



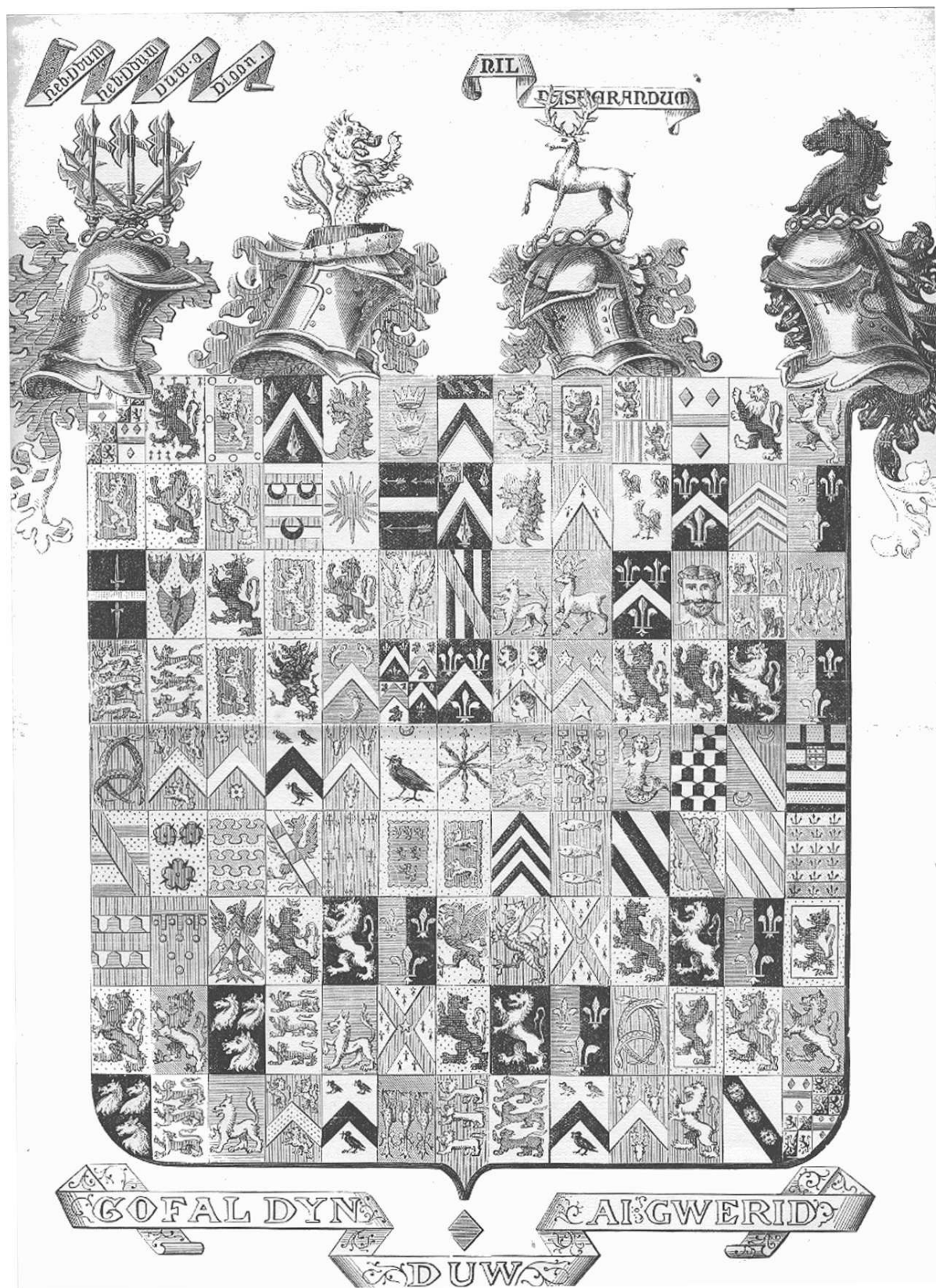
ANNALS AND ANTIQUITIES
OF THE COUNTIES AND



OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF WALES

COUNTY FAMILIES
OF
WALES.





COUNTY FAMILIES OF WALES

CONTAINING
A RECORD OF ALL RANKS OF THE GENTRY, THEIR LINEAGE, ALLIANCES, APPOINTMENTS,
ARMORIAL ENSIGNS. AND RESIDENCES, WITH MANY

Ancient Pedigrees and Memorials of Old and extinct families

ACCOMPANIED BY BRIEFNOTICES OF THE HISTORY. ANTIQUITIES, PHYSICAL FEATURES,
CHIEF ESTATES, GEOLOGY, AND INDUSTRY OF EACH COUNTY;
ROLLS OF HIGH SHERIFFS FROM THE BEGINNING; MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT;
MAGISTRATES OF BOROUGHES,
ETC., ETC.

ALL COMPILED BYDIRECT VISITATION OF THE COUNTIES. AND FROM RELIABLE AND
ORIGINAL SOURCES.

With numerous illustrations on Wood from Photographs

By THOMAS NICHOLAS. M.A. PH.D. F.G.S.

CAERNARFONSHIRE
(Extracted from volume 1)

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ANNALS, &c., OF WALES.

CARNARVONSHIRE. (Sir GAERNARFON.)

The older name of that part of Wales now called Carnarfonshire was *Arfon* -over against, or near, Mon (Anglesey),—thus implying the greater antiquity and importance of the latter name. *Caer'narfon*—the stronghold in Anon—was situated near or on the site of the present town of Carnarvon. No evidence exists that prior to the founding of the present Carnarvon Castle a *caer* or fortress of any kind existed on that site; and as the Romans availed themselves of all places of strength owned by the Britons, it is highly probable that the ancient *Caer.yn.Arfon* stood near Llanbeblig, and was identical in position with the Roman *Segontium*, and with the Later Welsh *Caer.Seiont*

Section L—PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF CARNARVONSHIRE

This county is in form a long and irregular triangle, having its base or broader end measuring about 22 miles, lying on Denbighshire in the east, from the Great Ormes Head along the Conwy River as far as Llyn Conwy; and its narrower end tapering almost to a point in the long and rugged promontory of Lleyn to the south-west. Its longest side runs from SW. to N.E., bounded throughout by the sea, first by Carnarvon Bay, and then by the Menai Straits, and the bay between these and the Great Orme's Head. This side is nearly 55 miles in length. The other side, through the whole length of the promontory of Lleyn, lies on the Cardigan Bay, and the remainder of it is contiguous to the Co. of Merioneth. The superficies of this triangle contains 544 square miles, or 348,160 acres. Owing to the extremely mountainous character of this county its population is comparatively small, but the growth of ports, slate quarries, and watering-places, has of late years developed a steady increase. The result of the last five censuses is as follows —.

