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Editorial

To stand in the silent hall of a deserted country mansion and there contemplate the processes of ruin and decay that follow the flight of the last unwilling tenant is to endure a sad experience of our time and one need not regret the social revolution of the past generation to lament the dilapidation of those fine old houses and their parks that once graced the countryside.

Unpeopled, these amiable dwellings succumb to erosion with astonishing speed. The rain that fathers the verdant landscape is here the great destroyer, aided as often as not by the lead thieves who, for furtive gain, mock an ancient pride, fashioned with the materials of the builder's craft. The thief and the weather do their worst; lead is stripped, slates are dislodged and water, the insidious enemy, forces a triumphant but destructive entry.

Soon the clock-like drip is a cascade, gleefully wreaking its lacerating purpose; rotting timbers collapse and the once grand staircase is a grisly heap of grotesque detritus, in which finely turned balusters are a house's broken bones. Fungus presides where old men took their wine, where women gossiped gracefully and children toiled in play. Silent are the pleasant and the angry voices; departed are the merry and the surly tenants; and home is a skull with many eyeless sockets that once were windows on a squire's little world.

Of such a house and its people Mr. D. L. Baker-Jones writes in his contribution on Edwinstford. Dead the house may now be, but its history lives and the letters of its inhabitants still survive to interest us a half a dozen generations later. Who will suppress a smile at Lady Diana's early nineteenth century complaint about the tuck-box pilfered in transit to London? Who will withhold admiration for her command to have it weighed and marked in future?

But change is mindful of no social class, no domain or industry; it touches all with a chastening cautery that dispenses pain and new health. Thus the Rt. Hon. James Griffiths is saddened by the closure of the old mines for ever, to reflect that the present reality has not matched the dream of a life-time past; the mines have been nationalised only to compete with inevitable change, forced by the challenge of oil, natural gas and nuclear energy. But gone, too, along with the country mansion, is the miner's cottage, no less amiable and doubtless a great deal cosier; domestic affluence, complete with fitted carpets, has come to the masses.

That language, too, is susceptible to change is confirmed by Joseph Gulston's eighteenth century notebooks, which Wales Herald presents for our entertainment and wherein we are told that the sister-in-law of John Dyer, the poet, was 'very flighty'. Two centuries have manifestly modified the connotation evoked by this familiar phrase; nowadays the popular mind at once imagines a flirt, whereas Gulston's context indicates that this most beautiful woman was somewhat feeble-minded, surely by now an archaic meaning, although the dictionary still allows it. But when did flighty people cease to be crazy half-wits and for how long have they been merely flirtatious?

And yet withal, there are assuredly things that change not and among them must be the innate truancy of schoolboys ever since school was invented. A hundred years ago, the Rev. Noel Gibbard reports, a Llanelli schoolmaster logged a 'very small school this afternoon, Tom Thumb in town'. Truly it was and shall be ever thus.

GLO-CARREG

Memories of the Anthracite Coalfield

by *The Rt. Hon. JAMES GRIFFITHS, C.H., M.P.*
Minister of National Insurance 1945-50, Secretary of State for the Colonies, 1950-51 and Charter Secretary of State for Wales, 1964-65.

"Pembrokeshire Coale is called Stone-Coale for the hardness thereof, and is not noysome for the smook nor loathsome for the smell as Ring-Coale is whose smook annoyeth all things near it." (George Owen, Henllys, in a Petition to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in the year 1589).

THE Welsh Anthracite (*Glo-Carreg*) Coalfield spans the valleys of South-West Wales from the head of the Afan Valley across the valleys of the Nedd, Dulais, Tawe, Amman, Gwendraeth and away to Pembrokeshire, where it runs into the sea. This is my coalfield. I was born at its centre in Betws, Sir Gar, which has ever since been the background of my life. I used to help Mam to mix the dust of *glo-carreg* with clay to make the *pele* to put on top of the fire in the kitchen; I held the candle in Father's smithy whilst he sharpened the colliers' mandrils, and I listened to the colliers as they talked of their daily toil. I worked in anthracite mines for sixteen years and bear its blue scars on my body and carry its dust in my lungs. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to my old mates of the mine. They initiated me into public service when they appointed me as a member of the Works Committee; they provided the scholarship which enabled me to enjoy the privilege of two years at the Labour College; they elected me as their Miners' Agent and honoured me with the Presidency of the South Wales Miners' Federation. In half a century of public life, in Trade Union and Parliament *glo-carreg* has been my base. And now, at close of day, I am saddened as I learn of the old mines closing down for ever.

Colliers' Parliament

Welsh anthracite is the best coal in the world. George Owen was justified in advising Her Majesty to change over from "Ring" to "Stone-Coale"—it gives heat without smoke and smell, and, as I discovered as a boy, warming myself at our kitchen fire, it also sends forth blue flames which make a lovely pattern as they curl right up

the chimney. Where I take issue with George Owen is on the geography, not the geology, of *glo-carreg*, for the finest anthracite is to be found in Sir Gar, in my Valley of the Amman and in Mynydd Mawr. In our valley, and beneath our hills, are to be found all the rich veins with their Welsh names: *Wythien Goch*, *Y Fawr*, *Stanlyd*, *Bresen*, *Pumcwart*, *Trichwart*, and *Wythien Fach*. It was in the *Wythien Fach* at Betws Colliery that I started work as a collier's lad in 1904. I was sponsored by my brother, Shoni, to become the second boy to his big mate, Shoni Cardi. The order of the day ran as follows. Call from Mother at 5.45 a.m., then don the uniform of Welsh blue flannel shirt and drawers, moleskin trousers and an old coat with big pockets sewn inside to hold the food box and the water jack; a hasty breakfast and on to the road to reach the pit-top by 6.15 a.m.; then on the spake and down the slant and on to the double-parting and a halt to attend the Miners' Spell (*Mwgyr Gweld*), time for the eyes to adjust to the darkness. This was the Colliers' Parliament, where all the issues of the day were discussed—last Saturday's rigger match, last Sunday's sermon, the stubbornness of the Masters, and, of course, the spicy gossip of the village.

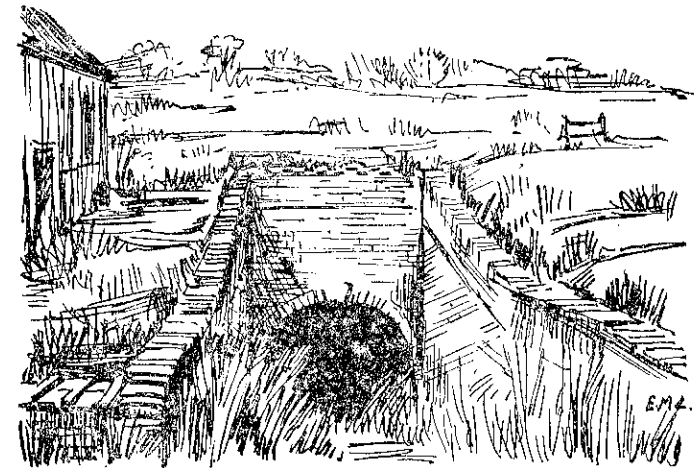
Having put the world to rights, on to the coal-face and the day's work. The first thing to learn was the name of the tools. The two mandrils, *cwt a cham*, each shaped to its special task, the sledge and wedge, the bar and the hated *trowr*, the gadget used to bore the shot-holes in the coal, which always left a mark on the groin. The *Wythien Fach* (Little Vic) was two feet seven inches thick and the stall (roadway) would measure three yards, with seven yards on the top side of the face and five yards on the lower. There was a steep inclination (pitch) in the seam and this added to the burden of the collier's boy, whose job it was to gather the coal, cut by his mate, into the curling box and carry it to the tram. From the top side this was easy, as we could slide it down, but from the bottom side it was hard going pushing the curling box up against the pitch. The collier boy had to be careful to pick only the lumps of coal, as the piece-work collier was only paid for the large coal in the tram. The tram would hold up to thirty hundredweight of coal, and when it was full it was the boy's responsibility to mark the tram, with chalk, with the collier's number and then the number of the tram as filled during the fortnight from one pay to another. I still remember how I marked the first tram—35X 1.

The hours of work at that time were from seven in the morning to half past four in the afternoon, and in the winter months we would see daylight only on Saturday afternoon, when we finished at 1 p.m., and on Sundays. The boy's starting wage was 1s. 3d. per shift, plus the added percentage, and the total came to 1s. 7d.

and I felt very rich when I had my first pay of 19s. after a fortnight's work. Shoni Cardi was a kindly mate and when he gave me my pay he reminded me that "a good boy always gave all his pay to his mother". When I assured him that I would be a good boy, he gave me an extra half-crown to spend. At eighteen years of age, having served five years of apprenticeship, I joined with another of my age to work our own "stall" on shares. So another collier joined the ranks of the miners, the anthracite miners, who were a distinctive race of men even among their fellow miners. To find the reason for this, one must go back to the history of *glo-carreg*.

Era of Small Mines

Until the two big pits were sunk at Cynheidre and Abernant, the anthracite coalfield had been one of small mines, mostly levels and drifts driven into the hillsides. Many of them were opened by the farmer who owned the land, aided by a mining engineer and an experienced "gaffer". Some of them bore the name of the farm, such as Ynysdawela, Gellyceidrym, and Blaenhirwaun. Once a seam of coal was tapped, the practice would be to follow the seam to the



A Disused Drift Mine near Penygroes

boundary, or to the fault. When one seam was worked out and it became necessary to drive down to the lower seam, the Salesman at the docks at Swansea or Llanelli would find the capital as well as the trucks, which bore their names, such as T. T. Pascoe, Griffith Thomas, or Cleeves. It is significant that the first Combine in the anthracite coalfield was formed by Cleeves, the Salesman, who came to own four collieries. Even so, the pits remained small, employing from a hundred up to five hundred workmen. The miners at these

small mines knew each other intimately ; they not only worked in the same mine, but also lived in the same village, attended the same chapel or frequented the same " locals ". In my time I have been privileged to belong to many circles of friends, but none of them have been richer in fellowship than the circle of miners, the men who faced the perils of the pit together and developed the warm fellowship of common danger.

The anthracite coalfield was Welsh in language, customs and way of life. When, from the eighteen-seventies, the coal industry expanded and the cry went out for more and ever more men for the pits, it was from the countryside in Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire that the new men came to our valley. Their nicknames, like Shoni Cardi and Twm Llandyfri, revealed their origin. Sometimes one would be given a funny nickname, like David Jones who came to our pit from the Towy Valley. On his first day at our pit, the elder welcomed him and asked his name, and on being told that it was David Jones, remarked, " We have lots of David Joneses here and we shall have to give you a nickname to mark you out from the others." The newcomer expressed the hope that they would give him a " substantial " nickname and from then on he was labelled Dai Substantial. The multitude of David Joneses revealed the essential Welsh character of the anthracite worker and to this day he has remained the bulwark of our language among the industrial workers of South Wales.

The First Union

The *glo-carreg* collier was a staunch trade unionist. One of the characters in my valley, Griffis Pugh, on hearing that some men in another coalfield were refusing to join the Union, expressed surprise that they could be so *twp*. "*Fe ddylen fod yn gwybod mai dim ond dau rhaid sydd, talu'r Undeb a marw,*" said Griffis. The first miners' union in the anthracite area was founded at *Gwter Fawr*, as Brynamman was once known. It was popularly described as *Yr Undeb Ddwy Geiniog* (The Twopenny Union), as the men at each colliery sent a contribution of two-pence per month to sustain an Anthracite District Meeting, held every month and to which each colliery sent a delegate. The first Miners' Agent to serve the anthracite industry was Daronwy Isaac, a full-blooded Welshman with an eloquent tongue and literary flourish. He was in due time to form a close friendship with William Abraham (Mabon) and the friendship was later to bring the miners of *glo-carreg* into membership of the South Wales Miners' Federation, but only on the condition that all the anthracite collieries would remain in the Anthracite District Meeting and that the District would hold onto its prerogatives.

It was in 1910 that I first attended this District Meeting (*Cwrdd Dosbarth Glo-Carreg*) as delegate from Gwaith Ucha, Betws. The meetings were then held at the vestry of the Unitarian Chapel in Swansea's High Street. Delegates were present from sixty anthracite collieries as far apart as the Rock Colliery in the Vale of Neath to the Hook Colliery in Pembrokeshire. On the platform were the officers: the Chairman for the year, Tom Morris of Gellyceidrim Colliery, Glanamman, and on either side of him the Miners' Agent, John D. Morgan of Ystradgynlais, and the Secretary, Dafydd Morgan of Rhos Colliery, Tycroes and behind the triumvirate the Treasurer, another John D. Morgan, of Cwmgors. In the front seat the elders were assembled, strong men like Willie Owen, Blaenywaun, Brynamman, William Bifan, Caerbryn, Penygroes, Rees Morgan, Dynant, Cwmawr, and Joseph Roberts, Pontyberem. They were the stalwart upholders of the " platform " against the assaults of those of us who belonged to the younger and more militant section. When the issue seemed in doubt, one of the elders would rise to counsel caution. They would always speak in Welsh, beginning in sonorous tones with, "*Mr. Cadeirydd, Barchus Oruchwyliwr* (Miners' Agent), *a Chyd Gynrychiolwyr*". Their theme was invariably: "*Gan bwyll, mae mynd yn bell*". And the impatient came to nickname them *yr hen gan bwyll*.

Three Principles

The three perennial topics at these monthly meetings were: the lost 5 per cent, the seniority rule and the price of powder ; and the three are woven into the history of *glo-carreg*.

First, the lost five per cent. The miners' pay was made up of two elements, the standard rate and the added percentage. The standard rate had been fixed in 1879, the two basic rates being four shillings and sevenpence (*pedwar a saith*) for the coal-face hewer, and three shillings and fourpence (*tri a grot*) for the other underground workers. To this would be added a percentage which originally had been determined in accordance with a sliding scale agreed to between the South Wales coal-owners and the various local miners' associations (excluding the anthracite districts). This scale was based on the price of coal, free on board, at the South Wales ports. The basic agreed price of twelve shillings a ton carried 5 per cent added to the 1879 standard, and for every shilling above that basic price an additional $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent would be paid, up to a maximum price of twenty-one shillings a ton ; above that price, all went to the coffers of the owners. When the sliding scale was settled, the anthracite area was the Cinderella of the coalfield. The market was mainly domestic, such as brewing, malting and horticulture (glass-houses).

The anthracite owners insisted that the percentage in the *glo-carreg* mines should be 5 per cent less than that determined by the sliding scale. The lower percentage had been fixed on the insistence of the Chairman of the South Wales Coalowners' Association, Sir William Thomas Lewis (later the first Lord Merthyr). It was no wonder that the old colliers used to sing:

*Pan aiff Sir Wil i'r bedd,
Yr hen golier-ddaw i'w hedd.*

The lost five per cent was on the agenda of every District Meeting. In my early days the expert on this topic was Wil Jones, Pum Heol, who had learnt mathematics at the Higher Grade School, Llanelli, and was able to reveal the robbery with graphs on the blackboard.

There was another aspect of the Cinderella position of *glo-carreg*—the seasonal character of the trade. Many anthracite pits would close down for three to six months every year. The colliers would tramp over the mountains to the "Steam", the favourite place being the Mount (Mountain Ash). To safeguard their rights at their old mine, it was agreed that when it was reopened the re-employment of the migrant miners at the mine would be on the principle of the seniority rule (*rheol blaenoriaeth*). In this way the older miners were protected. The seniority rule was the Magna Charta of the anthracite miners and any attempted violation of the rule by the employers was always bitterly resisted. In fact, the only time the anthracite miners staged an all out strike as a separate body was in 1925, when the Combines sought to destroy the seniority rule at one of the Betws collieries.

If the demand for *pwdwr rydd* (free powder) was not on the agenda, then Billy Walters, Abercraf, was sure to raise it under Any Other Business. Anthracite is aptly described as *glo-carreg*, for it is so firmly attached to the stone above and below the vein of coal that every price-list provided for a special payment for "sticking coal". The old collier had his own words for this sticking—*mae 'e mor sounnd a'r Farn*. There was only one way to shift it and that was to blast it out. This meant powder and the collier had to pay for the powder. At first, they were allowed to use a low explosive—*pwdwr du*. This black powder was reasonably cheap, but was later banned by H.M. Inspector of Mines as too dangerous and the collier had to use Nobel's high explosive—*pwdwr gwyn*. This had two disadvantages for the collier; first, it shattered the coal, and as the collier was only paid for large coal it reduced his earnings; second, it was more expensive to buy and the cost would often mount to as much as £1 a fortnight—a big slice out of the pay. And it was not

only the pay-dockets that suffered from the "white powder" but also the colliers' lungs. Many of the old colliers would lament that "this terrible silicosis" came with Nobel's white powder. Billy Walters was the valiant champion for free powder and there could be no District Meeting without a demand from Abercraf for *pwdwr rydd i'r colliers*.

Between The Wars

The world has never been the same since the 1914-18 war. This is certainly true of the colliers' world. In the year before Armageddon, 1913, fifty-six million tons of coal were produced in the South Wales coalfield, and thirty-six millions of it were exported to all corners of the earth. Soon after the end of the war, the big slide began and it has been one long slide ever since. And yet, for a few years in the nineteen-twenties, the anthracite coalfield enjoyed an Indian Summer. The movement for clean air brought an increased demand for smokeless fuel and *glo-carreg* is the best smokeless fuel of all. However, the real boost to the anthracite trade came from the opening up of a new market in Canada. My old Parliamentary colleague, J. H. (Jimmy) Thomas, used to take pride in having found this new market when he was Dominions Secretary. "I've done a good turn to my native 'eath," he used to boast. The Canadian trade had the double advantage that it not only increased the demand but that it filled the order-books for the slack season, the summer months, for the shipments to Canada were limited to the summer, when the ships could sail up the St. Lawrence river.

The new prosperity soon brought Big Business to *glo-carreg* and within a few years the whole coalfield was bought over by three combines, the Mond combine under the name of the Amalgamated Anthracite Company, the Szarvazy United Company, and the Beddoe Rees Welsh Anthracite Company. The family companies and the other small companies sold out on very good terms, some of them receiving a price equal to £4 for every £1 capital in their concerns. The change-over had its drawbacks as well as its gains for the coalfield. The close intimate relationship between owners and workmen was replaced by the depersonalised industrial relations between the all-powerful combine and workers. In the old days, when things went wrong at the mine, the miners could go and see *Y Mishter Mawr* in his mansion on the hillside, but not so with the Combine. As one collier complained, "You can't do anything to these Combines, man, they haven't got a body you can kick, nor a soul you can damn." A deep sense of frustration soured the men and when the Combine violated the sacred principle of the seniority rule the whole anthracite coalfield was engulfed in the most bitter strike in its history.

It was in the aftermath of this explosion that I entered upon my career as Miners' Agent in the Anthracite District. It was a hard task seeking to restore relations with the Combine but, fortunately for me and for the coalfield, a new managing director was appointed to take charge of the Combine. He came to *glo-carreg* fresh from his triumph as a reconciler of the British and the Irish. Sir Alfred Cope had begun his career in the Civil Service as a detective inspector in the Inland Revenue. When David Lloyd George decided in the nineteen-twenties that the time had come to seek an end of the "troubles" in Ireland, Alfred Cope had been assigned the difficult and perilous task of going to Ireland to make contact with the Irish leaders and bring them to London for negotiations to end the war. He it was who sought out Michael Collins and thus paved the way to the talks which eventually resulted in the establishment of Eire. Sir Alfred Mond persuaded Cope to come to take over control of the Combines' mines. As soon as he took over, he invited me to come and see him at his Swansea office. His first words were: "Would you like to hear my Irish story?" And what an entrancing story it was. Cope had arranged to meet De Valera and Michael Collins somewhere in Ireland, but first he had to find his way to a house in one of the back-streets in Dublin, from where he was taken blind-folded in a car to a lonely homestead in the country. He persuaded Collins and some of the other Sinn Fein leaders to come with him to London and having brought them safely to the metropolis left them with L.G. When the secret talks had resulted in an agreement, Cope accompanied the rebel leaders back to Ireland and when his mission was accomplished he was knighted for his services. He ended his story with a moving tribute to Michael Collins and then turned to me with: "And now, what about this anthracite job?" From that first meeting came an arrangement that whenever a dispute threatened to escalate into a strike he would meet the Miners' Agent and have a go at settling it there and then. If there had been a few more Copes among the coalowners in the nineteen-thirties, the story of coal in the years of turmoil might have been different.

Our Pieces of Eight

*Wyth awr i weithio,
Wyth awr yn rydd,
Wyth awr i gysgu,
Wyth swllt y dydd.*

The year was 1907 and with my young mates from the mine I joined in chanting the Miners' Charter on the way to the anthracite miners' annual demonstration at the Albert Hall, Swansea. In the chair was our Miners' Agent, John D. Morgan, and the speakers

were Mabon and Winston Churchill, then the bright young hope of the new Liberal government. The resolution, which we passed with acclamation, not only demanded the implementation of the charter we had chanted but also a demand that the coal-mines should be forthwith nationalised. Forty years later I was a member of the Labour government which nationalised the mines. It was a proud day when the flag of the National Coal Board was hoisted at all the collieries in Britain.

We began with high hopes and for some years our hopes were justified. Wages were increased, conditions improved, and many cherished reforms, such as holidays with pay, at long last achieved. But, as time went on, and in spite of the substantial improvements in the material conditions of life, something seemed to be lost. The old skills were replaced by the new with the advent of the machines to the coal-face; the intimate relationship between work and neighbourhood was broken, as with the closure of so many mines the men had to travel farther to work and the Coal Board became too remote. Life is like this; somehow or other, the reality never seems to match up to the dream. Given time, I am sure that the men in the industry, managers and workmen, would have found the way to a new era in industrial relations, but before this could be achieved, the scientist and technologist came on the scene with their discoveries of rivals for coal—oil, sea-gas, and nuclear energy—and coal has to wage a hard struggle to survive.

The Colour of Anthracite

It is sad to have to watch the inevitable decline of the industry which for sixty years has been the background to one's life and interest. I grew up with the coal industry in the years of its expansion, and now, as I grow old, I am saddened as the news comes, almost daily, of another mine closing and I am filled with *hiraeth* for *'slawer dydd*. I go to the corner cupboard and take out the shining piece of anthracite coal, skilfully and artistically carved into an inkstand, which my old mates at Ammanford presented to me when I became a Minister of the Crown in 1945. And as I gaze at it the colour which *glo-carreg* seems to give out excites the memory and I seem to see the old characters with whom I worked as boy and man, those men whose rich variety of character comes back vividly to mind.

