Welsh place-names
The original 1887 edition

Thomas Morgan
Handbook of the Origin of Place-names in Wales and Monmouthshire
Printed for the author by H. W. Southey, Merthyr Tydfil, 1887

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HANDBOOK

OF THE ORIGIN

OF

PLACE-NAMES

IN

WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE

BY

THE REV. THOMAS MORGAN,

DOWLAIS.

"Happy is he who knows the origin of things."

MERTHYR TYDFIL:
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR BY H. W. SOUTHEY,
"EXPRESS" OFFICE.

1887.

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To

The Right Honourable

WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE,

IN TOKEN OF PROFOUND RESPECT FOR HIM

AS

The Most Honourable and Distinguished Resident

IN THE PRINCIPALITY OF WALES,

This Volume is Dedicated

BY

THE AUTHOR.

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PREFACE.

THE Author's chief reason for publishing this work may be stated very briefly.

About two years' ago the proprietor of the *Merthyr Express* newspaper announced in his valuable paper the following competition:—"For the best Essay in English on the origin of the Names of Places in Wales, giving their English equivalents 1st Prize, £5 5s.; 2nd Prize, £2 2s."

Only two essays were received, one from "Llywarch ab Llewellyn" and the other from "Taliesin." The adjudicators decided that "Taliesin has brought to bear in the treatment of the subject incomparably greater literary resources than his competitor, and has made a praiseworthy attempt to supply the topographical and historical information, tradition, and folk-lore associated with places which assist in elucidating the origin of names, even when they do not effectively clear up their etymology. On the whole, the adjudicators have derived much pleasure from the perusal of this Essay, and think it exhibits an amount of research which entitles it to the first prize."

The Essay was subsequently printed in several chapters in the *Merthyr Express*, with the following appellatory note as a standing heading for each chapter: "The Author of this Essay, assuming that his attempts at deriving the origin of many place-names are imperfect, and some, perchance, incorrect, invites criticism thereon, either private or public. Since many of the villages in the rural districts have been omitted owing to the Author's imperfect topographical knowledge of the sequestered nooks, any information relating to the same would be gladly received. 'In the multitude of counsellors there is safety.'"

It is to be regretted that very few criticisms were received. The full meaning of Byron's words, "Critics all are ready-made," was not realised in this case; but, perhaps, as Disraeli once remarked,

"To-morrow the critics will commence." In writing upon a subject, so full of intricacies and difficulties, the Author is far from being satisfied with his etymological attempts in many instances. Far be it from him to say

"I am Sir Oracle,
And when I ope my lips, let no dog bark."

His experience ofttimes, when exploring the different fields of research, is aptly described in Milton's words:

"The oracles are dumb,
No voice or hideous hum
Runs thro' the arched roof in words deceiving."

The most difficult names have been left almost unnoticed by our tourists and topographers, and in our endeavour to throw light upon these obscure names it is probable that we have not altogether avoided errors. In numerous instances we were deeply sensible of our failure to realise the import of the proverb, "Happy is he who knows the origin of things." In anticipation of the discovery of many errors by Welsh philologists and antiquarians, the Author humbly claims their sympathetic consideration, and invokes their valuable assistance to rectify the same when the opportunity is afforded them.

During the issue of the Essay a large number of friends, both in England and Wales, expressed a strong desire to see it re-published in book form. Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., wrote, "I really think you ought to put your Essay into a more permanent form." Mr. Southey, the prize donor, not only consented, but urgently requested the Author to accede to their desire. Steps were accordingly taken to test the extent of this feeling, with the result that a sufficient number of copies was subscribed for to indemnify the Author against loss, and thereupon it was decided to submit the Essay, with amplifications and emendations, to the reading public.

The Author begs to state that he has succeeded in gaining access to some of the most reliable sources of information, and has consulted not a few of the best authorities in different localities, for which assistance he desires to express his gratitude and obligations. He also acknowledges his indebtedness to the following works: "Cymru," by Rev. Owen Jones; "Parthsyllydd," by Dr. Emlyn Jones; "Geiriadur Bywgraphyddol," by Rev. J. T. Jones; Myv. Arch; Iolo MSS.; Iago Emlyn's Prize Essay on "The Philosophical Construction of Celtic Nomenclature, &c.;" Professor Rhys's "Lectures on Welsh Philology;" Rev. I. Taylor's "Words and Places;" Jones s "History of Breconshire," &c.

He has had to consider some ingenious conjectures, far-fetched derivations, and wild etymological dreams with great patience and caution before arriving at his own conclusions. In a large number of examples he had no option but to endeavour to ascertain their origin by conjecture.

It was once intended to supplement a chapter on Welsh place-names in England, but what with the amplifications and appendices of the Essay, together with the addition of the place-names of Monmouthshire, the dimensions assigned to the book have been altogether occupied. Should the contents of this little volume be the means of throwing any light on this interesting branch of Welsh literature, and thereby enhance the vitality of the dear old language in the estimation of the reader, the Author will be more than amply compensated.

Dowlais, January, 1887. THOMAS MORGAN.

THE ORIGIN OF PLACE-NAMES

IN

WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE.

INTRODUCTION.

IT is surprising that a subject so deeply interesting, and so full of historical value, should not have induced some competent Welsh scholar to explore every possible field of research, and give the results of his etymological investigations to the public in a permanent form.

Welsh nomenclature has not had the attention it deserves. This interesting field has been sadly neglected. Very few have made it the ambition of their life to enter therein, and glean every possible information necessary to throw light upon our Welsh place-names. The renowned Lewis Morris was deeply engrossed in this branch of literature, and the publication of his *Celtic Remains* would, assuredly, be an invaluable boon to Welsh literati. Iago Emlyn's Essay which gained the prize at Carmarthen Eisteddfod, September, 1867, is eminently calculated to be an admirable quota rendered by the Eisteddfod to the elucidation of this subject. Most of our Eisteddfodic productions are locked up in impenetrable secrecy, but this, fortunately, has seen the light of day.

With the exception of the above-mentioned essay our national institution has done but very little to fill this gap in Welsh literature. Worthy attempts have been made by some Welsh topographists to clear up the etymology of a moiety of our place-names. Others have endeavoured to explain their origin and meaning, but owing to their imperfect acquaintance with the vernacular, many of their attempts have been futile and

unsatisfactory: as *Caermarthen*, the county of Merlin, a Welsh enchanter; *Denbigh*, a dwelling in the vale; *Pembroke*, the hill over the brook; *Douglas* is given to mean black-water; *Pontypridd*, bridge of beauty; *Tyr Escop*, Bishop's tower; *Llanfawr*, the church of four saints, &c. &c. We might quote a large number of similar misleading explanations of Welsh words and names that are found in English books written evidently by other than Welsh etymologists. The attempts made by Englishmen and others ignorant of the language of dear old Cambria to explain Celtic names are often failures and something more. *Alt maen*, high rock, in the Lake district has been transformed into the Old Man of Coniston; *Bryn Huel* or *Hual*, hill of shackles, is now spelt Brown Willy, a Cornish ridge, and Pensant has been designated Penzance.

Tourists' Guides to Wales may be quite safe and trustworthy in their geographical information, but the majority of them are woefully misleading in their etymological peregrinations. Some of their derivations really deserve to be remitted to the cabinet of philological curiosities. Out of many hundred place-names in Wales very few of them are explained satisfactorily by gazetteers, and the most abstruse of them are left intact.

It is needless to say that Welsh philologists only can deal satisfactorily with purely Welsh names, and even *they* find it no easy task to investigate and ascertain the origin of many of them, especially those that have undergone so many processes of corruption and mutation. "Many Welsh appellations and local names" writes one eminent Welsh historian, "have been so long corrupted that it would be affectation to attempt to reform them." We may be allowed to give a few instances of names that have already been grossly mutilated: *Llechwedd* has been dislocated at Leckwith; *Llys y Fro Nudd* has been cruelly distorted into Lisworney; *Caerau* has been pulled down to Carew; *Magwyr* has been almost ruined in Magor; *Cnwc-glas* has been twisted into the form of Knucklas; *Merthyr* has been brutally martyred at Marthrey; *Tafarn Yspytty (hospitium)* has been long converted into Spite Tavern;

Meiciau has been minced into Minke ; *Gwentllwg* has been changed into Wentlooge ; *Myddfai* has been muffled in Mothvey; *Sarnau* has been beaten down into Sarney, &c. &c.

Considering the rapid strides of English education in the Principality we fear the time is not far distant when a moiety of our mutilated Welsh place-names will be nothing less than a series of enigmatical problems even to children of Welsh parentage. Many of them already seem to them as a meaningless and unpronounceable jumble of letters. This process of mutilation appears to be getting more prevalent. Our English friends, not only do not exhibit any sign of bringing forth fruit worthy of repentance, but they seem to persist in the error of their way in dealing with Welsh names. *Brynmawr*, big hill, is pronounced with stentorian voice *Brynmôr*, which signifies the hill by the sea. A complete stranger to the place, yet conversant with the Welsh tongue, on hearing the latter pronunciation of the name, would naturally expect he was going to inhale the salubrious sea-air ; whereas, after little enquiry, he would find himself in a tantalized mood distantly situated from the sea. A few miles distant, at *Nantybwch*, the buck's brook, he might be pardoned if he concluded from the pitiful cries of the railway officials that there were *none-to-book* at that station. If he pursued his journey to *Llwydcoed*, grey wood, which is pronounced by the railway men *Lycod*, he would naturally conclude that the place must have been sometime noted for rats, because *Llygod* is the Welsh for rats.

In going through Loughor, provided his geographical knowledge were deficient, he would imagine himself to have reached *Lloegr*, which is the Welsh name for England. And a few miles lower down he would find himself at *Llanelly*, which is pronounced by certain parties *Lan-healthy*, where he would be induced to call his inhaling powers into full play, positively thinking he was landed in a place famous for its salubriousness. In North Wales he would discover the same aptitude in the art of mispronunciation. Amid the din of the "fiery horse" he might hear a name pronounced *Aber-jeel*, the suffix of which would remind

him at once of the Hindostanee for a morass, or a shallow lake; but a few minutes talk with a villager would soon relieve him from the nightmare of this confusion of tongues by furnishing him with the right pronunciation, *Aber-gele*, an out-and-out Welsh name. At *Dolgellau*, which is pronounced *Dol-jelly*, he might almost imagine the name to imply a doll made of jelly; and at *Llangollen*, pronounced *Lan-jolen*, he would, both from a geographical and etymological point of view, indulge himself in little self-congratulation on being conveyed to a jolly place.

Now he has travelled far enough to be thoroughly convinced of the necessity of making an effort to save our local names from the relentless hands of the foreigner before they become so distorted as to be difficult of recognition even by Welsh etymologists.

Pure Welsh names should be left intact—those that have undergone any changes should, if possible, be restored to their primitive form, and English equivalents or names should be given to each and every one of them.

An attempt is being made in this book to assign English names to all the places that bear Welsh or quasi-Welsh appellations. This was by no means an easy task.

Fear and trembling haunted us all along the line, lest we should fail to give intelligible, short, and easily-pronounced names in English garb. Perhaps we have sacrificed too much upon the altar of conciseness. A full, literal translation of many of our place-names, designed for English Appellations, would be none less than an etymological onus to others than Welshmen, so we were naturally led to the other extreme. In order to avoid a repetition of a literary ordeal to our *dim-Cymraeg* friends, we felt "'tis better to be brief than tedious." The enticing name *Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlltysiliogogogogoch* has been reduced to Whitwood. It is said that a Welsh celebrity at a certain railway station asked for a ticket to the last-named place, and the retort given, *ex cathedra*, was that such a place was not in existence; whereas, if he had only asked for a ticket to *Llanfair P.G.*, the clipped form of

the name, he would have been supplied with it instantaneously. *Llanfair-mathafarn-eithaf* has been abbreviated to Meadton, &c. &c. These longitudinal designations should be preserved intact, and transmitted to the Welsh cabinet of curiosities in nomenclature, and brief English names, such as Whitwood, Meadton, &c., should be adopted for the common purposes of everyday life.

In pursuing the study of Welsh place-names we were forcibly reminded of Horne Tooke's observation, as to "letters, like soldiers, being very apt to desert and drop off in a long march." Contraction increases our difficulties in endeavouring to get at the full and correct import of words. If the American tendency—to pronounce words exactly as they are spelt and written—were a universal principle, the burdens of philologists would be considerably lessened. Such is not the case in Welsh nomenclature. Although every Welsh letter is supposed to have its own distinct sound, wherever placed, many of them have dropped off in long marches, and some indeed in exceedingly short marches, and it is with great difficulty we have induced some of them to return to their proper places in the etymological army—some, probably, never to return; hence the primary form of many a name cannot be obtained nor the true meaning ascertained.

Latinized and Anglicized forms of Welsh names considerably enhance our difficulties. *Mon* was transmuted to *Mona*, *Aberconwy* to *Aberconovium*, *Abergafeni* to *Abergavennium*, *Aberogwr* to *Ogmore*, *Nedd* to *Nidium*, *Coed-dy* to *Coyty*, *Talyfan* to *Talavan*, *Sili* to *Sully*, *Llys-y-Fro-Nudd* to *Lisworney*, *Llanyffydd* to *Lamphey*, *Llandeg* to *Lanteague*, *Gwynfa* to *Wenvoe*, &c. Our names, like our fathers, were mercilessly treated by our foreign invaders.

Hybridism is another element that renders Welsh nomenclature exceedingly difficult and perplexing. Different nations visited our shores, and played sad havoc with our local names, especially those having gutterals in them. "We have names of such barbarous origin," writes one, "compounded one-half of one language and the other of another, that it is impossible to fix a criterion how they ought to be spelt." The Flemish

colony in Pembrokeshire, in the reign of Henry I., and the Norman settlement in the south of Glamorgan, in the 11th century, are chiefly responsible for this etymological jumble. The Norman Conquest affected the English language more than anything that happened either before or after it, but very little of its effect is found in the Welsh, except in place-names. These hybrid names, albeit, are full of historical value, because they give us geographical clues to the inroads and settlements of these foreign invaders.

Alluding to the desirability of getting a correct definition of an effete nomenclature, one writer remarks, "It must be borne in mind that the nomenclature of our country greatly explains the early history of Britain from the time of the first colonists, the settlement of the Druids, and their subsequent power both in civil and religious matters, and its continuance down to the age of Suetonius, and later still, as the old superstition was not quite eradicated for many ages afterwards. Their mythology has left its marks on numerous places, even where their lithonic structures have been demolished." After all it is, as Defoe ironically remarks in his "True-born Englishmen,"

> With easy pains you may distinguish
> Your Roman-Saxon-Danish-Norman-English.

Personal names enter very largely into Welsh names of places. The first place-name we have on record was formed after this fashion, "And he (Cain) builded a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch." Gen. iv., 17.

These personal names are invariably in the vernacular affixed to words, more or less, of a descriptive character, as *Trelales; tre*, the descriptive first, then comes the personal, *Lales; Porthmadog, porth*, the descriptive, then follows the name *Madog*. The majority of names beginning with *Llan* belong to this section. In Saxon and Norse names the reverse of this is the general rule. The descriptive part of the name comes last, preceded by a personal or common name, such as *Tenby; Ten*, a mutation of Dane, and *by*, the Norse for a dwelling, hence the dwelling-place of the

Danes. Walton, Walter's town; Williamston, William's town; Gomfreston, Gomfre's town; &c.

It was customary in olden times in Wales for men to take their names from the places where they were born or resided, as *Pennant*, *Mostyn*, &c., and oftentimes the case was reversed. Brecon was called after *Brychan;* Cardigan after *Ceredig;* Merioneth after *Meirion; Eaeyrnion* after *Edeyrn; Dogfeilir* after *Dogfael; Merthyr Tydfil* after *Tydfil*, Brychan's daughter, &c. The names of popular Welsh saints have been bestowed so liberally on the *Llanau* as to occasion no little confusion. A similar practise prevails in the United State from respect to their popular Presidents. The Rev. Isaac Taylor tells us that no less than 169 places bear the name of Washington, 86 that of Jefferson, 132 that of Jackson, 71 that of Munroe, and 62 that of Harrison. Hagiology has left a deep and wide impress upon our nomenclature. St. Mary's name has been bestowed upon upwards of 150 churches and chapels in the Welsh sees, that of St. Michael's upon about 100, and that of St. David's upon 60 or 70.

A great number of our place-names describe graphically the physical features of the country. Mountains, hills, and mounds, rocks and cliffs, glens and combes, moors and woods, rivers and brooks, all contribute their quota to the treasury of our nomenclature.

Many of them are traced to local traditions which rarely command more than a local circulation. In making enquiries at different localities we were more than amused to observe the prevalent tendency of the inhabitants to trace the origin of their local names to traditionary sources. The philologist is often superseded by the traditionist. Graphic and descriptive names are frequently explained from a traditional stand-point. *Machynllaith*—a name descriptive of the geographical position of the place—was very dogmatically referred by one to an ancient legend concerning some "*mochyn-yn-y-llaeth*," the pig in the milk. *Troed-rhiwfuwch*, explained another, means *Troed-rhyw-fuwch*, the foot of some cow, in allusion to a local tradition about a cow that had gone astray. *Manorbier*, the third

opines, has reference to a severe conflict between a man and a bear in times gone by. *Wrexham*, says the fourth, is obviously a corruption of *Gwraig Sam*, Sam's wife. *Crymmych*, the fifth avers, is a transposition of "*Ych yn crymu*," the ox stooping, &c., &c. The reader may take these fanciful and untenable derivations for their worth as evidences of the tenacity with which some people hold to their folk-lore.

The majority of our place-names, as might have been expected, have been derived from pure Celtic sources.

Bishop Percy says that "in England, although the names of the towns and villages are almost universally of Anglo-Saxon derivation, yet hills, forests, rivers, &c., have generally preserved their old Celtic names." In illustrating the prevalence of Celtic names in Britain, the Rev. Isaac Taylor writes: "Throughout the whole island almost every river-name is Celtic, most of the shire-names contain Celtic roots, and a fair sprinkling of names of hills, valleys, and fortresses, bear witness that the Celt was the aboriginal possessor of the soil; while in the border counties of Salop, Hereford, Gloucester, Dorset, Somerset, and Devon, and in the mountain fastnesses of Derbyshire and Cumberland, not only are the names of the great natural features of the country derived from the Celtic speech, but we find occasional village-names, with the prefixes *lan* and *tre*, interspersed among the Saxon patronymics."

What is true of England is pre-eminently true of Wales, where the great bulk of place-names are distinctly Cymric, everywhere thrusting themselves upon our notice as standing proofs of the vitality of the language of our progenitors. Many are the false prophets that have sarcastically declared, from time to time, that the days of the Welsh language have been numbered. We might observe, *en passant*, that it contains more vitality than the Gaelic. The latter is only talked in some parts of Scotland, but the Cymric is the domestic language of the vast majority of the Welsh people, wheresoever situated. It is calculated that more than a million of the inhabitants of Wales *and Monmouthshire* use the vernacular in domestic

conversation, in literary and newspaper reading, and in religious exercises. What with the continuation of the Cymric in the curriculum of our Universities and Theological Colleges, its introduction as a specific subject into our public elementary schools, the ardency and faithfulness with which it is taught in our Sunday schools from Caergybi to Caerdydd, the ever-increasing attention paid and the new life infused into it by various institutions, as the Eisteddfod, the Honourable Society of Cymrodorion, the Society for Utilising the Welsh language, and the proverbial clannishness of the Kymry; looking retrospectively and prospectively our conviction is that the dear old language contains germs of a long and healthy life, and when it shall cease to be a vernacular much of its intrinsic value and glory will be preserved in its local names.

PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES.

We shall now deal briefly with the chief prefixes and suffixes that occur so frequently as components in names of places in Wales, in order to avoid entering largely into details in tracing their origin in the subsequent pages. Many of them contain the geographical and historical clues to a large number of names, and since they enter so extensively into Welsh nomenclature, we think it essential to offer a few explanatory notes thereon.

ABER means the mouth of a river, a particular point at which the lesser water discharges itself into the greater. In the old Welsh it is spelt *aper*, and Professor Rhys, Oxford, derives it from the root *ber*, the Celtic equivalent of *fer*, in Lat. *fer-o*, Greek *phero*, English *bear*. It originally meant a volume of water which a river *bears* or *brings* into the sea, or into another river; but it is now generally used to denote an estuary, the mouth of a river. Some think it is cognate with the Irish *inver:* Inverary, mouth of the Airy; and that *inver* and *aber* are suitable test-words in discriminating between the two chief branches of the Celts. Mr.

Taylor says that "if we draw a line across the map from a point a little south of Inverary to one a little north of Aberdeen we shall find (with very few exceptions) the *invers* lie to the north-west of the line, and the *abers* to the south-east of it." The Welsh form occurs repeatedly in Brittany: *Abervrack*, *Avranches*. The Norman French *haver* is identified with the Welsh *aber*. In the lowlands of Scotland we find it in Aberdeen, Abernethy, Abercorn, Abertay, &c., and in England we find it in Aberford, Berwick, &c. Wherever found in Welsh place-names it is almost invariably followed by a proper or common name, indicating a brook or river flowing into another river, or the sea.

Ach is a Celtic derivative particle denoting water. *Agh* in Ireland means a ford, *och* signifies the same in Scotland, and the Latin *aqua* has the same meaning. The Sanscrit *ux*, *uks*, means to water. We find many brooks and rivers called *Clydach*, sheltering water; *Achddu* means black water, and *gwyach* is a general term for several species of water-fowl.

Afon, a river, comes probably from the Celtic *awon*, the moving water. In the Manx language it is written *Aon*, in the Gaelic abhainn (pronounced *avain*), and in the Itinerary of Antonius it is *Abona*. It is found in English in the form of *Avon*, which, in the opinion of Professor Rhys, appears to have been entitled to a *v* as early as the time of Tacitus. This form occasions redundancy in the English language. To say "Bristol is on the river Avon" is tantamount to saying "Bristol is on the river river." Afon, a common name, has become a proper name in England, but in Wales it is the generic term for a river.

Ar signifies "ploughed land." *Arddu*, to plough. The Greek word for a plough is *arotron*, the Latin is *arâtrum*, the Norse is *ardr*, the Irish is *arathar*, and the Welsh is *aradr*. The English "harrow" was originally a rude instrument drawn over ploughed land to level it and break the clods, and to cover seed when sown. Ploughing and reaping are called "earing and harvest." Compare Gen. xlv., 6.; Ex. xxxiv., 21.

When *ar* is used as a suffix it generally has an agricultural signification, but when used as a prefix it is a preposition, meaning on, upon: *Ardwr*, on the water; *Argoed*, on or above a wood.

BETTWS forms a part of a large number of our local names. Some think it is a Welshified form of the Latin *beatus*, blessed, and that it refers to the religious institutions of *St. Beuno*. Others derive it from *abbatis*, an appendage to a monastery or an abbey, taking it as one of the few Latin words which found a permanent place in the Welsh language.

It is derived by some from *bod-cwys*, a place of shelter, but the most prevalent opinion is that the word is a Welshified form of *bead-house*, an ecclesiastical term signifying a hospital or alms-house, where the poor prayed for their founders and benefactors.

"Beads are used by Roman Catholics to keep them right as to the number of their prayers, one bead of their rosary being dropped every time a prayer is said; hence the transference of the name from that which is counted (the prayers) to that which is used to count them. The old phrase to 'bid one's beads' means to say one's prayers (Imp. Dict)." In a recent communication to us, Professor Rhys says "Bettws would be phonologically accounted for exactly by supposing it to be the English *bed-hús* or house of prayer, but if that origin be the correct one to assume there is the historical difficulty: where is there any account of this institution bearing an English name?" There is the rub. We cannot find a single instance of the name being perpetuated in England. The Rev. J. Davies, F.S.A., Pandy, is of opinion that "*Bettws* was never an institution properly speaking, and it never existed as a distinct religious house, but undoubtedly it did exist in some instances as a cell in connection with large Abbeys. Soon after the principal Abbeys had been founded in this country, and their fame as seats of piety and learning had spread far and wide, pilgrims began to flock to them, many of whom had long distances to travel, on account of which houses of prayer, called *Bead-houses*, were erected at long intervals along their

course into which the 'wearied pilgrims' entered to offer prayers on their way to and from the Abbey. I believe we never have a Bead-house *(Bettws)* but on the way to an Abbey. When the Abbeys were suppressed, most of these *Bead-houses* fell into ruin, as a matter of course, while a few of them may have developed into parish Churches and Chapels of Ease, after the Reformation. I do not think it has a Welsh origin, for the reason that the thing itself was imported from Normandy, and I am of opinion that *Bettws* as a place-name was not in existence prior to the Norman Survey."

BLAEN means extremity, the top of anything. It is frequently used as a prefix in the names of places that are situated at the extreme end of a valley or near the sources of brooks and rivers. *Blaenau afonydd*, the sources of rivers. *Dwfr y blaenau*, water or stream from the height.

BOD originally meant a lord's residence. Having fixed upon a certain spot of land, he would build a dwelling-house thereon, which was called *bod*, and the name of the builder or owner was added to distinguish it from other dwelling-houses, hence we have *Bodowain*, *Bodedeyrn*, &c. He had two residences—*yr Hafod*, the summer residence, and *Gauafod*, the winter residence. But in course of time *bod* was used to designate any house or dwelling-place. Compare the English "abode."

BRON means a round protuberance, and is equivalent to the English breast. In place-names it signifies the breast of a hill. *Ar frest y mynydd*, is a very common expression, meaning on the breast of the mountain.

BRYN seems to be a compound of *bre*, a mountain, and the diminutive *yn;* hence *breyn*, afterwards contracted into *bryn*, a small mountain, a hill. It enters largely into Welsh place-names, and we find it also Anglicized in Breandown, a high ridge near Weston-super-Mare; Brendon, a part of the great ridge of Exmoor; Brinsop, Hereford, &c.

BWLCH signifies a break or breach. It is generally found in names of places where there is a narrow pass in the mountains.

CAER is one of our enchorial names for a wall or mound for defence, the wall of a city or castle, a fortress. Perhaps the root is *cau*, to shut up, to fence, to enclose with a hedge. *Cae* means a field enclosed with hedges. *Caerau* were the most ancient military earthworks in the Principality, and when the Britons began to build cities they surrounded them by a fortified wall called *caer*.

The city of Chester is still popularly called *Caer*, from the ancient wall that has encircled it for ages. Chester—a Saxonized form of the Latin *castrum*, a fort, and one of the six words recognised as directly inherited from the Roman invaders—is a common prefix and suffix in English place-names; as Colchester, Manchester, Chesterford, Chesterton. In the Anglian and Danish districts we find "chester" is replaced by "caster"; as Doncaster, Lancaster, &c., but both forms are allied to *castrum*, which is a Latinization of the Celtic *caer*. As the Latin *castrum* will always be an etymological souvenir to future generations of the Roman incursions, and the havoc they committed here ere "Britannia ruled the waves," even so the Celtic word *caer*, which is found in so many Welsh and a few English place-names, will ever be an historical finger-post, pointing to the necessity which was laid upon our forefathers to defend themselves against foreign bands of invaders. The word is also a standing proof in England that the dominion of the ancient Kymry was sometimes considerably more extensive than that of little Wales. If the reader will be so fortunate as to find a map of England which was published in the time of Ella, the first Bretwalda of the Saxon race, the recurrent *caer* would make him almost imagine he was perusing the map of Wales. There he would find *Caer-legion*, Chester, which is still called Caerlleon; *Caer-Badon*, Bath; *Caer-Glou*, Gloucester; *Caer-Ebrawe*, Eboracum of the Romans, and the Saxon York; and *Caer-Lundene*, London, &c. In course of time the vowel *e* was elided, hence we have such examples as Carmarthen, Cardiff, Carlisle, Carsey, Carsop, Pencarow (Pencaerau), Carew, &c.

CARN, *Carnedd*, or Cairn, means a heap of stones. These cairns or tumuli are found in large numbers in

Wales. They were, according to some, either family cemeteries or monuments raised to commemorate the relics of a number of heroes who fell in defence of their country. But others are inclined to think they were thrown, as tokens of disgrace, over executed malefactors. Dr. Owen Pugh says—"The carneddau and the tumuli of earth were the common monuments that the ancient Britons erected in honour of their great men. Which of the two kinds was probably determined by the circumstance of the country being stony or otherwise. These modes of interment continued in use many years after the introduction of Christianity; but when the custom of burying in churches became general, the former ways were not only disused, but condemned as fit only for the great criminals. When the *carnedd* was considered as the honourable tomb of a warrior, every passenger threw his additional stone out of reverence to his memory. When this heap came to be disgraced by being the mark where the guilty was laid, the custom for everyone that passed to fling his stone still continued, but nowise a token of detestation."

Professor Rhys, in his "Celtic Britain," gives a graphic description of the removal of one of these cairns in the vicinity of Mold, in 1832. "It was believed," he writes, "in the country around to be haunted by a spectre in gold armour, and when more than 300 loads of stones had been carted away the workmen came to the skeleton of a tall and powerful man placed at full length. He had been laid there clad in a finely-wrought corslet of gold, with a lining of bronze: the former was found to be a thin plate of the precious metal, measuring three feet seven inches long by eight inches wide. Near at hand were discovered 300 amber beads and traces of something made of iron, together with an urn full of ashes, and standing about three yards from the skeleton. The work on the corslet is believed to have been foreign, and is termed Etruscan by Prof. Boyd Dawkins. The burial belongs to an age when cremation was not entirely obsolete in this country, and we should probably not be wrong in attributing it to the time of the Roman occupation. On the whole, the duty of commemorating the dead

among the Celts may be supposed to have devolved on the bards, to whom we are probably indebted for the seventy or more triplets devoted to this object and preserved in a Welsh manuscript of the twelfth century. The last of them, which, remarkably enough, has to do with a grave in this same district of Mold, runs as follows, when freely rendered into English:—

Whose is the grave in the great glade?
Proud was his hand on his blade—
There Bell the giant is laid."

CASTELL, frequently contracted into *cas*, is the Welsh for a castle, a fortified residence.

It is difficult to ascertain the exact time when castles were first introduced into Wales.

The Romans probably began to erect fortresses in the territories conquered by them, and the Saxons followed their example: but strong castles of defence were comparatively few here ere the commencement of the Norman Conquest. Feudalism gave rise to castles in the sense of fortified residences, and it is from the advent of the Normans to our land we must date the castle as an institution. A large number was also erected during the reign of Edward III. and his immediate successors. "That old fortress," said Mr. Gladstone, pointing with his stick to the remains of Hawarden Castle, "is one of the emblems of the difficulty the English had in governing the Welsh in former times. They had to plant their strongholds all along the Welsh border."

CEFN, in names of places, means a high ridge. It is but natural that this prefix should be applied to so many places in mountainous Wales. The Chevin Hills in Yorkshire, and Cevennes in France, derive their names from the same root.

CIL implies a sequestered place, a place of retreat. *Cil haul* means the shade or where the sun does not shine. *Cil y llygad*, the corner of the eye. In Ireland it is spelt *kil*, the c being changed to k, signifying a church, and is found in no less than 1,400 names, and in many in Scotland. Kilkenny, church of Kenny; Kilpatrick, church of Patrick; Kilmore (*Cill mawr*), the

great church. Gilmor is still a surname in the Scottish lowlands, and we find Gilmorton in Leicester. We find the root in *cilio*, to retreat, to go away. *Cilfach*, a place to retreat to, a creak, a nook. Some Welsh historians think that *cil* is a local memorial of those Irish missionaries, who, about the 5th century, visited the shores of Wales for evangelistic purposes, and founded churches in the most quiet and sequestered spots they could find.

CLYD means sheltering, warm, comfortable. *Lle clyd*, a warm, comfortable place. We have it in different forms in Clydach, Clydlyn, Clyder, Clyde, Strathclud, Clodock.

CLYN signifies a place covered with brakes, *Clyn o eithin*, a furze brake.

CNWC literally means a bump, a swelling: *Cnwc y gwegil*, the back part of the skull; but its geographical signification is a knoll or mound. We find it corrupted in a few Welsh names, Knucklas *(Cnwc-glas)*, &c., and in Irish names, Knockglass *(Cnwc-glas)*, Knockmoy *(Cnwc-mai)*, Knockaderry *(Cnwc-y-deri)*, &c, and in England we have Nocton, Nacton, Knockin, Knook, &c.

COED is the Welsh for wood, trees. In remote times the summits of Cambria's hills were covered with wood, which accounts for the word *coed* being still applied to barren and hilly districts.

CRAIG, a high rock or crag, and sometimes it is applied to a steep, woody eminence. It takes the form of *carraig* or *carrick* in Ireland; Carrigafoyle *(Craigy-foel)*, the barren rock; Carrickfergus, the rock where Fergus was drowned; and in England we find it in Crick, Cricklade, &c.

CROES means a cross. *Croes-ffordd*, a cross-way. The word evidently points to the Roman epoch, and also to the ancient Welsh custom of burying malefactors near the cross roads. *Croes-feini*, stone-crosses, in the time of Howell the Good, were used principally to mark land property, and sometimes, when placed in hedges, to caution travellers not to cross the fields. Some of them, with the names of the primitive British

saints inscribed upon them, were placed by the road-side in commemoration of the blessed fact that the Gospel had been preached there.

CRUG means a heap, a mound. *Crug o gerryg*, a heap of stones. It appears that the Britons held their bardic and judicial gorseddau or assemblies on these mounds, and hence "crug" and "gorsedd," according to Dr. Owen Pughe, are sometimes used as synonymous terms. "Crug" is a frequent component in Welsh names, and we find it Anglicized in Crich (Derby), Creach (Somerset), &c.

CWM denotes a low place enclosed with hills. It has a large place in Welsh nomenclature, and it often occurs in English local names, especially in the western counties. In Devonshire the Saxonized form *comb* or *combe* meet us frequently: Wide-comb, Wel-comb, Ilfra-combe, Babba-comb, Burles-comb, Challa-comb, Hac-comb, Para-comb, Yarns-comb, &c. In Somerset it is more plentiful than in any other English county: we have Nettle-comb, Od-comb, Timber-comb, Charls-comb, Wid-comb, Moncton-comb, Comb-hay, Cros-comb, Wins-combe, &c. We find King-combe, Rat-combe, Bos-comb, &c., in Dorset. Cumberland, a Celtic county, is derived by some from the *combes* with which it abounds. So writes Anderson, a Cumberland poet, of his native county:—

> There's Cumwhitton, Cumwhinton, Cumranton,
> Cumrangan, Cumrew, and Cumcatch,
> And many mair Cums i' the county,
> But none with Cumdivock can match.

CYMMER means a junction or confluence, and is frequently applied to places situated near the junction of two or more rivers. The root is related to *aber* (vide *aber*).

DIN is an ancient Welsh word for a fortified hill, a camp, from which we have our *dinas*, a fortified town or city, and probably the English *denizen*. Our cities were once surrounded by fortified walls, like Chester, on account of which every one of them was denominated *dinas*. Proffessor Rhys groups the Welsh *din* with the Irish dún, the Anglo-Saxon tún, and the English town.

The *dunum*, *dinum*, and *dinium* of the Romans are probably allied with it.

The English suffix *bury* is closely related to it in meaning. Very few Welsh place-names have the termination burgh, bury, or borough. The root is almost an English monopoly. Horne Took says that "a burgh or borough formerly meant a fortified town." In the "Encyclopædia Britannica" we find the following exposition of the word:—"Bourgignons or Burgundians, one of the nations who over-ran the Roman Empire, and settled in Gaul. They were of great stature and very warlike, for which reason the Emperor Valentinian the Great engaged them against the Germans. They lived in tents, which were close to each other, that they might the more readily unite in arms on any unforeseen attack. These conjunctions of tents they called *burghs*, and they were to them what towns are to us." It is supposed that the Burgundians introduced the word to the Germans, and they, again, left it in England as a trace of their settlement here.

Dol signifies a meadow. *Dol-dir*, meadow-land. We find it in many of our place-names, and also in various forms in Arundel, Kendal *(Pen-ddol)*, Annandale, Dalkeith, Dalrymple, Dovedale, &c. The word is found in names of places situate in valleys all over Wales, Cornwall, and Brittany.

Dwfr is the modern Welsh for water. It is frequently spelt *dwr:* Cwmdwr, the water-vale. In English it has suffered much from phonetic decay: Derwent, Dover, Appledore, Durham, Dore, Thur, Durra, &c. It is also found in European names: Dordogne, Adour, Durbian, Durbach, Douron, Dwerna, Oder, &c. ("Words and Places," p. 200). It may be compared with the Cornish *dour*, the Gaelic and Irish *dur*, and *dobhar*, pronounced *doar*, and the Greek *udor*, all derived probably from the Celtic *dubr*.

Dyffryn is popularly derived from *dwfr*, water, and *hynt*, a way, a course; literally a water-course, or a vale through which a river takes its course. In the ancient Welsh laws the word *dyffrynt* is used to denote a river. "Ynysoedd yn nyffrynt," islands in a river. It may be

a compound of *dwfr-bryn*, signifying a hilly place through which water flows.

GALLT means an ascent, a slope. *Gallt o goed*, a woody slope or eminence. In North Wales it signifies "a steep hill," and in South Wales "a coppice of wood."

GARTH originally meant a buttress, an inclosure. The Norse *garth*, the Persian *gird*, and the Anglo-Saxon *yard*, denote a place girded round, or guarded. Garden is a place fenced round for special cultivation. *Buarth*, from *bu*, kine, and *garth*, a small inclosure, was situated on a hill in perilous times. *Lluarth* from *llu*, a legion, and *garth*, inclosure, means an entrenchment on a hill. In course of time the word became to signify a ridge, a hill, a rising eminence, a promontory.

GELLI-*Celli* means a wood, a copse. The simpler form *cell* meant a grove, and the Irish *coill* bears an identical meaning. *Cell ysgaw*, an elder grove. The aborigines of Scotland were called *Cœoill daoin*, which meant "the people of the wood," which name was changed by the Romans to Caledonia. A great number of places have received their names from species of trees, as Clynog, Pantycelyn, Clyn eiddw, &c.

GLAN means brink, side, shore. *Glan yr afon*, the river side, or the bank of the river. *Glan y mor*, the sea shore. The word is generally prefixed to river-names, as Glan-Conwy, Glan Taf, &c.

GLAS is used to denote blue, azure, green. When applied to water it signifies blue—*Dulas*, black-blue; but when applied to land it means green; *Caeglas*, green field. The word is supposed by some Cymric scholars to be allied to the Greek *glaukos*, both expressing the same colours—those of the sea. Glaucus was a sea-deity.

GLYN implies a vale narrower but deeper than a *dyffryn*, through which a river flows. It generally precedes the name of a river that flows through a vale, as Glyn Ceiriog, Glyn Dyfrdwy, &c. From the same root we have the Gaelic "gleann" and the Anglo-Saxon "glen," both expressing a small valley.

GWYDD signifies wood, from which we have *gwyddel*, which means a brake or bush. *Tir gwyddelawg*, land overrun with brambles. *Gwyddel* is also the Welsh for Irishman, and some view the few place-names that contain the word only as ethnological evidences of the temporary sojourn of the Gaels in Wales. Some, evidently, have the latter signification, but the majority of them have no reference to Irishmen, as *Gwyddelwern*, &c.

HAFOD is a compound of *haf* and *bod*, signifying a summer house. The ancient farmers had their summer dairy-houses, and in that season they resorted thither, as the farmers in the Swiss Alps do to their Sennes. The *hafod* consisted of a long, low room, with a hole at one end to emit the smoke from the fire which was made beneath. Its stools were stones, and beds were made of hay ranged along the sides.

LLAN is identified with nearly all the names of parish churches in Wales, from which an exceedingly large number of places take their names. It has been said that "England is pre-eminently the land of hedges and inclosures." The terminations, ton, ham, worth, stoke, fold, garth, park, burgh, bury, brough, burrow, almost invariably convey the notion of inclosure and protection. The Welsh prefix *Llan*, which signifies a sacred inclosure, probably suggested the idea to the Saxon colonists. We find the word in *perllan*, orchard; *gwinllan*, vineyard; *corlan*, sheep-yard, in Welsh place-names it generally means a church, probably including the church-yard. *Myned i'r llan* means "going to church." The British saints, having been deprived of their possessions by the powerful and ever-increasing foreigners and invaders, retired to the most solitary places in the country to live a wholly religious life, and founded churches which will bear their names as long as hagiology will remain a part of Welsh history. Judging from the number of churches dedicated to the saints, it appears that the most popular among them were St. Mary, St. Michael, and St. David, the patron saint of Wales. It is needless to say that the first two never founded churches, although we find that

26 churches in the see of Bangor; 27 in the see of St. Asaph; 59 in the see of St. David's; and a few in the see of Llandaff; in all about 150 churches and chapels have been dedicated to St. Mary, and to St. Michael: 48 in the see of St. David's; 8 in the see of St. Asaph; 16 in the see of Bangor; 20 in the see of Llandaff; and a few in the see of Hereford, making a total of nearly 100. Next comes St. David. We find that 42 sacred edifices bear his name in the see of St. David's; 8 in the see of Llandaff; and a few in the see of Hereford. Many churches were also named from their contiguity to water, as well as to other objects: *Llanwrtyd* (Llanwrth-y-rhyd), the church by the ford; *Llandâf*, the church on the Taff, &c. The llan, a public house, and a few cottages, formed the nucleus of the majority of our rural villages and parishes, and when the village or parish became worthy of an appellation, the name of the *llan* was almost invariably applied to them. The word *sant*, saint, never became a popular term in Wales. We have simply the *llan* and the unadorned name of the saint to whom it was dedicated, not *Llansantddewi*, St. David's church, but *Llanddewi*, David's church.

When several churches are dedicated to the same saint some differential words are added, and so we have those long names which arouse the curiosity of our English friends, and often supply a healthy exercise to their risible faculties, such as *Llanfair-Mathafarneithaf*, &c.

For the sake of euphony and brevity we have, in many of our English equivalents, omitted the word *llan*, and have given the names of the saints only, except when they are translatable. When differential words are added to the hagiological names, as Penybryn, Helygen, &c., we have thought it advisable to omit the ecclesiastical term, and give the mundane portion of the name only as an English quasi-equivalent. For instance, Llandewi-Aberarth, omitting St. David's, and render Aberarth into an intelligible English name. We find the word *llan* in many place-names in England, in the Cymric part of Scotland, as Lanark, Lanrick, &c., and in Brittany, as Langeac, Lannion, Lanoe, &c. It is

now superseded by the word *eglwys*, church, in most parts of the Principality.

LLECH, a flat stone, a flag, refers probably to the Druidical circle stones. Notice should be made of the difference between *Cromlech* and *Cistfaen*. The former was a sepulchral monument and always above ground, and the latter was the coffin, concealed either by a tumulus of earth or stones. The cromlech generally had a cistfaen under it. The English league is probably derived from this word, a "league" was a measure of distance marked by a stone standing on end.

LLWCH is the ancient Welsh for an inlet of water, a lake. It corresponds to the Scotch *loch*, the Irish *lough*, and the English *lake*. Loch Leven—smooth lake.

LLWYN in its primary sense means a bush, but it is frequently used to denote a grove.

LLYS originally meant a royal court, a palace. *Llysdin*, a city where a prince's court was kept, but it is now the common appellation for a court.

MAENOR originally meant a division of land marked by stones, from *maen*, a stone; hence it became to signify a district, a manor. The *maen-hir*, long-stone monument, is considered by Professor Rhys to be as old as the cromlech, but not so imposing and costly. *Croes-faen*. (See *Croes*).

MAES, an open field, in contradistinction to *cae*, an enclosed field. It is sometimes used as a military term signifying a battle-field. *Câd ar faes* is a pitched battle, and *colli y maes* is to lose the battle. In the majority of names where this component occurs we may fairly infer that a battle has been fought there.

MAI means an open, beautiful plain. It is also the Welsh for May, the month when nature induces one to go out to the open fields to view her gems of beauty.

MOEL when used as a substantive signifies a bald, conical hill. *Dyn penfoel*, a bald-headed man. In olden times it was used as a surname. Hywel Foel, Howell, the bald-headed. It is derived by some from the Celtic root *mull*, a bald head. Moylisker (Westmoreland) is a

corrupted form of *Moel-esgair*, bare ridge. Malvern is supposed to be a contraction of *Moel-y-farn*, the hill of judgment. In Ireland we find it corrupted to *moyle:* Kilmoyle, bald church; Dinmoyle, bald fort.

MYNYDD is the popular Welsh word for mountain, from *mwn*, what rises considerably above the surface of the surrounding land. *Myn'd i fynydd or fyny* means going upwards.

NANT in its primary sense signified a ravine, a dingle; but now it is mostly used to denote a brook, a streamlet. The root enters largely into Welsh nomenclature, and it is also found in many place-names in the region of the High Alps. *Nannau* and *Nanney* are plural forms of it, omitting *t*, and adding the plural termination *au*.

PANT means a low place, a hollow. It is considerably less than a *cwm* or *dyffryn*, combe or valley, being somewhat similar to a glen.

PARC is an inclosure, equivalent to *cae*, a piece of land enclosed with hedges. It is used in the latter sense in the south-west counties. *Parth* comes from the same root, which means a division of land. *Parthau Cymru*, the divisions of Wales. The English "park" is a derivative, which has a more extensive meaning.

PEN in geographical names means the highest part or the extreme end, as of a mountain or a field, or a meadow. We find it intact in names of places in Cornwall, as Penzance (saint's head), Penrhyn (headland), and in the north of England we have Penrith; but in its native country the consonant *n* has been omitted in many instances, and *m* substituted, as in Pembroke, Pembrey, &c. *Ben*, a mountain, enters largely into the composition of place-names in Scotland, especially in the Highlands, as Ben-more, (Penmawr), great mountain, &c. *Cen* or *cenn* is another Gaelic form, signifying the same as *pen* and *ben*. Cantyre (Pentir), headland; Kenmore (Penmawr), great mountain; Kinloch (Penllwch), head of the lake. In South Scotland *ben* is replaced by *pen*, the Cymric form, as Pencraig, the top of the rock; Penpont, the end of the

bridge, &c. We find it also in European names pointing out the earlier settlements of the Celtic race, as Pennine, Apennines, Penne, Penmark, &c.

PONT is generally derived from the Latin *pons, pontis*, a bridge. The monks were great bridge-builders, and it is supposed that they introduced the word to us. Pontage is a duty paid for repairing bridges. The Roman pontiff was so called because the first bridge over the Tiber was constructed and consecrated by the high priest. Pontefract is a pure Latin name, from *pons*, a bridge, and *frangere*, to break, signifying a broken bridge, so called from the bridge breaking down when William, Archbishop of York, was passing over.

PORTH is referred by some to the Latin *porta*, a passage-way, a gate, an opening.

RHIW is the Welsh for ascent, acclivity, slope. It has an analogous meaning to *Eppynt*, the name of a chain of mountains in Breconshire, probably from *eb*, an issuing out, and *hynt*, a way, a course, signifying a way rising abruptly. *Hyntio* means to set off abruptly.

RHOS means a moor. Some think the Latin *rus* is a cognate word, signifying undrained moorland. The Cymric *rhos* is frequently confused with the Gaelic *ros*, which signifies a promontory. Ross, the name of a town in Herefordshire, is probably a corruption of the former.

RHYD in its primary sense means a ford, but its secondary meaning—a stream, is frequently given to it. *Rhyd-erwin* means the rough, dangerous ford, whereas *Rhydfelin* designates a stream of water that turns a mill.

SARN is the Welsh for the old Roman paved road, and wherever it occurs one may almost certainly find traces of a Roman road. Unlike almost every other road the Roman *strata* was distinguished for its straightness. It ran from fortress to fortress, as straight as an arrow course, in order to facilitate communications between those who were stationed in the chief strategic positions of Britain. It was generally about 15 feet wide, the sides being fenced by huge stones, and the middle well paved. Remains of it are

still discernible in many parts of the Principality, such as the neighbourhood of Caersws, Montgomery; Gaer, Brecon; Neath, Glamorgan; and many other places.

TAL when applied to places means end, but when applied to persons it denotes front. *Taliesin* means radiant front or luminous head, but *Talybont* signifies the end of the bridge. From this comes the English *tall.*

TON originally meant a piece of unploughed or uncultivated land, perhaps from *twn*, which implies a piece of land taken for the purpose of cultivation. It is used in Glamorgan to denote a green sward.

TREF was the primitive Welsh appellative for a homestead, a dwelling-house. *Myned tua thref*, going home, is still a common expression in South Wales. In course of time the term was extended to indicate a group of homesteads. Having built a house for himself the lord would proceed to build dwellings for his people and his cattle, and these formed what was called *tref.* The word gradually became to be applied to an aggregate of houses, hence the reason why it is used so frequently in village as well as in town-names.

