CASTLES
and
Strongholds
of
PEMBROKESHIRE

Emily Hewlett Edwards

G. Norwood.


St Dogmells
Nevern Castle
Kilgerran Castle
Newport Castle
St Davids Palace
Western Gladdyw
Eastern Gladdyw
Roch Castle
St Brides Bay
Wiston Castle
Haverfordwest
Haverfordwest Castle
Hawthaden Castle
Narberth Castle
Slebech
Walwens Castle
Lawrenny Castle
Benton Castle
Dale Castle
Milford
Upton Castle
MILFORD HAVEN
Carew Castle
Tenby Castle
Monkton Church
Pembroke Castle
Lamphey Palace
Manorbier Castle
CASTLES OF PEMBROKESHIRE.
Castles
Bishops Palaces
Religious Houses
English Pembrokeshire - South of Line.
Welsh Pembrokeshire - North of Line.

Castles and Strongholds of Pembrokeshire.

BY

EMILY HEWLETT EDWARDS,

JOINT AUTHOR OF

"THE CHURCH BOOK OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, TENBY."

WITH

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS

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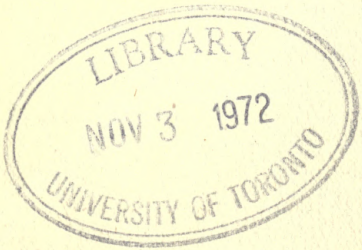

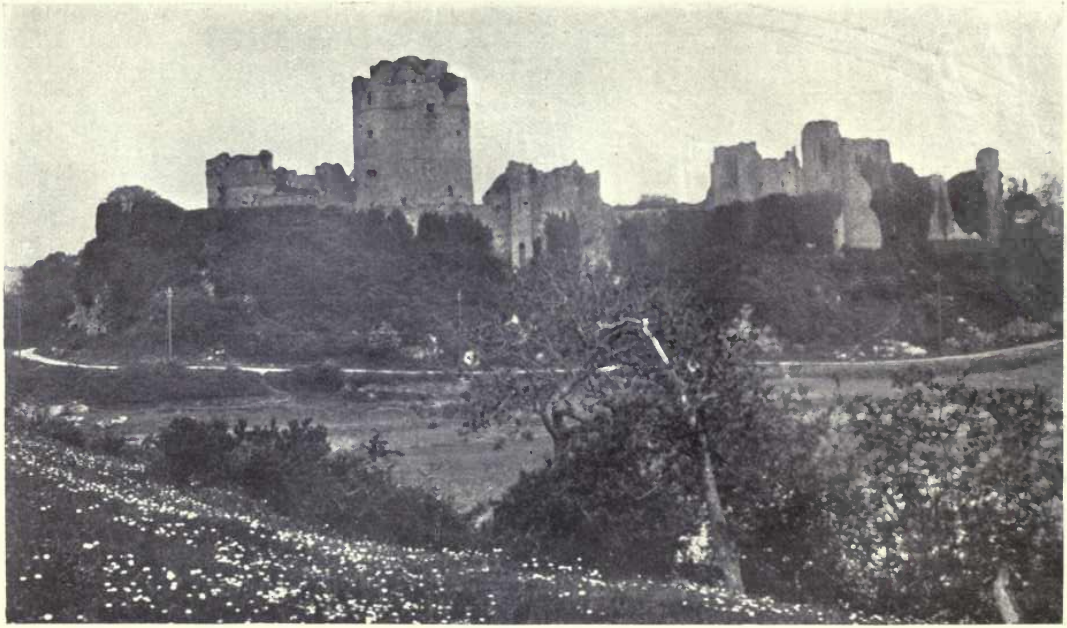

PEMBROKE CASTLE.

NORMAN KEEP, PEMBROKE.

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Note.—The writer must acknowledge her indebtedness to Edward Laws, Esq., F.S.A., for valuable advice and assistance.

E.H.E.,

Brython Place, Tenby,

April 23rd, 1909.

Contents.

Prehistoric and Early Earthen Strongholds.

STANDING out into the sea, like a bastion covering the entrance of two channels, it is but natural that Pembrokeshire should have received many strange visitors.

Stone and Bronze using people, men of the Early Iron age, Irish Goidels, Dutchmen and Spaniards under Roman leaders, Scandinavians, Welsh, Saxons, Normans, and Flemings, all have landed on our shores, and in turn warred against each other, and left their mark on our cliffs, plains and mountains.

An instinct for self-preservation by bank and ditch must have developed at a very early period in man's history.

If you arm a little boy with a wooden spade and lead him down to the sea-shore, he invariably proceeds to make a miniature circular camp, duly defended with an orthodox "foss and vallum," gets inside and defies the universe with his wooden weapon.

It is not astonishing that the many generations of various races who inhabited our county through the ages should have left traces of their sojourn; the most notable of these are the strongholds they formed to defend their lives and possessions.

To begin with those fortifications which are termed Prehistoric.

In the Archæological Survey of Pembrokeshire lately completed, we find one hundred and ninety-three camps, fifteen dykes, earthworks, and entrenchments, and eighty-two tumuli, two

hundred and ninety in all, but we must remember that most of the tumps or tumuli are sepulchral, and, on the other hand, this list contains but a remnant of those camps originally constructed.

The intelligent non-archæologist quite naturally asks;—"When were these earthworks built? As they differ so greatly in shape (he enquires), can you sort them out into periods?" The answer must be, "Only to a very limited extent, because they have not as yet been scientifically explored."

