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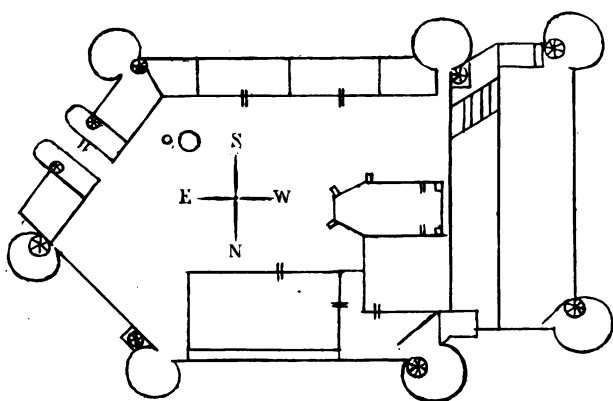
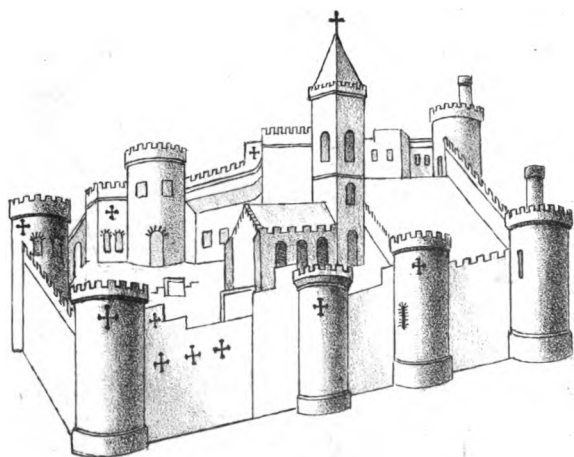
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# RUTHIN CASTLE.

*From a Drawing in the*  
 BRITISH MUSEUM.

Litho. W. Crane, Chester.

AN  
ACCOUNT  
OF  
THE CASTLE AND TOWN  
OF  
**Ruthin.**

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PRINTED AT THE TALIESIN-PRESS, RUTHIN,  
BY ROBERT JONES.

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*F. H. Hall fund*

TO  
THE MEMBERS  
OF THE  
*Welsh Literary Society of Ruthin,*  
This Account  
OF  
THEIR TOWN AND CASTLE,  
IS DEDICATED,  
BY THEIR OBLIGED AND FAITHFUL SERVANT,  
RICHARD NEWCOME.

CLOISTERS, RUTHIN,  
March 1st, 1829.



## Ruthin Castle.



**RUTHIN CASTLE** was founded in the year 1281, by Edward I. King of England, the year before his final success in the conquest of the Principality, on the death of Llewelyn ab Griffith, and constituted one of those fortresses erected to over-awe the ancient British, and secure his attack and possession of their country. He bestowed it on Reginald de Grey, son of John de Grey, justiciary of Chester, together with the lordship of Dyffryn Clwyd, for which homage was done at Chester in the year 1301, to Edward II. then Prince of Wales. At the same time he obtained the lordships of Maesmynan, Penbedw, and

Blowite, as dependencies on the Castle, to which were added the lands of Wenchal, or Gwenllian de Lacy. Reginald de Grey was of the house of Grey de Wilton, and a descendant of one of those Norman adventurers who arrived in England with William the Conqueror, and were engaged in incessant aggression on the territories of the Principality, since the subjugation of England. How well this petty tyrant fulfilled this service, appears from documents of those times. The Archbishop of Canterbury, John Peckham, in a true christian spirit, made a journey into Wales, to mediate, if possible, between Edward and Llewelyn, to whom the latter delivered in writing, a long and dismal catalogue of his complaints. Among these no name occupies so signal a place as that of this Reginald de Grey. It occurs not less than sixteen times ; and he is accused of intro-

during new and oppressive customs in the Cantrefs of Rhôs, Rhyfoniog, Dyffryn Clwyd, and Tegaingle, which had been made subject to the jurisdiction of the justiciary of Chester. He is also charged with rapacity, and of abusing the King's power in setting lands to farm ; of depriving officers of places they had purchased, and commissions granted them by the King ; of threatening to imprison any who dared to complain of his conduct ; of refusing justice ; of revoking the most just sentences when they opposed his own interest ; of granting land, not his own, and contrary to the laws of Wales,\* to the Abbey of Basingwerk (a foundation of the Norman

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\* It is observable, that in the laws of Howel dda is one against mortmain, restraining grants of lands to the church without the concurrence of the crown. Edward I. has the credit of this wise provision ; but he derived this wisdom from Wales.

Earl of Chester); and, finally, of compelling the country people to plough his land without wages. In short,

“ Dress’d in a little brief authority,

“ Play’d such oppressive deeds before the sun

“ As make the Angels weep !”

All this was done contrary to the articles of peace with Llewelyn. The territories in which this game was played had been conquered by Henry II. in 1247, resumed by Prince Llewelyn during his final struggle, and recovered by Edward I. on terms which were thus tyrannically infringed by Grey.

The Lords of Ruthin Castle are generally included with those who are denominated the Lords Marchers of Wales, who enjoyed very extensive powers and privileges; but whether they really were such seems doubtful. Their origin is as follows:—

The Kings of England, finding it difficult to subdue the Principality by one great array, made arbitrary grants, from time to time, to Lords and other great men of England, of such districts in Wales as they could win from the right possessors. Such acquisitions were held to the conquerors and their heirs for ever, of the Kings of England, as lands purchased by conquest. The same policy was pursued with respect to the borders or marches of Scotland. In order to secure their authority, the Lords Marchers were permitted to assume such prerogatives and authority as were expedient for the quiet government of their territories; but no charters of these rights were, for obvious reasons, ever given. As the Kings had, of course, no sheriffs to execute their writs in these parts, the Lords Marchers executed them in their own



name, and the Kings permitted this for a time. The Lords Marchers also seized on the goods of their tenants who died intestate. Such infringements on the power of the crown originated in the nature and necessity of the case, but being once acquired, were continued to such as enjoyed them for a great length of time, even after Edward I. had given laws to Wales. No new Lords Marchers were created after that event; but as the territory of Dyffryn Clwyd had been acquired immediately by the King himself before that event, and the building of Ruthin Castle commenced, it is nearly certain that the powers of a Lord Marcher could never have been exercised by the Lord on whom this Castle was bestowed.

There, probably, was, as Warrington thinks, an ancient Town and Castle at

Ruthin before the present. An ancient MS. is said to give the more ancient Castle the name of *Erw trwm lwyth*, i. e. the Acre with a heavy load on it, a name descriptive of the building it supported. It, probably, was a heavy-looking square or round tower, such as were the Castles in England and Wales, and Duns in Scotland, built by their ancient inhabitants. They were rather places of retreat in times of emergency, than permanent residences such as the Norman race erected. These more ancient towers, it is thought, sometimes appear in the Norman Castles, and when this is the case, they must have been adopted into his plan by the reported founder of the Castle in general. Such was the case, as is said on good authority, at Cricceith, Hawarden, and many other places. Such tower is generally included.

in what was called the Keep, which was the most impregnable part, and the residence of the Baron, from which circumstance it derived its name. The original name of Ruthin Castle granted to De Grey was *Castell côch yn Gwern-fôr*, so called from the red colour of its exterior masonry ; and it is observable that a portion of land contiguous is still called *Gwern-fôr*, implying a tradition that it was once covered by the sea. The name of Ruthin is, probably, *Rhudden*, Red Earth, which is quite descriptive of its soil, and not *Rhudd-dinas*, as sometimes asserted. *Llanrhudd*, the name of the parish, is the church of this red tract of land. More properly it should be *Llanrhudden*.

On investigating the present ruins, much of which have been lately brought to light at the expence of their present possessor,

it is no difficult matter to conjecture what must have been the appearance of this Castle in the days of its grandeur.

It consisted, as its present appearance shews, of a larger and smaller court, standing east and west of each other, and separated by a deep dry Foss cut through the red stoue rock. Old Churchyard begins his description as follows :

" This Castle stands on rock much like red brick,

" The Dykes are cut with tooles thro' stonye cragge."