The root is widely distributed over Britain and Europe. The Norse *by*, the Danish *thorpe*, the German *dorf*, and the English *ham* and *ton* may be considered as its equivalents. It is spelt *treu* in Domesday Book, hence we have *Treuddyn* for *Treddyn.*

Hendref forms the names of many old mansions, and is synonymous with the English Aldham and Oldham. *Hydref* (October) was the harvest season—the time to gather the produce of the fields to the barns, and leave the *hafod*, summer-house, to spend the winter months in the *hendref*, the older establishment. The original meaning of *cantref* (canton or hundred) is supposed to have been a hundred homesteads.

TROED is the Welsh for foot, base. The Irish *traig* signifies the same, both of which, Professor Rhys thinks, are of the same origin as the Greek *trecho*, "I run." The English *tread* means to set the foot. The word is frequently applied to places situated at the foot of a moun-

tain. The Welsh *Troedyrhiw* and the Italian *pie di monte* are almost synonymous terms.

Ty generally means a house, a dwelling-place, but in Welsh nomenclature it is occasionally used to denote a church or place of worship, as *Ty Ddewi*, St. David's. The house of God is considered by many as equivalent to the church of God. *Ty* has an inferior meaning to *bod;* the latter was the residence of a superior, and the former is of a later date, signifying an ordinary house, a cottage.

Wy—*Gwy* is an obsolete Celtic word for water, mostly used as a suffix in river-names, as *Elwy*, *Tawy;* and sometimes as a prefix, as *gwyach*, a water-fowl; *gwylan*, sea-gull; *gwydd*, goose. *Gwysg* is related to it, which means a tendency to a level, as of a fluid or stream. We find the root in various forms, as *Wysg*, *eask*, *uisge*, *usk*, *esk*, *ex*, *is-ca*, &c.

Ynys anciently signified a quasi-island in the marshes, answering to *inch* in Scotland, *Inch Keith;* and *inis* or *ennis* is Ireland, Ennis Killen, Ennis Corthy, Inniskea, &c. The word is applied to some places with no river or water near them, nor anything suggesting the probability that they had, in remote times, been islands.

Ystrad is a general term for a low or flat valley through which a river flows. The Latin *strata*, the Scotch *strath*, and the English *street* are supposed to be of the same origin. The term *ystrad* was used sometimes to denote a paved road.

PLACE-NAMES IN WALES.

WALES.—The real and correct name is *Cymru*, or as the late Mr. T. Stephens invariably spelt it, *Kymru*, from *cym-bro*, the compatriot, the native of the country, in contradistinction to *all-fro*, the foreign invader who came to dispossess him of his native land.

Professor Sylvan Evans derives it from *cyd*, the *d* being changed to *m* for assimilation with the following *b*; and *bro*, a vale, a country. Some think it is a compound of *cyn*, first, prior; and *bru*, matrix, hence implying *Primitive Mother*, an expression signifying that the aboriginal *Brythons*, to sustain their inalienable claim to the country, considered themselves as descended from the direct offspring of their native soil. According to some the name is synonymous with the Cimmerrii and Gomari.

A few derive the name from *Camber*, the son of *Brutus*, whilst others insist upon a remoter origin, and trace it back to Gomer, the eldest son of Japhet. In the laws of *Hywel Dda* the name is spelt *Cybru*, and in G. ap Arthur's Chronicle the names *Kymry* and *Kymraec* are respectively given to the nation and the language.

Mr. Stephens derives *Kymry* from Homer's Kim meroi and Germania's Cimbri. These people gave their name to Cumberland, and subsequently they settled in their present country, and called themselves *Kymry* or *Cymry*, and the country *Cymru*.

Professor Rhys thinks the ties of union between the *Brythons* of Upper Britain proved so strong and close that the word Kymry, which meant merely fellow-countrymen, acquired the force and charm of a national name, which it still retains among the natives of the Principality. It is also popularly called

GWALIA, of which Wales is a Saxonized form. Very many favour the German derivation *wal*, foreign; *waller*, foreigner. The general name given by the Teutonic races to their neighbours is *Walsch*, foreigners

or strangers. "The word *Dutch* is an adjective signifying national, and was the name by which the old Teutons called themselves in contradistinction to other people, whose language they were unable to understand. They styled themselves the (intelligible) people, but called others, as the Romans, and the Kelts in Britain, *Walsch* and *Welsh*." (Morris' Hist. Gram.).

Walsch-land is the German name of Italy, and *Weal-land* is the name given by the Saxon Chronicle to Brittany. *Cornwales* was the original form of *Cornwall*, which signifies the country inhabited by the Welsh of the Horn. Some derive the name from *Gal*, the ancient *Gal*, whilst others give the preference to *gal*, an open, cultivated country. "*Le Prince de Galles*" is the name given to the Prince of Wales in France. The people of *Galatia* in the time of St. Paul possessed some characteristic features of the Celtic race. Mr. Jacob Grim traces the name back to *Galli* (Gaules, Fr.), which was taken by the Germans from the neighbouring Gauls. It is generally supposed that when the Saxons settled among the Britannic Loegrians (the Kymry of England) they called them *Veales*, *Weala*, or *Wealhas*, from which the name Wales probably originated.

CAMBRIA.—Some derive it from *Camber* of fabulous record, but we rather think it is a distorted Latinized form of *Kymry*.

We shall now proceed to deal with the names of the ancient territories of Wales, namely, *Gwynedd*, *Powys*, *Dyfed*, and *Gwent*.

GWYNEDD, or VENEDOCIA.—This territory comprised the counties of Anglesey, Carnarfon, and Denbigh, or *Gwynedd is Gonwy*, Venedocia below Conway, and *Gwynedd uch Gonwy*, Venedocia above Conway. It was sometimes applied to all North Wales. The root of the word evidently is Celtic, *gwy*, water; *nedd*, a dingle, a resting place, an abode. The Welsh for a dwelling is *an-nedd*.

Professor Rhys thinks "the word Veneti is most likely of the same origin as the Anglo-Saxon *wine*, a friend, and meant allies; the Irish *fine*, a tribe or *sept, is most* likely related, and so may be the Welsh

Gwynedd. The Veneti have left their name to the part of Brittany called by the Bretons *Guened*, Vannes, and it is this name probably that laid the foundation for the tales which trace an army of Kymry from Gwynedd to Guened." (Celtic Britain, p. 307.)

Powys.—This included the counties of Meirioneth, Flint, and Montgomery. The word, according to Dr. Pughe, means a state of rest. *Pwyso* means to lean; *gorphwyso*, to rest. It is said that Ceridwen placed *Gwion*, the son of *Gwreang*, the herald of *Llanfair*, the fane of the lady, in *Caer Einiawn*, the city of the just in Powys, the land of rest. (Davies' Myth., p. 213.)

Dyfed, or Demetia.—This province embraced the counties of Pembroke, Carmarthen, and Cardigan; the former constituted the principal part, and is called *Dyfed* even to-day by the old inhabitants. In the seventh century *Dyfed* consisted only of Pembrokeshire. Some derive the name from *Deheubarth*, which is rather far-fetched. Baxter derives it from *defaid*, sheep, and bases his belief on the fact that that part of the country in olden times was noted for its large number of sheep and goats. We are induced to think the root is *dwfn*, deep or low, indicating the geographical position of Dyfed, which is the lowest part of the Principality. Devon is probably of the same origin. Demetia is Dyfed Latinized.

Gwent.—This territory comprised Glamorgan, Monmouth, Brecon, and Radnor counties. The word denotes an open or fair region, and was Latinized by the Romans into Venta. *Venta Silurum* is now Caerwent, in Monmouthshire.

ANGLESEY.

Anglesey.—The Welsh name is *Ynys Môn*, the Isle of Mona. *Môn* is variously derived. Philotechnus derives it from the Greek *monos*, alone, left alone, standing alone, from its being separated by sea from the counties of North Wales. Dr. Owen Pughe seems to endorse the above: "*Mon*, what is isolated, an isolated one, or that is separate." The author of *Mona*

Antique derives it from *bôn*, a stem, a base, a foundation from its situation at the extreme point of the Principality, or, perhaps, from its being called "*Môn, mam Cymru*," Mona, the mother of Wales. We are induced to think that the Isle of Mona and the Isle of Man derive their names from *mon*, which means what is isolated, separate. The English name was bestowed upon it after the battle of *Llanvaes*, in which Egbert proved himself victor over *Merddyn*. In 818 or 819 the Saxon king subdued Mona, and called it Anglesey, or the Isle of the Angles, or English. The terminal syllable, *ey*, is the Norse for island.

ABERFFRAW.—This seaport village is situate at the mouth of the river *Ffraw*. *Aber*, estuary; *ffraw* means agitation, activity, swiftness. *Effraw*, awake, vigilant. The Romans called it *Gadavia*; *gada*, to fall or run down; *via*, way, signifying the swift or running water. English name—Swiftmouth.

AMLWCH —This name has elicited various conjectures. Some think it is a compound of *aml-llwch*, signifying a dusty place. Others derive it thus: *am*, round, about; *llwch*, a lake, an inlet of water, signifying a circular inlet of water. *Llwch* is cognate with the Scotch *loch*. Many places in Wales take their names from this word, as *Penllwch*, *Talyllychau*, *Llanllwch*, and, perhaps, *Amlwch*. In an ancient book, "The Record of Carnarvon," supposed to be written about 1451, the name is spelt *Amlogh*, which induces us to think the right wording is *Aml-och*, signifying a place of many groans. Several names in the district point to the probability that bloody battles were waged here in ancient times, such as *Cadfa*, battleplace; *Cerryg-y-llefau*, stones of weeping; *Rhyd y Galanastra*, the ford of massacre; and here *Aml-och*, a place of many groans. Groaning and weeping are universally the concomitants of bloodshed and war. English name- Groanston.

BEAUMARIS.—Various names are given to this town —Bumaris, Bimaris, Beumarish, Bello-Mariseum, and Beaumaris. In the Myvyrian list of the parishes of Wales it is spelt Bywmares. Edmunds derives it from *buw, a cow; mor*, the sea; and *is*, low; signifying the

low place of cows by the sea. Some think the name is a compounded form of *bis*, twice; and *maris*, the sea, founding their reason upon the position of the town as lying between two seas, the Irish Sea and St. George's Channel. Others think the radices are *beau*, beautiful, fine, and *marée*, sea; signifying a place near the beautiful sea. Many will have the suffix to be *marish*, marsh, a tract of low land occasionally covered with water, hence the name signifies the beautiful marsh. The town was anciently called *Porth Wygyr; porth*, port; *wygyr*, perhaps a contraction of *Gwaed-gwyr*, men's blood; or it may be a corruption of *Wig-îr; wig—gwig*, an opening in the wood, a wood; *îr*, fresh, florid. *Pren îr*, a green tree. The new name, Beaumaris, it is said, was given to the town by Edward I. He built the castle about the year 1285, and changed the name of the place to Beaumaris, descriptive of its pleasant situation in low ground.

BELAN.—An abbreviation of *Llanbeulan*, the church dedicated to Beulan, son of Paulinus. English name—Beulan.

BETHEL.—So called after a Nonconformist chapel in the village. The sacred edifices of the Established Church are generally dedicated to eminent Welsh saints; but the Nonconformist sanctuaries are generally denominated after Scriptural place-names.

BODEDERN.—*Bod*, a dwelling-place, an abode; *Edern*, or *Edeyrn*, the son of *Nudd*, the son of *Beli*. He was a warrior and a poet, and before the end of his earthly career he became very devoted to religion, and built a church in this place, which was dedicated to him, hence the name. English name—Kingham.

BODEWRYD.—This place is situated about four miles west of Amlwch. *Bod*, a dwelling; *ewryd*, a contraction, perhaps, of *ewiar*, smooth, clear, and *rhyd*, a ford; the name, therefore, signifies a mansion at the clear ford. English name—Clearford.

BODFFORDD.—*Bod*, a dwelling; *ffordd*, a way, a road; the name, therefore, signifies a residence by the way or road. English name—Wayham.

Bodwrog.—*Bod*, a dwelling; *Twrog*, supposed to be the son of *Ithel Wael*, of Brittany, to whom the church is dedicated. The name signifies a fortified dwelling. English name—Towerham.

Brynsiencyn.—*Bryn*, a hill; *Siencyn*, a Welshified form of Jenkin, which means little and pretty John. English name—Jenkin's Hill.

Capel Gwyn.—*Capel*, chapel; *Gwyn*, a contracted form, probably, of *Gwyngenau*, the son of *Pawl*, the elder; or, perhaps, *gwyn* here has an ecclesiastical meaning, signifying blessed. "Gwyn ei fyd y gwr," blessed is the man. English name—Blisschapel.

Capel Meugan.—*Capel*, chapel; *Meugan*, son of *Gwyndaf Hen*, the son of *Emyr Llydaw*. *Meugan* means "my song." English name—Praise-chapel.

Ceirchiog.—This name means "abounding with oats." The soil of the district is remarkable for yielding large crops of oats. English name—Oatham.

Cemaes.—This name is very common in Wales. It is a compound word, made up of *cefn*, back, ridge; and *maes*, a field, signifying a high field. Some think the name denotes ridged or arable land, from the fertility of the soil in the district. Others think it is a compounded form of *camp*, a feat, a game; and *maes*, a field. The Welsh had 24 games, or qualifications, that may be called their course of education. We rather think the word must be understood here in a martial sense, signifying a field on a high place, forming a vantage-ground for military operations. The name indicates signs of the defensive conflict of the Kymry from the time of Cadwaladr down to the fall of Llewellyn, with whom the independence of Cambria terminated. English name—Highfield.

Cerryg Ceinwen.—*Cerryg*, stones; *Ceinwen*, the daughter of Brychan Brycheiniog, to whom the church is dedicated. English name—Fairstone.

Cerryg y Gwyddyl.—*Cerryg*, stones; *Gwyddyl*, Irishmen. *Caswallon Law-Hir* (Long Hand), about the year 500, fought valiantly against the Irish invaders in North Wales. Having achieved such a

noble victory at a certain place in Mona, he built a church thereon, and called it *Llan y Gwyddyl*, but now it is known by the name of *Cerryg y Gwyddyl*. English name—Woodstone.

CLEGYROG.—The root, probably, is *clegr*, which means a rock, a cliff. *Clegyrog*, rocky, rugged; the name is quite descriptive of this craggy district. English name—Rockton.

COEDANA.—*Coed*, wood; *Ana*-Anne, supposed to be a Welsh lady to whom the parish church is dedicated. Anne or Ann is a contraction of *Hannah*, which means she who is gracious, merciful, good-natured. English name—Gracewood.

GAERWEN.—A compound of *caer*, a fortified wall, a fortress; and *wen*, the feminine form of *gwyn*, white, fair, blessed, what is desirable or affords happiness. A fortified wall was certainly a *desideratum* when our forefathers were, ever and anon, the objects of foreign onslaughts. English name—Whitfort.

GWREDOG.—The root may be *gwar* (gwareddawg), tame, mild, gentle; or, perhaps, it is derived from *gwaered*, a declivity. We adopt the latter. The right wording, therefore, is *Gwaeredog*, a flat or bottom at the foot of high ground. It is the name of several farms in Anglesey; as *Gwaeredog*, *Amlwch*, and *Gwaeredog Uchaf*, and *Gwaeredog Isaf*, near *Llanerchymedd*. English name—Flatham.

GWYNDY.—*Gwyn*, white, blessed; *dy-ty*, house; the name signifies a blessed house. The name was once used to denote an episcopal residence. In the time of St. Germanus, *gwyndai*—episcopal residences or houses—were first allotted to the bishops. It was supposed that a cloister was once in the place where a large number of virgins devoted themselves entirely to holy service. English name—Blissham.

HOLYHEAD.—The Welsh name is *Caergybi* or according to some, *Côr Cybi*. *Cybi*, the son of the King of Cornwall, flourished about the latter half of the fourth century. Having spent some time with Bishop Hilary, in Gaul, he returned and took up his abode here. It is

said that the Prince of Mona took compassion upon him in his great poverty, and presented him with a castle in the place, wherein he established a small monastery, from which circumstance the castle was called *Côr Cybi*—Cybi's Choir. Pennant thinks the right wording is *Caergybi*, from the afore-mentioned castle, ruins of which are discernible now. The saint also is memorable for his connection with the Roman pharos or lighthouse on a hill adjacent to the town. At the north end of the parish church the following inscription may be seen :—*Sancte Kybi, ora pro nobis*, i.e., "Oh! Saint Cybi, pray for me." Opinions differ as to the origin of Holyhead. Some think it was so named from the large number of sacred edifices in the place. Others think the English gave the appellation "Holyhead" to the place on account of the holy and sanctified life of the ever memorable Saint Kybi. Others maintain that the right wording is Hollyhead—a translation of *Pencelyn*, or more correctly, *Pen Cyhelyn*, *Cyhelyn's* Head. *Pen* means head; and *Cyhelyn* was reduced to *Celyn*, which signifies holly-wood, hence Hollyhead, and then Holyhead.

Llanbabo.—*Llan* in Welsh place-names generally means a church, probably including the churchyard. *Pabo Post Prydain* was an eminent warrior, and ere the close of his life he devoted himself unreservedly to religious matters. He founded the church of *Llanbabo*, where still remains a stone on which his image and the following inscription may be seen:—"*Hic jacet Pabo Post Prud Corpors-te-Prima.*" English name—Pabo.

Llanbadrig.—Iolo's MSS. inform us that Padrig was a saint of the seventh century, a contemporary of Elford, and a fellow of Kybi's seminary. He built the above church, which still bears his name. This is St. Patrick, the great apostle of Ireland. The name Patrick means a senator, a nobleman. English name—Nobleton.

Llandegfan.—Some think the church was built by *Tydecha* and his sister *Tegfedd*, and that it was dedicated to the latter in the sixth century; but we *rather think that* Tegfan, uncle of Elian, and a saint

and confessor in Kybi's seminary, gave his name to it. (Williams' "Eminent Welshmen.") *Tegfan* means a fair spot, or a fine place. English name—Fairton.

LLANDYSSILIO.—The church is dedicated to Tyssilio, a celebrated saint of the sixth century. English name—Tysulton.

LLAN DDANIEL FAB.—Mr. Rowlands writes:—"Daniel, who had a church near that of Llan Aiden, was son of Daniel, first Bishop of Bangor; and, therefore, the church is commonly called *Llan Ddaniel Fab.*" The name signifies "The Church of God, the judge." English name—Danielston or Dansonton.

LLANDDEUSANT.—The church is dedicated to *dau sant*, two saints—Marcellus and Marcellinus. English name—Saintham.

LLANDDYFNAN.—The church was dedicated to *Dyfnan*, son of Brychan, in the fifth century. He is recorded to have come here from Rome in 180 to convert the Britons to the Christian faith. *Dyfnan* signifies a deep brook. English name—Deepbrook.

LLANDDYFRYDOG.—*Tyfrydog*, the son of *Arwystl Gloff*, was a member of *Enlli* seminary, and the founder of this church, which was dedicated to him in the sixth century. *Dyfrydog* means full of thought, musing, pensive. English name—Museton.

LLANEDWEN.—The church is supposed to have been built by *Edwen*, niece or daughter of King Edwin, and a Saxon saintess of the sixth or seventh century. *Edwen* is probably a feminine formof *Edwin*, which means a happy conqueror; or he who attains felicity. English name—Victorton.

LLANEILIAN.—*Eilian Geimiad*, the pilgrim son of *Gellan Ruddawg*, was a saint of a very early date. Some think he was a contemporary of St. Kybi. A few churches in Wales bear his name. English name—Pilgrimton.

LLANERCHYMEDD.—This town was anciently called *Clochran*, *cloch*, bell; *ran*, part, portion. It is supposed that the steeple of the church stood on portions of three, if not four parishes, hence the name. Various

conjectures are propounded on the origin of the present name. An old tradition says that a man named *Tegerin* was preparing a family grave on the spot where the old church stands, and, when he was building the vault, someone asked him—"What do you raise on this spot?" His rejoinder was, "*Llanerch fy medd*," the place of my sepulchre. Some derive the name from *Tafarn y medd*, a mead tavern. *Medd*, mead, a drink made of honey and water; that ancient beverage was probably prepared and consumed at the above tavern, hence the name. English name—Meadham.

LLANEUGRAD.—The church was dedicated to *Eugrad*, son of *Caw Cawlwyd*, a fellow of Illtyd's seminary, and a saint of the sixth century. English name—Eugrad.

LLANFACHRETH.—A local tradition has it that a boat once found its way to the place from Holyhead. Someone asked, *I ble yr aeth?* Where did it go? The answer was, *I lan fach yr aeth*, to *Lanfach* it went; hence the name. We rather think the church was dedicated to *St. Machraith*, who flourished in the seventh century, and founded churches in Merioneth and Anglesey. *Machraith* signifies the law of suretyship. English name—Bailton.

LLANFAELOG.—The church was dedicated about the seventh century to *Maelog*, son of *Caw Cawlwyd*. Hard by there is a little pool called "*Llyn Maelog*," Maelog's pool. *Maelog* is a derivative of *maelio*, to get advantage, to gain, to profit. English name—Martham.

LLANFAES.—*Maes*, a field. The name denotes a church built on the spot where a memorable battle was fought in the year 819 between Egbert and the Welsh. English name—Churchfield.

LLANFAETHLU.—The church was dedicated to *Maethlu*, son of *Caradog Freichfras*, in the sixth century. *Maethlu* or *Maethle* means a nursing place. English name—Fosterton.

LLANFAIR-MATHAFARN-EITHAF.—The names of this and the adjoining parish must be compared here in order that they may throw light on each other.

added [illegible]
other. [illegible]
plain [illegible]
extreme [illegible]
the former [illegible]

[illegible]
Church [illegible]
Ceris [illegible]
and the [illegible]
with white [illegible]
to be [illegible]
gogogogo[illegible]
Saxon [illegible]
P.G., [illegible]
the W[illegible]

L[illegible]
Echwyda. [illegible]
dedicated [illegible]
in *Penrhos* [illegible]
says that [illegible]
eighteenth [illegible]
Macatus.

LLAN[illegible]
Michael's Church. [illegible]
contraction of [illegible]

place. It is supposed that a Druidic station and a bard's seminary existed here in remote times, from which circumstance the village and parish derive the name. English name—Bardston.

LLANGEFNI.—The name signifies a church on the river *Cefni*, which runs through the place. *Cefni* is probably a contraction of *Cefn-llif*—a great or high flood. English name—Floodham.

LLANGOED.—The name signifies a church in the wood, so called from the woody nature of the neighbourhood. The church was dedicated to *Cawrdaf* in the sixth century, and the parish is sometimes called *Llangawrdaf*. English name—Churchwood.

LLANGRISTIOLUS.—*Cristiolus*, a descendant of *Emyr Llydaw*, flourished in the seventh century, and built the church which commemorated his name. *Cristiolus* signifies "the anointed." English name—Christchurch.

LLANRHYDDLAD.—*Rhuddlad*, a daughter of the King of Leinster, Ireland, was a saintess of the seventh century, and the supposed founder of the above church. One author thinks the right wording is *Rhyddlad; rhydd*, at liberty, free; *lad-gwlad*, country. Perhaps the prefix is *rhudd*, red; the name, therefore, means red soil or country. English name—Redham.

LLANTRISANT.—The church is dedicated to *tri sant*, three saints: *Afren*, *Ieuan*, and *Savan*, who, it is supposed, founded it in the year 570. English name—Triton.

LLECHYLCHED.—Some think the church is dedicated to *Ilched* or *Ylched*. The name is, probably, a compound of *llech*, a flat stone; and *cylched*, a circumference, what goes about or encloses. *Cylchedu*, to encircle, to include in a circle. Perhaps the name has reference to the Druidical circle stones. English name—Circumstone.

MENAI BRIDGE.—The Welsh name is *Porthaethwy*, which is variously derived. The late Rev. P. B. Williams writes:—"This ferry, probably, took its name from the hundred or division in which it is situated—*Tindaethwy*. *Porth*, port, a ferrying place;

aethwy, according to some, is a contraction of ***aeth*** or ***aethant***, went; and ***hwy***, they, signifying the ferry over which they—the first settlers of Mona—crossed to the other side. Iago Emlyn derives ***aethwy*** thus: ***Aeth***, terrible; ***wy-gwy***, water; founding his reason on the perilousness of the passage across the straits. Another writer thinks it is *Porth-y-caeth-wy*, the port of the narrow water. The place has been popularly called Menai Bridge ever since the construction of the world-renowned bridge that spans the straits. *Menai* comes from *Main-aw*, which signifies the narrow water; or it might be *main-wy*, which means the same.

MOELFRE.—A very common place-name in Wales. It is a compound of *Moel*, bare, bald; and *bre*, a hill, a mountain. The name is generally applied to a treeless hill, but covered with short, smooth grass, sometimes interspersed with heath. English name—Baldhill.

NEBO.—This village takes its name from a Nonconformist chapel in the place.

NIWBWRCH, or NEWBOROUGH.—Its ancient name, according to some, was *Rhosfair*, from a small church dedicated to St. Mary. Mr. Rowlands thinks the name was *Rhos Hir*, long meadow, from its situation in an extensive marshy plain on the eastern side. The place was once the capital of Mona, and the residence of the princes of North Wales. Edward I. made it a free corporation, from which circumstance originated the present name of Newborough. *Niwbwrch* is probably a corruption of Newborough.

PENCARNEDDI.—*Pen*, head, top, end; *Carneddi*, a plural form of *Carnedd*, which denotes a sepulchral heap of stones. *Carneddau* were the common monuments erected by the ancient Britons in honour of their great men. English name—Cairnham.

PENMYNYDD.—The name signifies mountain top, and was given to the village from respect to the mansion of the same name, which is famous for being the place where Owain Tudor was born in 1384. English name—Montham.

PENSARN.—*Pen*, head, end; *Sarn*, Roman paved road, a causeway. A name of frequent occurrence in Welsh topography. English name—Roadsend.

PENTRAETH.—The parish is also called *Llanfair-Bettws-Geraint*. The church was dedicated to St. Mary about the sixth century, and supposed to have been built by *Ceraint* or Gerimius, grandson of Constantine. The village is called *Pentraeth*, from its being situated at the head or upper end of the sandy beach, or bay, which is called *Traethcoch* or Red Wharf Bay. English name—Beachend.

PONTRIPONT—A corruption, probably, of *Pontrhyd-y-bont*. The ancient name was *Rhydpont*, or *Rhyd-y-bont*, the ford of the bridge. The prefix *pont* was probably added when another bridge was built across *Rhydybont*. English name—Bridgeford.

RHOSBEIRIO.—*Rhos*, a moor, a dry meadow; *Peirio*, the name of the son of *Caw* of *Twrcelyn*, to whom the church is dedicated. *Peirio* implies what causes or effects. "*Abwy a bair wybod lle bo*"—carrion will cause it to be known where it is English name—Causemoor.

RHOSNEIGR.—*Rhos*, a moor; *neigr* is generally supposed to be a corruption of niger, in allusion to the black hue and peaty nature of the soil. English name—Blackmoor.

RHOSYBOL.—*Bol* is an etymological puzzle. It looks like a contraction of *Paul-Paulinus*. Edward Llwyd refers to a place called *Pant-y-Polion*, near which he found an inscription of the name *Paulinus*. Some think that Suetonius Paulinus once took up his abode in Talybolion. We are inclined to think *bol* is a corruption of *moel*, a coped hill. *Moel Don* is now commonly called *Bol y Don*. *Talybolion* was, probably, some time called *Talymoelion*. The name, therefore, denotes a moor near a coped hill. English name—Moorhill.

TRE-GWALCHMAI.—*Tre*, a dwelling-place; *Gwalchmai*, the son of Meilir. The name was bestowed upon the place about the twelfth century. *Gwalchmai* implies a hero in war. English name—Heroton.

VALLEY.—A gross mutilation of the Welsh *Mael-dy*, a house of trade or traffic. Tacitus informs us that an extensive trade was carried on between this district and Ireland in the time of Julius Agricola. There is a homestead not far from the place called "*Ty Milo*," which, evidently, is a corruption of "*Ty Maelu*," a house of trade. English name—Barterham.

YNYS BRONWEN.—It is recorded in the "*Mabinogion*" that *Bronwen*, the daughter of *Llyr*, was buried here. "*Bedd petryal a wnaed i Vronwen, verch Llyr, ar lan afon Alaw*"—*i.e.*, "A square grave was made for *Bronwen*, the daughter of *Llyr*, on the banks of the river *Alaw* (Cambro-Briton, vol. ii., p. 71.) *Ynys* means an island.

YNYS SEIRIOL.—*Seiriol* had a residence here in the sixth century, hence the name. It is also called Puffin Island.

BRECONSHIRE.

The name of this county is spelt Brecon and Brecknock, which are corruptions of the Welsh *Brychan* and *Brycheiniog*. The county was anciently called *Garth Madryn; garth*, that part of a mountain that terminates in a point, a promontory, a ridge; *madryn*, an old Welsh word for fox. It appears that *madryn's* offspring, wolves, wild cats, and beavers abounded in that part of the Principality in olden times. *Brychan* gave the county its present name when he came from Ireland, and settled here as king, some say in the fifth, others say in the sixth century. The king's name is derived from *Brych*, which signifies brindled, or spotted. *Dyn brych*, a freckled man. *Y frech wen*, the small pox.

ABERBAIDON.—This place is situated at the confluence of the rivers *Baidon* and Usk. The radix is *Baid*, briskness, liveliness. English name—Briskmouth.

ABERCRAVE.—The old Welsh name was *Abercrâf*, from its situation at the confluence of the brook *Craf* or *Crai*, with the river *Tawy*. *Cra-af*, the issuing forth, the channel torn by the impulsive force of the stream, as

well as the act of tearing or breaking up any substance. *Crafu* means to scratch; *crafangu*, to claw, to gripe. English name—Tearmouth.

ABERGWESYN.—The place is situated at the confluence of the rivers *Gwesyn* and *Irvon*. According to the Welsh Triads, *Gwesyn* is an old Welsh word for a shepherd, and he was so called after *Gwesyn*, the shepherd of *Goronwy ab Ednyfain*. The district is noted for rearing sheep, and some think that the name *Gwesyn* was given to the stream that runs through the place in honour of some popular shepherd. We are inclined to think that *gwesyn* is a diminutive of *gwes*, what moves on or goes; therefore meaning the little moving stream. English name—Stream-mouth.

ABERHONDDU.—*Honddu*, the name of the river that, on approaching the town, flows quietly into and joins the Usk to run to its destination. *Hon* seems like a contraction of *hoen*, complexion, hue; and *ddu*, black, seems to indicate the respective hue of the water. Many Welsh streams and lakes received their names from the peculiar hue of their respective waters, such as *Dulas*, black-blue; *Gwenffrwd*, white stream; *Pwllglas*, blue pool. Llewellyn uses the word *hoen* in that sense: "*Hoen blodau haf*," the colour of the summer flowers. *Hoen* also implies liveliness, gladness.

Perhaps *hoen* was used to denote the lively nature of the river, and *ddu*, black, to indicate the hue of its waters. Others seem to think that the name is a compound of *hawn-heini*, swift, wild, hasty; and *dwy*, which means original cause. *Dwyf*, which signifies I am, the self-existent, was frequently applied by the Druids to rivers, such as *Dyfrdwy*, &c.

We rather think the correct wording is *Hawn-ddu*, the rapid black stream, which is a true description of its course from its rise on the *Eppynt* mountain to its junction with the Usk.

ABERLLYFNI.—*Llyfni* is a compound of *llyfn*, smooth; and *wy*, water. The place is delightfully situated at the junction of the *Llyfni* and *Wye* Rivers. *English name*—Sleekmouth.

ABERYSCIR.—A corruption of *Aberesgair*, from its situation on the river *Esgair*, which discharges itself here into the river Usk. *Esgair* here implies a branch, or tributary. English name—Branchton.

BATTLE.—This small parish, according to tradition, received its name from a battle that was fought here, in which *Bleddyn ab Maenyrch*, the last of the *Brychan* princes was killed by Bernard de Newmarch. We find several names in the vicinity which favour the above derivation, such as *Heol y Cymry*, the Welshmen's road; *Cwm Gwyr y Gad*, the vale of the battle men.

BEAUFORT.—The popular Welsh name of this place is *Cendl*, from Kendall, the name of the proprietor of the Ironworks that was once the mainstay of the place. The present name was given in honour of the Duke of Beaufort.

BEULAH.—This village takes its name from a chapel of that name which belongs to the Congregational body.

BRONLLYS.—Some spell it *Brynllys*, and others *Brwynllys*, but the former is the correct wording. A farmhouse in the parish is called *Bryn y Groes*, the hill of the cross. History points to the probability that wars were engaged here, from which we may infer that a *llys*, a court, was held on a certain hill in the vicinity. The old castle is still called *Bronllys*. English name—Courthill.

BRYNMAWR.—It was anciently called *Waun Helygen*, willow-tree common, from a meadow in the place which abounded with willow-trees, but when it became an important seat of the iron and coal trades, the old name was changed for the new and more dignified one of *Brynmawr*, the big hill. English name—Big-hill, or Hillton.

BUILTH.—This name is a mutation of *Buallt*. Some are of opinion that *Buallt* is the *Bulæum Silurum* of the Romans, but others are induced to think the name is a derivative of *Bual*, the wild ox or buffalo. *Llanfair-yn-Muallt*, St. Mary's Church in the wood of the wild ox. Historians believe that the wild ox ranged unmolested

in the forests of this district. We offer the following derivation: *Bu*, an ox; *allt, gallt*, a wooded eminence. English name—Oxhill.

CAPEL ISAF.—*Isaf*, lower, is a *differentia* added to distinguish it from *Capel Uchaf*. English name—Lowchapel.

CAPEL UCHAF.—The name means the higher chapel, and it was so called from the chapel of ease that was built in the place. English name—Highchapel.

CAPELYFFIN.—The name signifies boundary chapel, and is derived by Mr. Jones (History of Brecknock) thus: "In 1708 there was a long dispute in the ecclesiastical court about this chapel (chapel of the boundary); Lewis Thomas, clerk, vicar of Llanigon, refused to do duty here as there was no salary annexed to the cure, whereupon he was cited to the bishop's court at the promotion of some of the parishioners, and in the articles filed against him it is stated that sometimes a corpse remained uninterred a whole night, and children died without being baptized in consequence of the vicar's neglect, though he had theretofore regularly officiated there by himself or curate for ten or twelve years. In this cause many old witnesses were examined, two or three of them say the chapel is in the hamlet of *Blaenbwch*, in the parish of Glasbury, others that it is in *Llanigon*, but all agree that it is a chapel of ease to the latter." English name—Boundary Chapel.

CATHEDIN.—A corruption of *Caethadyn*, which implies an incarcerated vagabond. Mr. Jones, in his "History of Brecknock," states that this vicinity was given by Bernard de Newmarch towards the support of *Gwrgan*, who was to be kept confined in Brecon Castle. English name—Slaveton.

CEFN-COED-Y-CYMMER.—*Cefn*, back, ridge; *coed*, wood; *y*, the; *cymmer*, confluence of waters. The village is situated on a rising, and (one time) very woody eminence, below which the *Taf Fawr* and *Taf Fechan* embrace each other. English name—Woodridge.

CENOL.—*Canol*, middle, is the right wording. This picturesque neighbourhood forms the middle of *Llanfi-*

hangel-Cwmdu; hence the name. English name—Midham.

Cil-le.—This name signifies a sequestered place. English name—Nookham.

Coelbren.—A corruption, probably, of *cil-y-bryn*, church on the hill, or the hill of the sanctuary. *Cilybebyll*, the church of the tents, is in the neighbourhood. English name—Churchhill.

Crickadarn.—Some are of opinion that *Crug-cadarn* is the true orthography. *Crug*, heap or bank; *cadarn*, strong. The church was built upon the top of a craggy hillock. We rather think it is a contraction of *Cerryg-cadarn*, from the rocks and stones which appear frequently on the surface in different parts of the parish. The river *Clettwr* rushes over rocks and through craggy places until it falls into the Wye at Erwood. *Clettwr* is a contraction of *caled-ddwr*, hard water, or it might be *Clyd-ddwr*, sheltered water. English name—Cragton.

Crickhowel.—A mutation of *Crug Hywel*, or *Cerrig Hywel*. *Crug*, a heap; *hywel*, conspicuous. *Cerrig*, stones; Howel, proper name. Historians differ as to the application of the word *Hywel*. Some apply it to the place from the conspicuity of the hill; others apply it to Howel, the prince of Glamorgan. The latter theory is supported by the fact that in this vicinity the territorial boundaries of Howel and the Lords of Brecknock were determined. After the battle Howel raised a huge heap of stones to define the boundary henceforth; hence the name *Crug Hywel*, Howel's heap. *Cerrig Hywel* allude to the same circumstance. Some derive the name from *Crug Hywel*, an ancient British fortress, surrounded by large heaps of stones, situated about two miles north-north-east of the town, the remains of which are still visible. English name—Howelstone.

Cwmioy.—A corruption of *Cwm Iau*, the vale of yoke, so called, probably, from the resemblance of the vale to oxen's yoke. "*Cymerwch fy iau arnoch*,"—take my yoke upon you. English name—Yokecomb.

Defynog.—Some derive this name from *dyfnog*, which signifies a place abounding with glens. *Dyfn*,

deep. Devon comes from the same root. Others think the patron saint is *Dyfnog*, the son of Medrod, a grandson of *Cradoc Fraich-fras*, who flourished in the sixth century. The right wording is *Tref Cynog*. Saint *Cynog*, son of *Brychan*, flourished in the fifth century, and founded a church here, which is dedicated to him. His name is preserved also in *Merthyr Cynog* and *Llangynog*. English name—Cynogton.

DOLGAER.—*Dol*, meadow; *gaer—caer*, a wall. This place took its name from a farmhouse of the same name. English name—Moorhall.

DUKESTOWN.—In honour of the Duke of Beaufort.

DYFNANT.—A compound of *dyfn*, deep, and *nant*, a brook. English name—Deepbrook.

ERWOOD.—Some think this is an Anglicized form of the Welsh *Erw-yd*, which signifies the land of corn. It is, probably, a corruption of *y rhyd*, the ford, in allusion to a certain ford in the river Wye, where cattle were wont to cross in time of yore. English name—Fordham.

FELINFACH.—The name means the little mill, probably derived from an old mill which formed the nucleus of the village. English name—Little Mill.

GARTH.—From an old mansion of the name, whence the celebrated Charles Wesley had his "better half." *Garth* has been explained in the introduction. English name—Hillton.

GLASBURY.—This name is derived by some from *glas*, green, verdant, and *bury*, borough, probably from the beauty and fertility of the valley. The ancient name of this place was *Y Clâs*, the green or verdant inclosure. *Clasdir* means glebe land. English name—Greenbury.

GWENDDWR.—A compound of *gwen*, feminine form of *gwyn*, white, clear, transparent, and *dwr*, water. English name—Clearwater.

GWRAVOG.—This name has suffered a little from mutation. *Gwar*, a ridge; *af* from *haf*, summer; *hafog*, summer-like. English name—Sunnybank.

HALFWAY.—This village derives its name from an inn so called, which is situated half-way between *Trecastell* and *Llandovery*.

HAY.—The original name was *Gelli*, which signifies an enclosed park or forest, containing wood or boscage within a fence or pale; a grove; and the present name is supposed to have been derived from the Norman-French *Haye* or *Haie*, which originally meant the hedge or inclosure itself only, but in course of time its meaning was amplified, and the name was used to denote the wood and ground inclosed. *Haier*, to inclose. Here we perceive the Welsh name supplanted by that of the Norman Castle. English name—Groveham.

KILMERY.—A corruption of *Cil-Mary*, which signifies St. Mary's Church. English name—Mary'schurch.

LIBANUS.—This place probably derives its name from a sacred edifice so called, which belongs to the Congregational body.

LLANAFAN FAWR.—The church was dedicated to bishop *Ieuan* or *Ivan*, whose name is found in the list of the prelates of St. David's during the tenth century, and who is supposed to have been murdered by the Danes in a meadow on the Whefri side, a little below the vicarage house, where a *maen hir* was placed, obviously, in memory of the martyred bishop. On an altar-tomb in the churchyard the following inscription is discernible: "*Hic jacet Sanctus Avanus Episcopus.*" English name—Evanston.

LLANAMLECH.—*Aml*, many; *llech-lech*, a stone. The church is built upon the strata of the rock, and the churchyard contains a great number of stones and fragments of slates. There is a village called *Llechfaen* in the same parish, which supports the given derivation. The English equivalent of the former would be Stone-church, and the latter Stoneham.

LLANBEDR YSTRADYW.—*Llanbedr*, St. Peter's church. *Ystradyw*, or more correctly *Ystrad-wy*, the vale of waters, was added to distinguish the parish from St. Peter's at Painscastle, Glasbury, &c. English name—Churchvale.

LLANDEFAELOG FACH.—The old church was dedicated to St. Tyfaelog. It was re-built in 1831. The village is beautifully situated on the river *Honddu*. English name—Tyvaelogton.

LLANDEFALLEY.—*Defalley* may be a curruption of Tyvaelog, to whom this church was probably dedicated. English name—Tyvaelog.

LLANDEILO ARFAN.—The church is dedicated to *St. Teilo*. *Arfan* is probably a contraction of *Ar Mawen*. The church is situated near the conflux of three brooks, the *Mawen*, the *Ethryw*, and *Cilieni*. This derivation is supported by the following fact: In the register book of Devynock the following may be seen, "Siwan Morgan de *Nant y Sebon* in *Llandeilo ar Fawen. sepulta est* æt. 96, *octris*. 1726." *Mawen* signifies broad water. English name—Broadwater.

LLANDDEW.—It is sometimes spelt *Llanthew*. Some think the right wording is *Llandduw*, the church of God, or the church of the Holy Trinity. We have no instance of a church thus dedicated. The name is probably an abbreviation of *Llanddewi*, the church of St. David's. It appears that *Llanddew* has been a seat and house of the bishop of St. David's. English name--Davidston.

LLANELLI.—The church is supposed to have been dedicated to *Ellyned* or Eilineth, a daughter of Brychan. Some think it was anciently called *Llanellyned*, of which *Llanelly* is an abbreviation. English name—Eilineth.

LLANFEUGAN.—Meugan, the son of Gwyndaf Hen, was a saint of the sixth century, and founded the church which bears his name. English name—Meugan.

LLANFIHANGEL CWMDU.—*Llanfihangel*, St. Michael's church. Opinions differ as to *Cwmdu*, the black or gloomy vale. The old inhabitants very strongly objected to the name *Cwmdu*, as the following couplet shows:—

Cam enwir ef Cwmdu,
Cwm gwyn yw'n cwm ni.

It is wrongly called the vale of gloom,
Ours is a fair and bright comb.

A glance at this cheerful vale would never suggest such a gloomy appellation. The ancient name of the parish

was *Llanfihangel tref Cerriau*, or *Caerau*, from the numerous fortifications there are in it, and the present name is supposed to have taken its origin from the black moor-stone rock, which is on the brow of an adjacent hill. Some derive it from *Cwm De*, the south vale, from its being situated in the southern part of the cantrev of Crickhowell. We have instances of *du* being changed into *de* and *dee*, such as *Tydu-Tydee*, &c., and it might have undergone the same process here. English name —Blackvale.

LLANFIHANGEL NANTBRAN.—The church was dedicated to St. Michael, and is situated on a tributary called *Bran*. *Nant Bran*, Bran brook. English name—Branbrook.

LLANFILO.—The church is dedicated to Milburg, the eldest daughter of Merwald, King of Mercia, and a saint of the seventh century. *Ffynon Villo*, a well in the neighbourhood, also preserves her name. English name—Milburg.

LLANFRYNACH.—*Brynach*, an abbot and confessor, married Corth, the daughter of Brychan. The church was dedicated to him. English name—Waterhill.

LLANGAMMARCH.—Some think the name signifies the church upon the river *Cammarch*, but the general opinion is that the church is dedicated to *Cammarch*, a grandson of Brychan. The river-name is very descriptive, *cam*, winding, and *arach*, a channel, perhaps from the Irish *ar*, to guide or conduct; *arwain*, to lead. Or *arach* may be a compound of *ár*, arable land, and *ach*, water, hence the name signifies a river winding its way through arable land. English name—Meanderton.

LLANGASTY-TALYLLYN.—*Gastyn* was an eminent religious teacher in Brychan's family, and the above church was dedicated to him. *Talyllyn*, the end of the lake, in allusion to the situation of the church. English name—Lakesend.

LLANGATEN.—The church is dedicated to *Canten*, grandson of Brychan. English name—Canten.

LLANGATTOCK.—The church is dedicated to *Cattwg*, grandson of Brychan. English name—Cadoxton.

LLANGORS.—A contraction of *Llan-yn-y-gors*, the church in the Fen or Marsh. The soil near the lake is very marshy. The correct name of the lake is *Llynsafeddan*, the standing water or lake. An old tradition says that the lake covers the remains of an ancient and populous city called *Loventium*. English name—Marshton.

LLANGYNIDR.—St. Cynidr, grandson of Brychan, founded the churches at *Llangynidr* and *Aberyscir*, which were subsequently dedicated to him and St. Mary. English name—Cynidr.

LLANIGON.—The old church was dedicated either to *Eigen*, daughter of Cradoc ab Bran, or to Eigion or Eigron, son of Caw, a saint of the sixth century. The present church is dedicated to Nicholas. English name—Nicholaston.

LLANILID.—The church was dedicated to St. Ilid, and is situated on the banks of the river Crai. English name—Ilid.

LLANLLEONFOEL.—*Lleon* might have a reference to *Sarn Lleon* or *Sarn Helen*, Helen's causeway, a branch of which, it is supposed, passed through the place. The suffix *foel* signifies a bare tract of land. English name—Helenton.

LLANSPYDDYD.—A corruption, according to some, of *Llan-osbaidd-ty*, a house of entertainment or refreshment for guests. In ancient times hospitable mansions were kept by the monks to entertain man and beast free of charge, and the chief officer therein was called *Hostillarius*, whose sole duty was "To welcome the coming, speed the going guest." It is said that this *hospitium* was supported by the priory of Malvern. English name—Hospeston.

LLANWRTYD.—The church, according to some, is dedicated to *St. Wrtyd*, but we cannot find the name in "*Bonedd y Saint*." Its proximity to the river Irvon, where, in times of yore, there was a ford, which is now spanned by a stone bridge, induces us to think the right wording is *Llan-wrth-y-rhyd*, the church by the ford. A *place in* Herefordshire is called Byford from the situa-

tion of the church by a ford. The ancient name of the village was *Pontrhydyberc*, which is a compound of *pont*, bridge; *rhyd*, ford: *y*, the; *fferau*, ankles: signifying a bridge spanning a ford which one could wade without going over his ankles. *Irfon*, or *Irfawn*, signifies the oozings from the turbary, which is very descriptive of the river. English name—Churchford.

LLANYWERN.—*Gwern* means a bog or swamp; *gwernen*, the alder tree; the alder grows in wet swampy places. The name signifies the church in the swamp or alderwood. English name—Alderchurch.

LLECHFAEN.—The ancient etymology of this name means the "upright or lofty stone." There was a chapel of ease here sometime to the mother church of *Llanamlech*. English name—Stoneham.

LLECHRYD.—From a farm of the name, but it is now called Rhymney Bridge from the railway station. For Rhymney, see Monmouthshire.

LLWYNEGROG.—The right wording is *Llwyn-y-grog*, which means the bush of the cross. English name—Bushcross.

LLYSWEN.—The name signifies a white court. A Welsh prince resided in the parish at some period, and probably held a court here; hence the name. Some think it is *Llys Owen*, Owen's court; but who this Owen was we are not informed. English name—Whitecourt.

LLYWEL.—Sometimes spelt *Lliwel*, which, according to some is a mutation of *Llu-lle*, the residence of the army, in allusion to the soldiers of Rhys ab Tewdwr making this place one of their stations to resist the attacks of the Norman invaders. It is derived by some from *Lle Wyllt*, a nephew of Rhys ab Tewdwr. We offer the following: *Lly*, what is manifest; *wel-gwel*, see; signifying a conspicuous place. Trecastell mountain is 2,596 feet high. English name—Highton.

MAESYGWARTHAF.—*Maes*, a field; *gwarthaf*, the upper part, the summit. The village lies in the upper part of the parish; hence its descriptive name. Some of the inhabitants think the name is a corruption of *Maesygwartheg*, cattle field. English name—Highfield.

