

THE CASTLES OF COCH
& CAERPHILLY
—
G. T. CLARK



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A
DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY
OF
CAERPHELLY CASTLE.

ALSO, A DESCRIPTION OF
CASTELL COCH.

BY
GEORGE T. CLARK, ESQ.

Reprinted from the "Archæologia Cambrensis."

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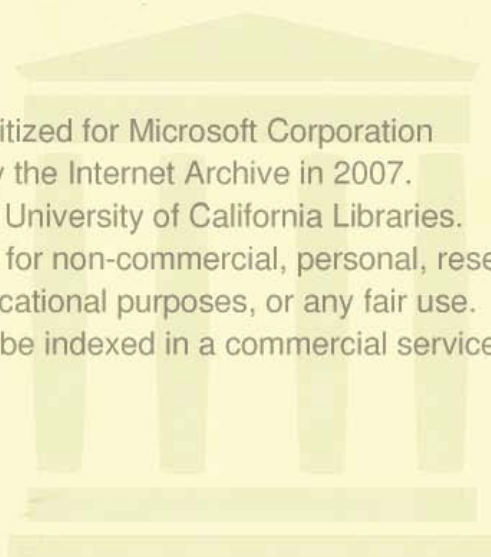
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Caerphilly Castle.

I.—DESCRIPTION.

CAERPHILLY is by very much the most extensive castle in Wales, and is reputed to cover, with its outworks and earthworks, about thirty acres.

The castle owes its celebrity to its great extent, and to the peculiar manner in which one of its towers has been thrown out of the perpendicular, by the forces employed for its destruction. It possesses few associations with historical events. But one sovereign is certainly known to have visited it. It is not, like Kidwelly or Cardiff, the head of a feudal honour or lordship, nor is it surrounded by any franchise or barony. It has not even received the barren dignity of conferring a title of honour upon any of its numerous possessors. It has been celebrated by no bard, and even mentioned only by one.

Neither does Caerphilly possess many sources of intrinsic interest. It boasts not the architectural decorations of Caernarvon, the commanding position of Conway, or the picturesque beauty of Raglan. It is simply a ruin of great extent, and possessing that sort of rugged sublimity which is inseparable from an assemblage of

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lofty walls and massive and partially overthrown towers, neither bosomed in woods, nor mantled, to any extent, with ivy.

Caerphilly stands upon that wide tract of debateable ground between England and Wales, which was so long contested by both nations under the title of "The Marches," and which, beneath the Normans, had its own customs and its governors, known as the Lords-Marchers.

The castle, though in the Marches, is within the Welsh border, being about a mile from the river Rhyrnny, the boundary between Monmouth and Glamorgan, and, since the reign of Henry VIII., between England and the Principality, in this direction.

The castle is placed in the midst of a valley, open on the east towards the Rhyrnny, and divided on the west from the valley of the Taff by the mountain ridge of Mynydd Mayo. North and north-west, at a greater distance, is the concave crest of Mynydd Eglwsilan, and on the south, the long and well-known elevation which separates the hill-country of Glamorgan from the plain, and is intersected by the ravines of the Taff, the Rhyrnny, and the Ebbwy. This ridge is locally known as the great Garth and Caerphilly mountains, and, on the road from the castle to the sea, is crowned by the ancient Celtic stronghold of Môr-graig.

Caerphilly stands therefore in a vast basin. The traveller, who wishes to see it to advantage, should descend upon it soon after sunrise in autumn, from one of the surrounding heights, when the grey towers of the castle will be seen rising out of an immense sea of mist.

The whole basin is a part of the Glamorganshire coal field. The mineral has long been worked on Caerphilly mountain, where it appears on the surface, and the castle is chiefly constructed of the fissile sandstone of the neighbourhood, which appears to have been quarried from a large excavation by the roadside, near Chapel-Martin.

Along the base of the mountains, and extending some way up their skirts, here, as in all the vallies in the neighbourhood, lie vast deposits of gravel and sand, composed in part of the debris of the neighbouring rocks, but chiefly of rolled pebbles, supposed to have been brought down from the northern hills by diluvial agency.

I propose, in the following pages, first to describe the *position* and *details* of the castle, and afterwards to state its *history*, as far at least as it is known to me.

First, of the ground on which the castle stands :—

Near the centre of the basin already described is a bed of gravel, of considerable extent and thickness, the surface of which has been deeply wrought, by some natural process, into a series of furrows and eminences.

A narrow tongue of slightly elevated ground, the termination of a low peninsula of gravel, projects eastwards, and, by its projection, divides a swampy flat of considerable breadth into two portions. These are contained within irregular gravel banks, similar to, though somewhat higher than, the central peninsula. The southern is shorter, and almost parallel to it; the northern is prolonged, and curves around its point, until it is separated from the southern only by an inconsiderable

gorge. The swamp thus assumes something of the figure of a horse-shoe.

South of the peninsula, the Nant-y-Gledyr, a large rivulet, flows from the south-west, across the swamp, through the gorge, to join the Rhymny.

North-east of the peninsula a smaller spring, partly indeed fed by the Nant-y-Gledyr, flows across a part of the northern swamp; and, north of this again, another spring contributes to the same swamp. Naturally, these waters seem to have found their way, by a depression or gorge, to the north-eastward, into the Nant-y-Gledyr, outside of and below the upper gorge already mentioned.

The tongue of land thus guarded was well suited for the purposes of defence, supposing the peninsula to have been converted, by a cross-trench, into an island. Water was abundant, pasturage at hand, and the morass would form a secure front. There is, however, no evidence that the spot was occupied by the Welsh, though it has been thought, with great probability, that the stronghold of Senghennydd was here situated.

Under the Normans, the surface of the ground underwent considerable alteration. The bed of the Nant-y-Gledyr was dammed up at one gorge, and the northern waters at the other, and the two divisions of the swamp thus formed into lakes.

Advantage was taken of a narrow and curved ridge, which proceeded from the root of the peninsula, to divide the northern swamp into two parts, of which the one formed the middle, and the other the inner, moat.

The inner moat communicated with the southern swamp by two cross-cuts; one, the old natural termina-

tion of the peninsula eastwards, the other, an artificial cut across it on the west; and thus the circuit of the inner moat was completed.

The island which was thus formed, and encircled by this moat, was scarped into curtains and bastions, and faced with stone; and the single cross-cut westward, not being deemed a sufficient defence, the peninsula was divided by a second cross-cut further westward, and the second island, thus formed, was converted into a sort of horn-work or demi-lune, covering the western approach. This also was scarped and revetted.

Thus, then, the principal features of the ground plan are—the end of the peninsula converted into an *island*, and defended on the north by the *inner north moat*, on the south by the *lake*, on the east by the *inner east moat*, and on the west by the *inner cross-cut*—the whole making up the *inner moat*.

Proceeding outwards, we have, as the boundaries of this moat—on the west, the *horn-work*, prolonged on the north into the *curved ridge*; on the east, the natural bank occupied by the *southern half of the grand front*; and on the south, the acclivity of the *bank of the lake*, rising rather steeply. All these form the outer boundaries of the inner moat. The second, or middle, line of defence is less complete, and is confined to the west and northern sides. It begins with the outer *cross-cut*, west of the horn-work, which communicates at one end with the lake, and at the other with the *middle moat*. Beyond this middle line of defence is, upon the north-west, a high knoll, the summit of which has been carved into a *redoubt*; towards the north by the *northern bank*, which

is turned westwards by the *northern brook*, and thickened eastwards into a dam wall; and towards the north-east, east, and south-east, by the continuation of this bank, and the *northern half of the grand front*, built upon it.

These defences are again strengthened—on the north by one division of the *outer moat*, formed by the passage of the north brook, and on the east by the other division extending in advance of the grand front, and connected with the Nant-y-Gledyr, near the great drawbridge. These moats are divided by a sort of *causeway* at the north-east angle of the outworks, reserved for the passage of cavalry from a sally-port. A part of the earth excavated from these outer moats seems to have been thrown up outside, so as to form banks, one of which is occupied by the main street of Caerphilly, the other by the Nant-Garw road.

It is hoped that reference to the plan, or to the ground as seen from the towers or walls, will suffice to render the above description intelligible.

For the purpose of the description of the castle itself, the whole may be considered as composed of six parts, each of which will be further subdivided. These parts are,—

I.—The GRAND FRONT. II.—The HORN-WORK. III.—The REDOUBT. IV.—The MIDDLE WARD. V.—The INNER WARD.

I.—The eastern or GRAND FRONT of Caerphilly is a very fine and complete specimen of a feudal line of defence. It is composed of a long curtain-wall of considerable height and thickness, strengthened on the exterior by buttresses and buttress-towers, rising in the

centre into a broad or lofty gate-house, and terminated, at either extremity, by clusters of towers that protect its sally-ports, and prevent it from being out-flanked. Before it is a broad and deep moat, supplied with water, and crossed by a double drawbridge. In its rear is a second moat, also crossed by a drawbridge. The length of the façade is about 250 yards, the height varies from twenty to sixty feet.

It is divided into the great gate-house, the northern curtain and postern, and the southern curtain and postern.

The *great gate-house* stands a little on the north side of the centre. Its line of front is not exactly parallel to those of the curtains, the plan being irregular.

The *gate-house proper* is a lofty oblong building, fifty feet broad by thirty-five deep, and about sixty high. It is perforated below by the portal, but rises above as a broad tower. Its lateral portions project six feet beyond the portal, and form porters' lodges.

The portal, ten feet wide by twenty high, was defended by gates, portcullis, and stockade. It is guarded by loops on each side from the lodges. Those opening from the portal measure twenty feet by ten, have fire-places, and were floored with timber. The walls are nine feet thick, and are looped in various directions for defence.

Passing through the gate-house, behind it is a broad platform, which extends behind the southern curtain, and is scarped and revetted towards the inner moat; on the right of this is a prolongation of the gate-house westwards, into the *gate-house tower*. One of two doors leads up this tower by a hexagonal well-stair, nine feet

in mean diameter; this opens upon seven apartments in two stories, and terminates in a lofty quadrangular turret. In the lower story are devices for working the portcullis, and a small fire-place and oven, probably intended to serve the purpose of a cooking place for the porter and his assistants, and possibly, in time of siege, for heating pitch, lead, &c. These rooms are vaulted. From this story a passage opens upon the rampart of the northern curtain, and led, probably by a temporary plank bridge, across an abyss in the thickness of the wall, about twenty-nine feet deep and five wide, and opening below between the grates of the grand postern. A passage, at the ground level, leads from the platform through the gate-house tower, across the grand postern, to the northern curtain, and is defended by gates, portcullis, and draw-bridge.

From the gate-house a *dividing wall*, twenty feet high and six thick, extends westward eighty feet to the edge of the inner moat, and thus cuts off the platform and the whole of the northern from the southern curtain. Its face has been embattled, so that should the northern curtain be taken, the southern could still be defended. There is no door in this wall.

At the juncture of the gate-house with the *northern curtain*, in the latter, at the level of the water's-edge, is a low-browed archway, which could only have been accessible by a boat, and constitutes the *grand postern*. It is defended by two grates, and a cavity open above between them, and thence a *covered way* leads close under, and north of, the dividing wall, to the edge of the inner moat.

This curtain runs northward for 130 yards, and is strengthened exteriorly by three *buttress-towers*, quadrangular and solid below, but hexagonal and chambered above. Each has a projection of twenty feet; they are of unequal breadth. The chambers have each a loop in front, and one at the junction of the tower with the wall on either side. They were accessible only from the rampart.

In the curtain itself are six loops, opening in pairs between the buttress-towers. The curtain ends, northward, in a pair of towers, connected by the vault of a portal, the *north postern*, regularly defended, and opening upon a plot of ground and causeway separating the two parts of the outer moat.

Behind, and parallel to, this curtain, at a distance of nineteen feet, was a slight wall, four feet thick, which formed the rear-wall of a *postern gallery*, leading from the gate-house to the north postern, and forming, above, a broad flat walk for the defence of the ramparts.

Southern curtain.—The general plan of this curtain is irregular; it passes south-eastward from the gate-house, forms a large semicircle, and, passing off in a long straight wall, crosses the Nant-y-Gledyr, and terminates in a *tête-du-pont* and a postern. This wall contains a chamber and *sewer houses* at its angle, and is supported exteriorly by seven quadrangular solid buttresses. In one place it is perforated for the passage of the waste waters of the mill, and in another for the passage of the Nant-y-Gledyr, being, at that part where subjected to great pressure, fifteen feet thick. This curtain is accessible from the *tête-du-pont*; and upon it, above the sewer

house, is a mural chamber, serving as a "place d'armes." The face of the wall, between the buttresses, is wrought into a concavity, increasing towards the summit. The soil of the platform behind this curtain is twenty-five feet above the exterior level.

The *platform* is a large surface of sward behind the southern curtain, between it and the counterscarp of the inner moat; upon it stood the *mill*, and from it dropped the inner drawbridge. It increases in breadth from the dam to the dividing wall, where it measures ninety-four feet.

The *tête-du-pont* terminates the southern curtain. It consists of a curve of the wall, westward, into a semicircle, with towers and a postern-gate, protected by a bifurcated wall, intended to prevent the curtain from being out-flanked.

In front of this great line of defence is a moat, about sixty feet wide, and crossed by a double drawbridge of two spans of eighteen feet each at the great gateway, connected with a large pier in the centre of the moat, capable of being converted into a sort of barbican. This moat communicates with, and admitted of being filled from, the Nant-y-Gledyr.

Such is the principal front and eastern line of defence, calculated not only to withstand attacks from the front, flanks, or rear, but also of being held out, the southern against the northern part.

From the northern extremity of this front, at the northern postern, a bank of earth, lined inwards, or on its southern face, by a wall, and at one part thickened into a dam, divides the middle from the outer moat, at

present skirted by the Nant-y-Garw road. This is the *north bank*.

From the same front, from the end of the covered way, close to the dividing wall, a second bank of earth is given off, and, passing westwards to unite with the horn-work, divides the inner from the middle moat, and forms a part of the northern defences of the castle. Its inner face is partially lined with a wall, in which is a sluice-tunnel. This is the *curved ridge*.

The HORN-WORK covering the western front of the castle, and communicating between the middle and outer gates, is an irregular polygon, revetted all round with a wall of fifteen feet high, above which is a talus of about eight more. From its south-western face issues one of the feeding-springs of the lake. On the eastern, or longest face, is a semi-pier, to receive the drawbridge, of twenty feet span, from the opposite gate-house of the middle ward. On the north-western face a similar semi-pier, between half-round bastions, seems to have supported the drawbridge, also of twenty feet span, giving access to the castle in this direction.

The REDOUBT has already been mentioned as being formed by scarping down a knoll of gravel on the north-west quarter of the castle.

The body of this earthwork is quadrangular, capped at the three outer angles by three bastions, and excavated in the centre into a sort of casemate. The curtain, towards the castle, is intersected by two trenches, separated by a mound or cavalier, and leading into the centre of the work.

Outside the redoubt, and following the curve of its

bastions, is a ditch, upon the outer three sides broad and deep, on the fourth side but slightly marked.

The ramparts of the redoubt are unprovided with either parapets for cannon or banquettes for musquetry, and the scarp is continued unbroken to the rampart. Neither scarp nor counterscarp, though steep, have any retaining wall.

Beyond the main ditch is a spacious glacis, terminating in three low bastions and a shallow ditch. Both ditches were probably dry.

The whole work resembles much those thrown up in haste during the wars between Charles I. and the Parliament, and has either been partially destroyed, or, which seems more probable, has never been entirely completed.

The inner and middle wards of the castle occupy the island, which has already been described as formed out of the end of the peninsula.

This island is scarped into a parallelogram, 111 yards east and west, by ninety-six north and south. The four angles are capped by large bastions, parts of circles. The intervening straight lines are termed, in fortification, curtains.

