seruice.

3 To that which is said, that the Prince should simplie commit himselfe to the kings will, it is answered, that none of vs all dare come to the king, for the causes aforesaid, we altogether will not suffer our Prince to come in that maner.

4 ITEM, where the great men of England would procure a prouision of a thousand pounds a yeare in England: let it be answered, that such prouision is not to be accepted, for that it is procured by them, who go about to disinherit the Prince to haue his lands in Wales.

5 ITEM, the Prince ought not to dismisse his inheritance, and his predecessors in Wales, since the time of Brutus, and confirmed by the sea apostolike, as is aforesaid, and to take lands in England, where he knoweth neither toong, maners, lawes nor customs, wherein he shall be soone trapped by his neighbours the Englishmen, his old malicious enemies, whereby he should lose the land too.

6 ITEM, seeing the king goeth about to deprive him of his ancient inheritance, it is not like that he would suffer him to possesse lands in England, where he claimeth no right; seeing that the princes lands in Wales of his owne inheritance is but barren and vtillid, it is lesse like the king would suffer him to enioie good fertile ground in England.

7 ITEM, the Prince should giue the King possession of Snowdon for euer. Let it be answered, that seeing that Snowdon is of the appurtenances of the principallitie of Wales, which the Prince and his predecessors held since the time of Brute (as it is before said) his councill will not suffer him to renounce that place, and to take in England a place lesse due vnto him.

8 ITEM, the people of Snowdon doo saie, that although the Prince would giue the king possession of it, yet they would neuer doo homage to strangers: of whose toong, maners, and lawes they should be ignorant. For so they should be foreuer captiued and cruellie handled, as the Cantreds haue beene by the kings bailiffes and other the kings men handled more cruellie than Saracens, as it dooth well appeare by the notes of their greefes, which the men of the Cantreds sent to you holie father.

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No. XXI.

*These are to be answered for Dauid, the Princes Brother.*

WHEN he is disposed to see the holie land, he will doo it for God's sake voluntarilie, not by such inforcement against his will: for he intendeth not to go on pilgrimage after that sort. Bicause he knoweth enforced seruice not to please God; and if he hereafter shall for denotion see the holie land, that is no cause for euer to disinherit his offspring, but rather to reward them.

AND for that neither the Prince nor his people, for countrie nor for gaines, did mooue warre, inuading no mans lands, but defending their owne lands, lawes, and liberties; and that the king and his people of inueterate hatred, and for covetousnes to get our lands inuading the same, mooued warre: wee therefore see our defence is iust and lawfull, and herein wee trust God will helpe vs, and will turne his reuenge upon destroyers of churches; who haue rooted vp and burned churches, and taken out both all sacraments and sacred things from them, killing preests, clarkes, religious, lame, dombe, deaffe, yonglings sucking their mothers paps, weak and impotent, both man and woman, and committing all other enormities, as partlie it appeareth to your holinesse. Wherefore God forbid that your holinesse should fulminate sentence against anie, but such as hath doone such things. We who haue suffered all these things at the kings officers hands, doo hope at your hands remedie and comfort: and that you will punish such church robbers and killers, who can defend themselues no waies, least their impunity be cause and example for others to do the like. Uerie manie in our countrie doo much maruell that you counselled vs to leaue our owne land, and to go to an other mans lands among our enemies to liue: for seeing we cannot haue peace in our owne land, which is our owne right, much lesse should we



be quiet in an other mans, amongst our enemies. And though it be hard to liue in warre and perill, harder it is to be vtterlie destroyed and brought to nothing: especiallie for christians, seeking else nothing but to defend our owne, being by necessitie driuen therevnto, and the greedie ambition of our enemies.

AND your holinesse told vs, that you had fulminated sentence against all that for hatred or gaires doo hinder the peace. And it appeareth euidentlie who doo war for these causes, the feare of death, the feare of imprisonment, the feare of perpetuall prison, the feare of disinheriting, no keeping of promise, couenant, grant, nor charter, tyrannicall dominion, and manie more like compell vs to be in warre, and this we show to God and to your lordship, desiring your godlie and charitable helpe.