MAESYMYNYS.—*Ym*, *yn*, in; *ynys*, island; therefore, it literally means a field in the island. This derivation is supported by the fact that *Llanynys* is the name of the contiguous parish. English name—Plotfield.

MERTHYR CYNOG.—*Merthyr*, martyr; *Cynog*, the eldest son of Brychan. He was murdered by the Saxon pagans on a mountain called *Y Fan*, where a church was built on his grave in commemoration of his martyrdom, which was called Merthyr Cynog. English name—Cynogton.

NANTGAEN.—A compound of *nant*, a brook, and *waen*, a meadow, a common. English name—Brookmoor.

NANTYFFIN.—The name signifies the boundary brook. The bounds of a parish or county are frequently defined by certain marks or boundaries, such as heaps of stones, dikes, hedges, ditches, rivers, streams, rivulets, &c. English name—Markbrook.

NANTYRARIAN. — It signifies the silver brook. English name—Silverbrook.

NEWCHURCH.—The ancient name of this church was *Llan-ddulas-tir-yr-Abbad*. It was presented by Rhys ab Gruffydd to the monastery of Strata Florida, on account of which it was called *Tir-yr-Abbad*, abbot's land. In 1716 a new church was built here; hence the new name.

ONLLWYN.—This appears like a transposition of *Llwyn On*, the ash grove. English Name—Ashton.

PANTYCELYN.—*Pant*, a hollow, a low place; *celyn*, holly wood. English name—Hollyton.

PATRISHOW.—The name is a corruption, either of *Parthau yr Ishow*, the territory of *Ishow*, the patron saint of the parish, or of *Merthyr Ishow*. It appears that Bishop Herewald, in the eleventh century, dedi[redacted] the church to Ishow, and named it *Merthyr*[redacted] English name—Ishow.

PENCELLI.—This is a compound of *pen*, *celli*, *grove*. English name—Grovetop.

PENDERYN.—A corruption probably of *Penydaren*, which is a very frequent term in South Wales, signifying a rocky cliff, a rocky tump. The church is situated on the very summit of a rock. *Pen-mailard* is close by, which is a corruption of *Pen-moel-arth*, the summit of the bare cliff. English name—Cliffby.

PENTREFELIN.—*Pentre*, village; *felin*, mill. English name—Millham.

PENTRE SOLERS.—From the *Solers* or *de Solariis*, Norman conquerors, who settled in the neighbourhood, and continued to be very wealthy and influential here until the middle of the seventeenth century. Another branch of the house of Solers settled at Pauntley and Shipton Solers, in Gloucestershire. English name—Solerston.

PONTBRENLLWYD.—*Pont*, bridge; *pren*, wood; *llwyd*, grey, adorable. In olden times a very ancient oak-tree was thrown across the rivulet in the place, which was a very good specimen of the unadorned wooden bridges of our forefathers. In course of time this old much-worn oak became a kind of a trough, for which it was called *Pontbrenllwyd*. English name—Woodbridge.

PONTNEDDFECHAN.—*Nedd fechan*, the lesser Neath, is a tributary emptying itself into the greater Neath river, and spanned by a bridge in the village, hence the name. English name—Neath Bridge.

PONTSARN.—*Sarn*, Roman paved road. The common opinion is that the Romans constructed a road from Merthyr Tydfil over the site of the present Cyfarthfa Park to the place now called *Pontsarn*. English name—Bridge-road.

PONTSENNY.—The name signifies a bridge across the *Senny* river. *Senny* is derived by some from *san*, a fishery, nets; and *gwy*, water; signifying a river abounding in fishes. Mr. Jones ("History of Brecknock") derives it from the Celtic *seanaidd*, to drop or ooze forth, the name, accordingly, signifying the oozing or flowing water. It might be a corruption of *swn-wy*, the noisy water. English name—Dinwater Bridge.

PONTSTICYLL.—A compound of *pont*, bridge; and *ystigl*, a stile, from the Anglo-Saxon *stigel*, a step. *Stigan*, to ascend. About the beginning of this century there was an old bridge, a little below the village, with a stile at each end of it, from which the place received its name. English name—Bridgestile.

PRINCETOWN.—From an old public house in the place called "Prince of Wales."

PWLLGWRACH.—*Pwll*, a pool; *gwrach*, a hag; literally, the hag's pool. The village lies in a deep valley at the base of Talgarth Hill. English name—Hag's Pool.

RHOSFERRIG—*Rhos*, moor, meadow; *Ferrig* from *Ferreg*, an extensive district situate between the rivers Wye and Severn. The suffix is probably a corruption of *Meurig*. English name—Moorton.

SEVEN SISTERS.—Mr. Bevan, when he opened his colliery in the place, called it Seven Sisters in honour of his seven daughters.

TAFARNAU BACH.—The ancient name of this place was *Twyn-aber-dwynant*, a hillock where two brooks embrace each other. Some derive the present name from *tafarn a bâch*, a public house with a hook attached to the outer wall, whereto the rider, having dismounted his steed, could fasten it. Others derive it from the great number of small taverns in the place. English name—Tavernton.

TALACHDDU.—*Achddu* is the name of a small brook. *Ach*, a stem, a pedigree, a river; *ddu*, inflection of *du*, black. We find *ach* in *Clydach*, *Mawddach*, &c. The river *Ach* has its source in the Black Mountain; hence it is called *Achddu*. English name—Blackriver.

TALGARTH.—*Garth* means a cape, a hill. *Talgarth* denotes the end or head of a cape, or the brow of a hill. English name—Browhill.

TALYBONT.—*Tal*, when appli
end; but when applied to per
Taliesin means radiant front or lu
means Bridgend.

TALYLLYN.—*Llyn*, lake. The name signifies the end of a lake. Safaddan Lake is close by. English name—Lake's End.

THREE COCKS.—From a public house of the name.

TORPANTAU.—A compound of *tor*, a break, a rupture; and *pantau*, plural of *pant*, hollow: a name quite descriptive of this wild spot. A great number of brooks rush impetuously from the higher grounds, forming excavations in the hills, a glance at which immediately helps one to catch the meaning of the name. English name—Breakhill.

TRALLWNG.—Some think the name signifies "a soft place on the road or elsewhere that travellers may be apt to sink into; a dirty, boggy place." Edward Llwyd derives it from *Traeth-lyn*, a quagmire. The distance of this place from the sea-shore dismisses the component *traeth* from the name altogether. Mr. Jones (History of Brecknock) thinks the name is a corruption of *Tre'r lleng*, *oppidum legionis*, the town of the legion, founding his reasons upon the supposition that a summer camp of the second legion of Augustus must have been at *Twyn-y-gaer*, a hill in the parish where an artificial mound is still seen. — English name—Legionton.

TRECASTELL.—*Tre*, a place; *castell*, castle. A castle was built here by Bernard de Newmarch, some ruins of which are to be seen now; hence the name. English name—Castleton.

TREFECCA.—The name signifies Rebecca's home, from an heiress of the name of Rebecca Prosser, who built it in the reign of Elizabeth. English name—Beccaston.

TREFIL.—Some think the name is a corruption of *Tir-foel*, barren land, which is descriptive of the place, but we rather think it is a corruption of *tre*, a place, and *mul*, an animal, as they were very numerous among the mountains, and one might have been here. English name.

TRE'R ESCOB.—The tenure by which we suit and service to the bishop's courts

baron, and pay their chief rents at *Llanddew-i*, St. David's. *Tre'r Esgob* means Bishop's place. English name—Bishopston.

VAENOR.—This is derived by some from *Maenawr*, which signifies a district surrounded by a wall, a manor. Others think it is of the same family as the Latin *manêre*, which implies locality or stability. According to the laws of Howell the Good, the *Maenawr* contained 1024 acres. This one was probably the demesne attached to *Morlais* castle. In ancient MSS. the parish is called *Y Faenor Wen*, signifying *Gwen* or *Gwenffrewi's* demesne or manor. English name—Manor.

VELINDRE.—The right wording is *y felin-dre*, the mill of the town, from an old mill, called the lord's mill, that stood here in ancient times. English name—Millton.

YSTRADFELLTE.—*Ystrad* has already been explained. It means here a flat or low valley formed by the course of the river *Mellte*. *Mellte—mellten*, lightning. The river is so called because it runs very rapidly for some distance on the surface, and then it is suddenly lost underground. English name—Rapid Vale.

YSTRADGYNLAIS.—It is supposed that this *Ystrad*, vale, was the marriage portion that *Gunleus ap Glewisseg*, prince of Gwent, and father of Saint Cattwg, received with his wife, Gwladys, daughter of Brychan. Others state that the church is dedicated to St. Mary, and not to *St. Gunleus*, and that the proper name of the parish is *Ystrad-Gwrlais*, or *Garwlais*, signifying "the vale of the rough-sounding brook," and is derived from a stream so called, which forms a boundary between the counties of Brecknock and Glamorgan. Iago Emlyn derives *Cynlais* from *cyn*, primeval; and *clais*, a trench through which a stream flows. English name—Brookvale.

CARDIGANSHIRE.

CARDIGAN is a corruption of *Ceredigion*, the original name, which was so called after *Ceredig*, the son of *Cunedda Wledig*, who became its king about the end of *the fourth* century. It is also called *Aberteifi*, from the

situation of its capital at the estuary of the river *Teivi*. *Taf* is the radix, which means spreading. *Taf-gwy—Teifi*, the spreading or extending water. The English name of *Aberteifi* would be Spreadmouth.

ABERAERON.—This place is situated at the mouth of the river *Aeron*, which is probably a compound of *air* and *ain*, signifying bright and clear water. English name—Clearmouth.

ABERARTH.—This village is situated at the mouth of the river *Arth;* hence the name. *Arth* is the Welsh for "bear," and perhaps the river received its name on account of the noisy, blustering, bear-like character of its waters. *Arthu* means to growl like a bear; to bark roughly or hoarsely. *Arthog* is the name of another brook in the county, which means bearish, gruff. *Cyfarth*, to bark, belongs to the same family of words. English name—Bearmouth.

ABERCERDIN.—A rivulet called *Cerdin* flows into the river Teivi about a mile below Llandyssul; hence the name of the place. The common opinion in the neighbourhood is that the rivulet was so called from the abundance of *cerdin*, ash trees, that once adorned its banks. English name—Ashmouth.

ABERGWROG.—*Gwrog*, the river's name, is a corruption of *gwyrog*, crooked, devious. Another river in the same county is called *Gwyre*, which has the same signification. English name—Crookton.

ABERMAID. — *Maid* means a boundary, what separates, or limits. The name fitly describes the place, since it is a terminating point separating one valley from the other. English name—Markton.

ABERPEITHNANT.—*Paith*, clear, open, transparent; *nant*, brook, signifying the mouth of the clear brook. *Paith* is the chief radix in the word *gobaith*, hope. One who possesses hope has a clear view of the future. *Dyffryn Paith*, the vale of prospect, is in the same county. English name—Clearbrook.

ABERPORTH.—*Porth* means a harbour. The place is a kind of a natural harbour, on account of which it

was called *Aber-y-Porth*, the mouth of the harbour. English name—Portsmouth.

ABERYSTWYTH.—This fashionable town and seaport is situated on the conflux of the rivers *Ystwyth* and *Rheidiol*, the former of which gives the town its name. Its ancient name was *Llanbadarn Gaerog*, but it is known by its present name since the reign of Queen Elizabeth. English name—Supplemouth.

ARDUDWY.—*Ar*, upon or above; *tud*, soil, land; *wy*, water; literally, on the land or banks of the Wye. According to Dr. Pughe, the name means a "maritime region." English name—Waterby.

ARGOED.—*Ar-ard*, signifying height; *coed*, trees. The name signifies a place sheltered by woods. English name—Highwood.

ATPAR.—Probably an Anglicized form of *At-bar*, which means towards the top of the hill. The village is also called *Trefhedyn*, which is probably a corruption of *Tref-y-din*, hill-town. English name—Hillham.

BETTWS-BLEDRWS.—*Bettws* has already been explained. The church is dedicated to St. Bledrws; hence the name. English name—Bledrws.

BETTWS IFAN.—The church is dedicated to St. John. *Ifan* or *Ieuan* is an old Welsh form of *Ioan*, John. English name—John's Church.

BLAENCARON.—This place is situated near the source of the river Caron; hence the name. English name—Caronton.

BLAENHOWNANT.—This rivulet is called *Hownant*, which is a corruption of *hoyw*, lively; and *nant*, brook; and the place was so called from its situation near the source of the *Hownant*. English name—Sprightham.

BRECHFA.—A compound of *brech*, brindled, freckled, and *man*, a place. It is supposed that *Brychan*, who came originally from Ireland, and settled in Breconshire in the sixth century, was so called from his being freckled. English name—Freckleton or Spotham.

BRONGEST.—*Bron*, a slope, or side of a hill; literally, breast. *Cest*, a deep glen between two mountains. The name is quite descriptive of the situation of the place. English name—Hillcombe.

BRONGWYN.—A parish in Cardigan and Pembroke counties. Some are of opinion that this name is a relic of the Druids, to whose system belonged *Ceryg y Bryn Gwyn*, *i.e.*, the stones of the hill of judicature. If so, the prefix *bron* here is a corruption of *bryn*, a hill. English name—Whitehill.

BWLCHCRWYS.—*Bwlch*, a break or breach, a gap, a defile; *crwys*, a corrupt form of *croes*, a cross. The name *Bwlch-y-groes* is of frequent occurrence in the Principality. We have many instances of *croes* being changed to *crwys*, *Y Crwys*, *Pantycrwys* and *Bwlch-y-crwys*, &c. "*Dan ei grwys*," under the cross, is a phrase even now frequently used in Wales in reference to the posture of a dead body before it is put into the coffin. In Popish times it was customary to put a cross or a crucifix on a dead body lying in its shroud; but now, although the phrase is occasionally heard, the usage of this Popish relic has been entirely abandoned among the Welsh people. Many Welsh places still retain the name, among which is *Bwlchcrwys*. It was customary in olden times for pilgrims to prostrate themselves at certain passes to invoke the blessings of the Cross before going through; hence the name *Bwlchcrwys* or *Bwlchygroes*. English name—Passcross.

CAPEL GWNDWN.—*Capel*, chapel; *Gwndwn*, is a compound of *cwn*, a head, top, summit; and *twyn*, a hillock. The name signifies a chapel built on an eminence.—English name—Highchapel.

CAPEL Y DRINDOD.—This village probably derives its name from a Welsh Calvinistic Methodist chapel of the name. English name—Trinity Chapel.

CEINEWYDD.—A hybrid name made up of *quay*, from French *quai*, a mole or bank formed toward the sea or on the side of a river for the purpose of loading and unloading vessels; and *newydd*, new. Or perhaps

the prefix comes from *cae*, an inclosure. English name—New Quay.

CELLAN.—The name of this parish is a compound of *cell*, a sheltering place, a grove; and *llan*, a church, signifying a church in a grove. English name—Grovechurch.

CENARTH.—Some maintain that the right wording is *Genarth*, the bear's jaw. Tradition has it that the jaw-bone of a bear was found in the place, and its head in *Penarth*. Penarth, as we show elsewhere, is *Penygarth*, and we are inclined to think Cenarth is a compound of *cefn*, ridge, back; and *garth*, a fort, a hill, a cape. The name is a graphic description of the place, being perched on a high ridge, ever watching the graceful movements of the Teivi. English name—Ridgeham.

CEULAN.—This place derives its name from the river *Ceulan* that flows through it. Tradition points to this place as Taliesin's place of sepulture. English name—Bankham.

CILCENIN.—*Cil*, a place of retreat; *Cennin*, a corrupted form of St. Cannen, to whose memory the parish church is dedicated. English name—Cannen-church.

CLARACH.—This place takes its name from the river *Clarach*, near which it is situated. *Clar-claer*, clear; *ach*, river. English name—Clearwater.

CROES.—This place takes its name from the river *Croes*, which signifies cross. English name—Crossby.

CWM BARRE.—A valley through which the river *Barre* flows. *Bar*, a limit; *re*, a corruption of *rau*, pluralising *bar*. The river is the boundary between some parts of the parishes of *Troedyraur* and *Penbryn*. Barry is supposed to have come from the same root. English name—Limit Vale.

CWM RHEIDIOL.—*Cwm*, a low place surrounded by hills; *Rheidiol*, the name of the river that flows through it, which is a contraction of *rhyd-y-ddol*, the stream of the meadow. English name—Moorcombe.

DIHEWYD.—A mutation of *Dehau-wydd*. *Dehau*, south; *gwydd*, the state of being in view. *Gwyddfod* means presence. There is a hill called *Moel Dihewyd* in the parish, so called from its southern aspect. English name—Southview.

DOTHI-CAMDDWR.—*Dothi*, a corrupted form of *dowyddu*, which implies swelling; *Camddwr*, the crooked water, the name of the river that flows through the place, so called from its meandering course. English name—Crookby.

FERWIG.—*Berw*, a boiling, an ebullition; *wig*, inflection of *gwig*, a grove, a nook. The right orthography is *Berwig*, which, according to some, is cognate with Berwick and other places in England. From its contiguity to the sea, its English name would be Grovesea.

GARTHELI.—A corrupted form of *Gwrtheli*, the name of the saint who founded a chapel in the place. English name—Gwrtheli.

HAWEN.—The village takes its name from the river *Hawen*. *Hawen* is a compound of *aw*, a moving agent, water, and *an* or *ain*, brook, signifying the running stream. English name—Brookham.

HENBELIN.—A corrupted form probably of *Henfelin*, old mill. English name—Oldmill.

HENFYNYW.—The name signifies "Old Menevia." Tradition has it that the cathedral of St. David's was originally designed to have been erected here. This parish is famous for being the place where the patron saint of Wales spent his earlier days. A spring that is near the church is still called *Ffynon Ddewi*, St. David's Well.

HENLLAN.—The name signifies old church, and it points out the great antiquity of the original edifice of this parish. English name--Oldchurch.

HENLLYS.—*Hen*, old; *llys*, court, hall, or seat, signifying the ancient hall. *Henllys* and *Gadlys* are found to be very numerous in Wales, as traces of the battles fought by the Welsh princes. English name—Oldhall.

LLANANERCH.—A compound of *Llan* and *llanerch*, an enclosure, and sometimes the latter signifies a rising eminence. English name—Churchill.

LLANARTH.—*Arth* here means a bear, according to some. The general opinion of the inhabitants is that bears existed here at some remote period. It is hardly credible that the saintly Cymry would do the bear such an honour as to couple his name with the sacred edifice. We derive the name from *Llan*, church; and *garth*, a hill, and sometimes enclosure. English name—Risechurch.

LLANBADARN.—The church is dedicated to *Padarn*, who, according to Usher, was an Armorican bishop, and came to Wales with his cousin Cadven in 516. He left Illtyd's seminary for Ceredigion, and gathered a congregation of 120 members at a place called afterwards *Llanbadarn Fawr*. The differentia *fawr* was added to mark its pre-eminence over the other parishes of the same name, and to distinguish it from the adjacent town of Aberystwyth, which was anciently called *Llanbadarn Gaerog*. English name—Bishop Padarn.

LLANBEDR-PONT-STEPHAN.—The popular English name is Lampeter, which is an Anglicized form of *Llanbedr*. We find many churches in Wales bearing the name *Pedr*, Peter, but who this Peter was is a matter of conjecture. Most writers point to Peter the Apostle. From a certain document the *pont*, bridge, appears to have been erected early in the fifteenth century. "Rhys, the son of David ap Rhys, of Pencarreg, married Lleuan, daughter of Ieuan David Llwyd ap David Ddu ap David Decka ap *Steven, the man who erected Lampeter bridge at his own expense.*" English name—Peterschurch.

LLANDAIN FACH.—*Dain* means beautiful, fine; *fach*, little. The name signifies the beautiful little church. English name—Little Church, or Beauchurch.

LLANDEGWY.—*Tegwy* was a saint of the sixth century, and a descendant of Nudd Hael. The above church was dedicated to him. English name—Fairchurch.

LLANDYSILIOGOGO.—St. Tysilio, a bishop and an eminent author, who flourished about the middle of the seventh century. *Brut Tysilio*, a copy of which is in the *Myv. Arch.*, is attributed to him. He was the patron saint of many churches in Wales. The differentia *gogo* is a mutation of *gogofau*, caves, which are very numerous in the parish. English name—Caveham.

LLANDYSUL.—*Tysul*, a descendant of Cunedda Wledig, and a saint of the sixth century, to whom the above church was dedicated. English name—Tysul.

LLANDDEINIOL.—*Deiniol Wyn*, or Daniel, assisted his father, *Dunawd Fur*, in founding the celebrated monastery at Bangor Iscoed, and he founded several churches, of which Llanddeiniol is reckoned to be one; hence the name. English name—St. Daniel.

LLANDDEWI-ABERARTH.—The church was dedicated to Dewi, the patron saint of Wales. *Aber*, estuary; *Arth*, the name of the river, near the mouth of which the village is situated. *Arth* signifies rough, harsh. English name—Roughton.

LLANDDEWI-BREFI.—*Brefi* means bellowing. The traditional ox overstrained himself in endeavouring to draw the *avanc* (beaver) from the lake, and suddenly expired. The other, having lost his yoke-fellow, would not be consoled, refused food, and wandered about until he died in a place called *Brefi*, so called from the dismal moans of the sacred animal. Dewi, the patron saint of Wales, founded a church and a religious seminary on the spot; hence *Llanddewi-Brefi*. English name—Moanham.

LLANDDYFRIOG.—*Tyfriog*, a saint who flourished about the close of the sixth century, founded the church. English name—Tyvriog.

LLANFAIR.—The church was dedicated to St. Mary; hence the name of the little village would be Mary's Church.

LLANFIHANGEL CASTELL GWALLTER.—The church was dedicated to St. Michael. Walter l'Espec built a castle on a hill near the church during the Norman

conquest; hence the additional name. Omitting the ecclesiastical portion of the name, the English name would be Walter's Castle.

LLANFIHANGEL LLEDROD.—The church is dedicated to St. Michael. *Lledrod* is a compound of *llethr*, a slope, and *troed*, a foot, base; the church being built at the base of a slope. English name—Foothill.

LLANFIHANGEL-Y-CREUDDYN.—The church is dedicated to St. Michael. Lewis Morris derives *Creuddyn* from *creu*, blood; and *dun*, a fort, signifying a bloody fort. There is a commot of the same name near Conway, in which the castle of Dyganwy was situated, where the English kings, John and Henry III., had their camps in their fruitless expeditions against the Welsh. English name—Churchfort.

LLANGEITHO.—St. Ceitho, who flourished in the sixth century, founded the church, which was dedicated to him. English name—Ceitho.

LLANGOEDMOR.—*Coed*, wood; *mor-mawr*, great. The spot where the church is built abounds with timber of ancient and luxuriant growth. English name—Churchwood.

LLANGRANNOG.—Some trace the name to *St. Cranog*, the son of Corun, the son of Ceredig; whilst others derive it from *Gwyddno Garanhir* (long-shanked), which means the crane, reckoned to be a representative of the priest of the ark, who safely landed the vessel upon the reef of *Sarn Badrig*, Patrick's Causeway. We adopt the former derivation.—English name—Cranog.

LLANGUNLLO.—Cunllo, once a prince, became the patron saint of several churches in Wales. He is recorded in Rees's Welsh Saints as *Cynllo*, the king. English name—Cunllo.

LLANGWYRYFON.—*Gwyryfon*, virgins. Tradition says that this church was dedicated to Ursula and 1100 blessed virgins, who fled with St. Padarn from Armorica to avoid the persecution that
the sixth century, and settled in this p
pure and holy life.—English name—Vir

LLANILAR.—The church was dedicated to St. Hilary, who flourished in the sixth century. [illegible] writer derives *Ilar* from [illegible] a particle implying [illegible] both, and double, and [illegible] land [illegible] the name signifies two portions of land or territories. The parish contains two hamlets bearing the names Llanilar Uchaf (higher) and Llanilar Isaf (lower). English name—Hilarton.

LLANINA.—The church was dedicated to [illegible] of the West Saxons. English name—[illegible].

LLANLLWCHHAIARN.—*Llwchhaiarn* was a saint of the seventh century. Iolo MSS. give him the honour of having founded many churches, among which the above is named. English name—[illegible].

LLANLLYR.—*Llyr Merini* flourished about the end of the fifth century, and founded a church and nunnery at the above place. English name—Lyrton.

LLANRHYSTYD.—The church was dedicated to *Rhystyd*, a descendant of Hywel ap Emyr Llydaw, who flourished in the sixteenth century.

> "Rhystyd Sant, rhyw astud serch.
> A roe lin ar ryw lanerch."

I.e. :—St. Rhystyd, with the love of pious zeal.
Would with a line enclose some sacred spot.

English name—Rhystyd.

LLANSANTFFRAID.—The common opinion is that the church was dedicated to *Sanffraid*, but we are inclined to think it was dedicated to *St. Ffraid*, who was called Bridget or Bride, a celebrated Irish saint. English name—Brideton.

LLANWENOG.—*St. Gwenog* is recorded to have founded the church. English name—Gwenogton.

LLANWNDWS.—*Wndws* is a corruption of *Gwynws*, the name of the saint who founded the church in the sixth century. English name—Whitton.

LLANWNEN.—*Wnen* is a corruption of [illegible] the name of the saint to whom it is supposed [illegible] is dedicated. English name—[illegible].

LLECHRYD.—*Llech*, a stone; *rhyd*, a ford, a stream. This place is generally pointed out as the scene of a terrible engagement that took place between Rhys ab Tewdwr and the three sons of Bleddyn ab Cynvyn, in 1087, in which the sons of Bleddyn were defeated, and two of them slain on the field. In course of time it is thought a stone was raised here in memory of Riryd, one of Bleddyn's sons. Some think the name is derived from the river being seamed with ledges of rock. English name—Stoneford.

LLWYNDAFYDD.—*Llwyn*, bush; *Dafydd*, David; from an ancient house in the place, which belonged to *Dafydd ab Ieuan*, and where he entertained the Earl of Richmond on his way to Bosworth field. English name—Davidston.

MERTHYR CYFLEFYR.—*Merthyr*, martyr; *Cyflefyr*, name of a descendant of Brychan, who is supposed to have been murdered at a place ever since called after his name. English name—Martyrham.

MOCHROS.—*Moch*, pigs; *rhos*, a meadow, a moor. Tradition says that St. Dyfrig was warned in this place by an angel to build a church in the name of the Trinity, where he would see a white sow lying with her sucklings; hence the name. If we take *moch* as an adjective, it means quick, abrupt. Therefore, the name signifies a sloping meadow. English name—Pigmoor.

MYDYREILIN.—The name, probably, means the *eilin* (arm) of the river *Mudyr*. *Penelin* is the Welsh for elbow. The crooked course of the river here reminds the observer very vividly of a man holding his arm in a sling. *Myllyr* is a corrupt form of *Mudyr*, the silent water. English name—Armton.

NANTCWNLLE.—*Nant*, brook; *Cwnlle*, a corruption of *Cunllo*, an eminent British saint of the fifth century. The parish is intersected by the brook, and the church is dedicated to *Cunllo*. English name—Brookham.

NANTEIRW.—This place de
brook *Eirw*. *Nant*, brook;
cataract. Some think that *ei*

summer [illegible] of these [illegible] name—[illegible]

New [illegible] y-Creudd[illegible] the fact [illegible] built a new [illegible]

Pe[illegible] place at the [illegible] Upton.

Pe[illegible] nence. [illegible] mountains [illegible] Peakton.

Pe[illegible] some. [illegible] rather [illegible] a high place [illegible]

Penrhi[illegible] called [illegible] name—[illegible]

Penter[illegible] the name of the [illegible] sepulture took place near the village. [illegible] Bardham.

Penybryn.—The name which signifies "the [illegible] or top of the hill," is derived from the situation of the church on the summit of a hill overlooking the sea. Sometimes the parish is called *Llanfihangel Penybryn* from the dedication of the church to St. Michael. English name—Hilltop.

Penyparc.—*Parc* means an enclosed piece of land. In the Southern counties it is [illegible], a field. *Penyparc*, therefore, means [illegible] field. Park is an Anglicized form of [illegible] Parksend.

Ponterwyd.—*Pont*, bridge [illegible] of the river that flows under the [illegible] age derives its name from the old [illegible] Bridgewater.

PONTRHYDFENDIGAID.—*Bendigaid*, blessed. This name, evidently. is a relic of the Roman epoch. The blessed celebrities of the monastery at Strata Florida were wont to cross a certain ford in the river, where they invoked the blessings of the blessed virgin, over which, in course of time, a bridge was built; hence the name. English name—Blissford.

PONTRHYDYGROES.—*Pont*, bridge; *rhyd*, ford; *y*, the; *groes*, cross. English name—Crossford

RHIWARTHEN.—*Rhiw*, slope, declivity; *Arthen*, according to some, is the name of a king or lord of Ceredigion, who died in 804, but we rather think it is a clipped form of *garthen*, a camp or battle. English name—Camphill.

RHUDDLAN.—A compound of *rhudd*, red; and *glan*, bank. English name—Redbank.

RHYDMANTEG.—*Rhyd*, ford; *man*, place, spot; *teg*, fair. English name—Fordham.

RHYD-PENNANT.—*Pennant* means the end of the brook. English name—Brookford.

SARNAU.—This name is the plural form of *sarn*, paved road, causeway, so called from the remains of several paved roads across a bog in the district. English name—Roadby.

STRATA FLORIDA.—*Strata*, paved roads. The Roman *strata* became the Saxon streets. *Florida*, abounding with flowers. Some maintain that the abbey was dedicated to Fflur, the daughter of Mygnach Gorr, but the supposition is unsupported by historical fact. An eye-witness wrote, a few years ago, anent the famous place—"even now the adjacent peat land is covered with heath flowers. As we were travelling over it, reaching Tregaron about sunset, we gazed on the scene, and the whole extensive plain blushed as it bathed in a sea of purple." English name—Floridton.

SWYDDFFYNON.—*Swydd* here means jurisdiction. In ancient times the law court of the commot of *Mefenydd* was held here, perhaps near a celebrated

well, called *Ffynon oer*, cold well. English name—Lexwell.

TALSARN.—*Tal*, end; *sarn*, road; from a branch of a Roman road which terminated here. English name—Roadton.

TRAETH SAITH.—*Traeth*, sands, seashore; *Saith* is referred by some as *Seithedin*, famous in Welsh mythology. The small river that flows into *Traeth Saith* is called *Saeth*, which means an arrow, so called probably from its arrow-like course. "As straight as an arrow" is a proverbial phrase. Perhaps it was so called in contradistinction from the river Ystwyth with its meandering course. The names *Blaensaeth* and *Dyffryn Saeth*, which are found in the vicinity, induce us to adopt the latter derivation. English name—Straighton.

TREFILAN.—The church was dedicated to *Elen* the mother of Constantine the Great; therefore, *Ilan* is a mutation of *Elen*. Eglwys Ilan, Glamorgan, bears her name. English name—Ellenton.

TREFLYN.—A compound of *tref*, a place, a town; and *llyn*, a lake. The place takes its name from a beautiful lake called *Llyn y maes*, the lake of the field, which, according to tradition, covers the original site of *Tregaron*. English name—Laketon.

TREGARON.—The church was dedicated to Bishop *Caron*, and the place is named in honour of him. English name—Carontown.

TREMAEN.—*Tre*, place; *maen*, stone; its literal signification being "the town of the stone," so called from the noted stone, *Llech yr ast*, and the adjacent *cistfaens* near the village. English name—Stoneton.

TROEDYRAUR.—*Troed*, foot, base, lower part. *Troed-ybryn*, the lowest part of the hill. Piedmont has the same signification, from It. *pie di monte*, foot of the mountain, so called from its situation. *Yr*, the; *aur*, probably wrongly-spelt for *air*, bright, clear. If we adopt the termination *air*, the name means the base-ment of a hill, from which a clear view may be had of

the surrounding district. Some derive the name from the tradition that *aur*, gold, was discovered at the foot of the hill. It appears that the ancient name of the church was *Tredeyrn*, the king's town, from the supposition that Owain ab Hywel Dda, the king of Ceredigion, some time took up his abode in the vicinity. *Llys Owain*, Owen's court, the ruins of which are still discernible, about a quarter of a mile from the church, inclines us to think that *Tredeyrn* is the correct name of this place. English name—Kington.

TYNYSWYDD.—*Ty*, house; *yn*, in; *y*, the; *swydd*, jurisdiction. The house, from which the village takes its name, was probably situated at the extreme end of the Mefenydd judicature. English name—Lexham.

YSTRAD MEURIG.—Meurig is recorded to have been killed at a place where a church was dedicated to him. The place is also famous for its ancient seminary. "Meyryg, son of Meirchion, was a brave, far-famed king. In his time the Irish Picts came to Cambria; he, however, marched against them, drove them away, or slew them; but was killed by an Irishman concealed in a wood, since called Ystrad Meyryg." Iolo MSS., p. 352. English name—Meurig's Vale.

YSTUMTUEM.—*Ystum*, a bend, a shape, a form; *Tuem*, the name of the river that flows through the place. *Tuem* probably is a compound of *tu*, a side, a region, a part; and *an-ain*, water, signifying a piece of land near the water. English name—Waterham.

CARMARTHENSHIRE.

CARMARTHEN is an Anglicized form of *Caerfyrddin*. The Welsh Chronicle derives the name from *Myrddin*, the pseudo-prophet and bard, and many are the traditions that boldly, but absurdly, support the derivation. History rejects this popular [illegible] by stating that the town was called "Maridunum" by the Romans, during and after the [illegible] ere the prophet was born. *Britons is the* "Maridunum,"

Ptolemy; and the "Muridunum," the walled city of Antonius. Some think that the Latin name is a translation of the Welsh one, and derive the latter thus: *Caer*, fortress, wall; *fyr*, a mutation of *mor-myr*, the sea; *din-ddin*, a hill; signifying a fortified hill upon or near the sea. Others maintain that *Caermyrddin*, the ruinous city, is the true derivation. Another derivation is offered. *Caerfyrdd-ddyn*, the citadel of ten thousand, from *myrdd*, a myriad, and *dyn*, a man. We are inclined to think that "Maridunum" is the etymology of the name, and that the Welsh *caer* was prefixed to it, and hence it was transmuted to its present form—*Caerfyrddin.*

ABERGWILI.—*Aber*, estuary; *Gwili*, the name of the river that flows into the Towy; hence the name. *Gwili* is a derivative of *gwyllt*, wild, and *lli*, a flux, signifying wild water. Some derive it from *gwy*, water, and *lli*, a flux. The "Dictionary of Universal Information" appears to confuse Abergwili with Abergorlech, and wrongly informs us that in the latter "is an episcopal palace belonging to the see of St. David's." Welshmen know that the two places are not one and the same, and that Abergwili still retains the honour of being the residence of the Bishop of St. David's. English name—Waterflux.

ABERGORLECH.—The river *Gorlech* discharges itself into the river Cothi near the village; hence the name. *Gorlech*, probably, is a mutation of *Garwlech*. *Garw*, rough; *lech-llech*, stone; rough stones from the bed of the river. English name—Stonemouth.

ABERCOWYN.—The river *Cowyn* or *Cywyn* flows into the river Taf at the place; hence the name. *Cywyn* means a rising or swelling up; the popular word *cwnu*, rising, comes from the verb *cywynu*, to rise, mount up. English name—Swellmouth.

ABERARAD.—*Arad*, the name of the river on which the village is situated, so called, perhaps, from its resemblance to an *aradr*, plough. *Arad* is the popular pronunciation of the Welsh *aradr*. English name—Ploughton.

ABERBRAN.—This place takes its name from the river *Brân*, which is a contraction of *bre*, mountain; and *an*, *ain*, or *en*, brook, signifying the mountain brook. English name—Brookmouth.

ABERDUAR.—The right wording probably is *Aberdyar*, from its situation on the river *Dyar*, which means a noise, a sound, a din. English name—Dinmouth.

ABOVE-SAWDDWY.—The village derives its name from the river *Sawddwy*, on which it is situated. *Sawdd* implies depth, a sinking; *wy-gwy*, water; the name signifying the deep or plunging water. English name—Deepwater.

AMMANFORD.—The ancient name of the place was Cross Inn, from a public house of that name, which is situated at the junction of four roads. Ammanford, from its situation on the river *Aman*, which name is probably a compound of *aml*, many; and *ain*, water; signifying a river of many tributaries or sources.

BURRY PORT adjoins the ancient village of *Penbre*. *Pen*, head, top; *bre-fre*, up high, or perhaps *bre* is a corruption of *bryn*, a hill. Both suffixes come from the same root, and have analogous significations. Some think Burry is a compound of *bur*, wild, frothy, and *gwy*, water. *Burym*, barm, is derived from the same root. The river Berem is not far from this vicinity. Another attempt is *bre-borth*; *bre-bryn*, hill; *borth-porth*, port. The seaport is situated at the entrance of the river Burry; hence the English name—Burry Port.

BRYN-Y-BEIRDD.—This place derives its name from an ancient farmhouse in the vicinity, called *Cwrt-Bryn-y-Beirdd*, from the supposition that it was once the residence of the bards. English name—Bardshill.

BRYN GWYNE.—*Bryn*, hill; *Gwyne*, intensified form of *gwyn*, white, blessed. *Gwynedd*, a happy land. English name—Blisshill.

BRYN HAFOD.—*Hafod* means a su which was generally built on a hill. En Summer Hill.

BRYNAMAN.—*Bryn*, hill; *Aman*, the name of the river on which the place is situated. For *Aman*, vide Ammanford. English name—Waterhill.

BWLCHGWYNT.—*Bwlch*, an opening, a pass; *gwynt*, wind; signifying a pass where the wind occasionally asserts its power very vehemently. English name—Windham.

CALEDFWLCH.—*Caled*, hard, severe; *bwlch*, opening, pass. Tradition has it that bloody wars were fought in the vicinity, and that the distress and calamity was so great at a certain spot that it was henceforth called *Caledfwlch*. A brook in the place is called *Nantgoch*, red brook, from the traditional belief that it was sometime red with blood. English name—Warstow.

CILMAENLLWYD.—*Cil*, a place of retreat; *maen*, stone; *llwyd*, grey, blessed; so called from the relics of druidical stones in the place. English name—Greystone.

CWMSARNDDU.—*Cwm*, vale; *sarn*, paved road; *ddu*, black; from a farm so named. English name—Black-road.

CYDWELI.—This ancient name implies two streams of water joining to run on the same bed. The place is situated about half-a-mile from Carmarthen Bay at the junction of the rivers Gwendraeth Fach and Gwendraeth Fawr. *Gweilgi* means a flood, sea, beds of water. English name—Biwater.

CEFNCETHIN.—A village in the parish of Llandilo. The common opinion of the inhabitants is that the place took its name from an eminent poet, named *Cethin*, who lived in the neighbourhood in the sixteenth century. *Cethin* means dark, frightful, terrible. English name—Frighthill.

CYNWIL GAIO.—*Cyn*, prior, first; *wil*, *gwyl*, to watch; *Caio*, Caius, the name of a Roman personage. The Rev. Eliezer Williams, in the "Cambrian Register," thinks that the place was taken possession of by Caius's advanced guards. He says: "It is probable that the advanced guards of the British were stationed at *Cynwyl Elfed* (the advanced post of Elfed),

a place situate some miles to the south of Caio." English name—Caiustown.

CLOYGYN.—*Clogwyn* is the right wording. English name—Rockham.

CAPEL PAULIN.—*Capel*, chapel; *Paulin*, a mutation of *Paul Hen*, St. Paulinus, who flourished in the fifth century. English name—Paul's Chapel.

CRUGYBAR.—*Crug*, heap; *bâr*, affliction, fury, wrath. The place derives its name from the supposition that the Romans buried their fallen soldiers in the vicinity, where they suffered heavily from the hands of the wrathful and formidable Britons, led by the immortal Buddug. English name—Wrathby.

CWM GWENDRAETH.—*Cwm*, valley; *Gwendraeth*, the name of the river that runs through the valley. *Gwen*, white; *traeth*, a tract, beach. English name—Whitcombe.

CAPEL IWAN.—*Capel*, chapel; *Iwan*, *Ivan*, *Ioan*, John; meaning John the Baptist. English name—John's Chapel.

CAPEL ISAAC.—A noted place in connection with the Congregational body since the year 1650, when the Rev. Stephen Hughes, formerly the vicar of Meidrym, left the Church of England and founded a Congregational church. Suffering from persecution, they took refuge in a cave for a short time, and afterwards built a chapel in 1672 on the land of Isaac Thomas; hence the name, *Capel Isaac*. English name—Isaac's Chapel.

CWMCOTHI.—The river *Cothi* flows through the combe. *Cothi* means to eject or evacuate; *ysgothi*, to babble. The Greek *Kaithaiso* has a similar meaning. Dolaucothi is the seat of the Johnses, a well-known family in the county of Carmarthen, and close by was the residence of the celebrated bard, Llywelyn (Lewis) Glyn Cothi, who flourished in the fifteenth century. English name—Throwcombe.

CWMCUCH.—A village situate on the banks of the river *Cuch*. *Cuch* means what is contracted or drawn together. *Cuchio*, to frown. English name—Frowncombe.

CWMHWPLIN.—*Hwplin* only requires explanation. *Hwp*, an effort, a push. *Trwy fawr hwp*, through a great effort. *Hwpio* means to push. *Lin-glin*, leg. The early Christians suffered severely from persecution in this place, and consequently were obliged to make great efforts to maintain their own and proceed with their good work despite all obstructions. English name—Pushton.

CWM DUAD.—*Duad* implies blackness. The river Duad flows through the vale. English name—Blackcombe.

CENARTH.—*Cen*, low Celtic for *pen*, head or top; *arth-garth*, a hill. It is synonymous with Penarth. English name—Hill's Head.

CILCARW.—*Cil*, a place of retreat; *carw*, stag. In olden times stags resorted to this sequestered vicinity as a place of refuge; hence the name. English name—Stagham.

CILCWM.—The name signifies a sequestered vale. English name—Glenham.

CERYG SAWDDE.—A village near Llangattock derives its name from the river *Sawdde* that flows through it. One of the inhabitants assured us that the first row of houses in the village were built of stones conveyed from the river Sawdde; hence the name. English name—Riverstone.

CENOL.—The name, which signifies "middle," was given to this hamlet because it comprises the middle part of the parish of Llansawyl. English name—Midham.

CWMAMAN.—*Cwm*, narrow vale; *Aman*, the name of the river that flows through it. *Aman* is a compound of *aml*, many, and *an* or *ain*, which implies waters; hence the name means a river of many sources. English name—Aquaton.

DAFEN.—From the river *Dafen*, which flows through the place. Some think the name is a contraction of *dwr-afon*, river water, so called to distinguish it from the sea-water, which is near the place. We are

induced to derive it from *taf-ain*, the spreading wate
Tafwys, the Thames, signifies the same. Engli
name—Spreadwater.

DYFFRYN CEIDRYCH.—*Dyffryn*, a valley; *cei-cai*
clear, fair, beautiful; *drych*, aspect, sight; the nam
signifies a valley of beautiful sceneries. Some thin
that the valley was named after *Ceindrych*, a daughte
of Brychan. English name—Fairview Vale.

EDWINSFORD.—A semi-translation of the Wels
name, *Rydodyn*. *Rhyd*, ford; *odyn*, kiln; signifying
ford near the kiln. Some think it is a translation of *Rh*
Edwyn.

FELINWEN.—This village takes its name from a
old mill called *Felinwen*, white mill, which is still in th
place. English name—Whitemill.

FERRY SIDE.—A pretty village near the mouth o
the river Towy, where passengers ferry over in boat
to the opposite village, Llanstephan; hence the name.

GOYTREY.—A mutation of *coed*, wood, and *tre*, a
place. English name—Woodham.

GWYNFE.—*Gwyn*, white, blessed; *fe-fai*, an inflec-
tion of *mai*, a plain. *Gwynfa* is the Welsh for Paradise.
English name—Blissham.

HENGOED.—A compound of *hen*, aged, and *coed*, so
called from the abundance of ancient and large forests
of wood that once adorned the district. English
name—Oldwood.

HYRETH.—A corruption of *hiraeth*, longing, earnest
desire, or, perhaps, a mutation of *hyriaeth*, a shock, a
concussion. English name—Shockham.

JOHNSTOWN.—A small village near Carmarthen
town named in honour of Mr. John Jones, Ystrad.

LAUGHARNE.—The old Welsh names are *Talycoran*,
Abercoran, *Tal-Llacharn*. *Tal*, end; *y*, the; *Coran*, the
name of the river that finishes its individual course by
flowing into the river Taf. Abercoran means the same.
Some derive the present name from Field-Marshal W

Laugharne, but we are inclined to think it is an Anglicized form of *Llacharn* or *Talycoran*. Coran is an abbreviation of Corafon, a rivulet. English name—Streammouth.

LLANGELER.—The church was dedicated to *St. Celert*, who flourished in the fifth century. St. Celert's well is near the church. English name—Celerton.

LLANGADOG.—The church was dedicated to *St. Cadoc*, a martyr who flourished in the fifth century, and died in Brittany. English name—Cadocton.

LLANFRYNACH.—The church was dedicated to *St. Brynach*, whose history, according to some, is marked by somewhat remarkable incidents. English name—Bernard.

LLANSTEPHAN. — The church was founded by *Ystyffan*, a saint and bard of the sixth century. Some derive the name from the dedication of the church to *Stephen*, the first martyr. English name—Stephen's Church.

LLANGYNDEYRN.—The church was dedicated to *St. Cyndeyrn*, one of the most popular of the Welsh saints of the seventh century. English name—Chiefchurch.

LLANDYFAELOG.—The church was dedicated to *Maelog*, one of Catwg's disciples. The proper name is Llanmaelog. English name—Martton.

LLANON.—The church was dedicated to *Honn*, the pious mother of Dewi, the patron saint of Wales. English name—Honnchurch.

LLANGATHEN. — The church was dedicated to *Cathen*, a Welsh saint who flourished early in the seventh century. English name—Cathenton.

LLANEDI.—The church was dedicated to *Edyth*, a Saxon saint. There were five Saxon saints bearing the name. *Edi* is an abbreviation of Edith. English name—Edithchurch.

LOGIN.—Some think the name is a contracted form of *Halogyn*, the polluted or turbid, but from the geographical position of the place we are inclined to

derive the name from *clogwyn*, precipice, steep. *Clogwynog*, craggy, rocky. English name—Steepham.

LLAN.- This hamlet takes its name from the parochial church being situated within its limits, near the right bank of the Gwendraeth Fechan river. English name—Churchham.

LLANARTHNEY.—*Arthney* is probably a corruption of *garthen*, a camp. There are several objects of antiquarian interest in this district, such as the ruins of Dryslwyn castle, and Grongar hill, which has been immortalised by the famous Dyer. English name—Campton.

LLANSADWRN. — The church was dedicated to *Sadwrn*, the brother of Illtud. English name—Sadwrn.

LLANSADYRNYN.- The church was dedicated to *Sadyrnyn*, the Bishop of St. David's in the early part of the ninth century. English name—Saturnine.

LLANWRDA.—*Wrda* is a corruption of Cawrdaf, a saint, and a son of Caradog Freichfras, to whom the church was dedicated. English name—Cawrdaf.

LLANGAIN.—*Cain* was a saint of the early part of the sixth century, to whom the church was dedicated. English name—Fairchurch.

LLANGAN.—The church was dedicated to *Cana*, the daughter of Tewdwr Mawr, and the wife of Sadwrn. English name—Brightchurch.

LLANPUMPSAINT.—*Pum' saint*, five saints. The church was dedicated to five brothers, Ceitho, Gwyn, Gwynno, Gwynoro, and Celynir, who were born at the same time, and devoted themselves to religious life. English name—Brotherston.

LLANGENECH.—The church was dedicated to *St. Cenych*. English name—Cenyton.

LLANGYNIN.—The church was dedicated to *Cynin*, a saint of the fifth century. English name--Cyninton.

LLANEGWAD.—The church was dedicated to *Egwad*, a saint of the seventh century. English name—*Egwadton.*

LLANWYNIO.—The church is supposed to have been dedicated to *Gwynio*, a Welsh saint. English name—Foamton.

LLANLLWNI.—*Llwni* is a corruption of *lloni*, to gladden. Llonio Lawhir (long hand) was a descendant of Emyr Llydaw, and is supposed to have founded the churches of Llandinam (Montgomery) and Llanllwni (Carm.). English name—Gladchurch.

LLANSAWYL.—The church was dedicated to *Sawyl*, a saint of the eighth century. English name—Stopchurch.

LLANDYBIE.—*Tybie* was a daughter of Brychan, and a saint of the fifth century. History tells us she was murdered at a place where a church was afterwards built and consecrated to her memory. English name—Tybton.