The sides or scarps of these bastions and curtains are faced with a stone wall, thirty feet high, and surmounted by a parapet of from five to twelve more; and within this enclosure are contained the middle and inner ward.

The inner ward is formed by placing a second parallelogram smaller than the last, within it. This forms the inner, and the concentric space between the two, the middle, ward.

The MIDDLE WARD thus presents four divisions, towards the cardinal points, all forming terraces of from sixteen to twenty yards broad, and the opposite sides being of nearly equal length. Upon the east and west are the gate-houses; on the south, offices, and a water-gate; and, on the north, an open terrace, overlooking the outer defences of the castle on that side.

The *eastern gate-house* is formed of two low towers, with half round projections towards the moat, and a portal between the two. The walls are thick, and there is a lodge on each side, lighted by three loops. Above these lodges was the battlement. On the north side is a square building, the use of which is unknown. This gate-house was connected with that of the inner ward, and between the two there seem to have been side doors.

One of these, on the south, led to the *water tank*, lined with masonry, fifty feet long by twenty wide.

In front of this gate-house, and dividing it from the platform of the grand gate, the moat is about forty-five feet wide. As there are no traces of a central pier for the drawbridge which must have crossed this space, it seems probable that it rested on an intermediate tressle of timber, as at Raby and Holt, which admitted of being removed or destroyed, in the event of a siege.

The *western gate-house* is placed opposite to the horn-work, and between them is a moat sixty feet wide. The portal is loftier, and the front broader, than in the eastern gate-house. There are two chambers on either side of the portal, and above them a first story, with fire-places and chimneys.

Between this gate and the north-west tower of the

inner ward are some later buildings, and a wall, which seems to have been intended to cut off the communication between the gate-house and the north terrace. On the south side is a similar wall, shutting off the south terrace.

The offices and water-gate passage occupy a part of the south terrace of this ward.

The *water-gate gallery* leads from the hall to the lake, and is big enough to contain a boat. It is vaulted by a succession of narrow arches, in steps, instead of by one sloping vault. Above it are chambers, probably for cooks and attendants in the kitchens.

Against this passage, upon its eastern side, is the mint, or *kitchen tower*—a low tower of great strength, having the ground floor vaulted, and recesses, apparently for boiling and stewing, on a large scale. The fire-place is in the upper story.

The kitchen communicated with the hall, and with a sort of yard occupying the eastern end of the south terrace. A well-stair leads down to the lower, and up to the upper, room.

In the yard is the oven, and a passage leading to the tank. Here, also, against the south curtain of the inner ward, is a low oblong building, with one or two bows to the south, which seems to have been connected with the kitchen, and, in modern days, would have been the still-room.

The INNER WARD is a quadrangle, measuring 200 feet east and west, by 160 feet north and south. It is contained within four curtain walls, capped at the angles by four round towers, and broken on the east and west sides

by two lofty and magnificent gate-houses. The south side of the court thus formed is occupied by the hall and state apartments.

Of the *curtains*—those on the north and east, are about thirty feet high, including the battlement. That on the south is higher by a story, and the rampart walk is continued along it—below, as a vaulted *triforial gallery* in the thickness of the wall, above, as an open walk. The triforial passage in the southern curtain is called the Braose Gallery, from the baronial Lords-Marchers of that name, who were, as will be seen afterwards, more or less concerned in the affairs of this district and castle.

The four *bastion towers* which cap the angles of this ward are very marked features in the appearance of the castle. They have a projection, outside the wall, of three-fourths of a circle; are of three stages, with timber roofs and floors; and measure, in exterior diameter, thirty-six feet, and within, eighteen feet; the walls being nine feet thick. Each story is lighted by loop-holes, very large within, but appearing exteriorly as a line. A well-stair leads to the summit of each. These towers open into the court, and upon the battlements. Their type is best seen in the north-west tower.

The *eastern gate-house* is a superb pile. It is oblong, and has two half-round bows on its eastern side, and two round turrets, of three-quarter circle projection, at the north-west and south-west angles, within the court. The building is traversed by a portal, entered between the bow towers. The arch is “drop,” and the entrance is defended by gates, palisade, and porteullis. Above the opening into the court is a shoot for dropping missiles

upon those below. On each side of the portal are lodges, and the second story is a spacious hall or council-chamber, with a large fire-place, and two large and handsome windows looking towards the court. Above this chamber is the battlement. On the north and south sides of this gate-house are a number of small apartments, mostly vaulted, and some of them used as portcullis rooms. Over the door leading to the ramparts, on the south, is a small oratory or chapel, with a ribbed and vaulted roof, and two Decorated windows. There is a similar apartment, but of earlier date, in the castle of Chepstow.

The *western gate-house* is on the same plan, but rather smaller, and without turrets towards the court, its stair-cases being contained within the thickness of the wall. The lodges on each side of the portal are vaulted and ribbed, with ornamented corbels. They open direct into the court. The state chamber above is not so large as in the eastern gate-house. It rests upon a vaulted floor.

The *hall* is built against the south curtain. It measures seventy-three feet by thirty-five, and was about thirty feet high. It is lighted by four large and lofty windows towards the court, with ogee arches and reduplicated bands of the ball-flower moulding; within are crocketed canopies, in a somewhat stiff, but excellent, style. Between the windows is a broad fire-place, and to the east of them a door, which was the principal entrance on the south side. A door in the curtain leads down a long vaulted passage to the water-gate of the moat, and another door leads to the kitchen and bakehouse, in the middle ward. A plain door at the west end opens into some state apartments, and other doors, and

a large window at the east end, communicate with a cellar and the chapel.

The roof, of timber, sprung from fourteen short clustered pilasters, resting upon heads as corbels, placed against the north and south walls. The north wall is of dressed stone, and carried a string-course, with ball-flowers, about three feet above the ground. On the east wall is a string-course, connected with the drip-stone of the chapel window. The east, south, and western sides were plastered, and probably painted, or hung with tapestry.

The *chapel*, east of the hall—evident from its position and large east window—presents nothing remarkable. There are four *state apartments* west of the hall, two on the ground, and two on the first floor. They are lighted from the north, and one of the windows is of great length and cinquefoiled, with a quatrefoil in the head. A staircase in the thickness of the curtain wall leads into the Braose Gallery, as well as to the upper rooms, and to some appendages connected with the sewage, and which seem to have been added.

In the grand court, a little to the north of the eastern entrance, is the well, about four feet diameter.

II.—PRESENT CONDITION.

The castle, in its present condition, assumes a very different appearance from that described as its original state, although enough remains to bear out the description.

The eastern, or main front, is in good preservation. The masonry of the three northern buttresses is but little

injured, although between them and the curtain are deep fissures, evidently the work of gunpowder, aided by the intervention of the vacuity formed by the long window on either side. The mine was evidently sprung at the gorge of these buttresses, but the quantity of powder introduced has not been sufficient to overthrow them.

Most of the smaller buttresses on the southern flank are unhurt, but the two at the southern extremity are laid prostrate, with their connecting curtain, fifteen feet in thickness, forming a chasm, through which the Nant-y-Gledyr take its undisturbed course. The object of this destruction, which was permanently to empty the lake, has been gained. It is now a meadow.

The lower story of the great gate-house, and the piers of its bridge, are in tolerable order; but the upper chambers of the former are much battered, and the staircases rendered inaccessible, above a certain height, by the absence of the newels, and the fracture of the stone steps. The great pier stands alone, but the outer semi-pier is encumbered with cottages. The outer and eastern moat, now of no great depth, is still marshy. At its northern end the sides are cultivated; towards the southern, cottages are built in it. Between these two portions, north of the pier, is the modern entrance, passing through the grand postern, now a battered hole eleven feet wide: near it a door has been opened into a sort of cavity below the lower story of the gate-house, used as a cart-hovel. The foundations of the southern curtain, being in the moat itself, are tolerably perfect. Those of the northern, elevated upon a bank of earth, are much battered.

The tête-du-pont, in which the southern curtain terminates, has suffered considerably. The curvilinear wall between the towers is levelled to a breast-work, and the side of the portal towards the lake has been blown quite away, as has been also the entrance and part of the floor of the neighbouring D-shaped tower.

The northern limb of the bifurcated wall, proceeding from the postern, has been blown out of the perpendicular; and, although there is no great danger of its fall, the loose stones adjoining its fissure are a source of danger to the antiquary who may attempt to scale it. Cottages are clustered against the outside of this wall, and its re-entering angle is occupied by a pigstye.

South of the castle, west of the tête-du-pont, the land is partly in tillage, and partly occupied by cottages; on the north, to the west of the sally-port, the wall between the outer and second moat is reduced to a line of foundation. The peculiar thickness of this wall, where it has served the purpose of a dam, is well seen. The outer moat has, in this direction, been encroached upon by the Nant Garw road, which tops its counterscarp for about 100 yards. The mill is levelled to the ground. A dry water-course, and the tunnel enlarged into a breach, still mark the ancient exit of its waters. The drainage of the lake was, of course, fatal to the mill. The modern miller of Caerphilly has removed to the outside of the great southern breach, where he takes advantage of the Nant-y-Gledyr.

The horn-work, covering the western entrance, remains in excellent preservation, and its revetement, except where recently quarried, is nearly as sound as ever,

although its gate-house and western pier, if ever they existed, have been destroyed. The moat, to the west of the horn-work, being still in wet weather the channel of a rivulet, is overgrown with reeds and aquatic plants; to the east or castle side it is swampy in wet weather; and on the south is the bed of the ancient inundation, now a plain of sward, across which a path leads to a spring.

Along the exterior line of defence to the north-west, the redoubt, fosses, and adjacent earthworks are obscured by young trees and brushwood, by the effects of tillage, and by the buildings of the castle farm.

Entering the castle by the grand postern, the wall parallel to the curtain which formed the back of the northern gallery is seen on the right, levelled nearly with the soil, and, consequently, all regular access to the buttress chambers is thus cut off.

The counterscarp of the inner moat is in ruins, filling up the moat. All vestiges of the eastern drawbridge between the grand front and the middle ward have disappeared.

The flanking towers of the eastern gate-house of the middle ward are destroyed, that on the south completely, and that on the north very nearly so, the ruins of the singular building attached to it having prevented its entire destruction.

At the opposite or western extremity of this ward, the gate-house is in rather better condition. The portal has been broken away below, but the hollow semi-piers connecting it with the horn-work remain. The front of this gate-house, of great thickness, is perfect, and is

garnished with a pair of chimneys; its inner part has been destroyed. The windows in the front are the only vestiges of the upper story.

On the north front of this ward the curtain is much shattered by the fall of the inner towers, and as all the bastions have been ruined and blown up, their exact line of boundary is scarcely traceable.

Upon the southern side, the wide lake and the strength of the outbuildings have, in some degree, preserved the curtain, but the door of the water-gate, which opens in it, is much injured. A few feet below its sill, a long black stain marks the height of the water in former times, and gives about twelve feet as the average depth of the lake.

The gallery, kitchens, &c., which occupy this side, are much injured; but in front of the great oven a portion of the parapet remains, here about twelve feet high, and furnished with a loop.

The tank remains, though nearly choked up with stones and brambles. Since the fall of the adjacent wall of the bastion, its position has been insecure. Recently its wall has cracked, and, unless repaired, it may be expected in a few months to fall into the moat.

Ascending from the eastern gate-house, across a mass of almost untraceable ruins, the central ward of the castle is entered.

With the exception of a partial breach on the northern side, the curtains of this inner ward have suffered but little, and the height of the parapet and rere-wall may still be inferred, by the projections at its junction with the towers.

The eastern gate-house has been separated, by a blast, into two portions ; of which the inner, towering to a prodigious height, still remains tolerably perfect, while the outer, broken into fragments, has crushed the lower gate-house beneath its weight, and still encumbers it with its ruins.

The western gate-house has been more fortunate ; the staircases, however, are broken and irregular, and the vaulting injured. Through the floor of its central apartment a hole has been broken into the vaults of the portal, and of one of the lodges beneath.

In the floor of the triforial gallery are two large holes which open upon a staircase and passage below.

The buildings within the court have suffered severely. The hall is roofless, although the structure of its roof is apparent from the remaining corbels, and the pavement has been long removed. The sills of the windows have been cut away, and the tracery and mouldings which adorned them are broken and defaced.

A window and door at the east end have been shattered into one, and the vaulted passage leading to the offices is a shapeless and rugged hole.

The roof of the kitchen is broken, but enough remains to display its original structure. The steps of the water gallery have been removed, but the vaulted roof is but little injured.

In the great court a depression in the sward indicates the ancient well. It has lately been opened a few feet down, but nothing of importance was discovered.

The four bastion towers of this ward, deserve special notice, since it is the position of one of them which has

conferred upon this castle much of the notoriety it possesses.

That these four towers have been mined and blown up with gunpowder, at some period when the effects of that agent were well understood, is evident on inspection. The mine has been sprung near the centre of each tower, and has produced effects, differing in degree only, upon each. That on the north-east is altogether levelled, on the outside, entirely to the ground, crushing in its descent the very bastion on which its foundation rested—on the inside the door, and a portion of wall as high as the curtain, only remain. The destruction of the north-western tower has not been by any means so complete. Only a third of its outer circumference has fallen, and the rest, deprived indeed of its floors, remains as firm as ever. The portion which has fallen lies in fragments upon the neighbouring bastion.

At the south-western tower the mine has operated outwards; the whole of the outer portion has fallen upon the bastion and into the ditch, but the inner strip connecting it with the rest of the building, and containing the entrances to the several stories, has been protected by the outbuildings on its southern side, and is unshaken.

The last, or south-eastern, is the celebrated leaning tower, the obliquity of which has been much exaggerated, and absurdly accounted for. In the case of this tower the mine has exploded in a contrary direction from the rest, and the inner portion, with the adjoining curtain, has been thrown into the court, while the outer portion remains standing, although the force of the explosion has thrown the mass out of the perpendicular, so that it

overhangs its base, towards the south-west, nine feet. The parapet at its summit remains quite perfect, and is the only one in the castle that is so.

The neighbourhood of these four towers, and the intervening gate-houses, upon which the force of the gunpowder has been chiefly employed, is a chaos of ruins; subverted masses of the gallery, staircases, the vaulting of large portions of the chambers themselves, lie in confusion upon the ground; and the thin mantle of vegetation which has enveloped them, although it adds much to their picturesque beauty, increases in no slight degree the difficulty of accurately comprehending their original disposition.

Throughout this immense building the iron work, even to the staples of the doors, has been removed; nor is there any lead to be found in the sockets of the window-bars.

The hewn stone forming the door-frames, window-cases, newels of the well staircases, and in some instances the stairs themselves, have been rudely wrenched away, with damage to the walls, for the purpose, probably, of converting them into lime.

Portcullises, stockades, doors, with the roof of the hall, and every particle of timber in the place, have been removed. Every staircase, gallery, and chamber is pervious to the rain, and exposed to the pernicious force of the frost, yet such and so durable are the materials, and so firm the mortar with which the whole is cemented, that time and weather alone have produced but trifling injuries upon the pile, compared with the wilful destruction of the hand of man.

Before arriving at any general conclusion respecting the age of Caerphilly, it will be proper to make a few remarks upon certain details, on which those conclusions in some measure rest.

And first of the doorways. With certain exceptions shortly to be enumerated, the doorways throughout the building are of the same general character. The arches are "drop," that is to say, they are obtusely pointed arches, whose centres lie below their spring. This is obviously the best form of the pointed arch for the portals of a castle, and it is that usually employed in the military structures of the Edwardian period. With the same exceptions, the arch-mouldings are composed of a five-sided rib, upon the front and widest face of which a smaller rib, of the same figure, is placed. This pattern of rib-moulding is also very commonly employed in castles.