Total population of Carnarvonshire in 1831	.....	.....	.....	66,500
Do. 1841	.....	.....	.....	81,093
Do. 1851	.....	.....	.....	87,870
Do. 1861	.....	.....	.....	96,696
Do. 1871	.....	.....	.....	106,122

—showing that the population in fifty years has nearly doubled.

The great convulsion, which gave to four-fifths of North Wales its broken, mountainous surface, which tore the less agitated limb, now called Anglesey, away from the mainland, or at least left a hollow, which the never-resting tide at last wore into a channel, and which well-nigh exhausted its power, southwards, in the effort to raise Penilynman (corrupted "Plinlimmon" "ti, erected the chief monuments to its power in the Snowdonian range, the loftiest point of which—*Yr Wyddfa*—stands at an elevation of 3,571 feet above the sea level, the highest mountain in South Britain.

This is the point from which, in imagination, we shall survey the extent and various surface, the lower mountains, the lakes and streams, the sea limits and neighbouring lands of this grand and historic old county.



CAPEL CURIG LAKES AND SNOWDON (from a photo. by Bedford).

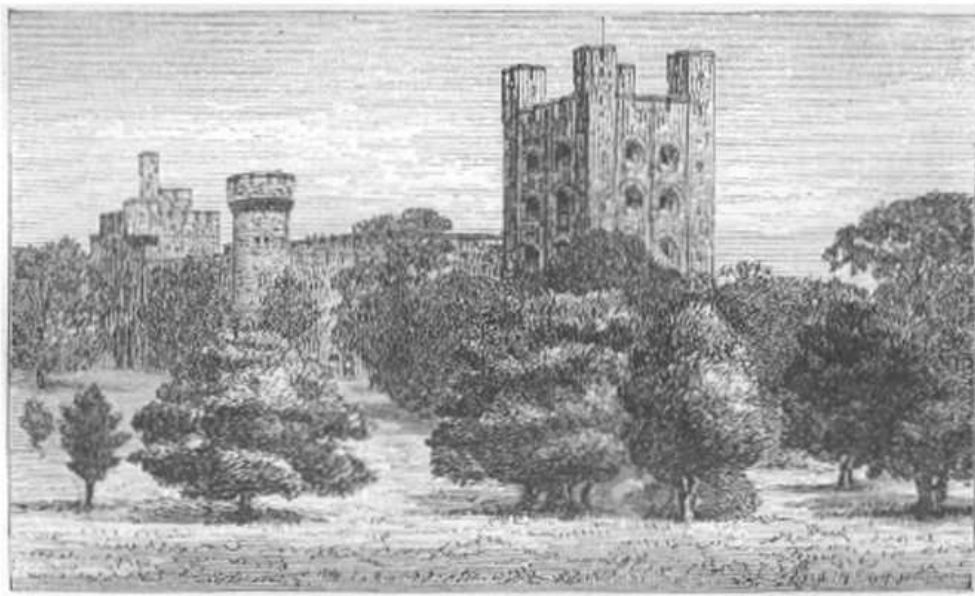
The name Snowdon is a literal translation into Saxon—*snaw-dun*, snow mountain—of the native name, *Eryri*, the snowy heights. The Welsh word must be allowed to be a somewhat irregular plural from *eira* or *eiri*, snow, but its explanation is not more satisfactory if we take the theory of others who think the name comes from *eryr*, an eagle; for here again it would present neither a singular nor a plural form of the word. *Eiri rhi*, in early Welsh—"the snowy chief or eminence"—would probably be the nearest guess at its etymology; and it is scarcely to be doubted that the Saxon name was not only meant to be a proper rendering of the original and ancient name, but was applied from a knowledge of its signification. This height is crested for a good part of the winter with snow, and is surrounded by several companion mountains, of almost equal height and equal brilliancy, belonging to the same range.

Carnedd Daffyd and *Carnedd Llewlyn*, a little to the left as you look down the Lake of Cape! Curig, are apparently as high as your own station on the apex of Snowdon; but they are a few score feet lower; the former tailing to measure more than 3,429 ft., the latter 3471 ft. But they are of the regal race, and are privileged to wear their mantle of crystal white along with Snowdon. The *Glider fawr* and *fechan*, nearer at hand in the same

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF CAERNARVONSHIRE.

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direction, a spur of the former of which rises from the lake to the right of the man watching for the toutot, are of less ambitious elevation; and so is *Moel Sabod*, to your own right (2,872 feet). As you gaze on Carnedd Dafydd, Gecat Orme's Head out yonder in the teas almost in the same line, and the intervening space is crowded with the multitude of craggy heights and misty bluffs, with their branchings on either side, like ribs proceeding from the Backbone of a monster not unaccompanied by fearful chasms and precipitous steeps, which suggest a decent into Achreon. These end in the frowning bluff of *Penmaen-mawr*, which seems to repeat itself with increased dimensions a little further on is the Great Ormes Head. You see the Conwy river rising from *Llys Conny* in the tooth, and running due north to the tea at Conway. You see Natty Gwryd running through the Capel Curig lake; meeting Arfon Llugwy beyond Capel Curig, and the two performing in junction the leaps of the Swallow Falls on their way to the Conwy, by the paradise of Bettws y Coed, and the Vale of Llanrwst.



PENRHYN CASTLE: SEAT OF THE RIGHT HON. LORD PENRHYN (from a photo. by Belford).

In a contrary direction, less than a mile from the point where the Llugwy turns to meet the Capel Curig stream, you see the rivulet of Nant Francon making its way through Llyn Ogwen, and on amid the sublime desolations which crowd the chasm between Carnedd Dafydd and the Gur und Bwlch y Cywion, till, passing the Penrhyn slate-quarries and that town of slate-quarrymen, of Palestinian name, Bethesda, it reaches the sea at Bangor. This stream traverses a region not more marvellous for its physical grandeur than for its inexhaustible wealth. Here are developed in their most perfect condition the Cambrian strata, which yield the celebrated Penrhyn slates, known and sought after all the civilized world over. The great estate of Penrhyn Castle was of respectable value before the development of the Bethesda and Penryn slate quarries, but now the net income drawn on these apparently exhaustless sources counts something like £20,000 a year. -

Those fine slopes of Penrhyn have been the location of a prominent family from early times (see *Griffith of Penrhyn*). Here and at Cochwilan, in succession, wealth hospitality,

and power reigned for ages. On the same site where this magnificent pile now stands, it is believed, stood the ancient palace or Llys of Rhodri Molwynog, ruler of North Wales, in the eighth century. In the time of Llewelyn the Great (twelfth century) this spot was given to Jarddur ap Trahaiarn, from whom it passed, by the marriage of an heiress, to the posterity of Ednyfed Fychan, the chief counsellor of Llewelyn. One of this line, a grandson of Jarddur, Gwilym ap Gruffydd, *circa 1353 temp.* Henry VI., made hereditary Chamberlain of North Wales and Great Forester of Snowdon, is said to have been the builder of Penrhyn Castle, such a it was before more recent alterations. Sir William Griffith, Kt., Chamberlain of North Wales in the time of Henry VIII., was with that king at the siege of Boulogne. *Pierce Griffith* Esq., of Penrhyn, was the man who, when the Spanish Armada threatened to overwhelm our shores, fitted out and manned a vessel of war of his own to supplement Elizabeth's fleet, setting sail from Beaumaris 20th April, 1588. In fourteen days he reached Plymouth, and placed himself under command of Admiral Cavendish and Sir Francis Drake, and after the defeat of the Armada accompanied the latter on his voyage of discovery as far as the Strait of Magellan.