Here is Twm Penyrargoed, with whom I served most of my years of apprenticeship at Gwaith Ycha, Betws. He was a craftsman at the coal-face and a beloved vagabond once he escaped from the pit. Once away, he followed the seasons like a true poacher.

In the spring, accompanied by his brindle greyhound, Jack, and with the ferret tucked in behind his shirt, he would roam the hillside to hunt the hares and rabbits. When the days grew short in the autumn he would take his pit-lamp home to act as a beacon-light as he poached what he called *twops*, the salmon that came up the Cennen to spawn. The rest of his calendar was determined by the fairs, with *Ffair Gwyl Barna* at Llandeilo and *Ffair John Brown* at Carmarthen as the highlights of the season. One day, long after I had left the mine and embarked on a career in public life, the sad news came that Twm had been fatally injured by a fall of stone. I sought a corner and shed a tear for the old poacher who taught me my craft and beguiled away the long hours down below with his stories.

And next, the old collier, with his lame leg which was the price he paid for coal, and who was my guide, philosopher and friend—Johnny James, Cwmgors. He used to say to me that the luckiest thing that happened to him was the broken leg, for then his father made up his mind that Johnny should not go back to the mine and found the money for him to become a student at Watcyn Wyn's Academy at Gwynfryn, Ammanford. After a year with Wat, as he called him, and when he seemed to be on his way to the pulpit, the miners at Cwmgors appointed him as their checkweigher, and he later became Miners' Agent in the Anthracite District and in the fulness of time I became his colleague. Since those days, I have walked and talked with many learned men but have yet to hear as fascinating a discourse as that I heard from Johnny James on Bergson's *Creative Evolution*. If only he had been born two generations later and enjoyed the educational opportunities open to the youth of today, Wales might have bequeathed another eminent scholar to the world. And of these sons of *glo-carreg*, whose minds and souls reach from the pit-bottom to the skies, my brother Amanwy has sung in his poem to *Yr Hen Gwm*:

*Yma y gwelais Dduw ar ei hawddgara',
A dyn yn dringo i'w myyl ambell dro,
Wrth droi ei ddoyn o ddŵr a darn o fara
Yn sacrament yng ngwyll y talcen glo.*

EDWINSFORD

A Country House and its Families

by D. L. BAKER-JONES, M.A.

Llandysul Grammar School.

IN 1803 a London antiquary spent several weeks travelling in South Wales. One day he crossed from Lampeter to Llandeilo, passing through Llansawel and Talley. He described what he saw in these words—"The sun had now dispersed the mists through which we set out, and shone direct on the vale: from its verdant level, high hills enjoying different degrees of cultivation, rose on every side; and under one of them, at the further end of the valley, the well whitened village [sc. Llansawel] sparkled through the intervening foliage. This valley was immediately succeeded by another called Edwinsford, a delightful spot . . .".¹

The valley of the Cothi remains as attractive and romantic as ever it was, but the mansion-house of Edwinsford has sadly decayed—a prey to social change and a way of life undreamt of by our ancestors. This short article is an attempt to convey something of the history of Edwinsford and its owners, and to recapture a fleeting glance at one of the great houses of Carmarthenshire.

The Williams Family

The Edwinsford genealogy takes us back to a remote period in Welsh history.² The Williams family of Rhydodin claimed descent from princely and royal blood. Through Rhys ap Tewdwr, they descended from Hywel Dda and Rhodri Mawr, and through Ellen wife of Llywelyn ap Phylip from Henry I of England. It will be recalled that Nest the famous daughter of Rhys ap Tewdwr had many paramours, and was clearly a woman of great charm and beauty.³ Not without reason was she known as the 'Helen of Wales', and her numerous offspring included Angharad the mother of Giraldus Cambrensis, Henry 'filius regis' her son by Henry I, and also Idio Wyllt, Earl of Desmond, by Sutrick Centrick or Wygen—an Irish adventurer.⁴ Idio Wyllt gave assistance to Rhys ap Tewdwr against the Normans, and for his services was given the lordship of

¹ *A Tour Throughout South Wales and Monmouthshire* by J. T. Barber, F.S.A., London, 1803.

² *Annals of Counties and County Families of Wales* by Thomas Nicholas. Vols. I and II London 1872. *Transactions—Historical Society of West Wales*. Vol. I Carmarthen 1912.

³ *The Dictionary of Welsh Biography*. London, 1959.

⁴ *loc. cit.*

Llywel. Dwnn calls him "Eidio Wylt Arglwydd Llywel".⁵ It was one of Idio's descendants, Trahaearn, who married Joan, daughter and co-heiress of Gruffydd ap Meurig Goch of Rhydodin.

Through the centuries the *uchelwyr* of Edwinsford married into other famous Welsh houses, such as,—the Morgans of Tredegar, the Vaughans of Golden Grove and the Philipps clan of Cilsant. We read, for example of one Dafydd ap Llywelyn of Edwinsford who married Angharad, daughter and heiress of Sir Morgan Maredudd, Knight, Lord of Tredegar. Again, Rhys ap William married Gwenllian daughter of Hywel ap Morgan Fychan.

At a later period, David ap Rhys ap William, Esquire, of Rhydodin married Jane daughter of David Phillips of Cilsant. In 1600 their son Rhys Williams, who by now had adopted the English mode of expressing his patronymic, further enlarged his estates by marriage to Jane daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Fychan or Vaughan of Llether Cadfan in the parish of Llangathen.

Llether Cadfan had been an important house in medieval times, and was owned by the Vaughans, who were as influential here as in other parts of Carmarthenshire.⁶ The north chapel in Llangathen Church is known as the Cadfan Chapel, and was at one time the freehold of the family.⁷ Cadfan and its environs had also other claims to fame, for this was the reputed site of a memorable contest in Welsh history—the battle of Coed Llathen. It was here in Whitsun week 1257 that the Welsh fought against the troops of King Henry III, who were led by Stephen Bauzan one of the King's most experienced commanders. But the English were completely routed and Bauzan himself was killed.⁸ Tradition says that the names of the fields in the neighbourhood recall the disastrous defeat of the English. Thus we have *cae dial* (field of vengeance), *cae yr ochain* (field of groaning), *cae tranc* (field of death), *llain dwng* (field of oaths), *congl y waedd* (corner of shouting) and they strongly suggest a disaster of some magnitude which has long survived in popular memory.⁹ Again, Nant Steffanau, the brook that drains the valley from Broad Oak to Pentrefelin, may well remind us of the terrible retribution which overtook Stephen Bauzan.

⁵ *Heraldic Visitations of Wales* by Lewis Dwnn. Ed. S. R. Meyrick. Llandoverly, 1806.

⁶ For a full account of the Vaughans see various articles entitled "The Vaughans of Golden Grove" by Major Francis Jones, T.D., D.L., M.A., F.S.A., in *The Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion*, as from Session 1963, Part I.

⁷ *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire*. Vol. v, County of Carmarthen. London, H.M.S.O. 1917.

⁸ *A History of Carmarthenshire*, edited by Sir J. E. Lloyd, Vols. I and II. Cardiff, 1935.

⁹ *loc cit.*

But to return to the Williams family of Rhydodin. Rhys Williams was High Sheriff of Carmarthenshire in 1614, and thereby held a position of power and authority, in that the custody of the county was committed to him by the Crown. And from now on the family was destined to play a prominent part in the social and political life of Carmarthenshire.¹⁰

Rhys Williams was succeeded by Nicholas Williams, who married a daughter of Sir Marmaduke Lloyd, Knight, of Macesyfelin, Cardiganshire. Through him the family continued to hold influence, and Nicholas Williams held the office of High Sheriff in 1665. In those days families vied with one another for royal favour and patronage, and the result was that Rice Williams son of Nicholas Williams received a Knighthood. Sir Rice was twice married. Firstly he married Joan daughter of Sir Roger Lort, Baronet, of Stackpole, Pembrokeshire. She died without leaving issue, and his second wife was Mary the daughter and co-heiress of John Vaughan, Esquire, of Llanelli. In fact this lady was a great niece of the 1st Earl of Carbery.

Sir Rice served as High Sheriff in 1680, and died on 27 February 1694. He lies buried in Talley Church, and is remembered chiefly in connection with religious affairs in the county following the Declaration of Indulgence of 1687. The object of this measure by James II appeared to be the suspension of laws against Roman Catholics and Dissenters, and ostensibly allowed them full rights to hold civil and military posts. But in fact the Kings' true purpose was to retain all his powers under the royal prerogative, and in this way James thought he could restore Catholic worship, even in the teeth of national sentiment. Many Protestant Dissenters realised what was afoot, and even Anglican officers of the crown feared what was to come. In the counties Lords and Deputy Lieutenants, Justices of the Peace and others were asked whether they would support the measure. Most replies were in the negative and of the Welsh justices two gave very qualified assent.¹¹ This showed the way the wind was blowing. We find that Sir Rice Williams of Edwinsford would only agree provided "the preservation of ye Protestant religion" was guaranteed. He expressed his opinion in clear terms and frankly stated that the existing penal laws against Dissenters were contrary to the primitive principles of Christianity. But his protest was a voice crying in the wilderness.

Sir Rice Williams left five sons—Nicholas, John, Walter, Charles and Thomas. His younger brother John possessed an adventurous

¹⁰ *Annals of Edwinsford, Clovelly and Hawthornden* by F. D. Williams-Drummond, Rhydedwyn, 1924.

¹¹ *loc cit.*

spirit and distinguished himself in the Royal Navy. Nicholas was created a Baronet by Queen Anne in 1708. He followed his ancestors by becoming High Sheriff for the county and represented it in three successive parliaments. By a deed dated 16 April 1734 he was appointed Chamberlain of the town and borough of Brecon, and of the counties of Brecon, Radnor and Glamorgan. On 9 July of the same year a warrant was signed authorising the Receiver of Wales to pay Sir Nicholas £100 a year in respect of this office. On 11 June 1736 Sir Nicholas was appointed Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum for Carmarthenshire. This office originated in 1557 and amongst its obligations was the organisation of the Militia of each shire, the review of men, armour and munitions, and the administration of justice and local government through magistrates virtually appointed by the Lord Lieutenant. This position of trust and responsibility helped to consolidate the rising influence of Edwinstford. Hitherto, the great land-owning family of Vaughan of Golden Grove had held sway during the first half of the eighteenth century. But now new forces were emerging to challenge their power. We read of Philipps of Picton and Cwmgwili, Rice of Dynevor and Williams of Edwinstford jockeying for supremacy as the leaders of rival factions in county politics. Parliamentary elections were in essence contests between squires or their nominees. As early as 1722 Sir Nicholas Williams had ousted Griffith Rice as Member of Parliament for the county. But the contest had not been straightforward. Rice the sitting member had polled 592 votes and Sir Nicholas was defeated with 587. On petition the latter gained the seat and the Under Sheriff was fined £500 for "foul play". In 1727 Sir Nicholas retained his seat against Richard Gwynne of Talaris. Again in 1734 he defeated Sir Edward Mansel after what was regarded as "sham opposition". In effect the Whig power represented by Sir Nicholas prevailed against the Tory faction from 1722 until his death in 1745.

Sir Nicholas' private life was rather less auspicious. His wife was Jane Mary Cocks daughter of Charles Cocks and niece of the celebrated Lord Chancellor, Lord Somers. On 25 June 1720 articles of separation were drawn up between them, by which he allowed her £100 a year. She was to take with her "Her cloaths, Towells and also her horse and furniture thereunto belonging, which she usually rides upon, and also her Dressing Glass, Comb Box, Powder Box and Patch Box, and her Books, etc". But no further steps were taken to annul the marriage.

Sir Nicholas died without issue on 19 July 1745 in his sixty-fifth year, and was buried in the family vault at Talley. He was regarded as a great personality, who had represented the county for twenty-three years in Parliament, and one who was a champion of truth and liberty. His memorial in Talley Church records that "his unshaken virtue and integrity in an age of falsehood and corruption

will be remembered to after ages". If we are to believe all that this grandiose memorial says, he was humane, charitable, benevolent and well endowed with Christian virtues. It appears that he was a great sportsman and his silver hunting horn used to be preserved at Edwinstford. One of the picturesque heights overlooking the mansion and the Cothi valley is known as Pïgyn Syr Nicholas. It was during his lifetime that much was done to improve the house and gardens at Edwinstford. At the beginning of the seventeenth century the nucleus of the present mansion was built, replacing the old Welsh house of Rhydodin mentioned by Lewis Glyn Cothi.¹²

But the time had come to rebuild and embellish the existing house and its surroundings. Of Sir Nicholas' renovations at Edwinstford the most notable was the apartment known as Sir Nicholas' Room with its rib and panel plaster ceiling. An early dormer window with leaden quarries remains and provides an interesting example of the decorative taste of the early eighteenth century. Again, leaden statuettes were placed on the ridge line of the roof and in the ornamental grounds of the house. These figures were usually of local casting, and in all likelihood the Edwinstford examples were executed at Carmarthen during the years 1700—1710. There are two very spirited casts of Mercury—remarkably fine examples of this art—and a figure of Sir Nicholas Williams' gamckeeper with his gun to his shoulder and spaniel dog at his heel. There was, it is said, a similar figure of the dairy maid of the day, which was blown down and damaged beyond repair early in the eighteenth century. There is in addition a leaden figure of a most truculent looking boar, which formerly occupied a site in the farm-yard. In the garden is a fine old sundial, with the inscription—"Sir Nicholas Williams, Baronet, 1710" and the Williams' crest, a lion rampant, and motto, *Mea Virtute me involvo*.¹³ Sir Nicholas, as we have seen, died without issue and was succeeded by his brother Thomas Williams. Actually Sir Nicholas had four brothers in all: (i) John, who married Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Johnes of Dolaucothi and Llanfair Clydogau, who died *sine prole* in 1729, (ii) Walter, (iii) Charles, (iv) Thomas, of Great Russell Street, Middlesex.

On 10 March 1746 he succeeded his brother as Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum. He was also appointed Chancellor and Chamberlain of the counties of Carmarthen, Pembroke, and Cardigan. Thomas married firstly Arabella daughter and co-heiress of John Vaughan of Court Derliys, who died without issue. Secondly he married Anne, daughter of William Singleton of London, by whom he had two daughters. Bridget, the elder, married Robert Bankes Hodgkinson, Esquire, of Overton and also of Rhydodin in the right of his wife. Hodgkinson was High Sheriff of Carmarthenshire

¹² See Appendix.

¹³ loc. cit.

in 1784 and member of Parliament for Wareham in the county of Dorset. He died in 1792, and while he resided in Carmarthenshire took part in political and public affairs, and made some improvements at Edwinstord. He arranged for the Edwinstord bridge across the Cothi to be rebuilt, transforming it into one span in place of the two it formerly had. There is a stone upon the parapet which reads: "This Bridge is the sole Property of the Family of Edwinstord. Rebuilt by Robert Bankes Hodgkinson, Esq., 1783." The work of rebuilding was actually carried out by one of the Edwards brothers of Pontypridd, whose eminent father William Edwards is remembered as the architect of the famous Pontypridd Bridge.

Advent of the Hamlyns

As Hodgkinson and Bridget Williams died without issue the Edwinstord estate passed to Thomas Williams' younger daughter Arabella who had married Sir James Hamlyn, 1st Baronet, of Clovelly Court, Devonshire.

At this time Clovelly was a small fishing village situated on a romantic steep descending to the southern shore of Bideford Bay.¹⁴ The manor of Clovelly was an ancient demesne of the crown, and was settled by William the Conqueror on his consort Matilda. In the reign of Richard II it was possessed by Sir John Cary, Knight.

Subsequently the Clovelly estate was purchased by one Zachary Hamlyn of Lincoln's Inn for the sum of £9,426 and devised by him to his great nephew James Hammett. The latter took the name of Hamlyn by deed of George III in 1795. On 11 June 1762 he had married, Arabella, younger daughter of Thomas Williams of Edwinstord and niece of the great Sir Nicholas Williams. On 7 July 1795 a baronetcy was granted to James Hamlyn, and the marriage between him and Arabella Williams brought about the merger of the Edwinstord and Clovelly estates for generations.

Sir James Hamlyn represented the county in the two parliaments of April 1793 and June 1796, in the first instance vice the Hon. George Talbot Rice on his accession to the peerage. In the 1796 election Hamlyn had to contest against Magens Dorien Magens, a wealthy London banker, who had married into the Dynevor family. It was during his period as M.P. that Hamlyn obtained his baronetcy, and to this added the offices of Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum. Sir James took an enlightened interest in the Edwinstord estate and its management. He carried out much rebuilding there and erected a new stable block in 1802. A tablet above the archway records the fact.

¹⁴ *Devonshire and Cornwall Illustrated etc.*, by T. Britton and E. W. Brayley. London, 1832.

At this time there was much coming and going between Edwinstord and Clovelly and Sir James Hamlyn kept in constant communication with his agent and bailiff at Edwinstord, David Thomas. From the following two letters we infer that the family sometimes travelled by sea to Clovelly, was much interested in agricultural pursuits and enjoyed the services of a Welsh harper.

Clovelly Court,
30th November, 1799.

Dear Mr. Thomas,

I received your letter and gave that enclosed to Mr. Williams. He was here for a day, and is gone to Clifton to escort his wife here, and I expect them all the latter end of next week.

The Vessel (Mr. Philipps' Yacht) came here without-the-things sent to Carmarthen. She is returned to Wales, and is expected to come here again very soon.

You do not say whether you sent the Cradle Spit, and I do not see it in the list of things at Carmarthen.

I hope the fine weather we have lately had has enabled you to finish your tillage on Brinabbon. I have had six and eight ploughs a day, and have nearly finished 26 acres in fine order.

I hope this will find the children all well and very good. Your health I hope, too, to have a good account of.

Yours very truly,

JAS. HAMLYN.

Clovelly Court,
Sunday, 5th December, 1802.

Dear Mr Thomas,

You'll be surprised to receive this at the hand of my Coachman. He is sent for my Chariot and the Curricl with the pair of Coach Horses, and the Black Mare and Morgan, with the proper apparatus of Harness, etc., which Richard will of course select, viz., the leading Harness, short traces, long reins and small pieces of leather that makes the Curricl harness answer the purpose of Coach harness.

Two four horse whips and the white, one pair of horse whip, to be packed in the long box that is in the Sportsman's Hall. The Harper and Harp will travel in my chaise. Dio to come with Richard, and of course to drive either the chaise or Curricule as they can best manage the arrangement.

I expect Mrs Williams [i.e. his daughter-in-law, Diana] here on Tuesday next, and hope all things turning out well, that the importation from Wales will arrive on Friday next.

Yours very truly,

JAS. HAMLYN.¹⁵

Sir James Hamlyn died in London on 8 June 1811 aged 76 and was buried in the Clovelly family vault. His wife, Dame Arabella, had predeceased him in May 1797 in the fifty-eighth year of her age and was buried at Talley.

There were four children of this marriage—James, Zachary, Priscilla and Arabella. On the death of his mother, James, being the only surviving son and heir apparent, assumed the surname and arms of Williams by a grant from Garter King of Arms dated 14 March 1798.

He succeeded to the title and estates on his father's death in 1811. James Hamlyn Williams married on 22 June 1789, Diana Anne daughter of Abraham Whittaker Esquire of Stratford, Essex. He was elected M.P. for Carmarthen in 1802 and died in December 1829 at Clovelly, where he was buried.

The election of 1802-3 has been regarded as one of the most bitter in the parliamentary annals of Carmarthenshire. Since 1793 the county seat had been held by Sir James Hamlyn of Edwinstford, who, as we have seen, had married the ultimate heiress to that estate. He was a member of the Tory faction, but in 1802 the Whigs introduced a new candidate for the county in the person of Sir William Paxton of Middleton Hall. Paxton was a London banker who had made a princely fortune in India and had settled at Middleton Hall about 1794. He was a burgess of Carmarthen and Mayor in 1802 and so wielded much influence. The election opened at Llandeilo on 17 July 1802 and the candidates were James Hamlyn Williams nominated by his father Sir James Hamlyn and William Lewes of Llysnewydd, opposed by William Paxton, whose sponsors were J. G. Philipps of Cwmgwili and J. W. Hughes of Tregib. At the

¹⁵ loc. cit.

close of the day the poll stood—Williams 228, Paxton 87. On 31 July it was reported that the contest was being carried on with much party violence, and that the progress of the poll was slow. The candidates had agreed to vote in 'tallies', i.e. batches of equal number, registered in rotation. Paxton represented a party known as the 'Blues' while Williams had the support of the 'Reds'. Voters were brought from all parts of the kingdom, and finally, after a poll lasting fifteen days, the election came to an end with the return of Williams, with an official poll of 1,217 votes as against Paxton's 1,110.

But this was only the beginning of further party strife. Bitter scenes followed in Carmarthen town as rival factions fought against one another. The candidates were chaired by their supporters and carried 'in trono' through the town. Fighting broke out and a violent conflict followed between "Reds" and "Blues". Lord Dynevor was Williams' chief supporter, while Paxton had more influential backing. At a dinner held later at the Bear Inn, with J. G. Philipps in the chair, some "150 of the principal Gentlemen and Freeholders of the county" were present. The health of Lords Cawdor, Milford and Kensington, Sir John Stepney and John Vaughan of Golden Grove was drunk. The meeting broke up "assured that the favourite candidate of the Independent interests must ultimately be seated". Thus ended the first act in *Lecsiwn Fawr*, which is said to have cost Paxton £15,690 4s. 2d. All public-houses were thrown open and amongst the items in the enormous bill were: 11,070 breakfasts, 36,901 dinners, 684 suppers, 25,275 gallons of ale, 11,068 bottles of spirits, 8,879 bottles of porter, 460 bottles of sherry, 509 bottles of cider. Milk punch accounted for 18 guineas and even ribbons cost £786.

Having spent so much Paxton was not going to give in easily.¹⁶ Consequently on 24 November he petitioned the House, alleging that Thomas Owen, the sheriff, had acted with great partiality towards Williams. Many of the votes were queried and some observers, such as Mansel Philipps, plainly stated that both Williams and Paxton were guilty of "notorious bribery and corruption" and that neither deserved to be returned.