Along our iron-bound coast at frequent intervals promontories will be found protected on the land side, with one or more lines of fortification. These have been christened Cliff Castles. Winds, waves, rabbits and rain have exposed flint implements and chips in such quantities that there can be but little doubt these were constructed by the people who used stone for cutlery and were ignorant of metal smelting, but probably occupied also by later people.

The enclosed areas do not seem to have been permanently inhabited, for in them there is no water, and the extremely exposed position of these camps would render human life practically impossible within them in bad weather. They must have been used as strongholds by the clan (who lived near) into which wives, children, flocks and herds were hurried for safety in time of danger. Most of them have a difficult escape down the side of the cliff to the sea (we must remember these early folk could doubtless climb like monkeys), and when beleaguered, the more daring would be able to supply the commissariat with shell-fish and perhaps water from the shore. If the worst came to the worst, the able-bodied members might escape, abandoning the aged, the weaklings, flocks and herds to the victorious enemy.

These cliff castles may fairly be ascribed to the Stone-age people of the Neolithic period, but it must be remembered that although for the sake of convenience we use the terms, Stone-age, Bronze-age and Iron-age, there is no sharp line of demarcation between the actual periods which they describe.

Stone implements were largely used after the introduction of metal, and Bronze Age goods are found in Iron Age hoards; to this day we use gunflints and whetstones.

Out of the many variously-shaped camps in Pembrokeshire two other divisions may be dated with more or less accuracy, viz., the stone walled camps and the camps containing an earthen donjon or motte inside the lines.

For the identification of the stone walled camps we have to thank the Rev. S. Baring Gould.

At St. David's Head, Carn Vaur near Strumble, Carn Ingli above Newport, and Trigarn on the Precelly Range are a series of fortifications resembling those at Treceiri in Carnarvonshire and Carn Goch in Carmarthenshire.

These consist of stone circles (house foundations) protected by very important loose stone walls, intersected with chambers, apparently constructed to shelter the defenders, in fact as sentry-boxes. The steep approaches are covered by *chevaux de frise* of fixed stones, and loose piles of stones known in Scotland as "clatters."

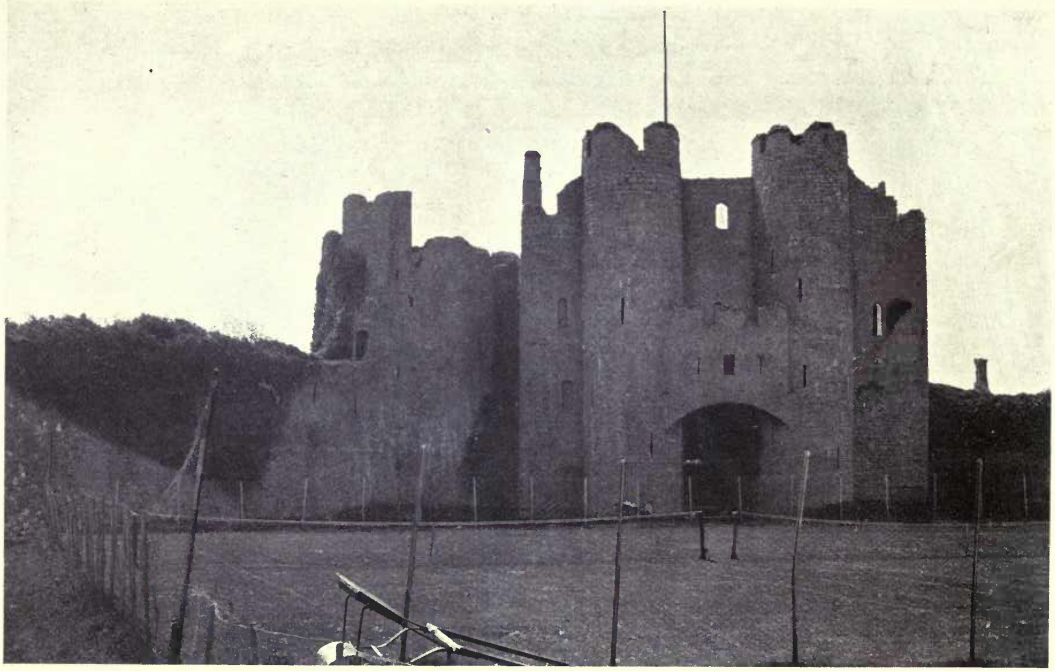
Mr. Baring Gould made careful examination of St. David's Head and Trigarn with pick and shovel. Carn Ingli, too, he tested in places, but perhaps in Treceiri he obtained the most valuable information, facts that proved beyond cavil that these camps are all of the same period, namely, Early Iron or late Celtic.

A number of iron articles were unearthed, mostly too far oxidised for identification, but a sort of battle-axe at Treceiri and a bridle-bit at Trigarn are quite beyond dispute; with these were date-giving melon-shaped glass beads, porcelain beads, jet bracelets, mixed with decorated stone spindle-whorls, stone pounders for grinding corn, slingstones, and stone lamps for burning tallow.

The third class of camp is again of much later date: in the Northern part of Pembrokeshire there are several earthworks which contain a mound sometimes moated. This peculiarity of form will be found at Castell Pen-y-Allt near Llantood, Plas-y-merchant near Nevern, Henllys, Eglwyswrw, Crymmych Arms, Castell Crychydd (the Heron's Castle near Clydey), Parc-y-marl, and Parc-Robert near New Moat.

In these north country camps surely we find an indication of the Norman conquerors of the 11th century under Martin of the Towers. We have positive evidence from the Bayeux tapestry that the camps or mottes built by the Normans of that period were circular earthworks enclosing elevated mounds, crowned with wooden castellets.