Pierce Griffith, however, carried his patriotism in a wrong direction, and conceived too violent an antipathy for the Spaniards; for after his return, and peace was concluded, with a tinge of the sea-rover spirit, and probably with the sentiment that so fine a vessel so bravely manned ought not to be idle, he continued to attack and destroy, when opportunity offered or could be created, the merchant vessels of the Spanish nation; and by these vagaries and love of adventure brought upon himself, under James I., such a series of prosecutions in courts of law, and such fines following, that he was compelled to sell his estates of Penrhyn to pay his debts. The well-known Archbishop Williams became the purchaser (see Williams of Cochwillan).

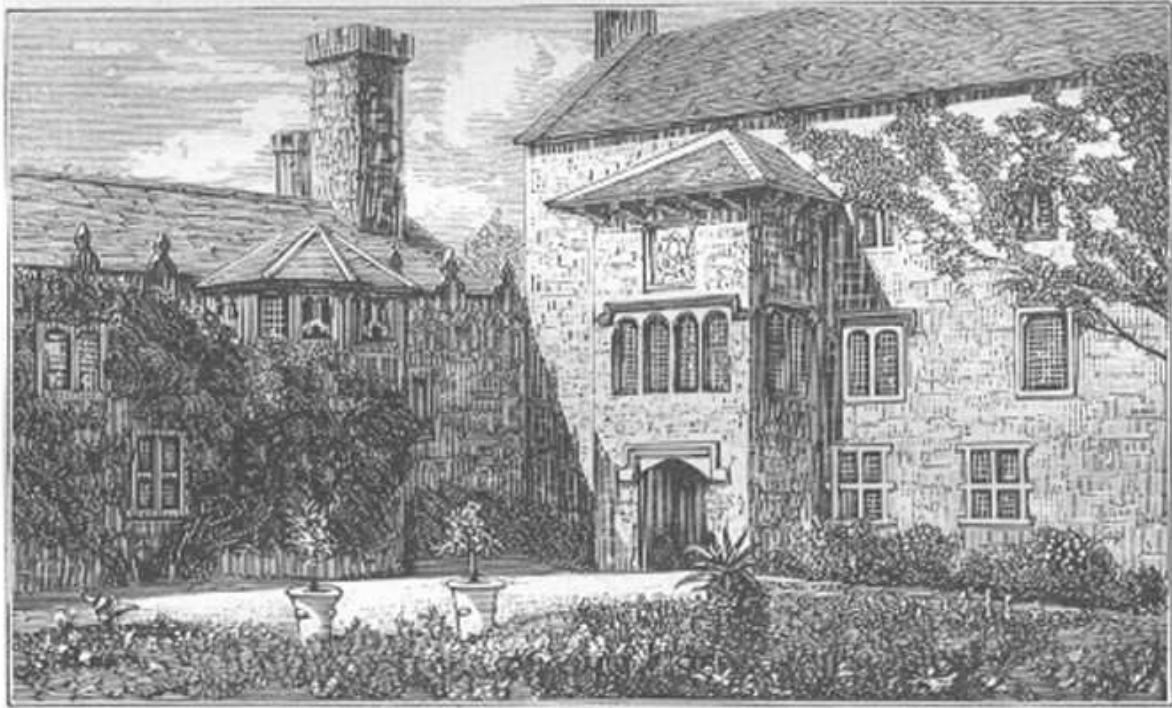
In his palmy days, Pierce Griffith, like his predecessors at Penrhyn, and the princes and lords of Wales generally, used to maintain a sumptuous style of conviviality and hospitality. Drinking constituted a good part of the entertainment of those times. Pierce Griffith had the regular number of drinking-horns, one of which, the *Corn hirlas*; has come down as an heirloom to our own time. It is the horn of an ox, chased with silver, and suspended by a massive silver chain. The Lord of Penrhyn had the legal number of three gradations of drinking-horns—*Corn y Brenhin*, "the Kings horn;" *Corn Gyweithas*, "the social horn;" and *Corn y Pencynydd*, "the chief huntsman's born," On great occasions—were they occasions of domestic rejoicing, religious solemnity, or warlike enterprise—the great horn, the prince's own horn, went round, overflowing with *methgelin* or strong *cwrtw'*, and each had to drain it off, and blow it in proof of honest performance. In war-time madness and courage often rattled on arm in arm.

"Fill the horn with foaming liquor,
Fill It up, my lad, be quicker I
Hence away, despair and sorrow,
Time enough to sigh tomorrow.
Hear ye not their loud alarms?
Hark ! they shout to arms ! to arms! "

The old castle of Penrhyn was altered, decorated, and completed, nearly as it now stands, by the late Richard Pennant, 1st Baron Penrhyn (d. 1808), a man who not only made the

castle a habitation fit for royalty, but used his ample and rapidly increasing fortune for the improvement of the whole neighbourhood, both as it regarded the planning and cultivation of the estate, and the comfort and well-being of the inhabitants. He has been seconded in his schemes of improvement by the present Lord Penrhyn, and the result is that the country around Penrhyn Castle to some distance has good roads, good tillage, judiciously laid plantations, comfortable cottages and farmhouses, and a general aspect of happiness not often to be met with in such a region. But the means for the accomplishment of so noble a work have come forth a hundred times over from the rocks of slate!

Another mansion of historic interest photographed for our pages is that of *Gwydir*, near Llanrwst. This was the home of the Wynnes (see *Wynne of Gwydir*), and this building, or part of it, is said to have been erected about the year 1538 by John Wynne ap Meredydd,



GWYDIR HOUSE (*from a photo. by Bedford*).

whose initials used to be over the gateway. But there have been great alterations and changes, and it is perilous to say much of the date of the structure. The spot is redolent of antiquity and love of literature. Here Sir John Wynn, author of the *History of the Gwydir Family*, lived, mused, and wrote: here he died, AD. 1636, at the age of 73, after a life of pain and labour. Of the race of Owain Gwynedd, and of large possessions, he was a man of great mark, and his family for generations before and after him were of great influence in North Wales. The name was transferred from Gwydir through John, the son of his tenth son, Sir Henry of Wynnstay, and lives still at Wynnstay and other places; but the direct line terminated in an heiress, Mary, daughter of Sir Richard, great-grandson of the great Sir John Wynn, of Gwydir, who married Lord Willoughby, first Duke of Ancaster, and carried the Gwydir estates to that family (see *Areland, Lord Gwydir*).