Meanwhile James Hamlyn Williams was not perturbed, as may be seen from this letter written by B. Foard, Bailiff at Clovelly, to David Thomas his counterpart at Edwinstford.

¹⁶ loc. cit.

Clovelly,
Dec. 12, 1802.

Dear Sir,

I received your letter this day—all is safe arrived—they was not three hours a coming from Swansea to Ilford-coomb. Mr. Williams arrived here last Tuesday in grate spirits. Likewise James and Chals. Mrs. Williams is at Tunbridge Wells. Mr. Williams is in grate spirits about the Petition as he says all the House of Commons laugh at the Petition he thinks it will not come on till April or May. Mr. Williams has tow of the best Counsel in London but they are to have Twenty Guineas a day each as soon as the Petition comes on, I am afraid Sir James will not go to London this year, but Mr. Williams family come here as soon as they leave London so I may not expect to see Wales again for some time. Davyc desires you to lett his wife knowe that he is safe arrived here. I think he will be here about a month.

Pray deliver inclosed as they are directed and you oblige.

Your humble servant,

B. FOARD.

Mr. Williams was at Church today the bells rang all day likewise evirybody men and women was drest in Read Ribbons in complament to him so it looks like an election hear. Mr. Williams has jest received a fresh Peticion from London. Mansel Philips as sent it in accusing Boath Mr. Williams and Paxton of Bribyry.

Eventually the dispute was considered by a committee of the House. It was decided that Paxton had not made out a case against the Sheriff, and Williams was declared elected on 6 April 1803. Some months previously James Hamlyn, junior, son of the contestant had written to David Thomas in the following terms:

Dear Sir,

My father has received your letter and I cannot omit the first opportunity of thanking you for the contents. I am very sorry I had not the pleasure of seeing you these holidays. I hope nothing will prevent my passing some time with you at old Edwingsford in the Summer, and that we shall be able to talk over the defeat of the Nabob [sc. Sir William Paxton] and rejoice together on having verified the old Welsh saying of—

“Ni chollodd Rhydodin erioed”.

Yours most truly,

JAMES HAMLYN, Junior.

—26—

The Nabob was well and truly defeated, but in some respects James Hamlyn Williams was faced with a Pyrrhic victory. A parliamentary contest was notoriously expensive, and on the the eve of the election Williams had expressed his anxiety in a letter to his agent David Thomas. At the time hostilities were being renewed against Napoleon and the social and economic climate looked unfavourable. Landlords were the first to realise that a long war was a grave misfortune due to the vagaries of prices, wages and employment, and violent fluctuation made business a gamble. In addition there would be a heavy drain on his purse due to the inevitable costs of a parliamentary campaign.

Dear Mr. Thomas,

This unlucky war that is likely to break out has occasioned the *funds* to fall very much, by which I shall lose a great deal of money if I sell. I could wish if you have any money that you can anyhow spare, and that you would send it to Hammersleys, and acquaint me of it.

The battle will begin tomorrow, and I hope success will attend us.

Yours truly,

J. H. WILLIAMS.

Love to the Children. Paxton looks down in the mouth.

To turn to more domestic matters it would be of interest to quote a few letters which reflect something of the social life of the period. The first was written by James Hamlyn Williams to David Thomas.

Clovelly Court,

April 22nd, 1804.

Dear Sir,

You will be glad to hear of our safe arrival here, after having been detained in Herefordshire some days by Mrs. William's illness. We found Sir James and the children in high health, but notwithstanding all you have heard my father say of Devonshire, I can assure you that Edwingsford is full forward as Clovelly, and the farm, I think, looks much better at Edwingsford than here.

—27—

I shall expect soon to hear from you respecting Carmarthen, as well as what you have done with Mr. Harell, and if you have offered Mr. Morris, the Banker, the Wood at Mr. Hassall's valuation, also what you have done with Jenkin Morgan, as well as Ben Davies, respecting the abatement of ready money.

You will recollect, that I propose keeping twenty calves, and as it is by no means impossible that I may visit you again this Summer, I hope the road through the Meadows will be finished in good manner, and the gates hung, as well as the roads kept in order both from Maes and Talley. You *forgot* to have the road formed over the mountain from Llandoverry to Maes. I hope it will be done before my return; and if you wish me to reside in Wales *the roads must be kept good*. They are bad here, and have put me out of humour with Devonshire.

My residence must be where the roads are best. Send me all the news you can, and believe me,

Yours truly,

JAS. H. WILLIAMS.

My Father and Mrs. Williams desire to be remembered.

Some months later he wrote to David Thomas and was concerned this time about reletting one his farms to a slovenly and slothful tenant.

Clovelly Court,
22 June, 1804.

Dear Sir,

I conclude you have received my rents, which when done I will thank you to pay the interest of money borrowed to everyone, and to yourself. You will please to keep as much money in your hands as you will want for your use, and remit the remainder to Messrs. Hammersley without loss of time. Morgan, Mrs. Williams says, must not have the farm that he used to hold, as it looks so bad near the road, and he has been so slovenly upon it.

I hope you took care in offering Jenkin Morgan £50 to state that he had no claim, but that you meant it as a gift, and by no means offer him any more.

We have fine weather; Charles has gone to fight the French, and James' holidays will begin in about three weeks, but I am going to my Regiment in a fortnight. I wish you your health, and

I am,

Yours truly,

J. H. WILLIAMS.

All well here.

His wife, Diana Hamlyn Williams, spent much of her time between Clovelly and London. In one letter to David Thomas she makes arrangements for her kinswoman, Mrs. Hammet, to stay at Edwinsford.

Clovelly Court,
August 1st, 1804.

My Dear Mr. Thomas,

In about a week or ten days Mrs. Hammet and two or three of her party will arrive at Edwinsford. She has lately had a great affliction in the loss of her eldest son, who *was to have had* the living of Clovelly next October.

We beg you will prepare for her reception every accommodation our House affords. Kill a sheep and poultry.

I have desired Mrs. Hammet to give you a line. Pray order our bedroom, the white one, and another to be ready for them, well aired, and put down the carpet in the eating room, and let Dio be always at their service to wait upon them and shew them the country.

I hope your turnips are as promising as ours.

We talk of being at Edwinsford in the Autumn. I hope your health is better.

Believe me, Dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

DIANA HAMLYN WILLIAMS.

Mr. W. is with his Regiment at Kingsbridge, Devon.

The following two letters were also written by Mrs. Williams from London.

No. 11, Hertford Street,
Mayfair,
London.
1st March, 1805.

Dear Mr. Thomas,

I shall be obliged by your sending me to town about 6 hams, some cheeks and tongues and a side of bacon, and a cheese, which may be cut in half or quarters, or pieces, for the greater convenience of packing up, as we pay here so dear for everything; Bacon 15d. lb., and our Meat is 8d. and 8½d. I wish you would desire them to take care of the eggs, and when they have collected enough for a good sized box, they may be sent—next month or so—each egg wrapped up in brown paper, closely packed.

Mr. Williams is very much engaged as he is on the Middlesex Committee, and he is today to have a second conference with Ministry to prevent the further intended duty on Agricultural Horses, which I trust will gain him some credit with our Welsh Friends, for he is obliged to exert himself greatly about it.

The two eldest girls are with us, and pretty well. Charlotte and the brave Orlando stay with Sir James.

James is going on well at Winchester, and Charles is daily expecting to attack two Spanish Frigates from the Havannah, with a Hundred sail under their Convoy.

Mr. H. W. continues tolerably well, but a London life does not agree with him like the Country.

I should be glad to know what wages you have given to our Housemaid, as I see £8 in the account; I suppose that must be for more than a year.

Lady Dynevor¹⁷ is doing well, though I am sorry she not a son. I am very unhappy about Mrs. Pam; I fear she is going on very badly, and that I shall never see her again.

¹⁷ Hon. Frances Townshend, wife of George Talbot, 3rd Lord Dynevor, Lord Lieutenant, etc. This child was her fifth, Caroline Mary, b. 15 Feb., 1805. See also "Notes on the Social Life of Carmarthenshire during the Eighteenth Century" by D. L. Baker-Jones, *Transactions of the Hon. Society of Cymmrodorion*, Session 1963, Part II.

At the same time I wish you to send a cask of butter and two cheeses to Mrs. Whittaker, Tunbridge Wells, and a cask of butter and two cheeses to Mrs. St. John, Winchester, and a ham or two if you have any as they are very acceptable.

The girls desire their love to you, and I am always,
Dear Sir,

Yours Sincerely,

D. H. WILLIAMS.

I sent some time since some garden seeds down.

London,
Berkeley Square,
March 5th, 1807.

Dear Sir,

I have received safe the box of brawn, &c., but the box before this last had been opened and 9 Woodcocks and the Wild Duck taken out. I have written to the Proprietors of the Coach, and they promise me redress, either by sending me birds or their value in London Price.

In future I wish the boxes to be weighed before you send them off, and their weight marked on the outside. Mr. Heath of Gloucester will then examine them in their passage.

I am quite of your opinion the Pea fowls are a most delicious bird, a great Rarity, and I wish to have three or four put up to fatten every year. They must be well fed—with barley meal and milk—and when fat sent up, one or two at a time with a Turkey, &c.

I beg you will order all the Pig Dung to be taken to the garden for the Pear and Apple trees; it is the only good manure for them. The girl may make another Brawn when there is a Pig, rather larger than this.

Sir James is still very poorly, and Mr. H. Williams has not been able to leave him. Friday he sets out for town, and will be there the next week, as he travels with our Curricule horses.

James leaves school and is going to be under a private Tutor—he is so much improved—he promises to be a comfort to us all.

The girls desire their kind love to you ; they are very good, and improving every way.

Dear Sir, I am

Yours very truly,

D. HAMLYN WILLIAMS.

In later years Sir James Hamlyn Williams and Lady Diana spent more and more time at Edwinstford, and were great benefactors to the family in the way they improved their estates at Edwinstford, Cwrt Derllys and Clovelly. In December 1828 they bought the Plas Demesne and Talley Lakes and constructed a canal connecting the two lakes on the level ground below Rhiw Paderau. At Clovelly they laid out the celebrated Hobby Drive and extended the pier.

On her husband's death in 1829 Lady Diana retired first to Ferryside to 'Parc Portes Cliff' where she laid out the picturesque landscape garden. This was given later to her son Captain Charles Hamlyn Williams, R.N.

Sir James Hamlyn Williams and Lady Diana left six children :

- (i) James Hamlyn Williams, who married Lady Mary Fortescue, fourth daughter of Hugh, 1st Earl Fortescue.
- (ii) Charles Hamlyn, who married, on 15 August 1833, Harriet daughter of Sir Nelson Rycroft, Bart. He had a distinguished naval career and retired with the rank of Admiral and lived at Portiscliff.
- (iii) Orlando Hamlyn, who married Mary Anne Elizabeth daughter of the Rev. Charles Pine Coffin, Rector of Clovelly.
- (iv) Diana, who died unmarried.
- (v) Arabella, who married Charles Noel, 3rd Lord Barham. Their eldest daughter, Lady Mary Arabella Louisa Noel married, in August 1846, Sir Andrew Agnew, 8th Bart., of Lochnaw, Wigtonshire and was the mother of Lady Williams-Drummond of Edwinstford.
- (vi) Charlotte, who married Sir Arthur Chichester, Bart., of Youlston, Devon.

A Champion of Reform

It was their eldest son Sir James Hamlyn Williams who spent most time at Edwinstford. He was born 25 November 1790 and entered the 7th Hussars, where he served with distinction in the Peninsular War. He was High Sheriff of Carmarthenshire in 1848, having been M.P. for the county in the parliaments of 1831 and 1835. He was defeated in 1832 and 1836, at a time of great political agitation in Wales, and Carmarthenshire was in many ways the centre of the struggle. Church rates, Chartism and the Rebecca Riots, popular education and the repeal of the Corn Laws made bold headlines. Radicals and Independents were led by David Rees (1801—1869) who moulded public opinion through the columns of *Y Diwygiwr*. Rees' slogan was "Agitate"—agitate for the removal of non-conformist disabilities, tithes and church rates, inequality in education and the dire poverty of the peasants. He was opposed by David Owen (Brutus) who, having deserted his former allegiance, became the vitriolic champion of church and landlord.¹⁸

Popular discontent coincided with agitation for parliamentary reform. In March 1831 the Reform Bill was introduced into parliament, but divergence of opinion in the house led to a dissolution a month later. In Carmarthenshire the tide ran strongly in favour of reform, and at meetings held up and down the country "reform of parliament" became the war cry of the populace. Rice Trevor, the sitting member, was against reform and he wisely avoided a contest. He was replaced by Sir James Hamlyn Williams who supported parliamentary reform, the extinction of monopolies and the abolition of slavery. In one of his election address Sir James had stated:

To the Independent Electors of the
County of Carmarthen.

Gentlemen,

The trust which was confided to me in in so flattering a manner of representing this County in Parliament, will ere long be restored to you, and you will consequently be called upon to exercise the important privilege which will henceforward be enjoyed by you, of selecting two Individuals to express your political opinions in a Reformed Parliament.

My principles are well known to you,—I have advocated Reform and Retrenchment in every department of the

¹⁸ D.W.B. See also articles by D. Melvin Davies—"Hynt a Helynt Brutus y Dychanwr (David Owen, 1795—1866)" in *Journal of the Historical Society of the Church in Wales*, Vols. xii—xv.

State. I have proved myself to be the Enemy of Slavery, by my vote in favour of Mr. Buxton's recent motion for its abolition; and, as I deem it right that you should be made acquainted with my opinions upon some of the leading topics of political discussion, I beg to state, that a Reform in the Church, a Commutation of tithes, the extinction of all Monopolies, that are unwarranted by sound policy, as well as of useless places, unmerited pensions and sinecures are a course of measures which I anticipate the perfection of with unfeigned satisfaction; and which must be secured, if the Electors of this Empire will with fearless integrity of purpose avail themselves of the opportunity now afforded them, of choosing a House of Commons that will boldly perform its duty to the nation at large.

As an Independent Man, anxious that the Country should thoroughly reap the full benefit conferred upon it by that great Charter which has recently confirmed us in the free enjoyment of our constitutional rights, I solicit your suffrages; and if by a continuance of your former kindness I should become one of the objects of your choice, I can safely assure you, that the zeal and exertion which it has hitherto been my study to evince in your service, will accompany my future endeavours to promote your real and truest interests.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your faithful and obliged servant,

JAMES WILLIAMS.

Edwinsford, August 24th, 1832.¹⁹

The Reform Bill which reached the Statute Book in June 1832 had provided for the vote to be given to all leaseholders of premises of an annual value of £10, and to all occupiers paying a yearly rent of £50. Carmarthenshire was given an additional member, and the struggle for representation was intense.

In December 1832 Sir James Hamlyn Williams issued another election address in English and Welsh. In it he denied the false assertions that there was any kind of coalition or understanding between him and the other candidates; and that any voter intending to support him must give both Votes at the same time, ". . . for when you have once polled, you cannot return to vote a second time". He asked for support in the interest of radicalism and reform.

¹⁹ loc. cit.

"Come forward boldly, of whatever Party or Color, and use your best exertions for Sir James Williams, who fought the Battle of Reform in Parliament, and is now fighting for the Independence of Carmarthen Shire". On a stronger note he said ". . . yr wyf yn dilys ddywedyd, na fu, ac nad oes genyf unrhyw fwriad i wyro oddiwth yr egwyddorion diymyraeth hyny wrth ba rai yr wyf hyd yn hyn yn ddiysgog wedi glynu".²⁰

Sir James's political viewpoint was almost unique amongst Carmarthenshire landlords at the time, and he had openly expressed the view in Carmarthenshire Quarter Sessions that "the magistrates of the County have completely lost the confidence of the people". Even though the wind was blowing in favour of radical reformers, Sir James lost the election and on 29 January 1833 G. R. Rice-Trevor and Edward Hamlyn Adams of Middleton Hall were returned to represent Carmarthenshire. It is interesting to observe that the £10 household franchise, established in the boroughs, had introduced a thin wedge of democracy. But the £50 enfranchisement of tenant farmers had the reverse effect and strengthened the hold of the large landowners over the constituencies. The Edwinsford estate amounted to about ten thousand acres in extent. It was considerable in comparison with the demesnes of the lesser gentry which often did not exceed a few hundred acres. On the other hand the really powerful magnates were the families of Dynevor and Golden Grove and their nominees. Sir James Hamlyn Williams lost their patronage, as well as that of many Tory churchmen throughout the county.

On 19 February 1835, however, Sir James was elected once more to represent the county. His triumph was short lived as he remained a member of parliament for only eighteen months or so; and the Tory hold on Carmarthenshire remained unshaken until 1868. One of Sir James' great enemies was the satirist "Brutus". In July 1835 a vicious campaign was led against Sir James and every radical reformer. As the champion of the Tory and Church party, "Brutus" strongly objected to a public testimonial fund being collected by Carmarthenshire reformers to buy Sir James a gift as a token of their gratitude for his work in parliament. Actually he was presented with an interesting gold snuff box to commemorate the appreciation of his public services to the county and to record that he represented it in the two parliaments of 1831 and 1835. It was inscribed as follows:

"This tribute of respect was presented to Sir James Williams, Baronet, M.P. purchased with the penny pieces of upwards of 6,000 of his Friends and constituents in the County of Carmarthen, April 1836".

²⁰ loc. cit.

“Brutus” considered the whole project ludicrous, and he openly castigated Sir James for the paucity of his speeches and his inept performance in the House. Daniel O’Connell and other enemies of Protestantism, he sarcastically claimed, deserved as much for had not they done more than the great man of Rhydodin? Brutus claimed that this collection was more like Peter’s Pence which the Papists levied on the poor Irish peasant. And what for? Because Sir James had voted for the Reform Bill, the disendowment of the Irish Church and was an avowed enemy of order and good sense by supporting Daniel O’Connell, Lords John Russell and Ebrington. Brutus concluded as follows:

“Tebygol yw bod y tanysgrifwyr yn bwriadu i’r cwppan fod yn gwppan dewiniaeth i Syr James, unwedd a chwppan Joseph gynt; ac yno yn lle bod yn gwppan y fendith, try allan i fod yn gwppan y felltith iddo ef a’i deulu. Cynn-y gia cyfaill yr ysgrifen ganlynol i’w gosod ar y cwppan, mwyn math o Ladin, yr hon, er nad yw yn hollol bur, etto sydd yn eithaf addas i’r perwyl.

POCULUM
 RADICALIBUS CARMARTHENSIBUS
 SIRO JAMSO HAMLINO O’WILLIAMSO
 PRAESENTATUM
 PRO VOTIS
 O’CONNELLO—RUSSELLO—EBRINGTONIIS
 IN
 PARLIAMENTO CONTINUE DATIS
 QUOD DENARIIS
 PAUPERUM KAI BEGGARORUM
 ZELO ADMIRABILI ILLIUS PUBLICANIS
 UNDIQUE COLLECTIS
 EMPTUM FUIT.

Ac ym mhellach, bod i lun pen anghu hardd, ac esgyrn croesion, gael ei gerfio ar y cwppan, er dangos parch i Daniel, brenhin yr Iwerddon; a gosod llun Arglwydd John Russell arno, yng nghanol Chaos, ynghyd ag amryw addurniadau Radicalaidd craill, rhy faith i’w henwi ar hyn o bryd”.²¹

Despite these attacks Sir James remained a radical. He voted in the Parliament of 1835-36 for the expulsion of bishops from the

²¹ *Yr Henil neu Drysorfa o Wybodaeth Hanesiol a Gwladwriaethol am 1836*, Cyfyr I. Llanymddyfri.

house of Lords, and his agent in Llansawel opposed the levying of a church rate.²² Later on in 1843 he protested against the misuse of public funds in Carmarthenshire. As local government and administration were largely in the hands of magistrates in petty sessions or full quarter sessions, there were constant protests about the way they handled public affairs. There were accusations that bridges were built, roads made and even hills cut down, to suit the convenience of local magnates and not for the public advantage. In October 1843 Sir James urged in Quarter Sessions, that a strict enquiry be made into the expenditure of the county stock for the last twenty-nine years, and presented no less than fourteen addresses from different parishes on this particular grievance. When serious rioting in the winter of 1842-43 had caused the authorities to consider the setting up of a rural police, many parishes protested and begged for exemption on the grounds that they were themselves peaceable. In favour of the new police force was the Tory, George Rice Trevor, while Sir James Hamlyn Williams remained adamantly opposed.²³

At Edwinstord the daily toil of the estate and its management went on as placidly as before. A contemporary writer described the mansion and its environs as follows—“The lands are for the greater part enclosed and in a state of good cultivation. The surrounding scenery is pleasingly diversified with wood and water, and from some of the higher grounds are fine prospects extending over a tract of well cultivated country. . . . The mansion appears to have been formerly of greater magnitude; the grounds, which are extensive and judiciously disposed, comprehend much beautiful scenery”.²⁴

Here Sir James made extensive alterations which changed the character, and to some extent, the charm of the old house. The first major change was the building of the new dining room in 1840, which was furnished with oak panelling and sideboards from the old hall at Llether Cadfan. Above this room were erected the “Peacock” or “Best” rooms, and there followed in 1861 the new drawing room, the north wing and the two corridors. A new lodge was built at ‘Iron Gate’ and Moelfre in the same year, while the old fish-pond or *Pysgodlyn* opposite the stables was drained. Fortunately, the attractive bell roof wing and the main portion of the old house, remained intact. The exquisite ceilings which adorned Sir Nicholas’ Room, the boudoir and the library, which were supposed to be the work of Italian plasterers in the reign of James I (circa 1620) were left untouched.²⁵

²² *The Rebecca Riots* by David Williams, Cardiff 1955.
²³ loc. cit.
²⁴ *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* by Samuel Lewis, Vols. I and II. London, 1833.
²⁵ loc. cit.

Sir James was regarded as one of the most colourful personalities in the Edwinsford family, a great character —generous, quick tempered yet genial and kind hearted. He died at Clovelly on 10 October 1861 and was buried in the family vault on the north-west of Clovelly Church. Lady Mary survived him until 1874 and was buried at her special request at Talley among the surroundings she had loved so much. Sir James left no male heir and with his death the baronetcy became extinct. Three daughters survived: Mary Eleanor, Susan Hester and Edwina Augusta, who became respectively the heiresses of the Edwinsford, Clovelly and Derllys estates.