The principal portals, together with the doors leading from the first story of the towers upon the ramparts, are defended by portcullises, working in a D-shaped groove. This groove passes up as a chink into the chamber above; but there is no evidence of the sort of contrivance employed in raising the portcullis. The portcullis, however, might have been raised by mere manual exertion, and a bar thrust across would be sufficient to retain it securely when raised. The sills are destroyed, so that it does not appear whether the points of the portcullis were received into, or had worn, small holes in them. Besides the portcullis, the larger portals are provided with a chase or chink, without side-grooves, intended, as is presumed, to allow of the use of a sort of wooden

frame. Also, in the main portals are four or five square holes in the arch, through which beams to form a stockade might be dropped. It may be observed further that, although some of the portal passages are of considerable length, yet that the ribs of their vaults are all transverse, never passing diagonally from an angle towards the centre, in the manner employed at Caldecot and elsewhere, to vault a compartment of such passages.

There appears to have been more than one kind of drawbridge employed in this castle. In some places, as at the great gate, and at the passage in its gatehouse tower, the bridge, when drawn up, fitted into a depression, so as to lie flush with the upper wall, from whence, therefore, its length may be inferred. In other cases it simply rested against the wall, making a projection. It seems always to have been long enough, when up, to cover the gateway.

The method of hinging the bridge also varied. On the sides of some of the portals a stone has been inserted, into which the horizontal pivots of the bridge (of iron, from the small size of the pintle or hole) fitted; but, connected with the place for the gudgeon or pivot is another groove, which passes up at an angle of forty-five degrees for a few feet, and then passes on horizontally for a few more. It appears as though this were a contrivance, when the bridge was raised, for throwing its lower end upwards and forwards, so as more effectually to shield the upper part of the door, to present an oblique surface to missiles, and by making the bridge lean back against the wall, to remove the strain from its chains or ropes, and to prevent it from falling, even should they be

broken. It may be, however, that into these grooves fitted some lever, or other contrivance for working the bridge; where they occur, there are no holes above for the passage of the drawbridge chains into the portcullis chamber.

The defences of the great postern are singular. The grooves, which in the other cases form the portcullis slides, here stop abruptly a little above the arch. They are too deep for the hinges of gates, and were probably filled by a defence similar to a portcullis, but which was received into a cavity below. Indeed, as there is only a lofty wall, and no chamber above the postern, the regular plan was inadmissible.

There is a further contrivance for the defence of a gate, consisting of a sort of shoot, opening obliquely downwards from the sill of a window, employed in two places in this castle; one over the door of the eastern inner gateway, and the other over the door of the north-west principal bastion tower; in both cases evidently with a view to the defence of the towers when the enemy had gained the inner court.

The battlements and parapets throughout the castle are of a very plain description. They are massy and flat-topped, the coping being a rough slab of sandstone. The height and thickness, together with that of the rere-wall and the width of the rampart walk, may be always deduced from a careful inspection of the walls or towers against which they terminate. The parapet and rere-wall are usually of the same height, and nearly as high as the top of the doors leading to them.

The embrasures are contained within parallel sides, and

bear a small proportion to the merlons, which latter are each perforated by a loop. These details may be seen upon the summit of the leaning tower, or, more conveniently, upon the northern curtain, toward the north-west bastion tower.

There are no machicolations, or devices for dropping missiles through the floor of a projecting parapet—a contrivance which adds so materially to the grandeur of the towers of Warwick, Raglan, and Cardiff. Over the eastern middle gateway, the parapet has a false machicolation, or slight projection, supported upon a table of corbel blocks, but without apertures, or a projection sufficient to admit of any.

The windows, with certain exceptions, are either loops, or, if larger, of a very plain character. In the hall, however, and in the large rooms of the two inner gate-houses, they are very wide and lofty, and have been highly ornamented. The two latter rooms are so much injured, and the windows so mutilated, that it can only be said, that what little remains of ornament are seen resemble in style the more perfect ornaments of the hall. The oratory attached to the eastern inner gate-house has a vaulted roof divided into two square compartments, supported by transverse and diagonal ribs. The two windows towards the south are long and narrow, without a mullion, and trefoiled; their mouldings are only an exterior chamfer. There are some other windows in the gate-houses, looking towards the interior, which are much shorter, but otherwise resemble this. The four hall windows are lofty and well-proportioned; they open to within four feet of the ground.

The exterior moulding of the windows is completely gone; that of the door was discovered by removing the grass about its base.

The interior mouldings of the windows are extremely rich, owing to the reduplication of the bands, from the great thickness of the wall. The angles of the mouldings are, at two depths, removed, and their place occupied by a semicircular groove, in which the pomegranate ornament is placed at intervals, making up the circle by its projection. Beyond each of these bands of pomegranates are pilaster strips, filleted at their angles, and surmounted by small angular capitals: within is a handsome ogee canopy, enriched with crockets and finials, in a very pure style.

The door has a good internal drip, but its inner moulding is composed of only one band of ball-flowers. The outer mouldings are rich. There are three bands of pomegranates, which no doubt were continued, as in the windows, round the arch; and between them are two rows of small disengaged columns, with the circular concave pedestal. Of these only the pedestal remains.

The fourteen corbels upon which the beams of the roof rested are composed of three short clustered columns, connected by their posterior half, and separated by a fillet and bold hollow; above they are crowned with a neat cap moulding, and below, they rest upon three projecting busts, of which the central is the lowest and largest. A fillet runs up the centre of each of these columns, and, ceasing at the abacus, is continued up the capital, and finally dies in the astragal. Corbels,

of somewhat earlier date, but in general appearance resembling these, may be seen in the keep at Chepstow.

There are no decorations remaining about the fireplace. The plain string-course along the east end of the hall, returned from the corbel of the chapel window, is perfect. A base tablet is seen at the west end of the north side, but it is destroyed along its length.

A long window in one of the state rooms resembles, though on a much larger scale, the windows of the oratory already described. It appears, however, to have been trefoiled, with a quatrefoil above the head.

There are two small polygonal apartments on either side of the inner western gate, in the vaulted roofs of which a plain diagonal rib rises from a corbel at each angle, and meets its fellow in the centre. The corbels have three flat faces, and terminate in a point, which rests upon some animal, in every case wantonly defaced. They appear to have been lodges.

Caerphilly presents as little architectural decoration, in proportion to its extent, as any castellated building in Britain.

Generally, its series of concentric defences, and the general disposition of its constituent parts, resemble those of Conway, Harlech, Beaumaris, and other structures known to have been erected in the reigns of the first or second Edward. The plan of these Edwardian castles is very peculiar. It is unlike the earlier Norman castles, in which the keep was the principal feature, and in which comfort was sacrificed to safety; and it is also unlike the later castles, which possess not only large interior, but large exterior, windows, as in the later alterations at

Portchester, and in which there is, usually, no building to which the name of keep could be attached.

Nor is the style of architecture employed at Caerphilly less decisive; the drop arch, the perfectly plain rib, the general absence of decorations and armorial bearings, the plain battlements, and the absence of machicolations, indicate generally the same period.

The columns of the hall doorway, the concave moulding of their pedestals, the triple cluster of columns forming the corbels of the roof, their bell capitals, and light cap moulding, are due to the Early English style, which prevailed from 1189 to 1307.

On the other hand, the pomegranate moulding, the rich, though chaste and somewhat stiff, canopies of the door and windows, the little pilasters in the windows with the pentagonal capitals, the ogee arches, and the plain fillet running up the columnar corbels of the roof, are marks all belonging to the Decorated style, which prevailed from 1307 to 1377.

The mixture of these two styles, very common in English buildings, denotes a period varying according to the preponderance of either, and in the present instance may legitimately be referred to the latter part of the thirteenth century, when the Decorated style was beginning to supersede the Early English. Instances of this transition, and of the ball-flower moulding, may be seen round the inside of the choir of Bristol Cathedral, and on the outside of the south aisle of Keynsham Church.

The earlier alterations at Chepstow, and more particularly the oratory attached to Martin's Tower, and the columnar corbels in the keep, may be cited as of an

earlier date than Caerphilly, having been evidently placed there before the decline of the Early English style.

The internal evidence of the building, which would place its date about the end of the reign of Henry III., agrees with the evidence of records cited hereafter, in which the castle is referred to, in the year 1272, as having been lately erected by Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford.

Before this period, mention is occasionally made of the castle of Senghennydd, which, from its having been taken, retaken, and more than once utterly destroyed, was evidently a place much contested, but of no great magnitude or passive strength. After the erection of Caerphilly, Senghennydd Castle is not again mentioned. It is therefore not improbable that Senghennydd Castle was a rude fortification of timber and undressed stone, upon the peninsula afterwards occupied by Caerphilly.

Caerphilly having then certainly been founded by Earl Gilbert a little before 1272, the question arises as to whether the whole of it was then built.

The inner ward, its curtains, bastions, gate-houses, all their contents and appendages, are of one date. The south wall was always of its present height, and therefore always intended to support the roof of the hall, the walls of which are bonded into it. The gate-houses are evidently part of the original plan, being thoroughly Edwardian, and the long windows of the state rooms, and those of the oratory in the inner gate-house are, in their form and mouldings, precisely similar.

It appears that the curtain connecting the north-west bastion tower with the west gate-house, was originally as

low as the northern curtain, but that a sort of gallery, and its superincumbent rampart, have been added. A cluster of buildings has also been added on the outside of the south curtain, at the angle formed by its junction with the south-west tower.

The general design of the middle ward, and most of its buildings, are clearly of the date of the inner ward. The western gate-house, however, appears to be of somewhat later date; the false machicolations, the holes for the portcullis chains, the chimneys rising above the parapet, and the less durable character of the masonry, seem to indicate this. The walls, moreover, by means of which this gate-house is connected with the curtain of the inner ballium, though of the same age with the former, are not bonded into, and are separated by fissures from, the latter—a tolerably sure indication of difference of age.

It is not improbable that the whole exterior line of defence on the east, and the horn-work on the west, were the last parts of the castle completed. They form, however, parts of the original design, since, had the ground on which they stand been left unoccupied, the castle would not have been tenable.

With respect to the redoubt, it is perfectly evident, from its appearance, that it was thrown up, not only when gunpowder was in general use, but when the science of fortification was pretty well understood. It seems, like the earthworks at Donnington and other castles, to be of the age of Charles the First.

The injuries received by this castle are similar to others at Corfe and elsewhere, known to be referable to the

same period of civil strife in which the battle of St. Fagan's, and the occupation of Cardiff, prove the men of Glamorgan to have taken an active part. Nothing therefore seems more probable, than that the redoubt should have been thrown up hastily by one party for the defence of the castle, and that the dismantling of the whole should have been perpetrated by the other, to prevent such a defence being practicable in future. History, however, has afforded no clue to which of the contending parties either proceeding is to be referred.

There seems no reason to suppose that the works of Caerphilly were never completed. The flanking towers on either wing rest upon the lake, and the horn-work is a sufficient defence in the opposite direction.

About three quarters of a mile from Caerphilly, on the Rudry road, are the ruins of the "VAN," or "Ffanvawr," the ancient manor-house of the Lewis family.

Most of the outer walls of the house, and a curious old dovecot, remain standing. They are of the age of Elizabeth or James, but much of the hewn stone employed in the windows, door-cases, quoins, and string-courses of the lower story, are either of oolite or Sutton stone, and are very evidently a part of the spoils of Caerphilly. Most of these stones have been worked up, and their original ornaments destroyed, but one long string-course of Decorated date, evidently much earlier than the wall in which it is embedded, extends along the west front of the house.

These stones could not have been removed from Caerphilly earlier than the reign of Elizabeth, in which reign, or rather in that of Henry VIII., the castle was used as a

prison. Probably, however, the central parts were so appropriated, and the parts allowed to be spoiled were those connected with the east front.

Unlike Chepstow, Raglan, Oystermouth, and the Duke of Beaufort's castles, Caerphilly is entirely neglected. The east moat is encumbered with cottages, and the redoubt is so thickly planted as to be inaccessible. A very small sum expended in the removal of soil would expose the foundations and base mouldings of many of the buildings, and give much additional interest to the castle.

Within the last ten years large masses of the wall have fallen into the moat, and other large portions, with the water-tank, are about to give way, the effect of which will probably be, in time, to undermine the leaning tower.

Recently, parts of the wall have been opened as a quarry for stone, and the moats are crossed by modern walls, which disfigure the plan, and render the examination of the building difficult.

III.—HISTORY.

It is remarkable that the castle of Caerphilly should have remained hitherto altogether neglected, or very superficially noticed, by the historians of Wales, as well as by writers upon military architecture.

The earlier authorities, Caradoc of Llancarvan, (1157,) and Giraldus Cambrensis, (1188,) flourished before the erection of the present edifice; but it is singular that silence concerning so immense a structure should have

been preserved by Lloyd, and his commentator Powel, and transmitted almost unbroken by the indefatigable, though credulous, author of the "Munimenta."

It is not, however, difficult to divine the causes of the obscurity in which the early history of Caerphilly is involved, and the absence of any historical associations may perhaps be permitted to account for the continued silence of modern writers.

A castle of considerable magnitude had been erected soon after the Norman invasion of Wales, at Cardiff; a position which, from its proximity to the estuary of the Severn, and the mouth of the Taff, from the fertility of its subjacent meadows, from the protection which it reciprocally afforded to, and received from, the people of a considerable town, and from its greater distance from the mountains, and consequent diminished liability to be surprised by their crafty and warlike inhabitants, was invariably the chief residence of the feudal Lords of Glamorgan; and from hence it followed, as a necessary consequence, that Caerphilly, which, from its dangerous proximity, they were obliged to retain in their immediate possession, fell into comparative neglect, and although very superior in magnitude to Cardiff, was considered only as its dependency in importance.

It was to the Lord of *Cardiff* that the feudatories of Glamorgan owed suit and service, and it was to the castle court of that place that they were bound annually to repair.

The castle of *Cardiff* is mentioned as the residence of great Norman barons; it was more than once honoured by a royal guest, and even at the far later period of the

Parliamentary wars, its acquisition was considered as of great importance.

Caerphilly, on the contrary, is rarely mentioned by the chroniclers, and only on one occasion is certainly known to have lodged a royal presence, when the second Edward took refuge there for a few hours, towards the close of his reign.

These considerations will explain the little notice taken by contemporaries of this magnificent structure, and the consequent dearth of information respecting its fortunes.

The Welsh district of Morgannwg, which appears to have included the modern county of Glamorgan, contained four cantreds, or hundreds, which were further subdivided into fifteen comots. The names of these cantreds were, *Croneth*, including the vales of the Neath, Avon, and Ogmore; *Pennythen*, the vales of the Ely and Rondda; *Brenhinol* and *Gwentllwg*, now forming part of Monmouthshire. The comots, or subdivisions of *Brenhinol* were, *Cibowr*, and *Senghennydd Vwchaeth*, and *Iscaeth*.

Leland adds to this statement of Caradoc, that "Senghineth of some is divided into Iscaihac and Huhekaich," by which he evidently means Isa-caiach and Ucha-caiach—the lower and upper Caich, that is, the part below and part above the Caich—the comot being divided by the Caiach river; according to which division Caerphilly would be in "Iscaiach."

The modern hundred is called indiscriminately Senghennydd or Caerphilly, and the north gate of Cardiff was formerly known as the "Senghennydd" gate.

Soon after the Norman conquest of England, Trahearn ap Caradoc, usurper of North Wales, having fallen in battle, Griffith ap Conan, and Rhys ap Tewdwr, succeeded him as princes, one over North, the other over South Wales. Rhys was attacked by Griffith ap Meredyth, at the instigation of Llewelyn and Einon, sons of Cadifor, Lord of Dyfed. They fought and were beaten; Griffith was executed; Einon fled to Jestyn ap Gwrgant, then Lord of Glamorgan, and, like himself, at war with Rhys, and covenanted with him to invite the neighbouring Normans to their assistance.