Sir John Wynn, of Gwydir, was a true and unsophisticated Welshman—blunt, irascible, honest and simple, as the chief of his race. He made friends and made enemies.

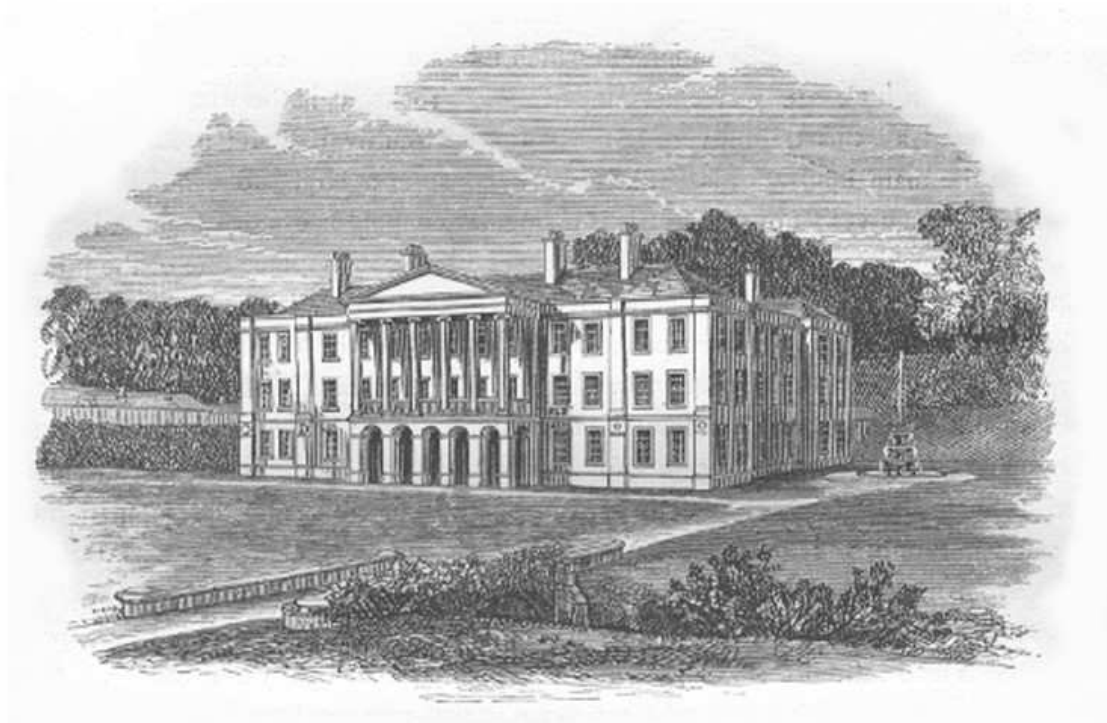
His quarrel with Bishop William Morgan, of Sr. Asaph, is memorable, made sharp words on both sides, and, as may be supposed, had reference to “temporalities.” The bishop would not confirm a lease of Church lands held by Sir John, and tells Sir John that his “motyves” that “the lease on the Rectory of Llan Rwt” should be “confyrm’d” are “dyverse,” substantially naughty. and not to be encouraged; for though he says he “had purchased the lease deere,” that the “adjoyning of Tybrith” had cost him much, and that “the rent reserved was as much as the Rectorye was worth,” and moreover that he hoped to find the bishop such to him as he had been to the bishop, &c., the bishop flatly declares, “You’re request ys suche, that in granntyng yt I shold prove myself an unhonest, unconscionable, and irreligious man, and ye a sacrilegiouse robber of my Church, a perfydious spoyler of my diocese, and an unaturall hyndrer of preachers and good scholers. . . . I pray God that your greeffe of myssynge be not Ahab’s greeffe for Naboth’s vineard,” &c.

Sir John Wynn was not the man to receive such ungentle thrusts without returning them. The fire burns within, and his utterances are hot. They begin in Latin, and for authority quote Scripture:—“Horninibus ingratis loquimini, lapides. The sower [I, Sir John] went out to sowe, and of his seede fell in stonie ground, where it wythered, because hite could take roote. The seede [My *bthda*~] was good but the land naught. I may justly say soe by *you*. I have in all showed myselfe your ffriende in so much as *yf* I had not pointed you the waye with my finger (whereof I have yet good testimonye) you had beene styli Vycar of Llanrhayder. You pleade conscience when you should geve, and make no bones to receave curtesie off your ffreindes.” Then comes argument, then another thrust :—“Neither was the losse of the thyng that I regard a dodkyn, but your unkynde dealinge. Hitt shall lesen me to expect noe sweete fruite of a sower stocke. Your verball love [the bishop had ended his letter in sweet phrase] I esteeme as nothings; and I make noe doubt (with God’s good favour) to hyve to be able to pleasure you as much you shall *me et a contra* You byd me thanke God for His many benfyts towards me..... In truth I did much thanke Him in mynde to see you preferred to the place you are in, as you had beene my owne brother: *But that I recall* for I never expect good wyll of you, nor good torne by *you*.—*John Wyn* of Gwyder, the house that did you and yours good. 34 Febr., 1603,” To a friend,” Mr. Mastyn,” the bishop writes, in allusion to this letter, and especially to the taunt of patronage, “~I confesse that Mr. Wyn thearein shewed greate love (as then I thought) to me; but (as nowe I fynde) to hym .elfe, hopynge to make a stave of me to drivee preacher’s partrydges to hys netts” (see Yorke’s *Royal Tribes* p 139 &c.). Upon the whole, this unseemly passage of arms left little advantage to the Gwydir baronet.

Turning round towards the west, the view from Snowdon sweeps the whole of the isle of Anglesey, lying on the sea, cut off from the Arfon mainland by the mere streak of the straits; passes over Carnarvon, with its great castle, and yonder espies the finest church in North Wales, not excepting the two cathedrals—the church of Clynnog-fawr. In mid-distance the woods of *Glyllifon* cover a great patch of country, and remind us of another of the ancient Carnarvonshire householders. The present owner of Glynllifon is Lord Newborough. *Glynllifon*, named from its situation in the *Glyn* or Vale o *Llifon*, is a superb mansion, with every appointment appertaining to a great house, situated in a spacious park surrounded by a ring. fence of several miles in circumference, and containing a *Menhir*, a fort, a mausoleum, a museum of ancient armour; &c. The country is rather bleak and quiet, but in the near

neighbourhood of the sea, whose wholesome breezes are felt all around; while the growth of trees, though retarded, is not prevented.