Enter the Drummonds

By the marriage of Mary Eleanor to Sir James Drummond, 3rd Baronet, of Hawthornden, Midlothian, an old Welsh princely family was united to one of Scotland's famous houses. Ancient tradition maintains that the Drummond family dates back to the eleventh century, when in 1068 Maurice Drummond a native of Hungary accompanied Edgar Atheling and his two sisters to Scotland. Margaret, the elder married Malcolm Canmore and through her influence Drummond acquired great possessions in Scotland. He was the progenitor of the noble family of Drummond of Perth, of which Drummond of Hawthornden is a cadet.²⁶

Hawthornden, near Edinburgh, recalls much of the interesting history of the Drummonds. This Scottish estate was purchased by Sir John Drummond, Gentleman Usher to James VI who was knighted in 1603 when he came to England with his sovereign.

The son and heir of Sir John Drummond was, perhaps, the most famous of all the Drummonds of Hawthornden—William Drummond the poet. Born in 1585, he was widely known as one of Scotland's most gifted bards. Ben Jonson, it is claimed, travelled on foot to Scotland solely for the purpose of visiting him at his romantic home. Drummond was well versed in Greek and Latin, as well as in later European poets which he could recite at will. He had great facility of expression, and it was he who described the moon as "the sad queen of silence". Drummond made great use of the sonnet and preserved it as a literary form.²⁷ Of his prose the best example is *A Cypress Grove*, 1623. He died on 4 December 1649.

²⁶ *Burke's Peerage, Baronetage and Knightage*. London, 1893.

²⁷ *The English Muse* by Professor Oliver Elton, London, 1937 *passim*.

Sir William Drummond, his son, was knighted by Charles II, and his granddaughter was Mary Barbara, who eventually inherited Hawthornden and later settled it on her cousin, Mary Ogilvie. The latter married Captain John Forbes, R.N., who also assumed the name of Drummond. He was created a baronet in 1828, with remainder to his son-in-law Francis who succeeded his father-in-law in May 1829. Sir Francis Walker-Drummond the 2nd Baronet was the eldest son of James Walker, Esquire, of Dalny, Midlothian, by Jane Hay his wife. She was the daughter of Richard Hay Newton, also described as Esquire of Newton, the grandson of John, Marquess of Tweeddale and the Lady Jane Maitland, his wife, the only child of John, Duke of Lauderdale.

James, his eldest son, succeeded the 2nd Baronet in 1844. As we have seen his wife was Mary Eleanor, daughter of Sir James Hamlyn Williams of Edwinsford. By the latter's will of 21 December 1858 Lady Drummond was to inherit the Edwinsford estate. Pursuant to the same will Sir James Drummond assumed the surname of Williams in lieu of Walker in addition to and before that of Drummond. By a grant from the Lord Lyon he also bore the arms of Williams quarterly, with those of Drummond. Sir James died on 10 May, 1866 while his widow lived on at Edwinsford until her death in August 1872. Of this union there were five children: (i) James Hamlyn Williams (ii) Edwin Fortescue (iii) Hugh Henry John Fortescue (iv) Francis Dudley (v) Annabella Mary.

Sir James Hamlyn Williams-Drummond, the 4th Baronet, was born at Clovelly Court on 13 January 1857. He was educated privately and at Eton. Having succeeded to the baronetcy in 1866 he served in the Grenadier Guards from 1877—1883. In 1889 he married Madeline Diana Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Andrew Agnew, 8th Baronet of Lochnaw Castle, Wigtonshire. She was a grand-daughter of Arabella Williams (Lady Barham) the daughter of Sir James Hamlyn Williams of Edwinsford.

Sir James H. W. Williams-Drummond was appointed Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the County of Carmarthen, the fourth member of the family to hold that office. He served as a County Councillor for the Llansawel division. He was also High Sheriff in 1885 and a J.P. for Midlothian and Carmarthen, as well as being a colonel of the Carmarthen Artillery. Before the disestablishment and disendowment of the Welsh Church he was patron of the living of Talley.²⁸ His love for Edwinsford exceeded every

²⁸ *Wales—Historical, Biographical and Pictorial*, London, 1908; *Who's Who* 1901; *Kelly's Handbook to the Titled, Landed and Official Classes* 1911".

other interest. His death took place on 6 June 1913. Lady Drummond had predeceased him in 1907. For her part, she devoted much time and energy in relieving poverty and suffering in those less comfortable days. Through her efforts the Alltynydd Sanatorium was built. The foundation stone was laid on 25 April 1905 by H.R.H. Princess Christian, who, accompanied by her daughter Princess Victoria, paid a four-day visit to Edwingsford. An oak tree was planted on the lawn at Edwingsford to commemorate the occasion and to mark the close friendship between Her Royal Highness and Lady Williams-Drummond.

On the death of the 4th Baronet the title and Edwingsford estate passed to the present owner, their only child—James Hamlyn Williams, who was born on 25 May 1891. Educated at Eton, Sir James married Lady Enid Malet Vaughan daughter of the 6th Earl of Lisburne of Crosswood, Cardiganshire.²⁹

This chronicle of the Edwingsford family would be incomplete without some mention of Sir Francis Dudley Williams Drummond. He was born at Edwingsford on 27 June 1863 and educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. He married, in July 1890, Marguerite Violet Maude, daughter of Sir Andrew Agnew, Bart., of Lochnaw Castle. He resided for many years at Hafodneddyn near Llandcilo, and played an important part in the public life of Carmarthenshire. He was Lieut-Colonel in the Carmarthenshire Royal Field Artillery, a D.L. and Chairman of Carmarthenshire Quarter and County Sessions. As Alderman of the County Council he was awarded the O.B.E. for public services, especially to agriculture and forestry;³⁰ later he received the C.B.E. and subsequently a knighthood.

In this connection he deserves to be remembered for his book on the annals of Edwingsford, Clovelly and Hawthornden, which was circulated privately, and from which a great deal of this article is derived.

²⁹ loc. cit.

³⁰ *Who's Who in Wales*, Cardiff 1920; *Carmarthen Journal*, Oct., 1935.

Today the great house of Edwingsford is silent, a mouldering ruin, bereft of its former glory. It is a long time since the keeper whistled after his dogs and the dairy maid carried her milk pail. This chronicle of Edwingsford commenced with a quotation from an eighteenth century antiquary who described this house and its environs as a "delightful spot". And as the seasons come and go, and as cloud and storm give way to sunshine, we are reminded of the famous lines of William Drummond of Hawthornden:

The winds all silent are ;
And Phoebus in his chair
Ensaffroning sea and air
Makes vanish every star :
Night like a drunkard reals
Beyond the hills to shun his flaming wheels :
The fields with flowers are deck'd in every hue,
The clouds bespangle with bright gold their blue :
Here is the pleasant place—³¹

Here much of Carmarthenshire's history was made, and here the memories of a bygone age still linger.*

³¹ "Invocation" by Wm. Drummond 1585—1649, *The Oxford Book of English Verse*. Clarendon Press, 1924.

*I wish to thank Major Francis Jones, T.D., D.L., M.A., F.S.A., for reading this essay in MS. and for his valuable suggestions.—D.L.B.-J.

APPENDIX

I wish to acknowledge my thanks to Mr. E. D. Jones, F.S.A., C.B.E., of the National Library of Wales, for giving me the following quotations from the works of Lewis Glyn Cothi. The poet flourished from 1447—1486 and was one of the greatest of the 15th century Welsh bards. He took his name from that of the forest of Glyn Cothi, within the confines of which he was probably born, perhaps at Pwllcynbyd in the parish of Llanybydder. For a full account see the article under Lewis Glyn Cothi in the *Dictionary of Welsh Biography* and the sources cited therein, as well as—*Gwaith Lewis Glyn Cothi*, Golygydd gan E. D. Jones, Y Gyfrol Gyntaf Gwasg Prifysgol Cymru a Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru 1953.

The poet refers to Rhydodin in three of his *cywyddau*. He praises the delightful abode of Rhydodin, its estates extending far and wide, and its generous lords providing the most lavish refreshment.

1. *Cywydd. Davydd ab Tomas Vychan*

Isag oedd mcwn curas gwyn
Weddi adail Rhyd Odyn

Davydd, cylch dolydd Dwylais
Ydyw ei wlad, a hyd Lais;
Cylchyn Rhyd Odyn vy 'stôr,
Caio unsud Parc Winsor.

(Llansteffan MS. 7)

2. *I Gynwyl Gaio*

A'r hacla' oll yn rhoi 'lyn
Hir o dudwedd Rhyd Odyn;
Dyn yw heb, hyd yn Nhiber,
Domas Llwyd dim us a ller.

Ban Davydd Vychan yw vo
Ben cywath mcibion Caio

A chaned valed i verch
A chyrhaedded awch Rhydderch
Glyn Aeron, Rhyd Odyn dir
Oedd ei adail a'i ddeudir
Digrivion doethion vu'r dô
Oedd a aned oddi yno

(*ibid*)

3. *I Davydd Vychan o Gaio*

Avon dda ddigon i ddyn
Frioed ydoedd Rhyd Odyn

(Peniarth MS. 70)

Portraits and Pictures in Old Carmarthenshire Houses

by Major FRANCIS JONES

Wales Herald Extraordinary
County Archivist of Carmarthenshire

READERS will have noticed that detailed descriptions of pictures and other mural decorations were rarely given in inventories of the contents of houses in bygone days. Bare entries, such as "family portraits," "prints," "maps," merely excite our curiosity and leave us with feelings akin to frustration. So, it is a pleasant experience to come across manuscripts containing not only detailed descriptions of pictures, mainly portraits, in Welsh and English houses in the latter half of the seventeenth century, but also observations on the subjects, on the artists, their excellence and shortcomings.

These manuscripts, ten notebooks in all, form part of the muniments of the Stepney-Gulston family of Derwydd, lately deposited in the County Record Office. Their author was Joseph Gulston (1745—1786), the celebrated collector of books and prints, whose career has earned him a place in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. His father, also named Joseph, amassed a fortune as a financier and merchant, and represented Poole as Member of Parliament from 1741 until his death. The circumstances surrounding the marriage of Joseph Gulston père were sufficiently unusual to form the theme of an exciting novel that enjoyed a wide popularity towards the end of the last century. His wife, Mericas Silva, was the daughter of a Portuguese merchant, and a Roman Catholic. They married by stealth. The ceremony took place in the Fleet and a second celebration was performed by a Catholic priest, so that the knot was doubly and indubitably tied. Joseph, for whom fluctuations on the bourse and the harsh realities of eighteenth century politics held no terrors, lived in constant dread of a masterful and alarming sister, a formidable Anglican who would have strongly disapproved of such "mixed" marriage. Accordingly, the union was kept secret and the children brought up in the strictest concealment.¹ The eldest son of the marriage, Joseph, received his education at Eton and Christ Church College, Oxford, and on his father's death in 1766 inherited £250,000 in the Funds, a Hertfordshire estate with an annual rental of £1,500, a residence at Ealing Grove, Middlesex, and a town house in Soho Square. He devoted

¹ Nichols, *Literary Illustrations*, 1828, V. pp. 1—60.

his life to collecting books, prints, pictures, cartoons, etc., visiting private houses and public galleries to study and enjoy works of art, so that he became an acknowledged authority on these matters. Unfortunately, allied to these cultural interests, was a light-hearted extravagance, carelessness in money matters, and a physical indolence, which resulted in the dissipation of the fine fortune he had inherited. Like his father he entered Parliament, being elected for Poole in 1780, a seat he lost four years later "by neglecting to get out of bed till too late in the day to solicit the votes of five Quaker constituents."² As a result of this lack of business acumen he found himself in serious difficulties, and in 1784 was obliged to sell the library he had assembled with discrimination, and two years later his magnificent collection of pictures consisting of 67,000 portraits, prints, and scenes, came under the hammer. Hopes that this would solve his more pressing problems were unrealised, for the literary and artistic treasures were sold at ludicrously low figures. He died on 16th July 1786, some four months after the sale.

Joseph Gulston's connection with Wales came with his marriage in 1768 to the talented Elizabeth Bridgetta, daughter of Sir Thomas Stepney, Baronet, whose family had held extensive estates in Pembroke-shire and Carmarthenshire since the middle of the sixteenth century, and descendant by the distaff of the Vaughans of Llanclly and Derwydd (cadets of Golden Grove) and also of the celebrated portrait painter Van Dyck.³ She was a noted beauty and an accomplished etcher, and enjoyed the distinction, unusual in one of her sex, of being the inventor of plated harness. If anything, she proved more extravagant than her husband whom she predeceased by four years. Nevertheless, the Welsh estates were protected by terms of entail, so that the descendants of these cultured spendthrifts—the Gulstons and Stepney-Gulstons—were able to enjoy ample estates in South Wales, some of which are still in their possession.

The notebooks providing the data for this article were written during the period 1779.—1785. Most of Gulston's visits concern royal palaces like St James's, Windsor, Hampton Court, and Buckingham House (as it was then called), great English seats like Blenheim, Marlborough and Woburn, town and country houses, castles, colleges, and churches. He found, by comparison, the Welsh houses to be inferior, both in design and content, to their English counterparts, and expresses contempt for several of them. Nevertheless, the information he has preserved makes it easy for us to forgive his spiky observations and abundant prejudices. Many of the inscriptions he copied from church memorials have since disappeared; great changes have taken place in the houses he saw,

² *D.N.B.*

³ For the Stepney family see *West Wales Historical Records*, VII. pp. 109—142, and R. Harrison, *Some Notices of the Stepney Family*, 1870.

some have become ruinous and untenanted, or have passed to a succession of new owners, while the majority of the pictures he describes have suffered the fate of his own collection. Possessing acute powers of observation, and the instinct of a professional in knowing what points to look for in a portrait, he identified the subject, described features, posture, dress, and other details, named the artist, occasionally permitted himself a connoisseur's judgement—"bad," "very bad," "fine," "good," etc, and tells us in what rooms the portraits were hung. Such descriptions by an expert are as valuable as they are rare, and it is to be regretted that he did not extend his visits to more Welsh houses.

Included in the notebooks are the following mansions of Carmarthenshire interest—Aberglasney, Berllandywyll, Derwydd, Edwinstford, Golden Grove, Newton (Dynevor), Taliaris, and Tregib.

Aberglasney

This house is in Llangathen parish. In medieval times it belonged to the family of the chieftain Llywelyn Foethus whose great-great-great-grandson, Sir William Thomas, knight, of Aberglasney, was High Sheriff of the county in 1540. From the Thomases the property passed to Bishop Rudd, Bishop of St Davids (1593—1614), who is said to have rebuilt the house. The house and estate, heavily mortgaged, came into the hands of the Hon Thomas Watson-Wentworth of Wentworth Woodhouse, who, early in the eighteenth century, sold it to Robert Dyer, father of the poet. The Dyers made extensive alterations to the residence, and it is that house which has substantially survived to our times. When Joseph Gulston called, the proprietor was William Herbert Dyer. This is what he wrote:—

MS 3, fo 62. Aberglasney, 1783.

"The seat of William Dyer, Esq, Carmarthenshire. An old house with a large Hall. In the center is a Staircase which carry's you to a Chapel of which nothing now is remaining but the Pulpit which is old and curious. There is a terras round a court built on Stone Arches. It is close to Grongar Hill. The country is most beautiful. In the house are the following pictures—

1. Mr Dyer, The Poet,⁴ painted by himself, in blue velvet, hand rests on a table, brown wig; very indifferent. He was brother to the grandfather of the present possessor.
2. Mr Dyer, the elder brother of the Poet, down to the knees in a blue velvet coat, neckcloth twisted through the button hole.

⁴ John Dyer, poet, artist, parson (1701—1758).

3. Mrs Dyer, the wife of the foregoing, sitting, a most beautiful woman, she was an heiress, daughter of Sir Archer Croft,⁵ the head is painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller, but the neck, hand, and Drapery, are bad, by some of his people. This beautiful woman was very flighty, almost insane—the generation have suffered from this connexion.
4. Four Children, small, W Lth,⁶ with a Dog of the foregoing.
5. Mr Dyer, and 6. Mrs Dyer, the Grandfather and Grandmother, two postures—common, very indifferent.
7. Sir Archer Croft, long wig, down to the knees, sitting. Father [*recte*, brother] of the handsome Mrs Dyer. In yelow with a blue mantle.
8. Mrs Philips of Coedgain. bad. Mother of the late Member for Carmarthenshire.⁷
9. One Unknown.”

William Herbert Dyer, proprietor at this time, was High Sheriff of Carmarthenshire in 1776, and died without issue in 1821. He sold the estate in 1803 for £10,500 to Thomas Phillips, a surgeon in the East India Company, who, during 32 years' service in India had contrived to amass an enormous fortune. Phillips also bought a good deal of the old furniture in the house. What happened to the Dyer portraits is not known.

Berllandywyll

Berllandywyll is situated on the southwestern slope below Llan-gathen church, with an extensive view over the vale of Tywi. It was the seat of the Lloyds, descended from Thomas Lloyd of Castell Hywel in Cardiganshire who had married Bridget daughter of Sir Henry Vaughan of Derwydd in Llandybie parish, Carmarthenshire. The last of the male line at Berllandywyll, David Lloyd, married in 1748 Magdalen daughter of David Lewis of Dolhaidd. David got into financial difficulties and sold Castell Hywel. When he died without issue in 1779, Berllandywyll passed to his sister's only child, Alice Gratiana Williams who married Richard Jones of Pantglas, a barrister and later Clerk of the Peace for Carmarthenshire, who took the name Richard Jones Llwyd. Financial difficulties beset the last owners, who being childless, and in view of certain financial considerations, they left the state to Charles Richard Vaughan, younger son of Golden Grove. Richard Jones Llwyd died

⁵ Gulston is at fault in calling her 'heiress.' Sir Herbert Croft of Croft Castle, Bart., had two sons, the elder of whom, Archer Croft, succeeded as Baronet, and three daughters, of whom the youngest, Frances Croft, married Robert Dyer in 1720.

⁶ i.e. whole length. The contraction "W.L." is also used.

⁷ Her son, George Phillips, M.P. for Carmarthen Borough from 1780 to 1784.

without issue in 1799, and on the death of the widow in 1806 at the age of 65, the property passed to Lord Cawdor, as heir by devise of the Golden Grove family. Alice Gratiana is the lady referred to in Gulston's notes. He wrote as follows:—

MS 3, fo 64. Berllandowill. c 1783

“Mrs Lloyd's. 3 miles from Llandilo. A very beautiful spot. On whose death this estate devolves to the second son of Mr Vaughan of Golden Grove.

1. Evan's, a boy and a girl.⁸ Boy died young: Laetitia 70 unmarried. W.L. they were part of the issue by her first husband. Eleanor wife of Mr Lloyd of Langannock [Llangennech] who had issue one daughter who married Sir John Stepney, Grandfather of the present Sir John.
2. Mrs Lloyd of Peterwell near Lampeter in Cardiganshire. She was a Miss Le Hoop.⁹ sitting, in white satten.
3. Mr John Lloyd of Peterwell, husband of the foregoing. In a brown velvet coat, white satten waistcoat. he was bred to the Law and was the elder brother of [No 4].
4. Sir Herbert Lloyd, in brown velvet, wig, etc. posture.
5. Mr Daniel Evans of Peterwell, in a brown loose dress, *very* long wig, laced neckcloth.
6. Mrs Lloyd of Peterwell, mother of Sir Herbert, married one of the Miss Evans, loose dress, long hair.
7. Old Mr Walter Lloyd, Counsellor, father of Sir Herbert. In black gown and band, long wig, sitting in a chair, he was member for Cardiganshire.
8. Mr Le Hoop, in brown velvet, sitting, a very long laced neckcloth, letter in his left hand.
9. Sir Herbert Lloyd, the late, in red velvet, a miniature, W.L., about 3 feet high. Member for Cardiganshire.
10. Mr Lloyd,¹⁰ in a very long wig, in a brown loose dress, striped waistcoat. There is a copy of this. He married one of the daughters of Sir Henry Vaughan.

⁸ Children of Daniel Evans of Peterwell, Cards., by Mary Herbert of Hafod his wife. This Mary married, as her second husband, John Lloyd of Bwlchllaethwen (now called Llangennech Park), by whom she had a daughter, Eleanor Lloyd, who married Sir Thomas Stepney, Baronet (d. 1748).

⁹ Elizabeth, daughter and coheiress of Sir Isaac Le Hoop, married John Lloyd of Peterwell, Cards, son of Walter Lloyd by Elizabeth daughter and coheiress of Daniel Evans of Peterwell. John Lloyd died without issue in 1755, and the estate passed to his younger brother, Sir Herbert Lloyd, Baronet, an able but turbulent character, who died by his own hand in 1769.

¹⁰ Probably Thomas Lloyd of Castell Hywel, Cards, and Porthyrhyd, Carms, who married as his 2nd wife Bridget daughter of the elder Sir Henry Vaughan of Derwydd.

11. Sir Henry Vaughan of Derwith.¹¹ buff waistcoat, breast-plate, plain turn over collar, large sleeves, his left hand leaning on a table, pistol in his right hand, red sash, short hair. This picture is very much damaged."

In MS 4. fo 19, he again mentioned the house—

"At Mrs Lloyd's of Berllandowill is a picture very much damaged of old Sir Henry Vaughan of Derwydd, half length, buff waistcoat, breast plate short, striped sleeves, falling stiff band over the armour, left hand on a table, pistol in his right hand, sash round him, short hair."

Derwydd

Derwydd, snug below the crest of a wooded hillslope in the parish of Llandybie, is remarkable for the fact that it has remained for over five hundred years in possession of the descendants of its medieval owners. Its original owners, a family of minor gentry, ended in the male line with Rhydderch ap Howell ap Bedo of Derwydd (living 1560). By his first wife, Margaret daughter of Owen Philipps of Cilsant, Rhydderch left an only child, Elizabeth, who married John Gwyn William of Piodo in Llandybie parish. From this union, too, there was only one child, namely Sage, who married firstly, Edward Rice of Newton by whom she had no issue, and secondly Henry Vaughan a younger son of Walter Vaughan of Golden Grove.

After his marriage, Henry Vaughan settled at Derwydd, and added considerably to the estate by purchase of lands in Llandybie parish. A stout Royalist, he served as a Major General during the early part of the Civil War, and was knighted in 1643. He fought at the battle of Naseby in 1644, was captured and afterwards imprisoned in the Tower. He died in the year of the Restoration, and was succeeded by his son, Henry.