Einon, who seems previously to have resided at the Norman Court, introduced (A. D. 1090) Robert Fitz-Hamon, a great baron nearly allied to the Conqueror, with a band of adventurers, into Glamorganshire, and by their aid Rhys was speedily vanquished and slain.

The results of this victory raised a quarrel between Jestyn and Einon, and the latter, in revenge, recalled the departing Normans from their ships, and persuaded them permanently to occupy the country.

Fitz-Hamon shortly afterwards became, by the slaughter of his old ally Jestyn, undisputed Lord of Glamorgan, and fixed his residence at Cardiff, where he probably laid the foundation of the present castle; and, dividing the vallies and plains among the twelve knights who had accompanied him, he left to Einon, who subsequently married "Nest," a daughter of Jestyn, such parts of the country as were barren and mountainous.

The chancery, exchequer, and the chief habitation of the lord, were at Cardiff. Among the lordships into which the country was divided, Senghennydd is enume-

rated as having fallen to the share of Eion, whose name, however, does not again occur, but whose descendants retained possession of that district.

Other adventurers, following the example of Fitz-Hamon, and assisted like him by the internal dissensions of the natives, and the treachery of the losing party, acquired lands upon the borders of Wales, and were constituted, by the English monarchs, Lords-Marchers. In this manner the fertile plains of the border were gradually acquired by the Normans, though not without considerable loss and continual disquiet, from the outbreaks of the Welsh, whose love of liberty permitted them not to remain cooped up in their mountains, while their enemies enjoyed the richest portion of their ancient inheritance.

The estates won by Fitz-Hamon descended according to the pedigree given afterwards, and, about the beginning of the thirteenth century, were in the hands of the powerful family of De Clare; Senghennydd having remained in the descendants of Eion.

In the reign of Henry II., Ivor ap Meyric, better known as "Ivor Bach," having married Nest, daughter and heiress of Madoc ap Cradoc, of Senghennydd, claimed the ground on which Cardiff Castle was built, from William (others say Robert) Consul, Earl of Gloucester, assaulted and took the castle, and carried the earl and his family prisoners to the hill-country of Senghennydd. The affair is said, in some accounts, to have been finally arranged, by the marriage of the earl's daughter to Griffith, Ivor's eldest son.—[*Lewis Pedigree.*]

In 1174, Griffith ap Ivor ap Meyric, of Senghennydd,

who had married a sister of Rhys, Prince of South Wales, came with Rhys, and other Welsh nobles, to do homage to King Henry II., at Gloucester [*Arch.* II. 2.]; and it seems probable that this Griffith was identical with Griffith ap Rhys, called by Sir R. Hoare the descendant of Einon, and who was besieged in Castell Coch, by De Clare, Earl of Gloucester, and his eyes, with those of his children, put out, previous to their being starved to death [*Giraldus Cambrensis, Cur. R. C. Hoare*]; an act quite in keeping with that of William de Braose, who, in 1175, massacred several Welsh chieftains in his castle of Abergavenny.

Castell Coch, (the red castle) was probably erected by De Clare, on the site of the older structure, soon after this transaction. It was so styled in contradistinction from Caerphilly, which was called the "Blue Castle." "The name of 'Sengenny' appears in a dateless deed, entitled 'Protectio Morgani filii Cadwalan,' among the papers at Penrice Castle, Glamorganshire. 'O~ms hoïes de Brechineoch et Sengenny.' The sons of this Morgan passed a fine at Cardiff in the year 1249."—[I. M. T.]

In 1215, Gilbert de Clare, first Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, rose in arms against King John; and, in the same year, Rhys, son of Griffith ap Rhys, marching from the west, came to Senghennydd Castle, but the garrison which kept it "thinking it fruitless, and to no purpose to oppose him, burnt it." He took all the castles in Gowerland and Morgannwg.—[*Wynne*, p. 239].

The site of the castle of Senghennydd has been the subject of much discussion. It has been supposed to be the earth-work above Castell Coch, and, by others, to

have been near the Caiach river, where is a spot marked "Castell Barn" on the Ordnance map. Search has been made in this latter locality, but without success. There seems reason to suppose, as already stated, that Senghennydd Castle was a work of slight character, perhaps of timber, earth, and undressed stone, on the site of the present castle of Caerphilly.

Giles de Braose, Bishop of Hereford, died 1215, and left his estates to his brother Reginald, who, says Wynne, (p. 240, 246,) had married Gwladys, the daughter of Prince Llewelyn.¹

In 1216, Llewelyn overran Wales, but on the landing of Louis, the Dauphin of France, in England in this year, King John called upon Llewelyn and Reginald Braose for their aid, which they refused. In 1217 Reginald made a secret and separate peace with Henry III. He was, in consequence, attacked by Llewelyn and the Welsh, and on his submission was forgiven, and received from Llewelyn the castle of Senghennydd, which he committed to the custody of Rhys Vychan shortly afterwards.

William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, attacked Caerleon, upon which Rhys Vychan "razed Senghennydd and other castles, and divided the country among the Welsh."—[Wynne, p. 244.]

About this time John Giffard le Rych, issue of John Giffard, of Brunfield, by his third wife, Margaret Nevile, received the custody of Dryslwyn Castle, Caermarthen, as well as the castles of Glamorgan and Morgannwg,

¹ Dugdale does not mention this match; he makes Maud, a sister of the bishop, marry Griffith, Prince of South Wales, and he makes Reginald marry a daughter and coheirress of William de Brewer.

which, as it can be shown not to have been Cardiff, has been conjectured to be Senghennydd.—[*Jones, H. of Brec.* II. 330.—*Camden.*] It may be observed also, that a John Giffard is mentioned, in the next reign, by Walsingham, as having, with Edmund Mortimer, slain Llewelyn Prince of Wales, and sent his head to the king.

In 1221 Prince Llewelyn and Griffith his son were at feud; and Reginald Braose, towards the end of the year, (in which year, however, he died, leaving William his son and heir,) obtained leave to fortify Senghennydd, which had been granted to him by Llewelyn.—[*Wynne,* 246.]

The internal feuds of the Welsh perpetually brought down the Lords-Marchers upon them; and finally Prince Llewelyn, being old and broken, and incapable of defending himself against his unruly children, sought the protection of Henry III., did homage for his principality, and bound himself to pay an annual tribute; and as, even in those lawless times, the colour of a legal claim was as eagerly sought after as in its absence it was disregarded, this gave to Henry and his son a claim upon the sovereignty of Wales, of which they were not backward to avail themselves.

Llewelyn died in 1240, 24th H. III. Of his two sons Henry recognised David, the younger, but his sister's child. Griffith, the elder, found support, and the two brothers had recourse to arms. They survived their father about forty-two years. In the 25th Henry III., William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, when summoned to justify his right to the custody of, and presentation to, the church of Llandaff, pleaded his purchase of

the guardianship of Richard de Clare, who claimed wardship of the lands of the vacant episcopate.—[*Abb. Placit*, 109.]

A Patent Roll of 55th Henry III., 25th October, is headed, “concerning the contentions between Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, and Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, concerning the castle of Caerfily, at Westminster, 25th Oct., 55th H. III.,” [*Cal. Rot. Pat.* p. 43^b]; and the papers referred to seem to be the following, preserved in the Chapter-House at Westminster, which have not before been printed, and the existence of which was made known to me by the Rev. C. H. Hartshorne.

How the De Clares obtained the land on which Caerphilly is built is uncertain; probably from the family of Braose, of whom John, William, and Richard were summoned by Edward I. to his army in Wales, in 1276.—[*Fœdera in loc.*] Be this as it may, these documents establish the fact that, in 1272 the castle of Caerphilly was possessed, and had been recently built by, Gilbert, the Red Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, who was born 1243, and died 1295, and who married Joan of Acre, aunt to Edward III. I find no mention of the name of “Caerphilly” before its appearance in these papers.

Among the Records preserved in the late Treasury of the Exchequer in the Chapter-House, Westminster, and in the custody of the Master of the Rolls, pursuant to Stat. 1st & 2nd Vic., c. 94, to wit, among the documents relating to Wales, in the Roll endorsed “Glamorgan—Kaerfily Castle—Letters, &c., relating thereto, *temp.* Henry III.,” are contained the following:—

[1271.]—R̄ om̄ibz 7̄c̄ sal̄tm. Sciatis qđ dedim^o potestatem veñabilibz p̄ribz ¹R̄ Coventr' 7̄ Lich' 7̄ ²G. Wigorn' Ep̄is 7̄ dilectis 7̄ fidelibz n̄ris ³R. de Mortuo Mari 7̄ ⁴R. de Leyburn quos mittim^o ad vadum Monte Gomery ad instantes Octab' Purif Bē Marie audiendi om̄es t̄nsgressiones 7̄ excessus fcos dilecti 7̄ fideli nr̄o Lewelino fil' Griffini Principi Wall' 7̄ suis p̄ dilectum 7̄ fidelem nr̄m ⁵Gilbtum de Clare Comitē Glouc' 7̄ Hertford' 7̄ suos 7̄ etiam om̄es t̄nsgressiones 7̄ excessus quibz cūqz Marchionibz 7̄ aliis de ptibz Marchie f̄cis ut dicit' cont^a formam pacis inl' nos et p̄dēm Lewelinū inite 7̄ firmate. Et ad om̄ia ea corrigenda 7̄ 7̄minanda p̄ut scđm formam pacis ejusdem 7̄ scđm consuetudinem ptium illar' de jure fūit faciend'. Nos eum ratum habibim^o 7̄ acceptum quicquid ip̄i quatuor tres vel duo ip̄or' quos p̄sentes esse contigit fec̄int in p̄missis. In cuj^o 7̄c. T. R̄ apud Westm̄ xxv. die Jun̄.

R̄ Viē Salop' Staff. Hereford 7̄ Wigorn' ac Baronibz militibz 7̄ om̄ibz ballis 7̄ fidelibz suis de ptibz March' ad quos 7̄c̄ sal̄tm. Sciatis qđ dedim^o potestatem veñabilibz p̄ribz R̄ Coventr' 7̄ Lich' 7̄ G. Wigorn' Ep̄is 7̄ dilectis 7̄ fidelibz n̄ris R̄ de Mortuo Mari 7̄ R̄ de Leyburn quos mittim^o ad vadum Montis Gomeri⁶

¹ Roger de Longespee, or de Molend. Elected Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry, 31st January, 1257; died 16th December, 1295.—[*Nicholas.*]

² Godfrey Giffard, Archdeacon of Wells. Appointed Bishop of Worcester, 30th June, 1268; Lord Chancellor; died about 1301.—[*Nicholas.*]

³ Roger de Mortimer, Lord of Wigmore, married Matilda, daughter and coheir of William Lord Braose, and died 1282.

⁴ Sir Roger Leyborne was a steady adherent to Henry and his son. In 1264 he was a Lord-Marcher. The family were not given to create difficulties. In the siege of Caerlaverock we read of "William de Leybourne, a valiant man, without *but*, and without *if*."

⁵ Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, married Joanne Plantagenet, daughter of Edward I. Died 1295.—[*Nicholas.*]

⁶ In 1273, the Abbots of Dore and Haghern waited (in vain) at the *Ford*, beyond the castle of *Montgomery*, to receive from Llewelyn his oath of fealty to Edward I. It was a common neutral meeting-place.—[*Fæd.* 1272-4.]

ad instantes Octab' Pur' Bē Marie audiendi omēs tñsgressiones ⁊ excessus ⁊ injurias fēas dīco ⁊ fideli nō Lewelino fīl Griffini Principi Wall' ⁊ suis p dīctm ⁊ fidelē nřm Gilb'tum de Clare Comitem Glouč ⁊ Hertford ⁊ suos ⁊ eciam omēs tñsgressiones excessus ⁊ injurias fēas p̄fato Comiti ⁊ suis p p̄dcm Lewelinū ⁊ suos. Et insup omēs tñsgressiones ⁊ excessus ⁊ injurias quibz cūqz Marchionibz ⁊ aliis de ptibz March' fecis ut dicit' cont' form̄ pacis inl' nos ⁊ p̄dcm Lewelinū inite ⁊ firmate ⁊ ea omīa corrigendi ⁊ lminandi p̄ut scdm formam pacis ejusdem ⁊ scdm consuetudinē ptium illar' ⁊ de jure fūit faciend'. Et ideo vob' mandam⁹ qđ p̄dcis Ep̄is Rogo ⁊ Rogo tribz vl duobz ip̄or' quos ibidem in octab' p̄dcis vl diebz ad hoc p ip̄os si necesse fūit continuand' adesse contig'it in p̄missis intendentes sitis ⁊ respondentes consulentes ⁊ auxiliantes p̄ut vob' scire fac' ex pte nřa. In cuj⁹ ⁊c. T' ut s'.

Inl' nobilem virum ⁊ excellentem Dñm Lewilinū Principem Wallie Dñm quoqz Snaudon qui Castrum de Caerfily p nobilem virum Dñm G. de Clare Comitē Glouč ⁊ Hertford nup erectum obsedit ex pte una ⁊ venabiles p̄res Dños R' Coventr' ⁊ Lich ac G. Wigorn Ep̄os quos illustris Rex Angl' ad huj⁹ modi castrū in manū ip̄ius capiend' ⁊ tenend' quousqz de contencoñe inl' eosdem nobiles occasione ip̄ius castri exorta justicia competens p magnates ⁊ consiliarios Dñi R' ad vadum Mōtis Gomeri destinandos scdm leges ⁊ consuetudines March' ac scdm formam pacis inl' Regem ⁊ Principem dudum inite ⁊ firmate reddat' p suas Iras tñsmiserat ex alia in castris jux' Kaerfili sic convenit qđ p̄dcus princeps cum ex̄citu suo ab obsidione dñi Castri recedat ⁊ ip̄is Ep̄is libam tribuat facultatem capiend' Castrum in manus Dñi Regis aliquos de suis nomīe Dñi Reg' in ip̄o ponendi quousqz ip̄e Rex aliquos custodes neutri pti suspectos nec alicui pciū consanguinitate vl affinitate seu alia roñabili causa conjunctos ad ip̄m Castrum cōservand' novit duxit destinand'. Promisit eciam dcūs Princeps qđ nec ip̄e nec aliquis de suis guerram cont' Dñm Comitē vl aliquem de suis lite sup p̄fato Castro pendente huj⁹ modi contencoñis occasione movebit nec aliquē de pte Com̄ p