Nevern Castle. By far the most perfect specimen of this kind of stronghold is to be found in Llanhyver or Nevern Castle, this is truly a reconstructed earthwork. Two-thirds of the circumference are protected with an unusually strong foss and vallum—the latter forming a sort of curtain wall—the other third is defended by a natural declivity artificially scarped. In the south-west of the camp stands an earthen motte or mound which takes the place of the later stone donjon in Norman and Early English work; this castle is invaluable as a date-giver, *i.e.*, late eleventh century.



GATEHOUSE, PEMBROKE CASTLE.

CAREW CASTLE, FROM RIVER.

Its history is also very interesting, "when the prynces of Wales possessed the same country Castrum de Lanhever was the chiefe castle," the Normans seized and modified the structure "after that Martyn had first wonne the same it was many times disturbed, but Martyn and his issue stucke to yt so close that in the ende they carried yt awaye from the prynces of Wales." (George Owen).

E.L.

Newport Castle.

In the story of "Novum Burgum" or Newport we find epitomised the history of North Pembrokeshire. This castle was probably founded by Martin de Turribus, first Lord Marcher of Kemeys. When the New burgh superseded Nevern it was rebuilt by his grandson, William, in the Early English style. In 1324 Castle and Lordship passed by an heiress to the Lords Awdley, and rested in that family until Henry VIII. beheaded the Awdley of his day, then Newport and the Barony of Kemeys became vested in the Owens of Henllys as representing Martin de Turribus, until another heiress passed on the property to the Lloyds of Bronwydd. Sir Marteine Lloyd, the present owner, is the only Lord Marcher in existence, and as such nominates the Mayor of Newport. His predecessors exercised "jura regalia," had power of life and death, owned a gaol and gallows, received goods of intestates and felons, and acted as absolute kings.

About the beginning of the 16th century tradition tells that Newport town was depopulated by plague; perhaps then the castle became ruinous, for at this time the last Lord Awdley was beheaded, and for a while this place was vested in the Crown.

About thirty years ago the late Sir Thomas Lloyd restored Newport Castle, which was then a mere shell; the principal remains consisted of a great gateway with its western flanking tower. A long chamber could be traced within, known as "The Hunter's Hall." Here were the scanty remains of a fireplace with relics of an Early English moulding. A wet moat defended the castle; this was supplied by two streams.—E.L.

Cilgerran Castle.

Cilgerran is generally considered to possess a finer situation than any other castle in South Wales, standing as it does on a triangular promontory, two of whose sides are protected by precipitous cliffs overlooking the River Teivi. The stronghold once consisted of a magnificent mass of masonry occupying a considerable area, having an inner and outer bailey, five gates, a portcullised gatehouse, and strong cylindrical towers. The shells of two of these towers are still standing, in one of which are fireplaces, a fine spiral staircase, and a round-headed window, divided by a pier, apparently in the manner of a Saxon "balustered" light. Mr. Clark terms this fortress "technically an Edwardan castle," but irregular because the plan has been adapted to the site on which it stood. The masonry is rough, and composed of small, thin, slate-like stones, many of which are placed closely together in spreading gradation to form rude archways, which can scarcely be said to have a keystone. The walls are of enormous thickness, in some places measuring 12 feet. This method of building with slatestones makes the date of construction very hard to judge.

Before Arnulph de Montgomery founded Pembroke Castle, his father, Roger de Belesme had obtained the Royal permission to win lands in Wales, and advancing through Powis and Cardigan, he appropriated both these lordships, and began to build a fortress at Cilgerran somewhere about the year 1092.

During the first decade of the next century Gilbert de Clare, on his conquering tour through the maritime provinces of South Wales, is said to have built a castle "towards Dyvet upon the River Teivi at a place called Dyngeraint (Cilgerran), where Roger Mountgomery had begonne a castle before time."

In 1165 the Lord Rhys led his Welsh forces against our castle, and is said to have razed it to the ground, but next year the fortress, now held by the Welsh, was strong enough to twice repel a considerable body of Normans and Flemings.

In 1172 the Lord Rhys entertained King Henry II. on his way to Ireland. A story is told that while Henry was staying at Cilgerran a Welsh bard revealed to him that the bodies of the famous Arthur and his Queen Gwinever lay at Glastonbury. The king, on his return, instituted a search, and tradition says a coffin was found containing human bones of great size, with the following inscription on the lid:—

"Hic jacet sepultus inclytus rex
Arthurus in insula Avalonia."