LLANDEILO.—The church was dedicated to *St. Teilo*, a descendant of Cunedda Wledig, and one of the most popular saints in the ancient British Church. A large number of churches in Wales bear his name. In the "Liber Landavensis" he is written Teiliau. He was St. Teliaus, the patron saint of Llandaff. He departed this life at Llandeilo Fawr, and was interred at Llandaff in 566. English name – Teiloton.

LLANDEFEISENT.—*Tyfei Sant*, a nephew of St. Teilo. He lived in an early period of the sixth century. The above church was dedicated to him. English name—Growchurch.

LLANBOIDY.—*Boidy*, probably, is a corruption of *beudy*, an ox house. Most of our parish churches have been dedicated to saints, but this is one of the few exceptions. The church might have been built in conjunction with the ox-house, or, perhaps, the oxen had to perform the same duties there as their kindred at Brevi. Some think the church was dedicated to St. Brynach. English name—Oxchurch.

LLANDOVERY.—An Anglicized form of *Llanymddyfri*, which means a church between waters. The "Myvyrian" calls it *Llanymddywy*. The town is situate on the river Towy, at the confluence of the rivers

Gwytherig and Bran, the latter joining the Towy a little distance below the town. English name—Water-church.

LLANELLI.—The church was dedicated to *Ellyw*, a descendant of Brychan, and a saint of the fifth century. *Llanelliw* is the proper name. On a map published in 1788 by a Mr. William Owen it is spelt *Llanelliw*. English name—Elywton.

LLANDYSILIO.—The church was dedicated to *St. Tyssilio*. English name—Tysilio.

LLANDDAROG.—The church was dedicated to *St. Twrog*. English name—Towerchurch.

LLANDDOWROR.—A corruption of *Llanddyfrgwyr*, the church of the men of the water, so called on account of the seven sons of Mainaur Mathru, who were called *Dyfrgwyr*, water-men, because they were found in the water, escaped from the water, and were maintained by fishes of the water. They devoted themselves to religious life; hence the above church was dedicated to them. English name—Waterton.

LLANFIHANGEL-AR-ARTH.—The church was dedicated to St. Michael, and is situated on a hill above the Teivi. *Ar-arth* or *ar-y-garth* means on the hill. English name—Church Hill.

LLANFYNYDD.—The name signifies a church on the mountain. English name—Mountain Church.

LLANYBYDDER.—*Bydder* is a corruption of *Pedr*, Peter. The church is dedicated to St. Peter; hence the right wording is *Llanbedr*. English name—Peter-church.

LLANYBRI.—*Bri* is, according to one writer, a corruption of *beyr*, the Norse for farmstead; but we are induced to think it is a mutation of *bre*, up high, or *bryn*, a hill. English name—Highton.

LLANLLWCH.—*Llwch*, an inlet of water, a lake. The church is situated in a low place, which is frequently covered by floods and the tide, leaving *many pools* and lakes behind them. Many places in

Wales derive their names from this word, as Llwch Sawdde, Amlwch, Talyllychau, &c. English name—Lakechurch.

LLECHFRON.—*Llech*, stone; *gron-crwn*, round, circular. English name—Roundstone.

LLWYNHENDY.—*Llwyn*, bush; *hendy*, old house. There was a bush near an old homestead called *Hendy*, concerning which a local dispute arose, and in order to distinguish it henceforth from other bushes it was called *Llwyn-hendy*. English name—Bushham.

MYNACHDY.—The name signifies a monastery. It is supposed that a cell to some ancient abbey was situated here sometime; hence the name. *Llanycrwys*, the church of the cross, the name of the parish wherein the place lies is of Roman origin. English name—Monkham.

MARROS.—A mountain in the parish is called *Marros*. The name signifies a wild, mountainous region, which was undoubtedly suggested by the physical aspect of the district. English name—Montham.

MYDDFAI.—*Mydd-medd*, meadow; *fai-mai*, a plain or open field. The place is noted for its celebrated physicians in the twelfth century. *Meddygon Myddfai*, the physicians of *Myddfai* is a proverbial phrase. English name—Meadham.

MYDRIM.—*Meidrum* is the true orthography. *Mei-mai*, a plain or open field; *drum-trum*, a ridge, a back, a hill. English name—Plainhill.

MANORFABON.—A compound of *maenor*, manor, and *Mabon*, a proper name. English name—Mabon's Manor.

MEINCIAU.—A corruption, probably, of *Min-y-cae*, edge of the field. Some think it is the plural of *maiuc*, a bench, implying elevated pieces of land. English name—Highfield.

MACHYNYS.—An islet at the estuary of the Loughor river. Some think the name is a mutation of *bach-ynys*, the little island; but, viewing the fact that a *mynach-dy*, a monastery, was established here in 513 by St. Piro,

we incline to derive it from the name of the institution, *mynach-ynys* reduced to *machynys*, monk's island. English name—Monk's Island.

MOELFRE.—A compound of *moel*, bare, and *bryn*, hill. English name—Barehill.

NANTGAREDIG.—*Nant*, brook; *garedig*, loving, kind. English name—Lovingbrook.

NANTYCAIN.—*Nant*, brook; *cain*, clear, fair. English name—Clearbrook.

NANTYMWYN.—*Mwyn*, mine, ore. Lead mines abound in this district. English name—Leadbrook.

NEWCASTLE-EMLYN.—Opinions differ as to the origin of this name. It is a translation of the Welsh *Castell-newydd-Emlyn*. The present castle was built on the site of the old one by Sir Rhys ap Thomas, in the reign of Henry VIII., hence the appellation *Newcastle*. *Emlyn* is variously derived. Some derive it from *Emilianus*, the name of a Roman nobleman that took up his abode here. Others derive it from the shape *(llun)* of the letter *M* formed by the winding course of the Teivi in the vicinity of Newcastle, thus *M lun*, shape of the letter M. The most plausible are the following derivations:—*Em*, *am*, round, about; *lynglynu*, to adhere, to cleave. The river encompasses the town, and its slowness indicates, as it were, its preference to adhere to the town than make for its salty home. Another attempt: *Emyl*, border or edge, add the particle *yn* to it, and then we have *Emylyn*; omit the first *y*, and we have *Emlyn*, a borderer. Once more: *Em*, round; *lyn*, *llyn*, a lake, or a body of water, signifying water-circled. English name—Newcastle-on-Teivi.

PANTYFFYNON.—*Pant*, a low place; *y*, the; *ffynon*, a well; from a farm so called which is situated in a low place. English name—Wellton.

PENRHIWGOCH.—*Pen*, top; *rhiw*, slope; *goch*, red. The suffix *coch* forms a part of many names in the district, as *Garreg-goch*, red-stone; *Ffynon-goch*, red-well, &c. This place is situated on a rising eminence. English name—Redhill.

PONTAMAN.—*Pont*, bridge; *aman*, the name of the river that flows through the place. The village takes its name from a mansion so called, which is situated on the river *Aman*. English name—Bridgewater.

PONTYBEREM.—This name was taken from the river *Berem*, on the banks of which the village is situated. *Pont*, bridge; the general opinion is that a wooden bridge crossed the *Berem* before the Gwendraeth bridge was built; hence the name. *Berem* comes from *berw*, a boiling, an ebullition. Sion Lam Roger, about 170 years ago, called the place Pontyberw. English name—Boilton.

PONTYATES.—*Pont*, bridge, which was, according to some, built by a Mr. Yates; hence the name. English name—Yatesbridge.

PENCADER.—Some think it was originally called *Pencadlys*. *Pen*, head; *cad*, battle, battlefield; *lys*, court. Near the church there is a cairn called "The Castle," and from that the common inference is that some battles were fought in the vicinity. *Cader* means a stronghold or a castle. Many fortified hills still retain the name of *Cader*, as Cader Dinmael, Cader Idris, &c. *Cadernid* is the Welsh for strength or fortitude. English name—Headfort.

PONTARGOTHI.—*Pont*, bridge; *ar*, on, across; *Gothicothi*, the name of the river, which means to cast out, to eject. The village took its name from the bridge. English name—Bridgecast.

PENRHOS.—The name of this village signifies the top of a meadow or plain. English name—Meadow Top.

PONTBRENARAETH.—*Pontbren*, a wooden bridge; *Araeth*, the name of the river. *Ar*, surface; *aeth*, went, signifying a shallow river. English name—Woodbridge.

PENBEYR, or PENBOYR.—*Pen*, top; *beyr* and *boyr* are Norse for farmstead. The name signifies a district of farmhouses terminating at the foot of a certain mountain. English name—Farmsend.

PUMP HEOL.—*Pump*, five; *heol*, road; so called from the junction of five roads in the place. English name—Five Roads.

RHANDIRMWYN.—*Rhandir*, a portion of land, a district; *mwyn*, a mine, ore. There are ancient lead mines in the district called *Nantymwyn*, which are noted for pottery ore. English name—Mineton.

ST. CLEARS.—The Normans, immediately after the Conquest, built a castle and a church here, the latter of which was dedicated to one of their own clan, named St. Clâr; hence the name of the place. In the "Myvyrian" she is called Sain Cler and St. Clares.

TYGWYN.—A village in the parish of Llanboidy. It means the white house. In ancient times it was called *Ty gwyn ar Daf*, white house on the Taff. English name—Whitehouse.

TRIMSARAN.—A compound of *trum*, ridge, back, hill, and *sarn*, road, way. English name—Hillroad.

TALYLLYCHAU, or TALLEY.—*Tal*, front or end; *y*, the; *llychau*, plural of *llwch*, lake or pool. There are two large pools near the church; hence the name. *Talley* is an abbreviation of the Welsh name. English name—Lakesend.

TERRA-COED.—Much like the Italian *terra-cotta*, but we have no reason why we should refer it to any Italian source. It is, probably, a corruption of *Tir-y-coed*, which implies woody land. English name—Woodland.

TIR ESGOB.—*Tir*, land; *esgob*, bishop. To what bishop the reference is made, we do not know. English name—Bishopsland.

TIR ROSIER.—*Tir*, land; *rhos*, meadow, plain; *hir*, long; *Tir-rhos-hir* is the right wording, which means "the land of the long meadow," or "the long peat-land." English name—Peatland.

TRELECH.—The name signifies "the town of stones." Not far from the village there is an immense *carnedd called* Crug y Deyrn, or more correctly, Crug

Edeyrn. The place derives its name, probably, from this and other relics of Druidism in the district. Some antiquarians believe that Edeyrn was buried here. The celebrated poet and antiquarian, Nathan Dyfed, and another gentleman opened a *cistfaen* here in 1830, and found therein calcined bones and charcoal. English name—Stoneton.

TACHBUAN.—*Tach*, what spreads or vanishes; *buan*, soon, quick. English name—Quickton.

TRECLAS.—*Clas* means a green covering or surface. "*Clas Merddin*, the green space of smooth hills; the old name of the Isle of Britain."—*Trioedd*. English name—Greenham.

TALOG.—The name signifies high-fronted, bold-faced. *Talwg* means a high house with stone roof, in contradistinction to the low cot with thatched roof. *Pob ty talwg*, all highly frowning houses. English name—Highham.

TRERHOS.—*Tre*, place, town; *rhos*, meadow. The village is situated on a marshy plain.—English name—Marshton.

FELINFOEL.—It signifies the bald or bare mill. The old mill near the river Lliedi was designated *Felinfoel* in order to distinguish it from Felinyrafr, or Felingyrnig, which was higher up on the side of the same river. The latter was remarkable for its cornigerous appearance, whereas the former was a bare building, and, therefore, entitled to the appellation *Felinfoel*. When the village grew sufficiently to claim a share in nomenclature, it was decided to perpetuate the name of the old mill. English name—Baremill.

WHITLAND.—A semi-translation of the Welsh name "*Hen dy Gwyn ar Daf*," old white house on the Taf. This was the hunting-house of Hywel Dda, built by him in 914. In order to distinguish it from common houses it was built of white perches, supposed to be 18ft. in length. Here Hywel and six of the wisest men in his dominion met in 927 to revise and amend the laws of the Cymry. English name Whitham.

CARNARVONSHIRE.

An Anglicized form of *Caer-yn-Arfon*, the fortified town opposite to Mona. After the subjugation of Wales under Edward I. the name of the town was applied to the newly-formed county.

LLEYN.—A region, according to some, that derived its name from *Lleyn*, the son of Baran. He conquered this portion of the territory of the King of Gwynedd, and called it the country of *Lleyn* (Iolo MSS., 346). The late celebrated antiquarian, Mr. Owen Williams, of Waenfawr, derives it from *lleuyn*, which is synonymous with *lleuar*, *lleuad*, *goleuad*, *goleuni*, signifying light, splendour. *Lleuer haul*, the light of the sun. He founds his reasons upon the fact that *Lleyn* is an even country, enjoying the light of the sun from morning till dusk; hence it was called *Lleyn*, the land of the light. Dr. Owen Pughe translates *Lleyn* thus—*lleyn*, a stripe, a tongue of land, which corresponds with the physical aspect of this part of the Principality.

EIFIONYDD.—*Eifion* means the land of rivers. *Afon*, a river, *eifion*, an old plural form of *afon*, as *meibion* becomes the plural of *mab*, a son. *Ap*, a Sanskrit root signifying water, is seen in the names of the Punj-ab, the land of the five rivers; Do-ab, a district between the two rivers Ganges and Jumna. We find it also in the river-names of the *L-ab* and *Dan-ub-ue*, or Danube.

ABER, or ABERGWYNGREGYN.—From the quantity of cockles found there. The river *Gwyngregyn*, white shells, discharges itself into the sea about half-a-mile below the village. English name—Shellmouth.

ABERDARON.—The village is situate at the mouth of the river Daron. Although an insignificant place, it is famous for being the birth-place of Richard Robert Jones, *alias* Dic Aberdaron, the celebrated linguist. The name was anciently applied to the Deity, signifying "Thunderer." *Daron* implies noisy water. *English* name—Dinmouth.

ABERERCH.—The river Erch flows into the sea a little below the village; hence the name. *Erch* means dark, frightful. Some think the ancient name of the river is *Eirch*, the plural form of *arch*, coffin, from the tradition that coffins were sometime seen floating down the river. We adopt the former derivation. English name—Darkmouth.

ABERSOCH.—The village lies at the mouth of the river Soch. *Soch* means a sink, a drain, a ditch, so called from the slow course and muddy hue of the river. English name—Drainmouth.

AVON WEN.—This name was taken from the river, which has its source near *Mynachdy gwyn*, the white monastery. *Wen* is the feminine form of *gwyn*, white. English name—Whiteriver.

BANGOR.—*Ban*, high, superior; *gor-cor*, a circle, a stall, a choir. *Côr* is now used in many parts of the Principality to denote a pew or seat. The term *cor* has also been rendered "college." *Bangor* means the chief enclosure or circle, and when applied to any particular establishment, it signifies a "high choir, or chief college." The common churches were called *corau*, but the chief or superior churches *bangorau*, because they were the chief theological seminaries of the period, the centres from which the Christian religion extended over the country. It is supposed that this *Bangor* was established as early as the year 525 by Deiniol ab Dunawd, which shows that a University College is not a new boon to this city. English name—Highton.

BEDDGELERT.—Various derivations are assigned to this popular name. It is said that a hermit erected a booth in the place, and, in the course of time, a church was built on the same site, and was called *Bwth Cilfach Garth*, which was corrupted into *Bwth Cilarth*, and then *Bethcelert*. Some trace it to the name of *Celer*, the patron saint of Llangeler. Tradition says the name is derived from the following circumstance:—At a remote period, when wolves were numerous, and consequently formidable in Wales, Llewelyn the Great came to reside here for the hunting season, with his princess

and children; but while the family were absent one day, a wolf entered the house, and attempted to kill an infant that was enjoying his sleep in the cradle. The prince's faithful greyhound named Gelert, in whose care the child doubtless was entrusted, seized the rapacious animal and, after a severe struggle, killed it. In the struggle the cradle was overturned, and lay upon the wolf and child. On the prince's return, missing the infant, and observing the dog's mouth stained with blood, he rashly jumped to the conclusion that Gelert had killed the child, and, in a paroxysm of rage, drew his sword, and buried it in the heart of the faithful animal; but how great was his astonishment when, on replacing the cradle, he found the wolf dead and the child alive. He, however, caused the faithful Gelert to be honourably interred, and, as a monument to his memory, erected a church on this spot as a grateful offering to God for the preservation of his child. In a field contiguous to the churchyard are two grey stones, overhung with bushes, which point out the grave of Gelert, and a rustic seat is placed near, where visitors may recline and meditate the legend. Others think the name means the "grave of Celert ap Math," a descendant of one of the Irish princes that visited this country about the beginning of the fourth century. English name—Gelert's Grave.

BETHESDA.—Its ancient name was Cilfoden. Its present name is derived from Bethesda, the name of a Congregational chapel built in the place in 1819. An attempt was recently made to abandon the Scriptural name, and call it "Glan Ogwen," after the new church built by Lord Penrhyn, but it proved unsuccessful.

BETTWS-Y-COED.—*Bettws* is a Welshified form of bead-house, a house of prayer, a monkish institution of mediæval times, built, perhaps, on or near the site of those churches that perpetuate the name of *Bettws*. This place derives its name from an ancient religious institution called *Bettws Wyrion Iddon*, bead-house of the children of Iddon. *Bett* place of shelter and comfort. V "Ni a ddaethom yr owan i Fett

tymoraidd;" *i.e.*, "We came now to Bettws, that is, a warm, comfortable place." It is worthy of notice that many churches bearing the name of *Bettws* are situated in sheltered and comfortable places. The above *Bettws* is situated *yn y coed*, in the wood; hence the name of the picturesque place. English name—Woodchurch.

BETTWS GARMON.—The church is dedicated to Garmon, and about a mile distant is Garmon's Well. English name—Garmonton.

BODFUAN.—*Bod*, a dwelling; *Buan*, a saint of the seventh century, and a descendant of Llywarch Hen. He founded a church in this place. English name—Swiftham.

BODFERIN.—This was the dwelling-place of *Merin*, a descendant of Seithenin, and a saint of the sixth century. English name—Merinham.

BORTH-Y-GEST, or more correctly, *Porth-y-gest; porth*, harbour, port; *y*, the; *gest-cest*, a deep glen between two mountains having but one opening. This isolated village is situated near *Moel-y-gest*. English name—Glenport.

BOTTWNOG.—A corruption of *Bodwynog*, the dwelling-place of *Gwynog*. English name—Rageham.

BRYNCROES.—*Bryn*, a hill; *croes*, a cross. English name—Crosshill.

BRYNKIR.—Some think the place was named in honour of a family bearing the name, who were descendants of Owain Gwynedd. Others think the name is a contraction of *Bryn cae hir*, signifying a long field at the foot of the hill. It is, probably, a compound of *bryn*, a hill, and *carw*, a stag. English name—Staghill.

CAE LLWYN GRYDD.—Probably a corruption of *cae llwyn y gaer rudd*. *Cae*, a field; *llwyn*, a bush; *y*, the; *gaer rudd*, red wall. The village is situated near an old fortress, which is now in ruins, and supposed to have been built of red stones; hence the name. English name—Redfort.

CAER RHUN. — *Rhun*, the son of Maelgwyn Gwynedd, and a prince of the sixth century, who took up his abode in the Roman *Conovium;* hence the name. English name—Grandfort.

CAPEL CURIG.—*Capel*, chapel; *Curig*, the name of the son of Ilid or Julitta, who flourished in the seventh century. The church was dedicated to Curig and his mother. English name—Curig's Chapel.

CARN GIWCH.—*Carn*, a heap. On the summit of a hill close by, called *Moel Carn Ciwch*, there is a large heap of loose stones, supposed to have been raised to Ciwch, a British saint of an early period. English name—Heapham.

CLWTYBONT.—*Clwt*, a portion; "*clwt o dir*," a piece of land; *y*, the; *bont-pont*, bridge; signifying a piece of land near a bridge. English name—Bridgeland.

CLYNOG.—A corruption of *Celynog*, a place overrun with holly wood. It is situated in a small grove near the shore, on a plain near the base of the hill. English name—Hollyham.

COLWYN.—Some derive the name from *Colwyn*, the name of the chief shepherd of Bran ab Llyr Lledïaith. Others think it is a compound of *cau*, hollow, enclosed; and *llwyn*, a grove, a bush, from the deep brooks and encircling groves in the district. English name—Grovebrook.

CONWAY.—The town of Conway was built on the north side of the river by Maelgwyn Gwynedd, in 581, and was called Caer Gyffin, which signifies the border fortress. *Conwy* is the present Welsh name, taken from the name of the river, which signifies the chief water. Some philologists derive the name from *cain*, fair, fine, beautiful; and *wy*, water. *Conwy* and *Cainwy* are equally applicable to this beautiful river. From *gwy* or *wy*, water, most of the Welsh rivers derive their names. For instance, *Llugwy*, clear water; *Elwy*, gliding water; and the above, *Conwy*, chief water, or *Cainwy*, fair or fine water. The site of Conway Castle was anciently called *Cannoch*, from *cann*, white, fair, clear, and *oich*, water. English name—Fairwater.

CRICCIETH. — Pennant spells it *Crickaeth*, "The Myvyrian" *Cruciaith*, and others *Crug-caeth*. Some think it is a compound of *crug*, a heap, a hillock, and *aeth*, sorrow, pain; signifying a frightful or formidable promontory. Others say it is *Crug-caeth*, the narrow hill. Perhaps it is a compound of *craig aeth*, signifying the awful rock. English name—Frethill.

CROESOR.—A narrow comb in Blaenau Nanmor. Tradition says that Elen Lueddog was on her journey homewards when, on hearing the sad news of her son's death, she sorrowfully exclaimed, "*Croesawr i mi*"—*i.e.*, "an hour of adversity to me," and the place was called *Croesawr* or *Croesor* from that sorrowful circumstance. English name—Griefham.

CRYNANT,—*Cry*, a corruption of *crai*, a word implying a narrow place; *crai'r nodwydd*, the eye of the needle; *nant*, a brook. The old inhabitants spell it *Crainant*, and a bridge that spans *Nant-y-Bettws* is called *Pont-y-Crainant*, because under the bridge the brook is very narrow. English name—Brookton.

CWMEIGIAU.—*Cwm*, valley; *eigiau*, the plural form of *aig*, which signifies what brings forth, anything that is prolific. Month (*mynydd*, mountain) Eigie, in Scotland, implies a hill covered with luxuriant grass. *Eigion* is another plural form of *aig*, meaning the sea, or a conflux of many waters. There are several lakes in the valley, and the natural inference is that it was so called from its bifurcated aspect. English name—Watervale.

CWMGLO.—*Cwm*, valley; *glo*, a corruption probably of *goleu*, *goleuni*, light; signifying a valley remarkable for enjoying the sunny beams. English name—Lightcomb.

CYMYDMAEN.—*Cymyd-Cwmwd*, a vicinity; *maen*, a stone. On the sands, opposite Bardsey Island, there is a stone called *Maen Melyn Lleyn*, from which the vicinity took its name. English name—Stoneton.

DINAS EMRYS.—*Dinas*, a fortified city; *Emrys*, the surname of a celebrated bard of the fifth century, who was known by the name of Merddin Emrys, or

Ambrosius. King Gwrtheyrn presented the place to Emrys, and hence it is called after his name. English name—Emryston.

DOLBADARN. — The church was dedicated to Padarn; hence the name. English name—Fatherton.

DOLGARROG.—A compound of *dol*, a meadow, and *carog*, a torrent, a brook. The place is remarkable for its deep hollows and beautiful waterfalls. English name—Glenham.

DOLWYDDELEN.—Some say that the right wording is *Dolyddelen*, Elen's meadow, from the supposition that Elen Lwyddog, daughter of Coel Codebog, took up her abode here. Others think it is *Dol*, meadow; *gwydd*, wood, and *Elen*. We rather think the name signifies the meadow of *Gwythelan*, or *Gwyddelan*, to whom the church of the parish was dedicated. English name—Bushton.

DWYGFYLCHI.—*Dwy*, a corruption of *dy*, on, upon; *gy-cyd*, with, united; *fylchi*, plural of *bwlch*, a gap, a breach, a pass. The name signifies the joint passes. Some think the right wording is *Rhiwfylchi*, which signifies a slope with passes. The village is perched on the mountain side, between Penmaen Mawr and Penmaen Bach. English name—Passton.

EBENEZER.—The village derives its name from the Congregational Chapel called Ebenezer, which was built when the place was developing into a populous village.

EDEYRN.—Probably called in honour of Edeyrn ab Nudd. The church is dedicated to St. Edeyrn.

EFAIL NEWYDD. — The name signifies a new smithy. English name—Smithby.

FOUR CROSSES.—Near the village there are two roads intersecting each other; hence the name.

GARNDOLBENMAEN.—*Garn*, a heap, a cairn; *dol*, mountain meadow; *pen*, top, head; *maen*, stone. In the vicinity there is a large mount, on which mighs have been a watch-tower. About the beginning of thit century some cairns and urns were discovered here. *English name*—Cairnton.

GARSWYLLT.—Probably a corruption of *corswyllt*, which signifies a wild bog. English name—Bogham.

GLAN ADDA.—A corruption, probably, of *Clyn Eiddw; clyn*, a place covered with brakes; *eiddw*, ivy. English name—Ivyham.

GLANWYDDEN.—The village takes its name from a farm of the name in the vicinity. The name, probably, is a compound of *glàn*, brink, side, shore, bank; and *gwydden*, a standing tree; or *gwydd-din*, woody hill. English name—Woodbank.

GROESLON.—*Groes-croes*, cross; *lôn*, a narrow road; signifying the cross road, *Lôn* is cognate with lane. English name—Crossroad.

GWIBERNANT. — This name is variously spelt, namely, *Ewybr Nant*, a fleet, swift brook; *Gwyber Nant*, a brook of sweet water; and *Gwiber Nant*, the viper's brook. The last is the proper name. English name—Viper's Brook.

GWYDIR.—*Prima facie* one may take it to be a compound of *gwy*, water, and *tir*, land. Some derive it from *gwydir*, glass, upon the supposition that the mansion of *Gwydir* was the first house in Wales to have glass windows. Sir John Wynn mentions a date of 1512 on a window at Dolwyddelen, which is long before the building of Gwydir. Cynddelw Brydydd Mawr, who flourished about the year 1250, mused the following line:—

"Trwy ffenestri Gwydir yd ym gwelant"—

that is, "They see me through the glass windows." The name probably is a corruption of *gwaed*, blood, and *tir*, land, signifying the bloody land. Bloody battles were fought here between Llywarch Hen and his foes about the year 610, and also between Gruffydd ab Cynan and Traehaearn ab Caradog, and others. English name—Bloodham.

GYFFIN.—An inflection of *cyffin*, a confine, a limit, a border. The village is situated on the rivulet *Gyffin*, about three-quarters of a mile from Conway, which was *anciently called Caer Gyffin*. English name—Borderton.

HIRAEL.—*Hir*, long; *ael*, brow; *ael bryn*, the brow of a hill. The name is quite descriptive of the situation of the village. English name—Longbrow.

HEBRON.—The village took its name from the Congregational Chapel that was built in the place.

LLANAELHAIARN.—The church is dedicated to *Aelhaiarn*, a brother of Llwchhaiarn, and a saint of the sixth century. English name—Ironbrow.

LLANDDYNIOL. — The church is dedicated to *Deiniolen*, a descendant of Dunawd, the founder of Bangor Iscoed. English name—Danielston.

LLANLLECHID.—The church is dedicated to *Llechid*, daughter of Ithel Hael, and a saint of the sixth century. English name—Lurkton.

LLANEUGAN, or LLANEINON.—The church is dedicated to *Einion*, a royal saint of the sixth century. The following inscription was in the belfry of the church some time ago: "*Eneanus Rex Wallia Fabricavit.*" English name—Rexton.

LLANDEGWYNIN.—The fair church of *Gwynin*, a saint of the seventh century, to whose memory it was dedicated. English name—Whitham.

LLANGWNADLE. — The church is dedicated to *Gwynodl*, son of Seithenyn, and a celebrated saint of the sixth century. English name—Lifeton.

LLANRHYCHWYN.—According to the "Myvyrian," the church was dedicated to *Rhychwyn*, son of Ithel Hael. English name—Wailton.

LLANDWROG.—The church is dedicated to *Twrog*, son of Ithel Hael. English name—Towerton.

LLANFOR.—The church is dedicated to *Môr ab Ceneu ab Coel*, a saint of the fifth century. English name—Morton.

LLANIESTYN —The church is dedicated to *Iestyn ab Geraint*, the founder of it. He flourished about the end of the sixth century. English name—Iestyn.

LLANDUDWEN. — The church was dedicated to *Tudwen*, a Welsh saint. English name—Whitplace.

LLANDUDNO.—The church is dedicated to *Tudno*, son of Seithenyn, and a saint of the sixth century. A curious rocking stone, called *Cryd Tudno*, Tudno's cradle, is seen on the Great Orme's Head. English name—Stopton.

LLANBERIS.—The church was dedicated to *Peris*, a saint of the sixth century, and a cardinal missioned from Rome, took up his abode and died here. English name—Causeton.

LLANARMON.—The church is dedicated to *Garmon*, or Germanus, a saint and bishop of the fifth century. English name—Garmon.

LLANGYSTENYN.—The church was probably dedicated to *Cystenyn Gorneu*, and not to Constantine the Great, as some believe. English name—Constantine.

LLANFAELRYS.—The church was dedicated to *Maelfrys*, a descendant of Emyr Llydaw, and a saint of the sixth century. English name—Martby.

LLANYSTUMDWY.—*Ystum*, a bend, a turn, a curve, a form; *dwy*, two; signifying the form of two rivers. English name—Biwaters.

LLANBEBLIG.—The church is dedicated to *Peblic*, son of Macsen Wledig, and a saint of the fifth century. English name—Peblicton.

LLANLLYFNI—*Llyfni*, the name of the river that flows through the village. The name signifies a church on or near the smooth water. English name—Smoothton.

LLANDEGAI—*Tegai*, son of Ithel Hael, and a popular saint of the sixth century, founded the church. In "Achau y Saint," he is *Tegai Glasog o Maelan*. This beautiful little place is called a "model village." English name—Beauchurch.

LLANBEDROG.—The church is dedicated to *Pedrog*, son of Clement, who is supposed to have founded it in the seventh century. English name—Petrocton.

LLANRHOS.—*Rhos*, a dry meadow, a plain; the name signifies a church on the meadow. The church

is celebrated for the death of Maelgwyn Gwynedd, who had taken shelter here to avoid the *fad felen*, yellow plague, which at that time raged through Europe. However, he fell a victim to the plague, and was buried in this church; hence the adage—"Hun Maelgwyn yn Eglwys y Rhos"—*i.e.*, the sleep of Maelgwyn in Llanrhos. English name—Meadow Church.

LLANFAGLAN.—The church is dedicated to *Baglan*, son of Dingad. English name—Baglan.

LLANFIHANGEL-Y-PENNANT.—The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and is situated near the river Pennant. English name—Brooksend.

LLANGYBI.—The church is dedicated to *Cybi*, a popular British saint of the sixth century. English name—Covetton.

LLITHFAEN.—*Llith* implies attraction; *maen*, stone. There is a stone in the vicinity that partakes of the nature of a loadstone, from which, probably, the place derives its name. English name—Stoneton.

LLANFAIR FECHAN.—The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and the adjective *fechan*, small, little, was added probably to distinguish it from other and larger churches dedicated to the same saint. English name—Marychurch.

MEINI HIRION.—*Meini*, plural of *maen*, stone; *hirion*, plural of *hir*, long. Druidic monuments, such as *cromlechs* and other large stones, are still visible in this vicinity. The place took its name from the long stones that were seen above the *Bwlch*, which, according to tradition, were conveyed there by a giant. English name- Longstone.

MOEL TRYFAN.—*Moel*, bare, bald; *tryfan*, high place, upland. English name—Barehill.

MYNYTHO. — A corrupted form of *mynyddoedd*, mountains. The name is quite descriptive of the place, which is situated on a rugged eminence. English name—Mountham.

NAZARETH.—This village takes its name from Nazareth, the Congregational Chapel.

NANTFFRANCON.—*Nant*, a brook; *francon* a beaver; the name signifies the beaver's hollow. English name—Beaverton.

NANTLLE.—A compound of *nant*, a brook, and *llef*, a cry, a voice, so called from the traditional belief that some sorrowful cries were heard near the brook at some remote period. English name—Crybrook.

NEFYN.—The church was probably dedicated to *Nefyn*, daughter of Brychan Brycheinog, and a saint of the fifth century; hence the name of the place. English name—Nevin.

PORTMADOC.—In 1813 Mr. Maddock, Tan-yr-Allt, made an embankment to save the site of the present town from the incursions of the sea; and in 1821 he obtained an Act of Parliament for opening a port in the place, so he is naturally called the founder of the town, and his name was deservedly bestowed upon it.

PONTNEWYDD. — *Pont*, bridge; *newydd*, new; so called from a certain bridge that was built over the river Gwyrfai. English name—Newbridge.

PWLLHELI.—*Pwll*, pool; *heli*, salt water; the sea-port is situated on the edge of Cardigan Bay. The "Myvyrian" derives *heli* from *Heli*, the son of Glanog. English name—Saltpool.

PORTDINORWIG.—*Din*, a hill fort; *or-gor*, border; *wig-gwig*, wood, forest; signifying a castle near a wood. The Rev. Isaac Taylor derives it thus: *Port Dyn Norwig*, the "Port of the Norway men," founding his reasons upon the probability that the Normans frequently visited that haven. His derivation, in our opinion, is rather far-fetched and misleading. English name—Castleport.

PENYGROES. — So called after an insignificant cottage of the name, which stood near a crossway. English name—Crossend.

PENMAENMAWR.—*Pen*, head; *maen*, stone, rock; *mawr*, great. The prefix *pen* is frequently found in the names of mountains, such as Ben Nevis, Appennines, Pennignant; *La Penne*, Penard, &c. *Penmaenmawr* is a huge mountain, 1545 feet perpendicular from its base,

being the terminating point of the Snowdonian range of mountains. The beautiful watering-place, which shelters at its base, takes its name from it. English name—Stonehill.

PENMACHNO.—*Machno*, a mutation of *Machnawf; mach-moch*, ready, quick, swift; *nawf*, swim. "Moch dysg nawf mab hwyad"—*i.e.*, the young of the duck soon learn to swim. *Machno* is the name of the river near which the village is situated. Some are of opinion that the name signifies the head of Machno, a descendant of one of the Irish princes that visited these shores about the fourth century. The common opinion of the inhabitants is that *machno* is a corruption of *mynachlog*, monastery, founding their reason upon the supposition that a monastery stood here in time of yore. English name—Swifton.

PENTIR.—The name means headland. Centire has the same signification. *Pen* in Gaelic is *cen*. The place is also called Llangedol, from the dedication of its church to Cedol, a Welsh saint. English name—Headland.

PENRHYN.—*Rhyn* means a promontory. *Rhe*, run, rain, and *rhyn*, are derivatives of the Sanscrit *ri*. *Rhedeg*, running; reindeer, the running deer; *rhe*, swift. *Penrhyn*, a point of land that runs into the sea. Rhine, a rapid river. The *Rhyns* are numerous in our island. Rindow Point near Wigton; Penrhyn in Cornwall; Rhynd in Perth; the Rins of Galloway, &c. English name—Capesend.

PEN ISA'R WAUN.—The name signifies a place situated at the lower end of the meadow. English name—Plainsend.

PENLLECH.—This name signifies "the head of the rock," from the situation of the place at the extremity of some rocks on the coast of St. George's Channel. English name—Rockham.

PORT PENRHYN.—The late Lord Penrhyn made this a shipping-place for the slates that were conveyed from his quarries in the Vale of Nant Ffrancon; hence the name.

PISGAH.—So called from Pisgah, the Congregational Chapel that was built in the place.

PENCARTH.—A compound of *pen*, head or end, and *garth*, a promontory, a ridge. English name—Ridgend.

PEN MORFA.—The name signifies the head or end of the marsh. The village is situated between some high rocks at the end of a tract of meadows on the western bank of Traeth Mawr, the great beach. It was anciently called Y Wern, and supposed to be a seaport before Mr. Maddock raised the embankment at Port Madoc. English name—Marshend.

RHIW.—The name means a slope, which is in correspondence with the physical aspect of the village, being situated on a rising eminence. English name—Slope.

RHIWAEDOG.—*Rhiw*, slope, brow of a hill; *gwaedog*, bloody; signifying the bloody brow. The place is noted for a battle fought between Llywarch Hen and the Saxons, in which Cynddelw, his last son, fell. English name—Bloodbrow.

ROEWEN.—Probably a corruption of *yr wy wen*, the white river. A place called Gorswen is contiguous to it. English name—Whiteriver.

RHYDGOCH.—The name signifies the red ford. English name—Redford.

RHYDCLAFDY.—*Rhyd*, a ford; *clafdy*, hospital; signifying a ford near the hospital. Several names in this neighbourhood point to the probability that it was once a scene of war.. English name—Sickford.

RHOSFAWR.—*Rhos*, a moor; *fawr-mawr*, great. English name—Bigmoor.

RHOSLAN.—*Rhos*, a moor; *lan-llan*, a sacred inclosure, a church. English name—Churchmoor.

RHOSTRYFAN.—*Rhos*, a moor; *tryfan*, high place. The village is situated on a high elevated place. English name—Highmoor.

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SARN.—The name generally means a road. Six roads meet at a certain point in the village; hence the name. English name—Roadham.

TREFOR.—A compound of *tref*, place, town, and *fawr*, large, great. English name—Bigton.

TY'NLON.—*Ty*, a house; *yn*, in; *y*, the; *lôn*, a Northwalian word for a narrow road. The name signifies a house in or near the road, and the village probably derived it from a farm-house of the name. English name—Wayham

TALSARN.—*Tal*, end; *sarn*, road; the name signifies the end of the Roman road. *Sarn y Cyfiawn*, the highway of the righteous *Sarn Helen* occurs frequently in Welsh history. Helen was a Welsh princess, the daughter of Euddaf, that is, Octavius, a Cambrian prince, and the wife of Macsen Wledig, or Maximus, the emperor. *Sarn Helen* is an old Roman road, so called by the emperor in honour of his wife. English name—Roadsend.

TYDWAELIOG.—Some are of opinion that the church was originally dedicated to *Tydwal*, a Welsh saint. English name—Tydwal.

TREMADOG. — The derivation of Portmadoc is almost equally applicable to this name. The only difference lies in the prefix. *Tre* means an abode, a town. English name—Maddock's Town.

TALYCAFN.—*Tal*, front, end; *y*, the; *cafn*, a tray or trough; signifying the head or end of the trough. The name faithfully represents this isolated and encircled spot of the parish. English name—Troughend.

TREFRIW.—*Tref*, a place, a town; *rhiw*, a slope, a brow of a hill. This pretty little village is situated on a small eminence, commanding an extensive view of the beautiful Vale of Llanrwst. English name—Hillton.

WAENFAWR. — *Waen* or *Waun*, a meadow, a common; *fawr-mawr*, great; the great meadow. The site of the present straggling village was once a large *meadow, covering* one square mile, where the

neighbouring farmers were wont to turn their cattle in the summer to graze, and quench their thirst in the river Gwyrfai. English name—Great Meadow.

YNYS ENLLI.—The name signifies an island in the sea. The English called it Bardsey Island, the isle of the bards. It is said that the bards resorted there, preferring solitude to the intrusion of foreign invaders. English name—Sealand.

DENBIGHSHIRE.

Anglicized form of *Dinbych*, which is variously derived. *Dimbach*, according to some, is the right etymon, which means "no hook," in allusion to the time when fishing hooks were obtainable in the place. *Dim bech*, no sin, is another attempt. Very many favour the mythological derivation—Syr John y Bodie and the formidable *bych*. Having killed the *bych*, dragon, he shouted victoriously *dim bych*, no dragon. One writer derives it from *din*, a hill, and *pych*, the enveloped sin. Another suggests *din*, a hill, and *buch*, live stock, cattle, or kine. Is it not *Dinbach ? Din*, a hill ; *bach*, little or small. The last derivation is amply supported by the geographical position of the place, being a small hill in comparison with the loftier eminences that tower above it. The county derives its name from the town. English name—Hillock.

ABERGELE.—This pleasant market town is so called from its situation near the mouth of the river *Gele*. The river, according to some, derives its name from *gele*, leech. A considerable number of leeches were seen at the estuary in olden times. But we are inclined to think the word is a contraction of *geleu*, ooze, so called from the very nature of the water. English name—Oozmouth.

BONTNEWYDD.—A compound of *pont*, a bridge, and *newydd*, new. English name—Newbridge.

BRYMBO.—*Brym* is a corruption of *bryn*, hill. *Bo*, according to some, is an abbreviation of the word *boda*, the kite, which is supposed to have made this place a

favourite place of refuge at times of peril. We rather think the suffix to be a contraction of *bwa*, a bow. The name has special reference to a severe battle fought in the vicinity, when our forefathers used the bow as the chief weapon of war. English name—Bowhill.

BRYNKINALLT.—A compound of *bryn*, a hill; *cyn*, prior; *gallt*, a woody slope. The name implies that a mountain existed before the trees that grew on it. English name—Hillwood.

BODRHYCHWYN.—*Bod*, a dwelling; *Rhychwyn*, the name of the son of Ithel Hael, who is supposed to have taken up his abode here. English name—Furrowton.

BWLCHCYNBRYD.—*Bwlch*, a gap, breach, pass; *Cynbryd*, the name of a saint of the fifth century, supposed to have been killed by the Saxons at the place which bears his name. English name—Model Pass.

BANGOR-ISCOED.—For the derivation of Bangor, see Carnarvonshire. The place is considered to be the site of the most ancient and extensive monastery founded in Britain, which afterwards became a great centre-place of learning. The differentia *iscoed* was evidently appended to distinguish it from Bangor, Carnarvonshire. English name—Underwood.

CEFN MAWR.—The name signifies a high ridge, so called to distinguish it from Cefnbychan, which is in close proximity. English name—Highridge.

CRISTIONYDD.—The name means a worshipper of Christ, a Christian. English name—Christianham.

CHIRK.—Probably from *Ceiriog*, its ancient name. The town is in close proximity to the river Ceiriog.

CLOG CAENOG.—*Clog*, a detached rock; *caenog*, having a cover enclosed. *Caenen*, a covering. There are some excellent quarries of stone in this mountainous district, and some parts of it abound with heaths. *English name*—Heathton.

CERYG-Y-DRUDION. — A corruption of *Ceryg-y-Dewrion*, the stones of the champions or warriors, so called from a large heap of stones that stood, a century or two ago, near the church in memory of some celebrated warriors. Some think *drudion* is a corruption of *druydion*, druids; hence the interpretation would be "stones of the Druids." English name—Warrior-stone.

DERWEN.—The name means an oak, so called, probably, from the abundance of oaks in the district. English name—Oakham.

DOLWEN.—*Dol*, a meadow; *wen*, feminine form of *gwyn*, white. English name—White Meadow.

EGLWYS BACH.—*Eglwys*, church; *Bach*, the name of the son of Corwel, who took refuge in North Wales in the seventh century, devoted himself to religious life, and founded a church on the banks of the Conwy; hence the name of the place. English name—Little-church.

ESGAIR EBRILL.—*Esg*, a shank, a long ridge, that which stretches out; *air*, bright, clear; *Ebrill*, April. English name—Aprilridge.

EFENECHTYD.—A corruption of *y fyneichdyd*, the monk's land; *mynach*, monk; *dyd* or *dud*, land. English name—Monkland.

ESCLUSHAM.—From *esglyw*, protection, defence, and *ham*, a place. The place is in close proximity to Offa's Dyke. English name—Dykeham.

FRON.— An inflection of *bron*, a pointed or breast-shaped hill. English name—Pointhill.

FFRWD.—The name means a stream, a torrent. "*Ffrwd yr afon*," the stream of the river. English name—Streamton.

GLYNCEIRIOG.—*Glyn*, a narrow vale; *Ceiriog*, the name of the river that flows through the valley. English name—Glenceiriog.

GARTHEN.—From *gaerddin*, fortified hill, so called from an old British camp in the place. In this place Owain Gyfeiliog vanquished the Saxons in 1161. English name—Forthill.

GRESFORD.—A corruption of *Groesffordd*, so called from its close proximity to an old cross. English name—Crossway.

GWERSYLLT. — The name signifies a camp or encampment. English name—Campton.

GWYTHERIN.—From *Sant Gwytherin*, to whom the church was dedicated. He flourished about the end of the sixth century. *Gwyth*, vein; *erin*, gold. English name—Goldton.

GEFAILRHYD.—*Gefail*, smithy; *rhyd*, ford. English name—Smithford.

HENLLAN.—*Hen*, old; *llan*, church. A name of frequent occurrence in Wales. The old church, dedicated to St. Sadwrn, was demolished, and re-built in 1806. English name—Oldchurch.

HOLT.—The Norse for wood, or hold of wild animals. We find *Berg-holt* in Essex, which means the fortress in the wood. According to Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary," the ancient name was Castell Lleon, the "castle of the legions," and the present name was probably derived from a family of the name of Holt, who are said to have held the castle in remote times. English name—Woodby.

LLANRHAIADR-YN-MOCHNANT. — *Rhaiadr*, waterfall; *yn*, the; *mochnant*, quick, swift-brook. According to this interpretation, the name signifies a church built near the swift water. Others say that *moch* means swine, and that the word *nant* is applied to the whole valley, inclusive of the brook that flows through it, on the traditional belief that the place was some time abounding with wild hogs. The latter is the more plausible and acceptible. English name—Hogham.

LLANELIAN.—From *Elian Geiniad*, a saint of the sixth century, to whom the church was dedicated. Elian's Well is near the village. English name—Elianschurch.

LLANEGWESTL.—From *Egwestl*, to whom the old church was dedicated. Einion Waun alludes to him in the following couplet:—

"Gwr a wnair fel Gwair fab Gwestl,
Gwyr wawr yn llawr Llanegwestl."

I.e. :—Like Gwestyl's son, he lies in gloom profound
In Vallé Crucis Abbey's holy ground.

English name—Guestham.

LLANELIDAN. — The church is dedicated to *St. Elidan.* English name—Elidan.

LLANGOLLEN.—From *Collen*, a saint of the seventh century. A Welsh legend recounts his martial deeds when he was in the Roman army, and shows how he became Abbot of Glastonbury, and spent the latter end of his life in that delightful vale which still bears his name. English name—Hazelchurch.

LLANFAIR DYFFRYN CLWYD.—*Llanfair*, St. Mary's church; *dyffryn*, vale; *Clwyd*, the name of the picturesque and fertile vale in which the church is situated. *Clwyd* is probably a mutation of *llwyd*, venerable, adorable. "Duw lwyd," the adorable God. English name—Holychurch.

LLANRHAIADR DYFFRYN CLWYD. — *Rhaiadr* means cataract, waterfall. *Rhaiadru*, to spout out. "Ffynon Ddyfrog," Dyvrog's well, a short distance from the church, suddenly disappears in the fissures of the rock. *Dyffryn Clwyd* has been explained already. English name—Wellchurch.

LLANRHUDD.—A corruption of *Llanrhyd*, the church by the ford. English name—Churchford.

LLANSANTFFRAID-GLAN-CONWY.—The church was dedicated to St. Ffraid, and the village stands on the banks of the river Conway. The name of the railway-station is *Caio*g, to distinguish it from the other Llansantffraid. English name—St Bride's-on-the-Conway.

LLANDYRNOG. — From *Dyrnog*, a descendant of Seithenin, to whom the church is dedicated. English name—Thrashton.

LLANSILIN.—The church is dedicated to *Silin*, a descendant of Emyr Llydaw, and a saint of the sixth century. Eglwys Sulien, Cardigan, also bears his name. English name—Silinton.

LLANGWYFEN. From *Cwyfen*, a descendant of Caradog Breichfras.—English name—Kwyven.

LLANDRILLO.—From *Trillo*, son of Ithel Hael, and a saint of the sixth century. He was a member of the Enlli seminary. This village is famous for being the residence of Maelgwyn Gwynedd in the fifth century, and afterwards of Ednyfed Fychan, chief of one of the royal tribes of Wales. English name—Trillham.

LLANHYCHAN. — From *Hychan*, a descendant of Brychan, and a saint of the fifth century. English name—Youngston.

LLANGYNHAFAL. — The church is dedicated to *Cynhafal*, a descendant of Karadog Freichfras, and a saint of the seventh century. English name—Kynhaval.