Over this dry ditch was a wooden bridge of communication, by means of which the garrison commanded a retreat if either court were surprized, on which emergency this bridge could readily be cut away. The larger or Entrance court, usually called the Ballium,\* was pentagonal, or

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\* From Baille Fr; from Bataglia which is base or low Latin,

five sided, and contains an area of about 300 feet. The eastern part of this court had two sides meeting in an angle. The remaining three sides were at right angles to each other. In the south-eastern side of this projection was the great gate of entrance, flanked by two towers of a round form to the exterior and square to the court within. Under these, and extending to the north-east, are vaults and long passages, which were used for prisons and cellars. Probably more would be found if an excavation were made. In the centre of this court is the garrison well, 60 feet deep, cut through the red free stone on which the Castle is founded, and with

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and means an Entrenchment—un retranchment on batallait, (Grose). The Lord's Bailiff held his court here, and thence derived his name, or vice versâ. To put in bail then means, in fact, to put in something instead of being taken into the custody of the Bailiff.

which its exterior is cased. A small cylindrical shaft adjoins and touches that of the larger well, the use of which is not very apparent. Perhaps its use was merely to add to the expedition of drawing water ; or a weight may have descended in it to increase the power of raising the bucket of the larger well. We may also suppose that, the large shaft being above the power of a single man, this small one was added to be worked by one man as a mode of punishment.

On the north side was the Baronial Hall, where the Lordship Court might have been held. Here too, the Lord of the Castle sat occasionally, decreeing summary justice, or for the mere acceptable purpose of feasting his superior officers and inferior retainers. This hall we may imagine decorated with banners, coatarmour;

casques, battleaxes, spears, bows and arrows, suspended in trophies on its walls. In later times, we may imagine pictures of martial chiefs, and fire arms, to be added. The weastern extremity may have been furnished with a huge oaken table raised on a dais, where the Baron himself sat at the board with a select few, while inferior persons regaled themselves at the tables in the lower part of the hall. Adjoining to this end of the hall, and communicating with the chapel on the west side of the court, were rooms, or parlours, to which he retired, and, with their apartments above, were his usual residence. In short, the arrangements, divested of their military look, were similar to those of our colleges in the Universities, as they exist to this day. The foundation stones of these rooms lately appeared on clearing away the soil. There were five great embattled round

towers in this court, besides the smaller ones at the gate of entrance, one at each angle, which were connected by a gallery running between a double wall, above and below, on which the guards plied their work of keeping watch, or assaulting the enemy outside, with arrows and other missiles, through the loop holes or over the battlements.

"It shews within, by double walls and waies,

"A deep devise did first erect the same."

*Churchyard,*

Sloping down towards the court from this running platform or way, were the roofs of sheds and buildings which the inferior soldiers inhabited, and were used in part for other purposes of economy. Such was the eastern court, or ballium. The western court before-mentioned, as connected with this by the wooden draw-bridge, was used for inferior purposes. A fragment of

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an ancient MS. among the papers of the late eminent ancient British Antiquary the Rev. John Lloyd, of Caerwys, which describes the Castle in its later days, harmonizes with the present appearance of the ruins. It calls it "A faire lardge rome castel-like, encompassed with a strong wale, having a great towre wherein ys a gate, the waye beinge oute thereof to the ulter mote, in which rome are two greate and lardge howses, sometymes used for barnes and stables, built with tymber and covered with slattes, and underneath the one of them a rome for twenty greate horses with bayes made of stones, these romes beinge beneathe and under grownde. The same romes servith for the ulter warde of the Castle; beinge far gone in de kaye, the Castle being built of redde asheler stones, the same beinge imbattled, the walle mowche in de kaye."

This description seems not quite correct, for the way into the ulter or outward mote was not, apparently, from this rome or space, but from the inward or middle dry mote or foss between the two courts, Nor does it notice that there are *two* ways into the outward mote, one at the north and the other at the south end of the middle mote. The stables which are here described as under-ground, must have been the large square recess which appears near the portcullis at the northern end of this dry mote. Over this recess must have been the timber building mentioned in the document, containing hay and provinder for the horses and cattle, which was drawn in at the south end of the middle mote, and pitched from below into the timber building above the stables. The archway at the northern extremity was a portcullis, to which was at-

attached a draw-bridge reaching over the outward mote. Above this arch are visible the remains of a turret supported bracket-wise and projecting on each side of the wall above, in which the work of raising and letting down the grate of the portcullis was performed. A round mound of earth opposite this arch on the furthest side of the mote, may have supported some kind of stone work, for receiving the draw-bridge. It may indeed have been what was called the Barbican, which was an out-work in form of a gateway, flanked by two towers, and connected with an entrance to the Castle by a draw-bridge over the outward mote. Its purpose was to overlook the Town below. From this reason, as some fancy, it took its name, quasi "Burg I ken." This is far fetched, yet those who object to this etymology fetch it from far also, and say it is an Eastern Saracenic

word; that people being the original inventors of such appendages, from whom the Crusaders imported them into European fortresses. By means of these two entrances at both extremities of the middle foss, was obtained a nearer communication between the opposite sides of the Castle. Through the arch of the portcullis corn may have been conveyed to and returned from the mill below. The *Caerwys MS.* just quoted, goes on to say that there was a garden attached to the Castle, but on which side it does not explain. It is very propable that it was on its south-eastern side, on which, at a short distance, are fields still called *Perllan yr Arglwydd*, or the Lord's Orchard, and *Llyn yr Arglwydd*, his Fishpond. A path, which nearly coincides at present with the *Corwen road*, is called *Lord Grey's Walk*. He had also a deer park, which is

now the demesne land of Bathafarn, and for this reason perhaps still exempt from payment of tythe, and also extensive forests over which he pursued the sports of the chase. This forest is described as spreading over certain mountains "wherein sometime doth lie both redde and fallow deere, over whych mountaines doth growe by estimation thousands of oaks, worth to be sold a hundred marks sterling. There are also within the said lordship certain pastures and tillage grounds called *Parkes*, which are farmed to divers people at yearly rents." It proceeds to say, that the Lords of the Castle had the tolls of faires held in Ruthin on the feasts of Saint Matthew, Pentecost, and Allhallows, and of the markets held every Monday and Friday, worth yearly twenty marks."

As it is conjectured that a fortified post

stood here before the Norman Castle was built on its site, so is it as probable there was also a Town adjoining, some centuries before the arrival of Lord Grey ; for ancient accounts speak of a feat of the renowned King Arthur performed in Ruthin, where a rude block of lime-stone, called Maen Huail, is still shewn, on which that Prince beheaded a rival of the name of Huail, son of Caw of Edernion, and brother of Gildas the historian. Perhaps the former inhabitants were displaced to make way for the English retainers of the Castle, a tyranny of which its founder was fully capable. He either made an addition to the Town immediately contiguous to his Castle, which he surrounded with a wall, or threw that fence round the ancient one for the protection of his followers, to whom he himself granted, or obtained from the crown, a charter of incorporation, from

the privileges of which the natives were excluded, for it was not till the reign of Henry VII, who was of ancient British extraction, that all oppressive laws of exclusion were repealed. A small vestige of this wall is still observable near the mill and bridge. In the same place, about thirty years ago, the ruins of a magnificent arch called Porth-y-Dwr, or the Water-Gate, were demolished to make way for the bridge adjoining the county gaol. This supposition of the Town having been walled in is corroborated by a tradition hereafter to be noticed, which speaks of the "Gates of the Town," implying that there were more than one. They are not however to be traced at present except perhaps in this place, and it is likely the fortification was confined to the low ground under the Castle comprehending only the present Clwyd-Street. That quarter now called

Borthyn derived its name certainly from this gate, and may mean what we now denominate suburbs. The topography of the Town must not be quitted without noticing the *Mill*, which is very ancient, and in one respect curious. In the middle of its eastern gable appears a red stone cross standing on the point of the old gable, which leads us to conjecture that this was formerly a religious edifice, perhaps the garrison chapel before that within the Castle court was erected ; unless, indeed, this emblem was introduced to give a sanctity and secure this necessary appendage from a besieging enemy. Leland speaks of White Friars\* having, in remote times, been esta-

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\* To these Friars we may attribute the reputed sanctity of St. Peter's well near the Town. But if St. Peter was not the



blished here, and their chapel might have been converted into the mill when John Grey built the collegiate parochial church. Nor must we omit to notice the mansion of an ancient family, now extinct, of Moyle or Mule, in the precincts of the mill and adjoining Porth-y-Dwr. The patriarch of this family may have been one of De Grey's Anglo-Norman settlers, and derived his name, not from the British word *moel*, bald, but *de Molâ*, as being once the miller of the garrison and Town. When the Castle was destroyed, the family may have kept possession of its long-enjoyed abode. This is, however, mere conjecture. A family of the same name is mentioned by Fenton in his History of Pembrokeshire, which had always been supposed to be

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patron of the place before the present church was built, this consecration of the well must have been later.