Henry Vaughan, born in 1613, married Elizabeth daughter of William Herbert of Tintern, Monmouthshire. He took a prominent part in public life and was knighted. He died on 26 December 1676, aged 63, and left Derwydd to his nephew Richard Vaughan of Cwrt Derllys near Carmarthen. Sir Henry had two children—John who died young, and Margaret who died unmarried in 1705.

¹¹ Sir Henry Vaughan (c 1587—1660), younger brother of the 1st Earl of Carbery. On marrying the heiress of Derwydd, he settled there; Major-General in the Royalist army; knighted 1643; captured at Naseby and imprisoned in the Tower; called "Old" Sir Henry to distinguish him from his son who bore the same Christian name and was also a knight.

Richard Vaughan who inherited Derwydd, was the elder son of John Vaughan of Court Derllys. Born in 1654, he trained for the law, became Recorder of Carmarthen, and in 1715 was appointed a Judge of Great Sessions. He had no issue by his wife Arabella, daughter of Sir Erasmus Philipps of Picton Castle, and on his death in 1724 left the Derwydd estate to his three nieces and coheirs, namely daughters of his brother John Vaughan.

Of these coheireses only one left surviving issue. She was Elizabeth, the second daughter, who married Thomas Lloyd of Trehir who settled at Derwydd, and died in 1734. They had two children—Richard Vaughan Lloyd who died in 1729 aged 3 years, and Elizabeth Eleanora Lloyd (1725—1795) who became the sole heiress of Derwydd. Elizabeth Eleanora married Sir Thomas Stepney (d 1772) by whom she had two daughters, Elizabeth Bridgetta (1756—1780) who inherited Derwydd, and married Joseph Gulston (author of the notebooks) from whom the Stepney-Gulstons descend; and Maria Justina who married firstly, Francis Head, and secondly General Andrew Cowell from whom descend the Cowell-Stepneys and the Murray-Threiplands.

Gulston has not much to say about the portraits at Derwydd, and mentions only three. Either he did not complete the description, or the majority of the portraits were kept in Llanelly House, the main residence of the Stepneys at that time. This is all he had to say in 1783-5:—

MS 4. fo 17.

"Derwydd, at Lady Stepney's are these 3 Portraits—

1. Mrs Vaughan, a head¹² in an oval, black hair.
2. Lady Stepney, sitting. N.B. Mrs Head¹² is very like this picture.
3. Miss Stepney, when a child, W.L. sitting, miniature."

Edwingsford (Rhydodyn)

Edwingsford, in the parish of Llansawel, has been from medieval times the seat of a family descended from the Irish chieftain Ideo Wyllt, who, having entered Wales with a force to aid Rhys ap Tewdwr of Dcheubarth (killed 1093), married a daughter of that prince, and settled at Edwingsford. Lewis Glyn Cothi composed poems of praise

¹² Maria Justina, daughter of Sir Thomas Stepney, and sister to Mrs Elizabeth Bridgetta Gulston. She married firstly, Francis Head of St Andrews, Norfolk, and secondly, in 1788, General Andrew Cowell, Coldstream Guards. Both Maria Justina and her husband died in 1821.

to the family of Rhydodyn who extended generous patronage to the bards. David ap Rhys William of Rhydodyn, died in 1613, was the first to adopt the surname Williams thereafter borne by his descendants.

I'm afraid Joseph Gulston is rickety on genealogy, and his statement below on the paternity of Mrs Hodgkinson is erroneous. The last of the Williamses of Edwingsford was Thomas, Custos Rotulorum of Carmarthenshire, son of Sir Rice Williams the High Sheriff of 1680. Thomas Williams married firstly Arabella Vaughan, one of the coheresses of Derllys Court, who died without issue, and secondly Anne Singleton of London by whom he had a daughter, Arabella, who married Sir James Hamlyn of Clovelly Court, Devon, Baronet. Their son Sir James Hamlyn Williams, Baronet, took his mother's surname on her death in 1797, and from him descends the present owner, Sir James Williams-Drummond, Baronet, of Hawthornden.

It is believed that the house was entirely re-built about the beginning of the seventeenth century, and since that time many changes have been made, especially towards the middle of the last century when a new front was built, a wing added on the south side, and the dining room re-panelled with antique woodwork removed from the old house of Llether Cadfan which forms part of the estate. Very fine decorated ceilings, the work of Italian plasterers, dating from about 1620, have survived. Gulston, prejudiced against Welsh houses, considered it a "small bad house much in the same stile as all the houses in Wales, not worth seeing" (MS la, fo 33), but Fenton who saw it in 1809 thought differently and offered the following comments—

"Pass Edwingsford, an old Mansion, pretty large, lying low on the banks of the Cothy, which winds under the beautifully wooded Hill near it. There is a large walled Garden, a great part of which is of mud, said to be the best for fruit. To characterise the different farm Offices, there occur several well executed figures in lead painted, such as a large Pig near the Piggery, Hay makers near the Haggard, and at the Stables or Kennel an admirable fowler. Near the House are shewn 13 large trees planted the year Thos Williams Esqr of this House was Sheriff,¹³ by him and his 12 Javelin Men after their return from the Spring Assizes—A central tree with 12 others round it." (*Tours in Wales*, p 54).

¹³ Those of the Edwingsford family who served as High Sheriffs were David (1596), Nicholas (1665) and Sir Rice Williams (1680)—probably one of these is meant.

Gulston left his impressions of the house and pictures as follows:—

MS 5 fos 22-23. Edwingsford. 1783.

"The seat of the late Sir Nicholas Williams, now Robert Banks Hodgkinson for the life of his wife, daughter of Sir Nicholas.¹⁴ This place is about nine miles from Landilo and has belonged to the family of Williams many years. The river Cothy runs near the house, which is called a *good* house for Wales; although it has not one tolerable room in it for the possessor of such an estate. Sir Nicholas¹⁵ built a banquetting house on the point of a hill about three miles distant, which was destroyed by Lightning Feby 8th 1772. N.B. it had a Spire. Here is a good kitchen garden.

Pictures in Edwingsford

1. Henry 4th, done or stained in marble, small, in armour, sash across.
2. Sir Nicholas Williams when a boy, dressed like a Trajedy Prince, with a figured petticoat.
3. A Lawyer in a red gown, black scull cap, ruff, aetat 56 1644 (? putred) beard
Quid facis iudex vir, ora fugaciu pingis
Aut novus aut nullus cras tibi vultus e at
4. John Williams of Dolecothy Esqr. brother to Sir Nicholas Williams, sitting, long wig, table.
5. The Lady of Sir Rice Williams,¹⁶ in blue and white Tulip in her hand, hair like bottle screws.
6. Charles 2d, long wig, armour, cravat, ribbon.
- 7—11. And five unknown."

¹⁴ Gulston is in error as to Hodgkinson's wife. Robert Banks Hodgkinson of Overton, married in 1757 Bridget daughter of Thomas Williams. He lived for a time at Edwingsford, was High Sheriff in 1784, and died without issue in 1792.

¹⁵ Sir Nicholas Williams, eldest son of Sir Rice Williams, Knt, by Mary Vaughan of Llanelly; created Baronet on 30 July 1707, Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of Carmarthenshire on 11 June 1736; he married Mary daughter of Charles Cocks, niece of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Somers. He died without issue on 19 July 1745, aged 64, and was buried at Talylychau. Fenton writes in 1809—"Beyond this Common [Llansadwrn] and adjoining it is a projecting point of land, within some sort of ancient Encampment, the late Sir Nicholas Williams private property belonging to Edwingsford, near the extremity of which, built a Summer house, now a heap of rubbish, it having been destroyed by lightning"—*Tours in Wales*, pp 72-3.

¹⁶ Sir Rice Williams (H.S. 1680) son of Nicholas (H.S. 1665). He married 1stly Joan daughter and coheiress of Sir Roger Lort of Stackpole, Bart, and 2ndly Mary daughter of John Vaughan of Llanelly. He died on 27 February 1693-4 and was buried at Talylychau.

Golden Grove (Gelli Aur)

Golden Grove in the parish of Llanfihangel Aberbythych, home of the Vaughans, Earls of Carbery, remained in the hands of the family until 1804 when it was devised to Lord Cawdor whose present representative continues to own it.¹⁷ The first house, built in the 1560s, was destroyed by a disastrous fire in 1729. During the years 1754—1758 a new house arose from the ashes, whose dimensions and plan are known from surviving documents. It was abandoned about 1826 when a new Golden Grove was built on the hillside about a thousand yards to the west. The house which Gulston saw has completely disappeared and there are no remains above ground to indicate its site. When he called, the owner was John Vaughan, Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum, who had married Letitia Jane Elizabeth daughter of Sir Cornwallis Maude, Baronet (later Viscount Hawarden and Baron Montalt).

Here are the pictures he saw:—

MS 1a, fo 32. Golden Grove. 1785.

“Mr Vaughn’s, about 2 mile from Llandilo, but a small house. it belonged to John Vaughan who was created Baron of Emlyn & Earl of Carbery in Ireland. You first come in a hall & then a dining room on one side & a drawing room on the other, dressing room, etc. All the Pictures are put into a Lumber Garret. Good Gardens.”

In MS 1, fos 39-43. c 1783, he writes at greater length—

“Golden Grove the seat of John Vaughan esqre, near Llandilo, Carmarthenshire, South Wales. The present possessor having new furnished the house the following pictures are placed in the Garretts, Servants Room and Butler’s pantry, much to his honour, credit, and taste.

Drawings

Bridge North—Shropshire—Worcester—Welch Bridge—Shrewsbury—part of the old and new bridge at ditto—Dennewaur Castle—entrance into Chepstow Castle—West Gate of Cardiff—Castle of Cardiff from the West—inside view of Chepstow Castle looking eastward—Carew Castle. These drawings are all framed and glazed.

¹⁷ See my essays on the Vaughans in *Trans Cymru* 1963, 1964, 1966, for biographical details of those whose portraits are described by Gulston. An illustrated catalogue of portraits, at Golden Grove, by Rachel A. G. Howard and K. S. Campbell, printed privately in 1904, contains valuable notes.

Dressing Room

1. Old *Lady Maud* of Westmeath (*sic*), mother of the present Lord Montalt, sitting in black—very bad—hair, no Cap, plain comb’d hanging down behind.

Ditto

2. Mrs Vaughan (the present), sitting, in an oval, by Gardiner.

Maid Servant’s bed Chamber

3. Miss Eliza Appleton, sitting—in red—basket of flowers in her lap.
4. Sir William Vaughan, Knight, L.L.D. sitting in a great Chair, long black wig, gown, neckcloth—fine.
5. Sir Roger Appleton, Bart, Lady Appleton and Master William, a child in his mother’s lap, sitting, table between them, time of George 1st—this family came from Essex.
6. John Lord Vaughan, a head, long hair, when young, red loose dress, cravat.
7. Miss Dorothy Appleton, sitting, dove in her left hand.
8. Mrs Vaughan, a head, long hair, straight dress. tradition says this was bought at an Auction & christened.
9. Richard, Lord Vaughan, Baron of Emlyn, Baron of Mollingar and Earl of Carbery, President of Wales, &c, &c, &c. Privy Counsellor and Knight of the Bath. long hair, mustachios, black dress, red ribbon across, falling band, a round in a square. Very fine.
10. Copy of the foregoing picture in a round.
11. Ditto, a miniature of him, aged 51, 1657, by J.H.
N.B. there are five miniatures in one frame.
12. John, Lord Vaughan, Baron of Emlyn, Baron of Mollingar, and Earl of Carbery, Privy Counsellor, and Governor of Jamaica, to the knees, red loose dress, white sleeves, long wig, laced cravat, and ruffles, by Sir Peter Lely.
13. Anne Dutchess of Bolton, sitting, daughter to the last Earl of Carbery. To the knees, black dog, hind legs on a Cushion, forelegs on her lap. daughter of [No 14].
14. Anne, Countess of Carbery, sitting, below the knees, in yellow, naked neck, little dog in her lap, hands like Wissing.
15. John, Lord Vaughan Comptroller of his Majesty’s household, in white, to the knees, red mantle across, long wig, Cravat, by Sir Peter Lely. very fine.

16. John, Lord Vaughan, Baron of Emlyn and Baron of Mollingar, Earl of Carbery. Privy Counsellor and Governor of Jamaica, one hand on the arm of the chair as Kit Cat Club the print of, yellow gown, immense long wig.
17. Richard Vaughan Esqr (the late, when a Boy), W.L., a long robe a little spaniel, in a blue string, very bad.
18. Richard, Lord Vaughan, Baron of Emlyn, Baron of Mollingar and Earl of Carbery, President of Wales &c &c &c. Privy Counsellor and Knight of the Bath. In black, Ribbon on, long hair, white sleeves, standing, left hand. This is a very fine portrait.
19. Frances, Countess of Carbery, sitting, in brown, blue robe, light hair, hand, neck, and hands, beautiful, almost at whole length, by Lely. very fine.
20. Miniature of ditto (one of the five in one frame) 1649. by J.H.
21. Lady Vaughan, sitting, in white Sattin, loose dress, blue robe, leaning, almost a whole length. Necklace and beads across her neck that fastens her dress. hands fine, by Wissing.
22. Lady Vaughan, sitting, full front, purple gown, yellow robe, a rope of Pearl in her hands, yellow hair. Lely.
23. Lady Artemia Vaughan, oblong, fine Landscape, light hair, fall in ringlets on her Neck, in a blue and white slash'd dress, flowers in her hand, down to the knees, very young.
24. Sir Edward Vaughan, Knight Banneret, full front, brown loose dress, white sleeves, leaning, long Wig, laced Cravat, hands very fine. by Sir Peter Lely.
25. John Vaughan, Esqr. of Golden Grove, in a loose red dress like a gown, long hair, laced Cravat and Ruffles, in an oval. date 1464—a mistake.

N.B. they had no picture of him so they painted this I suppose and put this date. The picture is of the latter part of the reign of Charles 2d.

26. Lord Francis Vaughan, in a brown loose dress, white sleeves, long wig, half length, one hand, young.
27. George Savile, Marquis of Halifax. great wig, a miniature in oils. as illustrious heads print.
28. William Savile Marquis of Halifax, in a loose dress, long wig, Cravat, &c. oval.

Bed Chamber

29. Miss Sophia Vaughan, a head. temp George 1st. White sattin, blue mantle, very bad.
30. Frances, Countess of Carbery, in an oval, in blue, mantle, curled ringlet hair. Earrings.

Butler's Pantry

31. Richard Vaughan Esqr, in a round, brown coat, long wig, plain Cravat, hand on the hilt of his sword, a head.
32. Mrs Vaughan, a head, white sattin dress, blue mantle.
33. Anne, Countess of Carbery, in green sattin, red hair, head turned, hands fine. by Sir Peter Lely. beautiful.
34. Frances, Countess of Carbery, sitting, white sattin, black hair, hands, almost a whole length.
35. Anne Dutchess of Bolton, sitting, and leaning, in white sattin, blue mantle, flowers in her lap.
36. Lady Frances Vaughan, a head, red loose dress, lined with ermene. oval."

The last Vaughan seems to have been somewhat off-hand in his attitude towards inherited portraits. Fortunately his successors, the Lords Cawdor, showed an entirely different spirit so that the portraits have been preserved and most of them still hang on the walls of Golden Grove where they can be enjoyed by those who visit that interesting house.

Newton (Dynevor)

Newton, now called Dynevor Park, stands on the plateau immediately west of the town of Llandeilo, and in the parish of Llandyfeisant, or Llandefeyson as it is called in the older records and still so pronounced locally. It stands near, or on, the site of Sir Rhys ap Thomas' mansion described in a State record of 1532, printed in *Anc. Mon. Carm.* p 110. The present mansion dates from about 1660, and apart from internal arrangements and towers at each of the four corners of the main structure, has remained substantially unaltered. In *Anc. Mon. Carm.* it is mistakenly said to date from 1856, an extraordinary error afterwards admitted by the Commissioners in private correspondence with the 7th Lord Dynevor.

The family of Rhys (Rice) have been connected with this place since their ancestor Gruffydd ap Nicholas was appointed Steward there in 1425. Built within the township called the New Town, the house continued to be known by that name until the 1780s, when the name Dynevor came into general use. The Welsh people in the vicinity still refer to it as Drenewydd.

When Mr Gulston called about 1782, the proprietor was George Talbot Rice son of the Rt Hon George Rice, (died 1779) and Baroness Dynevor, a peeress in her own right. Her father, the Earl Talbot had been created Baron Dynevor of Dynevor on 17 October

1780, with special remainder of that peerage to his only daughter Cecil Talbot who had married George Rice in 1756. She succeeded to the title in 1782, and on her death eleven years later, her son George Talbot Rice succeeded as 3rd Baron Dynevor. He died in 1852 at the age of 87.

Short biographies of most of the subjects of the portraits described below are given in *The Complete Peerage* (s.n. Dynevor, Talbot, and Shrewsbury) and in the peerage volumes of "Burke" and "Debrett."

Gulston writes of the portraits as follows:—

MS 1. fos 45-49. Newton (Dynevor) c 1783.

"Newton the Seat of Mr Rice is near this Town [Llandilo], and is without exception one of the finest inland places I ever saw; it is a great pity that the river Towy which winds most beautifully in the Vale has seldom water sufficient in it, in the Summer the Bed of the river being seldom covered till the end of October—the views of this place taken by Mr Bretherton are very like.

Eating Room

1. Lord Chancellor Talbot. W.L. in his Chancellor's Robes, Seals, &c.
2. Countess Talbot, wife of the late , W.L. in coronation robes.
3. Over the door in a square, unknown, long wig, laced neckcloth, yellow mantle, pink & a strapped dress, in an oval.
4. [] In an oval, long wig in a blue velvet tight dress with Gold (Frogs?) loose mantle, Collar open.
5. [] half length, Loose robe, long wig, neckcloth, leaning, hands fine.
6. Talbot—Bishop in his robes of the Garter, sitting, over the Chimney, father of the Chancellor.
7. Lady Talbot mother of the late Earl, and wife of the Chancellor, sitting, in white sattin, book in her lap, leaning on her arm, brown hair loose, to the knees.
8. Mr Kymer, in a round, one hand. The people here think it very like, I cannot find the least resemblance. [This comment seems also to be applied to the preceding].
9. John Talbot Earl of Shrewsbury. W.L. in black, from top to bottom, cap, Spanish cloak, stockings, shoes, &c. Ribbon round his neck, ruffles, ruff, black beard, gloves in his left hand, sword and belt both ornamented, the colouring of his picture is very red, which makes it appear to be a copy. he has a black beard.

10. Earl Talbot, W.L. when young, in a yellow Vandyke dress, with a large band, the attitude the same as Shakespear in Westminster Abbey. very bad.

Library Small Room

Are the Stirrups of Sir Rice ap Thomas. they are of Iron Gilt, with open at the bottom, which is very broad.

Small Justice Room

Are two old oaken Chairs, small, square, elbows, very plain, on the back are the Rice's arms empaled[sic] with the Garter, which also belonged to Sir Rice ap Thomas.

In the Closet of a Bed Chamber

11. Mr Edward Rice grandfather of the present, in a straight blue velvet coat, long wig, neckcloth, oval, very bad.
12. Mrs Rice, wife of Mr Edward Rice, with her son and daughter. the son (the late Mr Rice) is in blue velvet, with gold frogs, a greyhound by him. this portrait altho executed when Mr Rice was but seven years old, is very like him. the girl has a red feather in her hair, bib and apron. very bad.
13. Mrs Rice, mother of Sir Edward. of the Hobby family, sitting, leaning, crook and lambe.
14. Mr. Edward Rice, together with his brother and sister, children, this is the very *worst* picture I ever saw. he is sitting in the centre, with a narrow scarf across—naked, little dog by him, the brother standing in the same undress. Miss in a yellow gown, tight. Amazing quizzes.
15. Mr Griffith Rice, father of Mr Edward Rice, in a flower gown, long wig, laced neckcloth, little dog on a table.
16. Catherine, Queen of Charles 2d. in the character of St Catherine with the wheel. drawing good. Like Huysman. in white sattin. like the print.
17. Dutchess of Cleveland in a hat and feather, crook & lamb, &c, in yellow. a very bad copy.
- 18—19. Two old bad green views of Dinnevir Castle in the Park which was destroyed by Oliver Cromwell, the keep was fitted up some years ago but destroyed by lightning. Some more bad family unknown Portraits in the same closet.

Lady Talbot was the daughter of the late Thomas Carbonnel Esqr formerly secretary to the Duke of Marlborough, she had a fortune of eighty thousand pounds which was laid out in the purchase of Barrington near Burton in Gloucestershire. Mr Kymer,¹⁸ a tenant of Mr Rice's who lived at Kidwelly in the County where he made a Canal to his Colliery. he was Attorney General for South Wales, and Steward of the Court of Marshalsea, Southwark, and the Court of his Majesty's Palace, Westminster. he left his fortune after the death of his sisters, to Mr Rice's second son.

Charles Talbot, Lord Talbot, Baron of Hensol, Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, on the 14th Feby 1737 to the unspeakable loss of his Nation died"

In MS 1a. fo 34. 1785, Gulston comments further

"Newton. Mr Rice's. It is situated in one of the most beautiful Parks I ever saw. the Timber grows so fine. You come into a good Hall & then into a noble eating room & drawing room. There is Sir Rice ap Thomas's stirrups very curious & two Chairs of Henry 7th's time that came out of Dinnober Castle the ruins of which are now standing upon a great rock with wood all down on one [side] & the river running in the bottom, which makes it very beautiful & romantic."

Taliaris

Perhaps the most intriguing of Gulston's descriptions concerns Taliaris in Llandeilofawr parish. This house, which received a substantial grant from the Historic Buildings Council some years ago, stands high on a slope some four miles northeast of the town of Llandilo. Built in the form of a cube, the present structure dates from the seventeenth century, not least of its attractions being the scenes painted on panels in the dining room, said to have been executed by an Italian artist about the time of Charles II.

The original owners of Taliaris descended from a natural son of Sir Rhys ap Thomas, whose grandson, Rhydderch Gwyn gave the family its permanent surname. About the beginning of the eighteenth century the male line failed, and the estate passed to Richard Jones of Tregib, whose grandmother was Sibyl Gwynne

¹⁸ Thomas Kymer (1722—1784) came of a prosperous Pembrokeshire family. An enterprising industrialist, he worked coalmines in the vicinity of Kidwelly where he constructed a canal to carry the coal to a quay he had built at the estuary of the Gwendraeth. He died unmarried, leaving a considerable fortune to his unmarried sisters with remainder to his friend Lord Dynevor. The portrait of Kymer, dressed as a Chinese mandarin, still hangs at Dynevor.

of Taliaris. On inheriting he adopted the surname Gwynne, and his line ended in his grand-daughter, the heiress Elizabeth Gwynne (born about 1767) who married John William Hughes of Bwlchgwynt and Corngafar. J. W. Hughes then settled at Tregib, his wife's other estate, and from him descended the well-known family of Gwynne Hughes of that place.