Glynllifon has been a place of note for four hundred years. In 1562 William Glyn, of this place, was High Sheriff of the county of Carnarvon, and in 1584 Thomas Glyn, his son, was High Sheriff of Anglesey. The family of Glyn continued till 1750, when it ended in an heiress who married Sir Thomas Wynn, of Bodeon, of the venerable line of Wynns of Bodfel and Gwydir, and ultimately of the stock of Collwyn ap Tangno, Lord of Eifionydd, founder of one of the fifteen noble tribes. Ever since, the Wynns have dwelt at Glynllifon (See *Newborough*).



GLYNLLIFON: THE SEAT OF LORD NEWBOROUGH (*from a photo. by Bedford*).

Of Llyn, Leland gives an accurate description when he says, "All Lene is as it were a pointe into the sea." It lengthens itself out towards the southwest as if to meet some other headland, which, they say (and geology seems to favour the tradition), once came to greet It from the Pembrokeshire coast, You pass the mountains of *YrEifl (Rivel)*, the port of Nefyn, the anchorage of Porthdinllaen, cross Carn Madryn, which looks like a molehill in the distance, glide over Rhos Hirwaun and Mynydd Ystum, and out a little beyond the extremity of the promontory you descry the holiest island'—if the monks are to be believed—on the coast of Britain. This is none other than *Ynys Enlli*—in English Bardsey, the island of the bards,—measuring about two miles long and one broad. For centuries it was the gathering-place of pilgrims, the home of eremitic monks, the burial-place of holy dead, from all countries of Christendom.

"Beyond Llyn," says Giraldus Cambrensis, who, with Archbishop Baldwin, slept the night at Nefyn, where, on the following morning, the latter preached a sermon, and "induced many persons to take the cross" (to join the Crusade), "there is a small island inhabited by very religious monks, called *Cuelibes*, or *Colidei* [celibates, or worshippers of

CARNARVONSHIRE.

God }. This island, either from the wholesomeness of its climate, owing to its vicinity to Ireland, or rather from some miracle obtained [Giraldus greatly loved marvels] by the merits of the saints, has this wonderful peculiarity, that the oldest people die first, because diseases are uncommon, and scarcely any die except from extreme old age. Its name is *Enlli* in the Welsh, and *Bardsey* in the Saxon language; and very many bodies of saints are said to be buried there and among them that of Daniel, Bishop of Bangor?’

Pennant describes Bardsey thus: ” From the port of Aberdaron I took boat for Bardsey Island, which lies about three leagues to the west. The mariners seemed tinctured with the piety of the place; for they had not rowed far, but they made a full stop, pulled off their hats, and offered up a short prayer. After doubling a headland, the island appears full in view; we paused under the lofty mountain which forms one tide; after doubling the further end, we put into a little sandy creek, bounded by low rocks, and is the whole level part. On landing, I found all this tract a very fertile plain, well cultivated, and productive of everything which the main land affords. The abbot’s house is a large stone building, inhabited by several of the natives; not far from it is a singular chapel, or oratory, being a long arched edifice, with an insulated stone altar, near the east end. In this place one of the inhabitants, read prayers ***** ~ aaintw, ad after-death to as many of their bodmen, ~ called ‘*Inasla ancioeut* -the island of saints

Sir R C Hoare [notes on Giraldus ***** Assyluim to 20,000 saints and after each graves as many of their bodies wherein it has been called “Insular Sanctorium” the island of saints. It would be much more the facile to find graves in Bardsey for so many saints, than saints for so many graves.

The slaughter of the monk, at Bangor [Iscoed] about the year 607 is supposed to have contributed to the population of this island; for not only the brethren who escaped, but numbers of other pious Britons had hitherto avoid the rage of the Saxons. This island derived its name *Enlli* from the fierce current which rages between it and the mainland*****, probably from the bards who retired here. Preferring solitude to the company of invading foreigners

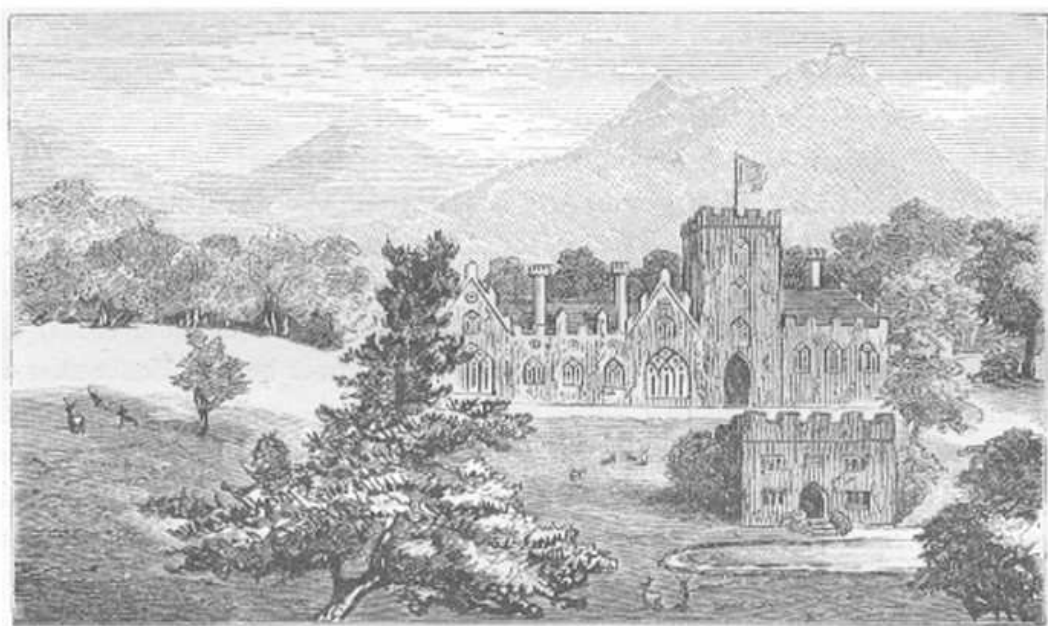
Dyfrig Dubricius, Archbishop of Caerleon, the first metropolitan see, who resigned his office in favour of St David, is said to have retired to Bardsey to spend the remainder of his old age in religious contemplation. Here he was buried in A.D 612, his grave forming an attracting point to pilgrims for five centuries until his remains were moved to the cathedral of Llandaff, of which place he had been the first bishop.

Withdrawing your view from the extremity of Llyn, on the southern side you see the excrescent bifurcated headland, with various small projections, bearing the names *Trwyn Cilian*, *Trwyn yr Wylfa*, *Trwyn Carreg y tir*, &c.; and directly inland, nearly at mid-distance, in *Nanhoron*, the seat of R. Ll. Edwards, Esq. In the same direction, near the north-western bay, in *Cqfn-Amwlch*, the seat of C. Wynne Finch, Ref.; while near the foot of *Carn Madryn* in *Madryn Castle* the seat of Capt T. Love D. Jones-Parry, M.P. This place has a venerable name and a long history. Its origin was probably in the stronghold, still in part remaining on the top of *Carn Madryn*, which forms a part of the estate, and which is seen together with the rain which crests it in the view we give.