Norman, though he is of a different opinion and makes it purely British, descended from the tribe of Gwynfardd Dyfed.\*

Having now established this potent Lord in his dominion, and attempted a description of his strong hold, the subject leads to the history of events with which it stands connected ; but this is quite barren for a whole century, except that it sent in the year 1309, to the array against Scotland,

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\* The family of Towerbridge, now extinct, of Plâs Towerbridge, which is said to have been introduced by Earl Lacy at Denbigh, must have derived its name as well as its armorial bearings, a tower and bridge, from having had the custody of those appendages to a fortress. In a pedigree of Parry of Llanbedr, Plâs Towerbridge is called Plâs Sion Grey, which seems to connect this family rather with Ruthin Castle than Denbigh. Walter Ward, or Cook, of Plâs-y-Ward, near Ruthin, whose heiress carried the estate to the Thelwalls, was perhaps the Wardour of the Castle, if indeed he did not occupy the still humbler office of its Cook.

200 men. Sixteen years after, to the army for the Duchy of Aquitaine, it sent 3 men at arms and 30 foot. To the French war, in 1338, it furnished 60 men, and five years after, it sent to recruit the same army 166 men.--[*Rymer's Fædera.*] Nothing of an interesting nature occurs till the memorable æra of Glyndwr's Rebellion in 1400. From the final attack of Edward I. to this period, with the exception of Griffith Llwyd, who gathered together a number of his countrymen and attacked Mold and Chirk Castles, but was soon quelled, the ancient British preserved inviolate their subjection to England. There are therefore no attacks on this Castle to record, and nothing that called into active service the obligations of its possessor. Indeed our countrymen seem to have been well content with their English connection. Edward III. was greatly indebted to his new subjects

of the Principality, who contributed much to his glorious success at Cressy and Poitiers. Syr Hywel y Fwyall, or Sir Howel of the Battle-axe, is recorded by Cambrian Bards as having commanded a body of his countrymen as a Corps de reserve at the latter, and by his well-timed advances and valourous incursions on the French lines, to have materially aided that celebrated victory. "He was knighted," says Sir John Wynn of Gwydir, "on the field of Poitiers, and by our countrymen is reported to have taken the French King prisoner, but however it was, he did such service there that the Prince bestowed a messe of meat to be served up daily, during his life, before his Battle-axe, which afterwards was bestowed on the poor, whereof he was called Syr Hywel y Fwyall." Froisart says that upwards of ten Knights and Squires challenged the capture of the

French King at the same time, of whom Sir Howel might have been one, though Froisart declares that a French Knight in the English service was the man. We may conjecture then in favour of Sir Howel that the testimony was given on that field in favour of un Chevalier Gallois, *i. e.* a Welsh or Gaulish, but not French Knight. Iolo Gôch, who lived near the time, claims the honour for our countyman in these lines,—

Syr Hywel y Fwyall pan roddodd  
Y ffrwyn ym mhen Brenin Ffraink.

*i. e.* “Sir Howel of the Battle-axe when he put the rein over the head of the French King.” Sir John Wynn seems to doubt the report, but his Editor, Mr. Daines Barrington, quotes a MS. now in the Harleian Miscellany, and given to the Lord Treasurer by Mr. Hugh Thomas in favour of the notion, which says that Sir Howel ever

after bore the arms of France with a Battle-axe in Bend Sinister. Some Welsh verses are given in the margin of this MS. commemorating the grant of this mess of meat.

Segir fy seigr wyall doeth hon ger bron y Brenin,  
Gwedyr maes gwaed ar min, i dysaig al dewiswr,  
Ai diod oedd waed a dwr.

*i. e.* "Place on the table my sewer, bearing the axe which came from the presence of the King with blood on its edge, the two dishes I have chosen. The drink must be blood and water."

The Bard who wrote this was Howel ab Reinallt, who lived 100 years after the battle of Poitiers was fought, in 1356. Whatever be the real fact, the singular honour Sir Howel received shews strongly that his service was of a very singular na-

ture.\* In acknowledgement, it may be supposed, of such singular services, Edw. I. by statute, divested the Principality of the Marches which were annexed to the crown, and brought it under a milder sway, though the power once exercised by the Lords Marchers was not entirely abolished till the incorporation of Wales with England by the statute of Henry VIII. In fine, that our countrymen were conspi-

\* If Edward III. was indebted to the *services* of his Welsh subjects in his war with France, he met also with a most zealous and intrepid foe of the same nation, and on the same occasion. Froisart celebrates the prowess of Sir Evan of Wales, a gallant Knight in the service of France. He was murdered by one Lambe, who was dispatched from England for the purpose, and, probably, at the instigation of Edward himself. He was lineally descended from Llewelyn the Great, as the late Editor of the Gwydir History has discovered and shews in her first Genealogical Table, and had a title to the crown of Wales. An ancient MS. at Hengwrt mentions his sister "Elin the French woman," so called because she was in France with her brother, who, in the same document, is called "Owen Llaw Gôch," or Owen of the bloody hand. Owen, Ioan, Ivan, Evan, and John, are synonymous.

cuous in the successes of that period against France may be inferred from their introduction by **Shakespeare** into one of his **Historical Plays**.

**Edward the Third's successor Richard II.** though vilely used by his English subjects, found in the ancient British his warmest friends. **Owen Glendwr**, the hero who is now to be introduced, was the Squire of his Body, and knighted by him before his deposal. He followed his Royal Master's fortunes to the last, was taken prisoner with him, and, when his household was dissolved, retired to his estate at **Glyndwr**, determined to avenge his wrongs when the opportunity offered. Nor was this wanting long. He well knew that his countrymen, though over-awed by strong posts such as **Ruthin Castle**, supplied with gar-



risons of warlike foreigners, could not be inviolably secured in their allegiance *as a nation*, irritated as they were by constant oppressions, which contributed to alienate them more and more, and were among the causes of the insurrection of Owen Glendwr.

In the reign of Richard II. a sharp contest about the right of a certain common called Croesau, took place between Owen and Reginald de Grey, a descendant of the first Lord Grey de Ruthin of the same name. The common was situate between the lordship of Ruthin and Glyndwr, which Owen recovered from de Grey by a suit at law. No sooner had the usurper Henry IV. seized the throne than de Grey again took possession of the common, knowing the loss of his competitor's interest at court. Still, to his honour be it said, Glendwr did

not take up arms till he once more had recourse to legal means of terminating the renewed dispute. He appealed, in fine, to Parliament, but times were changed, and the wrongs of the friend of the deposed and murdered King were dismissed unredressed. Not satisfied with the infringement of his neighbour's *rights*, De Grey injured him also in his character, and represented him as disobedient to the King of England. Henry had summoned Owen among his Barons to attend him with his people on his expedition against Scotland. Unhappily the writ was confided to Lord Grey, which he treacherously withheld, and thus prevented Owen's attendance. Wilful disobedience was attributed to him, and he was treated as an offender. Aided by this perfidy, De Grey took possession of his lands under pretence of forfeiture, invading such

parts as lay contiguous to his own: John Trevor, Bishop of Saint Asaph, advised Parliament to be circumspect, lest, by slighting Owen's complaint, his countrymen might be irritated to rebellion. Had this advice been taken, it would have saved fifteen years of war with all its calamities. Instead of listening to the wrongs of a much-injured chieftain, some of the Lords replied, "they did not fear that rascally and barefooted rabble." When our countryman saw that insult was added to injury, the die was cast, and the time arrived for vindicating his own and his country's wrongs. Considering all these things indeed, and his natural impetuosity of temper, it cannot be a matter of surprize that he should from defending his paternal estate advance a claim on the Princedom, to which he had some sort of hereditary claim. It was this right, made out by

genealogical records, that disposed so great a portion of the gentry, and the commonality almost to a man, to espouse his cause. His honest countrymen too were readily persuaded to throw off their allegiance to the usurping Monarch, and avenge the cause of the grandson of Edward III. their friend and protector. . Being too of a superstitious turn of mind, they were encouraged, it is said, by their Bards, who quoted a prophecy of Merlyn, foretelling that the government of Britain, after being in possession of the Saxons and Normans, should return at last to the ancient Britons.\* Hostilities commenced in the summer of

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\* It was to humour this belief, which further expected the return of the renowned Prince Arthur, who was said not to be dead, but reserved for the accomplishment of this prophecy, that King Henry VII. named his eldest son Arthur. The mischief apprehended from this persuasion was such, that Henry II. despairing of a conquest of Wales as long as the immortality of Arthur was believed, caused his remains to be searched for, and exposed in the Abbey of Glastonbury.