FURTHERMORE, if anie in England haue offended the king (as manie doo offend him) yet none of them be disinherited: so if anie of vs haue offended the king, let him be punished and make satisfaction, as he maie, without exhereditating. As we trust in you, we praie you holie Father to labour to this end. If they laie to vs that we breake the peace, it appeareth euidentlie that they and not we breake the same, who neuer kept promise, nor couenant, nor order, made anie amends for trespasses, nor remedie for our complaints.

CHRONOLOGICAL  
TABLE

OF EVENTS,  
RELATING TO THE

*HISTORY of WALES;*

MANY OF WHICH ARE NOT RELATED IN THE PRECEDING  
WORK AND SOME OTHERS NOT SUFFICI-  
ENTLY ELUCIDATED.

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IT rained blood in this kingdom, so that the butter and cheese became of a bloody colour. A. D. 698. Archaology, page 471.

Roderic Moelwynog was made King of Britain, 720. and fought with the English at Garthmaelorwg, and at Pencoed, in Glamorganshire, and in both battles was victorious. Ibid 471. *Garthmaelorwg Pencoed*

This year there were battles fought between the English and Welsh at Heilyn, in Cornwall, Garthmaelorwg, and at Pencoed; in all which the Welsh were victorious. Ibid 471. *Heilyn Cornwall*

This year there was a battle fought on Carno mountain, (near Abergavenny) in which, victory decided for the Welsh; but they lost an immense number of men, and the English were driven through the Usk, in which there was a flood, and great number of their men were drowned. Ibid 472. *Carno*

There was a battle at Hereford, in which the Welsh were victorious, but lost great many men. Ibid 472. 735.

- A. D. 750. Roderic Moelwynog died this year, and was buried at Caerlleon. Ibid 472.
755. *Cyvelach Bishop of Glamorgan*  
The second battle of Hereford was fought this year, in which Cyvelach, the bishop of Glamorgan, was killed. Ibid 473.
757. This year, the third battle of Hereford was fought, and Dyvnwal ap Tewdwr was slain, Ibid 473.
784. The Marches was destroyed by the Welsh, and Offa made a second ditch nearer to his residence. The space between the said ditch and the Severn was afterwards inhabited by Elystan Glodrydd and his followers. Ibid 474.
831. *Monastery*  
The English of the Marches came by night, and burnt the monastery of Senghenyth, (which stood where the castle is now built) and marched from thence to the castle of Tredodan, which they likewise burnt, and made their escape over the Severn. Ibid 477.
838. This year, the battle of Fferyllwg was fought, and Ithel, the King of Gwentland, was slain by the men of Brecknock. Ibid 478.
872. Wales was divided into three Principalities, between the three sons of Rodric the Great. Ibid 481.
873. *River Taw*  
A battle was fought on a Sunday, in Anglesea, in which, Rodri Mawr, Gwriad his brother, and Gweirydd, son of Owen Morganwg, were slain by the English; and in revenge, the women took up arms and fell on the English, and forced them to retreat. The same year, the battle of Rhiw'r Saeon, in Glamorgan, was fought, and won by the Welsh. Ibid 481.
918. Edelfred, the King of the Marches, came against Morgan, the Prince of Glamorgan, and a battle took place at Newport, (Monmouthshire) in which Edelfred was slain and the English defeated. Ibid 485.
919. *Carno*  
*Voel*  
Cadwgan ap Owen was slain by the English. The battle of Carno was fought between the sons of Edwal Voel, and the sons of Owen ap Howel Dda. Ibid 488.

A battle was fought at Pencoed, where Einion A. D. 982. was defeated, and pursued to the sea side, where he was attacked by the men of Gwent and Glamorgan, and was there slain. Ibid 497.

There was a famine this year, in the parts go-993. vernaed by Meredith ap Owen, and great number both of men and cattle died. The Danes landed in Anglesea, and destroyed the country; in consequence of which the Welsh elected Idwal ap Meiric their prince, in North Wales; who by the assistance of Ithel, the Prince of Glamorgan, drove the Danes out of the country. Ibid 499.

The same year, Ithel died, and Gwrgan his son succeeded him. Iestin the son of Gwrgan, married Denis, the daughter of Bleddyn ap Cynvyn, Prince of Powis, and his father gave him the comot of Trev Essyllt, where he built a castle, and called it Denis Powis (now Dinas Powis.) Ibid 501.