Taliaris, which had been mortgaged by David Gwynne in 1768 for £12,000 to Sir John Wynne of Glynllivon in Caernarvonshire, afterwards passed out of the family and came into the possession of Lord Robert Seymour, and then of the Peels in the first half of the nineteenth century.

Joseph Gulston found much to occupy him in Taliaris. Perhaps the most interesting are the portraits of the members of the Sea Serjeants, an exclusive society in West Wales whose members were suspected of possessing Jacobite sympathies.¹⁹ The portraits had been painted by Robert Taylor during the presidency of Richard (Jones) Gwynne of Taliaris, and we learn from another source that they were moved to Tregib after the family sold Taliaris. Gulston writes about Taliaris as follows:—

MS 1a. fo 33a. Taliaris. 1785.

"The late Mr Gwinne who was president of the Sea Sargents Club, a Society who met once a year for a week. they wore a star on there (*sic*) left side. The Hall is hung round with the pictures of all the members namely

Mr Gwinne, <i>President</i>	Mr Warren
Sir Edward Mansel	Mr Barlow
Morgan Lloyd	Governor Rogers
Old Mr Gwinne	George Symmonds
Young Mr Gwinne	Capt John Morgan
Sir John Phillipps	Mr Vaughn
John Symmonds	Mansel Langdon
Wm Skyrme	Mr Bowen
Dr Roger Phillipps	Mr Tom Popkins
Sir Thomas Stepney	David Rice Gwinne
Dr Phillipps, DD. CC OX	Rawley Mansel
George Noble	Mr Hitchins
Mr Parry	Mr Lewis

Mr Williams

In MS 3. fo 65. 1783, he describes the portraits in detail—

"Taliaris. The seat of David Gwynne, Esq, near Llandilo, Carmarthenshire. A beautiful situation with a most rich and extensive prospect.

¹⁹ The society existed from 1726 to 1764.

Breakfast parlour

1. Charles 1st, in armour, long beard, a head.
2. Lady, unknown.

Drawing room

3. Mr John Symmons of Llanstynnan in the County of Pembroke, Esq. in fawn coloured velvet, gold lace, white satten waistcoat, wig, neckcloth—a head—father of the present who married the Widow Barlow.
4. Sir Edward Mansel of Trimsarran in the County of Carmarthen. sitting, full dress'd, in brown gold lace, sleeve above the elbow; embroidered waistcoat, Tye Wig, colour in the hands gone.
5. Captn William Gwynne, in a yellow mantle, hand on a table, book, white hair, beard, landscape, temp Charles 2d, bad. [died some time before July 1688].
6. Mr Pytts of Thyre in Worcestershire, near Tenbury. In blue and gold, white satten waistcoat, hat under his arm, oval, by Taylor.
7. Counsellor Lloyd of Cwmgwily, sitting in a great chair, immense white wig, lawyer's gown, very large band, roll in his right hand, table, books, etc. [Griffith Lloyd, barrister. d. 1713].
8. David Gwynne Esq, in a brown mantle, neckcloth, large wig, in a round. Gave Taliaris to the President. [David Gwynne. d. 1721].
9. Rowland Gwynne, Esq, in a large loose dress, laced cravat, brother of the foregoing.

Staircase

10. Rawley Mansell, esq. W.L.

Bedchamber

11. Lady Rudd—over the chimney—half length. [Probably Beatrice Barlow, 2nd wife of Sir Anthony Rudd of Capel Evan, Bart].

Bedchamber Bedlam

- 12, 13 and 14. Mrs Harris (when Miss Gwynne), Mr Richard Gwynne, Mr Morgan Gwynne—drawn when about 12 years old, postures, by Lewis a painter in London. [children of Richard Jones Gwynne, Taliaris].
- 15 and 16. Mr and Mrs Gwynne, in blue velvet, dark laced waistcoat, two ovals, by Lewis.

17. Mr Howell Gwynne of Garth, white coat, red waistcoat line with blue lapells, brown wig. By Taylor. a head. see farther on. [son of Marmaduke Gwynne by Sarah Evans of Peterwell].

Hall

Is furnished round with the Pictures of the Society called Sea Serjeants. This Society was instituted before 1730—it consisted of a President, Chaplain, Treasurer or Secretary, 24 Serjeants, and Probationers, from whom they elected to supply the 24 in case of death. They spent annually a week in some sea port of Pembroke, Carmarthen, Cardigan & Glamorgan. They of late years chose a Lady Patroness who presided at their Ball. The Serjeants wore a Star, with a Dolphin on the left side, and the Probationers on the right. The first President was Mr Barlow; secondly Mr Gwynne—on his death Sir John Philips 1754 or 5 was the last meeting, at Swansea. When Mr Gwynne was President, Taylor the painter was employed to draw all their portraits, which were executed in 1748, and are as follows—

18. Mr Richard Gwynne, President. sitting in an elbow chair, red velvet, hands, wig, etc. Married a sister of Sir John Rudd (died 15th June 1739), by whom he got the Forest Estate in the County of Carmarthen, her brother dying without issue. He died 1751. [Richard Jones of Tregib, who took the name Gwynne on succeeding to Taliaris in 1721. He died in 1752].
19. Sir Edward Mansell of Trimsarran, in red velvet trimm'd with a broad gold lace, full dress'd coat. He married first a woman who lived with a Jew in London; second Miss Price of Gorllwyn; third wife, a Lady of London, an Irish girl, she married Coll. St Ledger after Sir Ed'ds death in 1754.
20. Morgan Lloyd Esq of Glansevin. He married Miss Lloyd of Wern, in Cardiganshire. died 1777. Glansevin is near Langaddock, Carmarthenshire. In green velvet, in an oval.
21. John Symonds of Llanstynnan Esq, in the County of Pembroke. in blue velvet, gold button hole, wig, round. John Symonds married Miss Philips of Haverfordwest; died 1758 [recte 1764].
22. Thomas Gwynne Esq of Gwempa, in a snuff coloured velvet coat, gold button hole, blue waistcoat with a very broad lace, oval. He married Miss Eliz Middleton of Middleton (Hall in the county of Carmarthen. 1750 died.

23. Richard Gwynne Esqr of Gwempa, son of the foregoing, in a gray goat with a broad scalloped silver lace, buff waistcoat laced, the coat buttoned across, a silver laced Hat under his arm, oval. He married a daughter of General Fuller's. died 1778.
24. Sir John Philips, Bart, of Picton Castle, Pembrokeshire. In blue velvet, gold button hole, red waistcoat, undressed wig, in an oval. He married Miss Sheppard. died 1761 [*recte* 1764].
25. William Skyrn Esqr of Vainor in Pembrokeshire. In blue lined with red, laced like an Admiral, red laced waistcoat, oval. He married Miss Hughes, an heiress of Laugharne, in Carmarthenshire. died 1762.
26. William Warren Esqr of Langridge in Pembrokeshire. married [Jane Skyrme] by whom he had four daughters, coheiresses who married 1. Jones of Lanina in Cardiganshire, 2. Sir Robert Keith, Governor of Jamaica, 3. Lord Kensington of Johnson in Pembrokeshire, 4. Williams of Popehill, Pembrokeshire. Mr. Warren is in brown, gold button hole, red waistcoat with a large broad gold lace. oval. died 1756.
27. George Barlow of Slebech in Pembrokeshire, Esq, in a white coat with an ermine collar and ermined waistcoat, round brown wig, oval. He married a Miss Blundel, a dancing master's daughter, by whom he had an only daughter who first married Mr Symonds of Llanstynnan. Mr Barlow died 1756 [*recte* 1757].
28. Anthony Rogers Esqr, Governor of SenaGambia for the Company. in brown velvet red waistcoat, broad gold lace, white wig. oval. lived at Carmarthen. He married Miss Lewis of Torrycoed. died 1758. [Mayor of Carmarthen 1746].
29. George Symmonds Esqr, of Llanstynnan in Pembrokeshire, younger brother of John. In a brown coat, gold button hole, blue velvet waistcoat, brown wig. died a batchelor 1756.
30. John Morgan Esqr. an officer in the Army. of Upland in Carmarthenshire. In a blue velvet coat trimmed with a musquetier gold lace, red waistcoat laced, white wig, hat under his arm. oval. He died a batchelor 1755.
31. Erasmus Vaughan of Trecombe in Pembrokeshire, Esqre. In brown velvet, white sattin waistcoat, grey wig, oval. died a batchelor 1763 [*recte* 1775].
32. Mansel Langdon Esqre of Carmarthen. In blue velvet coat with a gold button hole and narrow lace, laced red waistcoat, black wig. Married Mrs Bevan of Glasfryn, a widow, and sister and coheiress of Governor Rogers's wife—Miss Lewis. died 1760 [*recte* 1759], his lady who married on his death Revd Griffith Havard.
33. Mr Bowen of Upton, Pembrokeshire. In brown velvet white statten waistcoat, brown wig, oval. He married Miss Knowles of Wenallt in Pembrokeshire, an heiress. died 1760 [*recte* 1758].
34. Dr Roger Philips, a Physician at Carmarthen. In red velvet with a gold button hole and narrow lace, laced red waistcoat, white wig, oval, full front. He married Mrs Hughes, a widow, of Laugharne, Carmarthenshire. died 1760.
35. David Gwynne, Esq, son of the President. When young, in white, brown hair, blue waistcoat with a broad silver lace, hat under his arm. oval. He married Miss Vaughan of Nanny [Corsygedol] in Merionethshire. died 1775 [without issue].
36. Thomas Popkin Esq of Forest in Glamorganshire. In brown velvet, gray waistcoat, with a broad gold lace, bag wig. He married Justina daughter of Sir John Stepney, on whose death he married Miss Gordon. died 1769.
37. Sir Thomas Stepney, Llanelly, Carmarthenshire. In an olive green velvet coat, red waistcoat with a broad musquetier gold lace, brown hair, neckcloth. Oval. He married Miss Lloyd of Derrwyth. died 1772.
38. Dr Philips, a Divine, of Colby, Pembrokeshire. In a gown and cassock. He married the Widow Portreeve of Yniscedwin, Glamorganshire. She was sister of Dr Powell of Nanteos, Cardiganshire. 1784. [Dr James Philipps died at Nanteos in 1783, his wife Elizabeth died in 1793].
39. Revd Mr Le Hunt of Jesus College, Oxford. Had an estate in Pembrokeshire. In his gown and cassock. died a batchelor 1755 [William Le Hunt, 4th son of George Le Hunt of Haverfordwest and Alice Leger].
40. Rawley Mansel Esqr of Limestone Hill, Carmarthenshire. In brown velvet, ermined waistcoat, large wig. Oval. He married Miss Williams of Corngavor. died 1750.
41. George Noble, a Wine Merchant of Swansea, Glamorganshire. A remarkable jolly fellow in blue velvet with a pink waistcoat, wig, one hand. Oval. died 1749.
42. James Lewis, Esq of Gtledowick [Gellidywyll] in Pembrokeshire. In red velvet, gold edging, blue waistcoat, wig. He married first, Vaughan of Yscer Vaughan in Brecknockshire, secondly Miss Symmonds of Llanstynnan. died 1745 [*recte* 1750].
43. John Williams Esqr of Congafer, Carmarthenshire. In an ash coloured coat, gold brocaded waistcoat, wig, neckcloth. He married a Miss Harris of Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire. died 1748. [*recte* 1747. This portrait came into the pos-

session of the late Sir Grismond Philipps, and now hangs in the dining room at Cwmgwili].

44. David Parry of Noyadd, Cardiganshire, Esqr. In an ash coloured velvet, blue embroidered waistcoat, laced frill, long wig. He married a Miss Webly. Mr Parry died abroad, David Gwynne was chose in his stead.
45. Mr Hitchens, a Probationer. Of Bristol. lived and died at Llandebyea 1780. In a blue ermin'd waistcoat with the cape to it over his coat which has no cape, wig, etc. His star is on the right side. A jolly fellow.
46. Robert Taylor, the painter, who executed all the foregoing pictures [i.e. Nos 13 onward]. In a loose dress, a post crayon in his hand, wig, etc. This is the best portrait in the room, and Sir John Phillips's is the next best.

This Society were all Gentlemen in the country Interest. N.B. Mr Gwynne the President's name was Jones, he lived at Tregibe, but changed his name for the Taliaris estate. Mr. Howell Gwynne of Garth married the widow of Sir John Rudd, who was the widow of John Powell of Pennybank and daughter of Sir Thomas Powell of Broadway near Laugharne, Carmarthenshire, which John Powell was the father of Lady Anne Hamilton, Sir Thomas Powell had three daughters coheiresses, Lady Rudd, Lady Price wife of Sir John Price, Montgomeryshire, (and) Mrs Cornwall wife of Velters Cornwall in Herefordshire.

Mr Richd Gwynne married Miss Catherine Garnons of Rhiwgoch, by whom he had issue one daughter the heiress of his family, as his two brothers had none."

He returns to the house again in MS 4. fo 12. c 1783, and says—

"At the late Mr Gwynne's of Taliaris, near Landilo, Carmarthenshire, South Wales, is a picture of the late Sir Thomas Stepney, son of Sir John the foregoing man, in an olive green velvet coat, red waistcoat with a broad musqueteer gold lace on it, brown (wig or) hair, neckcloth: in oval painted by Taylor being one of the Society of Sea Sarjeants, with a small star on the left side. Mr Thomas Popkin of Glamorganshire who married Sir Thomas' sister is another Serjeant, he is dressed in brown velvet, grey waistcoat with a broad gold lace, bag wig, painted by Taylor." On folio 18 he offers a further comment— "Sir Thomas Stepney father of the present Sir John was one of the Society of Sea Sarjeants, which society had all their pictures painted by Taylor, and are still to be seen at Mr Gwynne's at Taliaris in the County of Carmarthen. he is in an olive green velvet coat, red waistcoat with a broad musqueteer lace, brown wig, neckcloth, oval. he was husband of Lady Stepney daughter of the above Mrs Vaughan for whom the above epitaph was wrote in Llandybie church."

So much for Gulston's account of the portraits at Taliaris in 1783-5. Within six years of his visit the portraits of the Sea Serjeants were moved to Tregib, and we are fortunate to possess a description by another visitor who noted them. She was a Mrs Mary Morgan, and an account of her visit on 13 October 1791 appears on pages 370-376 of *A Tour of Milford Haven in the year 1791*, London, 1795, as follows:—

"... drove to Tregib, which I long had a curiosity to visit, it being famous for its antiquity, and likewise for its having belonged to the president of the Sea Serjeants . . . when we arrived at Tregib, we were welcomed in the most hospitable manner by the Lady President, who was then sitting at the head of her table, in a fine old hall, which was entirely surrounded with the portraits of the former members of the society of Sea Serjeants, twenty-six in number. Mr Gwynne, her brother, was drawn as president, in his chair of state. There is also a picture of the chaplain to this community, and of the painter who drew them all; he having desired that he might add his own to the collection. There was something exceedingly striking in this venerable groupe, and the antiquity of the place which they occupied . . . Notwithstanding this lady sat, it may be said, in the midst of her dead friends, she preserved a wonderful degree of cheerfulness; nor did the vanity of the sex prompt her to dwell upon any one circumstance, in which she shone the most conspicuous of the throng that graced their galas. At the table was the young lady, who procured us the sight of this once famous house, and likewise another, the last of the President's descendants, in whom centres a large fortune, and who had just given her hand to the man of her heart. To complete the pleasures of this day, they had borrowed a fine treble harp from Golden Grove. As I had never heard a treble harp before, I was quite in raptures, and thought it the most charming instrument that ever was played upon . . ."

There is a gothic touch about this lady sitting "in the midst of her dead friends," which the late Isak Dinesen would have appreciated.

Tregib

We now come to Tregib which also finds a place in Mr Gulston's notebooks. This house stands amidst a fine grove of trees on low ground about a mile to the east of Llandeilo. From the fifteenth century until a few decades ago Tregib had been owned by the descendants of Sir Eliudir Ddu, Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, of Crug near Llandeilo. The first of the family to live at Tregib was the knight's great-grandson Thomas ap Gwilym, and his Elizabethan

descendant, Morgan ap John, adopted the permanent surname of Jones. On inheriting the Taliaris estate in 1721 Richard Jones took the surname Gwynne under the terms of the will of his great-uncle as mentioned on page 00 above. The family ended in an heiress, Elizabeth Gwynne (d 1832) who married John William Hughes (d 1825) who settled at this wife's home, and from them descends the Gwynne-Hughes family.

Although the house has been subjected to extensive changes over the years, particularly in late Victorian times, some earlier features have survived, notably the vaulted cellars of the mansion which, it is believed, belong to the fifteenth century, and a small panellied room with a fine overmantle done in plaster above the fireplace, bearing a shield of five quarterings, the date 1657 and the initials of Francis Jones of Tregib who had been High Sheriff ten years previously.

When Gulston called at Tregib about 1783, he says it was the house of a Mr Lewis. This is probably a slip, for the owner at that time was Miss Elizabeth Gwynne whose acquaintance we made in the section on Taliaris. Although he does not describe any pictures, I think it proper to include the house particularly as it became the repository of the old portraits from Taliaris.

This is what Gulston says—
MS 3. fo 61.

"Tregib near Llandilo, Carmarthenshire, South Wales. The seat of Mr Lewis. A small bad house. In the Hall are three remarkable old Chairs, very large, each different from the other. They are made of Oak, round Posts, before and behind. The Arms have rails sloping from the back downwards to the front. Profile: [here follows a small sketch of a chair] supposed to be very old. One of them is triangular. Sideboard of Oak, with Vases etc. These Chairs are very curious and are well worth seeing. These Chairs were turned by Jones 1651. New part of the house built 1651."

Mrs Morgan, who, as we have noted earlier, called there in 1791, also admired the chairs, and comments

"The furniture is entirely of a piece with the building, particularly two large wooden arm-chairs; they are ornamented in a very singular manner, with rings cut out of the solid wood, which turn round those parts of the chairs upon which they hang; being a great many of them, they make, when moved a slight jingling noise. The date of these chairs cannot be ascertained; nor can that of the house, the new part of which was built in the year 1657." (*Tour*, p 374).

Llanelli Schools 1800-1870

By NOEL GIBBARD, B.A., B.D.
Minister of Beria, Bynca, Llanelli.

ALTHOUGH 1800 is the convenient starting point for this study, previous attempts at educating the people of Llanelli must be mentioned.¹ A Welsh Trust School in the town had twenty pupils in 1675. Thomas Gouge had turned his attention to Wales, probably in 1672, and the Trust was formed two years later to further his work in Wales. The main aim of the Trust was to distribute Bibles and teach children to read in English. The Gouge movement supported such schools in Wales, and distributed good religious literature. Stephen Hughes figured prominently in it, but he had started on his literary work before he met Gouge. He was a Welsh-speaking Welshman and realised the importance of the language as a medium of instruction. In 1677-8 he brought out a new edition of the Bible in Welsh. Hughes the Apostle of Carmarthenshire, often visited Penderi-March and Wernchwith in the neighbouring parishes of Llannonn and Llanedi. He must have been well known to the Baptists of Llanelli at that time, as there was a close relation between Congregationalists and Baptists in the three parishes during the period of persecution.

In the eighteenth century the main work was done by the Gruffydd Jones circulating schools, and there was a good number of these in the town, Five Roads, Felinfoel, and Llwynhendy. There were "a few private schools" in Llanelli parish in 1748, and one of the schoolmasters mentioned often during the century was a Mr. Maurice. The school work was helped by the distribution of literature organised by the S.P.C.K. and Edward Dalton of Llanelli figured prominently in it.

1800 to 1846

Early in the nineteenth century two societies were formed for the promotion of education. One was the Anglican National Society, 1811, but it had only one school in Llanelli, founded c. 1827. The other was the undenominational British and Foreign Society, 1814, but there is not a single reference to a British School in the whole of the county between 1800-1843. Indeed, in 1843 there were only two in the whole of Wales and they were in the North. Apart from the National School, there was a charity school, works school,

¹ For the background see: *History of Carmarthenshire*, ed. J. E. Lloyd, vol. ii, 181-4; "S.L." in a series of articles on Llanelli Schools in *The Llanelli Star*, Oct., 1938; Gwladys Jones, *The Charity School Movement*; John Innes, *Old Llanelli*, ch. xiv; Arthur Mee, *Llanelli Parish Church*; and the work of Mary Clement on the S.P.C.K.

private schools, and, of course, the Sunday schools. There is no doubt that the Sunday schools contributed greatly to the general welfare of the people of Llanelli, but their influence was not deeply felt until the eighteen-thirties. Three only are mentioned at the beginning of the century.—Capel Als, Capel Newydd and Felinfoel. The Anglicans, due mainly to the support of Mr. Nevill, had started a Sunday school in 1805, but there was not a regular one attached to the Parish Church in 1810, although “the children are often instructed by persons of the town alternately.”² Fifteen are mentioned in 1847, and will be discussed with the important report for that year.