LLANGERNYW.—The church was founded by St. Digain in the fifth century, and probably dedicated it to his father, Cystenyn Gorneu, a British king, and son of Cadwr, the prince of *Cernyw* (Cornwall); hence the name *Llangernyw*. English name—Hornton.

LLANRWST.—The old church was built in 1170, and dedicated to *Crwst*, a descendant of Urien Rheged, and a saint of the seventh century. Lord Herbert burned the church in 1468, and the present one was built in 1470. Pennant says the church was dedicated to St. Rhystid, or Restitutus, Archbishop of London, in 361. English name—Manton.

LLANGADWALADR. — The church is dedicated to *Cadwaladr* the Blessed, who succeeded his father, Cadwallawn, to the throne of Britain in 634. He was the last of the Welsh princes who assumed the title of King of Britain. English name—Valiantton.

LLANGEDWYN. — From *Cedwyn*, a descendant of Gwrthefyr, the king, and a saint of the sixth century. It is supposed he was buried in the church. English name—Giftton.

LLANDEGLA.—The church was probably dedicated to *Tegla*, who, according to tradition, was converted to Christianity by the Apostle Paul, and suffered martyrdom under Nero at Iconium. The celebrated Tegla's Well is about 200 yards from the Church. English name—Teglaton.

LLANDDULAIS. — From *Dulais—du*, black; *glas*, blue—the river on which the church is situated. Here the unfortunate Richard the Second was betrayed into the hands of his formidable rival to the throne. The cantrev is called *Is-Dulais*. English name—Lividton.

LLANFERRES. — The church was probably dedicated, about the latter end of the fourth century, to *Berres*, a disciple of St. Martin, the Hungarian. Dr. John Davies, the eminent antiquarian, and the author of the Welsh-Latin Dictionary, was a native of this parish. English name—Berreston.

LLANGWM.—The name signifies a church in the vale or dingle. English name—Churchcombe.

LLANDDOGED. — The church was dedicated to *Doged*, a descendant of Cunedda, and a saint of the sixth century. "Bonedd y Saint" calls him Doged the King. English name—Shareton.

LLANEFYDD.—*Nefydd*, a descendant of Brychan, and a saint of the fifth century, founded the church. English name—Shipton.

LLANSANNAN.—*Senau*, or Senanus, was a saint and an Irish bishop of the sixth century, and it is calculated that he lived in Wales from the fact that this church was dedicated to him. English name—Senanton.

LLANFAIR-TALHAIARN.—The church is dedicated to St. Mary. *Talhaiarn* was a celebrated bard and saint of the sixth century. He was also a chaplain to Emrys Wledig; but after the latter was killed, he became a hermit, and founded the church which bears his name. English name—Talhaiarn, or Ironfront.

LLANARMON-YN-IAL.—The church was dedicated to St. Garmon, bishop of Auxerre. *Ial*, the name of the

cantrev, means an open space or region. *Tir ial*, open land. Yale, Derbyshire, is derived from the same root. *Ial* is the differentia added to distinguish the place from the other Llanarmon. The "Topographical Dictionary of Wales" says that "within a niche in the outer wall of the church is the figure of a bishop, six feet four inches in height, which is said to be that of St. Germanus, Bishop of Auxerre, who, with St. Lupus, gained over the Picts and Saxons, at Maesgarmon, near Mold, in the year 420, the celebrated victory called by historians Victoria Alleluiatica." English name—Garmonton.

LLANARMON DYFFRYN CEIRIOG.—The village is situated on the river *Ceiriog*; hence the differentia. The parish is supposed to have been the burial-place of St. Germanus. English name—Garmonham.

MOELFRE.—*Moel*, bare, bald; *fre-fryn*, hill. English name—Baldhill.

MINERA.—The primitive name of this place was *Mwyn-y-Clawdd*, the mine-ditch, in allusion to Offa's Dyke, which passes through it; and the present name is probably derived from the abundance of minerals it contains. English name—Mineham.

MOCHDRE.—*Moch*, quick, swift; or, perhaps, it is the plural for pigs; *dre-tref*, a dwelling-place. English name—Swineham.

MARCHWIAIL.—*March*, perhaps, is the same as *mare*, a mark, and *wiail* is the plural of *gwialen*, a rod. Viewing the geographical position of this place, being in close proximity to Wat's Dyke, we are of opinion that the line of demarcation was made of rods or poles; hence the origin of the name. English name—Markton.

Moss.—A corruption, perhaps, of *ffôs*, a ditch or trench. *Ffôs* is cognate with the Latin *fossa*, a ditch. Moss is the Norse for bog. English name—Bogton.

NANTGLYN.—*Nant*, brook; *glyn*, glen, vale. English name—Brookvale.

OERNANT. — *Oer*, cold; *nant*, brook. English name—Coldbrook.

PENRHOS.—A compound of *pen*, head, end; and *rhos*, a meadow, a moor. English name—Moorsend.

PENSARN.—The name signifies the end of the Roman road. *Castell-y-cawr*, the giant's castle, which is considered to be one of the most complete Roman camps in the kingdom, is in this vicinity. English name—Viaton.

PENTREFOELAS.—*Pentre*, village; *moel*, a pile, a conical hill; *las-glas*, blue. Many of our mountains and hills bear the name *moel*, such as Moel Siabod, Y Foel (Cwmavon), Moelyfamau, Moelwyn, Y Foel Goch, and the Foel Las. English name—Hillham.

PONTLLOGELL.—*Pont*, bridge; *llogell*, pocket, so-called, probably, from the pedestrians being obliged to put their hands into their pockets to pay a certain fee before crossing the bridge. English name—Coinbridge.

PONKEY.—A corruption of *Poncyn*, a small hillock, or it may be a contraction of the plural *ponciau*. English name—Littlebank.

PANTYGROES.—*Pant*, small dingle; *y*, the; *croes-groes*, cross. It is said that the form of a cross was once visible on a certain spot in the neighbourhood, but was destroyed by Cromwell's soldiers, from which circumstance the place was called *Pantygroes*. English name—Dinglecross.

RHYDONEN.—*Rhyd*, ford; *onen*, the ash tree. One writer thinks it is a corruption of *Rhyd Hen*, the old ford; but this is rather far-fetched. Hewers of wood in olden times might have conveyed the ash trees over the ford, near which a bridge now stands. English name—Ashford.

RHOSHOBYN.—*Rhos*, meadow; *hobyn*, pig. *Yr Hob* was in ancient times the popular word for swine. "*Hob y deri dan do*," *i.e.*—The boar of the wood safely lodged under roof. Having captured the boar in the woods and brought him safely to the house, the popular Welsh song "Hob y deri dan do" was sung with rapture and joy. English name—Pigmoor.

RHOSLLANERCHRUGOG. — *Rhos*, meadow; *llanerch*, glade; *crugog*, abounding with tumps. English name—Gladeham.

RHOSYMEDRE.—A compound of *Rhos* and *yn*, the, a corruption of *mhen-pen*, and *dre-tre*, a dwelling-place, signifying a meadow at the end of the town. Some say that *medre* is a mutation of *mydreu*, measures or circles. The former derivation is supported by the geographical position of the village. English name—Townsend.

ROSSET.—A corruption of *rhosydd*, the plural of *rhos*. English name—Meadows.

RUABON.—An Anglicized form of *Rhiw Mabon*. *Rhiw*, slope, ascending path; *Mabon*, the name of a Welsh saint who lived here and founded a church about the time of Llewelyn ab Iorwerth. Some think the place took its name from its physical aspect, being situate on a *rhiw*, a slope, near a streamlet called *Afon*; hence *Rhiwafon*. The former is the more popular view. English name—Boyhill.

RUTHIN.—This name is variously derived. Some say that a woman named Ruth once kept a large inn near the (then) village, and, when the place began to develope into a town, the people began to call it *Ruth Inn* Red is the prevailing colour of the soil in the district. The principal parts of the town are situated on red sands or ashes; hence the name was taken from the ruddy hue of the soil. *Rhuth-rhudd*, ruddy, crimson, red; *in*, an abbreviation of *din;* signifying a ruddy town. English name—Redtown.

RHUFONIOG.—This place was given to *Rhufawn*, son of Cunedda Wledig, for the gallantry shown by him in driving the Picts from North Wales; hence the name. English name—Redham.

ST. ASAPH.—The Welsh name is *Llanelwy*, from its situation on the banks of the river *Elwy*. The English name was bestowed upon it in honour of *St. Asaph*, who became the second bishop of the see in 560, died in 596, and was interred in his own cathedral. The township *in which it* stands is called Bryn Paulin, in honour of

Paulinus, a Roman general, who made the hill a place of encampment on his way to Mona.

TREFNANT.—A compound of *tref*, place, a town, and *nant*, brook. English name—Brookton.

TREFOR.—*Tref*, town; *for-fawr*, great; in contra-distinction to *trefan*, a small hamlet or city. English name—Bigton.

TRE'R YNYS.—*Ynys Cyrys*, to whom is generally dedicated the honour of having been the first to collect the Welsh proverbs. The collection is called "Madwaith hen Gyrys o Ial," the good work of old Cyrys of Ial. English name—Cyrystown.

WIG FAWR, or WICWER.—*Wig-gwig*, a wood or forest; *Mair*, St. Mary, signifying Mary's wood. There is also a well in the place dedicated to St. Mary. English name—Maryswood.

WREXHAM.—Someone, more wittily than correctly, said that *Gwrecsam* means *Gwraig Sam*, Sam's wife.

"Such short-lived wits do wither as they grow."

The most ancient forms of the name are Wrighesham and Wrightelesham. Churchyard, the Elizabethan bard, described it as "trim Wricksam town, a pearl in Denbighshire." The name, we think, is a compound of *rex*, king, and *ham*, signifying the king's hamlet. A few Latin words were introduced into the speech of the Cymry in the middle ages. In the elegy of Meilyr on "Gruffydd ab Cynan" (twelfth century) we find the epithet, "*rex* radau," king of gifts or graces. English name—Kingham.

YSBYTTY IFAN.—This village, situated on the banks of the Conwy, took its name from an *ysbytty*, hospital, that was founded here in 1189, by Ifan ab Rhys. *Tir Ifan* is another place in the parish. English name—John's Hospital.

FLINTSHIRE.

The name of this county still remains an etymological puzzle. Mr. Jones, in his "History of Wales," says of the Cambrians:—"It is probable that

the national name of these settlers was *Flynor-Flyndi*, whence came Flintshire." Others think it was named after the castle, which was originally called *Castellum-super-Fluentum*, *i.e.*, the castle near the sea. The county is exceedingly rich in minerals, especially lead and coal; but flintstones have not as yet been discovered there; therefore, we must seek elsewhere for the origin of the name. Some think the name refers to the oblong form of the county, which, when looking on the map, reminds one of the ancient Celtic knives which were made of flint.

ADWY'R CLAWDD.—*Adwy*, gap, breach; *Clawdd*, dyke. The place is in close proximity to Offa's Dyke; hence the name. English name—Dykeham.

ARGOED.—The name signifies a place on or above the wood, and is cognate with Arghait in Scotland. English name—Woodham.

BODIDRIS. — From *Idris*, the son of Llewelyn Aurdorchog (the golden-torqued), one of the lords of Iâl. English name—Idriston.

BODFARI.—The common opinion is that the Roman station called *Varis* was here, and recent discoveries corroborate the theory; hence the name. English name—Variston.

BETTESFIELD.—The general opinion is that the field belonged to a woman called Betty. A field below the Baily hill, called *Cae Owain*, Owen's field, is supposed to be the place where Owen and his men encamped when they stormed the Baily castle. There are several fields in this district either affixed or prefixed by proper names. The right wording would be Bettysfield.

BAGGILT.—This name is a perversion of *Bugeillt*, which is a compound of *bu*, a cow, an ox, and *geillt*, the plural form of *gallt*, a cliff, an ascent. English name—Oxcliff.

BROUGHTON.—Pennant says that ere the Norman Conquest this place was held by Lovelot, and afterwards by *Brochetune*. The latter name was probably conferred upon the place.

CILOWEN.—*Cil*, a hidden place. This name was given in honour of Owen Gwynedd, who camped there in order to avoid the intrigues of Henry II. English name—Owenton.

CAERWYS. — *Caer*, a fortress, a city; *wys-gwys*, summons. Some think that the Romans had a station here, where they held their judicial courts. The bards, in time of yore, frequently held their sessions here. An eisteddfod was held here by royal commission on the 2nd of July, in the 15th year of Henry VIII. The last royal summons for holding these national festivals was issued in the ninth year of the reign of Elizabeth. English name—Courtton.

CAERFALLWCH. — A corruption probably of *Caer*, stronghold; *Afallech*, proper name. In the pedigree of Sir Owain Tudor we find the name of "Afallech ap Afflech, ap Beli Mawr." This *Afallech* is supposed to be a nephew of the renowned Caswallawn. On an adjacent hill called "Moel-y-gaer" there are some remains of a British stronghold, which is supposed to have been under the command of *Afallech* during the Roman incursions. *Afallech*, or *Afallack*, means an orchard. English name—Orchardton.

CAERGWRLE. — *Caer* is plain; *gwr*, from *cwr*, a boundary; *le-lle*, a place, signifying the border fortress. An old castle bearing the name is situated about a mile from the village called Hope. It is supposed to have been a Roman outpost to Deva. English name—Borderfort.

CEFN.—The name signifies a ridge, which is quite descriptive of the place, being situated on a high eminence on the left bank of the river Alun English name—Ridgeton.

COEDMYNYDD.—A compound of *coed*, wood; and *mynydd*, mountain. English name—Woodhill.

COED TALON.—*Coed*, wood, trees; *talon*, plural form of *tál*, towering, high, tall. English name—Highwood.

COLESHILL.—Literally, hill of coal. The Welsh name is *Cwnsyllt*, which means the anvil of a smith, and the other English name, Englefield, means the

field of the English, which was given to it, perhaps, because the Earl of Chester and his followers were encamping there when Owain Gwynedd marched to meet him and impede his progress through his territory.

CILCAIN.—*Cil*, a place of retreat; *cain*, probably an abbreviation of *Eurgain*, the name of St. Asaph's niece. Pending the religious persecution that raged at the time, Eurgain repaired to a sequestered spot in this vicinity, built a cell there, and became a religious devotee. Shortly afterwards she built a church near the cell, which was dedicated to her memory. English name- Fairnook.

COEDLLAI.—*Coed*, wood; *llai*, less. It is generally called in English Leeswood, taking *llai* to mean lees; but the proper English name is Lesswood. Owing to the abundance of wood in the district, Edward, before his conquest of Wales, was obliged to cut a passage through them; hence there were less trees than before. English name—Lesswood.

DOLFFIN.—A compound of *dol*, a dale, a meadow; and *ffin*, boundary, limit. English name—Markdale.

DYSERTH.—*Dy*, on, upon; *serth*, a steep, a declivity. *Dyserth* also means a desert. The village probably takes its name from the ancient castle which occupied the summit of the rock. In time of yore it was known by the names of Dincolyn, Castell-y-Ffaidon, and Castell Ceri, and is supposed to have been the last of the chain of British posts on the Clwydian hills. Pennant calls it *Dissarch*. We have Dysart on the Firth of Forth, and Dyzard in Cornwall. English name—Steepton.

FFRITH.—The right wording, probably, is *ffridd*, a forest, a plantation. Ffridd Celyddon, the forest of Caledonia. The old Welsh *fruith*, and the modern Welsh *ffrwyth*, fruit, belong to the same family of words. English name—Woodland.

GARNEDDWEN.—*Carnedd*, heap of stones, cairn; *wen*, white. English name—Whitcairn.

GELLI.—*Celli*, a grove, a bower. English name—Groveham.

GLANYRAFON.—*Glan*, brink, side, bank; *yr*, the; *afon*, river. *Glanymor*, the sea-shore. *Glanydwr*, the water-side. *Glanyrafon*, the river side. English name—Riverside.

GOP.—So called from its close proximity to *Gop-ar-leni*. It means the top, the summit. *Copa'r pen*, the crown of the head. English name—Topton.

GWAENYSCOR.—A corruption of *gwaen*, meadow; *is*, below; *caer*, wall, fortress. English name—Plainfort.

GWESPYR.—A compound of *gwest*, an inn, a place of accommodation; and *pyr*, lords. English name—Lords Inn.

GWERNAFIELD.—A compound of *gwern*, a swamp, a bog; and field. Perhaps *gwern* here means the common alder trees. English name—Alderfield.

GRONANT.—Probably a compound of *croyw*, clear, sweet, fresh, and *nant*, a brook; or *gro-nant*, sandbrook. English name—Clearbrook.

HANMER.—A mutation of Handmere, with the *d* and the final *e* omitted. Hand requires no comment; *mere*, from the Latin *mare*, sea, lake, or pool. The village is situated near a lake, which lies between its banks in the form of a man's hand. English name—Handlake.

HAWARDEN.—A corruption of *Haordine*, which is really a Welsh name; *haw*, fixed; *ar*, upon; *den-din*, hill; signifying a castle built on a hill. In "Doomsday" it is *Haordin*. The "Brut" calls it *Penharddlech*. *Penard* or *Penarth Halawg* is the Welsh name, which means the headland above the lake. *Garth*, hill, is forcibly expressed in the word *lluarth*, an entrenchment on the hill. *Halawg* comes from *hal*, salt marsh, referring to the Saltney and other marshes, which were formerly covered by the sea. This place is world-renowned for being the residence of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P. English name—Castle Hill.

HALKIN.—A corruption of the Welsh name *Helygen*, which means a willow, a willow tree. At the time of the Norman Conquest, the district was called *Alchene*,

a contraction, probably, of *Helygen*. The village lies at the base of a mountain called Helygen. English name—Willowton.

HOLYWELL.—A free translation of *Treffynon*, so called from St. Winifred's Well, of legendary renown. The original meaning of holy is healing. The water of this fabulous well was believed to be efficacious in the cure of all corporeal infirmities. It discharges 21 tons of water in a minute. It is covered by a beautiful Gothic building, supposed to have been erected by Margaret, Countess of Richmond, mother of Henry VI. Wellstown would be the right English name.

HOPE.—The old name was Caergwrle, previously explained. Edward I. took possession of Castle Estyn June 1282, and bestowed it upon Queen Eleanor when on her journey to Carnarvon, where she gave birth to Edward II., the first Englishman that was titled Prince of Wales, from which circumstance the place was called Queen's Hope, and sometimes East Hope, to distinguish it from North Hope.

LICSWM.—A compound of *llug*, from Greek *lychos*, and Latin *lux*, a light, a gleam; and *cwm*, a dingle, a vale, signifying a luminous vale. English name—Lightcombe.

LLANASA.—*Asa* is an abbreviation of *Asaph*, a popular saint of the sixth century, who succeeded St. Cyndeyrn in the see of Llanelwy in 560. The church, and hence the village, were named in honour of him. *Pantasaph* took its name from him. English name—Asaphton.

LLANGYNFARCH.—*Cynfarch*, a prince of the North Britons, and a saint of the sixth century, founded the church, which was afterwards destroyed by the Saxons in the battle of Bangor Orchard, 607. English name—Knighton.

LLANCILCEN.—*Cil*, a hidden place; *Cen-cain*, an abbreviation of Eurgain, niece to St. Asaph She was the founder of the church. Vide *Cilcain*. English name—Fairton.

LLANERCH-Y-MOR.—*Llanerch*, a glade; *y*, the; *môr*, sea. This town, as its name signifies, is situate near the sea. English name—Seaton.

LLOC.—The word means a mound, a dam, a fold. *Lloc rhag y Llifeiriant*, a dam against the flood. *Llochi*, to protect. *Lloches*, a covert, a refuge. Lock-gates are employed on rivers and canals for penning back the water and forming locks. The word here probably implies a sheepfold. English name—Foldham.

LLONG.—*Llong* a ship. The village derives its name from a small inn which had the figure of a ship in full sail on its sign-board. English name—Shipton.

MELIDEN.—This place is supposed to derive its name from the dedication of the church to St. Meliden or Melid. English name—Melidton.

MANCOT.—A compound of *man*, a place, a spot; and *coed*, wood. English name—Spotwood.

MOSTYN.—A corruption, probably, of *maes-ddin*, which signifies the fortress field. Thomas ap Richard ap Hywel ap Ithel Fychan, at the suggestion of Rowland Lee, Bishop of Lichfield, was the first to adopt the place-name as a personal name—English name—Fortfield.

MOLD.—*Gwyddgrug* is the Welsh name, which means "the conspicuous mount, or hill," so called from the great heap (now known by the name *Bryn Beili*, Bailey hill, from the word *ballium*, castle-yard), which is near the principal road. The prevalent opinion is, that this heap was once a tower of defence, which stood so conspicuously in the Vale of Alun, that it was called *Y Wyddgrug*. The Normans partially translated it *Mont Haut*, or *Mouthault*, the high mount, and some think it was ultimately reduced to *Mold*. Others think it may be a corruption of *moel iad*, bald pate. The name is obviously one of the few memorials left us of the Norman Conquest. English name—Highmound.

MAESGARMON.—Named in honour of St. Garmon, who, with Bishop Lupus, led the Britons against, and obtained a glorious victory over, the Pagan Saxons

and Picts. This took place in Easter week, 440, and is to this day called the "Hallelujah Victory." Nehemiah Griffiths, Esq., of Rhual, erected an obelisk in 1736, with an inscription to commemorate the event. English name—Garmon's Field.

MAELOR.—A corruption of *mael*, mart, and *llawr*, ground, signifying a place where trade could be carried on unmolested. *Maelawr* was a free trader, who favoured importations, in consequence of which he was slain. Some think the name is a contraction of *mai lawr*, which signifies plain land. English name—Martham.

NEWMARKET.—The old Welsh name was *Rhiwlyfnwyd*, but Pennant calls it *Treflawnyd*, which signifies "a place full of corn." About the beginning of the 18th century, John Wynn, Esq., of Gop, the then owner of the estate, succeeded in getting a market here, which had been a long-felt *desideratum*, and, probably, from that circumstance, the place was henceforth called Newmarket.

NORTHOP.—An abbreviation of North Hope, so called to distinguish it from East Hope. *Llaneurgain* is the ancient Welsh name. The church was dedicated to *Eurgain*, the daughter of Maelgwyn Gwynedd, and a saint of the sixth century.

NANERCH.—A compound of *nant*, a brook, and *erch*, a dark colour. English name—Dunbrook.

NERQUIS. — A corruption of *Nercwys; ner*, a sovereign; *cwys*, a furrow. *Cwys o dir*, a furrow of land. English name—Lordton.

OVERTON. — A corruption of *Owrtyn*, which is probably a compound of *gowyro*, to make a little oblique, and *din*, a fortified hill. It was anciently called *Owrtyn Fadoc* from Madoc ab Meredydd, the prince of Powys, who is supposed to have built a castle here. The town is situated on a rising eminence near the river Dee. English name—Slanthill.

PENTRE HOBYN.—*Pentre*, a village; *hobyn*, a pig. *Hanerhob*, a flitch or side of a hog. This place in ancient times was famous for its abundance of wild

boars. Vide *Rhos-hobyn*, Denbigh. English name—Boarton.

PENYGELLI.—*Pen*, head, end; *y*, the; *gelli*, grove. English name—Grovesend.

PENYMYNYDD.—The name signifies a place situated on a mountain.—English name—Mountton.

PONTBLEIDDYN.—*Pont*, a bridge; *bleiddyn*, a wolf's cub. English nane—Wolfbridge.

PRESTATYN.—A corruption of *Prysgoed-ddin*. In ancient times there was a castle here called *Prysgoed-ddin*, evidently built by the Kymry, a few ruins of which still remain. *Prys*, a covert; *coed*, wood; *din*, fortress; the name signifies a place of resort. Some say it is a corruption of *Prys Tydain*, Tydain's place of resort. *Prys* form a part of many names, Prysaddfed, Pryseddfod, Prystalyn, &c. English name—Covertham

RHUDDLAN.—This name is variously derived. Some derive it from Robert de Rothelan, a military chief, who visited the place. Others derive it from *rhudd*, red; and *glan*, bank, from the town being situated on the red banks of the river Clwyd. The castle was anciently called *Castell Coch yn Ngwernfor*, *i.e.*, the red castle on the great plain. The most natural explanation is *Rhyd-y-llan*, the ford by the church. The name is written even now by the oldest inhabitants *Rhydlan*. There are three fords in the district: *Rhyd-y-ddau-ddwfr*, the ford of the two waters, which is fordable to this day; *For-ryd*, the ford by the sea; and *Rhyd-y-llan*, the ford by the church. To the north of this ford, on an eminence, there is a church dating back many centuries; and the ford is spanned by a bridge which dates back to 1595. Ere the building of this bridge, the church-goers, undoubtedly, were wont to cross the river by means of this ford, hence it was called *Rhyd-y-llan*. It is spelt by some *Rhyddlan*, perhaps from its having been made a free borough by Edward I., whose son was proclaimed here the Prince of Wales, the first English Prince of Wales, 1283. *Morfa Rhuddlan* is the celebrated marsh where that memorable battle was fought in 795 between the Saxons under Offa and the

Welsh under the valiant Caradog, when the last fell in the conflict. Many names in the vicinity point to the sad catastrophe, such as *Bryn y saethau*, hill of arrows; *Bryn y lladfa*, hill of slaughter; *Pant y gwae*, the vale of woe; *Cae yr orsedd*, field of the throne or tribunal. We adopt *Rhyd-y-llan* as the correct wording. English name—Fordchurch or Fordton.

RHYL.—This beautiful watering-place is situated at the extremity of Saltney marsh, which is called in Welsh *Morfa yr Hal*, or *Yr Haleg*. We find the names *Penarleg* near Chester, and *Plas-yr-hal* near Ruthin, and an old mansion in the vicinity is called *Ty'n-y-Rhyl*, which means a house in the salt marsh; hence we are induced to think that *Rhyl* is a mutation of *Yr Hal*, or *Rhal*. English name—Saltton.

SALTNEY.—An abbreviation of Salteney, which is a translation of the Welsh *halenog*, abounding with salt. The site of the present village was nothing better than a marsh until the year 1778.

SEALAND.—Soon after the incorporation of "The River Dee Company," in 1740, six hundred acres of the waste marsh land of this district were purchased from the lord and freeholders of the manor of Hawarden, through which a new channel was cut for the Dee, and soon afterwards some thousands of acres of the sands were redeemed, which are now covered with good crops of corn, &c.; hence the name—Sealand.

TRALLON.—A compound of *tra-llwngc*, a sinking place, a quagmire. English name—Bogham.

TRELAN.—A compound of *tref*, a place, and *llan*, a church. English name—Churchton.

TREMEIRCHION.—*Tref*, place; *meirchion*, a plural form of *march;* a word denoting a line of demarcation, made of rods or poles. Compare Marchwiail, Denbighshire. English name—Markton.

TREUDDYN.—The name is variously spelt. *Treuddyn*, *Tryddyn*, and *Treddyn*. The latter is the most acceptable. *Tre*, a dwelling; *dyn*, a man. English name—Manton.

TALAR.—The name means a headland in a field. *Tal*, head or end; *âr*, land, ploughed land. English name—Headland.

THREAPWOOD.—Threap, perhaps from *throp*, the meeting of cross-roads. English name—Crosswood.

WEPRE.—A corruption of *Gwybre*, its ancient name. *Gwy*, water; *bre-bryn*, a hill. The place is situated on the river Dee. English name—Waterhill.

YSCEIFIOG.—A corruption of *Yscawog*, abounding with *ysgaw*, the elder wood. The correct name of the parish is *Llanfair Ysceifiog*, so called, it is supposed, from its abundance of elder wood. English name—Elderham.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.

Morgan Mwynfawr, the Courteous, became the prince of Gwent, Essyllt, Gorwenydd, and Rheged in 543, and called them after his own name, *Morganwg*. Taking the postfix, *wg*, to be synonymous with the Latin *locus*, *Morganwg* means *Gwlad Morgan*, which has been Anglicized into Glamorgan.

ABERAVON.—The right wording is *Aberafan*. *Avon* is a general term for river, but *afan* or *avan* is a proper name, denoting here the river at the mouth of which this ancient town is situated. *Ban* is the root, which means height. The river receives its contributory streams from high and lofty mountains. English name—Highmouth.

ABERCANAID.—The village is situate near the spot where the rivulet *Canaid* discharges itself into the Taff. *Canaid* means white, pure, bright. English name—Brightmouth.

ABERDULAIS.—The village stands near the confluence of the rivers *Dulas* and *Nedd*. Some spell it *Dulas*, black-blue. English name—Lividham.

ABERDAR.—This populous place lies at the confluence of the rivulets *Dar* and *Cynon*. *Dâr* is a corruption of *Dyar*, which signifies sound, noise, or

din, so called, probably, from its noisy waterfalls in the upper part of the valley. English name—Dinmouth.

ABERAMAN.—The streamlet *Aman* joins the *Cynon* here; hence the name. *Man* is a commutative form of *ban*, height. English name—Highton.

ABERTHAW.—A corruption of the Welsh *Aberddawen*, a place situate at the mouth of the river Dawen. The root, probably, is *taw*, silent, quiet. English name—Stillmouth.

ABERTRIDWR.—*Tridwr*, three waters, so-called from the situation of the village at the confluence of three brooks. English name—Watermouth.

ABERNANT. — A brook called *Nantygroes* flows through the place, and empties into the Cynon near Tir-y-founder. English name—Brookmouth.

ABERFAN. — *Ban*, high; *Banau Brycheiniog*, the Brecknock Beacons. *Fan* is a brook that falls into the river Taff at the place. Two farmhouses also bear the name. The village is also called Ynys Owen, from a farm of that name. The railway station has been designated Merthyr Vale, and henceforth, the village will, doubtless, be known by the same name.

ALLTWEN.—*Allt*, a cliff, the side of a hill; *wen*, feminine of *gwyn*, white. The name is in correspondence with the situation of the village, being on a hill side. English name— Whitehill.

ABWRTHIN.—Perhaps a corruption of *Aberthin*, which implies a place of sacrifices, so called, probably, from the supposition that Druidical sacrifices were offered here. English name—Altarton.

ABERCENFFIG.—*Cenffig* is a contraction of *Cefn-y-Figyn*, so called from the situation of the place on a ridge of ground above a bog. It is generally believed that this ancient town was inundated by the sea about the middle of the sixteenth century, and that the present village was built near or on the place of inundation. English name—Bogton.

ABERCWMBOY.—Some think the name is a corruption of *Abercwmybwci*: *cwm*, a dingle; *y*, the; *bwci*, bugbear, hobgoblin. It was the vain belief of the aborigines of this valley that a hobgoblin once haunted the place. *Bwci* was reduced to *bo*, and ultimately *y* was added; hence the name in its present form. Perhaps the right wording is *Aber-cwm-bwāau*. *Bwa* is the Welsh for bow. *Bwa a saeth*, bow and arrow. We find Cwmbwa in Cardiganshire; and Brynbo (Bryn-bwa) and Cwm Bowydd (Cwm-bwa-gwydd) in North Wales, where *bo* is a contraction of *bwa*. Perhaps the place was once noted for its abundance of trees of which our forefathers made their bows. The village is also called *Cap Coch*, red cap. Tradition has it that an eccentric publican and cock-fighter in remote times always wore a red cap on a cock-fighting day, and that the place is so called from that circumstance. English name—Bowcombe, or Bocombe.

ABERGWYNFI.—From a farm so named. It was once called Trejenkin, in honour of Mr. Jenkins, Gelli farm. It was also called Blaenavan, from its situation at the source of the river Avan. *Gwynfi* is a corruption of *gwyn-fai*, white or blessed plain. English name—Whitmouth.

BEDLINOG.—From an old farm so named. The word is probably a compound of *bedw*, birch tree, and *llain*, a slip, or long narrow place. *Llain o dir*, a slip of land, a small field. Or the right wording may be *Bedw-lwyn*, birchgrove. The village is also called *Cwmfelin*, from an old mill in the place. It is also popularly called *Colly*, from a farm so called; *col*, any projecting body, a sharp hillock; and *le-lle*, place. English name—Bircham.

BLACK PILL.—Probably from the blackened stumps of a submerged forest, which are to be seen all along the shore.

BLAENGWRACH.—The village is situated at the extreme end of the Neath Vale, near the source *(blaen)* of the rivulet *Gwrach;* hence the name. *Gwrach* may be a

compound of *cwr*, extremity, and *âch*, river, signifying a river flowing at the extreme end of a vale. English name—Nookton.

BROUGHTON.—From *barrow*, a sepulchral mound of great antiquity formed of earth or stones. Stone barrows are called cairns in Scotland. Several *tumuli* or barrows were found on each side of the road from Lantwit Major to Ewenny; hence the name. English name—Barrowton.

BODRINGALLT.—*Bod*, a dwelling-place; *ringallt* is variously derived. Some are of opinion it is a corruption of *rhingyll*, a summoner, founding their reasons upon the supposition that Cadwgan y Fwyall, the summoner, took up his abode here. We rather think it is a corruption of *reynallt*, a fox, a reynard. The valley was noted in olden times for fox-hunting, as the following extract shows:—"1752, killing a fox whelp, 2s. 6d. 1819, paid for killing a fox, 5s." English name—Foxham.

BLAEN RHONDDA.—So called from a farmhouse bearing the name, and also the village is situated near the source of the river *Rhondda*. *Blaen* means the forepart of anything, and here the spring of the river. English name—Springton.

BLAENYCWM.—So called from its situation at the extreme end of the Rhondda Valley. English name—Comb's-end.

BARGOD.—The full name is *Pont-aber-Bargod*, signifying the bridge near where the brook *Bargod* flows into the river Rhymney. *Bargod* means a springing out. English name—Springham.

BRITHDIR.—The village takes its name from *Cefn Brithdir*, the name of the mountain that towers above it. *Brithdir* means a land of medium quality. English name—Midland, or Mixland.

BAGLAN. — An abbreviation of *Llanfaglan*. The church was dedicated to Baglan, a Welsh saint of the sixth century.

BLAENLLECHAU.—From a farm of the same name. Another farm in the neighbourhood is called *Cefnllechau*.

The lands of both were remarkable for *llechau*, stones. Some call the place *Tre Rhondda*, Rhondda town; it is also called Ferndale. English name—Stoneby.

BOVERTON.—A corruption of *Bovium*, the name of a Roman station which stood near the road called Julia Strata Maritana. There are extensive remains of Roman camps in the vicinity. In 1798 a considerable number of Roman coins were discovered here.

BRITON FERRY.—In ancient MSS. the place is called *Berton Ferry*, and *Brittane Ferry*, the ferry where the Britons crossed the estuary of the Neath river. *Llansawel*, the Welsh name, is derived by some from *llan-is-awel*, a church under the breeze. Others think it was dedicated to Sawyl.

BARRY.—Some think the place derives its name from *Baruch*, a disciple of Gilsach, who was buried here in the year 700. Others think it is the Norse for bare island.

BRIDGEND.—A translation of the Welsh *Penybont*. The full name is *Penybont-ar-Ogwy*, Bridgend-on-the Ogmore.

BIRCHGROVE.—From a farm of the name, whereon the village is situated.

BISHOPSTON.—In olden times the manor belonged to the see of Llandaff, and, on account of that, the parish received its ecclesiastical name. The Welsh name is *Llandeilo Ferwallt*. The church is dedicated to Bishop Teilo. *Berwallt* is a compound of *berw*, the water-cress, and *gallt*, a wooded declivity. In the "Liber Landavensis" it is called *Lanberugall*.

BLACKMILL.—A semi-translation of the Welsh name, *Melin Ifan Ddu*. *Ifan*, Evan, was the owner of the mill, and he lived in a farm called Dôl Ifan Ddu; hence the name.

BRYNCETHIN.—*Bryn*, a hill; *cethin*, dark, terrible, frightful. English name—Frighthill.

BONVILSTONE.—The Welsh name, *Tresimwn*, and the English name, Bonvilstone, were bestowed in

honour of Simon Bonvile, the chief steward of Sir Robert Fitzhamon.

BRYNTROEDGAM.—*Bryn*, a hill; *troed*, foot; *gam-cam*, crooked, signifying a place at the crooked foot of a hill. English name—Crookhill.

BUTETOWN.—This isolated village, which is situated near Rhymney, received its name in honour of the late Marquis of Bute.

CARDIFF. — An Anglicism of the Welsh name *Caerdydd*, or, more correctly, Caer Daf. Opinions differ as to the right wording of the postfix. Some derive the name from Caer Didius, the city of Didius (Aulus Didius), the Roman general, who commanded in Britain from A.D. 53 to about 57. It is supposed that he built a fortress on the Taff, where, from its contiguity to the sea, he would have been much less exposed to the onsets of the warlike Silures. As the Romans Latinized British names with increments, such as Casivellaunus from Caswallon, so, on the contrary, the Britons rejected the final syllable of Latin names and words, as Iwl, from Julius: Aleg, from Alectus; and here (a case in point) *Dydd* from Didius, whence *Caer Dydd*. Despite the plausibility of the above derivation, we rather think the right wording is *Caer Daf*, a fortress on the Taff, which, it is said, was originally built by Morgan ap Hywel ap Rhys. Close by we find *Llandaf*, the stately edifice on the Taff, and in the metropolis of Wales we find a fortress on the Taff. *Taf* means spreading. *Tafwys*, the Welsh for Thames, means the spreading or expanding water. English name—Broadfort.

CERRYG LLWYDION. — *Cerryg*, stones; *llwydion*, plural form of *llwyd*, grey; from a number of grey stones in the place. English name—Greystone.

CILFFRIW.—A compound of *cil*, a place of retreat; and *ffriw*, mien, countenance, visage. "*A gwaed ffrau ar ffriw*"—and streaming blood on a visage. *Ffroen*, nose, nostril, comes from the same root. The name is applied to hill tops or some kind of eminences. English name—Phizton.

CLWYDYFAGWYR.—*Clwyd*, a hurdle, a wattled gate; *y*, the; *fagwyr-magwyr*, a structure, a wall, an enclosure. English name—Wallgate.

CRAIGCEFNPARC.—*Craig*, rock; *cefn*, ridge, back; *parc*, a field, an enclosure. English name—Rockfield.

CWMBWRLA.—*Bwrla* is probably a corruption of *bwr-le; bwr*, an old Welsh word denoting a place of defence; *le-lle*, a place. "Ni sefis na thwr na *bwr*"—*i.e.*, there stood nor tower nor wall. English name—Fortcomb.

CWMAMAN.—*Cwm*, a narrow vale; *Aman*, the name of the rivulet that flows through it; hence the name. English name—Highcombe.

CASTELLA.—Probably contracted from *castellau*, a form of *castell*, a castle. English name—Castleby.

CAERSALEM NEWYDD.—A village near Llangyfelach. It was known by the name *Tirdeunaw* until the Baptists built their magnificent sacred edifice in the place, and called it *Caersalem Newydd*, which means New Jerusalem.

CWMPARC.—The rivulet *Parc* flows through the combe; hence the name. English name—Parkcombe.

CWMBACH.—From an old cottage bearing the name, which signifies "small vale." English name—Pettycombe.

CWMDAR.—From an old cottage of the name, so called from its situation on the river *Dâr*, or *Dyar*. English name—Dincombe.

CELLYWION.—Probably a corruption of *Celliwyn*, which signifies the white grove. Some think the right wording is *Celli Gwion*, Gwion's grove. English name—Whitegrove.

CADOXTON.—Cadog's town. The church was dedicated to Catwg the Wise; hence the Welsh name *Llangatwg*. From its contiguity to Neath, it is called Cadoxton-juxta-Neath. The saint was called Catwg the Wise from his superior wisdom in all councils.

CRYNANT.—Probably a corruption of *croyw*, clear, crystal; and *nant*, a brook. The clear brook runs through the place, and empties itself into the Dulais. English name—Clearbrook.

CAERPHILI.—The prefix is clear, but opinions vary as to the origin of *phily*. Iago Emlyn says: The probable root of *phily* is *vallum*, the moat that surrounded it (the castle), the watermark of which is still visible on the old outer wall. *Vallum* could easily have become "valley," and then "villy," and last "*phily*." There are other less plausible derivations, but we incline to think it comes from *Ffili*, the name of the son of Cenydd. Its pristine name was Senghenydd (Saint Cenydd), in honour of Cenydd, who founded a seminary here. When Cenydd moved to Gower he left the seminary under the auspices of his son *Ffili*, who built a *caer*, fortress or defensive wall round it; hence it was called *Caer Ffili*. If the old name Senghenydd was given in honour of Cenydd, it is but natural that the new name was given in honour of his son *Ffili*. English name—Filfort.

CEFNPENAR.—*Cefn*, back, ridge; *penar*, a mutation of *penor*, bright, fair. English name—Fairridge.

COWBRIDGE.—A translation of the old Welsh name of the town, *Pontyfon*. *Mon* is an old Welsh word for cow. In an old manuscript, dated 1645, it is written *Pontyfuwch*, the bridge of the cow. Its pristine name was *Y Dref Hir yn y Waun*, the long town in the meadow, and its present name was derived from the following incident. Soon after the stone bridge was built across the river Dawen, a cow, being chased by the dogs, ran under it, and her horns stuck in the arch; the place being so narrow, she could neither move onwards or backwards, and ultimately the owner had no alternative but to kill her on the spot. The town's coat of arms ever since is the figure of a cow standing on a bridge.

CHERITON.—Probably a corruption of Cherrytown, so called from its abundance of cherries in olden times.

CILBEBYLL.—*Cil*, a hidden place; *pebyll*, tents; signifying the retreat of the tents. It was customary in olden times to repair to temporary tents in sequestered places in the summer. This sequestered place commands a beautiful view of the sea, and the surrounding district. English name—Nookham.

CYMER.—From *cym-mer*, which literally means a confluence or junction. Several places in Wales are called *Cymer*, from their situation on the junction of rivers, as Pontycymer, Cymer Glyn Corwg, &c. English name—Biwater.

CYFARTHFA.—*Cyfarthfa* is the right name according to some, signifying the place of barking. It is said that it was a general rendezvous for hunters. One writer thinks it is a corruption of *Cyfarwydd-fa*, the place of *Cwta Cyfarwydd*, one of the heroes of Welsh legend. English name—Barkham.

COLWINSTONE.—A translation of the Welsh name, *Tregolwyn*, Colwin's town.

CADLE.—*Cad*, battle; *lle*, place; signifying a battle field. *Cad* is derived from the Sanskrit *kad*, to hurt or kill. It is supposed that a terrible battle was fought here at some remote period. English name—Battleton.

CLYDACH.—The village takes its name from the rivulet *Clydach*, which discharges itself into the river Tawy. Some trace the name to the Gaelic *clith*, strong. We have the *Clyde* in Scotland, the *Clwyd* in Wales, and the *Glyde* in Ireland. Others refer it to *cludo*, to carry. We have the *Cludan* in Scotland, and *Strathclud*, or the kingdom of the Clyde. We offer the following: *Clyd*, sheltering, warm; *ach*, a river; signifying a river flowing through a sheltering place. English name—Shelterham.

CABALFA.—A corruption probably of *ceubalfa*, which signifies a ferrying-place. English name—Ferryham.

CROSSVANE.—An Anglicized form of *Croesfaen*, which signifies the cross stone. English name—Cross-stone.

COYTY.—A corruption of *coed*, wood, and *ty*, a house, signifying a wood-house. English name—Woodby.

CORS EINION.—*Cors*, a bog; *Einion*, the name of a descendant of Howell the Good. History tells us that he led an army twice to Gower, and on his way thither he probably encamped here. The name of Einion is borne down to us also in Port Eynion Bay. It is a strange coincidence that the name *Einion* signifies "our leader." English name—Leaderham.

CAERAU.—The church was built on the ruins of an old Roman fortress; hence the name. English name—Fortham.

CWMGIEDD.—*Cwm*, a narrow vale; *Giedd*, the name of the rivulet that runs through it to the Tawy; hence the name. We are inclined to think *Giedd* is a contraction of *gwy eidden*, which signifies noisy water, in contradistinction from *taw-wy*, the smooth or silent water, and *llyfnell*, the smooth water. English name—Dinvale.

CWMTWRCH.—The river *Twrch* rushes through the combe and empties into the Tawy near Ystalyfera. *Twrch*, probably, is a derivation of *tyrchu*, to turn up, to burrow. The Welsh for a mole is *twrch daear*, from its burrowing nature. English name—Boarcombe.

COYCHURCH.—*Coy*, is, probably, a corruption of *coed*, wood; the name signifying the church in the wood. Pencoed is in the same parish. The Welsh name is *Llangrallo*, from *Crallo*, the founder and patron saint of the church, and a nephew to Illtyd. English name—Woodchurch.

CENFFIG.—Probably a compound of *cefn*, a ridge, and *mignen*, a bog, signifying a ridge above a bog, which answers to the position of the place. English name—Bogridge.

COGAN.—A corruption, perhaps, of *Gwgan*, the name of a celebrated Welsh personage.

CWMLLYNFELL.—*Cwm*, a narrow vale; *llynfell*, a mutation of *llyfnell*, which means a smooth river. *Llyfn wy*, the smooth water. "*Ni bydd llyfn heb ei anaf*," there is nothing smooth without its blemish. English name—Smoothton.

CRWYS.—This name is a mutation of *croes*, a cross. A corpse lying in its shroud is said to be *dan ei groes*, *i.e.*, "under the cross," from the Popish usage of putting a cross on the bosom of the dead. English name—Crosston.

DOWLAIS.—Some derive the name from *Dwrlais*, the supposed name of the brook that flows through the old ironworks, and joins the *Morlais* at the upper part of Penydaren. "*Clais dwfr a glan*," the water edge, was an ancient Welsh expression. *Dwr* might be easily changed into *dow*. Dowgate, London, was once called *Dwrgate*. Llandwr, a small parish in the Vale of Glamorgan, is now called Llandow. Others think it is a corruption of *Dwylais*, from the confluence of the two brooks in the place. Others derive it thus: *du*, black; *clais*, a little trench or rivulet. We rather think the right wording is *Dulas: du*, black; *glas*, blue, signifying the livid water. Our forefathers were wont to name the rivulets and rivers from the respective hue of their waters. *Dulas* is a very common appellation in Welsh topography, and we find its cognate in Douglas, Isle of Man. And, strange to say, *Morlais* or *Morlas* is in close proximity to *Dulas* in several districts in Wales, and in Brittany we find its cognate in Morlaix. This coincidence inclines us to think that *glas*, blue, is the suffix of both names. *Morglas*, sea-green colour; *Du-glas*, black and blue. We have five *Dulas* in Wales, three in Scotland, and one in Dorset; and the word appears in different forms:—Douglas once in the Isle of Man, twice in Scotland, once in Lancashire, and twice in Ireland; Doulas in Radnor, Dowles in Salop, Dawlish in Devon, and Dowlais in Glamorgan. English name—Lividton.

DINAS POWIS.—*Dinas* is a corruption of *Denis*. When Iestyn ab Gwrgant married *Denis*, the daughter of Bleddyn ab Cynfyn, Prince of Powys, he built a castle in the place, and called it *Denis Powys*, in honour of his wife. English name—Denisham.

DERI.—This place adopted the name of a farmhouse called *Deri*, from its situation in a [illegible] abounding with oaks. *Deri* means oaks, and it

cognate with Derry and Kildare. It is also called *Darran* from *Darren Ysgwyddgwyn*, which towers above the village. English name—Oakham.

DINAS. — A populous village in the Rhondda Valley. It was first called *Dinas y Glo*, the city of coal, on account of its wealth of coal. English name—Coaltown.

DYFFRYN:—*Dyffryn* means a valley. The village is situated near *Dyffryn Goluch*, the valley of worship, or the hill of adoration, where the largest *cromlech* in the kingdom and other remarkable remains of ancient religious sanctuaries are visible. English name—Worshipton.

ELY.—The river *Llai*, which means a dun-coloured water, flows through the village. The Welsh name is *Trelai*, and the English is a corruption of the same. English name—Dunwater.

EWENNY.—A corruption of *Ewyn-wy*, the name of the river that flows through the place. It means the frothy water. English name—Foamton.

EGLWYS ILAN.—The church, according to some, was dedicated to *Elian*. Others think it was dedicated to *Elen Deg* (the Fair), the daughter of Morgan Mwyn-fawr. *Ilan*, therefore, is a corruption either of *Elian* or *Elen*. English name—Ellenschurch.

EFAILFACH.—*Gefail*, a smithy; *fach-bach*, small, little; from a smithy in the place. English name—Smithham.

FLEMINGSTON.—This place was named in honour of Sir John Fleming, Robert Fitzhamon's knight, to whom he gave the manors of St. George, Llanfaes, &c. The ancient name was *Llanfihangel-y-twyn*, St. Michael's church-on-the-hill.