Rhun, the son of Meredith ap Owen, came to 1010. Wales, and attempted to over-run the Principality of South Wales; but Llewelyn ap Seissyllt gave him battle at Glan Gwili, in which Rhun was slain and his army dispersed. Ibid 502.

The Scots came by sea and landed in the prin- 1029. cipality of Gwrgan ap Ithel, and were set upon by the country people at Toniwlwg, where they were so severely handled, that but few of them were able to escape over the Severn, to Somersetshire. Ibid 506.

Died Gwrgan, the Prince of Glamorgan, and 1030. Howel ap Morgan succeeded him. Ibid 506.

The English came to Gwentland, and were met 1032. by Caradoc ap Iestin who gave them battle, where he was killed and the English marched to Glamorgan, where the battle of Ystradowain took place, and Cynan ap Seissyllt and all his sons were slain. Rotpert ap Seissyllt then opposed the English, and fought with them at Llan Cwywan, where victory decided in favor of the Welsh. Ibid 507.

The English of Somersetshire landed in Glamor- 1039. gan, and burnt the castles of Dindryvan and Tre-vuvered. Ibid 512.

A.D. 1069. Caradoc ap Rhytherch ap Iestin, with a great army of Normans, attacked Meredith ap Owen, Prince of South Wales, at a place called Llan Vedw, on the banks of the Rumney; where Owen was slain, and Caradoc succeeded to the Principality, Ibid 518.

1080. Gryffith ap Cynan, the second time brought an army of Irish into Wales, and gave battle to Trehaern ap Caradoc, on Carno mountain, where the conflict was severe, and great number fell on both sides, Trehaern was killed, and Gryffith made Prince of North Wales. Ibid 522.

The same year, Rhys ap Tewdwr entered the lands of Iestin ap Gwrgan, and destroyed the castles of Denis Powis, Llan Illtud, and Dindryban; and Iestin destroyed the Vale of Tywi and Brecknockshire. Iestin this year began the building of Caerdiff. Ibid 522.

1085. Peace was made between Iestin ap Gwrgan and William the Conqueror. Ibid 522.

1087. Cadwgan, Madoc, and Rhirid, the sons of Bleddyn ap Cynvyn, brought a great army against Rhys ap Tewdwr, which obliged him to fly to Ireland for succour: during his absence, Iestin ap Gwrgan destroyed his country; but Rhys soon returned with a very great force, and a battle ensued between him and his enemies, at a place called Llechryd, in South Wales; in which Madoc and Ririd were killed and Cadwgan fled with the remains of his army. Ibid 523.

1088. About this time, died, Cadivor ap Collwyn; his sons Llewelyn and Eineon, and his brother Eineon ap Collwyn, encouraged Gryffith ap Meredith to go to war with Rhys ap Tewdwr, and a battle took place at Llandydoch; in which Gryffith was taken prisoner and beheaded; and Llewelyn and Eineon, the sons of Cadivor, were slain; but Eineon ap Collwyn fled to Iestin ap Gwrgan, who was at variance with Rhys ap Tewdwr. This Eineon had been serving as an officer in the English army, in France, and other countries, and proposed to Iestin to apply to the King of England, with whom he was in favor, for assistance to Iestin against Rhys ap Tew-