1400. His inveterate enemy Lord Grey, being the primary cause of his revolt, was first assailed. Henry IV. considered this as an attack on himself, and dismissed Lord Grey, who was then at court, together with Lord Talbot, to oppose him. They surrounded his house at Glyndwrwy, but he effected his escape, raised a powerful army, and caused himself to be proclaimed Prince of Wales on the 20th Sep. 1400. His first exploit was to surprise the Town of Ruthin, taking advantage of a fair held on that day. The Town was plundered, the inhabitants stripped of their goods, and his army enriched with considerable booty. In fine, he set fire to the Town in many places, and retired to the mountains.\* Tradition says, his

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\* This account of Owen Glyndwr is from Pennant, who is also closely followed by Thomas in his late history of this chieftain.

followers on this occasion were, many of them, Grey's own people of Dyffryn Clwyd, who called themselves Ceiri Cadfan, (or, perhaps, Cawri Cadfan, the heroes of Cadfan), who was once the British Ruler of the Vale of Clwyd; thus shewing their hatred of the present dynasty. They hid themselves in the thickets of Coedmarchan till the *gates of the Town* (an expression which has been anticipated to prove that the Town was walled) were thrown open to receive the people coming to the fair, and then the Lord of Brynlluarth, in Llanrhaiadr, rushed in at the head of his party. The same tradition adds, that these descendants of Cadfan, in consequence of this feat, changed their paternal coat of arms into argent, 3 grey hounds dormant, sable, with the appropriate motto "Ar ol gwaith gorphwys," "After work rest." But the time of rest had not yet

arrived. Lord Grey, with his usual attachment to Henry IV. and in resentment of this injury, raised his followers,—fought, *and was taken Prisoner!* and kept in durance a long while. His Royal Master, commiserating his sufferings, issued a commission empowered to treat with Glyndwr for the ransom of his favourite. The sum determined on was no less than 10,000 marks. Orders were given to sell Grey's manor of Harteleigh in Kent, to make up this sum. And for the better enabling him to pay it, the King absolved him from six years payment of certain charges due to the crown in respect to his possessions in Ireland. A promise of neutrality was also exacted. Accounts differ as to the scene of this defeat, some laying it on the banks of the Fyrniw, in Montgomeryshire, others near the Town of Ruthin. In favour of the latter supposition, a notion exists

that the spot where Grey was taken was in the parish of Derwen, near Ruthin, between this Town and Glyndwr, at a place now called Bryn-Saith-Marchog, or the Hill of the Seven Knights, from the fact of Lord Grey having been taken there with that number of attendant Knights, or rather horsemen. But the writer is informed that the name of this place originates in a very different circumstance. Glyndwr is said to have advanced towards the Castle of Ruthin with a detachment of troops, and that Lord Grey, unaware of any hostility from so small a party, fell into an ambush, and was taken and carried among the rocks of Snowdon. Before he was liberated, Owen is said to have *forced* him to marry Jane, his daughter by Margaret, daughter of Sir David Hanmer, of Hanmer, in Maelor, which promising union



was not productive of any children. Such alliances seem to have been a favourite expedient with our hero in providing for the spinsters of his family, for he is said to have adopted the same expedient with Edmund Earl of March, who was *compelled* to wed a daughter after he became his prisoner.

What the threat and ravage of war could not effect for a while, it seems the wiley Monarch was bent on carrying by treachery, for it is recorded in an ancient British account—"Harri y Pedwaredd, Brenin Lloegr, a yscrifennodd at Arglwydd Grae o Rhuthyn, i erchi iddo ef, trwy rhyw ystryw, fradychu Owain Glyndwr. Ac yna a gyrrodd Arglwydd Grae o Rhuthyn at Owain i ddywedyd iddaw y byddai yn ciniawa gyd ac Owain y dydd hwnnw, gan henwi rhyw ddydd; ac a attebodd Owain y byddai groesaw wrthaw oni ddygai gyd

ac ef uwch ben deng, wr ar hugain. A-  
 daeth yr Arglwydd yn yr oes terfynedig,  
 ac ychydig gwmpeini gyd ac ef, (a gallu  
 mawr yn arfog tan lêch yn dyfod ar ei ol),  
 a phan aeth Owain i giniawa efe a osodes  
 wersyll ar ben bryn i wersyllu tra fyddai  
 Owain ar ciniaw. A phan yr oedd Owain  
 ar ganol ciniaw, nychaf! gwelynt y gwer-  
 syllwyr lonaid y ddôl heb enni o wŷr arf-  
 og, ac a doedasant i Iolo Gôch (Prydydd  
 Owain) rhybuddio Owain. Ac yna y daeth  
 Iolo i mewn, canys didyb oedd ef, ac a can-  
 wodd ar ddameg yr Englyn rhybydd yma  
 ar osteg, rhag tybied yr Arglwydd fod  
 twyll, er bod yr Arglwydd Grae yn deall  
 trawthawd Cymreig nid oedd efe yn deall  
 ein medryn ni,—

"Coffi pen a llen Llyweinieliŷ  
 Ar las nôs Nadolig,  
 Coffa-golwyth Ammwythig  
 O'r tan a neidiodd uaid dig."

**Hanes calon Davidd ab Gruffydd, (brawd y Tywysog Llywelyn) ab Davidd ab Gruffydd ab Llywelyn ab Iorwerth Drwyndwn, a ddihenyddiwyd yn Ammwythig, yn y flwyddyn 1283, ac wrth ei ddihenyddu a gymmerch y cigydd ei galon ac ei tafodd i'r tân, a neidiodd y galon or tân, ac a darawodd y cigydd ac a dynnodd ei lygad ef."**

**In English,**

**"Henry IV. King of England, wrote to Lord Grey of Ruthin, to desire him, by some device, to betray into his hands Owen Glyndwr. Upon which Lord Grey sent to Owen to say he would dine with him on a certain day, to which Owen replied he should be glad to receive him, provided he brought with him no more than thirty followers. Lord Grey came at the appointed time with only a small number, but followed secretly by a numerous armed force. When Owen sat down to dinner he placed**

an encampment on the top of a hill to remain there whilst he was feasting,—when, behold ! this band suddenly saw the meadows below filled with armed men, and desired Iolo Gôch (Owen's Bard) to give the alarm to his master. Upon this Iolo instantly entered the Dinner-hall, where Owen was feasting without suspicion, and sang the following obscure monitory English in order that Grey should not suspect anything, for though Lord Grey understood common prose he was unacquainted with our poetry,—

“Think of Lleweli's chief,\* nor slight  
The murder of the Christmas night,  
The blazing hearth in 'Mwythig's keep,  
The burning heart's avenging leap.”

Alluding to the following story of the heart of David ab Gryffyth (brother of

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\* Prince David was Lord of Denbigh, and resided at Lleweli in its vicinity.

Prince Llywelyn) ab David ab Gryffydd ab Llywelyn ab Iorwerth Drwyndwn, who was put to death in Shrewsbury, in the year 1283. In the performance of his office, the executioner took out his heart and threw it into the fire, and the heart leaped from the fire and struck the executioner in the eye and knocked it out.—[*Gwylieddydd*, Dec. 1822.] Such are all the events which connect Glyndwr's insurrection with Ruthin Castle. How fruitless was this contest to our countrymen, except in the degrading laws it produced in revenge, is too well remembered, but it would be wide of the present subject to enter into further particulars.