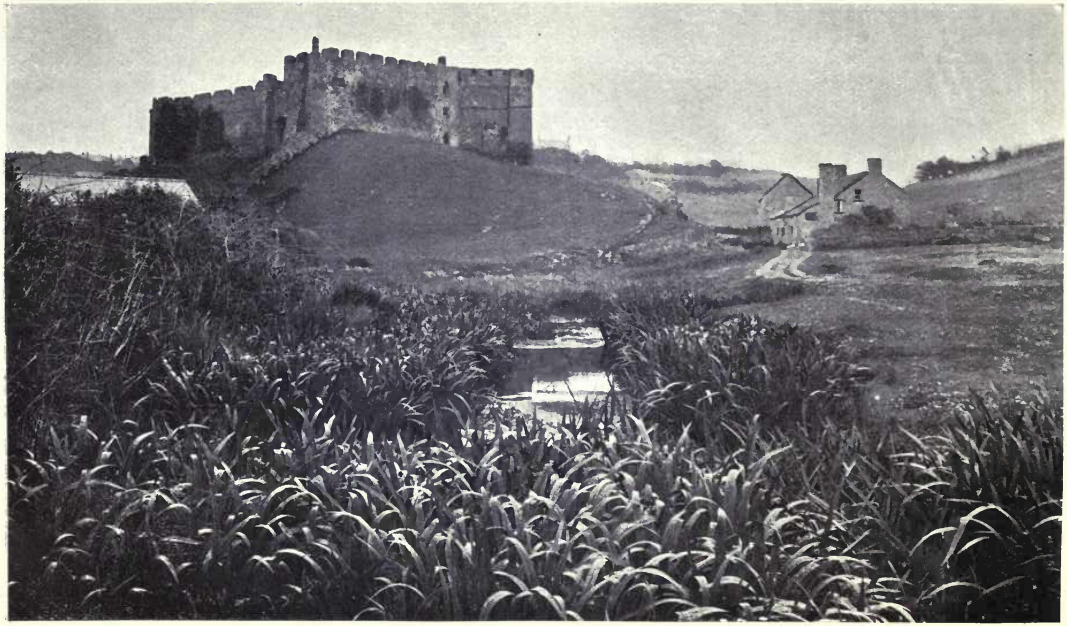
(Here lies buried the renowned King Arthur in the Isle of Avalon).

Nor is this the only piece of Arthurian legend connected with Pembrokeshire. The early name of Cilgerran was, as we have seen Dyngeraint, or the fortress of Geraint, a knight of Arthur; again, a tale was told to William the Conqueror, while visiting St. David's, that the bones of Sir Gawaine, another Round Table knight, had been discovered at Walwyn's Castle; on the Precelly slopes we find legends of a battle fought by Arthur's sons, while near Narberth is an earthwork called Blaengwaithnoe, said by some to mean Noe's Fort. Noe was son to King Arthur.

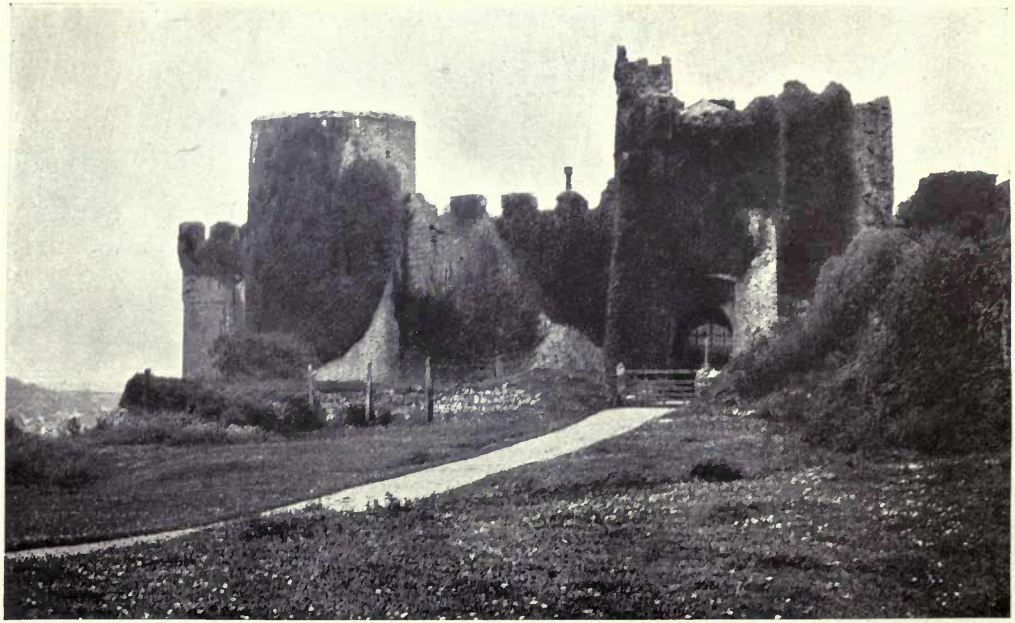
After the death of the Lord Rhys in 1196 his sons quarrelled for possession of Cilgerran, first one, then the other seizing the fortress, until 1204 when it was taken by William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke. His tenure was not peaceful, for Llywelyn ap Iorwerth, with a host of chieftains and a great following, took the castle in 1213; it remained with the Welsh for several years, but in 1223 William Marshall the

CAREW CASTLE.

CAREW CASTLE.



MANORBIER CASTLE, FROM MARSH.



MANORBIER CASTLE.

younger must have been in possession, for it is stated that he rebuilt it at this date. The ruins now standing are generally believed to be his work.

The Marshall family held Cilgerran until the death of their representative, George de Cantilupe (son of the younger William's sister Eva) in 1272, when it lapsed to the King. The Crown appointed as custodians successively, Henry de Bray, Nicholas, son of Martin of Kemes, and William de Valence, the latter paying £46 yearly rental. Then it reverted to John de Hastinges, whose mother was George de Cantilupe's sister.

In 1387 Cilgerran appears in a list of fortresses damaged or destroyed while in custody of William de Beauchamp, Lord of Pembroke and Abergavenny; probably after this it was dismantled, for we do not hear of a siege by Owain Glyndwr, nor did it play any known part in the Civil Wars, and though granted to various royal and other persons, seems from this time to have fallen out of the active game of war, and now only shows to view a romantic and fascinating ruin, whose uncared-for condition is a matter of regret to every visitor.

Pembroke Castle and Town Walls.