dwr; and in return for this kindness, Iestin, promised to give him his daughter in marriage and to give her for a portion, the lordship of Misgin. upon these conditions Eineon went to London, and succeeded in obtaining the assistance proposed; for Robert Fitzamon, and twelve knights, with a considerable army, came to Glamorgan and joined Iestin, and with their joint forces they Marched into the territory of Rhys ap Tewdwr, which they destroyed with fire and sword. When Rhys heard of their proceedings, he marched with his army, and met the enemy near the confines of Brecknockshire, at a place called Hirwain-wrgan, where a most bloody battle ensued, and Rhys was forced to fly, being pursued and taken in Glyn Rhodneu, he was there beheaded. The place is now called *Pen Rhys*. They then continued the pursuit, and overtook Gronow, the son of Rhys, whom they likewise beheaded. There was another son of Rhys, whose name was Cynan; who was so closely pursued in his retreat towards the Vale of Tywi, that to save his life he attempted to swim over a lake called Cremlyn, in which he was drowned; from this circumstance the lake is ever since called Pwll Cynan. After this, Robert Fitzamon returned and gathered his men together on Twyn Colwyn where they were paid for their service by Iestin, in pure Gold; and the place has ever since been called the *Filtir aur* (Golden mile.) They then departed for England; and Eineon ap Colwyn went to Iestin, and demanded the performance of the conditions agreed upon before Eineon went to London; but Iestin refused his daughter to him, and said he should do better with her than to give her to a Traitor. Eineon went immediately to Robert Fitzamon and his Companions, and represented to them the insult he had received, and how easily the country might be taken from Iestin, as he was universally hated by his subjects; they were soon persuaded to return, upon which, Eineon went to Robert ap Seissyllt, and other nobles, that he knew bore no good will towards Iestin, and informed them of

the plan laid for his destruction; these chiefs gathered their forces and joined the English, and attacked Iestyn and his army on Mynydd bychan, (Cardiff Heath) where he was defeated, and forced to fly. Ibid 525.

Iestyn, after his defeat, went over the Severn, to Glastonbury, in Somersetshire, and from thence to Bath, and came from there to Gwentland, where he died in the monastery of Llangenys. Ibid 526.

A.D. 1090. Roger Montgomery took the castle of Baldwin, made it very strong, and called it after his own name, Montgomery (the present name of the county.) Ibid 527.

1091. Robert S. Quintin built a wall round the town of Cowbridge, and erected the castle of Llanbleithan; and the same year, Roger Bererolles built the castle of Saint Athan. Ibid 527.

1092. The castles of Llandunwyd, Trevuvered, and Cynffig, were built with stones, whereas before they were made of wood. Ibid 527.

1093. There was a scarcity of corn and other provisions through the whole island of Great Britain; and great numbers died of famine. Ibid 528.

1094. The Normans destroyed Gower, Cydweli, and the Vale of Tywi; and William de Londres built a strong castle at Cydweli. During this time, the people of Glamorgan and Gwaunllwg revolted and destroyed the castles of the Normans, and made Pain Turberville, the lord of Coety, their leader, (who was married to Assar, the daughter and heiress of Meyric ap Gryffith ap Iestyn) and he marched with an army against Cardiff, and began to demolish the castle, upon which Robert Fitzamon sent to enquire the cause, he was answered, that the Welsh were desirous of having their ancient customs and privileges restored, according to the laws of Howel Dda; and when Robert understood the strength of the force collected against him, he thought most politic to grant. Ibid 529.

The same year, died William Fitzbaldwin, before he finished the castle of Rhydycors; and the Welsh came suddenly on his men, put them all to death, and destroyed the castle. Ibid 530.

The same year, the battle of Gelli Darvawc was fought between the Welsh and Normans, in which the latter were defeated with great loss. soon after, another battle was fought between the Welsh and Normans, who had received a reinforcement of English. The Welsh fled before their enemies to the mountains of Brecknockshire, where they halted and became assailants in their turn, and compleatly routed their opponents, leaving but few to escape with their lives. As the men of Glamorgan were returning home, they were met at Gellygare by the Earl of Arundel, and several other Norman Earls and Princes that were going to assist Robert Fitzamon: a battle ensued, and the Normans were defeated with the loss of all their chiefs. Ibid 530.

This year, the sea overflowed its banks to a very great extent, in Monmouthshire and Glamorgan, and many men and beasts were drowned. At the same time a similar calamity happened in North Wales, England, France, and Ireland. Ibid 532.

Llewelyn ap Cadwgan was slain by the men of Brecknock, under the command of Bernard Newmarch; and Howel ap Ithel, of Tegengle, was obliged to fly to Ireland. Ibid 533.

Harry Beaumont built the castles of Swansea, Loughor, Llanrhidian, and Pen Rhys; the latter was built on the spot where Rhys ap Caradoc ap Iestyn was beheaded. Ibid 533.