FFORCHDWM.—*Fforch*, *fforchi*, to fork, to part into two; and *twm*, a round heap; or, perhaps *twn*, fracture, splint. The name, probably, signifies a hillock forming a divergent point between two vales. English name—*Forkhill.*

GLANYBAD.—*Glàn*, side, bank; *y*, the; *bâd*, boat. Before the present bridge was built across the river Taff, the people were wont to cross to the other side by means of a boat, and the place where they disembarked was called *Glànybâd*, the shore of the boat; hence the name of the village. English name—Boat-side.

GOWER.—A corruption of the Welsh *gwyr*, from *gwyro*, to deviate, to swerve. This name was probably suggested by the deviation of the peninsula from the mainland. Its original Welsh name was *Rheged*, which implies a promontory running out into the sea. English name—Swervington.

GOWER ROAD.—At a vestry meeting of the rate-payers of the parish of Loughor, held October 15th, 1885, it was unanimously passed—"That the name of this village be changed from Gower-road to Gowerton." A few gentlemen were appointed to communicate with the railway and postal authorities, with the view of making the necessary arrangements for the new name to be adopted January 1st, 1886.

GWAELODYGARTH.—*Gwaelod*, bottom, base; *y*, the; *garth*, a hill. The mountain that towers above the village is called *Mynydd-y-Garth*, and the village resting humbly at its base is naturally called *Gwaelodygarth*. English name—Foothill.

GARW VALLEY.—The river *Garw* runs through it. *Garw* means rough. It is cognate with the Gaelic garble. The river Llyfnwy is not far from it, and the *Garw* rushes fiercely through a wild and rugged valley. Garry in Perth and Inverness, Yarrow in Selkirk, Gazelock in Ross, Garonne in France, and Guer in Brittany, probably come from the same root. English name—Rough Vale.

GLYNCORWG.—Two rivulets, called *Corrwg Fawr* and *Corrwg Fach*, join in the glen, near the church of Glyncorwg. Some derive *Corrwg* from *Carrog*, an obsolete term for brook. Others derive it from *corr*, a Celtic name for sheep; and the affix *wg*, as already

explained, implies a place or locality; hence it means sheep-dale. English name—Sheepton.

GELLIONEN.—*Gelli*, grove, an enclosure; *onen*, ash tree; signifying the ash-grove. Gellionen Well is celebrated for its remediate waters. English name—Ashgrove.

GADLYS.—*Gad-cad*, battle, battle-field; *llys*, court. The name is one of the traces left us of that terrible battle fought in the upper part of the Aberdare valley between Rhys ab Tewdwr and Iestyn ab Gwrgant. The general opinion is that Iestyn's army encamped in the Lower Gadlys, and Rhys's army in the Upper Gadlys, whence came the name. English name—Battle Court.

GELLIGAER.—This name is probably derived from *Caer Castell*, the ruins of which still remain near the village. It was built by Iorwerth ab Owen in 1140. English name—Castle Grove.

GELLIDEG.—*Gelli*, grove; *deg*, *teg*, fair. English name—Fairgrove.

GLYN NEATH.—*Glyn*, valley, glen; *neath*, a corruption of *Nedd*, the name of the river that runs through it. English name—Glenneath.

GROESWEN. — The name, literally, means white cross, but, figuratively, blessed cross. White in olden times was an emblem of moral purity, and, therefore, a source of blessedness. English name—White Cross.

GILESTON.—The Welsh name is *Llanfabon-y-Fro*, from the dedication of the church to *Mabon*, and its situation in the Vale of Glamorgan. The English name was given to it by a Norman, named Giles, who took up his abode here.

GLAIS.—The village derives its name from the word *Clais*, which implies a trench through which a stream of water rushes. English name—Glenbrook.

GOYTRE.—A compound of *coed*, wood, and *tre*, a *dwelling-place*. English name—Woodham.

GELLI.—A rising village in the Rhondda Valley, so called from a farm of the same name. English name—Groveton.

GILFACH GOCH.—*Cilfach*, a place of retreat, a nook; *coch*, red. The village probably derives its name from a heap of red cinders that remain as a memento of the ironworks that stood there in olden times. English name—Rednook.

GWARTCAEAU.—*Gwár*, the nape of the neck; *y*, the; *caeau*, fields; signifying a place situated in the upper part of, or above, certain hilly fields. English name—Highfield.

HIRWAUN. The name signifies long meadow. The correct name is *Hirwaun Gwrgant*, Gwrgan's long meadow, or mountain-plain. It appears that this meadow in olden times extended from Blaengwrach, near Rhydgroes, to Mountain Ash, and so it was nearly ten miles long; but in the eleventh century, Gwrgan ab Ithel gave a portion of it, called *Y Waun Hir*, the long meadow, scot free, to his poor subjects and all other Welshmen for raising corn, and breeding sheep and cattle. English name—Long Meadow, or Longmoor.

HEOLYFELIN.—Its English name is "Mill street," so called from the Llwydcoed mill that stood on the river Cynon. In 1792 the first houses of this populous place were built by a Morgan Watkin. It is also called *Trecynon* from its situation on the bank of the Cynon. *Cynon* is a compound of *cyn*, chief, and *dwr*, water or running brook; signifying the chief brook.

HAFOD.—The name means a summer-house, in contra-distinction from *Gauafod*, winter-house. The village derived its name from a farmhouse of the same name. English name—Solham, or Summerham.

HENDRE.—A compound of *hen*, old, and *tref*, a dwelling. In times of yore, the people took up their abode for the winter in the valleys, and these homesteads were called *Hendref*, in contradistinction from *Hafod*, which was only a temporary residence. English name—Oldham.

ILSTON.—*Il* is an abbreviation of *Illtyd*, or *Iltutus*, the name signifying Illtyd's town. The Welsh name is *Llanilltyd*. The church was probably dedicated to Illtyd, a descendant of Emyr Llydaw, and a saint of the fifth century.

KILLAY.—An Anglicized form of *Cilfai; cil*, a place of retreat; *fai-mai*, a plain. The name signifies a sequestered place. English name—Hidham.

LLANFABON.—The church was dedicated to *Mabon*, Teilo's brother, who founded it in the sixth century. *Mabon* is derived from *mapos*, in Old Welsh *map*, now *mab*, a boy, a youth, a son. English name—Boychurch.

LEWISTON.—So called in honour of W. Lewis, Esq., Bontnewydd House, on whose estate the village is situated.

LLANGYNWYD. — The church was dedicated to *Cynwyd*, a saint of the sixth century. *Cynwyd* signifies primary evil or mischief. *Gwlaw cynwyd*, a destructive rain. English name—Primechurch.

LLANGYFELACH.—*Cyfelach*, bishop of Llandaff in the eighth century, is supposed to have founded the church here, which was dedicated to him. *Cyfelach* implies one resembling his ancestors. English name—Scionton.

LLANBLETHIAN.—The ancient church was dedicated to *Bleiddian* or *Bleddyn*, a contemporary of Garmon, who, it is said, founded it in the sixth century. *Bleddyn* probably means wolf-child. English name—Wolfton.

LLANDOUGH.—The church was dedicated to *Dochwy*, an Armorican saint, who founded a seminary here in the second century. The Welsh name, *Llandochwy*, is Anglicized into Llandough. *Dochwy* is probably a mutation of *tawch-wy*, the hazy water. English name—Hazeton.

LLANILLTYD FAERDREF.—The church is dedicated to *Iltutus; Faerdref*, a dairy hamlet. The Welsh princes and noblemen kept dairy-houses at a little distance from their castles and courts. Two farmsteads in the neighbourhood still retain the names of *Faerdref Fawr* and *Faerdref Fach.* Iltutus's Church was probably built on

or near the site of one of these dairy-houses; hence the name. English name—Dairychurch.

LANDORE.—From the Welsh *Glandwr*, the name of an old farmstead situated near the river Tawy. English name—Waterton.

LANTWIT-MAJOR.—A semi-translation of *Llanilltyd Fawr*. A religious seminary was founded here at a very early period, which, about the year 450, was renovated by Garmon, who, together with Dyfrig, dedicated Illtyd to be the head teacher thereof; hence it was called *Côr Illtyd*, *Bangor Illtyd*, and *Llanilltyd Fawr*. The differentia *fawr* was added to distinguish it as *par excellence* above every other institution bearing the name *Illtyd*. English name—Illston Major.

LOUGHOR.—A corruption of *Llychwr*, which forms a part of the Welsh name *Castell Llychwr*. The castle was built on an eminence above the estuary of the river *Llychwr*. The name is a compound of *llwch*, an inlet of water, a lake, a lough; and *dwr*, water. The ancient name was *Treafanc*, from the great number of beavers abounding in the contiguous waters, *afanc* being the old Welsh name of the beaver. Some suppose the place to have been the *Leucarum* of Antonius. English name—Castlelock.

LALESTON.—A translation of the Welsh *Trelalys*, the town of Lales. The parish and village were so called in honour of *Lales*, who built the Neath and Margam Abbeys. Having received a portion of land, he built a mansion here, demolished the old church, and, in 1115, built a new one near his mansion.

LECKWITH. — This name is one of the many instances of the sad havoc the Normans played with Welsh names when they settled in Glamorgan in the eleventh century. It is a corruption of *llechwedd*, the steep of a hill, hill-side. English name—Slopeton.

LAVERNOCK.—Another Norman corruption of *Llanwernog*, which means a church on a meadow. English name—Meadow Church.

LISFANE.—An Anglicized form of the Welsh *Llysfaen*. *Llys*, court; *maen*, stone. It appears that there

was a large stone in the vicinity, upon which the law court was held in ancient times; hence the name. English name—Stonecourt.

LLANCARVAN.—"Bonedd y Saint" tells us the church was dedicated to *Carvan*. Iolo MSS. inform us that here the first monastery was built in Britain by Germanus, from which circumstance the learned editor thinks that *Llancarvan* signifies the church of Germanus, *Carfan* being a corruption of the saint's name. English name—Carvanton.

LLANHARAN.—In some ancient MSS. it is written *Llanaron*, from the church being dedicated to Julius and Aaron. English name—Aaronton.

LLANHARRY.—It appears that *Llanarai* was the ancient name, and that *Garai* was the founder of the church. English name—Garton.

LLANILID.—The church was dedicated to *Ilid*, who, according to some, was the first to introduce Christianity to the Celts in the first century. English name—Ilidton.

LLANWONNO.—The church was dedicated to *Gwyno*, *Gwyno* having been changed to *Wono*. English name—Whitby.

LLANFAES.—It was anciently called *Llan Ffagan Fach*, in honour of *Ffagan*, the founder of the church. The present name implies that *Ffagan's* Church was demolished, and the present one was built on a spot where a memorable battle was fought. *Maes*, a high field, is to be understood here in a martial sense. English name—Churchfield.

LLANEDEYRN.—The church was dedicated to *Edeyrn*, the son of Gwrtheyrn, who flourished in the fifteenth century. He established a religious community of 300 members in this place. English name—Rexton.

LLANDAFF.—The name signifies a church on the Taff. It was built, according to the "Welsh Chronicles," in the year 173 by Lleurwg (Lucius), and the see is reckoned to be the most ancient in Britain. *English name*—Taffchurch.

LLANDDEWI.—The church was dedicated to *Dewi*, the patron saint of Wales. English name—Davidston.

LLANDEILO-TALYBONT.—The church was founded by *Teilo*, bishop of Llandaff, in the sixth century. *Talybont* has been already explained. English name—Bridgechurch.

LLANRHIDIAN.—From *Rhidian*, a student in Cenydd's seminary at Gower, and the founder of the church. English name—Rhidianton.

LLANMADOG.—The church was dedicated to *Madoc*, the son of Gildas. English name—Madocton.

LLYSWORNEY.—A mutilation of the Welsh *Llysyfronydd*, which, also, is a corruption of *Llys Bro Nudd*. *Bro* means a cultivated region, a vale, and *Nudd* is supposed to have held a court *(llys)* here; hence the name. English name—Court Vale.

LLWYDCOED.—*Llwyd*, grey; *coed*, wood. In the sixteenth century the forest of *Llwydcoed* was reckoned to be one of the finest in the Principality. English name—Greywood.

LLWYNPIA.—From a farmhouse so named. *Llwyn*, bush, grove; *pia*, a pie. English name—Pieton.

LLANISHEN.—The church was dedicated to *Isan*, a disciple of Illtyd. *Isan* has been corrupted to *Ishen*. English name—Isanton.

LLANSAMLET.—"*Bonedd y Saint*" tells us that the church was founded by *Samled*, who flourished in the seventh century. The place is sometimes called *Llwynbrwydrau*, grove of battles, which probably refers to some battles that were fought here. English name—Samled.

LLANTRISANT.—Its ancient name was *Llangawrdaf*, so called in honour of *Cawrdaf*, who founded a seminary here. *Llantrisant* implies that the church was dedicated to three saints, namely, Illtyd, Tyfodwg, and Gwyno; hence the peculiar name. English name—Saintham.

LLANILLTEYRN.—*Illtern* is a corruption of *Elldeyrn*, the name of the saint who founded the church in the fifth century. *Elldeyrn* signifies a strange or foreign king. English name—Kingschurch.

MELIN GRIFFITH.—This place derives its name from a Mr. Griffith, who kept a mill *(melin)* here to grind corn for the farmers of the district. English name—Griffith's Mill.

MELIN CRYTHAN.—So called from a mill situated on the brook *Crythan*. *Crythan* means a little crooth, or it may come from the verb *cryddu*, to stretch, or extend round. English name—Croothmill.

MICHAELSTONE-SUPER-ELY.—A translation of the Welsh *Llanfihangel-ar-Elai*, from the dedication of the church to St. Michael, and its situation on the river Ely.

MUMBLES.—This place was anciently known by the name Oystermouth, so called, it is said, from its abundance of oysters, of which even now considerable quantities are yearly sent to London and other places. In "Y Cymrodor," vol. vi., part II., page 149, one writer says that "whether of Scandinavian origin, as a local antiquary of repute would have it, or Celtic as is sometimes contended, it is certain the village owes nothing to the oysters of the neighbouring sea for its name, the early form of writing which was 'Ostremuere.'" The present name was probably derived from the perpetual mumbling of the sea.

MANSELFIELD.—So called in honour of the Mansel family. William Mansel, Esq., Penrice Castle, was the owner of the estate in the reign of Henry VI.

MAESTEG.—The popular Welsh name was *Llwyni*, bushes, from a farmstead of the name, but was changed to *Llyfnwy* by Nathan Dyfed at an eisteddfod held here in 1839. The present name is a compound of *maes*, a field, which probably comes from the Sanskrit *matri*, terra; and *teg*, fair; so called from another farmstead bearing the name. English name—Fairfield.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—The town takes its name from the martyr *Tydfil*, daughter of Brychan Brycheiniog, who was brutally murdered here by the heathen Picts, August 23rd, 420. Some are of opinion that the Parish Church is built on the scene of murder, and hence dedicated to Tydfil. English name—Tydfilton.

MAWDLAM —A corruption of Magdalen. An old church in the parish was dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen. English name—Magdalen.

MORRISTON.—So called in honour of Sir John Morris, Clasmont, who built a large copper works here in 1768, and thereby rendered the largest quota to the growth of this populous place.

MARGAM. — *Morgan Mwynfawr*, the Courteous, founded Margam Abbey, which was known for some centuries by the name of *Morgan*, and ultimately it was changed into *Margam*. Rees Meyric believed that "Robert (Consul) founded Morgan (Margam) 1146, and was benefactor to the Abbey of Neath seventeen years before *Morgan* was founded."—"Morganie Archaiographiœ," page 29. English name—Morganton.

MARCROSS.—Probably a translation of *Croes Marc*, Mark's cross. It is supposed that a large cross was erected here at some remote period to St. Mark, or, perhaps, it is a corruption of *Mêr-groes*, the cross on the sea shore.

MERTHYR DYFAN.—Some ecclesiastical historians think that *Dyfan* introduced Christianity to this neighbourhood as early as the second century, and that he fell a martyr to his faith here. The parish church is dedicated to him. English name—Dyvanton.

MOUNTAIN ASH.—The ancient name was *Aberpennar*, and the present name was bestowed upon it by John Bruce Pryce, Esq., then owner of the estate. A man named David John Rhys went to Mr. Pryce one day to ask him for a lease on a certain piece of land, on which he purposed building a public-house and a private house. They went together to measure the land, and, in reply to a question of Mr. Pryce with regard to the name of the new public-house he was asked to name, seeing a *cerdinen* (mountain ash) close by, he turned to Mrs. Pryce, and said—"We shall call this place Mountain Ash."

MAERDY.—A name of frequent occurrence in Wales. The Welsh *maer* is synonymous with the English land agent, steward, and bailiff. In ancient times *maer*

was the king's land agent; but, in course of time, the word became to signify any land steward. *Maer y biswail*, the keeper of the cowlair. *Maerdy* means a dairy-house. The village derives its name from a farmhouse bearing the name. English name—Dairyton.

MISKIN.—The name is spelt *Meisgun* by old Welsh historians. *Meis-maes*, field, land; *gun-cun*, a leader, a chief, a lord. *Miskin*, near Llantrisant, formed a portion of the hereditary estates of Iestyn ap Gwrgant, lord of Glamorgan; hence the name signifies "the lord's land," or "the royal land." English name—Kingsland.

MONKNASH.—The prefix was derived on account of Sir Richard de Grenville having conferred this manor, together with the castle and lordship of Neath, on the monks of Neath Abbey. Nash is cognate with ness or naze, which means a nose or promontory of land.

NEATH.—An Anglicised form of *Nedd*, the name of the river on which the town is situated. *Nedd* means turning, whirling; the river was so called, probably, from its various meanderings. The Romans had a station here called Nidium. The Welsh popular name is *Castell Nedd*, the castle on the Neath. Richard de Grenville, a Norman knight, built a castle here early in the twelfth century, and the Neath Abbey was founded by him in the year 1111.

NELSON.—The ancient name was *Ffos y Gerdinen*, the mountain ash bog; but, when the village began to increase, a public-house was built and named "Lord Nelson," and, in course of time, the gallant admiral's name, minus "Lord," was bestowed upon the place.

NANTYMOEL.—*Nant*, a streamlet; *y*, the; *moel*, a heap, a conical hill; signifying a brook rushing from a high hill. English name—Brookhill.

NANTGARW.—So called from a violent brook that runs through the place, called *Nantgarw*, the rough brook. English name—Roughbrook.

NICHOLASTON.—The church was dedicated to a saint named Nicholas, of whom nothing more is known.

NEWTON NOTTAGE.—A semi-translation of the Welsh name, *Trenewydd Ynottais*. The *y* was dropped; hence *Nottais* and *Nottage*. *Ynottais*, perhaps, comes from *hynod*, noted, remarkable.

NORTON.—A corruption of North-town, so called after an ancient homestead bearing the name in the vicinity.

OGMORE.—An Anglicism of the Welsh *Ogwy* or *Eogwy*. *Eog*, salmon; *wy-gwy*, river. We are inclined to think the correct wording is *Ogwy*; *og*, apt to move, active; and *gwy*, water; the moving or stirring water. *Diog* means not active, sluggish. English name—Moveton

OVERTON.—When a suffix, *over* seems to mean a hill site; when a prefix, it indicates the higher of two places.

PONTARDAWE.—*Pont*, bridge; *ar*, on, upon; *Tawy*, the name of the river. The place takes its name from a bridge built by William Edwards about the year 1757. *Tawy* means the still or silent water. English name—Tawy Bridge.

PENRHIWFER.—*Pen*, head, top; *rhiw*, slope, mountain-side; *fèr*, feminine form of the adjective *byr*, short, abrupt. English name—Uphill.

PANDY. — Several grinding mills were in the Rhondda Valley called *Cwmsaerbren* Mill, *Tyle Coch* Mill, &c., and *Pandy* was the fulling mill. English name—Fulling Mill.

PENTRE.—A populous village near Treorky, so called from a very ancient farmstead bearing the name. It was decided, at a meeting of the Rhondda Chamber of Trade, April 8th, 1886, to petition the Postmaster-General for a town post-office at Pentre, to be called Ystrad Rhondda.

PENDOYLAN.—A corruption of *Pendeulwyn*, which means "the top of two groves." The physical aspect of the district probably suggested the name. English name—Grovesend.

PANTDU.—*Pant*, a hollow; *du*, black, so called from an old farmstead bearing the name, and it

answers to the physical position of the village, being situated in a dreary dingle between Cwmavon and Aberavon. English name—Darkcomb.

PWLLYGWLAW.—This village takes its name from a farmhouse so called. *Pwll*, pool; *gwlaw*, rain. English name—Rainpool.

PANTCADIFOR.—So called, according to some, in honour of *Cadivor*, son of Cedrych, who is supposed to have lived here some time. Others think *Cadifor* is a corruption of *cawd Ifor*, signifying the place where *Ifor Bach* was found dead after a terrible conflict with his enemies. A few refer the name to *Coed Ifor*, Ivor's wood. English name—Ivor's-place, or Ivorton.

PANTSCALLOG.—The village takes its name from a farmhouse of the same appellation. *Sgallog* is an abbreviation of *ysgallog*, abounding with thistles. English name—Thistleham.

PENMARC.—The name signifies the head of St. Mark. We had occasion before to refer to Mark's cross, but here we are quite at sea as to the origin of Mark's head. English name—Markshead.

PENRICE.—An Anglicism of the Welsh *Pen Rhys*, Rhys's head. Rhys, the son of Caradog ab Iestyn, was beheaded here by the Normans in 1099, from which circumstance the place took its name. English name—Reeshead.

PENYFAI.—*Fai* is a mutation of *mai*, a plain; therefore, the name signifies the head of the plain. English name—Plainham.

PENTREBACH.—The name signifies a small village. It is situate about a mile below Merthyr Tydfil, and so called, evidently, to distinguish it from the latter, which is called colloquially *Y Pentref*, the village. English name—Smallham.

PORT EYNON.—Probably from *Einion*, a descendant of Howell the Good. See *Cors Einion*.

PENTYRCH.—The affix has elicited many conjectures. An old tradition has it that a parish wake was wont to be held in the vicinity in olden times, during which very questionable pastimes were carried on.

few days previous to the festival a piece of wood was fixed in the ground. Every young woman that intended being present in the wake was expected to make a *torch* (torque or wreath), with her name on it, and the colour she purposed wearing on that day plaited therein. This wreath was an ornament worn by our forefathers round the neck, formed of small rings of metals interlaced in each other. One young woman produced a better torque than all her rivals, and the bystanders unanimously exclaimed, "Wel, dyma ben y tyrch," *i.e.*, "Well, this is the head of the torques," and so runs the traditional origin of this place-name. "Mi dyna'r dorch â chwi" ("I'll pluck the torques with you") is a very common Welsh expression. Some think the name is a corruption of *Pen-yr-ych*, the head of the ox. There is a combe hard by called *Cwm-y-fuwch*, the vale of the cow, the extreme end of which bears striking resemblance to the form of an ox's head. The right wording is *Pen Twrch*, boar's head, from the similarity of the brow of the Garth mountain, at the base of which the village quietly rests, to a boar's head. A mountain in Wales is called *Moel-ben-twrch*, boar's head hill, obviously for the same reason. English name—Boar's Head.

PENPRYSG.—*Prysg* means brushwood, or that which extends. The appellation is given to some of our hills, as *Prysg-du* in Radnorshire, and *Y Prysg* in Glamorgan. The name therefore signifies either a place abounding with brushwood, or a place situated near the *Prysg* mountain. English name—Brushwood.

PANTYRID.—A corruption of *Pant-y-rhyd*, which means the hollow near the ford. English name—Fordham.

PENGARNDDU.—A small village perched on a hillock near Dowlais. *Garn*, heap of stones; *ddu*, black. The name is derived from a black heap of stones that was once in the place. English name—Blackheap.

PYLE.—An Anglicism of the Welsh *Pil*, which means a creek, a small inlet of the sea filled by the tide, or perhaps it is a corruption of *pwll*, pool, lake.

It is supposed that the place was once covered by the sea; hence the name. We have Pill in Milford Haven, and Pill in Falmouth, and *Pil Gwenlli* in the parish of St. Woolos, Monmouth. English name—Poolham.

PONTLOTTYN.—The bridge that crosses the Rhymney river, according to some, was named in honour of a man called in the vernacular *Lottyn*. Others think the right name is *Pontyplottyn*, which means a bridge built on a dry plot between two streams of the river. The name is derived from an old farmstead of the name, which existed long before the bridge was ever built. English name—Bridgeton.

PORTKERRY.—Some think this quaint place takes its name from *Ceri*, the son of Caid, a remarkably wise man, and a shipbuilder, who, it is said, took up his abode here. Professor Rhys *(Welsh Saints)* thinks that the church of Portkerry was dedicated to *Curig*, but this derivation is untenable. *Font-de-Gery*, Ceri's well, is not far from this place.

PENYDARREN.—An old cottage was so called from its situation on a rising eminence, and at the commencement of the ironworks the name was bestowed upon the place. *Darren* means a rocky hill. English name- Rockham.

PORTHCAWL.—*Porth*, port, harbour; *cawl*, a corruption of *Gaul*. It appears that the Gauls were wont to land here, and we have traces of their name here, as well as in Galloway, Scotland, and Galway and Donegal in Ireland. English name—Gaulport.

PENARTH.—Some think it is a compound of *pen*, head, end; and *arth*, a bear; signifying a bear's head, in allusion to the similarity of the promontory to that animal's head. But the suffix *arth* is, more probably, an abbreviation of *garth*, a hill; therefore, Penarth means headland, which is quite descriptive of the place. It was once called *Cogawn Penardd*. English name—Headland.

PENCOED.—The name signifies a place situated at the head of the wood. It appears that the vicinity

was richly wooded in olden times. English name—Headwood.

PENCLAWDD.—This place derives its name from *Pen Cae Clawdd*, an old camp on the Gaer mountain, near an old Roman road. *Clawdd* is a derivative of *llawdd*, which signifies gladness, or what causes joy or gladness. In ancient times a dyke *(clawdd)* was considered as a sign of defence and safety; hence the reason for joy. English name—Dykesend.

PONTCLOWN.—*Pont*, bridge; *Clown*, the name of a brook that flows under the bridge, and empties itself into the river Ely near Llantrisant station. *Clown*, perhaps, is a corruption of *clowyn*, which implies a white swelling water. English name—Whitebridge.

PONTYPRIDD.—This town takes its name from the unique bridge that was built across the Taff by William Edwards in 1755. The name is an abbreviation of *Pont-yr-hen-dy-pridd*, which means "the bridge near the old clay house." English name—Claybridge.

PONTRHYDYFEN.—*Pont* is clear. Some say *Rhyd-y-Waun*, the meadow ford; others think it is *Rhyd Ifan*, Evan's ford; others think it is *Rhydyfon*, cow's ford. We think the original name was *Pont-ar-rhyd-Afan*, a bridge on the ford of the Avan. This huge bridge was built about the year 1826, and is 459 feet long, 75 feet high, with four large arches. English name—Avanbridge.

PWLL CWM.—*Pwll*, a pit; *cwm*, a valley; so called from an old coal pit that was in the place. English name—Pitcomb.

PORT TALBOT.—So called in 1835 in honour of C. R. M. Talbot, Esq., M.P., Margam Park, who is the sole proprietor of the harbour. The name is n being applied to the whole district.

PORT TENNANT.—So named in honour of Tennant, Esq., Cadoxton Lodge, who constructe his own expense in 1826.

PENMAEN.—The name signifies "the he rock or stone," from the situation of the pl

extremity of a ridge of rocks overlooking Oxwich Bay. English name—Rocksend.

PETERSTON-SUPER-MONTEM.—A translation of the Welsh *Llanbedr-ar-Fynydd*. The church was probably dedicated to Peter le Sorre, and is situated on the mountain.

PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY.—The church was probably dedicated to Peter le Sorre, and is situated on the river Ely.

PONTLLIW.—*Pont*, bridge; *Lliw*, the name of the rivulet that flows under the bridge, and hastens to discharge itself into the Loughor river. English name—Huebridge.

PONTARDULAIS.—The name means a bridge on the *Dulais*. English name—Dulais Bridge.

PONTYGWAITH.—*Gwaith* means work. It appears that there was an ironworks here once, and a smelting furnace was seen here as late as the year 1850. A bridge was probably built near the works; hence the name.—English name—Workbridge.

PENRHIWCEIBER.—*Penrhiw*, head of the slope; *ceiber-ceibr* is probably either a contraction of *ceu bren*, hollow tree; or of *ceibren*, rafter, joist. *Ceibren* is sometimes spelt *cebr*, the plural of which is *ceibr* or *ceibrau*. English name—Woodhill.

PANTYWAUN.—*Pant*, hollow; *y*, the; *waun*, mountain meadow. The place, as the name signifies, is situated on a low, isolated spot on a mountain meadow. English name—Dinglemoor.

PENWAUN.—The name signifies the head or end of the moor or meadow. The small village lies in the upper part of the Aberdare valley, and, like *Hirwaun*, derives its name from Gwrgant's meadow. English name—Moorsend.

QUAKER'S YARD.—Lydia Fell, a wealthy member of the Quaker fraternity, was the owner of the northern portion of the *Llanfabon* estate, and, when a burial-place for the Quakers became a *desiderat*

a piece of land for the purpose, which was made a suitable repository for the dead about the year 1670 or 1680. The village takes its name from this ancient burial-place.

RUDRY.—A corruption of *Rhydri* or *Rhuddry*. Some think the original name was *yr yw dre*, the home of yew trees, from the abundance of yew trees in the neighbourhood. English name—Yewham.

RHYDYBOITHAN.—*Rhyd*, ford; *boithan*, a corruption of *byddin*, an army. Another attempt: *Boithan* is a corruption, perhaps, of *bwthyn*, a cottage; the name signifying the ford near the cottage. English name—Armyford.

RHOSILY.—The right wording is *Rhos Sulwy*. *Rhos* means a dry meadow, a plain, which was given by Fitzhamon to Reginald de Sulwy; hence the name. *Sily* is a corruption of *Sulwy*. English name—Sulton.

RADIR.—A small parish in which the waters of the Taff form a cataract. *Rhaiadr* is the Welsh for cataract or waterfall, and *Radir*, according to some, is a corruption thereof. We rather think it is a contraction of *yr ár dir*, the arable land. *Bar*, the root of *bara*, bread, signifies what grows from arable land. English name—Tillton.

RHYDFELEN. — The right wording is *Rhydyfelin*, signifying the ford of the mill. English name—Millford.

RAVEN HILL.—The village was once called *Fforest Fach*, from its situation near a forest. Raven puzzles us. Perhaps from *Nraefn*, a raven, the Danish standard, indicating the place as the abode of a Dane. There is a farm in the vicinity called *Penlle'rbrain*, which signifies the chief rendezvous of the raven tribe in the district, and the present name is, doubtless, a translation of the same.

RHIGOS.—It is spelt *Regoes* in ancient MSS. It may be a compound of *grug*, heath, and *rhos*, mountain meadow. The physical aspect of the place suggests her derivation. *Rhug*, what has breaks or points;

rhos, meadow; but we rather think it is a contraction of *grugos*, heath, heather; signifying a heathy place. The place is noted for its small batches of heath. English name—Heathham.

RESOLVEN.—*Re*, a corruption of *rhiw*, a slope, the brow of a hill; *Solven*, the name of the hill near which the village is situated. *Solven* may be a compound of *siol*, head, and *maen*, stone. Some think the name is a contraction of *bre soflen*, which signifies the hill of stubble, but, viewing the physical aspect of the place, we rather think it is a corruption of *rhiw sylfan; rhiw*, slope; *sylfan*, a place to gaze. English name—Hill-view.

REYNOLDSTON.—So named in honour of Reginald de Breos, who was once the lord of the manor, and is said to have been the founder of the church; Reginald, for the sake of euphony, being changed to Reynold.

RHONDDA.—In some old documents it is called *Glyn Rhondda*, *Glyn Rhodneu*, and by some English writers *Glyn Rotheney*, and *Glyn Rothire*. Some think *Rhondda* is a corruption of *Yr Honddu; hoen*, complexion, hue; *ddu*, black. The valley received its name, probably, in 877, when Roderic the Great divided the Principality into three provinces, which were afterwards sub-divided into cantrevs and commots. English name—Blackvale.

SKETTY.—An Anglicized form probably of *Is Ketti*. *Maen Ketti* signifies the stone of the Arkite power. The place was called *Is Ketti* from its situation at the base of the hill where *Maen Ketti* stands. *Is* means below or under. English name—Underhill.

SKIWEN.—A corruption of the Welsh *Ysgawen*, the elderwood, so called from the abundance of that wood in the neighbourhood. English name—Elderwood.

ST. FFAGAN.—The parish was named in honour of *Ffagan*, who is recorded to have founded a church here in the second century.

ST. BRIDE.—Bride is probably a clipped form of *Ffraid*, the saint's name to whom the church was dedicated; hence the right name is St. Ffraid. According

to Iolo Morganwg, the church was dedicated to *St. Bride*, the nun, the daughter of Dwpdagws, an Irish saint.

ST. ATHAN.—The church was built by *Tathan*, son of Amwn Ddu, in the sixth century, and, according to the "Welsh Chronicles," his remains were interred here.

ST. DONNATT'S.—Donnatt is a modification of the Welsh *Dunawd*, the saint's name to whom the pristine church was probably dedicated. It was anciently called *Llanwerydd*, the church being dedicated to *Gwerydd*, a descendant of Bran the Blessed.

ST. HILARY.—Hilary is a modified form of *Elari*, the saint's name, to whom the church was dedicated.

ST. NICHOLAS.—The Welsh name is *Llaneinydd*, so called after *Einydd*, the son of Morgan the Courteous, who, it is said, built the church. Pope Nicholas Brekspere, according to Iolo Morganwg, lived in the vicinity in the twelfth century, when probably the present name was given to the place.

SULLY.—*Abersili* is the Welsh name, from its situation at the mouth of the rivulet *Sili*, which means the hissing water. Sully is a corruption of *Sili*. English name—Hissmouth.

SKERRY.—From the Norse *scar*, a precipitous bank of earth, a cliff, as Scarborough and the Skerries. English name—Cliffham.

TON.—From a farmstead so named. *Ton* means unploughed land, a grassy plot of ground. English name—Plotham.

TREHERBERT.—The name was bestowed on the place in 1851 by the Marquis of Bute in honour of Herbert, a favourite name in the Bute family. English name—Herbertston.

TREORKY.—*Orky* is probably a modification of the Welsh *Gorchwy*, the name of the rivulet on which this populous place is situated. *Gorch-wy* signifies encompassing or overflowing water; or, perhaps, the root is *orch*, a limit, a border. English name—Borderton.

TREALAW.—This appellation was given to the place in honour of D. Williams, Esq., whose *nom-de-plume* was *Alaw Gock*, and on whose land the village stands. *Alaw* here means a lily, a genus of plants and flowers of many species. *Alaw gwyn*, white lily; *alaw glâs*, the blue water lily. English name—Lilyton.

TREFOREST.—This name is derived from *Craig y Fforest*, the rock of the forest, near which the village is situated. English name—Foreston.

TONDU.—*Ton* means a grassy plot of ground. *Ithel Ddu*, a grandson of Morgan Hen, had a summer-house here, called *Ton Ithel Ddu*. He was called *Ithel ddu*, Ithel the dark, from his very black hair and beard. Eventually *Ithel* was omitted, and then the name was contracted to *Tonddu* and *Tondu*. English name—Blacksward.

TAIBACH.—The name signifies "small houses," so called from the four small thatched houses that some time stood at the bottom of the present Water-street. English name—Smallham or Smallton.

TONGWYNLAIS.—*Ton*, already explained; *gwynlas*, white and green, so called from the hue of the soil. Some call it *Tongwyrddlas*, which signifies a green, grassy plot of ground. There is a mansion near the village called "Green Meadow," which is an approximate equivalent to the Welsh name. English name—Green Meadow.

TAFF'S WELL.—So called on account of the celebrated well that springs from the bed of the river Taff. The village takes its name from the well. *Taff* is an Anglicism of the Welsh *Taf*, which signifies "spreading." *Tafwys*, the Welsh for Thames, means the spreading or expanding water.

TALYGARN.—*Tal*, front, end; *carn*, a heap, a prominence. English name—Browhill.

TYTHEGSTON.—*Tytheg* is a modification of *Tudwg*, the name of a saint who flourished in the sixth century, and to whom the church is dedicated. *Llandudwg* is the Welsh name. English name—Piacechurch.

TREHARRIS.—This rising place was named in honour of Mr. Harris, who opened a large colliery here in 1873, and called it Harris's Navigation Colliery. English name—Harriston.

TYLORSTOWN.—So called in honour of Mr. Alfred Tylor, who opened the first colliery here about the year 1872.

TONYREFAIL.—*Ton*, a green sward; *yr*, the; *efail-gefail*, smithy. The name signifies a smithy built upon a green sward. A smithy has been here from time unknown. English name—Smithham.

TROEDRHIWFUWCH.—*Troed*, foot; *rhiw*, slope, hill-brow; *fuwch*, the consonant *f* was inserted between the vowels *w* and *u* for the sake of euphony; the correct affix is *uwch*, higher. There is an old farmhouse lower down in the valley called *Troedrhiw-isaf*, and the farm higher up on the hill-side is called *Troedrhiw-uchaf*, to distinguish it from the former. We incline to think the village takes its name from the latter; hence the right wording is *Troedrhiw-uchaf*. English name—Highbrow.

TROEDYRHIW.—This place derives its name from a farmhouse bearing the name. It means a place situate at the base of a hill. English name—Foothill.

TIRPHIL.—*Tir*, land; *Phil*, an abbreviation of Philip, the name of the then owner of the land on which the place is situated. The village branches into two divisions, *Tir Phil* in Glamorgan, and New Tredegar in Monmouth. The Monmouth side was called in honour of Lord Tredegar, the owner of the land. English name—Phillipston.

SWANSEA.—*Caer Wyr*, the fortress of Gower, was the original name of the town. It is called *Abertawy* from its situation at the estuary of the Tawy river. *Tawy* is a contraction of *taw*, silent, still, and *gwy*, water, signifying the silent river. Opinions differ as to the origin of Swansea. Hearne, in 1722, records:—"King Swanus, his fleet, drowned at Swenawick, *alias* Swanesey (*i.e.*, Swanus-sea)." Edmunds thinks the name is derived from Sweyn, king of Denmark, and conqueror of the Saxons in England, and explains it

thus: "Swans-ea, Sweyn's water or harbour." The prevalent opinion is that the name is a modification of swine-sea, so called on account of the number of porpoises found in this part of the Bristol Channel. The name has been variously spelt from time to time:—In 1188 it was spelt Sweynsei; in 1234, Sweineshie; in 1278, Sweynesheie; in 1313, Sweyneseye; in 1433, Sweynesey; in 1463, Swaynesey; in 1553, Swannesey; in 1569, Swanesey; in 1585, Swansey; in 1738, Swansea.

VOCHRIW.—Some are of opinion that it is the ancient *Bochrhiw-carn*, which is translated in "The Lives of British Saints," "the check on a stony road." Others derive it from *moch*, pigs; and *rhiw*, slope. Viewing the physical aspect of the place, one may be induced to derive it from *mòch*, ready, quick, swift and *rhiw*, slope; signifying a steepy hill-side. *Mòch ddwyreog*, quickly rising. Some think the prefix is *bòch*, cheek, from the geographical position of the plac *Bach-rhiw*, the little slope, is suggested by others as t right etymology. English name—Steephill.

WAUNARLWYDD.—*Waun*, meadow; *arlwydd*, mode Welsh *arglwydd*, a lord, a lord of the manor. M Griffiths, Bryn Dafydd, purchased a piece of l which belonged to the lord of the manor, from wh circumstance the place was called *Waunarlwydd*, lord's meadow. English name—Lord's Meadow.

WALNUT TREE BRIDGE.—On a well-known pl ground, in the place, three walnut trees had gr near each other, and in order to facilitate the struction of the Taff Vale railway in the place, it necessary to uproot these beautiful trees and bu bridge on the spot; hence the name.

WENVOE.—A corruption of *Gwynfa*, which si white or blessed land. *Gwyn*, white; *fa-mai*, region. English name—Whitland.

WAUNTRODAU.—*Waun*, a meadow; *trodau* plexing. Some think it is a corruption of *Ty* the house of Rhoda. Others say it is a corrup *trotian, to trot*, to go on trot; *trodi*, to journey.

think the name is a contraction of *Gwauntroedyda*, which signifies the meadow where traces of cows' feet were visible. In support of the first derivation, it is certified that an old house called *Castell Rhode*, Rhode's castle, once stood in the place. English name—Moorton.

WICK.—An Anglicized form of the Welsh *Wig*, a wood. The place was once called *Y Wig Fawr*, the great wood, which implies that the locality was some time thickly wooded. English name—Woodham.

WALTERSTON.—So called in honour of Walter de Mapres, son of Blondel de Mapres, who is supposed to have been the founder of the place.

YSTRAD OWEN.—Prince Owen, the son of Morgan Hen, the king of Glamorgan, took up his abode in this parish, and his remains were consigned to their last resting-place here in the year 987; hence the name. English name—Owenston.

YSTALYFERA.—*Ys*, the; *tal*, front, end; *y*, the; *fera-bera*, a pyramid, a stack of corn or hay; signifying the end of the rick. Or, perhaps the prefix is *ystâl*, a stock or produce, a stall. English name—Stallton.

YNYSPENLLWCH.—*Ynys*, island; *pen*, head; *llwch*, lake; signifying a place at the head of a lake. It appears that the vale was once studded with many lakes. English name—Lakesend.

YNYSLWYD.—So called from a cottage bearing the name, situate on the river Cynon. Some say it is *Ynys y tywod llwyd*, an island on grey sands. English name—Greyham.

YNYSHIR.—So named after a farmstead of the name. It means long island. English name—Longtown.

YSTRADYFODWG.—The Parish Church was dedicated to *Tyfodwg ab Gwilfyw*, a saint of the sixth century. English name—Tyvodwg.

YNYSYBWL.—A corruption, perhaps, of *Ynys-y-pwll*, the island near the pit; or, perhaps, the suffix is *pwl*, unprofitable. We are inclined to think the right wording is *Ynys-y-bêl*, which signifies the ball-meadow. It was in olden times a famous rendezvous for ball-players. English name—Ballton.

MERIONETHSHIRE.

The county takes its name from the old cantrev of *Meirion*, so called in honour of *Meirion*, grandson of Cunedda Wledig. The affix *eth* is a modification of the Welsh *ydd*, a particle denoting agency or personality. It is the only Northern county that has kept its original name.

ABERDYFI. — So called from its situation at the mouth of the river *Dyfi*. Some think *Dyfi* means smooth water, and that the right wording is *Dofwy*, the tame or smooth water. Others think it is *Dyfnwy*, the deep river. We adopt the former. English name—Smoothton.

ARTHOG.—The right word is *Garthog*, mountainous, hilly; the little village is embosomed between rugged mountains. English name—Hillyham.

ABERWYNOLWYN.—*Gwynolgwyn* is probably a corruption of *Gwernol-wy*. The river is called *Gwernol*, and has its source in Gwernol's Well. *Gwernol*, swampy, boggy; and *wy*, water. English name—Bogmouth.

ABERCYWARCH.—A small place situated at the mouth of the river *Cywarch*. Perhaps *cywarch* is a mutation of *cawerch; caw*, moveable, swift; and *erch*, terrible, rushing; signifying a swift and terrible water. English name—Rushmouth.

ABERCORUS.—The rivulet was called *Corus* from its making round excavations in the angles of its banks. English name—Breakmouth.

ABERDYSYNI.—Dr. Pughe thinks the name of the rivulet *(Dysini)* means a sonorous water. We are inclined to think it has a contrary signification, and that the etymology is *di-swn-wy*, the noiseless water. English name—Silenton.

BALA.—The name seems to be derived from *balu*, to shoot, or issue forth. *Bala coed*, the budding or blossom of trees. *Bala llyn*, the outlet or efflux of a lake. It is cognate with Balloch, in Scotland. The town is

situated at the effluence of *Llyn Tegid*, the lake of Tegid. The lake was so called from the following circumstance:—"Tegid, the son of Baran, was a wise king and a good bard. He enacted excellent regulations for literature; restored ancient learning, which had nearly become lost; and instituted a council of bards and Druids, as of old. He continued at war with his enemies, but they took him at last, through treachery, and drowned him in the great lake, called from that circumstance *Llyn Tegid* (Tegid's lake), in *Gwynedd.*"—("Iolo MSS.," p. 346.) English name—Outlake.

BARMOUTH.—An Anglicized form of the Welsh name, *Abermaw*, which signifies a place situated at the mouth of the river Maw. *Bar* is a modification of *Aber*, and mouth of *Maw*, or *Mawddwy*. *Maw* means broad, expanding. *Mawddach*, according to Dr. Owen Pughe, means overflowing water. "*Oedd maw ei rhydau*," broad were its fords. The Anglicized name was adopted in 1768 by the seafaring fraternity in order to have an English name inscribed upon the vessels. English name—Broadmouth.

BRYN Y CRUG.—*Bryn*, a hill; *y*, the; *crug*, a heap; signifying a heap on a hill. English name—Heaphill.

CARROG.—From *carog*, which signifies a torrent or brook. English name—Brookby.

CWM PRYSOR.—*Cwm*, valley; *Prysor* seems to be derived from *prysu*, to form a resort or covert. The name is quite descriptive of this deep and solitary vale, in which the ruins of Castle Prysor are still visible. English name—Covertham.

CEINOG.—The root is *cain*, clear, bright, fair. The name was given to the place, probably, on account of the beautiful views it commands. English name—Brightham.

CORWEN.—Some derive the name from *Corwena*, the name of the mother of Bran and Belli, twin brothers. Others derive it from *Corvaen*, which implies a stone in a circle. Others think it is a mutation of *Caer Owain*. History tells us that the place is famous

for being the rendezvous where the Welsh assembled about the year 1163, under their valiant leader, Owen Gwynedd, against Henry II., and also for being the place of encampment of Owain Glyndwr when he defended his country against Henry IV. We incline to think the name retains its primitive form; hence it means the white choir or church. English name—Whitchurch.

CWMORTHIN.—A corruption probably of *Cwm-certh-hin*. *Cwm*, valley; *certh*, awful, dangerous; *hin*, the weather. The name is quite descriptive of the physical aspect of this deep valley. English name—Perilton.

CYMERAU.—The root is *cymer*, the union of two rivers. The place is situated near the confluence of the rivers Erch and Heli. English name—Biwater.

CYNWYD.—The name, which signifies primary evil, or mischief, was probably derived from *Cynwyd ab Cynwydion*, once a very powerful prince in Edeyrnion, but spent the latter end of his life in hermitage. English name—Primeill.

DOLDREWIN.—Some are of opinion that the name refers to the druidical circles, remains of which are now seen in the village. *Dol*, a meadow; *drewin*, a corruption of *derwydd*, a druid. English name—Druid's Meadow.

DERWEN LAS.—*Derwen*, an oak; *las-glas*, green. English name—Greenoak.

DOLGELLEY.—*Dol*, a meadow, a plain, dale; *gelley* is derived by some from *celli*, a grove. The name is quite in correspondence with the physical aspect of the town, which is situate in a fertile vale between the rivers Aran and Wnion, and surrounded on all sides by lofty and thickly-wooded mountains. We rather think that *gelley* is a corruption of *collen*, hazel-tree, from the abundance of hazel-wood in the district. English name—Hazeldale.

DINAS MAWDDWY.—A small place, although dignified with the name *dinas*, a city. In olden times it was the capital of an extensive lordship, preserving the

insignia of power, the stocks and whipping-post, the *feg fawr*, or great fetter, the mace, and standard measure. *Mawddwy*, broad water. English name—Broadwater.

DUGOED.—*Du*, black; *goed-coed*, wood. English name—Blackwood.

FFESTINIOG.—Edmunds derives the name from *mesen*, an acorn, and *wg*, a district. Others derive it from the Latin *Festino*, which, it is supposed, was bestowed upon it by the Romans when they took up their abode here. Dr. O. Pughe traces it to the Welsh *ffestinio*, to hasten. The pedestrian was obliged to hasten through the place if he destined to cross the mountains and reach Bala or Ysbytty ere being enveloped in darkness. We rather think the name is allied with *penffestin*, a helmet. *Penffestiniog*, wearing a helmet. The name, therefore, implies a district possessing fortified places. English name—Helmetton.