The castle of *Care Madryn* was there, but of recent erection, when Giraldus traversed the country in the twelfth century. Along with another which attracted his attention at *Deudraeth* (probably in *Penrhyn Deudraeth*), he refers to it thus “We continued our journey over the *Traeth-mawr* and *Traeth-bychan* [now greatly changed through the

engineering labours of the late Mr. Madock, and the growth of trade], that is, the greater and smaller arm of the sea, where two stone castles have newly been erected; one called Deudraeth, belonging to the sons of Conan, situated in Eiviönyth the river Glaslyn was the division between the ancient comots of *Arduwly* to the south, and *Eifionydd* to the north: both the castles here mentioned were in the latter (in Carnarvonshire), but the situation of the castle then called Deudraeth is not now discoverable, unless it was the site of Criccieth Castle. Its site could not be on Penrhyn Deudraeth, unless the comot of *Eifionydd* reached as far as Traeth-bach], towards the northern mountains; the other named Carn Madryn, the property of the sons of Owen [Gwynedd], built on the other side of the river towards the sea, on the headland Lhyn."

Contracting our survey, we come back by Pwllheli, on the south coast—a good specimen of a Welsh market town in a distant region, which the coming of a railway must have considerably surprised, as well as improved. Near this place is the old demesne of *Bodegroes*



MADRYN CASTLE: SEAT OF CAPT. T. LOVE D. JONES-PARRY, M.P.

once the home of the Griffith family; *Bodvel*, the birthplace of Mrs Piozzi; and inland, on the road to Nefyn, is another venerable spot, *Boduan*. Nearer Criccieth we see *Broom Hall* the property of Mr. Evans: Hendre; Gwynfryn; and nearer still to Snowdon district, Bryn-Kir, Wern, Penymorfa, Glasfryn, Plas-hen, Tanyrallt, the residence of the late Mr. Madock, and Aberdunant, the residence of Mrs. Jones.Parry. This region from early times has been one of great celebrity. It constituted the heart of *Efionydd*, and was inhabited by powerful and warlike clans., frequently in a state of turmoil and hostility. "The sons of Conan, and the sons. of Owain," as. Giraldus calls them, were for many ages distinct and separate, apparently never better pleased than when the cattle of one strayed into the territory of the other, or some boundary stone was set up on a disputed spot on the mountains, and a new pretext for feud and reprisals was originated.. In later times, still times, which are now to be classed with ancient, things, the race of Owain Gwynedd was known as. the possessors of *Cesail-Gyfarch* and *Ystum- Cedig*, *Brynkir* and *Cwmstrallyn*;

and who does not know that Collwyn ap Tangno's blood was at *ChwiLog, Talhenbont*, *Gwynfryn*, and *Bronyfoel*

We have now only to look over a sea of mountains from Tremadog to Llanrwst, constituting the south-eastern pan of Carnarvonshire. We look down from Snowdon on Beddgelert and the two beautiful little lakes of Llyn Dinas and Llyn Gwynant, in the Vale of Gwynant, and, in a line slightly to the right of Moel Siabod, descry the lovely Vale of Glyn Lledr, and that spot which will never cease to awaken a thrill in the heart of every Cymro—the castle of Dolywddelan, the mountain stronghold of Iorwerth Drwyn-dwn, and birthplace of the immortal prince, Llewelyn ap Iorwerth.

The geology of Carnarvonshire is complex and instructive. It excites wonder, and overwhelms with a sense of mystery. The whole region is a wreck—the parts of a once symmetric crust of the earth of tens of thousands of feet in thickness, all cast into confused heaps, often greatly altered, calcined here, melted there, crushed and battered in many places to powder—the solid Cambrian rock, thousands of feet thick, canted on edge, as if it had been but a sheet of pasteboard, and by some mysterious power, which geology has scarcely yet comprehended, cloven into thin lamina, which admit of separation, not merely in plates thin enough for roofing-slate, but as thin as sheets of brown paper or tin. And one of the most mysterious phenomena is the enormous denudation to which this region has been subject. The contour of the Landeilo, and the bedded strap strata of Snowdon and Moelwyn, which rise to the surface at an angle of forty degrees, and are next discovered (as shown by professor Ramsay in his elaborate section of these rocks) dipping at about the same angle in Aran Fowddwy, near Bala, proves beyond doubt that at one time, in the incalculably remote past, these rocks must, at the anticlinal point which they exhibited, have formed a mountain at least seven times the height of Snowdon, the whole of which, notwithstanding the hardness of the rocks of which it was composed—as hard then in all probability as they are at present—has been swept clean away into the ocean to the level of the table-land between Festiniog and Denbigh!

Nearly all the rocks of Carnarvonshire are of the lower Silurian and Cambrian systems. The Cambrian slate rocks are very extensive and massive. They constitute the material of the Festiniog slate quarries (Mer.), and after disappearing under ground for many miles, rise in enormous masses at Nant-francon, Llanberis, and Bethesda, yielding there the unsurpassable roofing slate for which those great quarries are so famed, and giving profitable employment to tens of thousands of industrious men. This same formation, as we have noticed under Anglesey, as it approaches the Straits of Menai, undergoes a marked alteration from igneous causes, exhibiting in Anglesey the metamorphic gneissic texture. Bosses of quartz and felspathic and porphyritic rock are intermixed with the unaltered Cambrian, supplying indubitable proof of the presence in such parts of intense heat.

Over the Cambrian, in natural order, come the lower Silurian strata, the first members of which are the Lingula flags, the depositories of the earliest forms of shell-fish, of trilobites, &c. Next comes the Llandeilo group, which underlie the masses of the Snowdon mountains, and are exhibited along the slopes of Snowdon up to a considerable height. The Bala beds are also here in great abundance. "The general course of the lower beds of these formations," Professor Ramsay writes, "is easily distinguished by the great band of igneous rocks,

coloured red or green on all good geological maps, that circle round the Cumbrian strata, from the country between the river Dovey and Barmouth, by Cader Idris, Aran Mowdddy, and Arenig, to Moelwyn near Festinoig, and from thence stretch northward to Snowdon, Llanrwst, and Conway on one side, and westward, by Pwllheli to Aberdaron on the other. These igneous rocks partly consist of greenstone dykes, but chiefly of bosses of felspathic porphyry, and great lines of interbedded felspathic lavas and ashes, the product of ancient Silurian volcanoes that poured or showered their material into the seas of the period; and thus it happens that the igneous masses alternate in beds with common stratified rocks, containing marine shells of the genera *Orthis*, *Strophomena*, *Lingula*, &c. The Bala limestone, rich in fossils, runs in a long broken band, from Aran Mowddwy to Dolwyddelan, and a great part of the igneous bedded masses of the upper heights of Snowdon, of Carnedd Llewelyn, &c., are of the same geological age. "The slate quarries near Festiniog are in strata just where the Llandeilo and Bala beds join."