Pembroke, the capital of the Palatinate, was both strategically and politically the most important castle in South Wales. It "standeth in a little nooke of lande stretching itselfe into Millforde havon." The base of the castle is a rocky cliff rising from the beach, on which an enclosing wall, 1450 feet in circumference, embraces an area of about four acres. There are an inner and outer ward of irregular shape, and in the lower face of the cliff the "Wogan," a natural cavern, has been brought into the scheme, and is connected by stairs with the fortress; it was used as a store and boat house, and contained a well; some early herring-bone

work is visible in the facing of the cave. The Wogan was used by man from time out of mind, in it prehistoric implements have been discovered, and Roman coins, also the skeleton of a man killed by Cromwell, and the cannon-balls which proved his destruction.

The late Mr. J. R. Cobb, who excavated and devoted much time to Pembroke Castle, has detailed his discoveries in the "Archeologia Cambrensis." He brought to light the foundations of a horse-shoe shaped tower, which served as gateway to the inner ward; he ascribes the curtain wall separating the two wards to Arnulph de Montgomery (though Giraldus only alludes to Arnulph's castle as "a slender fortress of stakes and turf"). To the north of the inner ward, near the entry to the Wogan, are some fine, though dilapidated rooms; present popular tradition assigns to one of these the birthplace of Henry VII. Leland, however, declares it to have been an apartment in the great Gatehouse.

The donjon, or keep, is of enormous size and strength, its huge cylindrical bulk rising from within the second curtain wall without mound or buttress; it consists of five stories, and has remnants of stairs in the thickness of the wall, but the ascent is rather perilous, for one has chiefly to rely on a pendant rope for support. The walls of the keep are more than 19ft. thick at the base and are over 75ft. in height to the bottom of the crowning cone which forms a domed roof. Leland says: "The top of this round towr is gatherid into a rose of stone almost *in conum*, the top whereof is keverid with a flat mille stone." No trace of the mill stone is left.

Several towers guard the circumference of the outer curtain wall, a gate on the east leading to the Castle mills was named the "Mills Port." The Barbican Tower defied the dismantling

powder of Cromwell, and though badly shaken out of the perpendicular, still retains its elevation.

The great Gatehouse was of unusual strength, having two sets of portcullises, each having a "chase" before it and a set of double doors commanded by guard chambers.

The following treasures were found by Mr. Cobb during his excavation: "One piece of flooring tile of good design, abundance of the glazed greenish thumb-marked ridge tile, several stone cannon-balls and a few of iron . . . a pair of prick-spurs precisely similar to those on the great Earl's effigy in the Temple (William Marshall), a very interesting ivory toothpick and lady's garnisher, Roman, and a few other coins and tokens, and a rough iron seal with a very distinct but unintelligible legend."

Pembroke Castle is now protected and cared for, but for two centuries after Cromwell's dismantling, it suffered only "pilfering and contempt."

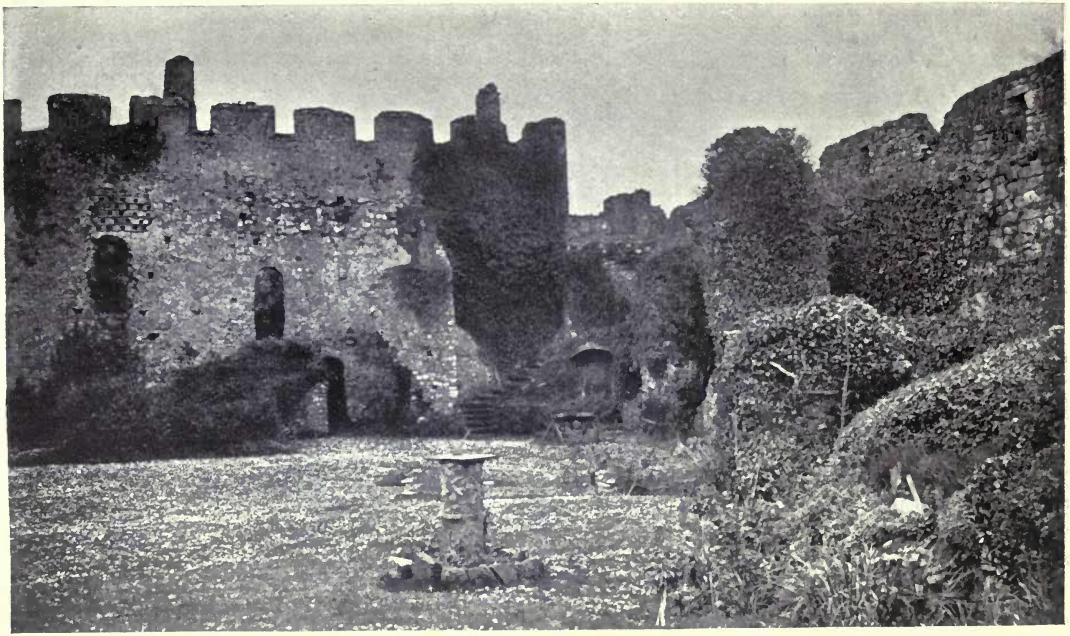
In treating the story of Pembroke Castle it is usually the practice to give a concise history of the various Earls who took their title from the place. In truth they were very seldom really residents, and had but little to do with the castle. England, Ireland, Scotland and France were rather the scenes of their exploits than Pembroke.

This stronghold was the business department of the Palatinate, and was under the direction of a Dominus or Lord, who, no doubt, was appointed by, and responsible to, the Earl. The names of these various Lords have been mostly lost, the few that remain, like flies in amber, are of no great consequence.