From this period, Ruthin Castle, we must suppose, was free from all molestation for a length of time. During the wars of York and Lancaster, the ancient Britons

were in general friends to the former, from their old grudge perhaps to the latter house, and at length their politicks were at union with the Lord Grey of those days, for we find him raised to the Earldom of Kent by Edward IV. The only incident we find was a feud of a private nature which occurred about the middle of the fifteenth century, fifty or sixty years after the days of Glyudwr. The Gwydir Historian records that "the Thelwalls of Ruthia, being ancient gentry of that country, who came in with the Lord Grey, were at contention with an ancient *Septe* of that country, the family of Gruffyth Gôch. These being more in numbers than the Thelwalls, (altho' the Thelwalls carried all the offices of the country under the Earl of Kent, then Treasurer of England), drave the Thelwalls to take the Castle of Ruthin for their defence, where they besieged them until

the siege thereof was raised by John ab Meredith, his sons, and kindred, to whom the Thelwalls sent for aid, and in that exploit Robert ab John ab Meredith was slain with an arrow in a wood called Coed-marchan. Upon which exploit the Thelwalls assumed the crest of a deer pierced with an arrow, and upon this conceit, so frequent in the annals of chivalry, that Meredith and his kindred, having secluded himself in the woods and thickets of Coed-marchan, had acquired the name of the *outlying deer*."

At this time Lord Grey de Ruthin, now advanced to the title of Earl of Kent, holding high office in England, and possessing estates in, to him at least, the more eligible and attractive county from which he derived his title, having moreover no duty of subjugation or oppression to perform, had

become totally non-resident in this Castle. The Thelwalls were his representatives, or, as Sir J. Wynn's account implies, the men in office under the Lord of the Castle, which they seem therefore to have occupied with less scruple in their own defence than would otherwise have been the case. From this time this Castle was neglected and thinly garrisoned; and about a century after, when Churchyard wrote his Poem, he says,

"It had great stores of chambers finely wrought,  
Which time alone to great decaye hath brought."

This description refers to the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign; but previous to that time, this Castle became the property of the crown, being sold to Henry VII. by the Earl of Kent, who had ruined himself by gaming. And this seems the proper place to take our leave of the Greys de Ruthin, by a succinct account of the family.



Reginald de Grey, the first possessor of Ruthin Castle and its territories, was the son, as before stated, of John de Grey, (who died in 1266), by Emma, daughter of Geoffrey de Glanville. This Reginald succeeded his father as sheriff of Nottingham and Derby, and governor of Nottingham Castle, to which he accumulated the governorship of Northampton Castle and the justiciaryship of Chester, besides the honour of Ruthin. He was summoned to Parliament as Lord Grey of Ruthin, and of Wilton, in right of his wife Maud, daughter and heir of Henry de Longchamp, Baron Wilton, in the Co. of Hereford, by whom he had John de Grey, only son and heir, justice of North Wales, and governor of Carnarvon Castle, summoned to Parliament as Lord Grey of Ruthin and Wilton, and died in 1324. He married first, Anne, daughter of William, Lord Ferrers, of

Groby, by whom he had an only son Henry de Grey, summoned to Parliament as Lord Grey de Wilton, from whom were descended the Lords Grey de Wilton, who flourished till 1614, when Thomas, the last Lord, died in the tower. By his second wife, Maud, daughter of Ralph, Lord Basset of Drayton, he had Roger de Grey, only son, who became Lord Grey de Ruthin, and governor of Abergaveny Castle, and died 1353. Roger married Elizabeth, daughter of John, Lord Hastings, of Bergaveney, and heir to John, Earl of Pembroke, by whom he had Reginald de Grey, commander of all the forts and Castles in Wales belonging to the King. He was summoned to Parliament as Lord Grey de Ruthin, and died in 1389. Reginald married Eleanor, daughter of Lord Strange, of Blackmere, by whom he

had Reginald de Grey, taken prisoner by Owen Glyndwr, who recovered in the court of chivalry against Sir Edward Hastings the right to the name and arms of Lord Hastings in 1410, became admiral of England in 1414, and died in 1441; and also Eleanor married to William Lucy, Esq. of Charlcote Co. Warwick. By his first wife, Margaret, daughter of Lord Ros, he had Sir John Grey, who succeeded him as Lord Grey de Ruthin; and by his second wife, Joan,\* daughter and heir of William, Lord Asteley, he had Sir Edw. de Grey, summoned to Parliament, *jure uxoris*, as Lord Ferrers of Groby, who died in 1458, having married Elizabeth, sole daughter and heir of Henry, son and

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\* The story of the forced marriage with Joan, the daughter of Owen Glyndwr, is not corroborated by the Peerage. His wife Joan, it appears, was of a different family.

heir of Lord Ferrers, of Groby, from whom descends the Earl of Stamford and Warrington. He was succeeded by his son Sir John Grey above mentioned, as Lord Grey de Ruthin, whose son Edmund was created Earl of Kent, by Edward IV. in 1463. Edmund, Earl of Kent, was succeeded by his son George, who died in 1506, and by his first wife Anne Wideville, had Richard, Earl of Kent, who dissipated his fortune by gambling, and sold this Castle and lordship to Henry VII. and died without issue in 1524. His father, by his second wife Catherine, daughter of William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, had Henry Grey, Knight, to whose grandson Reginald, by his son Henry, the Earldom was restored by Queen Elizabeth, in 1572. Not much to the honour of this Lord do we read that he was one of Elizabeth's agents in the execution of the unhappy

Queen of Scots, being joined in commission with the Earl of Shrewsbury for carrying it into execution at Fotheringay Castle. When her head was severed, the Dean of Peterborough, Doctor Fletcher, exclaimed, "So perish all Queen Elizabeth's enemies." To which the Earl of Kent alone answered, "Amen." All the rest of the spectators were dissolved in tears. He, dying without issue, was succeeded by his brother Henry, a person (in Camden's words) "endowed with all the ornaments of true Nobility." Bishop Gibson carries on the account of this noble race, by adding that Henry dying without issue, in 1639, the honour, by reason of the entail on the heir male, descended to Anthony Grey, Clerk, Rector of Burbach, in the county of Leicester, son of George, son of Anthony Grey, of Branspeth, third son of George Grey, the second Earl of Kent. This Rev. Anthony

Grey had issue Henry, who succeeded to the title on the death of an elder brother. He took the side of the Parliament, and with Lord Bolinbroke was Keeper of the Great Seal of England. He had issue Anthony, Earl of Kent, in 1695. His son Henry was Lord Chamberlain to Queen Anne's Household, and created Marquis of Kent and Viscount Goderich Castle 14th December, 1706, and Duke of Kent in 1710. He had five sons, who all died S. P. and the title failed, but he obtained the title of Marchioness Grey for his granddaughter, married to Philip second Earl of Hardwick.

The title of Grey de Ruthin still survives, but it is no longer in the name of Grey. The present existing title of Grey de Ruthin is thus connected with the Earldom of Kent,—Earl Henry, who died without issue in 1639, left a sister, Susanna,

who succeeded to the title of Grey de Ruthin, the Earldom of Kent descending to Rev. Anthony Grey as before stated. This Susanna married a Longueville, the fruit of which marriage was Charles Longueville, in right of his mother, Lord Grey de Ruthin, Hastings, Weyford, and Valence. His daughter and sole heir Susanna, married Sir Henry Yelverton, son of Henry, a Judge of the Common Pleas to Charles I. son of Sir Christopher Yelverton, Speaker of the House of Commons, 39 Queen Elizabeth, and afterwards a Judge of the Queen's Bench, and conveyed these titles to the family, by whom they are now possessed. Charles, their eldest son, succeeded his father as a Baronet, and his mother as Lord Grey de Ruthin, and died in 1679, S. P. His brother Henry succeeded, and was created Viscount Longueville, 1690, and died 1704. His eldest son,

Talbot, was created Earl of Sussex, 1717, with remainder to his brother Henry and male issue. Augustus, second Earl. Henry, third Earl, died without male issue. He carried the gold spurs at the coronation of George III. as Baron Hastings. His daughter Barbara married Edward Thoroton Gould, Esq. and their son Henry succeeded, in right of his mother, to the Barony of Grey de Ruthin, but the Earldom of Sussex and Viscount Longueville became extinct for want of male issue. Henry, the late Earl, by his father's will, took the name and arms of Longueville. His daughter Barbara, by his wife Anna Maria, daughter of William Kelham, Gent. is the present Lady Grey de Ruthin.