The works school was that supported by R. J. Nevill, the prominent industrialist. This school provided education for the children of his workmen at the Copper Works and the collieries. Returns for two weeks in 1818 have been preserved. They were drawn up by William Williams for R. J. Nevill, Field House. The pupils, 56 for each day of the first week and 59 for the second, were drawn from the Copper Works, and the collieries of Caemain and Box. There was school on Saturday.³

A report of 1818 says of the parish of Llanelli, with a population of 3,891, “Two day schools, consisting of about 160 children, and two Sunday Schools comprising 200”, but there were none endowed.⁴ One of the Sunday schools must have lapsed since 1810. The two day schools could be the Billy Williams school, opened in 1814, and the Felinfoel school in the Baptist Chapel. Some of the nearby parishes did not fare much better, according to the same report. Penbre had one endowed school, and Cydweli one unendowed school. There was a Madam Bevan circulating school in Llannonn and in Llanedy. Other places fared better, and Carmarthen, including the Chapelry of Llan-llwch, with a population of 7,275, had eleven schools. Llandeilo-fawr, plus Taliaris Chapelry, had a population of 4,030, with thirteen unendowed schools and two endowed ones. But there was no Sunday school. Out of seventy parishes and chapelries, nineteen of them did not have a school at all. There was no return for St. Ishmael. The totals for the county for 1818 were :

	Schools	Children
Endowed	26	732
Unendowed	75	2,016
Sunday Schools	130	1,748
	—	—
	231	4,496
	—	—

² SD/DA 66, Church in Wales Records, N.L.W.
³ Valuable assistance given by Dr. Leslie Wyn Evans, Cardiff.
⁴ *Digest of Returns to Select Committee on the Education of the Poor, 1818.*

The Charity school functioned occasionally. It was alive in 1823 and was supported by many well-known figures and companies, including the Rev. Ebenezer Morris, Alexander Raby, R. Goring Thomas, R. J. Nevill, Ralph Pemberton, Marquis of Cholmondeley and Haynes and Co. In a letter from Llanelli, dated January 14, 1831, James Buckley says, “knowing the Misses Taylor to be friends of the poor and destitute thinks it not unlikely that they may be able to recommend to the ladies who patronize and assist in our Charity School (constructed on the same principles as the Carmarthen National School) some suitable person as a School mistress who would be glad to accept such a situation”. He says that “The salary of the present mistress is £20 p.a. she is obliged to give up on account of indisposition”.⁵ In the letter, Buckley refers to several of the friends who would like a Mathematical school in the town, but they knew that there would be difficulty in getting a suitable room.

It was about 1827 that the National school was started. A report of 1828 says, “There is a daily school on the national system supported by subscriptions”.⁶ The parish schoolmaster was not licensed. There were about eighty boys and sixty girls at the school. The main supporter was the Rev. Ebenezer Morris, who was licensed as a schoolmaster on 13 August, 1835.⁷ This school was enlarged or rebuilt in 1837. It received two Parliamentary grants during this time, 21 June, 1837, the sum of £113, and 18 May, 1839, the sum of £87.⁸ In 1841 the building was shaken by collicry workings, and this trouble continued until 1848.

Llanelli Infants' school is mentioned in the year 1847, but its opening should be of interest in this context. On 20 July, 1840, there was a public meeting of friends and supporters of the proposed infants' school. R. Goring Thomas, was in the chair, and others present including Williams Chambers, James Buckley, and the Rev. Ebenezer Morris. Mr. Thomas had given the land in Prospect Place leading out of Thomas Street. Necessary arrangements were made. The school was opened in 1841. It was a building for 250 children, but 164 were present on the day of the examination in 1843. The first master and mistress were Mr. and Mrs. Boulter. By a deed, dated 14 October, 1840, the Methodists were granted use of it on Sundays, except between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., and for occasional evening meetings. In return they contributed £50 to the school.⁹

⁵ Castell Gorfod, B65, Carmarthen Record Office.
⁶ SD/QA, 1828.
⁷ SD/SM 22.
⁸ Minutes, Committee of Council on Education 1854-55.
⁹ Returns, Endowed Charities, County Carmarthen 1901. *The Cambrian*, July 24, 1840.

There are numerous references to private schools during this period, and in 1828 there were several schools in the parish.¹⁰ Williams Williams started teaching in 1814, when he was nineteen years old. His school was in Oxen Street. David Lewis of Gelligaled taught in the old Baptist Chapel at Felinfoel at the turn of the century. In 1822 the first of a number of buildings was erected. The master then was John Bowen. From the time of David Lewis to that of William George in 1848, twenty schoolmasters are mentioned in connection with the school. At Capel Ifan, near Ponyberem, in the parish of Llanelli, John Raynor kept school in 1808. He lived for a while at Carnawllon and then moved into the Llangendeirne

parish. When he died in 1827 he was 101 years old. John Howell, the well-known surveyor, is mentioned as a schoolmaster. The Unitarian John Thomas was teaching in the town in 1819. Sarah Roberts, later to become the wife of the Rev. David Rees, Capel AIs, was taught by a Rev. J. Thomas, and this could be the Unitarian master. She also paid tribute to a mistress called Miss Horseley. In a membership list of one of the Friendly Societies of the town, one name is given as 'Rev. David Davies, schoolmaster, Town' and underneath is written Meline or Molgrove. In the following year, 1822-23, he is referred to as Rev. David Davies, Molgrove, Pembroke-shire. The colourful character, Zorobabel Davies, taught in the town for a short period. He gave a testimony before the Commissioners of 1847.

These are some of the schools and masters. A number were opened during the thirties and forties but they are mentioned in the 1847 report. One not mentioned is the school of Francis Francis which was in existence in 1844.

The Blue Books of 1847

The report of 1847,¹¹ is a most valuable source for this study. On his arrival at Llanelli, the inspector witnessed a real desire for education: "I found the harbour master giving a gratuitous lesson in algebra to nine persons". He testified to the improved moral character of the town and concluded that "The Dissenting Sunday Schools appear to have been mainly instrumental in effecting this happy change". Thirteen of these schools are listed, but no Sunday schools had been held for some months in two other places, Horeb and Ponthenry. The thirteen were: Felinfoel B., 1791; Capel AIs

¹⁰ SD/QA 70, N.L.W.

¹¹ *Reports of the Inquiry into the State of Education in Wales, Part I for Carmarthenshire, London 1847.*

I., 1800; Capel Newydd, C.M., 1801; Llwynhendy B., 1812; Infant Schoolroom W., 1822; National Ch., 1831; Park Street, 1839; Tanygraig branch of Capel AIs, 1839; Siloa I., 1840; Bryn I., 1842; Bethel P.B., 1840; Cwmbach B., 1845; and Sion B., 1823.

The figures for Church and Dissent are given:

Church Sunday School	Dissent
140 under 15 }	1,178 under 15 }
50 over 15 } 190	797 over 15 } 2,765

Of the 2,955 children, 819 of them attended a day school. Almost half of this total could read the scriptures. The Bible was the main book of course, and in all the schools it was committed to memory. Much use was made of catechisms, and those mentioned are the Church Catechisms, Watts' Catechism, Mother's Gift, and that of Thomas Charles of Bala. Geographical maps were also found in some schools. In three of the schools, National, Park, and the Wesleyan, English was the medium of instruction, and Welsh in Cwmbach, Sion, Soar, Tanygraig, and Capel Newydd. Both languages were used in the other places. In Capel AIs two-thirds of the female classes were reading English, and some of the parents, whose children were going to day school, objected to their being taught Welsh on Sundays.

Much space was devoted to the Capel AIs Sunday School. It lasted for two hours, which was the usual time, although it lasted for three and a half at the National. Capel AIs had 454 children, of whom 90 attended day school and 258 could read scripture. Thus 168 children had been taught to read in the Sunday school, with help perhaps in some cases from the home. School was opened with a hymn and a prayer, after which the names of the teachers were called out. Many were missing at the copper works, as the furnaces were working day and night. David Rees, the minister, had a class of fifteen—four colliers, one farmer's son, two carpenters, one brewery man, two clerks in the works, one shopkeeper, one very old man, and one "not ascertained." This class supplied the school with teachers. They had five scriptural maps and some commentaries. The teachers had to be busy during the week, as they had to visit the parents of absentees. Assistance was given to those who were too poorly clad to attend. It must have taken the inspector some time to visit this school, as there were 72 classes.

Twenty day schools are listed:

National (1837)	...	...	...	No. on books
Infant (1841)	...	...	...	75B 49G
				... 180

Union (1840)	19
Mrs. Barber (P. 1841), Seaside	40
Miss Brebyn (P. 1841), Seaside	14
Mr. & Mrs. Evans (P. 1844), Wern	75
Miss Constable (P. 1845), Seaside	30
Mr. Esau (P. 1842), High Street	40
Felinfoel (B. 1846)	60
Horeb (B. 1846)	40
William Williams (P. 1814), Oxen Street	45
Miss Lush (P. 1845), Hall Street	9
Llwynhendy (B. 1844)	50
Mrs. Marks (P. 1832), Water Street	120
Mrs. Morgan (P. 1839), Wern	26
Park Street (P. 1846)	11
Mr. Phillips (P. 1842), Seaside	45
Mrs. Pullen (P. 1845), William Street	19
Mrs. Thomas (P. 1831), Oxen Street	12
Mr. James Williams (P. 1836), Hall Street	16
	<hr/>
	976

Nearly all the schools were recently established ones. Only five were established on their 1847 footing before 1837. It is interesting to note the location of the schools. Seaside had four private schools; Wern a National and two private schools; Hall Street two, and two in Oxen Street. Most of them were small schools, and only five had over fifty pupils.

Not many of them were highly commended, although the Infants' School was "capable of becoming a good one." Many of the teachers laboured under real difficulties; unsatisfactory buildings, as in the National; lack of funds in the Infants; or the problem of communication. The teachers of both the National school, boys and girls, and the Union Workhouse understood no Welsh at all. Only two of the teachers were unable to speak English correctly. One refused to address the inspector in English and insisted on speaking Welsh. The majority of the teachers did not have the necessary qualifications for teaching. A few had some preparation. The master of the Infants' School spent six weeks in Cheltenham and one year in a model school, while the master at Felinfoel spent eight months at Baldwin's Gardens. Both the mistresses at the National and the Union, who were sisters, had taught at High Lytton, Somersetshire. A list is given in the report of the occupations of the teachers when they took up teaching. A few continued in them. They were: druggist, tailor, custom-house officer's wife, housewife, dressmaker, clerk, usher, labourer, mariner, collier's wife, laundress, school-

master's wife, and governess. Nine of the teachers started on their work before they were twenty years of age and five when they were between fifty and fifty-five years old. Sixty pounds a year was paid to the teacher at the National and fourteen pounds plus rations and lodging to the master of the Workhouse school.

Five of the schools were directly connected with chapels and churches. The Infants' school "aimed at neutrality as far as denominations were concerned." Religious instruction was given in ten schools, and that by the teacher. The main emphasis was on the three R's, but sewing was regarded as important for the girls in some places.

Apart from the twenty schools, there was a Mechanics' Institute and the night school. The former was in the process of being formed and started in the Park Schoolroom. It had 111 members, who paid a subscription fee of 1s. 6d. each. There were three night schools:

	No. of evenings	Rate	Subjects	Average Attendance
Llanelli National ...	3 in winter	3d. per week	R.W.A.	20
Mr. & Mrs. Evans ...	4			6
Felinfoel	5			6

The master at the Llanelli National night school had to provide candles, pens and ink.

There is no mention in the report of a school called the Llanelli Academy. The reason for this most probably was the particular nature of the school. It concentrated mainly on preparing young men for the Christian ministry. It was opened in January 1844, being promoted by the Rev. David Rees and the Rev. Thomas Roberts. The latter was the master.¹² He had been ordained at Park Church on 27 September, 1843, and remained there until 1851. Many ministerial students were educated there, including Thomas Jones, Henry Rees, John Rees and John Bowen. Thomas Jones became well known not only in Wales but also in London, where he had Robert Browning in his congregation, and in Melbourne.

1847 to 1870

Many events of 1843-47 were to mould the future of education in Wales. In 1843, Hugh Owen made his appeal for British Schools, and in the same year James Graham introduced his factory Bill. One of Graham's proposals was to base religious instruction mainly on Church doctrine. The 'voluntaryist movement' held a meeting at Llandoverly in 1845, with David Rees as one of the secretaries. It was decided to set up a Normal School for Wales. Then in 1847

¹² Y Dwygyfwr, Gorrffennaf, 1850.

the Blue Books appeared.¹³ Naturally, there were strong reactions. One lasting result was the formation of new schools

In Llanelli Dissenters and Anglicans opened new schools, and this was done by the 'voluntaryist movement,' and by individuals. It is true that all education was voluntary until 1870, but the 'voluntaryist movement' did not believe that schools should be supported by the government or by works companies. Aid could be accepted if education was secular, but they could not think of it in that way. The movement and an individual, R. J. Nevill of the Copper Works, responded to the need for educating the children of the town.

When the Dissenters of Llanelli started discussing the voluntary schools, it was suggested that the Churchmen should be invited to join them. But R. J. Nevill had lost no time in taking action. Already, in 1846, he had some kind of school in the yard of his works. But he wanted something better. Therefore the Copper Works School was opened. Land was leased from William Chambers, Llanelli House, by an indenture dated 1 January 1847,¹⁴ between Chambers as part one, and Humphrey William, Cornwall, Esqr., Richard Jancion Nevill, Llangennech Park, Esqr., Alexander Druce, Steelyard, City of London, Esqr., and Thomas Deves, Steelyard, City of London, Esqr., as part two. The premises were described as "old cottages and gardens part and parcel of a certain farm or lands called Hcolfawr situate lying and being near the Town of Llanelli." The lease, for 99 years, was dated from September 1846. The school was to be erected or substantially finished within one year. A report of 1848 refers to Llanelli and says of St. Paul's: "There is one day school in the district principally supported by the copperworks company. It cannot be said to belong to any denomination in particular."¹⁵ No restrictions were made on Sunday worship.

A report¹⁶ for 1850-51 bears witness to improvement:

1. British with gallery; Desks and furniture—good.
2. Books and apparatus—good.
3. Organisation, Monitorial Drafts, occasionally grouped into three sections; good except that the preservation of the same drafts for arithmetic as for reading is of dubious propriety.

¹³ For the whole period see D. Salmon *The Story of a Commission. Y Cymrodor*, Vol. xxiv; Idwal Jones, "The Voluntary System—at work," *Trans. Cymru* 1931-32; and Leslie Wyn Evans, "Voluntary Education in the Industrial Areas of Wales," *Journal N.L.W.*, Winter, 1966.

¹⁴ Stepney Papers, Carmarthen Record Office.

¹⁵ SD/QA, 77.

¹⁶ Minutes, Committee of Council on Education.

4. Discipline—good.
5. Methods—good.
6. Master and Mistress. Has completely revised his own methods and habits with the best effect, and is a valuable teacher.

The report says that the master had been to the Church Normal School at Carmarthen for two months. The girls were commended for "decided progress in cleanliness, order and plain needlework." In 1854 the school was described as "one of the best in Wales" and in 1858 it was referred to as "exerting a high influence on the neighbourhood."¹⁷ The average attendance for 1861 was 180 boys and 110 girls and a 100 infants, and the rate of payment was 3d., 2d. and 1d. A lending library of 400 volumes was attached to the school, and it was said in 1852-3 that the books were "much read."

David Williams was the pioneer of this work and laboured at the school until 1863, when he was appointed the agent for the British Society.¹⁸ He was followed by John Jones, and under the new master the school even enhanced its reputation. He took further courses of study and later made valuable contribution to the Higher Grade school in the town.

The voluntaryist supporters had no qualms at all that money would be forthcoming for a school. They ventured forward, and the foundation stone of the Llanelli school (later Market Street) was laid by David Morris, M.P., on 14 August 1847.¹⁹ It was built on a field commonly known as Bresfield, with the frontage extending along Pottery Road. In eight months the two-storey building, capable of holding 600 children, was ready. It was opened on 21 April 1848. The Bible was to be read daily, but the school was not bound to any catechism. Four of each of the five denominations were to be trustees, and the land was leased by William Chambers to David Lewis of Stradey and nineteen others. A committee was to govern, comprising the trustees plus ten subscribers from the five denominations. R. J. Nevill and his sons contributed about £50. The first master at this school was David Nicholas of Kidwelly, who resigned at the end of 1852.

¹⁷ N.L.W.7106. Also L. W. Evans, "Copper Works Schools in South Wales," *Journal N.L.W.*, Vol xi, 1959....

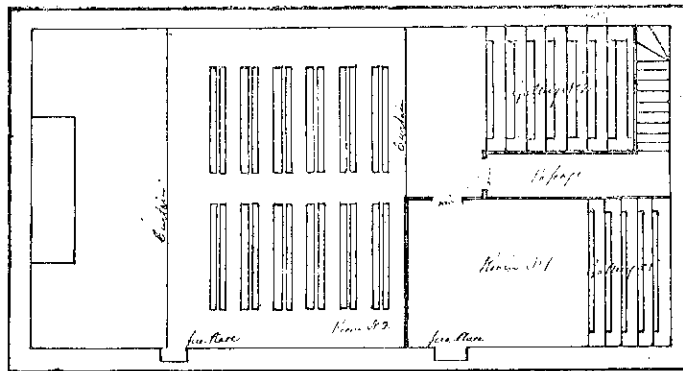
¹⁸ W. H. Morris, "Two Carmarthenshire Schoolmasters," *Carm. Ant.*, Vol. ix, Parts 1 and 2.

¹⁹ 'Y Diwygiar,' Medi 1847; Mai 1848. Endowed Charities 1901; W. H. Morris op cit., and Funeral Sermon (R. J. Nevill) delivered by Rev. David Rees, Job xiv, x, Llanelli, 1856.

MARKET STREET SCHOOL



Side Elevation



Ground Floor Plan (Girls' School)



Section showing desks and gallery

(Reproduced from Architect's drawings, 1855. CRO, Educ. 276)

There had been a total outlay of a thousand pounds, but three hundred pounds still remained as the committee's responsibility. Reluctantly, in 1853, David Rees and others who shared his views accepted government aid. Rees, however, opposed works schools until his death in 1869.²⁰ In February 1854, it was arranged to place the school under government inspection. Average attendance in 1861 was 215 boys and 150 girls, and the rates of payment were 4d., 3d. and 2d.

According to the 1854-5 report,²¹ the following grants were made to Llanelli schools:

March 11, 1854		Books, Maps.
Llanelli Boys and Girls, British	£250	£2. 17. 2½d.
Nov. 26, 1852		Grant to cert teacher.
Llanelli Infants, British.	£20. 0. 0.	£3. 15.0d.
		Books/Maps Cert. Teacher Pupil teachers
Copperworks School	£6. 19. 6¼d.	£91. 13. 1¼d. £284.

Apart from the Llanelli British School and the Infants, the schools at Llwynhendy, Bryn and Felinfoel were now established on a British basis. A new school was opened at Five Roads on 8 June, 1863. A new school at the Dock was under government inspection in 1859, and the masters there in the early years were Mr. George Spears and then in 1864 Mr. Scourfield from the Bangor Normal College. The Rev. Thomas Davies of Siloah was a staunch friend of this school, but the real pioneers were David Rees and his people at Capel Als.



Five Roads School

(Reproduced from Architect's drawings, 1862. CRO, Educ. 262)

²⁰ L. W. Evans, "Voluntary Education in the Industrial areas of Wales," *Journal N.L.W.*, xiv, 4.

²¹ Committee of Council on Education.

Other schools can just be mentioned. The Rev. Llewelyn Bevan refers to the school kept by Mr. Hall from Swansea, and gives interesting detail of a class under Mr. Hancock, the minister of Park Street.²² It is a great pity that Bevan leaves a statement of his in mid-air when he says, "Amongst the hearers of the Rev. W. Lovejoy, who became our minister, and my tutor was a student of New College, Septimus March by name." A Mr. Lovejoy kept an Academy in Llanelli in 1856. Could this be the Academy that Thomas Roberts looked after until 1851? Later, in 1863, the Rev. Thomas Lewis of Brecon Theological College was master of the Academy. It could be, of course, just a succession of name. A new Rugged School was opened by the Wesleyan Society in New Road in 1867 and another was about to be opened then, near the Customs House Bank.

What about the National Schools in Llanelli during the period? There was a flourishing school at Dafen, the Dafen Tin Works School, and also at Felinfoel. But the old school in the town was closed in 1848 for repairs because it was undermined by coal workings.²³ By 1849-50 the walls were so full of cracks that it became positively unsafe. An application was made to the Committee of the Council on Education for a grant to rebuild, but there was a controversy regarding the title deed. Eventually, the land reverted to the parish. Llanelli was left without a National School, while nearby Swansea had five. Fruitless efforts were made in 1858-60 and in 1862. However, at a meeting held on 22 July 1864, it was resolved to have a Church School at the cost of £1,000.²⁴ Land was given by David Lewis of Stradey, part of a field and an old colliery yard, Caemain. Within three months subscriptions realised £600. The principal subscribers were Mr. David Lewis, Stradey, site and £50; Mr. R. Goring Thomas, £105; Colonel Stepney, £100; Mr. David Morris, M.P., £50; Mr. Charles Nevill, £50; Mr. R. J. Howsh, £20; and Mr. Richard Nevill, £25. In the general subscription list the names of well-known Carmarthenshire families appear, such as the Dyers and the Du Buissons. The contractor was Mr. Richard Jones.

Religious instruction in the school was to be under the exclusive control of the minister of the parish. In all other respects the school was to be governed by a committee, comprised of the minister, curate, churchwardens, and ten subscribers of twenty-one shillings a year, being members of the Church of England. The master and mistress were to be members of that Church, too.

²² L. J. Bevan, *Reminiscences of Llewelyn Bevan*, ch.ii.

²³ 'S.L.' on Llanelli Schools in the *Llanelly Star*, Nov. 12, 1938; also John Innes, *Old Llanelly*, ch.xiv.

²⁴ N.L.W. Add MS. 752.

Thus a Church School was opened at Llanelli, described by A. J. M. Green, one of the secretaries, in 1865 as "the stronghold of Dissenters in South Wales." He does add that the feelings of Dissenters were decidedly less actively opposed to the Church than they used to be. The opening day was 13 June 1867, but school did not commence until 6 June 1868, when Mr. John Vye Parminter took up his duties as master. He left on 1 July 1870, to be followed on the 18th of the same month by Mr. T. E. J. Spencer. His stay was a short one, and on 4 August 1871, Mr. Edward Henry Hutchins became the master.

After 1870, many of these schools came under the authority of the Llanelli School Board: Felinfoel, February, 1872; Llanelli, 31 May 1872; Prospect Place, 1 October 1872; Bryn, 22 May 1873; Five Roads, 6 July 1874; Llwynhendy, 27 March 1875; and New Dock, 22 May 1875. It was later, in 1893, that the Llanelli Copper Works School was transferred.

School Life

The life²⁵ of the schools must be treated, although briefly. They were all one in their main emphasis, as they concentrated on the three R's. Other subjects included Geography and Music. The girls, including the infants at the Copperworks School, took sewing and the boys drawing. At Market Street, "the Principles of Horticulture" were included in the curriculum. At the Copperworks School, John Jones arranged classes in Machine Drawing, Physics and Chemistry, and the examinations were supervised by the Kensington Department of Science. A product of these classes was Alfred Daniel, the celebrated chemist, who became a Fellow of the Royal Society. Not quite so profound was the subject taught occasionally at the National School (Pen Tip), as on 28 February 1868, when "Signor de Beyson, Professor of Gymnics went through a series of athletic exercises this afternoon, and gave the children a practical lesson."