Giraldus Cambrensis says that a slender fortress of stakes and turf was built at Pembroke by Arnulph de Montgomery, who appointed Gerald de Windsor custodian. In the year 1092 the Welsh besieged the castle. Fifteen of Gerald's knights attempted to desert in a small boat; we do not hear if they actually got away, but de Windsor granted the arms and estates of the renegades to their armour-bearers; it would be interesting to discover the representatives of these ennobled servants. Sorely pressed, Gerald resorted to strategem, and to convince the enemy of his plentiful food-supply, had four hogs cut into pieces and thrown from the fortifications; he also contrived that a letter should be left before the house of the Bishop who was staying in the neighbourhood—no doubt at Lamphey—in which he declared that Arnulph's help would not be required for four months. The Welsh, on hearing this, raised the siege and went home.

Monkton Priory Church, on the hill opposite the Castle, contains a battered fragment of mailed effigy of this period; it has evidently been used as building material, but part of a long knightly tunic and belt are discernible. Can this mutilated figure represent that brave old soldier, Gerald de Windsor, who, in all probability, was buried within the church where he was wont to worship? When Arnulph de Montgomery left the country the castle became vested in the Crown King Henry conferred the office of dominus or castellan first on a knight named Saer, then again on Gerald de Windsor.

Gilbert de Clare, surnamed Strongbow, was the first undoubted Earl of Pembroke, created by Stephen in 1138. The Palatinate of Pembroke, unlike an ordinary earldom, possessed almost royal power. An Earl within his own domain was supreme, and exercised the power



THE COURTYARD MANORBIER.

NARBERTH CASTLE.

of life and death; within his Earldom the King's writ was unknown, save in those instances where it was issued by Royalty as Earls Palatine of Pembroke, not as Kings of England.

After Gilbert came Richard Strongbow, his son, 1148; the conqueror of Ireland, he married the daughter of an Irish king. His must have been an active time at Pembroke, for the castle was his base of operations during the Irish wars. While Richard was Earl, King Henry II. visited Pembroke, and it is noticeable that one of his attendant knights was called Robert Fitz-Bernard; perhaps he gave his name to Bernard's Tower, in the East corner of Pembroke town walls. Earl Richard died in 1176, and his infant daughter, the heiress Isabel, passed with his estates into the charge of the King. Isabel married William Marshall, who was created Earl of Pembroke, and was the greatest man of his day. The Marshall Earls continued in succession until 1245. Each of William's five sons died childless, and their sister Joan, wedded to Warren de Munchensey, inherited the estate. Mr. Cobb assigns to Munchensey the North hall of the castle not far from the Wogan. After him came William de Valence, generally supposed to have built *Pembroke walls* (Bernard's Tower notwithstanding). These walls, though slight, were protected on three sides by a tidal river and a marshy swamp centred by a trout stream that could be dammed at will. Three gates gave access to the town, a North gate at the bottom of the Dark Lane by St. Mary's Church, a West gate, some fragments of which may be seen on Monkton Hill, and a great East gate, built on the lines of the " Five Arches " at Tenby, but a more important structure. In the North-East corner (still standing near the railway bank) was Bernard's Tower, a corresponding tower stood in the South-East angle, and the great East gate guarded the centre of this,

the weakest line of defence. Smaller bastions covered the North and South walls, fragments of which still remain.

William de Valence was succeeded by his son Aymer, then came the Hastings Earls, until in 1389 Richard II. took the Palatinate into his own hands, "after the saied Earledome had continued in on familye by discent 280 yeeres."

When Owain Glyndwr with sword and fire raised rebellion in Wales, it chanced that Pembroke Castle was in charge of a governor named Francis à Court, a man of diplomacy rather than of war. No doubt the castle was refortified and strengthened, but Sir Francis also laid most of the parishes between Tenby and Haverfordwest under contribution to pay off the Welsh leader with a handsome sum of money; by this means Pembroke seems to have escaped a siege.

Henry VI. granted the Earldom and castle to his half-brother Jasper Tudor, whose sister-in-law, the Countess of Richmond, was staying here when her son, the future King Henry VII., was born. The boy appears to have been brought up at Pembroke, for when a brother of that celebrated Welshman, Sir Rhys ap Thomas, laid siege to the castle, Jasper escaped with the lad and his mother to Tenby, where the Mayor, Thomas White, entertained them, and afterwards led them by a secret passage to the harbour, whence they sailed in one of White's boats to the Channel Isles.

When Jasper Tudor died his nephew, now Henry VII., succeeded to the Earldom, both as king and next heir.

King Henry VIII. abolished the Palatinate.

A student of 17th century civil strife in Pembrokeshire is bewildered by the instability of individuals. In 1642 he finds the county

fairly divided, the two little towns of Pembroke and Tenby strongly Parliamentarian. Rowland Laugharne, of St. Brides, John Poyer, Mayor of Pembroke, and Colonel Powell, with their respective clientele, red-hot Roundheads. By-and-bye Laugharne and his friends are thanked by Parliament for their distinguished service, and rewarded with the confiscated Royalist estate of Slebech; but in 1648 the same men are besieged in Tenby by the Parliamentarian Colonel Horton, and at Pembroke by Oliver Cromwell in person. In 1649 Colonel Poyer is executed at Covent Garden, and now regarded as a Royalist martyr. To solve this strange problem we must remember that Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, Commander-in-Chief of the Parliamentarian forces, leader of the Presbyterian party, owned Lamphey Court, and was the most popular man in Pembrokeshire; it was very greatly owing to the influence exercised by this nobleman that our county threw in its fortunes against the King. When the Presbyterian party quarrelled with the Independent faction, and Essex died, the Parliamentarian fervour of Pembrokeshire waxed cool. Then the trained bands were ordered to disband, arrears of pay were not forthcoming, Poyer was displaced by Fleming, sordid details but sufficiently powerful to transform lukewarm Roundheads into enthusiastic Royalists. From 1642 to 1645, during the first Civil War, Pembroke Castle was successfully held by Poyer for Parliament. In 1644 Lord Carbery had threatened an attack, but the Parliamentarian fleet arrived with reinforcements, and next year Colonel Laugharne, aided by Poyer, not only held Pembroke, but conquered Stackpole, Carew, Tenby and Trefloyne for his party. Colonel Gerard regained most of the castles in the county for the King, but was recalled without having attempted the siege of Pembroke.