Previous to this digression, we left this Castle in a state of decay in the latter days

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of Queen Elizabeth, as appears by Churchyard's Poem on the Worthines of Wales. It continued in this state for some years after, and must therefore have undergone considerable repair before it was garrisoned for the King in the time of the rebellion. The Caerwys MS. before quoted, refers, probably, to this period. "The Castle," it says, "is mowche in de kaye;" and further, "there is remaininge in the said Castle certaine old leade, which was of the takeinge down of the towers, beinge de kayde, which leade of the value of xxlb. is in the keepinge of the constable's (the Earl of Worcester) deputye of the said Castle." What corroborates the notion that this old MS. relates to this time is the account it gives of the collegiate church, "which," it adds, "consists of a warden and chapitre, viz. three prestes, (the exact number of clergy since the Reformation), whereat

the hole town doth repayre for the hearing  
 Gode's service as to theire paryche church,  
 the church being of our Lady and Saint  
 Peter,\* of the foundation of John Grey,  
 sometime Earl of Kent and Lord of Ruth-  
 yne, the same beinge of the value of xliib." The Town of Ruthin seems to have par-  
 taken in the decays of its Castle, for it ap-  
 pears by a MS. account in the possession  
 of Thomas Griffiths, Esq. of Wrexham,  
 and of Pen-y-Nant, in the parish of Ruabon,  
 and copied by an ancestor, out of the book

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\* On the beautiful carved roof of the north aisle are to be seen the words "Mater Maria æra pro nobis," and "Jesus mercy Lady help." The Virgin Mary is not now joined with St. Peter in its Tutela. This roof must, from its style, be of the date of Henry VII. Two of its pannels are carved with the Prince of Wales's plume, and with pomgranates, in allusion to Henry the Seventh's son Arthur Prince of Wales's marriage with Catherine of Arragon and Granada, whose armorial bearings were the pomgranate.

of Mr. Robert Wynn, of Nantglyn, high constable of Isalet, that the townsmen of Ruthin exhibited a petition, about the year 1636, of their "dekayed estate," on which they were relieved in their proportion of the county rate. In another MS. account of the same date, the mizes and taxations to the crown out of this lordship are said to be remitted one half in respect to the decayed state of Ruthin. This latter account must refer to an inquisition taken in the year 1600, on a petition to the Lords of the Privy Council from the townsmen of Ruthin respecting their decayed state, when they were relieved one half of their usual proportion of all taxations to the crown, and the other half assessed on the county at large.

It should previously have been noted that Henry VIII. granted this Castle and

its rights and appendages to his natural son Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Richmond, but it very soon reverted to the crown on his death. Its next grant was from Queen Elizabeth to Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, brother to her worthless minion Robert, Earl of Leicester, on whom she had bestowed Denbigh Castle and its dependencies. On the death, without issue, of Ambrose Dudley, and Anne, his wife, who was included in the grant, it came again to the crown, divested of the demesne lands of Bathafarn, sold to the Thelwalls at the instigation and special favour of the Countess. Other manors and parkes, besides Llwynydd, sold to the same family, had also been severed from this lordship.

James I. in order to raise money, made a limited grant of the lordship; and his son and successor, when reduced to straits

by his refractory Parliament, raised the sum of £.20,000 on this lordship and other crown lands, to pay arrears due in the Ordnance department. Finally, he sold it to Sir Francis Crane, Chancellor of the Order of the Garter, as he is called, and his brother Richard, for the sum of £.4,000, subject, it must be supposed, to the proportion of the large sum before borrowed. Pending the contract, Sir Thomas Myddelton, of Chirk Castle, was a suitor to the crown for permission to purchase in preference to Sir Francis Crane, who, being a *Southerne*, was not likely to reside and do service to His Majesty, It was also stated in his behalf that he was possessed of £.2,000 per annum in the Lordship, and further, that he was in possession of the Castle and Town parkes, and four mills, which had been sold by James I. to Sir Hugh Myddelton.\* His application how-

ever was of no avail, and the contract was completed to Sir Francis Crane, in which was excepted the *Pendist* in Ruthin, which was used as the county-hall, and also the site of the Castle and Town parkes, and other particulars. The exception of the Castle, &c. must refer to this transaction of previous sale. But this circumstance makes it somewhat unaccountable how it came to be garrisoned for the King in the time of the rebellion, which is the next event to be recorded, and the most memorable one in its history. Necessity, we know, has no law, and it may have been arbitrarily seized upon by the King in that emergency. Or we are at liberty to suppose that it was garrisoned without ceremony or any order from the King, by the

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\* So is it stated in the MS. dated not many years after, but Sir Thomas Myddelton must have been the purchaser.

loyal inhabitants of the country, as was the case with the neighbouring Castle of Denbigh, which is plainly said to have been garrisoned by William Salisbury, "at the expence of himself and kindred." Raignolds, the name of the deputy governor of this Castle when it was given up, as will hereafter appear, is a Welsh name, viz. ab Reignallt, and one that existed in these parts, and is not a worse corruption of an ancient British name than Cecil for Seisyllt.

The following memoranda of its history at this memorable period, are furnished by Mr. William Morris of Llansilin's pocket-book in the library of Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart. and accounts of that time to be seen in that of the British Museum :—

"1644, Oct. 2nd, Sir Thomas Myddelton, and Col. Mytton, with all their forces

from Montgomeryshire and Shropshire, met at Llangollen, and on the 20th Oct. began violently to assault the Castle of Ruthin, and so continuing for two days, and conceiving no hopes of forcing it retreated out of the country without performing any other achievements." Sir Thomas Myddelton, it is well known, remained not long attached to the Parliament cause, but became a distinguished cavalier. His early defection from loyalty, we may suspect, was instigated by the recent failure in his wishes; or he may have thought it allowable to knock somewhat rudely at the gate of his own Castle.

"1645, Feb. 5, Prince Maurice came to Shrewsbury, and having stay'd there some days in ordering his forces, advanced towards Chester. The first night he lay at



**Chirk Castle, from thence went to Ruthin, where Sir John Owen, with the forces of North Wales, expected his coming, and as soon as he had cleared Denbighshire and released Chester, Col. Mytton fell upon Shrewsbury and surprized the Town, 22nd Feb. about 4 o'clock in the morning."**

**For the next six months of this year we are not furnished with any documents relating to the civil war in these parts, with which to fill up this interval. Ruthin and Denbigh Castles remained well garrisoned in expectation of assault, but seem to have been under no particular alarm till the latter part of 1645. Taking the journal of Mr. Symonds, a royalist, for our guide, we find that the King visited North Wales in person, the beginning of September this year, (coming out of Herefordshire, whither he had retired after the battle of Naseby),**

viâ Llanfyllin and Chirk Castle, where he rested. Thence His Majesty proceeded to Chester, and after his defeat at Rowton Heath, near that City, retreated to Denbigh Castle on the 25th of Sep. and raised the country in his cause by a rendezvous\* not far from thence. History records that he raised 1400 horse in this country, for at the same time Sir Marmaduke Langdale, his defeated general at Rowton, was making a rendezvous of the royalists near Holt Castle, in the same county. The King left Denbigh on Saturday, the 28th Sep. and passed through Ruthin, "where (says

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\* *Note.*—"Saturday, Sep. 27th, 1645, bee it remembered, that King Charles was this day and year above-written making his Rendezvous in the parish of Cyffylliog, in a place then called Cenfesydd. The siege began at Ruthyn the 25th of Jan. 1646. The ditto began at Denbigh April 17th, 1646."—Cyffylliog Register. Cenfesydd is now the property of Rev. E. Owen, of Fachlwyd.