Llewelyn Bevan says that Mr. Hancock was a good musician and proficient in Latin. The discipline at this school was unusually lax. The pupils would dare to escape out of the window before the teacher would arrive for the Latin class. In most places this would not be attempted; discipline was strict, sometimes harsh. When David Adams went to the Bryn in January 1867, he had no recourse to corporal punishment, but he soon changed his mind. The Llwynhendy master lost some of his children to the Bryn in 1864, because of strictness, and many left Llanelli School on 11 April 1864

²⁵ Based mainly on school log-books, read by kind permission of the headteachers.

for the same reason. Sometimes the children were "severely beaten," and there were examples of a parent asking a teacher to flog his child. It is refreshing to note that one of the regulating principles of the Llanelli school was that "the moral nature of the pupils was not to be blunted by undue corporal punishment." A real attempt was made to adhere to this principle, and for a while corporal punishment was abandoned. The children, however, took advantage of this, and the entry for 28 November 1866 reads: "Made an example of them."

School holidays are of real interest to us now as they were to the children then. Most of the schools had a holiday for Llanelli Fair on 5 May and 30 September, although the master of Market Street warned his children on 4 May 1864 "not to be absent tomorrow." Forty-two children were present on the afternoon of 5 May. The Copperworks School and the National had a holiday for the flower show in August. Special events called for a half or full holiday: the cistdddfod, chapel meetings, opening of churches, a sale, and the funerals of well-known people. There were unofficial holidays for potato and garden setting, accident at a colliery, ploughing match, market day, and Swansea Wool Fair (2 July). Other attractions were: the circus; visit of the "notorious Mace prize fighter", 19 May 1868; Edward's Zoological Collection, 7 May 1868, and Tom Thumb, 3 May 1868. The master of Llanelli School commented on the visit of the little man, "Very small school this afternoon, Tom Thumb in town, and like small people in general creates no small degree of stir and bustle."

Very often illness was the cause of low attendance: measles, whooping cough, smallpox, and scarlet fever in 1863, 1865, and 1871. Many of the schools and the town itself suffered from the epidemic sickness of 1866. The entry in the Llanelli School log-book for 16 July 1866 reads: "Owing to great alarm caused by numerous cases of Asiatic cholera, the attendance today is considerably less than last week. Two children belonging to this school were attacked and the cases proved fatal."

Members of the school committee and especially the ministers visited the schools regularly. Leading figures of the town sent their representatives, as happened at Llanelli School, on 12 Dec. 1866: "Col. Stepney's agent called and paid £2. 17. 3d. towards education of poor boys. He also selected 12 widows' sons to have a new pair of boots each at the Colonel's expense."

Reference to the children's games are rare, but there is no doubt that the game for the boys was cricket. Apart from local matches, there were a few excursions to Swansea. Some well-known

customs are referred to. One is mentioned in the Bryn log-book for Jan. 1868: "Nearly all the children are running about the neighbourhood carrying an apple, standing on three stilts and having sprigs of evergreen stuck on the top; they persist in wishing everybody a merry Christmas although Christmas has been gone for a week. A singular custom, and as silly as singular." The National School log-book has this entry for 1 April 1870: "Canced a boy this morning for making April fool of another. Took the opportunity of giving a moral lesson on this evil custom." Lastly, there is the entry for 1 May 1868 in the same log-book: "Erected a Maypole this afternoon around which the children sang and played to the great delight of themselves and visitors."

The schools could be the centres for social activity. Concerts were regularly held in most of them. The "gems" of the evening at the Dafen Tin Works School concert were a 'coronet' solo and a pretty Scottish polka, 'General Jackson.' Before the formation of a Mechanics Institute and the opening of the Athenaeum, lectures were held in schools. At the Llanelli Infant School, the Rev. T. T. Lynch, W. Chambers and others anticipated the immediate formation of a large and efficient music class in 1843. There was a class of 110 by April of that year. Mr. Williams, "Professor of Music in the Town", took some of the classes and adopted the Williem System of Singing.²⁶

Briefly, the schools of Llanelli have been surveyed. No mention has been made of Higher Grade education, but the pioneers of that work, John Jones, Robert Innes, Canon Williams, and others, deserve separate and special attention.

²⁶ *The Cambrian*, Feb. 25, March 18, April 15, 1843.

Appendix

Following is a list of teachers taken from the Census Returns of 1841 and 1851.

Teachers in Llanelli and District, 1841.

Name.	Age.	Address.
David Treharne ...	... 35.	Tyfry.
Mary Brabyn ...	... 37.	St. David's Street.
John Rogers ...	... 50.	Seaside.
James Williams ...	... 50.	Hall Street.
Sarah Lush ...	... 15.	Hall Street.
Elizabeth King ...	... 50.	Castle, Hall Street.
David Jones ...	... 30.	Thomas Street.
Judith Thomas ...	... 60.	Caeperson.
Maria Marks ...	... 50.	Prospect Place.
Louisa Marks ...	... 25.	Prospect Place.
Emily Marks ...	... 13.	Prospect Place.
Sarah Paget ...	... 30.	Prospect Place.
Mary Chappel ...	... 64.	Mill Street.
William Williams ...	... 50.	Old Brickyard.
Benjamin Howell ...	... 35.	Water Street.
Thomas Thomas ...	... 64.	Kilwra Row.
Lettice Thomas ...	... 68.	Kilwra Row.
Francis Francis ...	... 45.	Mill Street, Wern.
David Morris ...	... 30.	Wern.
Margaret Morgan ...	... 50.	Wern.
Joseph Jones ...	... 23.	Rwyth Fach.

Teachers in the Borough of Llanelli, 1851.

Name	Age.	Address.	Where born.
Samuel Phillips ...	... 14.	72 St. David's Row.	Llanelli.
Mary Barber ...	... 63.	188 St. David's Row.	Cornwall.
Mary Brabyn ...	... 41.	201 St. David's Row.	Cornwall.
James Griffith ...	... 15.	202 St. David's Row.	St. Clears.
David Williams ...	... 28.	242 Heolfawr.	Pembs.
John Dd. Evans ...	... 42.	58 Ann Street, Wern.	Devon.
William Esau ...	... 53.	70 Caefuwch.	Llanboidy.
Maria Marks ...	... 63.	109 Park Street.	Birmingham.
William Marks ...	... 64.	109 Park Street.	Llandefaelog.
Emily Buckston ...	... 22.	110 Park Street.	Middlesex.
Henrietta Buckston ...	... 20.	110 Park Street.	Middlesex.
Augusta Buckston ...	... 18.	110 Park Street.	Middlesex.
Maria Rees ...	... 24.	137 Rhandir. (Workhouse)	Abergwilly.
George Boulter ...	... 39.	34 Prospect Place.	Sedbury.
Anne Boulter ...	... 53.	34 Prospect Place.	Sydenham.
David Nicholas ...	... 30.	38, Prospect Place.	Kidwelly.
William Williams ...	... 59.	144 Old Road.	St. Clears.
James Williams ...	... 61.	38 Hall Street.	Pembs.
David Thomas ...	... 72.	165 New Road.	Narberth.
Marella Mortimer ...	... 38.	203 Cae'r Elms.	Plymouth.

The Fall of a House of Legend

Fallen into decay and awaiting demolition is Plas, Llandybie, which is now little more than a stone shell.

It is not known when the house was built, but it is said to be of sixteenth century origin. Even so, the exterior has been much altered and is generally undistinguished except for square rubble end stacks, the one at the southern gable end being shown in the accompanying picture taken in October 1968.

The interior possessed a good seventeenth century oak staircase of four flights, with turned balusters, moulded strings and handrails, square newels and turned pendants. At the top of the bottom flight on the ground floor stood an interesting dog-gate in the form of a portcullis, which merited illustration in the Carmarthenshire Inventory of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire. There were several seventeenth century or early Georgian doors, their upper halves having semi-circular arches and recessed panels.

The plaster ceiling of one of the ground-floor rooms still largely survives, as do remnants of the coved ceiling above the staircase well. But fallen rubble has buried the bottom staircase where the dog-gate was situated. Otherwise there is little within the three foot thick walls.



For so well-known a house, surprisingly little of authentic value is known about its history, although there are legends which one need not believe. There is a tradition that Oliver Cromwell stayed at the Plas during the Civil War and it is sometimes said that the order for cropping the Roundheads' hair was issued here.

An eighteenth century occupant was Charles Philipps, a well-known huntsman and member of the society called Sea Serjeants, a secret Jacobite organisation of West Wales gentry. Clandestine gatherings of the Sea Serjeants are said to have taken place and, almost inevitably, there is the suggestion that there was a secret tunnel from the house.

It is likely that the house, which is included in the list of buildings of architectural or historic interest, will be demolished and the site dedicated to public use.

Penurious Authors' Benefactor

The reception attended by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at Stationers' Hall in March 1968 to celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the granting of a Charter to the Royal Literary Fund was a reminder that the founder of the Fund was educated at the Carmarthen Dissenting Academy in the middle of the eighteenth century.

David Williams (1738—1816), a Glamorgan man, first proposed the idea of a benevolent society for distressed men of letters in 1773, but it was not until 1790 that the Literary Fund Society was founded after the failure of earlier attempts, during which he had canvassed Benjamin Franklin, Josiah Wedgewood, Adam Smith, Charles James Fox and Edmund Burke.

Williams, who abandoned the ministry after adopting advanced theological views, became a pamphleteer, founder of debating clubs in London and the instigator of philosophical and philanthropic ideas, in the advancement of which he made contact with many of his famous contemporaries. Before his death the Fund was firmly established and received the support of many distinguished people. From 1804 onwards the Prince of Wales was a generous patron and in 1818 acceded to a grant of a Royal Charter.

During its history the Fund has received the support of most of the literary giants and many others have been among its beneficiaries.

Before It's Forgotten

Hoard of Shoes

The appeals by *The Carmarthenshire Historian* for information about interesting by-gones reminds me that the Dryslwyn toll-house and the smithy some distance away still stand, although they are now barely recognisable.

I dismantled the heavy tripod on the pine end of The Old Gate and the heavy bolt-holder from the wall. Unfortunately, after they were put aside, they were stolen and have never been seen since.

At the old forge, Glanrwyth, I dismantled the forge fireplace and converted the smithy into a cowshed. Cutting a trench through the garden for water pipes, I came across a mass of small pieces of iron. I had to ask my father, who was a slater and plasterer on the Cawdor estate from 1880 to 1930, what they were. He told me they were cattle shoe tips. As far as I know they are there now, about two feet down in the trench.

The Old Forge is about half a mile further along towards Llan-deilo from the toll-house.

A. E. PERKINS,
Tynnewydd, Llanarthney.

School is Ysgol

Among the Carmarthenshire dame-schools of a century ago was one at Tanylan in the Llyn Lech Owen district. The approximate date of its opening can be established by reference to the fact that the late John Griffiths, Bwlch, Maesybont, who was born in December 1853, first went to school at Tanylan when he was six years old.

John Griffiths was amongst the first batch of pupils. There were many houses in that part then, among them being Ty'r Gwyddel, Dylloed Ganol and Parc-y-chwigen, the whole being known as Pentre Walis. The ruins may still be seen.

The school was run by Keziah Davies, widow of an army sergeant. For a modest weekly fee, occasionally supplemented with milk or other farm produce, the pupils were taught to read and write. Many went to no other school and spoke with affection of Ysgol Cesha.

Today we hear much about bilingual education ; it was in use a hundred years ago, but then the children were mostly monoglot Welsh. All new entrants to Ysgol Ccscha were required to learn the following rhyme :

Cream is hufen and milk is llaeth,
Maid is morwyn and seven is saith,
Afon is river and brook is nant,
Ugain is twenty and hundred is cant.

The school at Tanylan—the house is still there and occupied—continued to function for nearly twenty years, but ceased when a Board School was built at Maesybont in 1878.

W. L. HARRIS,
Glasbant, Gorslas.

An Ancient Tale

In one of the tales of the Mabinogion, Cilhwhc and Olwen, we read that King Arthur, in chasing the boar (Twrch Trwyth) from Ireland, crossed the mouth of the Towy and then turned inland ; in Glyn Ystun he lost trace of the boar and had to halt.

Now there is even today an ancient homestead called Glyn Ystun ; it stands above Rhyd-y-cerrig, which was the old crossing of the Gwendraeth Fawr a little way below Cwmmawr Bridge, or Pontyfelin as it was formerly known. Dr. William Rees, in his maps contained in *South Wales and the March in the Middle Ages*, marks (with a question mark after it) the district from Pontyberem to Drefach as Fforest Glyn Ystun.

Can it be that the monk who copied ancient tales and added local names for verisimilitude was familiar with this area ? Be that as it may, I think efforts should be made to preserve the association of this area with the tale in the Mabinogion.

From notes left by the late D. J. PRICE, M.A.,
Mountain Ash.

Political and Religious Cockpit

The pictures on pages 88 and 89 show Dark Gate and the southern end of Red Street, which are scheduled for demolition before the end of the year to make way for the first stage of the redevelopment of this part of Carmarthen's town centre.

At Dark Gate was situated one of the five town gates. The gate was taken down in 1796, during which year John Wilson was 'prosecuted for removing the houses in Dark-gate'. In 1857, the foundations were laid open and removed during the work of draining the town.

It is recorded that in July 1854 terrific thunderstorms and prodigious rain visited Carmarthen. 'Cellars were flooded in Red Street, a piano was floated in a house in the Dark-gate, and iron kettles from a shop there were washed down Blue Street'.

The area was an electioncoring cockpit in the eighteenth century, when there were violent clashes between The Reds (Tories) and The Blues (Whigs), hence the street names. The parliamentary election of 1741 was accompanied by Whig and Tory riots, during which there was some shooting and 'cut and slash in Dark Gate'.

The streets have long accommodated shops, which have been vacated one by one in recent years in anticipation of redevelopment. At the corner is Owen Jones and Sons (footwear), which was previously W. H. Smith and Sons (stationers), preceded by Job (draper). Next door in Red Street is Guildhall Stores (Chapman, electrical goods), which had been the last surviving dwelling in the two rows, and beyond is Stanley Pearce (fish, fruit and vegetables), formerly John Joshua (general stores).

Next along in Dark Gate is T. Lloyd (butcher), followed by Kong Nam (restaurant), at one time Lloyd and Jones (sweets and fruit), succeeded by Carmarthen Fruit Company and later by Waddington (music) and Nebel (ladies' hairdresser). Next is J. Colby Evans (ironmonger), followed by Heddon (tobacco and fancy goods) at the junction with Shaw's Lane. This latter was formerly a baby-linen shop kept by Miss King, who succeeded Miss Davies.

DARK GATE



View from the East. April 1966



View from the West. October 1968

RED STREET

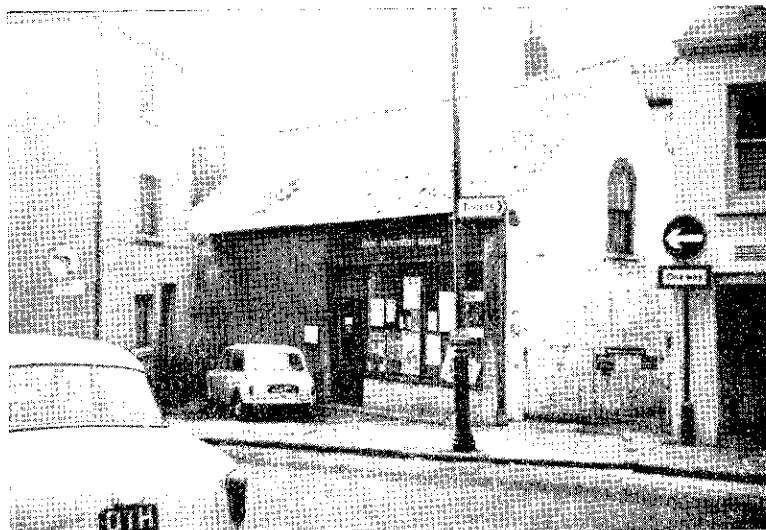


View from the South. October 1968



View from the North. October 1968

Also to disappear is the building accommodating the Youth Employment Bureau, which is set back on the north side of Stanley Pearce's shop in Red Street.



The Old Chapel

Previously the premises of a monumental mason, the building is really the 'Old Chapel of the Dark Gate', which was a centre of much importance for Dissenters from 1786 until about 1820. The Baptists met there from 1786 to 1811 and it was the venue of important conferences concerning Calvinism and Arminianism—grave theological questions in those stormy days of religious controversy. Titus Lewis ministered there and after the Baptists moved to the Tabernacle in Waterloo Terrace in 1812 it was used by the Unitarians. Behind this building is Whitland Villa, latterly occupied by Pritchard and Pritchard (accountants).

Most of the shops are now dilapidated and removal of an eyesore will not be regretted, but demolition will eliminate quaint roofscapes which have long been familiar.

GWERNEN,
Carmarthen.



The glorious Carmarthen Election.

I.
BEHOLD the glorious day is come,
'Squire JONES is our Member;
The lovely rose in season's come,
It is July and not December:
And all that did against him stand,
Their names I'll not relate, sir;—
He won the day through real fair play,
They rais'd him to the chair, sir.

II.
The fifth day of July, sir,
The like was never known, sir,
The nobility of counties three,
Came flocking to the Town, sir,
The Red and Blue they triumphant wore,
To celebrate our Member,
All windows lin'd with Ladies gay,
To magnify his honour.

III.
When he ascended to his chair,
The town did roar like thunder,
St. Peter's Boys with one assent,
Cried, "JONES is our Member."
His own footman before him rode,
In sailor's dress, indeed, sir,
A gay-drest may-pole in his hand,
Mounted on a warlike steed, sir.

IV.
Sir JOHN OWEN, I do declare,
A man of high renown, sir,
He down from London came with speed,
To grace Carmarthen Town, sir,
'Squire MORGAN, of Quay-Street,
Did in his chariot ride, sir,
He stood between us and our foes,
And lower'd down their pride, sir.

V.
There's Mr. LEWES, of Llys-newydd,
And LEWIS, of Llanayron,
Mr. PICTON, of Icedoed,
And also Mr. BEYNON,
Mr. TIMMINS, of King-Street,
He bravely play'd his part, sir,
He was so true unto his friend,
As Noah to the ark, sir,

VI.
Captain MANSEL, of Icedoed,
A man of courage bold, sir,
He was so true unto his trust,
He would not be controu'd, sir,
HENRY LEWIS, of Quay-Street,
With heart and hand was willing,
Our true-bred Welshman to promote,
Likewise LLOYD LLEWELLYN.

VII.
Health and wealth to 'Squire JONES,
Likewise to our Sheriff POWELL,
WILLIAM JONES, of Spilman-Street,
And likewise WALTER HOWELL,
There's GRISBOD PHILLIPS, I do declare,
He did behave so loyal,
And Mrs. PHILLIPS, of the Parade
Gave them a plain denial.

VIII.
ROBERT WATERS, of the Bank,
And likewise EDWARD DAVIDS,
SAUNDERS, of Glanrhwd Fawr,
And Captain STEPHEN PHILLIPS,
All friends were loyal to the Town,
God bless them all together:—
It was his right for all their spite,
I hope he'll reign till death, sir.

IX.
Esquire JONES, of Ystrad-Lodge,
The truth I will declare, sir,
He was brought up within our walls,
Which makes us hold him dear, sir;
He is the third generation in this Town,
That I can well remember,
Makes me cry out with all my heart,
Brave Ystrad-Lodge for ever.

X.
The time is come I wish'd to see,
And now I will retire;
I've seen the flower of all the land,
Enjoy our hearts' desire:—
He will lower down their pride,
He will right the poor,
Nor slight the meanest member;
I'm quite at ease, I'll sit and sing
From hence until September.

Composed in Dome-Street.

J. HARRIS, PRINTER, CARMARTHEN.]

(Reproduced from the original now in Carmarthenshire County
Record Office)

This song was composed to celebrate the election of the Tory John Jones of Ystrad as Member of Parliament for Carmarthen Borough in 1821. He was elected in place of the previous member, the Hon. J. F. Campbell, who had been called to the Lords as Baron Cawdor. He was opposed by the Whig Sir William Paxton. The contest lasted for ten days and the final figures were 312 votes for Jones, 281 votes for Paxton. It was a Tory victory in a constituency that had been held by the Whigs for three quarters of a century.

A Novelist Remembered

Sixty years ago the Welsh authoress, Allen Raine, died at Bronmor, Tresaith in June 1908 and was buried at neighbouring Penbryn Church.

Anne Adaliza (her baptismal names) was born in Bridge Street, Newcastle Emlyn in 1836, the eldest child of Benjamin and Letitia Grace Evans. Her father, a lawyer, was the grandson of the celebrated David Davis of Castellhywel in the vale of Clettwr, who kept a school of widespread reputation and published a translation of Gray's 'Elegy'. Her mother was the grand-daughter of the famous Daniel Rowland of Llangeitho.

As a child Anne attended school at Carmarthen. She became proficient in French and Italian and was a capable musician. In her youth she published, with the help of friends, a short-lived periodical called *Home Sunshine*, which was printed at Newcastle Emlyn.

She married Beynon Puddicombe at Penbryn Church in 1872; he was foreign correspondent of Smith Payne's Bank, London. After the husband's mental breakdown, they returned from London in 1900 to live at Tresaith.

In 1896 she completed a novel called 'Mifanwy', but having had it rejected by six publishers she changed the title to '*A Welsh Singer*, by Allen Raine'. Thereafter she produced novels in quick succession, the best known being *Torn Sails* (1898), a film version of which was made about 1920. In these days when medical science is so much concerned about mental illness and the toll of cancer, it is interesting to recall that two of her posthumously published books were: *All in a Month* (1908), treating of her husband's mental malady, and *Under the Thatch* (1910), which dealt with cancer, from which she herself died.

—o—

DWINDLING STOCKS

Although Vol. I is now out of print, there are still small stocks of Vols. II, III and IV of *The Carmarthenshire Historian*, copies of which are available from the Secretary, Carmarthenshire Community Council, 16a Guildhall Square, Carmarthen at 2s. 6d. each (3s. 0d. by post).

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