In 1648 the country was subdued to the Parliament.

But when Poyer was superseded in his office by Colonel Fleming, and when the troops were ordered to disband without receiving arrears of pay, Poyer, with all the Royalist and Roundhead soldiers whom he could collect, shut himself up at Pembroke; and so stubborn was his resistance that Oliver Cromwell himself could only capture town and castle by starvation. Poyer's water supply was betrayed to Cromwell, who cut the pipes, and at last the garrison had but a little rain-water and biscuit, while the famishing horses were fed on thatch from the cottage roofs. Poyer surrendered on July 11th, 1648, and was shot next year at Covent Garden; yet had Prince Charles kept faith with his Pembroke allies, and sailed to their rescue with supplies, the whole tide of history might have been turned by the man whom Carlisle calls the "drunken Mayor of Pembroke."

Pembroke vanquished, the Protector ordered the dismantling of the castle, and the old stronghold was torn with powder. For two centuries after this it suffered plunder from pilfering hands, yet it remains the most fascinating of the many fine fortresses of Wales.

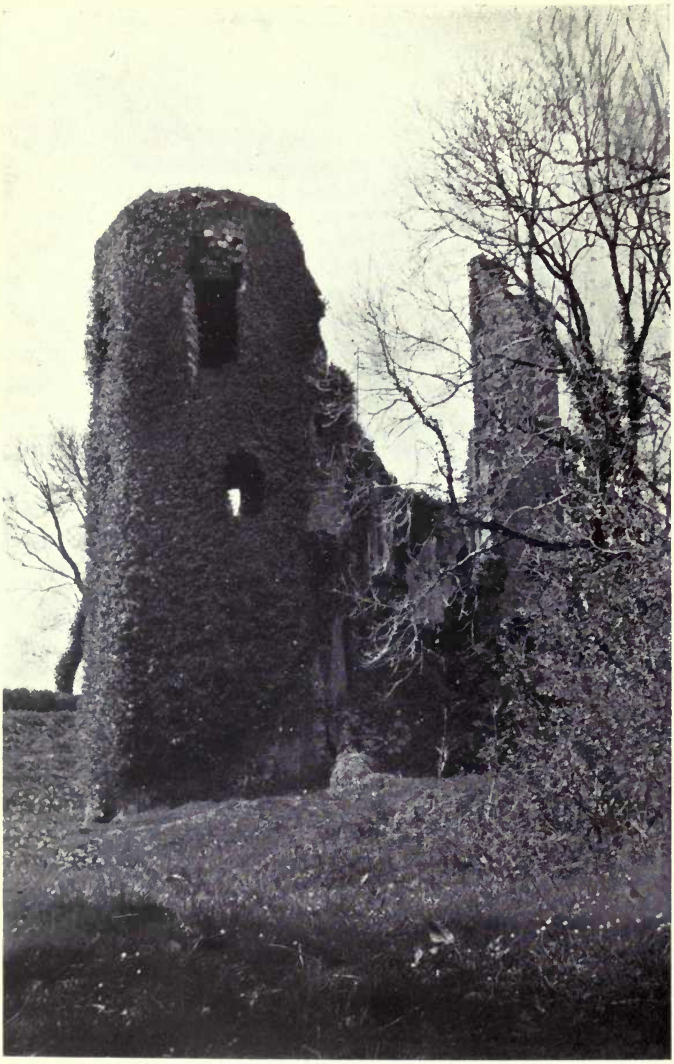
Carew Castle. Caerau is the plural of Gaer, a camp, and in Pembrokeshire the name occurs in several places, for instance the two camps overlooking the Whitland Valley near Henllan are called Caerau. The Englishry of the neighbourhood name our castle "Carey," not Carew, so we may infer that prehistoric camps existed here long before the building of the present imposing walls and towers.

Carew was part of the dower of Nest, the beautiful sister of Grufudd ap Rhys, who married Gerald de Windsor at the beginning of the twelfth century. From her have sprung the

HAVERFORDWEST PRIORY

NARBERTH CASTLE.

LLAWHADEN GATEWAY.



LLAWHADEN CASTLE.

Fitzgeralds of Ireland, Careys and Carews of England, and to this day her descendant, the Hon. Mrs. Trollope, of Crowcombe, Somerset, owns castle and estate.

Gerald no doubt built a fortress here, but what he built we do not know; it has been suggested that traces of Early work are visible near the inner gateway, perhaps this is attributable to him.

It is evident that the structure underwent great changes in the 13th century, for the plan is clearly Edwardian, that is to say the bulk of the building was erected about the time of the conquest of Wales. Those details most characteristic of the Early Gothic period are the chapel window and piscina in the Eastern block; the interesting suite behind the sacred building gives us an insight into the domestic life of a priest of this period, which must have been simple; bed and dressing room are vaulted, and to modern ideas very inadequately lighted; there was a fireplace in the bedroom, but the chapel also contained one, so perhaps the priest used the latter as sitting room, dining in hall with his patron.