Symonds) is a large Castle and fortified. There Prince Maurice met *us* (the writer must therefore have been of the party) with his troops, and those of Prince Rupert's horse that came from Bristol, Lucas's horse, &c. *toto* 6 or 700." The King passed on to Chirk, Prince Maurice accompanying his Royal Uncle, and, as history says, with 800 horse, and we find Sir William Vaughan in command of these troops shortly after. He (Sir W.) arrived at Chirk Castle with some additional troops Oct. 26th, and thence "*we* marched to Llannanis,\* Mr. Thelwall's house." Sir W. Vaughan's object was to support the garrisons of Ruthin and Denbigh Castles. He was here quickly alarmed with the intelligence that he was followed by the Parliamentary general Mytton, of Halston, who had advanced to Ruthin Nov. 1st. The two armies encoun-

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\* *Plas-y-Ward*, in the Parish of Llanyrys.

tered on Denbigh Green, and Mytton was victorious. The vanquished foot were received into Denbigh Castle by its magnanimous governor William Salisbury, old "hosanau gleision," or blue stockings, as he is called, and the horse retreated to Llanrwst through Llangerniw, where they were soon rejoined by the infantry whom it would have been too burdensome to harbour in the Castle any length of time. The royalists on this occasion were about 700 horse, and 200 foot. Pennant asserts, on the authority of Whitelock, that the Parliament forces nearly doubled this number. It seems to have been a sharp encounter, and well sustained by the royalists, whom, it is gratifying to think, were overpowered by numbers only. This feeling proceeds from that preference for the royal cause which actuates every loyal breast even in the present day. For though he feel

grateful to providence that the popular cause of those times issued at length in being the remote cause of the liberty of the subject at present enjoyed, yet is his heart with the noble and high-minded cavaliers, as contrasted with the hypocritical spirit of their opponents. Their cause—the cause of loyalty—was not a premeditated and unprincipled attack on the well defined liberties of the subject, but that of supporting the long-established power and privileges of the crown, to which they had sworn allegiance. The Parliament had forced the King into an expensive foreign war for the recovery of the Palatinate to his relative, in which it deemed the honour of this kingdom involved, and yet, as one should think, with a purposed design denied him the means of carrying it on ; thus reducing him to the necessity of resorting to arbitrary, but at the same time long-es-

tablished, privileges he would otherwise not have been disposed to exercise. And it may be fairly asserted, there are few even of those who are now most bitter in their invectives against Charles I., who would not, in his situation, have acted as he did. Such sentiments in his favour proceed from no leaning to the side of despotism, but may be entertained by one who is grateful that he himself is subject to a more temperate and limited monarchy.

What employment general Mytton found in this country in the interval of the before-mentioned victory and the commencement of his siege of this Castle, on the 25th of Jan. 1646, does not appear, further than that a brave party from Denbigh Castle beat up his quarters at Ruthin on Tuesday the 6th April, with the intent of relieving the Castle: Being aware of their design,

Mytton drove them away and pursued them towards their home, and near Denbigh defeated them, taking many prisoners and killing others, as appears from the following printed letters in the British Museum, entitled "*Three Victories in Wales*," Printed according to order of Parliament, April 14th, 1646, viz.

*1st.—A Copy of Major-General Mitton's Letter.*

"Sir,

This Castle of Ruthen is to be surrendered to me. For the particulars I shall referre you to these inclosed.

Ruthen, the 8th Aprill, 1645."

*2nd.—A Copy of Major-General Mitton's Major's Letter.*

"Sir,

Your many favours I cannot but

acknowledge, and shall be ever ready to serve you. I can now certify you that Ruthen Castle is agreed by articles to be delivered up to us upon Monday next. I have sent you here enclosed the copy of the articles whereupon it is to be surrendered. Upon Tuesday last at night, the enemy from Denbigh fell upon part of our quarters, but took neither horse nor men, which gave us an alarm here, whereupon a party of our horse went out and fell between them and home, and meeting them near Denbigh took Captaine Winne, Captaine H. Morris, Captaine Morgan, and Captaine Pickering, one Lieutenant and two Cornets, with some gentlemen of this country, and killed seven. I shall rest, but never cease to be your humble servant,

ED. MOORE.

Ruthen, the 8th of Aprill, 1646."

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**"Taken by Colonel Mitton's forces near Denbigh :—**

**Captaine Win, Cap. H. Morris, Cap. Morgan, Cap. Pickering, 2 Cornets, 1 Serjeant, divers gentlemen and other Soldiers, divers arms, 7 slain upon the spot, 40 horse taken."**

*The Copy of a Letter from Col. Mitton's Secretary.*

**" Noble Sir,**

**I make bold to salute you with the information of my safe returne ; and for news I have not to trouble your better employments, save with what is certified even at present by Major Moore, to which (adding that the same is very honourable on my Generall's part) I briefly referre you ; and for the other news touching the taking of four of the enemies Capitaines and others, by Simkies and others, who were upon the**

guard that evening, I also referre you to Major Moore's relation, there being of the Denbigh forces taken on Tuesday morning last that were coming to beat up our quarters, foure Captaines, viz. Captaine Hugh Morris, Captaine Pickering, Cap. Winne, and one Captaine Morgan, of Walgrave, (qu. Gwylgre, now Golden Grove?) besides two Cornets one Lieutenant, and some 8 or 9 more, they being all of horse, about 40 horse taken, and some 7 of the enemy slaine on the place and in the chase, the place being not a mile from Denbigh. I have no more, but that in your occasions you shall ever find me your most humble and faithful friend

THO. BROOKE.

Ruthen, the 9th of April, 1646."

*"Articles agreed and concluded between*

*Mr. Robert Fogge,\* Chaplain to Colonel Thomas Mitton, (Major-General of North Wales) and Captaine Edward Thelwall, Commissioners, on the behalf of the said Major-Generall on the one party, and Master John Reynolls, deputy governor of the Castle of Ruthen, on the other party :—*

1. It is agreed and concluded by the parties above-mentioned, That the Castle of Ruthen shall be surrendered unto Major-Generall Mitton aforesaid, or to his assignees, on Monday next, April 12th, 1646, by tenne of the clock in the forenoone, without any dismantling, demolishing, or defacing the same, or any workes now made in or about the same.

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\* Mr. Fogge was Rector of Bangor Iscoed, and represented in the Non-conformists Memorial as a very pious man. He was the intimate friend of the celebrated Philip Henry of Worthenbury, and was ejected at the Restoration. His son, Rowland Fogge, became Dean of Chester.

2. That all the ordnance, armes, ammunition, provision, and goods now in the Castle be left safe and no way harmed, saving the particulars hereafter mentioned.

3. That the said deputy governor shall march away quietly and without molestation, with his sword and one case of pistolls, and six gentlemen with him, and each of them his sword.

4. That the rest of the souldiers and officers, the Irish only excepted, (who are barred by the ordinance of Parliament), to passe to their respective habitations, or to convoy with a safe conduct, they behaving themselves cruelly. (qu. civilly?)

5. That the said deputy take onely with him two trunks, containing onely therein his wearing apparell, and some few cloathes

and linning of his sisters, and that a cart be provided for the carriage thereof.

6. That in the meane time there be a cessation of armes on both sides, and no advantage taken by admitting any strength of men or ammunition into the said Castle, and other than the hostages agreed upon by both parties.

And for the firme confirmation of the premises, the parties to these presents have interchangeably set to their hands, this 8th day of Aprill, anno dom. 1646.

ROBERT FOGGE,

EDWARD THELWALL.

I also agree to the articles above-written,

JOHN RAIGNOLDS.

I do consent to what my Commissioners have agreed herein,

THOMAS MITTON.

**A list of Major-Generall Mitton's victory  
against the Denbigh forces:—**

**Taken prisoners,—As before.**

**In Ruthen, all their armes and ammuni-  
tion, bagge and baggage, were to be sur-  
rendered to Major-General Mitton, and the  
Irish to be left to be tryed according to the  
ordinance of Parliament."**

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**Letter to the Honourable William Len-  
thal, Esq. Speaker of the House of Com-  
mons, concerning the surrender of Ruthen  
Castle to Colonel Thomas Mitton, Major-  
General of North Wales, together with the  
articles concerning the same.**

**Ordered, by the Commons assembled in  
Parliament, That this Letter with the ar-  
ticles be forthwith printed and published.**

**H. ELSYNGE, Cler. Parl. D. Com.**

**London : printed for Edward Husband,**

printer to the Honourable House of Commons. April 14, 1646.