se (vl p aliquē de pte Coīm p se vl) p alium abstrahi seu revocari pcurabit aut venientem receptabit qđqz hōies vl tenentes Coīm non impediet nec impediri patietur p suos quomin^o cum hōibz suis ⁊ tenentes libere contrahere valeant ⁊ cum ip̄is m̄caturam exēcere. Promiserūt simili^r p̄fati Ep̄i nōie Reḡ p Coīm qđ Garnestura ip̄ius Coīm p totum a sup^a dco Castro recedet qđqz ip̄e Comes de illo Castro pendente lite se non intromittet in aliquo nec aliquem de suis p̄mittet intromit̄te circa refeccōem ip̄ius Castri vl in fossar' augmentacoēne sive repacoēne vl muror' refeccōne vl in aliquo alio augmento seu municoēne nisi scđm qđ fūat die confeccōnis p̄senciū nec eciam illi quos ex pte Reḡ in ip̄o esse contigit aliquid in eodem quo ad municoēm Castri censi valeat aliq^uten^o s̄inonabūt nec cont^a Principem vel aliquē de suis guerram racione p̄dcā lite pendente movebit in aliq^a pte ubi ip̄e nobiles t̄ras h̄ent conjūctas atqz confines nec aliquem pti Principis adherentem p se vl p alium abstrahi seu revocari pcurabit aut venientem receptabit qđqz ip̄e Coīm hōies seu tenentes Principis nō impediet nec ab aliis qñtum in ip̄o est impedire patiet' quo min^o ip̄i cum h̄omibz vl tenentibz ejusdem Coīm quodlibet cōm̄cium legitimū inire valeant ⁊ libe cum ip̄is simili^r m̄caturam exēcere. Item hōies de Seingbenyth simili^r qui modo sunt cum Principe non descendant inferius cum p̄dis ⁊ familiis ascendant ad morand' ⁊ inhabitand' ⁊ locis ubi fūunt tempore confeccōnis p̄sentium nec illi de Seyngheynt simili^r qui sunt cum Coīm cum p̄dis ⁊ familiis ascendant ad morand' ⁊ inhabitand' supius a locis quibz habitabant tempe confeccōnis p̄sentium. Dicti v^o p̄lati p̄mittunt qđ dcm Castrum non exhibit de manibz Reḡ donec de contencōne dcōr nobiliū justicia cōpetēs exhibeat' in forma p̄taxata. Promittunt eciam se curaturos qđ Dñs R̄ confirmabit ordinacōem p̄dcam p t̄ras suas patentes. Et quecūqz p̄tiū hanc ordinacōem infregit in pte vel in toto cont^a cōis pacis form^m venisse intelligat'. Et licet aliqui latrones vel malefactores fecint latrocinia aut alias transgressiones ex alit^a pte nichiloi^o dca ordinacio in suo robore durabit ⁊ t̄nsgressiones emendantur p consideracōem p̄bor' viror' int̄ duas t̄ras scđm leges

et consuetudines p̄ciū illar'. Sup̄dicti quidem Ep̄i nōie Reḡ diem ad justiciam recipiend̄ et faciend̄ in forma p̄d̄ca sup̄ p̄missis quindenam scilt̄ post festum S̄ci Joh̄is Bapt̄ p̄x̄io futuram p̄ti Principis ad vadum Montis Gomeri de voluntate et consensu ip̄ius Principis assiḡrunt. In quor' om̄ium testimoū p̄ti p̄sentis ciroḡphi remanēti penes Principem Ep̄i p̄fati p̄ Rege sua sigilla apposuerunt parti vero penes Ep̄os remanenti sigilla Dñor' David filii Griffini et Griffini fit Guenū p̄ Principe sūt app̄esa. Daſ et act̄ in Castris jux̄a Kaerfili in commemoratione aīar' Anno gr̄e M° CC^{mo} septuagesimo p̄mo.

R̄ R̄ fr̄i suo sal̄tm. Cum L. fil̄ Griffini Princeps Waſſ clamans h̄re jus in situ et placea Castri G. de Clare Com̄ Glouč et Hertford de Kaerfili et p̄ponens illud dirim̄e et tottaliſ p̄s̄nere idem Castrum obsederit et idem Comes audito rumore obsessionis illius ad nos venit et instant̄ petierit qđ cū ip̄e parat̄ esset Castrum illud in manū nr̄am reddere illud ab ip̄o recipem̄ tenend̄ quousqz p̄fato Lewelino et sibi de jure quod idem Lewelin̄ h̄re clamat in Castro p̄d̄cō justicia exhiberet^m jux̄a form̄ pacis inſ nos et eundem Lewelinū inite et firmate et scđm leges March̄. pp̄l̄ quod nos p̄pendentes qđ ex obsessione illa et congregacione ex̄cit̄ L. p̄d̄ci. ac congregacione amicor' et posse p̄d̄ci Com̄ possent ḡavis turbacio et guerra in p̄tibz March̄ et alibi p̄ potestatem nr̄am suboriri t̄ctatum diligentem fuim̄ cum consilio n̄o et p̄vidim̄ qđ Castrum illud capiat̄ et retineat̄ in manu nr̄a et qđ R. Coventr' et Lich. et G. Wigorn̄ Ep̄i p̄fatum Lewelinum adirent et ip̄m ex p̄te nr̄a inducēt ut ab obsessione illa recederet qui sic ad mandatum nr̄m fecerunt et cum ip̄o tractatum inde habuerūt. Et licet idem Lewelin̄ p̄pendisset qđ Castrum illud dirim̄e et penit̄ p̄s̄nere potuisset infra t̄cium diem talit̄ inſ se ordinav̄unt qđ Castrum illud remaneret in manu nr̄a in eodem statu quo tunc fuit ut in muris, fossatis, brechach̄, victualibz et aliis ita qđ nichil repareretur exaltaret̄ karnalaret̄ brechachiareret̄ vel alio modo stat̄ ille mutaret̄ cit̄a quindenam S̄ci Joh̄is Bapt̄ p̄x̄io futuram in qua quindena p̄d̄ci Ep̄i p̄tibz diem p̄fixerunt apud vadum Montis Gomeri ad faciend̄ inde et reci-

piend̄ justiciā jux^a form^m pacis ⁊ leges Marchi. Et p̄dci Epi L. ad hoc cum magna difficultate inducto Castrum illud a Constabulario ejusdem jux^a tenorē Irar' p̄dci Coñ sibi sup hoc p̄ p̄fatos Epos traditar' in manum n̄ram receperunt ⁊ illud quibzdam de suis cōmiserunt quousqz aliqui de n̄ris ibidē venirēt ⁊ castrum illud ab eis recipient ⁊ in manu n̄ra custodirēt in forma p̄dca. Ecce Constabularius dci Comitis de Caerdif simul cum q^udraginta hoñibz ad arma p̄pe ptem de Kaerfili accessit ⁊ latenter ⁊ clam adiit p̄dcm Castrum de Kaerfili ⁊ petiit ibi ingressum ad arma hoium p̄dci Coñ scrutanda ⁊ videnda. et hōies p̄dcor' Epor' in custodia ejusdem sinistra aliq^a de ip̄o non suspirantes eum Castrum illud ingredi pmiserūt quo ingresso petiit ut quidam miles suus sup rebz in Castro illo existentibz cerciorat^o ingredi posset qui militem illum ⁊ postmodum t̄cium ingredi pmiserūt quibz ingressis post scrutinium f̄cm de armaturis ist̄ ad portā ejusdem Castri accesserunt qua p̄ ip̄os apta illos quos infra Castrum illud morari voluerūt ad municoēm ejusdem alioquin qđ ip̄i Castrum illud exirēt ⁊ eos p̄mit̄ent Castrum illud ad op^o p̄dci Cōm Dñi sui custodire. Ita qđ hōies Epor' illor' p̄ districcoēm eis f̄cam p̄ p̄dcm Constabulariū de Caerdif Castrum illud dimiserūt ⁊ ad Dños suos redierūt. Et nos quidem auditis p̄missis ⁊ non multo inde admirantes consulim^o sup hoc cum ist̄ qui jux^a latus nr̄m morant ⁊ negocio illo intellecto mandavim^o p̄fato Coñ p̄missa ut n̄s sup voluntate sua ⁊ si p̄missa. p̄ ip̄m. v̄l de assensu seu p̄cepto suo forent attēptata, ad plenū redderet t̄ciores unde quia si rumor istor' ad aures p̄fati Lewelini p̄vesint ip̄e forte credet p̄missa de consensu n̄ro fore p̄pet̄ta cum tamen de ip̄or' p̄pet̄coñe doleam^o vōs mandam^o rogantes qđ consilium v̄rm sup p̄missis nob̄ q^ucicuis distincte ⁊ apte significetis una cum v̄re beneplacito voluntatis. T ⁊c.

R̄ dilco ⁊ fideli suo Lewelino fil̄ Griffini principi Wall̄ sal̄m ⁊ sincere dileccōis affc̄m Cum diem vōs ⁊ v̄ris ⁊ dilco ⁊ fideli n̄ro G. de Clare Comiti Glouc̄ ⁊ Hertford ⁊ suis ac celsis marchionibz n̄ris p̄ nos p̄fixum a die S̄ci Joh̄is Bap̄t̄ px̄io p̄v̄ito in unum mensem ap̄d vadū Montis Gomeri t̄tis de causis progassem^o ab

illo mense in unum mensem post festum S̄ci Mich̄is px̄io ventur' ut tunc corā magnatibz et fidelibz n̄ris p nos ibidem destinandos tam vob et v̄ris qm̄ pfato Com̄ et suis ac aliis marchionibz n̄ris p̄dcis plena fiat justicia sup̄ in̄cepcōnibz excessibz et transgressionibz hinc inde fc̄is cont^a form^m pacis in̄ nos et vos inite et firmate et vob p̄ lras n̄ras mandassem^o qd̄ diem illū observetis apud locum p̄dem et qd̄ in̄im pfato Com̄ aut suis ac ceteris marchionibz n̄ris p̄dcis dāpn̄um non inferatis vel g^avamen ac jam sim^o in pficiscendo ad ptes t̄smarinas p̄ homagio n̄ro quod Dn̄o Regi Francie illustri face tenem^m p̄ dūatu n̄ro Aquit^o Com̄ Ageneñ et aliis t̄ris quas tenem^o et tene debem^o in regno Francie eidem Dn̄o Regi p̄stande et p̄pter hoc velim^o et specialit^o optem^o ad pacem et t̄nquillitatem regni n̄ri et p̄cium Marchie quod vob aut v̄ris p̄ pfatum Com̄ aut ceteros marchiōes n̄ros seu pfato Com̄ aut ip̄is marchionibz n̄ris p̄ vos vel v̄ros nullum in̄im dāpn̄um v̄ molestia inferat' set qd̄ oīnia in pace conquiescant usqz ad diem sup̄dem mandavim^o pfato Com̄ et ceteris marchionibz n̄ris districte inhibendo in vob v̄t v̄ris in̄im inferant dāpnū molestiam seu jacturam unde vob mandam^o firmi^o injūgentes qd̄ pfatum Comitē aut marchiōes p̄dcos in̄im nullo modo ḡvetis seu a v̄ris ḡvari pmittatis. Ceterum quia p̄ fidedignos intellexim^o qd̄ vos ex̄c̄itum v̄m jam banniri fecistis et ptes Marchie appinq̄re p̄ponitis ad pfatum Comitē et alios marchiōes n̄ros g^avandos et lras suas ibidem invadend̄ de quo q^am plurimū admiramur vob mandam^o in fide et homagio et dileccōne quibz nob̄ tenemini firmi^o injūgentes qd̄ ab huj^omodi p̄posito voluntario desistentes in pace vos teneatis. Ita qd̄ vob non imputari debeat vel possit qd̄ pax in p̄tibz ist̄ minus b̄n̄ observet' Scituri qd̄ si secus egeritis impedire nō possum^o nec volum^o quin pfati marchiōes n̄ri ad defensionem suam p̄ se v̄t p̄ amicos suos vob̄ resistant virilit^o et potent^o. T̄ h̄ apud Westm̄. iiij. die Augusti.

R̄ Lewelino fil̄ Griffini Principi Wast sal̄m et sincere dilcōis aff̄m. Ea que nob̄ sup̄ emend̄ faciend̄ et recipiend̄ de excessibz et t̄nsgressionibz injuriis et in̄cepcōnibz p̄ G. de Clare Comitē

H

Glouĉ¹ Humfridum de Bohun ꝛ suos ac alios Marchiones n̄ros cont^a form^m pacis inl̄ nos ꝛ vos initam ꝛ firmatam illatas sicut asseritis ꝛ fcis hinc inde p̄ l̄ras v̄ras expressistis una cum aliis que ven̄abit pal^l Anian² Ep̄us de Sc̄o Assap̄li sollicite nob̄ exposuit n̄oie v̄ro pleni^o audivim^o ꝛ intellexim^o diligent̄ ꝛ sup̄ hiis cum aliis p̄latis ꝛ consiliariis n̄ris t̄ctatum ꝛ colloquiū habuim^o exquisitum satis autem attenditis q̄li^l sup̄ exhibenda vo^b in hac pte justicia firmam ꝛ ferventem voluntatem habentes majores de regno n̄ro ad vadum Montis Gomiⁱ frequen^t t̄smisim^o ex hac causa. Ita qđ p̄ nos in aliquo non stetit quin vo^b sup̄ p̄missis fieret justice complementū sicut tam p̄ l̄ras n̄ras vo^b inde directas qm̄ p̄ alia n̄re sollicitudinis judicia satis constat ꝛ constabit inpos̄tum evident̄ modo ante sup̄ven̄unt nova que nos ꝛ consilium n̄rm urgent̄ occupant ꝛ distrahunt ad di^vsa. Dñs enim Rex Franĉ illustris ctum l̄minum nob̄ p̄fixit in quindena videlicet Sc̄i Martini jam venturi ut sibi de Ducatu Aquil^l Coñ Ageneñ ac aliis l̄ris quas tenemus in regno Franĉ homagium faciam^o Ita qđ ult̄ius sup̄sedere non possum^o quin ptes t̄smarinas psonalil̄ adeamus p̄ negocio antedicto. Et insup̄ Edwardus p̄mogenit^o n̄r dilect^o amic^o v̄r jam est in redeundo de l̄ra Sc̄a vsus ptes Angl̄ sicut p̄ dilectm ꝛ fidelē n̄rm Ottonem de Grandisono ac alios milites familiares ꝛ domesticos suos qui in ptes Vascoñ adventum ip̄ius ibidem expectant veracil̄ intellexim^o unde si p̄dca negocia vos tangencia p̄rogent^m ad temp^o securi esse pot̄itis qđ negocia illa p̄ p̄dcm Edwardum ꝛ alios nobiles regni n̄ri jux^a formam pacis p̄dcam tam quo ad emendas vo^b faciend̄ qm̄ alia que incumbunt melius ꝛ magis p̄fecte qm̄ hactenus explebunt^r pp̄l̄ quod l̄minum nup̄ vo^b in hac pte p̄fixum videlicet a festo Sc̄i Mich̄is in unum mensem duxim^o progand̄ usqz ad quindenam Pasche p̄xio futuram ad quem diē

¹ Humphrey de Bohun, second Earl of Hereford, Earl of Essex, and Lord High Constable. Died 1275.—[*Nicholas.*]

² Anianus on Enion. Consec. 21st Oct., 1268. Died 5th Feb., 1293.—[*Nicholas.*]

psens erit p Dei grām Edwardus p̄dcus in cui⁹ psencia negocia p̄dca felicil̄ ⁊ finalil̄ potunt t̄minari ad cōmodum ⁊ indēpnitatem v̄ram. Et scire vos volum⁹ qđ voſ aut noſ rebz se habentibz ut nūc nullaten⁹ expediret quicquam mali v̄t excessus inſim attēptari cont^a form^m pacis p̄dce unde voſ mandam⁹ rogantes ⁊ in fide homagio ⁊ dileccoñe ī quibz noſ teneīni firmil̄ injūgent̄ quatin⁹ diē illū videlicet quindenam Paschē p̄dcam observantes inſim vos ⁊ v̄ros in pace teneatis ita qđ vos p̄ fidelitate v̄ra tunc ut prius h̄re debeam⁹ speciali^{l̄} cōmendantes. Prefat⁹ ante Epūs quem in exposicōne negocior' v̄ror' m̄ito (?) cōmendamus voluntate n̄ram pleni⁹ voſ viva voce referre potit in p̄missis. T̄ R̄ apđ Westīn xxx. die Octob'r p̄ ip̄m R̄ Archiep̄m Ebor. R̄ Agūſt. Thediſ de Camiſt. frem J. de Derlingtoñ. W. de M'otoñ. Magr̄m W. de la Corner ⁊ Eliam de Rabeyñ.¹

Edward, upon his accession to the throne, vigorously pushed forward the plans which had already been commenced against the Welsh. The destruction of the native princes Llewelyn² and David, one of whom was

¹ King Henry III. died 17th November, 1272.