Two hundred years later Sir Rhys ap Thomas, the friend of Henry VII., to whom the castle was mortgaged by Sir Edmond Carew, completely transformed the building. He changed the Early or Decorated Gothic windows to Perpendicular, built a gate-tower with a curtain wall on either side, and in the Western block made a great banqueting hall (divided into cowstalls more recently by some Goth). In this ruined chamber Sir Rhys probably entertained the Earl of Richmond, subsequently King Henry VII., on his road to Bosworth.

In order to celebrate his investiture as Garter Knight, Sir Rhys held at Carew a most gorgeous pageant and tournament, the first of the kind

in Wales. Every notability in the district was invited, and many came from great distances, hundreds being attracted to view so rare a spectacle. Those of highest rank were lodged within the castle, the rest camped in the Park, where pavilions were provided. The festivities included feats of arms, a State visit to the Bishop of St. David's at Lamphey, and a sumptuous banquet in the new hall, hung with arras and tapestry for the occasion. Two hundred blue-coated retainers of Sir Rhys attended at the feast; great ceremony was observed, a chair set for the absent king under a crimson velvet canopy, and meat laid before the empty place; trumpets sounded, while the company waited solemnly until time sufficient for the royal meal had elapsed; then the chair was reversed, and the guests fell to. Throughout the five days' revelry, it is said that "there was not one quarrel, crosse worde, or unkind looke that happened betweene them."

Again the scene changes. The grandson of Sir Rhys had died on the scaffold, and Sir John Perrot, illegitimate son of King Henry VIII., became Seneschal of Carew, a position he owed to his half-sister, Queen Mary. In recognition of this preferment Perrot put up three shields of arms over the raised doorway in the quadrangle; in the centre those of Mary, Queen Regnant of England, to the right those of Henry, her father, as Prince of Wales, to the left those of her mother, Katherine of Aragon, Princess of Spain.

At Haroldston, Perrot's home near Haverfordwest, he had been accused and found guilty of harbouring heretics; it is interesting to find a secret place of concealment at Carew, made between the old building and the magnificent new Tudor banqueting hall added by Sir John. The entrance to this hiding hole was from the

ladies' chambers, originally covered with panelling and arras.

Soon after Queen Elizabeth's accession Perrot performed the remarkable feat of riding from Carew to Greenwich in less than three days to take command of ships against Spain; he was appointed Lord President of Munster, and afterwards Lord Deputy of Ireland. The banqueting hall already mentioned was never finished. A splendid example of late Tudor design, it measures 102ft. long by 20ft. wide; the mullioned and transomed windows are supported only by lintels of soft wood, many of which have given way; perhaps this may be accounted for by the fact that while the masons were at work Perrot lay in the Tower charged with high treason, so the jerry-builders of Haverfordwest substituted deal for stone. Sir John Perrot was a man of unbridled temper, which produced many enemies, and at last proved his ruin, but it must be remembered that he was both gallant soldier and astute politician; he died a prisoner in the Tower of London.

Sir John Carew, descendant of that Sir Edmond who mortgaged his estate to Sir Rhys ap Thomas, was re-granted the property by Charles I.; he resided at Carew, and is buried in a handsome tomb in the church. George Carew, who died towards the close of the 17th century, appears to have been last occupant of Carew Castle.

Subsequently this palace was treated as a quarry, the ashlar burned in lime-kilns, and the Caen stone used up for scouring the peasants' wooden platters. Mr. Laws, of Tenby, author of "Little England beyond Wales," remembers seeing fragments of stained glass in the windows of Perrot's Hall.

The late Mr. Trollope, husband of the present owner, did much to prevent a rapid

collapse of the windows by strengthening them with iron girders; he caused the destructive ivy to be cut, and did all in his power to preserve so noble an heirloom and one of the finest castles in Great Britain.

Manorbier Castle.

"The castle called Maenor Pyrr, that is, the mansion of Pyrrus, who also possessed the island of Chaldey, which the Welsh call Inys Pyrr, or the island of Pyrrus, is distant about three miles from Penbroch. It is excellently well defended by turrets and bulwarks, and is situated on the summit of a hill extending on the western side towards the seaport, having on the northern and southern sides a fine fishpond under its walls, as conspicuous for its grand appearance as for the depth of its waters, and a beautiful orchard on the same side, enclosed on one part by a vineyard, and on the other by a wood, remarkable for the projection of its rocks and the height of its hazel trees. On the right hand of the promontory, between the castle and the church, near the site of a very large lake and mill, a rivulet of never-failing water flows through a valley, rendered sandy by the violence of the winds. Towards the west, the Severn Sea, bending its course to Ireland, enters a hollow bay at some distance from the castle. . . . . Demetia, therefore, with its seven cantreds, is the most beautiful, as well as the most powerful, district of Wales; Penbroch, the finest part of the province of Demetia; and the place I have just described, the most delightful part of Penbroch. It is evident, therefore, that Maenor Pirr is the pleasantest spot in Wales; and the author may be pardoned for having thus extolled his native soil, his genial territory, with a profusion of praise and admiration."

So writes Gerald de Barri, known to his contemporaries as Giraldus Cambrensis. This priest, a personal friend of Henry II. and tutor to Prince John, was a critic of the Welsh church,

LLAWHADEN.

PICTON CASTLE.