No old red sandstone occurs in Carnarvonshire, nor any later rock. The signs of glacier action are frequent—as in the vale of Gwynant, Nan Francon, the pass of Llanberis, &c.

SECTION 11.—HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF CARNARVONSHIRE.

1.—History of Carnarvonshire.

Of all the districts of Wales which have been distinguished for zeal and suffering in the defence of the "mother-land," Carnarvonshire, the rugged and mountainous, must be allowed to stand beyond dispute the foremost. All its chief passes have been, not once, but seven times over, the Thermopolæ of Welsh freedom and independence. It has not a mountain which has not been a stronghold, nor a valley or ravine which has not been the line of march both of hostile and patriotic hosts; a creek which has not sheltered an enemy's fleet, or a mile of level ground not converted into a battle-field. Against the sides of its adamant hills the waves of hostile armies have rolled many a time in vain, and in the recoil have been broken into foam, and disappeared. Suetoniuses, Henrys, and Edwards have here been foiled—the power of the Norman and the power of the Englishman been laughed to scorn; and the righteous defenders of home and life found an unassailable asylum.

Of the people which inhabited this part before the Roman conquest little is known beyond the general fact that they were of the Cymric race. Our surviving British histories, even the oldest chronicles, give no intelligible clue to the particular clans or heads of families dwelling in the region. The Cymric conception of history did not descend to such minutæ, supposing that the art of recording things in writing was known, or that memoriter bardic records were in practice. It was enough with them that *Ynys Prydain*, or whatever the name by which it was known, was the sole possession of their race, before whose time 'wolves, dragons, and oxen with the high prominence' alone inhabited it, and that such and such demi-god or hero was king. We have nothing better than this even for many ages after the Roman culture and the examples of ancient historians had enabled the Cymry to put in tangible form the wild traditions of their forefathers.

The Romans gathered from the natives that the Cymry of these parts were called by a name which has been handed down by Ptolemy under the form *Kayicaso-*, *Cangiani*, supposed by some to be a portion of the *Cangi* attacked by *Ostorius* after his defeat of the *Trinobantes* in Southern Britain.

CARNARVONSHIRE.

But this is a mere conjecture; Welsh records contain no memorial of such a name. We are informed by Richard of Cirencester, whatever the authority attached to his work, that the people of the north of Britania Secunda, on the side of Wales upon what is now Cheshire and Shropshire, were the Ordovices, and these same people were in all probability spread all over North Wales, including Carnarvonshire. The oldest native name we possess for the general region, excluding Powys, is Gwynedd, which the Romans fashioned into Venedotia.

The Romans under Suetonius and Agricola subdued all these parts to the extent of making them tributary, but their operations were mainly displayed in Anglesey, that being the most thickly inhabited northern district, the retreat of the boldest patriots and of the Druidic priests. After the conquest they formed two roads approaching from the South, diverging from Tomen-y-Mur, near Trawsfynydd, for Segontium, or Carnarfon, on the one hand, and for Conovium, or Caerhun, near Conway, on the other. For further particulars respecting the Romans in these parts, see under Anglesey. During the Roman period of 300 years there exists little reason for doubting that the native princes were allowed to rule their districts as in former times, on condition only of acknowledging the supremacy of Rome and paying the stipulated tribute.

On the departure of the Romans native independence was resumed in its fulness, and along with it, we may well presume, native broils and wars, Irish raids and reprisals. The Saxons conquered England, or that part of Britain subsequently called by that name, absorbing the mass of its Cymric or Celtic population into their own body, who contributed by this great amalgamation to form a new race, "the British people," such for force and genius as the world had never yet seen; and after Mercia, the last of their small sovereinties, had been set up, we hear of their presence and depredations in North Wales; It was not Carnarvonshire, the region of mountains, so much as the fairer and more accessible districts of Denbighshire and Anglesey, they attacked, and Camarvonshire lastly, as the citadel, which, whether to take or abandon in despair, was always a question of uncertainty and doubt Carnarvonshire, as Part of Gwynedd, was almost always under the same rule as Anglesey.

Nennius informs us that Einion Urdd ruled over Mon and "Guenedota" (Gwynedi) "one hundred and forty-six years before Maileun (Maelgwyn Gwynedd) reigned." Caswallon Law Hir, his son, however, seems to have ruled over Anglesey only. Maelgwyn Gwynedd— that Maelgwyn concerning whom Taliesin expressed the kindly if not quite unselfish wish,—

"That ne'er may Maeigwyn lack inspiring mead!,
Foaming, anti pure, and bright, to gladden us;
Mead which the toiling bee makes but not drinks—
Mead distilled I praise - Its praise is everywhere,"

became a wider ruler; a man of strong arm and great genius, though, like his predecessors Caswallon and Cunedda Wledig, surrounded by a thin veil of mythological mystery. In the seventh century we come forth into less doubtful light: the Angles of Northumbria under King Edwin are seen invading North Wales; Caswallon of Gwynedd submits; the attacks of the Irish sea-rovers, mainly directed against Anglesey, become frequent Rhodri Mawr becomes king of all Gwynedd, and eventually, in a sense, of all Wales North and South;

and on his death divides his kingdom between his three sons, Anaravut, the eldest, receiving the government of Gwynedd, with his residence at Aberjffraw, in Anglesey. .

Soon the quarrels of the brothers involve all Wales in confusion; and when their contentions are silenced in death, the caldron is kept boiling to the brim by their successors. Bleddyn ap Cynfyn has to cope with Rhys ap Owain ; Gruffydd ap Cynan has to crush the usurper Trahaearn on the field of Carno; many other rivalries ensue, until the native princes are called to their senses by the new aggressions of the Normans. Already had Rufus made the princes of Wales tributary ; now the Lords Marchers are seated at Chester, Shrewsbury. Sec., and come to steal the land. Gruffydd ap Cynan is still alive, and bravely defies and fights them, but they manage to settle upon Anglesey in spite of him, and build Lleiniog Castle.

The whole country seems now to unite against the oppressions of the Norman. Gruffydd leads his hosts into the enemy's country; their towns are sacked, their castles overthrown, and Rufus in person comes to North Wales to tamp out the spirit of the nation, in a.d. 1005. This was his first attempt in Wales. The citadel he had to attack was Snowdon—a fortress such as he had never before seen, and a fortress he did not take. "And the king," says the Saxon Chronicle, "at length returned homewards, because he could do no more there that winter."