GLYNDYFRDWY.—*Glyn*, glen; *dyfrdwy*, the name of the river that flows through it. Various explanations have been given of *Dyfrdwy*. Some derive it from *dwfr-dwy-afon*, the water of two rivers; others maintain it is a mutation of *dwfr-du*, black water; according to others it is a corruption of *Dwrdd-gwy*, the roaring water. Another derivation is *y drydedd wy*, the third river: *Cynwy* (Conway), being the first river; *Elwy*, the second river; and *Drydwy*, the third river from Arvon to England that emptied themselves into the sea before reaching Chester. The most popular derivation is *dyfr-dwy (f)*, the goddess' water, or the water of the divinity, from the supposition that its waters were held in superstitious veneration by the Kymry. English name—Glendee.

GWYDDELWERN.—*Gwyddel*, a man of the woods; *gwern*, alder trees. Alder wood, perchance, abounded in the district, and the early inhabitants probably were obliged to build their hut-homes in the woods. Or, perhaps, it means the alders of the Irish, indicating the place where a band of Irishmen were defeated. Dr. O. Pughe translates the word thus: "A moor or meadow overgrown with bushes," which signification

tallies well with the bushy aspect of the place. We also find *Y Wern Ddu*, black moor, and *Ty'nywern*, the house on the moor, in the district. English name—Bushland.

HARLECH.—In ancient times the castle was known by the names of *Twr Bronwen*, Bronwen's Tower, from *Bronwen*, the White-necked, sister to Bran ap Llyr, king of Britain; and *Caer Collwyn*, from Collwyn ap Tango, one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales, and lord of Eifionydd, Ardudwy, and part of Lleyn. When Edward I. built the present castle it was denominated, according to some, *Arlech*, from its situation on the rock, or *Harddlech*, the fair or fine rock or stone. The county is exceedingly rich in *cromlechs* and fine stone monuments. A traveller, in climbing an adjacent hill, may observe several *meini hirion*, and circles formed of large common pebble-stones. English name—Beaurock.

LLANDANWG.—From *Tanwg*, son of Ithel Hael, and a saint of the sixth century. *Tanwg* means lowland. English name—Downchurch.

LLANDECWYN.—From *Tecwyn*, son of Ithel Hael, and a saint of the sixth century. Two lakes in the parish, *Tecwyn Ucha* and *Tecwyn Isa*, bear his name. Some derive *tecwyn* thus—*teg*, far; *gwyn*, white, lovely. *Llyn Tecwyn* is near the village, whose waters are of crystalline clearness. English name—Fairchurch.

LLANDRINIO. — *Trinio*, a descendant of Emyr Llydaw, is supposed to have been the founder of the church. *Trinio* probably comes from *trin*, which means a battle or combat; *trinio*, to meddle, to manage. English name—Strifeton.

LLANDDWYWE.—From *Dwywau*, a descendant of Emyr Llydaw, and a saint of the sixth century. English name—Bichurch.

LLANFIHANGEL-Y-TRAETHAU.—The Parish Church is dedicated to St. Michael, and is situated near the two beaches, called *Y Traeth Bach* and *Traeth Mawr*. English name—Beachton.

LLANFOR.—Some think the church is dedicated to Mor Meirion. The right wording, perhaps, is *Llanfawr*, the great church. English name—Bigchurch.

LLANGAR.—The right word probably is *Llangaer*, which means the fortress church. The church is built near an ancient fortress called Caerwern; hence the name. English name—Forton.

LLANGOWER.—*Gower* is a corruption of *Gwawr*, the mother of Llywarch Hen, and a saint, to whom the church is dedicated. English name—Dawnton.

LLANUWCHLLYN.—The name indicates a church above the lake. The village is situated on the Dee a short distance above Tegid lake. English name—Lakechurch.

LLANDDERFEL.—From *Derfel Gadarn*, a celebrated warrior in the sixth century. The church was remarkable for a vast wooden image of *Derfel*, which was the subject of much superstition in olden times. English name—Dervelton.

LLANDRILLO. — From *Trillo*, son of Ithel Hael. Trillo's Well is near the village. English name—Trilchurch.

LLANFROTHEN.—From *Brothen*, son of Helig ab Glanawg, and a popular saint of the sixth century. English name—Brothenton.

LLANGELYNIN. — From *Celynin*, son of Helig ab Glanawg. English name—Hollyton.

LLANEGRYN.—*Egryn*, a saint of the seventh century, is supposed to have founded the church. English name—Fearton.

LLANWRIN.—From *Gwrhin*, son of Cynddilig, a supposed saint of the sixth century. English name—Manby.

LLANELLTYD.—From *Illtyd*, one of the most celebrated of the Welsh saints. English name—Iltutus.

LLANFERIN.—*Merin*, a descendant of Seithenyn, is recorded to have been the founder of the church. English name—Merinton.

LLANBEDR.—The church is dedicated to St. Peter. This neighbourhood, according to some historians, forms a part of *Cantref y Gwaelod*, the lowland hundred. English name—Peterschurch.

LLANABER.—The church stands on the south extremity of the plain of Ardudwy, within about a furlong from the sea. English name—Seaton.

LLANYMAWDDWY.—The church and village are situated at the base of *Aran Fawddwy*. English name—Broadwater.

LLANYCIL.—The name indicates a church built in a sequestered place. English name—Nookchurch.

LLANERCHFYDDA.—*Fydda* is probably a corruption of *byda*, a beehive. The name indicates a noted place for bees. English name—Beesham.

LLWYN.—A village in the parish of Llanegryn. The name means a bush. English name—Bushton.

LLWYNGWRIL.—*Llwyn*, bush; *gwril*, perhaps an abbreviation of *gwrial*, a heroic act, a combat. Some remains of druidical circles and of an old encampment are still visible in the parish. English name—Braveton.

MAENTWROG.—So called from the memorial stone of *Twrog*, a celebrated British saint of the fifth century, which still remains at one angle of the church. English name—Towerston.

MALLWYD.—This place derives its name from *maen*, a stone, and *llwyd*, grey. A Druidic monument is supposed to have been here; whence came the name. Some think the name is a compound of *man-llwyd*, the grey district; so called probably from the appearance of the mountains. English name—Greystone.

NANNAU.—A compound of *nant*, a brook, and *au*, a plural termination. The *t* is dropped and *n* substituted for the sake of euphony. English name—Brooks, or Brookton.

PENRHYNDEUDRAETH. — *Penrhyn*, headland; *dau*, two; *traeth*, beach, seashore. The headland projects into the Tremadoc Bay, between the *Traeth Mawr* and the *Traeth Bach*. English name—Beachham.

PENIARTH.—The right wording is probably *Penygarth*, which means hill-top, from the village being situate on a part of the Cader Idris range. English name—Hilltop.

PANDY'R CAPEL.—*Pandy* means a fulling-mill, which was situated near what is supposed to have been sometime a Roman Catholic Chapel. English name—Mill-chapel.

PENNAL.—A compound of *Pen*, head, top, and *al*, a partition, a fence, a defence. The village lies on the old Roman road called "Sarn Helen," Helen's causeway, and it is supposed that the Romans had a station here. English name—Fenceton.

RHYDERIN.—*Rhyd*, a ford; *erin*, a corruption of *gerwin*, rough. The name is derived from a rough and perilous ford across the Dysyni river. The etymology of *Dysyni* is *di-swn-wy*, noiseless water. English name—Roughford.

RHYDONEN.—*Rhyd*, a ford; *onen*, the ash tree. English name—Ashford.

RHYDUCHAF.—The name signifies the highest ford. English name—Highford.

RHIWAEDOG.—*Rhiw*, slope, the brow of a hill; *gwaedog*, bloody; so called from a battle that was fought here at some remote period. A small lake in the district is called *Pwll y Gelanedd*, the pool of slaughter. English name—Battle Hill.

SAETH MARCHOG.—In this place Owen Gwynedd is supposed to have surprised Reginald de Grey and seven knights *(Saith Marchog)* in his train; hence the right wording is *Saith Marchog*, and its English name is Seven Knights.

TOWYN.—Edmunds derives the name from *twyn*, a a curved hillock or bank; but we think the right word is *Tywyn*, which is derived from *tywodyn*, sand; hence the name signifies a place of sands. The village is situate near the seashore, and is celebrated as a beautiful bathing-place. English name—Sandham.

TRAWSFYNYDD.—*Traws*, across; *mynydd*, a mountain. The name indicates a place situate on the side of a mountain. English name—Mountham.

TALSARNAU.—*Tal*, front; *sarnau*, causeways, roads. English name—Roadsend.

TALYLLYN.—The name signifies "the end or head of the lake," from the situation of its church at the head of a beatiful lake called *Llyn Mynydd*. English name—Lakend.

TANYGRISIAU.—*Tan*, under, below; *y*, the; *grisiau*, steps, stairs. In coming down from Cwmorthin to Dolredyn, the pedestrians used to descend over a series of steps made of stones, called *Grisiau Mawr*, great steps; and, on account of the village lying below these steps, it was called *Tanygrisiau*. English name—Stepton.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

MONMOUTHSHIRE, although incorporated with England in 1535 by Henry VIII., and included in the Oxford circuit, is still considered by a great majority of the population as a Welsh county to all intents and purposes. The law asserts its separation from Wales, but Welsh patriotism still owns it as a near relation, as is expressly shown in the conventional term, "Wales and Monmouthshire." The county takes its name from its capital town, which was once called *Abermynwy*, from its situation at the mouth of the river *Monnow* or *Mynwy*. The prefix of the river-name is perplexing. Some think it is *main*, slender, small; the name, therefore, signifying a small or narrow current of water. "*Dwfr yn rhedeg yn fain*," water running in a small current. *Menai* is probably *main-wy*, narrow water. It may be a corruption of *mawn*, peat, turf; *mawndir*, peat land; *mawn-wy*, a river running through peaty soil. Viewing the course of the river one might think the root is *min*, an edge, a margin; the name, therefore, means border-water. The

river flows between the counties of Monmouth and Hereford. We rather think the right wording is *mynw-wy; mynw*, quick, active; the name signifying the brisk or lively water.

ABERBIG.—*Aber*, estuary; *big-pig*, a slender, narrow thing; or perhaps the suffix is a contraction of *pygwy*, tar, a liquid pitch, in allusion to the hue of the water. We are inclined to think the name in its pristine form was *Aber-byga; byga*, a point. The two valleys, Ebbw and Nantyglo, meet here in a point. English name—Pointham.

ABERCARN. — The river-name *carn*, a hoof, is a descriptive term, showing the semi-circular turn of the river, like that of a horse's hoof. *Carn yr ebol*, colt's foot. English name—Hoofton.

ABERGAVENNY.—Flavel Edmunds derives *Gavenny*, the river-name, from *gwy*, water, and *venny* from *fynydd*, mountain; hence the mountain water. It is generally called by Welshmen *Y Fenni*, which induces some to think the name in its original form was *mên-wy*, the active water. We rather think the name is a compound of *cefn*, ridge, and *gwy*, water, denoting a river having its source in high places. This etymology is supported by the fact that this small stream rises on a ridge where some of the water runs in the direction of Crickhowell and some in the direction of Abergavenny. The town is almost encircled by ridges and mountains. English name—Ridgeton.

ABERSYCHAN.—*Sychan* is the name of the rivulet that joins the Afon Lwyd at the place. *Sych*, dry; *an-ain*, a stream of water, a brook. We find a brook called *Sychryd* in Breconshire, and also *Hepste*, which is probably a corruption of *Hesp-an*, water that dries up. We have also *Havesp; haf*, summer; *hesp*, dry. In summer time the channels of these rivulets dry up; hence the name. English name—Drymouth.

ABERTILLERY.—*Tillery* is the name of the river that flows through the place. *Til* implies a small thing; *air*, clear, bright; *gwy*, water; the name, according to this derivation, signifies the mouth of the small clear

river. Another attempt: *Tel*, implying straight; *llerw*, soft, smooth; *gwy*, water. We are induced to think the name is a compound of *telor*, warbler, and *gwy*, water; signifying the warbling river. English name—Warbleton.

ARGOED.—A contraction of *ar-y-coed*, signifying a place situated on or above a wood. Dr. O. Pughe says camps were fortified, on emergencies, by felling trees to surround them, and one so constructed was called *Argoed*. It is cognate with Arghait in Scotland. English name—Upwood.

BASSALEG.—Many conjectures have been propounded as to the origin of this name Nennius and others think it means *Maes Aleg*, the field of Alectus, signifying elect-land, *Aleg* being a Welshism of Alectus. It is supposed that here the famous Myrddin was discovered by the messengers of King Gwrtheyrn. About a mile from the village there is a circular entrenchment supposed to have been a Saxon camp. Some think the correct wording is *Baes-Aleg; baes-bais*, flats or shallows, a ford; *Aleg*, a contraction of Alexander. It is, according to some, a corruption of *maes-yr-helyg*, the field of the willows, from the abundance of willow-trees in the vicinity. In the middle ages there was a priory here dedicated to *St. Basil*, which was a cell in connection with Glastonbury Abbey. The name of the priory in full was probably *Basili Ecclisia*, the church of Basil. The name was ultimately contracted into *Basil-ecc*, and further corrupted into *Bassilech* and *Bassaleg*. The parish church is dedicated to St. Basil. *Basil-ecc* is identical in meaning with *Llanbasil*. English name—Basilchurch or Basilton.

BEDWAS.—Some derive the name from *St. Bedwas*, one of the twelve sons of Helig ab Glanawg. We are inclined to derive it from *bedw*, birch; and *as*, a plain surface; signifying a place of birch-trees. English name—Birchton.

BLAENAVON.—*Blaen* here means the source of the river; *Avon*, river. This place is situated near the

source of the river Llwyd; hence the name. English name—Springton.

BLAINA.—A slight mutation of *Blaenau*, plural form of *blaen*, source. *Blaenau afonydd*, the sources of rivers. The name signifies a place where several streams of water commence their sea-ward journey. English name—Springston.

BRYNGWYN.—The correct wording, perhaps, is *Brein Gwyn*, the supreme or royal tribunal. We do not know of any vestige of this royal court, but a British camp called "The Camp Hill" is in the parish. English name—Rexhill.

BWLCH TREWYN.—*Bwlch*, a break or breach, a gap; generally applied to places where mountains terminate, and form a pass; *Trewyn*, leading away, persuasion. English name—Passton.

CAERGWENT.—*Caer*, fortified wall, camp; *gwent*, a fair or open region. The name *Gwent* in ancient times comprehended portions of the counties of Gloucester, Hereford, and Monmouth; and *Caergwent*, or the Venta Silurum of the Romans, was the capital; but now it is confined to the county of Monmouth. English name—Campton.

CAERLEON.—*Caer*, already explained; *lleon*, legion. It is generally believed that the Roman station of the Second Augustan Legion was situated here, which was then called Isca Silurum. The Silures occupied the eastern half of the country between the lower course of the Severn and Cardigan Bay, and Isca was the reputed seat of Caractacus when leader of the Silures. Isca is the Latin for Wysg or Usk. The Second Legion was permanently posted here under the command of Vespasian, hence the name *Caerlleon ar Wysg*, the Camp of the Legion on the Usk. English name—Legionton.

CALDICOT.—Some think the right wording is *Galdigoed; gal*, a plain; *digoed*, woodless; signifying a woodless region. Others derive it from *Cil-dy-coed*, a house of retreat in the woods. Isaac Taylor derives it

from "cold cot." *Gal* was in ancient times used to denote a goal or station; *di-ty*, a house; *cot*, a contraction of *coed*, wood, and is found in many place-names, as Mancot, &c. This wood-house may have been a station or place of entertainment to receive the wayfarers in time of yore, before the Roman stations and villas were reared on British soil. English name—Woodham.

CASBACH.—A contraction of *Castell-bach*, little castle. It was anciently called *Castell Gwgan*, the castle of Gwgan. Gwgan was a brave warrior, and is supposed to have built a castle here in the seventh century, which was rebuilt soon after the Norman Conquest, but of which very few, if any, vestiges now remain. English name—Castleton.

CASGWENT.—A contraction of *Castell Gwent*, the castle of Gwent. The old castle is still here, and special attention is paid by visitors to the tower where Henry Marten was incarcerated for upwards of twenty years for his conspiracy against Charles I. Notable are his last written words:—"Care not how you *end*, but how you *spend* your days." English name—Castleby.

CASNEWYDD.—A contraction of *Castell-newydd-ar-Wysg*, the new castle on the Usk. Giraldus Cambrensis calls it *Novus Burgus*, the new town or borough, in contradistinction from Caerleon, the old Roman port of Isca Silurum. It was also called *Castell Newydd*, or Newcastle, in honour of Robert, Earl of Gloucester, son of Henry I., who built a castle here to defend his possessions. In the "Welsh Triads" this ancient port was called *Ysgewin*, elder wood, and was considered as one of the "three privileged ports of the Isle of Britain." English Name—Newcastle.

CHAPEL HILL.—So called from the dedication of an ancient chapel in the parish to St. Ann.

CHEPSTOW.—The ancient Welsh name was *Castell Gwent*, the castle of Gwent. (See Casgwent.) The present name is a compound of *ceap*, price or sale; and *stowe*, stoc, a stockaded place. Many English place-names are derived from the root *ceap*, and they indicate early

seats of commercial activity, as Cheapside, Chippingham, &c. Chipping was the old English term for a market-place, which in Wickliffe's time was spelt chepinge. "They ben like children sitting in chepinge and spekinge togidre." (Wickliffe's translation of Luke vii., 32.) Cheapside and Eastcheap occupy the sites of the two chief centres of trade in London in olden times.

COED-DUON.—*Coed*, wood; *duon*, plural of *du*, black. The English generally put the adjective before the noun, hence we have Blackwood, but the Welsh usage is *vice-versa*; hence *Coed-duon*. A local gentleman once endeavoured to bestow his own name upon the place, and call it Moggridgeton. He persisted in calling it after the self-made name for some time, but the inhabitants clung tenaciously to the old name, and have done so ever since.

CROSS KEYS.—This village takes its name from a public-house so named. The "Cross Keys," common in the mediæval ages, is in allusion to St. Peter, or one of the bishops, whose cognomen it was—probably the lord of the manor, or the patron saint of the parish church.

CRUMLIN.—A compound of *crwm*, bending, crooked; and *llun*, a form, a shape; probably from the meandering course of the river in this picturesque part of the valley. Leland spells it Cremline, a little brook. Some derive it from *crwm-lyn*, crooked lake, from the configuration of the valley, in which, probably, there was a lake in time of yore. English name—Crookton.

CWMAVON.—*Cwm*, valley; *afon*, the river Llwyd, which runs through the place. English name—Rivervale.

CWMBRAN.—*Cwm*, valley; *Brân*, the name of the first British Christian. We find *Bran* in mountain and river names, as Dinas Bran, Brandon Hill, Aberbran, Glanbran, &c. The root is *brean*, which signifies the mountain brook; *bre*, mountain; *an-ain*, brook. It remains intact in Brean Down, and we have variations

of it in Braintree, Brentford, Brentry, &c. English name—Brookvale.

Cwmsyfiog.—From a farm so called. *Cwm*, valley; *syfiog*, abounding with strawberries. English name—Berryvale.

Cymmerau.—This name is the plural form of *cymer*. *Cyd-mer*, the union of two waters. The confluence of the Erch and Heli in Eifionydd is called *Cymmerau*. English name - Waterby.

Ebbw Vale.—An Anglicized form of the Welsh name *Glyn Ebbwy*. *Glyn*, a deep vale through which a river flows; *Ebbwy*, from *eb*, an issuing out; and *gwy*, water, a river. *Ebrill*, April, from the springing up of herbs and flowers. *Eppil*, progeny; *eb efe*, says he. The original name was *Penycae*, the upper part of the field, from an old farmhouse so named, upon which the works were built. English name—Exvale.

Fleur-de-Lis.—The Welsh name of the place is *Trelyn*, a place on or near a lake, which was bestowed upon it as a mark of respect to the Welsh idiosyncrasies of Lady Llanover. The present name was taken from a brewery which stands at the lower end of the valley. It is a French name signifying "flower of the lily," the royal insignia of France. English name—Lilyton.

Gellygroes.—A compound of *gelly*, grove; and *groes*, cross. English name—Crossgrove.

Gilwern.—A compound of *cil*, a sequestered place; and *gwern*, a bog, a meadow. English name—Bogton.

Glas-coed.—*Glas*, green; *coed*, wood. Glasgow is probably a corruption of this name. Greenock is the name of the port of Glasgow, the prefix being a literal translation from that of the city. English name—Greenwood.

Goldcliff.—In this parish there is a peninsulated rocky hill, rising abruptly from the sea to the height of about sixty feet. It consists of limestone lying horizontally, intersected with silicious crystallizations, above

an immense bed of mica. The glistening of this substance when the sun shines upon it is supposed to have given it its present appellation.

GOVILON.—Several derivations are given to this place-name. Some derive it from "*Gafael Ioan*," John's holding. *Gafael* means the share which each brother held in their father's land however numerous the brothers were. *Gafael cenedl*, the hold or tenure of a family. There is a tradition in the neighbourhood that a considerable part of the district was owned at one time by twin-brothers, and that the part now called *Govilon* was John's portion; hence *Gafael Ioan*. We rather think the name is derived from the plural form of *gefail* or *gofail*, smithy. In olden times, before the construction of railways and canals, when almost everything, especially coal and lime, was carried on pack horses and mules to Abergavenny, Hereford, Brecon, &c., there were many "smithies" in the immediate locality, the chief work at which was shoeing horses and mules. The place is also called after that of the parish, *Llanwenarth; Llan*, church; *gwen*, feminine form of *gwyn*, white; *arth-garth*, a promontory, a ridge. English name—Smithby.

GOYTRE.—A compound of *coed*, wood; *tref*, a dwelling; signifying either a dwelling in a wood, or a house built of wood. English name—Woodham.

GRIFFITHSTOWN.—This village was named after a Mr. Griffiths, who now resides in the place.

GROSMONT.—This name signifies a mount marked by a cross. English name—Crossmount.

HENLLYS.—*Hen*, old, ancient; *llys*, a court, a hall, a palace. Various courts *(llysoedd)* were held in olden times called *Llys y brenin*, the king's court; *llys benadur*, the principal court; *llys breyr*, a court baron; *henllys*, old court. English name—Oldcourt.

KEMEYS.—A gross mutilation of *Cemaes*, which is a compound of *cefn*, ridge, high; and *maes*, a field; signifying a high place forming a vantage ground for military operations. English name—Highfield.

LLANARTH.—A compound of *llan*, church; and *garth*, a promontory, a ridge; signifying a church built on a high place. English name—Hillchurch.

LLANBADOC.—A corruption of *Llanfadog*, from the dedication of the church to St. Madog. *Madog* is derived from *mâd*, a good, a benefit. *Madog*, goodly. English name—Goodchurch.

LLANDEGFETH.—From the church being dedicated to *St. Tegwedd*. *Tegwedd* signifies one of a noble appearance. English name—Nobleton.

LLANDOGO.—*Dogo* is a corruption of *Odoceus*, the name of the saint to whom the church is dedicated. English name—Odoceus.

LLANDDEWI RHYDDERCH.—The church was built or founded by *Rhydderch*, Richard, one of the three generous princes of Britain, and dedicated to St. David. English name—Richardston.

LLANELLEN.—From the church being dedicated to *St. Ellen*. English name—Ellenston.

LLANFACHES.—From *Maches*, a saint of the sixth century, and a daughter of Gwynlliw Filwr, who suffered martyrdom here at the hands of the Saxons. *Mach* means a bail, a surety. English name—Bailton.

LLANFAIR DISCOED.—The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is situated *is-y-coed*, below the wood; hence the name. *Dis*, as a prefix, sometimes implies privation or negation, and is equivalent to the English *im* and *un*; so if *discoed* be the right wording, the name signifies the church of St. Mary in a woodless place. English name—Maryston.

LLANFAPLEY.—The name signifies a church dedicated to *Fabiali*, son of Brychan Brycheiniog. English name—Fabialton.

LLANFETHRIN.—A corruption of *Llan-Gwytherin*, the church being dedicated to *St. Gwytherin*. *Gwytherin* means golden vein, or the bright or splendid vein. English name—Brightchurch.

LLANFIHANGEL CRUCORNEY. — *Llanfihangel*, St. Michael's church; *crug-craig*, rock; *corn*, horn; and *gwy*, water; the name signifying a church built on an elevated place on the horn of the water. The village is situated on the river Monnow, overshadowed by the mountain Skyrrid Fawr. English name—Cragton.

LLANFIHANGEL - NEAR - USK. — *Llanfihangel*, St. Michael's church. The place is situated about six miles north-west from the town of Usk. The river Usk forms the boundary of the parish on the south. English name—St. Michael-near-Usk.

LLANFOIST.—*Foist* is probably a corruption of *Faith*. *Llanfey*, Pembroke, according to some, is *Llanyffydd*, *Fanum Fidei*, the church of the Faith. It is spelt in some ancient documents Llanfaith and Llanfeth. Iago Emlyn thinks that the Normans translated it into Llanfoi, *foi* being French for faith. If so, it may easily have been changed into Llanfey, Lamphey, and Llanfoist. English name—Faithchurch.

LLANGATTWG-LLINGOED.—The church is dedicated *St. Cattwg*. *Llingoed* may be a compound of *lli*, stream; *yn*, the; *coed*, wood; signifying a stream in the wood. Or the prefix may be *llain*, a slip or long narrow place; *llain o dir*, a slip of land; the name, therefore, signifying St. Cadoc's church on a narrow field near the wood. We adopt the former. English name—Streamwood.

LLANGWM.—The name signifies a church in the combe or vale. English name—Churchvale.

LLANGYBI.—From the dedication of the church to *St. Cybi*. English name—Kybi's Church.

LLANHIDDEL.—Some are of the opinion that the church takes its name from *Ithel*, King of Gwent, who was slain in battle in 846; but we rather think that *Hiddel* is a barbaric transposition of *Elltyd* or *Illtyd*, Iltutus, the patron saint of the church. *Elltyd* means an alien, a stranger. English name—Alienton.

LLANMARTIN.—From the dedication of the church to *St. Martin*. English name—Martinton.

LLANOVER.—The correct spelling of the suffix is *gover*, which means a small current, a stream that runs out of a spring. *Gofer ffynon*, the rivulet of a well. There are nine springs in the park called *Ffynon Ofor*, Gover Well. English name—Streamton.

LLANTARNAM.—*Tarnam* is a corrupted form of *Torfaen*, breaker of stones, the original name it is said of the river Llwyd. The church, situated not far from the banks of this torrent, was called from its geographical position, *Llantorfaen*, afterwards corrupted into *Llantarnam*. Some derive it from *Llan-tor-Nonn*, the church on the hill dedicated to Nonn, the mother of St. David. We adopt the former. English name—Breakstone.

LLANTILLIO-CROSSENY.—*Tillio* is a corruption of *Teilo*, the celebrated saint to whom the church is dedicated. *Crossenny* or *Croes-senw*, means a cross of honour. "*Enw heb senw*," a name without dignity. English name—Crossby.

LLANTHONY.—A contracted form of *Llanddewi Nant Honddu*. The ancient chapel or church was dedicated to St. David, and erected near the brook *Honddu*. The monastery was established here in 1107 under the patronage of Walter de Lacey, Earl of Hereford, Henry I., Empress Maude, and others. English name—Blackbrook.

LLANWERN.—The name signifies a church among the alder-trees. English name—Alderchurch.

MACHEN.—A compound of *mach*, a high ridge, a barrier, a place of defence; and *ain*, water. We find *magh* as a prefix in more than a hundred Irish names, as Magh-Era, &c., and as a suffix in Armagh, &c. If we take *mach* as signifying a place of defence or surety, the verb *mechnio*, to become surety, strengthens the above derivation. The name, therefore, signifies a place of safety near or on the water. English name—Safeton.

MAESYCWMMER.—Some spell the latter portion of the name as *cwmmwr*, which in this district means any kind of a bridge to cross the river. "Myn'd dros y

cwmmwr," crossing by means of the wooden bridge. The correct wording probably is *Maes-y-cymmer. Maes*, a field; *y*, the; *cymmer*, a confluence of waters. English name—Waterfield.

MAGOR.—A corruption of *Magwyr*, which signifies the remains or ruins of a demolished or decayed building, fortress, &c. *Hen fagwyr*, an old building or toft of a house. "*A byddwch fel magwyr ogwyddedig*," "As a bowing wall shall ye be." The place takes its name from an old ruin covered with ivy. English name—Wallham.

MAINDY.—Some derive the name from *maen-du*, which signifies the black stone or rock. We rather think it is a compound of *maen*, stone; and *ty*, house; signifying a house made of stones, in contradistinction from *coed-dy*, wood-house. English name—Stoneham.

MALPAS.—This is one of the few Norman-French names that remind us of the conquest. It signifies a bad frontier pass, from *malus*, bad; and *passus*, step.

MARSHFIELD.—*Marsh*, a derivative of *mare*, the sea, Anglicized into *marish*, then shortened into *marsh*; and *field*, signifying a tract of land on the sea-coast. The suffix means a forest clearing or place where the trees have been *felled*, hence *field*.

MATHERN.—This place is supposed to derive its name from *Merthyr Tewdrig*, who died here in the sixth century from the effects of a wound he received in battle against the Saxons. A church was built on the spot where his remains were interred, and dedicated to him. English name—Martyrton.

MITCHEL-TROY.—*Mitchel* is a corruption of St. Michael, the patron saint of the church. *Troy* is a contraction of *Trothy*, the name of the river on which it is situated. The suffix is a compound of *troth*, what tends through; and *gwy*, water. *Treiddied troth maen*—let it burst through the rock. *Trwydded* means a passage through. This river-name implies a violent or furious water. Or it may be a contraction of *tre-wy*, the town by the water. We adopt the former. English name—Borewater or Passwater.

MOUNTON.—A corruption of the old name of the place, *Monckton*, the monk's town, probably so called from the monks of Chepstow, who for some centuries held the tithes and provided a priest for the church. English name—Monkton.

NANTYGLO.—*Nant*, brook; *y*, the; *glo*, coal; signifying the coal brook, from the fact, it is said, that in this place coal was first used to make iron, about the middle of the eighteenth century. English name—Coalbrook.

NASH.—From the Norse *ness* or *naze*, which means a nose or promontory of land. Norse names are frequently found on places fringing our coasts, such as Stack Rocks, Penyholt Stack, Stockholm Island, Nash, &c. This place is situated on the coast of the Bristol Channel.

NEWBRIDGE.—A translation of the Welsh name, *Pontnewydd*.

NEWCASTLE.—From the fortress which anciently stood here, surrounded by a moat.

PANTEG.—*Pant*, hollow; *teg*, fair; signifying a beautiful vale, a name quite descriptive of the place. English name—Beauvale.

PENGAM.—It was anciently called *Pont-maen-pengam*, which signifies a bridge built on a bended rock, or on the river Pengam. *Pengam* means wry-headed. English name—Wryton or Twistton.

PENMAIN.—A compound of *pen*, head, top; and *maen*, a stone, a rock. English name—Topstone.

PETERSTON.—From the dedication of the church to *St. Peter*.

PONTHIR.—*Pont*, bridge; *hir*, long; from a long bridge built over the river Llwyd about ninety years ago. When the Tin Works were first erected here, that is, prior to the erection of the bridge, the place was called *Gwaith Newydd*, New Works, but within the past sixty years *Gwaith Newydd* has given place to *Ponthir*. English name—Longbridge.

PONTLLANFRAITH.—*Pont*, bridge; *llan*, church *fraith*, a mutation, perhaps, of *ffridd*, a forest, a plantation. Or perhaps the church was dedicated to *St. Ffraid* or *St. Faith*. English name—Brideschurch.

PONTNEWYNYDD.—Some say this is a contraction of *Pont-y-naw-mynydd*, the bridge from which nine mountains are visible, but we cannct find so many mountains to support this derivation. It is more probably, says the Rev. J. Williams, Pontypool, derived from *pont-dewinydd*, the bridge of the divine. *Dewinydd* is the old Welsh form of *duwinydd*, divine, theologian. The bridge is supposed to have been built by a parson, a divine, called Sir Dafydd, vicar of Trevethin, in the reign of James or Charles I. Close to the bridge there are remains of his residence, whilst the narrow meadow adjoining is called *Waun Sir Dafydd*, Sir David's meadow. English name—Priest-bridge.

PONTRHYDYRUN.—A compound of *pont*, bridge; *rhyd*, ford; *yr*, the; *ynn*, ash tree; signifying the bridge across the ash-tree ford. English name—Ashford Bridge.

PONTRILAS.—The name probably means the bridge of the three rivers. *Lais* is an old British word, standing for water, or stream, and here we have three rivers meeting, and just below the confluence a bridge is thrown across; hence *Pont-tri-lais*. Some say it is the *Pont-tri-llais*, the bridge of the three murmuring streams. Others think it is a clipped form of *Pont-rhyd-Dulas*, the bridge on the ford of Dulas. English name—Bridgewater.

PONTYMISTR.—A corruption of *Pont-y-minster*, the cloister or abbey bridge. *Minster* is the Anglo-Saxon form of the Latin *monasterium*, and is a frequent component in English and European place-names, as Leominster, Westminster, Monstiers, &c. It is supposed that a Conventual church once existed in this neighbourhood. English name—Abbey Bridge.

PONTYMOIL.—A compound of *pont*, bridge; and *moel*, a conical hill. The place lies at the foot of a hill called Moel. English name—Bridgehill.

PONTYPOOL.—Some derive the name from *Ponty-pwll*, which signifies a bridge thrown over a pool in the river Llwyd. The correct wording is *Pont-ap-Howel*, the bridge of the son of Howell, from the bridge having been built by Ap Howel. It is difficult to determine who this Ap Howel was. Some maintain that he was *Dafydd ap Howel*, a parson of Trevethin, probably the Sir Dafydd of Pontnewynydd. It appears that there was in the reign of Queen Elizabeth a certain Lord Howell living somewhere in this neighbourhood, who left a deep impress on this vicinity, and Sir Dafydd might have been *Ap Howel*, the son of Howell. The patronymic *ap* or *ab*, son, was used very frequently in personal names in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. We meet the clipped form of it in Prichard, from Ap Richard; Pugh, from Ap Hugh; Prys or Price, from Ap Rhys; Powell, from Ap Howell, &c.; hence we may call this ancient town Powell's Bridge.

PONTYWAIN.—*Pont*, bridge; *y*, the; *wain*, meadow, down. English name—Downbridge.

PORTSKEWETT.—A corrupted form of *porth-is-coed*, the port by or below the wood. In ancient times this port is said to have been the chief port of Gwent. English name—Portwood.

RAGLAN.—Some think it is a contraction of *rhagor llan*, which means the supreme or excellent church. It is spelt in ancient books *Ragland*, perhaps from *rag*, a fragment, a patch; and *land*. Or perhaps the latter part is a clipped form of *llanerch*, as it is in *Penlan*; therefore meaning a flat piece of land stretching forward in opposition to *Penylan*. This derivation is supported by the physical aspect of the district.

RHIWDERIN.—A compound of *rhiw*, slope; and *taren*, tump, knoll. English name—Tumphill.

RHYDYMERC.—A compound probably of *rhyd-y-march*, the horse's ford. English name—Horseford.

RHYMNEY.—This place takes its name from the river that flows through it. The root is *rhym*, what *stretches* round, what extends. It is cognate with the

Gaelic word *ruimne*, marsh. Romney Marsh is now a large fertile tract of land situate at the most southern part of the county, but in olden times it was a worthless marsh overflowed at every tide. Ramsey, Old Romney, New Romney, and Rimina (Italy) are probably derived from the same source. The name Romney Marsh is one of the many instances we have of reduplication of synonyms. When we say Romney Marsh we say in effect Marsh Marsh, and are guilty of such tautology as the Englishman is when he says River Avon, which is in effect River River. English name—Marshton.

Risca.—The root, according to some, is *rhisg*, bark. *Yr hesg-gae*, the sedgy field, is another derivation. Others derive it from *is-y-cae*, below the field. We rather think it is a contraction of *Yr Isca*, the Latin form of *Yr Wysg*. Caerleon was called Isca Silurum.

Rogerston.—This place derives its name from Roger de Berkerolles, a Norman lord, who built a small castle in the place, of which very few remains are now discernible.

Scenfrith.—Some derive it from *hesg-gae-ffridd*, the sedgy place in the wood. We are inclined to think it is a clipped form of *ys-gaw (n)-ffrith*, which means a plantation of elder wood. English name—Elderwood.

Shire Newton.—The ancient Welsh name was *Tre-newydd-gelli-fach*, the new town near the small grove. Perhaps *shire* was prefixed on account of the place having been in ancient times a detached portion of the lordship of Caldicot. *Shire* is derived from the Norse *skera*, to shear, or cut asunder. A division of land is called a *shire*, that which divides land from sea is called a *shore*.

Sirhowy.—A compound of *siar*, an articulate sound; *hoyw*, sprightly, lively; and *gwy*, water. English name—Sprightwater.

Six Bells.—From a public-house so called. "The Bell" is a common tavern sign, selected from its

allusion to races, a silver bell having been the winner's prize up to the reign of Charles II.

ST. MELLONS.—The Welsh name is *Llaneurwg*, or more correctly *Llan-Lleurwg*, from *Lleurwg ab Coel ab Gyffin Sant*, who, according to the "Welsh Chronicles," was the first to devise means to introduce Christianity to the Isle of Britain. He is recorded to have established a church here. The present name is derived from the dedication of the church to *St. Mellans.*

TINTERN ABBEY.—A ruined abbey of that name stands here. It is supposed a Cistertian abbey was founded here May 9th, 1131, by Walter de Clare, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and colonised from L'Aumone. Some derive *Tintern* from *din*, fortified hill, a camp; and *Teyron*, or *Tegernacus*, the grandson of Gwladys. We rather think the correct wording is *Din-Teyrn.* The prefix is quite clear, as the ruined abbey occupies a gentle eminence in the middle of a circular valley. The suffix *teyrn* means a king, a supreme ruler, in allusion here probably to the royal founder of the abbey, who was a scion of Gilbert, Earl of Brionne. Tintern Parva, or Little Tintern, takes its name from this celebrated abbey. English name—Rexhill Abbey.

TREDEGAR.—*Troedygaer*, say some, is the right wording, which signifies a place at the foot of the fort. Others think it is *Tre-deg-aradr*, the town of ten ploughs, or *Tre-deg-erw*, the town of ten acres. A very plausible derivation is the following: *tre*, abode; *deg-teg*, fair; and *âr*, land; signifying an abode situated on a fair land, or a fine abode situated on arable land. Mr. Octavius Morgan in the "Archæological Cambrensis" offers the following derivation:—The earliest mention of this name is in an old copy of a poem by a Welsh poet who . . flourished between 1430 and 1470, and presided at a gorsedd in Glamorgan in 1460, about which time he wrote a poem in praise of Sir John Morgan, whom in the title he styles "Syr Sion ap Morgan o Dre-Degyr (t and d being interchangeable consonants in the Welsh language). The *Tre* and *Degyr* in both instances are separated by a hyphen,

and *Degyr* in both instances has a capital D, indicating a proper name. In a MS. of the seventeenth century, in the possession of the late Mr. S. R. Bosanquet, is this statement, "The house of *Tref-ddigr*, holden by inheritance of blood from time to time, is the most ancient in Wales;" "Teigr ap Tegonwy was an ancient prince in King Arthur's time." The t is changed into d for the sake of euphony. The place, again, is called *Tref-Deigr*, and though Teigr may be as mythical as King Arthur, this is strong presumptive evidence that there was such a traditionary personage connected with this place, at whatever time he may have lived. Again, in a pedigree by Robert Vaughan, of Hengwrt, made about 1660, and now among the Hengwrt MSS. at Peniarth, the name is written "Thomas Morgan de Dref-deg-yr, Esq." From this evidence it seems to me clear that *Tredegar* received its name from its early possessor, whose name was *Teigr*, though when he lived and who he was is not known, but his name was attached to his *tref* or homestead, and has continued to this day, as is the case with an adjoining hamlet in the same parish, which now retains its name of Tre-Gwilym, derived from being the *trêf*, residence or homestead, of William de Berkerolles, a Norman who came over at the Conquest, and was father to Roger de Berkerolles, who built a small castle adjoining it, which after the Norman usage he called Rogerstone, and both names are retained at the present day; the one being the Welsh name of the *tref* and hamlet, and the other the name of the manor founded by Roger, the builder of the small castle, a scanty fragment of the wall of which still exists." We have a few instances in which *tref* has been changed to *troed*. *Troedyraur* was anciently called *Tredeyrn*, the king's abode; but we cannot find a single instance of *troed* being changed to *tref*. *Troed-rhiwgwair* is in the immediate neighbourhood of *Tredegar*, but we can find no etymological reason to think the one is allied with the other. The rendering of the name into *Tre-deg-erw*, the town of ten acres, is too wide of the mark, because the territory is immensely more than ten acres. *Tri-deg-erw*, sixty acres, would

be more feasible from the numerical point of view, but this mode of counting is far too modern to be applied to this ancient place-name. We were once inclined to derive it thus: *tre*, abode; *deg*, fair; *gwar*, the nape of the neck, a ridge; signifying a fair abode on an elevated place; but since we saw Mr. Octavius Morgan's exposition of the name we adopt his in preference to all others. Many Welsh personal names contain the word *teyrn*, a king, a monarch, the Irish form of which is *tigern*, *tighearna;* and in our early inscriptions we have *tigirn-i* and *tegern-o*. *Tegyrn* was the Brythonic for *Teyrn*. From Cornwall we have *Tegernomali*, which means king-like or lord-like, hence we are induced to think that *Tegyr* is an ancient form of *Teyrn*. English name—Kington.

TREFETHIN.—Some derive it from *Tref-y-din*, camp town; but we rather think it is a compound of *tref*, abode, and *eithin*, furze, gorse; signifying an abode situated on furzy land. English name—Gorseton.

TRELLECK.—A corruption of *Trelech*, place of stones; so called from three stone pillars which stand in a small field in the place. Tradition says that they were erected by Harold in commemoration of a victory over the Britons. It is more probable that they are relics of Druidism, and the spot whereon they stand was included within the precincts of a consecrated grove. English name—Stoneham.

TWYNGWYN.—A compound of *twyn*, a hillock, and *gwyn*, white. *Ar dwyn*, on an eminence. The name is quite descriptive of the position of this place. English name—Whitehill.

TYDEE.—A corruption of *Ty-du*, which means black house, probably from an ancient homestead of the name. English name—Blackham.

USK.—The Welsh name is *Bryn-biga; bryn*, a hill, and *pig-byga*, a point. The English peak specifically means the sharp top of a hill or mountain, which is quite descriptive of the hill in the place, which terminates in a point or peak. The present name, *Usk*, is an

Anglicized form of *Wysg*, water, the name of the river upon which the town is situated. It assumes various forms—Exe, Ax, Ux, and Ox, &c. The Exe has given its name to Exeter; the Ax to Axbridge; and the Ox joins the Thames near Oxford. We have an Esk in Donegal; an Esky in Sligo; and a Wisk in Yorkshire. The Gaelic and Erse word for water is *uisge*, of which whiskey is probably a corruption. English name—Waterton.

VICTORIA.—The place was anciently called *Troed-rhiw'r-clawdd*, which signifies a place near a dyke at the foot of the hill. The present name is derived from the street that leads to the place from Ebbw Vale.

WAUN AVON.—A compound of *waun*, meadow, moor; and *afon*, river, from its proximity to the source of the river Llwyd. English name—Rivermoor.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

The Welsh name is *Trefaldwyn*, Baldwin's town, so called in honour of Baldwin, a Norman general, who built a castle on the border of the county. In 1090 the castle was taken by Roger Montgomery, and the Saxons called the place afterwards Montgomery. Some seem to think the English name is a Norman corruption of *Mynydd y Cymry*, the mount of the Kymry.

ABERHAVESP.—The place is situate at the confluence of the rivers Havesp and Severn; hence the name. *Havesp* signifies a river whose channel is dry in the summer. English name—Hespmouth.

ABERRHOSAN.—*Aber*, estuary; *rhosan*, the name of the river, which signifies the meadow brook. English name—Moorbrook.

ABERMULE.—The village is situated near the point where the river Mule discharges itself into the Severn. *Mule* is probably a contraction of *mudliw*, changing colour, from which we have the English motley. English name—Motleyton.

BERRIEW.—The correct etymology, doubtless, is *Aber-rhiw*. The river Rhiw flows through the parish and empties itself into the Severn. *Rhiw*, perhaps, from *rhw*, what breaks out. English name—Break-mouth.

BLAENGLESYRCH.—A place situate on the rivulet *Glesyrch*, from which it takes its name. *Glesyrch* is a corruption of *glas-erch*, dusky blue. English name—Duskyham.

BUTTINGTON. — The Welsh name is *Talybont*, bridgend, from a bridge crossing the Severn near it. Offa's Dyke passes through the parish, and here separates England from Wales. During the Saxon period it was called Butdigingtune; hence Buttington. The name signifies Archer's town.

BWLCHYFFRIDD. — *Bwlch*, pass, breach; *y*, the; *ffridd*, plantation, forest. English name—Passwood.

CARNO.—From *carn*, cairn, heap. Pennant says: "The mountains of *Carno*, like those of Gilboa, are celebrated for the fall of the mighty." On a mountain called *Mynydd y Garn*, or *Garnedd*, a huge heap of stones was raised to commemorate the death of a celebrated warrior. English name—Moundham.

CANN OFFICE.—An abbreviation of *Cannon Office*, so called from the cannons used by Cromwell's soldiers during their encampment in the place.

CERI.—A corruption of *Caerau*, fortresses or walls, according to some; but some derive it from *Ceri Hir Lyngwyr*, the name of Caradog's grandfather, who was the owner of the estate, which, as it was customary then, was called after his name. Others derive it from *ceri*, the medlar tree, which, it is supposed, abounded in the district in time of yore. We adopt the latter derivation. English name—Medlarton.

CEMMAES.—A compound of *cefn*, back, ridge, and *maes*, a field. English name—Highfield.

CLITTERWOOD.—Perhaps from glitter and wood.

CRIGION.—A corruption of *crugiau*, heaps. English name—Heapham.

CHURCH STOKE.—From *stoc*, or *stocce*, the stem or main part of a tree. Woodstock, woody place.

CYFEILIOG.—This pleasant vale is named in honour of *Owen Cyfeiliog*, who, in 1130, became the sole owner of the estate through the death of his grandfather, Meredyth, the prince. The name means "compact together." English name—Jointon.

CAERSWS.—It appears that the Romans had a station and a road in this place. The latter was called *Sarn Swsan*, Susan's road, portions of which are discernible to this day. The station was probably called after the same name, and the Britons decided to perpetuate it, reducing *Swsan* to *Sws;* hence *Caersws*. English name—Susfort.

CROESLLWYBIR.—*Croes*, cross, over; *llwybir*, a corruption of *llwybr*, a way, path. English name—Crossway.

CYFRONYDD.—A compound of *cyd*, with, united, and *bronydd*, sloping hills. Cyfronydd Hall is situated on a rising eminence, commanding the beautiful sceneries of the valley below, through which the river Manw flows. English name—Slopeton.

DOLARDDIN.—Some are of opinion that this place was named in honour of *Arddun*, daughter of Pabo Post Prydain, and a saint of the sixth century. *Arddun* means sublime, grand. English name—Grandmoor.

DAROWEN.—A corruption of *dar* or *deri*, oaks, and *Owain*, name of a man. English name—Owen's Oak.

DERLLWYN.—From *deri*, oaks, and *llwyn*, bush, grove. English name—Oakbush.

DOLFOR.—A compound of *dol*, a meadow or plain, and *fawr*, large, great. English name—Big Meadow.

DOLWEN.—A compound of *dol*, meadow, and *wen*, feminine form of *gwyn*, white. English name—White Meadow.

DOLL.—A corruption of *dol*, a meadow. For the sake of variety we assign to this the following English name—Plainham.

Dwyriw.—A compound of *dwy*, feminine of *dau*, two; and *rhiw*, slope, ascending path. English name—Bislope.

Dwynant.—*Dwy*, two; *nant*, brook; signifying a place situated between two brooks that flow into the river Bachog. English name—Bibrook.

Dylifau.—Some think the name is the plural form of *dylif*, a warp. *Dylif goton*, a cotton warp. It is sometimes spelt *Dylife*, which is probably a contraction of *dylif-le*, which means a high place whence water flows to different directions. English name—Flowhill.

Dolyfelin.—*Dol*, meadow, dale; *y*, the; *melin*, mill. Near this place is the site of an ancient British smelting-hearth, where numerous pieces of lead-ore have been found. English name—Milldale.

Dyffryn.—A village in the parish of Meifod. English name—Valley.

Esgair-Geiliog.—*Esgair* means a conspicuous promontory. *Geiliog-geilig*, hunting, exploring. The name signifies a hunting-ground. English name—Hunthill.