These records corroborate, to some extent, the statement of the Brut y tywysogion, given in the following passage:—

“Deg mlyned a thrugeint a deu cant a mil oed oet Crist pan vu uarw Maredu ab Grufud arglwyd Hiruryn trannoeth o duw gwyl Lucy wry yn Kastell Llan Ymdyfri. Ac y cladwyt yn Ystrat Fflur. Y vlwydyn honno y goresgynnawd Llywelyn ab Grufud gastell Caer Filu.”— [*Brut y tywysogion*. — *Myv. Arch.*, II., 464.]

“It was the year of Christ one thousand two hundred and seventy when Maredu ab Grufud, Lord of Hirvryn, died at the castle of Llan Ym dyfri, on the morrow (*query*, vigil?) of the feast of Lucy the Virgin (*query*, St. Lucia?) and he was buried at Ystrat Fflur. That year Llywelyn ab Grufud took possession of Castle Caer Filu.”

² In the *Fœdera* for 1282, the death of Llewelyn is noticed in a letter from the king to the Archbishop of Canterbury, after which follows an account of “a paper found in his femoralia,” garments which it is satisfactory to the upholders of Welsh civilization to know that he certainly wore.

slain in battle, 1282, and the other put to an ignominious death, (1283,) removed all regular opposition to his claim.

In the 9th and 10th Edward I., Gilbert, Earl of Gloucester, claimed to hold his lands in Glamorgan as "Regale." He said he and his ancestors held by conquest, and appears, like Earl Warren, to have declined acknowledging the royal "quo warranto" for his Welsh lands.—[*Abb. Placit*, 201.]

"In 1285," says Walsingham, "Edward marched from Snowdon to Glamorgan, and having been received by the Earl of Gloucester with great honour, was by him, at his own proper charges, conducted to the Gloucestershire border, whence he proceeded to Bristol." The king was probably entertained at Cardiff, which, for the reasons which have been stated above, was the ordinary residence of the Lords of Glamorgan.

Twelve years later, the Welsh were again in arms, and, under Mailgon, actually drove out Gilbert, Earl of Gloucester, who had inherited Glamorgan, and who died about this period. The king, however, entering Wales, speedily reduced the Welshmen to obedience; and the three daughters of the Earl of Gloucester, and his son Gilbert, a minor, were reinstated in their father's possessions.

Upon the accession of Edward II. he took advantage of the minority of the young Earl of Gloucester to give his sister away in marriage to his favourite, Gaveston, (1307,) a proceeding which gave great offence to the nobility of the realm, as well as to the earl her brother.

In 1314 Earl Gilbert, then aged twenty-three, fell

childless on the field of Bannockburn, leaving three sisters the coheirs of his vast inheritance.

The king, in the first instance, [March, 1314, *Fædera*, II., 264,] appointed as custos of the estates Bartholomew de Badlesmere, who gave offence by his careless treatment of the Welsh hostages, and was directed to provide them with proper sustenance in future out of the De Clare lands.¹—[*Close Rolls*, 15th March, 1316.] Badlesmere also marched to repress this outbreak, and, next year, he had an assignment out of the king's rents in Glamorgan and Morgannwg.—[*Rot. Parl.* I., 453–6; *Fædera*, II., 370.] Before the division of the estates, February, 1316, a commission was issued to Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, to defend Glamorgan against the Welsh, who had risen under Llewelyn Bren, grandson to Ivor, a former Lord of Senghennydd.—[*Fædera*.] The Rev. H. H. Knight, translating from the Monk of Malmesbury, adds,—“He (Llewelyn) had used malicious words before,—now he comes from words to blows; for upon a certain day, when the Constable of Caerphilly Castle held his court outside of the castle, Llewelyn made an onset with his sons and adherents upon him, and having slain some of the officers, and severely wounded several of the attendants at the court, carried him off captive. At the same time he attacked the castle, but met with such resistance as prevented his entrance,

¹ Bartholomew, Baron de Badlesmere, born about 1275, married Margaret, daughter of Thomas, sister of Richard, and aunt and coheirress of Thomas de Clare, grandson of Richard, Earl of Gloucester. Their son Giles, second baron, obtained from Eleanor, Countess of Gloucester, a part of his father's lands, which appear to have been attainted.

although he succeeded in burning all the outward walls." Among the articles at a later period (1321) exhibited against Le Despencer, it was stated, with reference to this Llewelyn,—“That when the Earl of Hereford, and Lord Mortimer of Wigmore, had gone against Llewelyn Bren, who had raised a rebellion against the king in Glamorganshire, whilst the Earl of Gloucester's lands were in the king's hands, the same Llewelyn yielded himself up to the said earl, and to the Lord Mortimer, who brought him to the king on promise that he should have the king's pardon, and so the king received him. But after that the said earl and Lord Mortimer were out of the land, the Spensers, taking to them royal power, took the said Llewelyn, and led him unto Kardiff, where, after that the said Hugh Spenser, the sonne, had his part of the said Earl of Gloucester's lands, he caused the said Llewelyn to be drawn, headed, and quartered, to the discredit of the king, and of the said Earl of Hereford, and Lord Mortimer, yea, and contrary to the laws and dignities of the imperial crowne.”—[*Hollinshed*, 4to. II., 562.]

Edward married (13th Edward II.) Eleanor, the eldest sister of the deceased Earl Gilbert, to his favourite, Hugh le Despencer, the younger, and he allotted to her the Welsh estates. Accordingly, very shortly afterwards, Le Despencer is rated among the Welsh levies, at five hundred foot for his lands in Glamorgan and Morgannwg, and at three hundred for the king's lands in his custody.

About this time, Le Despencer took advantage of Mortimer's attainder to sieze upon the castle of Caerphilly, which appears to have been held by the Mortimers, possibly through their descent from Gwladys, widow of

Reginald de Braose, of Senghennydd, who remarried Ralph, Baron Mortimer, of Wigmore. However this may have been, Despencer governed Caerphilly, for, 14th Edward II., [*Pat.* 14th E. II., *m.* 11,] he rendered it up to the king, and having fortified it by additional defences, was enabled, for some time, to withstand the forces brought against him by the barons, although they finally obtained possession of it.

About the same time, or a little earlier, William, Lord Braose, had sold a part of Gower to Le Despencer the younger, to the great dissatisfaction of the Earl of Hereford, and the Mortimers, and Lord Mowbray, who had married Braose's daughter and heir; upon this the Lords Mowbray, Clifford, and others, in 1321, rose in arms against the king and Le Despencer, took "Kierdie (Cardiff), Kersillie (Caerphilly), Llantrissane, Talvan, Llanllethien, Kenfegis, Neath, Drusselan, and Dinevor," from Le Despencer, and altogether did £10,000 worth of damage.—[*Hollinshed*, 559, 560.]

"In an account of the possessions of Hugh le Despencer, and Eleanor his wife, 14th Edward II., (a copy of which appears in the *Harleian MSS.*,) the sum for the necessary repairs, &c., 'de necessaria reparatione et custodia Cast. de Kerfilly,' is estimated at £43 per annum."—[I. M. T.]

In 1326, 20th Edward II., the queen and Mortimer having taken up arms, the king, attended by the Despencers, and Baldock the chancellor, fled from London, to which he never returned.

As the flight of the king from his barons and queen has, in its details, been generally neglected by historians, it may be useful to give the following rather minute par-

ticulars, compiled chiefly from, or corrected by, writs issued by the monarch during his journey.

The king was at Westminster on the 2nd of October, and at Acton on the same day.—[*Fæd. in loc.*] On the 10th, with a few followers, pursued by his queen with a larger number, he rested at Gloucester, whence the elder Despencer, then ninety years old, was dispatched to defend the castle of Bristol.¹ From Gloucester, the king, accompanied by the younger Despencer and Robt. Baldock his chancellor, proceeded to Tintern, where he rested upon the 14th and 15th, and then remained at Striguil until the 21st. He was at Cardiff during the 27th and 28th, whence, probably thinking himself unsafe, he moved to Caerphilly, where he issued writs, bearing date the 29th and 30th of the month, to Rhese ap Griffith, and others, giving them power to raise troops. Rhese seems to have been perfectly in the royal confidence, as his commission is unlimited.

Whether Edward thought Caerphilly too near the English border, or whether the garrison was too small to defend its extensive outworks, does not appear; but leaving Despencer, the grandson, in the castle, in opposition to Mortimer,² he retired to Margam, where he was on the 4th of November, and thence to Neath, where he rested the next day, and whence he issued a safe-conduct to the abbot of that monastery, as his ambassador to the queen and Mortimer.

¹ Walsingham says the elder Despencer was dismissed from Striguil.

² "Prima patent de anno, 3^o Regis Edwardi Tertii, quod Rogerus de Mortuomari, comes Marchiæ Justiciarius Walliæ, amoveat obsessionem circa castr' de Kaerfily fact', et illud in manus regis resumat." —[*Cal. Rot. Pat.* p. 105.]

Hugh le Despencer, the grandson, does not appear to have acted as official military governor of Caerphilly, during its siege by the queen and prince, at least in 1347, for (20th E. II., Rege captivo) a pardon is issued to John de Felton, for holding out Kerfilly against the queen and Prince Edward; and a similar pardon to all within the castle during the siege, excepting only Hugh, the son of Hugh le Despencer the younger [*Fædera*, 20th E. II.¹], who, however, received a pardon shortly afterwards.²

As Edward is only certainly known to have been at Caerphilly on the 30th, and at Margam on the 4th, there remains an interval of not more than four whole days, and possibly a portion of two others, during which his wanderings are unrecorded. If we suppose that he employed the interval in proceeding by sea to Margam, taking water at Cardiff, or some neighbouring port, we shall be able to reconcile the narrative of Walsingham with that given above. Walsingham, whose information, though generally correct, is not always minute, makes him take water from Striguil. It seems, however, more probable that he went first to Caerphilly.

¹ "Patent' de anno 20^o Regis Edwardi Secundi'. Pardonatio concessa omnibus in castro de Kaerfily, (excepto Hugone filii Hugonis le Dispenser, junior') eoquod ipsi castrum prædictum ac quædam bona in eodem ad mandatum Isabellæ Reginae Angliæ et Edw' primogeniti filii Regis eisdem super hoc ex parte R^s directum non liberaverunt, apud Kenilworth, 4^o Januarii."—[*Cal. Rot. Pat.* p. 98]. "Prima patent' de anno primo Regis Edwardi Tertii. Pardonatio concessa diversis in castro de Cairfily existentibus."—[*Cal. Rot. Pat.* p. 100.]

² "Pardonatio concessa Hugoni le Dispenser, filio Hugonis le Dispenser, junioris, eoquod detinuit castrum de Kaerfily, contra Regem et Isabell' Reginam, &c., ac nomina duodecem militum ejus mancaptorum."—[*Cal. Rot. Pat.* p. 104.]

Froissart says that the king, and Despencer, jun., held the castle, and Despencer, sen., and the Earl of Arundel, the town, of Bristol, against the queen's forces; and that the two latter were executed under the walls of that castle, within sight of the king, and all within it. He also relates that the king, and Despencer, jun., were taken on the seas, while escaping from Bristol, and brought back thither—points in which he is not borne out by contemporary writers. Froissart was clearly never in that part of England, and seems to have been misinformed. Fabyan merely gives a very general statement, agreeing, as far as it goes, with Froissart. Hollinshed's statement is given below.¹

¹ A° 1326.—“The king in this mean time kept not in one place, but shifting hither and thither, remained in great care. The king, with the Earl of Gloucester, and the Lord Chancellor, taking the sea, meant to have gone either into the ile of Lundaie, or else into Ireland, but being tossed with contrary winds for the space of a week together, at length he landed in Glamorganshire, and got him to the abbeie and castel of Neith, there secretly remaining upon trust of the Welshmen's promises. Hugoline Spencer, the sonne of the Earl of Gloucester, defended the castle of Kersillie against the power of the queen and of her sonne till Easter following, and then compounding for the safety of his own life, and all theirs within that castle, and likewise for the injoying of their goods, he yielded it to the hands of the men of warre that held siege before it in the queen's name, and of his sonne.” “The queen remained about a month's space at Hereford, and in the mean while sent the Lord Henrie, Earl of Leicester, and the Lord W^m la Zouch, and one Rice ap Howell that was lately delivered out of the Tower where he was prisoner, into Wales, to see if they might find means to apprehend the king by help of their acquaintance in those parts, all three of them having lands their abouts, where it was knowne the king for the more part kept. They used such diligence in that charge, that finallie with large gifts bestowed on the Welshmen, they came to understand where the king was, and so on the day of St. Edmund the Archbishop, being the 16th of November, they took

The king, Despencer, and Baldock remained at Neath until the 10th, when Henry, Earl of Lancaster, Master ap Howell, (afterwards Justiciary of Wales,) and William la Zouch, having lands and power in the neighbourhood, were sent by the queen from Hereford to watch the king, who finally, with his two minions, was siezed on Sunday, 16th November, near the castle of Llantursan, or Llantrissaint, on his way, as has been supposed, back to Caerphilly. He gave up the great seal at Monmouth, 20th November, to Sir W. Blount. The next writ is dated Ledbury, 13th of November, and finally the king was conveyed to Kenilworth, on the 14th of December.

Baldock, being an ecclesiastic, was confined to Newgate, where he died within the year; and Despencer, being hanged at Hereford, as his father had been at Bristol, his honours became extinct, and his estates reverted to the crown. He left, however, his widow, Eleanor, who stood in the relationship of cousin to the king.

“In 1322,” says Hollinshed, “the king (Edward III.) obtained possession of all the Despencer castles, and sent Lord Hastings into South Wales.”—[p. 564.]

Knyghton mentions, among the nobles present at the coronation of the new monarch, Hugh le Despencer, the grandson, afterwards a distinguished soldier, “a great baron and a good knight,” says Froissart, and who died finally without issue. “He delivered up,” says Knyghton, referring to the above mentioned transaction, “the castle him in the monastery of Neith, near to the castle of Llantursan, together with Hugh Spencer, the son, called Earl of Gloucester, the Lord Chancellor, Robert de Baldocke, and Simon de Reading, the king’s Marshall, not caring for the other king’s servants, whom they suffered to escape.”—[*Hollinshed*, p. 58, 2-3.]

of Caerphilly, which he had from his father, to the king, and placed himself at his disposal, who in return granted unto him safety of life and limb."

In addition to this, the monarch seems to have re-granted to him a portion of his paternal estates, since we find him ordered to raise three hundred and thirty-two men in Glamorgan and Morgannwg as his share of a Welsh army; and again, five years afterwards, he is rated at three hundred.—[*Fœdera*, 15th E. III.; 20th E. III.]

The castle of Caerphilly does not, however, appear to have been restored to him, or to his mother; for a writ (1329) is directed to Roger de Mortimer, Justiciary of Wales, "seeing that divers evil doers, abetted by William la Zouch de Mortimer, have beleaguered the castle of Caerphilly in warlike fashion, and held that leaguer in breach of the peace, and terror of liege subjects;" he is ordered "to raise the siege, (taking the posse if necessary,) and to seize the castle for the king, and safely to keep it, arresting the recusants, if any, and committing them to prison." Also, on the same day, was issued a second writ, stating that William la Zouch de Mortimer had been summoned to appear in person, and had refused; refusing also to bring with him the king's cousin, Eleanor le Despencer, residing in her country, and ordering "John de Gynes to attack him, and to bring both to the king."

A month afterwards, the writ to Roger Mortimer is repeated, expressing surprise at his delay in executing the first, forbidding any supplies of food to be admitted to the besieged, and commanding that restitution be

made of the goods and chattels seized by La Zouch from John de Gray, the king's faithful subject.

From hence it would appear that William had already taken the castle, though the results of the royal writs are not mentioned. Shortly afterwards William, and the king's cousin, Countess Eleanor, were married.