Cadwgan ap Bleddyn ap Cynvyn made a feast at his castle of Aberteivi, to which all the nobles and great men of the country were invited: he procured the best Bards, Singers, and Musicians in all Wales to entertain the company. Ibid 538.

Robert Fitzamon died in his castle of Newsbri; and the king gave Mabli, the daughter of Robert Fitzamon, in marriage to Robert, his natural son, by Nest, the daughter of Rhys ap Tewdwr, which Nest was after that the wife of Gerald, the governor of Pembroke castle. Ibid. 540.

Robert built a wall round the town of Caerdiff, and brought the river round the town and castle. Morris de Londres built the priory of Wenni, in

*Gellygare*

*A.D. 1097. Sea*

*1098.*

*Caerth*

*1099.*

*1107.*

*1110.*

*1111.*

*Caerdiff*  
*Wenni*



Glamorgan. About the same time, Richard Greenfield, lord of the vale of Neath, returned from the Holy Land, and built Neath abbey, and gave a great part of his estate for its support. He brought with him out of the Land of Canaan, a man of the name of Lalys, that was an excellent Architect, and built several castles and monasteries; and he had lands given him in Llangewydd, where he built Trevlaly, (Laleston) and built the church there. He after that went to London, and was Architect to King Henry. Ibid 541.

- A.D. 1113. This year, the castle and town of Carmarthen were burnt by Gryffith ap Rhys. Ibid 544.
1114. Gryffith ap Rhys took the castle of Cydweli from William de Londres, and destroyed all his lands. Ibid 546.
1116. This year, at Christmas, there were very great floods in England, which destroyed the cattle, and caused a scarcity of provisions. Ibid 550.
1118. King Henry came to Powis with a great army, against Meredith ap Blethyn and Eineon, Madoc and Morgan, the sons of Cadwgan, who attacked and defeated him with great loss. Ibid 551.
1120. The churches of Llandaff, Llanbadarn vawr, Monmouth, and the White House on Tave, were rebuilt, having been destroyed in the times of war. Ibid 552.
1133. Robert the son of William the Conqueror, died in the castle of Cardiff, and was buried in Gloucester; he had been a prisoner at Cardiff thirty six years. Ibid 557.
1137. Owen ap Gryffith ap Cynan destroyed the castles of Ystradmeiric, Pontstyffan, (Lampeter) and the castle and town of Carmarthen. Ibid 559.
1148. The Castle of Llanrhystyd was built by Cadwalader ap Gryffith. Ibid 563.

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- Wales wasted by the Mercians, 24. By King Egbert, *ibid.* Divided into three provinces, 27. Invaded by the English, 52. Forcibly managed by Ievav and Iago princes of North Wales only, 56. Afflicted by the Danes, and a murrain, 65. Gives hostages to pay the antient tribute, 95. Seldom governed by the right heir, 109. Wasted by the English as far as Anglesey, 121. Embroiled with civil divisons, 151. Item, 153, 154. In great scarcity, 276. Annexed to the crown of England, 300.

- Tomb*  
 Walwey, King Arthur's nephew, his tomb found, whose body was of a prodigious length, 110.  
 Welsh quarrel amongst themselves, 22. Ibid. 23. They defeat the Mercians at Conwey, and call it Dial Rhodri, 38. Disable the Danes and English that invaded them, then fall out among themselves, 61. Too late, see the folly of foreign aid, 114. Miserably slaughtered, 130, 131. Being at peace from abroad, they fall to their wonted method of destroying one another, 208. Complain to their prince of their oppression from the English, 272. Beaten by the English, 279. Worst the English, 297, 298. Beaten in Buellt, ibid. Revolt because of an heavy tax from Edward I. every where, 306. Beat the English, 307. Take the king's carriages, ibid. Routed by the Earl of warwick, 308. Beat the marchers, but are at last overcome, and their leader Madoc made prisoner, 309.  
 Welsh minstrels reformed, whereof were three sorts, 159.  
 William duke of Normandy claims the crown of England 98. Lands at Hastings, and defeats the English, 100.  
 William I. goes with an army on pilgrimage to St. David's, 110.  
 William Rufus invades the Welsh without success, 118. Idem, 120. Killed, 122.

FINIS.