Esgair Maen.—*Maen*, a stone. The name signifies a stony or rocky ridge. English name—Stoneham.

Forden.—Perhaps an Anglo-Saxon word, meaning a shallow part of a river where a road crosses. The use of the Anglo-Saxon verbal plural *en* is very common in some parts of this county. English name—Fordham.

Gaer.—From *caer*, a fortress. This place is in the parish of Caereinion. English name—Fort.

Garth Mill.—*Garth*, an enclosure, a ness, a promontory. English name—Millyard.

Garthbeibio.—*Peibio* is a modification of *Peibiaw*, the name of a king recorded in many of the Welsh legends. English name—Rexhill.

Garth Gellin.—*Gellin*, perhaps, is a corruption of *collen*, hazel-tree. English name—Hazelham.

GLANYNANT.—The name signifies the bank of the brook. English name—Brookside.

GLYN TREFNANT.—*Glyn*, a glen, a narrow vale; *Trefnant* is a corruption of *tri-nant*, three brooks, so called from the confluence of three brooks in the place. English name—Glenbrooks.

GRIBBIN.—A compound of *crib*, crest, summit; *y*, the; *bryn*, hill; signifying a place situated high on the hill. *Crib mynydd*, the summit of a mountain. English name—Cresthill.

GUILSFIELD.—The Welsh name is *Cegidfa*, signifying a place of hemlock, or, perhaps, it is a compound of *cegid*, the bird witwal; and *fan-man*, place. Some derive *Guilsfield* from St. Gulan's field. Perhaps it is a compound of *guild*, an incorporation, and *field*.

GUNGROG.—A corruption of *Gwaun-y-grog*, the meadow of the cross, so called from the supposition that a cross was erected here in the middle ages in connection with the Ystrad Farchell monastery. English name—Crossmeadow.

GWESTYDD.—From *gwest-ty-ddin*, the camp resting-place. English name—Campham.

GWERN-Y-BWLCH.—*Gwern*, a swamp, a bog; *y*, the; *bwlch*, a pass, a gap. The name is derived from a mountain-pass in the district, from which a distant view of Cader Idris is obtained. English name—Passmeadow.

GWERN ESGOB.—*Gwern*, a swamp, a meadow; *Esgob*, a bishop. English name—Bishop's Meadow.

HIRNANT.—*Hir*, long; *nant*, a brook. The village is situated in a narrow valley, and watered by an inconsiderable stream, tributary to the Tanat. English name—Longstream.

LLANGADFAN.—The church was dedicated to *St. Cadfan*. The "Myvyrian" says:—"This Cadvan, being a nobleman and son-in-law of the king of Armorica, came over with Uthr Bendragon, or his son king Arthur, and a great number of pious and learned men in his retinue, and chose for his residence Ynys Enlli (that is the monastery in the Isle of Bardsey), where he

was an abbot, and many of his followers had churches dedicated to them." Some of his followers were Cynon, Padarn, Tydecho, Dochtwy, Mael, &c. Cadvan means the battle-place. English name—Warriorston.

LLANGURIG.—A village near Plinlimmon. The church was dedicated to *Curig*, an eminent saint of the seventh century. *Eisteddfa Curig*, *Moel Gurig*, in the same vicinity, bear his name. *Curig-curiog* means bearing pain or affliction. English name—Painton.

LLANFYLLIN.—From *Myllin*, to whom the church was dedicated. *Myllin* is an old Welsh word implying a violet. English name—Violaton.

LLANWYDDELEN.—From *Gwyddelan*, the patron saint of the church. *Gwyddelan* is probably a compound of *gwydd*, wood, and *elain*, a young hind, a fawn. English name—Fawnwood.

LLANIDLOES.—*Idloes*, a saint of the seventh century, is the patron saint of the church. Professor Rhys refers the prefix *id* to the Skr. *yudh*, "to fight;" and *loes* is probably a mutation of *glwys*, full of love, signifying one eager to fight; or perhaps the suffix is *gloes*, a pang, a pain. We adopt the former. English name—Mileston.

LLANDINAM.—*Dinam* is referred by some to the Roman *Dinum*, a frequent termination in place-names in Gaul and Britain, equivalent to the English *Tune*, now ton, town, &c. English name—Churchton.

LLANGYNOG.—The church is dedicated to *Cynog*, the eldest son of Brychan. English name—Kynogton.

LLANWYNOG.—*Gwynog*, son of Gildas, a saint of the sixth century, is the patron saint of the church. English name—Whitham.

LLANDYSILIO.—The church is dedicated to *Tysilio*, the son of Brochwel Ysgythrog. English name—Tysilton.

LLANFAIR CAEREINION.—*Llanfair*, a church dedicated to St. Mary. *Caer*, fortress; *Einion*, the name of the river near which the town is situated. The latter part of the name is derived from an old British

encampment, about three miles from the town, parts of which are discernible to this day. English name—Eynon's Fort.

LLANERFYL.—The church is dedicated to *Erfyl*, in memory of whom a large stone is erected in the churchyard. English name—Ervylton.

LLANYMECHAIN.—*Mechain* is a compound of *ma*, a place; and *cain*, fair, the name of the river on which the church is situate. This parish is famous for being the birth-place of Gwallter Mechain, in 1761. English name—Fairchurch.

LLANFIHANGEL-YN-NGWYNFA.—The church is dedicated to *St. Michael*, and the village is situated in that part of Powys called *Gwynfa*, the blessed place; hence the name. English name—Blisston.

LLANYMYNACH.—*Mynach* here is probably a corruption of *mwnau*, mines. The *ch* is frequently added to plural nouns ending with *au*. *Mwnau* is the right word, but it is colloquially pronounced *mwnach*. The place probably derives its name from the mines in which the district formerly abounded, and which were worked so early as the Roman period. Some think the word is *mynach*, monk, from the supposition that a monk lived some time in the vicinity. English name—Mines-church.

LLANSANTFFRAID.—From *St. Ffraid*, to whom the church is dedicated. English name—Fraidham.

LLANWDDYN.—The church was probably dedicated to a monk named *Wddyn*, who, according to tradition, lived in a sequestered spot in the neighbourhood. English name—Monkchurch.

LLANWRIN.—From *Gwrin*, to whom the church is dedicated. English name—Heroton.

LLANDRINIO.—*Trinio* is the patron saint of the church. English name—Bustleton.

LLANLLWCHHAIARN.—From *Llwchhaiarn*, to whom the church is dedicated. English name—Ironchurch.

LLANBRYNMAIR.—*Bryn*, a hill; *Mair*, the Virgin Mary. The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and

pleasantly situated on an eminence; hence the name. English name—Hillchurch.

MACHYNLLETH.—Some derive the name thus: *Ma*, a place; *chyn*, from *cain*, fair, beautiful; *lleth*, an abbreviation of *llethr*, a slope. Another derivation: *Mach*, a high ridge, a barrier; *yn*, in or on; *lleth-llethr*, a slope. Edmunds thinks *lleth* is a contraction of *llaith*, dead, and that the name signifies "the field of the dead by the wayside." Viewing the situation of the town, we offer the following derivation: *Mach*, a dam, an embankment, a place; *yn*, the; *lleth*, corruption of *llaith*, moist, humid, wet. English name—Moistham.

MOCHNANT.—*Moch*, quick, swift; *nant*, brook; the name of the swift stream that flows through the place. English name—Runbrook.

MEIFOD.—*Mai*, a plain, or campaign country; *bod*, a dwelling. The parish consists of an open and extensive tract of land. Or, perhaps, it is a compound of *maes*, a field; and *bod*, a dwelling; signifying a dwelling in a field. English name—Plainham.

MOUGHTRE.—A corruption of *Mochdre*. English name—Swineham.

NEWCHAPEL.—So called from the chapel which is situated on the confines of the parishes of Guilsfield, Llansantffraid, and Meifod, for the accommodation of those who reside at a distance from the parish church.

NEWTOWN.—A translation of the Welsh name *Trefnewydd*. Its ancient name was *Llanfair-yn-Nghyd-ewain*; but, in consequence of the large flannel manufactories that were built here, the place grew so rapidly that, in 1832, the privileges of corporation were bestowed upon it, and henceforth it was called Newtown.

POOL QUAY.—A village near Welshpool, whence it derives its name.

PENNANT MELANGELL.—*Pen*, head or end; *nant*, brook; *Melangell*, called in a Latin saint book *St. Monacella*. Her remains were interred in Pennant Church, which, henceforth, was called *Pennant Melangell*. English name—Brookton.

PENSTROWED. — *Pen*, termination, head; *strowed*, perhaps from *ystref-wydd*, a dwelling among trees; or from *pen strata*, the termination of a Roman road. Compare Stroud (Gloucestershire). English name—Wayton.

PENYBONT FAWR.—A village in the parish of *Penmant*. English name—Bridgend Major.

PENYGELLI.—The name signifies the head or termination of the grove. English name—Grovesend.

PONT-DOLGOCH.—This name signifies a bridge on the red meadow. English name—Meadow Bridge.

PONTROBERT.—English name—Robert's Bridge.

PENTREF HEILYN.—This *pentref* (village) derives its name from a family named *Heilyn*, who flourished here in the time of "Llewelyn, the Last Prince." *Heilyn* means a cup-bearer, a waiter, a butler. *Heilio gwin*, to serve wine. English name—Butlerton.

PENEGOES.—A corruption of *Penegwest*. The place derives its name from a supposition that a Welsh chief named *Egwest* was beheaded near the church. English name—Feaston.

PONTDOLANOG. — A compound probably of *pont*, bridge, and *dolenog*, having curves or bows. English name—Bowbridge.

PENTRE CILCWM. — *Pentre*, village; *Cil-cwm*, a sequestered place in a valley. English name—Nookham.

RHIW SAESON. — *Rhiw*, slope; *Saeson*, Saxons, English. We find the name *Saeson* introduced into many names in the district: *Nantysaeson*, Saxons' brook; *Plas-rhiw-Saeson*, and *Rhiw Saeson*. About 300 years ago a number of Saxon soldiers were stationed in the place which is now called *Rhiw Saeson*. English name—Saxonshill.

SNEAD.—From the English *snæd*, a piece of land separated from a manor.

STAYLITTLE.—The ancient name was *Penfforddlas*, the head or end of the green way. The present name

is derived from a public-house in the place bearing the name.

TYLWCH.—From *ty*, a house; and *llwch*, a lake, or inlet of water. English name—Lakeham.

TREGYNON.—From the dedication of the church to *St. Cynon*. English name—Gynonton.

TAFOLOG.—The name implies a place abounding in dock plants; *dail tafol*, dock leaves. English name—Dockham.

TREFEGLWYS.—The name means a hamlet or a district privileged with a church. English name—Churchham.

TIR-Y-MYNACH.—*Tir*, ground, territory; *y*, the; *mynach*, monk; so called from the township having some time formed a portion of the possessions of the Abbey of Strata Marcella. English name—Monkton.

WELSHPOOL.—The Welsh name is *Trallwm*, or *Trallwng*. *Tra*, extreme, very; *llwng*, a corruption of *llwnga*, so called from the great depth of the lake below Powys Castle. The name signifies a greedy swallow. It has been prophesied that the pool is some day to swallow up the whole of the town of Welshpool. It was called Welshpool by the English to distinguish it from a town in Dorsetshire called Poole. English name—Deep-pool.

PEMBROKESHIRE.

Some Welsh scholars think that the Old Welsh form of the name was *Penbrog* or *Penbrogh*, and the Latinized form *Pembrochia*, whence probably the English Pembroke. The roots are *pen*, head, end; and *bro*, a country, or extensive tract of land, signifying a headland, which is a very proper appellation, since the county forms the west end of Wales. The name *Dyved* was once applied to the whole county, from which the Roman *Dimetæ* was derived, but in the time of Giraldus Cambrensis, the small peninsula of Castlemartin, lying between Milford Haven, on the north, and the Bristol Channel on the south, consti-

tuted the province of Pembroke. The name was also extended to the town and fortress built there by Arnulph de Montgomery, in the reign of Henry I., and ultimately it was given to the whole county.

ANGLE.—Probably from the angle-like form of the district. It lies *in angulo.*

AMBLESTON.—This place was named in honour of Hamill, one of the Vikings who founded the Welsh colony. English name—Hamillston.

AMROTH.—*Am*, about, encircling; *roth*, a corrupted form of *rhath*, a mound or hill, and *rhath* is used to denote a plain or moorland. *Roath*, Cardiff, comes from the latter root. In "Liber Landavensis" it is called *Radh* and *Llanrath*. English name—Roundhill.

BRAWDY.—Fenton thinks it is a mutation of Broadway. We incline to think it has a more ancient derivation. *Brawd* is an ancient Welsh word for judgment. *Dydd brawd*, the day of judgment. *Dy-ty*, house. The remains of an old British encampment that are discernible near a farmhouse called *Brawdy* points to the probability that a judgment court was held here; hence the name *Brawdy* or *Brawd-dy*. English name—Courtham.

BUTTER HILL.—In an ancient deed it is called "the Grange of Butter Hill," supposed to have been a grange to the Priory of Pill, settled by the founder, Adam de Rupe. Butter, perhaps, is a corruption of Buthar, the name of another Viking who visited these shores.

BRIMSTON.—From *Brimi*, the name of a Norse settler. *Brimi* is the Norse for flame, and the name of a magical sword mentioned in Norse poetry. *Brimi* has left his name in Brimscomb, Somerset.

BUCKSTON.—Named in honour of *Bakki*, a Norse settler.

BURTON.—An old Saxon form of Briton. Briton Ferry was once called Burton Ferry.

BRYNBERIAN.—*Bryn*, a hill; *berian*, according to some, comes from *Beran*, the name of a rivulet, signifying a short river; but we incline to derive *berian* from

beri, a kite or glede. Beri Farm, near Newport, Pem., was so called probably from the visit of the kite to this district. English name—Gledeland.

BONCATH. — Named after another of the bird species, the buzzard. English name—Buzzardton.

BUGELY.—*Bu*, an ox; *gely*, a corruption of *gelly*, a grove, signifying the buffalo of the forest. English name—Oxgrove.

BLAENFFOS.—The village takes its name from a farmhouse so called, signifying the head of the ditch. We have *Penyfoes*, or, as it should be written, *Penyffos*, near St. David's, so named from the tenement of *Mynydd Din*, bounded by a deep ditch. English name—Boghead.

BLAENCONIN.—The name signifies a place situate at the source of the river *Conin*. English name—Coninton.

BARRY.—The name means bare island.

COLBY.—A compound of *cold* and the Norse *by*, an abode; signifying a cold place.

CALDY.—The name is Norse, signifying cold island.

CILGERAN.—This name has been, more wittily than correctly, derived thus: *Cil yw dy gaerau, Ann*—narrow are thy walls, Ann. *Cil* or *kil* forms a part of a large number of Welsh, Irish, and Scottish names of places. It means a hidden place, a place of retreat. *Cil haul*, the shade, or where the sun does not shine. *Geran* is an abbreviation of *Geraint*, son of Erbin, and a prince of Devon. Before the castle was built the spot was known by the name *Dingeraint*, Geraint's fortress. The prefix *din* was changed into *cil*, and now the name signifies the place of retreat of *Geraint*. English name—Gerainton.

CILFOWYR. — The right wording is *Cil Ofwyr*, signifying Ovates' place of retreat. English name—Ovateston.

CASTLE MARTIN.—So named in honour of *Martin*, a descendant of Martin de Tours. The family built a

castle here in time of yore, of which Leland remarks: "Towards this extreme part of Pembrokeshire be the vestigia of Martin Castle."

CREAMSTON.—*Cream* is a corruption of *Grim*, the name of a Norse settler. English name—Grimston.

CAMROSE.—An Anglicized form of *Camrhos; cam*, crooked, and *rhos*, heather. English name—Crookheath.

CASTLE MORRIS.—So called in honour of a man named Morris.

CYLCH BYCHAN.—The parish is divided into four districts, of which this is the smallest; hence the name. *Cylch Bychan*, the small district. English name—Smallton.

CAPEL NEWYDD.—A small village not far from *Castell Newydd*. English name—Newchapel.

CILYMAENLLWYD.—*Cil*, hidden place; *y*, the; *maen*, stone; *llwyd*, grey. English name—Greystone.

CLYDEY.—So named in honour of *Clydai*, a daughter of Brychan, to whom the church is dedicated.

CRYMYCH.—The popular explanation of the name is *ych yn crymu*, the ox stooping or bending. We find the root *crwm* in *crymlin* and *cromlech*. The name may be a contraction of *crwm-rhych; crwm*, bending, concave, crooked; *rhych*, ditch, trench. English name—Ditchham.

CRESELLY.—The roots are *cres*, a heating or parching, and *gelly*, a grove, so called probably from the abundance of culm and coal in the district. English name—Heatgrove.

CAREW.—A corruption of *caerau*, walls, or fortifications. The castle was built by Nest, the daughter of Rhys ab Tewdwr, Prince of South Wales. English name—Castlefort.

DALE.—A Norse name, signifying a broad valley, answering to the Saxon "vale," and to the Welsh *cwm*. One writer thinks it is a contraction of *De Vale*, the name of one of its ancient lords, in whose time it was dignified with the title of a borough.

DINAS.—This place derives its name from *Pen dinas*, the promontory that forms a part of the Fishguard anchorage. Fortified walls were once built on the headland; hence it was called *Pen dinas*. English name—Forthill.

DREWSON.—A corruption of Druid's town. Near the village there is an enclosure of nearly one acre called Drewson chapel. The stones which formed the Druidical circle were removed in 1740. English name—Druidston.

EGLWYSWRW.—*Eglwyseirw* is the right wording, the church being dedicated to *Eirw*, whose remains are supposed to have been interred here. English name—Eirooton.

ESTINGTON.—A translation of *Tre Iestyn*, Iestyn's town. Iestyn was a Welsh prince.

FREYSTHORP.—The prefix refers to the goddess *Freya* (Friday), and the affix *thorp* is the Norse word for village, and the equivalent of the Saxon *ham*. English name—Freyham.

FELINDRE.—This place has probably taken its name from an old mill that was in the vicinity. English name—Millton.

FISHGUARD.—*Abergwaun* is the Welsh name, from its situation at the mouth of the river *Gwaen* or *Gwain*, which implies a river taking a level or straight course. It bore the name of *Fishgarth* as far back as the time of Richard II. The Welsh *garth* and the Norse *gardr*, originally meant an enclosure or yard. The name occurs in Normandy, as *Fisigard*, *Auppegard*, and *Epegard*, the former of which may be compared with *Fishguard*, which means a fishing wear or fishing enclosure. English name—Fishton.

FLATHOLM.—A large body of Danes took refuge here in the year 918, and left their mark in the above name, which was originally *Fladholmene*, signifying a flat island. *Holm* is the Danish word for a grassy bank near water, or an island. Stockholm, the

Swedish capital, is situated on two grassy hills near the water.

FLEMINGSTON.—This name is a conclusive ethnological evidence of the Flemish settlement.

GELLYSWICK. — Another hybrid. *Gelly*, a grove; *wick*, a creek or bay. English name—Groveham.

GRESHOLM.—A compound of *grass* and *holm*, signifying a grassy island. English name—Grassey.

GOMFRESTON.—So called in honour of *Gorm* or *Gomfre*, a Norse settler.

GLYNDERWEN. — A compound of *clyn*, a place covered with brakes, and *derwen*, oak. English name—Oakton.

GOODWICK.—Some say it is a corrupted form of the Welsh *coedwig*, a forest; but we are inclined to think it is a hybrid name, made up of *good*, and the Norse wick, a creek or bay. Isaac Taylor is of opinion that the *Vikings*, or "creekers," derived their name from the *wics* or creeks in which they anchored. In the ninth and tenth centuries the creeks and islands along the Welsh coast, especially those of Pembrokeshire, were infested with these marauders. The Anglo-Saxon verb *wician* means to run a ship on shore, to take up a station, and finally it became to mean a village.

HAVERFORDWEST.—The Welsh is *Hwlffordd*, from *hwyl*, a sail, and *ffordd*, a way, a striking appellation to a place where the sea makes its way into it. Edmunds derives the English name from *Gafr-ffordd-gwest*, the inn on the goat's road. *Haver* is rather perplexing. It may be a modification either of the Norse *höfn* or of the Welsh *aber;* ford, perhaps, from *fjord;* and west is probably a differentia added to distinguish it from Hereford East.

HAKIN.—Also called Hagin, which is probably a modification of the Danish *hagen*, a port. Compare Copenhagen. English name—Port.

HARROLDSTON.—So called in honour of *Harold*, a Norse settler, who became the lord of the manor.

HENLLAN.—The name signifies an old church, so called from the supposition that an old chapel of ease stood here in ancient times, but whose ruins are not now discernible. English name—Oldchurch.

HENRY'S MOAT.—There is a mound called *Castell Hendref*, the castle of the old town, in the parish, surrounded by a moat, and when the English settled here they attempted a translation of the name, reducing *Hendref* to Henry, and *Castell* to moat; hence *Henry's Moat*. English name—Old Castleton.

HARBURSTON. — From *Herbrandt*, the name of a Fleming, who, soon after the Conquest, fixed his abode at that place.

HONEYBOROUGH.—*Honey* is probably a corruption of *Hogni*, the name of a Viking, who settled here soon after the Conquest; or, perhaps, it is from *Hunna*, a chief's name. We find Honeybourne, Hunna's Brook, in Worcestershire. Some think it was so called because honey was so largely made here in olden times.

HEARSTON.—So called in honour of *Hearn*, a Norse settler.

HODGESTON.—A modification of *Oggeston* or *Hoggeston*, probably from some Norse chief called *Ugga*.

HUBBERSTON.—So called in honour of *Hubber*, or *Hubba*, a Norman warrior, who, with his brother Hingua, led the Norsemen in that great invasion of 866. His name is also preserved in Hubberst, Derbyshire; and probably in Ubbeston, Somerset.

HUNGERSTON.—From *Hingwar*, the companion of Ubba, 866.

JAMESTON.—So named in honour of *James*, a Fleming who took refuge here after the submersion of Flanders in the year 1110.

JEFFRESTON.—From *Jeffrey*, another of the settlers of Anglia Transwallia. *Jeffrey* or *Geoffrey* is probably a Norman corruption of *Godfred*, the good peace, or *God's peace*.

JOHNSTOWN. — Named in honour of *John*, an English nobleman, it is supposed, of the twelfth century.

KESTON.—Probably from *Kessa* or *Cissa*, a Norman. Keswick (Cumberland), *Cissa's* dwelling.

LAWRENNY.—Some think it is a corruption of *llawreni*, plural of *llawren*, or *llawr*, floor, ground. Others think it is a corruption of *Llan-yr-ynys*, a church in the island. This accords with the topographical situation of the place, as it is an island surrounded by water, forming two creeks, one running to Carew and the other to Langum. We prefer the following: *Llawr*, ground; *yn*, the; *wy*, water; signifying land in the water, an island. English name—Islet.

LANGUM.—A corruption of *Llangwm*, signifying a church in the valley. English name—Churchvale.

LUDCHURCH.—The Welsh name is *Eglwys Lwyd*. *Lud* is an Anglicism of *lwyd-llwyd*, adorable, blessed. English name—Holychurch.

LAMBSTONE.—So called in honour of *Lambi* or *Lamba*, one of the settlers of the Welsh colony, whose name is also preserved in Lambeth, Lambourne, and in the surname Lambe.

LAMPHEY. — A corruption of *Llanyffydd*, *Fanum Fidei*, the church of the faith. It is spelt in some old documents *Llanfaith* and *Llanfeth*; then it was corrupted into *Llanfey* and *Lamphey*. The consonant *n* is frequently substituted in Welsh place-names in lieu of the letter *m*. English name—Faithchurch.

LANTEAGUE.—Probably a corruption of *Llan-deg*, signifying a fair church. English name—Fairchurch.

LETTERSTON.—A translation of the Welsh name, *Trelettert*, from *Lettard*, the ancient owner of the land, who gave the advowson of the church, with the chapel of *Llanfair* annexed, to the commandery of Slebech.

LLANIADEN.—*Iaden* is a corruption of *Aeddan*, the name of the patron saint of the parish church. Professor Rhys refers the name *Aedd* to the word *udd*, which is explained in Dr. Davis's dictionary as meaning *dominus*, master. "It would seem," he says, "to be

people were obliged to cross the brook over the mill's ford, called in Welsh *Rhydyfelin*, and we incline to think Milford is a translation of *Rhydyfelin*. The Welsh name is *Aber-dau-gleddyf*, from the fact that the two rivers, *Cleddau Fawr* and *Cleddau Fach*, discharge themselves into the haven. *Dau Gleddyf* means two swords. It appears that the two rivers in their flowing course resemble two swords; hence the name. English name—The old one, with *l* inserted between *l* and *f;* hence Millford. *Haven* is an Anglicized form of *hafn*, a flat, still place; hence a refuge for ships.

MOLESTON.—The place was once remarkable for its numbers of moles, on account of which it was called *Moleston*, moles' town. Compare Molton (Devon) and Molesworth (Hants), &c.

MANORBIER.—Very many of the inhabitants think the name was derived from an expression made by the eye-witnesses of a conflict that took place between a man and a bear. When the combatants met *vis-a-vis*, the people shouted "Man or bear," hence Manorbier. We dismiss the derivation as an outcome of vain conjecture. Some derive *Pyrr* from *Barri*, a Norman lord. Others think it is the plural of *por*, a lord. One writer derives it from *beyr*, the Norse for farmstead. Evidently the English name is a modification of the Welsh *Maenor Pyrr*. *Maenor* is the Welsh for manor, and Giraldus Cambrensis (who was born here about the year 1146) thought it was called after *Pyrrus*, who took up his abode here; hence *Maenor Pyrr*, Mansio Pyrr, or the residence of Pyr. Had we not better call it Manor Pyr?

MAENCLOCHOG.—*Maen*, a stone; *clochog*, bell-like, ringing. It appears the place derived its name from a large stone that lay on the roadside near the church, which, on being struck, gave a bell-like sound. English name—Ringstone.

MYNWERE.—This name seems like a corruption of *Mwyn aur*, gold mine, which was supposed to have been here in olden times; but we rather think it is derived from a weir on the Eastern Cleddy, on the

banks of which river the parish is situated, which was noted for the abundance of fish caught there during the season. English name—Weirton.

MARLOES.—A mutation of *Marlais*; *mar*, an extensive tract of land; *lais*, a corruption of *clais*, a trench or rivulet. English name—Trencham.

MAZEBRIDGE.—The prefix may be the Anglo-Saxon *maze*, signifying a place or passage full of windings and turnings, which is very often spanned by a bridge.

MARTHREY or *Marthri*, which is a corruption of *merthyr*, martyr. The place suffered very heavily from the Danish onslaughts, and the church is dedicated to the holy martyrs. English name—Martyrham.

MIDDLEMILL. — A translation of *Felinganol*. A Baptist Chapel was built here in 1756, and called *Felinganol*, from its situation near a mill of that name, which intervened between two other mills.

MUZZLEWICK.—From *Moussel*, a Norse settler; and *wick*, a creek or bay.

MYNACHLOG DDU. — Black monastery; *i.e.*, a monastery belonging to the Black Friars. English name—Blackfriars Place.

MOYLGROVE.—A compound of *moel*, a bare pointed hill, and *grove*. English name—Grovehill.

NEYLAND.—The old Norman name was *Nayland*, signifying nigh land, the land near the sea. We find Nayland in Suffolk and Nyland in Somerset. The inhabitants. aspiring hard to compete with their neighbours in Milford, abandoned the old name, and called the place New Milford.

NARBERTH. — In the *Mabinogion* it is called *Yr Arber'h*, which signifies a place situated on a sloping hill, abounding with *perthi*, bushes. The name answers to the physical aspect of the town. The preposition *yn*, in, was generally used before *Arberth;* hence the consonant *n* adhered to the name, and thence we have *Narberth*. English name—Bushton.

NEVERN.—The parish derives its name from the rivulet *Nevern*, which flows through it. Lewis, in the "*Topographical* Dictionary," thinks the word is

derived from *nifer*, a number, on account of the numerous streamlets that run through the parish into the sea. Tegid spelt it *Nanhyfer;* if so, the roots are *nant*, a brook; and *hyf*, bold, daring. English name—Boldbrook.

NASH.—A modification of the Norse *ness*, a cape, or promontory. Nash Point, Naze, and Nazeby, come from the same root. Nash village is situated near Milford Bay.

NOLTON.—*Nol* is supposed to be a contraction of Oliver; hence the name means Oliver's town.

NEW MOAT.—So called from the Flemings having constructed a new moat here in the time of Henry II.

NEWPORT.—The Welsh name is *Trefdraeth*, which signifies "a town on the sands," from its situation near a sandy beach of considerable extent. Six or seven places in the United Kingdom bear the name Newport. It was wisely proposed sometime ago to change Newport, Monmouth, to Uskport. We would strongly advise the corporation of *Trefdraeth* to abandon the name Newport, and give it the right English name—Beachton.

NEWCASTLE.—There is an ancient mound near the church called "the Castle," which was called "new" to distinguish it from a much older one, which is at a short distance from the village.

PELCWM.—From *Pela*, the titmouse; and *cwm*, valley. English name—Titcombe.

PENYBRYN.—The name signifies a place on the top of the hill. English name—Tophill.

POPE HILL.—The lower part of the county was once designated *Pebydiog*, popedom, because St. David was considered as the pope of the district.

PATER, or PEMBROKE DOCK.—This place once consisted only of a farm, one house, and a church, then designated Paterchurch. In 1812 surveys were

made, and in two years after the nucleus of the present Government was formed, when it was called Pembroke Dock.

PENALLY.—*Pen*, head; *ally*, a corruption of *gelly*, a grove; signifying the head of the grove. The church is situated in a thickly-wooded place. English name—Groveshead.

PONTFAEN.—*Pont*, bridge; *faen-maen*, stone. Perhaps *faen* is a corruption of *Gwaen*, the name of the river that flows through the parish; *f* being changed into *g* for the sake of euphony. English name—Stonebridge.

PRENDERGAST.—This place derives its name from a Demetian family of the name, who were the owners of the land in olden times. Maurice de Prendergast was the last member of the family that lived here. Some think the name is a Saxonized form of *Bryn y Gest*. *Bryn*, a hill; *y*, the; *gest-cest*, a deep glen between two mountains having but one opening. Others say it is *Pren-dwr-gwest*, the inn by the tree near the water. The right wording is probably *Pen-dre-gast*. The suffix is Druidic. *Llech-yr-ast*, in Cardiganshire, consists of five *cist faen*, stone chests or cells, enclosed within a circle of rude stone pillars.

PUNCHESTON.—*Castmael*, the Welsh name, is a compound of *Castell*, castle; and *Maelog*, or more probably *Maelgwyn—Maelgwn Fychan*. The "Myvyrian" calls it *Castell Mâl*. Some derive the English name from *pincan*, pine tree; *Pincanes-tun*, then *Puncheston*, the town of the pine trees. Others derive it from *Poyntz*, a proper name, pronounced *Punches*.

ROACH.—A mutation of *rock*, from the castle being perched on a solitary rock standing out of the plain. The first possessor of the castle is supposed to have been *Adam de Rupe*, or Adam of the Rock, in the reign of Henry I. The Roche family held possession of the castle until the reign of Henry VI., when their extensive estates were divided between two co-heiresses, since which time it is supposed to have been abandoned as a residence. English name—Rockby.

RHOSMARKET.—*Rhos*, the name of the cantrev. A market was once held here; hence the market for *Rhos*. *Rhos* is spelt *Roos*, *Roose*, and *Rouse* by English writers.

RHYDGWILYM.—The Rev. William Jones was the first Baptist minister of the place, and having performed the rite of Baptism for the first time in the river, the spot was called after him *Rhydgwilym*. English name—Williamsford.

REYNOLDSTON.—So called in honour of *Reynold*, a Fleming, who probably settled here in the reign of Henry I.

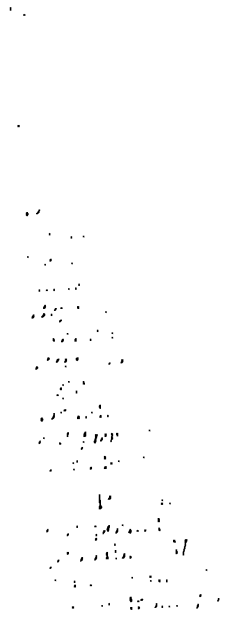
ROGESTON.—From *Roger*, another Fleming, who took up his abode here.

ST. DAVID'S.—A free translation of the Welsh *Tyddewi*, so called in honour of *Dewi*, David, the patron saint of Wales. Its ancient name was *Mynyw*, jutting, peninsulated; but after *St. David* removed there, and became the bishop of the see, and was buried, the old name was abandoned, and his honourable name was bestowed upon it. *St. David* was grandson of Ceredig, who gave his name to Cerediglon, and was son of Cunedda. It is supposed that he was the first who systematically undertook to Christianise the people of Demetia.

ST. DOGMELL'S.—The Welsh name is *Llandudoch*. *Tud*, a surface, a region; *oich*, the Celtic for water, a name quite descriptive of the physical aspect of the place. The church was dedicated to *Dogfael*, son of Ithel, son of Ceredig. Dogmell is an Anglicism of *Dogfael*.

ST. ISMAEL.—This village derives its name from *Ismael*, a saint of the sixth century, and supposed to have been the founder of the church.

ST. FLORENCE.—Called in Welsh *Tregoyr*, which is probably a corruption of *Tregaer*, walled town or place. We have no reason to suppose that this place was fortified by a *caer;* but it may be so called from its contiguity to a large wall that belonged to the extensive



SILVER HILL.—Perhaps the burial-place of a Viking called *Solvar*.

SOUTH DAIRY.—So called to distinguish it from the north and west dairies.

SKOKHOLM.—A Norse name signifying a wooded island.

TAFARN SPITE.—*Tafarn*, inn, public-house; *Spite*, a corruption of *ysbytty*, hospital; the name is derived from an inn raised from the ruins of an *hospitium*, which had been founded there for the accommodation of the pilgrim traveller to the shrine of St. David's. Spital Square, London, derives its name from the church of the priory and hospital of St. Mary, which stood in Spitalfiields. English name—Hospeston.

TIER'S CROSS.—Perhaps from *Thor*, one of the Vikings who founded the Welsh colony.

TREFGARN.—*Tref*, place, town; *carn*, heap, cairn; signifying, literally, the town on the heap. There are great masses of rock contiguous to the village, which from a distance appear like extensive ruins of buildings. English name—Cairnton.

TEMPLETON.—This village is so called from the fact that the Knights of the Temple in olden times made it a special place of resort.

TREFIN.—A corruption probably of *Treffin*, a boundary-place. English name—Markton.

TENBY.—Called in Welsh *Dinbych y Pysgod*. The word *pysgod*, fish, is the differentia added to distinguish it from its namesake in North Wales. Some maintain it is a corrupt Anglicism of the original name, *dinbychan*, the little fortification or camp. The English name affords an ethnological evidence of the temporary occupation of the Danes. *Ten* is a mutation of *Dane*, and *by* is Norse for a dwelling, a residence, an abode; hence the name signifies the dwelling-place of the Danes. Danesby would be the correct name. We have Danby, the Dane's abode in Yorkshire, and sixteen places in the north-east counties of England called Denton, the Dane's town.

TREF ASSER.—So called in honour of *Bishop Asser*, the bosom friend and celebrated biographer of Alfred the Great. Some say that he was born here. Others derive it from *Asserius Menevensis*, who is supposed to have been born here, became a Benedictine monk, and was scribe and chancellor to his uncle *Asser*. English name—Asserton.

TREWYDDEL.—*Gwyddel*, a forester, one that lives in the wood; hence the name means the woodman's abode. English name—Woodham.

THORNTON.—So called in honour of *Thorni*, one of the Norse settlers.

TEGFRYN.—A corruption of *teg*, fair, and *bryn*, a hill. English name—Fairhill.

TRELEDDIDFAWR. — A corruption of *tre*, place; *lladdfa*, slaughter; and *fawr*, great; signifying a place of great slaughter. Some are of opinion that some bloody battles were fought in this district. English name—Slaughterham.

TRETEIO.—*Teio*, perhaps, is a corruption of *teiau*, small houses, cottages, or of *taeog*, a vassal, tennant in villanage, a peasant. One of the old Welsh laws reads thus:—"*Tair rhandir a fydd yn y daeogdref*"—there shall be three sharelands in the villain-town. English name—Vassalton.

TREFLERW.—*Lerw*, an inflection of *llerw*, what is nice or delicate. English name—Niceton.

USMASTON.—*Usmas* is a corruption of *Ismael*, to whose memory the church is dedicated.

WISTON. — A free translation of *Cas Gwys*, the Castle of Gwys, which was built by a Norman named Wiz; hence the town of Wiz.

WALTON.—This district was given by a Norman named *Walter de Wale* to the Knights of St. John, and was so called in honour of the donor.

WILLIAMSTON.—So called in honour of *William*, another settler of the twelfth century.

RADNORSHIRE.

The Welsh name, *Maesyfed*, is variously derived. In some ancient MSS. it is written *Maeshyfaidd*, which signifies a land of boldness, or a martial region. We are informed in the British "Triads" that three exiled princes, *Gwrgai*, *Cadafael*, and *Hyfaidd Hir*, the son of Caradog Freichfras, were on account of their military prowess made kings; the former two in the north, and *Hyfaidd Hir* in the south. Some are of opinion that the latter was made king of Radnor, and hence his name was bestowed upon it. Others adhere to the present orthography, *Maesyfed*, which signifies "the imbibing meadow," or "the drinking land," from the fact that the little river Somergill suddenly sinks into the earth in the vicinity of New Radnor, and then follows a subterranean course for a considerable distance. The popular derivation among the inhabitants is *Maesyfedw*, from the abundance of birch-groves in the county. The English name, Radnor, was given to it in the reign of Henry VIII., and signifies the red district. We find Radford in Notts, Radlow in Hereford, Redcliff in Gloucester, &c.

Aberedwy.—From the river *Edwy* that flows through the place. *Edwy* is probably a derivative of *eddu*, to press on, to go. Or, perhaps, the right wording is *aidwy*, signifying the lively water. We adopt the latter. English name—Briskmouth.

Abbey Cwm Hir.—*Cwm Hir*, long vale. Cadwallon ab Madoc built an abbey here in the year 1143; hence the name. English name—Longton Abbey.

Beguildy.—A corruption probably of *Bugeil-dy*, the shepherd's house, a very appropriate name in a sheep-rearing district. English name—Swainham.

Bettws-Clyro.—*Bettws* has been explained already. *Clyro* is a corruption of *clear-wy*, the clear water. English name—Waterby.

BLETHFA.—Some derive it from *blith*, milk; and *man*, a place; signifying a dairy place. It is sometimes spelt *Bleddfa* as a contraction of *Bleddyn-fan*, Bleddyn's place. Bleddyn was the name of several bards in the years 1090-1260. We incline to think it is a compound of *blaidd*, wolf; and *man*, place. English name—Wolfham.

BOUGHROOD.—Edmunds thinks it is a corruption of *buwch ffrwd*, the cow's brook. We rather think it is an Anglicised form of *Bachrhyd*, which is a compound of *bachog*, crooked, having many turnings or windings; and *rhyd*, a ford. A streamlet that discharges itself into the Wye, near the village, is called *Bachwy*, the meandering water. The Wye makes a sharp turning here. *Maiandros*, a river in Phrygia, is proverbial for its many windings, whence came the word meander. Some think the right wording is *Bach-rhyd*, signifying "the little ford" on the Wye, where a boat and horse were in constant attendance. English name—Meanderford.

CROESFEILIG.—*Croes*, cross; *Meilig*, the name of the son of Caw, and a saint of the fifth century. English name—Meilig's Cross.

CREGRINA. — A mutilation of *Crugynau*, heaps. English name—Heapton.

COLFA.—A corruption of *Collfa*, which means the place of the hazel-wood. English name—Hazelton.

CASCOB. — In "Doomsday Book" it is called *Cascope*, which, according to some, is a compound of *cask* and *hope*. Mr. Williams, in his "History of Radnorshire," derives it thus: "*Cas*, a fortress; and *ccpe*, an eminence. The justness of this etymology is confirmed by tradition, which reports that a small fortification of earth formerly stood on a summit on which the church is erected; or, perhaps, the name *casgob* might mean the eminence impending over the brook *Cas*, which runs through the parish, and discharges itself into the river Lug."

CEFNLLYS.—*Cefn*, back, ridge; *llys*, court, hall. Ralph Mortimer built a castle here in the year 1242, which suggests the probability of the place being defended against the incursions of the Saxons. The name might have been derived from a martial court that was held here. Camden says that there were ruins of an ancient fortress upon the spot when he wrote, almost surrounding the Court House, except on one side, where it lies open to the common. English name—Courthill.

CENARTH.—*Cen* is Gaelic for *pen*, head; *arth* is an abbreviation of *garth*, a hill. The place forms the lower end of the parish. English name—Upton.

CILGIL, or KILGIL.—*Cil*, a hidden place, a nook; *gil*, probably a corruption of *coll*, the plural of *collen*, hazel-tree; so called from the abundance of hazel wood in the district. English name—Hazelham.

COED-GLASSEN.—*Coed*, wood; *glassen*, a corruption of *gleision*, the plural of *glas*, green; so named from the abundance of green trees that beautified the district in olden times. English name—Greenwood.

CWM-GELLAU, or CWM-GILLA.—*Cwm*, a vale; *gellau*, a corruption of *collen*, hazel-tree. The place lies in a beautiful valley, abounding with hazel wood. English name—Hazel Vale.

CWMDAUDDWR.—*Dauddwr*, two streams of water, so called from the situation of the parish church near the confluence of the rivers Elain and Wye. The parish adjoins the counties of Brecon, Cardigan, and Montgomery, and is the only one in Radnorshire where Welsh is understood and spoken. According to colloquial pronunciation it is *Cwmwd Douddwr*, the commote of the two waters. English name—Watercomb.

CLAS GARMON.—*Clas*, a green spot or enclosure, a cloister; *Garmon*, perhaps the memorable Germanus. English name—Garmon's Cloister.

DYFFRYN ELAN.—*Dyffryn*, a long vale; *Elan*, the name of the river that runs though it. English name—Elan Vale.

EVENJOBB.—The popular opinion in the neighbourhood anent the name is that a man named Job lived here at some remote period, and was proverbial, as the prototype Job, for patience and evenness of temper, and hence the place was called in honour of him. The name is, perhaps, a compound of *efes*, brink or margin; and *hwpp*, a slope. Burlinjobb, in the same county, means Brechla's *hwpp* or slope. It was anciently spelt *Evanchobb*, Evan's cop, *i.e.*, Evan's hill-top.

FELINDRE.—A compound of *melin*, mill; and *tref*, a place. English name—Millton.

GLASCOMB.—A compound of *glas*, green; and *comb*, an Anglicism of *cwm*, a valley, a dingle. The village lies in a beautiful and verdant valley, where also stands the fine mansion of Glascomb. English name—Greencomb.

GOLON.—A corruption probably of *colwyn*, a sharp hillock, a promontory. English name—Hillton.

HARPTON.—A translation of the Welsh name, *Trefydelyn*.

HEYOP.—A compound of *haye*, a grove, and *cope*, an eminence. English name—Grovehill.

KINNERTON.—A corruption of *Cenarth*, headland, and town, signifying a place at the headland.

KNIGHTON. — The Welsh name is *Trefyclawdd*, Dykestown, so called from its contiguity to Offa's Dyke, traces of which are discernible to this day. The English name means knight-town, which, after the Norman Conquest, was probably held on the tenure of knightly service, and is one of those names that illustrate the old law phrase, "a knight's fee."

KNUCKLAS.—A corrupted form of *cnwc*, a slight eminence, and *glas*, green. *Cnwc* has been corrupted in a few English place-names, such as Knocklin (Salop), Knock-holt (Kent), and Knook (Wilts); and in Ireland we find Knockglass, Knockdow, &c. English name—Greenbank.

LLANANNO.—The church is dedicated to *Wonno*, or *Anno*. English name—Annoton.

LLANBADARN FAWR.—The church is dedicated to *Padarn*, a descendant of Emyr Llydaw, and it is called *Fawr* in distinction from Llanbadarn-Fynydd and Llanbadarn-y-Gareg. English name—Padarn Major.

LLANDEGLEY.—The church was probably dedicated to *Tegwel*, a Welsh saint. *Tegwel* means a fair countenance or aspect. English name—Fairchurch.

LLANGUNLLO.—The church is dedicated to *Cunllo*, a Welsh saint. *Cunllo*, or *Cynllo*, is probably made up of *cyn*, the first or chief, and *llo* or *lo*, referred by Professor Rhys to a word of the same origin as the Latin *lupus*, a wolf. English name—Wolfton.

LLANDRINDOD.—Its ancient name was *Ffynon Llwyn y Gôg*, the well of the cuckoo's bush; but in 1603 the church was dedicated to the *Drindod* (Trinity); hence the name. English name—Trichurch.

LLANDDEWI-YSTRADENNI.—The church is dedicated to *St. Dewi*. *Ystrad*, a flat, a vale; *enni-yn-wy*, on or near the water. The village is situated in a low vale on the river *Ithion*. English name—Ithonton.

LLANFARETH.—The church is situated near the confluence of the rivers *Mareth* and *Wye;* hence the name. *Mareth* signifies lively or active water. English name—Sprighton.

LLANFIHANGEL RHYDITHON.—The church is dedicated to *St. Michael*. *Rhyd*, a ford; *Ithon*, the name of the river that flows through the parish. English name—Ithonford.

LLANYRE.—*Yre* is an abbreviation of *Llyre*. The church is dedicated to *Llyr*, a descendant of Cunedda Wledig, and a saint of the fifth century. English name—Lyrton.

MEISTY-RHOS-LOWRY.—*Meisty* is, probably, a corruption of *maes*, a field, and *ty*, a house; *rhos*, a dry meadow, a plain. *Lowry* perplexes us; the root, perhaps, is *llawr*, ground; or, perhaps, it is a gross mutilation of *loyw-ddu*, reddish black, in allusion to the hue of the boggy ground. English name—Plainton.

MONOGHTY.—A corruption of *mynach-dy*, a monastery. It is supposed that a monastery stood here in olden times. *Monaughty Poydd* (Salop) is said to be *Monachty Poeth*, the hot monastery. English name—Monkton.

NANTMEL.—*Nant*, a brook; *mêl*, according to some is an abbreviation of *Mael*, a personal name; but we rather think it is the Welsh for honey; hence the name means honey-brook, so called, perhaps, from its hue, or from the hives of wild bees in the neighbouring rocks. English name—Honeybrook.

NORTON.—The name probably means north-town, or, perhaps, Norman town. The British name was supplanted by that of the Norman Castle.

PAINSCASTLE.—A castle was built here during the Norman period by the *De Pain* family, whose name was conferred upon it and the village which lies at the base of the hill. Pain was a Norman knight, and his name is also preserved in Paignton (Devon) and Painswick (Gloucester).

PRESTEIGN.—It was anciently known as *Llanandras*, so called from the dedication of the church to St. Andrew. The English name means the priest's town. It is the solitary instance of *Prest* occurring in Welsh place-names. We have thirty-six *Prestons*, two *Prestburys*, and two *Prestwolds*, in the nomenclature of England; but we have only one in Wales, and that occurs in the more than half English county of Radnor. Who was this priest? Probably David Martin, bishop of St. David's, about the end of the thirteenth century. He was an extraordinary benefactor to this place, having obtained for the inhabitants many privileges, and among others, those of holding a weekly market on Saturday, and fairs three times a year. English name—Prieston.

PANTYDWR.—The name signifies the hollow of the water. English name—Dalewater.

PENYBONT. — The end of the bridge; hence Bridgend.

PILLETH.—A corruption of *pwll*, pool; and *llaith*, moist, humid. The vale is very narrow and well-watered, which probably suggested the name. English name—Glenwater.

RHAIADR.—This town derives its name from a *Rhaiadr*, a waterfall, that is contiguous to it. The Welsh call it *Rhaiadr Gwy*, from its situation on the eastern bank of the river Wye. The word *rhaiadr* is derived, perhaps, from *rhuo*, to roar, bluster, in allusion to the din of the water in its fallen state. English name—Dinwater.

SALFORD.—A compound of *sath*, a willow, and ford; signifying the willow ford.

ST. HARMON.—From *St. Garmon*, to whom the parish church is dedicated.

TREFONEN.—*Tref*, an abode, a place; *onen*, ash tree. English name—Ashtown.

WEYTHEL—A corruption of *Gwyddel*, a man of the wood, an Irishman. English name—Woodby.

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