The castle was probably regranted by the king, with their titles, to the Despencers, for Elizabeth, widow of Edward, Lord le Despencer, he who died 1375, (49th E. III.,) had the castle and town of Caerphilly, and the territory of Senghennydd, as a part of her dowry; she died 1409.

After the battle of Shrewsbury, and Henry's subsequent campaign in the north, that monarch directed the Welsh castles to be put in order, with a view to the final suppression of Owen Glendwr and his adherents. A writ, cited by Thomas, (*Memoirs of Owen Glendwr*, 1822, p. 120,) commits the custody of Caerphilly and Gwyr Lacy to Constantia, Lady le Despencer, who was the widow of Thomas, Lord le Despencer, Earl of Gloucester, who was beheaded, 1339-1400, 1st H. IV. She was the daughter of Edmund Plantagenet, of Langley, and died 1417. No such place as Gwyr Lacy is known; but it is singular that in this writ, which enumerates the principal fortresses in Wales, the name of Cardiff does not occur.

During the reign of Edward III. large levies were not unfrequently required at the hands of the Lords-Marchers of Wales; and among the territories from which certain men are directed to be drawn, the name of Ewyas Lacy very frequently occurs. Thus, in 1343, (16th Edward III.,) a writ was addressed to Gilbert Talbot, Justiciary

of South Wales; in 1346, a similar one to the Earl of March, and B. de Burghersh; in 1367, to other persons; and, in each of these cases, Ewyas Lacy is enumerated in conjunction with Builth, and Crickhowel, and other places, all lying about Brecon, or between it and Crickhowel, while the levies for "Morgan and Morgannon" are in all the above cases directed to be raised by a different baron; Ewyas Lacy, indeed, is in Herefordshire, not far from the border. The name Gwyr Lacy does not once occur in the *Fœdera*: it is evidently a misnomer.

It was the above "Constantia," the widow of Lord le Despencer, and sister to the Duke of York, who, a short time afterwards, attempted to rescue the young Earl of March and his brother from the power of Henry IV., for which offence she was imprisoned.

"Among Lord Bute's papers is the account that Thayron ap Jevan ap Rawlyn, Bayliff of Kerfilly, 16th H. VI. 'Unde 3s. 6d. quor̄ solvit p̄ expeñs Oweyn ap Gwed et Jevan Llewⁿ ap Jevan Vaughñ, ap Jevan Vaure Felon ibĩ in Co. de Kerfilly exist̄ p. iij. Septĩm et postea suspens̄.' This original document is confirmative of Leland's account, that prisoners were kept here in Henry the Eighth's time."—[I. M. T.]

I have been able to find no further mention of Caerphilly until the time of Leland, who thus describes it in his *Itinerary*:—"In Iscaihac is Cairfilly Castelle sette amonge marisches, wher be ruinous walles of a wonderful thickness and tower kept up for prisoners as to the chief hold of Senghenith."—[*Leland*, VII. 39.]

Owen Glendwr in his invasion of South Wales, in

1400, is said to have taken and garrisoned Caerphilly.
—[*Beauties.*]

Our typographical arrangements do not admit of the insertion, in the usual manner, of the pedigree, showing the descent of Caerphilly; we shall endeavour, however, thus to supply its place:—

- I.—ROBERT FITZ-HAMON, nephew to the Conqueror, received from William Rufus the Honour of Gloucester; died A.D. 1107, 7 Henry I.; buried in the chapter-house of Tewkesbury Abbey, which he founded, rebuilding the church, to which his body was transferred, 1241. He married Sibil, or Isabel, sister of Robert Belesme, Earl of Shrewsbury. They had issue four daughters.
- II.—MABEL, eldest daughter and coheirress, married ROBERT CONSUL, Earl of Gloucester, builder of Cardiff Castle, bastard son of Henry I., by Nest, daughter of Rhys ap Tewdwr. Died 1147, 12 Stephen, and is buried in St James' Monastery, Bristol, which he founded. Issue—
- III.—WILLIAM, Earl of Gloucester, died 1173; buried at Keynsham Abbey; married Hawise, daughter of Robert, (Bossu) Earl of Leicester. Issue—1. Robert, born and died at Cardiff, s.p. 2. Mabel. 3. Amicia. 4. Isabella.
- IV.—ISABELLA, daughter and coheirress, married first, John, afterwards king. He repudiated her, and gave up the Honour of Gloucester, but kept Bristol Castle; second, Geoffrey de Magnaville, Earl of Essex; third, Hubert de Burgh, Chief Justice of England. Leaving no children, her estates passed to her sister.
- V.—MABEL, Lady of the Honour of Gloucester; she died, having married the Earl of Evreux in Normandy, and her only son dying without issue, left as sole heir her sister.
- VI.—AMICIA, who married RICHARD DE CLARE; he died 1211, and is buried at Clare. Issue—
- VII.—GILBERT, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford; died 1229,

- (14 H. III.,) in Little Britain; buried in the choir at Tewkesbury; married Isabella, third daughter, and coheirress of William Marshall the elder, Earl of Pembroke. Issue—
- VIII.—RICHARD, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford; born 1221; died 14 July, 1261 (46 H. III.); buried at Tewkesbury; married Matilda, daughter of John de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln. Issue—
- IX.—GILBERT, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, surnamed the "Red;" born 1243, at Christ Church, Hants; died at Monmouth Castle, December 1295 (24 Edward I.); buried at Tewkesbury; married (18 Edward I.) Joan of Acre, daughter of Edward I., (who remarried Ralph de Monthermer.)¹ Issue—1. Gilbert. 2. Eleanor, 3. Margaret, married first, Piers Gaveston, and afterwards Hugh de Audley. 4. Elizabeth, foundress of Clare Hall, who married first, John de Burgh, son and heir to the Earl of Ulster, second, Theobald Verdon, and afterwards Roger d' Amory.
- X.—GILBERT, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, slain at Bannockburn, 1314, 7 Edward II., aged 23; buried at Tewkesbury. He married Matilda, daughter of John de Burgh, (died 1315,) and had one son, John, who died before his father.
- XI.—Eleanor de Clare, eldest daughter and coheirress, married (13 Edward II.) HUGH LE DESPENCER, Earl of Gloucester, son of Hugh, Earl of Winchester, Chamberlain to Edward II. Hanged and quartered, 1326; buried at Tewkesbury.

¹ The author of the Siege of Caerlaverock, describing his banner of arms, says,—“He by whom they were well supported acquired, after great doubts and fears, until it pleased God he should be delivered, the love of the Countess of Gloucester, for whom he a long time endured great sufferings. He had only a banner of fine gold, with three red chevrons.” Peter of Langtoft says,—“Of Gloucestre stoute and gay, Sir Rauf the Mohermere, and his wif, Dame Jone, whilom Gilberde's of Clare.” In 1298, he was summoned *jure matris*, as Earl of Gloucester and Hertford. After the death of his wife, in 1307, he appears to have dropped these titles.

Issue—1. Hugh. 2. Edward. 3. Gilbert. Eleanor remarried William la Zouch, of Mortimer, who was buried at Tewkesbury.¹ Eleanor was prisoner with her family in the Tower until 5th February, 1–2 Edward III.

XII.—HUGH LE DESPENCER, Baron le Despenser. He broke into the Scheldt in the naval battle of Sluys; died, s.p., February, 1349; buried at Tewkesbury. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Hugh Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, and widow of Guy de Brian; she is buried at Tewkesbury.

XIII.—EDWARD LE DESPENCER, died before his brother, 16 Edward III.; married Anne, daughter of Henry, Lord Ferrers, of Groby. Issue—

XIV.—EDWARD LE DESPENCER, heir to his uncle, Lord of Glamorgan, 17 Edward III., made his will at Llanblethian Castle, 1375, 49 Edward III., and shortly afterwards died at Cardiff Castle, seized of the castle of Caerphilly; buried at Tewkesbury; married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Bartholomew, Baron Burghersh, who died 1409, and is buried at Tewkesbury. She had, in dower, the castle and town of Caerphilly, and the territory of Senghennydd above and below Taff.—[*Giraldus Cambrensis*.—*Sir R. C. Hoare*, II., 373.] Their eldest son, Edward, died at Cardiff, aged twelve years.

XV.—THOMAS LE DESPENCER, Earl of Gloucester, younger son, and finally heir; obtained the reversal of the attainder of his great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather, 1397. Created Earl of Gloucester, 1397; attainted, and beheaded at Bristol, 1 Henry IV., 1400; buried at Tewkesbury;

¹ William Zouch of Mortimer, was younger son of Robert, third Baron Mortimer, of Richard's Castle, by Joyce, daughter and heiress of William la Zouch, second son of Roger, second Baron Zouch, of Ashby. He took his mother's name. He was summoned to Parliament 1323–1337. His son, Alan, succeeded him, but was not summoned. Hugh, fourth Baron of Mortimer, of Richard's Castle, was, in 1295, officially connected with South Wales.

married Constance, daughter of Edmund Langley, Duke of York, son of Edward III. Issue—1. Richard; died aged eighteen years, s.p. 2. Elizabeth; died young at Cardiff; buried in St. Mary's Church. 3. Isabella.

XVI.—ISABELLA, final heir. Born at Cardiff; buried at Tewkesbury; married first, 1411, Richard Beauchamp, son and heir of William, Lord Abergavenny, Earl of Worcester; killed; buried at Tewkesbury. Issue—Elizabeth; born 16th September 1415; married Edward, son of Rafe Nevill, Earl of Westmoreland, and had issue, George Nevill. Isabella married second, by dispensation, Richard Beauchamp, first cousin to her first husband, Earl of Warwick. He died at Rouen, 1344. Issue—1. Henry. 2. Anne.

XVII.—HENRY BEAUCHAMP, Lord le Despenser, Duke of Warwick, died 1446, aged 22; buried at Tewkesbury; married Cecilia, daughter of Richard Nevill, Earl of Salisbury; she remarried Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester; died 1450; buried at Tewkesbury. Their daughter, Anne Beauchamp, died 1449, aged six years.

XVIII.—ANNE, sister and heiress to Henry Beauchamp, died 1418, aged 32; married RICHARD NEVILL, Earl of Salisbury and Warwick, sixth son of Richard, Earl of Salisbury. Issue, three daughters—1. Isabel, married George, Duke of Clarence. 2. Mary. 3. Ann, who married first, Edward, Prince of Wales; and secondly, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III.

Upon Richard's death the estates passed to HENRY VII., by whom the Lordship of Glamorgan was granted to Jasper, Duke of Bedford, at whose death in 1495 it escheated to the crown, where it remained, until Edward VI. granted it, in the fourth year of his reign, to (1.) William, Earl of Pembroke, Baron Herbert, of Cardiff, who was the son of Sir Richard Herbert, of Ewyas, the natural son of that Earl who was beheaded in 1469. From Earl William the Lordship of Glamorgan, including Caerphilly, came to his son, (2.) HENRY, second earl; died 1601;

having married for his third wife, Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Sidney, and leaving by her, (3.) 1. WILLIAM, third earl, 1630, married Mary, daughter of the Earl of Shrewsbury, and had issue, Henry, who died young. (4.) 2. Philip, brother and heir, fourth earl, and Earl of Montgomery, who left issue by Susan, daughter of Edward, Earl of Oxford, (5.) PHILIP, fifth earl, who married first, Penelope, daughter of Sir Richard Naunton, and had issue, (6.) WILLIAM, sixth earl; and secondly, Catherine, daughter of Sir WILLIAM VILLIERS, and had issue, (7.) 1. PHILIP, seventh earl, 1683, who married Henriette de Querouaille; and (8.) 2. THOMAS, eighth earl. Philip, seventh earl, left issue, (9.) CHARLOTTE, heiress of Usk Castle, who married first, John, Lord Jefferies, 1702, and left Henriette, who married the Earl of Pomfret; and secondly, Thomas, Viscount Windsor, Baron Mountjoy, 1738, and by him had issue, (10.) HERBERT, Viscount Windsor, &c., who married Alice, daughter of Sir John Clavering; and had issue, (11.) 1. CHARLOTTE JANE, who married John, Marquis of Bute, Baron Cardiff, &c.; and 2. Alice-Elizabeth, who married the Marquis of Hertford. Charlotte Jane had issue, (12.) JOHN, Lord Mountstuart, who married Elizabeth Penelope, daughter and heiress of Patrick, Earl of Dumfries, and left issue, (13.) the late Marquis of Bute, and Lord James Stuart. The Marquis died 1849, leaving an only son and heir, (14.) JOHN PATRICK CRICHTON STUART, third Marquis of Bute, the present possessor of Caerphilly Castle.

Although the castle of Caerphilly, and the estates won by Fitz-Hamon have thus become alienated, both from his blood and from that of their ancient Welsh possessors, parts of the district of Senghennydd appear to have been transmitted, by unbroken descent, to the present day.

It has been already stated that Ivor Bach married Nest, daughter and heiress of Madoc ap Cradoc, of Senghennydd, and that their eldest son, Griffith, married, according to some accounts, the daughter of William,

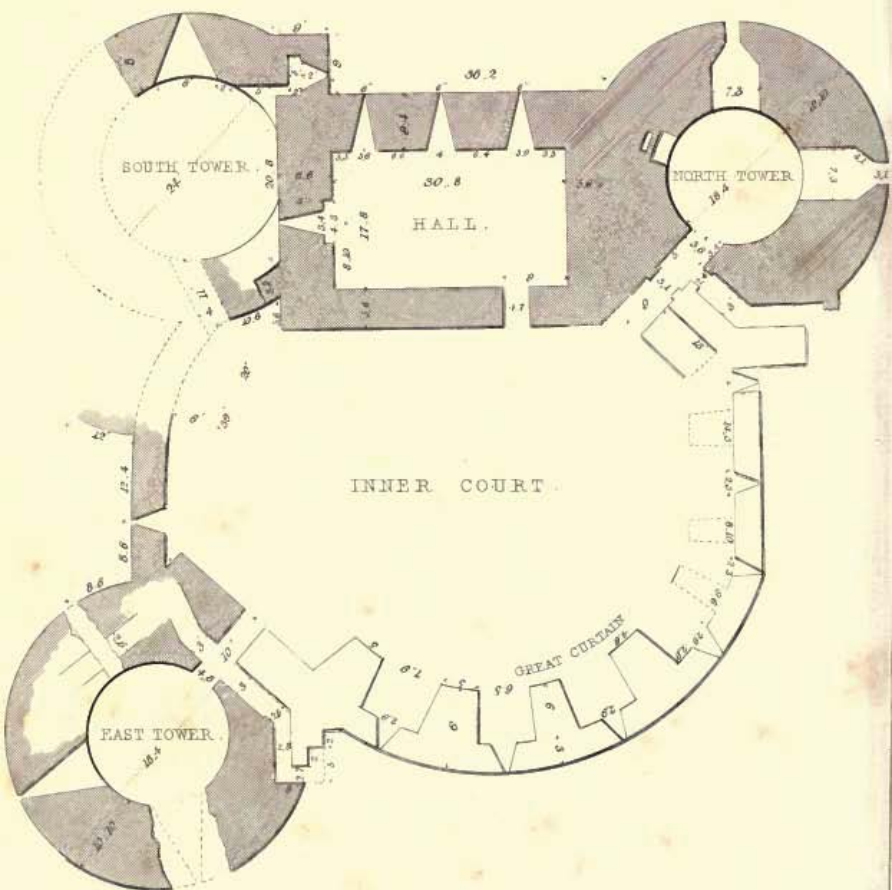
Earl of Gloucester. From this Griffith descended the Glamorganshire family of Lewis of "The Van," their seat from a remote period, and no doubt a part of the ancient Lordship of Senghennydd, allotted to their ancestor, Einon.