*To the Honourable William Lenthall,  
Esq. Speaker to the Honourable House of  
Commons.*

“Honourable Sir,

The reducing of this Castle of Ruthen hath cost me more time and ammunition than I expected when I first laid siege to it. At last, having a mine almost in readiness to spring, and batteries prepared for a demicanon and culverin to play upon it, it was this day agreed to be surrendered upon the conditions in the inclosed articles, which I am willing to accept, having perfect information by some that escaped out of the Castle, that there was in it provision sufficient for two moneths longer, which now I find to be true. And

if I should have forced it, I must have hazarded many men and made the place unserviceable, which is of very great use to the reducement of this country, it being the most convenient place for a garrison in all North Wales, as things now stand with us. Yesterday, before the break of day, a part of the enemy out of Denbigh Castle, being about sixscore and thirty mounted firelocks, fell upon Captaine Rich. Price his quarters, about two miles from this town ; but he was vigilant, and his scouts performed their duty so well that they were drawn into the field before they came upon them, which gave him opportunity to avoid them and convey the alarm to this town. And thereupon Colonel Carter, with a standing horse guard, which we are fain to keep in the field constantly to secure our out-quarters, and Captain Simkies, with my own troop, which was



then upon the guard in this town, drew out and fell between them and Denbigh, and within half-a-mile of their garrison met with them, and charged them so gallantly that they broke in upon them, killed seven of them (as is said) upon the place, and in the pursuit took four Captains, one Lieutenant, and two Cornets, divers troopers, and above forty horse, with the losse of one man of our side. The siege of Houlthath of late been of great difficulty and hazard to those few men I have there; for the drawing off of the Cheshire firelocks from that service without my privity gave the enemy an advantage to burn the guard the firelocks kept, (which cost the country much to fortifie,) and about forty dwelling-houses more in the town, and exposed my men (who lay in open quarters, and fewer in number than the enemy within were) to their power, which necessitated

my men to be upon continual duty. Upon the first of April the enemy sallied out and fell upon Major Sadler's quarters, resolving to put all my men in that house to the sword, which they had been like to effect had not a guard, which was placed in a mount erected by us three days before, relieved them. In this storm I lost five men, and fifteen wounded; of the enemy there were killed their commander Captain Cottingham, a papist, a Lieutenant, and two more, and many wounded. There hath been never a day since but they sallied out constantly twice or thrice a-day, and as constantly beaten in. This service and the furnishing of such garrisons which are reduced, occasions the expence of much powder and match, and therefore I humbly desire that the honourable House will be pleased to grant that I may have a hundred barrels of powder and four or five hundred fire-

locks sent me, and that some course may be prescribed to convey it down speedily, the carriage and convoy of the last powder I had cost above half as much as the powder was worth. And further, that they will be pleased to appoint a governor for this Castle. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Mason is a very faithful, active, and godly gentleman, and the most knowing man in his profession that we have in these parts, having been a souldier above twenty years, and lost his command in Ireland because he refused to bear arms against the Parliament. And, if this place were worthy of him, I should make bold to recommend him to their consideration. This, nevertheless, I leave to their wisdom to determine, and rest your very humble servant,

THOMAS MITTON.

Ruthen, 8th April, 1646."

Then follow the Articles as before.

The Castle was accordingly delivered up to the Parliament General on Monday, the 12th April, 1646. Mr. Fogge, his chaplain, the bearer of this important news to London, was rewarded by Parliament with £.50 for the intelligence. The General's recommendation of Colonel Mason as its future governor was approved, but his command was of short duration, as the Castle was soon demolished by order of Parliament, a part of its history which accounts for so few interesting relics being found among its ruins. After the restoration of Charles II. Sir Richard Myddelton of Chirk Castle, (son of Sir Thomas, by Mary, daughter of Thomas Cholmondeley, Esq. of Vale-Royal, and grandson of old Sir Thomas, who, as before stated, had obtained the Castle, Town-Parks, and Mills), purchased from the representatives of Crane their interest in this lordship. For more than

a century the lordship of Ruthin or Dyffryn Clwyd, with its Castle, continued a magnificent appendage to the grandeur of the family of Chirk Castle, and one that gave it a controlling influence in the return of a member to Parliament for the Denbighshire Boroughs. It is now the property of Miss Harriet Myddelton, one of the sisters and coheirs of the late Richard Myddelton, Esq. of Chirk Castle, to whose lot it fell on the late partition of that noble estate under a decree of the Court of Chancery. The present castellated mansion, erected since that event, is certainly a great embellishment to this Town, and forms a picturesque object at a distance. Large and extensive as it is, the plan is supposed to be incomplete at present; and therefore, to adopt old Churchyard's words,

"The work itself will shake a subject's bag."

But its modern towers rise not to over-

awe dependant subjects, but to waive the banner of protection to the poor and of invitation to friends, bidding them enter its gates to feast on many a fatted deer from the park of Coedmarchan, and pledge in *Cwrw Da* and generous wine to the health of an hospitable owner !

As this short history professes to speak of the Town as well as the Castle of Ruthin, it remains to add that it was early incorporated as a Borough. Its original charter must have been quite exclusive to the interests of the natives of the Principality. But these oppressions were remedied by a charter granted by Henry VII. and confirmed by a letter of James I. The corporate body is merely an appendage to the lordship, and consists of two aldermen and sixteen common-council, annually elected at the close of the year, and an un-

limited number of burgesses. The steward of the lordship summons to his Leet Court a jury of burgesses to elect two aldermen. The aldermen immediately nominate a common-council, who, in conjunction with these magistrates, elect burgesses at their pleasure. The steward is nominated by the Lord of the Manor, and removable at pleasure. The aldermen appoint constables for their liberties, and officers, called leavelookers, to inspect provisions brought to sale at the Town-market, the tolls of which, to the amount of fourscore pounds per annum or more, together with lands of about £.25 per annum, constitute their revenue. These are expended in clothing their javelin-men, who, dressed in handsome liveries, precede them on public occasions, armed with ancient-fashioned halberds. The residue is liberally expended for the benefit of the Town.

But the boast of Ruthin is its Grammar School, founded by Doctor Gabriel Goodman, a native of the Town, and Dean of Westminster during nearly the whole of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. His monument is to be seen in the church of Ruthin as well as in Westminster Abbey. Having previously refounded the Wardenship of Ruthin, he obtained for the School, in the latter part of that reign, a grant from the crown, to the President and Warden of Ruthin, of a moiety of the Rectory of Llanelidan, (a parish in the vicinity,) for the support of two Masters. The pious founder drew up statutes for the conduct of the School, making it free to the inhabitants of the Town of Ruthin and the parish of Llanelidan, and others after the payment of a small fee. The Headmaster is appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese (Bangor) as President

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aforesaid, or, in default of his Lordship exercising his right in a month after a vacancy, by the Warden. The Undermaster is appointed by the Headmaster. The Warden is to see to the fulfilment of the statutes, and that the Schoolmasters perform their duty. Respectable exhibitions to the Universities are attached to this School, part of them derived from the will of Doctor Godfrey Goodman, Bishop of Gloucester, (from which he was ejected at the rebellion,) nephew of the Dean, and the rest founded about 80 years ago by the Rev. Edward Lloyd, of Ripple, in Kent, who had been educated at the School. This Seminary has the credit of having educated many eminent characters, among whom may be enumerated the following, viz.—Doctor Davies, the celebrated author of the Welsh Grammar and Dictionary; Doctor John Williams, Archbishop of

York, and Lord Keeper; David Lloyd, author of the *Memoirs*; Doctor John Wynne, successively Bishop of St. Asaph and Bath and Wells; Doctor Josiah Tncker, Dean of Gloucester; the late Lord Kenyon; Mr. Baron Peryn; Chief Baron Richards; John Maddocks, Esq. eminent at the Chancery Bar; John Lloyd, Esq. Chief Justice of the Carmarthen circuit; Doctor Henry Owen, a late London Divine, a learned author in Divinity; Doctor Edwards, Archdeacon of Brecon; Doctor George Cotton, late Dean of Chester; the Rev. J. Jones, the present Archdeacon of Merioneth, late a Bampton Lecturer; Doctor Thomas Hughes, Canon Residentiary of St. Paul's, and one of the Deputy Clerks of His Majesty's Closet, son of an highly-esteemed Master of this School; his son, John Hughes, Esq. late of Oriel College, a distinguished scholar of that

Society, and known in the literary world ; Doctor John Bull, Archdeacon of Barnstable, and Canon Residentiary of Exeter ; and Rev. H. Holland Edwards, Prebendary of Westminster, received the early part of their education in this School. To this list might be added the names of many, who, occupying less distinguished stations, are equally a credit to this their Alma Mater ; for instance, the late John Parry, Esq. Barrister at Law, well known as a Welsh Scholar and Publisher.

The Church Establishment of Ruthin, which is Collegiate, consists of the Warden, appointed by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, his two Curates, or Chaplains, the Schoolmasters, and the twelve Poor of Christ's Hospital, receiving weekly stipends, and governed by statutes drawn up by Dean Goodman, the refounder

of the Wardenship. These last particulars are added for the information of the passing visitor, who, if possessed of rational curiosity, may be gratified with a recital which adds respectability to a place the Writer has so much reason to hold in veneration and wish to illustrate.



R. JONES, PRINTER, RUTHIN.