Henry I. made an expedition into North Wales a.d. 1114, but we have no proof that he came so far as Carnarvonshire. He was appeased by gifts and submission. " The Welsh came and treated with him; and he caused castles to be built " (Ang.-Sax. Chron.). But soon old Gruffydd ap Cynan and his confederates are in the field, and Henry must march once more to Wales. In 1121 he led great army in person as far as Snowdonia—which may mean only the mountainous district of Snowdonia, and not the particular eminence now known by the name. We have no account of battles fought on this occasion. The king's preparations had been vast, and he had sworn with a great oath that he would exterminate the nation. But he led his army back again from Snowdon, having received, as the *Annales Cambria* inform us, ten thousand head of cattle (" datis decem millibus pecorum cum eo pacificati sunt") as a means of pacification.

Gruffydd ap Cynan, a.d. 1137, is succeeded by his mighty son Owain Gwynedd, whose life is a campaign, and whose character is that of a hero (d. a.d. 1169). Great disturbances continue between the sons of Owain,—Malgwyn, Dafydd, and Rhodri, Dafydd eventually succeeds in establishing himself at Aberffraw, but in 1194 is defeated and dethroned by Llewelyn ap Iorwerth (the Great), who now enters upon the great struggle with the Norman power, and the equally difficult task of uniting the resources of Wales in its own defence. Llewelyn vigorously attacked the Lords Marchers. The Earl of Chester had rebuilt Diganwy Castle, which Llewelyn had once demolished, and in return for this and other pieces of misbehaviour was attacked by Llewelyn in his own territory.

King John was now roused to activity. Though Llewelyn had married his daughter—that unchaste Joan whose life the prince had spared, but whose paramour the Norman De Breos he had with swift vengeance hanged—he was irritated by his unceasing hostilities, and in the year 1111 made up his mind not simply to crush Llewelyn, but " to destroy all that had life in the country." His son-in-law adopted the best tactics. Throwing out flying columns to hang on the flanks of the invading hosts, he withdrew his forces to Snowdon* directed the

Section III – THE NOBLE TRIBES OF NORTH WALES

Of the fifteen tribes (or Clans recognizing a common ancestor) called Noble, In North Wales, the following were located in parts now included in the county of *Carnarvon*. Criticism has never been applied to the evidence upon which these divisions have been founded: but there seems little reason to doubt the general accuracy of the family traditions and recognitions of consanguinity, mostly fortified by written and monumental records, which were formally embodied in writing about the 15th century

Collwyn Ap Tango, Founder Of The Fouth Noble Tribe.

Is said to have been Lord of *Eifionydd*, *Lleyn* and *Ardudwy* – these names indicating so many comots, the latter being in Merionethshire. The building of *Twr Bronwen* – the “Tower of Bronwen” in Harlech castle is attributed to him, and he is believed to have resided there for some time. This castle was of course earlier than the structure the remains of which are now visible at Harlech (see *Harlech Castle*) – although a part of those ruins are held by good judges to indicate an antiquity earlier than the Edwardian Era. He lived in the time of Gruffydd apCynan, prince of North Wales *temp.* William Rufus and Henry I

Pulestons of Carnarvonshire.

This family was a branch of the venerable stock of the *Pulestons of Emral*, Flintshire (settled there since *temp.* Edward I.), still represented by Sir Richard Price Puleston, Bart.; and others. It is said that the family derived their name from Puleston in the parish of Newport, Salop, where they settled *temp.* Henry III. This family were strong partisans of Edward I. in the conquest of Wales, and were entrusted by him with high offices. It does not clearly appear how this branch first came to reside at Carnarvon; but it was probably in connection with the governorship of the castle. Sir John Puleston was Constable of that castle, and died in 1551. John Puleston (the same?) was Sheriff of the co. of Carnarvon in 1544. They intermarried with the best Welsh families. This branch became extinct in the male line with Sir John, whose dau. and sole h., Jane (surviving, it is presumed, her brother Rowland, Sheriff of co. Cam. 1575), m. Sir Thomas Johnes, Kt., of Abermarlais, co of Carn, and after his death, Sir Wm. Morys of Clenenney. (See *Pulestons, Emral*.)

Hollands of Conway

For this ancient family see *Holland, Plas Berw*, and *Conway-Grtffith, Carreglwyd*, AngL

Wynns of Gwydir.

See elsewhere, *Wynn of Gwydir, Eveland*, and *Willoughby D'eresby*

SECTION V.—SHERIFFS OF CARNARVONSHIRE.

A.D.	
Henry VIII	
Edmund Lloyd, of Glynllifon; he dying,	
Gruffydd ap Robert Fychan, Plashen . . .	1541
William Williams, Cochwillan	1542
Sir Richard .Bulkeley, Kt., of Beaumaris	1543
John Puleston, of Carnarvon.	1544
John Wynn ap Meredydd, of Gwydir . . .	1543
Hugh Peak, Conway	1546
EDWARD VI	
William Williams, of Cochwillan	1547
Gruffydd ap William Madog, Llwyndyrus .	1548
John Robert ap Llewelyn Itlel, of Castell-March	1549
Sir Richard Bulkeley, Kt., of Beaumaris	1550
John <i>Wyw</i> ap Hugh, of Bodvel	1551
Hugh Peek, of Conway	1552
WUlaiinE WJlliams, of Cochwillaa, . .	1553
MARY.	
Gruffydd ap William Madog, Llwyndyrus .	1554
Morys Wynn, of Gwydir	1555
Griffith Davies, of Carnarvon.	1556
John Wynn ap Meredyth, of Gwydir . . .	1557
Sir Richard .Bulkeley, Kt., of Beaumaris .	1558

ELIZABETH.	
	A.D
Dr, Ellis Pryce, of Plasiolyn	1559
John Wyan ap Hugh, of Bodvel	1560
Robert Pugh, of Creuddyn	1561
William Glynn, of Glynllifon.	1562
Griffith Glynn, of Pwllheli . ' ; . . .	1564
Griffith Davies, of Carnarvon	1565
Sir William Herbert, Kt., of Swansea . .	1566
Sir Rees Giffith, Kt., of Penrhyn . . .	1567
William Mostyn-, of Mostyn.	1568
Thoma Qwen Plasdu	1569
Morys. Wynn, of Gwydir . '	1570
Edward Williams. of Maes-Castell. . .	1571
Richadm Mostyn of Bodyscallen . . .	1572
Griffith Davies, of Carnarvon	1573
Rees Thomas, of Canarvon	1574
Rowland Puleston, of Canarvon	1575
Richard Peake of Conway	1576
Edward CONWAY. of Bryneirin	1577
Morys. Wynn, of Gwydir	1578
Richard Vaughan., of Llwyndyrus . . .	1579
Morys.cyffyn of Maenan...	1580.
William Thomas, of Carnarvon	1581.
William Morys, of Clenenney . ' . . .	1582
John Griffith of Carnarvon	1583