Early in the eighteenth century, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Thomas Lewis of "The Van," married Other, third Earl of Plymouth, ancestor of Lady Harriet Clive, the present possessor of "The Van." The male line was carried on by Lewis of Llanishen, and is at present vested in Henry Lewis, of Green Meadow, who is therefore to be regarded as one of the representatives, in the male line, of Nest, the heiress of the ancient Welsh Lords of Senghennydd, in which district this family has never ceased to reside.

NOTE.—The plan which accompanies this article has been procured for the author, by Mr. Armstrong. Though not strictly accurate in all its minute details, it is generally correct, and by very much the best plan extant of the castle.

THE END.

R. Mason, Printer, High Street, Tenby.



CASTEL COCH.

MAIN FLOOR.

Castell Coch, Glamorgan.

THE river Taff, from its origin under the Brecon Beacons, after a course of about twenty-six miles through the northern and mountain district of Glamorgan, escapes by a deep and narrow ravine across the last elevation, and rolls its course, unfettered, to the Bristol Channel.

The ridge which it thus finally cleaves, and which divides the hill-country from the plain, is part of the great southern escarpment of the coal basin of Glamorgan, supported there by the mountain limestone rising from below, and in its turn reposing upon the old red sandstone, the denuded surface of which forms, under the later horizontal rocks and drift gravel, the basis of the plain. The escarpment, extending for many miles along the contiguous counties of Monmouth and Glamorgan, is traversed, in this immediate neighbourhood, by the three passes of the Ebbwy, the Rhymny, and the Taff. The heights bounding the latter river, though in actual elevation below some other parts of the chain, produce a very striking effect, from the abruptness of their rise from the plain.

These heights, on each side of the pass, must always have been regarded by the inhabitants of the country as

places of great security. On the right bank of the river, the huge lumpish sandstone mass of the Garth rises to 981 feet above the sea, and is crowned by two remarkable tumuli, well known as landmarks in the vale, and visible even from the distant shores of Somerset.

The elevation on the left bank, though lower, is more precipitous. It presents, in the lichen-stained crags about its summits, and the rich verdure which clothes its sides and base, all those features so well known to geologists as characterising the scenery of the mountain limestone.

Nature has rendered the west and south sides of this height—those exposed to any foe from beyond sea—nearly inaccessible. Across the north-eastern side, lines of circumvallation have been hewn out of the rock, the dimensions of which show the value attached to the place, as a fortress, by the Cymry.

There was reason in the choice. From hence the long ships of the Danish rovers could be seen while yet distant from the shore, and timely notice be given, and protection afforded to, the people of the plain, should the ravagers extend their sweep far inwards from the coast. A beacon fire upon the headland of Penarth—celebrated in Anglo-Norman verse for its ancient oak, and now marked by its white church—answered here, or on the opposite Garth, would be repeated from the summits of the distant mountains of Brecon and Caermarthen, and would at once spread the tidings of invasion over the whole of the southern coast.

The Normans, within a century and a-half after the conquest of Glamorgan, had completed a chain of castles along the plain country, from Chepstow to Pembroke,

and were only exposed to the invasions of the Welsh from the mountain tracts upon the north. To check these, they threw up a number of fortresses, either upon, or within the verge of, the hill-country, of which Caerphilly on the Rhymny, and Castell Coch on the Taff, may be cited as adjacent examples.

The site of the Cymric camp was far too difficult of access to allow of the ready transport into it of provisions, or munitions of war, or of a constant and rapid communication with the chief castle at Cardiff. Lower down the scarp, though still high above the plain, the Norman engineer selected a natural platform on the limestone rock, separated from the main scarp by a natural depression, and sufficiently removed from the summit to be out of the reach of any military engines with which the Welsh were likely to be acquainted, or which, from their want of organisation, they were likely to be able to bring, with their forces, against the castle. There is an easy approach to this platform from the east, which probably communicated with the old road, called Roman, and no doubt Cymric, which leads direct from Cardiff to Rheubina, and close upon which is the circular mound, which appears to have been the site of a tower, at Whitchurch, and the Celtic tumulus of Twmpath. Upon this platform was erected the fortress which is here to be described.

Castell Coch, so called from the red tint of its materials, is, in general plan, a triangle, each angle being capped by a drum-tower. Its general divisions are the *south*, *east*, and *northern towers*, the *gate-tower*, the *curtains* and *hall*, and the *outworks*.

The platform occupied by the whole is about two hundred yards long, by seventy yards broad, and the principal works of the castle occupy its west end. The south face is, in part, precipitous, and from twenty to thirty feet high. The north face, towards the upper hill-side, is deepened into a formidable moat, and the east end was defended by a fosse, cut deeply across the rock, and beyond this by two towers, connected by a curtain-wall.

The *north tower* rises from a square base to a cylindrical superstructure, the north and south angles terminating in buttresses, each the half of a pyramid cut vertically and diagonally across, after a fashion very common in Welsh castles, and well seen in Marten's Tower at Chepstow. The cylinder is forty feet in diameter. It contains three stories, of which the middle one is on a level with the inner court, or *terre pleine*, of the place.

The lower story may have been a dungeon. It is vaulted, and has two great cross-springer ribs, and two windows opening high above the floor. A narrow passage, vaulted, with steps, leads into it from the court. Its internal diameter is eighteen feet, its walls upwards of ten feet thick. The windows were mere loopholes.

The middle story is also circular and vaulted, with similar ribs. Here, however, the windows open nearly on the level of the floor, though also loops. There is a fire-place, with a flue carried up in the wall. The flue is backed with *stone*. The entrance to this chamber is also from the court, and, on the east side of the vaulted passage, a gallery passes off in the thickness of the wall, and leads to what was a small sewer chamber, occupying a square projection on the east side of the tower, at its

junction with the curtain. The general dimensions of this story, and the thickness of the walls, correspond with those of the room below.

The upper story contains one chamber, the south and east sides of which are flat, the rest circular. Here are no less than three fire-places, each of large dimensions, with funnels in the thickness of the wall. It contains also two small recesses, one a sort of sink, and has two windows. There are also two doors, one, on the south side, opening upon the roof and ramparts of the hall and west front, the other, eastwards, leading to the ramparts of the great or northern curtain. Access to this chamber, from below, seems to have been obtained by an exterior stair between the tower and the hall. This story, within, is about twenty-six feet mean diameter, and the walls vary from two feet three inches to four feet thick. It was roofed flat, with timber, and above were ramparts and a parapet, probably reached by means of a trap-door in the roof.

This tower is the most perfect of the whole, and in tolerable preservation, although the lower chamber is half-full of rubbish; the small apartment connected with the middle story is broken down, and the roof and ramparts are wanting on the summit. This tower, however, is evidently the type of, and has served in the present instance as a clue to, the original plan of the others.

The *south tower* corresponded nearly to the last, and, like it, appears to have contained three chambers, and at its junction with the west curtain, a square projection, containing in the middle story a small sewer chamber, and in the upper, probably a communication with the battle-

ments of the hall. The lower chamber is entered by a vaulted passage, down steps, from the court-yard. The middle or main chamber probably was entered on the level, by a passage from the court-yard, and a triforial gallery seems to have led from this passage to the window or opening in the south end of the hall. The upper chamber was accessible from the hall battlements, as it probably also was from those of the gateway curtain. It is uncertain whether this tower rose from a square base—probably it did. Its upper part was cylindrical, forty feet diameter. The walls are eight feet thick, and the chambers do not appear to have been vaulted. This tower is in a ruined state. The two outer thirds of its circumference have been blown away by a mine, but the part connected with the hall, including a door below, two windows in the lower and middle story, and the small chamber in the wall, remain tolerably perfect, and remove all doubts as to the original elevation and particulars of the whole.

The *east tower* corresponds in altitude and general arrangements to the other two, like them containing three stories. It is cylindrical from the base, and forty feet diameter; but, towards the court-yard, it presents a flat face, with two shoulders projecting at its junction with its curtains. Like the other towers, it has a square projection for a small chamber, here found at its junction outside with the great or northern curtain. The lower story, like those of the other towers, is below the level of the court, but instead of being entered directly by a distinct staircase, a gallery branches off from the passage to the middle chamber, and descends, winding in the thick-

ness of the wall, to that below. This lower chamber is filled up, but its existence is evident enough, and the staircase is seen through a great rent in the wall. The diameter of the chamber is eighteen feet four inches, and the thickness of the wall ten feet ten inches. It was probably vaulted, although all traces of a vault are gone.

The middle chamber, of the same dimensions, is entered by a passage from the court, on a level. This chamber had two loops. There is no fire-place, and no trace of a vault, although the walls are above ten feet thick. On either hand, opening out of the passage leading to this chamber, are galleries in the wall. That on the right descending to the chamber below, that on the left running on a level, to open into a small chamber in the square projection between the tower and the great curtain. The upper chamber appears to have been entered from the ramparts by a long pointed doorway in the gorge; and over the lower door, leading from this, on the right, a passage leads to a spiral stair in the wall, which evidently gave access to the battlements of the tower. This tower has been rent asunder by a central explosion, but the outer part has only shifted a little.

The *hall* occupies the space between the north and south towers, which it connects, its outer wall forming the curtain between them. It is rectangular, thirty feet eight inches, by seventeen feet eight inches, vaulted, with a pointed arch, and having its outer wall seven feet, and its inner six feet, thick. In the former are three loops, splayed towards the interior, and having pointed heads. They are high above the base of the wall, and command

a fine view. The door was near the north end of the opposite side, and possibly there may have been a fireplace on the same side with the door. At the south end is a window, which opens into a sort of gallery in the south tower.

Above the vaulted roof was probably a platform, with a low battlement towards the court, and a high one towards the exterior of the castle. This platform communicated with the north and south towers directly, and with the court by a narrow stair, already noticed as leading to the upper chamber of the north tower. The hall is now much mutilated, the vault and part of the east wall being destroyed.

The *great curtain* is a large irregular segment of a circle, about eighty feet exterior face, and with a chord of about sixty feet. It originally was a wall three feet thick, which appears to have been found of insufficient breadth for the use of military engines on the north and north-east battlements, upon these, the weakest sides of the fortress; wherefore a parallel wall was built within and against it, six feet thick, extending the whole way from the north to the east tower. The old wall contains seven loops at the court-yard level, and to preserve these an arch, six feet diameter, is turned in the new work, opposite to each. Above, there is, of course, a rampart walk of ample width, entered from the tower at either end. The exterior of this wall, below the level of the court, is strengthened by a stone facing, forming the scarp of its moat. This curtain remains tolerably perfect. There is a breach near its junction with the north tower, and the new and inner wall is wanting opposite to the

four loops, but traces of it are discernible in the mortar upon the old wall.

The *gate-house curtain* is much less perfect. It appears to have been slightly convex in plan towards the exterior, and about twenty-eight feet in length between the south and east towers, from both of which its ramparts were no doubt entered. It is about five feet thick. One loop remains, about six feet above the court-yard level, which could only have been used by means of a platform, perhaps of timber. Twenty-one feet from its junction with the east tower, a small half-round tower seems to have projected from the curtain, serving no doubt to defend the gateway, which seems to have lain between this and the south tower, and probably consisted in a simple archway and passage, with a portcullis and doors. That the entrance was here, and between these towers, is certain from the causeway leading to it, but the gate-tower, and most of the curtain, are utterly gone.

Thus much of the castle. We next reach the *outworks*, for the representation of which the dimensions of the plate do not afford space.

The south and north tower, and the hall curtain, needed no exterior defence. They rise from a very steep bank, and their foundations are of scarped rock and solid masonry. They are quite unassailable from below. The other two sides are more exposed. In front of the south tower is the commencement of the moat, broken by a causeway opposite to the inner gateway, and leading from it to the outer court. Beyond the causeway the moat deepens, and is carried round the east tower and

great curtain, steep and deep, and hewn in the rock, so as to render this, the naturally weaker side, very strong. The moat, which must always have been dry, ends, opposite to the north tower, in some curious excavations, resembling a water-tank, which, however, they could scarcely have been.

The outer court of the castle occupies the remainder or east end of the natural platform. Its dimensions are about 100 feet long, by forty feet wide. Its southern side, a continuation of the line of the same face of the castle, was defended by a precipice, partly natural, partly scarped by art, though now broken down and filled up. There are no traces of a wall on this side, but probably there was a parapet.

The opposite north, or landward, side, is defended by a branch from the moat, which, after being interrupted and traversed by a causeway, sweeps round the east end of the works, and terminates in a deep and broad excavation, which is carried to the brink of the cliff, and thus defends also the east end of this outer court.

The west end of the platform, or that towards the castle, is cut off from that building by its proper moat, traversed, as already mentioned, by the causeway leading to the inner gateway. There is no evidence of any walled defence to this court, and yet, without such, the moat on the land side would scarcely have been sufficient to delay an enemy, so as to expose him to the fire from the east tower and gateway curtain, upon which the defence of this side depended.

As the principal object was to command the regular approach from the eastward, the defences were prolonged

in this direction. Outside, and on the counterscarp of the moat of the outer court, and six feet from the edge of the south precipice, there are traces of a *tower*, about thirty feet diameter, with what may have been a sort of buttress on its southern side, extending to the precipice. Opposite, on its northern side, and at its junction with a *lower curtain*, is what appears to have been a well-stair, or the foundation of a distinct turret. There is no moat to the east of this tower, but the ground falls in a natural scarp.

This *lower curtain*, indicated, like the towers, by a mound of earth only, sweeps round, so as to cover the counterscarp of the outer moat, and ends in the *roadway tower*, about forty feet diameter, the foundations of which are very distinct, and which must have completely commanded the approach, at a point much in advance of, and below, the outer causeway and the eastern tower. The regular approach, it is clear, lay from the east, and between the precipitous height crowned by the old Cymric camp and the level platform of the castle, and, approaching it by the side least strongly defended by nature, would, at 150 yards from the body of the place, be flanked by the fire of the lower tower, then of the lower curtain, and then of the roadway tower. Supposing these silenced, and the outer causeway reached, the besieger came directly below the east tower, and a part of its adjacent curtains; and, as he crossed the outer court, and reached the second causeway, he would be opposed by a fire from the east and south towers, their curtain, and the gateway tower.

Even if the place were surprised and entered, each of the three towers, and the platform of the hall, admitted

of being defended for a few hours, until aid had been signalled for, and sent, from Cardiff. No doubt, before brave men, all defences fail; and the Welsh, who certainly were not wanting in courage, did, according to tradition, more than once take this castle, probably by surprise and escalade; nevertheless, it was a very strong fortress, both by nature and art, and must have been a sore thorn in the side of the mountaineers of Glamorgan.

The present condition of each part of the castle has already been described; it may be added, generally, that the whole is very thickly grown over with brushwood and weeds, so much so that it is difficult to make out the details of the plan of the building. Although no ornaments remain, yet it is clear from the general plan, and from the doorways, that no part of the castle is Norman. It is probably Early English, and may very well be of the reign of Henry III., and, I should judge, a little earlier than Caerphilly.

Here and there, especially in the outer court, are some handsome Scotch firs, and a line of venerable beeches, the peculiar green of whose foliage marks, from a great distance, the line of the old approach. These, of course, with the wood clothing the hill side, and the ivy upon the walls and towers, should be left untouched; but it is much to be wished that the castle itself, and the works of the Cymric camp above, were cleared of timber and underwood, and a little care taken to encourage fair greensward in their stead.

This castle has descended with the rest of the De Clare estates, and is now the property of the Marquis of Bute.

There are various traditions concerning it, but a great deficiency of recorded information. Being the key of the upper country, it must have witnessed many an inburst of the native Welsh, from the Norman conquest to the days of Owain Glyndwr, who is supposed to have descended by this pass when he burned the episcopal Palace of Llandaff, and ravaged Cardiff.

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